

CLASS!

MAY 1995

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

Local grads as
Treasure Island
pirates (page 3)



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On the Cover

The Treasure Island Hotel pirates shown on the cover went overboard after graduating from Clark County high schools.

From the top: **Keir Eastveld** (Valley '89); **Dedan Lewis** (Eldorado '89); **Sam Sadovia** (Clark '89); **Ryan Wilder** (Eldorado '93); **Bart Dinsman** (Boulder City '86); **Jason Jaeger** (Valley '88); **Paul Radzillowics** (Valley '88); **Lonnie Singer** (Western '85); and **Mike Luna** (Chaparral '84). Well done, me laddies!

Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of...well, Caribbean Punch!



PHOTO OF THE MONTH. This ocean scene by Kristine Abi-Karan of Clark High School was the first-place winner in the CLASS! Photo Contest for May. A close Honorable Mention was Carrie Lynn Johnson of Bonanza High.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND GRADS!

You are invited to send stories and photos directly to CLASS! newspaper over the summer. We will feature your work in the September issue!

Send your material to
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5290 Harrison Drive, Suite 10,
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For more information: 361-8262.

SEND EDITORIALS

If you want to sound off about something that bugs you or something that makes you happy ... or if you want to argue about (or agree with) something that has appeared in CLASS! ... or if you want to send a photo for our Photo Contest (\$25 award) ... send your stuff this summer! It'll show up next September.

CLASS! Publications

A monthly newspaper for and about high school students

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 Scholarships still hot
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Valley senior finds future in ATTC med studies

By Cheryl Ajolo

I'm a senior both at Valley High School and the Area Technical Trade Center. Students look at me funny when they know I attend two schools. My class at ATTC goes from 6:55-9:40am, then I drive to my home school, Valley, to finish my educational day.

At ATTC, I am taking a two-year program in Medical Specialties, earning three credits each year.

I enjoy it very much because, by the second semester, I work in a hospital or doctor's office in the morning instead of school. I've learned many things, including taking blood pressure and changing bed pans.

I also have internships at the Cheyenne Care Center, Sunrise Hospital

and Lake Mead Hospital. Currently, I am at the West Fremont Medical Center.

Other students in the program study surgical technology and, in their clinical work, they assist in surgeries from liposuction to kidney transplants.

It's a real benefit because it will be easier to get a job in a medical setting after graduation. VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) is also included in the program, preparing students for job interviews and the "How-To's" of getting a job.

If you think you are interested in the medical field, my advice is to try out the medical program at ATTC.



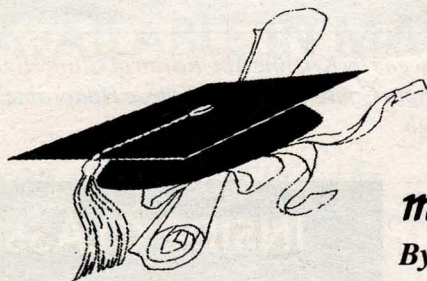
Double your pleasure,
double your education,
double your opportunities

By David Barnum

Eldorado High School shares Kelly K. Benavidez with ATTC. Three years ago, Kelly was a typical confused sophomore. Today she is a Hotel Occupations certificated senior at ATTC and a graduating senior at Eldorado. Twice Kelly presided over DECA chapters, twice she will wear her graduation gown and hear her name announced, and twice she's had an opportunity to intern at major hotels.

While at ATTC, she became involved in Student Government (this year she is the Executive Student Council President) and she was elected to three nationally-recognized school youth clubs.

She says, "I'm one of the few of my friends that have both parents," and she credits them for influencing her decisions about education. She works part time at the Wild Pair, referred there by the Cooperative Work Experience (COE) office at ATTC. Her money will go towards graduation expenses and entering college in the fall. She has been accepted at Mesa State (Grand Junction, CO), where she has a partial scholarship. Her major will be Business Management with a minor in tourism.



C-M student finds meaning in education at ATTC

By Bernadette Morgan

I am currently enrolled in the Electronics II program at ATTC, but my home school is Cimarron-Memorial.

No matter what I did in my freshman and sophomore years, high school seemed meaningless. That's why I decided to attend a trade school. I love attending two schools! The challenge is great and opportunities are more than sufficient.

There are many advantages in being at ATTC. It's a small school and we have small classes, making one-on-one teacher help possible. I've learned about electronics on a whole different

level: I've had hands on experience since the beginning with a plentiful supply of materials...and I'm learning troubleshooting for myself.

I've met friends from around the valley. Relationship skills I learned here I will keep forever. Challenges are important to me, and my courage is growing every day.

If you've thought about attending ATTC, remember: it's on a first-come first-served basis because class sizes are limited. You will come out with job-related skills and greater opportunities in the job world.

Two schools: road to wide-open future

By Christal Guardian

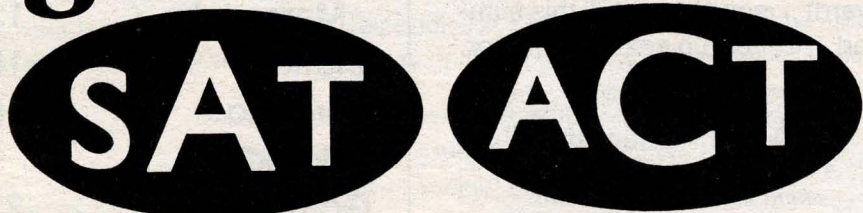
I attended ATTC in my junior and senior years. Electronics was my first choice -- I was very interested in how electrical circuits and electrical equipment work -- then I took Computer Technology in my senior year.

I learned how computers are used, how to make programs and use the computer to my advantage. I learned to identify motherboards, cards, power supplies and other characteristics of computers.

During these years, I also attended my home school, Cimarron-Memorial, where I took the necessary classes to graduate. Attending both schools was an advantage -- not only did it give me a break in between the two, but I was learning responsibility in making it to ATTC on time!

The major highlight at ATTC would be the labs and the projects because I really did learn then. It's also a great way to meet people from other schools and from different backgrounds and interests. At ATTC, we not only learn the subjects we are interested in, but we have what we call our "culinary experiences" -- parties.

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THOUGHT PROVOKING: A STUDENT EDITORIAL

Freedom of speech: Who cares?

By Gia Winne

Your right to free speech as a high school student virtually does not exist. So if you are thinking about putting together a school play or writing in the school newspaper, WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!



Limits on free speech became formal with the Hazelwood case. It started when students from a Hazelwood, Missouri, high school paper wrote a series of stories about student pregnancy and the effects of divorce on students. The principal removed the pages that contained the stories before the newspapers were circulated.

The reason for the censorship, according to the principal, was that the articles invaded the privacy of the students involved -- even though the students were unnamed. The students sued. A federal judge ruled in favor of the school district; the Court of Appeals ruled for the students; but the Supreme Court supported the right of school districts to censor school productions.

The issue is: why don't schools practice what they teach? Throughout school you are taught that no one should be deprived of constitutional rights, and that freedom of speech protects democracy. However, you are restricted from your right to free speech in school productions. It just doesn't make sense. We live in a freedom-based democracy, yet these freedoms seem to apply only to adults.

The right to a free press is also at issue. According to some school administrators, since school programs are funded by the school, they should be able to regulate and censor what is published. I may be mistaken, but don't the taxpayers pay for public schools? And, as taxpayers (directly or indirectly), don't we have a right to voice our opinions?

The ruling in the Hazelwood case should make young people realize that the Constitution only applies to adults and not to all citizens -- especially high school students.

The question remains: who cares about free speech anyway?

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For Star Trek fans Club launches strange voyage

Reporter: Jim Pappa

USS Durango, a new club for Star Trek fans, was the concept of physics teacher Donald Bohm who got his idea from freshman Steve Herbertson, who is a big fan of Star Trek. Bohm became a fan when he saw *Trouble With Tribbles*, an episode from the show's first year.

Club activities will include watching and discussing Star Trek episodes, showing and telling about memorabilia, playing board games and computer simulations of the show, and perhaps going to conventions if they come to town.



Argonaut returns from voyage

By
Rachael Fish

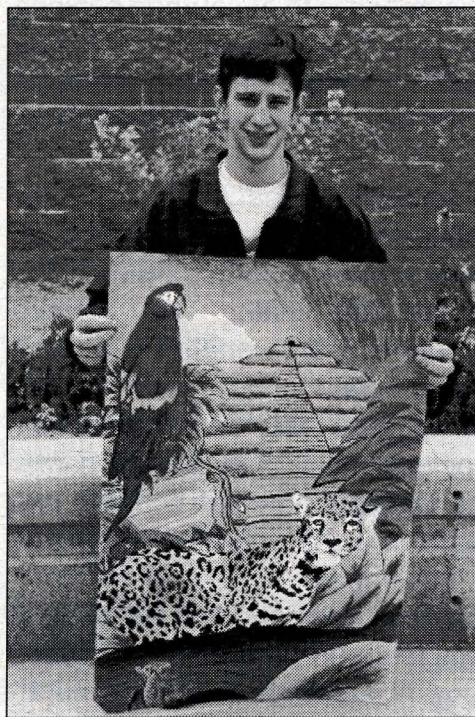
The Jason Project is an organization that gets students involved in science by letting them experience it first hand.

This year, attendees stayed in Volcano Village on the Big Island and studied the geology of volcanoes at the Park -- comparing them with the moon volcanoes.

"You learn a lot from textbooks, but a hands-on experience teaches you more," says Namba. "You can't smell or feel the lava through a textbook -- you have to be there."

Only 27 students from the U.S., Canada, Bermuda and the United Kingdom were accepted into this prestigious project. According to Namba, it's very competitive.

While in Hawaii, the group did live broadcasts that were sent via satellite across the ocean. Asked what she learned, Namba replied, "Hawaii is an island in the ocean, Earth is an island in the universe."



Hamilton doodles his way into art contests

Reporter: Amanda Krueger

Picture an unenthusiastic class: some sleep, some do other homework, and, as in Kris Hamilton's case, some doodle.

"At first I just doodled on my papers," he says. "I started to notice how awesome other people's art looked...and decided to try to achieve that level of artistic ability."

Hamilton, a junior, has been doing art for seven years but didn't discover his real abilities until two years ago. Now he pursues all art competitions and has already won over \$100 in just two contests. He won in the 1995 Mathematics Poster contest (\$10 and a blue ribbon) and a \$100 award from the Consumer Credit Counseling Service for a poster on the theme "Be Money Wise, Use Credit Appropriately."

He loves to draw tigers, leopards, jaguars, birds, lizards and other animals. Currently, Hamilton is painting figures on T-shirts and doing silk-screening. He has also done some abstract art and computer art.

He does all his art for pleasure but says he is always willing to make a buck or two.

Dance Divas to perform at Durango's 'Academy Awards'

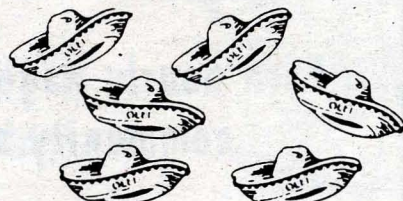
Reporter: Amanda Krueger

The Dance Divas tear up the dance floor when they perform. Many of the 20 Divas have had previous dancing experience.

On May 20 -- Durango's Academy Awards Night, the troupe will perform the introductions and opening number. This is a cooperative venture with Durango's drama department.

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Never too early to plan for college

By Heather Sprout

Financial aid is confusing and sometimes seems scary to most prospective college students. If you are college-bound, chances are you will need to explore what funds are out there.

Here are some tips on planning for financial aid:

- Start planning now with your family.
- Start saving money now.
- Assume that costs will increase.
- Talk to counselors about financial aid.
- Check out as many colleges as possible, including the low cost ones and get as much information as possible from each.
- Know how much you can afford and what colleges are within your budget before you apply.
- Work toward college each year of high school:

Sophomore

Start planning and sorting out your financial needs. Research information about different colleges.

Junior

By the end of this year you should know how much you have to spend and you should have your choice of colleges narrowed down.

You should have talked to someone about financial aid by now and know how you're going to use it.

Senior

You're almost ready to graduate, so know exactly what college you're going to and how long you're going to wait after high school.

New department teaches 'reflection arts' techniques

From a report by Ryan Lee Brooks

Last year, you could hear the arts and watch the arts at the Las Vegas Academy -- but now you can see the arts! The new Visual Arts Department has opened yet another way for Clark County Students to express themselves.

The old boys' locker room was transformed into the Reflections Arts Gallery and there will be displays all year -- the only such gallery in the school district.

The purpose of the Reflections Arts is to encourage aspiring young artists to develop technical skills, perception and problem-solving. Students are exposed to a variety of styles and techniques, but are encouraged to develop their own personal styles while nurturing their creativity.

During this school year, all art students learned about drawing, painting, sculpture, computer design, print-making and art history. They have worked with mediums such as pencil, oil, pastel, charcoal, graphite powder and chalk. They learned photography and ceramics. Some even worked on a giant fiberglass sculpture with a visiting artist.

Several classes took a field trip to the Caesars Palace Forum Shops to observe and draw the huge statue of Zeus in the center of the mall. Unexpectedly, the students attracted a crowd and some spent so much time explaining their mission to curious onlookers that they didn't get much done.

"Fine art is that in which the hand, the head and the heart of man go together." This quote is featured (along with a Picasso self-portrait) on the Reflections Arts t-shirts that were hand-painted by art students and screened by the Visual Arts teachers.

In My Opinion: A Student Editorial

We're tested for EVERYTHING!

By Loes van Ruiten

Your friend calls you uncouth. You know it's not complimentary, but you're not sure what it means.

Consider the following answers: a. cruel, b. bold, c. uncultured, (d) robust.

This word is one that could appear on a college placement vocabulary test. (The answer is C.)

Teenagers have to take tests for everything nowadays. There are tests for college placement, tests to see what your learning abilities are, and tests to find out which level class you should be placed in.

The latter test is the Stanine Test. All teenagers in ninth and eleventh grades have to take it.

The original intelligence test (IQ test) came from France. The psychologist Alfred Binet invented it to identify retarded children in need of special schooling.

The quotient is formed by the mental age divided by the actual age. For example, if a 10-year-old has the mental ability of an 11-year-old, his IQ would be 110.

Another example of tests comes from a recent *Review-Journal* article about the SAT preparation test:

"In a room there are five blue-eyed blondes. If, all together, there are 14 blondes and eight people with blue eyes in the room, how many people are there in the room? a. 3, b. 11, c. 17, d. 22, e. 27 (The answer is C.)"

The inventor of this test, Gary Gruber, says: "To improve your intelligence, all you have to do is master the concepts behind the solutions to the questions. The more you understand, the greater your potential for high intelligence will be!"



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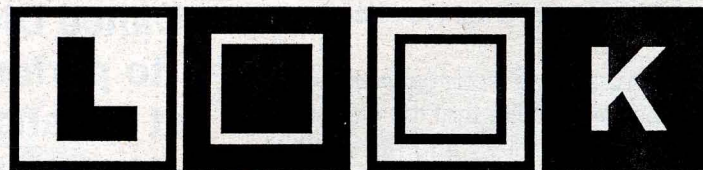
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The University of Nevada, Reno Honors Program has been ranked among the best in America in the first-ever evaluation of university honors programs.

Listing just the top 55 Honors Programs at universities and colleges nationwide, the new book *Ivy League Programs at State School Prices* ranks Nevada's Honors Program right up there with the University of Washington and Ohio State.

