

CLASS!

A monthly publication by, for
and about the high school
students of Clark County

JANUARY 1999



**Sam & Jonathan:
'Getting a lot of air'
(Page 25)**

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Silverado students really dig Egypt!

Excerpts from reports by Ryan Bown and Jennifer Sawyers

The temperature is a crisp 56 degrees. The sun has yet to peek out...soft Egyptian music plays in the background. It's the Silverado High School Dig!

Every year, all the World History classes at Silverado join forces and create a week-long mock archeological dig.

The Dig Egypt project showed students what archeologists do in real life. Students learn to use proper techniques to uncover artifacts buried in the dirt. They learned how to locate artifacts, even the tiniest bead, and how to handle and care for them.

Students had to work as a team to be successful. First they found objects to be identified and mapped the locations where they were found. Next they sorted and stored them....

Please see more story and photos on page 23.



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CLASS!

A monthly newspaper for, by
and about the high school students
of Clark County

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CLASS!
IS A UNITED WAY
AGENCY

NOTE: Stories are edited liberally for length so that every school can be included and more student work showcased. Material is also edited for accuracy, to the extent possible, and for correct language usage; selection of material to be published is at the discretion of the editorial staff.



Barbara Cegavske, an Assemblywoman in the Nevada State Legislature recently became a generous donor to CLASS! She sent a letter along with her donation and said that CLASS! is "a wonderful publication and so full of quality articles ...I was impressed."



Barbara Buckley, a three-term Assemblywoman from Las Vegas, continued her generous commitment to CLASS! Buckley was a founder of this non-profit organization and has been on the Board of Directors since 1994.



Joseph "Joe" Dini, Speaker of the House (Nevada State Legislature) and long-time Assemblyman, also became a recent supporter of CLASS! Dini is from northern Nevada.

SCHOOL-TO-WORK

Is this a coincidence...or WHAT?

Is it just a coincidence that the school district's Job Shadowing program happens just when the ol' groundhog is out looking around for HIS shadow?

Nope, no coincidence. Groundhog Day was selected by the School-to-Work (STW) folks to represent Job Shadowing Day, which is a national event. Others involved include the National STW Opportunities Office, Junior Achievement, America's Promise, Learning for Life/Boy Scouts, chambers of Commerce, Communities in Schools, members of the local business community, and CCSD students and faculty.

Hundreds of students in the Clark County School District get this great experience in the real world of business, government and education: they spend one day each February with a



professional who works in the field that interests the student.

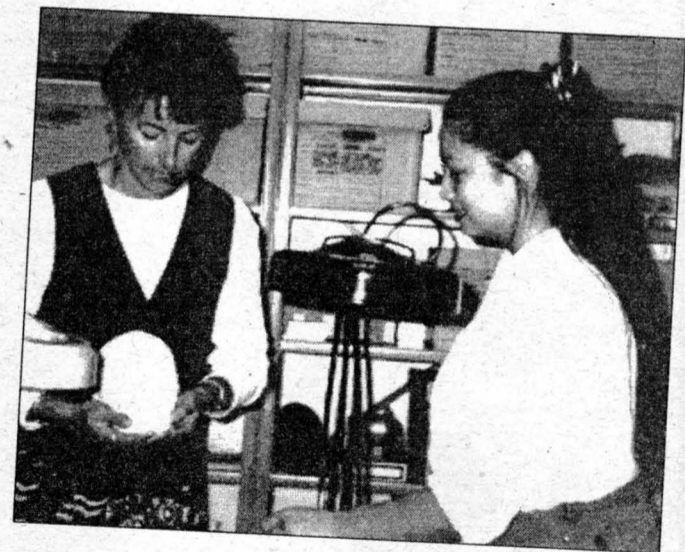
For example, **Anna Hanson** from Boulder City High shadowed a flight attendant. Anna says "Making the customers happy, service with a smile, and never lose your cool are of utmost importance...and getting along with co-workers is essential."

Two other BCHS students shadowed Boulder City Police officers. **John Venturino** says "I thoroughly enjoyed the truancy hearings — especially the lame excuses the juveniles and parents had for truancies."

Traci Jaspersen thought the experience was cool. "I learned how much math skills you need to be an officer," she reports. In fact, she has changed her mind about her career: "I was thinking about being a cop but...it requires a lot of writing reports and doing math calculations." Traci rode along with a police officer in his patrol car and observed traffic stops and interviews with store owners who had been robbed. "This was a great learning experience," she admitted, and a good program for kids who are not sure yet what they want to be.

Jared Tasko, BCHS, also changed his mind about a career after job shadowing at JMA Architects. He had been thinking about architecture because it offered a chance to exhibit his creativity, but he decided that he'd need more financial security and less deadline stress. So Jared is now considering an engineering career.

