

March 1995

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

# CLASS!

**Cover:**  
Cimarron's star  
snowboarder rips  
(page 3)

**Gorman High  
robot-master  
takes control**  
(page 18)

**Clark sophomore  
sings with idol,  
Reba McEntire**  
(page 5)

**Survey: what  
you do when  
hangin' out**  
(page 16)

**BCHS opinion:  
Uniforms don't  
solve aggression**  
(page 21)





# College ISN'T the answer for everyone!

By Sari Aizley, Editor

For lifelong success, education beyond high school IS important. But a four-year college is only ONE of the options that high school graduates have.

Many young people will choose instead to get a technical or occupational education to prepare for jobs in industry, in hotels and professional offices or the business world.

Look at what's happened in the past 15 years. In 1980, about 19% of all workers had four or more years of college, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Labor. School district sources say it's only 20% even now.

## Another kind of higher ed can get you hired

A solid education IS important, but if a four-year college is not in your future, you should build a good educational foundation in some other way.

Southern Nevada offers a variety of choices for career preparation. Trade unions and private businesses offer apprenticeship programs for graduates. Career schools zero in on certain business-related areas. Military services, police and firefighter agencies recruit and provide training. And internships offer school-to-job opportunities.

## Office skills and hotel jobs

"We teach grads what they must know to work in today's business office, whether it's a bank, an insurance company or a medical environment," says Bob Schneider, director of admissions at Career Training Institute.

"The training is short-term — only 10 or 20 weeks — but the graduates get long-term benefits," he explains. "They take only those classes that are necessary for the job. Consequently, the student doesn't spend time and money on unrelated subjects, so our drop-out rate is almost zero."

The school provides classes in business administration and medical office billing, using state-of-the-art technology and teachers who have actually worked in the business community.

The demand for trained people to work in hotels grows every year. In response, the Career Training Institute will offer an accelerated program of hotel front desk training: a four-week course beginning in May.

## Building trade unions

The building trades offer opportunities that can lead to a lifetime of job security, or to the possibility of opening related businesses. High school grads can enter apprenticeship programs that vary from three to five years in any of 18 different crafts. The requirements include a high school diploma (or GED), minimum age of 18, and a valid driver's license.

"Apprentices work five days a week, then attend eight hours of schooling every Saturday," explains Frank Caine, president of the Southern Nevada Building Trades Council. "Of course, they're paid while they work. Then, every six months they take a test and if they pass, they get a raise."

Caine points out that the unions have opportunities for both men and women. A "pre-apprentice" probationary period helps young people determine whether they have made the right choice. Interested high school grads should contact union headquarters.

## Two-year college technical training

Community College of Southern Nevada is another possibility for low-cost career education. The college has a brand new culinary arts facility that teaches food and beverage management and even has a full-service restaurant.

Other CCSN programs that can give you a solid head start on a career include a variety of computer classes, interior design, radio and TV broadcasting, blueprint reading, real estate, and how to start your own business. Catalogs are available at any CCSN campus or any public library.

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## Senior trip at sea: why you should hop a slow boat

*Old fogies!* That's who went on cruises back when a mosh pit was used for bulldog fights and cruising the malls wasn't even evented.

But the age barriers have fallen! You'll find high school kids in *droves* on today's ships because there's a zillion things for you to do — besides visit exotic new places.

There's at least one swimming pool on deck (the site of many parties and late-night dances). By the pool is sort of a cafe where you can make your own sundaes and munch fudge brownies and burgers. All your food and entertainment are included in one price.

One popular cruiseline, Carnival, schedules singles parties for the high school crowd — plus Star Search contests, a disco, rap breakfasts, ping-pong tournaments, mock blackjack tournaments, a tour of the ship's bridge, showtime and a pizza pig-out. There's a health club on deck — which you'll need because a cruise is a non-stop festival of food, 24 hours a day.

There's a video game room and lots of out-of-the-way spots where you can get to know your new best friend. Or just sit snooze, or people-watch behind your shades.

Planning a senior trip? Maybe make it a SEA-nior trip.

## HOPE

If there was no discrimination,  
and everyone lived in peace  
and harmony,  
if there were no wars and no violence,  
and people were not afraid to go for  
a walk by themselves at night,  
the world would be a better place.  
I hope for such a time,  
when safety among students at  
school is no longer a concern.  
If only my hope could turn into reality,  
things would become so simple.  
For now though, all I have is hope.  
If the world had honest governments,  
and no corruption, everything would  
be so simple.  
People are destroying my future  
and that of my  
generation without even knowing it.  
If people only knew that what they  
do now has  
detrimental effects on the future of  
the world,  
my future when they will not be  
around.  
Through all the injustices, one thing  
remains the same.  
I will always have hope.

*Nicole Sanderl, Sophomore,  
Boulder City High School*

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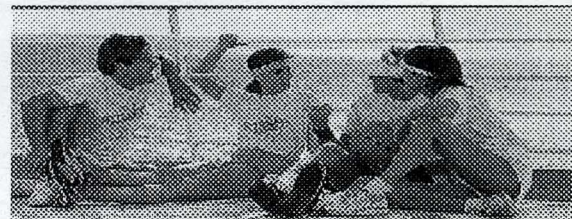
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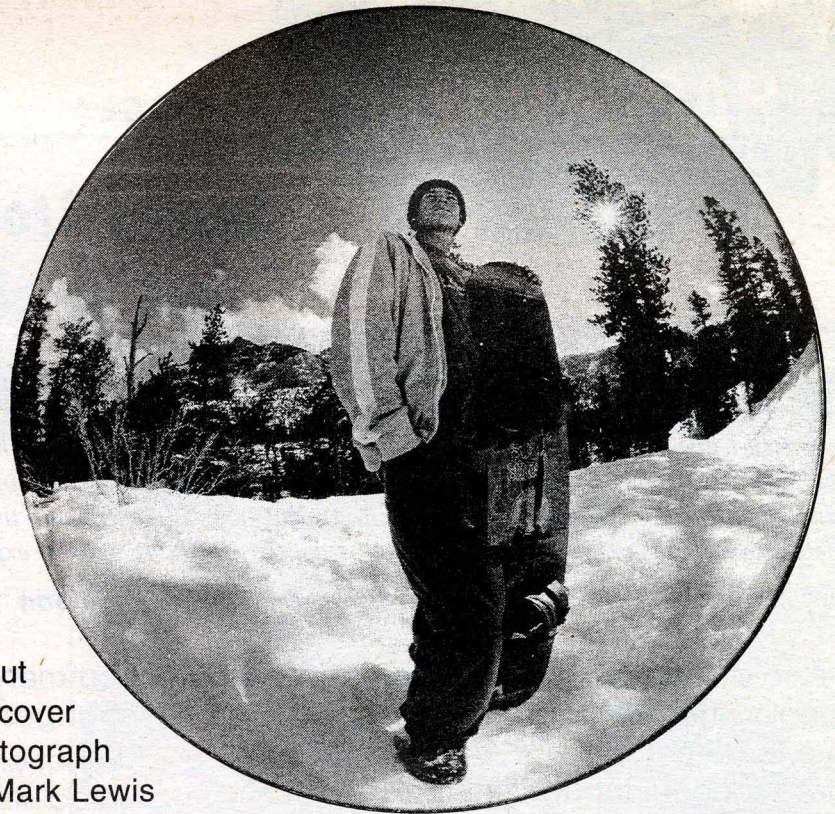
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About  
 the cover  
 photograph  
 by Mark Lewis

Photos of snowboarder Brad Miller by Mark Lewis / LEWIS PHOTOGRAPHY

## Snowboard superstar goes for 'most creative'

By Renee Rambert  
 and Alli Holtz  
 Sunset High School West

Brad Miller, a junior at Cimarron-Memorial High School, gave in to the sport of snowboarding four seasons ago.

Although Miller is busy attending school, he makes plenty of time to pursue the sport he loves best.

Snowboarding consists of two different styles: alpine and freestyle. Miller prefers to ride freestyle. According to the snowboard superstar, freestyle is riding everything -- cliffs, powder, carving groomed, and making new lines in the snowboard park.

"However you feel like riding that day, it all comes down to who is the most creative," he says. After a day of snowboarding, Miller seems to have "air awareness."

He knows how to balance his body, control his rotations, and ride solid and smooth.

"It all just clicks together and then you feel comfortable with big and difficult tricks," Miller says. Helping to support his snowboarding habit is Joyride Snowboards and Sub Skates, Etc., a local snowboard shop. These sponsors allow Miller to attend contests.

Last month, Miller won the U.S. Snowboard Association's Southwest Regionals in Brianhead, Utah.

"Brad has excellent potential. He rides clean and sticks every landing," says Barry Leydecker, Jr., manager of Sub Skates etc. "To sum it up, he rips! I predict Brad will go far in snowboarding."

Miller plans to relocate in the future to a snow town, preferably Stratton, Vermont.

"I would like to wake up in the morning to clear skies and lots of fresh powder," Miller says. "I want to raise snowboarding to its highest level." He adds, "Doing tricks is the easy part. It's the landing that's hard."

### INSIDE CLASS!

Basic	22
Bonanza	12
Boulder City	21
Chaparral	4
Cheyenne	11
Clark	5
Durango	8
Eldorado	13
Gorman	18
Green Valley	6
LV Academy	10
Las Vegas	16
Rancho	20
Silverado	14
Valley	17
Western	19



## Social troubles won't go away just by censoring books, films

*Note: The following editorial is in response to a Clark County School board meeting in February, during which proposed changes in School Board policy were discussed. The proposal was drafted by a member of the conservative group Nevada Concerned Citizens and is viewed by some students and educators as a form of censorship. Several high school students, including many from Chaparral, went to the meeting to argue against adopting these policies. Upon seeing the large numbers of students present at the meeting, School Board Member Judy Witt said that "teachers must be offering extra credit," but students such as Chanel Anderson were motivated only by their desire to express the student point of view on these policies.*

**By Chanel Anderson**

As a student attending a Clark County School in the 1990's, I never expected to have to defend my First Amendment rights of free speech, thought, and action.

I am, on the other hand, ready and prepared to defend my personal opinions and beliefs. But our Board of Trustees is making that decision for me. The decision that my opinion, no matter what it is, not only does not count, but cannot be expressed.

Our school board trustees want to ban all "materials and procedures which would reveal highly personal or potentially embarrassing matters, such as family structure, personal habits, choice of friends, or church attendance. such activities are potentially egodestructive and therefore, inappropriate."

They want to destroy all discussion on "moral issues with no solutions which have the potential to cause negative emotions in the young."

I am really glad our school board is so close-minded as to want to avoid any topic that deals with reality. Honestly, how do they expect us to grow if we are not allowed to think or express our beliefs? Anything from winning or losing a basketball game to the topic of AIDS will not be allowed to be

commented upon if these proposed changes are adopted.

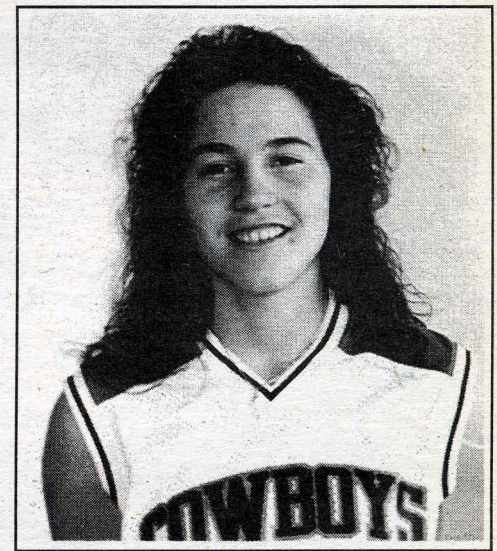
Not only is the school board being unrealistic and close-minded, but completely vague and unreasonable. I don't know of a "moral issue" (not specific) that has no solution. Every moral issue has a solution. It may not be a globally or locally accepted solution but it is my (or my peers') solution. Without the ability to explore new ideas and answers, how will we ever find a global solution?

By ignoring real social situations, they do not disappear.

Grades K-8 are a critical learning period in which children decide what to believe. In grades 9-12 young adults act upon and defend their beliefs. They may find out what they believe is wrong or simply there are better beliefs out there; but how could a student realize this if all discussion is terminated?

Our school board is making weak members in a strong, opinionated harsh society. I say wake up, this is no extra credit project; these are my feelings, my beliefs, my life.

You cannot ban me, you cannot stop my opinions. I am the future, every student in Clark County is your future.



**Sarai Hoopes: top women's hoopster**

*By Paul Morelli*

Time after time, senior Sarai Hoopes puts up tremendous numbers. She is the leading scorer in town with an average 31 points per game and 37 points in conference. She also averages eight steals, four rebounds and six assists per game.

This Northern Arizona-bound star has earned many honors this season. She made All-Tournament teams in the Cheyenne tournament and another in Davis, Utah.

"Sarai Hoops is a great basketball player, she has matured over the past four years," Coach Harper says. "The best part is that she is more concerned with the team than with herself. A player of her caliber will be missed."

## Japanese students hit the books full time!

*By Richard Park*

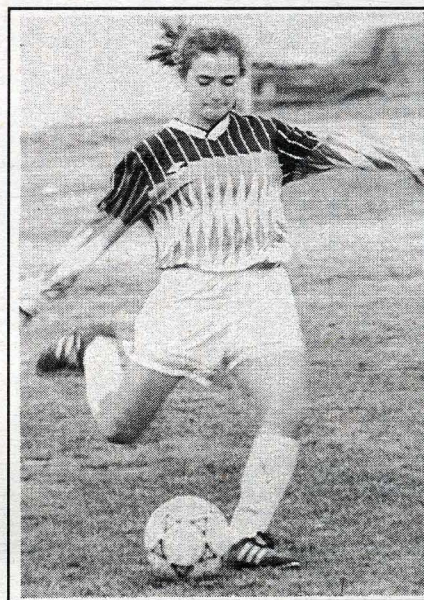
Japan. The country where roads are small, everything is crowded and almost everyone is a Buddhist. And for Chaparral High junior Noriko Takaji, it is home.