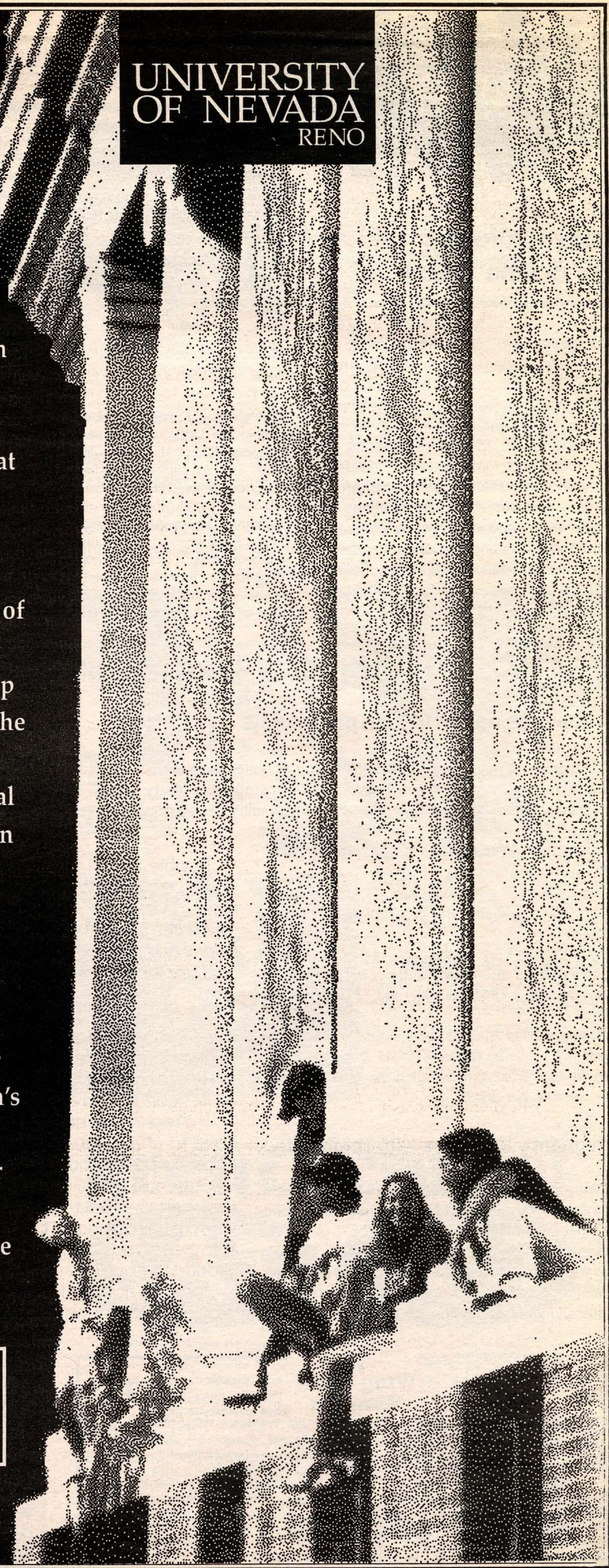
And this newest recognition is just the tip of the iceberg of high national acclaim for the University of Nevada, Reno.

The university is also listed on the annual honor roll of top colleges and universities in the "America's Best Colleges" issue of U.S. News. It's the fifth straight year we've received that honor.

You'll also find us in *The Yale Daily News' Insider's Guide To The Colleges*, Dr. Martin Nemko's *How To Get An Ivy League Education At A State University* and Barron's highly-regarded *Best Buys In College Education*. Barron's - which includes fewer than 300 schools in its listing— calls the University of Nevada, Reno "...a place where serious students can get a good education."

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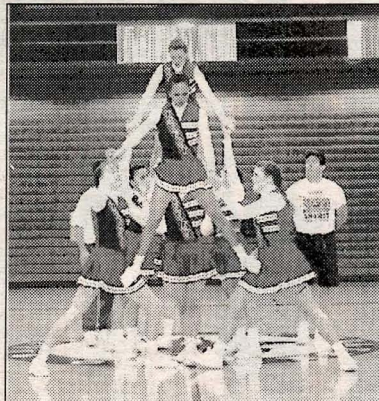
Valley explodes with drama talent

From a report by Sha'Kayla St. Mary

Whoever said "Good things come to those who wait" was absolutely right! After three years, Valley brought home 27 medals from the Clark County Drama Festival.

Cheryl Ajolo and Shamikka Chalmers won Superior for their presentations of *Miss Saigon* and *Home*. Musical theater is the focus of this year's theater program.

Valley also won 25 Excellent ratings in one-acts, men's and women's monologues, and humorous ensemble scenes. In pantomime, Allen Santiago, Corale Pinney, Salina Pagan, Izaac Rowe and Jonathan Stevens all received Excellent ratings.



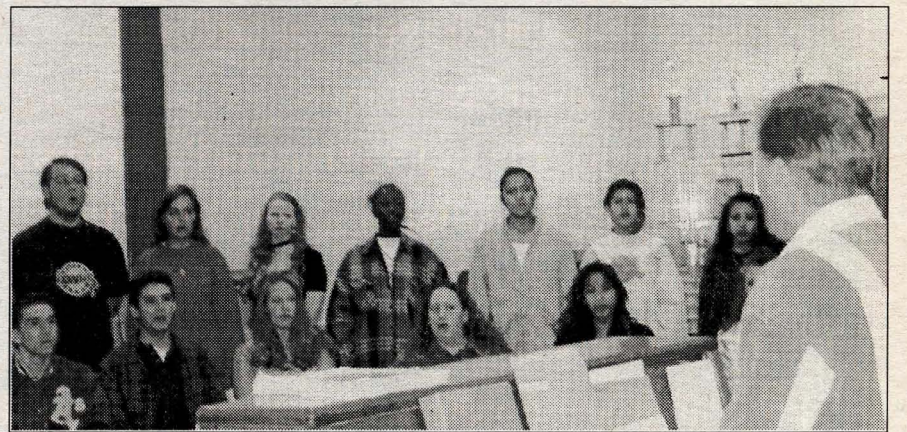
GO! WIN! BARK!

Valley cheerleading tryouts were followed by initiation "rites" that included wearing funky hair styles, Hallowe'en make-up and ripped shirts...and barking in public. Pre-tryout jitters? "A nervous feeling but...confident" says Vanessa Cordova, and Kendra West says "I just wanted it to be over." The varsity cheerleaders made it to the National Competition. (Reporter: Gina Baker)



Valley's varsity baseball team is one of the best when they stick together and play up to their abilities. As of this writing, the team is headed for Zone. (Reporter: Norbert Gyorfi)

Valley's choral program (choir, vocal ensemble and ladies' choir) entered district competitions recently for solo and ensemble work. Of 31 students entering, 19 won Superior ratings. These 19 advanced to the All-State contest where they received 10 Superiors. The groups also competed in the local Choral Festival and captured overall Superior ratings. Thanks to choral director Greg Landburg for the time and energy he has put into this program and congratulations to all. (Reporter: Cindy Davis)



FRANKLY SPEAKING -- Students talk teen pregnancy

Nevada tops nation in teen pregnancy

By Jeni Miller

Teen pregnancy is growing rapidly in the United States and Nevada has the highest rate. According to *Young and Modern* magazine, every year over one million teenagers get pregnant in this country...80 percent are not planned. Over 66 percent of sexually active teens do not use contraceptives and get pregnant within the first two years of sexual activity.

Babies born to girls under age 20 will have more health problems and do worse in school than those born to women over 20.

Of teens who keep their babies, 44 percent drop out of school (cannot afford baby-sitter or need to work to support themselves and the baby) and 73 percent go on welfare.

Having a baby is a lifetime commitment and a big responsibility. Some figure they can dump the kid on their parents. Wake up and smell the dirty diapers -- babies are real, not dolls!

Pregnancy interferes with school life

By Aja Hawkins

Being a pregnant teen in high school is very difficult. For example, you miss a lot of school for doctor appointments and good old morning sickness!

As you gain weight, you tend to get tired. This may cause you to be late to classes or fall asleep in class.

While you are pregnant you must eat right, get exercise and go to all your doctor appointments.

Teen mother's life changes drastically

By Sara Butler



People think it will not happen to them -- they have too much going for them, they have goals, a life.

Of the million who get pregnant each year, nearly half give birth, 33 percent have abortions, and another 125,000 want an abortion cannot get one.

Of all 15-year-olds, one percent have a child. Three percent of 16-year-olds and six percent of 17-year-olds have babies.

Twelve percent of 18-year-olds and 20 percent of 19-year-olds have children.

If a teen decides to keep her baby, many things have to change in her life, including her personal habits to ensure that she has a healthy baby.

She must make sure she has enough money to support herself and the child. She has to realize that, with a baby, she won't be able to go out every night with her friends. Now she has to plan everything around her baby.

If you do not want to get pregnant, your best bet would be abstinence. There is plenty of time later.

Pregnancy.

TALYTHA'S STORY

Anonymous

This is the story of a boy and a girl. (Talytha is not my real name.)

I am 18 and a senior. My boyfriend (I'll call him Damian) is also 18. We started as best friends, going everywhere together. I loved spending time with him. After a couple of weeks, we became very close and our relationship blossomed into something more than "just friends."

As most relationships go, we became intimate...kissing and hugging and doing those things we knew we shouldn't. Before long we made the decision to have intercourse, but did not use protection because I was sure I could not get pregnant.

One day I told Damian I had missed my monthly cycle...when I took a pregnancy test my suspicions were confirmed. Never before had I heard Damian so mad. He kept telling me that his life was over now, that he would have to quit school and get a job to support me and the baby.

The next day, Damian had a different approach: he told me I would have to get an abortion because he was not about to ruin his life.

I grew up believing that abortion was wrong and that people were supposed to take responsibility for their actions. He would probably never forgive me...and if I kept the baby my life would change too.

It's been four months since I made my decision. I think about it a lot. I wonder if I made the right decision. I hope I did, but I will never have to make that decision again.

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than oppose--the opponent's force; yet, when counterattacking, the Traditional Wing Chun student learns to strike quickly and powerfully while trapping the opponent's arms and rendering him or her helpless. Call us for more information about this exciting, yet challenging, art, or come by to watch a class--call for current class hours.

High School Students & Grads!

Let us hear from you this summer. Send story ideas, photos, poetry, movie reviews, editorial opinions. We'll feature your work in the September issue. See our address on page 3.



EHS Cheer brings home the trophies! In a recent cheer competition for high schools and middle schools, the EHS varsity squad took first and the JV took a second. In the dance competition, the JVs took second while EHS varsity came in third. Shown here are the JV and varsity cheer squads.

Aiello overcomes odds, returns to pitcher's mound

By April Gilliam

Nick Aiello, sophomore, has made a remarkable comeback to the Eldorado baseball team. For four months, the pitcher was confined to a wheelchair and doctors thought he wouldn't play baseball again this year.

When Nick was in the sixth grade, he was in a bike accident that injured his hip. At the time, the injury wasn't thought to be serious and the doctor only placed a pin in his hip. Nick returned this year to have the pin removed and the doctor found that it had become imbedded in Nick's hip.

In order to correct this, they had to chip away his hip bone. After the surgery, Nick was confined to a wheelchair. He was told that if any pressure were put on his hip, he might never walk again.

"When the doctor told me that, I was really scared," Nick says. "I didn't know if I would ever step onto a baseball mound again. I've missed it a lot."

Other pitchers on the team expressed how they felt about Nick's return. "It's great," says George Wilson. "I'm glad he's healthy and can contribute to the team." Fellow pitcher Steve Tollefson says, "Nobody thought he'd come back. Without him, we had only two pitchers."

Coach Sufana says about Nick, "I think he'll help the team and help himself recover...he's an asset to the team."

Welcome, Fan Tex Ash!

On the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, the students at Eldorado did their part for conservation of the environment: they planted a young tree in front of the school. The new Fan Tex Ash tree was donated to EHS by Venna Davis from Davis Nursery.



The Environmental Club held a ceremony in honor of the tree planting. Those who attended included students, Dean Floyd Fry, Principal Gail Dixon, science teacher Mary Lou Percin, and many other teachers.

How much did YOU spend to "Set the Night to Music"?

By April Gilliam

The Prom is over and we were wondering how much people spent on this once-in-a-lifetime night. The answer seems to be \$250 to \$500 for both guys and girls.

Senior Sylvia Perez says, "Being that it is my senior year, Prom is the most important event. I had to have the best dress -- I found it at the mall on the clearance rack for \$47. Then there was my hair, \$25...nails, \$35...shoes, \$45. I'd say I spent about \$200 altogether."

Most would think that guys spent a lot more than girls, but these days a lot of the price was split. William Batton says, "I believe that by the time I'm done, I would have spent \$300 to \$500 on tickets, limo, tuxedo, dinner, outfits and after-hour activities."

The consensus: Prom is worth all the money spent on it.

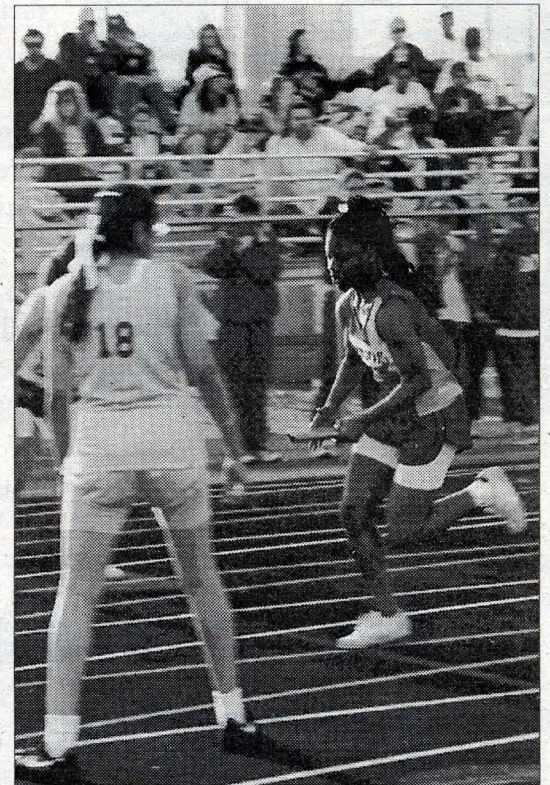
Track teams runnin' hot this season

(Reporter: Rochelle Young)

The Eldorado track teams -- men and women -- started the season well. At the Durango meet, the girls took two firsts and two second-place awards. The boys had a first and a fourth and they are getting better with every meet.

In the Arcadia, CA, meet there were great performances in the girls' 4x100 relay and 4x200, with team members Tony Nichols, Lameisha Patterson, Kim Perkins and Rochelle Young.

Zone finals were held May 13 and the teams are looking forward to the State Championship meets scheduled for May 19 and 20 at Cheyenne High School.



EHS track-team member Lameisha Patterson races in to pass the baton. The team has had a good season and looks forward to competing for the State Championship later this month.

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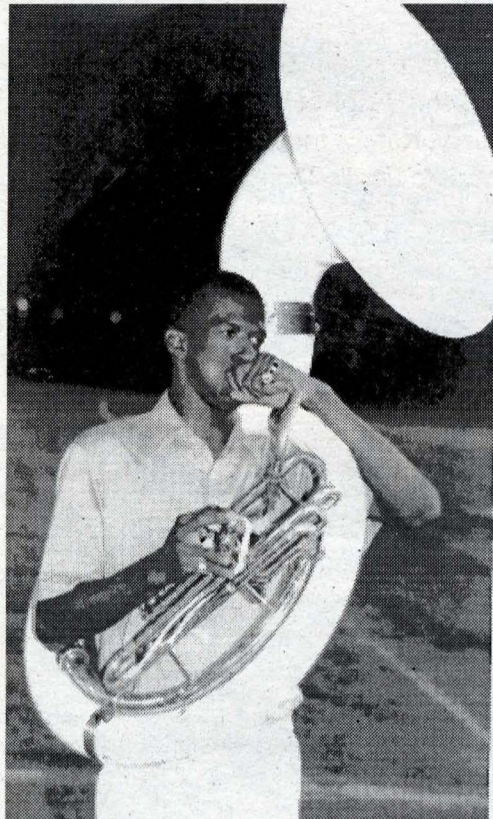
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"I wonder what happened to my life"
The worry of not graduating

By Jermaine Shows



Jermaine Shows

Everyone is talking about what his/her intentions are after high school, and some have asked me what mine are. I say I have plans, but that's a sham that many don't realize.

