

CLASS!

MARCH 1996

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

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silence, no sports
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Art looks better
than it tastes
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with Spectrum
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Where's a good teen when you want one? Everywhere!

By Aaron McKinnon
Senior, Clark High School
and CLASS Staff Writer



A teen murders his best friend. A juvenile attacks a teacher. A member of the high school football team kills his girlfriend.

Too often this is all we hear of high school students. However, the majority are not this way, and a few are even exceptional.

A prime example is Eldorado freshman **Michelle Theodore**. During the holidays, she and four friends — **Lena Beata, Olga Lopez, Sabrina Skeary** and **Pauletta Nichols** — “adopted” a five-year-old child, **Georgie**.

“I was thinking about [things] one evening,” explains Michelle. “Christmas was coming up and I got a couple of ideas.” She thought about helping out women’s shelters, such as Shade Tree, but discovered others were needier still.

Michelle soon became aware of HELP of Southern Nevada, an agency that offers two programs for the holiday season. One is a special “toy store” the agency sets up, where charitable persons donate toys and gifts. Michelle was persuaded to give to the toy store, since positions in the other program, Adopt-a-Child, had been filled.

Two minutes after getting off the phone with Brenda, a representative for HELP, the phone rang: a mother had just put her son up for “adoption.”

In this sort of adoption, a parent puts a needy child’s name on a list along with the things he or she wants or needs. And so Michelle’s job was to get Georgie the items on his wish list. Michelle.

However, as excited as the five girls were, the road to this point was not so easy. Knowing that they wanted to help

someone, Michelle and her friends needed to raise some money. They decided to have a car wash, but needed a place to hold it; Carl’s Jr. was generous enough to let them have the car wash in its parking lot. The group raised almost \$100; they were set.

After getting off the phone with Brenda the second time, Michelle planned to get Georgie some of the things on his Christmas list.

“One evening,” explains the Eldorado freshman, “I went to the store and got him some clothes and toys. I wrapped everything up and enclosed a card.” She continues, “I asked his mother, that if she got the chance, to send me a picture of Georgie.”

Two weeks later, she got the photo in addition to a letter from the thankful parent. “The mother was really happy,” Michelle elaborated. “She cried tears of joy.”

“It made me feel real happy,” adds Michelle, “that my friends and I could help. We made someone’s day brighter.”

Michelle got her charitable start with the National Junior Honor Society, of which she was president in junior high. She visited retirement homes and the like.

“I really enjoyed helping people,” she comments. “I made someone smile; I’m a real people-person.” She also attributes her giving personality to her leadership attitude.

“I like to be a leader,” she explains. “It makes me happy when other people, like my brothers and sisters, look up to me.”

So, skeptics who complain that teenagers are selfish and inconsiderate, that they care only about themselves, can think again. There are students out there, like Michelle and her friends, that those skeptics can learn a lot from.

Classroom ‘merchant’ deals in better education

By Chris Alo,
Chaparral High School

When you think of a cool, hip, 90s teacher, you think of Jeff Hobbs, a Life Science teacher at Chaparral who also teaches biology labs at UNLV.

Three years ago Hobbs came to Chaparral with a vision of making a difference. So, as the saying goes, the rest is history.

Since two years ago, student grades in Hobbs’ life science classes are up a whopping ten percent. What can this be attributed to? “Positive reinforcement” — the idea that it is better to reward students for good things than punish them for bad.

From day one, you can tell something different is happening in Hobbs’ class, where students are not students but “junior scientists,” and Hobbs is not a teacher in the traditional sense, he is a “senior scientist.”

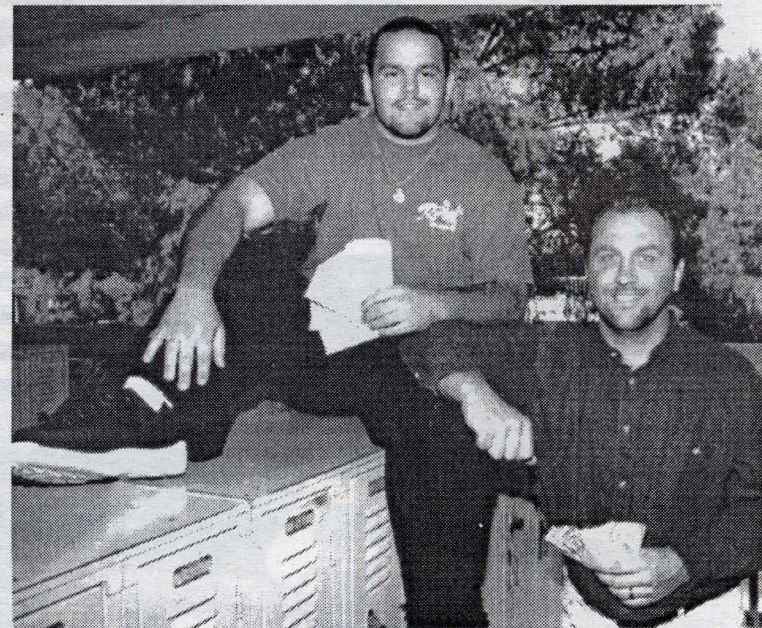
WORK CONTRACTS

Students don’t go to class, they “go to work”; and instead of class expectation sheets, they sign employment contracts.

Most forms of employment give pay and this is no different, with the exception of the form of currency: in Life Science it’s “funny money.”

“You have to work and earn the money,” says **Stacey Paradice**, a former student of Hobbs. Work entails success on tests, as well as completed and graded homework and classroom assignments.

Not everything is roses, though. For negative things such as misconduct, swearing, horseplay and tardies, not only are funny dollars not given, tickets are given



ABOVE: Creative teacher Jeff Hobbs tempts student Chris Alo with the funny money used in class. Alo wrote the accompanying story.

and you must pay funny money fines.

What is all this money for?

First, at the Hobbs General Store, food and beverages can be purchased. Second, it can be used at any of Mr. Hobbs’ general auctions and/or rummage sales. And, to appeal to those more worried about their grades than their tummies, extra credit can be purchased at an exchange rate of one grade percent to every \$10.00.

“It’s easier on me as a teacher, and makes class more enjoyable for the students when I use positive reinforcement,” Hobbs says.

Hobbs also feels it’s not all fun and games: “Bottom line, the kids work hard, and the key word is work. Yet we all have fun in the process. I teach the kids that it’s still fun to learn,” he says.

PIED PIPER

Hobbs has received several awards and commendations for work he has done in the classroom. He was once called the “Pied Piper,” leading his students

through the world of life science, by Larry Lee, former Assistant Principal at Chaparral.

Students in Hobbs’ class love the funny money system and the idea of being treated like an employee.

“It’s a good idea; it works, because it prepares you for the real world,” **Karal Rivera** says.

REAL WORLD

“It’s fun and it helps you be responsible with money, because you learn the value of real money,” says **Veronica Sanchez**.

“It’s a different responsibility than other classes,” **Sal Portillo** says.

“It gets you ready for the work world,” says **Jason Hubbard**.

ARMY BAND CONCERT

The famous U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers’ Chorus will present a free concert 7:30pm, March 20 at Valley View Rec Center in Henderson. Call for details: 565-2367.

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Drugs, guns, pregnancy replace gum-chewing as school problems

"Have we done our best?"

That is the question asked by Brian Cram, Clark County School District superintendent, when he delivered his "State of the School District" report recently.

He asked whether the educators, business leaders and parents of Southern Nevada have done their best about...

- Keeping students interested in school through graduation;
- Getting kids excited about going to college;

- Solving the problems of guns in school, teen pregnancy, teen suicide, gangs, drugs, alcohol;

- Not letting poverty keep kids from learning and making a good future.

NOT 'CAN' BUT 'WILL'

Dr. Cram, who graduated from Las Vegas High School, remembers when the "big" problems facing students were chewing gum in class, running in the halls, and the dress code.

Facing today's problems, he says, "It's not a matter of can we deal with them, but will we?"

Dr. Cram points out that the economy of Southern Nevada is very strong and growing: we are 9th in the nation in income, but 33rd in spending on education.

(See School District, page 30)

ON THE COVER

"CALLER, YOU'RE ON THE AIR!"

Rosemarie McMorris, a senior at Cimarron-Memorial High School, has hosted her own radio show since ninth grade. "Teen Talk," on public radio station KCEP (FM88), is a call-in show with open lines Saturday mornings, 9-9:30. Rosemarie likes to give information about activities available for teens in the community — "alternatives to just hanging' around," she says. So far, (See Rosemarie, page 31)

Sorry, Raul!

The February edition of CLASS! featured a forum on teen sexuality that has earned high praise. Unfortunately, we did not correctly identify the student whose concept the forum was, who organized it and then moderated it:



Raul Daniels, a junior at Las Vegas High School.

Daniels is an excellent writer — and an even more excellent

young citizen. We apologize for the error, Raul.

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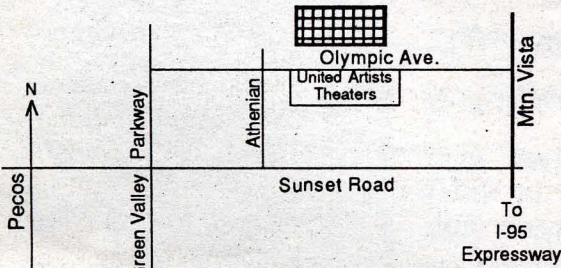
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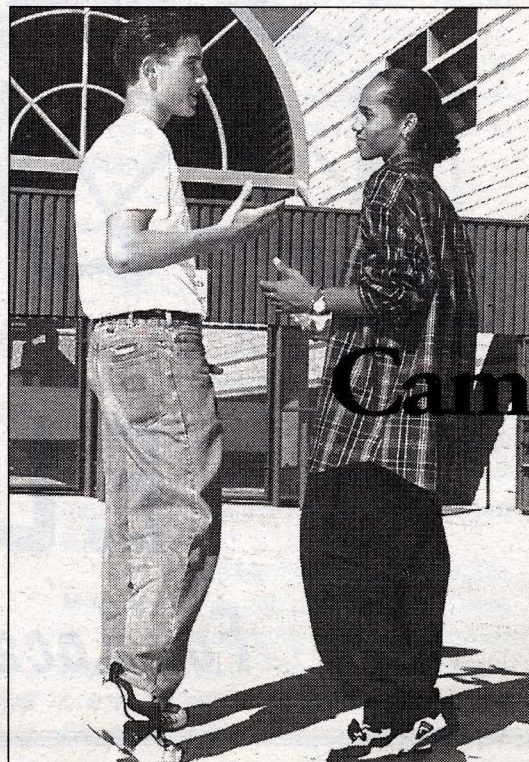
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**Sounds of Blackness:
A success story**

By Monica Rawlinson and Angela Ray

Western High School held its annual Black History Show February 29. This year's show consisted of singing, dancing, skits, poetry and a variety of special guest entertainers.

The theme was "Sounds of Blackness," and the show was a great success.

The "royalty" for the Black History show included:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Maurice Rutledge, Senior King | Najhala Walker, Senior Queen |
| Terrell Webb, Junior Prince | Keisha Flemming, Jr. Princess |
| Dan Brigham, Sophomore Duke | Kengel Rankin, Soph. Duchess |
| Freddie Smith, Freshman Count | Natoya Green, Frshmn Countess |

DRACULA WAS ABSENT THAT DAY

By Kaycee French and Josh Hicks

Western High School held its annual blood drive early last month. A committee of student council members assisted with the drive, which was held in the school gym.

During the event, Western had 130 willing students and an actual 106 donors. This exceeds last year's number.

Thanks to everyone from United Blood Services and all the students who took time to show up. It took a whole lot out of us!

Student leader honored

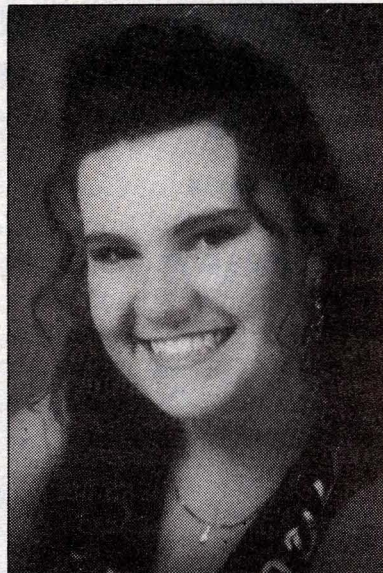
By Ben LaCombe

Paula De Stefani was recently selected as the Josten/News-3FM/Saturn "Student of the Week."

De Stefani received the award from Jenny O'Mara of News-3FM, and numerous gifts from contributing sponsors were presented by Angie VanBuren and Jeff Pankoff of Josten's.

De Stefani is secretary of the Executive Board Council and president of Western's Latin Club. She has been a member of the National Honor Society and the Key Club for two years, and is regarded by many as a great student leader.

She plans to attend the University of Nevada, Reno, and get her degree in Physical Therapy.



RIGHT: De Stefani

Changing faces

Adapted from a report by Kodi Rushton, Zach Larsen and Tom Bryan

Western has undergone two changes in administration this year.

Starting the new school year, Coach Joe Blockovich moved from head football coach to athletic director, and was replaced by Coach Richard Stevens.

And starting this semester, Ronan Matthew replaced Lanny Lund, who retired as Western's principal.

Matthew came to Western after five years at Jefferson Opportunity School. He has been supporting Western activities and raising school spirit. He attends our many athletic games, theater presentations and other school events.

Stevens is already preparing for the next football season by helping the incoming players to prepare for the challenges that await them.

KJMZ

**94.1
JAMZ**

L A S V E G A S

F.L.O.

For Locals Only!!

Jewish teens build memories in BBYO

By *Nathene Newman,*
Valley High School



Attention all Jewish teenagers interested in changing their lives, meeting new friends and making high school years more memorable than they ever dreamed possible.

I urge you to get involved in the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO). It's a decision that will change you forever.

BBYO is the oldest and largest Jewish youth organization in the world. It was founded upon the ideal of "Uniting Jewish youth everywhere."

You do not have to belong to a temple or even know what a Star of David is...and you can be in BBYO even if you are a strictly practicing Orthodox Jew.

As we Jews say, "G-d is one." BBYO is working toward the goal of G-d being able to say, "My people are one, as well."

BBYO has the Aleph Zadik Aleph (male division) and the B'nai B'rith Girls (female division). It is a completely youth-led organization. So, while you are making best friends, having fun and creating treasured memories, you can also develop skills as a leader.

BBYO is an international organization. As a member, you will not only meet friends here, but also throughout Nevada and in Arizona and Utah during the five Mountain Region events of the year.

In addition, BBYO offers summer programs in which you'll meet members from around the world. These programs include two- and three-week leadership camps, a four-week Judaism seminar, a week-long convention, and programs in Israel.

In BBYO, you don't only help yourself. We are a community service

organization. Through our International Service Fund, we allocated more than \$1,000 each to 10 organizations last year. These included AIDS Research, Planned Parenthood, and MAZON, an organization for the homeless.

If you value experience and care about helping in our community, if you want to discover your Jewish identity and learn to be a leader, if you are interested in making your high school years more exciting and memorable, BBYO is for you.

Call Randie Gorbena, city director of BBYO, at 897-7656.

Growing up with hope in a climate of fear

The threat of crime and violence has led significant numbers of teens to carry weapons, miss school, get lower grades, condone retaliation and rationalize gang behavior.

This was the conclusion of a nationwide Harris Poll of 2,000 middle and high school students.

But contrary to the stereotype of youth resigned to these conditions, a great majority of kids are determined to change this situation and are willing to volunteer their time.

PRISONERS OF FEAR

Crime and violence have influenced the way kids live, learn, think, play and behave. Today, many teens live in such a climate of fear that they won't even venture out into their own neighborhoods...and many are reluctant to rely on the police.

This fear, distrust and withdrawal from school work are especially tough problems for kids who live in neighborhoods considered "at risk." Compared to other youths, these at-risk teenagers are more than four times as likely to carry a weapon and cut school or class; more than three times as likely to get lower grades than they otherwise would have; and more than twice as likely to avoid certain parks because of their fear of crime and violence.

(At-risk neighborhoods are defined as having a high incidence of drugs, crime and gang activity.)

KIDS WOULD HELP

The survey also shows that 86% of young people want to help end this climate of fear but they also want support from the rest of society. Look at the numbers:

- 26% of all teens do not feel safe on their own block, however...
- 47% of teens in at-risk neighborhoods feel the same way
- 60% of all students worry about their safety while walking to and from friends' homes after

dark.

- 40% had safety concerns about the area around their schools and nearby park.

- 29% fear becoming a victim of a drive-by shooting, however...

- 48% in at-risk neighborhoods have that fear (44% African American students and 41% Hispanic students).

- 75% of teens in at-risk neighborhood say crime is a serious problem.

And what about teenagers' involvement in physical fights, either starting them or retaliating? And what about weapons and drugs?

- 40% have fought in the past year with another teen about their age; about half started at least one of these fights. However...

- 64% of kids in at-risk neighborhoods have been in physical fights.

- 56% say friends should defend you if you are "dissed," no matter what it's about.

- 30% say that a boy has the right to get back at someone who "checks out his girlfriend" (and 24% say that a girl has this right, too).

- 35% of all students surveyed say they have seen or been in fights where weapons are involved: 71% of teens in at-risk neighborhoods agree.

- 21% of all teens and 49% of at-risk teens have seen or been in fights where knives are used.

- 14% of all teens and 44% of at-risk teens have seen or been in fights where a gun was involved.

- 82% of kids living in at-risk neighborhoods say it is very easy to get drugs, compared to 29% of all teens surveyed.

- 61% of all young people believe that drugs deserve a lot of blame for violence against teens.

This study was cosponsored by the National Crime Prevention Council and the National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law.

JUST
A THOUGHT

Curfew cuts kids off

By *Hagar Labouz,*
Las Vegas Academy



Midnight on the weekends and 10 p.m. on weekdays are the times set by the city of Las Vegas for curfews of teens under the age of 18. On the Las

Vegas Strip, the curfew is 9:30 p.m. Some students feel the curfew is unfair. "It's necessary for some people, not others," says **Tara Adams**, freshman.

If you get caught out past curfew by an officer you will be taken to Juvenile Detention Center and your parents will have to pick you up. The information will also go on your records.

Many teens find it hard to find entertainment after the late hours and go out anyway.

"As long as I don't get caught, I don't care," says **Vicky Barrera**, sophomore.

WHAT'S UP AT SOME SCHOOLS

BASIC

Movie on the Field, 8pm March 28 on the football field. **Super Star Rally**, same place, at 11am March 30. Pre-festival **Choir Concert**, 7pm March 19 in Green Valley High School theatre. **The Wizard of Oz**, starting April 30.

ELDORADO

Band Exchange Concert March 29 in the cafeteria and theater. Time to be announced. **Carnival Circus** (Third Annual) 3-9pm April 13 in the quad and cafeteria.

CIMARRON-MEMORIAL

Pre-festival **Orchestra Contest**, 7pm March 19 in the theatre, followed by **Choir Concert** the next evening. **Mr. Spartan Pageant** 7pm March 26 in the theatre. **Best of the Best** in that same theatre, 7:30pm March 28.

