

# CLASS!

FEBRUARY 1996

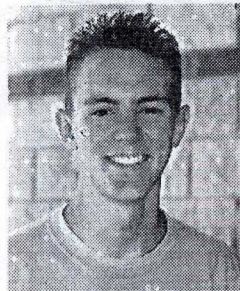
A monthly publication  
by, for and about  
the high school students  
of Las Vegas, Henderson  
and Boulder City

## DIGANOS

Para estudiantes que  
hablan Español  
(Paginas 17-20)

Doing good time:  
Alternative sentencing  
(Page 5)

# Lake Mead did not freeze over; roller hockey reaps the benefits



By Paul Dodge,  
Green Valley H.S.  
and CLASS!  
Staff Reporter

Hockey is one of the fastest growing sports in America today, and it has attracted a large following in Las Vegas. The problem is that ice has an annoying tendency to turn to water in the 110-degree Mojave Desert heat.

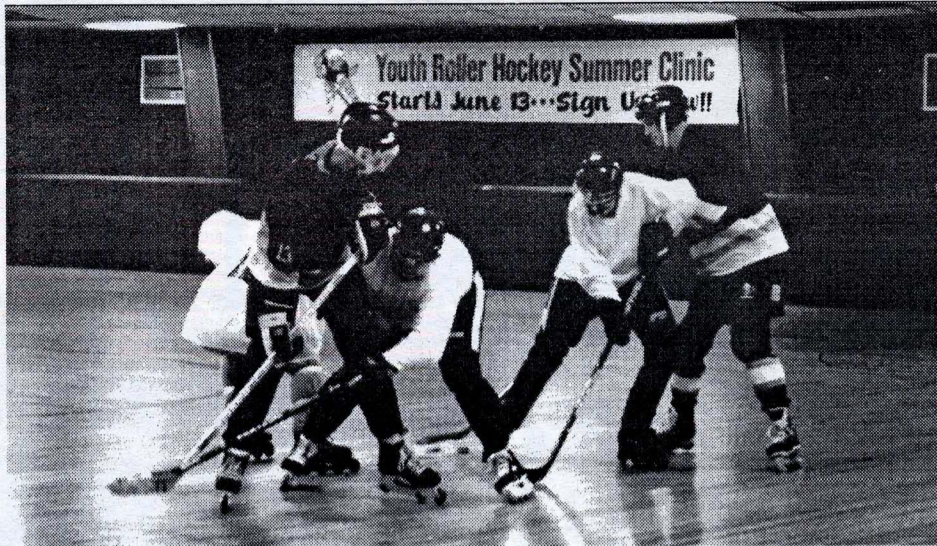
Maybe that's why hundreds of Las Vegas area high school-age hockey players have given up the hope that Lake Mead will one day freeze over; they have joined the National In-Line Hockey Association (NIHA).

The nation-wide organization for roller hockey players ages 15 through adult has member teams virtually everywhere, from other warm climates such as Florida to traditional ice hockey bastions such as Canada and New York.

In Las Vegas, the battleground for NIHA teams is the Crystal Palace rink. Owner David Morgan is proud to support hockey interest among area youth.

"It's a great experience for them," he says. "We see some of the best hockey action in the nation."

In the Las Vegas area alone, there



are more than 30 teams in NIHA. In addition, other Crystal Palaces around the city are host to dozens of teams.

But for the most competitive players, the toughest opponents are found in NIHA, where teens in the 15-17 age group challenge each other or adults in non-stop, high-scoring competition. The best teams can qualify to go to Carson City for the regional championship tournament.

"Actually, some of the best players in the leagues are high school age," says Morgan. "I guess they aren't afraid of getting hurt like us old guys."

But many players believe they should not have to go to NIHA to find

other kids to compete with. Most believe that roller or ice hockey should become a high school sport.

"It's frustrating that people won't support hockey because they don't see it as a traditional sport such as football or baseball," says one NIHA player. "They see it as a back-East or Canadian pastime."

**John Cansdale**, 16, captain of the Green Valley Panthers roller hockey team, believes that in due time hockey will have its shot at being a varsity sport.

"We hope...hockey will one day lead to its adoption as a high school sport," Cansdale says. "People can't ignore us forever."

Most schools argue that roller and ice hockey are very expensive sports, requiring hundreds of dollars in equipment. But hockey advocates retort that football equipment is also very expensive, yet there is not a problem funding it as a high school sport.

"The pads, shoes, helmets and jerseys that football players have to wear are very close in price to the equipment we use, with the exception of skates and sticks," adds Cansdale.

"But when you consider the fact that there are usually only about 10 to 15 players on a roller hockey team as opposed to over 20 on a football team, the price comes out to about the same.

"Besides, we could do all the same fundraisers and lift-a-thons that the football teams do, not to mention that most of us already have our own equipment," Cansdale adds.

Regardless of these arguments, most players in NIHA realize that it will take time, and lots of it, before hockey can be recognized.

For now, supporters of hockey in schools are content to simply continue promoting interest in the sport, to show that roller hockey — if not ice hockey — may one day be as loved and appreciated as other school-sponsored sports.

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## CLASS! Publications

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## ON THE COVER

The colorful murals on two schools near Rancho High School are the work of students in Rancho's HACES Program, an organization that encourages Hispanic youth to stay in school and graduate.

In addition to the murals, HACES members are involved in community service: they help people register to become American citizens and they clean up neighborhood graffiti. The founder and director of HACES is Rancho counselor Alvaro Aguirre, who coordinates DIGANOS, the Spanish-language section in this newspaper.

IVAN GARCIA (standing) graduated last May and is now working with a construction company. As an active HACES mem-

ber, he earned the right to help with the murals by perfect school attendance and serious studying. He says the painting was a new experience and fun. "I never imagined myself doing anything like this," Ivan says. "But when I see the murals, I feel kinda proud."

HECTOR GARCIA also feels good about taking part in the project. "It really helped me to have a goal," he says. "If I can do that, I can do other things, too." Hector lives with his brothers and says, "They knew I was going to school, not thinking about drugs and other bad things." He now works in a produce warehouse and enjoys reading and writing about UFOs. Remembering his work on the murals, Hector says, "I felt like Picasso!"

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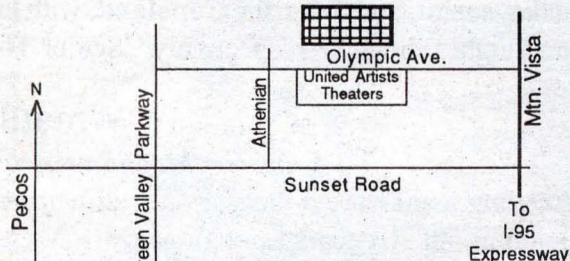
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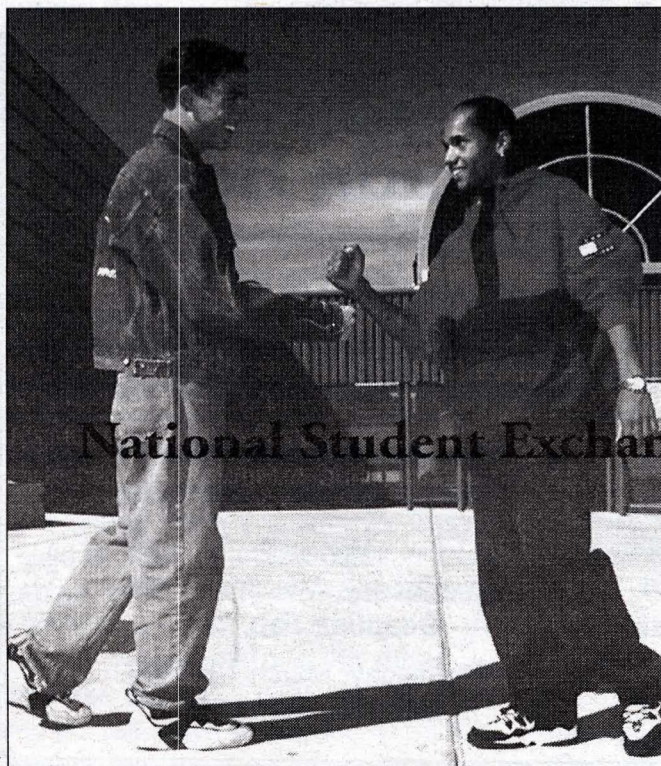
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## Things we do in the game of love

Condensed from an editorial by Todd Spector

It's a competitive, agonizing game we play sometime during our lives...relationships. This unsteady game is broken down into three parts: attraction, the relationship and the end of the relationship.

For most, the first attraction came from appearance, according to an informal survey of 50 students. They expressed that, although appearance plays a role in the beginning stage of a relationship, afterwards there are more meaningful qualities that their "perfect partner" must have.

Appearance tended to become more important as the grade level increased, although so did loyalty and commitment. Freshmen valued loyalty least. Seniors scored loyalty higher; perhaps this is because seniors, being closest to settling down with that special somebody, are looking for a more meaningful relationship.

After the cat-and-mouse game of



Spector

trying to impress the one you love, comes the second and most difficult part of any relationship: making it last. All students agree they would rather have an average-looking guy or girl with a wonderful personality than an exceptional-looking guy or girl with no personality. All felt that the other person must be easy to talk to.

"You have to have trust so you can grow closer together and know he won't cheat on you," comments sophomore **Bonnie Kroll**.

All relationships have problems and 90% of the respondents feel that fights are good and bring the couple closer...because you know where the other person stands.

"...but they are not good if all you do is fight," says **Vivian Choi**.

When the relationship reaches the end of the road, the hardest part surfaces: the break-up. There are many different reasons by couples break up, ranging from boredom to cheating.

How to break up is a problem, as well, according to sophomore Melissa Simon: "If you do break up, do it in person. Don't play games," she says.

## What's The Meadows?!

By Justin Suszko

What is The Meadows School? A precise definition would include:

a private, non-sectarian school that academically prepares those enrolled for university and college-type work. However, if one takes away the dress uniform and smaller classes, it is a school like any other in Las Vegas. Those visiting The Meadows for sporting events commonly ask a passing student whether a laptop computer is required to attend The Meadows. The answer, of course, is no.

Located on a 40-acre campus in Summerlin, The Meadows offers grades kindergarten through 12...a broad curriculum with courses in drama, music and art. Clubs range from academics to community service. With its growing numbers, The Meadows will move into Nevada "AA" class in football, basketball, baseball and track next year.



Suszko

## ON STAGE!

### Musical Theater

By Allison Boman



Boman

The musical theater class presented a cabaret show recently, with selections from musicals such as *Les Miserables*, *Miss Saigon* and *Chess*. The cast included **Jordan Boughrum, Elizabeth Buettner, Heidi Creel, Shane Goffstein, Court Petrie, Megan Riordan, Kristin Russo, Courtney Schorr, Sabrina Stepuchin, Lindsey Thomas**, and this writer.

This was the first full-fledged concert presented by the musical theater class, although they have performed at an assembly and at the Silver Bowl.

### Drama

From a report by Morgan French

Last month, two plays were presented by The Meadows School drama classes.

The ninth grade class presented *The Matchmaker* by Thornton Wilder, the story of an old merchant who has made his fortune and starts searching for a wife. He seeks help from a woman known as a matchmaker. As the story goes on, Mr. Vandergelder, the merchant (played by **Aaron Goldberg**)

realizes that he is in love with that matchmaker, Mrs. Levi (played by **Brooke Wagstaff**). [Editor's note: the hit musical *Hello, Dolly*, was adapted from this famous play.]

The tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade drama classes presented a Dinner Theater production of *The Sting*. The story is about two con-men whose goal is to pull off the ultimate "sting" to avenge the death of a good friend. Henry Gondorff was played by **Kaveh Najafi** and Doyle Lonnegan was played by **Harky Jewett**. Dinner was catered by the Country Inn.



French

## SPORTS

### Men's basketball

Reporter: Kashif Ismail



Ismail

The men's varsity basketball squad is led by starters **Matt Gregory** at center; **Andy Cannon**, guard; **Chris Peto**, forward; **Jake Williamson**, forward; and **Shaqueel Chowdry**, guard. In their first game, versus Needles, they won 68-16. Cannon was the high scorer for the Mustangs with 35 points. The men's junior varsity team is shooting

for a win record of at least 50 percent and the experience of becoming accustomed to the varsity offense and defense.

### Lady Mustangs

Reporter: Morgan French

The varsity team opened their season with a 34-33 win over Needles. High scorers were **Christina Hruska**, senior, and **Jennifer Copeland**, with eight points each, as well as 14 and eight rebounds, respectively. Senior **Heidi Creel** had four assists.

### Wrestling

Reporter: Meghan Cristman



Cristman

The wrestling team started the season well, with wins against Laughlin, an AA team, and Bonanza's AAA JV team. Assistant coach Duane Loesch says, "The team is doing well, considering many have not wrestled before." Team members **John Wanderer, Derek Goffstein, Shane Goffstein** and **Tim Northington** won their opening matches.



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Wednesday, March 13, 1996

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# Community service, not 'the slammer'—

## Teen offenders pay for mistakes

By Sari Aizley

In one recent month, 41 kids of high school age were sentenced to pay for their crimes by performing community service. These youths were found guilty of traffic violations or driving without a license, for example, or for assault, violating curfew, even stealing cars.

The community service they must complete typically includes work at a convalescent home, distributing food and clothing to the needy, janitorial or yard work, light office or retail store assignments.

Of the 41 teenagers referred to above, four were just 14 years old; 14 were age 15; 13 were "sweet sixteen," and ten were 17. Four were girls: two age 14, two age 16.

The alternative sentencing program, administered by HELP of Southern Nevada, is an opportunity for teens to escape a term behind bars ("the slammer") or paying a fine.

But it's another type of opportunity, too:

"If they do a good job in their community service, they can get a letter of recommendation" that could lead to a job in the future, according to Beth Turrietta, who manages the Community Alternative Sentencing program for HELP.

"They develop good work habits, they learn how to interact productively with adults...and to assume responsibility," she adds. "In some cases, they get a chance to explore career options."

This program has a good track record. It's very rare when a juvenile is re-sentenced, according to Turrietta.

"They seem to get refocused," she says, "to develop some self-

esteem, maybe see greater possibilities for their lives." She adds that sometimes the kids are hired by the agencies they were assigned to.

Here's how it works:

The court sends certain offenders to HELP, which does an intake interview. The case worker wants to find out what skills the person has, how many years of education, what health limitations there might be, even their income level.

Then the offender is matched with one of 250 participating agencies, where he or she will perform community service. HELP assigns juveniles to sites as close to home as possible, so transportation is not a problem.

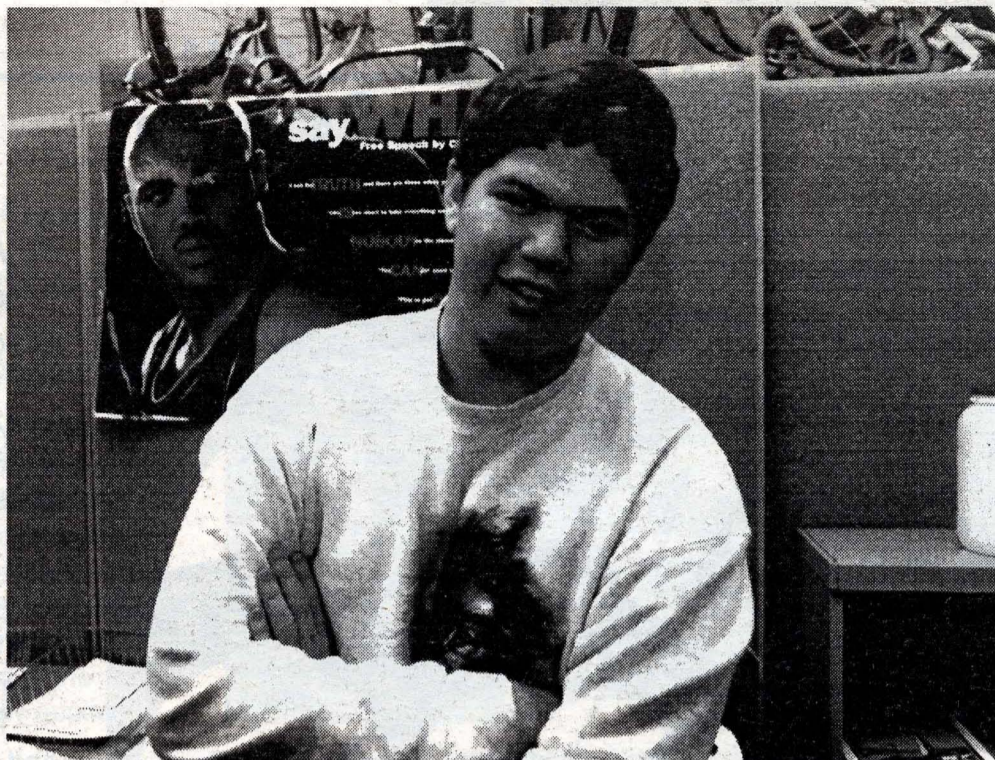
"We don't want to sentence the parents, too, making them perform community service by driving the juvenile every day," says Turrietta.

She notes that the young offenders do not usually work in a group of other juveniles serving their time. "We have to stop the cycle of reinforcing negative ideas," Turrietta says.

Of the total number of people sentenced to community service, more than 10% are juveniles (12-17). Of all offenders (who, over the years, have ranged from age nine into the 70s) 40% have less than a high school education; the rest range up to Ph.D. level.

Overall, Turrietta says, 54% of their clients are white, 22% are black, 18.5% are Hispanic, 2% are Asian, 1% are Native American, and the other 2.5% are not specified.

Of all violations that earn community service sentencing, half are related to traffic, 30% are for drugs and alcohol offenses, and the rest are mostly theft or assault.



### Arrest was 'scary' but Vincent turns his life around

He helped feed the homeless at St. Vincent's shelter last summer — about 300 hungry people twice a day. He would like to do community service full time, but he must go to school. Now he plans to attend VoTech, learn masonry and work in the building trades after he graduates.

Vincent Closson, a freshman at Milee Achievement Center, is turning his life around after committing a crime that he prefers not to name. Vincent is in Clark County's alternative sentencing program, which ordered him to do community service, attend school, report to a probation officer for three years, quit his gang ties, and stay out of trouble.

"I was going through some hard times," Vincent says of the years he was the object of a custody battle between his divorced parents. "I was confused...kickin' it with the gangs...I thought it would solve my problems.

"I never expected to get arrested," he says. "It was scary. I was afraid I wouldn't ever see my family again. They freaked out." Vincent now lives in Las Vegas with his grandmother; his mother is in Utah and his dad is in Mesquite.

"It felt good, helping someone who needed help," he says of his community service at homeless shelters.

For a while, Vincent was on house arrest. Now he attends Milee, a school that includes all grade levels and has 16 students in high school classes.

"I am never going to get involved [in gangs] again," he says. "I have to prove I am going to school, following all the rules.

"I have new friends — they're clean — and now we just hang out at my house, listen to music, play Nintendo, go bike-riding....stay out of trouble."

What does Vincent Closson have to say to other kids? "Don't do the crime or you're gonna do some time."

### Students may choose community service for grad credits

Community service is not just a form of "punishment." Students can also earn high school credits for service: sixty hours in a semester is worth one half-credit.

Sometimes students are thrown off the track by illness or a family emergency; maybe they just goofed off during the early years in high school. This credit-for-community-service program is a *great* alternative to dropping out of school.

Before applying for community service credits, students must sign up at their schools.

You may select a community service agency to work for or ask HELP of Southern Nevada to set it up. HELP has many positions waiting to be filled and they already have a system for handling the paperwork.

But think about it: 60 hours is only about 15 hours a month! You earn credit, learn new skills, maybe take the first step toward a career — AND you get a warm, fuzzy feeling for doing community service!

### Some good comes out of drug bust: she and mom can talk openly now

"Just about the time my mom and I started getting along and she began to trust me," Maryann Nelson\* says, "I got into this trouble. She didn't yell at me, but I had a really hard time looking at her, seeing how disappointed she was."

Maryann is now serving her sentence: six months probation (which is soon over), attending a drug education program, and doing community service at a thrift store.

"Once I had to clean out a dog kennel that the store wanted to sell," she recalls. "It was really gross."

Maryann got caught holding acid (LSD) which she had bought  
(See **Maryann rebuilds relationship**, page 33)

## Paws that refresh



Working with the Bengal wrestling teams this year is a group called The Paws. Advised by Bonanza Policewoman Belinda Brown, the group keeps statistics for the varsity and JV wrestlers, and they also function as managers. Members of The Paws are (front row, from left) **Krista Vespe**, **Rachael Milligan** and **Alyson Carter**; (back row) **Annie Heim**, **Lynn Gibson**, **Brown**, and **Luana Graham**.



### TELL IT, EMILY!

Sophomore **Emily Vinson** recently won first prize at the ninth grade level in an essay contest sponsored by the Clark County Classroom Teachers Association. Vinson's essay addressed the topic, "Education is a Good Investment in My Future." Vinson is an English I Honors student.

## One-Acts: Playing to a full house

By Jennifer Marsala

For as long as anyone can remember, Bonanza has produced a plethora of one-acts, and this year was no exception.



Each one-act was student cast and directed with Carol Lommen, theater teacher, serving as producer.

This year there were nine plays and, although the majority of them were comedies, they covered a wide variety of subjects.

The performers played to full houses virtually every night, February 7-10. One group of plays was presented Wednesday and Friday evenings and the others were performed on Thursday and Saturday.

### DRAMA

*Dreamwalk*, directed by **Michelle Rushforth**, is a tender play that deals with two cancer patients as they coped with their illness. It took a realistic look at the hopes and fears of the terminally ill.

*Juvie* gave the audiences a look at what Juvenile Hall is really like. Directed by **Laura Gubbins**, this drama was about kids who are lonely, mixed up, and locked up.

*End of the Tunnel*, directed by **Shannon Furman**, was a psychological drama about a mother and how she copes with a tragic accident.

### COMEDY

It's opening night and this is going to be a great performance! But wait! One of the actors is missing and the set isn't finished yet. *Take Five*, directed by **Derrick Robertson**, was an hilarious comedy about the nightmares of opening night.

*Sure Thing*, directed by **Jennifer Marsala**, was a classic contemporary comedy about two people who meet in a cafe and make their way through a conversational minefield on their way to falling in love.