For most, graduation is inevitable; they know it's coming. For me it's a mystery. Each night I ponder and think, how close I am, but I'm not there yet. This graduation predicament is stressful.

My family does not seem to be that concerned, but they do not recognize the constant pressure they put on me. It bothers me when I know I might not walk, and there's nothing I can do. I understand that there are bigger issues in the world, but right now this is my biggest concern. If, in fact, I do not graduate May 31st, I will graduate whether it be in summer or some other time.

The sad part is, this postpones my plans for the future. Since I will have to go to Junior College for two years, that means I will have only two or three years at the college I want to attend. When I am at Southern University, I would like to pursue a career in music or electronics.

I wake up every day knowing I have to attend 14 classes a day. I wonder what happened to my life. If I would have known I would be taking two fully loaded sessions of school, I would not have goofed up. Some people question how I do it; I reply I don't know. People say they would never do what I'm doing.

A teacher once said to me, and I'll never forget it, 'You do what you gotta do,' plain and simple, like that.

Does It Take A Bomb To Wake Up America?

By Jessica Linge

A terrible tragedy took America by surprise on April 19th. An explosion in Oklahoma City killed more than 150 adults and children. President Clinton was quick to announce that the people who committed this cowardly act would be brought to justice as soon as possible. Many Americans, taken by surprise, felt a tinge of horror at the thought of anyone being able to go to a federal building in America's heartland, plant a bomb with thousands of pounds of explosives, destroy the building, and not be seen. The same terror was felt when a car bombing damaged the World Trade Center in New York less than two years ago.

These horrific crimes have brought to light some age-old beliefs that terrorism is prevalent only in other countries. Maybe these violent acts will wake Americans to the cold hard facts that there are people out there who strongly disagree with the U.S.A., and that they are not just going to disappear. American terrorist groups, as well as outside terrorist groups, are killing Americans. The only way to put a damper on these acts is for the people and the government to wake up!

The Alien Sedition Acts of the late 1700s were among the first to deal with terrorism in the U.S. by regulating the rights of Americans when it came to acts of sedition or treason, and espionage. The constitutionality of these acts was under heavy criticism by many Americans. A fair question would now be, which rights are we willing to give up in order to protect America from another act of this nature?

Are the media pushing drugs?

By Chris Webster

All over the nation today, teenage minds are being affected by the drug fad. In the last two years, an estimated 10- to 15-million dollar business has grown from encouraging the legalization and distribution of marijuana.

Now the fashion industry creates items for such drugs as LSD and Mushrooms. How have these supposedly harmful drugs become so nationally accepted? Influence.

Everything we are introduced to affects us in some way, whether we comprehend it or not. Teenage society is influenced mainly by the TV, radio and music industries. When we consider what we are introduced to by those industries, the truth becomes obvious: we

are part of a drug culture founded in the '60s and '70s that still grows in the '90s. Music groups, shows, people -- anything that is looked up to are influences.

Cypress Hill, a music group acclaimed for songs such as *Insane in the Membrane*, is at the very heart of our society today, yet they strongly support the use of pot and have many teenagers saying "I don't consider it a drug...it's a plant. Coke, I don't do that s--t. That's a drug." Some other groups that have supported the use of marijuana in the past include The Dog Pound, Dr. Dre, Snoop Doggy Dog, Warren G., and Mr. Grimm.

As for positive TV influence, many students can recall a *Rosanne* episode when she and Dan came across a stash supposedly belonging to one of their daughters. They argued for a while about it. Rosanne rolled a joint, and, for the rest of the episode, they giggled about their high.

What does all this mean to society? Between 1993 and 1994, the increase in students using pot rose 3.8 points to 13 percent for eighth graders, and usage increased by 4.7 percent for high school seniors. LSD usage has risen slightly for the third consecutive year.

Now the real shocker: heroin is expected to make a comeback.

Good news, however: drunk driving deaths are down by one-third. Does this mean that the more drugs society uses today, the less alcohol is consumed?

Possibly, but if these truly are drugs and the government wants to win the "war" on them, they better supply us with something else to believe in.

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MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY: An Editorial Opinion

The arts deserve our support

By Kim Howey

Time often sifts dreams from reality. In the early '60s, John F. Kennedy said, "I see little of more importance to the future of our country and civilization than full recognition of the place of the artist."

Almost 30 years later, after President Bush gave out 10 National Medals of the Arts, he announced, "All right, you artists! Now I want you to meet some *real* artists!" He pointed to Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams who were to accompany him to an All-Star game.

Just as the artists watched this spectacle in disbelief, the nation now watches a similar gesture -- only this time the finger points to the National Endowment for the Arts. Since its creation in 1965, the NEA has helped fund hundreds of American cultural institutions, including community symphony orchestras, theater groups, educational programs for children, and dance companies.

Now many Congressmen want to cut the program for symbolic reasons. How, they ask, can they make embarrassing cuts on school lunches or public housing if they still hang onto opera?

The fact remains that the NEA budget represents only two one-hundredths of one percent of the federal budget. For the price of one B-2 bomber, you could fund *five* NEAs!

Germany spends \$5.1 billion to support the arts; the French, \$585 million; the U.S., \$176 million. Numbers speak louder than words.

Of course, [the Congressmen] can talk about "paint-smearers" and controversial modern artists and use them to stand for the many other dedicated artists and organizations that further American culture. However, the disaster is the disrespect and the belief that the arts are not critical to a society's existence.

According to techie Michaelle Stikich, who wants to pursue a career in film, "Talent is as abundant as ever, but...it has never been so inadequately produced or supported." Senior Brandie Pilapil, who has won several art awards, has tried to plot the direction she will take after college. She sees an art career as "risky" because so many of the art institutions are connected with the NEA.

Aspiring writer Diane McGimsey agrees: "High school students aren't encouraged at all to become creative writers after college, partly because of the risk involved. We are pushed more into analytical writing because that's what is used in *practical* careers."

"All of us," President Clinton said recently, "still have a little bit of music in us, a little bit of dance in us, a little bit of the arts in us." If that's the case, then a little bit of money and support shouldn't be too much to ask.

Club Notes

KEY CLUB. Last month, members visited Santa Clara, CA, for a three-day convention, along with 3,200 other Key Clubbers from California, Nevada and Hawaii. The event included speakers, caucuses to elect new officers, workshops, a carnival and dance, and an awards banquet.

LANGUAGE CLUBS. Wrapping up the year, the Spanish, French and Japanese Clubs made a day-trip to Six Flags. About 40 members participated, after raising most of their funds through candy sales. Earlier this semester, the Japanese Club toured "Little Tokyo" in Los Angeles.

INTERACT. New President Carla Hubay's plans for the 1995-96 school year includes helping to feed the homeless at St. Vincent's, joining the Adopt-a-Highway program, recycling the school's used paper, and attending Rotary Youth Leadership training. She hopes to get more people involved next semester.



Apples...iguanas... thieves want 'em all!

(From a report by Charalee Smith)

It seems that Bonanza's criminal faction has become a little more daring. No longer are they content with pepper spray in the hallways or stink bombs during first period or putting their stupid scrawls on the walls.

These annoyances have been replaced by serious felonies that mean big-time trouble when the perpetrators are caught.

Thieves recently stole thousands of dollars in equipment from the Science and Special Education departments, the library, and various classrooms.

The stolen items include Apple computers, printers and monitors, other technical equipment, a television and VCR, a 10-gallon fish tank, and -- to top it off -- an innocent iguana.

It is believed that the burglars had a master key, but attempted to hide that fact by making pry-marks on the door jambs. Police have no leads but a reward is offered.

Bengals learn about U.S., world history in visit to nation's capital

For almost 20 years, Bonanza has taken the Close Up trip to Washington, DC, and this year was no exception. Ten Bengals visited our nation's capital: Crystal Boyack, Steve Brooker, Chase Canfield, Todd Jackson, Jason Johansson, Bransen Locks, Katie McDonald, Kim Parry, Kate Whitaker and Shawn Zahnow.

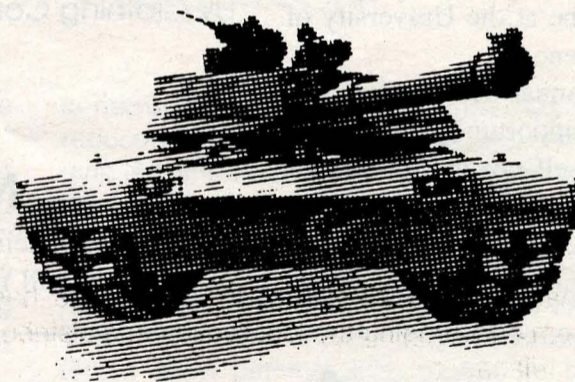
After a bus tour and visit to Ford's Theater (where Lincoln was shot) the group saw the play *A Raisin in the Sun*, then visited the National Art Gallery, Aerospace Museum and the Smithsonian. They also went to historic Williamsburg, where all the staff members and workers are dressed in colonial clothing and speak as people of the 18th century. "History is right there in front of you," Boyack says. "You can see it and touch it."

The Bengals then visited the Holocaust Museum. "It was the most moving thing I've ever been to," says McDonald. The group started at the top, each person with a picture and story about one particular Holocaust victim. As they wound their way to the bottom, each floor symbolized a stage of the victim's life.

Parry recalls a room "filled with the shoes of people who died, and it really hit you how horrible it was."

Aside from touring and museum-hopping, the group spent time debating and learning about the government. They also met with Nevada Senator Richard Bryan.

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Here comes de judge!

Students in Glenda Goettling's Business Law class recently took a field trip to District Court, touring the building and sitting in on courtroom procedures.

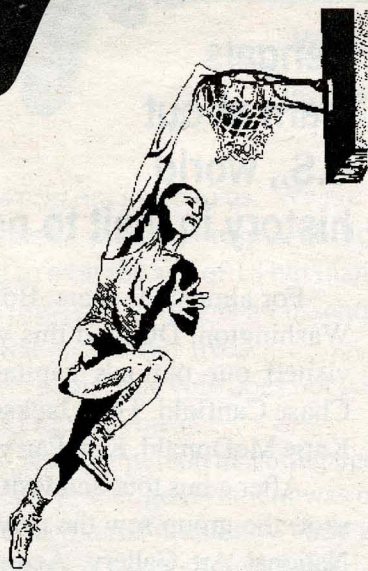
"After watching the O.J. Simpson trial on television, studying rules of law in class, and conducting our own mock trial," says student Brianne Ross, "it is great to finally get to watch a live trial. Everyone learned something from this field trip."

Girls' & Boys' State delegates selected

Congratulations to Burke Morrison, Michael Virata, David Zetony, Kathleen Burns, Sandra Colton and Rosemarie McMorris, who will represent Cimarron-Memorial at the Boys' and Girls' State Leadership Conferences this summer.

The Girls' conference will be held in Carson City and the Boys' State will be at the University of Nevada, Reno.

This annual event offers students the opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens and to learn about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship.



Basketball camp open to all area students

The AAA State Champion Basketball Camp, to be held at Cimarron-Memorial High School June 5-9, is open to high school students throughout Southern Nevada.

The cost is \$125 per camper for 20 hours of instruction and full court games. This fee includes camp T-shirts, shooters' notebook, drills, and devices used for skills.

Two sessions are offered: from 8:30am-12:30pm, and from 1:30 to 5:30pm. Applications are available at CMHS and must be received on or before June 1. (Mail is okay.)

Student arts and crafts show to feature industrial & fine arts

A display of arts and crafts by students in occupational and fine arts is scheduled for May 16 and 17 in the Cimarron-Memorial auxiliary gym. The show will be open from 7am to 2pm.

The Industrial Arts Division will feature major projects constructed of wood and others created by drafting and architecture students. Awards will go to outstanding works in this category.

The Art Department will display two- and three-dimensional works, including watercolor, acrylic and oil painting, drawing, photography and sculpture. Awards will be given in each of the categories. The "Principal's Award" (\$100) will be given for a work chosen by Principal Ken Bedrosian; that project will then become part of the school's permanent collection.

The newest feature of the show will be quilts, designed and made by Clothing Construction students.

Dahlheimer to represent Nevada's FBLA in Orlando

Alicia Dahlheimer, a member of the CMHS chapter of Future Business Leaders of America, will represent Nevada at the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, June 30-July 3.

Dahlheimer won second place in Accounting at the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Reno. (See the complete list of winners elsewhere in this issue of CLASS!)

The CMHS chapter also brought home a first-place award for its scrapbook (prepared by club historian Chelsey Tolentino, and chapter officers Anirban Roy, Chris Santos, Dennis Sciacca, Phil Vena and Dahlheimer), second-place awards for chapter Annual Business Report and for membership increase.

Nuke notice

The proposed Nuclear Waste Repository at Yucca Mountain is the focus of a unit being studied by Science I and II students of Ruth Ann Phillips. The classes are also looking at current energy sources and their by-products.

Phillips recently toured the Yucca Mountain site near Las Vegas and the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant near Phoenix, Arizona.



CMHS magazine takes top national honors

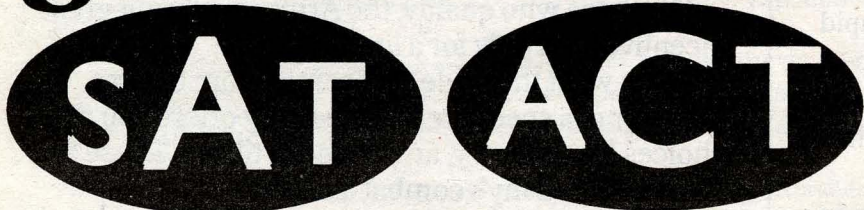
Laconia, the magazine produced by Cimarron-Memorial's 1994 Creative Writing class, has been honored for "Excellence in the United States and Southern Nevada" by the National Council of Teachers of English. This is the second year in a row that *Laconia* has been so honored.

Creative writing teacher Carolyn Myers and 19 of her students were further recognized by the recently released edition of *Nevada Young Writers & Artists, 1994*, a volume described as a "celebration of students' talents, abilities and creativity." The published works were chosen from thousands of entries submitted in the Las Vegas area.

This just in...

Keath Long has placed **sixth in the WORLD** in the Civil Engineering bridge-building contest held May 6 in Chicago.

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IN MY OPINION: A DEBATE ON UNDER-AGE GAMBLING

Gambling develops useful skills

By Trey Delap

I have come to the conclusion that the law banning gambling by those under age 21 is needless.

As society becomes more automated with advancing computer technology, the youth of the world will have to keep up by expanding their mathematical abilities. With casino games, a player is constantly calculating mathematical probability and exercising decision-making skills.

With every hit their deck takes, they are making snap decisions based on statistics they have worked out and applied to a practical setting. These skills, if properly developed, will advance the students of America far beyond those of other countries that do not celebrate gambling as we do.

A popular complaint from the youth of Nevada is that there are not enough activities for young people here. With the lifting of gambling laws, we may introduce an alternative to so many harmful activities. Drug abuse, teen pregnancy and crime rates all may fall because teens will have more to do than ever.

Considering that gambling teaches many valuable skills and has the potential of keeping kids off drugs, I think it should be opened to teens.

