

CLASS!

DECEMBER 1995

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

**VoTech: feast
for families
(page 6)**

**130-lb. man
of all seasons
(page 13)**

**Spanish: OK
to speak
in schools?
(page 30)**

**Español:
¿ Hablarlo o no
en nuestras
escuelas?
(página 30)**



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INSIDE CLASS!

A-Tech	15
Basic	4
Chaparral	14
Cheyenne	25
Cimarron-Mem.	16
Clark	29
Durango	19
Eldorado	10
Gorman	12
Green Valley	22
L.V. Academy	8
Las Vegas	17
Meadows	20
Rancho	9
Silverado	21
Sunset	26
Valley	28
VoTech	6
Western	24

1996 will be a very good year

Student art featured

on credit union calendar

Three high schools are represented by four artists whose work appears in the tenth annual Happy Times Calendar published by the Silver State Schools Federal Credit Union.

Durango boasts two of the winners: sophomore **Cammie Blosser's** painting, "A Few of My Favorite Things" highlights the month of January. And junior **Keith Clubb's** "End of the Road, Minnesota" is the bright spot in November.

From Cimarron-Memorial: a winning entry from freshman **Carl Alampi**. His Hallowe'en-theme painting, "Trick or Treat," is on...well, you guess.

Finally, Eldorado High senior **Jessica Martin** won a place on the September page with her black-and-white drawing, "Fun with Flowers."

The winners may be seen throughout this issue of **CLASS!**

ABOVE, RIGHT: "End of the Road, Minnesota," by Durango junior **Keith Clubb**



UNLV Early Studies Program still taking applications

High school students who want to take courses at UNLV for college credit still have a chance to apply. The first step is to contact your counselor to see if you are eligible.

The Early Studies Program is open to high school juniors and seniors to meet certain requirements. For example, seniors need a 3.0 GPA and juniors need a 3.5 GPA. You'll also need your counselor's approval.

UNLV has scheduled information meetings for 3:30-5:00 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays through Jan. 10. If you want more details, call 895-3177.

ON THE COVER

Matt Shelton, a senior at Silverado High, exchanges gifts with **Amber Wiener**, a sophomore at Clark High School.

Photo by
Mark Lewis

CLASS!
Publications

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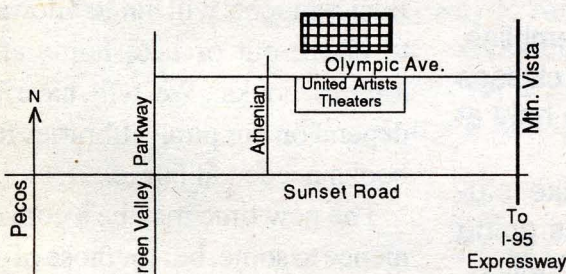
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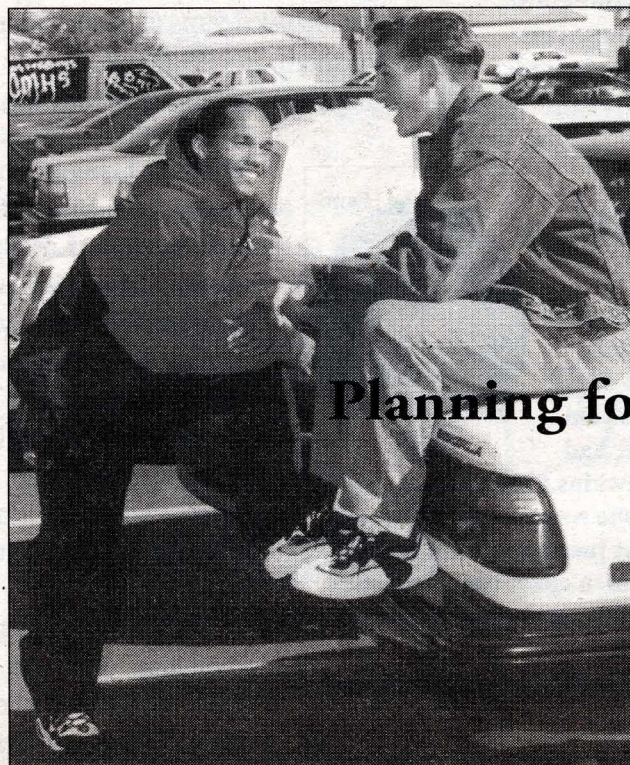
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"Wanna go shoot some b-ball, Channon?"

"Later. I need to get my UNLV financial aid forms done. I get priority consideration by returning them in January."

Planning for the Future



Check out UNLV on the WWW, <http://www.nscee.edu/> or call the Office of Admissions at 895-3443.

ROLE REVERSALS. While the guys cheer from the sidelines, the senior girls Powder Puff football team overpowered the juniors by 18-13. Below, junior **Christy Reyes**, with her heart set on a goal, tries to get past senior **Tiffany Pemberton**

El Lobo Staff photo



Schuss and shout!

By Mandi Watson

For ten years, the Basic High Ski Club has offered skiing trips for all students...four or five times a year; to places such as Elk Meadows and Brianhead.



Watson

Junior **Chris Loff** says that Brianhead seems to be the favorite spot for many Basic students.

The purpose of the Ski Club, according to club advisor Jerry O'Brien, is "to introduce new skiers to the sport and to provide opportunities for skiers and snowboarders to go more often."

He believes the trips are affordable, ranging from \$35 for new skiers up to \$65 for snowboarders. There are no fees to become a member. About 75 students per year join the Ski Club.

The club has candy sales, car washes and raffles to help raise money for the trips, according to the advisor.

Aw shucks, Sadie!

By Christy Reyes

Sadie Hawkins originated in the early 1960s from a comic strip. The story goes something like this:

A man named Pappy Yokum, the judge of Dog Town, USA, had a daughter named Sadie Hawkins. She was very ugly and no one wanted her, but she wanted to get married.

So her father named a day just for her. On this day, all the unmarried young women chase the young men and those who are caught have to wed at the "Marryin' Sam Booth."

This is how the Sadie Hawkins tradition of girls asking guys began.



Reyes

Pin Talk

By Steve Zyla

Basic's bowling teams rolled into a new season recently with only four returning members. The team started with six freshmen. Head Coach Jay Froh is optimistic, though:

"We have four guys from last year's team that really contributed," he says, hoping one of the freshmen can step in to fill the empty spot.

The men's team is led by **Steve Zyla** and **Jason Hansen**. **Glen Colgate** and **Craig Willey** add a solid three-four punch to the team.

"If the four of us stay consistent and one of the freshmen steps up, we'll be all right," Willey says.

Froh sees Eldorado and Green Valley as the top two teams in the division, but after them, it's up for grabs.

The girls' team has five returning members: Senior **Michelle Grogan** and juniors **Gabby Abbott**, **Suzanne Latelle**, **Renee Laskowitz** and **Leanne Giseburt** are joined by freshman **Dianna Aispuro**.

"We have a really strong team this year...a solid rotation of bowlers," Laskowitz says.

"We'll be pretty good this year and I know we'll have a lot of fun," Giseburt says.



Zyla

why/why not double sessions?

Sleep, sports, safety

By Aimee Acton

Double sessions at Green Valley are going to be great for Basic students and will improve all aspects of learning.

Basic High School students are allowed on campus at 12:15 p.m. and school will start at 12:30 p.m. This will allow many Basic students to sleep in and the rate of students sleeping in class will drop.

This late schedule will also allow students to study. Junior **Jacque Albright** plans on "doing homework right before school, making it easier to cram."

"Green Valley is a beautiful new school," according to Assistant Principal **Patricia DeClercq**.

Students will have a cleaner, safer campus. Our staff of custodians and police will combine with Green Valley's. Green Valley has computer and library benefits. Most of all, when we come back to Basic, we will have a new school.

Sports will take place in the mornings, and we will still use the Basic field, track, and gym for competitions.

DANCES

The two student councils [Basic's and Green Valley's] will get together and come to agreement about things they would like to see happen. There is a possibility dances will be held off campus.

Senior activities will remain the same, but the location of these events will change. Seniors may have activities at public places or at Basic for events scheduled before the gym closes in March.

When we have assemblies, we will have shortened classes and assemblies will be held at Green Valley.

"I would like to make students aware of what is going to happen at Green Valley," **DeClercq** says. Over Winter Break, schedules will be sent home in the mail."

Stress, job conflicts

by Lindy Buckles

Going to school from 7:20 a.m. to 1:31 p.m. is hard enough, but changing around the hours while attending a new school can add stress.

Junior **Jessica Evans** says, "I don't like the new time. I have a job so I don't know how my boss is



Lindy Buckles

going to work out my hours." Other students had similar problems. Junior **Damon Caldwell** says, "The new time interferes with my job hours and basketball schedule."

Many students are planning to sleep in or do their homework in the morning.

Junior **Nicki Zach** says, "A lot of people think that they are going to be sleeping in, but if you work or play a sport the days will probably seem longer."

Soccer coach **Richard Huggins** says, "I don't know how they are going to work out the practices." Zach also thinks having a sport practice or a job in the morning can tire students, causing them to sleep more during their classes.

A major concern of the students is transportation. Junior **Tina Hafen** says, "Not having a job and driving out to Green Valley every day is going to take a lot of gas money." Evans thinks even having a job and driving to Green Valley will be hard.

While at Green Valley we will have access to their library and computers. This is great until it comes time to check out books. Basic students will not be allowed to check out or take home any kind of books. We will have to depend on our public libraries for books needed at home.

The new time may be a convenience to some, but for those of us who work or are involved with school activities, it will be an inconvenience.

Aaron Welborne: Athlete of the Month

By Kelli Gallacher

Truly one of the finest quarterbacks ever to play for Basic High School, senior Aaron Welborne is modest about his skills. When asked how he felt about being chosen as spotlight athlete of the month, he replied, "It's an honor to be chosen."

Junior **Russ Bennett** says, "He's tough, he can run, and he can throw the ball. He wasn't really scared of anything during the season. He's one of the best on the team."

Welborne enjoys pretty much everything that involves football, including running plays, tackling and just playing the game. When asked what he thought of Welborne, from a football player's perspective, senior **Joe Perez** says, "Good quarterback. He was always a good leader and athlete. He never gave up."

Not only fellow athletes have comments on Welborne's skills. "Aaron's skilled in offense and defense, and it was fun to cheer for him," says junior **Alia Kramer**.

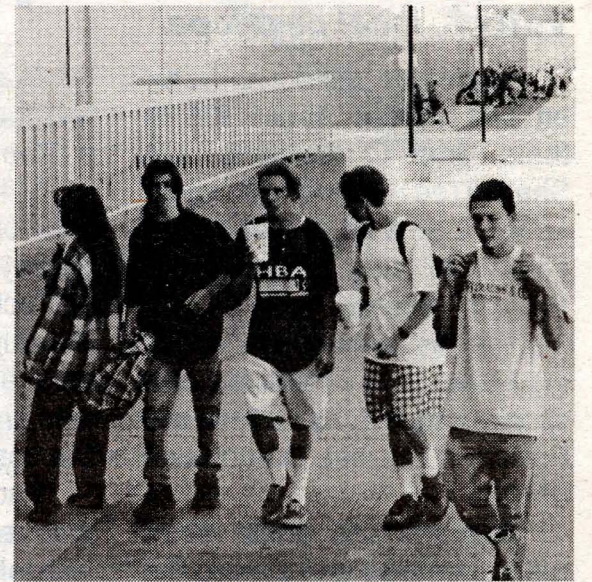
The coaches refer to Welborne as "a very good football player." Coach **John Wise** says, "As bad as the season went, without Aaron it would have been three times as bad."

As quarterback, Welborne scored a total of five touchdowns: three against Valley, one against Durango, and another against Green Valley. Welborne has 60 completions and a total of 700 yards passing.

Overall, Welborne has proven himself a great and skilled athlete.

The Last Lunch —

At right, Basic students return from lunch, something they will no longer be able to do, starting next fall. All Clark County schools will have closed campuses. Basic's administration has not decided when lunches will be available. Seniors **Angie Norrbom** and **April McCann** object to losing some of the privileges of being in high school. **Jennifer Pymm** says "It's my senior year and I've waited all through high school to go out to lunch." (Reporter: **Regina Vaughan**)



Loff

A switch in time...

By Chris Loff

When students come back to a newly-remodelled Basic High School next year, there will be a new bell schedule to go along with new halls, walls, classrooms and students.

Basic will most likely go on a modified block schedule: Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays will have six 50-minute classes a day; on Wednesdays, first, third and fifth periods have 100 minutes each; and on Thursdays, second, fourth and sixth periods last 100 minutes each.

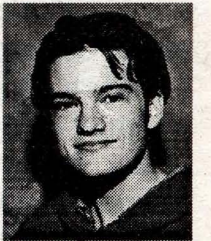
The modified block will prepare teachers and students to adapt to an intensive block of four-periods, 90 minutes each, per day.

This way, students will finish a class in one semester, not two.

"It's a way to teach better," says Assistant Principal **Daniel Reese**. "Students can earn 32 credits in four years...if a student fails a class while on the intensive four-period block, they have time to retake that class." Now a failed class can keep a student from graduating.

The math department points out some downsides of switching over to the two different bell schedules. **Ron Misenor**, an algebra teacher, says that students will have to learn twice as much in a day on the intensive four-period block.

"For math, the important thing is not the length of time you have a student, but how often you see them," he explains.



What about those bike-ridin' campus cops?

Tough troublemakers?

By **Rikki Skadoski**

Let's get right down to it. In the past five years, Basic High School has been watched over by the hawkeyes of two police officers.

I think they're good to have around for the big problems and when they are really needed. Otherwise, it's a hassle having them around 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There's no reason for it.

Although they may keep the peace, they also promote a tough image. So, are they as rough and tough as they look?

Sophomore **Chris Pinney** says that when they handcuff you, "they put the cuffs on too tight. They cause trouble instead of preventing it.

And what's up with the bikes? Do they really need them?

Sophomore **Scott Blair** says, "All they do is try to run over the students, and they don't watch what goes on outside."

Sophomore **Pius Gibson** says that "they don't do their job." While **Steven O'Brian**, junior, says he thinks "they're a waste of time...All they do is pester us."

Marcus Myers, junior, says "They don't care what the students say or do; they just get in the way."

Are the campus police worth having around or not? In a lot of ways, they help the school, but in other ways they just cause trouble.



Police important for Basic peace

By **Nicole Saunders**

For the past five years, we've had two people that try their best to keep this high school peaceful. Campus police try to keep the bad kids out of Basic and make it safer for us. These two people are Officers **Ben Cordova** and **Carl Victor Jones**.

I think they're cool to have around. They help out a lot of people, such as sophomore **Richie Timperly**. He says, "They're cool, they helped me out on a ticket, so keep them around."

Thank you, guys!"

James Ylibarri, junior, says "I think school police belong here on campus, because without them the school would fall apart."

Junior **Cris Loff** agrees with Ylibarri. "It's a good thing to have them, they keep the school in order and out of trouble," says Loff.

I know there are people that don't like campus police, but that is the best way to keep trouble out of Basic.

"They do a good job," says senior **Steve Zyla**. "They don't go around sweating everybody."

PSSSST.....GIVE US A CLUE!

Tell us about your high school friend who should be featured in this newspaper. Just fill out the information below and either fax it to 361-7472 or mail it to CLASS!, 6290 Harrison, Suite 10, Las Vegas 89120. We'll follow up with an interview and photos.

Your friend's name _____

His/Her School _____

How to contact your friend (phone?) _____

5-10 words why this friend should be featured _____

Your name/school _____

Your phone number(s) _____

100 homeless enjoy holiday feast at VoTech

Partnership between VoTech, local developer

Homeless children, women and men — about 100 of them from Crossroads and ShadeTree Homeless Shelters — were served a great four-course holiday banquet at VoTech recently.

The third annual Thanksgiving Feast was organized and sponsored jointly by VoTech and Preferred Equities Corporation (PEC).

Students and adult volunteers prepared and served the feast, and PEC picked up all the costs and made a \$2,000 scholarship donation to the school.

While the guests ate the gourmet dinner, the Madrigals Choir from Eldorado High School performed Christmas songs, urging the children to sing along. Nike Culture Shock, a multi-cultural dance group, and Willie the Clown also provided entertainment.

After dinner, Santa presented gifts to the children — gifts purchased by VoTech stu-

dents and staff, based on letters the homeless children had written to Santa.

"[The guests] are not the only ones who benefit," says Stacey Koenen, a teacher at VoTech. "During the planning, the students were very enthusiastic about helping the homeless and making a difference in the community."

Each adult and child over 12 also received a backpack filled with toiletries. The children were given personalized T-shirts which had been decorated by VoTech graphic arts students and teachers.

PEC, a Las Vegas-based land developer, co-sponsored the feast to provide a Thanksgiving and early Christmas to those less fortunate — and to give VoTech students practical experience in their chosen field. It's part of PEC's "Helping Hands" community relations program and partnership with the Clark County School District.



THE HAPPINESS PEOPLE — VoTech students visit with children from the Crossroads Family Homeless Shelter and Shadetree Homeless Shelter.

High school program leads to delicious career

By Aaron McKinnon, CLASS! Staff Writer

At Vo-Tech, students have unprecedented opportunities to get thoroughly involved with the craft they specialize in. In this case, it's Culinary Arts.

Chef Kane and Chef Williams, who have been at the school for 14 years, have a new program to prevent students from dropping out.

"We were really concerned with students dropping out," Kane comments. "We've never had a year when every student graduated."

So, to counter the problem, he and Williams came up with an innovative solution.

"We told every junior," explains Kane, "that if he or she took government in summer school, we would pay for it. That leaves only the craft to worry about when the student comes to school."

The culinary course can run from two to four years and up to six periods a day. One-on-one training is offered for "adjusted" students after school.

Students must have at least a 2.5 GPA, good attendance, and no disciplinary problems if they want to enrol in the course.

Before completing the culinary program, each student must take a competency exam, which covers almost 200 areas in the culinary arts.

Upon completion, many benefits are offered to students. They get Community College credit for the course and are put on the "A" list for employment with the Culinary Union.

HANDS ON, BIG-TIME

Students in the culinary program also get valuable work experience. The culinary department runs a 72-seat restaurant, open to the public at VoTech, in addition to catering banquets for the school. The students make an average of 200 meals per day.

Guest speakers, who often visit classes, include chefs from Las Vegas hotels — including the Mirage and the Gold Coast.

Chef Kane has an impressive list of accomplishments. A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, he was Executive Chef at the Marina Hotel and a chef at Caesars Palace. Clearly, quality in the culinary arts program begins at the top.



ABOVE: Peter Malik, creative director for PEC, receives a Christmas gift from Santa.



ABOVE RIGHT: Chef Kane, who directs VoTech's culinary training program, is shown here preparing holiday desserts for 100.



RIGHT: The multicultural dance group *Culture Shock*, entertained the guests at VoTech's holiday feast for the homeless.

Las Vegas students invited to check out UNR

Fifty high school seniors from the Las Vegas area flew to Reno earlier this month as guests of the University of Nevada, Reno. It was part of UNR's *Nevada Bound* program.

The students spent the entire day exploring the campus, talking with professors, and meeting UNR students.

Olivia Diaz, a Rancho senior, says it was a great opportunity to check out the campus.

"I thought it was really nice and I liked the old architecture. UNR is not too big...I like that about it." Olivia plans to study medicine and will apply to UNR.

She didn't know much about UNR before the visit and was very impressed with what the school of medicine had to offer.

Baronica Chew, also a Rancho senior, says she saw lots of students, "all very serious about their work...people were studying, not goofing off around campus."

She liked the campus, saying it was very spread out and that it has lots of rich historical background. The students toured much of the campus, including the dorms.