GREEN VALLEY

Pre-festival **Choir Concert**, 7pm March 20 in the theatre. (Looks like everybody's singin' that night.) Pre-festival **Orchestra Concert**, 7pm March 26. **Fusion Show** in the theatre, 7pm April 12-13. **One-Act Plays**, 7pm April 18-20.

Artist 'resides' on campus

By Eric Petty

Artist-in-residence, Roberto Salas assisted students from the Advanced Technologies Academy in designing a mural which will be hung in the entryway of our school.

"The icons super-imposed on the palms of the students' hands represent different cultures. Gradients behind the hands enhance and reinforce the dominant colors of the cultural icons," says computer graphics teacher Sue Garn, explaining the meaning behind the murals.

The program gave students an opportunity to be discriminating in their work. A large amount of research was required of the students. Books from A-TECH's library along with the Rainbow Library and the West Charleston branches of the Clark County Library System were studied. Ethnic motifs were referenced for the icons to be placed on the palms of the hands.

Students will soon have the opportunity for this experience again, provided that Principal Kinnaird approves. Salas and Garn envision long, student-produced digital images wrapped around the cement columns in our atrium.

Euthanasia: Mercy or mercenary?

By Stephen Hayden

Euthanasia. Just speaking the word causes some people to shudder. The act of killing another human being is just too gruesome and wrong to some people.

Well, what are they gagging on? What would they do if their best friend was sentenced to life on his back in a hospital, just waiting for some incurable disease to rob him of his insides? What would they do if they were told that this same best friend begged for his death because of the pain gnawing at his vital organs, as tubes pump in "life?" The tubes fight a desperate, hopeless war with the disease, and one knows that it is impossible odds, for the medication is only an experiment in process.

Many people all over the United States suffer from illnesses that have no cure. Some are bedridden, while others (like those with the dormant ver-

sion of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome also known as AIDS virus) can lead near-normal lives. It's the people who are disabled before or because of their disease that are the subject of great controversy. Some of these people are the willing victims of euthanasia. Well? What is one to do?

Personally, I see nothing wrong with euthanasia. If I were to be trapped in a white room in some hospital for the remainder of my existence on this planet, I would probably beg for this suffering to end!

Euthanasia is a person's last chance to escape from this life if they are permanently disabled because of disease or injury, and if they want to go.

How can there be this much fuss over the death of probably less than 1,000 people a year, especially people who have chosen this option? For me, this case is definitely closed.

A-TECH: VIVA LA DIFFERENCE!

By Sonia Hernandez

Many students have tried to make A-TECH more like a high school, but there are certain things that aren't accepted in this school that are appropriate in others. As a magnet school, A-TECH is definitely different.

One reason why A-TECH is different is the quiet in the school during class sessions. There is also a lot of room to move around, with the halls not as crowded as in a regular high school. Lunch is longer by five minutes, which is beneficial, leaving students free from worry about tardies and getting served on time.

There does not seem to be much rivalry among classes, and the freshmen don't get picked on as much. Because of the over-all nature of the students, there is little need for discipline.

Stephen Hayden says, "I think the discipline here at our school is different concerning tardies and Required Parent Conferences (RPC's)."

Tardies at A-TECH are not acceptable. Every student gets the maximum of three tardies and on the third one, they go to the principal. RPC's are another source of punishment in that at A-TECH, each student only gets two and after the second one, they go back to their zoned school.

A Western High School student, Adrian Indonisio says, "All the students who attend A-TECH are accomplished in what they are interested in. Meanwhile, many of the normal high school students just go to school to fool around

and kick back with their friends."

A-TECH junior Paulo Sotero says, "Our school is nice. The bathrooms are clean, nobody gets beat up, and our school doesn't have any graffiti."

Another junior, Chris Hanisko, says, "The modern technology that we use in the classrooms is a lot different from the normal schools."

Referring to the stricter standards, sophomore Gabe Fisk says, "I feel like I'm in junior high again."

Sophomore Mike Smith says, "The main difference is that we don't have any sports." Students who wish to play sports must do so at their home school.

Another student, wishing to remain anonymous, says, "I think the attitude that the students have towards our school makes A-TECH different."

Mallrats: Beating up an Easter Bunny good escape

By Mike Smith

No matter what might happen in life, tragedy or happiness, there is always one place where all are welcome: the Mall.

This was the mentality of the characters in the movie, *Mallrats*. They figure the mall is a sanctuary. It seemed they had everything needed for the average person to survive, as well as entertainment.

Mallrats was a lovesick comedy about two guys who lost their girlfriends. Eventually they all end up in the mall. The guys, T.J. (Jeremy London), and Brodie (Jason Lee), do anything for these women. That is exactly what the women want. So, the guys go all out to win back their women.

Among the few characters in the movie were Jay (Jason Muse) and Silent Bob (Kevin Smith, who was also the director). These guys were a pair of trouble-causing vagrants, who seemed to live at the Mall. They were loyal to their friends, and proved it by beating up the Easter Bunny to avenge Brodie. They were creative and original. Every time these two were on screen, the audience was anxious to see what their next move was. They were hilarious.

Mallrats was an entertaining escape. It's definitely worth the time and the few bucks to see, especially if it shows up in the cheap theaters. If you miss it then, be sure to rent the video.

Anthony visits Rancho: 'scene of his prime'

By Leslie Nino

Giving back to a community that gave so much to him is an important goal of Vancouver Grizzlies guard Greg Anthony. He created a foundation in his name to help outstanding student athletes pay for a college education that might not otherwise be possible. Last month, the Foundation presented a check for \$19,000 to the Clark County School District.

Each high school in the district will have the opportunity to give a senior with a 3.0 cumulative GPA, at least 19 on the ACT, and 1000 on the SAT, a scholarship for \$1,000. This is the first year the Foundation has had a joint partnership with the School District and various other organizations to donate funds in the Valley. In addition, the foundation hopes to double the amount of money donated each year until it is able to give full-ride scholarships to a student athlete from each school every year.

Greg Anthony is someone that Las Vegas and Rancho are proud of. Anthony led the Rancho Ram basketball team all the way to a Southern Zone Championship and a State title. Rancho athletic director, Len Czarnecki was one of the first to shape his basketball career when Czarnecki was the eighth grade coach at Jim Bridger Junior High.

Anthony continued his education at UNLV and played basketball with other future stars such as Larry Johnson and Stacey Augmon. Together they took Runnin' Rebel basketball to the NCAA National Championship in 1990 and a one-lose season with a Final Four appearance in 1991. Each went on to an NBA team. Anthony signed with the New York Knicks and is currently playing for an expansion team, the Vancouver Grizzlies.

Anthony was on hand for the presentation, which was held in Rancho's new gym. Ernie Jauregui grinned, "It was like a coming home for Greg." Anthony recalls "the

best four years of my life were at Rancho." Being back at The Ranch brought back many fond memories for him. "Every one of my teachers stressed the value of an education," says Anthony.

Meeting the students and signing autographs was no hassle for the basketball star who had not forgotten his roots. He took time out of his busy schedule to remind students to "follow the right road in life." Anthony knows from personal experience that "the opportunities of an education" far outweigh any other course in life.



Demetria Miller

Miller selected for All-Conference

By Amanda La Pointe

Demetria Miller, varsity basketball player, made the All-Conference, Sunrise Division team.

She has been playing at Rancho for two years, averaging 14 points a game. Her most memorable game was against Green Valley...she scored 35 points and made 20 rebounds.

She has played basketball since eighth grade and has made it to State twice. Many colleges have made offers to Demetria, but she plans to attend the University of Southern Florida. She has the option to go to USC if she wants to be a little closer to home.



Greg Anthony speaking at Rancho

GRAHAM HAS MANY CAREER OPTIONS

By Mina Calaunan



"I got skills." And she is absolutely right. Venetia Graham is an outstanding athlete who has made it to the All City and All Southern Conference teams.

Graham's parents had a lot to do with her success in basketball. When she was three, her father started teaching her how to play, and along with this teaching, she has had her mother's support.

After Graham graduates from Rancho, the University of North Carolina is her first choice; she has many options including UCLA and San Diego State.

Off the court, Graham just likes to "kick it" with friends. They go to the movies, bowl, and go to parties.

Students must fight for continuing liberty

By Leslie Nino (right)

Congressman John Ensign visited Rancho to speak to Government classes recently to ensure that high school seniors would take a dynamic role in the future of their government. He reminded seniors that the Founding Fathers created a democratic government that would be the envy of the free world, but it would only last if the public chose to stay involved.

A Clark High School graduate, Ensign is a veterinarian by profession. Beating an eight-year incumbent was thought to be impossible, but it was made reality by, in his words, "a peaceful revolution at the ballot box."

He started in politics to try to make a difference because he believes that "America is headed towards total moral decay." Congressman Ensign wants citizens to realize their responsibility, and to use their gifts and talents to change the course of a society that is on a downward spiral.



Graham



Ensign is the first Nevada member of the House Ways and Means Committee since 1899. He refers to the committee as the "most powerful congressional committee" because it writes laws concerning taxes, trade, Medicare, Medicaid, and other governmental control of money.

The freshman Republican praised

America's liberty that allows a budget debate but conveyed that the effects of a law passed in the near future

(See Liberty, page 31)

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WOLF PRINTS EDITORIAL

VANDALISM REFLECTS ON BASIC STUDENTS

SOUND OFF!

How do you feel about double sessions?

Alicia TerAvest, junior:
"I think it is an inconvenience. I don't have time for anything."

Jess Gansen, freshman:
"It's cool because we get to sleep in, but we have no time at night to do anything."

Craig Willey, junior:
"I don't like wasting the whole day away at school."

Lindsay Brown, junior:
"They're a waste of my time. I don't have time for anything."

Jennifer Pymm, junior:
"It's hard to get anything done during the day. The whole day is wasted."

Mark Bradley, senior:
"I like the double sessions because it allows me to sleep in."

Paul Eighmy, senior:
"I don't really like it because they don't allow me to work."

As we walk around our school and our city we can't help but notice all the vandalism that is taking place. This not only destroys property, but it also displays how truly childish the kids at our school are.

Have they nothing better to do than destroy other people's things? It really upsets us. You can't even go to the school bathroom without reading about your favorite gang. The sad thing is that it's really hard to catch the kids who do these things, and then, when they do catch them, all they get is a slap on the hand.

The vandalism problem not only makes everything around us look ugly, it also gives all the students at our school a bad reputation. Because of a few students the people who live around this school have to live with the fear of leaving possessions outside.

We don't know what the answer to this problem is, but one thing we do know is that we, the students of Basic High School, need to put an end to it. Maybe the answer is to make the punishment more severe. Remember, in countries like Singapore they have very little vandalism, but look at their means of punishment! Imagine if it was like that where we live.

Crazy Kid & Co. move to Las Vegas

By Rikki Skadoski (below)

Not long ago, 94.1 Jamz was taken over, or pirated, by Crazy Kid Stevenz, a D.J. in an uproar over the station's move to Las Vegas from their location on Water St. in Henderson.

The Crazy Kid felt that "94.1 was the last remaining Henderson radio station." He did not want to see Henderson lose any of its "standing respect in the community."

He also explained that there's "nothing wrong with moving to Vegas. I just wanted to make sure Henderson was recognized for all the support and loyalty they've shown to this radio station."

Before the Crazy Kid was willing to hand power back over to the owners of 94.1 he had a list of demands that go as follows:

- 1) That the listeners can come down and sign their names on the old studio.
- 2) That he will not be held liable for any loss of revenue or damage to equipment.
- 3) That he's the stations's new Music Director.
- 4) That he has a parking space at the new building.
- 5) That once an hour for the rest of the station's life a D.J. says "Henderson."

All of his demands were eventually met.

On January 28, eager listeners happily came down and autographed the studio and signed



for free t-shirts. After a while the local police put an end to the festivities in fear that it would get out of hand.

The station reports that because of the city's ranting and raving about how the studio looked at if it belonged in South Central LA., the D.J.'s had to repaint

the studio which is scheduled to be torn down and transformed into a parking lot.

That night, Crazy Kid Stevenz, proud of his accomplishments, fell asleep at his post as the new music director of 94.1 Jamz and control was then given over to the owners. Nowadays if you tune into 94.1 you can hear the Kid pumping out your favorite jams.

BASIC BRIEFS

The Spring Reverse Dance was held at the Henderson Convention Center March 1. The sophomore class was in charge of this 'girl ask guy' dance. The BHS Spring sports schedule came out this month. It includes Track, Softball, Baseball, Swimming, Men's Volleyball, and Men's Golf.

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Church and state---are they really separate?

By Raul Daniels,
Las Vegas High School

They come to class, each one with a present in hand, anxiously waiting for the gift exchange to begin. The teacher arranges them in a circle around the brightly lit Christmas tree, and together they begin to sing Christmas carols.

It's the day before *Christmas break* for third graders in an elementary school. They run joyfully around the room with the new toys they just unwrapped, but one kid sits in a corner wondering why the others make fun of him because his religion does not observe any holiday.

HYPOCRITE?

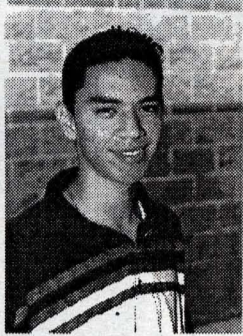
"I remember when I was in elementary school, everyone in class would make me feel left out during the holiday season," Jewish sophomore Karyn Left says. "I would be really depressed because we would have Christmas parties in class and my dad didn't want me to go because he said I would be a hypocrite to my religion."

Even though school Christmas parties are against the rules, according to a survey of 178 Las Vegas High School students, ninety-nine percent said that they had had a party or received a special treat from their teachers some time during their academic careers on the last day before the Christmas break.

DECIDING TO DITCH

"I knew we were going to have a party in one of my classes, and I didn't know if I should come to school or not," says a Jehovah's Witness junior. "I felt really uncomfortable and left out with all the Christmas decorations in the hall and on the windows, and because everyone was so excited about the parties, and I wasn't. Finally, I decided that I would only ditch my third hour class so that I wouldn't be present at the party."

In order to eliminate this feeling of separation, the first



amendment states that there is to be no "establishment of religion." Unfortunately, this has become a real challenge for the public schools.

For example, out of those surveyed, 25.9 percent are Mormon, 24.7 Catholic, 21.9 percent Protestant, 2.8 percent Buddhist, 1.7 percent Jehovah's Witness, 1.1 percent Orthodox, and 21.9 percent do not have a religion.

Another controversial topic is prayer in schools. In 1962, the

Supreme Court ruled school prayer unconstitutional, so the schools developed "the moment of silence."

GOSSIP SESSION

In 1985, the Supreme Court ruled that the moment of silence was protected by the Constitution only if it had no religious purpose. According to the survey, 44% of the students said that the moment of silence has turned into nothing more than a gossip session. When asked what she does during the moment of

(See Church/State, page 31)

EXPERIENCING DRUNK DRIVING — AND NOT A DROP TO DRINK!

By Paul Dodge, Green Valley High School Senior and CLASS! Staff Writer

Pop-up humans, a forest of orange cones, and a tipsy car. This was the formula for a lesson offered to Green Valley and Basic High School students recently.

The point: you can NOT have control of a vehicle if you drive under the influence of alcohol!

An effective way to keep students from driving while intoxicated is to give them an opportunity to experience it first hand, says the Henderson Fire Department.

Rather than handing out alcoholic beverages, however, firefighters and paramedics of Station 92 worked with Henderson police and Ron Morocco (GVHS driver's education instructor) to bring the Drunk Driving Simulator to the school's parking lot.

Throughout the day, students took turns in driving a Dodge Neon through a course marked off by traffic cones and strewn with pop-up cardboard humans. Some students were passengers while others drove.

The car's brakes and steering were altered by computer to produce the sluggish handling and slower reaction times experienced by a drunk driver. The car was furnished by Chapman's Dodge and the Chrysler Corporation.

Student drivers navigated the course first while sober, then again while "drunk."

"The computer 'feeds' you a certain number of drinks according to your weight, and then makes

it more difficult to drive," explains sophomore

Jennifer Hastings. "The car doesn't do what you want it to."

The objective of the program was to combat the rising number of teen deaths in the Henderson area by educating young drivers early on of the dangers of drinking and driving. Each year, at least one Green Valley High School student is killed or seriously injured in a car accident, says Fire Department paramedic Bruce Evans.

"Accidents are one of the primary killers of teenagers," Evans says. "We feel a lot of frustration when we see kids dying right out here on Sunset or Warm Springs Road. That's very serious and definitely not a simulation."

Many students felt it helped to dispel myths about drunk driving, such as alcohol being relaxing or helpful for concentration.

"It showed me that my reflexes aren't as good as I thought they'd be," says senior Anne-Marie Schneider. "It was especially fitting be-



Dodge

Win \$1,000 scholarship by making your point

What's the best way to drive home the point that teenagers should not gamble?

Harrah's Hotel and Casino offers a fistful of scholarships for the best essays and posters by high school students in Nevada. It's the annual "Project 21," which had its start seven years ago in Atlantic City.

Applications for the 1996 competition will be available soon at your high school.

Last year, four Las Vegas students were among the 11 statewide winners. They were Subrett Tonic (Cheyenne), Marisa Rodriguez (Eldorado), and Julie Martin and Rajwinder Jhawar (Green Valley). Jhawar won for his poster; the others won for their essays.

"My essay focused on Las Vegas being an adult-oriented city," says Tonic, "even though it's trying to emerge into a place for families to visit."

"After discovering there was confusion among young people as to the lawful age and the penalties for underage gambling, Harrah's took a leadership position by creating Project 21," says Jim Butler, Vice President and General Counsel for Harrah's Nevada, who introduced the program.

Written entries are judged on journalistic quality, originality, content, style and educational value.

cause a drunk person may feel like he or she is in control, but that is only a dangerous illusion."

"Many students expected to be able to handle it," says driving instructor Morocco. "They found out that when you're under the influence, the car will be beyond your control."

Photo by Paul Dodge



Tattoo and pierce -- No time to hear OOPS!

By Rachel Christensen

Body piercing and tattoos. What do these have in common? They are the latest craze among high school students.

The procedure of body piercing can be quite painful, especially if it is done on certain parts of the body. The most common places for body piercing are the belly button and the eyebrow. For adventurous type, there is the lip, tongue, and certain body parts that I cannot mention.

It takes about five to ten minutes for the actual piercing, and, depending on what you pierce, you can feel the soreness for a couple of days or a couple of weeks. You have to be at least 18 years old or you can have a parent go with you. Depending on where you go and what you pierce, it can cost between fifty and a hundred dollars.

Body piercing is a lot more common than tattoos for people our age because parents are more willing to allow their kids to pierce something than to get something permanent like a tattoo. So kids may go to extreme lengths to get a tattoo, such as to have one of their friends do it, or get a fake I.D.

