

November 1995

CLASS!

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

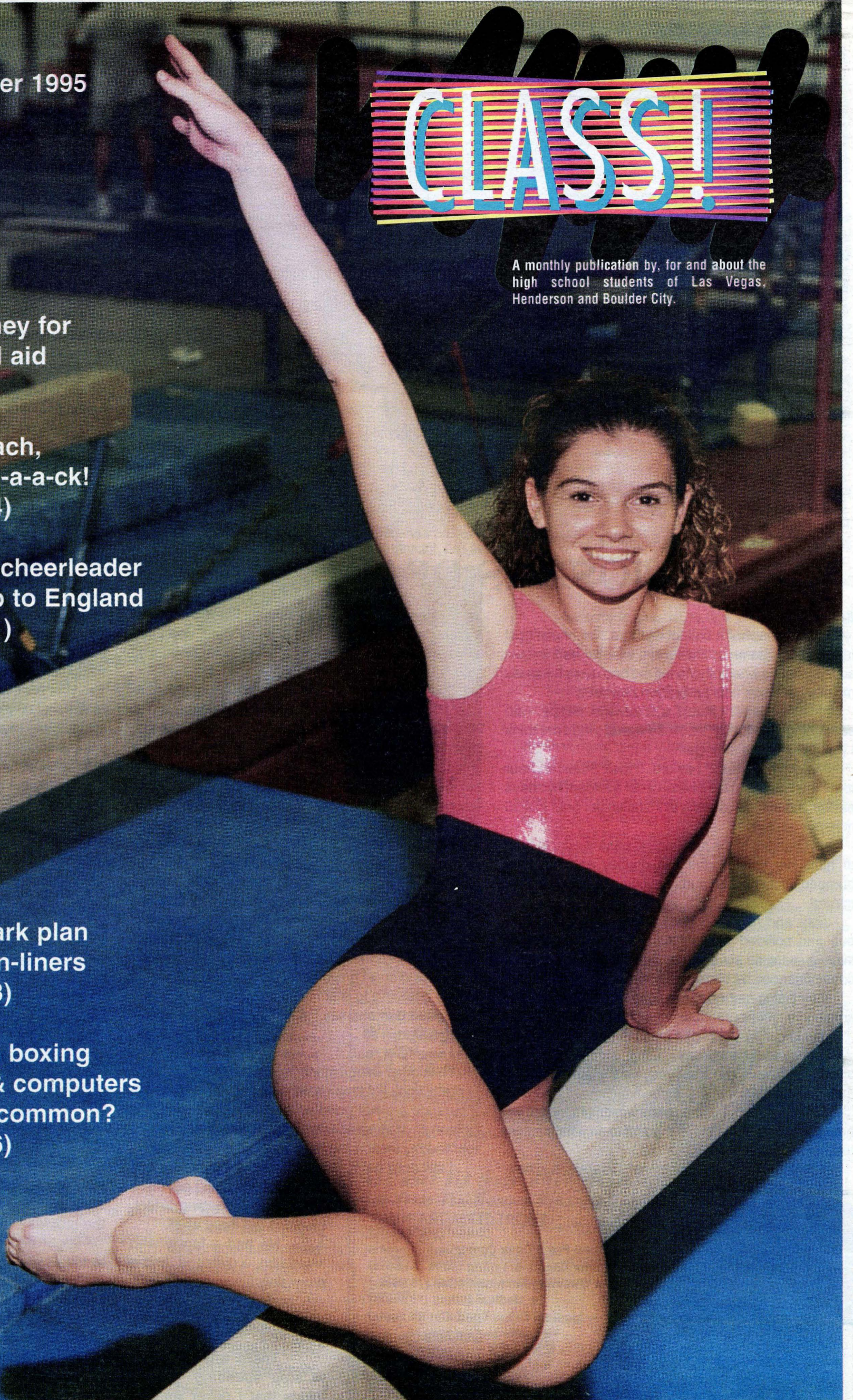
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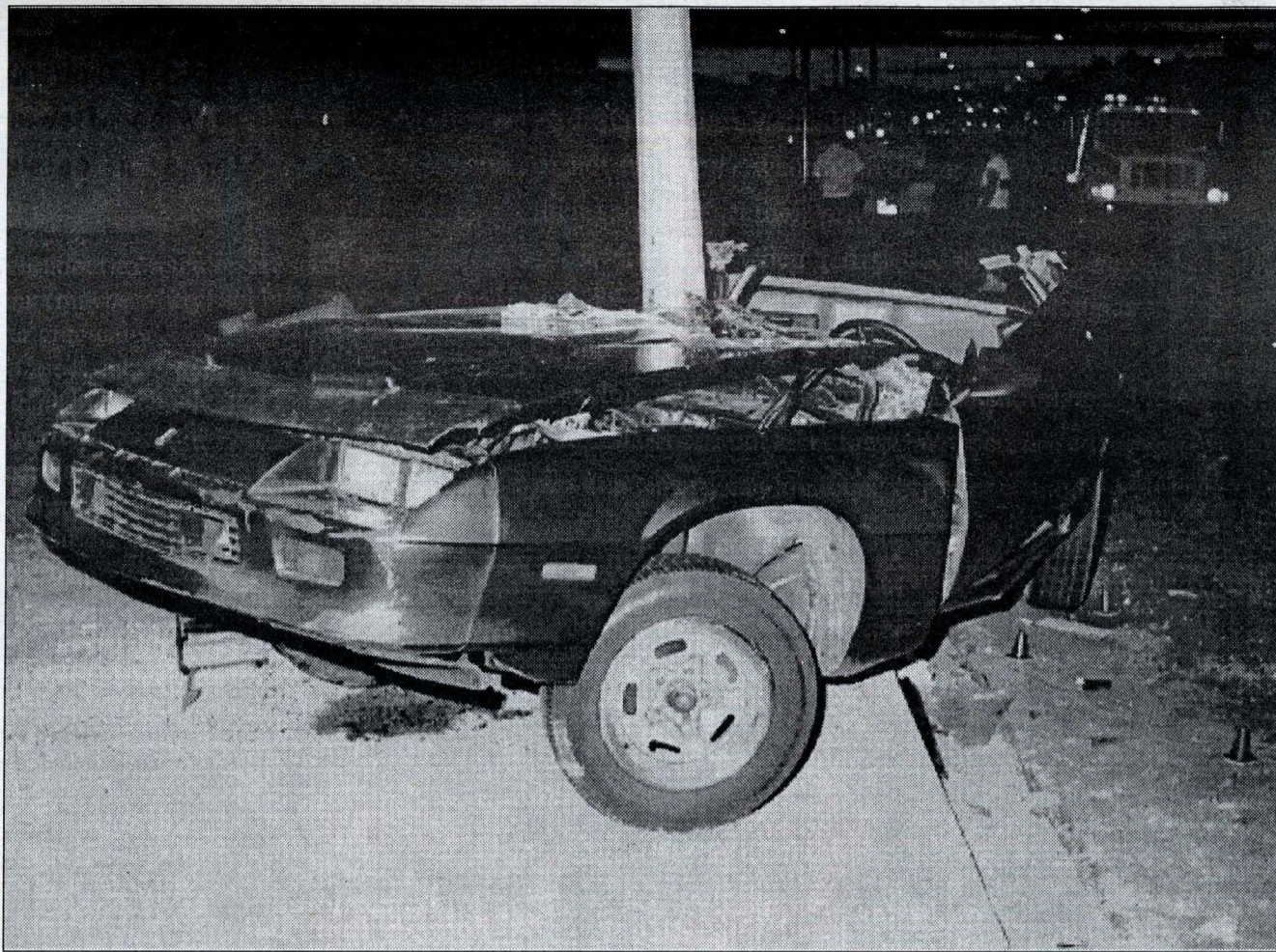
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This photo does not depict the accident described below. It is for illustration purposes only.



JOSH IS DEAD.

By Lewis Perlin

I got a telephone call today from one of my best friends back home in California. I wish I had known sooner that he was going to tell me bad news because my cheerfulness was an embarrassment.

"Josh is dead." Stuart was always happy, with something nice to say, so those words made me think I was talking to a stranger.

"What happened?" I asked. It took Stuart an hour to tell me that Josh had been in a car accident two days earlier. Josh was travelling at 75 miles per hour in a 35 mile per hour zone.

He changed to the right lane to pass the car in front of him. His lane ended too quickly and his tires bumped against the curb, sending the car out of control.

Josh and his 1965 Ford Mustang flipped, spun out, and collided with an Aerostar minivan. Josh's injuries were so severe, he was only able to signal consciousness by blinking his eyes.

After being rushed to the hospital and undergoing surgery for six hours, Josh was pronounced dead.

I don't get it.

"Be careful," they say. "Drive safely. Obey the speed limit. Sure, we trust you, it's the strangers out there we worry about."

These are some of the many words of wisdom we hear our parents say as we drive off to do whatever we teenagers do.

How many times do you listen? Do you really hear

what they say? Is what you hear similar to the sound of a balloon deflating? Until I heard about Josh, my answers to these questions were "None, nope and yep."

I've got two speeding tickets and an accident to show that I haven't been listening to my parents. It's obvious I don't pay my insurance out of pocket change, and even that hasn't been a good enough lesson for me.

I've thought about it. To speed to Los Angeles two hours faster makes a little sense, but still is not wise. But there's no point in speeding, for example, if you're driving to the movies. So you've missed the previews. Nobody ever really likes them anyway.

How many times have you been annoyed at the car in front of you because the driver was actually going the speed limit? You change lanes, accelerate, pass the car, and pull back into your original lane, only to find that after you slammed on your brakes to stop at a red light, the car you passed is slowly coasting to a stop behind you.

Speed demons say things like, "I like the speed and freedom."

I say, "Get real..."

I like other things much, much more. I think living is pretty cool. If warnings, tickets, accidents and high insurance are not good enough lessons to teach a person to stop speeding, what is? Unfortunately, I learned my lesson the hard way.

I still don't get it. Why did Josh do it? Where was he going? He didn't get there any faster by speeding; in fact, he didn't get there at all.

He had a family who loved him, a girlfriend, and a promising future as a superstar hockey player with potential for the NHL. It's all gone now.

That's why I'm going to stop speeding. I have things that I never want to

What does REAL life have to do with what we do in school?

Probably right about now, seniors are starting to really think (maybe worry) about what they will do after graduation.

But a new project, the *Graduate Profile*, began this year in all high schools. The goal is to prepare you for life after school—to be ready to get a job or career and be good at it.

Do you ever wonder what your classes have to do with "real life"... about what's out there and how you get to it? *Graduate Profile* makes a lot of things come clear.

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(1) **Where am I?** What have you learned so far and what skills have you developed?

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(3) **How do I get there?** Do you have to change what you're doing now and are you making good decisions about your future?

The *Graduate Profile* project will help you answer these questions. You'll learn about broad career areas and specific careers within those areas...and about options that lead you to your choice of career... trade or technical school, the military, apprenticeships, two- or four-year college, etc. You'll see direct links between high school classes and your future.

Also, you'll learn how to prepare your own resume and take care of practical matters like getting letters of recommendation. By the time you graduate, the move from high school to life in the adult world will be no shock.

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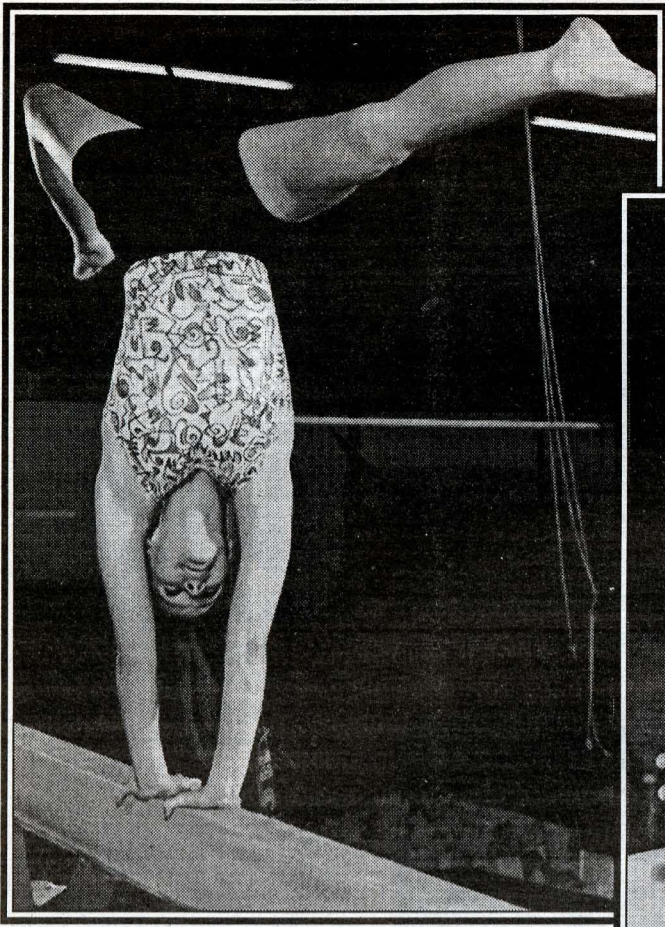
Licensed by the Nev. Commission on Postsecondary Education

lose. So what if I'm a few minutes late to work or I miss the coming attractions at the movies?

Right now I have a college acceptance, fantastic friends, and a close family. I don't want to miss my chances at college, marriage, children and a career.

I wonder how many of you actually read this editorial the same way you listen to your parents.

It's okay...unfortunately, too many lessons are taught by experience.



COVER STORY:

Photos by
David Phillips



Terror no more. Gorman's Marianne Griffen (above) practices on the balance beam, then splashes her hands with chalk to help her "keep a grip" before working out on the uneven bars.

From brat to balance beam

Marianne has her eye on gymnastic career

By Adam Candee, Bishop Gorman High School

Her "reign of terror" began when she was but a three-year-old. She toddled through the house, striking fear in the hearts of any friend or relative who crossed her path. "My mom told me I was kind of a terrorizer," she says.

Things had to change. Her mother made a decision that would shape the course of her daughter's life: she placed the girl in...gymnastics.

Gorman junior **Marianne Griffen** no longer terrorizes her mother; only opponents must now deal with this accomplished gymnast. Griffen has won many awards and was the state champion in 1988, 1994 and 1995. Yet there is not one "crowning" moment in her career.

"All accomplishments I see as equal as long as I did my best," Griffen says.

Success has not come without its price, though. The free time for relaxation enjoyed by most people is virtually non-existent for Griffen. Aside from her rigorous program in the gym, Marianne also serves Gorman as a varsity cheerleader. The days and nights are long, but Griffen has become accustomed to her schedule.

(See BRAT TO BALANCE BEAM, page 23)

INSIDE CLASS!

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IS THIS A FAD DIET?

A researcher in Australia discovered that a spider found in that country has a strange dietary habit: the baby spiders eat their mothers. So who drives the kids to soccer practice?

CLASS!
Publications
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6290 Harrison Drive, Suite 10
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Business Office: (702) 798-5757
Editorial Office (702) 361-8262
Fax (702) 361-7472

David Phillips, Publisher and Business Manager
Sari Aizley, Editor/Development Director
Kurt Hoff, Computer Services
Paul Aizley, Production Specialist
Sophia Rasile, Chief Proofreader
Contributing Writers:
Rob Erb, Paul Dodge, Aaron McKinnon

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What it takes to be a true athlete.
Swimming is her game and Molly Sullivan is her name. She has her eye on the 1996 Olympics. Read Molly's story on 8.

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UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA RENO

Semester Roundup

NHS fills calendar with service projects

Adapted from a report by Adam Salzgberg

Bonanza's National Honor Society were involved in a variety of services to the community this semester. The students assisted the Help Them Walk Again Foundation with their first Italian Musical Food Festival, and served as quilt monitors for the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt displayed at the Jaycee State Fair.

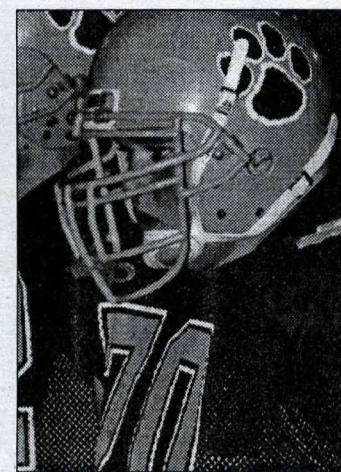
A very early morning in October saw the "BHS NHS Balloon Brigade" at Bunker Park for the third annual American Heart Walk. The City of Hope was grateful for our handling registration at the second annual Loren's Run.

The organization helped the Nevada Dance Theater with the kids participating in the Nutcracker Holiday Market. Later, Bonanza's NHS did all the decorating for the Halloween Ball sponsored by the Desert Developmental Center at Opportunity Village Industries gym. The American Lung Association asked the members to be part of Car Care Day at the Boulevard Mall last month. On Nov. 4, we staffed a booth at Dog Fanciers' Park for CCI (Canine Companions for Independence).

We will be part of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, when a section of the AIDS Memorial Quilt is displayed at Bonanza. And look for us Nov. 22 at the Las Vegas Hilton, when we help out at the Festival of Trees and Lights to benefit the Down Syndrome Organization.



CAVORTING FOR A CAPACITY CROWD. The guy cheerleaders are always one of the highlights of Homecoming Week activities at Bonanza.



FAMILY AFFAIR.

Ben Gunderson's football career is like a flashback for his father, Barry. See page 14.

LEFT: ROYALTY. Homecoming King Robert Casey and Queen Tray'ce Broadhead were crowned during half-time at the Homecoming Game, when Bonanza beat Silverado, 28-21.

BELOW: WELCOME TO LAS VEGAS. Foreign exchange students were recently treated to lunch by the Bengal Student Council. Serving themselves at the buffet line are Tina Reichardt, from Germany, and Raquel Trevezan, Brazil.



Salzgberg



Thespians to attend state conference at UNLV

Based on a report by Jennifer Marsala

The next big event for the Bonanza Theater Department is the State Thespian Conference, which will be held at UNLV on Saturday, December 2. The conference is a two-day event that consists of performances, scholarship awards, and workshops in all theatrical areas. A well-known theater personality will address the students. Thespians and non-Thespians are welcome to attend.

JROTC 3-way challenge

Reporter: Julia Jimenez
A JROTC drill competition will be held Nov. 16 at Durango High School—an event between Bonanza, Western and Durango to give members practice for "the big one," the Clark County School District competition next spring. The public is welcome.

Closed campus debate continues

By Rachel Land

Clark County School District Trustees have decided it will be mandatory next year for all high schools to be closed campuses, which means students may not leave campus for lunch. [This year is optional.]

Bonanza will remain an open campus for now while the administration gets more input from students and parents before making any decisions for the balance of this year.

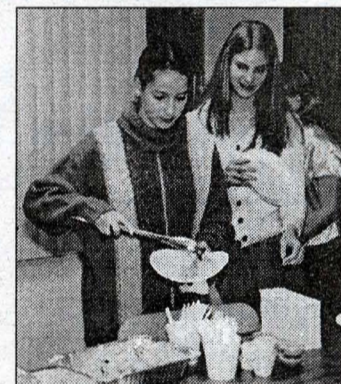
The proposal to close campuses was brought on by the escalating number of tardies and students not returning to school after lunch. Some schools are located 10-15 minutes from any fast food restaurant and, by the time students get there, get their food, and drive back, they are tardy.

The other problem is kids cutting class. Whether they have a big test in sixth period or just don't have the initiative to attend class, students are ditching more than attending class after lunch, according to records.

Scheduling classes next year will be a strategic process. Three types of schedules have been proposed by the school board. Bonanza has the option of choosing one or creating its own. First, just closing the campus and having lunch inside. Second, students who live within walking distance are permitted to go home for lunch while the rest of the students stay in. Third [favored by Principal Judy Cameron] lunch could move to after school at 1:00 and, during class hours, two nutrition breaks would be offered in the cafeteria.

At a recent administration luncheon, student council members and club presidents expressed their opinions about next year's policy. Overall, students believe that the new policy is unnecessary because tardies and absences are not a monumental problem at Bonanza. Eldorado, Durango, Valley and Rancho all have closed campuses.

The administrators stressed that the decision was not theirs to make, but they encouraged students to give their input.



Land


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DURANGO

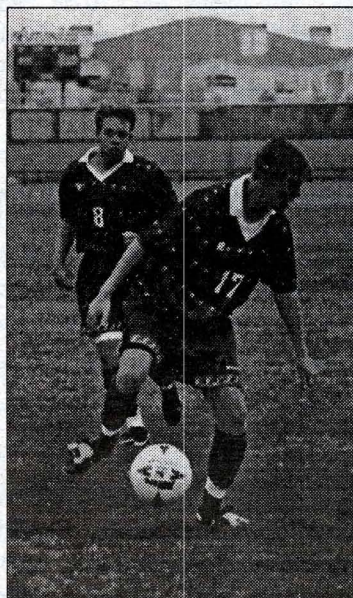


DANCE DIVAS—(l-r) Reclining in front: Rissa Soriano and Stephanie Morentio; Sitting in front row: Jacey Denney, Rachel Redmond, Jenny Ammon, April White and Jennifer Crespo; Middle row: Stacy Maestos, Crystal Aldershot, Summer Rich and Nefertari Tillman; Standing, rear: Lisa Harrod, Sjanna Herrera, Kristi Miller, Jessie Bailey and Charlene Stewart.