"There were all types of dorms," Baronica observes, "large and small, co-ed, suites with private kitchen and bath, or suites that four students share."

Tonya Punjabi from Chaparral High found the campus to be "homey," and believes it's a place where everybody would be nice. A psychology major, she talked with a UNR student ambassador about her career plans.

She likes the Reno weather and says that, if she goes to UNR, she'll "definitely get into skiing and 'boarding.'" About *Nevada Bound*, she says, "It was well planned out...a really worthwhile experience."

Donna Regino from Rancho says "UNR has a beautiful campus, with trees all over the place." She thinks the uncrowded, easy-going university would be a nice place to study nursing or psychology.

Since not many southern Nevada students are familiar with UNR, the *Nevada Bound* program is a good way for high school seniors to find out what UNR has to offer in its 10 colleges and 150 undergraduate courses.

The academic program is coupled with student and support services to ensure success. Support services include free tutoring labs, career advisement, and counseling. In addition, there are more than 100 active student organizations to help make the educational experience complete.

If you want to become "Nevada

Bound" you still have a chance. UNR is accepting applications for seniors who have a strong interest in attending the university and have a 3.0 GPA or higher. The trip costs only \$25, which includes a round-trip airline ticket, activities to acquaint you with the university, and, of course, a continental breakfast and luncheon.

High school counselors have applications or you may call UNR's office in Las Vegas: 258-8011. UNR will accept completed applications (which includes the \$25 fee) on a first come first served basis.



ATTC has partners in feeding women, kids

The Culinary Arts I class at the Area Technical Trade

Center prepared and served breakfast to about 40 people at the Shade Tree Women's and Children's Shelter on Dec. 12.

"We were able to do this with food donations from our community partners, says Michelle Wood, ATTC student.

The partners included Albertson's on Lake Mead and Nellis, Anderson Dairy, Larry's Great Western Meats, and Shetakis.

Transportation was provided by the Palace Station Hotel and Casino.

This service project gives Culinary Arts students the opportunity to apply their skills and give something back to a very supportive community, in the spirit of the holiday season.

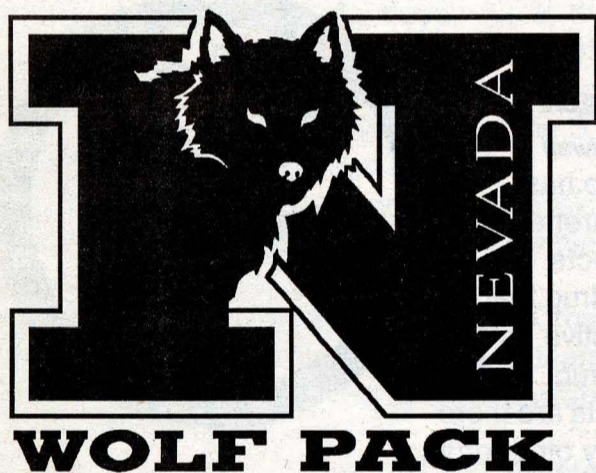
The next NEVADA BOUND trips:

Wednesday January 31
Deadline 5 p.m. January 23

Wednesday February 21
Deadline 5 p.m. February 13

Wednesday March 6
Deadline 5 p.m. February 27

Wednesday March 13
Deadline 5 p.m. February 27



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A program that flies Southern Nevada seniors, who want to attend the University of Nevada, Reno, to the campus for a personalized visit and tour.

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Wed., January 31, 1996.....*deadline January 23*
Wed., February 21, 1996...*deadline February 13*
Wed., March 6, 1996.....*deadline February 27*
Wed., March 13, 1996.....*deadline March 5*

All deadlines are by 5:00 p.m. on the designated date.

How much does it cost?

The cost to you is only \$25.00

How do I sign up?

Contact your high school counselor for details and eligibility criteria or call the University of Nevada, Reno, Southern Nevada Office at 258-8011

Studying the ugly face of prejudice

By Linda Mannberg



LVA Multicultural English students got the chance to learn more about the Holocaust on a recent trip to Los Angeles. During the trip, they visited the Japanese American Museum and the Museum of Tolerance.

Among the many things they learned was the history of the Japanese-Americans in war camps and the U.S. government's involvement in them.

The students were accompanied by Karin Eckanger, Laura Thornton, and Mr. Carlos Betancourt

"I feel the field trip made the issues of tolerance and the effects of prejudice much clearer for all the students," says Betancourt.

Violence at school is not a major problem at LVA, but can sometimes be outside the school, in neighboring areas.

Within recent weeks, there was an attack on LVA students and many instances



of harassment from outsiders, including homeless people and residents of the downtown area.

"A building near the Vocational Building is used for smoking and eating crack," says Joseph Hammond, technical theater teacher, who feels sorry for the homeless.

Another LVA teacher wrote to police officer Michael McDonald about the house and was told that the house was owned by the city and was to be auctioned off.

According to another police officer, the real problems are not with the homeless but with others, such as gangs. "During performances at night, students need to be warned not to leave the theater," Officer Derezotes says. "There have been shootings at the 7-11 down the street and the neighborhood around LVA is not safe at night."

A new after-school security policy has been implemented to discourage students from staying outside the school. Campus police have been especially active during non-school hours.

\$500 — reward for winning essay

By Larry Gamble

LVA sophomore Toni Sutton recently received a \$500 savings bond for her entry in a contest sponsored by Harrah's Hotel and Casino. An equal award also went to Jessica Masters, a recent LVA graduate.

The two required either to write an essay or draw a poster about underage gambling. Sutton's winning entry was an essay.

"It feels good to be recognized," says Sutton. "It wasn't really hard; everybody knows about gambling."



Hilary's gingerbread house

Madrigals make music for national leaders

The Las Vegas Academy Madrigals recently returned from Washington, DC, where they sang for Hilary Clinton and the national press. The performance was broadcast Monday, Dec. 4.

The highlight of the day (other than meeting Mrs. Clinton), according to Elizabeth Kamerin, chair of the vocal department, came when the 24 students were allowed to sit on the White House furniture while they toured.

"They were so well behaved," says Kamerin, "that they got lots of nice comments—even from the Secret Service people."

The Madrigals were recommended for this honor by Nevada Gov. Robert Miller and Sen. Harry Reid. They were selected out of 150 groups in the country.

The Academy students went to Sen. Reid's office to sing for him and, by the time they were done, all the Senators in the building had come out into the hall to listen.

"That's the most cheer this building has seen since it was built," one distinguished gentleman admitted.

The Las Vegas saw a gingerbread house that was a model of Mrs. Clinton's childhood home, then received a rare treat: they were invited to have a holiday buffet with the national press.

The Madrigals send sincere thanks to all the local organizations who provided the financial support that made this once-in-a-lifetime trip possible. (Thanks to Michele Badgwell for the tip!)

TIMES ARE TOUGH FOR ARTISTS

By Ryan Lee Brooks

ARTISTS, AMONG MANY OTHERS, ARE FINDING IT HARD TO KEEP THEIR HEADS ABOVE WATER THESE DAYS.



ART STUDENTS AT LVA ARE TRYING TO MAKE IT WORK BY SELLING HAND-MADE JEWELRY AND SKETCHES, BY PITCHING IN AT THE LOCAL STUDIOS AND OTHER STUFF.

CHANDI HECKLER, SENIOR, MAKES DREAMCATCHERS, WHICH ARE INDIAN ART PIECES [THAT ARE BELIEVED TO PROTECT SLEEPERS FROM NIGHTMARES]. SHE EARNS ABOUT \$300 A MONTH AND HER MATERIALS COST ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THAT. ON THE SIDE, SHE BABYSITS.

LIZ MANNS, JUNIOR, WORKS AT DICK BLICK ART SUPPLIES. SHE GOT THE JOB WITH HER ART SKILL. ON THE SIDE, SHE WORKS WITH HER MOM.

REGAN MENDANHALL, SENIOR, CREATES WALL MURALS FOR COMMISSION. HER BIGGEST JOB BROUGHT HER \$1,000. SHE ALSO MAKES CRAFTS, STAINED GLASS AND JEWELRY AND IS SAVING FOR A TRIP TO ITALY.

SARAH DUNFORD, JUNIOR, SELLS HANDMADE CRAFTS AND NETS \$200 MONTHLY (\$600 DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON).

OUTSIDERS CAUSE TROUBLE AT LVA

By Shane Gammon

It's deadly — and it's legal

By Michele Badgwell

Anyone who has smoked a cigarette knows the effects of nicotine...a drug that is just as addictive as any other illegal drug. The long-term effects are more deadly than any other drug.

If nicotine is more dangerous, why is it legal?

Cigarette smoke causes health problems such as lung cancer. Those who don't smoke are forced to breathe smoke by people who smoke nearby.



Even though minors can't go into a store and buy cigarettes, they are still affected [by second-hand smoke].

Something needs to change. Laws need to be harsher, warnings need to be bolder, and smokers need to quit.



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Maiava proof that hard work pays off

By Anna Blackburn:

Misty Maiava, a senior volleyball player for Rancho, was rewarded for her hard work and dedication. She was chosen for the All-Conference Second Team as the setter, and was an All-American nominee.

"I was surprised when I heard what I made, but I'm glad that I was recognized for what I have accomplished over these past four years," she says.

Blackburn



Gym almost ready; has a bright future

Condensed from a report by Kelly Hampton

After a long wait, the new gym is finally in working order. The grand opening was held Nov. 29. The first schoolwide assembly was held that day, with VIPs including Gov. Robert Miller and members of the school board.

During the assembly, Rancho honored school board member Howard Hollingsworth; a plaque in his honor was placed in the gym entry.

Still, the gym is not fully completed. The biggest problem is the bleachers, which have to meet the Uniform Building Code that requires a platform to be set between the wall and the bleachers. Now the bleachers cover the post hole for the volleyball court and leave inadequate space for volleyball players.

Another problem is the safety railing in the aisles: spectators will have to look around the railing.

The goal of the new gym is not just to accommodate the athletic department, but to have a portable stage and curtain so that other events can be held in the gym, including plays, guest speakers, and band or choir concerts.

Maiava, who also plays many other sports and is a Student Body Representative, started playing volleyball because she has grown up watching her entire family play.

"I was impressed with Misty's dedication and ability to do anything she wanted to. I wish her the best of luck in her future," commented Coach Mecham.

Christina Ford, one of Maiava's teammates said, "I am very proud of Misty. I hope she can take her talents to a college."

With this award, Maiava has shown her fellow team members that hard work and dedication really does pay off in the long run.

Maiava plans to attend college. She would like to attend Chaminade, University of Honolulu, or Southern Utah University. After that she would like to become either an elementary school or P.E. teacher.

"I can also see myself becoming a coach in high school.

Teen parenting: is it glamorous?

By Amanda La Pointe

It's 2 a.m. You are sound asleep. Suddenly, a loud roaring sound disturbs you from a wonderful dream. You wake to find that it's the baby crying.

To many teenagers, this is a reality. Teenage parents must live with the diaper changes, feedings, baths, and the midnight crying as best they can.

To help teenagers see what it is like to be a parent, there is a life-like baby doll called *Baby Think-It-Over*, which cries like a real human baby.

This "infant simulator"

is used in Rancho's Child Development classes.

The baby will cry for many reasons...wanting attention, needing a diaper change, or if it is held incorrectly. It is programmed to cry anytime...including the middle of the night. To stop the crying, the "parent" uses a magnetic probe that simulates the time it takes to conduct certain activities.

Veronica Perez, sophomore, took one of the babies home for a night. At first her biggest problem was lugging around the stroller, car seat, baby bag and, of course, the baby itself. After she conquered that part, everything seemed to fall into place—for a while.

At 3:53 p.m. the baby cried for the first time. Veronica inserted the probe and had to keep it there for five minutes. The baby cried on and off throughout the night. She would sometimes have to hold the probe in for as long as 30 minutes.

To be honest, Veronica admitted she would often fall asleep while holding the probe in the baby. Still, she lost a considerable amount of sleep that night. The experience convinced her that she is definitely not ready for a baby of her own.

Other students in Child Development have taken *Baby Think-It-Over* home. They all found out that having a baby is not all fun and games: it's hard work that requires you to be there 24 hours a day.

"Having the baby around was very hectic," says Kim Winn, senior. And sophomore **Dosca Wash** says, "The baby was a lot of work...you have to take the baby everywhere you go."

If students feel they are ready for a child, maybe they should consider *Baby Think-It-Over* to discover what it means to care for a baby. In the end, they may have a different viewpoint about teenage parenthood.



Senior Kim Winn (left) and sophomore Dosca Wash get hands-on experience with *Baby Think-It-Over*. They thought it over and decided that having a baby around is not for them right now



La Pointe

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Should condoms be passed out in school? ○○○ ?

An overwhelming number of students say condoms should be distributed in school. Read on for more comments...

Sabrina Lombardo: Yes, because too many people are using the excuse that they can't afford them. But if they did pass them out in school, there wouldn't be any excuse.

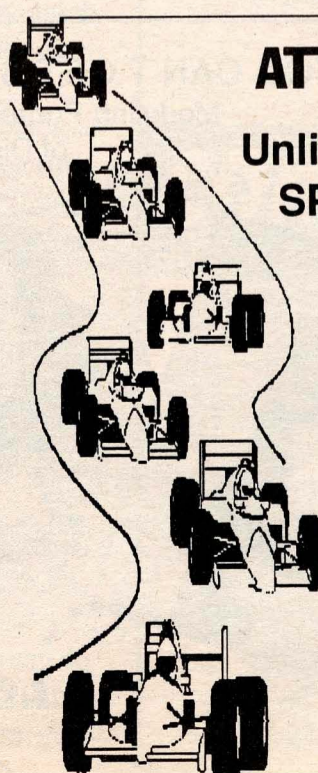
Erin Hernandez: No, because most people will just be stupid about it and make it a joke, blow them up and throw them away. People need to be more serious about it before schools decide to help them.

Ernestine Guerin: No, because if you're grown up enough to have sex, you're grown up enough to buy condoms.

Christine Davis: In a society so against premarital sex, it is difficult for teenagers to face the checkout clerks and ask for one. They need to be protected without the fear of being ostracized.

Nicole Ford: Teenagers will and are having sex, no matter what. But I think it's better that they are educated about it first.

Reported by Jessica Brigham, Mina Calaunan, Darrell Duggan, Joe Hare and Audra Ray.



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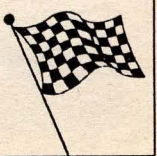
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Mistletoe: darts, tears, reincarnation

By Elishia St. Charles



St. Charles

The custom of kissing under the mistletoe originates from a Scandinavian legend.

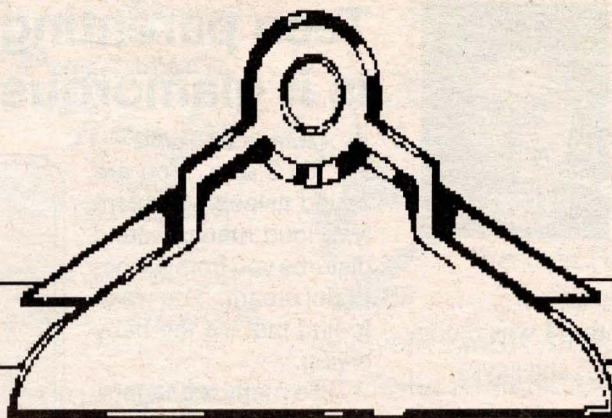
The God Balder dreamed he was going to die. His mother Frigga, the goddess of love, was frightened by her son's dream and made every person and every thing on the planet promise not to hurt him.

However, she forgot to ask the seemingly harmless mistletoe. Another god, Loki, was a jealous rival of Balder. Loki sought out the blind god, Hother, and asked him to throw a dart made out of mistletoe at Balder. Hother did as he was asked and the dart pierced Balder and killed him.

The heartbroken Frigga cried and cried until her tears turned into the white berries on the mistletoe. After begging the gods to bring her son back to life, Frigga's prayers were answered and her son was returned to her. An ecstatic Frigga stood beneath the mistletoe and kissed everyone who walked under it.

After a while, kissing under the mistletoe became a beloved custom, a celebration of love and peace.

Don't forget to kiss that special someone underneath the mistletoe this season.



DECA in Spokane: cold days and hot chili

Planck



By Melissa Planck

For four exciting days, students from Eldorado DECA and other local high school chapters attended the 50th annual Western Region Leadership Conference...in beautiful Spokane, Washington.

The conference allows DECA members throughout the region to get to know fellow members from other states...and help prepare students for the rapidly approaching competitions. The conference focuses on leadership development, which includes professional attitudes promoting marketing, management and entrepreneurship. It gives DECA students a greater understanding of and appreciation for the responsibilities we, as citizens, have in our private, free enterprise system.

Even though it was 30 degrees and snowing in Spokane, everyone gathered for a chili feed in Riverfront Park. Students also went to the IMAX theatre, ice-skating, gondola rides over the falls, a haunted house, and shopping.

Everyone partied at the dances, especially since there was one every night. Senior **Richie Ingram** says, "I haven't had this much fun in my whole life!"

District and state competitions come up soon and, if history repeats itself, Eldorado will take the state title for the fourth consecutive year in March. After that, it's the national competition in sunny Orlando, Florida.



Wrestlers: 'Young, strong'

By Kim Nash

Wrestling is



Nash

back! This year's wrestling team is determined to finish what they started in past years. Wrestling is one of the most competitive sports at Eldorado. The wrestlers are very dedicated in their efforts, cutting weight, making it through drilling practices, and concentrating both on school work and the mat.

The wrestling team has three returning state finalists: team captains **Danny May, Marky Corrington** and **Jeff Alexander**. The line-up for this year's wrestling team will be solid all the way through.

"They are young but strong," says Coach Gwin. "We will have our downfalls, such as injuries and grades. Wrestling is pretty unpredictable."

Many Eldorado wrestlers say that this year's coaching staff will be one of the best. The team is happy to have Coaches May and Jacot back, and it's Coach LaRocca's first year at Eldorado.

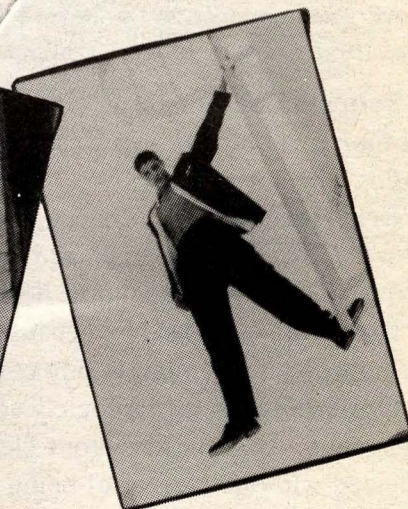
One goal for this year's team is to qualify for state, but to first get zone and conference out of the way.

"Wrestling takes more dedication and determination than any other sport," says Jeff Alexander.

[Read the feature on Alexander on page 13.]