When Noriko came here, the first thing she noticed was that "everyone spoke English." Noriko is on the school tennis team and also played tennis in Japan. Her favorite food is hamburgers and her favorite class at Chaparral is choir. Noriko doesn't like heavy metal bands, but favors the music of the Swedish hit group Ace of Base.

She would like to attend college here. Noriko wants to become an English teacher because her father is an English teacher.

There are many differences between our country and hers. Japanese students attend 240 days a year, 6 days a week, have few dropouts, and place heavy emphasis on getting good grades.

Perhaps by the time Noriko leaves she will have learned more than any textbook could teach her about America.



**HEADED FOR STATE?** Chaparral's 1994-95 Women's Varsity Soccer team appears to be well on the way to winning its first State championship, with a conference record of 9-0-1.

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## ENDANGERING THE RIGHT TO LEARN

### Proposal must be defeated

By Aaron McKinnon

Censorship has been around since the beginning of American society and long before. Our founding fathers were able to see that censorship becomes rights infringement, and thus the First Amendment was created. It guarantees the right to freedom of the press, speech and religion.

When censorship was applied to students in public schools, the result was students without rights. Fortunately, censorship in schools has lightened up...Discussions in class have become liberal, open-minded, and provocative. However, the dark cloud of censorship now looms ominously over Clark County.

A group known as Nevada Concerned Citizens (NCC) has proposed a policy that calls for the elimination of "materials and procedures which would reveal highly personal or potentially embarrassing matters, such as family structure, personal habits, choice of friends, or church attendance..." as well as "moral issues with no solutions which have potential to cause negative emotions in the young."

Such censorship would damage a student's education, not help it. Class discussions on religion, friendship and family structures greatly expand a student's views and opens one's mind to new ideas and experiences.

Also on NCC's agenda is eliminating "moral issues with no solutions" from the list of subjects one can read or talk about at school. Life is hard and problems don't go away by not talking about them; one must discuss problems in order to solve them. NCC appears to want students to remain ignorant of a problem until they encounter it, and then it may be too late.

The vagueness of the proposal allows for anything to fall under the ban, including the subject of drug abuse. If students were not allowed to discuss the results of drug abuse, and all books on illegal drugs were yanked from the shelves of school libraries, just imagine the first time a child ignorant of the potency of narcotics is offered a chance to snort cocaine with his friends because it's "cool."

The reason [that might be used] for barring such a critical subject from class discussions and libraries: illegal drug use in America is a moral issue with no solution, or so NCC could say.

Censorship is a powerful force and, when used incorrectly, can be very destructive. It can damage education, art, and the whole concept of freedom. The issue brought forward by NCC is an infringement upon the rights of Clark County's students and must be rejected -- not only for the right to free speech, but the right to learn.

## Flash your sign -- sing with a star!

By Aaron McKinnon

Imagine this: you are standing in the front row of a concert featuring one of your idols. You want to get up next to this performer and sing your heart out. You hold up a sign: "Let me sing on stage! I can sing, I swear!" Would you expect to get on stage?

For Clark High sophomore **Desiree Evans**, it was a reality. She was invited to sing on stage at Caesars Palace by her country music idol, Reba McEntire.

Evans sang a verse of the song "Does He Love You," which was received well by the audience and McEntire. McEntire asked Evans her name, then said, "Is that the name you're going to use when you become famous?"

"McEntire said I had nerves of steel," Evans recalls, "and said she could never do that when she was my age. And then I hugged her."

"I was nervous," says Evans, "But...I was more nervous at school concerts. I thank her for seeing something in me and giving me support. It changed my life."

Evans, as a member of the McEntire fan club, is entitled to one backstage pass per year, and used this privilege last time she went to see the country music star. Evans gave McEntire a letter and a framed picture of the two of them on stage. Ten days later the sophomore received a thank you note from her idol.

Evans likes most all country performers, though "Garth is it, I love him so much."

### More than 15 minutes!

The Clark student's love of country music arose about three years ago. "One day my mother and I were driving down the road and my mom turned on the radio, and there was this song, "The Greatest Man I Never Knew," and I thought it was beautiful." Evans recalls listening to country radio stations trying to find the song again, thus developing a love for country music.

She has been involved in music and the honor choir since she performed in a sixth-grade talent show. Even before singing on stage at the McEntire concert, Evans wanted to be famous.

"I feel this thing with Reba put me in the right direction and more doors have been opened. I dream of my own stage and my own audience cheering for me. I know dreams can come true; if I want to do something, I can."

Evans is involved with church choir, Bravo!, and concert choir. However, she does find time for school work; this year she has maintained straight A's.

It is said that everyone gets 15 minutes of fame. In the limelight at Caesars, Desiree Evans received her share, but if she stays on the road she is traveling now, she will receive much more than that.

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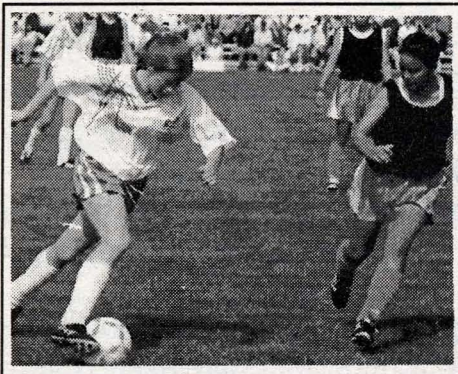


## Ladies' Soccer Wins State Championship

By David Gallagher

Sophomore Maggie Seminoff controls the ball in the championship game against Chaparral

Photo by David Weisberg



Maybe it was the hours of hard long practices everyday after school, or the practices over the holiday vacation, it could of even been those early Saturday morning wake up calls. Whatever it was, it sure paid off for the GVHS women's soccer team.

"There is no question that the girls who played in the championship game last year were here to prove something. If you lose one year, you always come back the following year with fire in your eyes," coach Vince Hart explains.

With one goal victories over Bonanza and defending state champions, Gorman, the lady Gators found themselves playing in the championship game against one team they failed to beat on two previous occasions.

There's no doubt that tenacity and willpower helped the lady Gators defeat Sunrise Division Champions, Chaparral, and gave the GVHS women's soccer team their first ever Southern State Championship.

## GVHS's 1995 Student Body Officers

(left to right) Jose Estrada - 1st Vice President  
Amber Zockoll - 2nd Vice President, Manus Edwards - President  
Shauntelle Rowberry - Secretary, Mike McEvoy - Treasurer



## Six Students Honored as Las Vegas Youth Leaders

by Prem Premsrirut

Each year 40 high school students from Las Vegas participate in the Las Vegas Youth Program. This year, six of the 40 are from Green Valley. Ryan Bayley, Beverly Hynds, Kimberly Steinforth, Val Tranonte, and Christopher Walker will spend six days working and learning from community and business leaders throughout the county.

To be considered for the youth leadership program, students fill out an application and answer questions during an oral interview conducted by community leaders. Winners were selected based on outstanding leadership abilities, high academics, and involvement in extracurricular activities.

At the end of the program in May, each participant will take part in a graduation ceremony.

## GVHS Students Get A Chance To Solve The City's Water Shortage

by Chris Weber

Imagine a crisis, such as a water shortage, being solved by students. That's exactly what could happen as a result of a GVHS grant proposal.

If accepted by the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the GVHS Eco-Aqua Systems project will utilize GVHS students to help discover a solution to Nevada's ever-growing water dilemma.

The \$2,200 grant program will be directed by Pam Salazar, who submitted the proposal, which clearly specifies that it will involve both teachers and students from six curriculum areas. Combining the talents of students from Physics, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Math, Social Studies, and English classes will help to ensure a well-rounded path to success.

Student observations will be shared in their social study classes, where future social implications will need to be reviewed. Results from the project will also be discussed during the students' math courses, where they will analyze their findings and prepare mathematical models of their predictions to illustrate the valley's water problem.

Facilitators hope that the project will motivate and encourage students to collaborate their efforts, that will in turn help them learn about the valley's desert hydrology, and ultimately provide helpful solutions to Nevada's water shortage.

Students will also prepare multimedia presentations using computers in conjunction with research papers written with the help of English teachers. At the completion of the project, the collected research data will be shared with other students in the valley via telecommunications, and will be placed into video format which in turn will be presented to local libraries, feeder schools and community learning centers..

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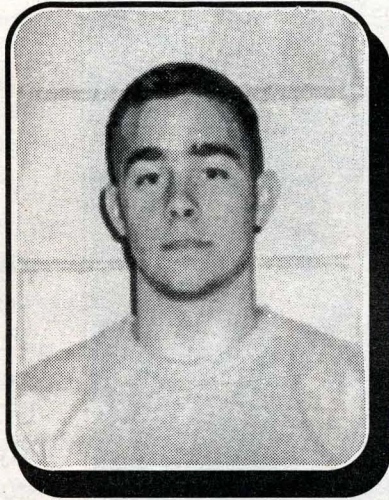
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## GVHS Senior Earns A Full-Ride Scholarship To UNLV



Starting quarterback, Jon Denton, GVHS Gators varsity football player, received a full-ride scholarship from UNLV after completing a spectacular season his senior year.

Denton, played a key role in helping the football team down a path that led them right to the state championship, and right to the attention of the UNLV football scouts.

Jon has played for GVHS since his freshman year, and winning a scholarship was one of his major goals.

"It's an award for all my hard work during high school. I'd be crazy to pass up an opportunity like this," says Denton.

While attending UNLV, Jon plans to major in Business Administration, and pursue some of his other interests such as basketball, fishing and other outdoor activities.

## An Appreciation for the Arts

by Kelly Clark

Imagine a movie with no words, a play with no sound; imagine living in a world with no noise at all.

Pantomime, more commonly known as "mime" is an art form where actors tell their stories without words and sounds, and few or no props.

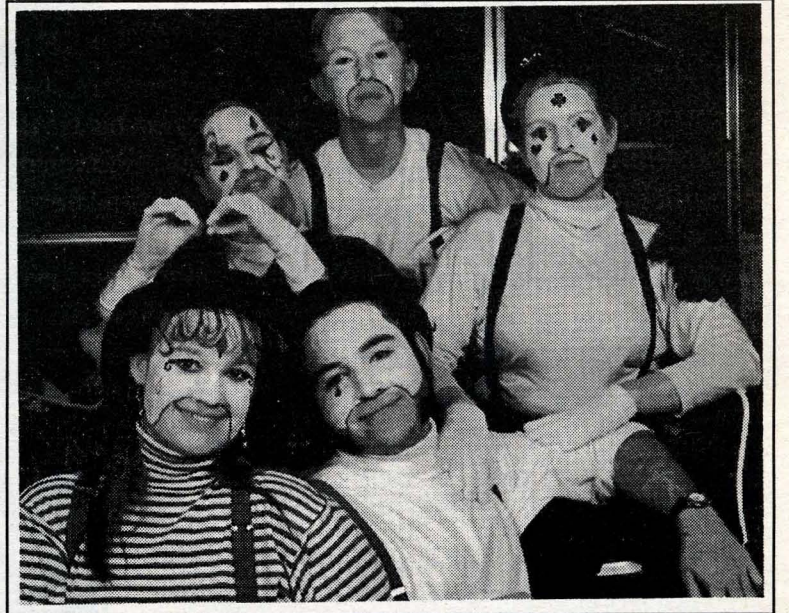
Mime is arguably the most misunderstood of all theatrical arts, but mime is alive and well at GVHS.

Under the direction of Theater Director Dane Madsen, several students are quietly developing their skills in the art of mime. During a recent Fine Arts Week, many students had the opportunity to witness the silent performances of some very talented young actors.

Madsen says, "Brian Blaylock and Ali Burns are the 'mime gods' of GVHS." Blaylock, an officer in the GVHS Thespian Society, is the leader of the mimes, while Burns, who recently moved to Las Vegas, has been practicing 'mime' since she was eight years old.

"Mime creates the illusion that objects are there when they really are not," says Burns. "It's as if you are on stage portraying a character."

Photo by Michael Weisberg



Blaylock, who has been involved with mime for four years, says, "Mime is theatrical entertainment without words." Brian enjoys performing in front of students, although he admits it can be frustrating. "It's our way of showing our school spirit, because theater is such an isolated activity. It's also very frustrating for the mimes when we go out to perform, and the students take our props and throw food at us." Madsen adds, "The audience does not understand what is going on, and mimes are often harassed and mistreated. An audience, nine times out of ten, will use the 'pulley system': if they see something, even if they think it is good, and it threatens them in any way, they will pull it down to pull themselves up. And because of that, actors for generations, for centuries, have been ridiculed because of the things they do. It's sad that we can't, won't, as people open our minds and look at the various talents of others, and appreciate those talents for what they are."

Even though difficult times are encountered, GVHS mimes are sticking with their talents and moving forward to enlighten those willing to take time to understand.