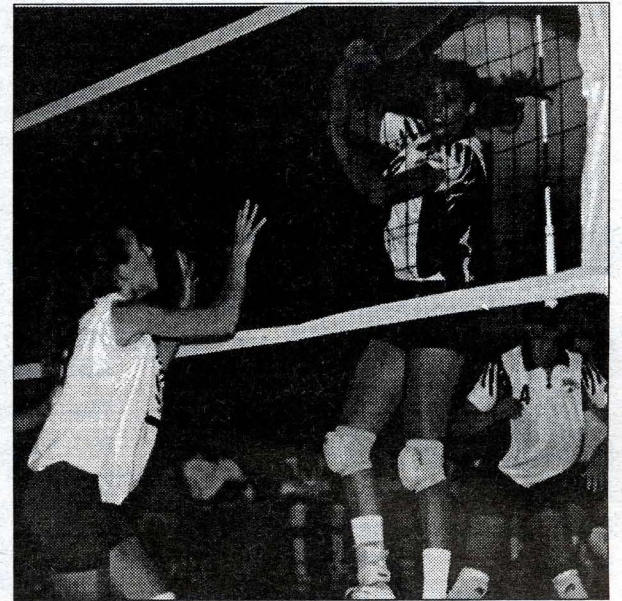


LEFT: Durango's third annual Open House featured performances by the Dance Divas and New Agenda dance troupe, the varsity band and cheerleaders, the choir and the colorguard. Shown here is Lori Kozlowski, president of the Executive Council.

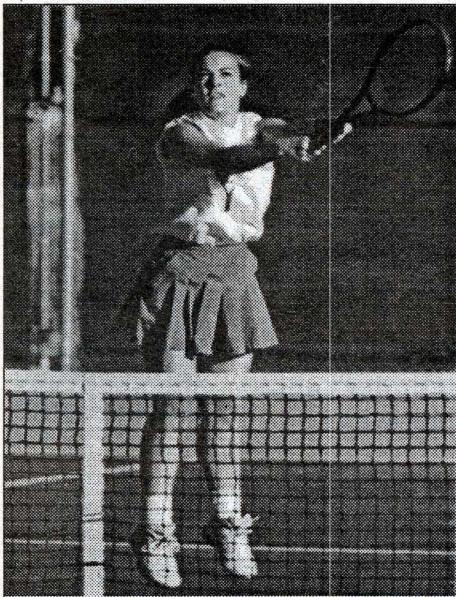
BELOW: Jessica Wirth takes a might leap to spike the ball, with Jenny Schlauder backing her up.



ABOVE: Brian Bartlet (#17) prepares a pass to his right, backed up by Name (#8) in a tied game with Eldorado.



ABOVE: Mike Congon hands off to Mike Bussey.



LEFT: Nicole Heitman "gives it her best shot" during a recent match. She was half of the top doubles team, with Amy Meyer.

FAR LEFT: Amy Meyer, skilled photographer who has contributed her work to CLASS! and who has received Photo-of-the-Month Awards, displays another of her skills... on the court.

INSIGHTS

Jocks vs. Eggheads

By Irene Goya

Jocks and eggheads may seem quite the opposite, but they have uncanny similarities that are often overlooked. Both stereotypes require extreme intelligence—yes, even jocks need supreme intelligence.

Jocks have a higher level of what is called motor-physical intelligence. The physical body is in acute tune with the brain, so the hand-eye coordination of jocks is excelled dramatically.

Most eggheads are able to memorize vast amounts of information because their memory recall system in the brain is excelled. There are other traits that are not mentioned, of course, but the complete mapping of the human brain has yet to be completed by top neurologists, let alone an opinionated columnist.

My point is, any two things which may seem absolutely remote from each other can be two sides of the same coin with equal face value.

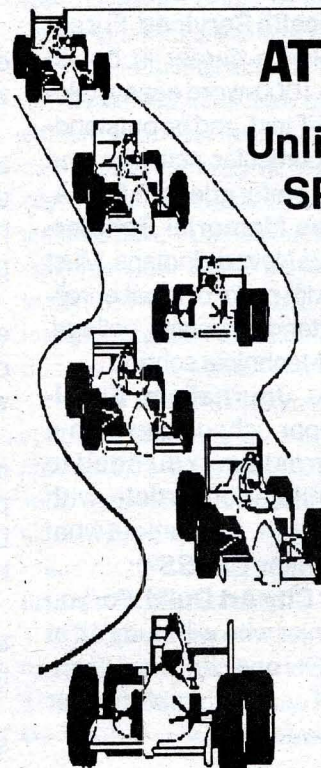
No one can be an all-around specialist. It is completely impossible. Sure, Einstein did it with his philosophies on civilization, imagination and science, but I think Albert's rare talents are extremely hard to come by.

Besides, our society has turned him into a mere science poster-child, anyhow. As of now, no perfect human beings exist.

Perfect human—isn't that an oxymoron? Well, it should be.

Each one of us is human...and individually we are prone to mistakes, bad luck, and uncontrollable emotions. Therefore, a utopian psyche is not feasible. But as a collective group, we can achieve perfection—in theory.

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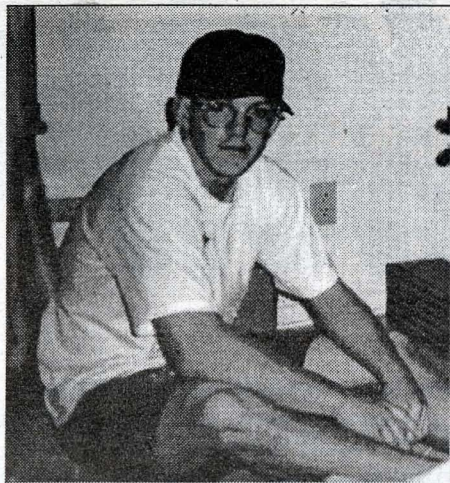
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JOE HILL, SOPHOMORE
RANCHO HIGH SCHOOL

Making up (by mail) not so hard to do

He messed around last year and didn't earn enough credits. Now **Joe Hill** is getting serious about his education and about staying on track to graduate with his class.

Joe, a sophomore at Rancho, is making up those credits by taking correspondence courses from the University of Nevada, Reno.

In addition to his full load at Rancho, he studies math, English and computers through UNR.

He estimates that it takes him about an hour a day for each course.

Joe likes the correspondence program and studying alone.

"No other people bother me while I study," he explains. "Sometimes I have to ask my dad a question, but that's about it."

Joe has a pretty good idea of what he wants to do after graduation: either go into auto mechanics or law enforcement.



CLARK HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM STAFF— Back row (l-r) Annemarie Clark, Jessica Weiss, Ryan Coughlin (partly hidden, wearing shades), Mario Banos, Beka Abdu, Federico Gonzalez, Alexis Johnson, Kendra Brown and adviser Teri Hill. Middle row (l-r) JoAnna Harper, Elizabeth Kang, Monica Moradkhan, Doney Wong, Rachelle Bresga, Callie Newell, Rochelle Pineda, Sara Weakley, Nicole Saunders, Brittany Buchanan, Marcia Gomez and Dierdre Western. Seated (l-r) Paul Moradkhan, Gary Philips, Mike Weiss, Aaron McKinnon, Kenny Archer, Joseph Chmielewski and Joseph Richards.

Are you hip to these scholarships?

These are a few scholarships that you may not have heard about. You'll find many others in the Student Scholarship Handbook published each year by the Clark County School District. Ask your counsellor.

The Golden Nugget. You need a 3.0 GPA, take the ACT or SAT test, get three letters of recommendation, and write an essay.

Nevada Gaming Foundation for Minority Students. As a senior member of a minority group, you need a 3.0 GPA, must study education in college, then teach in Nevada.

Italian Catholic Federation. Be of Italian descent and Catholic, with two letters of recommendation, a transcript, a federal tax return, and a letter from a school official.

Mars/Milky Way All American Awards. Based on academic, extra-curricular and athletic performance and community service. One male and one female from each state is awarded.

Las Vegas Rotary Club. One to attend UNLV and another to attend Community College of Southern Nevada. You need a 3.25 GPA and show financial need.

Sierra Health Services. For seniors who plan a career in health care. Write a 1000-word essay, take an ACT or SAT test, and be outstanding in extra-curricular activities and awards. They prefer at least 3.0 GPA.

Voorhees Memorial Scholarship for Native Nevada Indians. Must be a senior with proof of tribal enrollment. Can attend university, college, or vocational-technical school.

Dondero Journalism Excellence. Two per school who plan a career in journalism. You need to include a published article with your application. (How about what you've written for *CLASS*?)

Boulder City Art Guild. For you if you're a senior who will study art at UNLV or CCSN and can show financial need. Two scholarships per school are awarded.

UNIFORMS: A threat to student rights?

*By Aaron McKinnon, Senior
Clark High School*

Students have long been limited when it comes to freedom of expression. However, most have come to tolerate the current guidelines. Soon, though, school district officials may not just be telling students what they *cannot* wear, they may be telling students exactly what they *should* wear, down to the last fiber.

True, school uniforms are not a threat to Clark County students right now. Still, uniforms, the ultimate dress code, is closer that we dare to believe. For example, in Long Beach,

CA, the school district requires students to wear school uniforms.

Many believe that uniforms are the solution to the increasing gang paraphenalia and colors, as well as profane or illicit statements printed on shirts.

It is argued that uniforms would work to solve these problems. However, gang members would find a way to counter this move: some might make cuts in their clothes, wear certain color shoe laces, or wear jewelry that is gang-related.

Then the administration would have to get even stricter on *how* a uniform should be worn. Then, what if gang members started to wear their hair certain ways? Would the school move to regulate hair cuts? It's easy to see how things could get carried away.

Another argument supporters of school uniforms come up with is, if everyone is wearing the same outfit, one won't be able to tell who is rich and who is poor.

This is not true. Wealthier students will still have nicer cars, nicer houses and more expensive jewelry. Besides, what if a student cannot afford a uniform, or more than one? The school can't pay for it; that could run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. Uniforms would discriminate against the poor rather than favor them.

Theft of clothing has become a particular problem within schools. Shoes, especially, disappear from student lockers. Now, supporters of uniforms could argue, if everyone wore somewhat drab clothes that everyone has, who would want to steal them?

That is *exactly* the reason someone would. Most students have experienced the annoyance of having their P.E. clothes stolen. It's the same premise. For example, say a student needs a new shirt and doesn't want to buy one. All he has to do is steal another student's shirt from his locker and his "new" shirt is totally unidentifiable. They're all the same.

School uniforms must not be allowed to find their way into the public schools of Clark County...it will not solve the gang problem; it will only make the majority suffer for the wrongs of the few.

School uniforms are, indeed, the ultimate dress code and will take away a student's right to freedom of expression. Therefore, this cannot be allowed.



McKinnon

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Sorensen

Exchange student says Denmark "more free"

By Stacy Mayhew

"America is a huge country," says senior **Maria Moller Sorensen**, a foreign exchange student from Denmark. But she says there are more rules and regulations here, so it would appear that Denmark is more free than the United States.



Mayhew

Maria took the opportunity to come to the U.S. because her older sister, Christina, had been a foreign exchange student in St. Louis, MO.

"I was also curious about America's culture and I wanted to learn to speak English fluently," she says. Sixteen-year-old Maria also speaks German and Danish.

Maria says there are many differences between the two countries. In Denmark, it's harder to get an education and there aren't enough job opportunities. Children are only required to go to school for nine years. Then, if you want to further your education, you must apply to the Gymnasium, which is similar to high school for college-bound students. To be accepted into the Gymnasium, you must speak two languages.

Another difference is the prices. For example, a pair of Levis jeans cost \$120 in Denmark, compared to the \$30-40 American retailers charge.

Maria was born in Korea and moved to Denmark when she was adopted by her parents. "I'm happy," she says. "I don't know what I'd be like without my adoptive parents." She thinks adopting a child is a wonderful thing to do so that less fortunate children can have a better life.

In Denmark, Maria usually hangs out with her best friends, Katherine and Charlotte. For fun they go to discos, cafes and the movies. At Las Vegas High, she is involved in school activities such as Madrigals and choir, and is planning to try out for honor choir. Her favorite musicians are Aaliah and Brandy. Her hobbies here are shopping at the malls, visiting casinos and being with friends.

In Las Vegas, Maria lives with Chris and Shawn Muelhbauer, her host parents, and their four-year-old son, Mathew. She will return home in July and plans to attend a business school, then later attend a university for three years to become a clothing designer. She hopes to eventually own her own business.

"I like it in America," Maria says. "People are more open and honest here."

Zoot suits, poof-hair make fashion comeback

By Manny Reyes and Rebecca Bates

From go-go boots to washed-out Levis, fashion has produced a cult of trendy mall seekers and thrift shop wanderers. Most of today's fashion includes flash-backs from almost every decade in the 20th century.

The popular 1940s zoot suits may have influenced the oversized clothing worn by today's teenagers.

In the 1950s, so-called "greasers" began the trend of slicked back hair, leather jackets and black biker boots; they can still be seen on today's streets.

Mini-skirts and go-go boots were part of 1960s fashion. Platform shoes, bell-bottoms, hip-huggers, polyester and butterfly collars were all part of 1970s disco fever. The '80s was a decade of hair spray and fluorescent colors.

All these fashions put together make up the style of the 1990s.

Years ago, only the cafeteria ladies wore hairnets, but now it's a fashion must. Handsized backpacks that appear to have been in the dryer too long are now popular. Eyeliner: wear it like the Egyptians. Your body is your enemy: pierce and tattoo it.

Perhaps nothing in the world of fashion has changed as dramatically throughout the centuries as hair styles.

Women have worn styles from a crown of curls to straight, cut short and sleeked to perfection, or sometimes in the "Afro" look. Men have gone through equally dramatic changes. Short hair was cut into the shag in the early '60s, then hair got longer and pony tails became a trend. From the hairspray days, mohawks and colorful hair have returned.

Welcome to the '90s—a confused generation of fashion.

Today's the day!

By Monica Taryn

Today is the day. I know it. I feel it in my bones. I know I can do it this time. I will start my diet. I will change my eating habits for the rest of my life in order to live a long, healthy life, slim and trim. I will eat a balanced, low calorie, low fat, low sodium, low taste menu in order to fit into that size six. I will sweat to the Oldies if it means I will not jiggle someday when I walk. I have the will power to succeed. I will not be a Jenny Craig dropout!

I start the day off really well. I get up early and do some low impact aerobics. Then I feast on half a banana and eight ounces of nonfat strawberry yogurt. I also drink a full glass of refreshing cool water.

The hunger pains don't hit until third hour. The class is having a discussion about their favorite foods. Our assignment is to write a descriptive paragraph about our favorite cuisine. Just trying to decide which scrumptious treat I like the most is agony enough, but then to actually describe it! You can hear my stomach grumbling.

I groan as I think of what my lunch will consist of: carrot sticks, lowfat cottage cheese and an apple. Hardly an appetizing assortment when I had visions of pizza, lasagna, burritos, nachos, barbecue ribs, chocolate cream pie, ice cream, and well, every high fat, high calorie, mouth-watering cuisine. Ugghh! Why can't carrots taste like French fries?

By fourth hour, I am really hungry. The mild rumbling in my tummy is now an earthquake tearing down all my will power. Lunch is next. If only I can make it through lunch, I will be OK. After I put some food into my stomach that I can eat, I will not think of all the food that I can't eat. I pinch my side, reminding myself of why I'm dieting.

I'm fine until I walk into the cafeteria and smell the breadsticks. I hear them calling my name. It starts off as a low whisper: "Monica..." However, it soon becomes louder and more insistent: "Monica...Monica...Come on, you know you want us. You crave us. It's all right...one little breadstick won't hurt you."

I can't block it out. Where is the will power I had only a few moments before? That's the thing about will power, it is never there when you need it. I sit down and take a bite out of a carrot. The breadsticks start calling again. "Monica...Monica...come on..."

It's all I can take. I look at the carrot I am eating, then the breadstick a friend is feasting on and the doughnuts and chili cheese fries other friends are devouring. The last of my will power dissolves.

Later that night, my parents take me to the Rio World Buffet for dinner. I've decided that I may as well eat because I have already blown it for the day. I feel guilty, though, so I gorge myself at the buffet. Oh, well. I am meant to be overweight, I tell myself. I am big boned, have low metabolism, a thyroid problem, and my family has given me fat genes. I am doomed from the start.

But tomorrow will be different. Tomorrow will be the day. I know it. I can feel it in my bones.

TENNIS, ANYONE?

With 17 players on the girls tennis team this year, it's clear that interest in tennis is on the rise. Five players went to Zone: seniors **Veronica Arana** and **Loan To**; sophomore **Regan Cannon**; doubles team junior **Ruby Reynado** and sophomore **Amanda Whitehouse**.



Becky Bates and Manny Reyes, reporters

Dawn's Top Tens

By Dawn Turner



Movies

1. Seven
2. Clocker
3. Hallowe'en
4. Dead Presidents
5. Master of Illusions
6. The Show
7. Mortal Kombat
8. The Prophecy
9. Friday
10. Showgirls

R&B Albums

1. Immature - Feel the funk
2. Jodeci - Freak 'n' you
3. Exscape - Who Can I Run To
4. Michael Jackson - You are Not Alone
5. Tony Thompson - I Wanna Love Like That
6. Brandy - Brokenhearted
7. Soul for Real - Every Little Thing I Do
8. Janet Jackson - Runaway
9. Monica - Missing You
10. TLC - Waterfalls



Goscicki

Forensics team in gear for big year

By Jennifer Goscicki

The 1995-96 Forensics team has already had several victories, including a second place award (out of 52 schools) in Long Beach last month.

Second-year member **John Thompson** says competition is getting tougher and the team was excited to maintain their status.

But winning competitions is not the only thing forensics has in its favor:

"Forensics is a place to practice and develop public speaking skills," says Thompson. "It's also a place to meet friends you'll have for life."

Team president **Kim Steinforth** explains, "It makes us all feel great to be part of a large group that supports us. There are more than 80 in the "forensics family," as they sometimes call themselves. This is the biggest team ever.

"My goal is to take this team to the state championship," Steinforth says, "and there's no doubt that we can do it."

Then there's ASU and UC Berkeley....

Molly Sullivan



Sullivan tries out for '96 Olympics

By Molly Sullivan

By 5:00 a.m., I've completed warm-ups, lifted weights until I've lost feeling in my arms, done sit-ups until I feel like someone hit me in the stomach, run until the ground made my feet sting, and now it's time to get focused for the *real* challenge: PRACTICE.

Doing this six days a week, I often wonder if swimming is worth it. Then I remember my goal, and I am motivated to...let nothing get in the way of my dream...to be in the '96 Olympics.

In athletics, the point is not getting by, but going above and beyond what is expected of an average person.

I constantly observe champions practicing their winning skills...True champions know they will arrive at the top because of extra effort. They will continue to win as long as they make extra effort to achieve their goals at each practice.

What it takes to be a true athlete

The process of trying something, even if I make mistakes, will eventually cause me to master the task and get it right...then eliminate the fear and uncertainty that accompany that task.

An elite athlete is someone who is disappointed even when they win, perhaps because they didn't perform perfect skills or didn't capture a team or state record. Perfection is an elusive goal, but well worth striving for. The key is to reach for perfection, yet know that it takes time.

By practicing to reach perfection, athletes sacrifice many things, not to mention life! To be a dedicated athlete, one must give 110%, leaving little time for family and friends. I have to choose whether I want to have an awesome practice on a Saturday morning or go to a football game with my friends on Friday night. Athletes are quickly taught correct decision-making by experiencing the consequences of their actions. The fun night out with friends will last a moment, but achievements in practice will last a lifetime.

(See *TRUE ATHLETES*, page 23)

Golfers claim state runner-up title

Excerpts from a report by Stacy Jurado



Jurado

Shooting a strong 79, **Kelly Title** led the Green Valley girls to the runner-up title at the AAA State Golf Tournament.

Other top scorers included: **Annie Long** and **Mira Lee** with

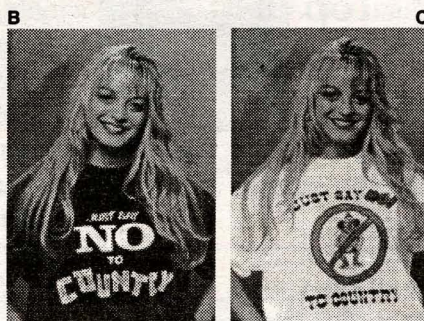
80s, **Ashlei Pendleton** with an 81, **Jamie Chanin** with an 88, and **Rhonda Gallion** with an 89. Returning next year with six starting golfers, and recognizing mistakes in the past, the girls are ready to change their luck in the future.



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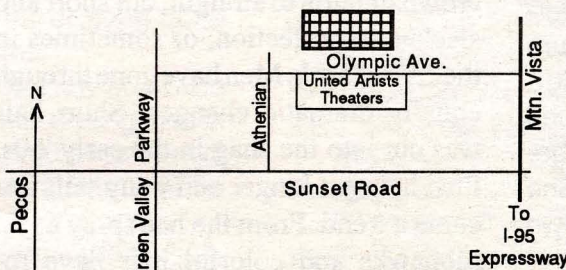
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Do you have to be quiet when you use the Internet Library?