*Adaptations* is a game show in which four players adapted to more than 31 different roles. The cast included **Tim Holt**, **Stephen Coston**, **Trent Bakich** and **Ama Nyamekye**, and was directed by **Doug Soule**.

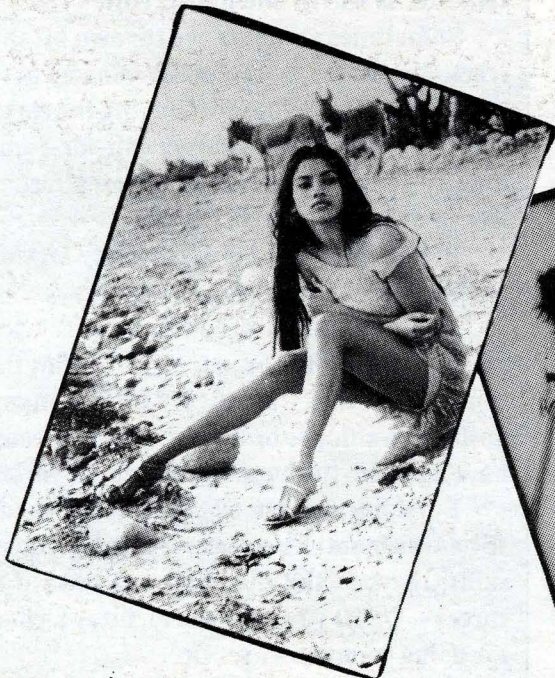
*The Final Dress Rehearsal*, directed by **Amber Archibald** and **Char Gilbreth**, was a comedy in which a hopelessly unprepared cast and director try to get through the first and only dress rehearsal.

*Jumping* was a comedic look at a serious situation. It examined the stresses of a steady relationship. Directed by **Summer Ostlund**, the cast featured **Robin Rhees** and **Brandon Dooley**.

Picture this: You fall in love with two women and they appear unexpectedly (and uninvited) in your sleep. Is this a dream...or a nightmare? *My Two Loves* was directed by **Kimberly Stuttler**.

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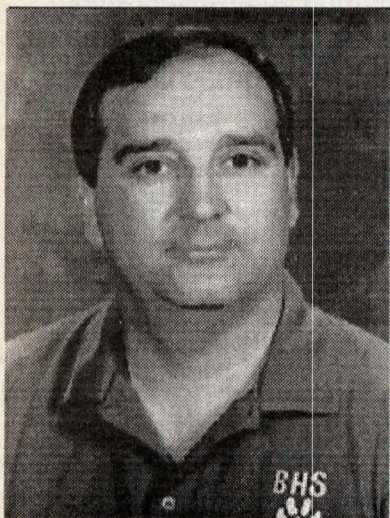
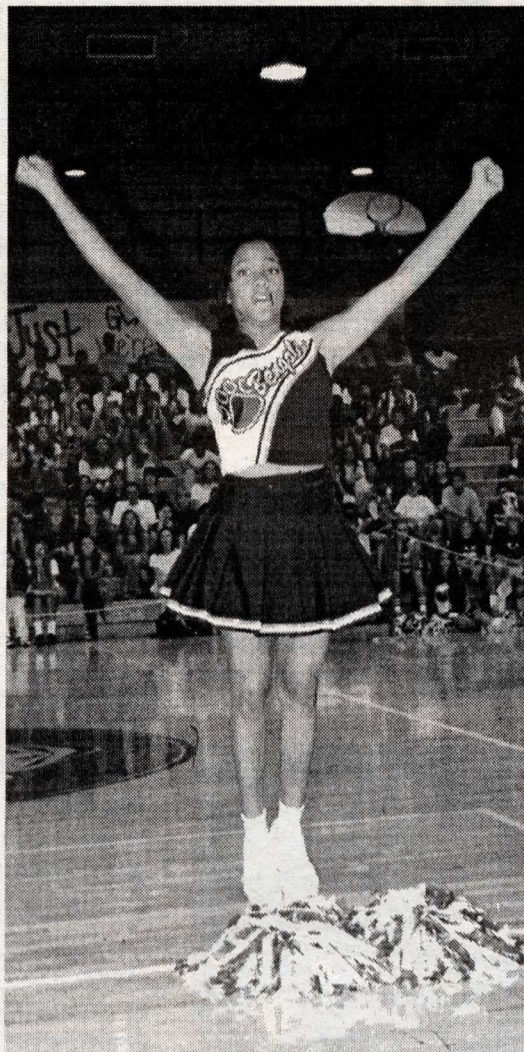
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# BONANZA



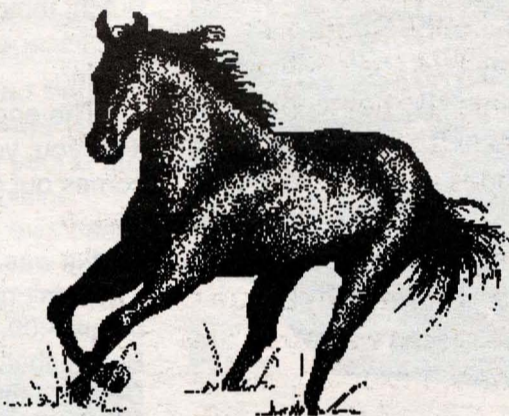
## SUPER TIME!

Bonanza songleader **Kanessa Shelton**, sophomore, was right up front at Super Bowl XXX, performing in the pregame show. She was selected from 10,000 dancers across the country as one of the top 150 members of the All-Star Dance/Drill Team.



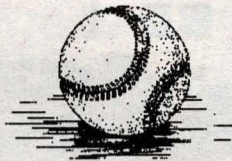
### AP HONORED

The National Association of Secondary School Administrators and McDonalds have named Assistant Principal Tom Barberini Nevada's Assistant Principal of the Year. In being selected, Barberini follows in the footsteps of Bonanza Principal Judy Cameron, who was named Principal of the Year three years ago. Quite a pair of honors for Bonanza High!



## RIDE' EM!

Senior **Thomas White** recently took first place in a Mesquite rodeo competition. He also took second place in Boulder City and, to top it all off, he took first in the Las Vegas High School Rodeo Competition.



**BIGTIMES AHEAD.** Bonanza High School senior **Alyson Carter**, a three-sport athlete, recently signed a letter of intent to attend Colorado State University, where she will play on the nationally-ranked Ram softball team. On hand for her acceptance of the full-ride scholarship were (from left) Bonanza Principal Judy Cameron; Alyson's father, Pat; Alyson; and Gene Girard, Assistant Principal for Athletics.

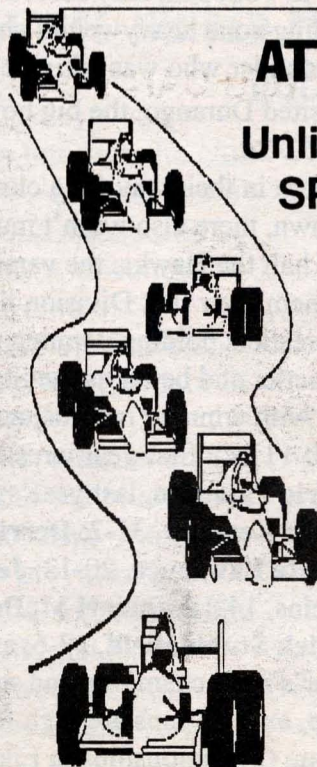
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## MUSIC REVIEW

By Devon Jean

### Medusa

Annie Lennox

Since her split from the Eurythmics, what seems to have been ages ago, Lennox has maintained her position as a diva on the charts effortlessly.

Though her latest album is a compilation of other artists' works, she has added the special flair to each song that only Annie could have done. Making a

great stretch from the R&B sounds of Rod Stewart to the alternative grooves of Peter Gabriel and Sheryl Crow, Lennox blends chart topping hits like "No More I Love You's" with updated versions of classics such as "Take Me to the River" and "Castles Burning."

This disc does what few these days can do successfully, make it to the top without any shocking publicity.

Lennox has clawed her way back onto the charts with an easy tempo this time, but there's no telling what the "Queen of Eye Make-Up" has in store for her fans in the future.

#### Reviewer's Verdict:

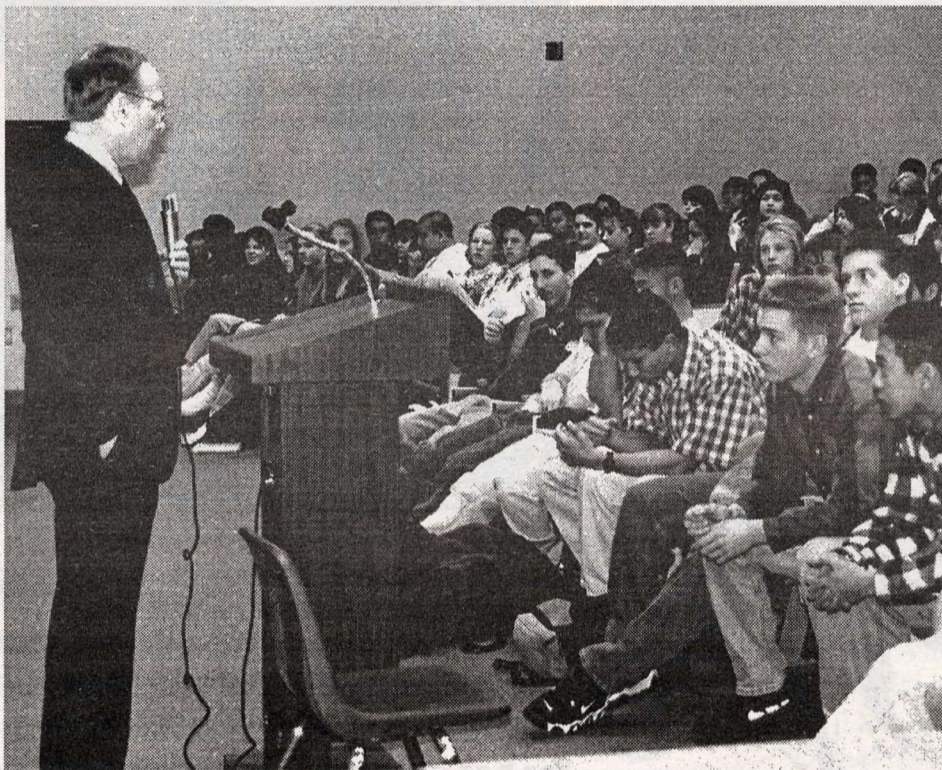
It's definitely a welcome change from the faster paced albums competing for attention on MTV. There's just something about Annie that makes her music throb in your brain forever.

And there's a really cool picture of her face with her name typed all over it inside the cover.



LEFT: Amber Fife puts the final touches on her ceramic project in ceramics class.

BELOW: U.S. Senator Richard Bryan speaks to Silverado government students.



## Hawks have eagle-eye on State

When the Skyhawks ventured into the 29-team High Desert Classic tournament recently in Tonopah, they scored 194 points. The Hawks were without defending zone heavyweight champion, Glenn Pilarowski, a 171-pounder who was taking college entrance exams. When the Hawks visited Durango, the big boys stepped up and won with a score of 52-24.

With only one team in their way for a clean sweep of the Sunrise Division crown, there also wasn't much the Gaels of Gorman could do to halt the Hawks: the varsity Hawks won by 72-14, which gave them their first Division title.

With 12 of 13 wrestlers holding winning records, the Hawks are looking better and better as the State Tournament draws close. Hawks with winning records include:

**Justin Shurr**, 20-11 as a first-year wrestler; **Brian Rehfeldt**, 21-8; **Mario Paladino**, last year's runner-up at zone and state, 27-1; **Adam Kearney**, 31-2; **Derrick Sanchez**, 24-7; **John Hill**, 11-3; **Dante Lawrence**, 20-12; **Jeremiah Raddie**, 10-11; **Sergio Palacios**, 14-12; **Darryl McDonald**, 14-10; **Champ Yi**, 27-3; **Rick Stubblefield**, 27-6; and **Glenn Pilarowski**, last year's zone champion and state runner-up, 23-1

With this line-up, expectations are high for the Hawks as they travel to the State Championships in Elko, Feb. 16 and 17.

## TOY STORY NOT JUST FOR SMALL-FRY

By Devon Jean  
Stefanie Long



Here we are, seniors in high school, and we're going to the movies to watch cartoons. Not just any cartoon, but the first full-length feature, computer-animated cartoon. Yep, you got it! We went to see *Toy Story*. The movie begins in Andy's room on his birthday three days before he is supposed to move. He's playing with his favorite toy, Woody.

For his birthday, he receives Buzz Lightyear, a space hero, who soon replaces Woody as Andy's favorite toy.

Andy's psycho neighbor, Butch, has a reputation for blowing up toys, and when Woody and Buzz begin to fight, they take a short adventure to Pizza Planet and end up in Butch's house.

Unable to escape and guarded by Butch's dog, Spike, the two toys are forced to band together to try to save themselves. Befriended by a handful of mutilated toys created by none other than the deranged Butch, they plot against the sick little boy and escape just as Andy's moving van is leaving.

The ending is the best so we won't ruin it for you; you'll just have to wait until it comes out on tape.

#### Reviewers' Verdict:

**Stef:** It was an okay movie...a waste of money. I wouldn't have minded if I had gone to see it before 4:00. That way it would have only cost \$4. Beside that, it had its good moments.

**Devon:** I thought it was great! Stef just has no sense of humor. If you're looking for something light to lift your spirits, this would be the one. Beside that, *Elbert Reed* it finally brought back Mr. Potato Head.



**PIN PALS** — The Pin Pals cheering squad sound off as the Silverado Skyhawks rack up another win. Shown above, front row, are Kerry Bohanon, left, and Amy Repp.

Devon Jean



## JUMANJI. SEE IT OR YOU'LL DISAPPEAR!

By Glenn Pilarowski

If you have a thing for lions, elephants, and who knows what else, Jumanji is the film for you.

Everyone knows how lonely it can be with no friends. Allen Parish was different: he had no friends AND he was getting beat up by a bunch of bullies who were jealous because Allen's father was so successful.

One day after getting beat up, he heard a drum that no one else could hear. Allen hunted down the noise. Surprisingly, it was a game, Jumanji—a game for someone with no friends and looking for a new adventure.

Allen did have one friend, Sara, whose boyfriend was one of the boys who beat him up. Sara came to the door wanting to apologize. Anxiously, Allen pulled out

Jumanji. The two played the game until Allen disappeared.

Years later, two children and their aunt move into the Parish home, hoping to turned the old mansion into a bed and breakfast. The kids decide to stay home one day. Unaware of what's in store, they snoop around and hear the deep beating of drums. The game is again discovered and the adventure begins. Allen magically appears and helps the children fight off deadly monkeys, killer wasps, ferocious lions, a man-hunting poacher, and much, much more.

Ready for Jumanji? Check it out it's a great movie!



## GO HUNGRY; RAISE MONEY

By Lauren Walsh

Do you think it's hard to go from breakfast to lunch without a snack? Try going for 30 hours without a morsel of solid nourishment!

Silverado's Key Club is participating in this year's 30-Hour Famine program, in which participants will take donations for fasting for 30 hours.

The fast will take place in Sunset Park Campground. Everyone is welcome, but you have to raise money first. As Director-in-chief Christy Johnson says, "No money flow, you no go!"

The organization in charge of this is World Vision, a Christian relief and development organization with 5,200 projects in 100 nations.

Seventy-six cents out of every dollar donated to them goes directly to the purchase of food to benefit people in countries all over the world, including ours.

Last year, more than 180,000 teens in the U.S. raised \$2.8 million for this cause. Internationally, one million people raised a total of 20 million dollars.



Walsh

Why go to Switzerland to visit the Alps?

## Vacationers find world of fun here!

By Chris McDonald

When Bugsy Siegel opened the city's first casino, he knew that people from all over the world would know Las Vegas as the largest entertainment capital in the world.

The city, originally focused on adults, is becoming a gigantic Disneyland. People now take their children with them, but they need a place to dump them off while they gamble.

Las Vegas has two theme parks hosted by hotels, and one water park. MGM, the world's largest hotel/casino, has the largest theme park in the valley. Circus Circus has the first indoor theme park with a double-loop corkscrew roller coaster.

MGM, in the early '80s, was stricken by tragedy—a terrible fire which killed and injured hundreds of people. That in no way stifled the success of this multimillion dollar resort.

A theme park is a great way to escape the fast pace of city life. You can feel like you are on a vacation in Southern California, or...heck, if you really want to get out of town, you can go to the Swiss Alps. Those are just two of the many features that the park offers.

If fast-paced adventure rides tickle your twinky, MGM has six that will fill you from head to toe with thrills (but no spills). The rides range from a high-speed roller coaster to crazy bumper cars. And, here in the desert, a million degrees outside, they added two water rides that are very exciting. One has four-story drop straight down. MGM's river rafting ride holds up to nine people and it is a blast.

Circus Circus is a climate-controlled theme park with two fast roller coasters. The 45-second ride is well worth the two-minute wait. The Rim Runner, an indoor water ride, is the only one of its kind.

So why travel for six hours in a cramped vehicle only to spend hours in line at the so-called "happiest place on Earth"? Take a much shorter, less expensive, trip to the theme parks right in your own backyard.



McDonald

## Varsity sees improvement but no league victories

By Derek Stafford and Elbert Reed

The Skyhawks Varsity Men's Basketball team started off conference play against the top three ball clubs in town. The outcome was not in the Hawks' favor, but they're still hanging.

Although the Hawks haven't been victorious in league, this year's team is much improved from last year. They already have more wins than they had all of last year.

Silverado guard Sean Tsukamoto says, "I think the experience has helped our team a lot this year; the more we play the better we get."

Over Christmas break, while

all you kiddies were getting fat and hibernating, the Hawks were busy working in the gym. Their hard work paid off: they took third place in the Cactus Classic in Mesquite.

Along with that, Nick Spajic received an award and was selected for the all-tournament team, and Antoine Thomas made his debut with his first dunk in an actual game.

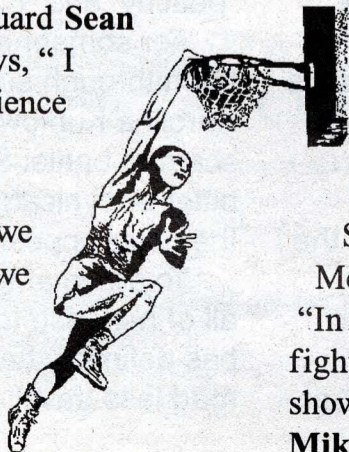
"Our team has really come together to show other teams what we're made of," says Spajic. In Moapa Valley, the Skyhawks took fourth place in the Moapa Valley Invitational. "In the beginning, we really used to fight a lot but now we're starting to show respect to one another," says Mike Gertner.



Reed



Stafford



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# KAPLAN

## PERSONALITY PROFILE: KAROLINA KURKOWSKI

### 'One morning I woke up ... and they were gone'

By Adam Candee

Karolina Kurkowski has been forced to take the road less travelled.

Some may consider their lives difficult or a struggle. This tale, as well, is of a struggle. The obstacles presented, though, are of a nature most have never encountered.

Most have never been separated from their parents for over a year. Neither have they been made to move to a new country at the age of six, a country in which no one speaks your language.

Born in Lublin, Poland, Karolina spent the first five years of her life with both parents. One morning, everything changed.

"[One morning,] I woke up and they were gone. Just like that. I thought, 'Ah, no, my parents abandoned me,'" says Kurkowski, in a tone suggestive of her shock. Just like that. Karolina says that she vaguely remembers her parents kissing her goodbye.



Candee

Her parents fled to escape political persecution in Poland. They left their young daughter to be cared for by her grandmother, who lived in a rural part of the country.

(They would explain the reasons for leaving to her years later.)

For the next year, she lived on a farm, while her parents were toiling in Austria. Her parents' experience in Austria was surreal.

#### Refugee camp

To enter the country, Kurkowski's parents were forced to spend two weeks in a refugee camp, which was somewhat similar to a German concentration camp of years past.

They were packed into tiny rooms to sleep, in bunk beds no higher than and a hard as a pair of school desks. Others slept on the floor or wherever there was open space.

As Karolina described the living conditions of the camp, it was as if she had been through the pain with them. In essence, having been abandoned at five, she had been

through pain.

#### '13 hours of hell'

Unity would return, though. Her parents were eventually able to reach America and, at the age of six, Karolina was able to join them. She flew to St. Louis, an experience she described as "thirteen hours of sleeping through pure hell." The airplane was Karolina's first taste of America. Being monolingual in Polish did not help.

"The flight attendant walked up to me and started talking and I just stared at her and nodded," says Kurkowski. When she first stepped off the plane, Karolina thought America was, well, foreign.

#### Weird people

"I thought all the people were weird. I felt like I didn't belong. The people were all foreign to me," Karolina recalls.

Living in a small apartment in west St. Louis, where she began her schooling, Karolina was still not speaking much English. Her first day of school was less than memorable.

"My parents just dropped me off and left me there. This big nun was just staring at me," said Kurkowski.

#### Cookie Monster

It was not her teachers or her parents that helped Karolina to pick up the language. It was her good friends Big Bird and Cookie Monster.

"I learned English by watching Sesame Street," says the laughing redhead.

Karolina was able to speak English within six months of their arrival in the United States. Reading would take slightly longer. An exceedingly quick learner and intelligent, she

skipped the sixth grade as well.

At eleven, she and her parents came to Las Vegas. Although her first move was not easy, Karolina actually feels that she had a tougher time moving to Nevada. (Note that she says "coming to Nevada and not "leaving St. Louis.")

"St. Louis was not the best place to experience America for the first time. It had a big ghetto... Nevada is a completely different planet," comments Kurkowski.

After graduating from Las Vegas Day School, Karolina began her term at Bishop Gorman in August 1992. She has become one of the top students in the senior class while taking a very rigorous schedule of classes. Karolina is now trilingual in Polish, English, and German. She hopes to attend either Santa Clara or Pomona University.

#### Girl of two countries

The United States officially became Karolina's second home on her 17th birthday when she gained her U.S. citizenship. She is a dual citizen of Poland and the United States. Asked about her feelings on citizenship, Karolina says she feels "peachy" and "honored."

For someone who has been through so much, Karolina Kurkowski shows no scars of battle. She is not bitter or cynical; in fact, she is the polar opposite.

To arrive at today through all of her yesterdays, Karolina has definitely had to follow the road less travelled.

### ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS!

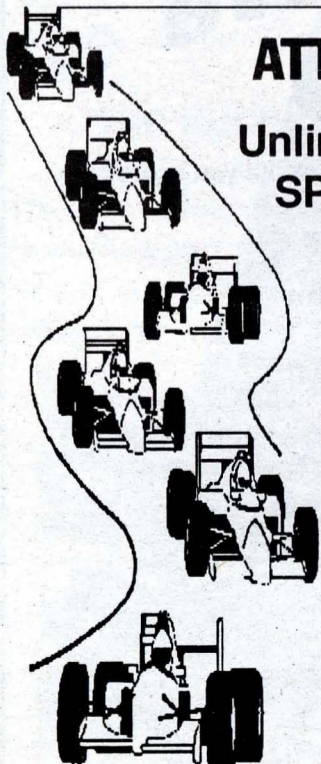
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ABOVE — Valley High School's LaRonte Johnson (10) and Eldorado's Ryan Williams.



ABOVE — Rancho's Venetia Graham performs some fast footwork around Chaparral's Alexia Craig. ABOVE RIGHT — Green Valley's goalie Davin Schwartz, sophomore, is first in the league in shutouts for soccer.



**A CHEERY NOTE:**

Cimarron-Memorial has racked recent honors for their cheering squads. In their first-ever competition, the Freshmen Cheerleaders earned a "superior" rating in the JV performance cheer category. The Varsity Songleaders won first place in two regional competitions, at Bonanza and at Durango. Three songleaders were chosen for the WCA Superstar Squad: Katie Engel, Shauna Passic and Ashley Clayton.

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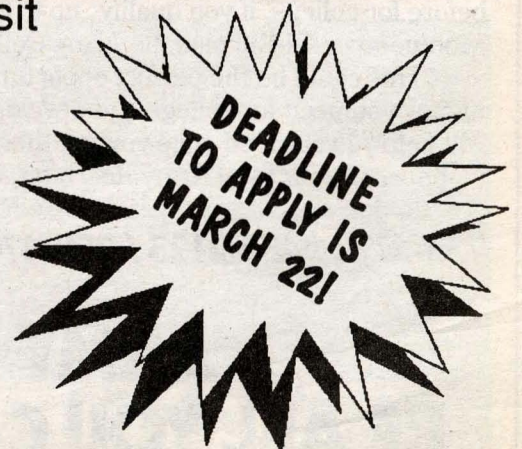
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## INSIDE SCOOP ON DEBATE

By Mary Ann Campbell

This activity is for people who intend to become lawyers, politicians, or landlords. Debaters spend about 20 hours researching a topic just so they can accuse the opposing team of being wrong. Consider this example:

**Debater A:** Acid rain is bad because it causes the death of a lot of natural things.

**Debater B:** But acid rain is only a result of the excess energy coming from factories. And without these factories, our country would cease to prosper.

**Debater A:** You're wrong.

**Debater B:** No, I'm not.

**Debater A:** Are too.

**Debater B:** Am not.

**Debater A:** Are too.

**Debater B:** Am not.

**Debater A:** Am not.

**Debater B:** Are too.

**Debater A:** Fine.

**Debater B:** Fine.

**Debater A:** You're a jerk.

**Debater B:** You're a jerk.

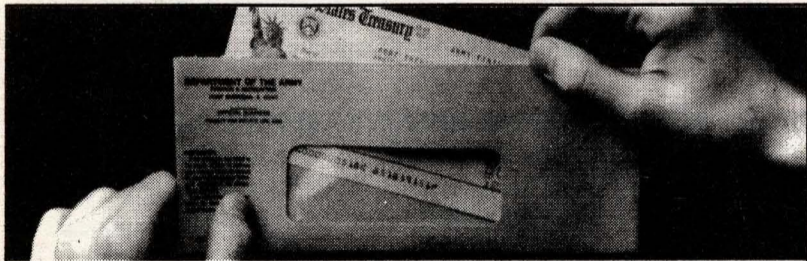
**Debater A:** Stop mimicking me.

**Debater B:** Stop mimicking me.

Using the official scoring rules of debate, Debater B was the clear winner.

### DO YOU SPEAK SPANISH?

Be sure to see the new DIGANOS section, pages 17-20



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## Fears, misconceptions result in prejudice against gay youth

By Manny Reyes



Reyes

The following describes situations faced by three who now attend or previously attended schools in Clark County School District. Real names have been withheld at their request.

When Mark attended school, his schoolmates would "thrash" him on a daily basis. The school paper wrote articles about him that were full of false accusations. As a result of the lack of support from his teachers, Mark's grades plummeted from straight A's to straight F's. Mark eventually felt so persecuted and isolated from his peers that he dropped out of high school.

Unfortunately, his average night at home included KKK-related cross burnings on his front lawn and other terrorist tactics — the family car was set on fire and there were several attempts to do the same with the family's home. Eventually, Mark and his family were forced to leave their small town in southern Nevada, afraid for their lives.

The life of a gay, lesbian, or bi-sexual adolescent may consist of rejection, isolation, verbal harassment, physical abuse or even suicide. These problems are due to lack of compassion and acceptance by the heterosexual majority. The majority of society is homophobic (meaning they fear homosexuals based on misconceptions and/or irrational fears). Because of homophobia, an estimated 7.2 million gay and lesbian youth in the United States were rejected, abused, condemned and victimized, according to the 1992 United States Census Bureau report.

"I approached my dean about all the verbal and mental abuse I had been receiving from my peers, but the dean's response was that I shouldn't have 'come out of the closet'," says Suzy. At home and in school, students don't learn how to respect the homosexual community. When homosexuality is addressed in health classes, it most likely will be under the topic of AIDS.

"This is inadequate and dishonest and can easily lead to students viewing AIDS as a problem strictly for gay people," says John Anderson of *Education Digest* in the December, '94 edition.

When a lesbian, a gay, or a bisexual youth decides to be open on their sexual (See *Education can defeat*, page 34)

## Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie: not so important in Germany

By Lea Rosequist

Sixteen-year-old Khamvilay Khamvongsa came to America from Dusseldorf, Germany to "get to know the language, culture and the American way of life." Khamvilay is a senior and is one of the six foreign exchange students enrolled at Las Vegas High School. She is staying with her grandparents Sangvane and Samouth Khamvongsa and her aunt, Santi Khamvongsa, who was the 1992-1993 Valedictorian from Las Vegas High School.



Rosequist

In Germany, Khamvilay was one of the few Asians at her high school. "Here, she says, "everything is culturally diverse." When she came to LVHS, she felt accepted as one of the crowd, not as an outcast.

"Americans depend too much on cars," stated Khamvilay. "In our town we ride bikes or walk to the places we need to go."

Since Khamvilay doesn't rely on cars as much as most American teenagers do, she spends much of her spare time reading and listening to music. She likes groups like TLC, but says that her choice of music often depends on her mood.

"In Germany there are more things to do with your friends; here there is a curfew and age limits we don't have," states Khamvilay. She mentioned her surprise when she and a group of friends went to the Circus Circus Midway one night and were told to enter through a metal detector in the back because they were under 21.

Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet... things that are important to Americans aren't seen that way in Germany. "Our soccer is like your football; my dad is hooked to the TV whenever there is a soccer game on," exclaims Khamvilay. She says that she would rather watch baseball than soccer or football.

Khamvilay likes school, but hates waking up so early. She studies the basic courses; American Literature, Algebra/Trig., French IV, U.S. History, Biology II and Spanish I. Khamvilay is worried about having to go back to Germany and make the transition from having only six classes to having nine or ten. "I think that being here is a great opportunity, but sometimes I'm afraid I won't be able to fit back into the curriculum in Germany," she added.

In June, Khamvilay will return to Germany where she plans to finish high school, attend a German college, and pursue a career having to do with languages or travel.



Bright lights of TV

KVBC TV-3 reporter Denise Rosch recently interviewed Isela Gutierrez (left) and Monett Haley, *Desert Breeze* staff members who also write for CLASS! This special report was broadcast twice on TV-3's show "Youth."

## Rock-climbing: scramble for the top

By Nicole Christian



Christian

What do you get when you put adventure, excitement, friendship, trust and a lot of fun together? It's the Rock Climbing Club and it's new at Chaparral.

This club may be exactly what's needed by kids with a wild side or an itch to be a little bold. Think about it. You're hundreds of feet in the air, cheek to cheek with the side of a merciless mountain and only a belay device to support you. Exciting?

Probably, but you'd have to go to Yosemite for that one. Try 30 or 40 feet and a man-made wall as your challenge, plus a buddy beneath you for extra support. That's where the trust comes in.

"Sometimes I get a little nervous," says junior **Holly Hans**, "but I really trust my partner."

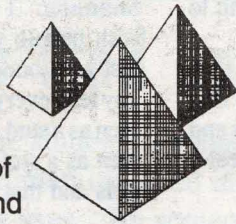
The Rock Climbing Club meets at a special rock climbing facility where they learn basic instructions, such as how to tie knots. Then they move on to the real stuff.

"There are different levels you can get to," says one junior. "I always get such a rush when I'm on the wall. It's great."

And don't think that this is some macho male club good for an ego boost, because there are just as many girls as guys.

Besides learning how to be another Stallone (anybody see "Cliffhanger?") you also learn to work with others and gain their trust.

Club advisor Eric Johnson explains, "Members learn teamwork and how to push themselves to the limit."



## American accents in a British ear

By Bridget Waldman



Waldman

He flew only across the Atlantic, but for new student **Winston Bowman**, there are many changes. Wearing a Bulls basketball shirt and Nikes, Bowman clearly likes our American ways.

"I like the weather, and the people are quite friendly," he says.

His Northern English accent could melt any girl's heart, but, unfortunately, appreciating accents is not a two-way street in England, according to Bowman.

"Opinion varies about Americans, some English people like them, some don't," he says.

England, like any foreign country, is dramatically different from America.

"You can get into a bar at 14, can marry when you're 16, but it's illegal to have sex until you're 16," Bowman says. "But we play all the same sports: tennis, basketball, baseball, and swimming."

But one of the most noticeable differences is the schooling system. We Yankees have it easy; the Brits, on the other hand, attend high school for five years, learn mandatory French and science for three, and have almost seven hours of learning in a day. Maybe that's why Bowman is able to take advanced classes like pre-calculus and chemistry honors.

"I like it here. It's a lot less formal; some people are quite stuffy over in England," says Bowman. "But I miss friends a bit."

Speaking of friends, the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) actually broadcasts the hit program "Friends," and other shows like "ER," "Seinfeld," and "Roseanne."

Walking down the halls, you can definitely spot Winston Bowman who stands 6'5."

So next time you see him, say hi, and maybe you will end up having tea together.

Dying for a drink

## Alcohol: a major teenage problem

By Heather Tucker

It's Friday night, and the only decision is whose party to go to...a small get-together or a big party with everyone else and get drunk?



Many teenagers face these choices every week, and the big surprise is that they choose to get drunk.

According to a recent *Newsweek* article, alcohol is the most widely-used drug among teens. But, as with any drug, danger follows. When you are at the party and everyone is cheering you on to chug a 40, are you thinking about alcohol poisoning, which happens when you drink too much too fast? Probably not.

Even though teens know the consequences and the diseases that follow, they continue.

Statistics show that alcohol causes 80% of fire deaths, 65% of drownings, 70% of fatal falls, 40% of industrial deaths, 50% of homicides and 90% of child abuse. In one year, 5,000 teens were killed because of a drunk driver or by being drunk themselves.

Many Chaparral students had their first drink as a child.

"When I first got drunk, I was six years old," says senior Stephanie. (All names have been changed.)

### Risking your life is sociable??

But for many other teens, the first drink was in junior high. They said they did it because it was the sociable thing to do.

"I drink because I like the feeling of being drunk," says Thomas, a senior.

"I drink because it makes me have more fun at a party," says junior Jennifer. "I have a lot of friends and a boyfriend who all have fake ID's."

That is how many teenagers get their alcohol, having a fake identification card. Many teens say they can just walk into a store and buy it without being carded. How the people who sell it think that these students are 21 baffles many. But, if that doesn't go as planned, some teens go to mom and dad.

A recent *Las Vegas Review-Journal* article says there are ten million alcoholics in the United States and that teens take up one-third of that number. In future years, that number could rise to one-half.

Controversies continue about the advertising of alcoholic beverages and its effect on teens. A study done by the *New York Times* shows that during 443 hours of televised sporting events there were 1.5 alcohol commercials for each hour; 15% featured celebrities and athletes, 16% contained images of cars and other vehicles, and 26% showed water activities.

"I think teens would drink with or without advertisements, but they might try new drinks because of the ads," Jennifer says.

"There is no real proof that liquor ads really do influence people to drink, but the studies did show that peer pressure had a big effect on most teens.

Many teens believe they do not have a problem. Yet research shows that once a person has committed their weekend fun to alcohol, sooner or later he/she will need help.

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# Students speak frankly about teen sexuality...

*Sexual Harassment, AIDS and homosexuality are concerns that twelve Las Vegas High School students agreed to openly talk about in a forum entitled "Teen Sexuality" on November 2. The panel discussion was supervised by Principal Barry Gunderson and Vice Principal Jess Phee and mediated by junior Raul Daniels. The following is a transcript of excerpts taken from a tape recording of their conversation.*

**Raul:** Do you feel that children are aware of sexuality at too young an age?

**Lucas:** I think that teenagers are aware of the risks sexuality brings. We're definitely more informed than our parents were at our age. I just think that you're never too young to know about sexuality.

**Glen:** Yes, I think that teens today are too aware. It's always on TV and you talk about it with your friends. It's just always there.

**Nancy:** I'm not sure it matters how old you are. It depends on how you were brought up and what type of values your parents taught you.

**Adam:** I agree that it doesn't matter how old you are. It's just if you're mature enough to handle it. It's always on TV, in the movies, and people always talk about it, so it's hard to ignore it.

**Raul:** Do you feel that you have to dress a certain way to feel sexy?

**Becky:** No, not at all. I mean, I come to school dressed in jeans and t-shirts. I don't think that clothes have anything to do with being sexy.

**Lea:** I agree that it's not the clothes that makes a person sexy. I also wear jeans and t-shirts to school because I don't feel I have anyone to impress.

**Robby:** I agree with everyone else. I just wear whatever I want. I don't really worry about feeling sexy. I'm confident enough to not worry about the clothes that I wear.

**Adam:** I don't worry about feeling sexy. I mean, I wear my big pants and big shirts, and that doesn't make me sexy. It's the person who is sexy, not the clothes.

**Raul:** So does everyone agree that it's not the clothes that makes a person sexy?

*[Everyone nods]*

**Raul:** In general do you feel that you can talk about your sexual experiences and be honest, or is sex still a topic that should be kept behind closed doors?

**Becky:** Well, I think that everyone can be honest, but you shouldn't go around telling everyone about your sex life.

**Raul:** You think everyone is honest when they talk about sex?

**Becky:** Well, sometimes peer-pressure might make a person lie, but most of the

time people are honest.

**Shannon:** I think you can talk about it with people you know, but some people just go around telling everyone. When a guy tells everyone about their sex life, he's seen as a stud, but when a girl does it, she's seen as a slut. It's different for guys and girls and that's not fair.

**David:** I don't think it's different for guys and girls; they both lie. *[Momentarily reconsiders]* Then again, you shouldn't be talking about it the first place.

**Raul:** Where do you see more sexual exposure, and where do you learn more about sexuality: at home, in the media, or at school?

**Lea:** You always learn about the birds and the bees from your parents, the rest you pretty much learn from your friends when you talk about it.

**Shannon:** I also learn most of it from my friends when we talk about sex. I try to ignore the way in which the media portrays sex, because it's vulgar and I'm offended by it.

**David:** Like everyone else, I learn most of it from my friends, because I'm aware the sex in the media isn't love anymore, it's pure lust. I mean if you look at the talk shows, at the movies, and many other shows on TV, they only show the physical gratification in sex.

**Nancy:** I don't know if it's because I was an inquisitive little girl that I learned about sex from my parents. I would hear something at school, then I would go home and ask my parents and they would explain things to me. As far as sex on the media, I simply try to ignore it.

**Raul:** What are your personal views on homosexuality?

**Lucas:** I guess it's the way I was brought up, that makes me dislike them. I think that what they do is gross. God didn't intend it to be like that. It's supposed to be Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.

*[Scattered laughter]*

**Glen:** I agree. I don't like them either. I'm not going to be rude about it, I'll just try and stay away from them. I don't think it's right what they do.

**Nancy:** I totally disagree with everyone else. I don't have anything against it. I mean, I have friends that are gay and I just talk to them and hang out with them just like any other friend that I have. It's just the way they are, it's their choice and I respect it.

**Adam:** I don't have a problem with it either. I think if that's the way they want to live, we should let them be and stop criticizing them. It's normal for them.

**Lucas:** How can it be normal?

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# ...a panel discussion at Las Vegas High School

**Adam:** Well, when you look at two guys or two girls kissing you say, "Oh! Gross," but when they see you and a girl kissing they might also be saying, "Oh, sick! Look at that guy and girl kissing!" I think it's just the way you look at things.

*[Everyone starts talking at the same time]*

**Raul:** Ok, how would you react if your best friend told you he or she was gay?

**Robby:** I don't know exactly how I would react. I wouldn't tell them that we can't be friends anymore, but I don't think it would be the same, we wouldn't be so close anymore.

**Shannon:** I had a close friend tell me she was gay, and you think about all the stuff that you did together, but then after a while you get used to it. I don't worry about her making a move on me, or anything like that. In the end, a friend is a friend.

**David:** I don't know, I probably wouldn't be able to be friends with him anymore. Not so much that I would fear that he'll try to make a move on me, but more that I would feel betrayed that he kept it from me.

**Glen:** If a friend told me he was gay, I would still talk to him, but I don't think I could still be good friends with him.

**Raul:** Would you worry that he might try to move in on you?

**Glen:** No, not because of that, but *[Prolonged pause]* I would just find it kind of weird.

**Adam:** I also just had a friend in theater tell me that he was gay. You know it's weird, I thought about the times I changed in front of him, when we played football or wrestled together. Later I got over it, and now it's just like before. We hang out together and we're still friends.

**Raul:** So you're not afraid he will make a move on you?

**Adam:** No, not at all.

**Raul:** This is a question directed to all the guys: If you give a guy a hug congratulating or consoling him, would you be worried about what people looking might say?

**Robby:** I personally don't think that I would give a guy a hug, a friendly handshake is as far as I would go.

**Lucas:** No, I never worry about it. They're not going to think I'm gay. We do it all the time in football.

**Glen:** I agree with him. We do it all the time in football and everyone is used to it. We even give each other a pat on the butt sometimes.

**Raul:** What are your views on abortion?

**Becky:** I think it's wrong. I don't agree with it. I think that if you're responsible enough to have sex, then you should be responsible enough to have a baby.

**Raul:** Not even in certain circumstances like deformity or rape?

**Becky:** Well, yeah, there are certain situations in which abortion is the only choice.

**Lucas:** I don't agree with it at all, even in a case of rape. It's still a life that shouldn't be killed, and the mother is also at risk when an abortion is performed.

**Nancy:** Here I go again disagreeing with everyone else. I'm totally pro-choice whether it's rape or not. I don't think anyone has the right to decide for a woman whether she should have her kid or not. No one wants to bring a baby into a world of hunger and poverty.

**Lea:** I don't really know. It depends on what kind of situation you're in. Like everyone said, if you don't have enough money to support it, if it's going to be born with a disease, then *maybe* abortion becomes an alternative.

**Raul:** When do you feel that simple flirting turns into sexual harassment, and have you ever been sexually harassed?

**Lea:** I think that anytime anyone touches you or says something that makes you feel

uncomfortable it's sexual harassment.

**Raul:** Have you ever been sexually harassed?

**Lea:** Yes, constantly, men come in at work and try to hit on me. They say things that offend me, but they're customers and I have to respect them.

**Shannon:** I don't know. There's some really sick guys out there. Some whistle at you or say something about the way you look thinking that they're complimenting you when it really makes you uncomfortable.

**Robby:** I think that anytime it turns physical, it's definitely sexual harassment. As a guy, I always try to watch what I say and do to make sure that I don't offend anyone; because many times the guy doesn't even know that he's sexually harassing a girl. If a girl feels sexually harassed, she should tell the guy and most of the time they will stop.

**Raul:** Have you ever been sexually harassed?

**Robby:** Yeah, but I told her how I felt and she stopped.

**Nancy:** I think it depends on what kind of relationship you have with the person. For example, if a friend tells you, "You look nice today" it's not sexual harassment, but if a total stranger tells you that, then many people might take it as sexual harassment. I also

*(Continued on page 34)*

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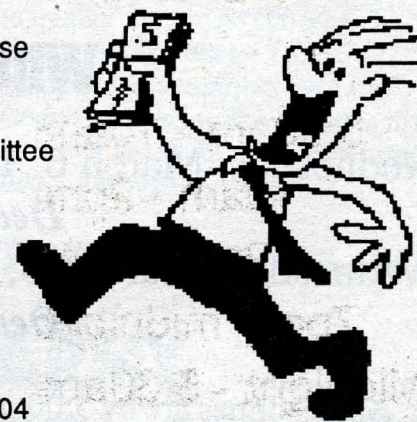
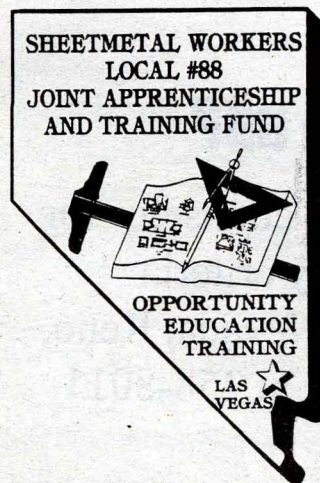
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## Ten students to win \$1,000 scholarship each

"What would you change about the educational system in the United States? That's the question asked of high school students across the country in the Second Annual Kaplan/Newsweek National Essay Contest. Ten high school students who demonstrate outstanding writing skills will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

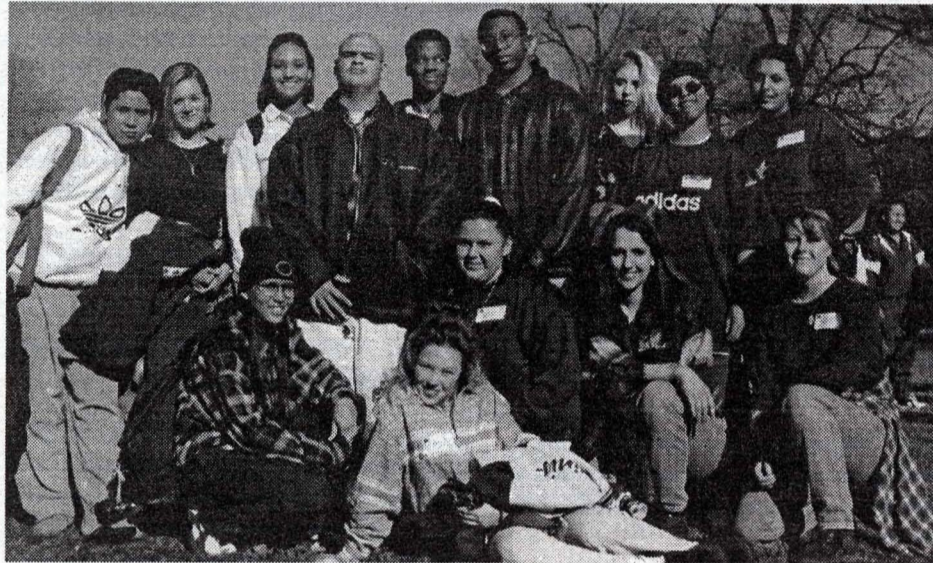
Sophomores and juniors enrolled in accredited high schools as of January 1, 1996, may submit a 500-word essay. The essay and official entry

form must be postmarked by April 1, 1996. Winners will be notified in May.