YOU CAN'T GET BY ON LOOKS ALONE

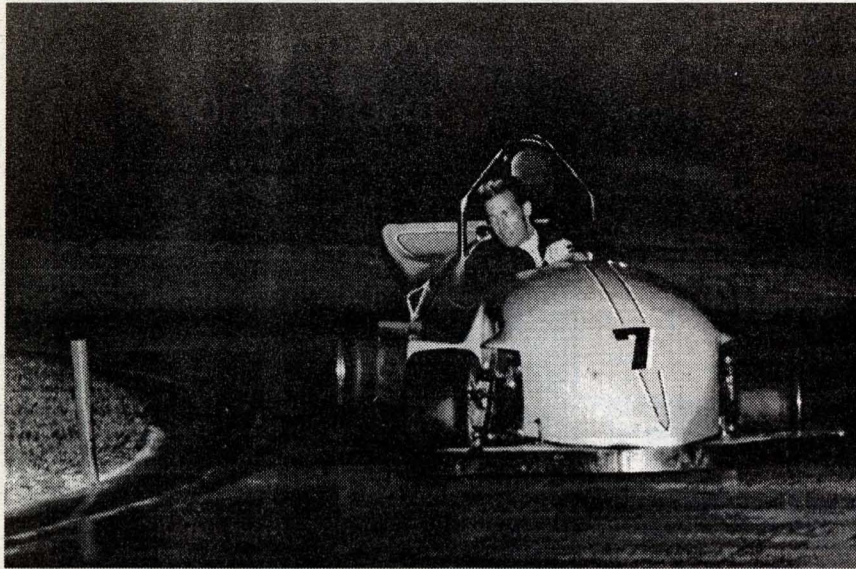
Modeling Portfolios and Zed Cards of Distinction



Lewis

Photography

222-1016



Taking his turn at a hairpin turn, above, is David Philippi, director of the School-to-Work program at Cimarron-Memorial High School. Philippi has arranged for students to be employed at the Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix Fun Center.



Cimarron-Memorial freshman Molly Oglesby experiences her first time in a mini-racecar.

Mini Gran Prix racing: Fast, fun, safe, small cost

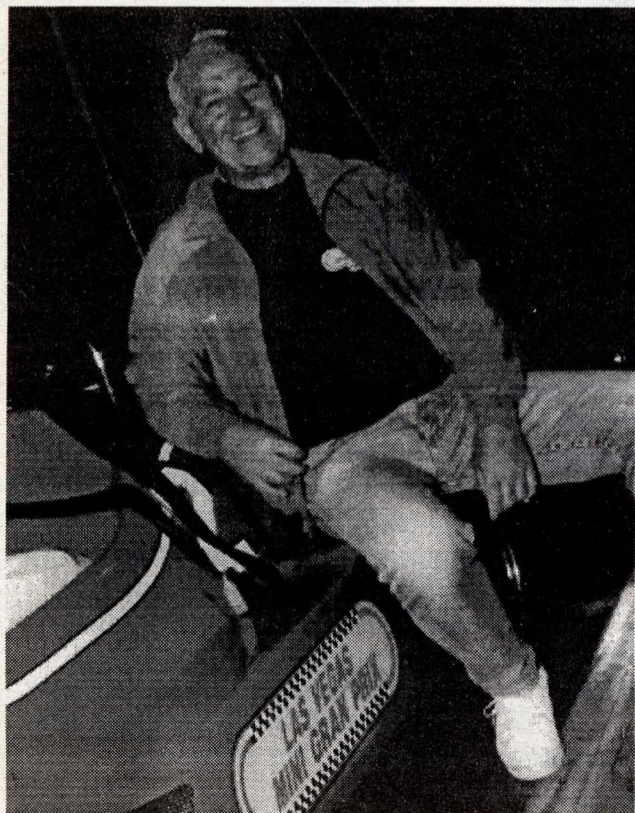
One of the hottest activities in town is Gran Prix racing — MINI Gran Prix, that is.

The vehicles are modelled on those regulation cars that tear 'em up at the *Indy 500*. The track, a twisting, switching one-third of a mile, challenges the eyes and reflexes of the drivers.

In a Gran Prix car, you race against your own best time and it's all computerized. Your time is flashed on an electronic board as you zip across the finish line.

"Forty-five seconds is very good time for this track," says Walt Ratay, general manager of the Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix fun center on North Rainbow. These are just a few of the racing cars available to the over-16 crowd. (You can take your little brother or sister along because there's a fleet of Go-Karts and Kiddie Kars for 4-7 year olds.)

In addition to 10 Gran Prix racers, there are 20 NasKarts, which are scaled after real Nascars,



Walter Ratay, general manager of Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix employs 20-24 high school students

and 40 GoKarts. Up to 20 drivers race each other on the NasKart and GoKart oval tracks.

On a recent night, a group of Cimarron-Memorial freshmen made the rounds of the tracks. **Molly Oglesby** was very cool and composed while awaiting her first time at the wheel, but broke into a huge grin as she tromped the pedal. **Carrie Dickey** says Mini Gran Prix racing is "pretty exciting." **Leslie Stump** has raced at the fun park before and says she really likes to play the video games.

"We always have the top ten video games," Ratay explains. The fun center also has a snack bar, dozens of other games, and a birthday party area.)

Two CMHS teachers were also on hand. Stephanie Jones, who teaches English and literature, says she goes to the Mini Gran Prix park often with friends.

"It's a safe environment for the kids," she says. "They're not on the street or hanging out at the mall and it costs about what they'd spend for a movie and popcorn."

David Philippi, director of the School-to-Work program at C-M, set up a special arrangement with Mini Gran Prix, which includes jobs for students. **John DiNardi**, **Carlos Robles** and **Patrick Kelly** are some of the C-M students who work there.

The Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix employs a total of 20 to 24 high school students, who operate the rides.

"The kids can earn high school credit by working at a related job," Philippi explains. "Students need work skills and I like getting businesses involved in the school."

Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix offers a special for high school students: every Monday and Tuesday night from 7 to 9pm, kids can have unlimited rides on all four tracks for just \$10.

With such a deal, you should get behind the wheel!

Chanukah draws Jews close to ancient religion

By *Nathene Newman, Valley High School*

[Editor's note: Chanukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, begins at sundown Sunday, Dec. 17]

One of the beauties of the Jewish religion is that it is ancient, yet it is still practiced in modern times.

The same Judaic principles, beliefs and values that were practiced thousands of years ago still enhance the lives of Jews today...as does the ancient celebration of Chanukah.

This is the only Jewish festival that commemorates a military victory. Thousands of years ago, the king of Syria and his troops seized the holy temple in Jerusalem and forbade the practice of Judaism.

A man named Judah Maccabi formed a Jewish army in the hills and, together, they reclaimed and rededicated the temple.

At the temple, they found the oil with which to light the *Ner Tamid* (the Eternal Light), which is never to be dimmed in the synagogue. However, there was only enough to light the lamp for one day.

A great miracle happened there: it lasted eight days, long enough for the people to obtain more holy oil. This is why the festival of Chanukah is celebrated for eight days and is called The Festival of Lights.

LINKED WITH ANCIENT PEOPLE

As a Jewish teenager, I feel proud to celebrate Chanukah. It gives me a link with my people of ancient times and with Jews celebrating it today.

Julie Unger, a junior at Clark High School, comments that she feels special when she celebrates Chanukah because it stands out during "Christmas time" and reminds her of the uniqueness and pride in Judaism.

Ofir Ventura, a junior at Chaparral, says that he loved participating in Chanukah because it is a treasured childhood memory for him, and it further allows him to value the importance of tradition in the Jewish faith.

Chanukah is a time to eat, drink, play and be joyous. It is also a time to reflect upon tradition, culture and Judaism. To me, Chanukah is a means of exercising pride in my religion and, at the same time, to celebrate life!



Nathene Newman

ABOUT THE WRITER

Nathene Newman is President of the Valley High School Student Body. She is also the first regional president of the B'nai B'rith Girls organization ever to come from Las Vegas.

Toot your own horns—Gorman takes the prize!

By Karolina Kurkowski

The Gorman band marched to a winning tune recently when they entered a competition in Palmdale, CA. Four bands competed in Class C and, adding to the tension, Gorman performed third.



Isabella Kuo, senior, remembers the victorious moment.

"We were so happy when we heard that the number two

Kurkowski

Multiple personalities are hit in stage play

Excerpts: Review by Adam Candee



American culture was captured in a nutshell for three nights at Gorman High School, when Gorman thespians put on a stellar performance of A. R. Gurney's *The Dining Room*.

Set entirely in dining rooms, this fast-paced play revealed both the humorous and dramatic sides of American society.

The interrelated vignettes address issues from alternative lifestyles to dealing with senile elders.

Actors played multiple roles. **Paulo Rabo**, who played six parts, was superb throughout. He and **Molly Raftery** (five roles) put on the best scene of the play, when Meg begs her father to come home after a broken marriage.

Also noteworthy were **Danielle Geihs**, who was excellent and stole both of her scenes, and **Brian Dermody**, who did a fine job of transitioning into his different roles.

Kudos to the crew and ensemble!

school was not Gorman! Everyone was jumping and shouting in happiness. Wynter [senior **Wynter Hutchinson**] and I were so excited that we began to cry."

"We actually got our own first-place trophy," claims **Jennifer Schmidt**, junior. It is the first time in four years the Gorman band placed first in such a tournament.

Lenise Kryk, junior, summed it up: "We put all our effort into it. All the other teams thought we were horrible, but we proved them wrong."

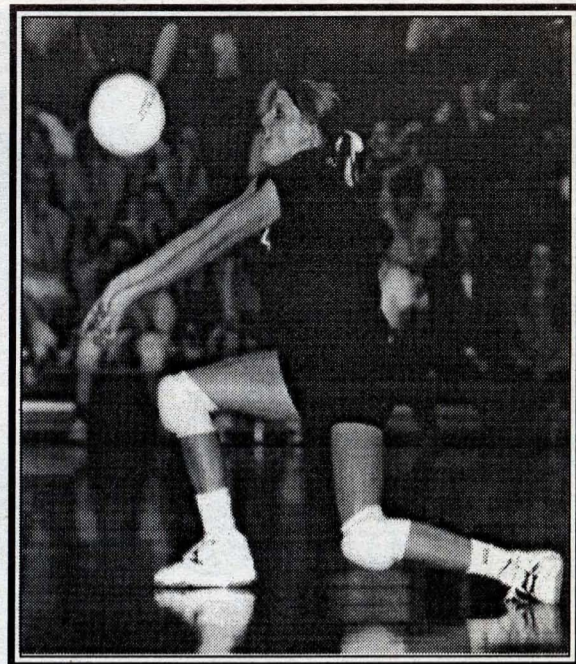
The band earned that award, with daily practices starting at 6:50 in the morning, and extra practices at 1:50 in the afternoon.

Competing bands are categorized by size; Gorman was in group C, for bands with 60 members or fewer.

In addition to the band's victory, the Gorman Color Guard placed second in their category.

In an ironic twist, two years ago, after a competition that included Las Vegas teams, the Gorman band was disappointed to find out they were not winners. But the triumphant Green Valley band could not fit the trophy onto their bus. So the Gaels offered to "lug" it for the Gators. When Gorman was unloading, a passerby asked whether the trophy was theirs. The Gorman group unanimously replied, "Of course!"

RIGHT: Senior Katie Watters is in position for a great return during a game in the recent volleyball finals.



Reflections: On playing first string

By Molly Raftery and Leigh Caldwell

Molly Raftery



Each game begins with the announcement of the starting line-up: those players whose talents surpass others. Their performances on field or court reflect hard work and dedication. Consequently, spectators become very familiar with those players.

What about the players whose names are not called in the starting line-up...who attend the same practices, repeat the same drills and run the same distances?

The team is made up of more than just the few who play throughout the entire game. Everyone on the team has a very important role and most observers do not understand the frustration experienced by the "bench sitters."

If some players are not part of the starting string, what keeps them committed to all the practices and difficulties involved in sports?

Junior **Jay Zedick** says simply, "I love the sport [soccer]." Training sometimes becomes rigorous and the games frustrating, but Jay gets angry at himself for not playing as well as he should and, therefore, not playing more on the field.

Senior **Joe Coury**, team captain, recognizes the need for a second string. If someone gets hurt or needs to rest, Coury says, the second string "steps in and takes over."

Varsity volleyball player **Erin MacKay** says her team's motto is "One body, one soul—you are only as strong as your weakest link." Erin strives not to be that weak link. This positive attitude keeps Erin going.

Melissa Cox, also on Gorman's winning volleyball team, says "Sometimes I feel like I should be out there and I'm on the bench."

This desire to play keeps the reserves coming back.

Coach Dan Bisek says "teamwork equals sacrifice." The best players must sacrifice some glory to give lesser players an opportunity to play. And they, in turn, must give up some playing time in order for the team to win. Bisek says it takes a special kind of person to "ride the pine."

Senior **Jim Roban** comments, "It is fun to be a part of the BGHS basketball team." Last year, he was not always a starter. Each game he did not start made him more pumped up and wanting to play harder than anyone on the court. He believes the second string can make the team more competitive as they strive for starting positions.

Senior **Nate Hunterton** participates in football (starting on both offense and defense) and basketball (he spends a fair amount of time on the bench). Nate, then, has a view from both sides. In football, he feels it an honor to be among the leaders of the team. As a second string basketball player, he says his role is "to make myself better and, in turn, make the team better."

He says if a person really loves to play, then at practice there is no way to tell if he is first or second string. He gives it his all, all the time.

Junior **Tony Papp** says he can sense some hostility at times between first and second string, but all work hard.

Jack Behnen loves going to football practice, which finally paid off for him: at the final game, the entire crowd stood and chanted, "We want Jack!" That moment epitomizes why a player stays with a team though seemingly destined to play only on the sidelines.

[Editor's note: Leigh Caldwell's photo is not available]

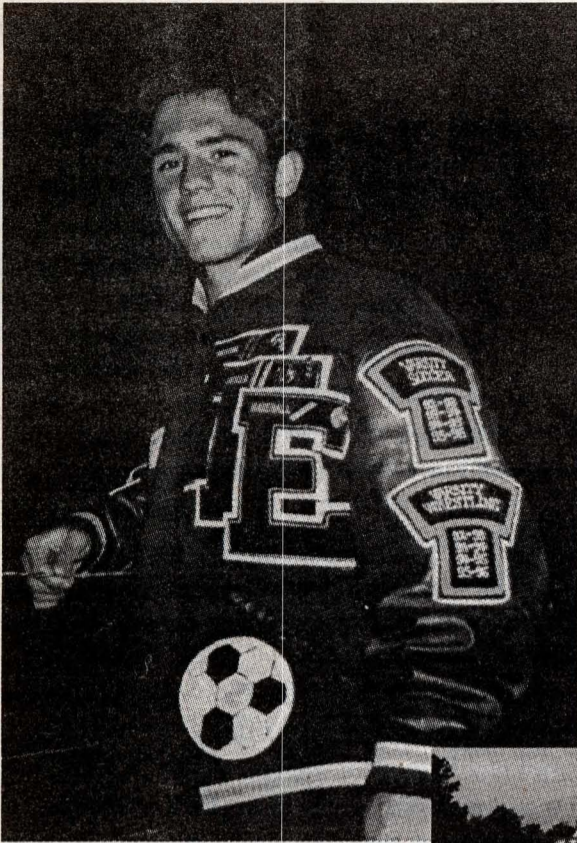
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Excellence in Athletics

The 130-pound Renaissance Man

By Lee Tone

King of the Hill tournament for the youngest division in Cincinnati's youngster soccer. Two teams fight their way to a final showdown. Though the players are only five and six years of age, the crowd is worked into a frenzy by a tie-breaking shoot-out between the two teams.

Now, there comes a time in every person's life when called upon to rise above and make the extra effort. Who knew that such a time would come for little Jeffrey Alexander? This was only the beginning for Jeff atop the hill of greatness.

Eldorado senior **Jeff Alexander**, known to anyone at Eldorado as "Mister E," referring to the weighty alphabet that adorns his cluttered letterman's jacket. The message inscribed across the back of that jacket could sum up the essence of how Alexander plays sports: "Dynamite comes in small packages!"

NOW A WORD FROM MOTHER

Talking to Jeff is like talking to a humble monk. Not willing to talk about himself, Alexander lets those around him do his talking. But Jeff's mother, Jackie Alexander is all too happy to discuss one

of her four sons. In defense of Jeff's humble nature, Mrs. Alexander says, "Jeffrey's not a talker. He's always been the one to show you what he can do rather than *tell* you. When Jeffrey talks, I listen because it's not very often that he speaks up.

"Jeffrey's his own motivator. He never needs anyone there patting him on the back; that's what makes him such a great competitor. His push comes from within," she adds.

(Continued on next column)



Jackie Carducci



Daphne Grabovoi

Carducci, Grabovoi honored by PRSA

Jackie Carducci, (left, top) journalism instructor at Green Valley High School for five years, has been named 1995 Communications Teacher of the Year by the Desert Sands Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

Daphne Grabovoi, (left, bottom) journalism instructor at Silverado High, was a finalist, along with Bonanza's Gary Sassenberg and Durango's Ken Zelasko.

Carducci is also the advisor for *The InvestiGator*, GV's school newspaper and she teaches creative writing, English I and American literature.

Grabovoi, advisor to Silverado's *Star* and a teacher of AP Composition, Literature and English II, moved from Valley to Silverado when the school opened in 1994. Before that, she was at Chaparral for 16 years.

CONGRATULATIONS, WINNERS!

HE DOESN'T MIND WEIGHTING

Though only five-foot-three, Jeff makes up for what he lacks in size in his quickness on the field and on the mat. Jeff also compensates in his strength. An avid weight lifter, Jeff plans to do well as a member of Eldorado's dominant weight-lifting team, with weight capacity for the bench press in upwards of 200 pounds.

Already colleges have started to take notice of the little big man, sending letters, making phone calls, expressing interest. Jeff's athletic ability only encompasses half of what makes up this 130-pound Renaissance man. As Jeff puts it, he has "minimal free time for anything else," but he still manages a 3.4 GPA with some honors' classes.

PICKING A SPORT IS HARD TO DO

Alexander considers himself an athlete, but an athlete in his opinion doesn't have a favorite sport. Jeff competes in his sports because he has fun. Because of this, it's hard for him to choose which sport he considers his favorite. His mom, though, is sure to tell that he use to favor baseball, but now his interest probably lies more on the wrestling mat and soccer field than anywhere else.

Jeff got his start at age four playing soccer and then baseball. Around fourth grade he discovered the sport of wrestling.

Jeff is unique because he is a three-sport athlete (the CCSD allows only three sports a year for a high school athlete) and a top contender in each of his sports. Last year, Jeff made the all-conference team as a soccer player, took second in state for wrestling, and led the baseball team as one of last year's top players.

HIS PERSONAL BEST

As a soccer player, Jeff was the only junior captain, leading his team all the way to the state finals before losing nail-biting 1-0 rare loss to Northern Nevada's top team, Carson. This year Jeff had his best personal season, scoring 12 goals, but a disappointing team season with a first-round playoff loss.

As a wrestler, Jeff has the rare honor of being able to say he has only had to cut weight once, showing that he has the skill to compete with wrestlers of larger size. Alexander is considered to be one of the top wrestlers this year in his Southern Nevada weight class. He took fourth in the last year's zone tournament for the 125-pound weight class and second in the State tournament for the same weight group.

In baseball he led the team in on-base percentage—even higher than Major League Baseball draft-ee Matt Dehner. Leading off for the team, Jeff became an important part of the Devils' lineup, playing his part as the starting second baseman.

Year round, it seems that Jeff Alexander is in constant competition—competition in which he always seems to come out on top.

Little Jeffrey Alexander got his start in Cincinnati; who knows where his skills will take him?



Tone

All Stars near top in North America

By Kristi Hartz

The Las Vegas All Star roller hockey team is now fourth in North America after being together for only six months. The national competition was held at Cashman Field recently.

Mike Tomba and Ron Mangual, All Stars who attend Chaparral, say that they did well against teams that had been together for years.

"It was great just being there, being pampered by all the sponsors," Tomba admits. "We had a lot to do to even keep up with all the teams that prepared for a long time."

During the last game to determine third place, the All Stars were taken out of the building by security for fighting in the rink.

Even though they didn't win, the All Stars are proud of how it came out.