**Remember, in mime, it's not what one says, but what one does that counts. Maybe there's a lesson in that to be learned in everyday life as well.**

**IMAGE**  
is everything...

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

**Lewis**  
Photography  
222-1016



## Durango's Fine Arts Faire offers music, art, a hot car

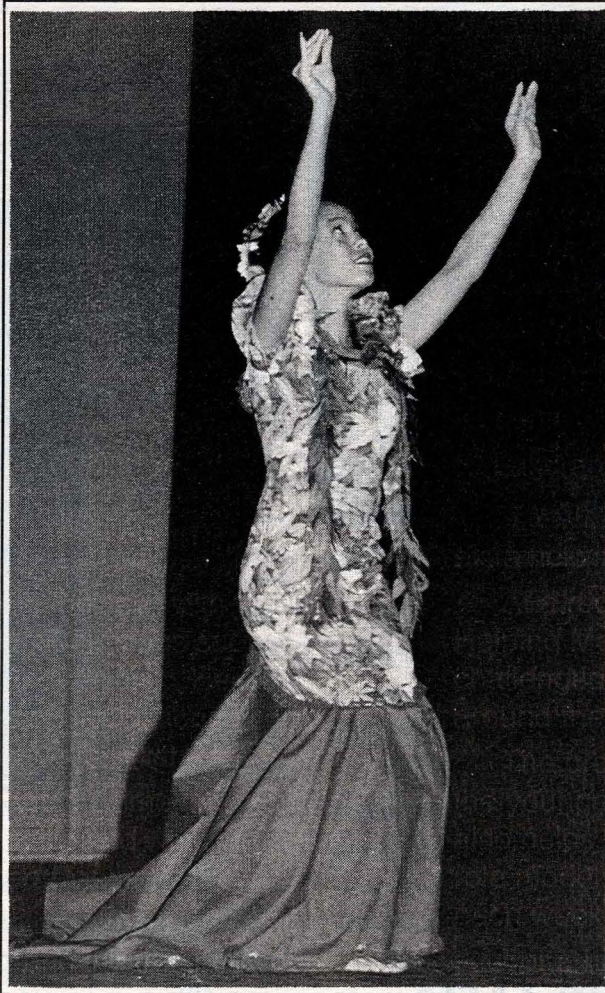
Paintings, drawings, ceramics, photography, computer art, and the melodious sounds of Durango High School's band and choir enhanced the atmosphere at Durango's 1995 Fine Arts Fair.

If that does not strike your attention, how about a 1986 Pontiac Fiero? The Durango Band Boosters raffled off this red dream car with \$5.00 raffle tickets.

You could also sit back, listen, and watch Durango students perform in the theater or hear Durango percussionists perform in the Percussion Ensemble Concert. Durango's band and the Durango choir both performed in pre-festival concerts.

Artists displayed their art work in the lobby and on the walls of the theater and mime performances were put on by Durango students.

(Reporting: Amanda Krueger)



**BIT O'HAWAII** -- Athena Javier, junior, performs her native dance at Durango's First Annual Variety Show.

Amy Meyer Photo



## Pennants provide clues to future

Amanda Krueger

Many colleges are available for students to choose from...and there are many mandatory qualifications. Dr. Allan Coles, principal, and Counselor Brian Myli came up with an idea to make it easier for students at Durango High School to ask questions about the college of their choice.

All the teachers were given pennants from the college or colleges that they had attended. These pennants were placed in the windows of the classrooms. Every student was given a Durango High School Faculty College Directory naming the colleges that the faculty had attended.

Students can walk through the halls and observe all the different colleges that teachers attended and stop in to gain more information.

"I think this is a really good way to communicate with students. If they want information about colleges, they can ask people who have been to the schools and have had hands-on experience," says Bob Wickliff, head counselor.



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## Schindler's List Captures Student's Attention

By Amanda Krueger

How could 80 students miss school recently to go to the movies and receive an excused absence? If you were one of the students chosen and received your parent's permission, you were able to attend the viewing of an awesome movie.

"Schindler's List" was shown at the Red Rock Theaters while the Holocaust Conference was held at the Sands Convention Center. The theater presented the uncut version of the film...a special screening held by the school district...not just for entertainment, but to educate the students about the importance of the Holocaust.

Durango student, Keri Chase says, "I learned how they (Jewish people) were treated unfairly and were killed for no reason."

"Schindler's List" is a compelling portrait of a puzzling man who risked his life for other people and became one of the first "Righteous Gentiles" (moral non-Jewish people) honored by the national Holocaust Museum in Israel.

"If the students in today's society are made aware of the Holocaust, they will be prepared to take action to prevent persecution of any group in the future," comments an anonymous teacher.

All high schools in the area were given the opportunity to attend the Conference and the movie. Boulder City and Western High Schools shared the theater with Durango.

### Krueger wins essay contest

Amanda Krueger, junior, has won the Future EXPO essay contest, winning a \$100 savings bond and gaining extra credit from English teacher Laura Eaton.

Her topic was "I Hear the Sound(s) of My Future," which explains her plans for a career in law enforcement. "Writing just comes naturally to me," she says.

Seven high school and seven middle school students took home \$100 bonds for their essays.

(Reporter: Amanda Laney)

## Ten-HUT!



T.J. McMahon

Farrah Williams has decided to enter the U.S. Army...one of 400 recruited by the Army from Southern Nevada.

"At night school a recruiter came to talk to us," says Williams. "What she said sounded very interesting." She plans to be active for four years and nonactive for another four.

"I was recruited under the Montgomery GI bill. I get \$14,000 for four years of college. I also receive \$800 for the first four months that I serve. After that I will receive a raise," Williams explains.

Williams has mixed emotions about her decision, but she is confident about what the Army will provide for her. "I'm excited, at the same time, I'm scared to go to basic training. I think it will be tough," Williams says. "My parents totally support me. They think it's a great idea."

Army Lt. Col. Bob Hergert visited Durango and our ROTC program recently. He has been in the army since 1975. "I love my job, I get to travel to many places -- Germany, Korea, and all across the States," says Hergert.

"I visit colleges, high schools, Rotary Clubs, and talk to them about the Army and its benefits. I have been to almost every high school in the Las Vegas Valley," says Hergert.

The army has three main advantages to offer new recruits. These advantages include money for college, skill training, and service to the country. The main assistance program is the Army College Fund which comes in three packages. The two-year enlistment pays \$20,000 for college; a three-year enlistment pays \$30,000 for college; and a four-year plan pays \$40,000 for college.

"To qualify you must be a high school graduate and score 50 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test," Hergert explains. "There are over 250 job skills that Army officers can learn. They are guaranteed a specific job training under the skill they choose, plus they receive tuition assistance for college."

## Silent Auction rewards student virtues

By Mai Vuong

Good behaviors will be recognized and rewarded in Durango's Silent Auction, scheduled for May 9, 10 and 11. According to Jo Ann Courier, a parent volunteer, the auction "will encourage good behavior."

The Silent Auction, a program that involves everyone at Durango High School, is organized by POPS, Power of Positive Schools.

The procedures are simple. Teachers receive Silent Auction coupons and, as they observe good behaviors, they give the students coupons. The students save the coupons until the auction.

Cindy Holt, a math instructor, will give coupons to students with good test or quiz scores, those who have no tardiness for a quarter, and those who put in extra effort.

Various items have been donated for the auction. A booklet listing the items will be distributed closer to the date of the auction

*Win a hat, a ride,  
an administrator's job*

During the week of the auction, students write the numbers of tickets they wish to bid on the bid sheet and sign their names. When the auction is over, the person with the highest bid will receive each item.

Items available for bid vary. Last year, more than 140 items were on display. Prizes included theater tickets, pizza coupons, gift certificates, Grand-Slam Canyon tickets, Durango hats and t-shirts, extra-credit, homework passes, etc. Donations came from teachers, staff, the community and parents.

### Canonico takes second at State

Sophomore Eddie Canonico wrestled his way into second place in the Nevada State Wrestling Championship match -- making Durango history as the first Blazer wrestler to place at the state tournament. He finished second to Jesse Medina from Rancho High School.



One of the highlights of the action was and will be "Principal for a Day." This will allow one student to exchange roles with Durango Principal Dr. Allen Coles and experience the day as principal while Coles becomes a student.

Sean Claggett, senior, won the bid to wrestle with coach Curtis Pilgreens during last year's Power of Positive Schools assembly. "I like the idea...it is a reward system that encourages students to do better in class. It was also a lot of fun to receive my prize," says Claggett.

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In My Opinion: A Student Editorial

**PUBLIC INVITED**

## Squeeze yourself into someone else's dream

By Ryan Lee Brooks

Dreaming on a midsummer's night...I know plenty of people who would love to do this, but let's be realistic: who has the time?

Well, how about going to see someone else's dream? Surely we can squeeze that into our busy schedules.

The Las Vegas Academy production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be presented March 24, 25 and 31, and April 1 in the LVA auditorium.

This play, written in 1595 by William Shakespeare, is about love...the story-line goes something like this:

Four mortals are always chasing each other around because they are all in love...but no one loves them back. So the king of the elves sends his servant, Puck, for a love potion. When the potion is used, the mortals fall in love with the wrong persons.

At one point in the play, Puck announces, "Lord, what fools these mortals be!" This may be the most famous line in the entire story.

Who or what will straighten out this chause? What will happen to Puck and all the lovers? Come to the Academy and see for yourself!

## WHERE'S THE BEEF?

Condensed from an editorial by Toni Sutton

Kids may have more than three dozen teachers from elementary through high school. Some will be good, some bad...

Following are the top five complaints teachers have about students.

1. **Laziness:** failure to do homework, not bring the proper materials to class and more observation than participation.
2. **Rudeness:** talking to others while the teacher is speaking, grooming during class, sleeping in class.
3. **Lies, cheating, lame excuses.**
4. **Students who feel they know everything.**
5. **Junior high behavior** in a high school: hitting, running, etc.

And here are the top four beefs that students have about teachers:

1. **Bathroom passes:** teachers not giving out bathroom passes and when they do, it's not often.
2. **Busy schedules:** teachers are not understanding when it comes to students' schedules.
3. **Passing time:** not enough time to get to some classes that are far away from others, and tardies really add up.
4. **Attitude:** some teachers come into class and they have really negative attitudes at times.

## Our generation is killing the American Dream

By Sybrina Bernabei

Our high school age group (14-19) is not quite Generation X and way past the Barney stage. So how is our generation defined? And what kind of shape is it in?

Some readers may see this as a slam against teenagers of the '90s. It is not. It is a wake-up call. It's the scary statistics (high teenage drug use, low employment, high violence) that we need to face. The media has pegged us as a generation of free-loaders, unable to reprise the American dream.

Is it simply a matter of bad choices and thoughtless decisions?

One very bad choice that our generation has made is violence. It is more excessive today than ever before. It started in the 1980s, an unrivaled period of juvenile violent crime. *The 1991 Uniform Crime Reports for the United States* (the most recent source) notes a total of 5,770 offenders under the age of 21 in murder and non-negligent manslaughter in that year alone. That's nearly 38% of all murder offenders. It also reports that nearly 45% of all robbery offenders are under age 21, and that one out of every 25 minors has held a handgun.

I truly believe that if our generation continues its involvement in crime and violence, in our future we will not be looking at the white picket fences of the traditional American Dream. We will be looking at steel bars that serves as a shield for panicked citizens.

Experts have blamed everything including racy television and explicit music. Maybe it's simply our need for attention.

In 20 years, when we look at what kind of world we have made for ourselves, will we be proud or will we be ashamed?

### Teen fathers ignored?

## Children having children

By Loes van Ruiten

Yes, this is another story about a big problem in society: teen pregnancy. There are many ways to look at the problem...the mother's view or maybe the father's role. (Teen fathers usually fall out of the picture.)

President Clinton has a plan to make young men think twice about getting their girlfriends pregnant. The plan addresses child support, schooling and work.

If a pregnant girl gets married or lives with the father of her child, she is probably ineligible for welfare. Currently, when a mother [on welfare] has another child, her welfare check increases. In the Clinton plan, the payment doesn't change when a welfare mother's family grows. Teenage mothers should not be encouraged to have more children.

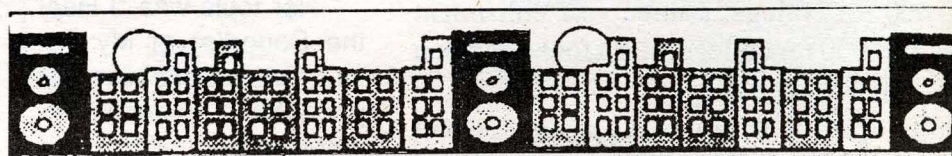
Fathers should be more involved. It is not the sole responsibility of the mother to take care of the child. However, if you look at present laws, unwed dads are sometimes not even mentioned on the birth certificate, says an article from *Newsweek*.



### What will The Watcher watch if The Watcher won't watch watches? Academy students!

The Nevada Motion Picture Office offered Las Vegas Academy the opportunity for students to participate in the filming of a TV show. The ninth episode of the TV series "The Watcher" was filmed at LVA and as many as 35 students served as extras. The show was scheduled to be aired March 7. Above, the crew in production. (Mike Slate, contributing reporter.)

The Las Vegas Academy will present on March 16 "A Taste of the Academy" to introduce the Academy to the community. The event will include performances by the students and a reception featuring international coffees and desserts



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## CHAMP --down for the count

By Suebrett Tonic

Truant students got a second chance last semester with the now-defunct CHAMP. The Cheyenne High School Attendance Motivational Program, introduced by Principal Richard Brown as "a school within a school," was styled to curb attendance problems.

Once students (except seniors) exceeded the District's limit of 11 absences, they were placed in the CHAMP program...and were no longer part of the normal school day. They attended classes in portables...and were required to stay on campus for lunch.

The program seemed to be running well. Some students were gaining the motivation that the program was meant to instill. Others still cut school and watched their grades sink as a result.

"For some...it was beneficial. Some even asked to come out and be with the same teachers," comments John Plunkett, who was the CHAMP social studies teacher. "They're the ones who understood what we were trying to do, and they appreciated it."

The growth of the areas around Cheyenne has led to an abundance of new students attending the school...classes were becoming too large for teachers to be giving the type of individualized attention needed in a learning environment. Some of the classes averaged over 40 students per class.

One teacher from each department was placed with the CHAMP students -- and this led to the decision to cancel the CHAMP program.

"We decided that to better accommodate all our students, we needed those teachers in the regular instructional program," says Assistant Principal Mary Appel. "Everything is a money decision... We have to decide how to best allocate those teachers...to make our programs work for our kids.