The grand prize winner will also receive a free Kaplan SAT or ACT course or product; a trip to Newsweek's headquarters; and a certificate of achievement to be presented at a special awards ceremony in New York City.

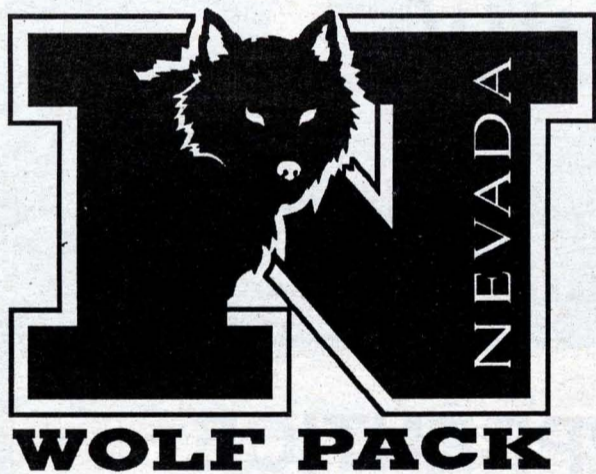
For complete contest rules and an official entry form, students should contact their guidance counselors, or call Kaplan at 1-800-KAP-TEST.

**FOLLOW THE LEADER** — Las Vegas students troop after UNR student ambassador Neil Huffey on a tour of the Reno campus. From left: **Victor Rodriguez** (Rancho), **Neil Huffey**, **Staci Joyner** (Cheyenne), and **Tonya Punjabi** (Chaparral).



**WHERE ARE YOU?** Students in the Nevada Bound trip to the University of Nevada, Reno, where they learned about

the programs offered at UNR and toured the campus. Sorry, the 51 names were not available. But maybe you can spot yourself or a friend. Think "Where's Waldo?"



# The University of Nevada, Reno *brings to you* **Nevada Bound**

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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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# DIGANOS



Erika Saucedo ayudó a pintar el mural de la escuela primaria de Bracken

## ¡EN LA PORTADA DE CLASS!

Los coloridos murales que adornan tres escuelas cerca de Rancho High: escuela media J. D. Smith y escuelas elementales C. P. Squires y C. Braken son producto del programa HACES de la escuela superior Rancho. El programa HACES (Hispanos Ayudando a su Comunidad con Estudiantes Superándose) es un programa que procura que los estudiantes hispanos se queden en la escuela y se gradúen. Además de los murales, los estudiantes de HACES han servido a la comunidad limpiando paredes manchadas (graffiti), sembrando flores, ayudando a hispanos a solicitar ciudadanía y en campañas de elección, participando en desfiles y haciendo llamadas telefónicas para actividades de interés para padres de familia y, especialmente, para llevar a todos los estudiantes hispanos "seniors" a la fiesta de graduación de fin de año (baccalaureate). Los miembros de HACES también reciben información sobre drogas, pandillas, SIDA, carreras de trabajo y como seguir sus estudios. El fundador y director del programa HACES es Alvaro Aguirre, consejero en Rancho, quien es el editor de DIGANOS, la sección en español de éste periódico.

IVAN GARCIA (de pie) terminó sus estudios en junio del año pasado y está ahora trabajando con una compañía de construcción. Como miembro del grupo HACES, él se ganó su derecho a participar en las actividades con asistencia perfecta a la escuela y tomando los estudios en serio. Ivan participó en varias actividades que le dieron experiencia y diversión. "Nunca pensé hacer algunas cosas que hicimos," dice Ivan, "pero cuando vemos los murales, nos sentimos muy orgullosos."

HECTOR GARCIA también se siente bien de haber participado en HACES. "Me ayudó a enfocarme en la graduación de la escuela," dice él. "Si pude hacer eso, también podré hacer otras cosas." Héctor vive con sus hermanos y dice: "Ellos sabían que yo iba a la escuela y no estaba pensando en drogas ni otras cosas malas." El trabaja ahora en una bodega de productos

## LA CAMARA LATINA DE COMERCIO OTORGA BECAS

Como resultado del Decimo Primer Dia de Carrera (11th Career Day) de la Camara Latina de Comercio en el que mas de dos cientos estudiantes participaron, ciento catorce de ellos fueron entrevistados y cincuenta recibieron becas de estudio para la Universidad de Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV), la Universidad de Nevada Reno (UNR) y el Colegio de la Comunidad del Sur de Nevada (SNCC). Los estudiantes favorecidos pertenecen a quince diferentes escuelas superiores del Distrito Escolar del Condado de Clark (CCSD).

DIGANOS! felicita muy cordialmente a los ganadores deseandoles muchos exitos en su carrera universitaria. Listandolos alfabeticamente por la universidad donde asistiran, ellos son:

**UNLV:** Karla Alvarez (Green Valley), Anya Ayala (Chaparral), Liz Eddith Bautista (Clark), Yolanda Estrada (Rancho), Jennifer Garcia (Las Vegas), Paola Gonzalez (Las Vegas), Ramon Gonzalez (Moapa Valley), Alma Guzman (Rancho), Kathy Leon (Clark), Melissa Leon (Silverado), Veronica Link (Valley), Felipe Meza (VoTech), Yeimi Montes (Las Vegas), Emelia Ocanas (Rancho), Alberto Ochoa (Silverado), John Pulgarin (Eldorado), Adam Reed Villarreal (Chaparral), Jaime Rivera (Valley), Lizeth Rodriguez (Green Valley) y Ana Vega (Chaparral).

**UNR:** Hollie Attig (Moapa Valley), Triny Benavides (Clark), Bethany Dabell (Cimarron-Memorial), Olivia Diaz (Rancho), Gabriel Garcia (Cheyenne), Rosa Gomez (Las Vegas), Rogelio Machuca (Rancho), John Pashales (Green Valley), Christina Ramirez (Clark) y Juanita Vigil (Valley).

**SNCC:** Sonia Bonilla (VoTech), Victor Castro (Las Vegas), Maria Gutierrez (Rancho), Yvonne Hernandez (Las Vegas), Carlos Lomeli (Las Vegas), Brenda Lopez (VoTech), Marsha Lozano (VoTech), Valentin Lozano (Las Vegas), Janeth Manzanares (Rancho), Yunia Matamoros (Horizon East), Melissa Mortorell (Las Vegas), Gabriela Melendez (VoTech), Valeria Melendez (VoTech), Alisa Ochoa (Cheyenne), David Ismael Rivera (Rancho), Eduardo Salcedo (Las Vegas), Oscar Gerardo Solis (Clark), Sara Urbina (Clark), Jennifer Velasquez (VoTech) y Antonio Zabala (Horizon South).

alimenticios y se entretiene leyendo y escribiendo sobre los UFOs (objetos voladores no identificados). Nos dice Hector: "El pintar un mural le hace a uno sentirse como un Picasso."

La Camara Latina de Comercio entregara las becas estudiantiles durante su banquete de toma de posesion de la nueva directiva en el casino MGM, el proximo viernes, 16 de febrero. Las becas correspondientes a UNLV y UNR llevan un premio de \$1,000 y las del SNCC llevan un premio de \$500. Estas becas permiten a nuestros estudiantes distinguidos el iniciar sus estudios con mayor facilidad.

"Este año tuvimos mas y mejores estudiantes", nos dice Tom Rodriguez, Director del Career Day, "y fue difícil para los comites de entrevistas el hacer sus recomendaciones". Los Jefes de Comites fueron: Tom Rodriguez, Orlando Sandoval, Frank Roqueni, Alma Vining, Larry Mason y Pat Zozaya. Integrando los comites estuvieron: Maria Chairez, Jack Lazzarato, Mary Manchego, Arturo Ochoa, Leo Reguero, Otto Merida, Victoria Napoles, Silvia Walsh, Ruben Rodriguez, Ophelia Gomez, Leo Reguero, Linda Rodriguez, Margie Rosado, Luis Ayon, Becky de la Garza, Demerise Hunter, Barbara Lees, Magda Martinez, Jose Luis Melendez, Africa Tellez, Ignacio Aviles, Julie Zamarco, Tiffany Catledgel y Laura Latimer.

Felicitaciones a la Camara Latina de Comercio por un trabajo bien hecho. Estas felicitaciones son tambien extensivas a los consejeros de las respectivas escuelas, quienes tienen a su cargo mucha preparacion y estimulo a los estudiantes para lograr su mejor participacion.

## PALABRAS

### DEL EDITOR

*En el mes de febrero, el mes del cariño, nace DIGANOS! como una ofrenda a los estudiantes latinos del condado de Clark y la comunidad latina del sur de Nevada.*

*El éxito de esta publicación dependerá del interés que despierte en el grupo a quien va dirigido. Esperamos muchas con tribuciones de ustedes los estudiantes.*

*Nuestra cultura necesita expresarse y creemos que DIGANOS! pue de ser una forma de lograrlo. Nuestro camino es el mismo, nuestra unidad es fundamental.*

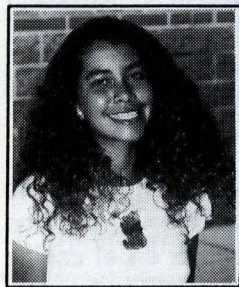
*Alvaro Aguirre, Editor*

# Frente a Frente

## ANUNCIAR O NO ANUNCIAR EN ESPAÑOL EN LA ESCUELA

### No — Separa a los estudiantes

por Iselda Gutiérrez,  
Las Vegas High  
Dos veces desde el 28 de agosto, una vez en el sistema intercomunicador ha perturbado a



Gutiérrez

los estudiantes y profesores.

La causa de ésta perturbación no fue un ruido estridente, ni una ensarta de malas palabras; era algo más simple: una traducción de los anuncios al español. Inicialmente, al oír la traducción yo me sorprendí agradablemente". ¡Magnífico! Ahora todos van a entender lo que está pasando y participarán. Esto creará unidad y más espíritu en la escuela", pense. Pero, después de considerarlo un poco más, ya no estaba tan segura...

¿Será que un programa grande de segundo idioma crea una segregación? De hecho, en Las Vegas High existen dos grupos separados - los que hablan inglés y los que hablan español. Naturalmente, cada uno tiende a gravitar hacia aquellos con intereses y costumbres similares, lo que lleva a una separación en la escuela.

#### Puede que no resulte

La traducción de los anuncios, presentada con el propósito de incrementar la participación de los hispanos en las actividades de la escuela, puede que no de resultado porque aumenta el aislamiento que ya sienten los estudiantes del SLP

(Programa de Segundo Language).

Tal vez en las futuras asambleas de "Homecoming", todos los estudiantes estarán vestidos con los colores rojo y negro de los "Gatos de Monte", pero ¿terminarán los cantos de "¡Mexico! ¡Mexico!"? ¿Estará la administración haciendo más fácil a los estudiantes del SLP el permanecer afuera del cuerpo estudiantil en sus propios círculos atendiendo sus propios asuntos? ¿Será que los pocos minutos que toma la traducción al español afecte en forma negativa el aprendizaje de los estudiantes? Algunos estudiantes y profesores piensan que sí. De hecho, ha sido un reclamo de muchos años que 54 minutos no son suficientemente largos para enseñar o aprender una materia. Será realmente necesario tomar más tiempo de la clase para hacer algo que no ha hecho falta en Las Vegas High por muchos años? Yo pienso que no.

En una encuesta hecha recientemente en una clase de literatura, a 27 estudiantes les preguntaron si era una buena idea el leer los anuncios en español. Trece pensaban que sí era, once estaban en contra y tres no opinaron.

#### No es realmente una mala idea

El leer los anuncios en español no es realmente una mala idea. Si a los estudiantes y maestros les hubieran dado la oportunidad de discutir el asunto antes de que se les presentara como un hecho consumado, tal vez no habría necesidad de discutir el punto.

La pregunta que debe hacerse no es si los anuncios en dos idiomas es una buena idea, sino si será necesario.

### SI. El inglés no se aprende de un día para otro

por Raúl Daniels, Las Vegas High

" ¡ Estudiantes! Escuchen los anuncios de la mañana y aprendan lo que está pasando en la escuela".

Por primera vez, muchos de los anuncios por el intercomunicador se hacen en dos idiomas - inglés y español. La decisión la hicieron la Presidenta del Consejo Estudiantil, Paola González, y el Director de la escuela, Barry Gunderson, debido a que el 14 por ciento de los estudiantes hablan únicamente español.

Paola se esfuerza y traduce las noticias al español para los estudiantes de Las Vegas High que están aprendiendo inglés. Sin embargo, en vez de recibir felicitaciones y palabras de apoyo, algunos estudiantes y miembros del personal docente, que prefieren no dar su nombre, han criticado a Paola por traducir las noticias al español. Los comentarios van desde "El hacer anuncios en español degrada el idioma inglés" a "No se por que nos hacen perder el tiempo con algo innecesario."

#### El tiempo no es el problema

Primero, no se pierde tiempo. Se hace sólo una vez al mes y toma únicamente tres minutos. Como comentaba Sheilah Long: "No es que haya nada malo en dar las noticias en español. No lleva más tiempo que los anuncios corrientes."

Segundo, es necesario ya que cerca del 40 por ciento de los estudiantes en Las Vegas High son bilingües y de éstos 1,080 estudiantes, 300 hablan sólo español."

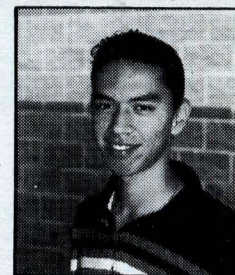
"Yo pienso que si ellos (los hispanos) vienen a éste país, deberían aprender inglés", dijo el estudiante de tercer año Jason Brandin. "Estamos en América (Estados Unidos) donde todos deben hablar inglés y no español."

Sí, estamos en los Estados Unidos

donde el inglés es el lenguaje más dominante. Pero, ¿significa esto que cuando usted entra a éste país, su lenguaje se vuelve automáticamente el inglés? Por supuesto que no. El inglés lleva tiempo aprenderlo y es por esto que Las Vegas High tiene 300 estudiantes en el programa de segundo language (SLP).

#### El aprende escuchando

"Es muy difícil aprender el inglés pero estoy tratando de hacerlo", dice



Daniels

Jorge Acosta, un estudiante del SLP. "Yo he estado aquí sólo un año y ya entiendo bastante, pero aún no puedo pronunciar las palabras correctamente, así que cuando trato de hablar inglés algunos se burlan de mí. Pienso que lo que Paola hace es estupendo", continúa Acosta. "Yo aprendo mucho al escuchar los anuncios en un language que yo entiendo. La gente no debe criticar tanto porque lo que hace Paola ayuda bastante a estudiantes como yo".

Joannie Phillips, una profesora del SLP, dice: "Realmente les ayuda". Agrega, "Yo tengo una clase de SLP que generalmente no pone atención a los anuncios porque no los entienden, pero tan pronto como las noticias son en español, todos sacan sus calendarios y apuntan cada fecha importante en ellos".

"El Director Gunderson pensó que el dar las noticias en español era una buena idea por el gran número de hispanos en nuestra escuela", dice González. "Le estamos dando una oportunidad a éstos estudiantes para que sepan que es lo que esta pasando en Las Vegas High. Al hacerlo", agrega, "esperamos aumentar el espíritu de la escuela y la participación estudiantil".

Dejemos que éstos estudiantes participen. Ellos deben saber acerca de nuestra escuela. Y si el precio que debemos pagar es de 3 minutos por mes, entonces, merece la pena.

### ¡Debate del mes de marzo!

## REDUCIR O NO REDUCIR CREDITOS PARA GRADUACION

¿Te gustaría graduarte de la escuela superior (high school) con menos créditos?

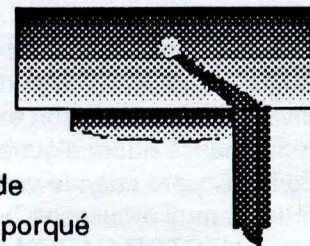
¿Cómo afectaría a tu educación el reducir los créditos requeridos para graduación?

La Junta Estatal de Educación está considerando actualmente si debe reducir el número de créditos que necesita un estudiante para graduarse de la Escuela Superior (High School). Algunos piensan que se debe mantener el mismo número de créditos para que los estudiantes aprendan más. Otros piensan que para la mayoría de estudiantes que no van a la universidad, el número de créditos requerido es un exceso. Otros piensan que cada condado en el estado de Nevada debería decidir si hace falta bajar el requerimiento de créditos para la graduación o no.

Eres partidario de reducir los créditos, ¿cómo lo harías? ¿Quitarías créditos de inglés (4 años)? ¿O de matemáticas (2 años)? ¿O de ciencias naturales (2 años)? ¿Eliminarías el curso de historia mundial? ¿O el de historia de los Estados Unidos? ¿O el de gobierno en los Estados Unidos?

¿Qué te parecen dos años de educación física, o el requisito de humanidades? ¿El curso de salud o el de computadoras (un semestre cada uno)? ¿O quitarías algunas electivas? ¿No sería bueno sustituir algunas materias?

Si no estás de acuerdo en que bajen los requisitos de créditos, explícanos porqué es importante que todos tengan una mejor educación. Escogeremos una que este a favor de reducir los créditos y otra que esté en contra. Este será nuestro próximo debate. Otras opiniones podrán ser incluidas en las notas al editor. DIGANOS quiere saber tu opinion.



De una encuesta en Rancho High sobre si son importantes y necesarios los anuncios mensuales en español:

**Benjamín Acuña:** Son importantes porque están tomando en cuenta a los hispanos.

**Levar Bell:** Ni siquiera empieza a interesarme.

**María Bustillos:** De ese modo todos nos damos cuenta de lo que está pasando en la escuela.

**Alicia Campos:** Es importante porque muchos estudiantes no hablan inglés.

**Esmeralda Curiel:** Los que no hablan inglés tienen derecho a saber que está pasando.

**Lluvia Echeverría:** Si es importante y necesario porque hay muchos estudiantes que no saben inglés.

**Patrick Henry:** No me importa. Si me parece (It's cool with me).

**Adela Jara:** No es importante porque la mayoría de los estudiantes entienden inglés.

**Dishawna Lewis:** Estoy de acuerdo porque ellos tienen derecho a saber que está pasando.

**Trinidad Martínez:** No es necesario porque la mayoría de los estudiantes hablan inglés.

**Heidi Scott:** Si, los anuncios se deben hacer. Ayuda a los que no hablan inglés bien.

**María Valdivias:** Muchos de los estudiantes no saben inglés y lo que está pasando en la escuela.

**Valentina Vásquez:** Es bueno porque igual derecho tienen todos de saber lo que pasa.

## DISCRIMINACION

En los Estados Unidos la discriminación es algo injusta por tres razones. Primero, nosotros nacemos donde Dios quiso que nacieramos, no donde nosotros o las demás personas queramos. Segundo, es cierto que estamos en los Estados Unidos, pero esto no nos impide conservar nuestras culturas. Tercero, si venimos a este país es para darnos la oportunidad de salir adelante y aunque es difícil aprender un nuevo idioma como el inglés, siempre nos lo proponemos. Pero a pesar de todo la discriminación continúa. Nadie entiende que también nosotros merecemos una oportunidad.

Meladis Constanza  
Clark High

# OPINIONES

## SOL

### Organización Estudiantil de Latinos

Gabriela Melendez

Presidenta de SOL, Valley High

En los Estados Unidos al igual que entre nuestra propia gente, hay mucha confusión en como debemos de llamarnos: Hispanos, chicanos, latinos o "la raza" por mencionar algunos nombres. Lo importante es saber de donde venimos, en donde estamos y a donde vamos. La unidad y solidaridad en nuestra comunidad es crítica para lograr algún avance progresivo.

Muchos estudiantes se preguntan "¿Y yo que tengo que ver en eso? Esto es para gente adulta, nosotros no podemos hacer

mucho"; o simplemente dicen: "Es muy confuso o no tengo tiempo". Pero nosotros los jóvenes podemos lograr cambios. ¿Cómo? Ayudando a nuestra comunidad a realizar un futuro mejor, conociendo más nuestra cultura, educándonos para estar preparados para el futuro y proponiéndonos metas cada vez más altas.

Con estas intenciones empezamos el club de SOL (Student Organization of Latinos). SOL es una organización en Valley High, afiliada a SOL de UNLV. Nosotros adoptamos este nombre cuando establecimos nuestro club en abril de 1995.

SOL es una organización de jóvenes

latinos cuyo propósito es de unir a los estudiantes de la escuela, para promover una educación más avanzada y dar a conocer nuestra cultura en eventos y actividades educativas. Además de utilizar el potencial de cada miembro en actividades individualmente planeadas, SOL anima a sus miembros a trabajar juntos hacia metas comunes.

Por favor, si no hay un club de latinos en tu "High School" empieza uno y si ya lo hay únete y se parte del cambio. Apoya tu comunidad y explora más profundamente tus raíces y cultura; pero, lo más importante, siente orgullo de todo lo que representas.

## SENTENCIA ALTERNATIVA: UNA BUENA SOLUCION

por Sari Aizley, Editora de CLASS!