Gambling is dangerous, addictive

By Jeny Bania

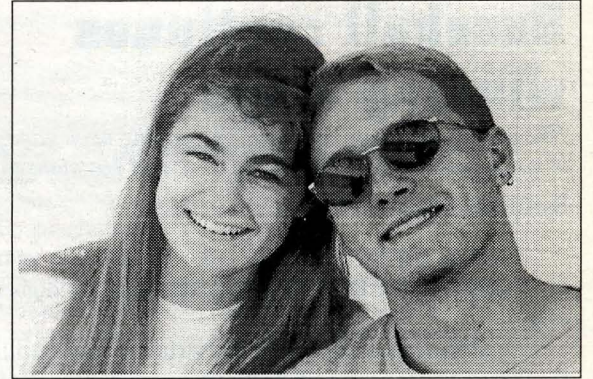
During Greg's sophomore year in college, he began placing \$200 bets with bookies. "One said he would cut off my mother's legs if I didn't pay," Greg says. This addiction eventually cost Greg over \$5,000 and his job -- he was fired for embezzling.

Until recently, compulsive gambling was usually associated with an older group. Researchers claim that, of the eight million compulsive gamblers in the U.S., one million are still in their teens.

Parents and society have fostered gambling in one form or another. For children, Old Maid appears to be an innocent form of entertainment. Local raffles are supported by communities as a successful way to raise money. Usually, compulsive gambling among teens causes nothing but destruction. One 17-year-old from New Jersey stole items worth up to \$10,000 to support his habit.

What has happened to innocence? Perhaps teens enjoy being treated like adults and pampered like stars. After sitting at the slots long enough, one has an excellent chance of getting free drinks, free meals, comps for shows, even free rooms.

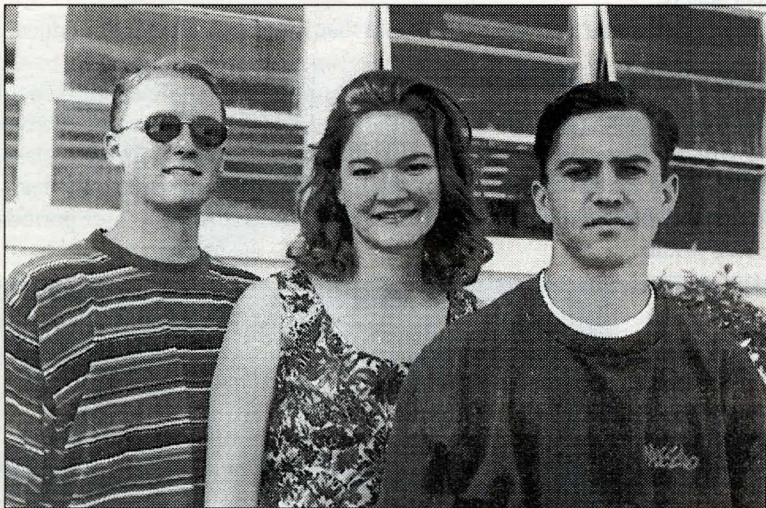
The only way to prevent this self-destructive addiction is education at home and school.



EAGLES: APRIL & MAY

TOP (APRIL): **Julie Pfeffer** has been involved in sports all four years -- volleyball, soccer, track, bowling, and now golf. With a GPA of 4.375, she plans to major in accounting in college. **Mike Curl** was a JV quarterback and a star swimmer. When not working on his 4.6 GPA, he's active with Amnesty International, French Club, Art Club and National Honor Society. He will major in math at UNLV and become a teacher.

BOTTOM (MAY): **Julie Moffett** was honored as All-Conference softball player and MVP in varsity basketball. She is Sr. Class secretary, maintains a 3.5+ GPA, and will play softball for Pacific Lutheran University. **Doug Banaszek**, former member of the cross-country, track and volleyball teams, now captains the co-ed soccer games. He is a member of Interact, Art Club and John Hanson Society and he may become a teacher after attending U of Wisconsin, Madison.



TOP O' THE CLASS.

Anna Lindskoog and **Jason Braithwaite** (right) will share the honors as Valedictorians of the Class of 1995. **Mike Curl** has been named Salutatorian. Lindskoog has been active throughout school in academics, sports, and clubs, and was this year's president of *Interact*. She plans to attend North Park College in Chicago. Braithwaite -- student, athlete, artist -- has played varsity soccer since his freshman year and has competed in Las Vegas clubs. He created his own business, *Odd Jobs Etc.*, and is a talented painter. He plans to continue playing soccer when he attends college in the fall. Curl is the Eagle of the Month for April -- see story, right.



BCHS's men's golf team has an impressive 11-1 record. Captain **Dwayne Townsend** (above) says, "This is the best golf team I have ever played on."

The Power of Color

She stared at the blue vase
The blue vase stared back
She glanced at the green flask
The green flask glanced back
She gazed at the purple bottle
The purple bottle gazed back
She lost her thoughts in the grey glass
The glass fell to the floor
Her tear fell upon it. - Katie Aldworth

Grab a chair... we're playing Musical Coaches

There have been several changes in the coaching staff at BCBS. Replacing Louise Chapel as women's golf coach is Brian Backman, who also becomes assistant coach for Varsity softball and men's JV soccer coach. Replacing Richard Whitehead as Varsity football coach is Dan Cahill from Basic High School, who will be assisted by Bill Stratton.

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Baseball continues winning ways

"We need to keep our minds set on winning each game, one at a time, and always be intense." - Chad Hermansen

By Chris Weber

Coming off a 33-3 state title season last year, the expectations of the 1995 Gator baseball team are higher than ever.

Chad Stevenson, former GVHS catcher, is now catching for the Detroit Tigers organization, and former Gator center fielder Brian Schultz is playing at Blinn College in Brenham, Texas.

Skeptics say that these are enormous shoes to fill, but head coach Roger Fairless thinks differently.

"I have as much confidence in this year's team as I did in last year's," Fairless stated. "We practice intensely, and will come out ready to play at the games."

What is most eye-catching about this year's squad is not who the Gators have lost, but who they have coming back.

All but four players returned this year. Senior shortstop Chad Hermansen, who batted .411 with 37 RBIs, is among the nation's top high school prospects. Although he has already signed a letter of intent to attend the University of Miami, he has helped focus the team on hard work.

"We need to keep our minds set on winning each game, one at a time and always be intense," stated Hermansen.

Senior co-captain A.C. Smith, who plans to attend the University of Arizona, is the eldest of the strong Gator pitching staff. Junior left-handed ace Cory Frey, junior right-hander Taylor Myers, and sophomore right-hander Taylor Smith will help ensure victory this season.

Also, returning starters/co-captains Richard Scow, second base, and Matt Durham, third base, round out a talented infield.

The Gator outfield is equally strong, and can provide stunning results.

Senior right fielder Kevin Eberwein and juniors Nick Day and John Pashales lead the group of seven possible outfielders. These seven are also an investment for next year, as five of them will return.

However, defense is only half of the game. "We take a lot of pride in our hitting abilities," stated junior center fielder Nick Day. "Scoring runs is what wins games, and we work hard for our wins."

The Gator offense is very aggressive on the base paths, and concentrates intensely on not throwing away at bats.

Fairless emphasizes "using the yard" or hitting the ball all over the field.

Class explores world of commercial aviation

By Stephanie Dibbs

Overhead, the planes of Southwest Airlines roared as Mr. Newlon and his 15 eager students, exploring the latest technology of air transportation, piled into the bus before first period to attend a field trip as a reward for their consistent effort throughout the school year.

After arriving at Southwest Airlines, the students experienced hands-on flight equipment techniques. A number of boys were able to push an airplane out to taxi with a piece of equipment called a toad. On a different plane, other students took over as captain and co-captain as they investigated the cockpit.

Although they had their feet planted safely on the ground the entire time, everyone learned many methods of air safety.

Before boarding the planes, all visitors explored the baggage area to see how everything is tagged and shipped. They also studied the security equipment and ticketing procedure that Southwest Airlines uses.



Lunch time—Students take a lunch break and enjoy the sunshine after visiting the airport.

Double sessions double up GVHS

By Prem Premsrut

Beginning Jan. 2, 1996, Green Valley High School will be the site of a double-session schedule with Basic High School. Due to the project of removing asbestos and the retrofitting of Basic, this double session schedule, according to administrators, "is absolutely necessary, and if all goes as planned, will definitely take place."

As GVHS Principal Carroll Johnston explained, "It's a great way to bring the community together."

"If another school is in need of help, we should be more than happy to offer our assistance to them, even if it is a little inconvenient," journalism advisor Jackie Carducci stated.

"Surely, they would do the same for us because we all share a common goal, and that is to work together to educate our youth."

GVHS students will attend the A.M. session from 6:40 to 11:40. They will have 30 minutes to complete after-school work and will be required to leave campus within that time. The day will consist of six periods and a ten-minute break between the third and fourth periods. Each period will be shortened by five minutes, allowing 47 minutes for each class.

However, this shortened period does create a problem for lab classes and others that require preparation and clean-up duty. Therefore, block scheduling is a possible result. A block schedule means students would attend only three periods a day, and alternate the other three the next day. This would allow more time for science labs, home economics courses, etc.

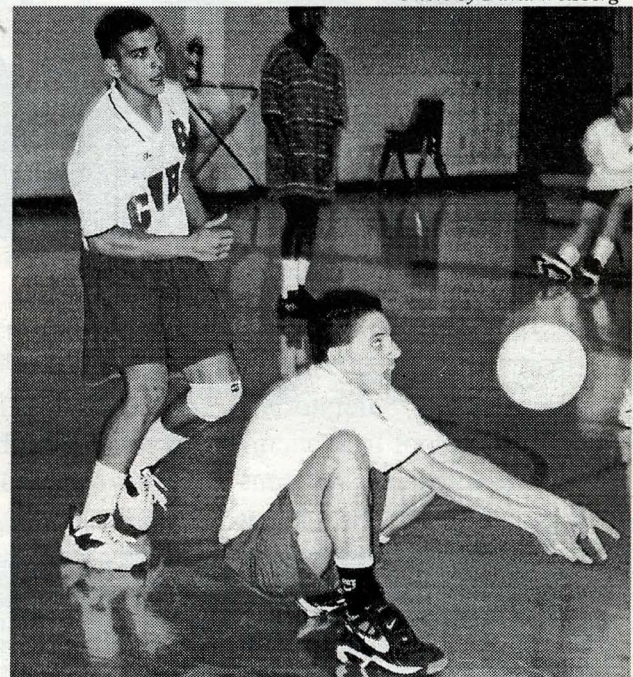
There are many pros and cons to double sessions, but this is being discussed in the early stages to make the transition as easy as possible. All athletic and activity programs will continue, but, there is the possibility of some changes. Some after-school programs and clubs will meet elsewhere, instead of at the school.

Since there will be no lunch hour, no food services will be available during the school day.

Lockers have also been an issue: If Basic chooses not to use them, then the locker system will remain the same.

However, if Basic does choose to use lockers, every other locker will be assigned to Green Valley students, and the remaining lockers to Basic.

Problems in classes such as journalism and yearbook may be handled with extra portables, allowing both schools to continue their programs without major interruptions.



What a dig! Senior John Burfening recovers a ball from an opponent in a recent game. The Gators are currently undefeated.

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Artist speaks his point of view

By Krista Stanley

"My goal is to share my unique life experiences and vision with the viewer—to open the windows of my world to a viewing public that is often too busy to 'see.'"

These are the words of GVHS art instructor, Sy Collier, who recently gained recognition from this *Footprints* exhibit at the Green Valley Library.

An instructor at the school since its opening, he views art and life as interchangeable, "Dynamic forces that are ever growing, never static."

This is what Collier emphasizes in his teaching and what is evident from the following interview.

What is the most rewarding part about being an artist and a teacher?

Life is art and art is life. They are extension of one another. There is communication through the language of art. The students are like canvases. They too are an extension of art.

What advice, if any, would you give to anyone trying to achieve a similar dream?

In art there is no one goal to achieve. Art is a process, little victories in an ongoing war. Art is sharing of a vision. We live in symbols. We are often too busy to 'see' the symbols. I teach the students to recognize the symbol first, then synthesize the idea. I use a lot of symbols in my paintings, a lot of symbolism.

The longer I teach, the less I teach. In *Art I*, the students have very little freedom. It is very structured. I am teaching them tools.

By *Art AP*, I teach very little. I've already taught them



everything I know. It is like planting flowers. *Art I* students are like seeds being planted; and by *Art AP*, the time has come to see whether weeds or flowers have grown.

When I went to see your "Footprints" exhibit at the Green Valley Library, one particular painting, *Distant Echoes*, caught my eye. Who is the woman pictured in the painting, and what do the symbols represent?

The woman is Marian Anderson...a contralto who had to face what happened to many people of color at the time. She just finished her whirlwind tour across Europe, when Eleanor Roosevelt invited her to sing for *The Daughters of the American Revolution*.

Well, if you know anything about *The Daughters*, they are anything but revolutionary, and they denied her the right to perform in their presence. So Ms. Roosevelt

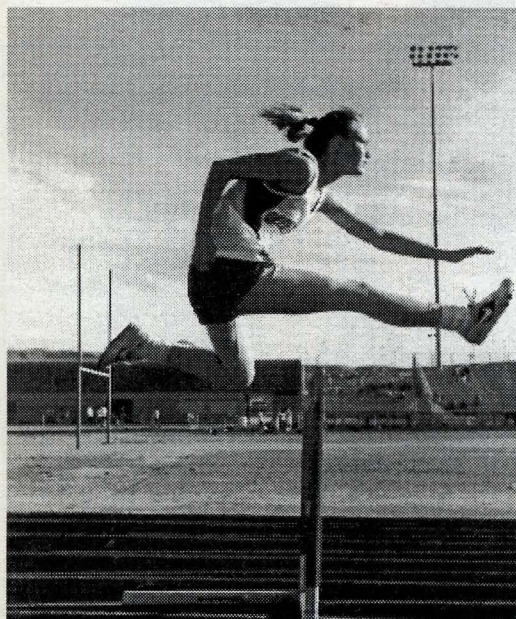
arranged for her to sing at the Lincoln Monument, which I have symbolized in my painting.

Seventy-five thousand people showed up to hear her sing, as others crowded around the radio to listen. From there, her career took off. She was a sorceress in an opera, which again is symbolized in my painting.

If you could relive your life, is there anything you would change?

I chose the road least traveled. When I come to decisions, I weigh them, make the decision, and move on. You always could have done better, but there is no use dwelling on it...it's already done.

Mr. Collier is one of the most remarkable teachers and artists I have met. He is as impressive as his artwork itself. Honesty and charisma are two of the factors reflected in his work, as well as in his life. Always eager to teach, he has become a favorite among many of the students around campus.



Above and Beyond—Sr. Christie Stewart takes a hurdle with stride. Photo by Kristen Nielson

Track and field team sets sights high, strives to improve last year's records

By Lauren Romano

Track coach Ernie Monfiletto has goals for this year: to prepare the team for the state championship, and to instill values and discipline in each player that they can carry with them in the future.

Since the sport has the highest participation of any sport, it gives a lot of students the opportunity to participate and perform.

The women's pole vault was added to the events this year and will be reevaluated after two years to see if it will remain as one of the regular competitions.

Even though the 150-person team works and scores points as a team effort, the only time they are together during practice is for roll call.

'Little Women' causes serious fall-out

By Kelly Clark

It was a Las Vegas morning in August when the girl and her sister begged their mother to rent their favorite movie, so they could watch it for what seemed like the millionth time. They loved the characters.

They would watch the movie, soaking in all the scenes. They were surprised at all the shocking parts and laughed at all the funny parts, acting as if they had never seen the movie before. When the movie had finished, they would cry out, "I want to be just like them!"

On that particular day, they climbed up onto their window sill so they could pretend they were the "little women." Only one problem, the "little women" had window seats; and they didn't. For the younger sister, it turned out to be a mistake that she would later regret.

Thinking she was so cool, the young girl tried to balance herself on the five-inch ledge and eat grapes at the same time. However, she wasn't that talented.