'Get Shorty' fails to reach high expectations

By Laura Henderson

I went to this movie with high hopes and clear head. When the janitors finally had to drag me out hours later, I was hardly conscious. OK, that didn't happen, but my head was definitely spinning. Who worked for whom? Why did MoMo have to die? Where did Shorty come in to all of this? And what happened to the rest of my *Good & Fruity*?

The beginning was all right. I even understood the plot for a while. But then the opening credits ended and so did my sanity. All I know for sure is that John Travolta played a loan shark turned movie producer; a bunch of people died; and everyone kept going into each other's houses uninvited. (I guess weirdos don't lock their doors.)

Get Shorty was written for the *Pulp Fiction* lovers of the world. Travolta even has the same greasy, slicked-back hair, only this time without the tail. It takes the same odd sense of humor and sick state of mind to enjoy both movies. Just like it took me two times to actually like the first, one would probably have to see *Get Shorty* about half a dozen to gain full appreciation for it.

There aren't many other specific things in common between the two movies...They are just alike...though I have to say *Pulp Fiction* was at least able to be followed, a characteristic essential for viewing enjoyment.

I must comment on the man sitting in front of me. His head was rather large; he appeared to be enjoying the show; he laughed at all the right parts (at least, I assume they were the right parts — I was lost, remember). And on the way out of the theatre, I heard him comment that it had more of a point than he had expected. But he never said the point was a good one.

Heck, my mom even liked the movie. She thinks she likes football too, but that's a whole other story. As for me, I vaguely remember laughing once but can no longer remember why. Probably Danny DeVito in a suit.

But why would you take my word for it? Rent the movie as soon as it comes out on video. Or, if you really want to get your money's worth, sneak into the theatre.

Amnesty International invites students to monitor atrocities

By Richard Park



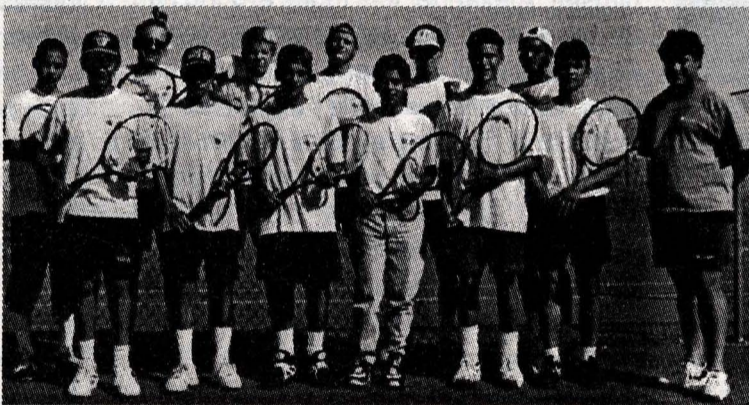
Park

Can you write? Spell your name correctly? If so, you could easily become a member of Amnesty International. This organization is dedicated to fighting injustices by foreign powers [and our own government]. Each week, an *Urgent Action Appeal* is sent to each

member. It is a summary of some atrocity that a government is committing. For example, one *Appeal* was about the police in Rio De Janeiro. They were making death threats to a man named Caio Ferraz. They had already assaulted his friend, by shooting him in the eye.

Amnesty has high school chapters, but students can't just go in with guns blazing. Instead they write letters that contain information from the *Urgent Action Appeal*. Each letter is a statement that tells the offender, according to secretary Jennifer Williams, "we know what you're doing and we don't like it, so you'd better stop."

If the offender decides not to stop, he gets a ton of mail until he does. And it works, as some prisoners can testify. One prisoner could tell when letters would arrive because the guards would feed him and begin treating him decently.

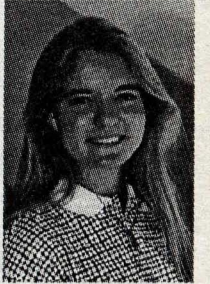


WINNING SEASON. The Chaparral men's tennis team finished a successful year, going 6-2 in Sunrise Division, even though half the team were new players. Congrats to **Seth Jones, Yashindir Jokul, Ahmad Thomas and Brian Ching** who earned spots in the Zone Individual Tournament, and doubles teams of **Derrick Armstrong/Kevin Hardy and Brandon Fuller/Reshad Mahan**. (Reported by Steve Gomez)

YES! corporation gets productive start

By Andrea Bednar

Can you imagine not being able to wear Birkenstocks and jeans to class?



Bednar

How about sporting dress clothes, ties, and name tags every other day? What if you even had to call in sick if you were not coming to school? The 55 student members of the Company, otherwise known as the YES! Corporation, certainly can imagine.

The class got off to a slow start despite the fact that construction for its "office" began in January. The students held class in the library. Now, in their official "business room," they hope to be all set by Christmas.

When complete, the room will include a receptionist's desk with an official "greeter," and an employee lounge for workers to take their required 15-minute break in their four-hour schedule.

"I believe that (the Company) will prepare the students of Chap for a future in the business world, and that we, as students, will be able to communicate better with competition awaiting us," said senior **Eric Puhl**.

Chaparral, VoTech and Northern Nevada's Douglas High School are among the first schools to conduct such a class.

In 1994, a bond was passed to enable schools in Clark County to receive additional money to purchase materials.

So far, Chap has been the only school in Clark County to obtain its money from the fund. Part of the money will be used to purchase Compaq computers and other "cutting edge" equipment.

Rasbach hopes flight career takes off

By Lindsay Rhodes



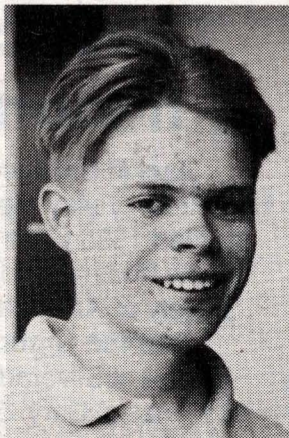
Rhodes

An engine hums. Metal wings slice through the air. A pilot radios ahead to the control tower. As he lands, **Steve Rasbach** is one flight closer to earning his pilot's license.

"I like to fly because I love being away from everything," Rasbach says. "...to do something everybody said I wouldn't be able to."

The senior first became interested in flying when he was a student in the flight class at Chaparral. In that class, Rasbach studied the instruments, meteorology and the principles of flying.

He says the first time he ever flew was on a field trip to the North Las Vegas Airport. That was the beginning...he knew he wanted to be a licensed pilot.



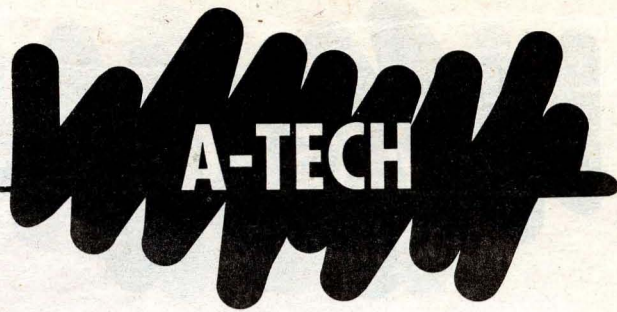
Steve Rasbach

Over the past summer, Rasbach began taking flight lessons...three or four a week until school started. Now he is able to take only one a week. Each lesson is about two hours long. Rasbach flies a small, single-engine plane, a Cessna T-150, which he rents from a friend.

To earn his licence, Rasbach must have 40 hours of flight time, pass a written test, and have physical exams.

He hopes to achieve his goal by mid-December. If he does, he will have a pilot's license but no driver's license.

"I want to go to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona," he says, adding that he hopes to become an international airline pilot.



STUDENT COUNCIL COUNTS ITS PENNIES

By Eric Petty

Advanced Technologies Academy's Student Council kicked off the new school year with a Penny Drive fundraiser held during lunch in the cafeteria. The purpose was to raise money for school activities. The juniors won A-TECH's First Annual Penny Drive contest. Although the goal of one million pennies was not met, the fund-raiser was still a great success. The amount of \$302.05 was raised.



Other fund-raisers are being conducted by the Student Council. Donuts and ice cream are for sale after school in front of Student Services. Along with the \$302.05 raised from the Penny Drive, profits from the donut sales and ice cream sales were used for activities during Spirit Week.

NO SKATEBOARDS! 'Across-the-Board' rule

By Paulo Sotero

Many students at A-TECH are not taking kindly to the rule of no skateboarding, or boards on campus. To some students, this is completely wrong. Many of the people in favor of the no skateboarding rule connect skateboarding with the degenerates of society. It is not as if all of the people who skateboard are losers. People just skate for recreation, and enjoyment. Punks are not the only ones who skate.

Some of the other high schools have a similar rule of no skateboarding, but many of them do not take it seriously. For example, Cimarron-Memorial does not have a problem with skateboards, according to that school's registrar. They can be brought to school if they are kept in the lockers, and Bonanza and Clark both said that they do not allow skateboards or rollerblades on their campus. At Clark, if they catch you more than once, they R.P.C. you.

Michael Kinnaird, Principal of A-TECH, plans to enforce the rule of no skateboarding. He said, "If we see it, we take it." He also said that there is "no need" for skateboards here at A-TECH. The rule is to be followed, not broken. Thanks for keeping the skin on our knees, Mr. Kinnaird.

A-Tech student ready to Monopolize world!

By Eric Parshall

Sydney Franklin of the Advanced Technologies Academy competed in the National Monopoly Tournament recently.

Sydney played four different games at the tournament at the YMCA, but it was the YMCA that sent his name to the state and then, after three years, he found out about going to the championship. After playing at the national Monopoly championship,

he will have the chance to go to the World championship.

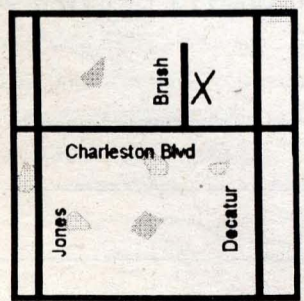
"It's odd that it came up after three years," he says. "I feel honored but scared." This just shows how exciting this opportunity is.

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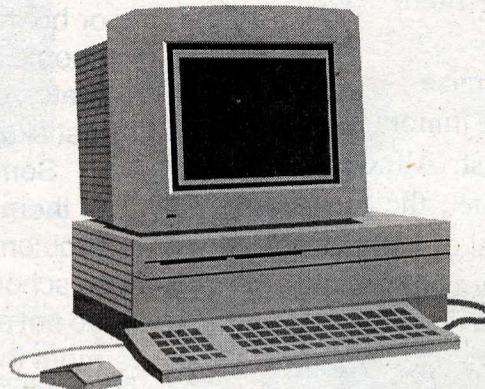
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C-M students selected for Honors Orchestra



Four Cimarron-Memorial students struck a note with the Honors Orchestra program. **Jill Karren** (cello), **Mandy Karren** (violin), **Eric Kurdziel** (viola), and **Whitney Stewart** (cello) were selected for the Clark County Honors Orchestra and are eligible to audition for the 1995 All-State Orchestra.

Magnet School Attracts Students




Ever wondered what all the magnet school fuss was about? Considering a career in computers, construction, or culinary arts? The Area Technical Trade Center (ATTC) is a magnet school that provides students with the knowl-

edge and skills to enter these occupations, as well as diesel technology, electronics, health and medical occupations, horticulture, and hotel operations. ATTC will present these occupational programs to Cimarron-Memorial students Thursday and Friday, January 18 and 19.

If you participate in the magnet program, you will still attend C-M for your academic classes, activities, and sports but you will attend ATTC for technical/occupational classes during either the morning or afternoon sessions.

You must be either a sophomore or junior this year to apply for next year since the program is available only to juniors and seniors.

WAITING FOR OCTOBER. Cimarron-Memorial student **Carl Alampi**, a freshman, won the first-place award for ninth graders in a calendar art contest sponsored by the Silver State Schools Federal Credit Union. Alampi's "Trick or Treat" entry was selected for the October page in the 1996 calendar. Other winners are sophomore **Cammie Blosser** and junior **Keith Clubb**, both from Durango, and **Jessica Martin**, an Eldorado High School senior. Calendars are available at the Credit Union.

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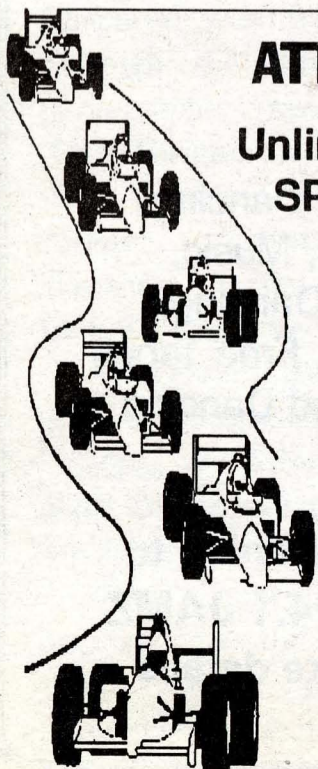
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Your friend's name _____

His/Her School _____

How to contact your friend (phone?) _____

5-10 words why this friend should be featured _____

Your name/school _____

Your phone number(s) _____

LAS VEGAS

What? No curfew in Germany?

By Dawn Turner

"Ich könnte mir nicht vorstellen hier zu leben mit all den Lientern und kasinos."

Translation?

"I couldn't imagine I could live here with all the lights and casinos."

This was the reaction of Annika Boker, an exchange student from Germany, as she stepped off the plane to spend a year in Las Vegas.

Boker came to the United States to learn how to speak English. She says she had no idea that she was in for such a fantastic year.

Her father is overjoyed that Annika had the opportunity to visit the U.S. He says it's a great chance for her to learn about life and other cultures. On the other hand, her mother is afraid that Annika will be influenced negatively by her experiences here.

Boker says that both her parents are very trusting and tend to give her a lot of freedom, but her host parents, Stephanie and Jeff McLean, are a little more strict when it comes to curfews...she must be in at 10 p.m. on weeknights and midnight on the weekends.

"I don't mind rules much," she says. "It's just that there's more freedom in Germany. My friends and I would usually hang out at bars and parties and not come home until we felt like it. Sometimes we would stay out all night!"

Annika says she loves school and her favorite class is Commercial Design. She has been interested in painting and drawing since grade school.

She loves punk music and her favorite American bands are The Stone Roses and Bad Religion...favorite German bands are Die Toten Hosen (The Dead Trousers) and Die Ärzte (The Doctors).

Asked if she likes fast food, Annika replies with an emphatic "No way!" She explains that the only American food she likes are club sandwiches.

After high school, Annika plans to attend a German university, although she is undecided about her career choice.

The best thing about living in the United States and attending Las Vegas High School, she says, is "meeting other exchange students, trying new foods and learning about new cultures."

THE ROVING REPORTER

Manny Reyes

Students at Las Vegas High School were asked this question:

"The high school dropout rate is increasing. Is there anything the school system can do to keep kids in school?"



Reyes

President responds to letter from LVHS

By Rachel Newton

How would you like to get a letter from President Bill Clinton? The special programs students at Las Vegas High did just that.



President Clinton

Earlier in the year, the classes sent letters to the President, responding to his policies such as the deficit, tax increases, and the drug problem, as well as concerns of small businesses. They also discussed some of his comments on MTV.

The students also sent him a Wildcat T-shirt and urged him to wear it when he works out.

Clinton answered their inquiries by sending brochures, a signed picture of himself, and an engraved thank-you note.

The classes also sent letters to such companies as Kelloggs and Coca-Cola and have received letters and even products in return.



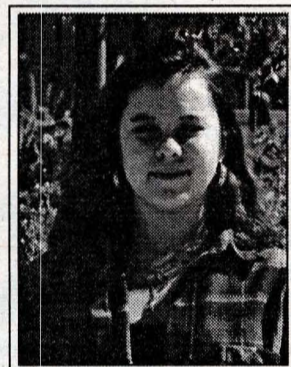
The school district is doing everything it can. (Tim Wind, junior)



It's not the fault of school. [We] will always have kids like this. (Sheeba Parker, jr.)



School starts too early in the morning. (Emily Tobler, sophomore)



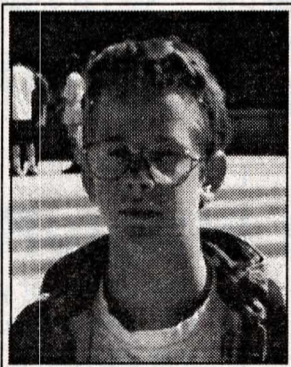
New after-school activities, along with more buses. (Jazmine Rodeles, junior)



People are forced into classes that are too hard for them. (Melissa Young, sophomore)



...become familiar with the supreme leader, Newt Gingrich. (Marcus Diaz, jr.)



Give the kids more freedom. (Jonathon Brandin, freshman)



Students ... more conservative by listening to Rush Limbaugh. (Meredith Lee, senior)



[CCSD] needs to...let kids make their own decisions. (Santoinette Baker, senior)

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Dress Code: who cares?

BENDING THE RULES

By Kristin Edington
Silverado High School



Edington

She slides past the dean, eyes downcast, her posture shifty. She rounds the corner and turns back to check on her victory, then slides unnoticed into the crowd.

You know who she is. It's the girl with the shirt a little...no, a lot...too short. Her shirt is midriff length and too sheer to pass the laws of decency.

Who is this? *The dress-code violator!* You know, one of those who fold their frayed jeans under as they walk past the office, or frantically tug at their short shorts, trying to elongate the seams. Chronic dress-code abusers and the one-timers. It seems that Silverado is turning to the streets of San Francisco—and no one seems to care.

One reporter wanted to find out if this was true. She wanted to see if the dress code is really enforced or if it is just something to please parents. Would she (a violator) be caught or could she escape the wrath of the dean? She decided to take the challenge.

It was a Friday. She figured that, since it was the end of the week, maybe she would have a better chance. She chose to bend the rules with the frayed jeans and Birkenstocks combo.