### Servicio a la comunidad no es la cárcel — los delincuentes juveniles pagan por sus errores

En un mes reciente, 41 alumnos de escuelas secundarias fueron sentenciados a pagar por sus faltas haciendo servicio a la comunidad. Estos jóvenes eran culpables, por ejemplo, de violaciones del reglamento de tráfico o de conducir sin licencia, o por asalto, violación de toque de queda (curfew), aún de robar carros.

Los servicios a la comunidad que deben hacer incluye generalmente trabajo en un hogar de convalescientes, distribución de alimentos y ropa para los necesitados, trabajo de limpieza o de jardinería, asignaciones a trabajos fáciles de oficina o de tienda de suministros, o servicios de correo.

De los 41 adolescentes mencionados antes, cuatro tenían únicamente 14 años; catorce tenían 15 años; trece eran de 16 años y 10 tenían 17 años. Cuatro eran niñas: dos de 14 años, dos de 16.

El programa de sentencias alternativas, administrado por HELP de Nevada del Sur, es una oportunidad para los jóvenes de escaparse de pasar un tiempo encarcelados o de pagar una multa. Pero, también es otro tipo de oportunidad:

"Si hacen un buen trabajo a la comunidad, ellos podrán conseguir una carta de recomendación," que podría ayudarles en el futuro a conseguir un trabajo, considera Beth Turrietta, quien administra para HELP el programa de Sentencias Alternativas de la Comunidad.

"Los jóvenes desarrollan buenos hábitos de trabajo, aprenden a relacionarse en una forma positiva con los adultos y a asumir responsabilidad", agrega. "En algunos casos, los estudiantes tienen oportunidad de explorar opciones para una carrera".

El programa tiene un récord bastante bueno. Es muy raro cuando un delincuente juvenil recibe otra sentencia, de acuerdo a lo que dice Turrietta.

"Parece que vuelven a enfocarse", dice ella, "para desarrollar algo de aprecio por si mismos, talvez algunas posibilidades para sus vidas". Turrietta agrega que a veces

los jóvenes son contratados por las mismas agencias a que fueran asignados.

Esto trabaja así:

La corte envía algunos delincuentes a HELP, donde se hace la entrevista de ingreso. La trabajadora social del caso quiere averiguar cuales son las habilidades que tiene la persona, cuantos años de educación, si tiene problemas de salud, y también su nivel de ingresos económicos.

Luego el delincuente juvenil se aparea con alguna de las 250 agencias participantes donde el o ella va a hacer su servicio a la comunidad. HELP asigna a los jóvenes a algún lugar que quede cerca de su casa tanto como posible, para que el transporte no sea problema.

"Nosotros no queremos sentenciar a los padres también al forzarlos a que lleven y traigan cada día a sus hijos al servicio de la comunidad", dice Turrietta.

Ella nota que los delincuentes juveniles generalmente no trabajan con otros juveniles que están cumpliendo su condena. "Necesitamos detener el ciclo que refuerza las ideas negativas", dice Turrietta.

Del total de personas sentenciadas al servicio de la comunidad, más del 10 por ciento son juveniles (entre 12 y 17 años).

De todos los condenados (quienes por varios años han oscilado en edad entre los 9 años y los setentas) el cuarenta por ciento no han terminado la escuela secundaria (high school); los demás varían hasta un nivel de doctorado (PhD) en su educación.

Tomando en cuenta todos sus clientes, dice Turrietta, el 54 % son blancos, 22 % son negros, 18.5 % son hispanos, 2 % son asiáticos, 1 % nativos de los Estados Unidos y los otros 2.5 % no han especificado.

De las violaciones que logran sentencias de servicio a la comunidad, la mitad están relacionadas con el tráfico de vehículos, un 30 % son de violaciones relacionadas con drogas y alcohol y las demás son principalmente robo o asalto.

# El Rincón Poético

## PRIMAVERA

Primavera que llega,  
primavera que se va,  
es ejemplo de la vida  
que jamás perdurará.  
Una semilla creció,  
una flor se marchitó,  
un niño que ha nacido  
y una persona que murió.  
La tristeza, la alegría,  
el amor y desamor  
siendo rico o siendo pobre  
sufren igual los dos.  
Mas no es el final del día,  
ni el principio de un adiós  
Tenlo siempre muy presente  
la primavera llegó.

Ana Bernal  
Rancho High

## LA VIDA MEJOR

Niños quieren ser adultos,  
adultos quieren ser niños.  
Niños dicen, — Puedes  
hacer algo,  
sobre niños, adultos dicen  
lo mismo,  
pero, ¿Quién tiene razón?  
¿Cuál vida es la mejor?  
Esa es la pregunta eterna.  
Niños quieren ser adultos,  
adultos quieren ser niños.  
Adultos han sido niños,  
el inverso no es verdad.  
Adultos saben la vida de  
niños,  
tal vez esa vida es mejor.  
Pero, niños quieren ser  
adultos,  
y adultos quieren ser niños.

Jenner Bryson  
Rancho High

## La Primavera

La primavera es un solo  
rostro  
que muestra la única cara  
de la época de las flores,  
pero se va.  
Nadie queda triste porque  
todos sabemos  
que vendrá en el siguiente año  
a adornar nuestro mundo.  
Tal vez vendrán demasiadas o  
pocas,  
brillantes y olorosas flores  
de diferentes colores y olores.  
La verdad no importa eso.  
Lo que importa es que todos  
luchamos  
por tener un paisaje bonito y  
hermoso.  
Aunque para todos no  
importa,  
ni quien sea, ni como sea.

Martha Bernal  
Rancho High

## YO QUE SOY AMERICANO

Yo que soy americano,  
no importa de cual país,  
quiero que mi continente  
viva feliz

Si hay que callar, no callemos,  
pongámonos a cantar,  
y si hay que pelear peleemos,  
si es el modo de triunfar.

¡Que los países hermanos  
de México, Centro y Sudamérica  
borren las sombras del norte  
a ramalazos de luz!

Por toda América soplan  
vientos que no han de parar  
hasta que no entierren las sombras  
no hay orden de descansar.

Desde una punta a la otra  
del continente que bien  
el viento sopla sin pausa  
y el hombre sigue el vaivén.

Laura P. García, Clark High

## Los Zenzontles

Cuando asoma  
la primera  
claridad en el oriente  
y la brisa mañanera  
peina el trigal suavemente,  
se encuentran florecitas  
perfumadas  
y en ellas el cristalino llanto  
de la madrugada.

Es cuando allá entre los montes,  
donde duerme el arroyuelo,  
se oyen cantar los zenzontles  
con su voz de terciopelo.

Cuando el sol se va muriendo  
perdiéndose entre la arboleda,  
y la noche va tendiendo  
su negro manto de seda,  
Ingrimo estoy contemplando  
en mi rancho los luceros  
y al mirarlos recordando  
los ojos que tanto quiero.

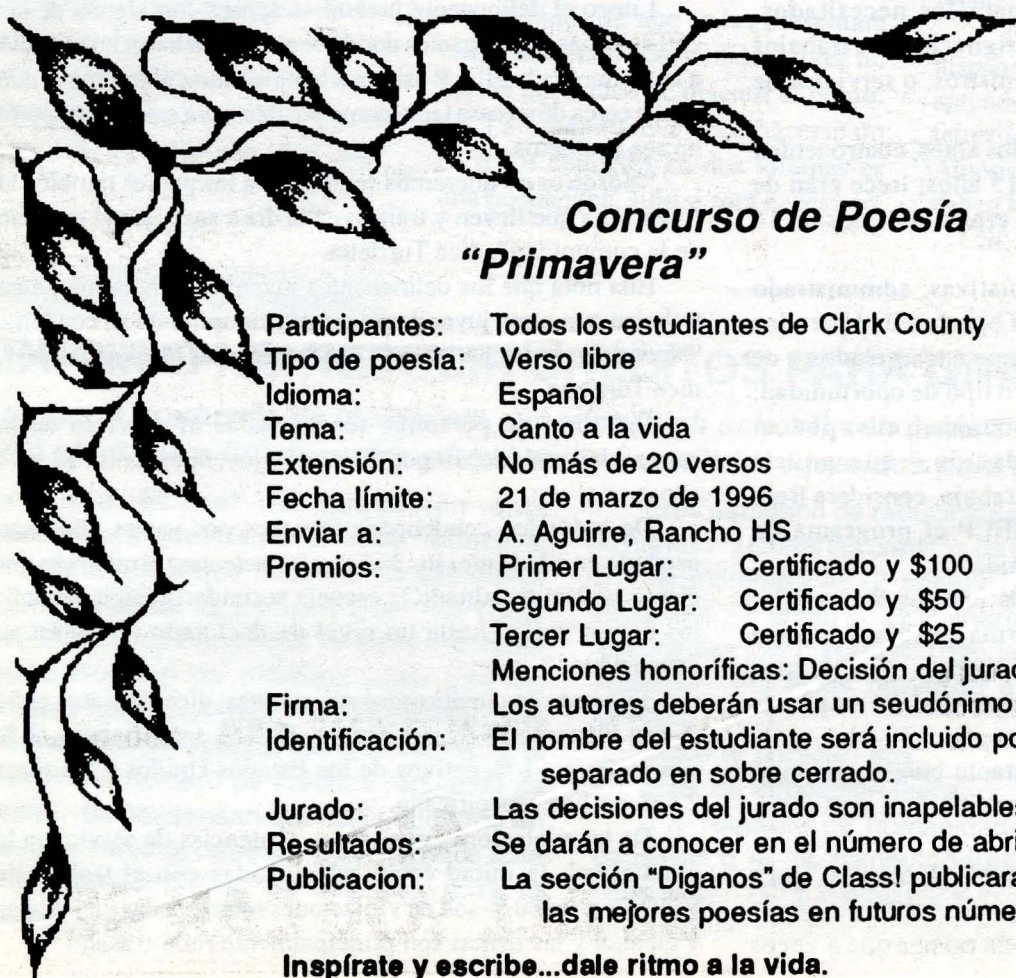
Quiero tener el consuelo  
de quedar cuando me muera,  
cerca del fresco arroyuelo  
de cuyas aguas bebería;  
y así mi alma por los montes,  
cuando este rayando el día  
convertida en un zenzontle  
cantará esta melodía.

William Picado  
Clark High

## ¡DIGANOS!

Esta sección aparecerá en cada número de CLASS!  
Si tu quieres enviar algo para ¡DIGANOS!, dile a tu consejero, maestro  
de periodismo o maestro de español. Nuestra dirección y el número de  
FAX se encuentran en la página 3. Serán de gran ayuda:

- Noticias de interés para los estudiantes hispanos
- Informes de actividades de organizaciones hispanas
- Poesía, arte y fotografías originales de estudiantes
- Opiniones sobre los eventos actuales en las escuelas
- Historias sobre experiencias en la escuela y la comunidad
- Sugerencias para la sección



## Concurso de Poesía "Primavera"

Participantes: Todos los estudiantes de Clark County  
Tipo de poesía: Verso libre  
Idioma: Español  
Tema: Canto a la vida  
Extensión: No más de 20 versos  
Fecha límite: 21 de marzo de 1996  
Enviar a: A. Aguirre, Rancho HS  
Premios:  
Primer Lugar: Certificado y \$100  
Segundo Lugar: Certificado y \$50  
Tercer Lugar: Certificado y \$25  
Menciones honoríficas: Decisión del jurado  
Firma: Los autores deberán usar un seudónimo.  
Identificación: El nombre del estudiante será incluido por separado en sobre cerrado.  
Jurado: Las decisiones del jurado son inapelables.  
Resultados: Se darán a conocer en el número de abril.  
Publicación: La sección "Diganos" de Class! publicará las mejores poesías en futuros números.

Inspírate y escribe...dale ritmo a la vida.

## Bella Flor

Una flor no inspira los  
mismos pensamientos  
a un científico, que a un  
campesino, o a un poeta.  
Tu vida es como esa flor,  
bella radiante,  
sin ella el universo, éste  
inmenso jardín  
perdería una perla adorada.  
Cada gota que moja esa  
flor  
es una experiencia nueva,  
las buenas para que las  
gozes  
y las malas para que  
aprendas.  
Yo no soy un científico, ni  
campesino, ni poeta,  
pero dame el derecho de  
sentir  
el precioso perfume de esa  
querida flor.

Gloria Guzman  
Rancho High

## POEMA A LA VIDA

La vida es como una semilla  
que con la primavera nace  
y con el tiempo crecerá;  
como cuando nace un  
nuevo ser  
que llena de alegría a los que  
le rodean,  
como la semilla el crecerá  
y se convertirá en una linda  
rosa  
que dará belleza y esplendor  
al paisaje,  
que algún día verá el fruto  
de el que como la flor fue  
semilla,  
que algún día tendrá que darles  
su último adiós.

Erika Marin  
Rancho High

## FBLA gathering generates passion

Adapted from a report By Jeff Clark, Senior

This year, I joined FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) because I felt it would be a golden opportunity to sharpen my business skills.

Recently, I attended an FLBA-sponsored business conference in Portland, Oregon. The information I was given before departure dryly explained the activities and workshops that would take place during the conference. Only one other member signed up, **Marjorie Santos**.

The evening before departure, I seriously contemplated not going...I didn't know anyone or who I would be rooming with, and I would be giving up my senior Sadie Hawkins Dance.

But I was on the plane bright and early. When I arrived at the conference hotel, I immediately met all kinds of interesting goal-oriented high school students from all over the West. I met **Donald Betts** from A-Tech, my roommate for the weekend. We clicked and I feel we will be lifelong friends.

### "THEY POSSESSED PASSION!"

On the first night, more than 1,100 students attended the opening general session. It was kind of like a huge club meeting...but they possessed a passion that you never see at a meeting. After the session, there was a series of icebreaking activities, during which I must have met at least 900 of the students.

The schedule included business workshops; speakers and motivators who gave advice on how to be successful in business today; programs on college life, positive thinking, communication, teamwork, positive thinking, and group dynamics. The conference ended with another general session and a dance.

As I reflect on that weekend, I realize how much value I got out of it...and I thought it was amazing how many memories I would carry from such a short amount of time, just 30 hours.

I recommend FBLA to any student even remotely interested in going into business after graduation. And to all current FBLA members: don't allow your next chance to experience a conference pass you by. As I can attest, these conferences are infinitely more valuable than any Sadie Hawkins Dance.

## Theatre Event Raises Scholarship Funds

Selected C-M seniors will receive scholarships that were made possible by an annual fundraiser sponsored by the school faculty and staff.

The fourth annual Cimarron-Memorial scholarship fundraiser generated more than \$4,500 recently, when the school staff joined with CMHS parents to present the musical *West Side Story*.

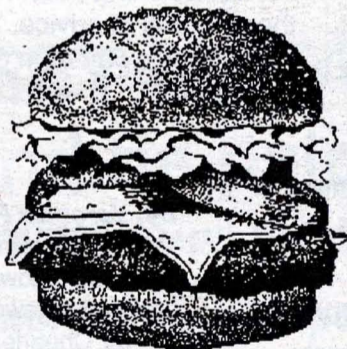
Proceeds from the ticket sales are given as \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors. Judging is based on financial need, academic record, and contributions to school and community. The recipients will be chosen in April. Two of the scholarships are reserved for a male and female student involved in the school's theatre program.

In the past four years, the faculty and staff have raised nearly \$20,000 for scholarships.

## Top ten very best reasons to work in the fast food business

by Monica Lake  
and Jenn Hunter

10. You learn to wash your hands.
9. Burnt fingers from the heat lamps.
8. Those extra pounds you put on from the free french fries.
7. The free french fries.
6. The great pay you get for working so hard.
5. The bright, flattering, colorful get ups you look so cute in.
4. The lingering greasy smell after a hard day's work.
3. Everyone's favorite rule: "Don't forget to smile!"
2. You get to deal one-on-one with such charming customers.
1. Others' admiration for your position.



## C-M Selects Honor Choir

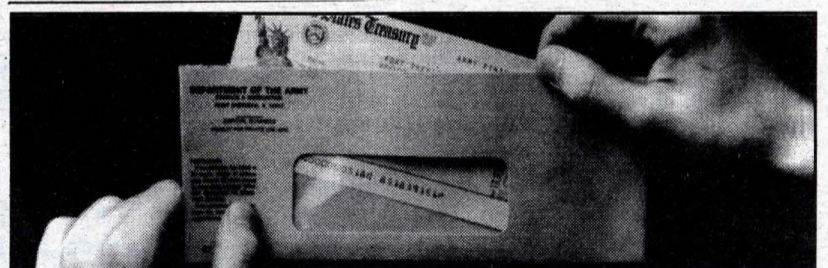
Five Cimarron-Memorial students have been named to the school district Honor choir.

**Sheri Adriansen, Marcus Cobb, Nick Jones, Jason Lanctot** and **Cyndee San Luis** passed a rigorous audition, put in many hours of practice and completed a successful performance.

Special congratulations go to Lanctot, who was named to the CMHS Honor Choir, which will perform at the regional convention of the American Choral Directors' Association in Pasadena, California, this spring.

## Parenting Leads to Publishing

Junior **Shelly Nobel**'s editorial on parents as role models was published in a recent edition of *Living With Teenagers* magazine. Her article, "Our Turn to Parent," talks about the need for parents to be good role models so that teens have good examples to follow when they, in turn, become parents.



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Now the Army can help you earn more than ever before for college, if you qualify...up to \$30,000 with the Montgomery GI Bill plus the Army College Fund.

This could be the perfect opportunity to earn the money you need for college and develop the qualities that will help you succeed once you get there. For more information, call your local Army Recruiter.

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## WHAT'S THE BIG ATTRACTION?

### Rancho to become Magnet School

By Holley Alford

A change for Rancho is in the works. Rancho will soon become a magnet school... a school that specializes in a particular field of study along with its regular curriculum. Rancho's magnet school concept is leaning toward aerospace and health services...and will begin by fall 1997.

"It is a school within a school," says Roger Jacks, Rancho's magnet school theme coordinator.

Other Clark County high schools have accepted the magnet school concept, including A-Tech, Las Vegas Academy, Valley, Clark and Bonanza. CCSD is looking into



making high schools a multi-magnet system. Funding for the magnet school is an estimated \$10 million that will come from the district's

Capital Improvement Bond Funds to renovate the existing facility. Approximately \$1.3 million has been provided through a federal grant to get the magnet school up and running.

Currently, the magnet school concept proposal is still being researched and written. The completed proposal must be submitted by June 1 to the Clark County School District.



Constanza

### SOCCKER: Carlos is a 'specialist'

By Amanda La Pointe

Carlos Constanza, Rancho varsity soccer player, had an outstanding season. He started playing soccer when he was only 10 in El Salvador.



Since he plays only soccer, Constanza spends many long hours in training. These hours paid off big to help Rancho win many games.

Carlos came to the United States in 1992. He got involved in sports, and has proven to be an asset to Rancho. Coach Thomas Bywater says, "He was our number-one player."

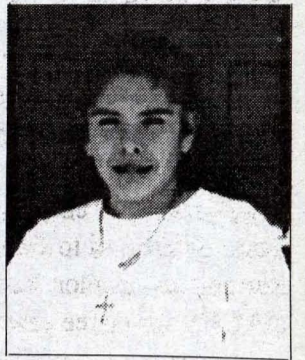
Constanza enjoys listening to soft romantic music. He is ready to graduate and get on with his life, and eventually have children. After Rancho, Constanza plans to attend either Notre Dame or UCLA.

To incoming freshmen he gives these words of advice, "Get motivated, stay away from drugs, and play sports."

### Morales: rising star

By John Sweet

Melissa Morales is a rising star for the Lady Rams Soccer Team. She is in her third season with the Rams and plans to letter as she did the past two years.



Morales

"I never played before my sophomore year and all my friends told me how fun it was, so I tried out and made varsity," Morales explains.

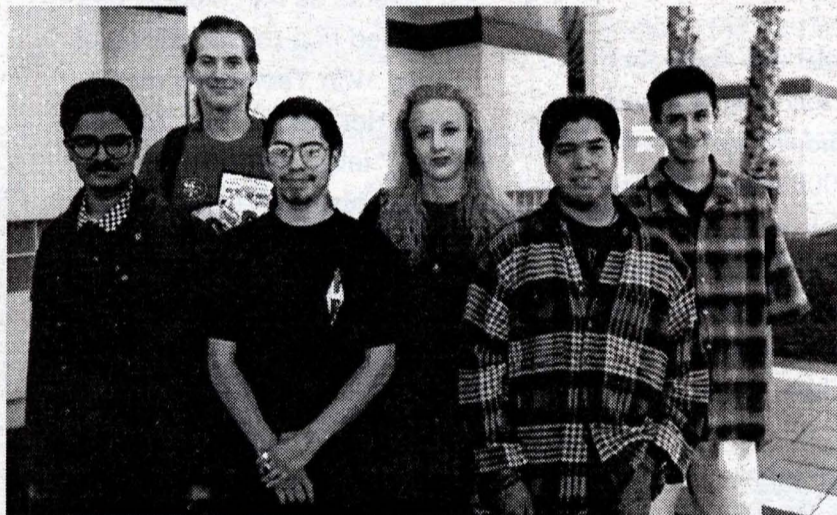
She starts in every Lady Rams game. Morales began as a halfback but moved up to a forward position. Her job is to score as many goals as she can.

During the off season, Morales plays league soccer to occupy time and keep in shape for Rancho's season.

After Morales graduates, she plans to go to UCLA and major in Marine Biology or become a Physical Therapist. She also plans to play soccer there. If that does not work out, she will attend UNLV — if they have a good soccer team.

Morales is a different person off the field. In her spare time she likes to spend time with her parents and her little brother and sister. She also likes to hang out with friends, go to raves, and just kick back. When she is at home, Melissa talks on the phone, watches TV, and listens to 94.1.

About the team, Melissa says, "As a team we have a big heart. Everyone gives it her best and no one ever quits!"



**HIGHER HIGH SCHOOL** -- Rancho students recently learned about the new high school that will be held at Community College. Shown here at the information meeting are (from left) Fraser Almeida, Jeremy Tanner, Jesus Becerra, Kari Waldrop, Darren Perez and Oscar Espinoza.

### Clock-jam

## Ineligibility is a bummer!

By Veronica Perez

Rancho athletes go through long, grueling practices. After all is done, they feel like a shower and a nice long nap. So where do they find the time to study and do homework?