At Bonanza, 230 students signed up for Job



Shadowing last year. For example, **Rachel Warner** shadowed at the Academy of Hair Design (and got a free hair cut) and **Alysia Wescoat** spent the day with Dr. Mark Laussade, a radiologist.

Durango did something a bit different: a group of students interested in some area of art travelled together to a variety of art-related businesses.

Rick Soussana met the caricature artist at the Excalibur and learned so much from the professional that he has returned often for help in sharpening up his own self-taught skills. "I learned how to distort faces to make my drawings more humorous," he says.

This experience opened a lot of doors for Rick, as it does for the hundreds of students who have Job Shadowed over the years.



ASK SENATOR REID

Nevada Senator Harry Reid was elected unanimously by his colleagues to be the new Minority Whip for the Democratic Party — which is a huge honor. In fact, he is the first Nevadan *ever* to hold the office of Whip in the United States Senate.

“What is a minority whip?”

Q Senior Karla Brendt wants to know just what a Whip is...“and who gets whipped?”

A Senator Reid replies:

Actually, no one gets whipped — think of it as whipping people into action. In my case, I work with all the Democrats in the Senate, making sure they have the information they need about bills that are important to us, then I call around to make sure that we have enough votes to pass those issues.

For example, the Senate Democrats’ proposal on the Patients Bill of Rights to reform HMOs — Democrats want to see it pass, so when it comes before the Senate, I’ll make a lot of calls to persuade colleagues to be on hand to vote for the bill.

In both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Democratic and Republican Whips are responsible for encouraging this party “discipline.”

HEAR THE STUDENTS

I’m excited about starting a new tradition with CLASS! One of my favorite activities is visiting with the school groups who come to Washington. I encourage all young people to participate in the democratic process — not only by voting, but by writing to your Congress people, reading the newspaper, and taking part in political activities.

Several high school students volunteered last fall to help me with my campaign — it’s my third term in the Senate. Their energy and enthusiasm added so much to our campaign offices; all the volunteers enjoyed them. One I especially remember was **Matt Anderson**, a senior at Durango.

We live in exciting times. YOU have the opportunity to lead us into the next century and change the world. You’re probably aware that there’s a lot of apathy and cynicism in our country, but I urge you not to let it taint your young minds.

I believe in government and I believe in the power of each individual voice. Please let me hear yours! Write to me at 528 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510....*or*

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CLARK COUNTY LEGAL SERVICES

LOOKOUT

Graduating?

Moving out?

Keep a roof
over your head

By Terry Bratton
Clark County Legal Services

Soon you’ll be ready to get out on your own. Enough of living under someone else’s rules, you think! Living on your own definitely has advantages, but those advantages do not come cheap. Now, you must start taking responsibility, legally and financially.....

Finding an apartment is fun — BUT do you truly understand what the terms of your lease actually mean?

Las Vegas is full of apartment houses, usually owned and operated by large national corporations. Some are not as pleasant to deal with as others.

For example, Clark County Legal Services recently settled a class action law suit on behalf of tenants who were illegally locked out of their apartments. The landlord placed “pins or plugs in the door locks, preventing the tenants’ keys from working. The landlord did this for various reasons, mostly unpaid rent, but they did not follow the law in evicting people.

The result was that the landlord was required to pay back the tenants who were locked out — over a million dollars total. AND the landlord had to create an emergency rent fund to help people without money to put at least a temporary roof over their heads.

How do you find an apartment and avoid problems?

1: Determine how much you can afford every month. Don’t get a bigger and better place, assuming that you’ll be getting a raise or finding a roommate. Find a place that fits your lifestyle and income.

2: BEWARE OF YOUR ROOMMATES! Often people move in with a “friend” only to find that this friend is sloppy, lazy and broke. Once you sign the lease, YOU are responsible, regardless of whether or not your roommate has this month’s rent.

3: Read the lease before you sign it and understand what you read! If you don’t understand, ask questions — if you don’t get satisfactory answers, leave! The lease should spell out *exactly* what you and the

landlord are responsible for — how much per month, how long you can live there, who pays for which utilities, how many people can stay with you and for how long, what about pets, when the landlord will increase your rent, how the landlord can legally get rid of you, etc. *Read your lease carefully!*

Usually apartments want a six-month commitment from a tenant — often a year. That means you agree to live in the apartment for that time period and faithfully pay the agreed-upon rent

The landlord will also require a “security deposit” in advance, to be applied to repairs and cleaning that have to be done when you move out. Most landlords will *tell* you this deposit is refundable if there is no damage and the apartment is clean when you leave. However, experience shows that landlords usually spend the entire amount getting the apartment ready for the next tenant. Don’t expect your security deposit back.