To have someone who is not licensed do your tattoo is not only stupid, it is also dangerous. If your friend doesn't sterilize properly, you have to worry about infections and diseases such as AIDS. You really don't want to mess around with something that is going to be on your body forever. There is nothing worse than to hear the word "oops" as your friend is drilling away on your body.

Tattoos are expensive and prices vary, but usually start at fifty dollars and can go up to the thousands. Whether you decide to get something pierced or get a tattoo (or both), you should take these safety precautions:

Make sure the work area is clean, and everything is sterilized. It would also be a good idea to ask to see some of their previous work.



'RAISIN IN THE SUN' CHANGED THEATRE FOREVER

By Trinisha Walker

An all-star cast graced the stage of Cheyenne to present *A Raisin in the Sun*. This powerful drama promotes the talents of Cheyenne's actors and actresses and was a tribute to Black History month.

The cast included: **Dennis Gene Fields**, junior, as Joseph Assagi, an African scholar who is the love interest of Beneatha. "Joseph is the type of man who believes learning is knowledge, therefore it's good," says Fields.

Marcus A. Holly, senior, as Walter Lee Younger (brother), is a bitter man who has made sacrifices but wants nothing more than to provide

for his family. "He's a typical man who wants nothing but the best for his family, especially his son Tarvis. He is a great inspiration, showing his everyday struggles to be a breadwinner for his family," comments Holly.

Derrick Swinson, senior, as George Murchison, is a rich misunderstood "brother," who struggles to fit into society. "At first I didn't understand my character but now, to me, he symbolizes a class of people who lost themselves in the struggle to survive," Swinson says.

Damon Armstrong, senior, as Karl Linder, is a racist white bigot. "I find it difficult to portray my character because he exemplifies everything I am against," Armstrong says.

Eieshia Smith as Lena Younger (Mama), is a strong mother who is the head of the family. She wants only the best for her children. "I admire the strength the Mama possesses. Mama is a triumph for all struggling mothers trying to do what is right in today's soci-

ety," declares Smith.

Naomi Booth, senior, as Ruth Younger, Walter Lees' wife, struggles daily to put up with Walter's temper. "She's a very supportive wife and she has simple dreams only for her family to be happy and for her husband to find peace within himself," says Booth.

Rashiemah Bailey, senior, as Beneatha Younger, is a 20-year-old college student who strives to be a doctor, despite the obstacles she is presented with and the realization that society does not accept her dream. "Beneatha may not be a real likable character but she is believable," states Bailey.

Andre Bates, junior, as Travis Younger, is a young boy caught up in the struggle of today's society.

Lorraine Hansberry, the author of this play, wanted to write a play about people -- not just any people, but black people. In 1959 when the curtains opened on *A Raisin in the Sun*, she was described as "changing the American theater forever."

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Cheerio and all that! The Green Valley Marching Band performed in a concert and marched in a parade during a recent eight-day visit to London. The 82 band students were accompanied by 25 chaperones, guests and band director Diane Koutsulis. Above: sophomore **Julie Kuntz** (front) and senior **Kristan Jenkins** (behind her).

Boss-for-a-Day helps smooth bumps on career path

By Nicole Brende



Brende

The Henderson Chamber of Commerce celebrated the 32nd anniversary of its Boss for a Day program with a ceremony in the Green Valley student center, Feb. 22.

Approximately 140 anxious Green Valley and Basic students paired up with 43 businesses to do the annual "change of professions" for a day. From the Henderson Fire Department to the Green Valley Athletic Club, to the First Interstate Bank, there were numerous opportunities for career aspiring students to explore.

School District Superintendent Dr. Brian Cram spoke to the determined business explorers to encourage and compliment their desires to succeed.

"It takes three kids to support a retiree," Dr. Cram said, adding, "The job market can be hostile."

Students need to see the inside and out, so they are aware and ready to face their competitors in years to come.

The Boss For a Day program originated in 1964. It is an invaluable experience for the youth of Henderson. Their experiences will have an influence on their future as well as on the community.

"Through participating in this program for the past two years, I have seen how my educational experience will affect my career. This program is a good motivator and helped me gain a different view of business," senior **Heather Wallace** says.

Programs like this allow high school students to see "the real world" before they set out. It is fun and a positive way to find out what it takes to succeed.

After a day of adventure and knowledge, not only have you gained a new perspective on business, you have made connections that could land you a job - plus a free lunch.

GVHS choir sings its way to All-State

By Mindy Leckburg

Green Valley Choir has grown in more ways than just numbers. Twenty out of 21 GV choir members passed auditions for this year's All-State choir. This exemplifies their dedication and vocal improvements.

All-State auditions were held in Elko, Reno and Henderson. As 400 Honor Choir members from all over Nevada auditioned, Green Valley rose to the top with the most choir members from one school to become part of the 1996 All-State Choir.

Green Valley choir members had some difficulty in scheduling rehearsals.

"They're all good kids," choir director Kim Barclay says. "I knew they would practice at home." Choir members had audio tapes to practice with. Still, because of double sessions, rehearsal times had to be set up around the musical "The Music Man" because most of the auditioners were also in that show.

"We worked hard and we deserve to be in the choir," says **Cassandra Chesnik**.

Three Green Valley singers placed: **Heather Houchens**, an Alto 2 in concert choir; **Regina Pyne**, Alto 1 in advanced women's choir; and **Claudine Winter**, Soprano 2, who had the highest rating for her voice group in Nevada.

Asked what she attributes her high score to, Winter says, "Ms. Barclay, hard work, and dedication."

"We got to meet new people...the audition helped make new and better friendships," says **Sarah Savage**.

Brian Spular, asked his feelings about making auditions, replies "Relief! I don't have to worry anymore, especially since it's my last year."

But it's not over for them: they are preparing six new pieces of music for their performances April 23-26 in Elko.

BELOW: An aerial view of GVHS and neighborhood.
Photo by Dave Phillips



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Akins forms model UN



by Shane Gammon (left)

With officers already elected, a new club, the Model United Nations, had its first meeting Jan. 31. The Model UN is like the real-life United Nations, which is an international group of national leaders. The topics that are being discussed are from an agenda created by the UN.

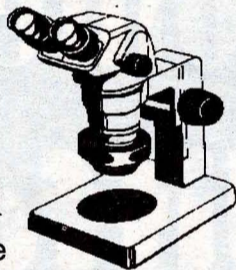
The officers of the club are President **Robert Wittman**, Vice President **Dustin Tomblin**, Secretary **Diane McGee**, and Treasurer **Heather Andrews**.

"The Model UN was created to further international studies and understanding, and also to prevent the US from becoming totally geographically illiterate," Mr. Akins, social studies teacher and advisor of the Model UN, says. "We hope it will also create a peaceful understanding of the world."

Akins also is proud to say the LVA's Model UN is the only one in Nevada.

In the future, the Model UN will be able to travel to other states for conventions where they will associate with political clubs.

Westinghouse finds science talent in LVA Student Council



Megan Riggs was one of the 300 semi-finalists in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. She was chosen out of over 1,860 high school students.

"I sent my science fair project from last year that won the Southern Nevada Fair," says Riggs.

The project, which focused on balance and placement, then went on to compete in the 36th International Science and Engineering Fair in Ontario, Canada.

She received recognition and generous offers from many colleges, one of which she hopes to attend next fall.

Changes for '96-'97 to include updating history with technology, maybe Russian

By Jennifer Knighton (below)



will also return.

The Integrated Approach to American History class will use modern technologies such as CD ROM and laser discs to integrate the major Humanities disciplines into the study of American History. Mr. Painter started the idea through

New electives to be offered next year include an Integrated Approach to American History, Shakespeare Traditions, and American Musical Theater Traditions. The Russian major

the system, but he would like to make it clear he may not be the one who teaches it. This class has been approved to begin next year.

LVA tried to start the Shakespeare Traditions and American Musical Theater Traditions courses last year, but circumstances prevented it. If enrollment numbers are high enough, the courses will start next year.

The Russian major returned although Assistant Principal Sylvia Tegano doesn't know who will teach it.

Bandy Glasgow, junior, thinks the Visual Art Department needs some specialized classes. "Music has so many different classes. I'd really like to see sculpture."

But for the next year, the department is running Visual Design 1-3 and Advanced Study Visual Art. The following year the 2D-3D class returns. The department is trying to get all the students running on the same track with this change.

The rumor of a photography major is false although the photography department is expanding, including the use of the new photo lab in Main.

More information on courses offered next year was given out at the preregistration assemblies on Feb. 7.

WATCH! A Movie Review

By Julie Howlett

Toy Story



Howlett

With its newest release, "Toy Story," Disney once again proves to be sheer entertainment for the kid in all of us. Many movie patrons, including me, heritated to see "Toy Story" since it is a cartoon, but it definitely deserves to be checked out. Whether you like computer-generated animation or not, five minutes into the film and you won't even notice.

"Toy Story" tells what happens in the lives of toys when we are not around, that is, when they come to life, have relationships, and even group meetings.

Tom Hanks provides the voice of Woody, a cowboy doll who is the head of a little boy's toy collection. Some of his friends include Mr. Potato Head (Don Rickles), The Pig (John "Cheers" Ratzenberger), and Little Bo Peep (Annie Potts).

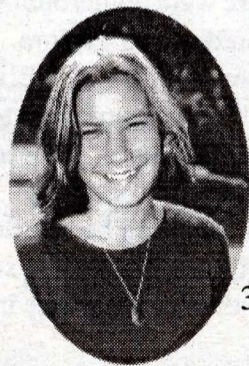
But along comes new birthday present, Buzz Lightyear, a space action hero (Tim Allen), who does not get along with Woody. While feuding, they get lost outside the house. If the two heroes don't find their way back to the house before their owner moves to a new residence, they will be lost forever.

This film is adorable as well as witty. However, I did not like the attack of the never ending climax. You find yourself rooting so hard for these characters that it becomes frustrating.

I recommend this movie for any age group with a deserving four out of four stars.

Student Sweetie Poll

By Dawn Belcher (below)



- What did you get your sweetie for Valentine's Day?
- 10% Night out
 - 15% Teddy bear
 - 15% Candy
 - 25% Flowers
 - 35% Something else

Skiers head for the hills



By Linda Mannberg (right)

After a successful snow trip to Brian Head in January, students head for the hills again on March 2.

The Academy joined the A-Tech students to journey to Brian Head for a day of skiing and fun in the snow.

Skiing has become so popular with Academy students that plans are underway to form a ski club for the '96-'97 school year.

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Are you positive?

By Destiny Bakken (left) & Sybrina Bernabei (lower left)



We took an HIV test to share the experience with you, the reader. The tests were conducted separately and in private. The tests consisted of a short question and answer session and drawing a small amount of blood.

Sybrina: What did you think the hardest part about it was?

Destiny: Waiting a whole week for the results.

Sybrina: Yeah, that was hard. I thought the questions they asked were kind of embarrassing.

Destiny: It was scary looking at the needle and watching the blood being drawn.

Sybrina: That wasn't so bad. The needles they use for blood donations are five times bigger!

Destiny: The information was helpful, too.

Sybrina: I thought I knew a lot about the subject of AIDS and then WHAM! she just hits us with all this information. Stuff you don't learn in school.

Destiny: Like how many people contract HIV through intravenous drugs. I didn't know it was so high. Roughly 22% in the county.

Sybrina: I was surprised how easy it was to get tested. It only took a few minutes, and it was free. I think everyone should do it.

Destiny: At first I was scared to even get out of the car to go inside the building, but once I got into the office and went over the whole procedure with her, I was actually relieved to know that I had taken my very first HIV test.

Sybrina: And when we found out the good news it was even better!

Destiny: I'm just really glad that I finally got the nerve to do it, but that doesn't mean that I'll never have to do it again. I plan on doing it in about six months.

Sybrina: People never remember that! Do you ever think that there are students at LVA who are infected? I mean you look around knowing that hardly anyone has been tested and they might have just contracted it and don't even know it!

Destiny: And it just gets worse if you don't know that you have it because you aren't doing anything about it.

Sybrina: Well, I'm glad that I am safe.

Destiny: Me too.

HIV testing is done, free of charge, at AFAN on Wednesday afternoons until 4 p.m. Family doctors usually charge for the testing. You can also get tested at the Las Vegas Health District.

WAAA!

By Josh Kelty (left)



Lately I've heard people complaining about LVA and some even tried to change schools at semester. People complain that our school days are longer and do not like that sports are not available.

Yes, there are a few downsides, but this school has so much to offer. LVA has blockscheduling to give you more time for work in class which most CCSD schools do not offer.

Most people in this school have the motivation to do well to stay in this school. We have a large selection of classes to choose from. People accept you for who you are. You do not have to dress a certain way to be accepted.

We also don't have any major gang problems.

This school does have some problems, but don't complain. I know a lot of people who would love to come to this school.

You should be happy to be going to such an opportunistic school. It could be even better if students would realize what they have here. Students should stop complaining and actually do something to make this school better.

COLLEGE GAMES - DON'T FUMBLE NOW

By Sybrina Bernabei

We are but hopeful players trapped in a game which we've never seen but hear much about. What I hear from other players enlightens me a lot more than teachers or other sources of reference that claim to guide you. So here I am, a player in this game of seeking further education, to share with you my woes, worries and wise words.

The Players: You, the anxious applicant, who will no doubt struggle the most; your counselor, who will assist with records and tell you exactly what you have and haven't been doing right in the past four years and what you have to do to correct it; your parents, they are your financial supplier; most importantly, the people on the other side, the college representatives who hold the "pass go" card.

The playing field: I did most of my work in the comforts of my room, but found myself roaming for information that could only be found in the far reaches of the earth. I had to trek to three different libraries for numbers and data on the five colleges to which I was applying. I became a regular in the counselors' office of LVA where I continually attempted to grab scholarship info and seek assistance from the counselors. I have worn a path from my house to the office supply store making copies of documents and buying supplies. And the most important part of the field has yet to be discovered: the tour of the campuses which I will make during the Spring Break.

Equipment: I should have bought stock in paper. I invested in computer paper for endless essays, formal paper for letters of recommendation and, of course, fancy envelopes (to set my applications apart from everyone else's). Other costly endeavors

included the hazillion stamps, basic desk supplies, paper clips, staples, pens, etc. and, of course, the stockpile of capuccino for the long nights, and aspirin for the capuccino headaches.

Rules:

1. Don't over estimate your time: as soon as you enter your senior year a time warp occurs (call it RAM—Rapid Age Movement). As soon as you finish eating your Halloween candy that you stole from the freshmen, it is January and your applications are due.

2. Do depend on other people. Find your friends, seek their help and do it early (Just 'cause you think your English teacher is great doesn't mean she can whip up a letter of recommendation in one day).

3. Don't forget those words from the CPEC Competency test (Doorblig, Eldok, Peetrin to name a few); they'll come in handy when you are shocking through all those essays.

4. If you are an underclassman and not quite in the game yet, be glad, the game comes fast and furious, you need all the warmup you can get.

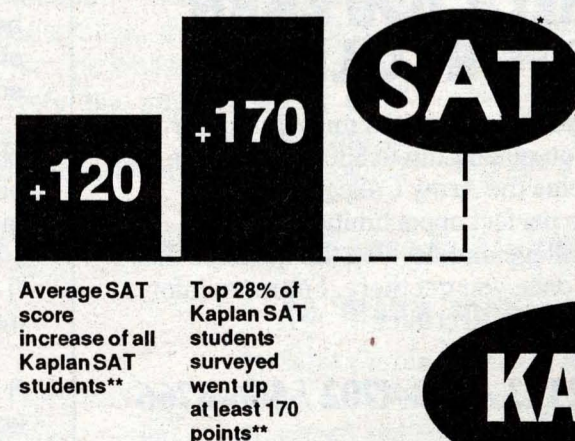
Theatre presents world premiere of biblical tale

By Detra Clary

LVA will present Stepen Schwartz's new musical, "Children of Eden" April 18-21, and 25-27. The play explores ideals and concepts that are important to modern society, and based on stories from the Bible.

Mr. Tidwell, LVA Theatre Manager, said, "It is a great opportunity for the students in the Academy to perform in a premier musical by one of America's foremost artists in Musical Theatre which will once again place the Academy at the forefront of American education."

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** 1995 Kaplan SAT Course Study conducted by Bruskin-Goldring Research

New Spectrum Magazine wins big bucks

by Tasha Pittman

Congratulations to our new magazine, Spectrum, and the students on the staff. We are proud of their dedication and hard work in finding a way to publish their new magazine.

Members from Thor's Hammer and Student Council competed in the *Best Idea* competition sponsored by First Interstate Bank recently. FIB gave grants to the best ideas presented by students to improve their schools.

Valley received a \$2,500 second place award for the Spectrum magazine idea.

Delaine Hadarly and **Andres Ramirez** also won \$1,000 scholarships. They were honored for being the top presenters at the competition.

The Valley students proposed a bi-weekly magazine pertaining to specific cultures represented in our school

population. Incentives, such as donut parties, to encourage students and faculty to remain involved with the project will also be purchased with the grant money.

Each time Spectrum is published, a student's work will be featured. This work can be a short story, poem or art. The featured piece will highlight the student's culture. This should be one of the most interesting aspects of the Spectrum magazine.

This magazine will be written and produced by our students exclusively, with emphasis on sharing interesting facts and stories about our cultures. The first issue dealt with our Native American heritage.

Additional cultures to be featured this year are: Filipino, African, Chinese, British Isles, Islamic, Jewish, and Mexican. Our last issue will feature a composite of many cultures.



ABOVE, accepting their \$2,500 check are (back, l-r) **Andres Ramirez, Henry Wang, Tony Mosby**; (front) **Delaine Hadarly and Tasha Pittman**

A Spectrum of differences

From a report by Jenelle Willits

Learning about different cultures is not easy, but Valley High School and Spectrum are making it a little easier.

The Spectrum celebration got its start when Valley's Journalism class won a grant to write *Spectrum* magazine. (See story above.) With the help of the Rainbow Club, which is made up of many different nationalities, and the help of lots of teachers, Spectrum came to the stage.

In late February, Valley had its first Spectrum assembly, featuring students from many cultures.

Shonte Mosby represented African-American students by singing the Black National Anthem. This got the assembly going.

Next came **Mark Kruse, Roger Guinn** and **Eddie Scolaro** singing "Glycerine," which represented 20th century Rock music. This was followed by **Erena Kartseva** and **Irina Van De Pol** in a radiant Russian song and dance. (Both girls sang; Irina also danced.)

Then came the Sigma Beta Steppers: **Michael Damm, Artis Carhee, Demartrius Dickerson, Floyd Hunt, Lonnie Thomas** and **Brian Beaver**. They were very enthusiastic and did their part to make the assembly a hit.

We calmed down for the Thai dance by **Supatthep Suksangasophon** and **Sirintra Charoenbanpachon**. Some of the audience did not know what the hand movements meant, but we enjoyed watching the dance.

Then **Gabriela Melendez, Ariadna Ramos** and **Janeth Vazquez** did a nice job dancing the Mexican *El Son de la Negra*. Following this, **Synet Hines** and **Cicely Mitchell** sang a sentimental song called "Cry," which Synet wrote, a tribute to African-Americans. The song speaks of the hardships caused by gang violence, and it was one of the highlights of the show.