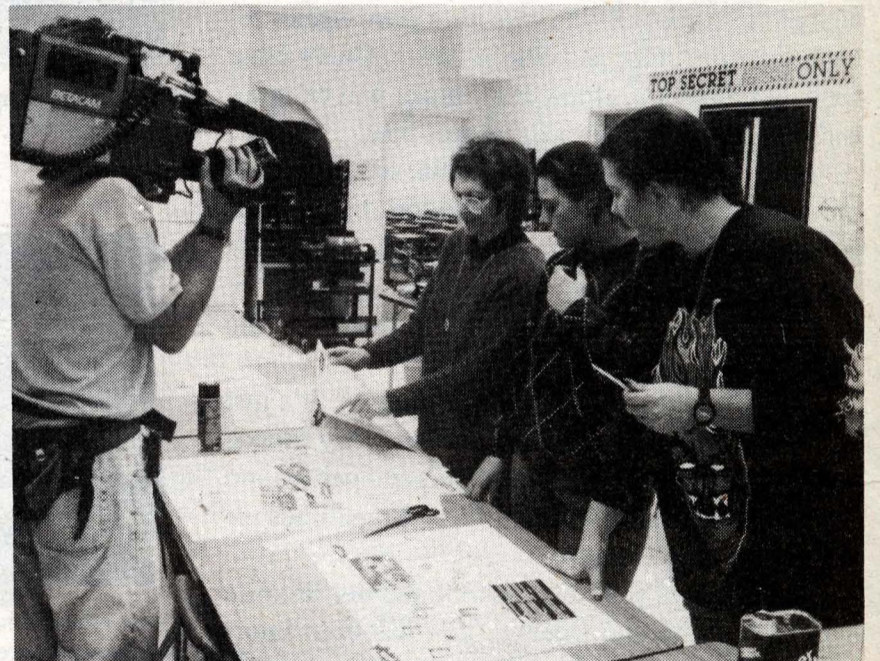
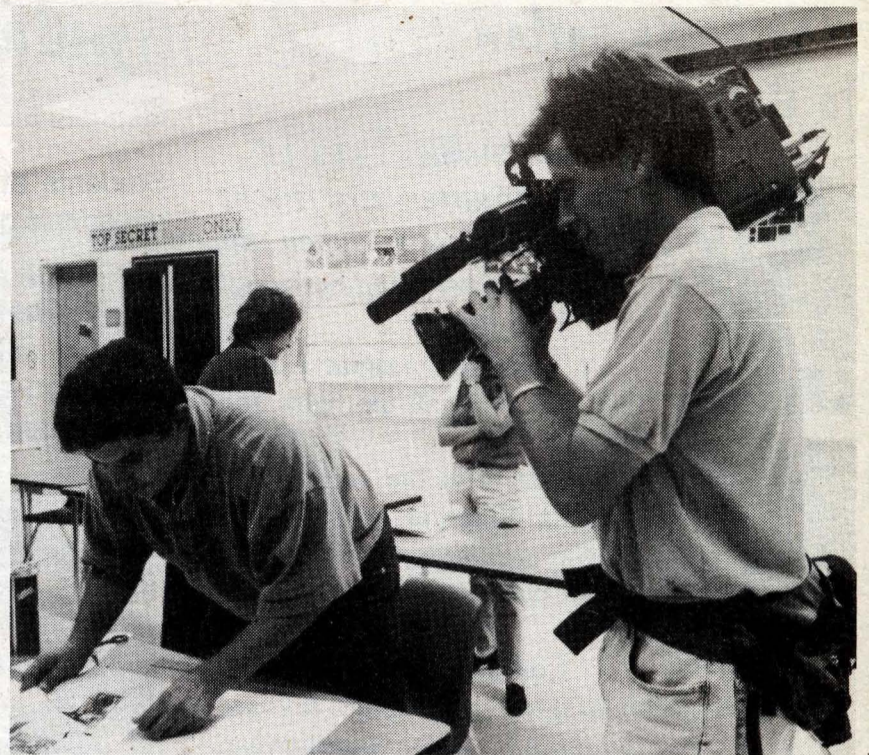
She walked past the dean. A narrow escape: he was sending another student to staple their frays. She was sure she would get caught also. She waved at the dean a little wearily and tried to regain her composure. The key is to act like you are in control. Hey, she is a senior!

As she went through her classes, she became increasingly aware that she was part of the "norm." Everyone was a violator. None of her teachers cared and the hall monitors had fights to control. There are a lot more important things to worry about than dress-code violators.

When she hadn't been caught by the end of the day, she was a little disappointed. The high drama she had expected turned out to be uneventful. The dress code is not strictly enforced and people don't really care if you want to be a violator along with them.

I must admit, I was surprised. I guess I expected her to be taken away in handcuffs.

I did learn a few things, though—most of which I will not share with my parents.



NOSY OR NEWSY? KVBC TV-3 recently taped a story on CLASS! for their weekly *Youth* program. Segments were filmed in the journalism rooms at Silverado and Las Vegas High Schools. In the top photo, News 3 cameraman Justin Rush peers at the Silverado *Star* paste-up being assembled by Chris McDonald. Directly above, Rush catches Devon Jean (right) and Mary McMurrin talking shop with Sari Aizley, CLASS! editor.

Roll Over Renoir!



Budding Rodins and Ansel Adamses strutted their stuff recently at the first annual juried student art competition. The Temporary Contemporary Collective art gallery on Maryland Parkway is hosting the exhibit which runs until January 13.

The art competition, titled "Time on Our Side," included prize categories for ceramics, drawing and printmaking, painting, photography, and sculpture. Prizes went to high school students from across the valley.

The prize for best of show in painting went to **Nick Hoch** from Las Vegas Academy for his work "Go Go." The ceramics award went to **Laura Aguiar** from Basic for her work "Space." In the drawing category, **Phil Reid** from Chaparral won with "Sunrise Through the Smog." The photography prize went to **Amy Rosencrantz**, a student from Cimarron-Memorial, for "Hester." **Crystal Halpin's** "Gearing Up for the Future" took the sculpture award.

An Overall Best of Show prize, encompassing all works entered, was awarded to **Phil Reid** for his "Sunrise Through the Smog."

Clark County high school art students did themselves proud with this show. Congratulations to all who entered.

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5-10 words why this friend should be featured _____

Your name/school _____

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OPINION: YOU CAN QUOTE ME

A Color-Blind Mind

By Lisa Landino

What color am I? Can you judge my level of intelligence by the color of my skin? Don't close your mind to who I am inside by the way I look outside. It doesn't matter what race I am, you shouldn't judge me if you don't know me.

This is the number-one social problem in America today. We judge people by the color of their skin. If I asked you to be my friend, and if I were black and you were white, would you? Or would you be more eager to be my friend if I were white, too?

What does it take for you to not see color? Every situation that is in the media is made out to be something derived from racism. Why? We all believe society is racist, yet we are all part of society.

Would you still love your mother or father, sister or brother if they were a different color? Of course, they are people you've loved from the beginning—before you judged by color.

How would you feel if you had some disfiguration and no one wanted to be your friend...not wanting to acknowledge you because you are different. It's the same with race. If you choose to act upon this by separating yourself from others, you are a racist. This, my friends of all races, is wrong.

I have a friend whose parents will not let him date outside of his race...if he did, they would disown him. They feel that children who come from interracial relationships "suffer." I thought people were becoming more open-minded in the dawn of the 21st century.

Racist parents teach their children that their race is superior to all others. To do that to impressionable children, to teach them to hate, is wrong.

Where do you have time to hate in your busy schedule? Put that time to...living a full, healthy life and sharing as much love as possible.

When children are born, they have color-blind minds: they don't care who holds, hugs and loves them. They choose whom they love, not by the color of the person's skin, but by the goodness they sense in the person. Why can't you feel that way the rest of your life? What changes your mind? *You*.

So how can you change it back? *You* do it. Realize that hate is not the key to happiness. Love is the key to a wonderful life. We may look different, yet we all love the same.

This is America, land of the free and home of the brave. Feel free to be happy at all costs, and be brave enough to love everyone, even if they are different from you. Treat people as you want to be treated.

I believe racism bites. You can quote me on that.

Blazers fire up for winter sports

Reported by Amanda Krueger

MEN'S BASKETBALL (state champions) welcome back key players from last year: **Ra'oof Sadat, Jared Call** and **Kevon Jones**.

WRESTLING will see about 50 participants for varsity, JV and B teams. Those returning to this young team from last year are **Eddie Canonico, Gray Maynard, Shawn Connolly** and **Jason Warren**.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL is looking to improve last year's third place. Key returning players: seniors **Wetona Bell** and **Michelle Higgs**, junior **Nicole Madson**, and sophomores **Maigan Salamino** and **Blair Wilkes**.

WOMEN'S SOCCER welcomes returning players **Anni Wieseke, Nicki Wieseke, Jamie Wall, Quinn Shroyer, Erin Connolly** and **Kim Oliver**.

Runner invited to London for winter break

Reported by Amanda Krueger

Senior Kelly Murie will be a member of the World Sports Exchange International Cross Country team in London. He chose England over China for this event. Only 70 student-athletes were selected for the European cross-country trip and he is the only Las Vegan going to London. In addition to running, Murie plans to go sightseeing and visit sites such as Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square, and Oxford University.



MISS JANUARY. Heading up the 1996 Silver State Schools Federal Credit Union calendar is this work by Durango sophomore **Cammie Blosser**. It's called "A Few of My Favorite Things."

Jurassic Park special effects expert visits Durango

Excerpts from a report by Aliza Robinson and Victoria Whitaker

Durango drama and journalism students had the opportunity to meet and speak with Oscar-winning visual effects artist Michael Lantieri recently. He won his Oscar for work on the '93 blockbuster *Jurassic Park*.

Lantieri was in Las Vegas to film the implosion of the Landmark Hotel for a possible upcoming Tim Burton film and will soon start on *The Lost World*, sequel to *Jurassic Park*, and another sequel to *Star Wars*. He is the godfather of **Eric Osello**, a Durango theatre student.

"He did this because he cares about students," says theatre teacher Colleen Brown. "He has shown the personal side of the movie industry."

He also worked on *Back to the Future*, *Flashdance*, *Casper*, and *Congo* and he made Peter Pan fly in *Hook*.

Lantieri shared a few special effects secrets. In *Witches of Eastwick*, actress Veronica Algeunon vomits cherry pits. To do this, he made a mold of her body and head, drilled a hole through the mold to the mouth, and (with pressure) the pits successfully came up.

In *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, when Roger spit out water in the kitchen scene, Lantieri had a pipe coming from the sink and squirting water. Then the animators drew in Roger, so perfectly that it covered the pipe.

After his talk, Lantieri answered the students' questions. He said Steven Spielberg is the best, coming to the set prepared and knowing what he wants to do. He knew in first grade that he wanted this career and began making movies with friends in the ninth grade.

About his Oscar, he said, "The party after was better, but it was still great to win...something you'll never forget."

Baseball

Let there be light!

By Tyler Nielsen

The Durango baseball team brightened up its program with new lights on the baseball field. The Clark County Parks and Recreation Department funded the project so that summer leagues will have more places to play. Eldorado is the only other school involved in this project.

"This project should give parents a better chance to come and support their kids, now that there will be night games," says Mike Gomez, Durango's head baseball coach. "The Spring Valley community will also benefit from the lights."

The team has a new scoreboard and plans include a concession stand with a press-box on the top.

Baseball players are now weight-lifting to prepare for the March 4 start of the season.

Moser, Butler reach National Merit semi-finals

Excerpts from a report by Rachael Fish

Durango seniors **Thomas Butler** and **Tara Moser** were recently commended as semifinalists in the 1996 National Merit Scholarship Program, which honors students with potential for success in college.

Of the top 50,000 scores in the country, only 15,000 students qualify as National Merit Semifinalists.

Moser plans to go into medicine after college and has been structuring her life to meet this goal: she spent two weeks last summer at the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, in Boston. She met other students with the same interest, toured hospitals, observed surgery, and shadowed doctors on their rounds.

Butler's goals include obtaining a Ph.D. in computer electronics or civil engineering. He earned perfect scores on all the advanced placement exams he took last spring. Although most of his interest lies in science and math, Butler also participates in English Literature and History Club.

Donated trees add green to campus

By Kashif Ismail

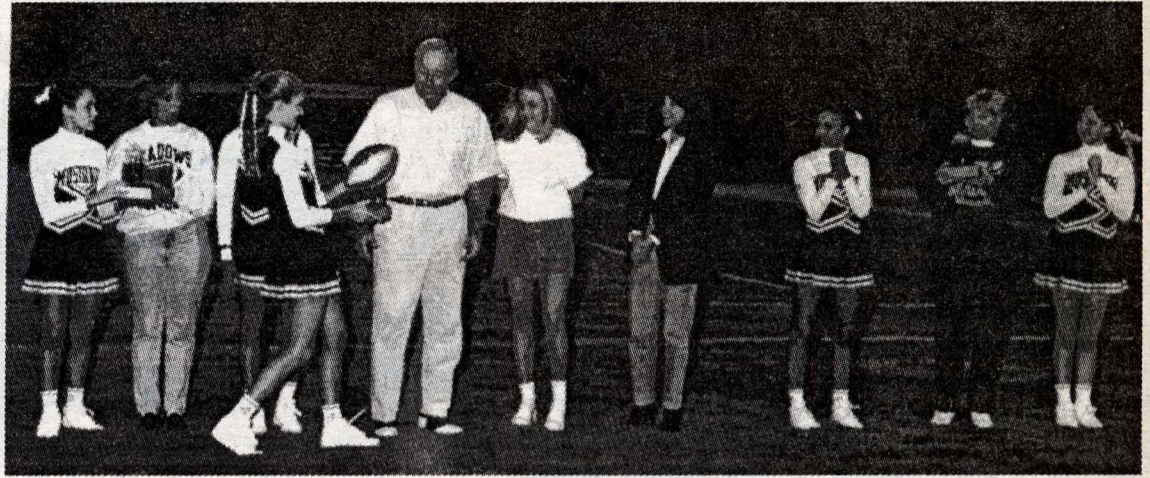
Phase Two of an Arbor Day landscaping project was completed in November. Numerous trees were planted throughout the campus...each with the donor's name on a brick by the tree.

The long-awaited "athlete's grove" near the track will be the last of the phases to be completed. In the next five years, the area between the middle and upper schools will be fully landscaped, and will have a walkway leading to a future auditorium.

Since desert landscaping is efficient in conserving water, it will be used around all the trees.

This project was supported by helpful parents who gave donations.

Ismail



SPORTS COMPLEX OPENS—The official opening of the new athletic complex coincided with the homecoming football game. The facility features a state-of-the-art track, a scoreboard, and new bleachers. Above (l-r): Melissa Richardson, Linda Richardson, Kim Stevens (with ball), donor Allan Creel, Heidi and Debbie Creel, Stacie Truesdell, Pamela Levin and Audrey Dolginoff. (Reporter: Jonathan Ellis)

Mustangs ready for winter sports with seasoned teams

Spector



From a report by Todd Spector

This year's winter sports teams are focused on their goals. The team was young last year, but has an inspiring future.

BASKETBALL

Men's varsity basketball last year lost both its only senior, **Leor Yerushalmi**, starting point guard, and **Angelo Lodge**, who was a substitute last year as a freshman. The team says Yerushalmi was a great factor in their winning 50 percent of their games.

Now, the Mustangs look upon sophomore **Matt Ward** to start at point guard.

The women's varsity basketball team lost its starting point guard when **Jenica Yurcic**, the leader in assists, graduated last year. This team has a good chance of furthering its winning ways, led by senior **Christina Hruska**.

WRESTLING

Wrestling is perhaps the most physically challenging sport an athlete commits himself to. The team has lost seniors **Lance Stewart** and **Jayson Cannon** who had 21 pins between them.

Despite these losses, the team's leading wrestler, senior **Derek Goffstein**, captured the state title at 134 pounds, and others, such as sophomores **Morgan Plaster**, **Robert Weber**, **William Richardson** and **Justin Vaughn**, rounded off the team. Juniors **Allan Creel**, **John Wanderer** and senior **Eugene Ahn** will add experience and depth.

TIDBIT
A recent yard sale to benefit the school libraries netted \$2,700.

Solutions to violence begin at home

By Kashif Ismail and Justin Suszko



As the Las Vegas valley expands, violence has overwhelmed the public, including high school students, who are often the instigators of drive-by shootings and random muggings. As the community struggles to cope, one fact comes clear: the problem will never be controlled simply by increasing police or providing security devices. Instead, parents must take the initiative to control their children by providing a stable, healthy environment at home.

The violence stems from increasing gang rivalries. What motivates individuals to become involved in gangs? Perhaps their reasoning follows the common thought that teenagers are troubled youths who feel the need to belong to a group. Or their joining a gang could be a result of growing up with a single parent who could not provide a sound atmosphere. Having the highest teenage pregnancy rate in the country, Las Vegas is home to numerous neglected children who often become involved in gang-related crimes.

Steps must be taken to provide students with alternatives to partaking in gang violence. Parents can involve their children in extracurricular activities such as sports and school clubs. Spending their time more constructively, students are more likely to earn better grades and become more socially acceptable to their peers. The interest that parents show in these activities also gives students a feeling of achievement and self-worth.

Home education in basic principles and morals can be established at an early age. Parents can be influential in guiding their children. Communication between parent and child is a key factor in creating a strong bond of trust that will enable children in later years to discuss problems with their parents instead of expressing anger through violence. This trust will enhance the growth of positive relationships among family, friends and teachers.

Ultimately, however, each teenager makes his or her own decision.

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE HONORS PROGRAM

Len Zane, Director

895-3537 E-mail: LENZ@CCMAIL.NEVADA.EDU



CEREBRATE

Pony Express rides through The Meadows

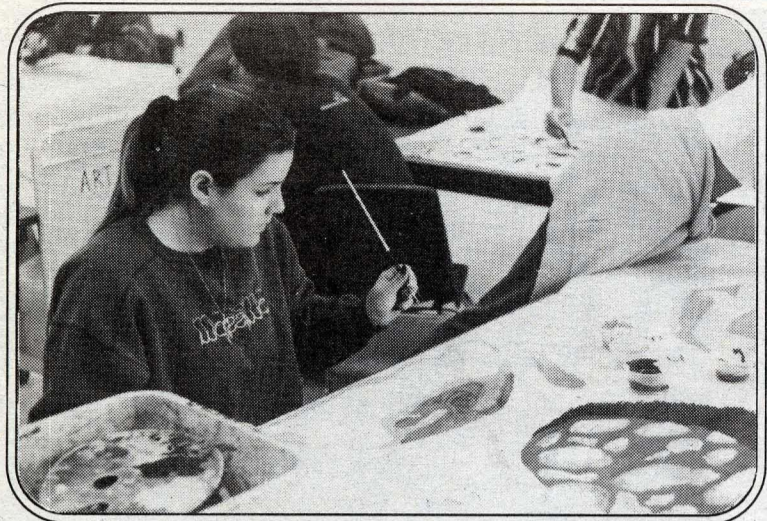
By Isaac Blumberg

The Meadows School, now in its 12th year, has grown big enough and strong enough to produce its first official newspaper. Pony Express was the name chosen in a contest, which was won by **Kristine Wolff**. The award was a \$30 gift certificate at Blockbuster Music.

The staff, advised by **Judy Hale**, consists of eight students: Editor **Allison Boman**, **Kashif Ismail**, **Justin Suszko**, **Isaac Blumberg**, **Todd Spector**, **Jonathan Ellis**, **Morgan French**, **Eric Sedgley** and **Meghan Cristman**.

"The goal of the class is to teach students journalistic writing and provide the school with an official newspaper," says Hale.





FOR THE KIDS—Traci Mason recently helped to create a mural of Channel 3's "Wednesday's Child" program.

Baseball honors a real hero

By Adam Hill

The New York Yankees were so sure the record set by Lou Gehrig, 2,130 straight games played, would stand that they invested in a plaque that reads: *A record that will stand for as long as young men play the game.*

Cal Ripken Jr. has played either short-stop or third base in every game since May 30, 1982 — a total of 2,131 and counting — thus breaking the record. This streak is amazing in itself, but when you consider other factors, it's even more incredible.

The 13-year duration of Ripken's streak is longer than the average player's career. Also, short-stop is the most physically demanding position on the field. With players dropping to injuries on the trap we call AstroTurf, this record is phenomenal.

The aforementioned plaque at Yankee Stadium is now being changed, but if Lou Gehrig were around today he probably wouldn't mind losing his record to such an honorable man as Cal Ripken.

Ripken is a superstar who, unlike most, doesn't have an ego to match his ability. Because of this, he doesn't get the recognition that most stars get from fans around the country. But, to the people of Baltimore, he's nothing short of a hero.

Now Ripken is finally earning the admiration of fans around the country. And he deserves all the attention he's getting.



Adam Hill

Hail to Those who Honor this School!

By Devon Jean

[Editor's note: Devon Jean looks at a variety of school activities and salutes students of achievement.]

MATH

The second of six math tests given by the National American Scholastic Mathematics Association was taken by Silverado students recently.

Congratulations to **Jason Lappe** for being the top individual scorer among the Silverado group, with second highest going to **Tim Neal**.

Cumulative scores are equally important in these tests; Silverado's top three scorers were Lappe, **Jason Hefernan** and **Jennifer Monaco**.

ATHLETES

Congratulations to **Richard Keep** and **Emilee Tidwell** from the Silverado cross country team, for being named November Athletes of the Month.