JV Cheerleader, **Donella Bates**, a straight-A student, says "You have to find a balance between school activities and homework."

Some Rancho athletes have trouble finding that balance. Unfortunately, they find their grades dropping and the final tragedy: being ineligible for the sport they love.

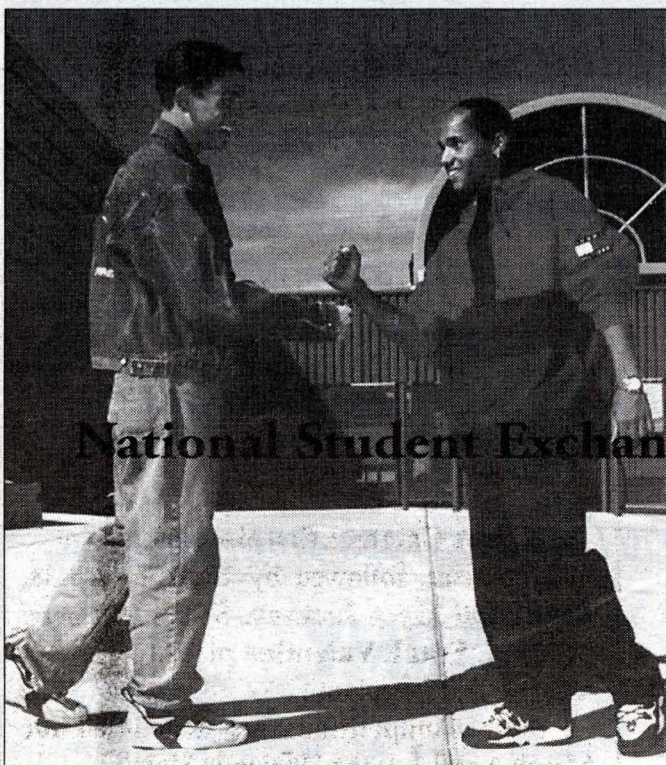
Many disappointments come with that territory. Athletes have to deal with the fact that they messed up and now are being punished. "I do not like being ineligible because you do not have the benefit of playing a sport and staying healthy," comments **Steve Shimp**.

However, some students who are involved in co-curricular activities are facing the fact that they are at risk, too.

**Sean Feltz**, former ROTC Color Guard who is now ineligible due to poor grades, says "It is difficult not being on the team." Feltz has been studying hard to get his grades up...and he may soon find himself back on the Color Guard.

Most athletes do find time to attend school on a regular basis, go to practice, be in games, and still do homework and study.

There is always something that can be done. It is the player's choice to get help or lose out. Those who are having difficulties, need to wise up and get help. If they cannot handle the work, they should not be playing a sport.



"I want to go away to college, but it's so expensive."

"Check out UNLV's National Exchange Program. You can go to an out-of-state college for a year, but pay in-state tuition."

### National Student Exchange Program

**UNLV**  
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS

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

## HACES: Hispanic students find new directions

Reporter: Dawn Turner

HACES (Hispanics Assisting the Community with Excellence in Students) involves Hispanic high school students and their families in programs to educate and stress the importance of school to their future. Alvaro Aguirre, Rancho counselor, has been the director of HACES for three years.

In recent years, the Hispanic drop-out rate has been higher than average. HACES shows that, in spite of having to learn everything in a language they are working hard to master, Hispanic teens can make it as well as any student.

Parents are a critical part of the HACES program. If parents are aware of what's going on in their children's lives, they can give strong direction and help to better themselves and their community.

Students must follow very strict guidelines in HACES, such as perfect school attendance all week in order to participate in Saturday activity sessions. These sessions are an incentive for students and gives them something worthwhile to do on weekends, earning a little money and helping the community. Saturday programs also give students a feeling of pride and self respect.

"The students are finally recognized for doing something good in the community," Aguirre says. "By someone taking time to give direction to the students, there is a positive outcome. We hope this idea will be reproduced in other schools."

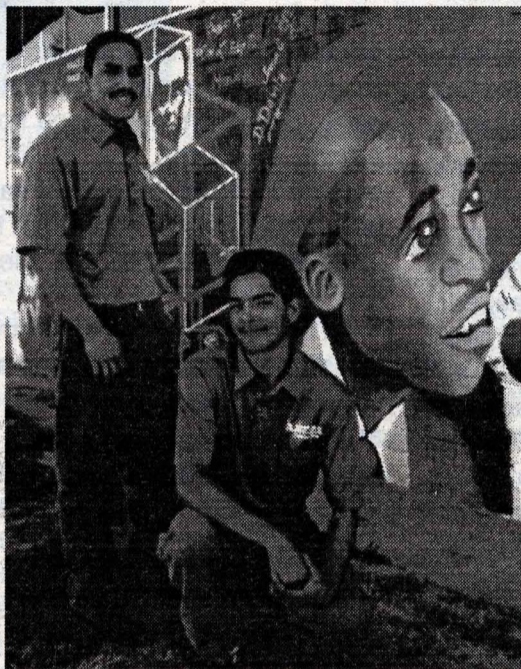
At the beginning of last year, students involved in HACES were asked if they want to graduate and move on to higher education. Only 20 percent said yes at that time. But, by the end of the year, 80 percent had changed their minds and decided to continue their education after high school.

According to Aguirre, in the first year of the program, 100 percent of HACES members graduated from high school with their class, or continued the next year at Rancho High to receive their diploma.

### COVER PHOTO

With the help of artistic director John Bacheco, HACES students painted a mural at Walter Bracken Elementary. Bacheco is a 1965 graduate of Rancho High School who came back to work with the HACES students. A second mural was completed at J.D. Smith Middle School, under the direction of David Ozuna, a 1979 Rancho graduate. And, at C. P. Squires Elementary, students created a mural under the direction of Ron Esposa, Rancho graduate class of 1981.

HACES students who have graduated have an optimistic outlook. Ivan Garcia (left) and Hector Garcia, the 1995 Rancho graduates who helped paint the mural shown on the cover, say they especially liked the HACES program because it helped them make extra credits and graduation credits.



## OTHER SCHOOL TIDBITS WITH NO PAGE TO CALL THEIR OWN

### First Impressions

By Irene Goya, Durango High School

As we used to hear in that old shampoo commercial, "You can never make a second first impression."

Big deal! In this day and age, first impressions are just as useful as a transmittable disease. You never know anymore. The most casual dresser can end up being the psycho of the decade, and the one with the outrageous ensemble can be one of the most composed people on earth.

The way we judge should not be based upon appearances. Some may wonder if we should even judge at all. My point is that a haircut, an outfit, or a pair of shoes are not going to provide us with the valuable information we need to judge a person.

One's personality and character can only be understood by interaction. A meager glance will not give a complete character profile.

At Durango, there are many cliques, and the people in those cliques dress, talk and act similarly. These cliques are based upon similar interests, similar extracurricular activities and culture.

There is nothing wrong in that. But when a person regards the people in the group as the same, or makes use of stereotypes, individuals do not receive the full attention they deserve.

People can make groups, but groups cannot make people. Within a group are individuals who are unique human beings. Do not be intimidated by affiliation. We should make use of our logic and give our eyes a break.

### Popular Clark grad helps Harvard beat traditional foe

Jay Snowden, a 1994 graduate of Clark High School, made an Ivy League name for himself during a hard-fought game between Harvard and Yale recently.

Now a Harvard sophomore, Snowden was sent in when Yale held a 15-10 lead. According to *Harvard Magazine*:

"Snowden's running and passing, coupled with [Eion] Hu's strong legwork, generated a 69-yard drive that gave Harvard a 16-15 edge midway through the final period."

After Yale bounced back with a 21-16 lead, according to *Harvard Magazine*, "Snowden came back to direct Harvard's goal-line offense. He took the snap and was thrown for a two-yard loss by...the Yale captain. Faking to the right, he scrambled to the 2 and was hit hard."

Snowden later said, "I blacked out for a second," and "On the next play I was ready to pitch it fast," quotes *Harvard Magazine*.

With just seconds left on the clock, Snowden threw the pass, which was completed for another TD. Final score: Harvard 22, Yale 21.

"You can't find a nicer young man," says Wayne Tanaka, Clark High principal. "He's a neighborhood kid who committed himself to success in academics and athletics."

Snowden's former coach at Clark, Monte Gutowski, says "Jay led by example — if he didn't do something, he didn't expect others to do it. He had an

excellent work ethic, in the classroom and on the field."

Snowden was quarterback on Clark's 1993-94 State Championship team.

"We think of Jay as a straight-A student, even if he might have had a B along the way," Tanaka adds. "He's A for a great attitude, for academic achievement, athleticism, activities and attendance."

"He's going to go a long way," says Gutowski, "I hope he remembers his coaches."

[Quotes from *Harvard Magazine*, January-February 1996 issue, were reprinted by permission.]

### ATTC Hotel Operations earn honors at conference

DECA recently held its District Conference at Eldorado High School. Sixteen students from ATTC signed up for the event. Four ATTC Hotel Operations students placed in the competition:

Keisha Catet took first place in Hospitality and Tourism, followed by Sharon Treats, fourth, and Myra Jackson, fifth in the same category. Frank Valentino placed second in Vehicle and Petroleum.

State Competitions are scheduled for March 4 and 5 at the Hacienda Hotel.

## Dance Debate

### Sadie: super or sad?

Students debate the traditional

Sadie Hawkins Dance — Is it a waste of time or a feel-good event?



#### It's cool!

By Nicole Saunders

I think Sadie's is cool because girls get to ask guys they like instead of going with someone they might not want to go with. Plus it gives the girls a chance to take responsibility and pay for it. The whole idea of the girls asking the guys saves on a lot of unnecessary time spent waiting.

Jami Carpenter, counselor, says, "It's neat that the girls don't have to stand around and wait to be asked."

Kim Jones, junior, says, "It gives kids time to get out of the house." Maybe that's why a lot of the students attend the dances.

How do guys feel about being asked by the girls? A local school psychologist says, "If a girl asked me, I would feel good."

But remember, there are only two girl-ask-guy dances a year, so if you want to ask a guy, you only have one chance left. Better jump to it.

#### It's lame!

By Rikki Skadoski

It was that time of the year again... yet another Sadie Hawkins dance... a nice change of pace and everything, but please.

It has its good points but it was lame. Come on, the dance floor was empty; of course, the music wasn't very good. Most people left early. But who would want to stay when the biggest kick of the night was the bogus marrying booth.

Timing was the big problem. Junior Jessica Evans says, "It's too soon... a couple of weeks after Homecoming and a couple weeks before Christmas." Sophomore Karisa Hughes had the same idea, "I like Sadies because it's casual, but it can cost a lot of money, being so close to the holidays."

What's with wearing the same shirts? Sophomore Sanya Briggs says, "I think it's stupid that you have a buy matching shirts; what if four other couples are wearing the same shirt?" A few couples chucked the whole shirt idea and wore whatever they wanted.

While money was a problem beforehand, the music was a problem at the dance. Sophomore Scott Blair says, "They had a limited variety with a bad choice of music."



LEFT: New hall monitor Mary Woods watches over the safety of students in Basic's halls. Students say she does her job well, has a good sense of humor and communicates well with students.

## DOUBLE SESSIONS AFFECT YOU...HOW?

### Work schedules...

By Chris Loff

Double sessions affect Basic students who work.

Junior Casey Hedlund, Sports Authority employee, says, "I'll either have to work early in the morning or late into the night." Senior Moe Kay, McDonalds employee, says he will not be able to see his co-workers who attend Green Valley High School.

Senior Nick Spangler, Smith's employee, says he'll either have to get promoted to the graveyard shift or he will get no hours at all. On the other hand, Senior Mike Billingsley, employee at Southern Nevada Cabinets, says, "It's going to be nice, I'm going to be working in the morning, and it's relatively close to Green Valley."

### Sports and grades...

By Lindy Buckles

One concern that faces Basic students is whether the double session will affect their sports

schedules. Junior Alicia TerAvest says, "There is almost no time for homework when the games are late at night and practices are early in the morning."

"I'll probably have to do my homework in the morning before practice," says junior Emily-Jean Gartrell.

However, junior J. G. Green feels his grades will actually improve, since he can sleep in.

Psychology teacher and track coach John Ahrens says he's worried that kids won't come out due to their jobs, or just not wanting to practice early.

Students who have jobs try to work around new hours in order to play their sport. Gartrell says, "I have a weekend job so I won't be affected." Green says the change will enable him to get a job.

Junior Lindsey Brown concludes by saying, "I believe it...will be worth it in the end, when we can spend next year in a brand new school."



Windholz

## Is RPC useful, accurate?

By Misty Windholz

This year there has been concern about students getting RPC'd on the fifth absence instead of the tenth.

The Clark County School District wants students to stay at school and not be absent unless excused, but RPC-ing students only forces them to stay at home on an excused absence, which takes the point away of RPC-ing students for discipline.

What happens if a student's parent cannot get off work to meet with the school for, like, a week? It results in the student's getting further behind and missing more school than was necessary in the first place.

The only way to avoid this situation, besides going to school every day, is to go to the attendance office and get a copy of the days missed. If the student believes there is a mistake, he/she could go to his/her teachers and fix the misunderstanding.

Sometimes days "missed" are days on field trips and the teacher never received a notice, or a substitute teacher didn't see you, or you forgot to sign the tardy sheet. No matter what the reason, it takes time out of everyone's schedule to fix the problem.

Junior Stacey Belingheri says the office shouldn't worry about those students who have five or six absences, but do something about those with 19 or 20.

The school district wants to start taking away credits from students with more than ten absences instead of RPC-ing. Senior Aimee Acton says the office tried RPC-ing her for only five absences. "I had to go to the attendance office and to my teachers to fix everything," she says. "Just another wasteful thing to do."

The good thing about going to class is the extra points most teachers give for being in class on time. Sophomore Kim Wesloski says she likes that...it helps raise her grade only by a few points, but can make a difference between a C and a D.

Although students miss out on things when absent, getting RPC'd only enables them to get more "free days."



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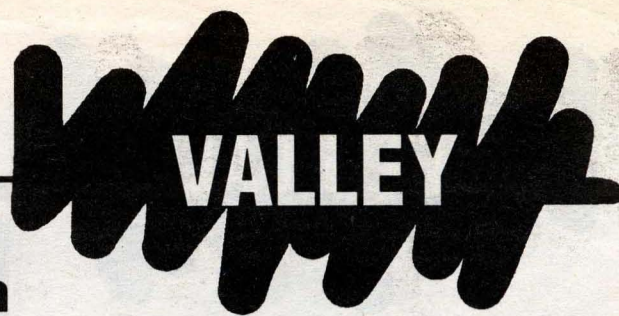
Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Deadline Feb. 27!

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Deadline March 4!





**WEIGHING ON MY MIND: AN EDITORIAL**

**IS IT HYPOCRACY?**

*By Amy Howard*

Is Valley a non-smoking school or not? I seem to recall that it is. Although it sure doesn't smell like it near the 600 hallway. Tucked back into a low traffic hallway there lies a great cloud of controversy: the teachers' smoking room.

The question comes down to smokers rights vs. breathing rights. Does no one recall those nasty pictures of blackened lungs in health books?

If a student goes outside, into the fresh air, or possibly even into his/her own car, and lights up a cigarette it becomes a federal offense. But teachers? Please. Go into your own private lair and allow your smoke to seep into the hallways and possibly into the lungs of some unsuspecting student?

The health craze of the nation is the fight against

cigarettes. What kind of message is Valley High School sending to its students? Our role models are supposed to be our teachers, and yet they are being, if not encouraged, certainly not condemned.

Deciding to smoke or not to smoke is a person's own choice. But non-smoking means non-smoking.

I understand the argument that teachers are of a legal age to smoke and most of the student body is not, but what about those of us that are? Should an 18-year-old senior be allowed to duck into the smoking room for a few puffs between classes?

The teachers' smoking room shares ventilation with many classrooms around it, and on a hot summer day that becomes painfully obvious.

I do not wish to deny teachers their right to smoke, but maybe they should do it on their own free time away from school, like the adult students who attend Valley.

**Wrestlers struggle on**

*By Jhonnattan Duran*



This year has been a very tough and challenging season, so far, for a young and vigorous Varsity Wrestling team. However, every week they continue to rise and meet the challenge of a new opponent.

Despite their 1-5-1 record, the team has devinitely improved. Seven Valley wrestlers placed in the Top Dog Tournament and has faced opponents in some of the most fierce tournaments the West has to offer.

Coach Cerrone strongly believes, "Competitively, we're pretty good for a young team because of the much needed leadership

**Doug Cotner, Anthony Jensen, Luis Pastrana, and Aaron Mitchell** have provided. If we continue to stay on track we'll be stronger next year"...especially, now that newcomers (freshman) **Joey Wyson**, (sophomore) **Allen Peplinski**, (junior) **Anthony Gibson**, and (senior) **Jason Gradyan** have stepped up.

"The Varsity Wrestling team has had some difficult times, yet we continue to work hard. So next year we'll be successful and definitely more competitive," says Mitchell.

**IN TRIBUTE**

**Valley High School has established a scholarship in memory of Esperanza Castells, who taught Spanish at Valley for 13 years. The scholarship will go to a senior who is a former student of Ms. Castells.**



**ATTC electronics classes experience modern technology**

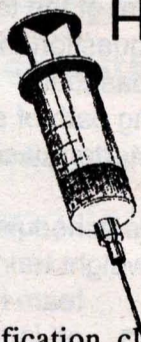
*By Chris Watkins*

Electronics I morning and afternoon sessions have excellent labs that allow them to use electrical test equipment, IBM computers, protoboards, AC power source and O-Scopes.

A self-paced program allows each student individual attention from the teacher.

The classes use study guides that help with their understanding of Algebra and to prepare them for their second year of Electronics.

Students also enjoy a healthy sense of competition between the classes.



**Health Occupations class gets hands-on training**

*Reporters: Leticia Harper, Brian Villahueva, Heather Kunz and Brian Anderson*

Health Occupations I (morning session) participated in a CPR and First Aid Certification class recently. The Health Occ class will be doing clinicals through March 15.

Each year, the class works "hands on" at the Cheyenne Residential Center, practicing and perfecting student skills in bed-making, feeding patients, taking vital signs and giving care to the elderly.

Technical knowledge and suggestions on hospice care were offered to the class by staff members of the Nathan Adelson Hospice.

The class continues to learn

about the human body, including the skeletal structure, and a variety of nursing procedures.

**Leticia Harper**, a student in Health Occupations I (afternoon session), was invited to attend the

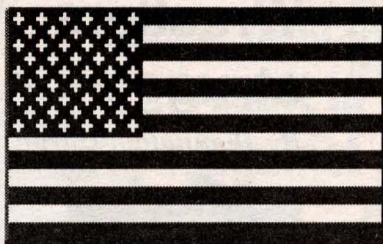
Honors Multicultural Weekend Scholarship Program at Southern Utah University. She will get a chance to earn scholarships in the areas of leadership and academic achievement.

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## "We the People..." of Green Valley High wins competition

By Kelly Clark

Students from GVHS's Crime and Justice and Government classes racked up two prestigious awards in the district competition of "We the People..."

Last month, at Cashman Field, approximately 90 students (50 from Green Valley) underwent questioning by a three-judge panel.



Clark

Their "absolutely terrific performance," as teacher Richard Vaughan says, brought second place to his Crime and Justice class, and third place to his Government class. Boulder City High School took first.

"We the People..." whose main purpose is "to further the understanding of the Constitution and the principles behind it," is a national competition.

Students spent months preparing for the day. Each class was divided into six groups, each assigned a section of the "We the People..." textbook.

They studied then taught the section to the rest of the class.

Debates enticed the students into quick answering and sharing feelings on Constitutional issues.

"Although 'We the People...' was a challenging course to follow, going to competition and placing second was enough of a reward for me," says, Crime and Justice student, junior **Felicia Koon**.

Crime and Justice student senior **Mike Szczurko** says, "The experience was the greatest reward. There were no second place teams there. It was a close competition."

Senior **Ray Scott** adds, "I woke up at 7:30 A.M. on a Saturday, but it was worth it. The food that they served us for breakfast was great!"

This was GVHS's first year, but definitely not the last in the "We the People..." program, which has been active in Nevada for eight years.

## Things go better with... scholarships!

By Samantha Nanda

Not only are seniors **Val Tramonte** and **Jolene Yukes** semi-finalists of the Coca-Cola Scholars program, but they are the first GVHS students to earn this honor...two of 1,828 chosen from over 122,000 applicants nationwide.

Fifty \$20,000 scholarships, and one hundred \$4,000 scholarships, are available to be used at the students' choice of US colleges or universities.

Applicants were chosen for extracurricular activities, as well as their academic abilities.

One hundred fifty finalists will go before a National Selection Committee in April.

Both Tramonte and Yukes are also National Merit semifinalists.

## Day earns full ride to Stanford University

GVHS student to play for top collegian team.

By Molly Sullivan

Some say it could be "Dayja vu."

Green Valley's Chad Hermanson went pro in 1995, and now the Gators have yet another baseball player signing at a top-notch college, who could go on to be a first-round draft pick for the pros.

**Nick Day** is not just another athlete. Day is on the way to the kind of success people only dream about.

Talent alone does not always win, but if an athlete adds hard work and dedication, it could produce a rising new star.

Day has figured out this formula, and has made it his way of life.

There is no question why the Stanford Cardinals chose Day to become a leader for their team. Day is ranked in the nation for being the number one outfielder, and recently was selected to be a part of the high school pre-season All-American team, as well as the Mizuno All-American first team.

Day, who signed with Stanford in November, says he chose Stanford to become a part of their legacy.

"Stanford is a top academic school, as well as having the best team in the nation," he said.

However, the only team Day is thinking about now is the Gators, who were recently ranked eighth in the nation for the 1995 season.

"I see us taking State for the fourth straight time this year because all the potential is there; we just have to all work together because we all know that the talent of the team is definitely there," said Day.

The simplest question that Day has ever been asked is "What's the best thing about baseball?" He quickly replies "Everything!" The rising star began his long path of successes in baseball at age five.

"When I first started baseball, Dale Murphy was definitely my motivation," he says.

With a practice schedule of 1:45-3:15 after school, and then back to school again for weight training from 6 - 8 P.M., Day explains how the team has to sacrifice many things that will all pay off in the end.

"There's not much free time to relax because the time I have away from baseball is when I do my homework, and there's not enough time for me to get a job...but that's fine by me."

Even with his limited time, he still manages to hold a 3.8 grade-point average, but baseball remains his number one priority.