In the blink of an eye, she was desperately trying

to hold onto something to keep from falling. The only thing within her reach to grasp was a lamp on a nearby dresser. In the second that her hand closed around the base of the lamp, she began to fall off of the window sill.

She screamed as she went down from her one-story house, and landed in the midst of large chunks of broken glass from the lamp, which hit the ground first.

Blood squirting everywhere, she was rushed to her doctor, who cleaned out the large wound in the palm of her hand and sewed in five stitches.

In case you haven't figured it out yet, the writer of this story is the one with the scar in the palm of her left hand, the one who will always be reminded of the incident that happened as a result of trying to be like someone else.

Actually, I'm glad I have this scar, because it reminds me of the time I wanted so much to be like someone else. It reminds me that I am an individual, and that I should never fear being myself.

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K-T SERVICES

How many killings until you get **M A D**?

By Jeremy Bussell

Before I begin, I would like to clarify that by writing this article I am in no way justifying the recent tragedy in Oklahoma City. That act of brutality and violence was completely inexcusable, and I fully believe that whoever was responsible should pay with his or her life. The murder of innocent people, especially of children, is never justifiable.

April 19, 1995, is a day no resident of Oklahoma City -- indeed the State of Oklahoma -- will ever forget. And though Oklahoma bears the wound, the pain is spread nation-wide.

At approximately 9:00 a.m., a 4,000-pound car bomb exploded...causing the pain, suffering and death of hundreds of people. Forty percent of the federal building was destroyed -- not to mention an unspecified number of children being looked after in the building's child care center. At least 17 of them died when the building collapsed. But surprise, surprise! Americans are "just a little peeved." They are screaming for the death of whoever is responsible. And who can blame them? Americans have every right to be really ticked.

However, I find it surprising that it takes an act of such evil and violence to get that anger flowing. Why? Joe Bloo goes on a killing spree and shoots four or five people in the middle of the street. What do American say? "Oooh, what a terrible person!" Some jerk goes

wacko and stabs his girlfriend to death. What do Americans say? "Well, the pressures he was dealing with at work...

temporary insanity." Bull

President Clinton described the assailants responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing as "cowards and murderers." Are not all killers cowards? He also said that when the perpetrators are found, punishment will be "swift and severe." Well, that's the way it should be for everyone. Any other murderer certainly would not receive swift punishment, and very rarely is it severe.

So the question I'm asking is "Where do the American people stand? Is it all right to kill one, two, even three or four people? Do you have to kill at least 20 to tick Americans off? Make up your minds, people! Murder is murder. Whether it is one or 100 people, it does not matter: anyone who kills deserves to be killed. It should not take a virtual massacre to open the eyes of the public.

Murder, unfortunately, happens every day and something needs to be done about it. It definitely isn't kosher to wait for a disaster to kill a bunch of people before you get mad. Get mad NOW, and maybe, together, we can reverse the direction this country is headed.



Student's poetry to be published

Samantha Voelker, sophomore, has been writing poetry since the sixth grade. One of her poems was recently selected to be published in *The Anthology of Young Poets*.

Samantha's parents are very proud of Samantha's efforts. Her English teacher, Sheryl Brewer, told Samantha about the contest. Following is another of Samantha's poems.

The Eyes of a Child

Innocent and trusting, the eyes of a child
Cruel and scary, the world they see
Tragically they see a world unworthy of
their purity.

Their innocence cries for our help,
Society doesn't seem to hear.
These beautiful young eyes see anger,
Frustration, violence and fear every day,
Instead of seeing the peace and beauty
they deserve to see.

Won't we help them before
These innocent eyes become the evil
things

that are sadly seen
Through the eyes of a child.

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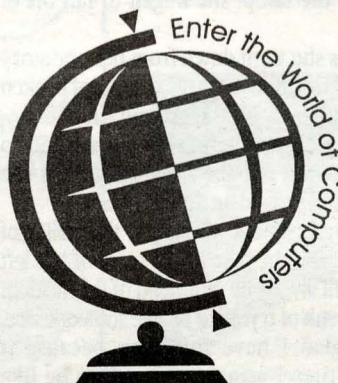
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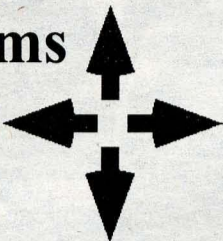
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Williams at crossroads chooses dreams over drugs

by Nick Daniels



Johnny Williams, a 16-year-old sophomore at Rancho High School, was recently awarded "Youth of the Year" by the North Las Vegas unit of the Boys & Girls Club. He is one of 300 local kids who belong to the club's Leaders-In-Training program, or LITE as it has been dubbed by its participants.

The kids involved in the LITE program volunteer 15 to 20 hours every week at the club. For their time served volunteering, they have earned trips to Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles and have also filled part-time summer jobs through Nevada Business Services.

The Williams family moved to Las Vegas from Los Angeles several years ago, but found themselves in a mini-version of the neighborhood they moved away from.

"We came here for a different environment, but somehow we got caught up in it again," according to Johnny.

About four years ago, Johnny was in danger of becoming another teenager who used and sold drugs for some quick bucks and a chance to join a gang, thereby practically throwing his life away. But something told him it could be different.

"It was just all of a sudden, a coin toss. I thought, "I'm either gonna live or I'm gonna die."

He could have gone either way. Johnny chose hope. About a year ago, he hooked up with the Boys & Girls Club, searching for something, role models or positive lessons, to help carry him through life.

"I have big dreams. One of my dreams is to finish high school with honors." All my life, I had nobody to look up to, nobody to push me. I just want to be something different, to go higher. Maybe I can show people how I lived and how I changed."

Henderson brings excitement to class

by Raechel Grimblot

Each year, one teacher from every Clark County school is chosen as the Educator of the Year. This year, Terry Henderson, an English and Multi-cultural Literature teacher, won the Award for Rancho.

The Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas and KLAS-Channel 8 presented the awards. Mrs. Henderson won the award by making her classes fun and educational, and bringing new and exciting lessons to the students.

This is Henderson's second year as an English teacher. She was a sign-language interpreter for Valley High School and Cimmaron Memorial High School before she came to Rancho as a student teacher.

Henderson began to love the idea of working at Rancho. So, when her student teaching assignment was coming to an end, she "begged" Principal Barry Gunderson to let her stay at Rancho.

Henderson currently teaches three Multi-cultural Literature classes and two Freshmen Honors English classes. This year, Henderson brought in a Shakespearean actor and actors from the play "Zora" and she has taken her freshman to "Shakespeare in The Park."

Henderson is very impressed with the students in her classes. "They teach me something new everyday," she said. "I teach them the literature part, and they teach me the cultural aspect."

Henderson learned about the award on the day of the presentation. When Gunderson called her between classes and said "Let's go to lunch," Henderson was taken aback.

She is very excited about winning the award and sees it as a motivational tool to continue doing what she loves—teaching at Rancho.

Henderson commented, "Rancho is my home, I love it here!" She plans to make it a family act, by bringing her two daughters to Rancho next year.



Old Gym—Not Gone or Forgotten

by Holley Alford and Raechel Grimblot

Rancho's new gym is underway and the "skeleton" can now be seen from all over campus.

The 12,000 pound steel beams are now being set up, known in the construction world as, "Flying the steel."

Despite recent winds, which set the workers behind by a week, the construction is now running on schedule, according to Patrick Judson, head of construction.

So, what's going to happen to the old gym? It will be used for P.E. classes, sports practice, and weight training classes.

The parking lot is about 25 years old, and far overdue for a "face-lift." Currently, because of

construction, the parking area has been reduced to half its normal size, but when the gym is completed, only 17 parking spaces will be missing. The parking lot will be completely relined and all cracks repaired.

The old tennis courts are cracking and falling apart. It is not a suitable place to park. There are no plans currently for repairing the tennis court parking area except for tarring and relining.

Mr. Czarnnecki summed it up: "The parking on old tennis courts is totally unacceptable; the tennis court surface was not made to handle automobiles, chemicals, and grease."

Rancho High School's new gym under construction



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Young Americans losing (not using) political clout

By Aaron McKinnon

When we turn 18, the whole world opens up to us. We are legally adults and with such status come many perks and great responsibility.

The right to vote is guaranteed to us at the age of 18 but many of us ignore this privilege until later in life. However, voting is an essential part of our government...therefore, an essential part of our lives.

A misconception over the years is that our vote does not count. Many of us young adults feel, "Why should I even vote?"

The truth is, each vote counts. If every person of voting age felt it didn't, we would no longer have a democracy. Our government was created so that each of us would have a say in who governs it and how they govern.

When we young people fail to vote, it upsets a delicate balance in power between young and old, the starting-out and the retired. This does not mean that the young and the old should be at odds, only that each group must look out for its own interests.

We young adults of America are often ignored because politicians know that the majority of the vote lies with older adults. It's up to us to stand up for our rights and vote...we can help make things work our way. But once we give up that power, things begin to work against us.

We should value the right for many have died for it. We can't make excuses; we must...let our voices be heard. [Editor's Note: think of this editorial on Memorial Day, May 29.]

SPEAKING OUR MINDS

Lackluster education system needs to re-vamp for future

Condensed from an editorial by Sandra Lee and Durell Di Luzio

Basic, average and honors -- students are categorized and almost preprogrammed before they enter high school. Some are driven to succeed, while others feel that the six school-day hours are better used for sleeping.

No one can deny the disparity of knowledge among students...the vast majority, the average student, is falling between the cracks of an education system that isn't even a shadow of what it was 20 years ago. How good is a free education when the requirements become less stringent, quality teachers are harder to find, and students are apathetic towards their education.

There seems to be no consensus about what to do.

Ironically, the Clark County school board recently lowered graduation requirements from 23-1/2 to 22-1/2 credits, allowing students to fail three classes and still graduate.

Geneva Beasley, a counselor at Clark, says, "I did not agree with their reducing the credits. I think the expectations of teachers have been lowered."

Counselor Roy Ware adds, "Students are less inclined at school for a combination of reasons. The family as we know it isn't as set as it used to be. Students are influenced by society and the economy, especially here in Las Vegas."

The frustration of teachers, who have to spend more time on disciplining than on education, also leads to a watered-down curriculum. Many don't even assign homework because students never bother to do anything out of the classroom.

While any student can claim to be bored at one time or another, far too many come to school to be entertained, a definite sign of the TV-generation.

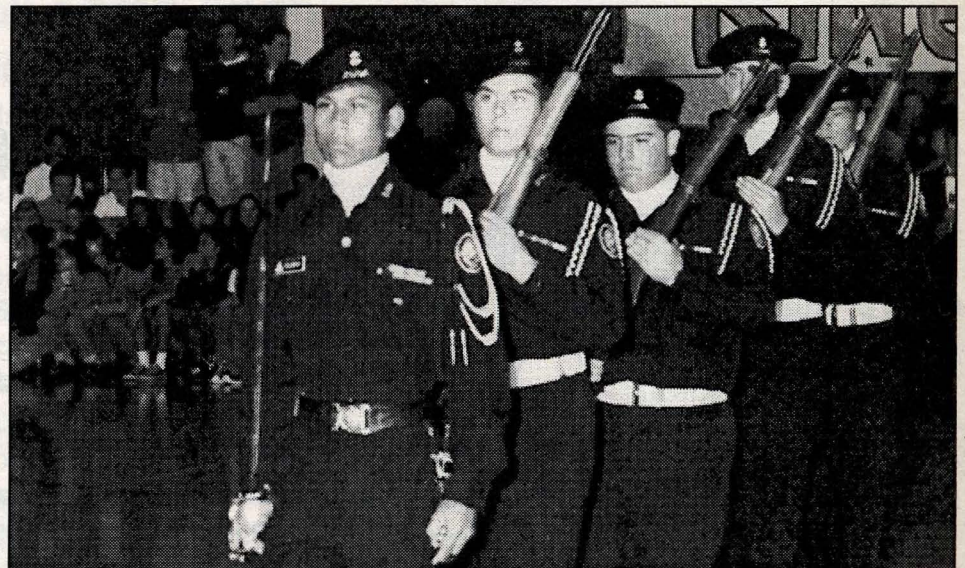
Senior Camille Burns says, "School is thought of by some people to be a baby-sitter instead of a place to learn."

Students also cite teachers as lacking the desire to teach.

"The main reasons why kids do poorly is they're too wrapped up at home or they're involved in a gang or they have a job or they don't like a teacher," suggests Jeremy Herrera.

Nonetheless, quality teachers still have the drive to educate tomorrow's leaders even though classrooms are commonly overcrowded.

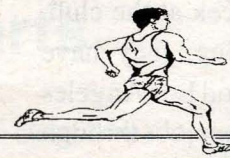
Politicians pull the strings of teachers' pay and interest groups dictate what students can and cannot read, while students deal with peer pressure and seem lacking in morals. If the state legislature would entice more quality teachers with higher pay and the parents or mentors were more encouraging, the future of education wouldn't seem as dismal.



ROTC finishes first year

Clark's first-year NJROTC earned many trophies at meets such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, Clark County School District Drill Meet, the Durango/Clark Drill Meet, and Field Day in San Diego.

Photo by Jason Maier



Solis runs L.A. Marathon

By Aaron McKinnon

The starter pistol sounds. The marathon begins. Your chest heaves, your heart pumps blood through your veins at a quickened speed, you pace yourself. The first ten miles go smoothly; you've prepared for this.

For the next eight miles, your body does all the work; your mind has already regulated your speed, and, for now, has done its part.

Your mind commands your tired muscles to keep contracting and expanding. Only two miles to go. Your legs shake with every step. Finally, you see the finish line, your aching muscles speed up, and you forget the pain. At last, it is over. The medal is placed around your neck. Twenty-six miles in just over four hours.

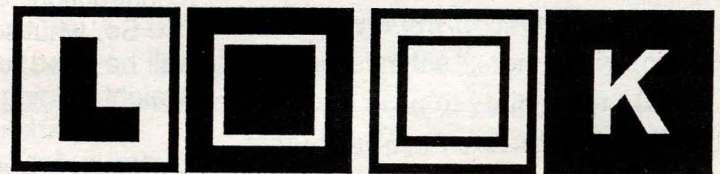
Junior Oscar Solis ran his fourth L.A. marathon last year in his best time ever: four hours and six minutes. "First it's in your mind," comments Solis, "then your body takes over. If you can't stay in pace for ten miles, then you can't do it."

To prepare, Solis runs six to eight miles a day, then increases it to eight to ten. By the time the marathon comes around, he has been running 13 to 15 miles a day.

As far as his diet, Solis sees no reason to eat special foods: "I'm not into diets...If you stay in shape, you don't need to diet. I eat what every teenager eats."

Solis is a cadet in the NJROTC program at Clark, and has been honored for Cadet of the Month, Platoon of the Month, and the Community Service Award.

Even with all his accomplishments, Solis still hopes for a straight "A" report card, and a scholarship to college. He plans to be involved in architecture, drafting, or landscape.



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Wolfstock, the concert that didn't happen: A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

A few months ago, when a local radio station sponsored a rap concert at Valley High School, chaos broke out. Some felt the inappropriate lyrics provoked violence, including gun shots and people scattering everywhere. One girl was shot in both legs. It was reported that a security mix-up resulted in surveillance problems. This event affected the decision about Basic's "Wolfstock," a planned benefit concert.

School should showcase student talents

By Casey Hedlund

The tragedy earlier in the school year at Valley High School was sad, but could have been prevented. Four bands consisting of Basic students wanted to put on a concert called "Wolfstock" to help raise money for a fellow student's operation.

The proposal was denied because of the chaos that took place at Valley.

The huge medical bills his family is struggling with could have been reduced by the proceeds from this "Wolfstock" concert.