By Nicole Brende



Who would guess that one day students would go to the library without ever leaving their homes?

That day has arrived at Green Valley High School...through a computer network called Internet. This is part of the "Information Superhighway" and will operate in the GVHS library.

With Internet, teachers can assist students in their communication with others within the district as well as from different states. This allows for creativity in peer interaction, problem-solving, creating learning experiences and clarifying misconceptions.

For example, a few misconceptions GVHS students clarified through the system last year were, "Yes, Las Vegas does have churches," and "No, not everyone gambles."

Chemistry student in Ellen Ebert's class used the system to analyze results from other students' experiments in Tonopah.

"Internet also allows us to interact with colleges, such as the University of Nevada, Reno," Ebert explains. "UNR has our host computer...which tells us what we can get into. We go through their computer, so we do not have to pay tremendous long distance fees."

Green Valley's purpose for the use of Internet is to open communication between school and home...to get parents involved in their child's life.

"Eventually, students will be able to call in and receive library information from their home computers," says Cynthia Montoya, librarian.

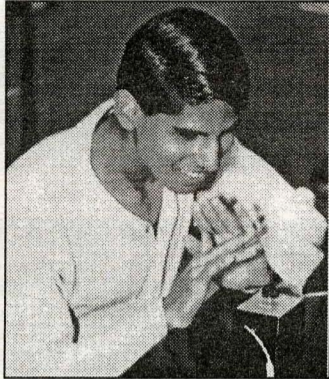
Last year, Montoya created a report that won GVHS a \$3,000 federal grant for telecommunications. The program is well underway.

Green Valley received another grant...\$85,000 from the Telecommunications Information Infrastructure Assistance Program. Out of 10,000 requests, only 96 grants were given. GVHS is the only Nevada school to receive one.

Gator Varsity Quiz team scores big on local TV

By Paul Dodge

The Gator Varsity Quiz team scored big on city-wide television, beating Boulder City by 120-40. Channel 10 broadcast the match as the first televised high school varsity quiz contest of the year.



Players were required to quickly answer questions in areas such as literature, history, science and music.

The 19 players on this year's team are coming off not only a Clark County championship last year, but two third-place rankings in the two years prior.

VQ advisor Joan Taylor expects the squad to continue its winning ways, saying, "The team has done very well in their first few games this year...[the players] come to practice and work hard."

LEFT: Wilfredo Escobar, senior, member of GVHS Varsity Quiz team.

Men's tennis captures State title

By Paul Dodge (Excerpted)

The Gator men's tennis team seized the State Championship title with a 13-0 record. Junior **Jeff Harbach** and senior **Matt Mullin** took first and fourth places, respectively, in individual play.

Earlier, the women's team, with a Sunrise Division 10-0 record, was struck down by Cimarron-Memorial in the zone tournament, but freshmen **Samantha Villanueva** and **Annie Rapp** placed third in the state as a doubles team.

The 19-9 destruction of South Lake Tahoe last month capped the men's undefeated record...testament to the exceptional skill of GVHS players and coach, alike.

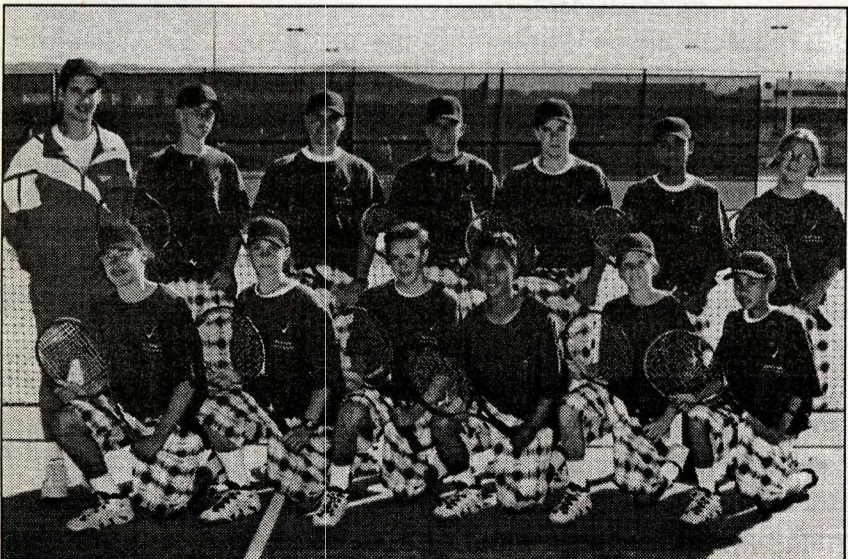
"We have a team through of strong players, all of them with a lot of depth," says Coach Jeff Horn.

The team attributes its advantage to Horn. "He kept us together and worked us hard," Harbach says.

After placing number two in the individual tournament last year, Harbach was ecstatic to finally punch through to first place. Senior Lance Gordon summed up the attitude of the victorious Gators:

"It's incredible...a great feeling. I've waited four years for it and I'm glad it came in my senior year."

LEFT: 1995 GVHS Men's tennis team. Photo by Bob Horton



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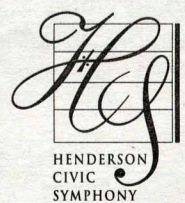


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Bike cops -- the 'wheel thing'

By Elbert Reed and Dashon L. Sanders

You've seen them in the halls, you've seen them in the parking lots. Look out! It's bike patrol!

School police have adopted a whole new concept to patrolling school campuses.

Bike patrol started a year ago and 30 officers were certified to train for bike patrol, including Silverado's Roberto Morales and Mario Noriega.

In training, officers ride 20-40 miles a day and work on maneuvering, defense, sprinting and endurance. Campus police are separate from any other police department—they work only at schools or on school property.

Bikes were introduced to campus police for better mobility, visibility, and maneuvering in intense situations ...easier than going on foot in some instances.

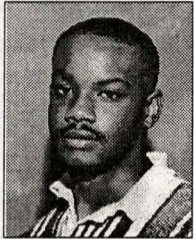
Of course, Silverado has a second story...usually the bike cops carry their bikes up the stairs.

Flying down the ramp is a piece of cake.

"We're here to protect students and uphold the law, not just to bust people," says Morales.



Reed



Sanders



RIGHT: Silverado Principal Aldeane Ries congratulates Daniel Merritt on receiving his Academic Letter.



ABOVE: LOG-ROLLIN'

Silverado students Scott Vanierland, junior, and Sarah Dykema, senior, in Renaissance costume, practice a bit of old-fashioned log-rolling.

Silverado's Madrigal musicians



Two years old & soaring!

Jean

By Devon Jean



Here it is, Silverado's second year, and the Skyhawks are already proving that the school will soar.

Theatre students put on a second annual Renaissance Greenshow & Feaste. All students participated in an evening of singing, dancing, face-painting, acting, and (best of all) food.

Academically, the Skyhawks are making a mark among schools in the Las Vegas valley. Eric Weissman qualified as a 1996 National Merit Semifinalist. Eric is now eligible for scholarship awards and will be recognized nationally.

Seniors Scott Bailey, Sean Ronan, and Jason Lappe have received National Merit program commendations for their academic promise. Melissa Parsons received a 1995 NCTE Achievement Award, one of 600 students to be recognized for achievements in writing.

Four Silverado singers were selected for the Clark County School District Honor Choir: Joshua Pereira, Lynsey Pereira, Brandy Rose, and Erin Turek. Pereira had the highest score in her section and earned the second soprano leader position.

The first Athletes of the Month have been chosen for the 1995-96 school year: Pam Henson, women's tennis, and Chris McDonald, men's tennis. Senior Adrienne Kramer placed fourth in the original oratory competition at the Valley High School forensics tournament, and 35 of Silverado's finest received the first Academic Letter for earning straight A's for the 1994-95 school year.

David Dyal was selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference, Oct. 31 - Nov. 5, in Washington, D.C. Only 350 outstanding National Scholars attend this conference. Silverado also welcomes three new members of the student body: Jan Masek, from the Czech Republic, and Krista Hanninen and Leena Sutula, both from Finland.

McMurrin

Give us a B...Give us an I... Give us a Wild Wing!

By Mary McMurrin

"Wild Wing, I think they love you!"

The latest addition to Silverado's spirit team is the school's mascot, Wild Wing, funded by money raised by head custodian Beverly Perby, former leadership advisor Ramona O'Neil, and the 1994-95 Leadership Council. They provided concessions at the varsity girls softball games and helped organize other fund raisers such as candy sales, car washes and bake sales.

Scott Vanierland and Adrienne Kramer take turns as Wild Wing.

Student opinions on the new bird:

Junior Stephanie Hayes says, "Wild Wing is awesome and I think he really helped get the crowd going." Other cheerleaders noticed a difference in the crowd too. Seniors Jocelyn Weart and Lisa Ramirez agreed, "We got a lot more response from the crowd during class competitions at this assembly than the last assembly."

Everyone seems to love the big bird and we all hope to see him at upcoming events. Keep flying high, Wild Wing!



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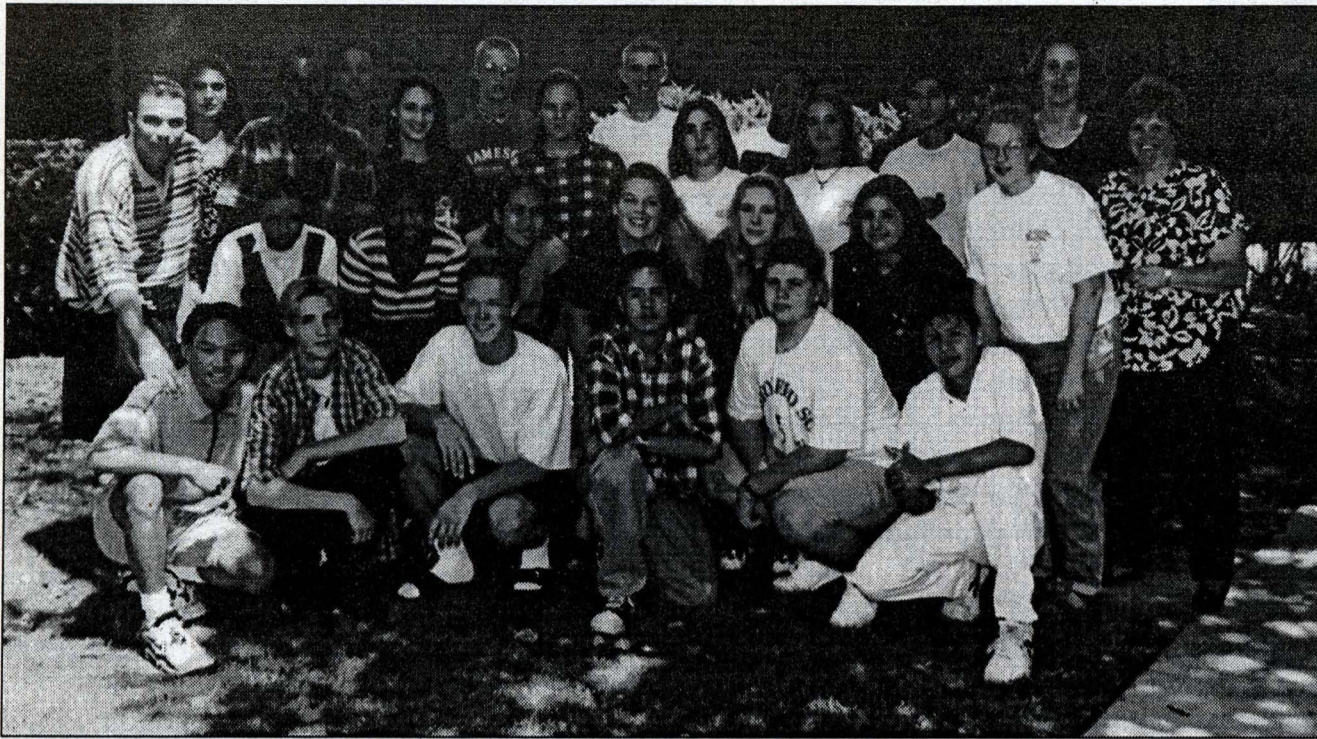
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Second row (l-r) Ebony Hankins, Emmanuella Cherisma, Delaine Hadarly, Kellie Grotts, Danyell Hill, Mitch Aguirre.
Third row (l-r) Chucky Earl, Corlinna Carter, Misheline Rodriguez, Ellie Eagle, Veronica Link, Fiorella Parodi, Mollie Stirling.
Back row (l-r) Rose Cooper, Emmanuel Bradley, Brennan Ward, Josh Fennelly, Daru Atkinson, Paulo Gallego, Channon Coriegton, and **Far right**, Karen Vaughn, journalism advisor.

Not everything has a happy ending

By Tasha Pittman

The palms begin to sweat, the heart beats rapidly. You try to stay late at school to avoid that lecture your parents have prepared.

You've waited 10 long weeks for this day. As you walk to the front of the class to accept that 8x6 paper—a report card—you watch the others' expressions. Excitement, anxiety, afraid to breathe.

The faster you walk, the longer it takes you to reach the desk that holds your future...you think about all the assignments you should have turned in.

You take the report card and walk swiftly to your seat. Carefully, you open it and...to your surprise, it had no bad grades.

It's over now. The long, scary day has come to an end. You finally go home.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT KNOW, REPORT CARDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON NOVEMBER 21!

If you feel you didn't do so well this quarter, don't worry because you still have time before the end of the semester to bring those grades up.

Do not wait until the last minute to start working hard in school because not everything has a happy ending!

Feds award grants for VHS computer lab

By Jason King



King

The Pre-International Baccalaureate program recently was awarded a *Title VI* federal grant to build a new computer lab which will include the newest equipment. Pre-I.B. students will do research and write essays on their new equipment.

The lab will be available to all VHS students and teachers when the I.B. program is not using it. Teachers will also be trained to use the equipment.

Two additional computer labs will open, thanks to a second federal program, the *Magnet Schools Project Grant* awarded to The Academy of Travel and Tourism and Pre-I.B. Additional computers will be available on a "check out" basis to teachers.

A long-range plan includes networking the school with fiberoptic cable so that all information available can be accessed from anywhere in the school.

Although Assistant Principal Don Laughlin would not give specifics on the amount of the grants, he did say, "The grants will be distributed over a three-year period." Asked if the grants are worth more than one million dollars in total, Laughlin smiled and replied, "Yes."

Soccer teams thrive; volunteer coach thanked

By Jhonnattan Duran

This year's J.V. Soccer team became addicted to the sweet taste of victory. The J.V. team held a 12-3-2 record and earned a first-place spot in the Sunrise Division.

"We have been successful this year because the team really stuck together," says fullback **Rodolfo Obesso**.

The most notable change this season was a new coach: Daryl Delaney is a volunteer coach for both the J.V. and the varsity soccer teams. The varsity holds an 11-3-1 record.

"This was a very good year," says Gary Wheeler, assistant principal in charge of athletics. "The number of kids who came out for the program was much higher and Coach Delaney gets much of the credit. We are pleased with the soccer program."

Delaney says, "My goal this year was to form a team that would become the future of Valley soccer. Accomplishing that goal wasn't difficult, considering that the team has played to its full potential, both physically and mentally."



Duran

JAMZ 94.1 FM helps school fundraising

Earlier this semester, the popular JAMZ FM co-sponsored the first "Battle of the High Schools" at Vons market, Russell at Pecos. Other sponsors included Bank of America, Hawaiian Punch and Vons.

High school clubs joined competitions in events such as pie-eating and tug-of-war. Valley High was represented by 16 groups, including forensics, Journalism and Senior Class.

Thanks to all the sponsors.



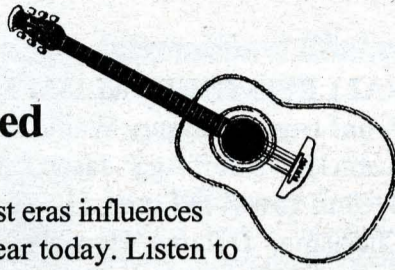
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MUSIC: uncorrupted

By Chris Webster

Music of past eras influences the music we hear today. Listen to the rhythms and riffs of past generations—Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, The Eagles, Kiss, The Steve Miller Band, Van Halen, The Beatles, The Doors, The Grateful Dead, and Pink Floyd. A similarity to today's bands can be heard.



Just one song from Led Zeppelin or Jimi Hendrix may be the basis for an entire album by one of today's bands. Now bands are trying new things such as different rhythms and sounds, tougher guitar and stronger beats, which help us distinguish the '90's sound from the rest of history's music. Bands that follow past ideas truly are exceptional, but they lack the originality that will carry them through the next generations of music lovers.

When my parents were raising me, I had this attitude that the music they listened to was old and obsolete, but I suppose that's an average child's attitude. Now that I have grown up mentally, I realize they may have lived in the best time for music and that their music is the main influence on today's styles.

Music is the basis for society and feelings and how we act or feel around others. There is always a song in my head for what I feel like (or would like to feel like) at any given moment. It's the only thing that the government hasn't totally corrupted yet. That is probably why there is such a strong belief in music among all generations and nationalities. Maybe it is the only thing left that can bring us together.

The bands of today that will be ranked among the best are mostly associated with their differences in guitar. (That may just be my opinion, though, since all I do is play guitar.) Most of the newer grunge and Seattle bands will stick out. Grunge and wicked guitar is what will associate music with the '90's.

In the future, what our children listen to will probably be far different from today's tastes in music. However, their sounds will be influenced by ours. Music will never stop progressing.



Wanna bet your life?

By John Heishman

Every day, people in Las Vegas gamble their lives away. By following their fantasies, people wind up in the gutter. How does this happen to everyday citizens?

It starts out as the desire to create a lot of money out of a little bit, and soon the yearning for more money becomes an itch that, for some reason, has to be scratched. In a matter of months or even weeks, people go from gambling 20 dollars a day to their whole paychecks—even the mortgages on their homes.

Why don't they just stop? That can't really be answered, except that it is like a drug addiction. Someone with good, common sense should know when to say "when," but the problem is, they actually don't. They are addicted to gambling.

One may be trying to get out of debt by gambling. Or it could be the average citizen striving to get rich quickly, who eventually digs deeper and deeper until he hits rock bottom, becoming homeless or worse. It isn't a physical addiction; it is more a psychological one, one that causes the need for counseling.

Can gamblers be cured of their compulsion? Probably not, experts say. The only path to recovery is total abstinence. Even that, experts say, needs to be combined with individual counseling and group programs such as Gamblers Anonymous.

"The worst thing for a compulsive gambler is a big win, because it keeps them in action," says psychologist Robert Hunter, who runs a compulsive gambling program at Charter Hospital in Las Vegas.

"I've seen a lot of junkies in my time, but I never met one who knew the next fix would cure his addiction."

The person in most danger of becoming an addict is one with an addictive personality (to surrender oneself habitually or compulsively to something). So, go into a casino with caution because the danger is there. Once you get that itch, it most likely will turn into a rash...with a weak treatment.

What are casinos doing about this? Very little, if anything. They make the problem to almost anyone over 21.

Even though casinos earn money from these addicts, they don't do much about it because it would mean less profit for them. Isn't it a sort of crime to turn people into gutter rats to make money?

SUNSET STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Mary Reyes



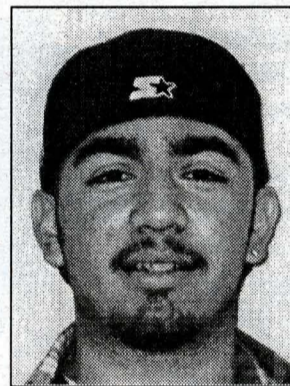
By Jen Mosher

Mary Reyes, a student at Sunset High School West, also takes classes at Community College. Her career ambition is to be a journalist. She is actively involved in her Hispanic heritage and has visited her homeland, Mexico, twice. She spends time with her Americanized family who still celebrate some His-

panic tradition, such as *Quinceaneria*, the celebration of a girl's 15th birthday. Mary says she can only speak the basics of Spanish, and her favorite food is Hispanic, such as burritos and tacos.

SUNSET STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Richard Aquayo



By Jen Mosher

When Richard Aquayo gets out of school, he'd like to become a rap artist. To him, there are both good and bad things about Hispanics. The good are those who work to pay bills and who obey laws. The bad are those who do drugs, gang bang, and cause trouble. Richard is fluent in Spanish. He celebrated Hispanic month recently, and says it's a

time for his race to get together and celebrate tradition. He eats Hispanic food regularly, such as Chorizo, a breakfast food, and carne asada, a meat dish. He listens to Salsa music rarely, and watches the Spanish-language channels sometimes.

Fashion statements :

GONE TOO FAR?

By Nadia Torres

Different strokes for different folks. Wearing boxers in public...condoms on your clothes...black lipstick; body piercing, hair braided or dyed, pants sagging to your knees. Has making a fashion statement gone too far?

Lalynn Jose says, "I wear boxers because they are light and comfortable." While some people dress for comfort, others dress to express themselves. Jeremy Beally says, "I wear condoms on my clothes because I support having safe sex." Others dress to be noticed. Krissy Rush says, "I pierced my eyebrow and my bellybutton to get attention."