It's hard to help someone when they don't show up for the help.

## Birds of prey swoop down on Cheyenne

Adapted from a report by Rose Oyamat

Hawkwatch International, an organization that protects raptors (birds of prey such as eagles, hawks, falcons and owls), talked with CHS students recently about the importance of protecting these birds and the environment.

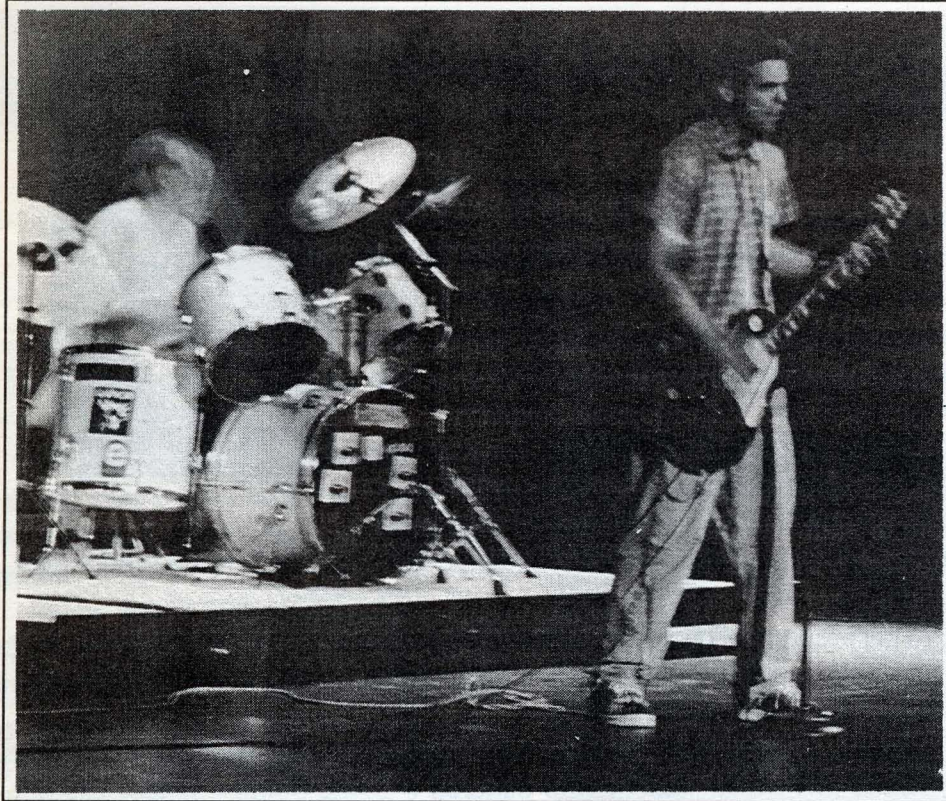
They explained that raptors are vital because they help control the animal population by feeding on pests that transmit diseases and often destroy crops.

The Hawkwatch speakers brought two raptors with them: a Swainson's hawk that lives in captivity because one wing had been amputated, and a red-tailed hawk that had lost an eye.

Threats to raptors include the loss of habitat, poaching, the poisoning of small animals (such as mice and prairie dogs) that raptors feed on, and electrocution by power poles.



Jennifer Eagon of Hawkwatch International



CHEYENNE TALENT SHOW -Jason Wilda of "Buster Nelson" performs at the recent Cheyenne High School talent show.

## Talent showcase spotlights students

By Alisa Ochoa

The second annual Cheyenne High School Talent Show was held recently in the Cheyenne Theatre. It was a riot!

Where else can you see a Polynesian dancer, a couple of instrumental solos, a dozen potential lounge singers, and a few punk bands come together for the sole purpose of displaying their (ripe) talents?

For the most part it was a good show...However, whether this exhibition of Cheyenne talent was a positive or negative experience relied entirely on the audience of parents, faculty and friends.

The evening started with a bang and ended on a good note.

The opening band, **Buster Nelson**, spewed out a few raw tunes. They were professional, even though they scared off a few faculty members.

Afterwards, there were a couple of Mariah Carey tributes and a few soft melodies to soothe the air before the band **Kallis** hit the stage. There was a problem with an amp but one has to give those guys recognition for doing what some kids are too scared to do in a million years.

A ten-minute intermission was needed to prepare the audience for the next band, **No Credit**. After two well-performed songs, the audience was invited on-stage to release the positive energy they had acquired from the talent show. The guitars started wailing, a friendly mosh pit was in the making.

However, it was all quickly ended. To make matters clear: neither the band nor the audience took part in a riot or a fight, as rumors may have led you to believe.

No credit was a hard act to follow, but **Sangreflor** deserves a lot of credit. They mellowed the audience with their haunting folkish number, "Halah."



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## Thespian troupe to perform at Festival

Bonanza High School's Thespian Troupe 1495 will perform at the prestigious International Thespian Society Festival '95, June 26-July 1 at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

The 18-member troupe will present a one-hour stage production of "Give and Take," a play featuring a collection of folk tales from around the world, based on a multi-cultural theme of "people who give" and "people who take."

According to Bonanza Theater Department Chair Carol Lommen, only the "best of the best" high school students throughout the world are invited to perform. "For any high school theater group to receive an invitation to this internationally acclaimed festival is an extremely high honor," Lommen commented.

The biggest challenge will be raising the estimated \$22,000 dollars that it's going to cost to take 30 people, including stage technicians and performers. A major fund raising effort is under way with a garage-less garage sale and other activities to be announced.

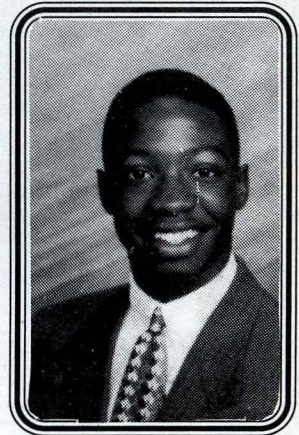
We are actively appealing to the entire community for financial support. Anyone wishing to make a donation to help Bonanza troupe 1495 to attend the festival may contribute directly to the school, or may call Carol Lommen at 799-4000.



The clock was put on hold during Bonanza's final ladies basketball game, after Jackie Lambeth sank a three-pointer, landing her in Bonanza's record books as the all-time leading scorer with 1,015 points. Presenting her with a plaque and game ball are coach Cathy Szymarek (left), and assistant coach JaNeen Eudy (right).

## Clark County Youth Law Association

Lisa De La Torre



Terry James and Michaelle Stikich, Bonanza High School seniors, are peer counselors for the Clark County Youth Law Association. This program is for first-time juvenile offenders, who can avoid a permanent criminal record by participating in the "trial-by-peers" program.

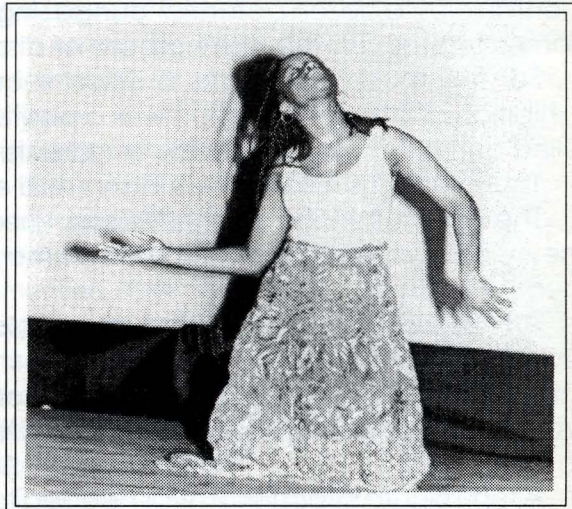
To become members of the Law Association, students must take courses in preparation for a shortened version of the Nevada Bar Exam. The test is offered once a year during the fall, right before the school year begins.

This program is one of only two pilot programs in the country (the other is in Alaska), and was featured on CBS Evening News with Dan Rather and Connie Chung last October.

James and Stikich are working on six different cases, the most interesting of which involves a student who battered a Clark County School District officer. This case, like all the others, will be tried in front of a jury consisting mainly of students who either have not yet passed the exam, or are still studying to take the exam. These cases will be presided over by Judge Nancy Osterly.

## African-American History Week For Fashion, Fun and Reflection

Laterra Harris, interprets a modern dance as part of the African-American History Week Program.



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

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

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

- "...the knowledge I need to realize my dreams" (Heather Subran)
- "...new friendships...great times" (Cindy Purvance)
- "...diverse curriculum...supportive professors" (Alan Tack)

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Featured performers from left to right are Leslee Camilla, Kanasha Shelton, Alex Abram, Ama Nyamerye, Retha Linzy, Laterra Harris and Niki Murray.



## First Person Singular

### AHEAD OF MY TIME: EARLY GRADUATION

By Jennifer Bond

No, I'm not a straight-A student, nor am I sure of what my future holds. I consider myself to be just like any other senior at this school, only I'm graduating a year early.

Of course, I'm going to miss my old friends, but if you had the chance to leave school a year early, I'm sure you would.

It's a weird feeling for me. One minute I had a year to figure out my life and which college to go to -- and now I'm trying to cram it into three months of school. I sometimes find myself at school more than anywhere else.

I guess it's almost like life is passing me by right now. All work and no play can drive anyone up the wall. But I just keep reminding myself that this is what I want to do and it'll be better in the long run.

Sometimes I wonder what I'll be missing, but I have to look at the good side and be happy and come to grips with what I've chosen to do. I'm not saying I don't want to graduate early anymore -- I just wish it was a little less hectic.

In the end, when I walk up to get my diploma, I'll remember what I did to get there and be happy to know that I don't have to come back next year and put up with it again.



## Aqua Devils prepare to dive into swim meets

By Gabriel Frumusanu

Eldorado's swim team has improved over the last four years. About 30 new swimmers signed up for the team recently, along with a few who are returning.

Johan Pulgarin, Gabriel Frumusanu and Jessica Howard have been on year-round swim teams in the past and now, they say, it's time for them to go to State in individual events.

"My chances to make it to State this year look good," says Johan after the first day of practice. However, Coach Chatman says the team's chances of winning will be limited this year because of the lack of swimmers.

Eldorado's first challenge will be Chaparral on March 18 at Basic, followed by zone championships at UNLV on May 13 and the State meet on May 20. Reports are not yet available on the Fifth Annual Wolf's Relay meet held March 11 at Basic High.

### CORRECTION

Three by-lines were accidentally dropped in the February issue of CLASS!

Jennifer Puryear wrote the stories on Black History Month; Juli-Anna LeGro was the author of the article about changing classes between semesters; and the report on the policy to lock out tardy students was written by Ulf Steffen. Sorry about that, gang! We sure did lay an egg!

### READY FOR THIS?

## Papparazzi go high-tech

By Lee Tone

The students in Craig Caples' photography classes have traded in their developer and negatives for videotapes and a VCR. This year, Eldorado will have its first-ever video yearbook.

Those papparazzi roaming the halls are dedicated video-heads on a mission to capture every Eldorado student on cassettes bound for the editing room in Caples' photo lab. He has promised that all students will find themselves in motion in the Sundevil video yearbook.

"If you can't find yourself in it," Caples says, "tell us and we'll put you in it." The project, a team effort, is led by senior Charles Carney. Cost of the video is \$20.

An amateur video contest is offered, with the winner receiving a copy of the video yearbook free; all you need is a video camera and something interesting to film.

We dive video-cam first into the 21st century. Are you ready for this?



## Rochelle on the run -- for Olympic pre-trials

Reported by D'Andre Campbell

Eldorado has a great track team made up of some great runners. One of those runners is Rochelle Young -- and track is her favorite sport.

"I decided to go out for track because I knew I was fast and could be a top competitor," she explains. And a top competitor she is!

Young started to run track in her sophomore year, and she took State that year in the high jump: 5' 8" high! During the 1993-94 season, she broke the high jump record of 5'9" by leaping 5'10" for a big State win.

Track is not the only sport Young likes: she also goes out for basketball and soft ball also.

During the past few summers, Young attended the Junior Olympics -- at Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1993 and Gainesville, Florida in 1994.

"During the summer of 1995, I hope to attend the Olympic pre-trials in Colorado and also the Women's National Track Meet in California," she says. "I feel that Eldorado sports are helpful in some ways; I love every minute I was involved."

Young has praise for others. "I learned a lot from my coaches and fellow track members -- to keep my mind on important things," she says. "I have grown from all my experiences."



## Movie Review

By Benjamin Fields

### Houseguest is a HOOT!

Sinbad and Phil Hartman are the perfect actors to star in this new movie.

Sinbad plays Kevin Franklin, who has tried every infomercial get-rich plan and failed. The movie starts with a Sunday school field trip where Kevin's friend swipes money from a fountain...and Kevin talks about how someday he will have a million dollars and a Porsche. The picture then fades to present day.

Pulling up to a light, there's Kevin in his Porsche -- or is it? Kevin is in debt \$50,000 and buys a plane ticket to get away from some goons trying to collect the cash. He hears Phil Hartman's character talk to his son about Derek, a childhood friend he is going to meet after 25 years. Kevin takes Derek's place and the mixed-up mayhem begins. Unfortunately for Kevin, who loves McDonald's, Derek is a vegetarian and Kevin tries to swallow varieties of tofu and goat's milk!

It was a laugh-a-minute movie. You almost bust a gut laughing at some parts. In one part, Kevin introduces Hartman and two senior citizens to speed golf, where you hit the ball, run the course up to the ball, then try to get a straight shot!

I won't reveal any more because you should see it yourself. There was, though, one constant theme in the film: McDonald's. As my friends and I walked out of the theater, we wondered if there were subliminal messages in the movie. I guess there were, because on the way home we stopped at McDonald's.