A hula dance from Hawaii followed, performed by **Kalei Cope, Briana Keomaka, Amber Varde, Ferina Moenoa** and **Christine Chambers**. This religious dance honored the Hawaiian gods and kings. Following it, a South American lambada dance performed by **Kaylyn Lyman** and **Joey Trinidad**.

The Spectrum assembly was a big hit and we hope there will be many more in the future.



Vikings strut their stuff

by Lara Rose Cooper

Congratulations to the Men's Varsity Basketball for making it to State! This is the first time they have made it since 1991.

They finished their conference season by playing Vo-Tech and Rancho. They beat Vo-Tech by 20, but lost to Rancho by 12. They tied for 3rd place in the Sunrise Division with Rancho — tied because they lost a coin flip for seeding in zone.

Zone was held at Durango last month. The first game was against Western. Junior **Rayan Brunson** comments, "We played with a lot of emotion and heart. They were bigger than us, but we were the better team."



After winning their first game, they knew they had to win their second to get to the state finals. They went on to play Cimarron-Memorial...it was a lot closer than the Vikings thought it would be, but once again, our Valley Vikings came through. They did what they needed to do to get to the State Tournament.

Their third game in Zone was against Durango, the defending State Champions. They started off well, but, in the first quarter, **J. Johnson** and **Devon Moore**, two of Valley's starters, received three fouls each. It seemed to take the momentum out of the game.

Yet, the Vikings had already made it to State finals, so their loss wasn't really a failure. The end score between Valley and Durango was 64-52.

Practicing everyday has definitely paid off for them. Senior **Gordon Williams** says, "This year's basketball season has been an experience of a lifetime, and going to state will be something I will always remember."

Not only are the coaches and players happy about their success, but so are their support groups, the fans and the cheerleaders.

Cheerleader **Candace Dyer** says, "I hope people realize Valley is making a strong comeback."

Joshua Moyer, a loyal fan, says, "I have seen all their games, and I know that if they stick together as a team they should take state."

A positive attitude is another thing that kept the team going strong. "When our team plays up to its full potential, we can't be beat," says junior **Joe Aznarez**.



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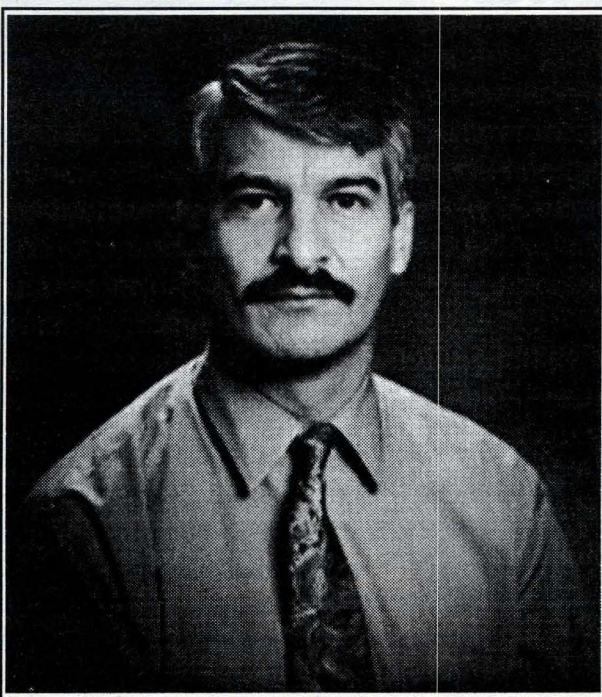
ROQUE VARELA: UN CONSEJERO QUE SE DESTACA

Por Alvaro Aguirre, Editor de DIGANOS

Durante el banquete de la Cámara de Comercio Latina el pasado 16 de febrero, Roque Varela, consejero estudiantil de Las Vegas High, recibió una placa de reconocimiento por su estupenda labor de ayuda a la Cámara Latina y a la juventud hispana.

"Cuando necesitamos ayuda", dijo Tom Rodríguez, el Director del Día de Carreras, "Roque siempre está listo a ayudarnos. Cuando sus estudiantes lo necesitan, Roque siempre está ahí dispuesto a darles la mano. Por estos motivos esta noche lo premiamos públicamente".

Yo he tenido la suerte de trabajar con Roque en varios proyectos y reconozco su gran calidad como persona ya como modelo para nuestra juventud. "Oye Roque, le dije

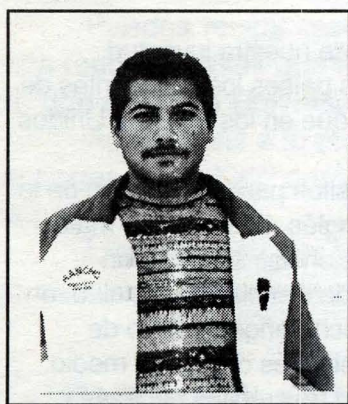


después del banquete, "DIGANOS quiere saber cual es tu filosofía. ¿Que te hace ser tan buen consejero estudiantil?" Esto nos respondió.

"Cada día que pasa, si yo puedo ayudar a los jóvenes a que se mantengan enfocados en sus metas y a que aprendan a apreciarse a si mismos en lo que son y en lo que pueden llegar a ser, entonces siento que estoy influyendo en su futuro". Y luego prosiguió: "Todo lo que somos depende de nuestra relación con los demás. Para mi, la vida es un proceso y una destinación. La vida es estar allí para ayudarnos los unos a los otros -preocupándose, compartiendo, dando y los otros comportamientos sociales que nos ayuda a crecer como personas"

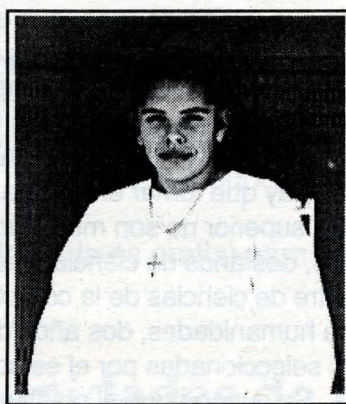
Roque, desde DIGANOS, te felicito y te deseo muchos éxitos en tu labor. Adelante!

LA ESCUELA RANCHO ENFOCA A DOS ESTRELLAS DEL DEPORTE



Reportan:
Amanda
LaPointe y John
Sweet

El futbolista de la "varsity" Carlos Constanza ha practicado el deporte desde los diez años



allá en El Salvador. Ahora él es la estrella del equipo, según dice su entrenador Thomas Bywater. Es el único deporte que practica a nivel escolar, así es que le dedica bastante tiempo.

Carlos vino a este país en 1992, inmediatamente se envolvió con el fútbol "soccer". A él también le gusta escuchar baladas románticas, y tiene planes de ingresar a la Universidad de Notre Dame o a UCLA. Su consejo a la juventud es: "adquiere motivación, aléjate de las drogas, y practica algún deporte".

Melissa Morales se ha destacado durante los últimos tres años con el equipo de las "Chivas" de la escuela Rancho. Ella no había jugado anteriormente pero se enteró de lo padrísimo que era jugar, le dieron una prueba, y así logró ingresar al equipo "varsity". Ella es titular en el equipo y juega en la delantera.

Cuando no hay juegos de escuela, ella participa en ligas femeninas para mantenerse en forma. Sus ratos libres los pasa con su familia y amistades. Ella tiene planes de ingresar a UCLA después de graduarse y conseguir un título en biología Marina o en Terapia Física. Por supuesto que si se puede, también jugará fútbol.

Estudiantes que vienen de México tienen una mejor opinión de la escuela

Extracto de un artículo por Elaine Woo, Los Angeles Times

Estudiantes de escuela superior y de escuela media que acaban de llegar de México a los Estados Unidos gustan más de la escuela que sus compañeros norteamericanos. Estos nuevos inmigrantes también opinan que la escuela es más importante...y guardan más respeto por las autoridades escolares como la dirección.

Esta información proviene de un estudio realizado por el Profesor de Harvard, Marcelo Suárez-Orozco y su esposa, Carola. Este estudio contradice las creencias del movimiento contra los inmigrantes. Los esposos Suárez-Orozco.....

Continúa en la página 18...

Anuario Hispano enlista becas y oportunidades para carreras

Estás buscando dinero para pagar tus estudios universitarios? Te gustaría saber de trabajos con oficinas del gobierno y entidades privadas? Crees que alguna de las 7,000 organizaciones hispanas en este país puede mejorar tu vida?

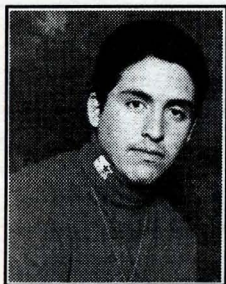
El Anuario Hispano de 1996 (1996 Hispanic Yearbook) te puede dar muchas respuestas.

Este anuario tiene más de 300 páginas de información, y además de los temas mencionados anteriormente, puedes averiguar cómo lograr ayuda de la Administración de Negocios Pequeños (Small Business Administration). También puedes aprender qué hispanos están envueltos en la política del país, y leer acerca de agencias de salud pública.

Continúa en la página 17...

Frente a Frente

La mayoría no vamos a la Universidad



Por Ricardo Quezada, Rancho

La verdad es que son pocos los que se gradúan de la escuela superior y están pensando en ir a la universidad. Lo que necesitamos es encontrar un trabajo para ayudar con los gastos de la familia, y si ya lo tenemos, necesitamos otro mejor o mejorarlo. La escuela superior no nos prepara para salir a trabajar.

No entiendo algunos requisitos "académicos". Yo no me explico por qué sea necesario tomar dos años de educación física. A quién le sirve tanto ejercicio? Tal vez a los profesores de educación física, porque en el trabajo le piden a uno más conocimientos de computación y eso no lo conseguimos. Imagínese usted que si uno toma 9 semanas de jugar con una computadora cuando esté en el grado séptimo, la escuela considera que el uno ya sabe suficiente de computación. Será posible?

Por otro lado, si un estudiante quiere ir a ATTC (Centro tecnológico de Ocupaciones del Area) resulta que no hay lugar o tienen muchos requisitos para poder entrar. Ya no digamos de Vo-Tech donde muy pocos logran ser aceptados. Y en nuestra escuela casi no hay cursos vocacionales que le ayuden a uno a prepararse para conseguir trabajo.

Cuando uno va con el consejero para que le dé un curso que uno quiere tomar, resulta que los pocos cursos

vocacionales siempre están llenos y de todas maneras, siempre esté uno amarrado con los requisitos de graduación. A los que llegamos sin saber bien el inglés nos toca más duro todavía, porque tenemos que sacar cinco años de segundo idioma y en nuestro lenguaje no aprendemos mayor cosa. Ni siquiera hay suficientes cursos de español, aún menos una ciencia o una matemática avanzada que nos permita seguir aprendiendo.

Aunque uno ya haya sacado álgebra y geometría en su país, lo ponen a uno a aprender a sumar y restar, porque como no sabe inglés, no le pueden dar algo más de acuerdo con el nivel que uno necesita. Y no digamos en las ciencias naturales donde se pasa uno llenando papeles en clase sin aprender uno mucho nuevo.

Y para qué tanta historia del mundo si la mayor parte de la gente, incluyendo los profesores, no saben ni siquiera dónde están los lugares importantes en los Estados Unidos y mucho menos en México o algún otro país más retirado. Si hubieran cursos de geografía muchos podrían averiguar que Las Vegas no es el centro de la tierra y que existe algo más allá de Los Angeles y Phoenix. Yo creo que debería poder escoger entre tomar historia o geografía universal.

Pienso que sería bueno reducir el número de requisitos siempre que hubiera más dónde escoger lo que uno necesita o lo que uno quiere tomar. Si no se lograra esto, de nada serviría bajar el número de cursos requeridos, porque de todas maneras vamos a pasar cuatro años en la escuela superior y mucho de este tiempo será sin aprender nada.

¡Debate del mes de abril!

BLOQUES O NO BLOQUES EN LAS CLASES

Muchas de las escuelas superiores han introducido el sistema de bloques de dos horas o períodos para permitirle a los profesores que preparen clases que necesitan más de 55 minutos. Los resultados han sido contradictorios. Mientras unos maestros agradecen la oportunidad para desarrollar un tema más a fondo, otros no saben qué hacer con tanto tiempo y logran que los estudiantes se aburran. Efectivamente, muchos de los estudiantes están opuestos a este sistema de clases porque aseguran que ha aumentado mucho la dosis de películas, mientras a otros estudiantes les gusta bastante.

¿Qué piensas tú de esta situación? Escribe una página y media a renglón abierto diciéndonos si estás a favor o en contra de las clases en bloques y por qué. Envíanos tus comentarios para el debate del mes de abril.

PREPAREMONOS PARA LA UNIVERSIDAD



Por Olivia Díaz, Rancho High

No creo que las escuelas deberían de reducir la cantidad de créditos necesarios para graduarse. Mis razones son las siguientes: a) el sistema educacional es, de por sí, mediocre; b) los estudiantes de hoy en día se gradúan sin saber lo suficiente para triunfar en la universidad. Muchos profesores de la universidad se quejan de que los estudiantes no están lo suficientemente preparados para tomar clases al nivel de la universidad. Además, los instructores de la universidad están cansados de enseñar cursos de nivel de escuela secundaria (bone head).

Considero que deberíamos trabajar más y no menos. Si todos estudiáramos álgebra y geometría aprenderíamos a razonar mejor y si tomáramos biología, química y física entenderíamos mejor el ambiente a nuestro alrededor. Aprender bien el inglés es muy importante para ser verdaderamente bilingües. Unos cursos más avanzados en computadoras nos servirían para casi cualquier trabajo que podamos conseguir en el futuro.

Al fin y al cabo, si vamos a invertir cuatro años de nuestra juventud, debemos sacar lo más y no lo menos posible. En otros países los estudiantes de la escuela superior dedican más tiempo a los estudios que en los Estados Unidos y eso permite una mayor preparación.

Hay que tomar en cuenta que hoy día los requisitos para graduación de la escuela superior no son muy difíciles: cuatro años de inglés, dos años de matemáticas, dos años de ciencias naturales, tres años de ciencias sociales, un semestre de ciencias de la computación, un semestre de ciencias de la salud, un año de humanidades, dos años de educación física y ocho años y medio de clases seleccionadas por el estudiante. En total son veintitrés créditos y medio.

Se supone que el objetivo de reducir la cantidad de créditos necesaria para la graduación es el de aumentar el número de graduados. Pero, de qué nos serviría graduarnos si no están preparados para triunfar en la universidad o en nuestra carrera? Esto nos puede provocar una situación de insatisfacción, pues a pesar de tener un diploma de la escuela superior, no está capacitado para mantener un buen trabajo. Me parece que esto podría crear más problemas que soluciones ya que muchos que pierden su trabajo o no consiguen trabajo se vuelven cargas para su familia y la sociedad. O será que nos vamos a conformar con que nuestros graduados de la escuela superior solamente puedan solicitar trabajo lavando platos en un restaurante.

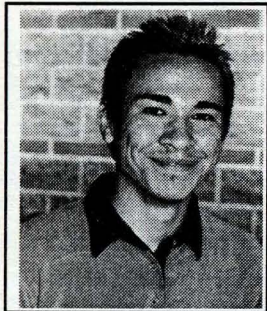
Debemos advertir con toda claridad que el hecho de reducir el número de créditos para la graduación no va a ayudar a ninguno. Porque, al facilitarse la acumulación de créditos con más rapidez y sin mucho esfuerzo, el estudiante tendrá más razones para asistir menos a la escuela y terminará retirándose de la escuela sin haber llegado a conseguir su diploma.

El disminuir la cantidad de créditos para la graduación de la escuela superior rebajaría el nivel de la educación abajo de mediocre. También debemos de considerar que el valor del diploma se disminuiría bastante, porque los estudiantes ya no estarían ganándose el diploma. La escuela se lo estaría regalando!

OPINIONES

ESTAR DROGADO NO VALE LA PENA!!

Por Manny Reyes, Las Vegas High



El año pasado yo estaba totalmente a favor de la legalización de la marihuana... No tenía idea de cómo la marihuana podía arruinar mi vida.

Escribo esto ahora con la esperanza de que aquellos de ustedes que fuman marihuana, o incluso los que nunca la han tocado, se den cuenta de que no vale la pena... no solo les hace daño a los que están a tu alrededor, sino que aún más importante, tú te haces daño a ti mismo. Por favor toma mi consejo en serio. Cómo puedes comentar una película que no has visto? Créeme que yo he visto mi propia "película" de terror.

Muchos (incluyéndome yo mismo) han dicho que la marihuana no hace daño, que no es adictiva, y que no es peor que un cigarrillo común. A través de mi propia experiencia con marihuana he llegado a darme cuenta de que estaba equivocado, la marihuana es mortal.

Hasta hace como siete meses, yo fumaba casi todos los días porque pensaba que era muy divertido y que no me haría daño. La drogada ("high") de toda la noche no vale la pena cuando esto causa la pérdida de la familia, los amigos y el respeto a uno mismo.

Mi vida familiar estaba destruida; apenas recuerdo cuando le hablaba a mi madre o a mi hermanita. Sólo recuerdo que

mi mamá decía que mi memoria ya no servía. Cada vez que ella me pedía que hiciera algo, a mi se me olvidaba. Ya casi no le hablaba a mi papá a menos que fuera algo relacionado con dinero y la gran amistad entre mi hermana y yo estaba casi completamente arruinada.

Mi vida social también estaba destruida; los amigos con quienes yo fumaba cambiaron su manera de ser. Cuando yo les hablo ahora, ya no es lo mismo. Los amigos que no fuman dejaron de meterse conmigo porque yo era el que había cambiado. Yo dependía de la marihuana porque pensé que era mi única amiga.

Mi vida escolar estaba destruida. Ya la escuela no me importaba y el año pasado acumulé 50 ausencias. Yo casi nunca ponía atención en clase y cada vez que podía me dormía.

Mi capacidad de poner atención se redujo. Yo me frustraba con facilidad y me daban dolores de cabeza. Parecía que algo me jalaba y apretaba mis ojos desde adentro. Si alguien me pedía que repitiera una conversación que acabábamos de tener, yo no podía recordar lo que acabábamos de decir.

Finalmente, yo me di cuenta que iba hundiéndome cada vez más. Yo necesitaba detenerme y eso hice. Pero siento la presión constante de mis compañeros. Cuando me toca enfrentarme con la tentación, yo me recuerdo de las malas situaciones que me tocó vivir y lo único que quiero es mantenerme alejado de las drogas. Y eso es lo que les recomiendo a ustedes, manténganse lejos de las drogas!

Recibe créditos académicos para graduarte por correo

Puedes recibir créditos académicos por correo para graduarte más rápido o para reponer clases que has reprobado. Inscríbete en los cursos por correspondencia que ofrece la Universidad de Nevada, Reno.

Aprenderás a tu propio ritmo y en tu propia casa. Este programa es ideal si tu ya tienes un trabajo pero quieres graduarte de la escuela superior (high school) a tiempo.