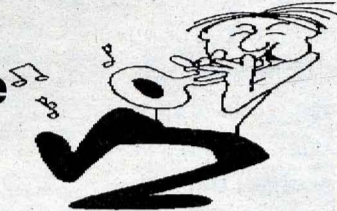
Is the morale of the student body going down as a result? As Principal Stephen Augspurger put it, "Ninety-five percent of the students are good, but it's that five percent that we have to worry about."

Students should not be deprived of memories, school spirit, and the talent these performers have to offer, because of five percent of the student body. This event would have expressed our school unity.

Not only do the students lose some of their school spirit, but so do the performers. They aren't able to express their talent at school, like the actors in plays, the athletes in sports, or the scholars in academics.

"We were going to play our own music for the first time," said Ames Moore, a sophomore who is the lead singer of the band *Ground Zero*. "It was going to be our big debut," added sophomore Josh Jordan, the band's drummer.

High School is a place for students to find out who they are and their interests. It should also be a place to show it.



School no place for entertainment

By Holly Schrier

A concert that was supposed to be a show of peace was a display of violence instead.

Unfortunately, our city is a violent place and school officials have to constantly keep the peace in schools. Putting a large group of students together will invite trouble.

Recently, a group of bands from the Henderson area wanted to hold a benefit concert at Basic.

Although a benefit for a student who can't pay his medical expenses is a noble cause, a concert may not be the best way.

At a senior assembly two years ago at Basic, one of the bands played, and a huge mosh pit broke out. Some faculty and students were hurt. That's nothing compared to how wrong things went at Valley, but it shows how really rowdy students can get.

Basic isn't equipped to deal with the large amount of students a concert would attract. Safety should be the number-one concern. Why have an event if it puts the people who participate in danger? It's not worth it.

Also, Basic could be held liable for any damage or injuries that occur.

However, I believe it would be better to hold the concert at a facility in which security can be provided and admission charged.

Why tempt fate and risk an incident such as what happened at Valley?

School is no place for an entertainment event.

Block Scheduling -- Catching the New Wave

Reporter: Holly Schrier

Recently, many schools nationwide (including Clark County) have changed their schedules of six or seven 45-minute classes per day to four periods of 90-minute classes.

A Learning Improvement Team (LIT) at Basic High School is considering this "new wave in education."

"Schools for the 21st Century," a recent conference on restructuring schools, gave local educators a preview of alternative ideas already at work in other schools -- notably Eugene, OR, and Colorado Springs, CO.

These four-period days are broken up by extended lunch periods for extra-curricular activities. Other advantages were noted:

- The 90-minute classes give more time for hands-on, in-depth learning;
- Students can earn one credit in one semester for a subject that would otherwise take a year (two semesters);
- Classes are quieter and more intense because students are doing more work with more concentration.

Some schools have also removed lockers and bells. According to a teacher from Eugene, without lockers there are fewer problems with vandalism, drugs and weapons at school.

The LIT at Basic, which will evaluate these and other changes over a two-year period, is made up of teachers, administrators and parents. The team is brainstorming ideas for changes in scheduling and teaching methods, preparing students for graduation, and applying school-learned skills to life.

Exchange students have mixed feelings about leaving

By Nadja Wagner

The school year is close to its end and so is the stay in the United States for Basic's foreign exchange students.

About 90 students from all over the world came to Nevada -- five of them to Basic: Carsten Grafmann, Heiko Holzel and myself from Germany; Mariana Guerrero from Argentina; Misato Endo from Japan; and Eugeny Cherkaskin from Russia.

All five had the same reasons for coming to the U.S.: to improve our English, to make new friends and to join the lifestyle of our host families. We had many adjustments to make and I, for one, was glad to have had these new experiences.

Exchange students are really lucky because they had to go through a long process of tests and interviews before they were chosen to come to the U.S. Endo, a junior, says "It's cool that I had the chance to go to a foreign school with a different system." Guerrero, a senior, says she learned a lot here, "...not only about other people, but about me being responsible for myself." Holzel, a senior, has mixed feelings: "Sometimes I like it because of good experiences, sometimes I don't because I miss my friends back home."

Nice host families made it easier for us not to get too homesick. Grafman, a senior, says "it's pretty cool here" and he likes his host family.



STAND BACK DISNEYLAND!

Here come the seniors of Basic High School on May 25.

This is a graduation tradition at Basic -- at least for the past 15 years. Basic is one of 200 schools heading for Disneyland -- four schools from Clark County. Note: a strict dress code is in effect (girls in dresses or dressy pants and nice shoes; boys in suits or tuxedos and nice shoes also) and there will be zero-tolerance for misbehavior. Have fun, guys!

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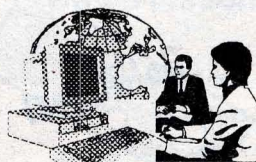
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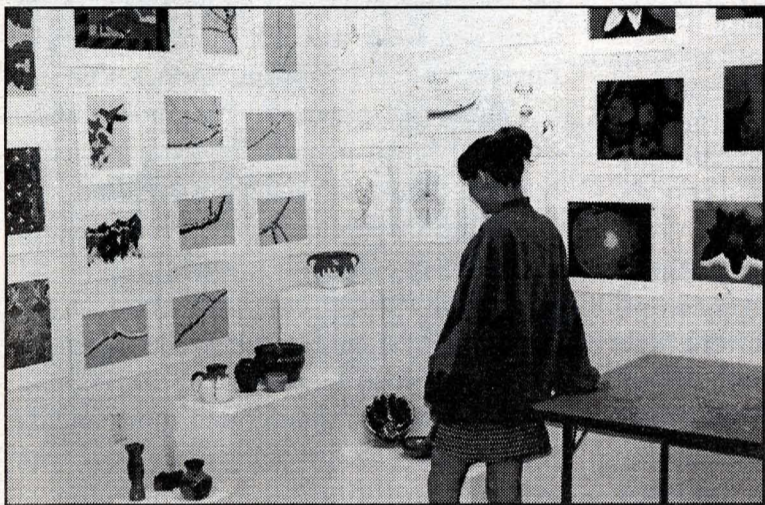
(Reporter: Kent Garman)

What a way to end the year! On May 25, Silverado's theater will be going wild with two competitions: Lip Service and Mr. Teen Hawk.

Lip Service, a spin-off of the popular MTV game show, shines the spotlight on singing groups (four or more people) as they lip-synch to songs selected by the DJ. Now that DJ has the right to choose any song and play it at any speed he wants -- the group must adapt their act PRONTO!

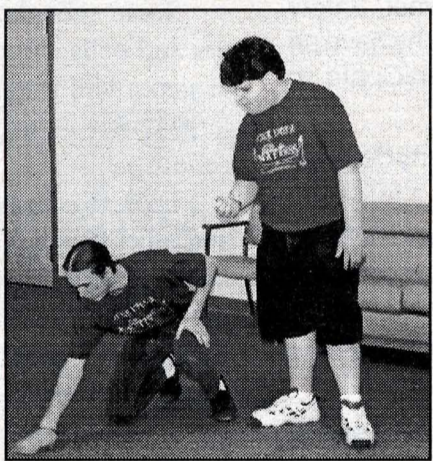
Mr. Teen Hawk contestants will be judged on how they handle the monologues they are given to perform. Contestants must dress for the part and display their acting skills. One student says, "It's kind of like a beauty pageant, but not really."

The nuttiness starts at 7:00 p.m.



FINE ARTS WEEK AT SILVERADO

(TOP) Silverado's art department started Fine Arts Week with banners at two main entrances. (ABOVE) Students displayed art in different mediums in the Library. (RIGHT) Jason LeJeune and Chris Bigelow rehearse for *Once Upon a Mattress*, the Theatre Department's spring play.



Science Update: shake and show

Condensed from a report
By Benjamin Fields

We haven't had many stories on the science department, so to update you, I spoke with teachers Bill Bukovi and Don Curry.

Bukovi's earth science classes finished a section on earthquakes and volcanos. The class then moved on to the weather. One of their big projects was a TV newscast on the weather.

In the largest class project started recently: Bukovi asked his students to write an essay on how they could make Las Vegas or the planet a better place.

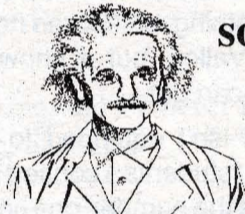
In Curry's marine science class, students made a presentation to the Nevada State School Superintendent, and to representatives of the U.S. Department of Education and several Nevada corporate executives regarding the use of technology and telecommunication in education. This program was given at the offices of Sprint Central Telephone company.

corporate executives regarding the use of technology and telecommunication in education. This program was given at the offices of Sprint Central Telephone company.

Snowbound, bored -- so he becomes...

Mark Twain!

Adapted from a report
By Kent Garman



Mark Twain was in our library recently, telling about his life and some of his stories. Not the *real* Mark Twain, of course, but the actor McAvoy Layne, a Twain impersonator.

He stressed how important it is for people our age to write. He also said that every good writer, at some point, would have to deal with failure -- and how you deal with failure determines if you are a good writer or not.

After the presentation, we asked Layne how he started doing impersonations of Samuel Clemens (you probably know that's Mark Twain's real name).

Layne was recently "put on trial" by a council that claimed he was a racist, based on his book *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. He won the case but said it was "a close call."

He told us that in the winter of 1975 he got snowbound in a cabin for five days, and the only entertainment he had were a dart board and books by Mark Twain. He threw darts for three days, then began memorizing works by Twain.

Layne talked about impressionism: "It is a great field because...you can be...the most famous people in history."

MOVIE REVIEW

Tommy Boy -- echoes of 'Dumber'

By Jamie Bartels

I give *Tommy Boy* three-and-a-half stars. The actors did an excellent job and made the movie incredibly funny.

Although the only reason I laughed was because Tommy did a wonderful job acting stupid, basically the movie was the same as *Dumb and Dumber*.

The plot begins with Tommy, a college grad, who just found out that he is in control of his father's auto company. Tommy and his reluctant associate, Richy, need to travel from state to state to sell one million brake pads and save the company from being shut down by the bank.

At the same time, Tommy's new step-mom and her son are trying to sell the company to keep the business money for themselves.

Tommy and Richy find out the truth and end up dealing with Tommy's new business and, at the same time, become best friends.

It's a very funny movie. If you enjoyed *Dumb and Dumber*, this is the movie for you!

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CLASS!

Juniors whup seniors in overtime.

The 1994-95 Powder Puff game went into overtime, when the juniors scored a touchdown to make it a 13-6 win. The seniors were confident of victory, especially after an early touchdown by Tricia Vos, but Kaela Nihipila put the "dent" in their "confident" with an overtime TD. Right: the senior powderpuff cheerleaders.



Kleo: 'Got Love' for Chaparral High

By Jill Englund (edited)

You may have heard the sounds coming from Chaparral's Little Theatre recently. It was *I Got Love*, the #12 single in the nation, according to Billboard. That was Kleo -- real name, Lagracella Omran -- who stopped off from her nationwide tour promoting her debut album, *Don't Waste My Time*. Kleo is a 1987 Chaparral grad who simultaneously attended ATTC to earn an associate's degree in hotel management.



Kleo

She remembers her *alma mater* with fondness: "We had the best basketball, band, cheerleaders and football. We had everything."

After graduation, she was named 1988 Miss Nevada, and played Cleopatra for five years at Caesars Palace (thus her stage name) and was a covered chorus line dancer in Bally's *Jubilee*. Kleo explains her visit: "We weren't planning to make any stops, but this is my school!"

Hawaii concert tour means fund-raising

(From a report by Heather Farmer)

The Chaparral choir is scheduled for a concert tour in Hawaii next month. The group will perform at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, the Dole Pineapple factory, and the University of Hawaii.

That's the easy part. The hard part: fundraising. The choir has had car washes, bake sales, a raffle, poster sales and a "Rock-a-Thon" (getting pledges to rock all night in a rocking chair).

And on May 28th, the choir will perform a benefit concert, 6-9:30pm in the cafeteria. Just \$6 for students and \$8 for adults will get you a fine meal and a silent auction for great new merchandise such as bikes and VCRs.

See you there!

'Bye Bye, Love' aims high, falls hard

Excerpts from a movie review
By Logan Frazer

Starring Matthew Modine, Randy Quaid, and *Mad About You's* Paul Reiser, this movie takes a humorous look at the too-common subject of divorce. The trio play recently-divorced, middle-aged men dealing with issues such as diving back into the dating pool, child custody, and ex-wives' new boyfriends.

Although the writing is weak, the actors make the most of their limited dialogue and character sketches. Reiser is especially poignant in his portrayal of a man dealing with his ex-wife's remarriage and a troubled teenage daughter. Reiser's sensitive portrayal is a refreshing change from his usual sitcom fare.

Quaid takes a humorous turn when his character ventures out on a blind date, played by SNL's Jeneane Garafalo, who is absolutely hilarious. She is one of the few reasons to see this movie.

Bye Bye, Love is not wildly original or humorous...However, it does have its share of laughs. I recommend waiting until the movie comes to the video store before spending hard-earned money on it.

IMAGINE! Festival covers the lively, the lovely, the laser

Lazers flashed and Shakespeare was heard, guests devised visors and students spotlighted ceramics and shoes. It was the second annual *Imagine Festival* at Chaparral.

Actors and artists, sculptors, singers and yodellers -- the evening was made for...well, for showing the creativeness of Chaparral students.

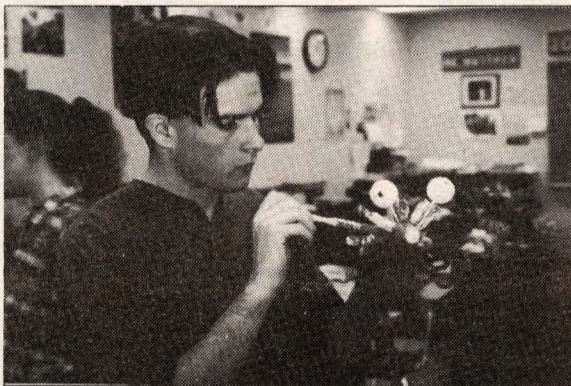
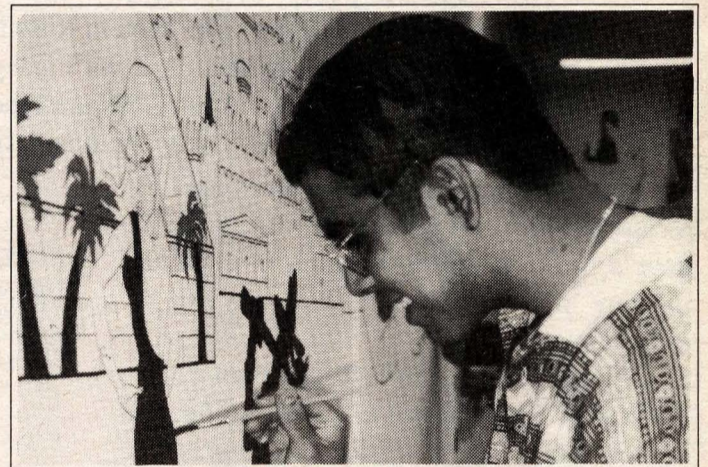
All of Chaparral's performing groups did their thing, including special performances by Readers' Theatre who presented scenes from Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* and other sketches.

The art department had three exhibits, including a hands-on activity, a show of shoes that represented certain artists and the period in which they lived, and sensational 3-D pieces by ceramics students.

Other festival features included choir concerts, "choral speaking" on historical events, murals in classrooms, and a day-long laser light show.

The festival was coordinated by the Student Involvement Society (SIS) with the aid of teachers and school administrators.

(Reporters: Jeremy Keys, Ryan Charlton, Rhiannon Mercer)



(Above left) Mrs. Litterini, Readers' Theatre supervisor, displays some tension during rehearsal. (Above right) Leo Jauregui adds his artistry to the mural called "Walls of Wonder." (Left) Mike Freeman works on a project for biology class displays.

great scores!