FOOTBALL

The finale to another Skyhawk football season was a banquet catered by Giovanni's Pizzeria. This dinner was only a prelude to the awards to be given out later.

All three Silverado teams were honored, with emphasis on the varsity team and its 18 graduating seniors. Awards for "The Most Outstanding" on this team went to:

Phil Alcala, Defensive Lineman; **Glenn Pilarowski**, Offensive Lineman; **Rick Stubblefield**, Receiver; **Marcus Raymond**, Offensive Back; **Josh Parado**, Defensive Back; and **Billy Morgan**, Linebacker.

Matt Shelton was named Most Improved Player. **Jung Yi** earned honors as the Scholar Athlete. **Champ Yi** gathered honors for Outstanding Linebacker, Most Dedicated Player, the Heavy Hitter Award, and Most Valuable Play-

er. Champ also won the "Go for Broke" award given by the Henderson Home News.

The Skyhawks ended the season 1-8, but the guys all showed hard work and dedication that makes up a good team.

WRESTLING

With the beginning of the Silverado wrestling season, morale is high and the Skyhawks hosted their "Pack the Gym" night on December 7. This was their second match of the season, against the Rancho Rams.

THEATRE

The theatre program at Silverado presented their fall Play, "Carmine's Place," another success for the Silverado theatre department. The evening began with an Italian-style dinner. Among the cast were **Jeremy Espinosa**, **Casey Clifford**, **Chris Bigelow**, **Loretta Tanner**, **Adrienne Kramer** and **Mike Strachan**.

THREE CHEERS...

...to senior **Glenn Pilarowski** for being selected as Student of the Month by the Green Valley Rotary Club. Pilarowski received an award and a gift certificate to the Country Inn.

...to **Lameka Anderson** and **Chrisy Buck** for being named *Fast Pitch Magazine's* World High School, All American, All State selections from Nevada. Three of the five students selected were from the Las Vegas area.



Devon Jean

Virtual ride really tough

By Ben Fields, Computer Junkie

Walk inside. Lights and sound assault your ears. People everywhere, shouting, playing games, or demo-ing software. Yep, COMDEX time again...a mind-busting experience. Convention-goers topped 225K, and included eight of my friends and me.

Last year, I had to dodge security to get in because I wasn't 16. Well, now I am, but there were some guards I still had to dodge. (I have such a baby face!) Last year's media blitz was on Virtual Reality;

this year it was on the ever-becoming-commercialized Internet.

Mitsubishi Electric was showing off technology to link couch potatoes to a nationwide "virtual" park. Connected to a costly sit-down feedback bike, a person can bike around the park, race an opponent in the velodrome, or race around a slalom course, feeling the steepness of a hill or the changes in friction on the gears after shifting. Even the smallest hill felt like I was biking up Black Mountain. Sure beats the athletic club!

Companies showed off new games, joysticks and RV helmets. Creative Labs showed off its new 3D-Blaster video card and its 28,800bps Dual Simultaneous Voice and Data Modem Blaster. (During a hot game of Descent, you can yell at your opponent, not just type at him. A game was going on with a man named Rob in Oklahoma City. Very cool.)

My favorite areas were the Total Access booth in the Hilton, which had the cheapest access rates this side of the Rio Grande, and the CatcHDisk, which had a \$2,500 prize for whoever could crack their security system. Maybe I can crack it next year.



Ben Fields

great scores!

SAT

ACT

Prepare for the March 23 test!

Classes start February 7

Prepare for the May 4 test!

Classes start March 20

Prepare for

the April 13 test!

Classes start February 25

Kaplan students get the most complete test preparation materials available, including computer-analyzed practice tests, home study materials, and a training library. Kaplan helps you focus your studies and build your skills and confidence so you can get a higher score.

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In Las Vegas call 798-5005

KAPLAN

Who's asking?

Excerpts from an editorial
by Nicole Brende and Ashley Gordon



Gordon

Tick, tick tick...time passes slowly as you wait helplessly for that call you've yearned for.

HOLD ON! BACK UP! Get with the real world. In these days of gender equality, boys and girls no longer have to wait for happiness.



Brende

In a survey of 101 students, the overwhelming majority feel that both genders should share the burdens of asking and paying.

"It's too much of a worry, always wondering if he's gonna ask you out. Just do it and get it over with, but only if you have to,"

says sophomore **Leigha Robinson**.

"I rather like our custom of the guys paying since it saves me money," says **Shelley Wood**, "and I think guys should treat their dates like queens."

Leslie Hall says her parents require that the guys come in to meet them and talk about plans for the evening, "as if my family was straight out of 'The Donna Reed Show.'"

Patrick Garibay says, "Sometimes guys are scared of rejection and, if the girl asks them out, it would ease up a bit of the pressure."

"If there is an attraction between two people and the boy has no guts, the girl should...express her feelings," says sophomore **Molly Sullivan**.

Nancy Chanin believes that "being bold is what gets you what you want."

Adrianna Diaz believes that "dating should be fun and there really shouldn't be any 'rules' as long as you use common sense."

Stephen Swain says, "I've always believed it's easier to be the meat than to be the butcher."

"If the two of you have that 'connection,' it's bound to happen regardless of who asks whom," says **Christina Daileda**, junior.

GV band to toot in London Town

Reporter: Greta Erbe



The GVHS marching band will high-step to London, during winter break, invited by the London Festival Parade Committee to participate in the New Year's Day Parade and several concerts.

The band will also tour many famous sites including Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, Big Ben, Stratford-Upon-Avon, and cruise the Thames River.

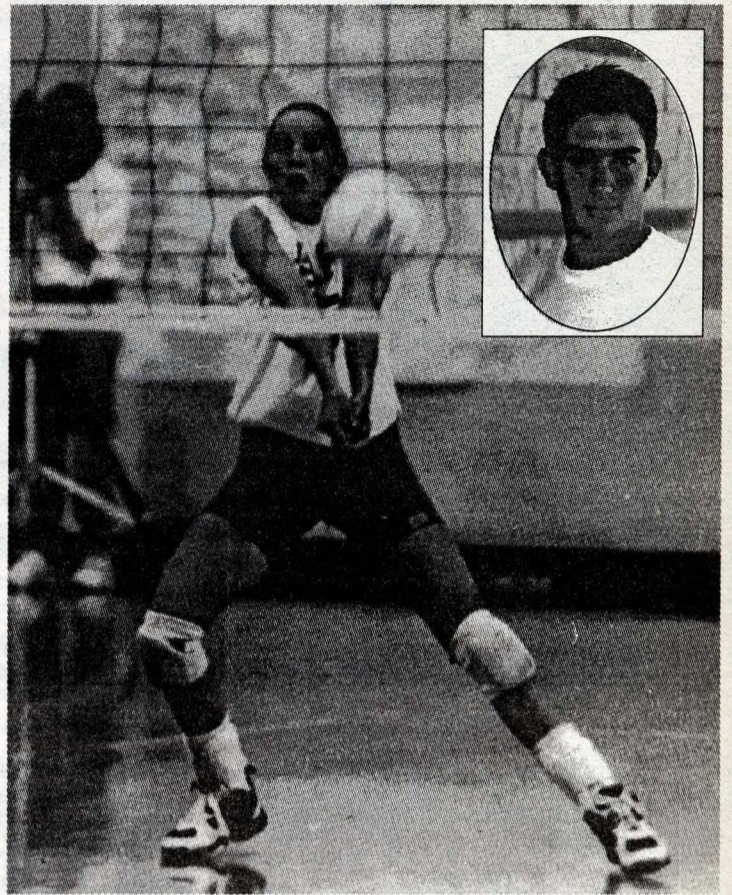
Since GVHS seized the 1994 Western State Championship last year, the 1995 band had quite a reputation to live up to. They practiced hard for at least two hours a day and were ready to defend their title.

"Practice is rarely fun," says junior colorguard **Erika Stetzenbach**, "...but the rewards are definitely well worth it."

Drill team captain **Aimee Lapsys** explains, "Most people don't realize how much time and effort we put into our dancing. We just want to be the best."

Senior drum major **Sarah Dunn** says, "We lost a majority of the drumline from last year, so it's fairly new and young."

AND THE WINNER IS...

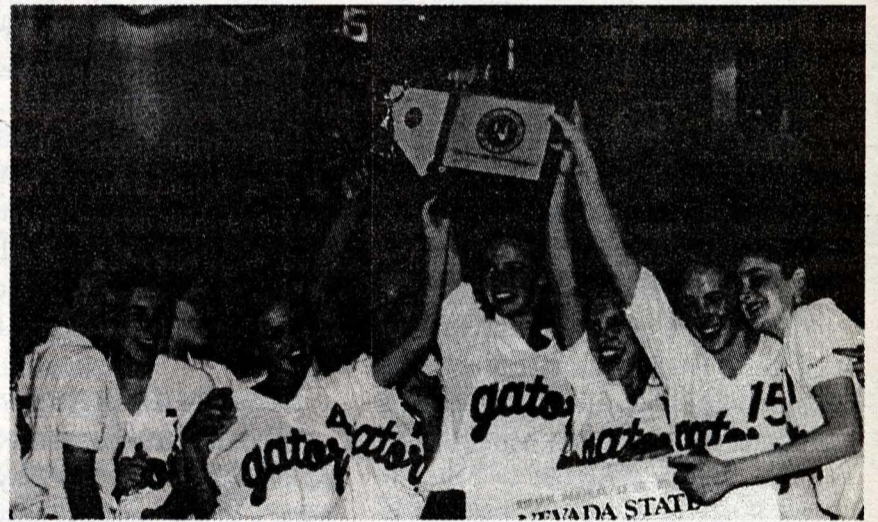


Bob Horton is the winner of December's CLASS! Photo Contest. He will receive a \$25 award. This photo competition is open to all students in Clark County high schools.

VOLLEYBALL VICTORIOUS!

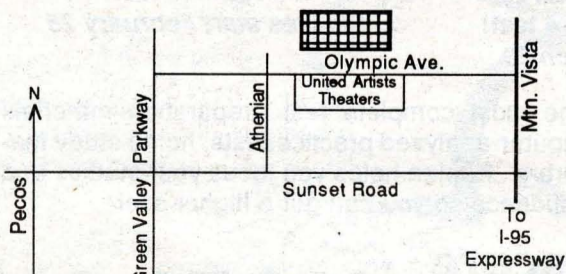
The Green Valley girls' volleyball team came home with the trophy. Some of these state champions are shown here in the joyous mood of victory.

From left: Christina Attebery, Kerry Edgeworth, Lindsay Thoman, Alison Mericle, Stephanie Records, Erin Burch, Krista Gronert, Allison Schnitzer and Wendy Lewis.



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KAPLAN



BELOW RIGHT: FINE ARTS WEEK
Five days of performances by GV's Fusion Jazz band, orchestra, symphonic band, Rhythm Express dancers, choir, theatre and art departments: a great showcase of the school's vast student talent. Shown here are (l-r) junior Pat Thomsen, freshman Ryan Kayser, senior Brian Spuhler, and freshman Tyler Tafeaga, members of the Men's Barbershop Octet. *Reporter, Adin Francis. Photo by Aaron Mayes*



LEFT: CONGRATULATIONS! IT'S A HUNK OF PLASTIC! — Seniors Tiffany Huebner (l) and Heather Larson receive their "babies" in Child Development class. *Photo by Prem*

Baby business should not ruin a teen's life

From a report by Kelly Clark

Clark



Pushing a stroller that holds her baby, senior **Kathy Bement** walks into TGIFriday, hoping to sit down and enjoy a wonderful meal. But there is no break for a mom, which Bement has learned: as soon as she sits down, the baby starts to cry and does not stop for 15 minutes.

Later a man approaches and asks if he can hold the baby. Kathy places the baby in his arms, only to hear him exclaim "Oh my gosh! It's plastic!"

Because Nevada is near the top in the nation's teen pregnancy rate, GVHS child development classes "delivered" dolls to students to help educate them through first-hand experience with parenthood.

The dolls, which vary in size and race, stayed with students for 1½ days each. The organization responsible for creating this new approach to the teen pregnancy problem is "Baby Think it Over."

The five dolls, worth \$275 each, have computer chips programmed to cry for 15 minutes every three hours...but no one knows exactly when. To stop the crying, the teen "parent" must calm it, just as he or she would a real child.

Sensors throughout the doll's body "feel" when they are touched...also when they are hit, shaken or thrown around.

"Those people who show any kind of abuse will fail," says CoraLynn Woodall, child development teacher. "Negative parenting is not tolerated by the computer."

Another way to stop the crying is by the key tied on the wrist of the "parent" when given the doll...but it doesn't always work, so patience is often needed.

Woodall enforces the "no baby-sitter rule" to show how much responsibility a child is.

"It is not always easy or fun being a mom," says junior **Celeste Carpenter**. "People think it's a joke. If only they could see how much responsibility it is to care for a crying baby..."

Junior **Joey Candella** agrees: "A day and a half isn't a long time, but it gives us a taste of what being a parent is like."

Bement says, "It made me aware of how much attention a baby needs and how a mom has to sacrifice her life for her baby."

But it's not just the mom's responsibility. The guys feel as strongly about this as the girls do.

"It is the closest thing someone can do to educate teens, other than having a baby, says senior **Chris Schueler**. "I'm glad GVHS has joined this program."

GV places third at Special Olympics

By Stacy Jurado

Pointing proudly at the green and blue leather jacket in his lap, senior **Aaron Zockoll** explains the patches...symbols of the obstacles he has strived to overcome. For Zockoll and other Special Olympians, their efforts ended in triumph.

Earning third place in the B Division Special Olympics basketball tournament, GV's team added another award to the school's trophy case.

Joel Bracken, Bradley Cobia, John Haywood, Amy Lutzkeer, Ryan Madison, Trish Salazar, Doris Smith and Zockoll practiced daily in preparation for the event.

"We felt like we could have done better if we had played like we did at practice," Cobia says.



Jurado

BEST WISHES BEST WISHES BEST WISHES
BEST WISHES BEST WISHES BEST WISHES
BEST WISHES BEST WISHES BEST WISHES
BEST WISHES BEST WISHES BEST WISHES

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!

**• From the City of Henderson •
Parks and Recreation
Department**

COMING 1996

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam Preparation Workshop Jan. 13 & 20 • 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament Jan. 19 • Disneyland Adventure March 9 • Whiffleball League Starting Jan. 12 	<p>• TEEN TOURS! Mt. Charleston sledding Santa Fe ice skating Grand Slam Canyon Movies & pizza Bowling Thunder hockey game Mountasia</p>
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Call 565-2367 for details!

*Parent
Propaganda:
Tips for
Winning the 'Chore War'*

Western's Parent Newsletter always includes some very helpful hints...for parents, of course.

Maybe you would like a glimpse of these tips...to help you 'get with the program' and make family life more pleasant. (Or to be prepared for what the folks are liable to do in the near future.)

Regarding your attention to chores at home: is that an ongoing conflict? Do you have to be reminded to take out the trash, feed the dog, take your jeans off the refrigerator?

CLOCK-WATCH

"Have a plan," parents are told. "Kids thrive on routine" and all those chores should be scheduled:

Clear the table right after eating; take out the trash once the kitchen is cleaned up; make your bed as soon as you hop (or creep) out of it in the morning.

The Parent Newsletter says that a poster or job-board can help you stay focused on your chore routines.

SHOW AND TELL

"Train and encourage" is the next helpful hint, a four-

step process when your parents introduce a new job to you.

They are urged to first do the job while you watch, explaining everything as they work. (That's the real show-and-tell that you practiced in first grade.)

Then you and your parent do the chore together before you take over and your folks watch. Finally, you are ready to do it alone. Neat, huh?

HANG TOUGH

"Follow through" is another idea, meaning parents should stand firm, not let you escape your chores by making excuses or dallying.

BE KIND, KID

Finally, this word from the school to parents:

"If you have a kid who fights the routine, establish a consequence for failure to complete chores, and follow through without anger or threats."

And now you know what your parents know. Be kind to them; you probably had colic when you were little and kept them awake for three months in a row!



Toot the horns!
**Student-athletes
get state and
national awards**

Western High School is proud to announce that five students received awards from the Nevada Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Named to the All-State Academic Team are Elizabeth McGee and Rawnica Ruegner, volleyball; Michelle Lucero, cross-country; and Evin Hill and Jon Mireles, football.

Joel Kijowski has been notified that he was selected for the 1995 Compaq Scholastic Junior All-American golf team, one of only 20 Junior golfers nationwide named to this team. He will attend an honors banquet at Walt Disney World.

**ATTC to talk at Western
about magnet school benefits**

Students who are interested in what the Area Technical Trade Center has to offer are invited to a presentation by the magnet school on Thursday, Dec. 14 and Friday, Jan. 5 at Western.

Students take academic classes at their home schools but go to ATTC for in-depth training in a variety of technical occupations. These areas include computers, culinary arts, diesel technology, electronics, construction, carpentry, welding, health occupations, horticulture, masonry and hotel operations.

Students in their sophomore or junior year are eligible to apply now for the 1996-97 school year. There is no tuition fee.

**Western to start
new year with
closed campus**

The Student Council joined with Western's Parent Advisory Committee and Teacher Advisory Committee in deciding to change to a closed campus effective January 2, 1996.

Although the School Board gave high schools the option to keep open campuses until fall 1996, Western wants the change early for purposes of safety, decreased tardiness and absences that happen after lunch.

Lunch will be available from 1:00-1:31, after sixth period. Students will be able to leave campus at 1:00 and not have to rush back for classes.

Rub a lamp

The play "Aladdin" will be presented by the Western High School Theatre Department on January 17, 18 and 19 in the Little Theatre.

Admission is \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. The curtain rises at 7:00 p.m. and the public is invited. Call Western High School for more information.

**A STRANGE PAIR
ARRIVE IN APRIL**

The final presentation of the Theatre Department will be *The Odd Couple*, scheduled for April 18 and 19. Same place, same times, same price. Don't be odd and miss it!

PSSSST.....GIVE US A CLUE!

Tell us about your high school friend who should be featured in this newspaper. Just fill out the information below and either fax it to 361-7472 or mail it to CLASS!, 6290 Harrison, Suite 10, Las Vegas 89120. We'll follow up with an interview and photos.