Some just want to be different. "I dye my hair different colors because...I want to have my own style," says Michelle Hobbs. Then, again, some want less worry. Breanna Taylor says, "I decided to get braids in my hair because I don't have to worry about combing my hair in the morning."

I say, wear what you want as long as you are comfortable with it.

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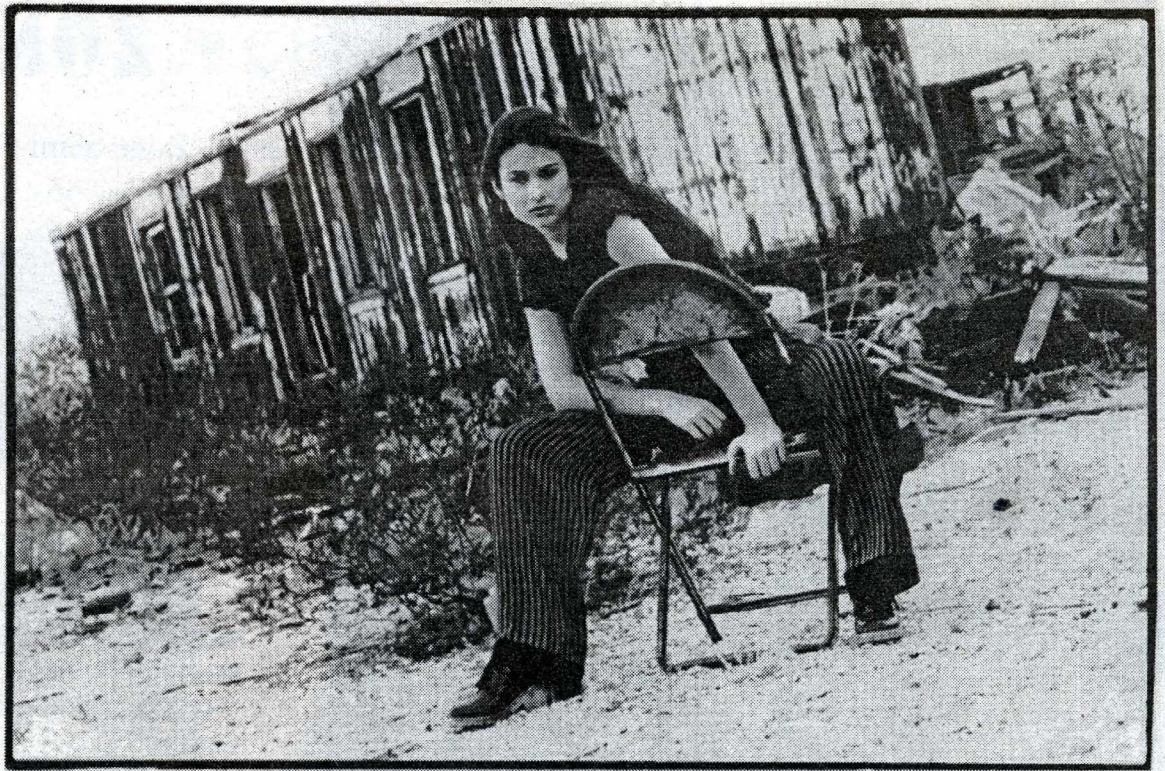
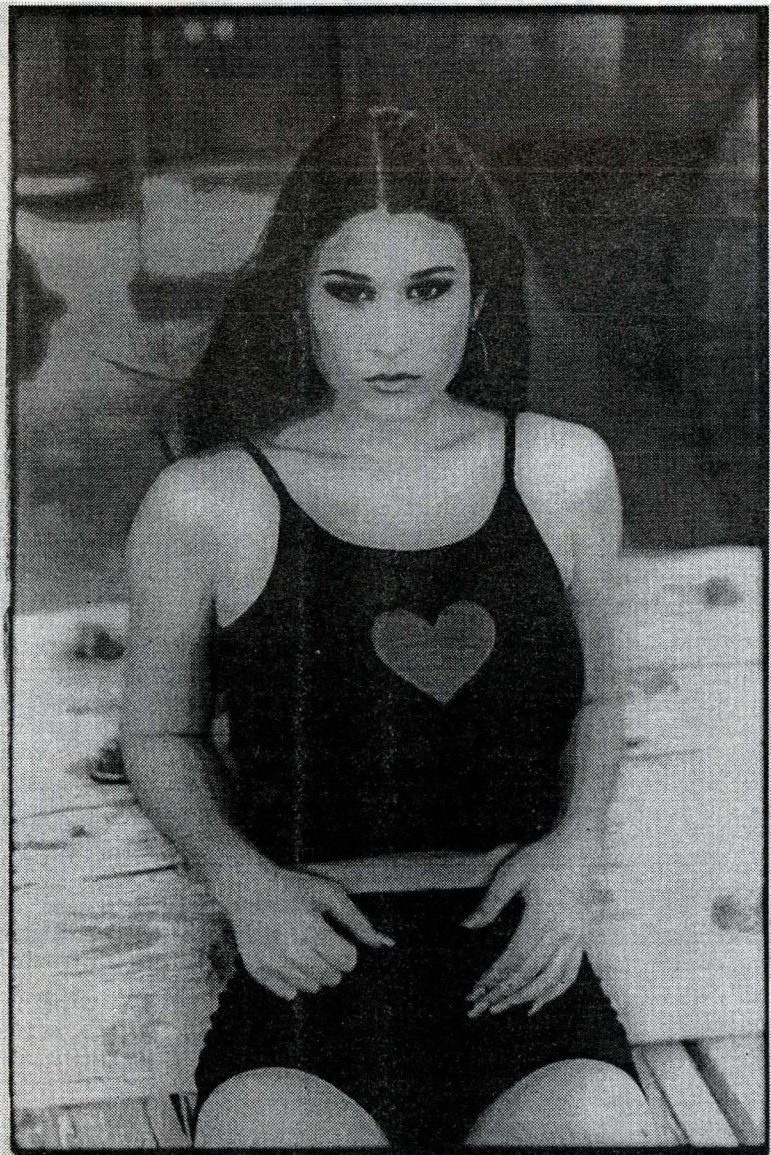
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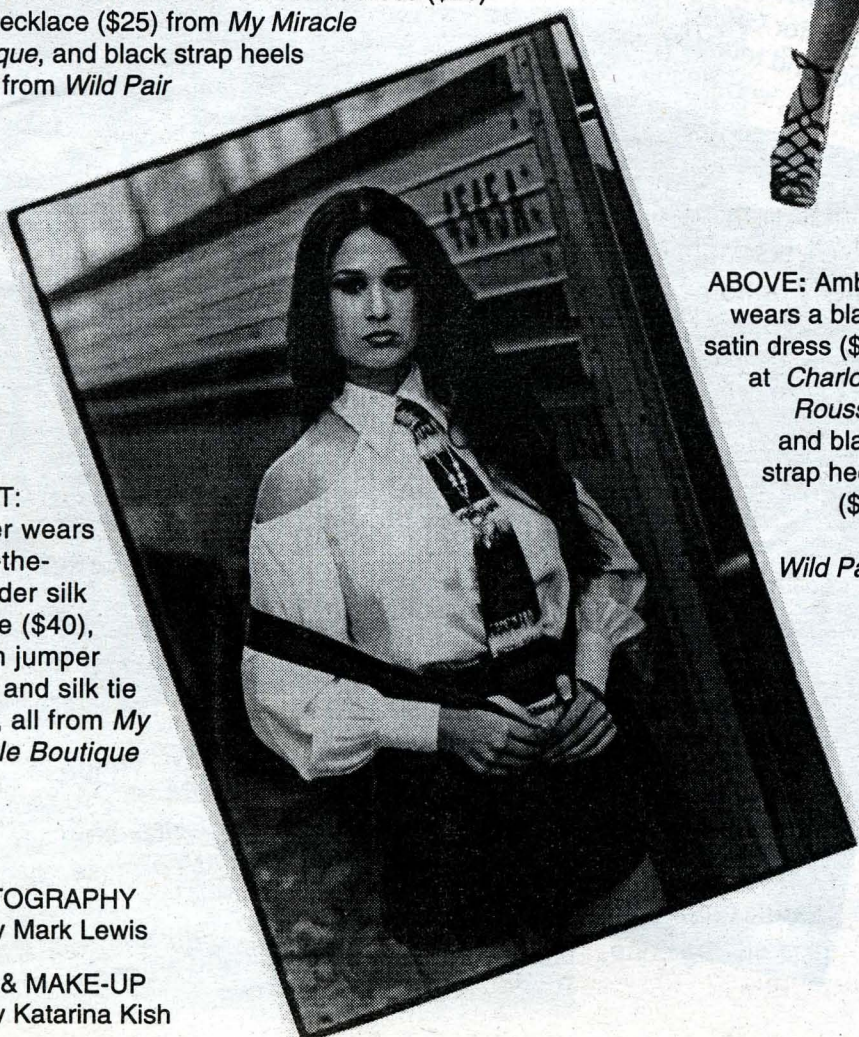
Amber

AMBER WIENER, a sophomore at Clark High School, has been modeling for only six months. Although she doesn't know what her future holds, she says she'll definitely go to college.

ABOVE: Amber wears a black cropped top with matching shorts (\$20 each) from *Contempo*

UPPER RIGHT: The blouse is from *Judy's in the Fashion Show* (\$30), the pants are from *The Express* in the Meadows Mall (\$40) and her shoes (\$40) come from *Wild Pair*.

FAR RIGHT: Amber wears a velvet dress (\$20) and necklace (\$25) from *My Miracle Boutique*, and black strap heels (\$30) from *Wild Pair*



ABOVE: Amber wears a black satin dress (\$50 at *Charlotte Rouse*) and black strap heels (\$30 at *Wild Pair*)

RIGHT: Amber wears in off-the-shoulder silk blouse (\$40), cotton jumper (\$35) and silk tie (\$30), all from *My Miracle Boutique*

PHOTOGRAPHY
by Mark Lewis

HAIR & MAKE-UP
by Katarina Kish

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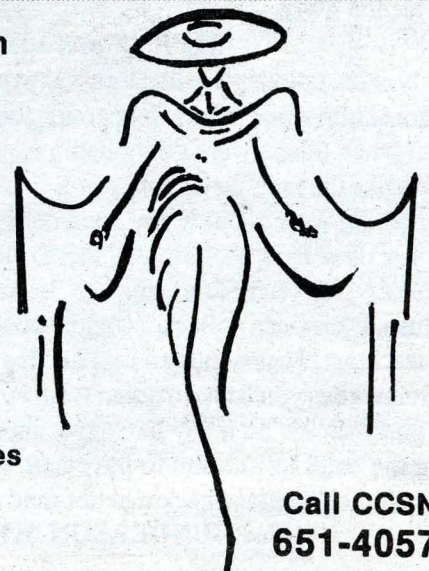
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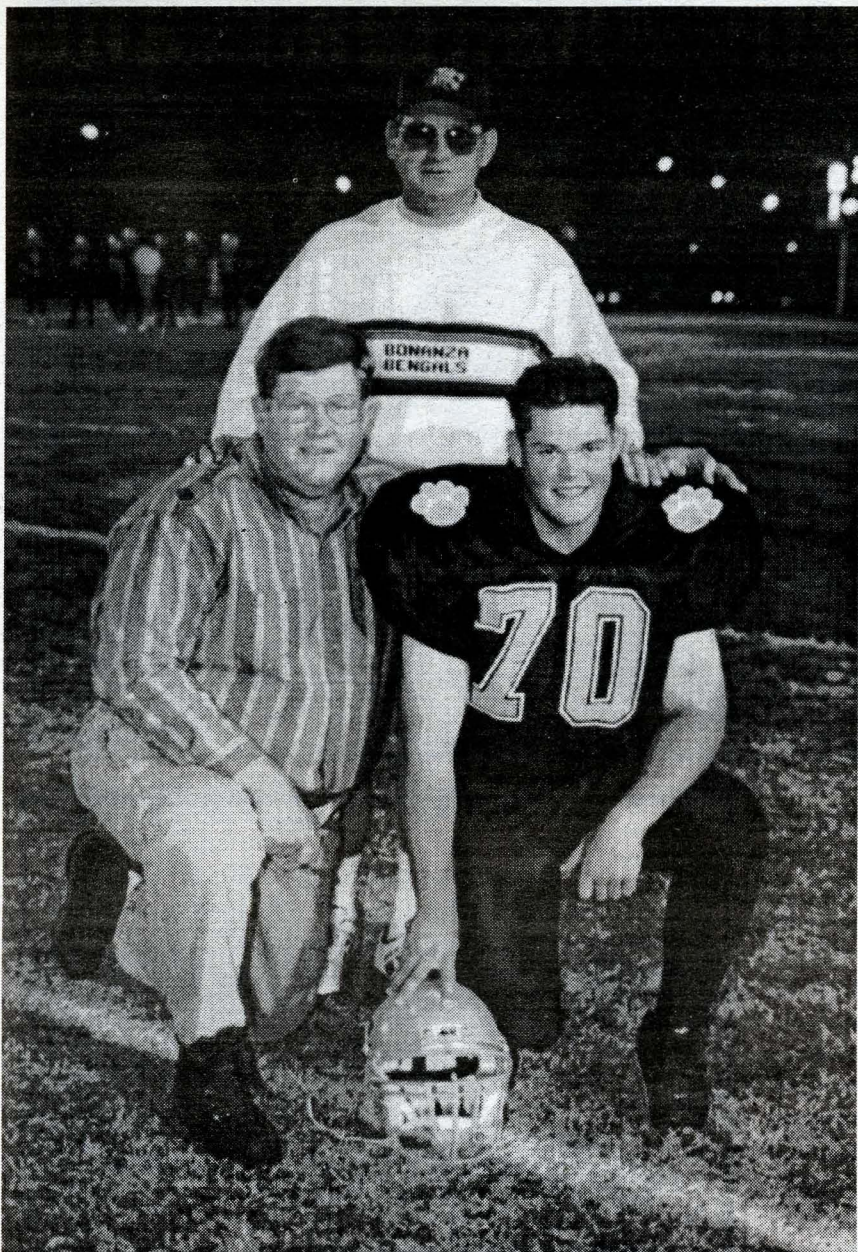
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Hey, Coach, here we are again!

By Elizabeth Rusiecki

Barry and Ben Gunderson are more than father and son. They're mirror images. Football fanatics, both played offensive tackle. Both wore jersey #70. Both hate the seven-man sled. Both love the adrenaline of "the hit." There's something more they have in common. Actually, *someone*: their football coach.

Meet Barry Gunderson, 43, the principal at Las Vegas High School. In 1969, as a Valley High School senior, he shared the state football championship with his teammates and a line coach named Rick Traasdahl. Now, meet Ben Gunderson, 17. It's 1995 and the senior at Bonanza High School has just finished his final season -- under a head coach named Rick Traasdahl.

In other words, the Gundersons share the same football coach, just 25 years apart. They also share respect and gratitude to a man they say has had a tremendous effect on their lives -- as football players, as father and son, and as friends.

"Since that season, we've been lifelong friends," Barry says of Traasdahl. "That type of coach always knows his kids, and always takes care of them." His old coach, he adds, helps you through the rough spots, then takes no credit for the glory.

"He'll chew your butt..."

"My expectations were that Ben was in good hands with a guy that would take care of him when things were going good and a guy that would take care of them when things were going bad."

He's like the kids' dad at school," Ben says. "He'll chew your butt if you do something wrong, but if you need help, he's there for you."

Formerly at Rancho, Barry Gunderson joined Las Vegas in June. He has spent his 21-year career as an educator, inside and outside the classroom. His wife, June, is the dean at Becker Middle School, and she, too, has dedicated a life to teaching. Their son John is in his freshman year.

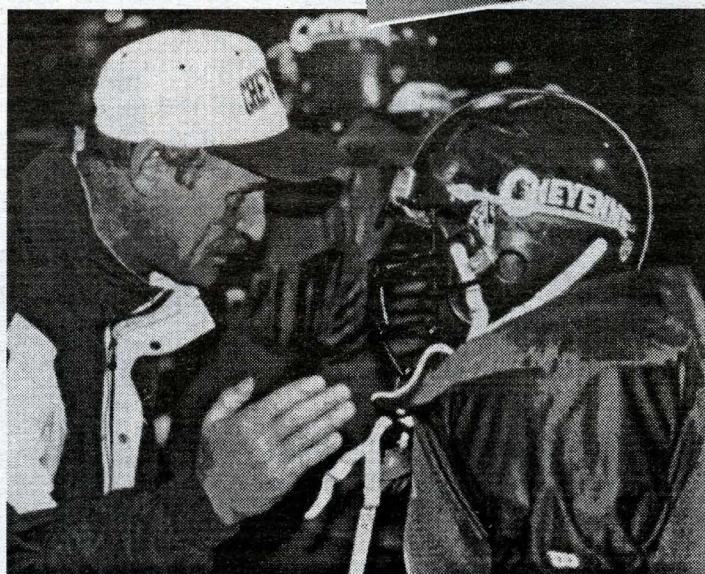
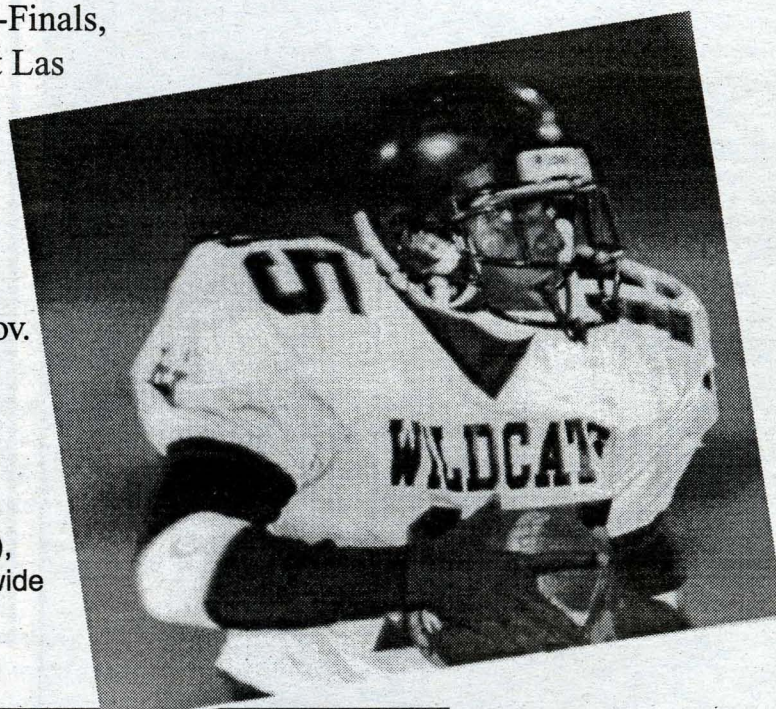
"Sometimes you'll take it easier from your coach than you will from your dad," Barry says. "So a guy like me is happy that Ben has Traasdahl...he's getting the stuff I want him to have and we don't have to have a strained relationship. He comes back a better man every time he has practice."

(See GUNDERSON 'KIDS,' page 23)

ZONE SEMI-FINALS: CHEYENNE

In the Zone Semi-Finals, Green Valley beat Las Vegas and Cheyenne beat Western. The victors played for the Southern Zone Championship Nov. 11 at Cheyenne.