Llama al teléfono 1-800-233-8928 (la llamada es gratis) para recibir un catálogo de cursos de estudio por correspondencia.

Compañía, ofrece oportunidades de trabajo

Si tu estás interesado/a en una carrera aquí en Las Vegas con una compañía que está creciendo, deberías de ponerte en contacto con Preferred Equities Corporation (PEC).

PEC tiene una variedad de empleos para graduados de escuela superior (o para estudiantes que se graduarán pronto). PEC opera cinco centros de vacación: dos en Nevada, uno en Hawaii, uno en Colorado, y el quinto en New Jersey.

La compañía desarrollo Calvada, una colonia de 18,000 acres en Pahrump, la cual cuenta con dos campos de golf, un complejo deportivo, y un parque para casas rodantes. El futuro se muestra color de rosa para PEC. Contactar al Departamento de Recursos Humanos a esta dirección: 4310 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109.



Viene de la página 15...

Anuario Hispano lista becas y oportunidades para carreras

En Busca de Fondos

Uno de los servicios más sobresalientes del anuario es la búsqueda de becas de estudio, particularmente para estudiantes de origen hispano. Los editores pueden buscar dentro de como 100,000 oportunidades de ayuda financiera para estudiantes; además te dicen cómo solicitar fondos y te dan otros tipos de información. (Este servicio le cuesta al estudiante la suma de \$29.)

Aquí están los detalles de algunas fuentes de fondos disponibles a estudiantes hispanos:

- La compañía Eastman Kodak: cubre los costos de estudios para estudiantes de segundo, tercero, y cuarto año en universidades seleccionadas. Debes de mantener un promedio de "B", permanecer en la misma carrera (usualmente en un campo técnico), en la misma universidad, y además trabajar para la compañía Kodak durante los veranos.

-La Fundación Kellog: tiene subvenciones para estudios a plazo corto y a plazo largo para estudiantes oriundos de Latinoamérica, el Caribe, o Sudáfrica, y son para estudios que enfocan el desarrollo de servicios humanos en estos países.

-La Cámara de Comercio de los Estados Unidos: ofrece becas en la suma de \$1,000 para estudios efectuados dentro del país.

Para obtener el Anuario Hispano de 1996, escribe a: TIYM Publishing Company, 1489 Chain Bridge Road, #200, McLean, VA 22101. También puedes comunicarte por teléfono al número (703) 734-1632.

NOTICIAS BREVES

REYNA: Señorita "Teen"



Reporta: Alisa Ochoa, de la Escuela Cheyenne

La estudiante "junior" de la escuela Cheyenne, Reyna Quijano, ganó recientemente el concurso de señorita "Southern Nevada Teen USA", el cual se disputa entre damas adolescentes. Ella participará en el certamen a nivel nacional en agosto.

Ella viene participando en concursos de belleza desde que estaba en el noveno grado, y está convencida que estos certámenes valen la pena

a pesar de los ensayos, entrevistas, y el tener que hacer campaña de publicidad.

"Se les presentan muchas oportunidades a las señoritas", dice Reyna. El haber recibido una beca de 500 dólares le acercó a su sueño un poquito más. "Yo siempre he querido llegar a ser una maestra de inglés", dice ella. Además de mantener un promedio de 3.0, ella es fotógrafa del periódico escolar en la escuela Cheyenne, y pronto empezará una gira por todas las escuelas del distrito para divulgar su mensaje: ¡diga NO a las drogas!

La Srita. Quijano cree que la belleza se lleva en el corazón. "Es cómo son las personas, su actitud y qué piensan del prójimo".

El Rincón Poético

VERSO A LA VIDA

La Vida es la mejor escuela de aprendizaje
el fruto de dos personas llenas de amor y paz;
la silueta de cada día,
la jornada de todo ser.

Feliz cuando se vive moderadamente,
azul como nuestras venas,
dura y dócil como una madre.
Un ejemplo de nuestros antepasados y padres.

La Vida fría como el blanco invierno,
como la flor sin pétalos,
como los niños abandonados,
como Dios sin una oración.

La Vida es un verso de la naturaleza;
la flor convertida en mujer;
el castillo construido
con barro y el sudor de nuestras frentes.

La Vida es la fragancia de un amanecer en el campo.
A medio día una caricia de la brisa del mar,
un atardecer con los rayos del sol agitado
y el bello canto al anochecer con la luna y las estrellas.

Alberto Maldonado
Escuela Las Vegas

● EN ● TRIBUTO



La Escuela Valley ha establecido una beca en nombre de la **Sra. Esperanza Castells**, quien dio clases de español en esa escuela durante trece años. La beca será otorgada a un "senior" que haya sido estudiante de la Sra. Castells.

CULTURAMA VISITA ESPAÑA, FRANCIA, JAPON, Y ALEMANIA

Reporta: Bryan Hedlind

"Culturama", un evento anual de la Academia Las Vegas, presentó el lenguaje y costumbres de cuatro países: España, Francia, Japón, y Alemania. Este año Culturama se llevó a cabo del 30 de enero al 23 de febrero.

Estudiantes de escuelas primarias visitan la Academia y aprenden un poco de frases comunes de cada país. Alumnos de la Academia construyen esquemas representando cada nación y hablan solamente el idioma oriundo del país cuando otros niños visitan.

ATENCION

A todas aquellas damitas interesadas en participar en el próximo evento de

MISS HISPANA 1996

se les informa que las inscripciones ya están abiertas. Para más información, comuníquese con Zoila Sánchez-Escobedo al **399-7627**.

Viene de la página 15...Estudiantes que vienen de México tienen una mejor.....

entrevistaron a 189 estudiantes...no- latinos blancos, Latinos de una segunda generación y Latinos recién llegados a escuelas públicas vecinas a San Diego.

El factor más importante en sus vidas es la escuela, comentaron el 84% de los recién inmigrados de México o comparado con 40% de los estudiantes blancos y 55% de los estudiantes de una segunda generación de México-Americanos. Casi 70% de los jóvenes inmigrantes indicaron que completar las tareas escolares era más importante que ayudar a sus amigos. Esto es tres veces más de lo que indicaron los jóvenes México-Americanos.

Se le pidió a los estudiantes completar la siguiente frase, "mi escuela es...". Como el 88% de los recién inmigrados de México usaron palabras positivas como "lo mejor", "bonita", y "fabulosa". Pero sólo 20%

de los estudiantes blancos dijeron algo positivo de la escuela; 42% dijeron cosas negativas como "aburrida", "lo peor", "estúpida", e "infernala". Los otros estudiantes dieron comentarios indiferentes.

Este estudio demuestra que los estudiantes que recién inmigran de México traen las mismas aspiraciones y valores que inmigrantes europeos de hace algún tiempo. Pero por alguna razón, estas actitudes de trabajo se van perdiendo en generaciones de residentes que van asimilándose a la forma de vida en los Estados Unidos de América.

Según Suárez-Orozco, la pregunta es "Asimilación a qué? A una cultura que es anti-autoridad y donde salir destacado en la escuela no es cool?"

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Foo fighters fill Nirvana void

By Gabe Fisk,
Advanced Technologies Academy

From the ashes of Nirvana, a new phoenix has risen. The Foo Fighters have the same drive and energy as Nirvana did.

The lead singer/guitarist is Dave Grohl, who played drums for Nirvana from 1991 until the band's demise last year.

Also included is rhythm guitarist, Pat Smear, who was also a member of Nirvana. Nate Mendel and William Goldsmith, former members of the underground Seattle band Sunny Day Real Estate, complete the band playing bass and drums, respectively.

On the album, Grohl shows the same lyrical and vocal

abilities that his predecessor, Kurt Cobain had.

The opening track "This Is a Call," hits you immediately with an excellent pseudo-alternative riff and draws you into such tracks as "Good Grief" and "Watershed."

The song, "I'll Stick Around" has just recently been made into the group's first music video. The track is a twisted love song, ending with Grohl shouting "I don't owe you anything" over and over again.

By the time the CD rolls to an end, one is overwhelmed by the fact that the album is so much like Nirvana's "Nevermind," a breath of fresh air to a stagnant music industry.

Duran Duran

(Continued from page 23)

Thank-You is a tribute to rap, R&B, country, jazz, and good ole' rock n' roll. Remade songs like "White Lines" (originally sung by the rap group, Run DMC), and "I Wanna Take You Higher," (by DeeLite), give you the sensation that you are in a disco. But then the band plays a different rhythm with "Success," which sounds more like a country song.

Throughout the album, Duran Duran borrows the rhythm from bands like U2, Boyz II Men, and The Doors, to David Bowie, and Brooks, and even the punk sounds of Billy Idol.

The tribute album has given Duran Duran more

of a rock edge, a more modern sound. Their lyrics include a more sexual, slow, relaxing sound. They have taken all kinds of music and put emotions into them.

The powerful voice from Simon LeBon takes your breath away, and the guitarist, John Taylor is exceptional. Nick Rhodes, the pianist, and Warren Cuccurullo, the drummer, only add to the wonderful listening quality.

Thank-You is definitely a hit.

Nielson saves Mel Brooks' Dracula movie

By Gabe Fisk,
Advanced Technologies Academy

Mel Brooks has produced a long line of entertaining take-offs of classic films (*Spaceballs*, *Blazing Saddles*, *Robin Hood - Men in Tights*). But his latest effort, *Dracula: Dead and Loving It*, feels more like a 1970's Monty Python movie. The film is about Dracula (perfectly portrayed by Leslie Nielsen), his servant Renfield, and a professor attempting to catch the vampire.

The film tries to follow the plot of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, tracing the path of an English businessman as he makes his way through the Transylvanian countryside to Dracula's castle.

From there, the scene shifts to England, where the infamous vampire

has purchased the abbey adjoining a lunatic asylum.

For the rest of the movie, Dracula will attempt to drink blood from the daughter of the doctor who runs the asylum. When the daughter's friend is drained, the professor (Brooks) is called in.

The movie is basic slapstick. The pace is hard to predict: just when it seems like the film has only scratched the surface, all of a sudden it is over.

Without Leslie Nielsen (best known for the *Naked Gun* movies), this movie would have crashed and burned in the first 15 minutes. His comic abilities are the glue that keeps the film from falling apart.

Still, I recommend it to anyone with five bucks and an afternoon to kill.

Eye for an Eye did more than build emotions



By Heather Tucker, Chaparral

Okay, so maybe you have seen the previews or heard about the movie *Eye for an Eye*. Everyone told me this was such a good movie and that I had to see it. So, I did.

Sally Fields was wonderful as Karen McCann, the mother of two daughters, Julie 17, and Megan, nearly seven.

At the beginning, she was leaving work when she decided to call home. Karen was surprised to find Julie home. Then, suddenly, Julie was screaming for help. Eventually the police caught the killer, Robert Doob (Keifer Sutherland). Yet, leave it to our justice system, they could not convict him; he walked as a free man.

Naturally anyone would want revenge, right? Karen decided to track down Doob. At this point, I

thought she had gone psycho. Eventually, Karen and her husband Mac (Ed Harris) join a support group, and Karen meets a man who tells her how to get revenge...but she has to go to a garage to meet with these people.

A man issues her a gun and enrolls her in self-defense classes. Of course, she still follows Doob and notices how he has been watching a certain lady. She tries to warn the police, but they say there is nothing they can do about it. She gets upset, and tells the officer off. Now the audience is cheering her on.

Finally, she backs off the deal with the people at the garage. Then she figures that she and her family need a vacation.

Now you and I know this is not how the movie ends, but if I say more it will give away the surprise. I highly recommend that anyone who likes suspenseful, edge-of-the-seat movies see this one.

Eye for an Eye is not a waste of anyone's time or money. Trust me.

TALK ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS!

Do you know a student who should be featured in CLASS?

Tell us who, why and how to contact him or her.

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■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Bonanza club ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ to make movies

By Steve Coston, Bonanza High

There's a brand new club on the Bengal campus — the Young Filmmakers Society — and it's all primed and ready for action. Led by seniors Steve Coston and Brandon Dooley, the group hopes to make video films during the spring and plans to enter their work in competitions and film festivals.

These would-be directors are currently planning fund-raising activities so they can purchase some of the new, very small video cameras to enable them to be less obtrusive when filming.

Ending hopelessness and pain — the wrong way

Richard Cory

By Edwin Arlington Robinson
1869-1935

Whenever Richard Cory went downtown,
We people on the pavement looked at him.
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,
Clean favored and imperially slim.

And he was always quietly arrayed,
And he was always human when he talked.
But still he fluttered pulses when he said,
"Good morning," and he glittered when
he walked.

And he was rich — yes, richer than a king —
And admirably schooled in every grace.
In fine, we thought that he was everything
To make us wish that we were in his place.

So on we worked, and waited for the light,
And went without the meat, and cursed
the bread,
And Richard Cory, one calm summer night,
Went home and put a bullet through his head.

In this issue, the journalism students of Bishop Gorman High School address the alarming increase in suicide and in

attempted suicide by teenagers. Please heed their words about warning signs and learn how you can help a friend.

Statistics on teen suicide worsen in just one generation

By C. R. Flieger



Flieger

As societal pressure builds and their dreams become unachievable, more and

more teens are ending their hopelessness by means of suicide.

In just one generation, suicide has increased over 300 percent, becoming the third leading cause of death for young people—just under accidents and homicide.

Many analysts believe that sui-

cide is actually the number-one cause of death for teens, citing the fact that many suicides are actually recorded as accidents due to the unfavorable stance on self-termination.

Last year, over 4,500 teens took their own lives, which is incredibly low considering that estimates for those who attempted to kill themselves are as high as 450,000.

Many of those contemplating suicide have no singular reason to do so. It is more a build-up of deeply rooted problems. Rejec-

tion, impossible goals and failure seem to cloud the minds of many distraught teens, who begin to think that there is no way out of their situations.

LIFE EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Teens, according to researchers, don't have the life experiences to tell them that life goes on.

Teen suicide expert Mary O'Roark explains, "Overwhelmed, many young people withdraw. Especially if they live in families where anger and grief are not seen as normal human responses that can be faced and dealt with constructively, teenagers may withdraw into a shell of silence and suppress their feelings in shame until they build to an unbearable sense of worthlessness and rage."

Teens often develop tunnel vision. Judie Angell, who writes on teen suicide, describes it as "the inability to see anything else in life but the loneliness and pain of that particular moment." A slow withdrawal into a world of apathy occurs...leading to a build-up of emotions that can be set off by an insignificant event and end in the loss of one's life.

NEVADA'S ROLE

Historically, suicide is usually prevalent in societies with low moral standings, which may explain why Nevada is the teen suicide capital of America. Our society tends to focus on quick-fix solutions and instant gratification. Such beliefs may have had an almost direct effect on the recent trend towards suicide.

By the time you get out of school today, ten teenagers will have already killed themselves.

In an increasingly uncaring world, the decline of morals and the family nucleus, and an unwillingness to recognize and treat youth depression, numbers like these will continue to increase.

If the problem is ignored, it won't go away. It will get worse—much worse.

The sobering truth: That 'better way' is no way at all

A fictional story based on the reality of teen suicide.

By Leigh Ann Caldwell and Molly Raftery

Monday night

This seems so pointless. I don't care if I get good grades; my dad is the only one who cares. Why am I even studying for this test? It doesn't matter anymore. I'm just going to go to sleep and forget. Sleep is my safe haven, and I've been so tired lately.

Early Tuesday morning

It's already 6:46. Oh great, I'm late again. If I'm late one more time, I will get a Saturday detention. And I still need to take a shower, I feel so dirty.

This scorching hot water feels so good against my back. Here I don't have to worry about anything. If I get out of the shower I have to go to school. Speaking of school, I'm going to flunk my Geometry test and then my dad is going to shoot me.

Why did I look in the mirror? It just reminds me of how ugly I am. I look so awful. My eyes have dark circles under them, my face is broken out, and I've gained at least eight pounds in the last two weeks.

"Stephanie, you're late again. Go get a note from the office and you will be sitting right here Saturday morning."

Just another bad day in the life of Stephanie. To top it all off, I get to take my Geometry test that I didn't study for. All I can do is pray for a good grade.

Later Tuesday morning

This test is so difficult. I don't know anything. I knew I should have studied. At least we have one more test before the semester ends, so my dad doesn't see a B on my report card. I don't even want to think of what would happen if a B is on....oh, I forgot my soccer bag. What am I going to do? Now I can't go to practice.

I can remember when soccer meant so much to me. I used to love it — I was so good at it. Now it only makes my father happy, no one else, and especially not me. My coach expects so much! I'm not training for the Olympics. I just

(See TEEN SUICIDE on page 30)

Learn the Warning Signs

1. A previous suicide attempt.
2. Verbal threats of suicide.
3. Extreme changes in behavior
4. Substance abuse.
5. Giving away possessions.
6. Signs of depression.
7. Problems in school.
8. Themes of death in art or writing.
9. Sudden, unexpected happiness.

Don't stand by and ignore a friend in need..

Rather...

1. Take all threats of suicide seriously.
2. Tell others.
3. Talk to the person who is at risk.
4. Help and stay with the person who is experiencing a crisis.
5. Notify adults of your concerns.
6. Stay in close touch with the person
7. Trust your own judgement.

VO-TECH

RIGHT:

The Big Apple?

VoTech High School's junior and senior carpentry classes were invited to tour the construction site of the New York, New York Hotel with the approval of the MGM Corporation. The field trip was arranged through the cooperative efforts of the Clark County School District, the Associated Contractors, and Boy Scout Explorers.



Censorship: Where Do We Draw The Line?

By Jim Duciome

If you have ever wanted to buy music, clothing, or books, then you are well aware of what censors are. Their job is to evaluate what should and should not be read, worn, or even thought.

TV is constantly scrutinized for its depiction of certain topics, one of which is the role of the female in the family. Many feminists feel that the wife role in TV sitcoms is not only unrealistic, but degrading, in general.

Another area that has come under fire is the violence in children's cartoons. Critics feel that violence in cartoon leads to mischievous behavior and can influence a child to copy their favorite cartoon character's actions. Many say they are right about children copying their animated friends, but to say that they are going to "burn down the house" is downright absurd.