The Final Verdict: Four stars— It was a really great movie, with the exception of the constant McDonald's plugging.

### Silverado's first winning wrestlers aim for State

By Josh Barnard

The wrestling season is in full swing and the team is the first winning team at Silverado. The Skyhawks have a 3-2 record and could easily be 5-0. After besting Boulder City in their opening match, the Hawks suffered a heartbreaking defeat at the hands of Las Vegas by a measly 2 points.

After the loss, the squad came back to win over Valley and Bishop Gorman. Between those two wins, the team hosted their own tournament, which they took first place in.

While being on a steady emotional high, the Hawks were brought down to earth with another close defeat to first-place Cheyenne -- their first conference defeat.

Along the way, state contenders have arisen from this top team. Jung Yi, 17-0, is one of the top wrestlers in the state. He will most likely be seeded first in the zone tournament. Jesse Anderson, in the 126 class and 16-1, is on a collision course with three-time state champion Tony Medina in the zone tournament.

"I've watched him over the years, I feel he is beatable, even though he's on a 72-match winning streak," says the ever-confident Anderson.

At the heavyweight spot, Glen Pilorowski has proven to be a tremendous asset. At 16-1 he is also in contention for the state championship.

Having a winning team at Silverado has proven to be a huge success with the student body. Home games are packed with enthusiastic students rooting for our successful team. Don't miss out on the action.

## A Piece of My Mind

### What will our parents leave us? A gazillion-dollar debt!

by Kent Garman

*This recession will be a picnic compared to where this country will be in the year 1997.*

U.S Senator Warren B. Rudman  
March 24, 1992.

This is one of the scariest quotes I have ever heard in my life. It refers to the federal debt, and what is predicted by many to be the coming collapse of America as we know it.

The federal debt is the biggest threat facing the country today; solving it is tantamount to fighting a war. For starters, let's look at the facts.

It took this country more than 200 years to run up the first one trillion dollars in debt. It took only 10 more years to add another three trillion dollars; that means that the government owes \$16,000 for every man woman and child in this great country. By 1996, it's predicted that our debt will total more than the entire industrial output of the United States.

What does this mean in everyday terms? It means that the equivalent of 61 cents of every dollar each of us pays in income taxes goes to pay off just the interest on the debt [which] is larger than Social Security funds, or the combined budgets for the departments of Agriculture, Education, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

Money that we should be spending on programs to produce wealth and increase production for our country's future is instead being squandered to service the debt. The crisis is growing so fast, it is predicted we will face a complete financial catastrophe by 1995, this year.

What happens when our economy does collapse? It's estimated that as many as 20 percent of American jobs are gone. Savings are cut by inflation -- also gone. Pensions or Social Security payments are cut or eliminated...prices skyrocket and the American dollar becomes a joke.

The time to act is now, before our country, the last remaining superpower, is left broke and in ruins. I don't know about you, but I don't like being a sophomore in high school and knowing that the government owes \$16,000 for me and thinking it can get nothing but worse.

## More Sports Stuff by Josh Barnard

### Volunteer coach loves soccer

Growing up in Guatemala, Luis Martinez was exposed to soccer at an early age, playing on teams with kids two and three years older than himself.

Martinez grew to be an outstanding player and was selected for an all star-team in Louisiana three years in a row.

"He has helped us improve our goaltending and defense," says JF soccer coach Geoff Baker. "Despite his transition to community college, he will continue to (assist) Silverado."

Martinez comments on his experience as Silverado's soccer coach:

"Sarah Towles is the best female goalie I've ever seen or worked with," Martinez says. "She has the reflexes of a tiger."

Why would anyone volunteer time to a team that has yet to win a game?

Martinez responds: "The most important reason for me to coach is I love the sport to death."

### Success doesn't need big wins

The beginning year of Silverado athletics can be measured by a ruler that doesn't necessarily include wins.

Soccer goalie Ryan Conklin and volleyball spiker Shana Singer were named to Southern Nevada's All Conference First Team and Honorable Mention teams, respectively.

This year's soccer team finished the season with no wins...but Conklin, the Skyhawk's top defenseman, received the highest honor bestowed on a prep player.

# great scores!

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# Student-Speak

## Send Me Home...

Send me home:

Where they kept his casket open and his grave uncovered,  
Where his body committed suicide but his spirit still hovered/  
Oh, my brother...

Send me the ashes of the ashes of the mighty grim reaper ,  
Whose realm / is the gun shells / who dwells / in the deep /,  
Oh, Sleep... sleep

You murdered my past, Reaper, please understand  
No Child could bear the cross of a man.../  
damn...-

Why did you leave them FACEless in the face of homicide,  
Are they stricken with guilt or does the blame / aim to genocide-

I thought I could be powerful if I could only be like you,  
-To Destroy / To Deploy -  
My Wrath of wrack and ravage-  
and capitalize from extreme  
sabotage / and revel in the relics  
and ruin I've caused...

Even though my past you were allowed to violate ,  
Memories of the good you cannot annihilate / -  
You tried to castrate / my soul / from the days of old /,  
You told me "Behold / I am far greater than gold /"  
You molded me / scolded me, I thought I was worthless...  
But to this day, I'm still like clay / and at least now I know this...-

Home... send me home...no matter how far strewn my brains are across  
this concrete land... Even if I am headless, or FACEless-  
From out of the darkness and into the shadows- Pray that my memories  
won't be a revelation... And they won't -  
Because my memories have ancient blood still stalking through  
their wretched viens /...  
the pain /- I thought they were slain-  
Reaper, you may spend your eternity killing / but you're forever dealing /  
with those who despise / though many men who professed to be wise /  
say that my eyes / have not been branded with the years / though they  
have dropped many tears / I-  
Understand/ I'm a youthful FACE  
who records my memories in the  
oceans sand- washed away.  
-damn-

*Hamaas Gilchrist  
Eldorado High School*

## O. J. Simpson: beyond innocent or guilty

*Mike Slate, Las Vegas Academy*

Picture this: you've just come home from a long day at school. You decide to unwind a little by watching some TV. You turn on the TV and what do you hear? "We interrupt the regularly scheduled program with an update on the O.J. Simpson murder trial."

It seems you can't go anywhere without hearing O.J.'s name. He's everywhere: the TV, the radio, the newspapers, and yes, even the movies.

...However, it's not his fault that this matter has gotten so far out of hand. The man didn't just wake up one morning and say, "Today I'm gonna make a comeback by killing my wife."

Still, it's clear that he's more popular than he ever was... Unless you've Fortunately...the topic seems to be dying down a little. Six months ago, he was all over the front pages...now you have to look all the way back on the third or fourth page to find anything about Simpson. Most of the time.

By the time the trial's over... Sadly, if he is innocent, he may never be able to live a normal life again.

## A Survey

## What do YOU do when it's time to play?

[This report is based on a 1993 survey report of students in Clark County schools by Amy L. Hyams, Senior Program Coordinator for the Community Education Division of the Community College of Southern Nevada, and James A. Busser, Associate Professor of Sport and Leisure Studies at UNLV.]

What do you like for leisure activity? A recent survey of Clark County students says movies and swimming top the list for high school girls while high school guys go for football and basketball. In fact, the Top-10 activities that students say they are currently involved in are:

H.S. Males		H.S. Females	
Playing football	Exercise/Fitness	Movies	Fashion
Playing basketball	Video Games	Swimming	Baby-sitting
Movies	Dates/Relations	Dates/relations	Attending sports events
Attending sports events	Parties/Socials	Parties/Socials	Concerts
Swimming	Billiards	Concerts	Waterslides
			Dancing

Note that "creative hobbies" such as art, music and drama were not included in the students' responses. But is this because students are not interested or because they have so few opportunities to be involved?

Students were also asked what activities they would like to experience or do more often. The students responded, in order of interest:

H.S. Males		H.S. Females	
Archery	Racquetball	MGM Theme Park	Snow Skiing
Snow Skiing	Horseback Riding	Ice Skating	Bicycling
Miniature Golf	Water Skiing	Horseback Riding	Photography
MGM Theme Park	Boating	Step Aerobics	Boating
Ice Hockey	Hiking	Aerobics	Water Aerobics

### How about signing up for a workshop?

If you took a class or workshop, what would you most like to sign up for? High school girls list CPR and first aid, self-defense, stress management, college prep, and lifeguard training. High school males have other priorities: college prep classes, career choices, computer training, drug awareness and job training.

### Would you volunteer to help others?

And what about volunteer work? High school females list helping the homeless, helping the handicapped, working with animals, teaching others to read, and working with seniors. The guys are interested in working with animals, working with seniors, helping the handicapped, "community service," and helping the homeless.

### Who gives a hoot about this stuff?

The survey also lists activities the students have no interest in — but why not? Never tried them? Can't afford them? Think you lack the skills?

**UNTITLED**  
she's fine until she hears an echo;  
saddened when she hears him laugh.  
she's afraid when he smiles without  
her;  
so moved with what she does not have.  
she's pretending a life every day;  
still with him in their happy past.  
she's putting on a great performance;  
fooling them with what is painted  
on her mask.

*Jeny Bania  
Boulder City High School*

H.S. Males	H.S. Females
Cheerleading	Baseball card collecting
Tap Dance	Stamp collecting
Ballet	Chess
Country Line Dancing	Squash
Stamp Collecting	Fencing

*The purpose of this study by Hyams and Busser was to make recommendations to people who plan recreation programs. The high school portion of the survey included 555 students in five Clark County high schools, evenly divided between males and females.*



### CORRECTION:

In the February issue of CLASS! we identified a photo on page 3 as Carrie Lynn Johnson, winner of the Photo of the Month feature. Actually, the photo was of Carrie Van Nemwegen -- and was another entry into the competition. Left is the real Carrie Johnson, student at Bonanza High School.



## Welfare: does it help or kill initiative?

By Christina Littlefield

In George Bush's 1991 State of the Union Address, he called for welfare reform. Four years later, in Bill Clinton's State of the Union Address, he, too, called for reform. Yet that reform is a long way off.

Welfare was meant to be a second chance, not a way of life. It was supposed to give temporary assistance so that people would be able to get back on their feet and support themselves. Instead, welfare has fostered dependency. Experts estimate that at least two million families have become long-term repeat users of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (ADC), the most common form of welfare, and 11 million families receive food stamps.

The main excuse for staying on welfare is that a minimum wage job of \$4.25 an hour is not enough to survive on, plus there is no one to watch the children. In addition, a low-paying job does not provide children with the medical assistance received on Welfare. So why should one work and give up those benefits?

In the state of Nevada, welfare alone is not enough to survive on. In 1992 (the latest figures available), 30,239 recipients received cash benefits of \$105.59 per person per month. A minimum wage job for one person working 40 hours a week provides roughly \$612 per month after taxes. Nevada's State Welfare Division already provides employment, education and training; child care, transportation and special needs, such as clothing, are also provided. Yet only 3,728 people participated in 1992 at an average cost of only \$372 per person.

The problem still lies in how one will pay for child care. Average day care centers charge \$70 a week per child. A parent making approximately \$150 a week cannot pay this and make ends meet.

Instead of kicking people off welfare if they have jobs, we should require that a person either get a job or enroll in school or a job training program in order to receive benefits. Exceptions should only be made for those who are unable to work due to age or disability. The money we spend now should be used to provide free or reduced child care, and the medical assistance should still be available.

The Food Stamp Program is the most beneficial. It has helped feed poverty and low-income families for 30 years. At this time, some 11 million families receive food stamps. In 1992, 75,995 Nevadans received food stamps each month at a cost of \$77.17 per person. That is a small price to pay to keep the children of Nevada from going hungry.

The Republicans are focusing on eliminating teenage pregnancies by abolishing aid to them or taking away children simply because they are poor. This is ridiculous because if money is the issue, it costs approximately \$36,000 to put a child in an orphanage for a year, while it only costs \$3,000 plus medical expenses for a child on welfare. While abolishing aid may help curb the number of pregnancies, it will not solve the problem. All it does is make the children suffer for mistakes their parents made.

Bill Clinton does, indeed, have the right idea. He said, "I want to work with you to pass welfare reform. But our goal must be to liberate the people and lift them up -- from dependence to independence, welfare to work, mere childbearing to responsible parenting -- not punish them because they happen to be poor. We should promote responsibility by requiring young mothers to live at home with their parents or in other supervised settings and finish school, not by putting them and their children out on the street."

Welfare was meant to help people and it still does. Yet, many of the people it was meant to help have abused the program and are ruining everything for the people who are truly dependent on it due to no fault of their own. The only help that should be given to those who are addicted to drugs and alcohol is a one-time rehabilitation program, but they should not be given any money that could be used to fund their addictions.

Instead of simply handing out money to those in poverty, let's help raise them out of poverty by getting them jobs and helping them care for their children while they work. An old Chinese proverb states, "If you give me fish, I will eat for a day. If you teach me to fish I will eat for a lifetime."



**MULTI-CULTURAL** -- Sandra Montes, Roxana Ramirez and Yesenia Medina display three of the 43 banners made by LVHS clubs for Multi-Cultural Week.

## A song, a dance and a cookbook: recipe for Brotherhood Week

By Raul Daniels

The 13th Annual Brotherhood Week was celebrated at LVHS recently. The theme was "We All Smile in the Same Language."

Activities included the making of 24 "hug necklaces" and a unity chain. The necklaces were made and worn by all students and faculty. The chain was created out of colored construction paper and bore the names of all the students. It was displayed around the student activity center. In addition, 43 clubs participated in creating a multicultural banner.

Several hundred students and parents attended a multicultural dinner in the student activity center. The buffet style dinner was followed by a program that included an international parade of flags, a reading of Maya Angelou's Inaugural Poem by Roquel Burton, an Aztec dance by Los Matachines, and the Meltonettes Gospel Singers.