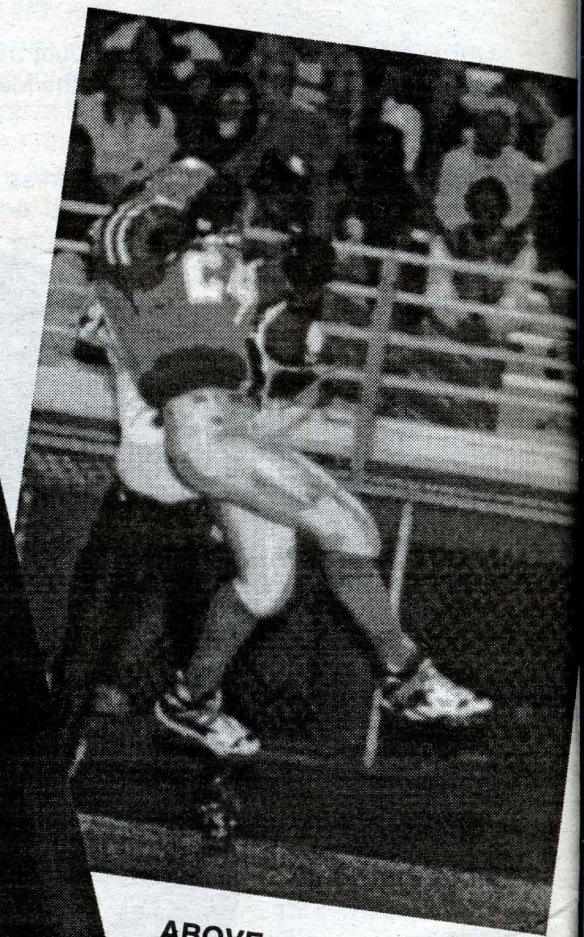
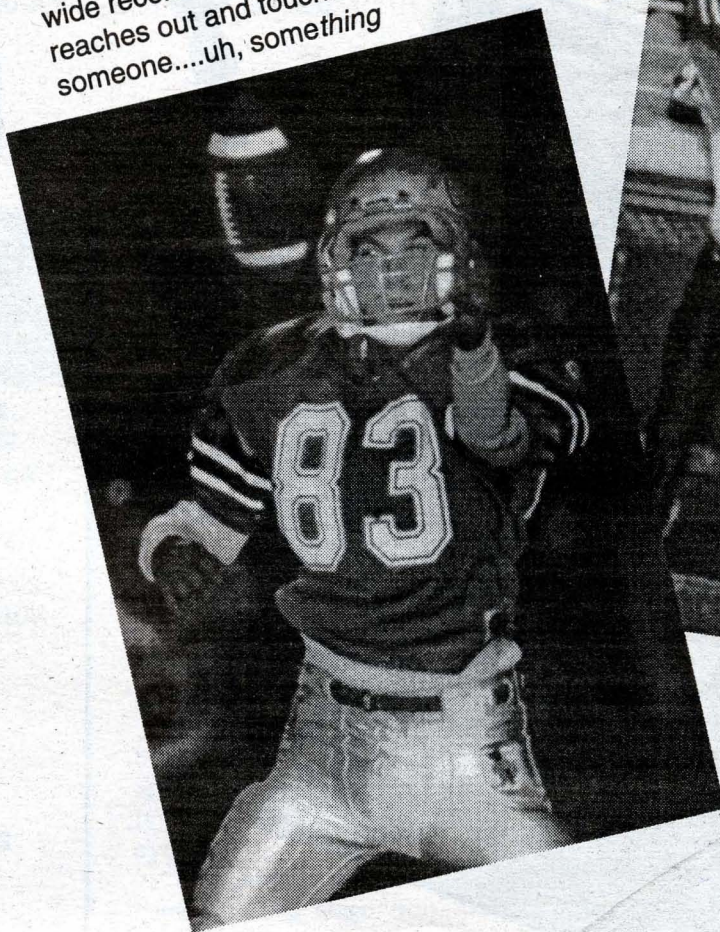
RIGHT: Fareed Rashada (Senior), Las Vegas High wide receiver.



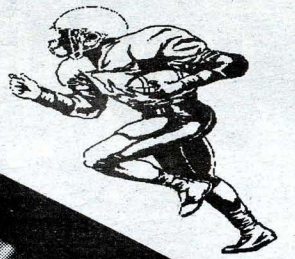
LEFT: Scott Orr, Cheyenne's assistant coach, has some words of wisdom (and tactics) for his player.

RIGHT: Cheyenne Michael Redding. He plays outside and tight end for Redding takes it from head coach George Perry

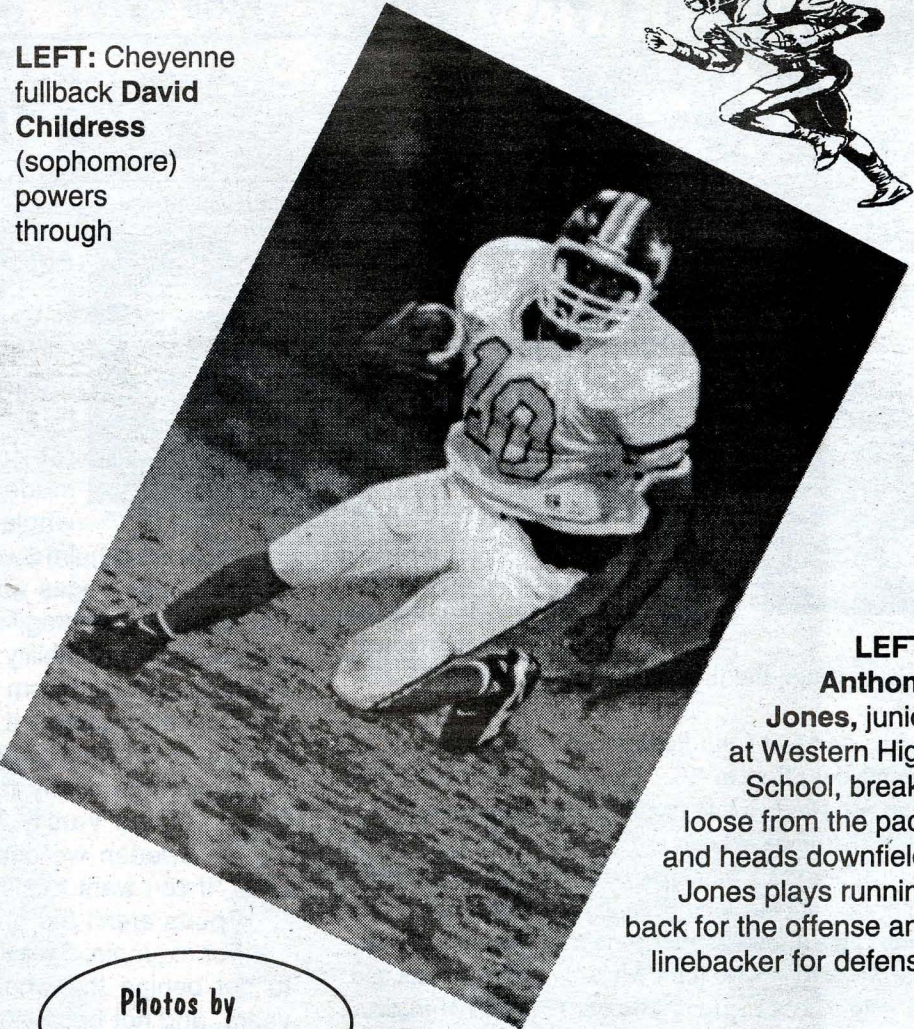
BELOW: Lyle Truax (Junior), a wide receiver for Green Valley, reaches out and touches someone....uh, something



ABOVE: Jason Palomares (senior), a wide receiver on the Green Valley squad, takes a flying leap backwards and connects...with the ball and an opposing player



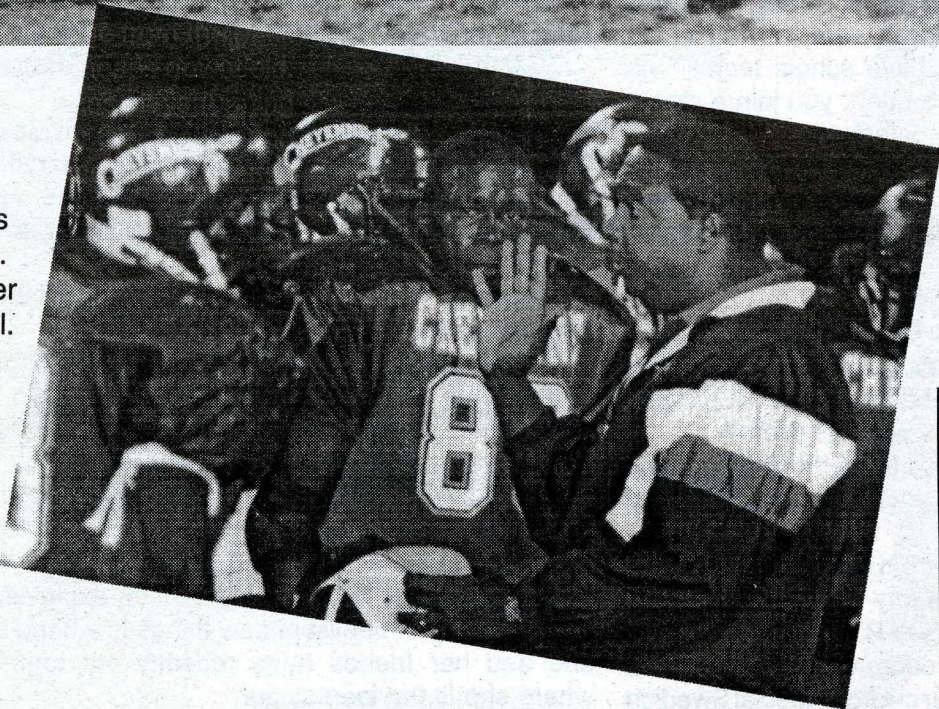
LEFT: Cheyenne fullback **David Childress** (sophomore) powers through



LEFT: **Anthony Jones**, junior at Western High School, breaks loose from the pack and heads downfield. Jones plays running back for the offense and linebacker for defense

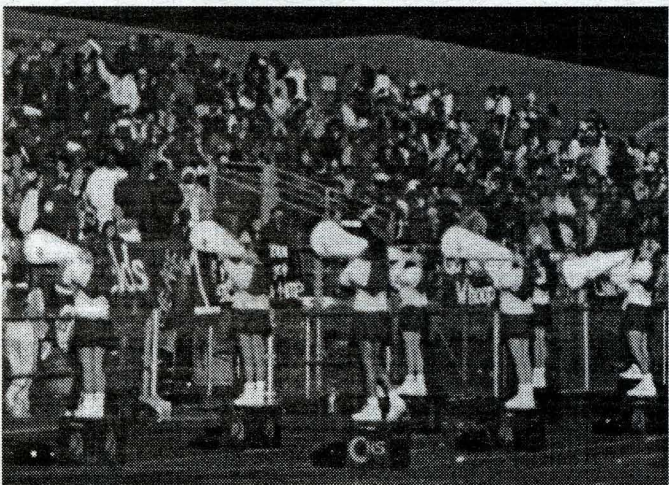
Photos by David Phillips

ne's #83 is g (senior). e linebacker Chaparral. is cue



ABOVE: **Larry Thomas**, head coach of the Green Valley Gators, reviews a play with senior **Jeff Carter**, defensive back

LEFT: The roar of the crowd. Cheerleaders at Cheyenne get the spirit



"Hey, Bry, where are you goin' to college?"
"UNLV, Channon. They've got a great Environmental Studies program."
"Cool!"

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A TALE OF TWO EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Red Hot Chili Peppers 'more zoomorphic'

By Jamie Mattern



To follow a major breakthrough hit usually causes problems for even the most promising artist. Case in point: Jane's Addiction, the band that cracked the mainstream door open for alternative music with 1991's *Ritual De La Habitual*. The problem was the pressure...the band self-destructed

thanks to drugs and the fear of living up to its expectations.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers also released a monumental effort in '91. The hit single-filled *Blood Sugar Sex Magic* made them the rock stars they always should have been.

But four years have passed and brilliant guitarist John Fuscianta has long been departed from the group. This allows former Jane's Addiction axe-man Dave Navarro -- who joins Messrs. Smith, Keidis and Flea -- to record the long-awaited *One Hot Minute*.

The album kicks off with the eerie *Warped*. The explosive first single deals with pretending to be strong after a relationship has changed your life. "My tendency for dependency is offending me. I'm pretending to be strong and free from my dependency. It's warping me," speaks Keidis in the song's strange opener.

Unlike their last effort, which was primarily a funk album, *One Hot Minute* is much more musically zoomorphic, featuring different textures of songs, such as the jazz of *Walkabout*, the acoustics of *My Friends*, and the single bass song, *Pea*, an interesting effort by Flea as he deals with anger caused by rednecks and homophobics.

In addition, there are traditional Peppers-type songs with a twist of Jane's. *One Big Mob* is the catchy line to a song with goove so strong it can make a dead man dance.

All in all, it's a darker album, with songs like *Tearjerker* and the River Phoenix tribute, *Transcending*. It needs a couple spins because of its "out-there-ness." But it's a fine follow-up and a very interesting album.

Christian



ANDRE LUNDQUIST

There are some things that Las Vegans tend to take advantage of. For example, driving at the age of sixteen and three-dollar Big Mac meals, but for junior foreign exchange student **Andre Lundquist**, it's a whole new world.

From Stockholm Sweden, 16 year old Lundquist comes to Las Vegas with an open mind.

"I'm still learning," said Lundquist about his English speaking ability. He might still be learning our language, but from his school schedule, you'd think he had mastered it. With Physiology, American Literature, Drawing II and Architecture (his favorites) Lundquist has plenty to keep him busy, including playing on our Varsity Soccer team.

"In Sweden we don't have school teams," he said. "If you want to play a sport, you join a club."

Sports aren't the only difference.

For example, if we think we can't wait to turn 16 to get behind the wheel, try waiting another two years, and not because you did something illegal.

"There you have to be 18 to get a car," Lundquist said. "I have a permit at home."

Life without a car is unimaginable for some students. How would they go to lunch, out with friends or on dates without depending on a parent? And what about big events such as Prom?

"We have a dance once in the beginning," said Lundquist. "You just meet your date outside and go in. It doesn't feel right."

Although the customs from his life and ours may vary, it doesn't mean he's any different in attitude. You may find him listening to R.E.M. or Pearl Jam, his favorite alternative groups, or munching on a greasy burger, which is a far cry from special Swedish pancakes or meatballs.

"I actually like American Food," he said.

By Nicole Christian

KARLA BETONZO

How would you like to go to a place where the air is cleaner, you feel safe, and there are great looking guys? For foreign exchange student **Karla Betonzo**, that place is here in Las Vegas.

"It's dangerous to go out alone after dark (in Mexico), like to eat," said Betonzo.

Betonzo is a 15 year old sophomore from Mexico City who is following her family's footsteps by coming to the U.S.A. as an exchange student. "It's like a family tradition," she said.

I wonder, is it also a tradition to take four honor classes while still learning the language? That's what she's doing, but seems to be handling int.

"Math is different because of the terms," Betonzo said. "English is, of course, harder."

Math isn't the only thing that's different in Mexico City. For example, prom is put on by everybody because money is earned throughout the year. Dances for teenagers are held in a disco for seven dollars. (How many pesos?)

Meeting new people is one of the reasons Betonzo came to Las Vegas.

"I came here to make friends and learn English and to learn about different cultures," she said.

At home, Betonzo is just as active as she is here. She plays basketball and is a cheerleader for her school. They don't cheer at every football game; they do things a little differently.

"We have a track competition and the cheerleaders get to dance there," she explained.

At the top of her list of new things is a band that she and her friends have recently put together where she is the lead singer.

She'll be busy and have plenty of stuff to talk about when she returns home in June.



Betonzo

Pestering pimple pops up on picture day

By Laura Henderson

Mt. Rainier has taken up residence on my face.

As I stared into the bathroom mirror I wondered, yet again, why this pimple chose me. Or had I chosen it when I asked the man at TCBY to super-size my chocolate sundae? "Oh, and can you make that to go? I've got a pizza waiting at home."

OK, so maybe I did deserve the pimple punishment...But couldn't I serve my sentence at a more convenient time? Like say my wedding day? That day happened to be a very important time for my face. This was the day my face, zit or no zit, would stare at a miniature Big Bird perched on top of a heartless camera and be forever captured in a crazy, close eyed expression. Don't forget, there will be copy for each student inside their handy, dandy yearbook.

A honking horn snapped me out of my moment of self-pity and into a moment of petrified panic. With just a few seconds left I, a mere mortal, would be challenged to make a blemish be gone.

I threw open the medicine cabinet with the haste of a hurried horse gone haywire and searched frantically for anything that could help me out of this mess.

Bactine? No, nothing toxic. A razor blade? Too painful. Gauze? I wasn't hemorrhaging. Crest? This was a battle against acne, not plaque. HONK! HONK!! After I'd forever tossed aside fruitless findings, only one item was left. It was my fate, it was my destiny, it was my only hope; it was my mom's brown eyeliner.

A minute later I slid through the window of my friend's '72 Buick (the door hasn't opened since '85).

"You've got a big chunk of chocolate on your cheek," she was kind enough to point out.

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A PAGE FULL OF OPINIONS ON CHANGES

...on sleeping in, closed campus, and hallway smooching



Park

By **Richard Park**

Chaparral has undergone many changes this year. Cops on bikes, silent bells and the recent request to stop bashing freshmen all leave Chaparral students with mixed opinions. Recently, more changes were under consideration from the Clark County School Board.

PROPOSAL #1:

SLEEP LATE, STUDY LATER

The first (proposed by CHS Principal Mike West) would have changed the school starting time from 7:20am to about 8am. This extra 40 minutes of sleep could have benefitted some students.

The purpose of this proposal was to reduce the amount of tardies and absences caused by getting students who weren't getting enough sleep. Unfortunately, because of the extra 40 minutes in the morning, students would be forced to stay an additional 40 minutes at the end of the day, making the trade seem less attractive.

Several Chaparral students were interviewed on the subject.

"Now they decide to do it, when I'm graduating!" said senior **Gina Bell**.

Other students were also not opposed to the idea.

"It means a half an hour of extra sleep," said **Sara Sylvis**, junior.

"Starting school at 8am will not only benefit the students, but America as a whole. It gives everyone a chance to eat breakfast, and, as we all know, breakfast is the most important meal of the day," said **Jerry Jory**, senior.

"It would be all right if we still got out at 1:30pm," said **Nick Brown**, sophomore.

But others disliked the idea.

"I would rather get out earlier than sleep in," said junior **Mike Tomba**.

"I think it's find the way it is," said freshman **Rene Marrulo**. "If they change the time to 8am, we would get out later."

"No, it sucks, because kids work after school. I got stuff to do at 2," said **Carla Torasco**, senior.

PROPOSAL #2:

LUNCHTIME 'CAPTIVES'

The second proposal, the least favorable, requires that all high schools in Clark County, including Chaparral, have a closed campus.

This means that all students who leave school for lunch will be forced to

stay here. The problem with this is that the cafeteria cannot seat the 2,600 students who attend Chaparral. The courtyard helps, but still will crowd students. On top of that, feeding that many more people will put more of a burden on the food staff.

Although high schools in the country have the option of beginning closed-campus lunches next semester, West said that Chaparral will instate the closed-campus for the fall of 1996.

West said he has considered forming a committee of students to form solutions for this new policy's problems.

As with the first proposal, Chaparral students were interviewed on this topic.

"I don't think it will be good. It would be way too crowded on campus," said **Mike Tomba**, junior.

"I don't care because I'm usually doing work at lunch anyway," said senior **Carla Torcaso**.

"That's gonna suck. A) It's already too crowded. B) The food sucks. C) You're gonna have more disciplinary problems because everyone's around. They'll loiter in the halls, and everywhere else," said **Eric Narramore**, senior.

"First, even now, anyone who wants to leave campus can and does anyway," said **Melanie Koep**. "Second, the kids who don't want to be here aren't going to be here anyway. Closing campus isn't going to stop those problems."

"The concept of a closed campus won't make a difference in student attendance because if they choose not to attend school, nothing will stop them," said **Jackie Sripramong**, senior.

Other students said they felt that a closed campus' negative effect stretched further than just a crowded lunch.

"A closed campus would strip students of their independence and provide them with a false microcosm of the real world," said **Katie Feldman**, senior.

"I think that they are overstepping their boundaries over the students," said **Mikeal Lowery**, senior.

While it appears that students do not like the new closed-campus policy, some teachers and administrators see the reasoning behind it.

"Either the students aren't coming back or there are truancies after lunch and severe tardies," said science teacher **Pat Savage**. "The private property isn't being respected in the neighborhood. There's been severe shoplifting from

the local businesses, and a lot of gang activity. There have also been a lot of off-campus fights in the parking lot of the shopping center."

STUDENTS AS 'NEIGHBORS'

Assistant Principal **Mary Lovelady** said that while only a small percentage of our students are involved, there have been many incidents this year which indicate the need for a closed-campus at lunch.

For example, **Smith's** has had to hire two extra security guards because of problems during lunch, and many residents and business have complained of excessive littering by Chaparral students. Also, several students walking alone at lunch have been "jumped" and others arrested, in the past two weeks.

Lovelady also said that according to attendance records, approximately 75 students a day, who attended morning classes, do not return to school after lunch.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Women's Tennis (Reporter: Steve Gomez)

The Chaparral Girls' Tennis team has just finished off another successful season, going 6-2 in the Sunrise Conference and sending several players to Zone in this year's Individual Zone Tournament, where the competitors for State are decided.

"I expected this team to do well," said Coach **Robert Bloom**. "They came together as a unit, and had a lot of fun this year."

The team was led once again by senior **Jessie Coon**, who, for her third straight year, has gone undefeated in regular season play. She entered the tournament representing all players from Southern Nevada as the #1 seed.

Women's Golf (Reporter: Andrea Bednar)

The 1995-1996 Women's Varsity Golf team has had an extremely successful season. They are 7-3 overall, and 5-1 in division. Their only loss was to Green Valley, and they now hold 2nd place.

The team's starting lineup consists of: **Sara Ritter**, **Melissa Ritter**, **Crystal Bowen**, **Lisa Gamett**, **Amy McSharry** and **Erica Milne**.



Gomez



Bednar

Rent A Room!

[Following is a Letter to the Editor of the Chaparral Express]

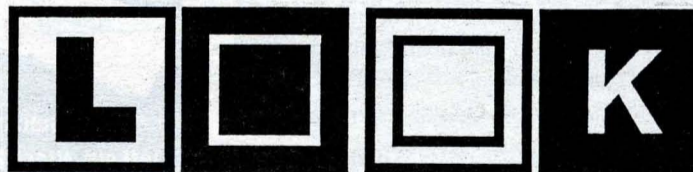
I want to vent here. The hallways of Chaparral have become something less than desirable to walk through. Why? Because of all the PDA. I mean, it's disgusting.