"The best feeling in the world is to be part of three-time State Champion team; there's nothing like it," Day says.

As the legendary coach Vince Lombardi once said, "Leaders are made, they are not born; and they are made just like everything else has ever been made in this country -- by hard work. That's the price we all have to pay to achieve any goal!"



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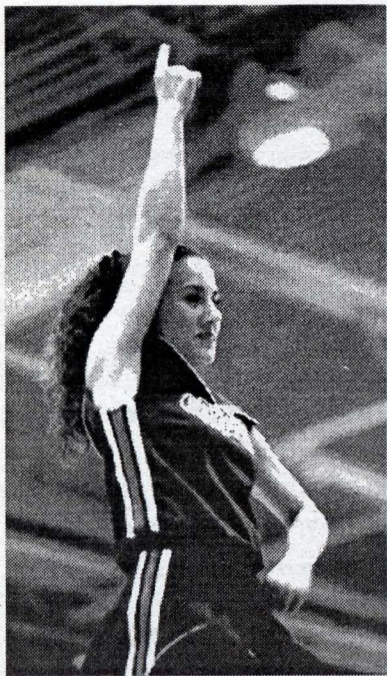
## 'All over in three short minutes!'

By Nicole Brende

The Green Valley High School varsity cheerleading squad "rocked the house" by once again placing first in their local division. The cheerleaders were not the only winners from GVHS on this day. Local drill teams participated in the competition as well, and Gator girls placed second.

"It was hard work," says junior **Meg Sipple**, drill team member. "After weeks of practice, it was hard to believe that it was all over in three short minutes."

"It's great to be recognized [as] the best squad locally," senior varsity cheerleader **Heather**



Brende



Finney says.

The competition had two categories: varsity and JV Show Cheer Divisions. GVHS stole the show by receiving first place in both divisions.

Squads from as far away as California and Utah participated in this yearly event. Varsity cheerleading placed a high second in the overall competition. The JV squad took first place. Their hard work paid off: they won a bid to the USA (United Spirit Leader's Association) Nationals in Anaheim, CA March 15-17.

## Hip-hop to hoedown: dancers strut their stuff

By Jennifer Goscicki

"And 5-6-7-8. Point your toes, girls! Make it sharp!"

The Rhythm Express Dance Teams, under the advisement of Traci Traasdahl for the past two years, are continuously perfecting their skills.

The Dance Teams have already given many performances this year, including hip-hop dances in the cafeteria for *Fine Arts Week*, modern and ballet dances for *The Fine Arts Assembly*.

Also: country dances for *Brotherhood Week*, and the *Annual Celebration of Dance* where all high schools were invited to meet and do a variety of dances with at least one student from every school in each dance.

The two dance classes of GVHS, Dance I and Dance II (Rhythm Express), do many activities. Dance II recently went to UNLV to learn a combination of dances from their dance coordinators.

"Dance Day at UNLV was great. We got to learn from professional choreographers and interact with dancers from other schools," senior **Kathy Bement** said.

Both classes are now working on

dances for *Family Night* at GVHS.

"*Family Night* is the end-of-the-year show, and involves all dance students. It will include numerous dance forms, group dances, solo and duets, and choreography by students, myself and professionals," says Traasdahl.

"In dance class, you not only learn the basics of dance, but, you also learn to work together," says **Dani Donahue**, junior.

Team work is necessary for dance, especially since GVHS dance classes are so large. Dance I has 35 students and Rhythm Express has 20.

Students in both classes are at different levels. Some girls have been dancing since they were toddlers, and for some, this is their first year, but they all work hard to make their performances the best they can.

"To be a dancer, it takes a lot of work and dedication. You have to bring home what you learned in class and practice. It's challenging, but it is always fun," Bement said.

As senior **Yvonne Wing** sums it up, "Dance is just an attitude."



Goscicki

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- RECREATION ASST. I (Pool Cashier) .....\$5.50/hr
- \*RECREATION ASST. IV (Pool Manager) .....\$7.25-\$10.00/hr
- RECREATION ASST. I .....\$5.50/hr
- RECREATION ASST. II .....\$5.55-\$6.00/hr
- RECREATION ASST. III .....\$6.25-\$7.25/hr
- RECREATION ASST. IV .....\$7.25-\$10.00/hr
- \*BUS DRIVER .....\$6.50/hr

\*Special certifications required

Positions are to fill vacancies within the Parks and Recreation Department.

### Where to apply:

City application form must be submitted to the Personnel Department, City Hall, 240 Water Street, Henderson, NV 89015. Applications will be accepted until April 25, 1996, at 5 p.m.

Call 565-2070 for information

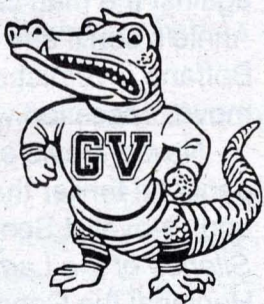
### Hours of operation:

Personnel Department is open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

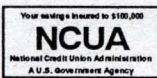
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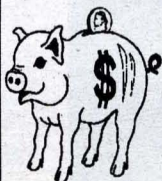


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By  
Jami Fisher,  
Green Valley  
High School

### Life with Grandma

## A walk in someone else's shoes

To walk in someone else's shoes and to see things from her point of view is one of the hardest things for me to do. This has become more evident now that my grandmother has come to live with us.

An injured hip has left her unable to do things for herself. Everyday activities like grocery shopping, fixing a meal, and just walking around become time-consuming projects. One could look at this as bothersome...I've had to look at the situation as she would and, in so doing, I've developed more patience.

My parents often leave my grandma and me alone to watch over each other. This somehow gives grandma the idea that she is in charge. Her old-fashioned restrictions on friends and curfews suddenly shine through.

Friends must leave early, and I can't leave the house after 9 p.m. My laughing reply is immediately followed by a lecture on how young girls shouldn't be on the streets at night. I look into her seriously concerned face and remind myself that she hasn't raised a teenager in 40 years.

Along with her hip problems, my grandmother is slightly hearing-impaired. When [we talk to her], things have to be repeated several times and spoken at about 90 decibels. (A power mower is 150 decibels.)

### TOO MUCH WELK!

It became a problem when "The Lawrence Welk Show" could be heard from my bedroom, two floors up and on the opposite side of the house. To fix this problem, we

purchased a radio-transmitted head set so she could pick up the sound and turn it on as loud as needed.

This, too, became a problem when one night she picked up my conversation with my boyfriend on the cordless telephone. We got rid of the phone.

I'm sure the pain is far greater for her to lose something she has had all her life than it is for us to lose something as insignificant as a cordless phone and a quiet house.

At times in my life, my patience is tested so greatly I think I will burst. Waiting for a red light to turn green, learning how to wink, or, as a child, anticipating Christmas are like my feelings when I go anywhere with my grandma.

Because of her hip, she has to do everything very slowly. It is difficult to handle a 10-minute trip to Albertson's that now takes 40 minutes. A typical trip starts with 10 minutes just getting her into the car. Then, when we get there, we drop her off, park the car, get her a cart, and set her loose.

She wanders through the front of the store, bumping into things and getting in people's way as we do the shopping.

### GRANDMA SEARCH

"If she only didn't have to come with us," I think as I am sent to find her. I spot her halfway down the toy aisle looking at the coloring books. I look at her hands and face, which have been through so much more of life than have mine, and my attitude changes. To my surprise, I am greeted with a warm smile and a small candy bar that she has bought for me.

(Continued on page 34)

## Henderson attracts wide area for Parks & Rec activities



Jitterbug and western line dancing, weight training and water safety, photography and tai chi. And so many more workshops and classes available to teens throughout the area.

It's the Henderson Parks and Recreation spring schedule of leisure activities. And you don't have to live in Henderson to join in!

For a complete list of activities, call 565-2134. Meanwhile, here are a few examples:

**Guitar.** Beginning and intermediate classes will meet Saturday afternoons at the Silver Springs Rec Center, March 2-April 6; and Tuesdays from 3-7 p.m. at Valley View Center, Feb. 27-April 2.

**Dance.** What a variety! Jitterbug, country stroll, ballroom, western partner or line dance -- classes are held at the two recreation centers mentioned above, and some start as soon as Feb. 28.

**Fitness.** Step and low impact aerobics are available in a variety of times and dates, two and three times a week, at the two rec centers, starting Feb. 26.

**Sports.** HPRD offers teen tennis, beginning, intermediate and advanced, and a softball league for the 15-18-year-olds. (Sign-ups start in early March for the April-June season.) Call 434-4131 for details.

**Water, Water!** Henderson Parks and Rec offers lifeguard training (which can lead to a great summer job), SCUBA certification, and water exercise programs. These are all taught at the Lorin Williams Indoor Pool

**Arts & Crafts.** Learn to paint on T-shirts or wood (solve your gift-giving problems), or create stained glass. Classes meet once a week: the painting on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. starting Feb. 27 and stained glass on Mondays, 6-8:30 p.m. starting Feb. 26.

## Read 'The Juror'!

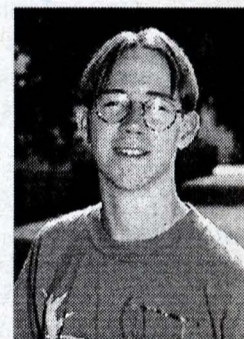
By Bryan Wilson, Las Vegas Academy

Imagine, as you're still laughing about the O.J. Simpson trial, that one of the jurors in the case had been blackmailed into giving a "not guilty" verdict by the Mafia. The juror gradually takes over the deliberations and sways the jury.

Unrealistic? Maybe so. But author George Dawes Green turns it into a very real thriller.

Annie Laird is chosen to serve on the jury for a case against Louie Boffano, a prominent Mafia thug. As a single mother with low income, she struggles before deciding to serve on the case. Her decision proves costly, though, and she must match wits against the man called The Teacher. He threatens to kill Annie's son if she fails to comply with his order: to grant Boffano a verdict of not guilty. The Teacher follows her every move, obsessed with his easy prey.

Now a movie showing in Las Vegas, *The Juror* is a suspenseful thriller that keeps readers on their toes until the chilling end. Novelist Scott Turow calls it "the most artful novel since *Silence of the Lambs* -- and with a villain so evil, he makes Hannibal the Cannibal look like a vegetarian."



Wilson

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## Beauty is in the heart; and the judges liked Reyna's style

By Alisa Ochoa

Cheyenne junior **Reyna Quijano** has been participating in beauty pageants since the ninth grade. Recently she won the *Miss Southern Nevada Teen USA* title. Despite the endless pageant rehearsals, interviews, and campaigning, Reyna believes it was all worth it.

"They open up a lot of opportunities for young ladies," says Reyna. That is one factor that contributes to her admitted addiction to beauty pageants.

It all started out so innocently. She never really gave a thought to entering a pageant until a friend recommended she should. It was on a whim that she actually gave any serious consideration to the idea.

A beauty pageant consists of many components. Ultimately, the final performance is given, but behind the scenes, there is enormous chaos. Referring to these situations, Reyna says, "A lot of patience is required."

Quijano successfully completed a series of interviews for which she won Miss Congeniality. She is very proud of that.

Possessing the sash, the tiara and the title *Miss Southern Nevada Teen* also requires her to fulfill some duties. Reyna recently attended the *Miss Northern Nevada Teen USA* pageant. There she crowned the winner whom she must compete against in August. In the near future, she will talk to kids throughout the school district about her experiences; her simple message is "Say no to drugs."

No flashy swimsuit or evening gown photo shoots for Quijano. Quite the contrary, *Miss Southern Nevada Teen* prefers to be on the other side of the camera.

Reyna participates in various school activities, she maintains a 3.0 GPA and regularly contributes to and takes photos for the *Drumbeat*.

The *Miss Southern Nevada Teen USA* pageant awarded Reyna with a \$500 scholarship to UNLV, taking her one step closer to her dream: "I've always wanted to be an English teacher," she says.

So what is *Miss Southern Nevada Teen's* definition of beauty? "Beauty is not the exterior. It's how people are, their attitudes, and how they feel about each other," she explains.

Cheyenne's Reyna Quijano knows beauty is in the heart. She uses her talents to help others and she is a team player. In addition, Reyna sings a killer version of "Feliz Navidad."



Reyna Quijano, Miss Southern Nevada Teen USA

## Wrestlers wrest wins in all weights

Reporter: Vernon Tillmon

One of the hardest wrestling tournaments of the year took place recently: the 1996 Cheyenne Desert Duels. The teams consisted of: Bonanza, Cheyenne, Las Vegas, Rancho and six schools from other areas.

All the teams fought long and hard, but in the end, Cheyenne came out on top with only one loss and by winning 101 team points. This was the first time Cheyenne won its own tournament.

This year's fourteen weight classes were held by: **Nathaniel Spindler** at 103 pounds, **John Klizke** at 112 pounds, **Byron Grant** at 119 pounds, **Lewis Motta** at 125 pounds, **Josh Spindler** at 130, **Justin Watkins** at 135, **John Burton** at 140, **Steve Bergstrom** at 145, **Jack Mejla** at 152, **Demario Washington** at 160, **Vernon Tillmon** at 171, **Derrick Kelly** at 189, **Art Miller** at 215, and **Jeremy Dousette** at 275.

Motta, Watkins, Tillman and Dousette took first-place gold medals. Coming just short of first place was Bergstrom with a silver; he lost to last year's state champion from Rancho, Jesse Medina. Winning the consolation round and taking a third-place bronze medal was Miller. Fourth-place medals went to Kitzke, Mateo, Burton, and Kelly.



## SERVICE-MINDED STUDENTS TO HELP DOCTORS IN MEXICO

By Carrie De Souza, senior

It's not just a club---it's Interact, the club that betters the community. Interact is the service-oriented youth group sponsored by Las Vegas Southwest Rotary, a worldwide organization of men and women.

The Interact Club, one of the first clubs started at Cheyenne, is a proud sponsor of the Adopt-A-Highway program.

During semester exams, Interact sold donuts and drinks in front of the student activity center; over the holidays, members put together a program to provide Saint Vincent's with sweaters and scarves for the homeless; in the spring, Interact fixes lunches for the homeless women and children at The Shade Tree Shelter. And, in

the community, Interact offers tutoring to elementary students in need of assistance.

Rotary Club provides scholarships to high school students qualified in service activities — and not just limited to Interact members.

In the past, Interact students from around the valley have been able to participate in a trip to Mexico, to areas where people need medical attention. The students assist doctors in surgery for one weekend. The trip costs about \$175 and takes place the first week of March. Three Cheyenne Interact students may take part in this wonderful opportunity. (Watch for their first-hand report in the March edition if they do go.)

## Do not turn your back on homeless

By Carrie De Souza

The growing need for housing in our community cannot be solved by one person or one organization, but...as a community, we must work together to find answers. Las Vegas cannot turn its back on the plight of the homeless.

If we take time out of our lives to volunteer at local shelters or if we have food drives more than once a year during the holidays, maybe we can fight this homeless problem.

Homelessness is hard for us to imagine. There are homeless people not just on the street, but our own family and friends could be put in this type of situation.

Since most of us live in middle-class America, we may be blind to who the homeless are. There is not just one description. Homeless people come from all walks of life, different races and age groups. Many women, some with small children, decided to leave abusive relationships and then are out on the streets.

The myth that all homeless people are lazy and prefer to live that way is just that: a myth. Without a permanent address, these people cannot find jobs to support their families.

Homeless people are ostracized by the community. People who live in the higher echelons tend to ignore the homeless, all the while thinking if they don't acknowledge the truth, the problem will go away.

(Continued on page 33)

## Seventeen magazine profiles Academy

By Hagar Labouz

Seventeen magazine, a fashion and trends magazine for teens, has chosen the Las Vegas Academy as one of 12 schools to showcase in their monthly feature, "School Daze." Many students were photographed and interviewed for the feature which will be on newsstands around the country in the spring of 1996.

Susan Swimmer, a member on the staff of Seventeen magazine, says she enjoys the project.

"I love working with all the



Labouz

teenagers; they have a different way of looking at the world," she says. Swimmer asked many residents of Las Vegas which school they would recommend and LVA came up a lot as "A school full of students with energy."

Swimmer was looking for students who express their personality in what they wear to feature in her article. "I want people that aren't afraid to dress differently."



## Courting on campus

Half the fun of Sadie Hawkins was the quirky and sometimes daring ways girls asked guys to go with them. Here's a few samplings of what some flirtatious females did:

- 1) One covered his locker with mixed nuts and attached a note that read: I'm nuts about you. Will you go with me to Sadie's?
- 2) One covered the floor beneath his desk with Hershey's kisses and told him: Now that I've kissed the ground you walk on. Will you go to Sadie Hawkins with me?
- 3) One ordered a pizza for him at lunch and had the pizza people spell out "Sadie's" in pepperoni on top.
- 4) One had a friend deliver a pound of bananas to his class. Attached was a note: I'm bananas about you. Will you go with me to Sadie's?

## WATCH!

By Robert Laxamana

### Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls

The famous megastar Jim Carey does it again in his latest movie "Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls."



Ace's identity reflects on the love and caring of the animal kingdom. Ace, with the help of his aide, Spike, a spider-monkey, is visited by a zoologist in a Sholin temple, where they spent most of their lives. The zoologist offers a

\$25,000 reward to recover a white bat that was stolen from a tribe in Namibia, Africa. Ace accepts the dangerous mission to Africa.

On the way Ace overcomes many obstacles including his fear and he triumphs.

The best part about this film is that it makes you crack up every time he does something wrong. This is a hilarious movie which successfully continues the role in his first movie, "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective."

If you are a Jim Carrey fan, don't just sit there, go and watch this movie.

## Chris Randall: making magic

By Bryan Wilson



A young magician is sitting in the grass, waiting impatiently for his bus to arrive. He is demonstrating one of his many card tricks. He has taken all the fives out of one deck for his mini-act. With two quick slips of his wrist, **Chris Randall** exchanges the red fives for the black fives, completely fooling all who are watching.

It comes naturally to the Junior National Champion, who has been interested in magic since he saw Lance Burton when he (Chris) was six-years-old.

Inspired by LVA's Phil Randall (no relation) and local magician Dan Harlin, freshman Chris Randall has oodles of tricks up his sleeve. Among them, a slinky act, which consists of a slinky "walking" down stairs, stopping in mid-air, and walking back up the stairs.

Randall also has an eight-minute dove act. As far as traditional card tricks and other old acts, the illusionist has little to say, but "I don't like anything not original." When asked what he thought of the classic "rabbit-out-of-the-hat" trick, Randall declines to comment.

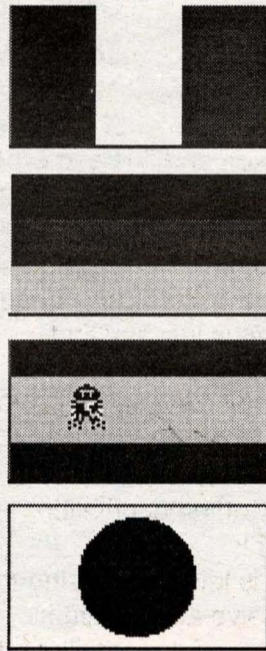
Randall performed at the Fremont Street Experience last month and is currently working in LVA's production of Comedy of Errors.



Wilson

## International studies salutes Culturama

By Bryan Hedlind



Culturama, which started Jan. 30, will continue at LVA through Feb. 23. Each day students from two elementary schools come to learn a little about French, German, Japanese, and Spanish languages and customs.

The elementary students learn phrases such as 'hello,' 'goodbye,' 'thank you,' and 'you're welcome' before they arrive. Once they get to Culturama, the LVA International Studies students may not speak any English to them.

International Studies students wrote the scripts and built the props and scenery for Culturama. They are keeping the elementary students busy with games and lessons.

LVA students miss some of their afternoon classes during Culturama, but the language teachers have planned the schedule so students miss as little school as possible. This is the second year LVA has hosted the event.



## Absence policies confuse students

By Linda Mannberg



Absence policies in Clark County seem to

cause some confusion for students and bring up many questions.

Why should you get an absence for a whole day if you only miss one class?

Answer: It reduces the chances of students cutting their classes.

Why can't parents excuse an absence?

Answer: If the parents could excuse absences, it would be a lot easier to stay

home. Sometimes parents let their children stay home even if they're not sick enough to go to the doctor. That creates the question, if they're not sick enough to go to the doctor, are they sick enough to stay home?

The ten unexcused absences a student is allowed per semester are more than enough for anyone to stay home because of illness. If you have a doctor's note every time you're sick, you can stay home as many times as you want to.

If you have a chronic disease or if the student's parents can't afford doctor visits,

should the student be taken out of school if a person suffers from a disease, he or she can have the doctor sign a note confirming that. Other special circumstances will also be considered if the student's parents talk to the dean.

When students have 11 absences, the dean will call for a parent conference. After that, the student can have one more unexcused absence that semester. If any more absences occur, the student will be sent to an alternative educational setting such as Horizon or Sunset.

## Guys, just leave those kiddies alone!!!

By Laura Henderson

Men date younger women. Guys date younger girls. But when men start dating young girls, that's taking the "age shouldn't matter" thing a bit too far.

For some sick reason, which probably goes way back to the beginning of time, it's thought that men (oh, mighty men) have no real dating age limit. Any girl who looks hot enough to handle is an option and fair game.

On the other hand, if a woman in her twenties were to flirt with a high school guy, it would be considered gross (to everyone but the lucky guy, of course).

Why then is it all right for guys to go around robbing the cradle? Is it because a 16-year-old girl is as mature as a 23-year-old man? Or is a 23-year-old man as mature as a 16-year-old girl?

Guys either find it hard to relate to mature women their own age, or they just can't get one to stay in the room long enough to tie her down. Whatever the reason for their warped love life, counseling could solve a few of their problems.

Just the other day at work I was helping a man with some cologne. He asked me about the "hot blonde" (who has brown hair) who works in the fitting room. He wanted to know if she was married.

"No, she's still in high school," I informed him.

But that wasn't enough of a get-lost clue for him. Hmm? Twenty-five minus seventeen. That must equal a pathetic loser with no girlfriend. So he goes back to give her his unasked-for phone number. I couldn't help but wonder if he even considered her too young.

Maybe he just sees her as a female (yum yum!). Either way a 25-year-old man should know to stay away from high school girls.

My point here is to give all the guys out there a little advice (as unwanted as it may be). When your college years are over, try not to hit on anyone who used to play with your little sister.