A professional Polynesian dance group performed at a Brotherhood Assembly, followed by the coronation of the Brotherhood kings and queens.

The International Club put together a cookbook featuring more than 500 recipes from around the world. The book is sold for \$8.99 and is available from any International Club member or by calling the school at 799-0180.

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## Graduation:

A 'new world'  
or end of bondage?

By Julie Montague

What does graduation mean to you?

Graduation is the time of your life when you are honored for all the hard work you have done. You will walk with your class and you will get to share the happiness with your friends. But graduation means something different to everyone. Here are meanings of graduation to some Seniors at Valley High:

"It means the time has come to choose our life and what we are going to be." (**Teo DeLas Heras**)

"To me it means it is time to begin my career and the true beginning of adulthood." (**Tony Burton**)

"FREEDOM." (**Lindsay McCary**)

"It means that you have finally reached the top and captured the gold but it also means finding who your real friends are." (**Rene Agcailli**)

"Starting to achieve my goals and moving on to bigger and better things." (**Erin Bocchieri**)

"Saying good-bye to sheltered life with Mom and Dad and hello to the real world." (**Kelly Dean**)

"Reaching the finish line. It is the day you are rewarded for the last 13 years of your life." (**Anette Azzarelli**)

"Graduation is the release from 12 years of bondage. You leave graduation with a huge sense of accomplishment and a great deal of sadness." (**Elizabeth Super**)

"12 years and I am still confused." (**Wanda Padre**)

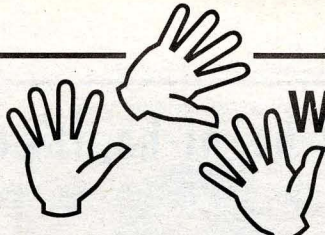
"It means getting the heck out of high school and reaching for higher dreams. And of course, my freedom is exclusively mine." (**Khanh Ngo**)

"A new world." (**Samantha Malandra**)

"I believe that graduation marks one of the greatest accomplishments any individual can strive for. It exemplifies the end of a long journey and entering a new beginning for a life adventure." (**Vanessa Cruz**)

"A new beginning." (**Leslie Mills**)

"The next step." (**Jodi O'Brien**)



Will you lend a hand  
to help little kids?

By Micheline Rodrigues and Diana Gallegos

Do you enjoy helping people? Are you happy to work with little kids and help them learn? Then you may want to consider joining a club called Helping You, Helping Me.

This program involves high school students who volunteer to tutor at Robert E. Lake and Miller Elementary schools. They work with young students who need extra help in subjects such as math, reading, and writing.

At a recent party at Miller Elementary, Helping You, Helping Me volunteers danced with the physically challenged students by wheeling and spinning them around the gym.

The program not only increases the self-esteem of the younger students as they become successful, but also helps the tutors. The older students have become role models whom the little kids look forward to seeing each week.

For a high school tutor, the only requirement is to be highly motivated and to be able to understand the commitment involved.



*Coh-la-la!*  
*What an honor!*

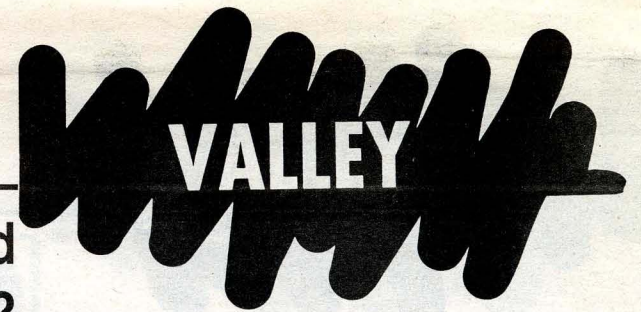
**Laura Szymanski**, an International Baccalaureate senior at Valley High School has become the first Nevada recipient of the Diploma d'Etudes en Language Francaise (D.E.L.F.) from Le Ministre de L'Education.

This diploma in French encourages the candidates "to prolong their study of the French language."

To achieve this diploma, Szymanski, after 400 hours of classroom study, tested at UNLV (one of the 17 official examination centers in the USA) in the proficiency areas of General Expression, Expression of Ideas and Feelings, Reading and Written Expression, and Exercises in Language Use.

The D.E.L.F. is the first diploma for French as a second language officially issued and guaranteed by the French Ministry of Education. It was established in the US in 1992.

Reporter: Emmanuella Cherisma



Five million help  
save the planet

By Larry Gradel

For 25 years one important environmental group has put all its efforts into saving the earth. Greenpeace tries to make us all aware of the environmental dangers that threaten life as we know it.

Since 1971, the Greenpeace philosophy has been "peaceful protest to bring attention to the issues the government would rather have us ignore." They call it "Bearing Witness."

Greenpeace began with a protest against nuclear testing and is now an international environmental organization with some five million members in 31 countries and a reputation for taking direct action.

Greenpeace's worldwide agenda includes protecting the earth and its atmosphere by ending the production of chlorofluorocarbons, ensuring the proper use of energy resources, safeguarding marine life, eliminating the use of toxic materials, and ending all nuclear weapons testing.

### The African Woman

I am the sun that rises  
in the east.  
I am the sun that sets  
in the west.  
I am the part of you  
that is worst,  
And also the part that is  
best.  
I came from a land far,  
far away,  
Taken from my native  
home.  
On that dreary, fateful  
day,  
Enslaved in chains,  
Beaten to death,

But still ever thankful  
That I can breathe;  
I have breath.  
My son's color,  
A lighter tone than my  
own.  
They called him mulatto  
And also devil's clone.  
People call out to me,  
And soon I will be  
coming.  
No one will be able to  
stop me.  
For I am  
The African Woman.

Shamikka Chalmers

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## MOVIE REVIEWS

By Vanessa Cruz

### Billy Madison

It's cute. Not exactly award-winning, but cute. This movie is about a rich man in his 20s who has to go back to school so he can take over his father's company...a hotel chain. He must finish grades 1 through 12 in 24 weeks, or the business will be put into the hands of the company vice president, Eric.

Throughout the movie, Eric tries to ruin Billy's success and reputation by spreading rumors. Billy's dad believes the rumors and decides to turn the company over to Eric. Billy then challenges Eric to an academic contest — winner takes all.

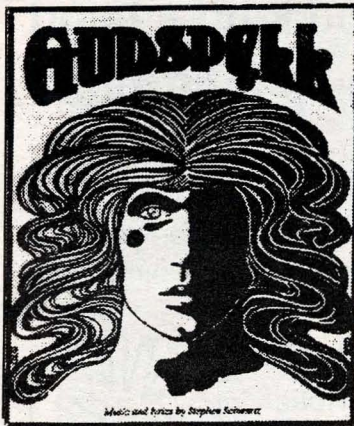
Who wins? (As if it isn't obvious.) But just to make sure, watch the movie.

### The Brady Bunch

It's four episodes of the Brady Bunch in the 1990s squeezed into an hour and a half. That's an hour and a half too long. The Brady Bunch is better in small doses.

In the movie, the Brady kids try to earn \$20,000 in a week to pay off their taxes and save their home. The Brady neighbors don't like the Bradys much and they do everything in their power to take their home away. In the movie, the innocent and ignorant Brady kids experience a car-jacking, jealous voices in their heads, and first kisses.

If you're a Brady fan, you'll love it. If not, watch "Higher Learning" or maybe even "The Jerky Boys" instead.



### HEAVENLY PERFORMANCE

"Godspell," a musical based upon the Gospel of St. Matthew, will be performed at the Bishop Gorman Weigand Theatre March 16-19. The program includes acrobats, magic, singing, dancing and other entertainment. General admission is \$5; seniors and children under 12, \$3.

### Speech/debate season successful

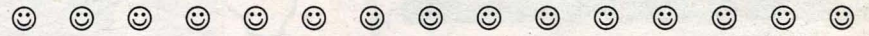
Gorman hosted its first-ever debate tournament recently and, according to debate coach Laurie Crawford, the Gorman team did "very well...a fitting conclusion to the regular season."

The BGHS debaters took second place out of 11 teams and won 14 awards.

Earlier in February, the Gorman team had debated at Stanford University in a national tournament and placed 1-2-3 in Junior Lincoln-Douglas debate. They ended the week with a visit to San Francisco's Union Square and Chinatown.

(Reporter: Leigh Ann Caldwell)

## Hi-ho, hi-ho, it's off to work (and school) I go!



### People are weird

By Jeff Hoskins

"I got my job through the announcements at school," says Erik Reynolds. "My mom pays for everything, so I thought I would help out with some of the bills. Reynolds is a cashier/host at Marie Callender's and remembers an awkward moment:

"One time I had to help a fat woman into a booth and then we couldn't get her out," he says. "A couple of us working there all pulled and we finally got her out."

Caren Woodson couldn't face the thought of working at a fast food restaurant again, so she, too, now works at Marie Callender's after learning about it at school.

Senior John Henry works at Green Valley Library, where he used to volunteer. He has found that people can be really weird:

"One time a lady came up to me and asked me for a red book," he says. "I asked her if she wanted a specific book and she said she wanted a red one. So I grabbed the first one I saw... She checked it out and left. I thought that was really weird."

Karim Conedera accepted a construction job. "It's really hard work," Karim says. "I dug a lot of holes and the hard part was shoveling rock. I was totally exhausted at the end of the day." Still, he would never think of quitting because, he says, he needs the money.

### Working for fun and profit

By Patrick Feil

Sophomore Telisha Howard works as a tutor for first graders at Marion Cahlen Elementary. She teaches basic subjects to students who need extra help after school and she works four days a week, 3:30-6:30. She got the job through her mother, who heads the Martin Luther King program that helps kids who need extra attention in school.

"It's not just for the money," says Howard, "but to help the kids."

Junior Brian Horn cleans cars at Terrible Herbst on Sunset and Annie Oakley, every Saturday from 8am to 5pm, and earns minimum wage plus tips. He applied for the job because he needed to pay for his car. Horn says his work does not affect his grades but, "I think about quitting a lot because it takes up so much of my time."

Nicole O'Brien, a sophomore, does volunteer work with kids at Crestwood Elementary, helping them learn to read and recognize shapes. She got the job through her mother, a kindergarten teacher. "I never think about quitting," O'Brien says, "because I enjoy helping the kids."

Senior Sarah Christiansen is a runner for George Bochanis law office, running files around town, making deliveries, and going to the courthouse. She works Monday through Friday, 1-5pm, and says she sometimes is exhausted after work. "I got the job because I didn't like borrowing money from my parents."

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# KAPLAN

## Mr. Data, it's 10 o'clock — do you know where your robots are?

By Leigh Ann Caldwell

"I've always had a knack for science," says Pat Kinsey, a freshman who has a fascination with robots. Not only does he enjoy robots, he also makes them.

A few years ago, Kinsey received a robot-making kit for his birthday. Since then, he has been hooked. The kits include molding shells for the robot and an electronic kit for the robot movement. If the robot is cordless, it is controlled by an AM radio frequency.

Kinsey's robots move on the ground either with wheels or legs. Underwater robots move with propellers. His favorites are the ones that swim underwater "because they are the neatest looking and the most complicated."

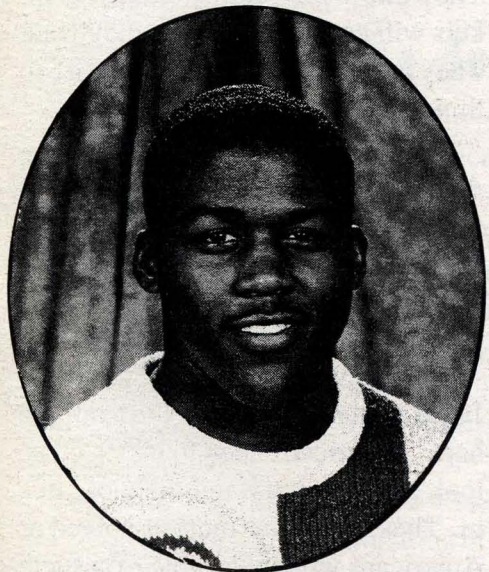
Kinsey displays his robots in his room and says he would never sell them. Building robots is not an inexpensive pastime: depending on the kit, the cost ranges from \$50 to \$500.

After college, Kinsey intends to enter the field of computer-controlled robots. The movie "Short Circuit" reflects his interests.





**WOMEN IN SPORTS AWARD --** Natasha Williams, a volleyball, basketball and track athlete, is the recipient of the National *Girls and Women in Sports Day* honor at Western High. The top senior female athletes in high schools throughout the country receive this award in celebration of women's athletic achievements.



**FOOTBALL STAR SIGNS --** Derek Poole has signed a Letter of Intent to attend Oregon State University starting next fall on an athletic scholarship valued at some \$80,000 over four years. He will participate as a fullback or a linebacker. Derek will join other Las Vegas athletes at the Corvallis campus, including Randy Lund and Heather Valenty from Western, Robert Howard from Cimarron, and Jon Jackson from Bonanza.

**32 Flavors can't match Amber!**

Life is like an ice cream parlor: you can't fully appreciate it until you try all the flavors. Amber Staheli, senior, is taking a lick of nearly every flavor. With a GPA of 3.7, she has been on the Honor Roll in every grade. She is also an accomplished pianist and vocalist, plays the flute, and is a member of the volleyball and softball teams.