Between every class, before and after school, and during lunch—it's like a big game of tonsil hockey. For crying out loud, people! Were you born attached at the lip? Is it really necessary to wrap yourselves around each other? Have you no sense of decency?

Look, kiddies, I know you like boy/girlfriends. I know you're all human. I know the feeling. But when in school, do as the scholars do, and LEARN. This isn't a breeding ground, it's a school.

I wish I could say I see promise in the kids I see in the halls, but I can't. I can't even see their faces. It's beyond gross, and I only have one more thing to say: Rent a Room.

Carla Torcaso, senior



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Gammon

International Studies on the Move?

By Shane Gammon

Over 100 concerned parents of students in the International Studies program recently gathered to express concern for the future of the International Studies program at LVA.

An unknown parent not associated with LVA proposed to a school board trustee to move the International Studies program to Valley High School to work side-by-side with the Travel & Tourism and International Baccalaureate programs.

Parents came to this meeting to ask questions, be informed, and join a group to fight to preserve the I.S. program at LVA.

Many parents expressed their concerns for the future of LVA by saying, "If it isn't broken, then why fix it?" They state that by pulling I.S. out of LVA, the successful magnet program would be weakened by not being able to offer the LVA students the ability to diversify their education.



Smoke Out

by Sybrina Bernabei

I have a problem with this new anti-smoking campaign implemented

by the government and adults, aimed towards minors in this country. This is the biggest misuse of power I have ever witnessed. Wake up and smell the carbon monoxide!

We have adults telling us we shouldn't smoke cigarettes, we have the administrators telling us we can't wear tobacco-related clothing, we have advertisers being bullied by the government to not promote them to us! This is all good and dandy, but it's basically just smoke and mirrors, because we are being directly marketed by a much more dangerous felon, marijuana.

For some reason, this illegal, dangerous drug has made quite a market in our generation (if only you could buy stock in it). Young people mob the malls, and in nearly every store, they can buy tee-shirts with pot leaves on it, and they can adorn their necks with hemp bags. They are just basically walking promoters of this drug. And yet, do they get stopped in the halls by teachers and administrators? Is the government doing anything about these human billboards? Promoting marijuana is not freedom of expression, it is endorsement of a substance that is dangerous to your health according to the FDA, same as those cancer sticks.

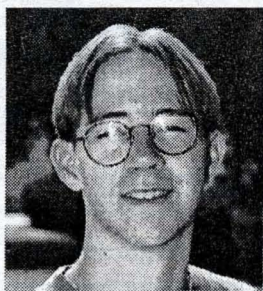
Stolen stuff at LVA

By Sybrina Bernabei

Watch your stuff! On many occasions, jewelry, wallets and other items have been stolen from the LVA grounds.

"Raise awareness," warns School Police Officer Richard Stein. "It seems most of the items are being taken after school in the theater area."

During this time, the after-school rehearsals are occurring, which puts the performers away from their belongings. It is easy to walk into the dressing rooms and take items that don't belong to them. So far, the most devastating losses have been that of musical instruments that were not being watched.



Wilson

Students moonlight in Sign Design Theater

Bryan Wilson

Sign Design Theatre Company is a production company that presents full length plays using sign language. Eleven Academy students participate in these outreach shows around the community. These shows mostly consist of songs and dance numbers from Broadway shows and Disney productions, which are generally appealing to all audiences.

"SDT is like a family where you can go and hang out and have fun," says Vaniesha Campbell.

Like other SDT performers who attend LVA, she finds that it can be difficult to share her time between school and hobby. Ryan Junker, another member, has a simple solution: "I make time for both."



Guest Editorial

Ryan Lee Brooks

Teens of the 90's are facing a lot of problems that go beyond homework, class presentations and other dilemmas.

A frightening situation—teens being pushed out of their home for a variety of reasons—puts the teen in jeopardy in a variety of ways. Not only is the young person forced out of familiar surroundings, but he/she is affected mentally and emotionally in and out of the home.

The lines of communication need to remain open when teens and parents aren't seeing eye to eye. The queasy stomach, the uncertainties, the right (or wrong) words are all hard to face, but not facing the issue itself can cause even greater problems.

Admitting that you're wrong is hard to do, but sometimes it's the better choice. Getting the family back to "normal" may take time, but effort from all parties should make the results worth while.



Brooks

DO YOU KNOW THE CONSTITUTION?

Jennifer Knighton
Sybrina Bernabei



Knighton

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."



Bernabei

Universal Declaration of Equal Rights

Are they Constitutional rights, or are they limitations? Under the Constitution of the United States we are given certain rights that are guaranteed by the first ten amendments.

These rights are given to us only when we are considered adults, or there are circumstances that put us in the adult world.

We are covered, as citizens, by these rights, but there are restrictions, the most obvious being we cannot infringe others' Constitutional rights in use of our own. All people must respect the rights of others in order to keep their own.

On a school campus, this is seen in it's extreme. Most people in school are considered children...once we set foot on campus, our rights are restricted.

"Education takes precedence over rights," replies Mr. Atkins, government teacher, and the Supreme Court has upheld that idea. We are, in a sense, a captive audience.

We have a structure in school that puts many people together in a small space. In this type of environment, it may be easy to infringe upon others' spaces and others' rights.

The framers of the Constitution tried to make life good for all, at the expense of none, so our given rights have limitations.



Letters from you

Editor-

Being black at the Academy is hard because we seem left out. Black History Month is during the shortest month of the year, and just for that one month we get to talk about our ancestors.

Being in a white history class talking about slavery or Dr. Martin Luther King is not exciting. Everybody knows about that, but not about Souljourner Truth, Malcom X or the first black astronaut.

—Anonymous

Editor-

I think we should have some kind of African-American dance class or elective. I think black people should get to learn about themselves and not be criticized or feel ashamed.

—Anonymous

Editor-

I think we should have an African elective course at the Academy. We have a French, German, Russian, and Spanish Clubs, but no African Club.

This school is supposed to offer a little for all cultures, but they seem to exclude the African-American population.

Speaking for most of the African-Americans here at the Academy, we would like an African elective course and an African dance course.

Don't you think by not having something for us, it's discrimination?

—Anonymous

—My mailboxes were full of letters regarding African-American courses. In response I have copied them and passed them on to the administration for consideration. While on the subject...how about an Italian-American Club?—Ed

Watch!

To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything Julie Newmar

Monica Taylor



Taylor

To Wong Foo, starring Wesley Snipes, Patrick Swayze and John Lequizomo, is another drag-queen comedy but really shows the reality of being a drag queen. The three characters, Noxema (Snipes), Vita (Swayze) and Chi Chi (Lequizomo) come together after participating in a drag beauty pageant (which has the infamous queen RuPaul as a guest judge) and thus begin a road trip to the finals that are in Hollywood.

During this venture, they are faced with prejudices and ignorance due to their nature. It is this hurt and shame that they feel shows the real pain and feelings involved in t "drag" life. Along with the topics of "alternative living," racism and spousal abuse are examined.

A big event in the movie is the Strawberry Pie Festival, which is set in a small town where they stop off at on their way to California. During this gathering, they again face prejudices but find support in an unlikely source.

The name in the title, Julie Newmar, makes a cameo in this amazingly funny look at a drag queen's life.

Fashion File

Sarah Valde

Fashions walk in and fashions walk out, but some just parade through the decades popping up every few years. One of those fads now again in circulation is knee-highs.



Knee-highs can be purchased in almost any women's clothing store. The prices of these everlasting fashion statements are around \$12, but the striped or polka-dotted ones will cost more. Thigh-highs, a longer version of the knee-high, are around \$14.

To really be transported back to the days of original rock n' roll and milk shakes, add a pair of platforms and an outrageous mini-skirt. It'll be a dazzling outfit that even your parents will like.

For all of those economically challenged shoppers, have no fear. There are always alternatives for staying with this fad. Knee-highs can be found not only in the malls, but trendy boutiques and second hand stores for half the price.

Will we really use this in life?

Sybrina Bernabei

Answers to why you need to know what "X" means, why we study events of the past and why Shakespeare and Latin are still taught in classrooms

So we sit in our classes, day after day, trying to retain information, which our teachers tell us we will really need in life. But will we really?

I went out and did some "field research" (via the Internet) to see what successful adults really use now in everyday life that they learned in school.

Irene, a systems analyst, says, "You use algebra a lot in your life."

She claims she never uses Shakespeare, except for when watching Jeopardy!

So what about Latin? Why do they still teach that?

"I love Latin...good for crosswords," claims Judy, a cost analyst.

So what about history?

"They need history for them to understand how we got to where we are now. The trials and tribulations it took to achieve the status," says Sharon, a public relations analyst.

So maybe sometimes what teachers preach isn't necessary to living a successful life, but then again, maybe it's what you get from it, and not what it is. Crosswords, anyone?

Listen!

The Artist Formerly Known as Prince

"Just because he's now a symbol, doesn't mean he can't crank out good music."

THE GOLD EXPERIENCE



Amanda Arzberger

In his first release in two years, The Artist Formerly Known as Prince proves that just because he's now "the symbol," doesn't mean he still can't crank out good music.

A diverse mix of R & B, rock, funk and ballads makes the album a must-have for any TAFKAP fan. Included on the album is his 1994 hit, "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World." With other songs like "Endorphinmachine" and "Now," TAFKAP's lyrics and smooth beats have the listeners jumping out of their chairs to dance. Other songs like "We March" and "Dolphin" tackle racism and world issues.

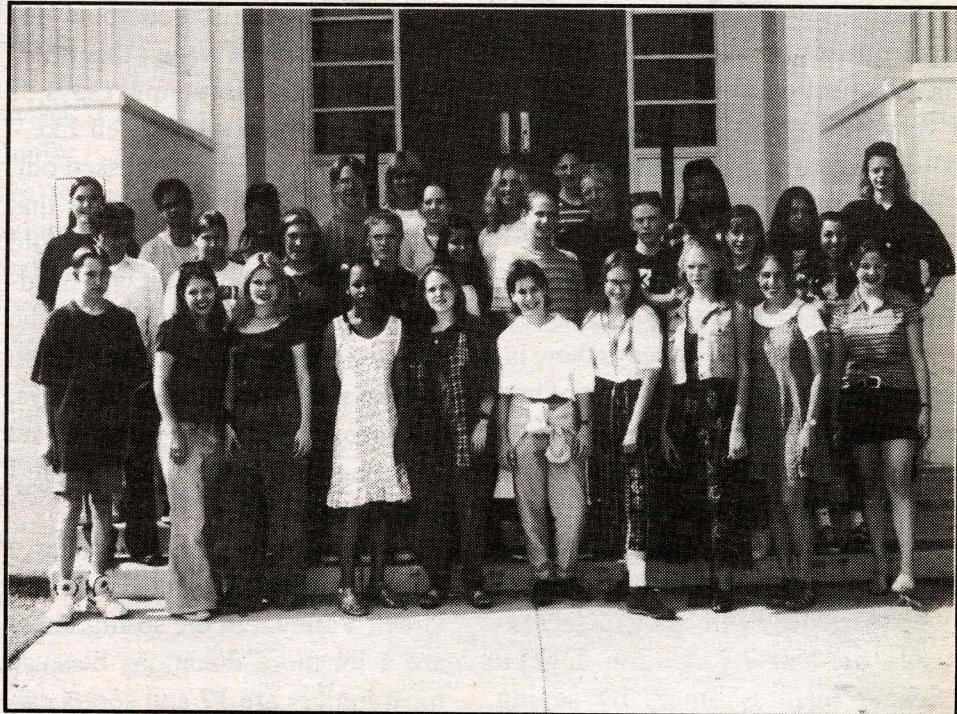
One of the main reasons TAFKAP's latest album wasn't out sooner was due to a battle with the record company over deadlines and yearly quotas of albums released. Through his song "Gold Experience," he states his frustrations about them (with a couple of screams thrown in here and there).

This guitar-playin', song-singin', lyric-writin' guy may have changed his name, but the music will always have that ground-breaking sound.

Student Council helps the community

Along with the responsibilities of governing the students of LVA, the Student Council is also pitching in their time for the community. Among the many projects they plan involvement with is The Festival of Trees and Lights, which helps raise money for people with handicaps.

They are also collecting clothing and food for Shade Tree, a local shelter for women and children.



Las Vegas Academy Journalism Staff

Basic Blues: Population BOOM!

By Aimee Acton

With every new school year, there are problems for students. This year, the crowded hallways make it difficult to get around Basic.

Sophomore **Kim Wesloski** says, "It's really, really hard to get to class; you have to play bumper cars through the halls."

According to Registrar Sylvia McGinty, last year there were 2,027 students enrolled at Basic. This year, there are 2,242...an increase of 215.

Stephanie Slager, junior, comments, "People need to move in the halls and quit standing around."

Miriam Virdin, junior, has a way around this problem. She says, "It's really frustrating to walk behind the crowd, so I detour and just walk outside."



MOVIN' ON DOWN FIELD -- Basic High soccer team played Durango recently. Shown above is Basic senior Mike Dementri as he makes his way through Durango players.

Wrestling with a bright future

By Misty Windholz

Although wrestling did not begin until Nov. 13, Varsity Coach **Jim Duschen** believes the season will be very competitive. Duschen says the matches should be stronger toward the end of the season. "Basic doesn't have a lot of experience, but as the season goes on, the wrestlers improve and do a lot better."

Junior **Ben Anderson** says, "This year we'll be very competitive if everybody dedicates himself and works hard."

Assistant Coach **James Jennings** says a lot is expected from Senior **Toby Fronczek**. "He should make the top five in State," Jennings says.

According to Fronczek, "We're returning a lot of letterman and three state qualifiers. We're starting with the most solid lineup I've seen since I've been here." He believes Basic should do some great things this year. "Most of the returning wrestlers were good," he adds.

Junior **John Williams** says, "We have the best year ahead of us."

Junior **Jeremy Evans** says there is a lot of experience and with a lot of hard work, they will be very competitive.

Senior **Travis Tilman** says, "If we can get everyone to work hard and dedicate themselves to the programs, stay eligible, and remain healthy, then our experiences will carry us far."

Junior Varsity Coach **Daryle Brenner** inspires others by saying, "Don't let go of the rope."

Blood drive tops 1994's donations

By Misty Windholz & Aimee Acton

Basic's Key Club recently held their annual fall blood drive to enable students to help others by donating blood.

This year, 137 pints of blood were donated. According to Key Club advisor, **Kathleen Karstensson**, this was the largest number she has seen in the six years she has been at Basic. She notes, "Usually there are less because of the number of students over 17."

Chairperson **Amber Schutz** says it topped all the other drives they have ever had. Key Club President **Autumn Uyechi** says, "There were only 117 pints donated last fall and 135 pints in the spring, so the 137 pints proved to be a success."

Karstensson explains that Key Club sponsors the blood drive because the philosophy of the club is to do things for the community. "It lets students start the habit of donating," she says. "We're going to need blood in the valley and the high schools are a major source."

Uyechi comments that a lot of students donated just to get out of class, and many felt uneasy about donating. But the students seemed to "pack" together with friends and go. **Karstensson** talked with some students afterwards and says, "A lot of students were scared about donating, but said it wasn't that bad."

Junior **Selina Davenport** says, "I wanted to know what it felt like," and after donating, she passed out. Senior **Kara Hardy** explains that she donated because she felt it would help someone and that it was needed. Senior **Erica Bidwell** says she donated to get out of class, but also to help someone in need. She says, "Before, I felt really good about donating; afterwards, I thought I was going to throw up."

Uyechi hopes there will be a Spring drive even though Basic is at Green Valley. "In the spring, there are a lot more donations because most juniors are 17 and sports can not hold them back," she notes.

Ensenada Blast!

By Lindy Buckles

Buckles



For the last 30 years, students of Basic High School have participated in the Spanish Club, which gives them a chance to learn another culture and improve their language skills at the same time.

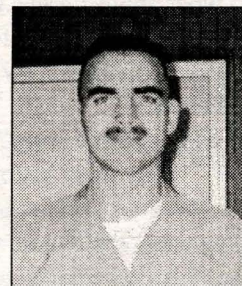
Spanish teacher **Shawn Lee** says, "With today's diverse population, the knowledge of a foreign language is vital in certain occupations."

The Spanish Club goes on an annual trip to Ensenada, Mexico. This is considered a "class excursion," so anyone in Spanish can go, **Lee** says, "Ensenada gives the students an opportunity to use the Spanish they have learned in a real-life situation." Senior **Kim Downer** says, "I had a blast in Ensenada, it was nothing like I thought it would be."

Basic grad says 'Go Marines!'

By Misty Windholz

Marine Sergeant **J.J. Manne**, Basic High graduate, has been visiting Basic High since April 1995 to recruit students and give information about the Marines.



A Marine, since 1988, **Manne** says it has helped him a lot in his life: "It has made me more mature, more responsible, and more patriotic." He's been to ten states and six countries, including Saudi Arabia.

He feels that Marines have more knowledge, discipline, confidence and pride. "Pride is an important part, everybody seems to notice how they walk, act and dress."

"The biggest advantage is having a contract in which you won't have the fear of being laid off or of paying medical expenses," he says.

"Marines are financially secure." The only disadvantage is being away from home," **Manne** says.

Manne also goes to Green Valley High and Boulder City High. He comments that Basic has an excellent ROTC program and wishes more students would look into it.

Manne comes to Basic every Wednesday during both lunches in the cafeteria to give information to any student wanting it. If students don't see him, they can call for information at 565-5560.

COPS ON WHEELS

By Anna Blackburn

One of the first things I noticed this year was that police officers at *The Ranch* were on bikes instead of speeding golf carts.

The main reason for the change was so the officers could be in personal contact with students. When they were in the carts, they could not really talk to and get to know the students. Now, on bikes, they can communicate better.

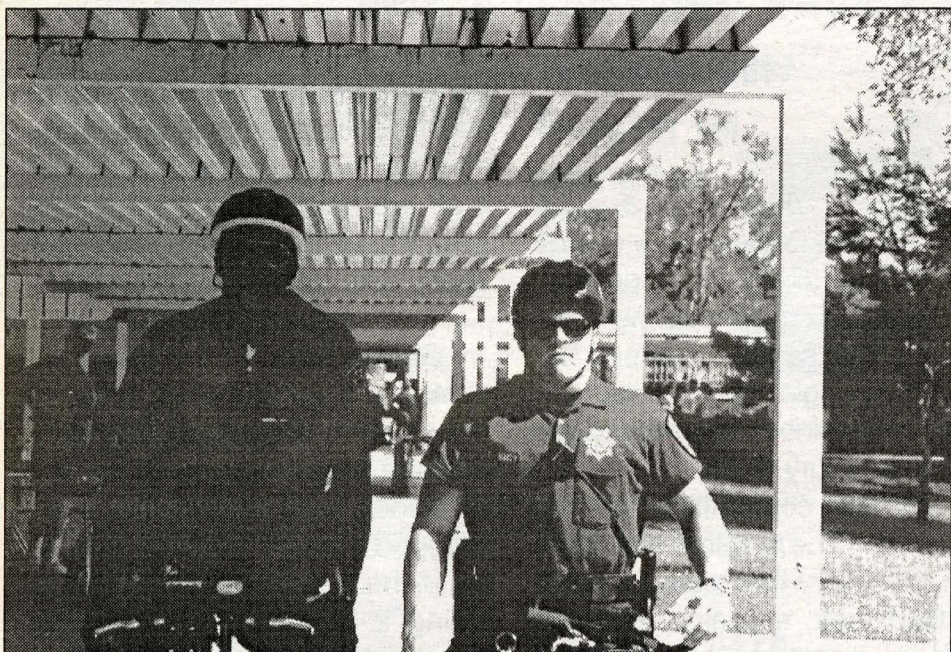
Another reason is they are able to get to a problem faster. Instead of trying to speed through crowds and hallways on a cart, they are on bikes that fit through much more easily.

Officer Charles Robinson says the bikes make them "lean, mean fighting machines," and that he feels 10 years younger. Officer Brent Bucy says, "It makes the day go by faster."

Blackburn



LEFT: *Rancho's* bike officers Charles Robinson (left) and Brent Bucy



TENNIS!

By Anna Blackburn

Women's tennis squad sends five to zone

The women's tennis team at Rancho finished second in its division, after Green Valley. As a reward, the team was allowed to send five singles players to Zone: **Carrie Thompson, Clara Cortes, Colleen Speer** and **Cynthia Speer**; and four doubles players: **Holly Hoskin, Christle Bosley, Aimee Jacobi** and **Laura Gomez**.

"This has been the best year we have had since I started playing tennis," says Bosley. "Next year's team will consist mostly of juniors and seniors and we should be able to take first in Zone."

Men's tennis breaks streak

The men's tennis team showed potential after they broke their 58-game losing streak with two consecutive wins (against Eldorado and Las Vegas), but they ended up losing a heartbreaker for the last Zone play-off spot.

However, **Faruk Williams** and **Ron Cohen** competed in the singles competition; both won their first round but lost in the second round. In doubles, **Sean Breen** and **Mike Villa** lost in the first round.

"The guys definitely played with heart and never once gave in when things looked bleak," says Coach Meier.

Christiansen



Jump for joy ... in jolly old England

By Holley Alford

Whoever says that spirit-leading does not have its opportunities has not spoken with **Amber Christiansen**, co-captain of the spirit-leaders.