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KAPLAN

Rock 'n' roll YAY! Weather BOO! Russian exchange guy likes Vegas

From a report by Christina Littlefield

Dmitry Lavrentiev, an exchange student from Russia, actually likes fast food and rock 'n' roll. He *does not* like homework, Las Vegas weather and country music. He has been accepted into UNLV but may go back to Moscow, where college is free -- Dmitry will graduate after taking his proficiency exams later this month.

Ask Dmitry why he became an exchange student and he counters, "Why not?" He says that in Russia school is a lot harder and students take school very seriously. They take seven or eight classes a day, 9:30am-2:30pm, covering as many as a dozen classes each year. But Russian students have no homework, no music, art or theatre programs, and no sports.

Dmitry says American classes are very easy. "You can float by here and there is nothing serious about it." But he likes all the activities American students have. "On the educational side, Moscow is better, but here it's a lot more fun." Dmitry says, "It's kind of scary to be graduating. I'd rather just stay in school forever, and just sit back and relax."

He played soccer ("The sun is a killer...playing soccer in 120-degree heat...augh!") and wrestled for the Wildcats this year. In Russia, he spent time just "hanging out" with friends or wandering around. However, he did engage in boxing and karate, he loves photography and coin collecting.

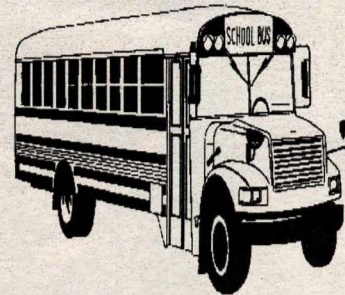
He says 90 percent of all movies he's seen in Russia are American-made. Two of his favorites are *The Doors* and *Natural Born Killers*. As for TV, they don't have cable and their regular channels are only 20 through 25. He used to watch CNN until they started showing so much coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial. "It's more of a soap opera than a trial," he says.

There are major differences between Las Vegas and Moscow. There, about 12 million people are crowded into one area, most buildings are high rises and most people live in apartments

Crime is a lot worse in Russia than it is in Las Vegas, but not as bad as, say, Los Angeles or New York. Their version of gangs is the Russian Mafia, who supposedly make our street gangs and the Italian Mafia look like child's play.

Dmitry says his country is in ruins...the economy is dead...there is war...no one has any money." The good change is that nuclear war-heads are down and Dmitry sees hope for the future.

"Russia is definitely going to be a great country," he says. How far down the road that will be, he doesn't know.



Behind the wheel with a deranged passenger

Adapted from a feature
by Marie Jarvis

Students, like everyone else, fall into two categories: drivers and passengers...both groups are famous for morphing into crazy monsters in cars, trucks, vans, buses, or whatever.

Take passengers, a category most of us fit into: Ever notice how passengers act on the school bus? A kid gets on the school bus, 30 others lined up behind, walks halfway to the back of the bus when it starts moving and...turns into a *rock*. As the bus turns a corner, the kid finally sits down...while the other 30 kids are thrown to the floor.

While on the bus recently, I saw examples of Driver Insanity Under the Influence of Passengers. In one car, three brawling children pushed their white-knuckled mother over the edge -- she swung around and joined her children in a screaming fit, waved her fists and proceeded to act like an insane

monster. A few cars away, a couple on the way home from school found the red light to be the perfect time to catch up on kissing. The girl leaned across the steering wheel and...the most amazing thing happened: she became a slithering, oozing blob.

I figured drivers alone in their cars wouldn't become crazy. Boy, was I wrong! People sing into hairbrushes and dance as they drive; they fix their hair and make-up, read newspapers, even *yell* at their newspapers. One executive got so angry he threw his cellular out the window.

Some do things in cars they would never do in public. "Playing with their noses" and changing their clothes, for example.

Walkers, beware! You alone are exempt from acting crazy in a vehicle. Of course, *crazy walkers* are a different story...

A PIECE OF MY MIND

Curfew: Poor use of police time

By Keith Cooper

A curfew is a good idea...it would clean up the streets, make it safer and keep the kids safe. But the police do not have the manpower to make it work. It also leads to kids hating the police.

There is one officer for every 5,000 people. What are the other 4,999 people doing when the officer is harassing a kid over the curfew violation? For sure, there is a more serious offense going on among the other 4,999 without a police officer to handle the call because he is doing a non-priority job to impress his superiors with the number of arrests made.

It only takes the police 30 minutes to book a juvenile for a curfew violation. If the police answered a serious crime among the other 4,999 people, it would take two hours to do all the paperwork involved instead of picking on one juvenile.

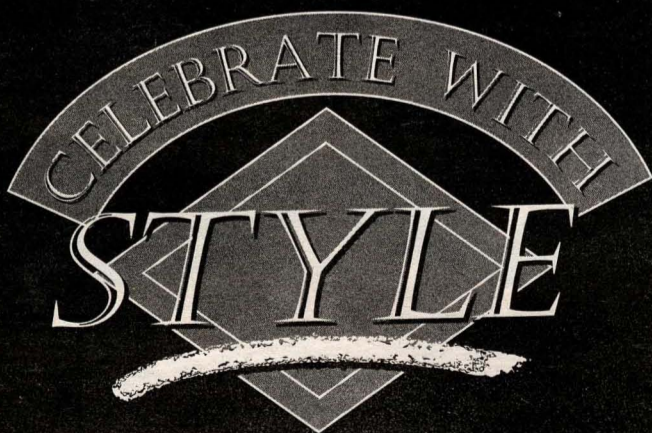
How would you feel if your child was home alone, and had to call 911 for an emergency and there was no officer available to handle the call?

You might come home and find that the police officer that was so desperately needed was busy booking a juvenile over some petty curfew violation.

If we want curfew laws, the taxpayers need to come up with money to implement it.

They should have a separate department (out of Metro's hands) to handle curfew violations so they won't need to pull street cops off patrol.

Street cops should not be allowed to enforce the curfew...they already have too many crimes to work with.



Welcome!

Kris Cinkovich has come to LVHS as new head football coach after three years as assistant coach at Green Valley High and a year as UNLV's running back coach. He was attracted to LVHS by "the caliber of athletes...skill and potential here are outstanding."



April Athletes of the Month:
Joel Kijowski (Golf) and
Monica Rawlinson (Track)

May Athletes of the Month:
Jim McNeal (Basketball) and
Danielle Turner (Swimming)

First Person Singular

Is there anything to do in Las Vegas?

By Keven Smith

Unless you are 21 there probably isn't much to do here. Teens and children are just left out in the cold. One student says, "If we had something to do, more teens would be off the street and out of Juvenile Hall." Is anyone doing anything about activities for teens? I interviewed a number of teens and they said the same thing, "NO!"

Being a teenager, I take a personal interest in this topic. In order to disperse some of our teenage gangs, we have to have activities for young people. This is one of the main reasons that some turn to under-age gambling and drugs.

Las Vegas is a city of 21 and older activities, but the businessmen somehow forget about the little people who will someday become the big people. It seems we are taken for granted or considered a lost generation.

A lot of people say that we have plenty of recreational things to do. For instance, one student said, "If we had more, that would keep us away from school and our studies." This statement has some truth in that maybe teens are irresponsible enough to skip school, but maybe that is what the school board and businessmen have been thinking all along; that kind of thinking hasn't solved anything.

We do need more places to go and more things to do, but I also feel that it may take away from our studies and school time. Sometimes it does seem that activities are decreasing each year, but we must take it in stride and learn to do without.

I also feel we must put together a program for teens that will keep us off the streets and out of jail. If one person listens to this article and creates recreational activities for us teens, then I have done my job as a writer and a journalist.

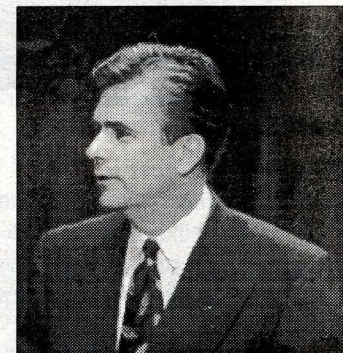
Spring concert May 16

The Western High School Department of Music will present its annual Spring Concert May 16, 7:00 pm in the Little Theater. The concert will feature the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Chorus, and Orchestra. Admission is free and the public is invited.

Congressman Ensign talks with Western High School students

Western High School students and faculty were proud to attend a special presentation by Congressman John Ensign recently. He spoke on issues such as the Contract with America and government spending. He also discussed aspects of his personal life and why he decided to run for office.

At the end of his talk, Ensign answered questions from the students, giving even more detail about the workings of our government.



Congressman Ensign
(Photo by Sarah Call)

Science Bowl: One challenge after another



Five outstanding students from Western High competed in the DOE-sponsored Regional Science Bowl competition.

David Wilson, Cherish Smith, Ronnie Lim, Joshua Hicks and Amanda Carlston were outstanding representatives of the school. The Science Bowl was held at UNLR.

Although Western was eliminated in the second round of the main competition, these students continued in a consolation competition called "Search for Science." This event required teamwork in solving several real-life science problems.

Awards were presented for solving these problems. The Western team took second place.

Bonjour! C'est la vie! Hors d'oeuvres!*

The people of France are about to meet people of Western High School!

The French Club will put all those words into practice when they travel to France on June 7 for a nine-day educational tour.

The students will see famous sites such as the Louvre Museum (think Mona Lisa), Notre Dame, Normandy Beach and the Eiffel Tower.

*Hello! That's life! Appetizers!

Aqua-Warriors take a dive

Western's Aqua-Warriors swim team has made waves in the District's high school swimming program, with four wins and two losses for both the men and women.

The 21 swimmers are all varsity athletes. Only five seniors are "movin' on," but the underclassmen show a lot of promise for next years.

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DIFFERENT STUFF

MAILBAG

To the Editor:

May I say I much enjoyed the fashion feature of the April issue. As a student photographer, I appreciate the impact pictures can bring to any publication.

However, there was one glaring omission from April's feature: Where are the Guys? We wear clothes too! And, no, the lad on the cover wearing the plaid (ugh) shirt doesn't count. Perhaps the next issue will be a bit more balanced.

Jerry Dunn (Bishop Gorman High School)

From the Editor:

Jerry, thanks for your letter -- you make a very good point. Our photographer would really like to have had guys in the fashion layout, but male models from local high schools are almost impossible to find.

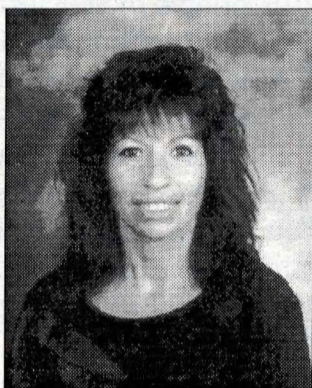
Hey, Jerry, are YOU available for our next fashion feature?

A Salute to the educators who helped make CLASS! happen this year!

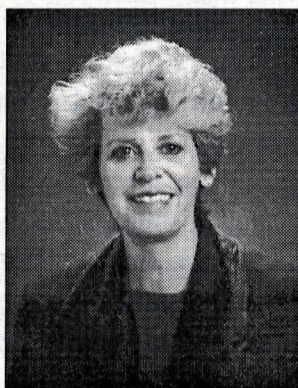
The following people coordinated and guided student writers at their schools and helped clarify the direction of this new publication -- by, about and for high school students. We regret that photos for many of these talented educators were not available -- and we look forward to working with them and YOU again next fall.



Jennifer Williamson
Journalism Advisor
Basic High School



Jackie Carducci
Journalism Advisor
Green Valley High School



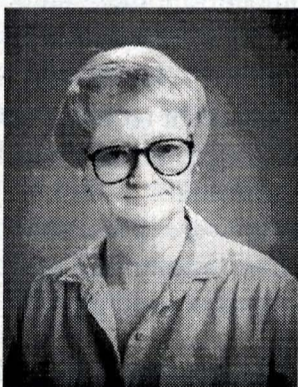
Colette Welsing
Journalism Advisor
Las Vegas High School



Sheryl Brewer
Journalism Advisor
Rancho High School



Marcia Wickliffe
Secretary, Student Activities
Western High School



Judi Hale
Journalism Teacher
Clark High School
(Starting next year:
The Meadows School)

...and the other great

Journalism educators:

Gene Wright, Bonanza High School
Georgia Willis, Boulder City High School
Regina Roybal, Chaparral High School
Robbie Dunn, Cheyenne High School
Flint Shoop, Durango High School
Kim Demeny, Eldorado High School
Laurie Crawford, Bishop Gorman High School
Carol Medcalf, Las Vegas Academy
Daphne Grabovoi, Silverado High School
Dorris Wood, Sunset High School
Karen Vaughn, Valley High School ... and
Kay Warren, Secretary, Cimarron-Memorial H.S.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS & GRADS!

You are invited to send stories and photos to CLASS! this summer. We will feature your work in September. Send your material to CLASS! 5290 Harrison Drive, Suite 10, Las Vegas 89120. For more information, call 361-8262.

Sunset alum helps library with book-raising drive

Based on a report by Lakeeba Hunter

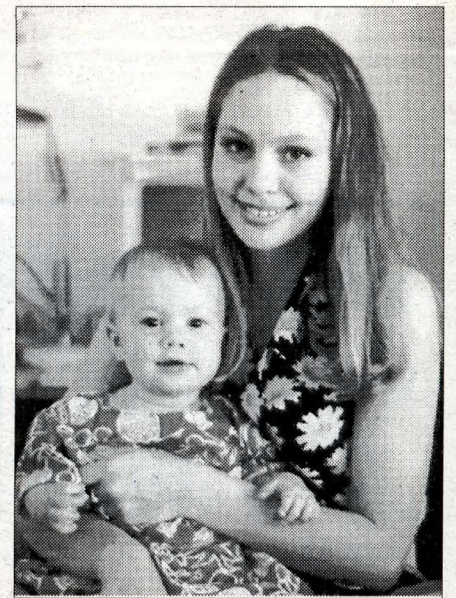
Sunset and Horizon West High Schools were in desperate need of library books. These new schools opened with a library but no books. With the help of former student Sara Brown, Bookstar (a division of Barnes & Noble, the largest book-selling corporation in the country) held a successful book drive for the schools: 268 books!

Brown thought of the faculty and staff as her family when she attended Sunset/Horizon. "Teachers put the teens in adult situations to help prepare us for the real world," she says. "They helped me gain independence and great confidence."

Now 19, Brown came to Las Vegas two years ago. Before that, she "spent four years travelling -- hitchhiking -- when I should have been in high school." At age 16, she wandered into Mexico and stayed with a family there for six months, polishing her Spanish language skills.

When she came to Las Vegas, Brown was pregnant but determined to complete school, go to college and become a high school Spanish teacher. "I completed three years of work in one year at Sunset/Horizon," she says. "I went part-time to the community college last year and I plan to start there fulltime next fall."

At the same time, Brown will work fulltime at Bookstar. She will share caring for her 18-month-old daughter, Aras, with the baby's father. Barnes and Noble will pay



Sara Brown and Aras, 1-1/2

her college tuition.

"By the age of 27, I will probably be finished with my education and I will be a teacher for sure! I have to be," she emphasizes.

Brown was "discovered" by a Bookstar manager who happened to be in the store when Brown applied for a sales job. After talking with her, the manager recommended Brown for the position of Community Relations Coordinator for Bookstar West.

Now, Brown is involved with a variety of events -- children's programs, book-signings by authors, craft and story hours -- activities to involve the community and develop a love for reading in young kids.