## Why is 'dissing' deadly?

By Devon Jean,  
Silverado High School

As the years go by and social attitudes change, generations seem to have lost their sense of respect — respect not only for others but for themselves as well. No matter how cheesy it sounds, the "Golden Rule" that was almost bashed into your head in the elementary years really applies to everyday life.

But in today's society respect has been taken to an entirely different degree. Violence is rolling off the lips of media around the world. And what does this have to do with respect, you might ask?

Not too long ago, there was an incident involving two local teens and their cars. One of the teens cut the other off and, instead of ignoring the act and going on with life, they chose to handle it in a different, irrational matter.

One of the teens is now dead and why? Let us just say that teens and adults alike have no sense of productive conflict resolution. The easiest way to resolve a problem now is to terminate it, or so a majority of the population seems to think.

America is known for being the most aggressive and violent country. Some of you reading this right now may be thinking, "Oh, cool." But think again. What a thing to be proud of — not our art or intellect or contributions to philosophy, but our violence!

Violence is not the answer to everything. To ruin your life over a traffic incident...to take another's life over who gets to the corner quicker...What is that? Who wins? No one. One person is dead the other faces jail. Nice future? No: no future.

All it takes is one moment to stop and think before you act and a lot of blood — no, a life — can be spared. Take a second to reevaluate the situation and talk it out rather than instantly clenching that fist or reaching for a weapon.

Teens need to face reality and realize no one will benefit unless we learn to chill, to talk and resolve conflicts in a different way. When will violence no longer be the answer for everything? We are the only ones who can change this pattern — and we must.



GVHS seniors Adin Francis, left, and Kelly Clark

## Down the pole into a long night

By Adin Francis and Kelly Clark, Green Valley High School

8:00 a.m. Not knowing what to expect on our 24-hour ride-along expedition, we walked nervously into Station 92 of the Henderson Fire Department.

8:40 a.m. As we received our lesson in how things work around the firehouse, the alarm sounded. We flew down the pole and into the ambulance. An elderly woman was having difficulty breathing. Her vital signs were checked and she was rushed to St. Rose Dominican Hospital. The paramedic explained that nearly 85% of emergency calls require only paramedic assistance; about 15% are fire-related.

10:25 a.m. We returned to the firehouse as other crew members were preparing for the day.

11:00 a.m. Off to do a fire inspection.

As the afternoon progressed, we saw how closely the team worked together. They seemed almost like family as they joked mercilessly about one another. We saw pranking at its best as they threw each other's clothes out the window.

"We go from being rescue guys to being janitors," says firefighter Robert Craddock. "We are basically getting paid to be ready for whatever happens. We have to be like brothers and sisters."

The crew members said their job was extremely important to them and they wouldn't consider giving it up.

"I told my wife that if we ever win Megabucks, she can quit her job, but I am keeping mine," says firefighter Tim McKeever. "This is a competitive job and it takes a lot to get here, but it is well worth the wait."

4:00 p.m. A drunk and homeless man had passed out near a convalescent home. When we arrived, he was unconscious, but later woke up...couldn't remember who he was. He was left in the hands of the police.

4:50 p.m. We received a call to a topless bar. A drunk patron had broken the hand of one of the dancers. He spent his night in jail.

12:22 a.m. As we tried to drift off to sleep, the alarm sounded. An 85-year-old woman was having an allergic reaction. She was transported to the hospital. While we waited for the paramedics to fill out the report, another woman was having her stomach pumped. She had overdosed on pills. This was the highlight of the evening.

1:30 p.m. Just as we returned to the station, we were dispatched again. This time, there was a possible pipe bomb at a construction site. It was a cartridge of air freshener.

That was the last call and we slept through the rest of the night. As we left the next morning, we felt like two kids leaving camp.

This was not the end of our journey; it was only the first of the many ride-alongs we plan for the future.

## INVITATION!

Your editorials are invited! Any topic that is of interest to high school kids will be considered. Send your thoughts to CLASS!, 6290 Harrison Drive, Suite 10, Las Vegas 89120.

## Fallen leader teaches lessons to uncertain world left behind

By Isaac Blumberg, *The Meadows School*



Blumberg

The worldwide shock wave of the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin forced people to ask what can be learned from this tragedy. Some of the lessons are:

**We should appreciate wise leaders while we have them.** The proverb, "You never appreciate something until it's gone" comes to mind. People [often don't] realize

what it is to have a good leader; too often the only time they appreciate a leader is after this death. Both this assassination and that of President John F. Kennedy forced their respective countries to acknowledge their leadership contributions.

**Hasty conclusions are often wrong.** When news of the assassination came, many people first believed that it was done by an Arab because of the long-term conflicts between the Israelis and the Arabs. This hasty conclusion was proven to be wrong; the assassination was committed by an Israeli. Such conclusions can lead to permanent friction between cultures. Between individuals, hasty conclusions can create hurt and broken friendships.

**It should not require a death to bring world leaders together.** The assassination of Rabin brought many world leaders together in Israel. For some, it was their first time ever to enter Israel. If leaders could assemble without a tragedy, perhaps meaningful talks could develop.

**Betrayal adds to the tragedy.** The main shock, other than the actual assassination, was the betrayal of an Israeli against an Israeli leader. Had the assassin been a foreigner, Israelis could explain the event and retaliate appropriately. Many wonder why someone would kill his own leader. America had the same problem with Kennedy. The betrayal makes the tragedy harder.

**Most important, all human life is fragile.** People must remember how fragile life is and how easily it can be taken away. When someone we love leaves home in the morning, there is no way to know whether that person will return or not, no way to tell what tragedy can happen. This is a lesson in the need for human kindness.

### Disabled students workshop set

"Looking Into the Future, Today" (LIFT) is a workshop on issues faced by high school students with disabilities and their families.

This free workshop for students and their families is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 8:30am to 1:00pm, at UNLV's Moyer Student Union.

Topics will include employment, independent living, community services, and legal issues. This workshop is free and is sponsored by CCSD Special Student Services, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the UNLV Disability Resource Center.

Please contact Alison Kasner at the Clark County School District for more information—799-7973.

## Almost sick to death: restling with his weight.

By Shannon Bowen, *Las Vegas High School*

Wrestling is a sport of strength, endurance and, most importantly, weight. Many wrestlers will cut 10 or 15 pounds off their normal body weight to wrestle in a certain weight class. My best friend, Scott, must cut 35 pounds at the beginning of the season and an average of 10 pounds weekly. His daily struggle with weight has become an upsetting and personal reality for me.

### LYING

Watching Scott throughout the day, I know that he does not eat. He never seems to have time for breakfast and does not eat lunch, either. At home he will tell his parents he ate lunch to avoid having to eat dinner. The next day passes the same way, with the same excuses, the same routine, week after week.

Before each match, Scott must weigh in at 189 pounds. If he wrestles two or three days in a row, he may get a one-pound allowance on the second day and a two-pound allowance on the third day.

The problem is, knowing he can only gain one or two pounds, he will still refuse to eat. Understand, this is not how Scott behaves for just one or two weeks. He maintains this routine for almost three months. An average week allows eating on Saturday, snacking on Sunday, and then crash dieting from Monday until Friday. Each day is a struggle.

Aside from starving himself, Scott has several different methods for losing 10 pounds in three days. The easiest is wrestling practice.

Depending on how much water weight he is carrying, Scott can lose one to five pounds in a single practice. Most evenings he runs about three miles. He dresses himself in several layers of shirts, shorts, sweaters and sweat pants, all of which are soaking wet when he returns--another two pounds gone.

To eliminate all possible water weight, he dehydrates himself. (Unfortunately, as soon as he drinks two or three glasses of water he

gains back six or more pounds. His body is so desperate for fluids, they are immediately absorbed.) For several days at a time he will not drink anything. He will sit in the sauna at his gym for one or two hours and shed another three pounds.

Finally, after three days of "dieting," he weighs 190. Only one more pound to lose before the match tonight. Spitting is the final step to rid his body of any excess water. (In rare instances Scott will resort to vomiting.)

Finally, he is on weight; he has reached his goal of 189. The few hours before the match are the only moments that Scott stops obsessing over losing weight. His concentration is now focused on winning, a dismal prospect considering he is too weak to offer his opponent any competition. This year, Scott has struggled to achieve a winning record, a goal he easily reached last year.

These changes in Scott's lifestyle are not only affecting him physically, but emotionally. Physically, he looks sick and pitiful. Scott's cheeks appear hollow and his face is white as a ghost, mainly from malnutrition. It is obvious he is dehydrated because his tongue is white and he is always shivering, a result of poor blood circulation.

### GROUCHY

Scott is not the same person, either...not as energetic or as much fun. Instead, he is tense, grouchy and short-tempered. He constantly complains about being tired, hungry and sore. Scott's school work and job are suffering along with his health.

Day and night he concentrates on wrestling, but more so on losing weight. Last year Scott loved wrestling, but last year he didn't have to cut nearly as much weight. Scott has told me that he now hates wrestling, every practice and every match. Being his friend, I try to persuade him to eat and try to become healthy again, but I also must support his decision and his actions. I have suggested that he quit for a year until next season when he can wrestle a higher weight class.

"I can't disappoint anyone," he says, "Not my coaches, not my family and not myself."

To Scott, quitting is far worse than suffering each day.



## Maryann rebuilds relationship

(Continued from page 5)

that day from "a dealer looking for business...he urged me to just try it. The school cop found it on me when someone reported me to the school."

(She's a student at a Clark County high school.)

She was taken to juvenile hall and put into a solitary cell. She recalls, "All the other rooms were overcrowded, probably with guys...I seemed to be the only girl there."

"I was really scared," Maryann admits. "My mother picked me up after about four hours, and then a month later I had to go to court," where she learned her punishment. This included a restriction on her learners permit for driving.

"My friends at school felt bad for me," she says. "Everybody knew about it, there's so much gossip at school."

But she suffered special embarrassment knowing that a lot of adults knew about her. "I really respect adults and don't want them to look down on me," Maryann says.

Now she and her mother are starting to bond again. "We never used to talk very much — really, not at all — but now we do talk. She understands me better."

Does Maryann have any words for other teens? Very few:

"Don't do drugs."

*\*Maryann Nelson is not her real name.*

**What do you mean,  
you're no Einstein?!**

## Women in science seminar offered for women in high school

Does a woman engineer drive trains? Does she design skyscrapers, repair electrical systems in cars, even teach math?

You'll get the answers — and a whole lot more — when you attend a conference called "Expanding your Horizons in Science and Mathematics" March 9. It's a girls-only event.

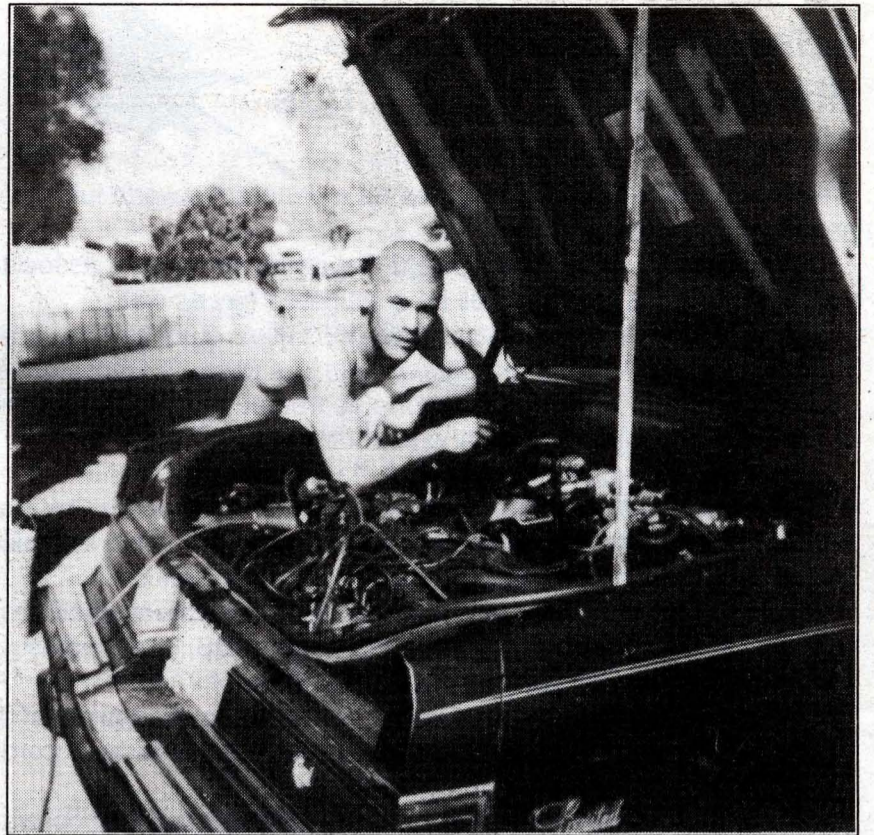
Thirty workshops are scheduled, including some hands-on experiences. Some very dynamic women with careers in math and science will be on hand to talk with you and explain how to prepare for one of these great careers.

Special treat: you will hear a discussion of women in athletic careers will be presented by Jane Curry, author of "Nice Girls Don't Sweat." Your parents are also invited to this witty and warm talk.

The registration fee of \$7 includes lunch and all your conference materials.

Call Kathy Lauckner at 895-1423 if you are interested.

Hey, MRS. Einstein had a terrific career as a physicist, too; it's just that Albert had a better press agent!



**INTO HYDRAULICS** (not trouble) — Luis Fuentes is in the alternative sentencing program that gives teens a chance to avoid little cells with big bars. Luis spends some quality time with the hydraulic system of his car.

## No more 'next time' for Luis

(Continued from page 5)

"My parents warned me not to get in trouble again or they would send me to Mexico," says Luis Fuentes. "Then the second time I did it, I was sent to Chihuahua for three months to stay with my grandmother."

What Luis did is called auto theft and burglary, and now he is serving a sentence after being caught for the fourth time. But Luis is lucky: his sentence is probation and community service. If he is ever arrested for anything again, he'll be locked up.

Until his recent problems, 17-year-old Luis was a student at Rancho High. He admits that he was involved with a gang since he was 10, but "I don't hang around with them anymore," he says.

Now he has a fulltime job, doing construction work on new houses, and he is completing 80 hours of community service, cleaning up the Golden Glove gym, where boxers train.

He says other teens should not make the same mistakes he did. "The police were kind rough a couple of times" when he was arrested, he says. "I stayed in a cell [in Juvenile Hall] when they arrested me." His time in lock-up kept increasing, from a couple of hours the first day to a week the last time.

Luis uses his free time now to "mess around with hydraulic cars." He has his own car, has installed a hydraulic system and plans to paint it.

That sure beats making license plates behind bars!

## Homeless families need caring all year

(Continued from page 29)

Homeless women who work do not always make enough money to afford housing in low-income neighborhoods. Ironically, a great number of poor people pay more rent than people with higher incomes.

The Shade Tree, a shelter for women and children, has been in operation since December 1990...and has provided more than 91,000 nights of shelter.

Clients are usually able to move out within 30-45 days, but they are allowed to remain for 90 days if needed to secure permanent housing.

The shelter provides many amenities of home. With donations from local people and companies, the Shade Tree provides clothing, personal hygiene items, and laundry and bathing facilities.

What can you do to help? You can donate time or items to The Shade Tree. A list of needed items are posted in Cheyenne's office windows. Or call to find out what you can do:

Deborah Warren, Donations Coordinator, or Cynthia Santos, Volunteer Coordinator, at 385-0072.

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**KAPLAN**

## Education can defeat discrimination of all kinds

(Continued from page 12)

preference they should be prepared for a dangerous world full of discrimination.

Heterosexual students are afraid that if they are caught associating with a gay student that they will be considered gay as well.

Teacher Joanie Phillips says, "We don't allow students to use racist language, but we smirk at derogatory remarks toward homosexuals. Until we, as educators, insist that everyone be treated equally, our students will continue to discriminate against one another."

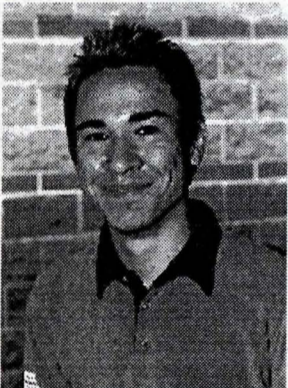
John faces his problems this way: "I often drink alcohol in order to enter a world of acceptance." Self-acceptance is considered by most to be the hardest factor of being gay because most gay youth are raised with the same biases toward homosexuality as heterosexuals.

The result is that many gay youths drop out of school, become pregnant, run away from home, abuse alcohol, get AIDS, or attempt suicide, says Arnold H. Grossman in the April '95 edition of *The Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance*. Statistics have shown that 30% of all gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth have attempted suicide, according to a study by researcher Gary Remafedi in 1991.

"What helped my friends and I the most through high school was the Gay Youth Alliance we started," says Mark. "Sure we had to go through the administrators, but it was well worth it."

Most heterosexuals have a strong homophobia because they have never knowingly met a homosexual. A solution for this problem would be if more lesbians and gays were honest with their friends about their sexual preferences. Most gays are afraid to be open about their sexuality because they are not aware of the many resources available to them.

Las Vegas has a Gay and Lesbian Community Center which offers a wide variety of social gatherings. Las Vegas is also the home of a national organization known as PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) which meets monthly.



Manny Reyes, senior at Las Vegas High School mediated the student forum, "Teen Sexuality," found on pages 13, 14

## Student forum discusses teen sexuality and society

(Continued from page 15)

think that many of the girls let it continue. If they would stand and tell the aggressor how they feel, we wouldn't have so many problems concerning sexual harassment.

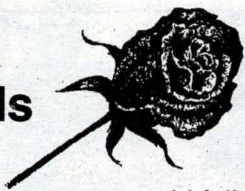
**Raul:** We have been discussing problems resulting from sexual activity. Do you feel that abstinence is the only and best solution to these problems?

**Lea:** People definitely think that it's the only solution, but it's an unrealistic one. Sex is too tempting for some to have everyone practice abstinence.

**Robby:** Yes, I think that it's the best solution to all the problems and everyone would consider practicing it. I would get rid of many of the problems.

**Adam:** I don't think that it's the only solution. There are condoms, birth control pills, and many other forms of protection. I do think that it's the safest one, but it's unrealistic to think that everyone would practice it.

**Nancy:** For the first time I pretty much agree with everyone else. It's the best and safest solution, but it's not going to happen. Hardly anyone practices abstinence.



## IT'S ON MY MIND TODAY

### More problems to ponder than neighbor's skin color

An editorial by Reyna Quijano, Cheyenne High School

Diversity truly describes our school and community. Over the past years, minorities have risen above discrimination. Prejudice isn't just a word directed towards Blacks and Whites, but towards Hispanics, Asians, women, and children. Our society is to a point where we need to set aside gender, age, sexual preference, and color. We need to worry about the homeless and less fortunate, about a balanced budget, future generations, and crime — not what color our next door neighbor is.

On October 4, 1995, a jury declared O.J. Simpson not guilty of murder. Our nation is torn into two, Black and White. Most Americans also witnessed the videotape beating of Rodney King, by the Los Angeles police officers. This stuck in our minds as an example of police brutality against African-Americans. The declared innocence of these so-called police officers resulted in the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

Racial division is nothing new. In 1966, a government commission, investigating race riots in U.S. cities, concluded that,

"Our nation is moving towards two societies, one Black and one White, separate and unequal." Is this how we want to live? As separate nations? Racial differences have divided our country for years, making many wonder if we are two separate nations. Despite increased efforts to end racism over the past few decades, Whites and Blacks often view each other with suspicion. One man does not see another man as a human being, but he sees him as a color.

Here are some actual cases of discrimination against people:

-- A video arcade limits black kids to groups of two and lets others enter in large groups.

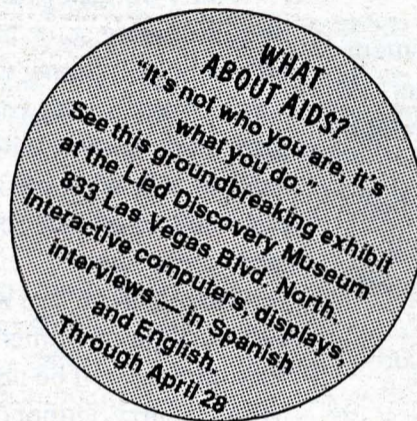
-- A store's policy is that Hispanic kids are followed by a security guard and others are not.

-- A school official makes racially derogatory remarks to a student.

In theory, the U.S. Constitution and Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects everyone from discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, color, or religion. People have to speak out to insure justice is served.

"If a person in charge of an institution that is open to the public treats you unfairly because you are a member of a minority group, that's illegal," says Kevin Reed, a staff attorney at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Remember this, "Love is Blind, maybe the rest of the world should be!" Spike Lee once said, "Racism is the number one cancer in America." What do you think?



### Life with Grandma: 'It's the small things'

(Continued from page 28)

It's been a long time since her feeble legs have played hopscotch and her worn, arthritic hands have played a piano. These are the things she misses most.

I realize this as I watch her stroke the piano keys as she remembers the talent she once had. Her swollen fingers press each key lightly. A tune played by memory, timidly creeps through the piano.

She is barely able to force the keys downward, but is determined to finish the song. I wonder what her frustrated mind is saying to those stubborn fingers.

It's not the hearing, eyesight and strength she misses, it's the small things.

I can't feel bad that my grandma can't hear well and isn't able to walk quickly; these things occur with age. A walk in my grandma's shoes teaches that time shouldn't be hurriedly thrown away. Time should be cherished, remembering the small things that make us happy.

ONE HOT TOPIC TODAY IS REZONING IN THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT. WILL IT AFFECT YOU? IF SO, HOW? WHAT ARE THE LONGTERM BENEFITS?

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# Career Opportunities

If you are interested in a career opportunity with a stable, growing corporation based in your hometown, we would like to speak with you.

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

PEC (Preferred Equities Corporation) has been a part of the Southern Nevada community for more than 25 years. Our corporate headquarters is in Las Vegas and we are proud to be a vital part of the educational, commercial and cultural life here.

We are the developers of Calvada, an 18,000-acre development in Pahrump with two golf courses, a sports complex, and an RV park.

The company also operates five interval ownership resorts—in Las Vegas and Reno; in Honolulu, Hawaii; in Steamboat Springs, Colorado; and Brigantine, New Jersey.

Contact our Human Resources Department by writing to us at 4310 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109.