Christiansen recently received the All-American Cheerleader Award ... chosen because of her "leadership skills, great potential and stunting, and defeating obstacles," according to the award presenter. She recently started tumbling, which contributed to her win.

This award gives Christiansen the chance to go to England: during Thanksgiving week she will participate in two parades in London.

"I am happy for her," says co-captain Dawn Brown. "She has worked hard and deserves it."

"I feel honored and excited to be representing my school," Christiansen says. "Spirit-leading is an ultimately challenging sport and I have learned dedication, leadership and, most of all, determination from it."



Don't say "You can't" to Lionel Pittman

By Veronica Perez

A remarkable man graduated from Rancho High School in 1986. His name is **Lionel Pittman**, a former special education student. He tried his best to look past the comments, name calling, and constant reminders that he would never accomplish anything. Lionel has gone farther than most people expected him to.

His years in high school were not perfect. But are anybody's? Due to his disability, he was teased about the way he spoke...but looked past the taunting.

Lionel was motivated and influenced by teachers and friends. He was ready to succeed...but not sure what he wanted to do with his life.

At 21, Lionel figured it out. After a job at a grocery store and a few attempts at a military career, he decided it would be best to pursue his education.

Now Lionel is attending the Community College, working on his Associate's Degree for a career in broadcast journalism. In the spring of 1994, he was CCSN's Student of the Month. He has a job and is still making high C's in college.

In 1993, Lionel met Bryan Gumbel at a Black Journalist Association conference. Gumbel's advice to Lionel was, "If you want to be successful, you must read, write and listen." Lionel follows that advice to the fullest.

He has succeeded this far due to his belief that if you work hard and not listen to what other people say about you, you can accomplish anything. This is his advice to everyone.

Lionel Pittman is a remarkable man who has faced and conquered all odds. He is inspiring to us all and we wish him the best of things to come.

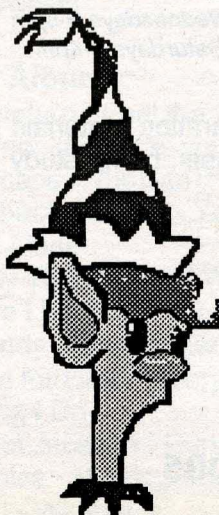
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A taste of politics

By *Karolina Kurkowski*

Government students recently got their first taste of politics by attending the Nevada Republican Party's Western States Leadership Conference.

Elegant in suits and dresses, Gorman students arrived at the MGM Grand Garden. Most of the seniors took advantage of the complementary breakfast while others loaded up with presidential campaign souvenirs. Then the classes were seated up front, right next to the stage.

After prayer, the colorguard, the Star Spangled Banner and Pledge of Allegiance, the day's politicking began: Nevada's Lt. Governor gave an economy and education report, displaying where the state stood nationally.

Next, the chairman of Oregon's GOP introduced respected journalists from major publications, including Nevada's own columnist John Ralston. These writers discussed how the Republicans stand in the 1996 elections.

When it was time for questions, seniors Meredith Bond, Danielle Storey and Karolina Kurkowski participated, receiving applause for their politically conscious questions.

"I was so nervous, all I could hear was the microphone echoing in my ears," Storey says.

The day ended with Dan Longren presenting an hour-long speech asking to be elected governor of California.

On Saturday (the following day), many students came to hear Republican presidential candidates Morry Taylor, Steve Forbes, Bob Nornan, Phil Gramm and Bob Dole. Some students carried posters and cheered for their favorites.

"This was so much fun... I even got a picture with Gramm!"
-M. Bond-

She's gone where none have gone before

By *Jeff Simonin*

Bishop Gorman senior **Julie Dunn** won her fourth consecutive Individual State Golf title recently. Despite placing fourth in Zone, the defending champion took an early but marginal lead, ahead of the pack by only one stroke on the ninth hole. But after 18, it was all Julie D, as a par 72 was enough to grab the win and send her into golf glory. Despite the attention Julie received prior to the tournament, she wasn't nervous.

"I didn't feel I had to win," she says, "but I definitely wanted to. I always get nervous before tournaments." Four years ago, the freshman was bewildered by the tournament she now is so familiar with. "I didn't even know what State was," she says. "The whole thing was so new to me." But this year is different. "I was trying to accomplish something that had never been done before."

The Lady Gaels also did well, placing third in Zone but seventh out of the eight teams in the state tournament. As for Julie's future, she plans to attend college and is now choosing between national golf powerhouses.



Zing went the strings of...my racquet!

By *Alexandria Drohobyczer, Branden Ledesma and Adam Candee*

Breezing past all tennis competition, Gorman senior **Jacque Haas**...who did not lose a set all season...claimed her first-ever State singles title. The title was especially sweet since Haas missed last year due to an injury.

The doubles competition did not turn out as well. The problem may have been an arm injury that team member **Susan Bartusek**, a senior, received during the competition.

During the first day of the championships, the Gaels won every set in the

Singles and lost only two sets the second day. Team captain **Ashley Bennett** was "really happy to see the championships go the way they did" because the team "gave it all we had! We were a team, even though tennis is an individual sport," she adds.

MEN'S TEAM

Gorman's men's tennis has had some promising developments this year. **David DiMartino**, the number-one player, led his team with an undefeated record and never dropped a set. He earned top ranking in the Sunset Division, without losing a single match, but was overpowered in the finals by last year's singles State runner-up, **Jeff Harbach**.

Bishop Gorman reporters with stories on this page



Kurkowski



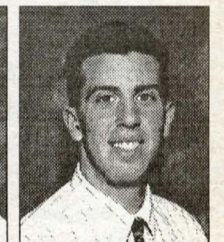
Horn



Raftery



Ledesma



Candee

Note: *Alexandria Drohobyczer* was not present at the photo session

No zombies, no cult, no Jimmy Durante

By *Brian Horn and Molly Raftery*

Juniors and seniors were blindfolded and driven to a remote area where they were forced to take big green pills, drink funny-tasting Kool-Ade, and listen to Jimmy Durante until their brains oozed out onto the floor.

So goes the rumors about Kairos. In reality, Kairos is nothing more than a four-day retreat in which the participants get to know their peers, God, and, most important, themselves.

At first, though, the goings on are shrouded in mystery.

"First they took away our watches," says **Eric Kinnaird**, former Kairos skeptic. Even those who had rhapsodized about the retreat had their doubts when they got there.

David Sawyer, Jim Roban, Shane Christensen, Kendall Soares, Eric Kinnaird and Coach Wagonseller had a team meeting to reconfigure their game plan and try to find a way to escape.

"As basketball coach, I called a time out on the first night," says Wagonseller. In the end, however, the six decided to stay.

The leaders gave talks about their lives and the retreat included masses, meals served up by those "cute" little nuns, and plenty of free time.

At the end of the Kairos, student lives were changed—mostly for the better.

"I learned a lot about myself and students I would not have gotten to know," says Christensen.

So, despite misconceptions about Kairos, the retreat created a new clan of brain-washed zombies to walk the halls and collect new specimens for the next retreat in January.

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Kids stoked... skate park to open

By Jason Tomsik, Sunset High School

A skate park is popping up in Henderson, so all skaters will be stoked. The Henderson Boys and Girls Club is sponsoring the park for skaters of all kinds in our community. Clyde Caldwell, executive director of the Boys and Girls Club, says this park will be one of the best on the West Coast.

I think Las Vegas really needs a skate park, too...on the west side. This town is so big that a lot of skaters will not even skate the park in Henderson...it will be too far for them to go.

Skateboards and rollerblades are used by a lot of people in this town. A skate park will keep police from harassing kids that are out having fun. Kids are always being harassed because the best places to skate are parking lots...the only place for a lot of skaters because there is no park now.

There are benefits for drivers, too. They will not hit skateboards or skaters in parking lots.

A park would allow a lot of kids to stay out of trouble. Kids would be stoked to have a park to skate every day, just to be doing something during their spare time. Thanks to Clyde Caldwell for trying to get a park in this area. I hope we can get another on the west side of Las Vegas.



Teen skaters need love (and a park, too)

May, 1996, is the target date for opening the new skate park in Henderson, according to Clyde Caldwell, executive director of the Henderson Boys and Girls Club.

The park will cost about \$80,000 and will be an all-cement street course with a nice pyramid, a pool, a quarter pipe, a couple of three-sided hips and and some rails to slide. There will be a vert ramp and two mini-ramps.

Plans for the park are already drawn up. More than 40 kids were involved with the design, along with Barry Lydecker of Sub Skates Etc. More than 700 skaters signed a petition requesting the skate park.

Fundraising for the park has already begun, according to Caldwell, and the big push for money is set for next February through May. "This is part of what the Boys and Girls Club does.

"There are tons of places for baseball, basketball, tennis, swimming," Caldwell says, "but nothing for skaters."

(Contributing reporter, Jason Tomsik)



Hey, Kramer! Who's got the great hair now?

This photo by **Bob Horton**, a sophomore at Green Valley High School, earned First Place in the CLASS! Photo-of-the-Month Contest. Bob shot the photo of Boulder City's Brock Fletcher during a recent match at GVHS.

Gunderson 'kids' share football coach—25 years apart

(Continued from page 14)

He adds the coach is best at placing each talent in a position to make a difference, a lesson he now brings to Las Vegas High.

"You build your school around the talent of your people," Barry Gunderson says. "Everybody makes a contribution, whether you're starting in the game or holding the bag for the guy who's practicing. Absolutely, positively, everybody has value. No more, no less than the next person.

Icing on the cake

"All sports are a reflection of life," he continues, adding "Traasdahl taught that practices are the hard part -- games are the icing on the cake. "When I'm preparing to do what I'm doing now, I work real hard," he says. "So my job is the icing."

Ben agrees. "He tells us the ideas we present in football are how we should live life"...playing hard to the best of our abilities and not just "going through the motions."

To Barry and Ben, the family is a four-member team, with the part of head coach on rotation. They also agree that, as they get older, their similarities multiply. "We're best friends," Ben says. His father



Coach Traasdahl

jokes, "But his equipment is better than mine."

Can you really take those hard-learned lessons off the playing field and into the living room? "Everything," Barry says. "Every second," Ben adds.

Traasdahl's real payback

Now meet Rick Traasdahl, 52. A 1961 graduate of Las Vegas High School, he has coached in local high schools for 30 years -- 16 of them at Western.

Traasdahl, however, is shy when it comes to accepting the praises of his former football players. Life is more than a series of touchdowns, he insists, and the lessons he taught (and still teaches) are simply his call to duty.

"I didn't realize I played such a part in his father's life," he says of Ben. "I was taught that it was important for coaches to be positive role models for kids. You teach them more than how to play football. If I had that effect, I'm really flattered. You never know until things like this happen for you. What you and I are talking about now is the true payback."

Traasdahl echoes Barry Gunderson in feeling that everyone shares equal importance...and, like Barry, Traasdahl

swears by the educational process and the personal joy of being a part of it. "I've always liked school," he says. "There were very few days over the last 30 years when I didn't want to go."

Athletics, he says, is actually an extension of the educational process. "Everybody's goal is to win. It's our responsibility to teach them how. They can lose in athletics as long as they understand why and take those things with them."

Parents are the key

Traasdahl adds that, as long as parents are positively involved, children have an unlimited number of chances for success. Like the Gundersons. Like Barry and like Ben. "I hear stories pretty much daily on how Barry helps kids consistently," he says. "He's had an effect on a lot of kids as an educator...and he'll continue to help a whole lot more kids."

In the meantime, as Barry Gunderson continues teaching, as Ben contemplates college and Traasdahl keeps coaching, John Gunderson sits impatiently at the sidelines, waiting for his turn on the field -- and his turn at his father's and brother's favorite football coach.

"I look three years down the road and there's John. He'd be a fun kid to coach," Traasdahl says. "I've got the best job in the whole world. I really do."

AIDS Memorial Quilt to be displayed at area high schools

In observance of World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed at several local high schools.

These schools include Basic, Bonanza, Chaparral, Clark, Eldorado, Indian Springs, Las Vegas Academy, Silverado and Valley. These displays are not open to the public.

Other sections of the world-famous quilt will be on display at Lied Discovery Museum, Las Vegas City Hall, and UNLV.

Through 32 international affiliates and 40 national chapters, the Names Project sponsors some 2,000 displays each year. The Memorial Quilt is seen by more than five million people have seen the Quilt. Money raised at Quilt displays goes to organizations that provide direct services to organizations that provide direct services to people who are living with HIV and AIDS.

CHECK!

The C-M chess club has already displayed its winning ways.

The club earned a fistful of trophies in the Pacific Western Scholastic Regionals held recently in Las Vegas. **Vepa Myalikhgulyev** (senior) and **Steven Fondo** (a sophomore who recently withdrew from CMHS) brought in two of the trophies. Another was won by **Justin Hayes**, competing at the ninth grade level.

In addition, Myalikhgulyev won an individual first-place trophy while Hayes brought one in for individual second place.

The club is coached by volunteer Stan Vaughan, an International Chess Master.

Know your *oui, ya, si* and *da*.

It can mean a more exciting life.

Being able to speak a foreign language can mean the difference between an ordinary job and an exciting career, according to two Army recruiters.

Sgt. Michael Rodriguez and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Canning brought their message to C-M recently. They talked about the importance of combining a foreign language with a job skill.

Canning mentioned some of the colorful military careers available to people who speak other languages, such as interpreter, interrogator, or military espionage. He also discussed civilian jobs such as international law or business.

The military offers a year-long course in a language chosen by the individual. It is "total immersion" in the language, followed by related job-training skills. This school is also available to civilians.

WHAT CAREER SUITS YOU?

On December 5th, Cimarron-Memorial will offer an aptitude test to help students determine how well suited they are for a particular career. This free test is available to juniors and seniors.

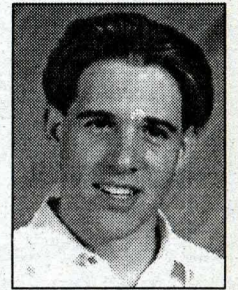
Although the test is offered in conjunction with the Armed Services, students are not obligated to join the military.

Students practice 'peer law'

By Eric Petty, Jr.

Twelve A-Tech students were sworn in earlier this semester as Peer Counselors in the program called *Trial by Peers*.

They are **Raluca Iosof, Misti Pellegrino, Steve Gorka, Donald Betts, Matt Tamiazzo, Jacqueline Islas, Miriam Warren, Eva Villeszcas, Neha Dagley, Johana Gonzalez, Pat Gaddis** and **Kanika Toston**.

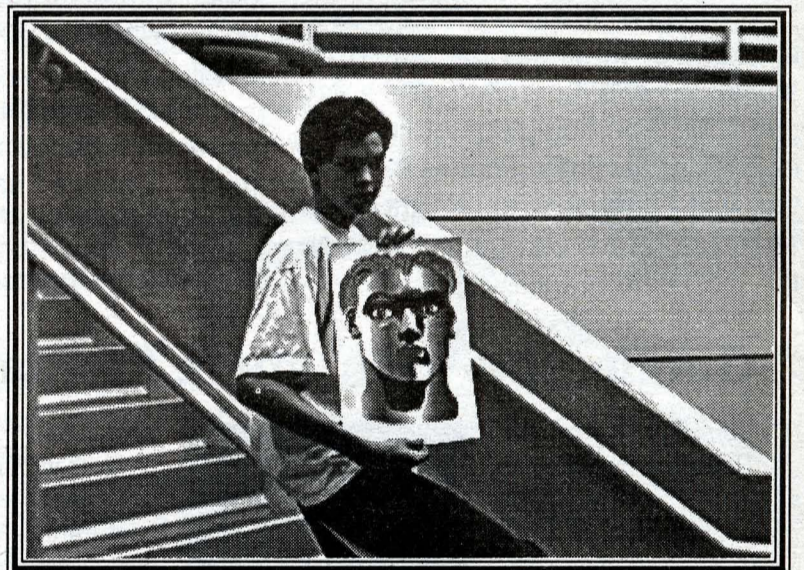


Petty

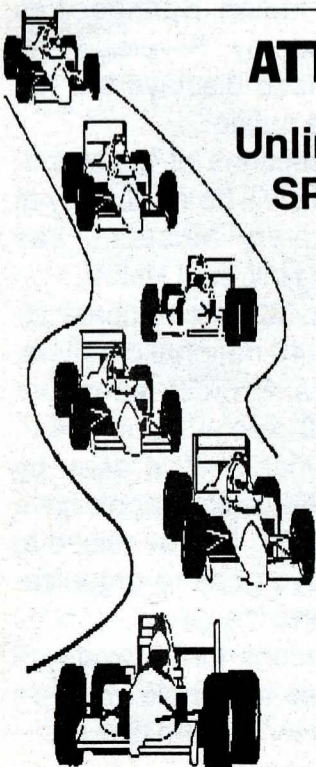
As Peer Counselors, the students get first-hand experience in dealing with the law: they prosecute and defend first-time juvenile offenders charged with misdemeanors. The program also provides the opportunity for students to serve on juries for these cases.

These students attended classes taught by local attorneys and judges, and had to pass a "bar exam" before being eligible to serve as a peer counselor.

Sponsored by the Clark County Bar Association, the program has handled 158 cases since it began in 1994, and is considered a valuable experience particularly for pre-law students.



A-Tech student **David Alden** "painted" his self-portrait using computer graphics.



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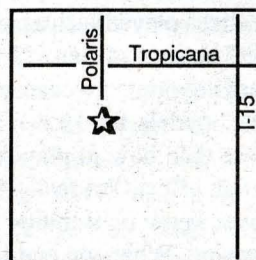
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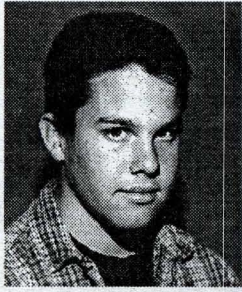
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Kohut



Mona Lisa to mountains.. German Club to tour in Europe

By Mark Kohut

German students of Eldorado High are planning an educational tour of France, Germany and the Alps. The students have been planning this trip for the last few weeks, planning fund raisers, car washes, and asking for donations from our local German organiza-

tions.

After an overnight flight to France, they will begin with a walking tour of the chic Opera district, and then to the Louvre Museum, built to defend the city in the 13th century. They'll spend four days in France.

On day five they will travel to Lucerne, Switzerland. During this trip the students will have free time in many of the cities. In Lucerne they can walk along Lake Lucerne, or sample some of Switzerland's unsurpassable chocolate.

They will then travel to Liechtenstein, a tiny Alpine country. Mrs. Desimone, the German teacher says that Liechtenstein is the most beautiful place she has ever been. She attended college in Salzburg and has been to every city that the German club will be touring.

Day 8 will begin in Munich with a tour of Olympic Stadium and the headquarters of BMW. They will also visit Dachau, Germany's first concentration camp, on the outskirts of the city.

The students will then finish the tour with a train ride to the capital of Germany, Berlin. Many of the students are excited about the trip and are anxious in going. So, as German's say, 'Viel gluck!'

Sundevils invade airwaves

Hurley



By Jim Hurley

The Eldorado Technology Club is getting ready to set up EHS's first ever radio station. The station will air in the morning and during both nutrition breaks. The station will play country, rap, alternative and even some classic rock and roll.

The station will play over the intercom at first, but after a while it will broadcast over the airwaves in the immediate area of Eldorado High School.

Mr. Quintana is the supervising instructor for the Technology Club, and will oversee the operation of the station.

"I am doing this because students need to more involved in school," he says. "What better way to get them involved than with music?"

Tyler Skeary, PJ Travis, Ron Fajarado and Leo Amador will be responsible for production, while Lorena Romero and Nick Cordaro take care of marketing. The Technology Club plans to have KDVL ready to go by the second semester.

Drop Out Rate: It's too darn high!



Barlow

By Brian Barlow

Nevada again has topped the nation's list for the highest dropout rate. At 9.6 percent, this rate is alarming to the school board and to most parents.

One of the main causes is the employment opportunities here in Las Vegas for teenagers. It is easy to get a job because there are so many fast food places in this town and they do not require a high school diploma for employment. If all employers would require that their school-age employees stay in school, that would cut the dropout rate considerably.

Another cause (still under debate) is the high credit requirements for graduation. At 22½ or 23½ credits, many kids think it's just too hard a goal, and if they fail one class they fall behind and often just give up.

Why is it so high? One reason is the Clark County School District counts electives as graduation credits, which raises credit requirements by 8.5. Another reason is the four English credits: in other states the requirement is only two or three.

Here are some statistics to think about: 11 out of every 100 students will drop out of high school and out of that 11, one out of five are seniors that drop out even though they are close to graduating.