Your friend's name _____

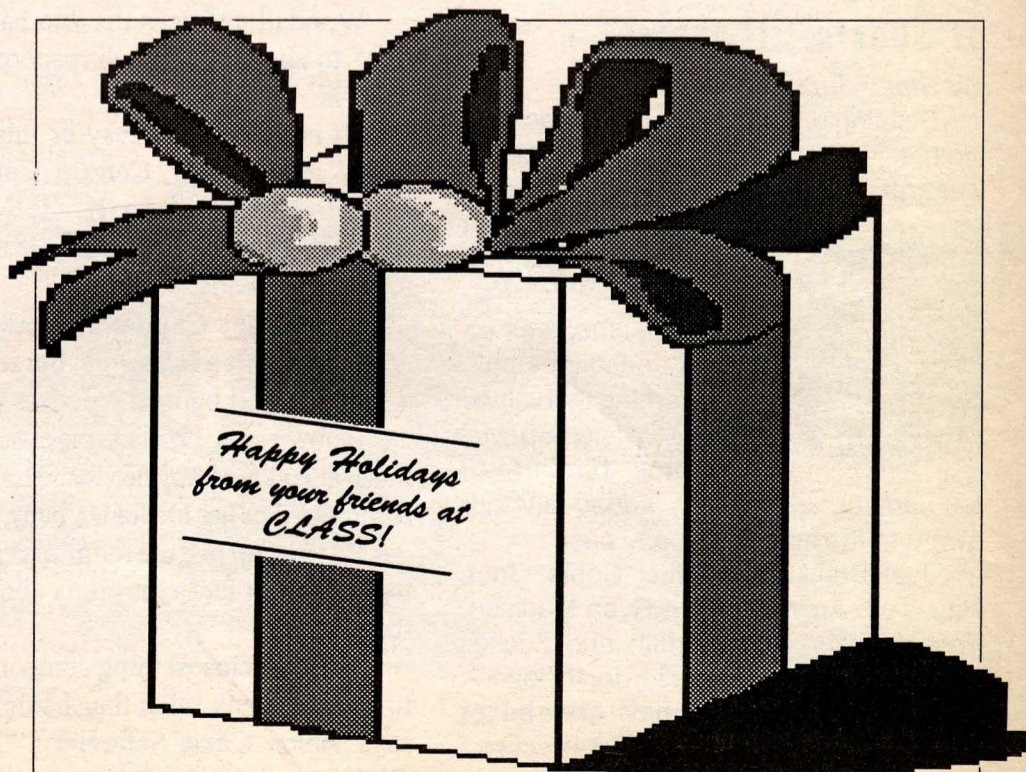
His/Her School _____

How to contact your friend (phone?) _____

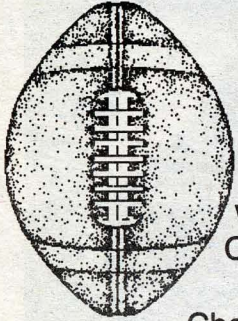
5-10 words why this friend should be featured _____

Your name/school _____

Your phone number(s) _____



SPORTS



FOOTBALL

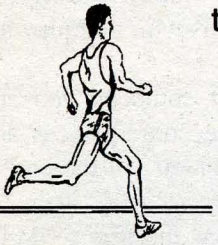
After four years of hard work, Cheyenne football made it to the State Championships. The Shields ended the season with an 11-0 record and a Zone Championship.

This is easily the best team Cheyenne has ever had. Players such as **Dovan Spaight**, **Eddie Hartwell** and **Devin Simon** made this team the best in Southern Nevada.

A big part of Cheyenne's success was the enormous turn-out at every game. More than 1,000 faithful fans watched the Shields at home games throughout the season. Their cheers boosted Cheyenne's spirit even when they were down—and that wasn't very often.

(Reporter, Todd Hardy)

CROSS COUNTRY



Cheyenne's cross country team finished the season at the State meet in mid-November. Brandon Grady took top honors for the boys. He is the first sophomore to take the state championship since 1979. He finished the 3.1 mile course in 18 minutes, four seconds.

Another outstanding sophomore is Jessica Zarndt, the top finisher for the girl's team, coming in third over-all with a time of 21:34.

Chris Lamén also made the All-State Cross Country team, finishing ninth over-all. As a team, the boys and girls finished third, after placing first at Zone.

"I was very proud of the way our athletes competed," says team coach John Dixon.

(Reporter, Anna Zarndt)



Cheyenne story:

About the college that goes to the kids

Cheyenne will be the site for all classes offered by the Community College High School, which starts the end of January. Classes will be open to all juniors and seniors in the district.

Students enrolled in the Community College High School will take their required classes with school district teachers and their electives with teachers from the Community College of Southern Nevada. They will earn dual credit for the electives, thus finishing their high school graduation requirements while starting their college careers.

Are YOU a good candidate for this unique high school experience? You are IF...

- You are not involved in traditional high school activities;
- You are in a hurry to get started in college;
- You have high stanine scores and low grades, and are bored with regular high school;
- You are interested in a particular career path that is taught at the Community College;
- You need a different schedule because of situations such as a need to work;
- You don't like the rules of a traditional high school;
- You are a fifth-year senior who wants to finish your graduation requirements and get started on a career.

For additional information, see your school counselor.

Beauty pageants not what they say

By Reyna Quijano

Almost every little girl has had the dream of becoming a beauty queen.

Having been a pageant contestant, I know what really goes on backstage and behind the scenes. All the rumors and controversy are just RUMORS! Being on stage, performing in front of hundreds of screaming people, is the glamorous part. The rest of the pageant takes a lot of hard work and dedication.

The pageant actually begins months the actual pageant week. The mental and physical preparation takes at least three months to perfect. It takes a big chunk of time and energy, not to mention the money, but it's worth it to some.

The USA pageant system is the fairest system there is. The pageants are not fixed and they are not racist. All the money put into these pageants pays for the pageant itself.

The Miss Nevada Teen USA pageant has been around for 12 years. The winner receives over \$22,000 in scholarships and other prizes



Don't waste time arguing, join the forensics program at Chap

Adapted from a report by Trinisha Walker

Fun, hard work and debate...the three words that best describe Cheyenne's hot new program, Forensics.

This program brings a fresh outlook on debate...and the benefits are apparent. Forensics provides public speaking and competition skills. It is exhilarating and challenging—and can provide scholarships to college.

Forensics emphasizes the importance of teamwork as well as individual progress. Students have an opportunity to go to a forensics camp in the summer and, depending on competitions throughout the year, they may compete in the national tournament against 2,500 of the nation's best forensics competitors.

The two categories in forensics are Speech Events and Debate Events.

Speech Events are divided into three groups: extemporaneous speaking, original oratory and interpretation. In the first group, you deliver a seven-minute talk on current events; in the second group, you must research and present a topic of your choice in as interesting manner as you can; and Interpretation gives you the chance to perform selections from published fiction, plays or poetry. These are done from memory and without the use of costumes, but "bringing characters to life."

Debate Events also have three categories. In cross-examination, two people compete and debate both sides of a controversial issue. In the Lincoln/Douglas debates, the competitors develop logical arguments (rather than collect information) to support some issue. And in Congressional Debate, the student gets experience in writing bills, gets Parliamentary Procedure training, and takes part in floor debates and meetings.

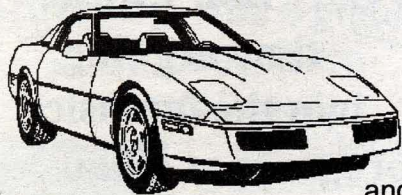
and represents Nevada in the Miss Teen USA competition.

People often complain about the laziness of the younger generation, yet they also criticize those who try to better themselves. Many young women benefit from participating in pageants...not only becoming more outgoing and confident, but building self-esteem.

That's something all young women need in today's society.

Life is a drag. But the races are fun

By T. J. Free



Sunset students Ryan Barlow and Adam Dahl took home a first place trophy and \$300 in prize money from the annual Las Vegas High School Drag Races earlier this year. They finished first out of 30 competitors, with 700 points. Races are held at Las Vegas Speedway Park.

You get points by winning races, 30 for first place, 20 for second, and 10 points for third place. You can also get 10 points for participating in the race.

Barlow and Dahl won with a red '71 Nova. Ryan races the car while Adam maintains its good running order.

Barlow has had only about one year of experience in drag racing. Dahl, on the other hand, has been racing for three years. "Bardahl" (Barlow + Dahl) say that if you're interested in drag racing, it's fun — and you can race with practically any car.

To get into a drag race, your car has to pass *Tech* (a check-up by race officials) and you pay a \$25 fee. It costs only \$5 admission for spectators.

Next summer, there will be six races (there were only four this year). If you like cars, especially *fast* cars, you won't want to miss the drag races.



ON THE FAST TRACK. Sunset students Ryan Barlow and Adam Dahl, along with members of their racing crew, display their trophy

SCUBA-DOOBIE-DO-IT

The wonderful world of scuba

By Jeff Taylor



Scuba diving! One of the most dangerous sports in the world is also one of the most fun and most exciting sports known to man.

There is nothing better than swimming 100 feet under water, looking for lobster, playing with small horn sharks, or watching the seals swim and play all around you.

If the rules are not strictly followed, however, you or someone you are diving with could become seriously injured or killed. The consequences are great and the damage could be permanent. But, barring accident, in the end it is all worth it.

If you have ever wanted to get close to marine life, this is the way to do it. Almost anyone can become certified to scuba dive. Most people become

certified for one of two reasons. One, they are going on an exotic cruise, to two, they have friends or family that dive, so they want to dive with them.

There are many companies through which you can become certified. PADI is the most prevalent certification agency around today. The cost for certification is rather inexpensive. The average Open Water class runs about \$150, which includes your books, dive tables and a dive log. However, additional equipment is required for the class. This consists of a mask, snorkel, fins and booties. The average cost of this equipment runs anywhere from \$300 to \$1,000, depending on what brands you buy and how much you would like to spend.

Classes consist of five four-hour classes, which include a two-hour classroom session and a two-to two and a half hour pool session. In the classroom, you will learn the skills necessary to dive *safely*. In the pool, you will be taught *how* to dive.

After completing the classroom and pool sessions, you will make four open-water dives at Lake Mead. In these dives, you will simply review the skills that you learned in the pool. After you finish the open-water dives, you may choose to continue your diving education...which would be well worth your while.

The next step is Advanced Open Water, then Rescue Diver, followed by Dive Master, Instructor and, finally, Master Instructor.

Upon becoming certified, you will most likely be extremely anxious to get into the water. Many diving opportunities are close by. Lake Mead has a number of beautiful dive destinations. If you don't mind traveling, California is an ideal destination. Off the coast of California, you will find some of the most beautiful cold-water diving in the world. If you are not a cold-water fan, and you would rather visit a warm-water resort, you should think about Cozumel, Bonair, the Cayman Islands, or the exotic island of Roatan in Honduras.

While diving, you will encounter a great variety of sea life...among them rays, sharks, eels, lobster, all manner of fish, and many other wonderful things.

Always remember to treat the plants and animals with respect because there are other people out there that want to see them also.

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AAVEO



MUSIC

Good-time kids from Boulder City making music

By David Cherry

What do you say about a band whose thank-you list begins with mom and dad, includes the inventor of the Super Big Gulp and ends with a nod to Satan?

In the case of the Opera Beggars, you might just say "Cough." That's the name of their debut and, like the musicians' tastes, themselves, the album is diverse blend of acoustic and electric folk-rock—reminiscent of the Blowfish (minus Hootie's vocals), Pearl Jam, Live and even the Rolling Stones.

(The Opera Beggars are all Boulder City High School grads.)

From the heartbreak harmonics of the album's opener, *Soul Train*, to the twangy, down-home country sound of *You Missed with Your Kiss*, the Opera Beggars' seamless blend of styles lends a familiarity to many of the album's songs. Acoustic guitarist Jaycen Orgo is a definite stand-out, adding melodic textures to every cut, while electric guitarist Mike Hall has found some great riffs of his own. Songs like *Ronnie*, *God for a Day*, and *Tired of Getting Old* showcase the band's harder side, while *Trickle Down* slinks along with a bluesy slide guitar.

Not to be outdone, the rhythm section of Bryan Haraway (drums) and Todd Whalen (bass) turn *Rain* into the album's "dance around and sing along" song.

Having a good time making music is really what the Opera Beggars are all about. "From the beginning, our goal has been fun," says lead singer/songwriter Rob Catalano. "These guys are my best friends in the World."

It is this friendship that's at the heart of the Opera Beggars' approach to making music, says Catalano. "We started writing songs simply because we loved music and were curious about it."

Combining a passion for creating music and a D.I.Y. attitude, the Opera Beggars have succeeded in turning a one-time dream into reality.

"You just got to do it," says Catalano, "and things will start to happen. That's my advice to anyone out there considering starting a band."

If you are looking for a good way to spend an hour with some unique Las Vegans, pick up a copy of "Cough" at a local music store. The only requirements for ownership are an open mind and the need to have a good time.

(David Cherry is a 1989 Clark High grad and a part-time mobile D-J)



Cherry

FLICK REVIEW

'DESPERADO'

By Mike Smith,

Advanced Technologies Academy

A lone man, carrying a guitar case, walks along a dirt road. No one knows why he is there, or what he is doing. If asked, he replies, "I am a guitarist, and this is my guitar." Looking into his eyes, and his case, one would find so much more.

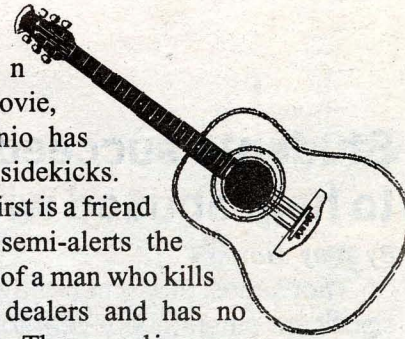
This is the man known as "Desperado" (in the movie of the same name), feared by all drug dealers in Mexico. He has spent years looking for a man named Boocho. His reason for this is very simple revenge.

Antonio Banderas (*Mambo Kings*, *Interview with the Vampire*, and *Philadelphia*), the *Desperado*, is searching for the man who killed his only love. Depending only upon the information of his friends, and the people who were soon to become victims, he must find this man or others who might help him. Piecing the information together, he hopes to find the man and end his compulsive killing.

In the movie, Antonio has four sidekicks. The first is a friend who semi-alerts the town of a man who kills drug dealers and has no mercy. The second is a woman who patches him up, and who has seen Boocho. The third and fourth sidekicks come as fellow dealers of destruction. They help the *Desperado* with guitar cases of their own.

Banderas was stabbed, shot, beaten and burned; though never really hurt (which made it a bit unbelievable). He had a superhuman ability that added to the excitement of the film, but took some of the reality away.

It seems that *Desperado* could have been a plain action film, though it turned out to be much more. It was comedy, drama, and action all rolled into one. This film kept me entertained until the end. I recommend this flick.



What? More talented Jacksons?

By Nikole Williams, Las Vegas Academy



Williams

3T made their first appearance singing in the television special "The Jackson Honors."

Since then, they have had a hit single and gained much recognition. Managed by their father,

Tito Jackson, and produced by their famous uncle, Michael, the members of 3T are making it in the big time.

Their single, "Anything," came out the same time as Michael's "Childhood" and on the same label, MJJ. "Anything" was not only performed, but written by the talented group. Their music, mostly R&B has

hints of new sounds but definitely shows the influences of the Jackson Five, their "ancestors."

3T's debut record, "Brotherhood," is available in record stores now. Who knows, maybe sometime soon, they'll be doing soundtracks for children's movies and marrying famous rock 'n' roll offsprings.



SONGS FOR A FEAST:

The Madrigals from Eldorado High School presented a holiday program at VoTech recently, for the women and children of the Shade Tree Shelter. Above: front (l-r) Carrolyn Fitchhorn, Steven Stewart, Paula Dunn, Orlando Rush and Joni Biasotti; middle (l-r) Amy Bagshaw, Bruce Christoph (director), Sarah Pursey, K.C. Black and Charlotte Hull; back (l-r) Karee Parenti, Isaac Winsor, Rebecca Pearson, Michael Warman and Velinda Walton. Not present for this photo were Madrigal singers Cason Swinn and Corey Gyger.



A Holiday tale:
Why Christmas is 'just another day' for many homeless; who will help?

By Amy Howard and Jason King

"Chestnuts roasting on an open fire... Jack Frost nipping at your nose."

The holiday season brings thoughts of happiness, presents and love. But for some residents of Las Vegas, these are merely dreams.



Ray Goetchius, a homeless Vietnam veteran, is just one of those unfortunate persons. Born in New Jersey and raised in California, Ray had a quality education. He graduated from high school and attended Valley College of California for a year.

In 1973, Ray left his thriving Texaco station, a loving wife, five children...for the steamy jungles of Vietnam. He had been drafted into the U.S. Army, Ninth Division, Operation Blackhorse.

Due to circumstances surrounding his experiences in Vietnam, Ray became an alcoholic. Upon returning from the treacherous war, Ray discovered that life as he had known it was over. His relationship with his wife soured, resulting in separation.

"She couldn't live with me drunk and I couldn't live with her sober," Ray says.

LIFE ON THE STREETS

Soon, Ray found himself on the streets, traveling by freight train and living off the generosity of others. Surprisingly, this was exactly the type of life that suited him. Ray took to sleeping under eaves and in dumpsters. To combat the summer heat, Ray positions himself in the shade, but not out of the eyes of those passing by.

"Homeless, please help" is the message printed on the cardboard sign that he is forever holding up in hopes of receiving a few dollars from those who can spare it.

"It's up to the people whether they want to give money to me or not. Why should I feel guilty? I don't beg," says Ray.

This may seem contradictory to his unwillingness to take "hand-outs" from his family or organizations willing to help him. But, in his eyes, the two are worlds apart.

The anonymity of strangers leaves him unburdened by obligation, something Ray chooses never to accept, even if

food and shelter are the rewards.

FAITH REMAINS WITH RAY

Although good fortune is not a constant in Ray's life, God is. Ray attends services at a nondenominational church every Wednesday and Sunday. A Bible lies in his inside jacket pocket, close to his heart. Faith is not something that misfortune could shake from Ray Goetchius.

Although the life Ray leads is hard, he is unwilling to give it up. He has no desire to be "saved" from homelessness. The only wish he has is to be granted peace of mind.

Unfortunately, although Ray is happy with his lifestyle, harassment by the police is common. Ray has found himself being arrested for various crimes that he did not commit, such as grand theft auto and armed bank robbery.

A self-proclaimed alcoholic, Ray hides from the constant noise in his head by drowning himself in vodka. Without his daily dose of alcohol, Ray succumbs to the harsh symptoms of withdrawal.

Although the streets can be cold, Ray rarely finds himself lonely. He has numerous friends who also share the streets as a home, and many more who find Ray a great conversationalist.

The one constant in Ray's life is his wife. Although he has tried many times, she will not grant him a divorce. Yet, she comes to his aid frequently...bringing him clothes, food and alcohol, and she has often supplied him with money to gamble.

She begs him to come home with her, but time and time again Ray refuses. "She is too set in her 'clean-house' ways for me to ever live with her again," he explains. As for the holiday? It's the same as any other day, he says.

A NEW BEGINNING

Ray is just one of thousands who are homeless. Throughout Las Vegas, many programs help those who choose to seek help. One such program is organized by St. Vincent's. Their huge, nondescript building shrouds the pain of the many men that consider it home.

St. Vincent's program can help 400 men at a time. Requirements to be in the program include actively searching for a full-time job. The men are given 30 days in which to become employed. If they succeed, St. Vincent will provide shelter for up to another eight weeks.

In October, the success rate reached an astonishing 78%. This program can only help so many; many others slip through the system and are left without any support.

[Note: A photo of co-author Howard was not available]

Students succeed in drive to help abused wives, kids

By Amy Howard

Thousands of women leave their husbands/significant others every year to escape abuse.

Often these women have no idea where they are going or how they will survive. Their only thought is escape.

Since 1990, the Shade Tree shelter has been making these women's lives a little bit easier.

The Shade Tree houses up to 80 women and children at a time and the shelter is almost always filled to capacity. Although this is only a temporary solution — 90 days is the maximum they are allowed to stay — Shade Tree gives many women the strength to leave their abusers.

The Shade Tree receives some government subsidies and money from The United Way, but about 50% of its funds comes from donations.

That's where Valley students come in.