How is this any different from what kids were doing 30 years ago? Ask any parent, and he/she will tell you how they played
(See **Censorship**, page 30)

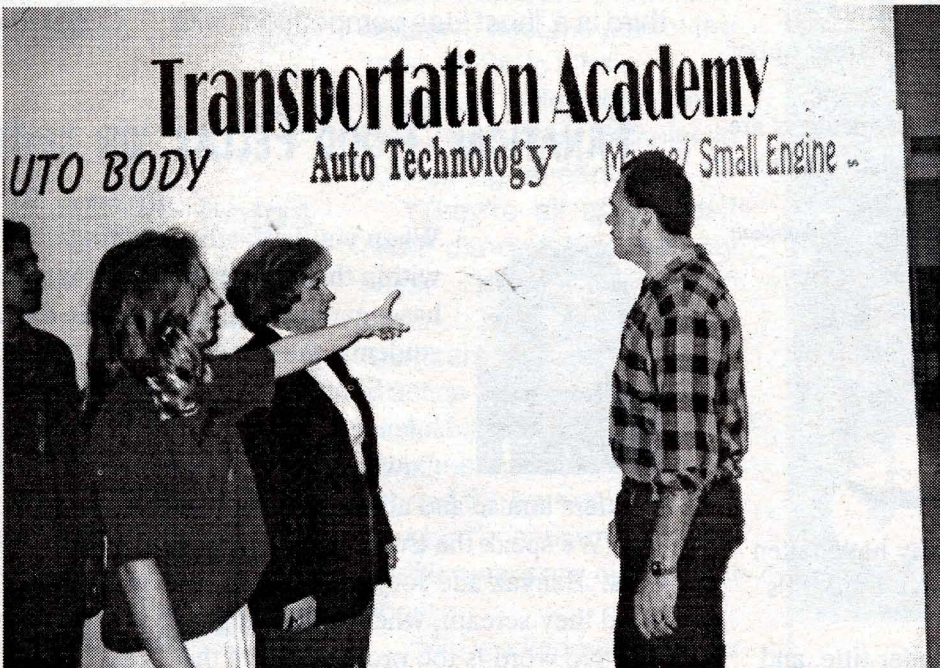
BELOW: An aerial view of VoTech shows the amazing growth of the "school on the hill."

Photo by David Phillips.



RIGHT:

Student Ambassadors **Chrissy Ralyea** and **Umel Figueroa** helped Assistant Principal **Martha Francis** lead guests on tours at VoTech's Open House, which was held February 13. The Open House honored alumni from the past 30 years, with a special salute to Computer Animation teacher **Don Sypien** (above), the only faculty member to have been on VoTech's staff for the entire 30 years. More than 2100 people attended the Open House.



What Did You Learn in February?

By Nicole Chenoweth

February was not just a month of romance and valentines. It was also a month to reflect upon the great things accomplished by Black achievers.

Sometimes, due to Valentine's Day, the celebration of Black History is overlooked. For over 400 years, black endeavorists have contributed to the advancement of American society. Some of those endeavorists include Maya Angelou, Andrew Young, Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey, and Dr. Martin Luther King. It is because of achievers such as these that we celebrate Black History month each February.

In Clark County, African-American history and culture was featured in many ways: The Black History Parade at the Fremont Experience, school assemblies,

an African-American Poetry Contest, Black sorority and fraternity events, and community college and UNLV celebrations.

At VoTech, in addition to a Black History Assembly put on by the Black Student Union, the Student Council distributed Brotherhood necklaces. Freshman Amber Jones was declared one of the winners in the African-American Poetry Contest. And congratulations was extended to Chef T.E. Williams who was selected as one of the Outstanding Community Leaders by the 23rd Black History Committee of the Community College of Southern Nevada. He was presented an award in a special ceremony on their campus on February 25. The evening's theme was "The Role of the African-American Male in the 1990's: What it Means to be Male vs Man."



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Campus briefs

Congratulations to **Tommy Marth** and **Becca Stewart** for being chosen to participate in the Leadership Las Vegas Youth Program.

Nicole Smith and **Cindy Morgan** have been selected from over 122,000 applicants throughout the United States as semi-finalists in the 1996 Coca-Cola Scholars Program.

The **UNLV Environmental Studies Program** is holding more Wetlands Park clean-ups. The Wetland Park is going to be located behind the Silverbowl. The remaining dates are March 30 and April 27. Each clean-up lasts from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you would like more information on dates or the location call Tara Pike at 895-1630 or 895-4495 to leave a message.

Parenteen Program: A new program for teen mothers and pregnant teens began at Chaparral last month. The program provides information to pregnant or parenting teens on a variety of topics including personal/infant health, community resources, parenting skills, dealing with stress, goal-setting, and career opportunities.

Sessions are weekly during school time and guest speakers are brought in to provide information and answer questions. Time will also be provided for participants to share concerns and common experiences.



Waldman

MUSIC REVIEW:

Duran Duran sings thanks

By *Bridget Waldman*

The fashion of leather, eyeliner, and lipstick may have taken the British group Duran Duran to the top, but this isn't the '80s anymore.

Their comeback in 1992 broke their one-hit wonder title, and proved that they could really sing and write music. Hits like "Ordinary World," and "Come Undone," were dramatically different from their famous '80s hit, "Hungry Like A Wolf."

The lead singer, Simon LeBon, decided it was time for a tribute album, *Thank-You*. A look at the Beatles-like cover demonstrates that Duran Duran has changed their image once again.

(See *Duran Duran*, page 19)

SIS 'Best Idea' wins grant for Vaquero

By *Andrea Bednar (left)*



Imagine being able to see the morning announcements rather than hear them over the crackly speakers. Chaparral's Student Involvement Society (SIS) has received a grant of \$1,500 from First Interstate Bank.

This money will be used to attempt to start up a television station titled Vaquero Productions, to which every classroom will be connected.

To obtain this money, SIS placed third in a "best idea competition" with

four other schools. Each school's club performed a series of skits explaining how they could put the money to use.

This year's theme was the past, present, and future of communication technology.

Officers consist of President: senior **Jennifer Larsen**; Vice President: junior **Kwan Kim**; and Secretary: junior **Julie Seidlenger**.

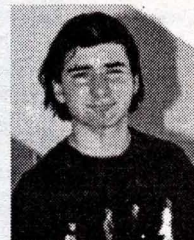
SIS member **Tiffany Ruggles** best summed it up:

"SIS is a wonderful organization whose sole purpose is to better Chap, and find ways to encourage students to get involved."

FANATICAL 'GOOD FELLAS' OR CRAZED SCREAMERS?

By *Jamie Mattern*

Mattern



When you look at some things, you find something hidden within the image you are looking at. An athletic contest, too, has a game within a game. In the case of two excited Chaparral students, the crowd is as full of action as the court.

Shouting seniors **Jerry Jory** and **Mark Benyak** are the intense fanatics who bleed orange and black at every game the Cowboys play. In addition to rooting their team to win, the hecklers amuse and abuse fans, refs, and players alike in quest of justice.

"We speak the truth," states Benyak, a blond with shaved hair and fire in his eyes. Benyak and Jory create a one-two punch that throws fierce power in every word they scream, whether the language is good or bad.

"No word is too profane," says the "Yak." When it comes to cheering "it's no holds barred," declared the duo's nothing-but-the-truth approach to rooting on their beloved Cowboys.

The mad screamers go to every event at Chap they can and voice themselves with flair. Whether the school activity is a play, a volleyball game, their beloved football, or basketball games, the twosome go over the top like no one else.

"Ref equals enemy," says Benyak with a face straighter than a geometry teacher's ruler. The hecklers see every call the referees make as being one big plot against the home team, like John Lennon thought J. Edgar Hoover was tapping his phone lines.

"Everyone is against Chap," claims Jory with Black Sabbathish paranoia, while explaining why the two wage a war against the "evil" referees. Not everyone in the school though is thrilled with the heckling by messieurs Benyak and Jory. "Their support is great," explains coach Thad Simmons, "but not when it comes to mouthing off to officials."

On the positive side, players love the duo's support. Several athletes, including basketball players Kris Martino and Antoine Washington, point to them as being great supporters.

Two athletes who are basked in support from the "good fellas" are football player Brian "Miller Time" Miller, and basketball's Tony "the Don" Celeste.

Throughout the games there were numerous loud remarks to the effect that Tony and Brian are the best players in the country and that it is always "Miller time!"

Love them or hate them, the two fanatics don't care. They believe they speak nothing but truth in their support for their school.

"The rest of the student body should emulate those two young men, and we would be the most spirited school in the city, if not the country," says a jubilant Principal Mike West.

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'Come into my parlor' says the computer jock with his Web

By Richard Park



Principal Mike West.

The CHS web page, designed by Art See, will contain almost all the school departments including English, art, counseling, and foreign language. Special classes and clubs will also be included.

On top of being a display piece for special projects, the page could also serve as a place where teachers post the day's homework for anyone who might be absent (or ditching) that day.

The web page will serve as a home page with links to other sections so people can find different sorts of information. School events could be listed or the page might include information about students, so parents would be able to check on their child's progress.

Chaparral does not have the resources, such as a web server, to support its own web page so all activities will be through Intermind, in Internet service.

Unlike most schools that have pages online, Chaparral will be posting a web page, as opposed to a bulletin board, which is mostly text. The web page will be more graphic and, according to See, "easier to use

Soon, Chaparral High School will be seen by millions of people on the World Wide Web thanks to

for novices."

Students at Chaparral have mixed feelings about the new web page.

"I don't use the Internet that much so it really doesn't impact me at all. I think it's a good idea, though," says sophomore **Jason Sellers**.

Some feel the web page would open new pathways that are otherwise unavailable.

"I think the new web page will get us up to technology and online with the rest of the world, and it will put our school on the map," says sophomore **Sam Shedd**.

"It's a rad way to talk and to educate other people through computers," says senior **Ben Fama**.

Sure, we debate — but that's freedom

'Lawmaking is like sausage'

By Ryan Adams



Adams

Nevada Representative John Ensign spoke to Chaparral government and U.S. History classes recently as part of his tour of Clark County High Schools to inspire young adults to care about our system of government.

Ensign began his lecture by stating that our system of government is "the greatest in the world." He pointed out that even though our government is in the middle of a huge budget debate, at least a debate is possible, thanks to the form of government we have.

Other governments, such as Cuba's and China's, for example, are not allowed to debate issues, and therefore, the citizens must live by whatever the government decides.

Ensign compared the process of lawmaking to the production of sausage; the finished product looks great, but you wouldn't want to see it being made.

Ensign told the audience that he ran for office because he cares very deeply about our country. He said that our morals are collapsing, and a huge debt is a threat to the future of the U.S. He said he feels that it is his responsibility to use his talents to the fullest.

Ensign recalled a question asked by a student at another high school: "Is it possible for people to keep from being cynical about the current state of our country?"

Ensign said that cynicism can be avoided by people becoming involved with government. If a person becomes cynical, then they become part of the problem. He said that we have the power to change the government if we don't like it.

The budget battle, in Ensign's opinion, is very important. He revealed that children born in 1995 will need to pay \$187,000 each to pay the interest on the national debt alone. Ensign said that Washington is the only place where a "cut" means adding on, and that budget cuts are actually budget increases.

Ensign then opened the floor to questions from the students.

One of the questions dealt with capital punishment. Ensign stated that by the time criminals are executed, often 10-15 years after the trial, we have forgotten who the victims are. He said he feels that the death penalty is not a deterrent, and that if we are going to keep the death penalty, it should be quicker.

Another question dealt with Yucca Mountain. Ensign said that once we bury nuclear waste, we cannot retrieve it. He stated that about two-thirds of nuclear materials is waste, and we should use it more efficiently or possibly burn it down to 3% of its original size.

Ditching class? Forget the credits. New attendance policy in place

By Lindsay Rhodes

Second semester brought the students of Chaparral a change in the attendance policy.

The punishment for missing more than 10 full periods of class will not be referral to an alternative education program, as in the past. Instead, students may not earn credit for the class.

"We've been too lenient," Principal Mike West says. He adds that it is virtually impossible for students to make up the education missed when they are absent from school. The school does try, however, to help people with medically excused absences.

"I think it's fair," **Brett Bollman** says. "The credits should be taken away," agrees student **Michael Jackson**.

The goal for the school is not to kick out people with excessive absences but to get students to attend school regularly. West says that parents don't want their kids on the street, so they should comply with the new policy.

"Students might be upset at the loss of their credits, but they should be more upset at the loss of an education," West says.

Funding for alternative programs was cut after the first three weeks of school; every school in the county is struggling for ideas on how to handle attendance problems.

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DHS students host 450 eighth graders

From a report by Rachael Moser

Students from Kenny Guinn Middle School sampled Durango's campus for three days in February, when some 150 eighth graders a day came to visit.

Each middle school student shadowed a Durango student, attending all classes from second period to the end of the Durango day. Teachers included the eighth graders in their lessons and treated them as regular students.

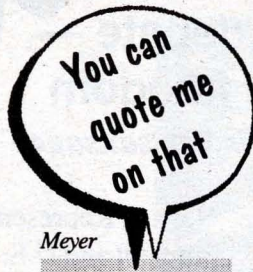
According to Assistant Principal Dawn Shupe, this should help make the transition from middle to high school easier.



Harpist Erin Earl performs during the recent Renaissance Fair at Durango.

Who? Where?

At the end of Brotherhood Week at Durango, sophomore Kristine Karol won a gift certificate to the Warehouse, as the winner of the Black History trivia contest.



Meyer



The Value of Life

By Amy Meyer

How do you value life?

This is probably a question you have never asked yourself. Most people don't reminisce about their past until they are closer to the end than the beginning. I asked myself this question for the first time over the holiday break...I was given a dose of reality when a close friend died.

I never really thought of death as a factor in my near future. I act as though I am immortal, as

most teenagers do.

I remember sitting in my English class on the last day of school before the holiday break. I was listening to my teacher caution us about drinking and driving...He went on to explain how his family was killed by a teenage drunk driver right before Christmas many years ago. I recall thinking, "Nothing like that would happen to someone I know."

Now, thinking back, I realize how wise his words were and wish everyone would abide by them and not think they are "in control" of their driving.

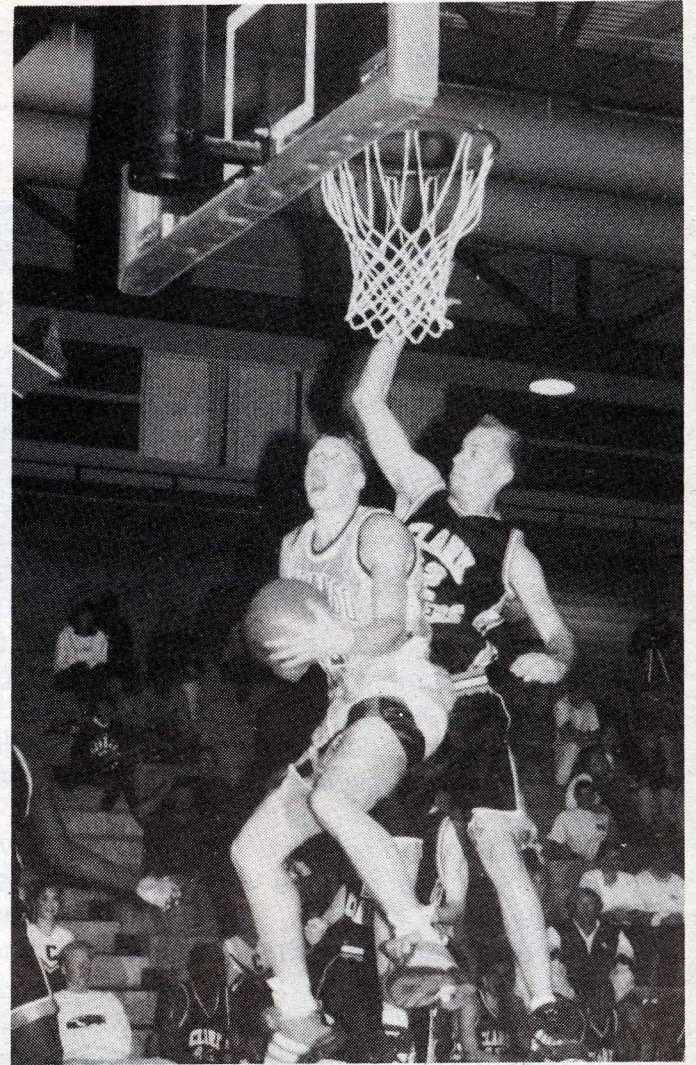
Everyone has different ideas about why things like this happen; everyone has different ideas. It could be because God felt you had fulfilled your life to its fullest extent, or if you do not believe in religion, it could be a sign of fate.

Personally, I believe everything happens for a reason. I had a brush with fate in a car accident and believe I am here because I still have not done everything that God put me on earth to do.

In third-world countries, people don't value human life as we do in the United States. Having a family member or friend die is an everyday occurrence. In America, we go to great lengths to preserve life.

Death might not happen to you in the near future, but it could happen to someone you love. Grief over a loved one is expressed in many ways. Just remember not to dwell on the dead. Instead, reflect on them and remember the living so you may go on with your life, not only for yourself but for others.

Always bear in mind that if you don't want to be the "other person," act with precaution and vision.



MEMORIES. With basketball season just over, memories can be refreshed by this photo by Amy Meyer. Durango junior Tyler Kidd, a transfer from Clark High, goes up for a basket against Clark senior Lance Pierson. Durango won.

Assembly celebrates cultural differences

By Shannon Miller

February traditionally celebrates African-American history. Durango joined in the celebration with Brotherhood Week... a time to celebrate history and heritage.

The assembly started with the Madrigals singing the national anthem. Members of Student Relations sang the Black National Anthem.

Ron Feekop and Nikeisha Nicholson were the hosts of the collective performances. They introduced Signs in Time, who used sign language to interpret the song "Imagine." May Luong read a selection from the acclaimed novel "The Joy Luck Club," which depicts the plight of the daughter of Chinese immigrants in American society.

The Spanish Club featured a dance by costumed students Christina Caamano and Agueda Formoso, who performed a traditional Flamenco dance.

"We have a lot of differences, but we can get together and have a lot of fun despite our differences," says Nicholson. She introduced a short skit produced by Leadership and Student Relations.

New Agenda performed a number of dances.

"In complete darkness we are all the same. It is only our knowledge and wisdom that separates us. Don't let your eyes deceive you."

These were the opening lines to one of the first songs. It announced the general theme of the performance.

Despite technical difficulties, senior Christina Javier and her younger sister performed a Hawaiian dance. The dance explained the story-telling essence of the hula.

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DURANGO



**Boss 'em but
don't tick 'em off!**

By Karen Cover



TOO BEAUTIFUL TO BASH!
The 1995 graduating class presented this gift to Durango students of the future. But after the first week-end, the rock was vandalized.
(Amy Meyer Photo)

Being able to boss people around without making anyone angry and the ability to take control of situations has paid off for two Durango students.

Angela Namba, junior, and **Picholo Dulay**, sophomore, were chosen for their leadership skills to attend the Leadership Las Vegas Youth Program, which continues through May.

Purposes of this program are to acquaint students with the processes, programs and problems that exist in the community and to develop individual and group decision-making skills.

Namba and Dulay attend all-day sessions on issues that affect the community and the quality of the environment.

Selection of students for this Leadership program is based on character, interest in the community and a desire to shape ideas and attitudes of other people.

Namba is president of the junior class, is involved in numerous clubs, and last year she participated in the Jason Program. Dulay, too, is involved in many clubs as well as the Sophomore Class cabinet.