So you think you can get a good job? The fact is that high school dropouts will earn about 30 percent less than teens who stay in school. A

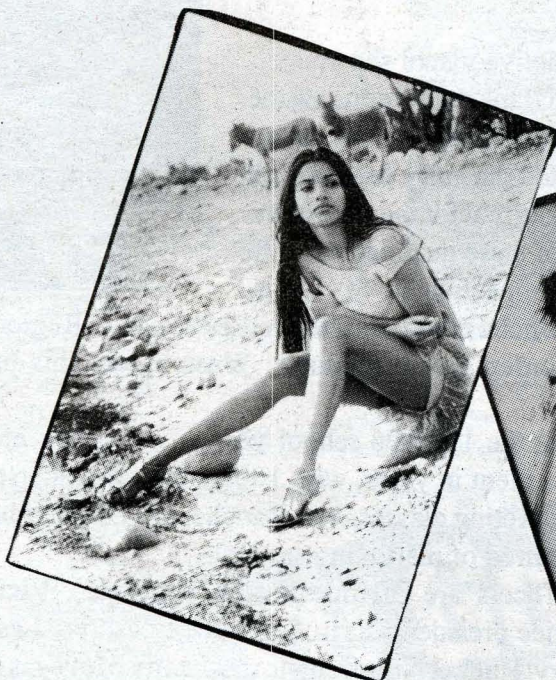
person who has a GED and a job that pays \$8.58 an hour and who works seven hours a day, six days a week, will make \$360.36. Another person who dropped out of school and makes \$5.20 an hour, seven hours a day, six times a week makes only \$218.40. Which is better?

The CCSD has come up with many plans to help lower the dropout rate. One is to lower the credits needed for graduation and the other, of which Eldorado is a prime example, is the block schedule and closed campus.

The closed campus prevents kids from going off the school grounds for lunch, because some of them weren't coming back after lunch. The idea consists of moving lunch to the end of the school day and not letting kids go out and around the streets or go home for lunch is part of the plan to lower the dropout rate.

YOU CAN'T GET BY ON LOOKS ALONE

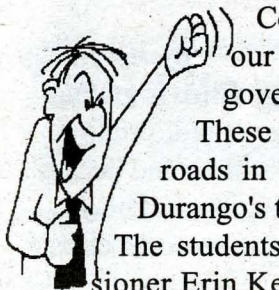
Modeling Portfolios and Zed Cards
of Distinction



Government students tackle traffic problem

Condensed from a report by Autumn Brewington

Durango government students attended a recent Clark County Commission meeting to see



our government in action.

These seniors spoke about the expansion of roads in the Durango High School area and Durango's traffic problems.

The students were invited by County Commissioner Erin Kenny who had promised to "open government to more citizens."

Tom Butler saw it as an opportunity to "press for a traffic light at Dewey and Rainbow...Maybe we can convince them to pave new access roads across the desert, where so many people already cut through."

"I think it is great that we are able to get more involved in...local government," says **Tracilee Hoffman**.

Jennifer Cameron summed it up with, "It's great. I love it!"

However, **Courtney Sheets** felt that roads were not the main issue...she stated that better parking lot management would be a more important issue to bring before the board.

"It's hard for me to look at the roads issue when I can't even get out of the parking lot," Sheets concluded.

Adam McCracken feels that the politicians don't really care because it is not an election year. "The only reason [the politicians who visited the school] came last year was because it was an election year, and then students could go home and tell their parents who they talked to, and their parents would think it was cool," he says.

Durango government students were active in the request for the traffic light that has been placed at Hacienda and Rainbow.

The trip was funded by a \$1,000 grant from ACT (Active Citizenship Today), part of President Clinton's "Learn and Serve Program."

Sex, violence, hate in the media: are teens really affected by it?

In a recent issue of *USA Weekend* magazine (in the R-J), teenagers from around the country talked about how they were affected—or not affected—by violence in TV, music and movies.

Many said these references don't get to them at all even though (or maybe because) they see and hear them all the time.

Some teens don't take it seriously, some ignore the violence because it has no relationship to their own lives, and some just aren't sure.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?

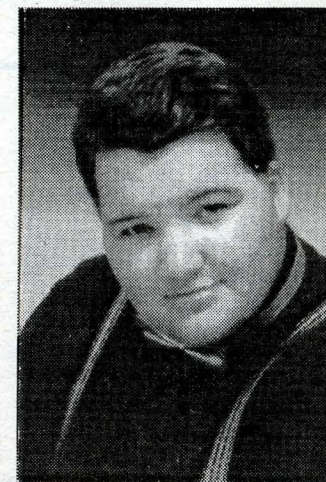
The editors of *CLASS!* newspaper would like you to share your ideas on how you react to media presentations of violence, sex, drugs, gangs, teens killing other teens, etc.

Please send your comments to *CLASS!*, 6290 Harrison Drive, Suite 10, Las Vegas 89120. Or you may also fax your ideas to 361-7472.

Thanks for your input!



Nevada Partners offers teens a better future



FIRST ALBUM -- Las Vegas Academy Senior **Ryan Ahern**, a music major, has recorded an album under his own production company. The CD, *Ryan Ahern - Solo*, was released in September at all major music stores. Ahern hopes to do a Christmas album and a best-of-hits album every five years. (Reporter, Sybrina Bernabei)

Punching bags, computers, counselors...

What do these things have in common? Two Olympic-size boxing rings, a computer lab, lessons in managing money, and jobs-jobs-jobs!

It all adds up to Nevada Partners, a local program that offers job preparation and life-skills training to young people throughout the Las Vegas area—as well as a unique approach to building self-esteem and physical health.

The Nevada Partners Center, a great modern building at 710 West Lake Mead Boulevard in North Las Vegas, has a complete gym—the Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing Gym and a separate room with top-rated exercise equipment (Lifecycles, treadmills, etc.) The only cost is a \$15 per year fee.

During the school year, Nevada Partners offers a Student Enrichment program, especially for young people who are highly motivated to prepare for the workforce.

"We arrange internships for the students," says Jocelyn Oaks, Youth Services Coordinator. "The kids have worked for banks, the Water District, local attorneys, and in city and county offices.

"Our students get first dibs on a lot of jobs," she adds.

The Center has a large computer lab that offers two opportunities: tutors for beginners and open-use computers for those who want to stretch their computer knowledge at their own pace. No charge for using the computer lab.

Nevada Partners works with more than 85 local businesses, and has had great success in helping people find jobs. Since it was established in 1992, the Nevada Partners has found jobs for 2,200 people in Southern Nevada. Another 69 people who took classes in job readiness and life skills found jobs and are still employed.

Job readiness classes teach students how to dress for and respond to interviews, how to keep their jobs, how to manage money, and how to resolve problems. In the spring, Nevada Partners offers workshops to help kids get summer employment. No charge for these classes or the job placement service.

The newest program at the Center is Toastmasters, which provides training in public speaking.

The Reverend Jessie Jackson says, "Nevada Partners is very important to me. Unemployment and the lack of drive in our society is not a problem, but a condition. If you have a job, you can help yourself from the inside out. Job training solves the problem."

DECA: It's all about preparing for business career

By Leslie Nino, Rancho High School

Although you may have heard the name, you might not know that DECA is an association of marketing students: Distributive Education Clubs of America. Members gain insight into the business world and earn recognition for their achievements in the form of trophies, cash and scholarships.

DECA prepares students for the work force and helps them advance their marketing skills by competing at the district, state and international levels.

DECA celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. It has grown from only 793 members in 1946 to more than 160,000 current members worldwide. DECA works side-by-side with the National Advisory Board of corporate supporters and the Congressional Advisory Board of legislative supporters.

The recent Nevada DECA Leadership Workshop focused on training members in leadership abilities to carry them to higher positions. Twelve Rancho marketing students attended.

Rancho's Freddie Johnson, who has taught business and marketing classes and advised the Rancho DECA chapter for a decade, gave a presentation on parliamentary procedures,

using an interactive visual show.

Household Bank and Credit saw the commitment of Rancho DECA members and donated the entry fee for each student who qualified for the state competition. Six of these qualified to go to the national competition in St. Louis, MO. Fifteen Rancho members attended the Western Regional Leadership Conference in Spokane, Washington, this past weekend.

At Rancho, the 1995-96 school year is seeing the most student involvement in years, with 100 percent membership in the three marketing classes. (At Rancho, DECA membership is not required of marketing students.)

Student officers are **Frank Fama**, president; **Victor Bernadino**, vice president; **Erin Garbutt**, treasurer; **Leslie Nino**, secretary; **Rachel Nunez**, historian. **Amy Morey** is the A.M. session treasurer and **Stephanie Sowell** is the P.M. session vice-president.

Nino



TRUE ATHLETES

(Continued from page 8)

At different stages in life, athletes determine whether or not they truly want to dedicate themselves to their sport...to set their priorities.

I remember when I first decided that I was going to put all I had into swimming...the first day of practice for the '92 season.

I looked in amazement at my teammates. I admired not one but all of them. What surprised me was that everyone looked out for one another, working together as a team.

Traveling with the team to my first major competition, an hour away from home, was great. We laughed, shared jokes, played cards. I thought this would be the most laid-back weekend of my life. After arriving at the pool and starting warm-ups, things changed. The seriousness of the teams was unbelievable. I instantly froze. The atmosphere, electric with tension, was different from what I had observed in practice. It was comforting to know that everyone else was just as nervous.

These same feelings continue to this day. I have raced people who are my role models and who may even be 10 years older. I used to think that all the professional and experienced athletes were invincible...never felt pain or disappointment. Once I had the opportunity to race them, I understood that they get tired in the middle of the race, just like I do; that they put their suits on the same way; that we are all equal and that they are not invincible. I've found that the difference between successful and average athletes is that the winners have their goals up front in their minds 24 hours a day...allowing nothing to get in their way!

My motto is, "The only easy day was yesterday." It encourages me to always be mentally ready for any new challenge. However, athletes get burned out and...wonder if all the hard work is worth it. Because of burnout I sometimes don't concentrate on what I want to accomplish: representing the USA at the 1996 Olympic games.

It's difficult, at times, when I have finished my workout—feeling I've had the best practice of my life, reflecting on the thousands of hours I've put into insisting that every muscle respond in unison—only to have my coach say it wasn't good enough. But he is the best one to know my true limits...and doesn't give up on me. This motivation is positive because I believe there are no limits in athletics, only challenges.

Limits are made to be broken and true athletes know and understand this.



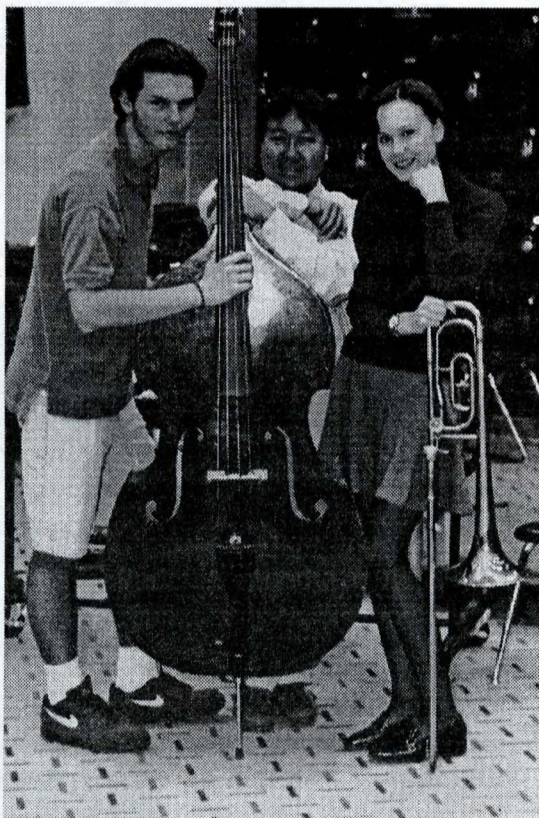
The award winning Chaparral Jazz Ensemble.

Great jazz... go for it!

The award-winning Chaparral High School Jazz Ensemble will present its first concert of the year on Saturday, Dec. 2, 7:00 p.m. at the school. The community is invited; admission is free.

Two guest artists will be featured: Jay Cameron, saxophone, and drummer Joe Malone, who teaches percussion at Chaparral. Both have played with top bands throughout the country.

Gene Nakanishi, jazz ensemble director, has seen



Jazz Ensemble director Gene Nakanishi is flanked by bass player Justin Gottman and trombonist Alicia Foyt

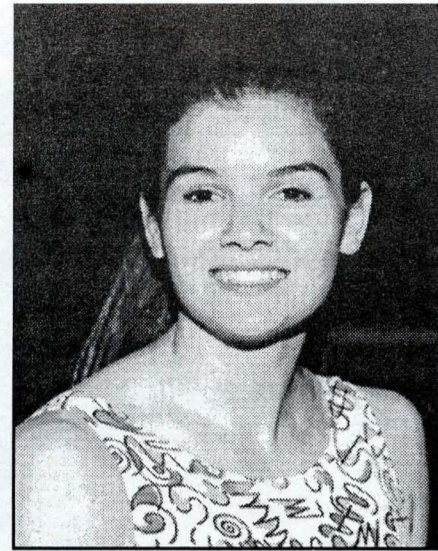
many of his scholar-musicians go on to some of the most prestigious schools in the nation—many with sizeable scholarships.

"We play lots of festivals," Nakanishi explains, "and Chaparral has earned an excellent reputation." In fact, the school's jazz ensemble won two major regional competitions in 1995, at Cal State Fullerton and Northern Arizona University.

BRAT TO BALANCE BARS

(Continued from page 3)

"I'm used to it, but I get to the point where I'm ready to give it up," she says. "Then I think of what I'm giving up and I stick with it."



After completing the regular Gorman school day, Griffen scampers to cheerleading practice, a two-hour affair from 2:00 to 4:00. Following this practice and a one-hour break, Griffen is off to the gym for an arduous four-hour workout,

which increases to six hours on Saturdays. She trains at Gym Cats West, on Polaris.

Not until 9:30 at night does Marianne have a chance to begin her homework and other responsibilities

"I have the opportunity to do other things, such as cheerleading, and I go to a normal school," she says. Many gymnasts, due to training regimens, are taught at home.

"Marianne is unusual in that she stays with her gymnastics," says her mother, Teresa. "Many girls give it up in favor of the more glamorous cheerleading."

Marianne has not been alone in her quest for excellence in the gym. She has enthusiastic family support, and she has been coached by the same nationally-acclaimed coach throughout since age three.

"My coach, Judy Wills-Cline, has been the greatest influence on my gymnastic career," explains Griffen, who has her eye on college scholarships—particularly an NCAA scholarship to a major school.

"She has been scouted by quite a few colleges," her mother says, "but her dream is to attend Notre Dame. She is an excellent student."

Often, an athlete such as Griffen has her sport forced on her and comes to regret not having experienced more in her early years. Is this the case for Marianne? Not at all.

"Given the chance to go back, I would do everything the same," she concludes.

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

- ◆ For the challenge
- ◆ To get the highest quality college education
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And what did these UNLV students get from the Honors Program?

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

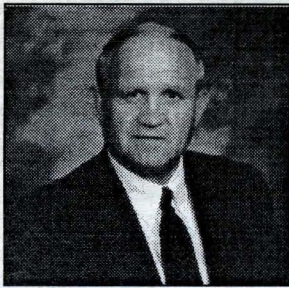
THE HONORS PROGRAM

Len Zane, Director

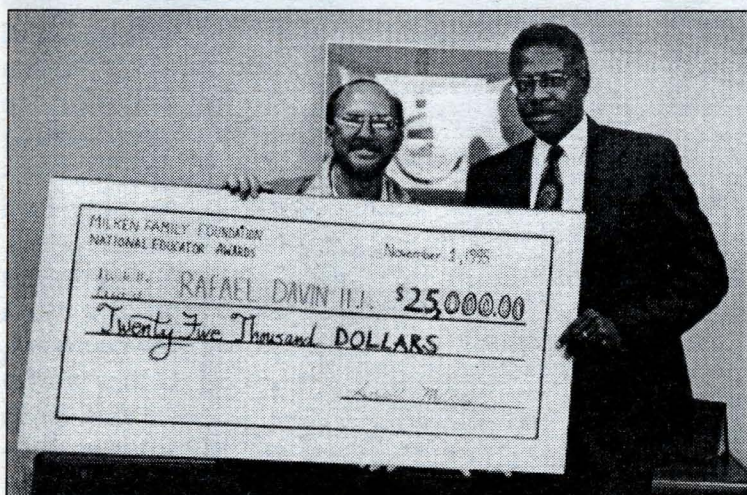
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CEREBRATE



Carroll Johnston, Principal
Green Valley
High School



Rafael Davin, science teacher, Durango High School

\$25,000 from 'out of the blue' for high school teaching stars

Milken education foundation honors teaching trend-setters

Two local high school educators have received the 1995 Milken Family Foundation award, which carries with it a \$25,000 prize.

Carroll Johnston, principal of Green Valley High School, and **Rafael Davin**, a science teacher at Durango High School, heard the news during a surprise visit by Lowell Milken, president of the Milken Family Foundation; Nevada school Superintendent Mary Peterson; CCSD Superintendent Brian Cram; and other Milken Foundation representatives.

Three additional awards were given in Nevada: one to Theresa Smith, principal of Grant Sawyer Middle School, and others to educators in Carson City and Zephyr Cove.

Johnston is described as an inspiring leader and motivator, a successful fundraiser for the school, and a communicator so effective that about 300 parents serve on the GVHS parent advisory group. He involves members of the business community in school activities—and attends nearly every student and staff activities himself.

Davin, who teaches courses that range from advanced placement to at-risk, is known as an enthusiastic person and an outstanding educator who applies a variety of techniques to teach science. He uses his summers for research or additional training to stay current with scientific developments. Davin is director of the Clark County Science Fair—and he coaches women's varsity tennis.

The awards will be given during a gala ceremony at the Mirage in December. The Nevada winners are five of only 150 in the country to receive the Milken Educator Awards.

RACQUETS & RUNNERS



ABOVE: Junior **Jeff Harbach**, GVHS.

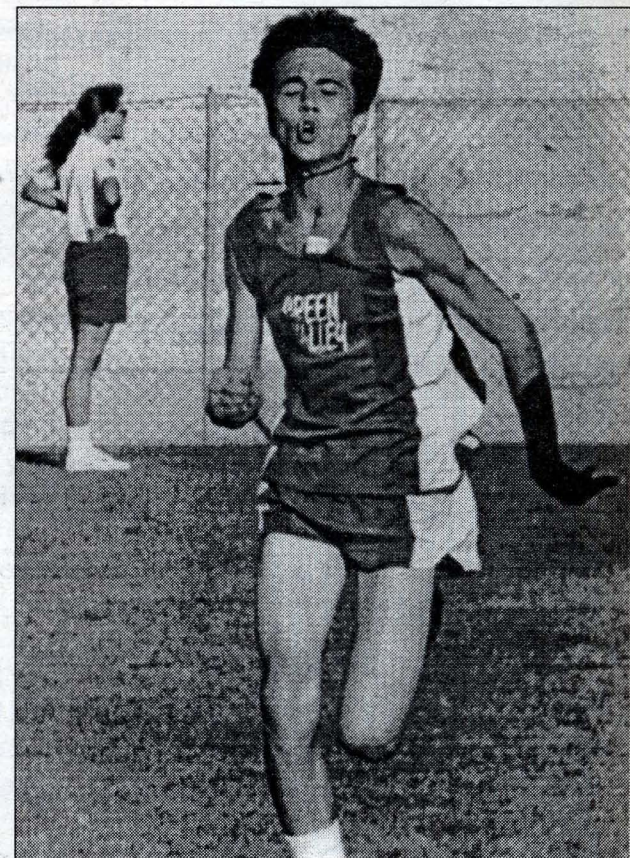
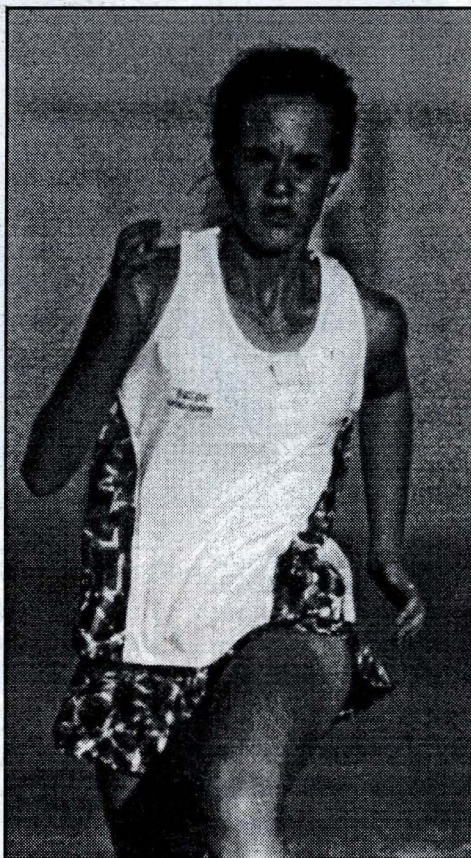
ABOVE RIGHT: Bonanza High senior **Corey Weekes** (left) is pressed by his teammate **Brett Larsen**, junior, as **Mike Szczucko** of GVHS gives his last bit of effort to overtake the leaders in a cross-country match earlier this semester.

Photos by **Bob Horton**, GVHS sophomore.



BELOW RIGHT: Freshman **Adam Allmon** of Green Valley High School gives it his best during a cross-country meet at Chaparral High School. Photo by **Bob Horton**, GVHS

BELOW LEFT: Sophomore **Kaelynn Nielsen** of Green Valley has the look of determination as she crosses the finish line at a meet held at Chaparral. Photo by **Adam Allmon**, GVHS freshman.



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