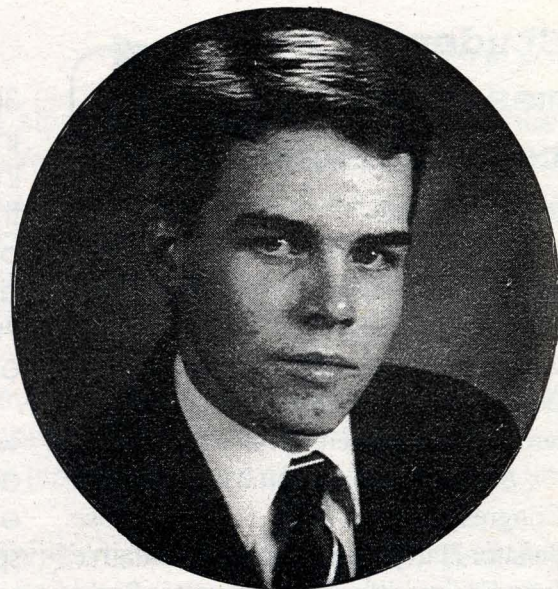


Amber

School doesn't seem to be enough for her, though. Amber works 40 hours a week at the Meadows Mall and part-time doing printwork at a modelling agency. She does volunteer community service with the elderly, works with patients at a children's hospital, and helps remove graffiti from public places.

Next month, Amber will compete for the Nevada crown in the "America's National Teenager Pageant," which can lead to a college scholarship. She has participated in pageants for three years -- last year taking top honors in the Cinderella Pageant talent competition.

After graduation, Amber hopes to continue her education in Las Vegas, major in psychology and work in child psychology.



**Wheeler takes aim**

Steven Wheeler set goals for himself: to graduate in the top five percent of his class, win a scholarship, get involved in clubs and community, and earn Eagle Scout rank.

Wheeler has a perfect score so far. He is ranked tenth of 387 seniors and holds better than a 4.5 GPA. Through the ROTC program, he earned a full-tuition, four-year scholarship.

In school, he has been a member of many clubs, social and academic, and he's played volleyball for three years.

Outside of school, Wheeler has kept a steady job while being involved in church and scouting activities. And he did join the prestigious ranks of Eagle Scout.

Does anyone doubt he will achieve his new goals of getting a college degree and serving proudly in the military?



Western High School Human Relations Club

**Performance keeps audience 'on edge of their seats'**

By Karen Henderson

"Freedom is...Breaking the Chains." This theme set the stage for the annual Black History Show of Western's Human Relations Club last month.

The play, songs and poems were evidence of the tears, fears, hopes, struggles and achievements of esteemed African-Americans who made major contributions to history. The insight into African-American culture was exceptional.

The student performance was so impressive that the cast was invited to perform at Gibson Middle School later in the month.

The Club also celebrated Black History Month with a powerful display of African-American life and culture that looked at the subject from both the male and female perspective.

Members of the Human Relations Club appreciate the driving force, hard work and support of Assistant Principal Cynthia Morris and of Alzenia Walls, Club advisor.



Waiella Clark and Karen Henderson mark Black History celebration

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## Bridge whizzes go for efficiency

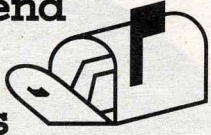
By Lance Lewis

Rancho High was one of 30 area schools participating in the 6th Annual Bridge Building Contest held recently on the UNLV campus. The school placed sixth in the high school division, while Rancho student Juan Cervantes came in eighth, individually.

The object of the contest was to see who could design, construct and test the most efficient bridge within the specifications. Each school was limited to 10 bridges.

The winner was determined by structural efficiency: dividing the weight applied to the bridge by the weight of the bridge. Contest rules were adopted by the International Bridge Building Committee of the Southern Nevada Region.

## Students send messages to Congress



By Simon Sotelo

Many people say that today's teenagers have no views or opinions on what goes on in Congress. Well, they are wrong because students from Louise Bourque's government classes at Rancho wrote to voice their opinions.

Students chose which of Nevada's Congressmen to write -- most chose Senator Harry Reid and Representative John Ensign, a few chose Senator Richard Bryan, and one wrote to Representative Barbara Vucanovich. Students' questions ranged from crime to welfare.

While there is no guarantee that they will receive responses, the students understand that they can express an idea to a government official and be heard -- not be just a complaining citizen who never takes action.

## EARTHQUAKE - JUST MY OPINION

### Do Americans set a bad example?

By Jeremy Bussell

I'm sure you know about the recent earthquake that devastated Japan. Thousands of people died. But the Japanese people are taking it all in stride. Indeed, they are reacting quite differently from the way Americans acted after the big quake of '93 in L.A. ...that left many homeless, out of work and others dead.

Yet some members of the community didn't seem to care about the pain and suffering of others. In fact, they seized the opportunity to steal TVs from stores with shattered windows.

Ravage, pillage, plunder, flame -- right? I mean, sure, it would make me feel great to steal a TV or anything else from some poor guy who just lost his home, his business and probably his life savings. Get a life!!!! What satisfaction could a person get from doing such a thing?

But take a trip halfway around the world and look at the citizens of Kobe, Japan. Do you see them looting and running around like a bunch of crazy people? No, you don't. What you see is a community united to the end. They know the food and extra blankets will come to them, so they wait. They are definitely not setting fire to things and stealing stereos.

What does that tell you about American society? It has nowhere to go but up, that is for sure. What has become of American pride? America is supposed to be an example to other countries, a leader among leaders.

Right now, that is not the case: Japan seems to be setting the example here. Americans need to take a close look at the country and the mess it is in. These problems must be solved or Americans will not be able to survive as a people.

### Theatre students can do it all

Alex Getchel and Nevada Nichols, advance students in Theatre Arts, wrote and directed two One-Act Plays -- the first time such plays have been produced by students at Rancho.

"Violence, Mayhem and Dancing Penguins" was both written and directed by Getchell and produced by other students. Nichols produced and directed "Take Five."

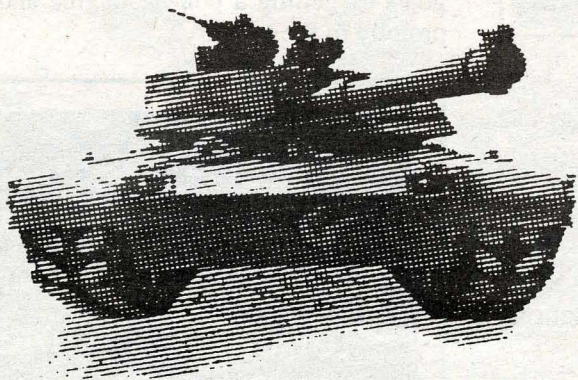
Fine Arts teacher Mindy Geihs was confident in their success because both students had experience in directing plays and working with peers.

Getchell's play was performed again in the March 8 and 9 Clark County Drama Festival.

(Reporter: Michelle Hickman)

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## News anchor learns about planes, garbage

Condensed from an interview by Raechel Grimblot

Interviewing, public speaking and reporting. These are the basic elements that make a great journalist, according to Gwen Castaldi, an anchor for "News 3 at 6," who spoke to Rancho students recently.

Although reporting is the most exciting job for Castaldi now, it wasn't always what she planned to do. When she was in high school, she spent many Saturday nights chasing ambulances and fire trucks, thanks to her boyfriend, who was a photographer. This led Castaldi to her first experience in journalism -- as a photographer.

During the next several years, she worked in radio, and local and network television, before joining Channel 3 in 1981.

"In my job, I learn something new every day. I feel like a student every day," Castaldi told students in Speech, English, Journalism and Theater.

She has covered everything from the Stealth bomber and F-16s to radioactive waste at the Nevada Test Site. She never imagined she would know so much about planes and garbage.

One of a reporter's responsibilities is to make sure the story isn't sensationalized. According to Castaldi, the types of shows that sensationalize aren't news. Yellow journalism is one of her pet peeves.



## IN MY OPINION

## School uniforms: will they end student aggression?

By Hermon Ghermay

Can you imagine wearing the same thing to school every day and looking like everyone else? Should uniforms be required in public schools? Polka dots, baggy pants and short skirts would all be history.

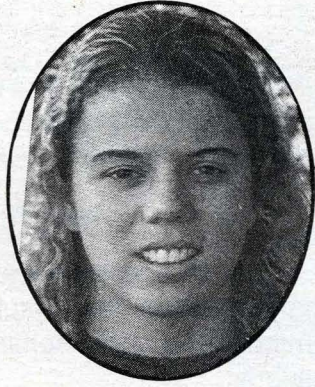
Some see this as the solution to the dress code dilemma. With everyone dressed in similar fashion, there would be no need to prohibit inappropriate attire. However, this would take away a student's right to self expression through clothing...[and] would inhibit variety and individuality.

Uniforms could help eliminate some conflicts between students. With uniforms, there would be one less reason for aggression among students. There would not be incidents where students wearing certain colors, jackets or other clothing would be discriminated against, harmed, or even killed because of what they wore.

But clothing is not the real reason behind most of the fights at school. Efforts should be concentrated on identifying and correcting the underlying causes of student aggression.

Let's face it: uniforms are not going to solve all the problems in schools today. It comes down to a question of equality. Should the freedom of choice be sacrificed for equality? To what extent do we want to apply the equality concept?

One way or another, we need to address the pressing issues in school without forgetting that the students should be the focus.



## Exchange students jump right in

**Adriana Bampa**, from Brazil, is concentrating on learning English and the American culture. She points out the differences between BCHS and her old school: the teachers, not the students, change classrooms when the bell rings. Adriana was surprised to learn that teenagers here spend free time dancing and going to movies. She has joined the swim team and plans to become an architect.

**Kalinna Bichova** is from Bulgaria. Her mother runs a men's shop and her father works for a trucking firm. She came to Southern Nevada after touring Washington, DC. Kalinna enjoys learning about America but has little time to indulge in her favorite hobbies: tennis and reading Mark Twain. She plans to attend college and enter a career of public relations or international relations.

## NEWS ROUND-UP

**Winners.** Three BCHS students won awards in the recent Rotary Club speech contest. Junior Erica Vaughan took the \$150 first-place award with her speech on cheating. Runners up were sophomores Brady Dehn and Yohannah York, who received checks for \$75.

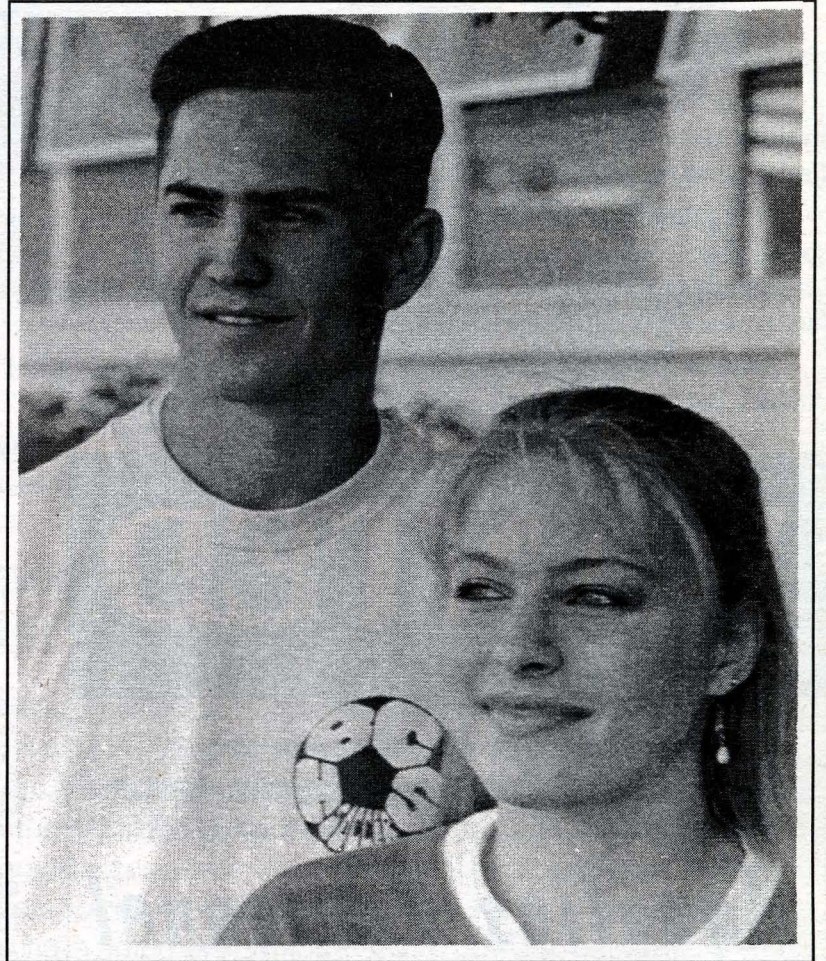
The Lions Club speech contest, focusing on the media, gave Vaughan another top award, worth \$50. Dehn and York came in second along with Amanda Huish and received \$25 each.

(Reporter: Jana Anderson)

**Student directors.** The BCHS drama department recently presented a festival of student-directed plays. These included two comedies, a drama about jurors making a decision, a comedy about a wife swindling her husband and a startling play of three people in Hell.

(Reporter: Heidi Harr)

**Women's basketball.** The B-team's dedication has paid off with a perfect 14-0 season, even though most of the schools the team opposed have been larger than Boulder City's. All freshman players at BCHS remain on the B-team, while other schools tend to move the better freshman players to JV or Varsity.



**EAGLES -- Jason Braithwaite and Natalie Mitchell** have been named Eagles of the Month at BCHS. Braithwaite, whose GPA is well over 4.0, is a candidate for valedictorian. He developed his own business, *Odd Jobs Etc.*, and has played varsity soccer for four years as well as club soccer in Las Vegas. Still, he finds time for another of his talents: painting. Braithwaite plans to continue playing soccer while attending college starting next fall.

Mitchell is a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Club, the John Hansen Society and holds office in Interact. With a 4.39 GPA, she has been accepted at Marquette University in Wisconsin and plans to major in English and become a teacher. Mitchell has played basketball and volleyball for Boulder City High School.