Art Fair winners have work on public display

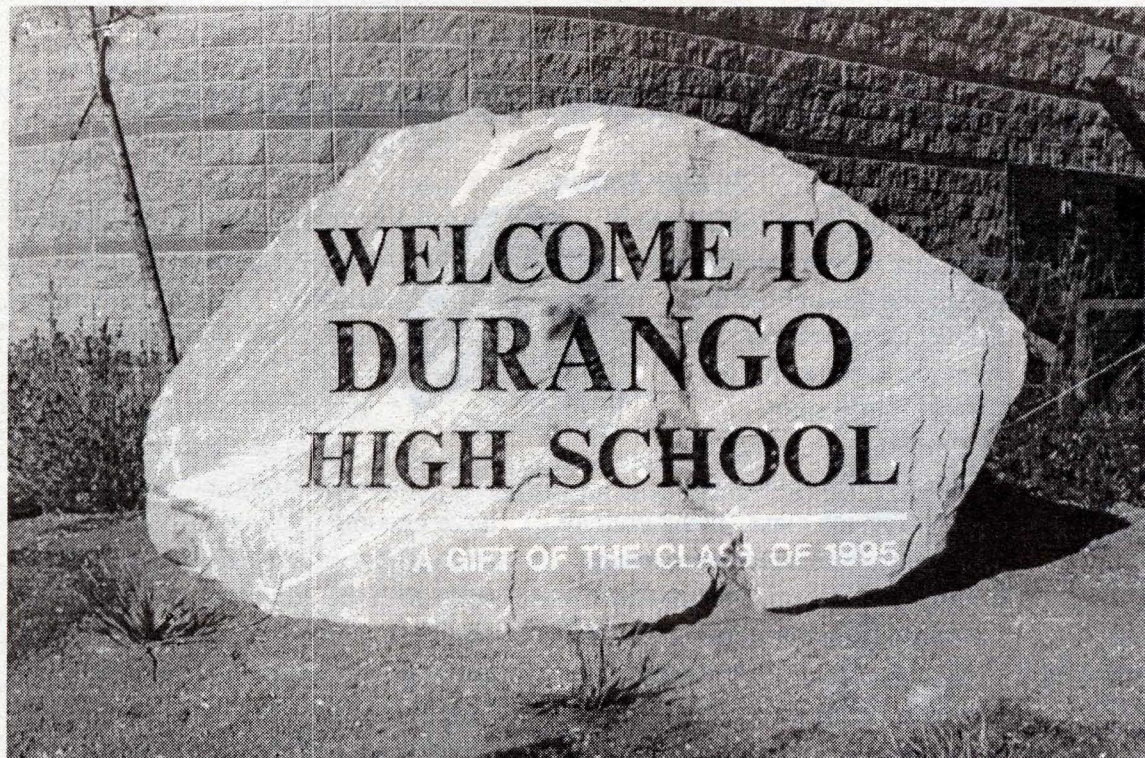
Adapted from a report by Aliza Robinson

The second annual Durango High School Art Fair took place in February and was open to the public during the day.

Original work from 30 art-related classes was on display in the Durango Theater. The exhibit included paintings, drawings, ceramics, computer graphics, 3-D objects, and photography.

"I'm excited that the hard work has paid off," says **Mary**

Southerland, a senior who had both ceramics and photography in the Fair. Durango students have earned honors district-wide for their artistic talent. Junior **Adam Gonzalez** and senior **Joe Bergin** were both first-place winners for their grade levels in the Review-Journal Holiday Art Contest.



Farewell gift vandalized

By Irene Goya

Students may have noticed the boulder in front of Durango's main entrance. This is a gift from the Senior Class of 1995.

[Editor's note: That was the good news. The bad news is that after just one weekend, the boulder was vandalized and the letters dismantled.]

As Durango's first graduating class, they had the opportunity of establishing numerous traditions. Leaving a gift to Durango was their



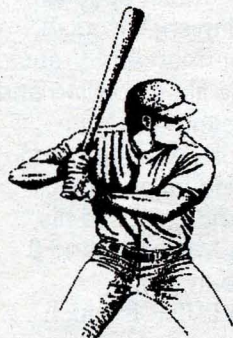
farewell.

During the 1994-95 school year, the senior class held dances and many other fundraising activities in order to purchase the boulder.

The top is branded by the letter Z to symbolize Durango spirit. Following it are the words, "Welcome to Durango High School" in raised purple letters.

Contrary to rumors, the rock did not cost \$14,000. According to Principal Allen Coles, the whole project cost under \$5,000, but the 1995 senior class funds did not cover the entire cost. What the Senior Class did not cover, the school provided.

Exact figures were not disclosed since the boulder was a gift and it is not customary to reveal such information.



Big-ticket autographs raise bucks for baseball

From a report by Amy Meyer

On a recent Saturday, six major league baseball greats visited Durango High School to sign autographs and shake hands. The event was a fundraiser for the DHS baseball program...and a very successful event that raised more than \$20,000.

Marty Cordova (Minnesota Twins, winner of the 1995 American League Rookie of the Year award), Marty Barrett (former player for the Boston Red Sox), Jerry Reuss (formerly with the L.A. Dodgers), Greg Maddux (Atlanta Braves pitch-

er), Mike Morgan (St. Louis Cardinals pitcher), and Mike Maddux (Boston Red Sox pitcher) were on hand.

Autograph tickets were purchased: \$5 each for Barrett, Reuss, Morgan and Mike Maddux; \$1 for Cordova; and \$45 for one of only 300 Greg Maddux signatures.

A Las Vegas resident and Valley High graduate, Maddux helped lead his team to win the 1995 World Series. He was a Cy Young Award winner in 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995.

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Kids stay put; teachers move in Bulgaria

By Diana Pekova

I'm from Bulgaria and I arrived in the United States on January 9 as a foreign exchange student. After a couple of days I realized how an American school is different from a Bulgarian one.



Bulgarian children start school at the age of seven. They have four years of elementary school. During that time

they learn the alphabet, mathematics, sports, music, and arts.

The first year, students have three or four classes a day. Every year after that, they have more and more classes.

In middle school, we start learning biology, geography, chemistry and physics...All compulsory for everyone. If you fail in one, you must repeat the whole year with all the subjects.

We are graded by numbers from one to six. You must get at least a three to pass into the next grade. When we finish the seventh year at school, we have exams in mathematics and the Bulgarian language in order to go to high school.

We have some choices: mathematics, language, commercial or technical school. The mathematics and language schools give the best education and if you want to go there, you need grades on the exams.

The first year at high school is preparatory. During this year students learn a foreign language which would be either English, German, French, Spanish, or Italian.

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The students from technical or commercial schools have some special subjects, but those in mathematics and language schools continue to study all subjects from the previous grades plus psychology and computers.

If you study at the language school, you learn all sciences in the

language which you studied at preparatory school. For example, I must study science in Italian.

The students in every school are separated into two groups. The first group goes to school from 7:30 in the morning until 1:30 in the afternoon.

The second group goes to school from 1:30 to 6:30 in the evening. This is because there are not enough school buildings. Every month the two groups exchange schedules.

CAFETERIA BUT NO LUNCH

We have a cafeteria in the school, but we have no lunch time. Everybody eats between classes. We have a ten minute break after every class, but we do not change classrooms; rather the teachers move from classroom to classroom.

Every school has its basketball or volleyball team, a choir and its own school holiday. On the school's holiday there is a concert and students participate with songs and theatrical performances.

The fifth year is the last year of high school. At the end, there is a student's farewell ball for all the seniors. This is the time when nobody wants to leave school. After that you have exams for university qualification. If you do not qualify for college you must find some job.

The five years in high school are the best time for everyone because you are with friends, have fun, and you are young. I hope to enjoy your school and make some friends in your country.

"...I won't take it anymore!"

By Kate Martin

More and more stories are appearing in newspapers and magazines throughout the country about teachers who are suing students for harassment and assault.



For example, Andy Bray continually disrupted Fran Cook's Spanish class. Cook used all traditional administrative procedures to solve the problem, but still felt victimized by her troublesome student.

The next school year began. Bray was no longer a student in her class, but his presence still remained. Andy Bray had instructed a group of students to be disruptive and "speak each day about different methods of murder." Bray's punishment: a 40-minute detention.

Cook felt that justice had not been served; she obtained a restraining order and filed a charge of terroristic threatening in juvenile court. Cook ended up suing Bray. He was ordered to pay \$8,700 for Cook's emotional stress and medical bills and \$25,000 in punitive damages.

Cases like this are beginning to happen on a regular basis. Some say it is warranted. John Cole, Vice President of the American Federation of Teachers said, "One in eleven teachers has been assaulted by a student. There have been no standards for a student's behavior... We need to get across that if you violate the standards, something will happen."

English teacher Colette Welsing, says, "It's gotten to the point where teachers feel they have no avenues open to them as far as discipline is concerned because of all the laws protecting students' rights. In addition, discipline is lacking in the homes. So, teachers are not saying enough is enough," Welsing continued, "It's

like the movie *Network* where the main character finally screams, 'I'm mad as hell and I won't take it any more.'"

It is inevitable that some students and teachers will not get along, but students have become increasingly violent and insubordinate when they can't cope with the adversity. Teachers like Fran Cook are now refusing to condone this disobedience. Lack of proper discipline and unpaid medical bills because of student-inflicted injuries have forced teachers to resort to suing their students. And, the teachers are winning their cases.

Fast food fanatic: exchange student

By Monett Haley

Ilkka Korander came to Las Vegas for a year from Finland. While in Las Vegas, Ilkka lives with the family of Becky Finch, a LVHS alumna.



In addition to English, 17-year-old Ilkka can speak Finnish, Swedish, German and French. He likes bowling and acting and is involved in the LVHS

theatre program. He loves music, especially techno and pop, and his favorite singers are Madonna and 2 Unlimited, a European group.

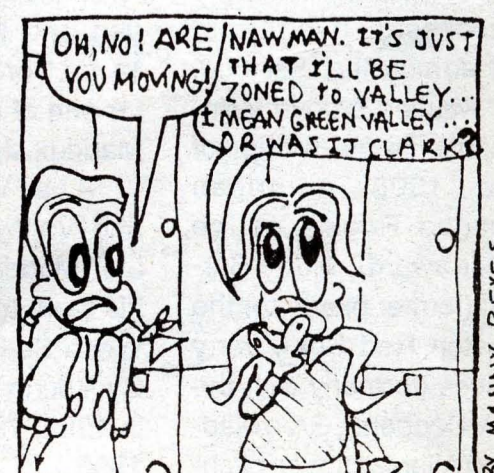
Ilkka found that LVHS is much larger than his high school in Finland. There they have 150 students in their high school as compared to a shocking 2,800 at LVHS. He says there are more elective classes here because in Finland there are no extracurricular clubs or sports at school. As Ilkka put it, "you go to school to learn."

(See Fast Food, page 30)

REZONING ANXIETY

Zoning decisions need to reflect the safety and opinions of students. Writer/artist **Manny Reyes** expresses concern about issues such as mixing rival gangs, preventing siblings from attending the same school, increased travel time to and from school, and loss of after-school activities.

Under current proposals, Reyes says, the Hispanic population at Las Vegas High will drop from 35 to 20 percent; minorities overall would drop from 55 to 44 percent.



BY MANNY REYES

BONANZA



Kyle Burger and Erik Davis, state champs in doubles tennis, recently received their state championship rings. Making the presentation were Principal Judy Cameron and Asst. Principal for Athletics Gene Girard.



At a Fine Arts Week assembly, **Derrick Robertson, Wayne Arnold, Don Davis, and Chris Springston** performed an a cappella rendition of "In the Still of the Night."

Hearty arts in festival

By Rachel Land



Since it came during the week of St. Valentine's Day, it was appropriate that the theme of the annual Fine Arts Festival was "Give Your Heart to the Arts." Over 200 students showed their talents during the week-long festival, which was launched with style by Jazz Band performances.

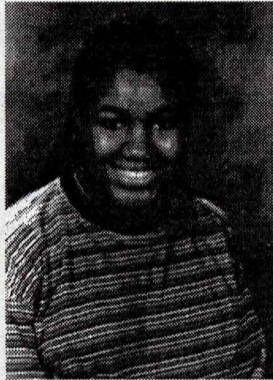
On display were student art works and photographs. The festival also included evening performances and two assemblies.

The colors were presented by the JROTC Color Guard and the national anthem was sung by the Madrigals, who also sang "Colors of the Wind" and were followed by the symphonic orchestra, the Safari Dance Troupe and students from the Theater Department.

One of the highlights was a performance by *Visual Music*. In synchronized signing, they presented "Wind Beneath My Wings."

Concert Choir sang the spiritual "Soon It Will Be Done." **Hila Yerushalmi** danced to "Storm," and the program closed with a rousing rendition of Jay Chattaway's "Mazama" by the Varsity Band.

Below: A section of the Bonanza orchestra performing during Fine Arts Week



Melissa Cabrera, sophomore, and junior **Edwina Registre** will be spending the next school year somewhere in France. The girls, students in the honors French III class, are awaiting notification of where they will live next year. Both girls will reside with a French family and attend local schools. They hope to be near enough to one another to visit, but Melissa says, "If we're not close to one another, c'est la vie." Edwina says, "I'm really excited about going. It's been a dream of mine for a long time."



Student Body President **Erin Smith** holds her triplets, but **Corey Weekes** just flops his child on the table, during the party that signaled the end of their "experiment in living." The students in honors physiology classes carry five-pound flour babies around for two weeks, taking care of their "children" just as any parent would. Sometimes sitters are needed and parents are penalized for ignoring or (perish the thought) abusing their children.



The busiest organization on campus continues to be the National Honor Society. Most recently on the agenda for this bunch of go-getters was the American Lung Association's Aerobic Attack at the Thomas and Mack. Above, the group is preparing to volunteer at the 30th annual Las Vegas marathon.



Mixed languages and Magic Mountain

By Amanda Purdy

Bonanza's three foreign language clubs are all set for the May 18 day-long trip to Magic Mountain in Southern California. Approximately 35 members of the French,

Spanish and Japanese Clubs will make the trip.

This is the first time the three organizations have planned an activity together for all their members.

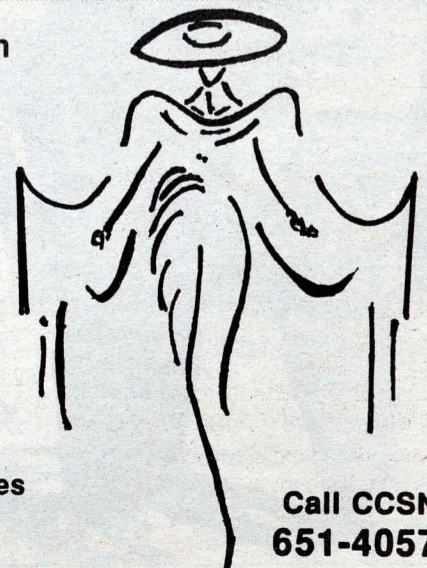
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BioDome: nausea and three stars

By Ben "Jammin" Fields

Pauly Shore and Alex Baldwin pull off the craziest, wildest, funkiest movie so far this year.

The story line of *BioDome* features two extreme Generation X'ers who mistake the BioDome (outside shots look suspiciously like the Biosphere 2 failure) for a MALL. Get inside and you are stuck there until Earth Day '96...about one year. They are joined by five biologists, two of whom are beautiful females.

The movie rocks with an awesome selection of music, huge partying, action (mostly towards the end), and endless stupid jokes. At times, they have flashbacks to when they were younger...really weird flashbacks...some too sick to print here.

In the end — as usual, a happy nature-friendly conclusion — the wacky duo learns what happens when you don't take care of the earth.

Verdict: 3 stars. A great movie, but the overall stupidity could make you nauseous at times.

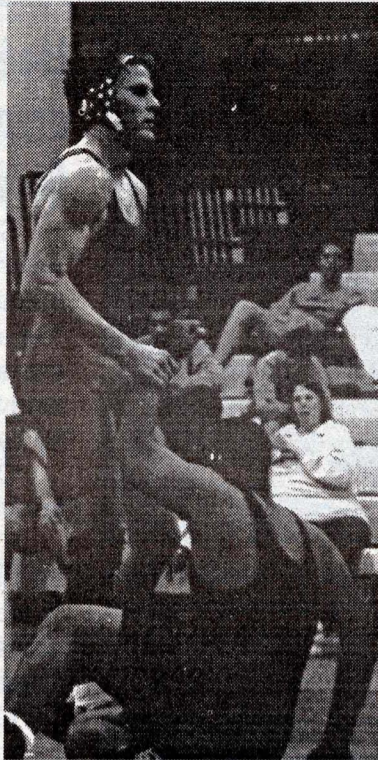


Fields

Silverado makes respectable showing

Not bad for a new school! Silverado's wrestling team won its first Division title and made a strong bid for the State championship. Although the team came in a respectable fourth in the state, heavyweight Glenn Pilarowski went to the top in his weight class.

RIGHT: Rick Stubblefield (215 lbs) gives his Rancho opponent a helping hand



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH. Front (l-r) Trisha Healey, Nathan Bazzell, Charles Javier and Avolette Rodriguez. Back: Yancy Zercher, Martha Sorenson, Michael Rogers, Sean Divens and Matthew Martin.

If it looks like candy but smells like clay, it's probably a masterpiece

By Kristin Edington

My stomach was growling as the teacher announced we were going to see a special exhibit in the library gallery. He explained that fourth and sixth period ceramics classes had worked (and worked) to create a "Ceramic Feast."

I looked at the plates of food...I couldn't resist touching a roll. (I know the sign said "don't touch," but I couldn't help myself.) Dangit, it even *tasted* like clay. My mother was right: looks are deceiving.

After getting over my initial disappointment that the food wasn't made by a home economics class, I took a few minutes to admire the talent displayed by Silverado's own students.

There was everything from cereal to bananas, pizza to hamburgers. McDonald's advertising would have been jealous. I had to admit I was really impressed.

Obviously, I wasn't the only one. A local business bought the feast for \$500! Proceeds are going to buy classroom supplies to make more art. The 50-60 pieces are now being displayed in model homes. Senior Eric Feldman says, "It was an honor to have our work displayed."



Edington

The best candidate: just a pretty face?

By Lauren Walsh

Unless you are immune to people shoving nametags in your face, posters on the walls, and speeches during lunch, you must have noticed that school elections have come again. The reasons on the posters, the content in the speeches,

that's what the voting is based on, right? For most of us, the answer, sadly, is no. It's common knowledge that high school elections are more popularity contests than anything else.

Candidates depend on their reputations or their religion to get themselves elected.

For example, in a classroom, a student said to a candidate: "Well, you have more friends, don't you? You're sure to win."

In two years, no one will remember a dinky high school election.

However, the speaker will soon be eligible to vote in the real election this year. The scary thing is, this new voter may think of the Presidential elections as an enlarged school election.

He will vote for the president on the basis of looks, gender, religion or other superficial factors.