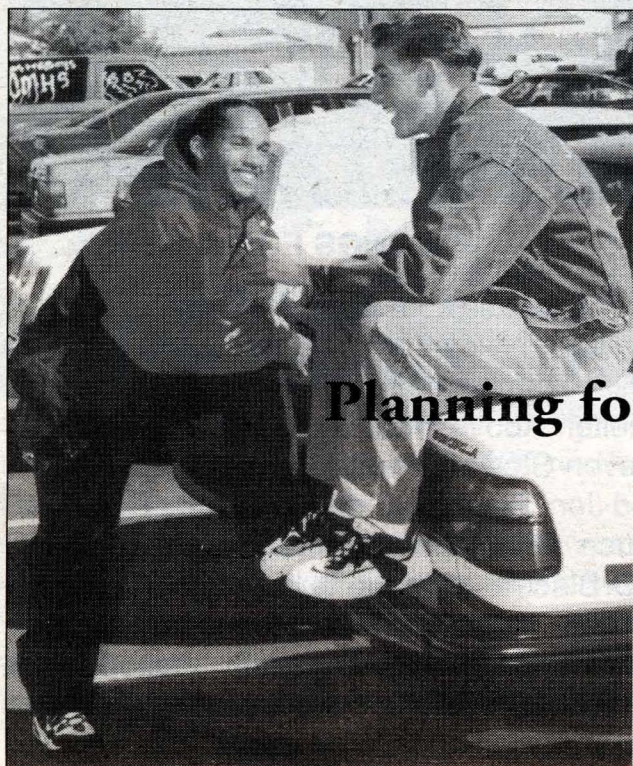
Tina Buren, assistant editor of Valhalla (Valley's yearbook) organized a donation drive. Classrooms were provided with Wish Lists from Shade Tree and students were asked to bring in what they could.

The response was astounding. Piles of clothing and boxes of food and toiletries began pouring in. By the time the goods were to be delivered to The Shade Tree, three other schools had become involved in the drive.

Seven cars were needed to transport all the donated articles. The faces of small children smiling up at Valley students was enough to make all the hard work worthwhile.

But the work is not done: Shade Tree is hoping to build a new, larger emergency shelter, and the road will be long and hard.

The money must come almost exclusively from donations. Students throughout the valley pulled together once; we hope they can do it again.



"Wanna go shoot some b-ball, Channon?"

"Later. I need to get my UNLV financial aid forms done. I get priority consideration by returning them in January."

Planning for the Future



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Feminism 'lacks femininity'

Adapted from an editorial by
Annemarie Clark,
Clark High School



Until the 19th century, the role of women was limited...except in home and church. In that century, women found a place in education. Political activism gradually came later...changes made possible by the evolution of democracy in America. Democracy brought the hope for equal rights for everyone. For women, this idea is termed feminism.

SO WHAT'S NEW?

It is now 1995 and...nothing has really changed. There are still people of both sexes that do not see women as capable human beings. Women are still sometimes seen as being anti-family for wanting a career so they can have the "American Dream." To many people, feminism represents a rejection of femininity.

The current members of Congress are giving more attention to women's issues than ever before. Charges of sexual harassment against Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Sen. Robert Packwood have made female legislators throw stronger support to women's welfare.

The Congressional Caucus on Women's issues now focuses on strict enforcement of regulations for the protection of women against discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Even though the U.S. government

Clubs sponsor holiday events

By Kathryn Tanaka

Several clubs at Clark have special projects to celebrate the holidays; some are annual events.

SLAC will help physically challenged students pick out holiday gifts at the mall. This is their second year for the activity.

STATUS is again distributing red ribbons this week as a pledge to stay alcohol-free for the holidays.

National Honor Society is sponsoring "Holiday Tree Lane," which encourages clubs and organizations to decorate trees.

KEY Club is sponsoring "A Touch of Love" Toy Drive: new toys for needy families. Members will also deliver the bears made during KEY Club week.

backs feminism, our society is unwilling to do so.

Studies show that a strong majority supports feminist ideas, yet many women hesitate to associate themselves with the movement.

Why are women still looked down upon for having voices? In this age, instead of being praised for wanting equal opportunities, women are looked down on as bra-burning, self-righteous man-haters.

Women and men must both realize that it's possible to be pro-female without being anti-male.

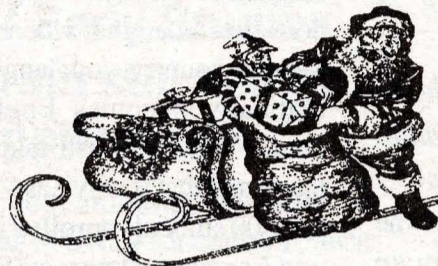
To be true supporters of feminist issues, we must remember that, while supporting our cause, we should not force our opinions upon others.

Holiday time rich in meaning

By Monica Moradkhan

As the holiday season approaches, many people don't take time to think about where all the holiday joy, traditions and meanings originated.

The colors of Christmas came from two different cultures. Green palms were used by the Egyptians, signifying life triumphant over death. And the Druids used red (eternal life) when tying apples and other offerings on tree branches.



NHS spirit of holiday giving to last all year

By Callie Newell

This year, Clark's National Honor Society sponsored the annual food drive. For a change, this year NHS decided to hold the drive before the holidays.

All the food that was collected went to local charities. The goal was not just to help the needy during the holidays, but throughout the year.

"This year's food drive brought in more food than expected because of all the support from the staff and students," says Patricia Dick.

Thanks to the NHS, a lot of people won't go hungry during the year.



Moradkhan

The use of lights on houses symbolizes faith and intelligence. The idea of the feast of lights originated from the Romans who fastened candles to trees during their Saturnalia, indicating the return of the sun to earth.

Because holly bore fruit in winter, it came to be another symbol of immortality. Mistletoe was a sacred plant of the Druids, used in elaborate ceremonies at the winter solstice.

Stockings hung by the chimney originated in Amsterdam, where children would set their shoes in a corner of the fireplace. The idea of Santa and his reindeer also came from Holland, but there, St. Nick used a horse when delivering gifts to children.

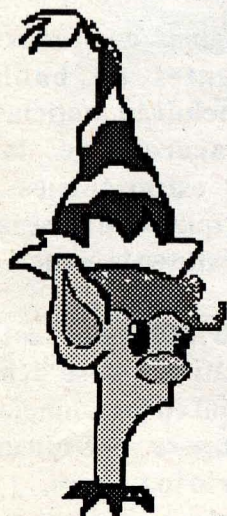
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TO SPEAK OR NOT TO SPEAK ESPAÑOL IN SCHOOL

Yes.**English doesn't happen overnight.***By Raul Daniels, Las Vegas High School*

"Estudiantes escuchen los anuncios de la mañana, y aprendan de lo que esta pasando en la escuela."

For the first time, many of the announcements over the intercom are in two languages—English and Spanish. This decision was made by Student Body President Paola Gonzalez and Principal Barry Gunderson, due to the fact that 14 % of the student body speak only Spanish.

Paulo goes the extra mile and translates the announcements into Spanish for those students at Las Vegas High who are in the process of learning English.

However, instead of receiving compliments and words of encouragement and appreciation, some students and faculty members, who choose to remain anonymous, have criticized Paola for translating the announcements into Spanish.

Comments range from "Doing the announcements in Spanish degrades the English language" to "I don't know what they make us waste so much class time with this unnecessary thing."

TIME IS NOT AN ISSUE

First, it does not waste time. It is only done once a month and takes about three additional minutes. As Sheilah Long commented,

"I don't think there is anything bad with doing the announcements in Spanish. It does not take any more time than the regular announcements."

Secondly, it is necessary, as nearly 40% or 1080 students at Las Vegas High are bilingual and out of those 1080 students, 300 speak only Spanish.

"I think that if they [Hispanics] come to this country they should learn how to speak English," said junior Jason Brandin. "We are in American where everyone should speak En-

glish and not Spanish."

Yes, we are in America, where English is the main language. So, does this mean that when you come into this country, your language automatically becomes English? Of course not. English takes time to learn, and that is why Las Vegas High has 300 students enrolled in the Second Language Program (SLP).

"It is very hard to learn English, but I am trying very hard," says Jorge Acosta, an SLP student.

HE LEARNS FROM LISTENING

"I've been here only a year and I can understand plenty, but I just can't pronounce the words correctly, so when I try to speak English, some people make fun of me.

"I think that what Paola does is great," Acosta continues. "I learn a lot from listening to the announcements in a language I can understand. People should'n be so judgmental because what Paola does is really helping students like me."

Joannie Phillips, an SLP teacher, says, "It really does help them."

She adds, "I have an SLP class that usually doesn't pay attention to the announcements because they don't understand them, but as soon as the announcements come on in Spanish, all of them take out their calendars and write every important date in them."

"Mr. Gunderson [the principal] thought that doing the announcements in Spanish would be a good idea because of the large Hispanic population at our school," says Gonzalez.

"We are giving these students the chance to know what is going on at Las Vegas High. By doing so," he adds, "we hope to increase school spirit and student involvement."

Let these students be involved. They need to know about our school. And if the price we have to pay is three minutes a month, then it is well worth it.

No.**It separates students from each other.***By Isela Gutierrez, Las Vegas High School*

Two times since August 28, a voice on the P.A. system disturbed the student body and faculty.

The cause of this disturbance was not a high, shrieking noise nor a tirade of profanity; it was something simpler: a Spanish translation of the announcements.

Initially, upon hearing the translation, I was pleasantly surprised. "Great! Now everybody will understand what is going on and get involved. It will create school unity and spirit," I thought. However, after further consideration, I wasn't so sure...

Does an extensive second language program encourage self-imposed segregation? Already, two separate communities exist at Las Vegas High School—the Spanish-speaking and the English-speaking. Naturally, people tend to gravitate toward those with similar interests and sociological backgrounds, leading to separatism in the school.

BACKFIRE?

The Spanish translation of the announcements, intended to increase student involvement, may backfire by increasing the isolation already felt by SLP [Second Language Program] students.

Perhaps at future Homecoming assemblies, all the students will be wearing Wildcat Red and Black, but will it stop the chanting of "Mexico! Mexico!!"? Is the administration making it easier for SLP students to remain outside of the student body in their own social circles, involved in only their own issues?

Do the few minutes taken up by the Spanish translation negatively affect students' learning? Some students and teachers believe so. In fact, it has been a complaint for years that 54 minutes is not long enough to

effectively teach or learn a subject. Is it really necessary to take more time out of class to do something that Las Vegas High School has done well for years without? I think not.

In a recent survey taken in a literature class, 27 students were asked whether they believed reading the announcements in Spanish was a good idea. Thirteen believed it was, 11 were against it, and three had no opinion.

NOT REALLY A BAD IDEA

And that's the point. Reading the announcements in Spanish is not such a bad idea. If the students and teachers had been given the opportunity to discuss this issue before it became "fait accompli," there might not be a need for such a debate.

The real question that should be asked is not whether or not announcements in two languages is a good idea, but whether it is *necessary*.

NOTE!

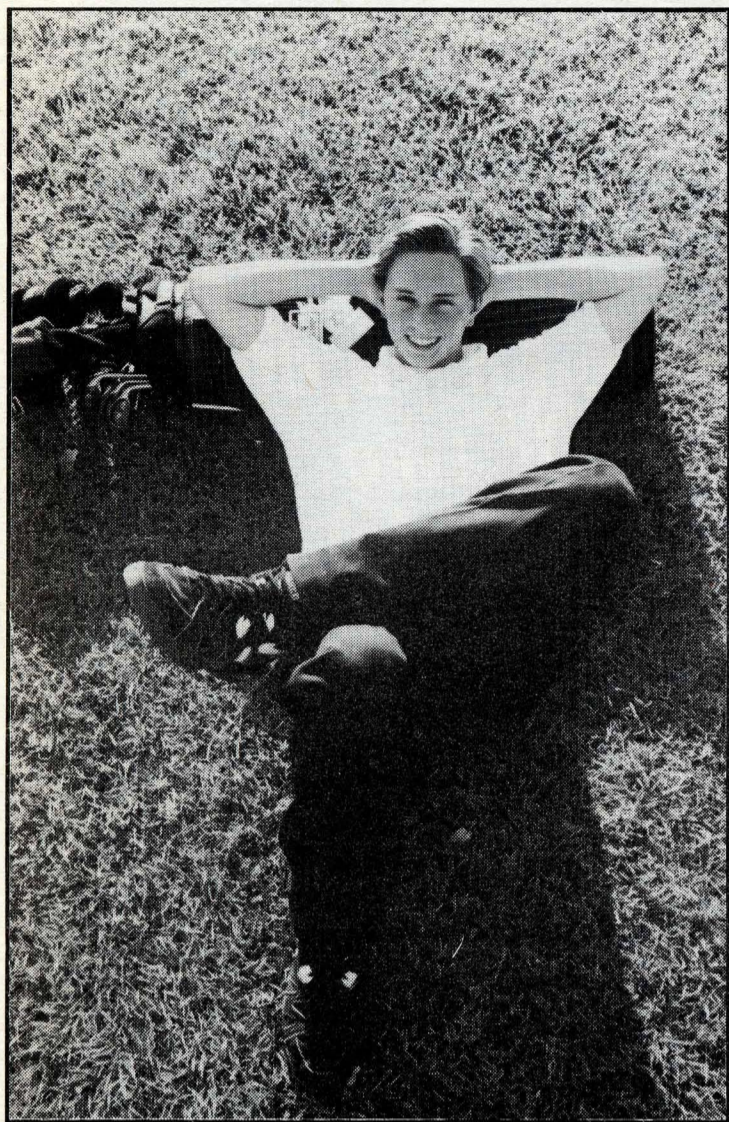
CLASS! will print a special section each month for Hispanic students starting in February. Highlights of the debate on this page (along with other news and student features) will be included.

Lea este DEBATE en español en el número de febrero de CLASS!

Empezando el próximo febrero, el periódico CLASS! incluirá una sección especial en español.

Estas páginas, dedicadas a los estudiantes de habla española, incluirán noticias, historias acerca de las actividades estudiantiles e información que usted necesita para lograr éxito en la escuela y en la vida.

El DEBATE en este número, relativo a si se debe usar el español en los anuncios de la escuela, será repetido un poco mas corto en febrero.



Justin Wright

Some golf, a bit of math, a dog named Jingles. Life is good.

What does a seven-year-old do on a rainy day? If the boy is **Justin Wright**, he designs a golf course — sandtraps, trees, ponds, clubhouse, parking lots and all.

Wright, a sophomore at The Meadows School, wouldn't mind making golf course design his career. That or building a stadium or a coliseum.

Having explained his modest goal (which, he admits, could change at any moment), Justin turns his attention to the more mundane matters of being 15.

He has played golf since age four, using little plastic clubs, and didn't start basketball until the grand old age of eight, playing for the Boys and Girls Club.

Now Justin plays forward for The Meadows in the Single-A league, AND he plays tennis. But none of this interferes with school work.

"I'm just an okay student," Wright admits, then grins when reminded that he has been an honor student for the past FIVE years. He has studied Spanish at The Meadows since Kindergarten, but does especially well in math:

"It comes easy to me," he says. That's good because students going into an architecture program need lots of math skills.

Justin plans to attend college in California, then head to Penn State to study architecture for two years.

He competed in the Junior World Golf Tournament in San Diego last year, for the second time.

"I did lousy," he chuckles.

"I couldn't have been worse."

Yet, at the TPC golf course in Summerlin, he has won the club championship for three years in a row.

Why does Justin like golf?

"It's an individual sport," he says.

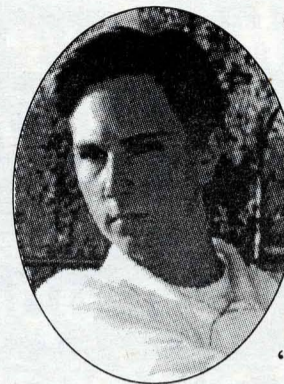
"You have no one else to blame if you lose...and I like being independent and competing against myself as well as others."

He adds that he is very relaxed when playing golf. "I don't get as nervous as I do in basketball," Justin admits.

Patty Wright, his mother, jumps in to say that Justin got her started in golf and that they recently won a parent-child tournament, beating all the men-only teams in pouring rain.

Justin's life is full, what with school and his dog, Jingles, and sports.

"But I may not be able to spend so much time on golf from now on," he says. "I'll be getting a car soon...."



Students with disabilities focus of workshop

High school students with disabilities face many challenges that other teens don't ever confront — particularly after graduation and in the adult world.

These challenges might come in the job market or in college, recreation, transportation or even basic housing.

The Clark County School District, the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the UNLV Disability Resource Center recently sponsored a workshop for students, parents and educators called "Looking into the Future, Today."

The workshop considered how laws have changed with regard to the disabled, what high school students should know about college, and how to prepare for jobs.

Speakers also discussed how to use Southern Nevada's CAT transit system, Paratransit for disabled persons, and Social Security provisions for those who cannot work. Keynote speaker for the workshop was Alex Valdez, a comedian who is blind.

For more information relating to high school students with disabilities, call Alison Kasner at 799-7973.

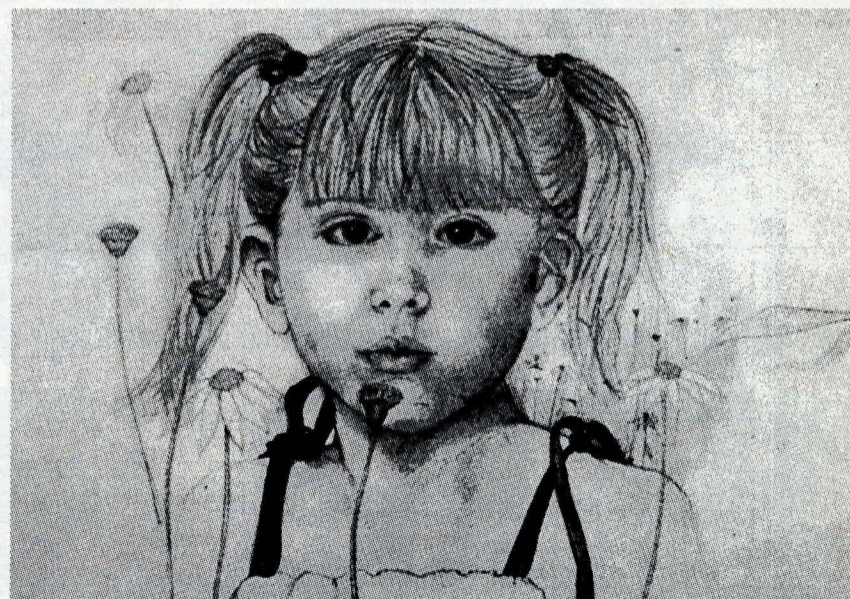


Speak Your Mind!

Do you think too many of Nevada's best students are leaving the state for college? Why do you think our high school grads are looking for greener pastures in other states? Are YOU going to college? Where are you applying and why?

The best *Letter to the Editor* on this subject will win \$25 and be printed in the February issue of CLASS! Send your letter to the Editor, CLASS! Publications, 6290 Harrison Dr., Suite 10, Las Vegas 89120 by January 30.

SEPTEMBER on the Silver State Schools Credit Union calendar will be adorned with this design by Eldorado senior **Jessica Martin**. It's called "Fun with Flowers."



Quicksand, muscles, disasters and sports: all part of UNLV's Science & Tech Day

Nearly 150 high school students from Nevada and neighboring states converged on UNLV last month for its annual Science and Technology Day.

The event was sponsored by the College of Engineering and the College of Science and Math.

Two dozen faculty members

presented a variety of demonstrations.

These included a quicksand tank, computer logic design, the testing of muscles and ligaments, identifying bacteria, earthquakes and faults, and nursing in the 21st century.

Other demonstrations fo-

cused on gold panning and gold analysis, blood flow in chicken embryos, and an analysis of supermarket drinking waters.

The Sports Injury Research Center as well as the departments of nursing and health physics took part in the Science and Technology Day.

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Our corporate headquarters is located in Las Vegas and we are proud to be a vital part of the commercial, cultural, and educational life here in Southern Nevada.

We have a variety of entry level positions available for energetic high school graduates or soon-to-be graduates.

If you are interested in a career opportunity with a stable, growing corporation based in your hometown, we would like to speak with you. Contact our Human Resources Department in writing at 4310 Paradise Road, Suite 400, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109 or call (702) 737-3700.