'Fast women' triumph at Meadows School

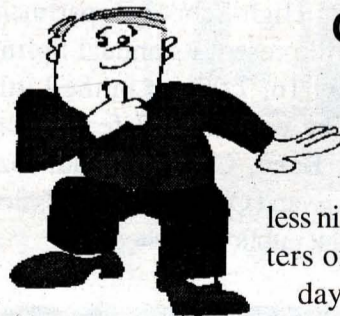
By Daria Snadowsky

The 1995 Meadows Lady Mustangs track team set its sights on winning. At the recent BYU Invitational Track Meet, sophomore co-captain Melissa Richardson triumphed over a field of 80 runners, defeating the Utah AA State Champion in the 800-meter relay. She set a new record for Meadows and leads her team in points scored.

Senior co-captain Jenica Yurcic is an inspired player and team leader. Junior Christina Hruska holds the school record in discus. Sophomores Yvonne Ahn and Kristine Wolff are formidable runners. Last season, Kristine became the first Meadows woman to win State gold when she dominated the mile and two-mile races.

Other team members are Melissa Christman, a solid point-scorer; junior Heidi Creel and freshman Kelsey Gladwin (both powerful sprinters-jumpers-hurdlers); sophomore Kim Stevens, junior Sabrina Stepuchin, freshman Bonnie Kroll, seniors Michelle Halby and Mishkah Ismail, sophomores Jennifer Copeland and Preeti Gomez, freshmen Autumn Chandler, Tracy Johnson, Stacie Truesdell and Jennifer Comer

The Meadows is an independent preparatory school of nearly 700 students.



Got college admissions anxiety? Kaplan offers free seminars on testing, admissions

The symptoms are familiar: sweaty palms, sleepless nights, parents up-tight. But Kaplan Educational Centers offer relief: free Test Strategy Seminars: Thursday, May 18, 7-9pm, and Saturday, May 20, 1-3pm.

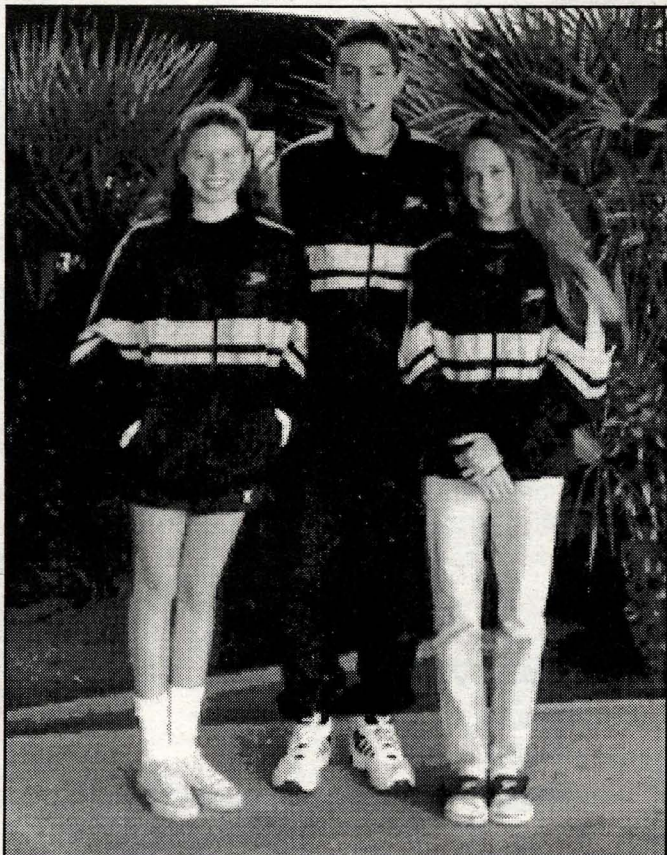
Students preparing to take the SAT (and their parents!) can learn valuable strategies for taking tests. Get tips on college admission, and learn about the "recentering" that recently took effect -- and how recentering will affect your test scores.

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Big fun but no trophies --

Swimmer Leigh Ann Caldwell (left) is shown here at the recent Junior National tournament in Midland, Texas. With her are fellow swimmers Matt Sutton and Molly Sullivan



Family gets credit for pushing Leigh Ann into water

By Vanessa Cruz

Have you ever thought about swimming as an everyday kind of thing? For junior Leigh Ann Caldwell it is.

Leigh has been swimming for almost ten years. When she was younger, her father kept telling her to try swimming, to be like her sister. One day, she got tired of her father persisting. She tried it and she ended up liking it so much she now swims for Las Vegas Gold.

"If it wasn't for my dad and my sister my life would be totally different," says Caldwell.

Leigh must stick to a strict practice schedule: she swims before school from 5-6 a.m., after school from 3:15 to 6:30, and on Saturday mornings from 7 to 10.

Then there is school. On top of all that practice, Leigh must keep up with her work in order to get into a Division One college (to swim).

Finally, there are competitions and tournaments. Because Las Vegas gold is a year-round program, out-of-state tournaments take much of Leigh's time away from school.

For example, her most recent tournament was in Midland, Texas. It lasted one week and they competed against 100 other schools from west of the Mississippi River.

Although she didn't place, Leigh says she had lots of fun.

"I love swimming because I like being with the people," says Caldwell.

Celebrities are real people too

By Jerry Dunn

What do Channel 13 news anchor Cathy Ray, Mayor Jan Jones, and Congressman John Ensign have in common?

"...people I thought were engaging, personable, knowledgeable, and diverse in their backgrounds and qualifications," said Mr. Goertemiller of the guests that he invited to speak to his AP Government class this year.

As any student will probably agree, a curriculum based strictly on the textbook is usually something less than inspirational. By having a chance to listen to and speak with local leaders in media and politics, students gained insight into the world of government, policy making, and public opinion.

"Many teenagers aren't interested in politics. I think this gives us some much-needed exposure to the political world," said student Vince Thomas.

After giving a brief talk, the speakers answered students' questions. The most important goal, according to Goertemiller, was that "students understand that these are real people. There's often a tendency to think that politicians and media personalities are unreachable."

Steve Humm admitted, "Before, I didn't know much about Jan Jones. To me, she was just the lady in the Fletcher Jones commercials. Now, I see that she has a very mature political attitude."

"I realized that the only perception I had was that of the 'TV persona,'" said Eleissa Miller about Cathy Ray. "I realized she was actually very down to Earth." Ray gave an inside account of the workings of television news and tackled the inevitable questions which arose about the shortcomings inherent to the medium. Ray said that TV news has evolved into an "info-tainment," of sorts.

I thought she was very honest about addressing the pitfalls that accompany TV news," said Megan O'Donnell.

In a larger sense, the purpose of providing such a forum was to inspire students to become more involved in political action.

Fine Arts Departments announce winners of Arts Regaelia

By Jerry Dunn

For the first time in recent memory, Gorman enjoyed a full-fledged art show: Arts Regaelia '95. All the fine arts departments showcased the best of student and alumni work.

The drama department staged skits from Shakespeare, as well as a comedy sports workshop. The music department featured performances by *Harmony Express*, the wind ensemble, the flag team, and choir. The speech and

bate team performed dramatic readings, mock Lincoln-Douglas debates, humorous dialogues, spontaneous argumentation demonstrations, and dramatic interpretations.

Art exhibits in various media were judged by students and faculty; the awards are as follows.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Best of Show
Sean Clauretie
"Business as Usual Series" | President's Award
\$50 - Leslie Denton
"Flowers" |
|---|---|

- | |
|---|
| President's Award
Honorable Mention
\$25 - Sean Clauretie
"Chained Man" |
| \$15 - Gina Bongiovi
"Flowers" |
| \$10 - Sean Clauretie
"Shattered Emotions" |

- | |
|---|
| Best Art Media
Eric Kinnaird |
| Honorable Mention
Verity Tiberti
Ceci Mun
Kevin Crammer |

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| Best 3-D project
Stacy Salerno |
| Honorable Mention
Lisa Eagan
Elizabeth Munch
Eric Kinnaird |

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than oppose—the opponent's force; yet, when counterattacking, the Traditional Wing Chun student learns to strike quickly and powerfully while trapping the opponent's arms and rendering him or her helpless. Call us for more information about this exciting, yet challenging, art, or come by to watch a class—call for current class hours.

功夫

Attention Graduates!

Let us help you plan your graduation cruise or vacation!

3-day cruises from \$249 per person*

Call the vacation specialists at
PRESTIGE TRAVEL
Travel Agency
248-1300

Outside Las Vegas Valley, call 1-800-553-0204
*Rates are based on quad occupancy (8/11/95 departure). Plus air and port charges. Check for other dates and rates. Subject to availability.

THE LAST WORD

Has this been a great year -- or WHAT?!

CALENDAR

MAY

- 17-18 Summer School registration
- 18-20 Baseball, AAA State Tournament, South
- 19-20 Baseball A/AA State Tournament
- 19-20 Track A/AA/AAA State Tourn., M&W, South
- 19-20 Softball AA State Tournament
- 19-20 Softball AAA State Tournament, North
- 19 Golf AA/AAA State Tourn., Men, North
- 20 Swimming AAA State Tourn., M&W, South
- 23-25 Senior Exams
- 23 Foreign Exchange Recognition Ceremony at Cimarron-Memorial High School
- 29 MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY
- 30 Start of Graduation Week

JUNE

- 12 Summer School begins
- 12-13 Late registration for Summer School

A message from Leonard Paul, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education

Congratulations to the students for a successful 1994-95 school year -- and extra special congratulations to those who are graduating this spring. We hope you'll look back on your education and say with pride that you have been challenged and that you met those challenges to the best of your abilities.

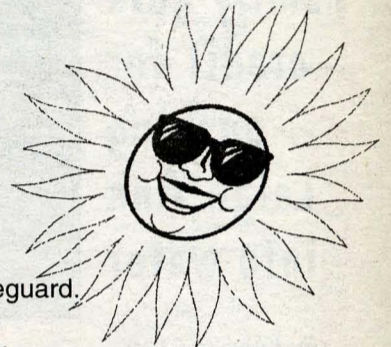
During this school year, 33 seniors were named National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists; the Smart-Grad program grew from two schools and 44 graduates in 1992 to 15 schools and approximately 1,200 grads.

More than 1,900 students participated in

the Choral Music Festival, 1,500 in the Solo and Ensemble Festivals, 850 in the String Orchestra Festival and 2,160 in the High School Band Festival.

There are 18 different interscholastic athletic programs and other activities such as ROTC, Varsity Quiz, Spelling Bees, and too many clubs and other school activities than we can list here.

Congratulations to all of you. I encourage you to continue pursuing those programs that are of interest and relevance to you. Have a wonderful summer!



Summer sizzles for teens at CCSN

Who says summer is boring? There's plenty for teens to do -- just check it out!

- EXPLORE THE OCEAN -- take a scuba diving class.
- SAVE A LIFE/MAKE SOME CASH -- become a certified lifeguard.
- BECOME A BUCCANEER -- learn to fence.
- COMMAND THE ROAD -- motorcycle riding may be for you.
- BURN SOME BODY FAT -- the cool way: take aquaerobics.

Community College of Southern Nevada has all sorts of other classes for teens in its Summer 1995 schedule. For example:

Modeling for Teens -- male and female. Beginning Golf or Tennis. Tailored for Teens (make your own cool clothes). These classes are created just for high school students. Grab a friend and sign up together.

There's even a bunch of fun courses you can take with a parent or your whole family. Mother-Daughter Fitness Mixer, Family Yoga, or Parent-Child Tennis.

Check it out! Pick up a copy of CCSN's summer schedule at any library in Clark County. Or call the Community Education Division at the college, 651-4057, and ask for your free copy. If you see a class that you like, but you're not sure if it's open to high school students, call that same number and they'll let you know.

When your friends ask what you did this summer, just say "I went to college."

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN MAY

(See your school counselor)



FOR ATHLETE-SCHOLARS

Richardson/Calkins and Partridge/Redmond

Will be awarded to one female athlete and one male athlete who are also outstanding scholars. Must have attended a CCSD school for junior and senior years.

FOR WOMEN GRADS HEADED TO UNLV NEXT FALL

Sigma Kappa Sorority - Warner Academic Scholarship

Female seniors planning to attend UNLV will be judged on the basis of academics, extracurricular activities and community service.

FOR MATH/SCIENCE MINDED SENIORS

National Science Scholars Program

Seniors interested in pursuing education in math, or physical, life or computer science, will be judged on the basis of GPA, an essay, letters of recommendation and extracurricular activities.

FOR KIDS OF AFL-CIO MEMBERS

The Nevada State AFL-CIO Scholarship

The title says it all. Just do it. Also good for vocational training.

FOR ELECTONICS-HEADS

The Wescon Scholarship

Grads planning to major in electronics at a four-year college will be judged on the basis of a 500-600-word essay on the importance of electronics technology.

WINNERS OF 1995 STATE COMPETITION

Future Business Leaders of America

Accounting I

- (1) Kwan Kim, Chaparral
- (2) Alicia Dahlheimer, Cimarron-Memorial

Bus. Calculations

- (7) Aniela Szymanski, Gr. Valley
- (8) Swan Kim, Chaparral
- (9) Jamie Nast, Valley

Business Communication

- (2) Erin Garrard, Chaparral
- (4) Kwan Kim, Chaparral
- (6) Emily Hardy, Chaparral
- (8) Aniela Szymanski, Gr. Valley
- (10) Maureen Felipe, Clark

Business Law

- (1) Aniela Szymanski, Gr. Valley
- (2) Sam Henry, Chaparral

Business Math

- (1) Kwan Kim, Chaparral

Business Procedures

- (3) Jessica Ford, SNVTC

Community Service

- (1) Clark High School

Computer Applications

- (1) Jada Breen, SNVTC
- (2) Vanitha Vihongkham, SNVTC
- (3) Tianna Richardson, SNVTC

Computer Concepts

- (5) Nehemiah Mayer, SNVTC

Economics

- (2) Stacy Stuck, Chaparral

Information Processing

- (3) Nehemiah Mayer, SNVTC

Introduction to Business

- (2) Kwan Kim, Chaparral

Job Interview

- (1) David Mackey, SNVTC

Keyboarding Apps.

- (3) Jennifer Velazquez, SNVTC
- (4) Brandi Hollett, SNVTC

Local Chapter

- Annual Business Report
Cimarron-Memorial High School

Public Speaking

- (1) David Mackey, SNVTC
- (2) Tianna Richardson, SNVTC

Word Processing

- (1) Vanitha Vihongkham, SNVTC
- (2) Jada Breen, SNVTC

University of Nevada

(Reno and Las Vegas)

helps students find jobs

If you are headed for UNLV or UNR after graduation from high school, you'll want to know about the free Student Employment Services.

Opportunities can include jobs such as secretary, computer operator, lab assistant, teacher's aide, child care worker, salesperson, cashier, management trainee, food service worker, runner, maintenance worker, technician or administrative assistant.

Your only requirement is to be registered at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas or Reno. Employers are required to be a legitimate business that guarantees at least minimum wage.

If you want to work on-campus, you must be registered for six credit hours; for off-campus jobs, three credit hours are required.


Another category for employment is Federal Work-Study, for students that have special financial need. It encourages community service and work that is related to your field of study. Be sure to ask about it if you feel you qualify.

If you are interested, contact the Student Employment Services office on either campus. At UNLV, it's on the second floor of the new Student Services complex -- or you can call Susan Sanders at 895-3446.

For UNR information, call Lori Tiede at (702) 784-4661. The office is on the second floor of Thompson Student Services. You are invited to visit or call.

To give you an idea of how these offices have helped: in the last half of 1994, UNLV found off-campus jobs for 201 students -- an average of more than 30 students per month who now earn an average of \$10.50 per hour. Another 1,118 students are employed on campus at an average hourly rate of \$5.37 per hour.

At UNR, in the last six months of 1994, 347 students got off-campus jobs averaging \$6.95 an hour; another 2,500 work part-time on campus.



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