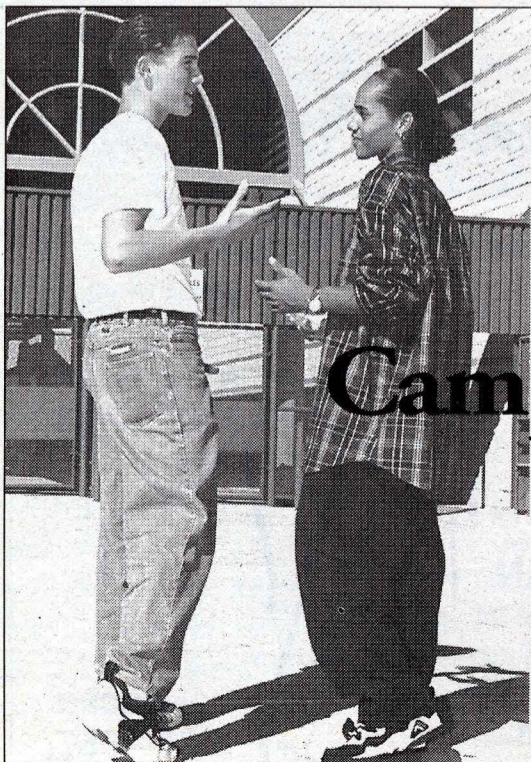
This person is probably not the exception, either. Do all new voters have this mentality? Will they always vote for the best looking, the clearest skin, the sharpest clothes?

It's not just the new voters, either. It's the entire MTV generation.

President Clinton wasn't asked about how he would make the nation better; he was asked if he had ever inhaled.



Walsh



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Gordan recruited by Weber State

By Rachael Fish, Durango

Durango High School has experienced many firsts through senior **Keenan Gordan**.

He made the first school touch-down in a game against Cheyenne. He scored a touch-down with a 99-yard interception return in the opening game against Snow Canyon, setting the record for the longest interception. And he is the first Durango football player to

be awarded a Division One scholarship.

Although Gordan has never solicited colleges for entrance, recruiters have been looking at him from the beginning of his football career. However, it was Weber State in Ogden, Utah, that had the most to offer Gordan as an incoming college freshman. Not only will he receive a full-time scholarship, he will have an opportunity to start right away.

With his parents Gary and LaDonna Gordan, his coach Darwin Rost, and Durango's athletic director Larry McKay in attendance, Gordan

recently signed a letter of intent to attend Weber State. This letter guarantees that Gordan will not drop Weber if he gets a better opportunity from another school.

Gordan, a straight-A student, started playing football as a freshman and was a sophomore on a varsity team when Durango first opened.

"We always anticipated that he would do

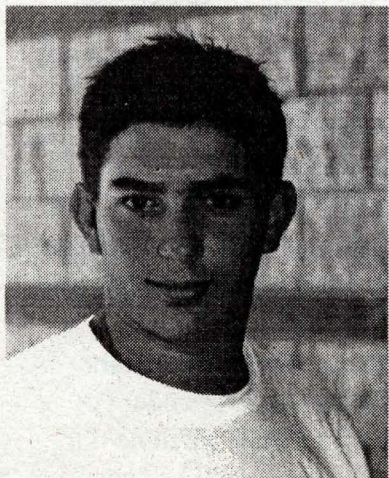
something in Durango athletics -- he's been competitive all his life," says LaDonna Gordan.

Gordan has plans to become a mechanical engineer, something that also influenced his decision to attend Weber. "Weber has more hands-on technology than other schools," says Gordan.

Gordan's parents attribute a portion of his success to Rost. "Coach Rost has been a positive force in Keenan's football career," says LaDonna Gordan. "We are satisfied with him serving as a mentor for Keenan.

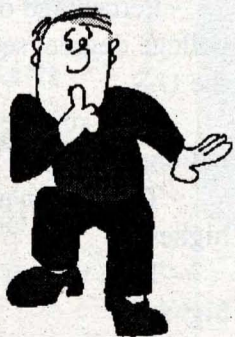


RIGHT:
T. J. Otis, Rancho High School, puts some pressure on an opponent in a photo taken during season competition. Otis was honored as Most Outstanding Wrestler in his weight class.



What do you say, dear, after you say you're sorry?

Bob Horton, a junior at Green Valley High School, is a staff photographer for CLASS! His beat is athletics. We neglected to give him credit for the photos he did for the February edition. Sorry, Bob!



It's not the size of the gator in the fight, but the fight inside the gator!

SCHWARTZ HAS EYE ON CHAMPIONSHIP

By Molly Sullivan, Green Valley High School

What is the secret weapon of the Lady Gators soccer team? Some consider it to be 16-year-old all-conference player, **Davina Schwartz**, sophomore.

While most five-year-olds like to play tag and watch Saturday morning cartoons, Davina was starting to develop her award-winning skills in soccer. Davina has had complete dedication for 11 years and she loves it.

"If there's no heart for the

sport, you won't go very far," Schwartz says. "You need to play every game with 100% because you are only as good as your last game. I always play as though the score is 0-0."

Not only does Davina shine on the field, but in academics as well, holding a strong 3.3 G.P.A.

"It can get hard ... but if I don't do well in school, I won't have a chance to do the thing I love most — soccer!" Davina says.

In season, Davina let in only three goals, making her #1 in class AAA for shut-outs.

Davina practices six days a week for at least two-hours. Her focus was to be prepared to react quickly to any situation, especially when under pressure during a game.

Davina plays year-round, taking only three weeks off during the entire year. Davina qualified to attend the Joe Machnick Soccer Camp in Long Beach last summer.

The Gators lost only two games this season, both to Gorman.

"We weren't mentally prepared...they just wanted it more," Davina says. "We were intimidated by their team because they dominated this year. We were over-confident, but we won't be next year. We will be ready." Davina's goal is to help the team win the championship.

Davina never fails to wear her lucky Mossimo hat...but the hat isn't the only secret to getting her psyched up for big games.

"The best person to get me psyched up before a game is myself," Davina says. "Sure I listen to loud music, but just knowing that I've prepared myself to the best of my ability for that game gets me even more pumped up."

"My role on the team is to take charge and control the GV defense," Davina explains. "I see the whole field and I kind of like to watch their backs. I'm like the team's anchor."

Davina laughs the laugh of an athlete who has it all figured out and won't let anything get in the way of her dreams.

'Another stellar season'

By Michael Villa

The Rancho Rams "Gang Green" wrestling team ended another stellar season. This year highlighted such wrestlers as **T.J. Otis**, **Jesse Median**, and **Louis Hawkins**, all coming away with successes during the Zone and State tournaments.

At the Nevada State Wrestling Finals, 140-pound Otis beat Eldorado's **John Azeke** 8-6 to take State. Otis also beat Azeke for the Zone Championship, and nabbed "Most Outstanding Wrestler" in the lower weight class. (See photo at left.)

The champion has this to say, "Hard work and dedication helped me become Nevada's champion wrestler."

145-pound Median finished his season a close second to **Eugene Harris** (CMHS) in an overtime thriller. The match lasted 35 minutes. At the end of regulation, Medina scored a two-point takedown to force overtime.

In overtime, the two battled down to the last seconds, before Harris scored a quick takedown for a 9-7 victory. At the conclusion of the match, the two received a standing ovation from all 3,500 people in attendance.

"It was the most intense match I have ever encountered; there will never be one like it," describes Medina.

Hawkins, in the 160-pound bracket, took third at Zone and State. At State, Hawkins defeated his opponent in the consolation match, 7-4.

A reflective Hawkins says, "I am a senior, and this was my final year wrestling at Rancho. After I finished my final match, I praised the Lord for all that I had accomplished."

Honorable Mention goes to **Hector Mendez** for his fifth place performance at 103 pounds during the Zone Tournament. As a team, Rancho finished sixth out of 28 teams at the Nevada State Championships.

Teen suicide: A fantasy

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want everyone to lay off. I'd much rather be home sleeping.

Tuesday lunchtime

This cafeteria repulses me. Now I really don't want to eat. I want to be by myself and just relax.



ABOVE: Co-authors Molly Raftery (top) and Leigh Ann Caldwell

"Stephanie, come sit over here!" I guess peace and quiet is not possible.

"Hi, guys." Maybe if I sit and do homework I won't have to talk much.

"Stephanie, what's wrong? The past couple weeks you've seemed so down."

Why are they sonosy? Even if they are my best friends, it's none of their business.

"Nothing I'm just having a bad day. I'll see you guys later, okay?"

I can't handle school right now. I'm just going to go home and sleep. I don't want to deal with anything in this world. I am sick of it all.

Tuesday evening

"Stephanie, why aren't you at soccer practice? If you don't make varsity, don't expect to get your driver's license."

"Dad, I forgot my bag because I was late to school because I was up late last

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night studying for my Geometry test. I'm sick of soccer, anyway."

"Don't even think about quitting. Without soccer, you are nothing."

"Stop it, Dad, just stop it! Mom would never treat me this way."

Tuesday night

Finally, peace and quiet in my own room. Why am I crying? I shouldn't care anymore, but he makes me so angry. I know how I'll get him back — he'll be sorry, everyone will.

Yes, that will make everything better. I'm getting out of this awful, uncaring world, where I'm never good enough. This is going to be a great day. I'm even going to be on time to school. I finally feel at peace. Even when I saw myself in the mirror, I wasn't upset because soon I'll never be ugly again.

Wednesday morning

"Stephanie! You look like you're feeling better. It's good to see you smiling again. Sorry I didn't get a chance to call you last night."

"That's okay, Niki. Hey, I want to give you this. I know how much you like it."

"Steph, I can't take the necklace that your mom gave you."

"You're my very best friend; I want you to have it. I've got class now. Goodbye."

Wednesday afternoon

"Goodbye, everyone. I just don't like it here anymore. Love, Stephanie."

Perfect! Now's the time. One deep breath and I'll finally be happy.

BANG.

Fast Food Fanatic

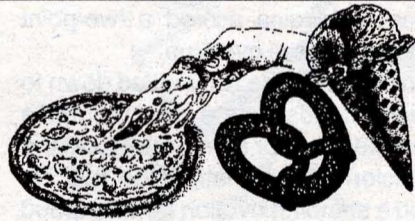
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The daily class schedule for high school students in Finland changes every six weeks. At the end of each six weeks, a final exam is given, after which the students are given a new set of classes. Ilkka mentioned that school is much easier in the U.S. because classes don't change as often, and there aren't as many periods in a day. He also commented about the number of holidays and days off from schools in Nevada.

In general, teenagers in Finland dress a lot alike, so there isn't much individualism. In fact, Ilkka says that at his high school, most people who dress differently are often made fun of or completely ignored. He was also surprised at the variety of ethnic students at LVHS since the majority of people in Finland have "blonde hair and blue eyes" — as Ilkka does.

Ilkka enjoys his experience in Las Vegas. He is excited about being able to try new things—especially fast food. "I love it (fast food). You name it, it's good!" One thing he noticed is that there's not much for young people to do here. In Finland there are dance clubs that teens can go to, whereas in Las Vegas, most clubs are only for those 21 or over.

Ilkka still has two more years of high school left when he returns to Finland. After he graduates, he plans to attend law school.



Censorship

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Cowboys and Indians or some other childhood game. How many kids in their time were killed by a toy gun or toy arrow? Few, if any.

TV censors need to find out what reality is and also to remember that TV shows aren't supposed to depict everyday life.

Throughout history, music has been criticized for its creative use of the English language. Elvis had to put up with accusations that he was ruining the morals of the youth in his generation. Jimi Hendrix had to deal with comments linking his music to drug use and protests.

Today people hear stories of how rap music influences its listeners to drink alcohol, use illegal substances, beat women, and kill cops. Many Black women are protesting the music for its derogatory lyrics.

In their defense, some artists say they are only telling it how it is. Some say that's true, to a point. The U.S. has had a drug problem far longer than rap music has been around and will continue to have one until we enforce laws that keep drugs out of the United States in the first place.

The final, but most influential, area that affects high school students most is censorship in school. *Huckleberry Finn* and other classic tales have been banned in many schools because they contain references to religion and race. Many students don't see how this is justifiable.

Nobody can force you to read a book, so how can they force you not to read one? Those who practice book censorship need to realize that they are not only throwing away a book, but a piece of our culture.

In conclusion, censorship, in the most part, is wrong. Whatever happened to free speech? If you don't like something on TV, change the channel. If you don't like something on the radio, don't listen. Finally, if you don't agree with something in a book, don't ruin it for the rest of us by keeping the book from us.

School District report: 'Get involved!'

(Continued from page 3)

He says "Children are staying at school longer...because that's the best place they have to go." Dr. Cram hopes to find space in neighborhoods "where we can interact with parents and their children."

COMPARED WITH OTHERS...

What are some of the realities of the Clark County School District?

- SAT scores: just above the national average in verbal skills and math.

- Rate of high school graduates going on to college: lowest in the nation.

- Percentage of adults with a college degree: second lowest in the U.S.

- Teen suicide: highest in the nation.

- Teen pregnancy: second highest.

- Teen violent death: fourth highest.

- Juvenile incarcerations: highest rate (566 per 100,000, compared with the national average of 298).

- Children not living with a parent: third highest.

- Spending per student: Nevada is 17th from the bottom.

- Average income: 9th from the highest in the nation.

KIDS DO IT!

Dr. Cram told the audience about Roy Martin Middle School, where the students are raising funds to provide English as a Second Language classes for their parents! He revealed that each month 250 students who do not speak English enter the school system. But he added,

"Intelligence is not color-based, it's income-based...we must start educating children early enough so we can level the playing field."

In future issues, CLASS! will talk about what the school district is doing and what more needs to be done.

Perhaps, one day, when the Clark County superintendent of schools asks "Have we done our best?" the answer will be "yes."

LIBERTY

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would not be felt for years to come. Statistics show that children born in 1995 will have a \$187,000 deficit-share to pay in interest alone. The Republican Contract with America, a proposal plan to balance the budget in seven years along with other government changes, is still being debated on Capital Hill. The only programs under this plan to get budget cuts are defense and agriculture.

In order to further stimulate the economy, he suggests that the growth of Medicare be slowed. However, Ensign was concerned that organized health care such as HMOs could make the cost of all medical care and procedures skyrocket.

Other issues such as term limits, welfare reform, and efforts to ban gaming were addressed by the Congressman. None were closer to Rancho than the controversial issue of race relations. He admitted that racial bigotry is still a problem in the United States, even with programs such as Affirmative Action that try to resolve past discriminations. Ensign explains, "Congress has passed all the laws it can pass but you cannot change people's hearts." Ensign startled students by saying that both whites and minorities need to initiate the forgiving and healing process.

Overall, Ensign urged seniors to register to vote and take an active part in the shaping of the country's laws and policy. No matter how frustrated the public becomes with government, they always have an opportunity to voice their opinions by voting for the candidates that represent their views.



Rosemarie McMorris is shown here with her mother, Lillian, who hosts her own interview show on KVVU-TV5.

ROSEMARIE

(Continued from page 3)

the most calls she gets are responding to the topic of teen pregnancy. This summer, however, she's deserting her microphone because she will be an intern for Senator Harry Reid in Washington. She works part time at a Hallmark store and volunteers, not just for her radio show, but helping to feed the homeless at St. Vincent's shelter, and other services through Key Club. Her poetry-writing hobby recently paid off when she had a piece published by the National Library of Poetry.

Safety: special place in her Grandma's heart

By "Francine Talbot," *Sunset West*

So today I start all over again.

Today is the day that I will begin to be the person my mother had always hoped I'd become. When I was younger, she was never there. So why does she insist on being there now? I guess she doesn't deserve all the blame.

Booze. That one word has the ability to express many ill-willed feelings I occasionally still have towards my mother. I sometimes think to myself that it is all my fault. Then I ask God, "Why?" but I get no reply.

I realize today that life is too short to waste it all on anger and pain. While I was in the middle of this realization a great, heavy burden seemed to fill me up to the brim. It was a familiar sensation. One I had grown to know and regret: guilt.

Guilt? But for what? I've done nothing wrong. Have I? Yes...I have. I had only been thinking of myself and not at all about the welfare of my younger siblings. For one brief, unforgivable moment I had become as selfish as

the person who made me feel unworthy of her attention whenever the bottle called out to her.

But even through all the pain and struggling I have managed to survive and grow into a trusting, reasonably responsible young lady. But...how? Without the help of a mother or father figure around, how did I manage such a miraculous achievement? Not on my own, I can assure you, but with the help of a very smart, gifted, loving, wise woman known as Grandmother.

If it weren't for the TLC my grandmother bathed me in I'd probably be a very bitter person. I could never forget what my grandma sacrificed for me. She always made sure that I had a clean bed to sleep in, good food to eat, and somebody to keep me company when I got lonesome and regretful for leaving Charles and Keasha the way I did.

Grandmother would hold me in her arms and wipe away my tears of shame. She would tell me over and over again that I shouldn't blame myself and that I would always have a very special place in her heart where I would always be safe.

Safe. Safe is a funny word, I think. What does it mean? What it means to one person is not necessarily what it means to the rest of the world. For instance: safe to me means never being left alone with no one around to hear me cry for help when I need it. Safety to another person could be a charm or an object that symbolizes something or someone that gave them that sense of security. That feeling of comfort and... safety.

Today I am trying to let go of my pacifiers. I am attempting to stand on my own. I will not go down without a fight. I will search within the depths of my soul to find all the courage I can to take with me on my journey. And that's all.

I will not bring Mother or Charles. I will not even bring my beloved sister, Keasha. The only safety net I will take with me on my new start in life are the words of my wise grandmother when she gave me that special place in her heart.

Church/state — really separate?

(Continued from page 9)

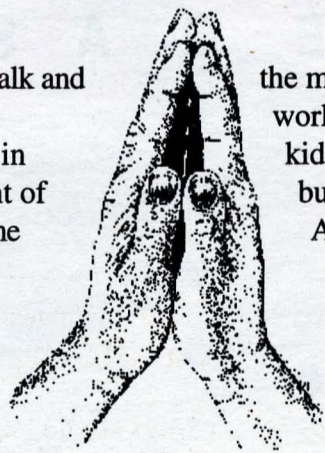
silence, senior **Isela Gutierrez** answers, "I talk and get my things ready for class."

"I feel the schools simply gave prayer in schools a new name by calling it a moment of silence, but it was intended to serve the same purpose and should not be allowed in public schools," says **Stacy Mayhew**, a Methodist.

Many teachers also feel that the moment of silence does not have a place in public schools. In 1995, Brian Bowen, a Georgia high school teacher, told his students that he felt that the moment of silence was unconstitutional and therefore refused to enforce it in his classroom. Bowen was first suspended, then fired...he plans to take his case to the Federal Court.

On football fields and basketball courts across the country, there are team prayers before and after games and prayer is still a part of many graduation ceremonies. So where does one draw the line if church and state are to be separate?

Sophomore **Christina Littlefield** says, "I believe



the moment of silence is a waste. I do my homework. But team prayer is something else. I think kids should be able to say an individual prayer, but you shouldn't be asked to do it as a team.

As far as parties, classes should be able to have them as long as no one is offended. That's the reason it could be called a winter party—not a Christmas party; I don't think anyone's religion teaches you can't have fun."

"I think parties should be allowed only if they have no religious beliefs attached," says **Rebecca Bates**. "As far as the moments of silence, even though I don't use them, I believe students should be given that time to focus on their beliefs, whatever they might be."

"Church and state should be separate," says 82 percent of those surveyed. But, with the daily moment of silence, the Bible Club, team prayers before most school athletic events, and references to the Bible in literature, it has become impossible to separate the two."

KJ MZ

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