## SILENCE

A young life gone forever  
From a mistake no one will  
ever forget  
She lived only for the moment  
And that moment caused her  
death  
She had so much to stay for  
But temptation brought her  
down  
She gave her very life  
To one who slept around  
He told her that he loved  
her  
and thinking that he cared  
She is now dead from AIDS  
And no one was prepared

Her family is full of  
sorrow  
Plus all others that she  
loved  
And they wished they had  
the chance to say  
All they should have said  
So many words they kept  
from her  
This silence caused her  
death  
And it creeps around  
inside them  
As they kneel beside her  
bed

By Kara Pohe

## CLASSIFIED

### CONGRATULATIONS

to

**DEREK**

on his win at the  
State Wrestling Meet!  
from  
Meadows High School

Randi

Ashley

Annette

Christie



Spanish students say  
*OLE!* to Tijuana

By Jessica Paez

Basic High's advanced third and fourth-year Spanish students travelled to Tijuana, Mexico this month. According to Senora Anita Diaz, Spanish teacher, the students stayed in Chula Vista, CA Friday, then crossed the border to Tijuana on Saturday.

"The purpose of the trip was to give advanced students the opportunity to use their Spanish speaking skills in real-life situations," explains Senora Diaz. The students were to complete six of seven situations in Spanish. For example, order a meal in a restaurant, exchange money in a bank, or buy something at a pharmacy.

Junior Mike Taack went because "I think it will be fun and because I will get 18 As for it. Senior Andrew Belingeri says he was only "going on the trip for the grade."

**The Way I See It** By Steve Zyla

**Who puts pressure on high school athletes?**

Today's high school athlete faces a variety of pressures that could become harmful. Drugs, grades, and performance on the field are just some of the things that trouble today's athletes.

At the high school level, one of the biggest pressures is competition with their peers. Junior Chad Angell feels that competition with other athletes weighs so heavily on a kid's mind that it takes away his ability to concentrate on grades and family.

To put this in perspective, imagine this situation. It's two days before the state championship. You are the number one ranked player in the state [facing] the number two ranked player. If this isn't pressure enough, you know there are scouts from major universities watching your every move and deciding whether or not to offer you a scholarship. How would you feel?

Drugs are another issue that influence many decisions made by today's athlete. "Athletes are always looking for ways to improve their performance, and the appeal of drugs, like steroids, that are supposed to improve strength can become very tempting," says senior Jay Ensworth, adding that pressure like this is very tempting to younger high school kids. They see how big the older kids are, and they want to be just like them.

The most widely publicized pressure on today's athlete is the problem of maintaining good grades while competing in sports. Senior Richard Braun found that when he had to put in extra hours of practice and also attempt to have a social life or a job, it could be tough to find time for homework.

Athletics have become such a big deal in high schools that some kids feel sports are really more important than academics. It can be hard to concentrate on homework when all you can think about is tomorrow's big game.

Pressure from parents can also weigh heavily on a kid's mind. Many parents push their children to be good in athletics. Junior Katie Kreutzer feels that many parents try to make their kids into what they used to be in high school. "Parents should spend more time teaching kids the value of a good education," Kreutzer adds.

People believe that high school coaches put a lot of pressure on athletes. Coach John Wise doesn't agree, though. "High school coaches put little, if any, outside pressure on high school student athletes except to do their best," Wise notes. He believes that coaches have a much more realistic idea of what level the athlete could and should compete at. He also thinks that peer-groups and parents cause the two biggest pressures facing today's youth.

There's no solution to this problem because wherever you have competition, you will have pressure.

**Bike police: Two wheels & good will**

A bicycle police program has come to Basic to protect students and ensure a safe environment.

Officers Ben Cordova and Carl Jones use bikes for greater mobility in covering the school campus. "The community is happy to see us out in the neighborhood," says Cordova, a 1987 Basic graduate.

Cordova and Jones agree that the best thing about using bicycles is the physical conditioning.

Reporter: Jessica Evans

**Science students tell 'whale of a tale'**

By Casey Hedlund

On a recent weekend, Dave Bennion and Jack Tittman, science teachers, along with 43 students went whale watching off the coast of California.

Most of the upper division science classes were offered this opportunity. Their only obligation was a \$53 fee, "which is not a bad price for this kind of trip," says Bennion who, with Tittman, has been doing this for almost 11 years.

The trip started as a six-hour drive to San Pedro, California. When they arrived on the boat they spotted two grey whales and a glimpse of some sea lions. "This was a great experience to see real life science. Instead of looking at pictures of whales, we got to see them in reality," says Tittman.

"The tide pools were great," says Cortney Hedlund, a senior. The students got a close-up look at the marine life in the tide pools at the Cabrillo Beach Museum.

"I like to use this trip as an incentive to take the class," said Bennion. "It's also a lot of fun and expands your horizons."

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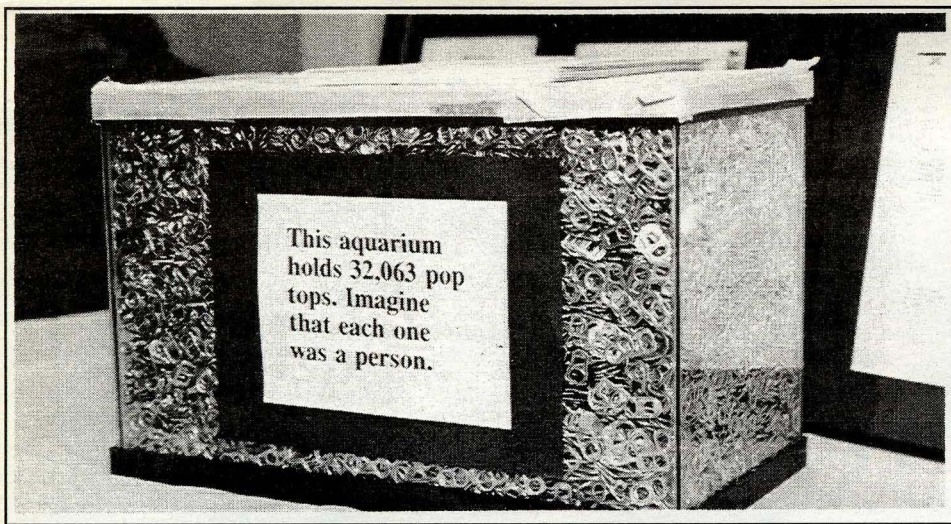
**SESSIONS:** **TIMES:**  
March 27 - April 15 Mon-Wed 6 to 10 p.m.  
May 1 - 22 Saturdays 5 to 9 p.m.

**COST \$55 (includes books)**



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**WHAT IS SIX MILLION?** -- A number so large often cannot be visualized. So teacher Kelly Green from Jack Dailey Elementary School started a project with her fourth-graders: to collect six million pop-tops. So far, they have just over a half-million. Green hopes local high school students will help the kids reach their goal.

## Pop your top for the little guys

Remember, when you were little, how you looked up to the older kids, the ones in high school? You are the older kid now, and you can reach out to do something super for a small-fry. **WILL YOU HELP?**

Probably, in all the world, **nobody** drinks as many sodas as a teenager. You can turn your pop-drinking into a learning experience for some really young students at Jack Dailey Elementary School. All you have to do is save the pop-tops from those cans!

The fourth grade students of Kelly Green could not imagine six million of anything. Especially not six million people who were killed by the Nazis in World War II just for being Jewish.

### Remember the movie "Schindler's List"?

The book and the film "Schindler's List" affected Kelly Green deeply. She wondered how to teach something this serious to nine-year-olds. Green talked to her kids about it, but "I could see they didn't understand, even when they said it was terrible.

"The children comprehend the unfairness of what happened to the Jews," Green explains, "they know about the camps and the people gassed there, but I left out much of the horror. These are young children," she adds.

So, in January 1994, they started a project to collect six million pop-tops. By last June, the class had about 200,000 — including one from the office of Steven Spielberg, producer of "Schindler's List." And last month, they marked their first half-million.

The class sent letters asking for pop-top donations from their favorite celebrities (Spielberg was the first to reply) and from all the local hotels (zero response except for a "no" from the Imperial Palace). And the kids recruit parents and friends.

At the recent Holocaust Conference for the schools, held at the Sands Expo, students from Becker Middle School and several elementaries, including Martin Luther King Jr., donated pop-tops: 60,000 of them.

The kids in Kelly Green's class put the pop-tops in plastic bags, 500 per bag. Then Green sends the bags to her grandmother, LaVerne Green, who counts them all again to confirm the 500.

The first 32,000 the kids collected are on display in a fish tank at the school, but the rest are in Green's garage. (She is looking for someone to donate a large plexiglass container for storing and displaying the collection.)

### Will we ever learn?

"We never get this lesson learned," says Green. "People keep doing this over and over. I don't understand racism and bigotry...these people might as well be from a different planet."

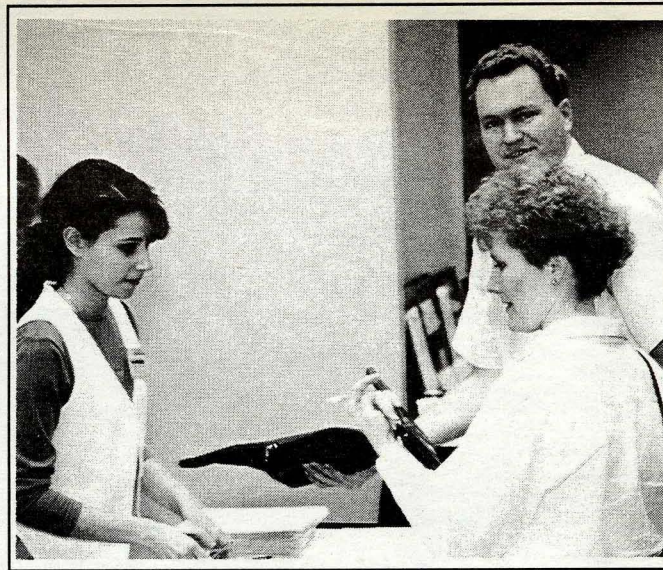
The teacher tells what happened in her class last spring, when news emerged of the mass killings in Rwanda: one child raised her hand and said, "Are we going to have to start saving pop-tops for them, too, Miss Green?"

### How high school students can help

1. You and your buddies can just start collecting the pop-tops and, when you have a quantity, drop them off at Jack Dailey Elementary. Or call CLASS! newspaper and we'll pick them up.
2. Or you can get a competition going with other groups or classes to see who can collect the most pop-tops by a certain date. Talk to the editor of CLASS! about our donating a prize. Call 361-8262.

### STUDENT AID --

Sharon Shearer and dozens of her fellow Cimarron-Memorial students, encouraged by teacher Pat Holland, helped by making displays and working at information booths. Shown here, Shearer talks with Cory Fish, teacher at the Burkholder Middle School, and his wife, Kathryn.



## Students learn horror of Holocaust

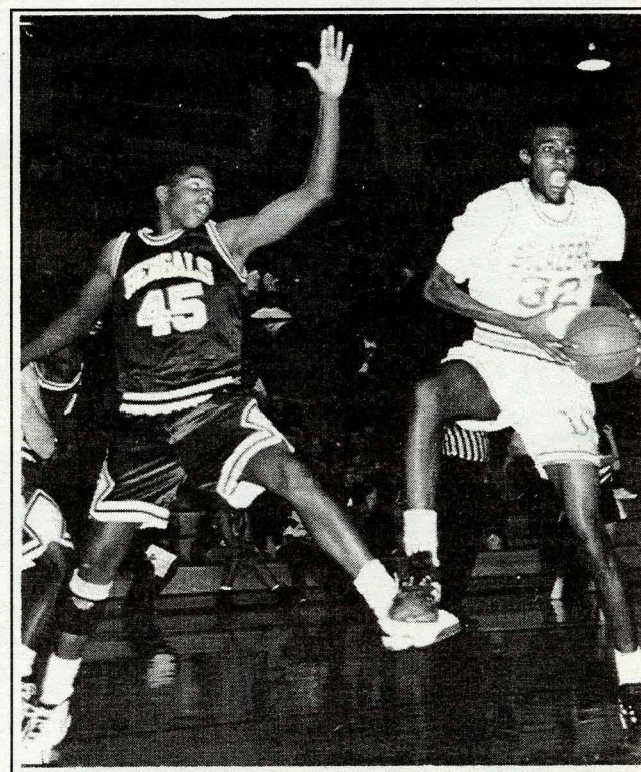
Thousands of Clark County students attended a powerful Holocaust Education conference recently, learning about the millions of people murdered by Nazis during World War II and about other human tragedies of this century.

Speakers included Leopold Page, a death-camp survivor who was one of the people saved by Oscar Schindler and who caused the book and the movie "Schindler's List" to be created.

Other Holocaust survivors and historians also spoke to the students about their experiences. Displays and a dramatic presentation by students were highlights of the two-day conference at the Sands Expo.

### DANCE OF DUNKS

This "light fantastic" action photo by Amy Meyer, Durango High School, is the March winner for the CLASS! Photo of the Month. The players, caught in what looks like a high-stepping dance routine, are Ra'oof Sadat (#32) of Durango and Jonathan Jackson of Bonanza High.



## Community College offers new teen-interest summer programs

Dazzle 'em with country-western or ballroom dancing. Advance your SCUBA diving techniques. Prepare for a future as a fitness instructor. Learn CPR and first aid. Burn some energy (or body fat) with Aquaerobics. Learn how to ride a motorcycle. Develop self-esteem.

High school students! The Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN) invites you to take part in a new "menu" of programs. You can even explore career paths you might not have considered before, according to Amy Hyams, Senior Program Coordinator.

The Community Education Division offers programs in arts and crafts, music, sports and fitness — and career-oriented classes such as photography, broadcast and print journalism, auto mechanics, real estate, and computers.

This summer, the College will sponsor classes in tennis, body toning and yoga, PLUS an opportunity for students and their parents to enjoy "quality time" together while fishing, fencing or playing golf.

Catalogs are available at any CCSN campus or any public library.



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