What about utilities? Most landlords will pay for water, sewage and trash. However, telephone, power and cable are usually left up to the tenant. You think that’s easy? Think again when it’s 110 outside and your air conditioner runs 24/7. Ask other people what their average monthly power bill is and budget yourself accordingly. Remember: you still have to buy food and clothing and still have cash left for entertainment.

Uh-oh! The air conditioner broke, the insects have taken over, the landlord wants to toss you into the street! What do you do now? We’ll talk about dealing with landlord problems of many kinds next month — check out **Legal Services Lookout** in CLASS!

Valley's student council does it all!

By David Cardenas (above)

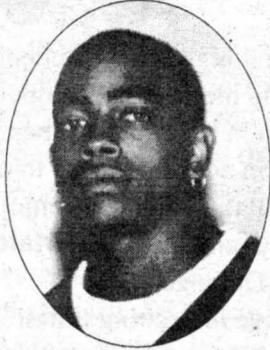
Student council members from Valley, along with those from Bonanza and Silverado, made peanut butter and jelly sack lunches for the homeless. The lunches were distributed with the help of the Salvation Army.

VHS Student Council members also organized a scavenger hunt in order to collect food for the needy in Central America, an event that proved to be a great success.

In their most recent service activity, Valley's student council participated in a tree decorating contest, where they received a \$1,000 reward for placing third.

However, student council members thrive not on receiving, but giving. "I enjoy getting acquainted with other students in different schools," says one member, "but most importantly, I enjoy the personal satisfaction I gain from helping the needy."

Another student council member states, "Council gives me a way to give back to my school and the community."



NHS captures the giving spirit

By James Strasser (below)



They give to the community. They dedicate themselves to their school. They maintain a 3.0 or better GPA. They are the students that make up the Valley High School chapter of the National Honor Society.

"I'm a person who believes community service isn't something that should only be done on

weekends," says NHS president **Eva Romero**.

Some of the events NHS has been involved with this school year include a visit to Humana Sunrise hospital, where members entertained children by reading to them and bringing them toys.

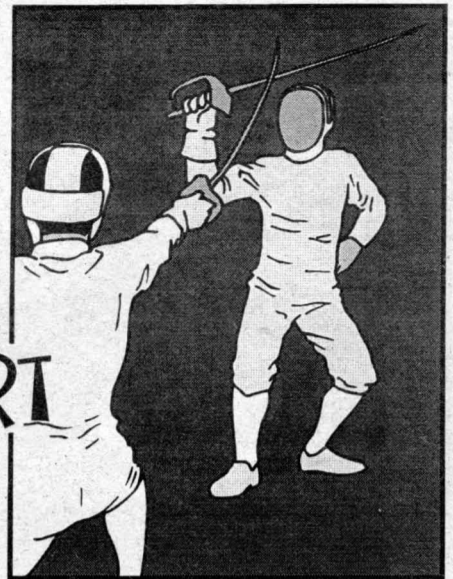
Valley NHS members also participated in the American Heart Walk, an event which raises money for the American Heart Association.

During winter break, the members of NHS visited the Henderson Convalescence Home to spend time with the elderly residents there. Students used their own money to buy the items on the residents' holiday wish lists.

Upcoming NHS events include a fund-raiser for underprivileged schools around Clark County, which will bring in much-needed money for such essentials as school supplies.

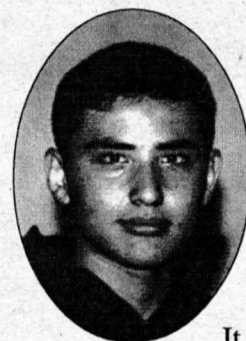
To top it all off, NHS will participate in another walkathon in May, this time benefiting research to find a cure for cystic fibrosis.

DUEL IN THE DESERT



From a report by

Kaaveh Akbari (below)



"Kesh, kesh, OUCH!"

These are the sounds of a fencing match; fencing is a sport based on old-fashioned sword fighting, which involves quick reflexes, much thinking, and lots and lots of pain.

It takes more than just strength and anger to succeed in this sport, however. Fencing can be compared to a fast-paced chess match. One must guess what the opponent is going to do next. It takes a sharp eye to anticipate another's actions in this sport.

It is safe to say that most were unaware that there was a high school fencing tournament held recently, in which students from Valley, Rancho, and Durango were scheduled to compete. **Don Dulay** and **Kaaveh Akbari** represented VHS in the first Open High School Fencing Tournament.

Kaaveh finished third, while Don had a respectable showing. "I think I did pretty well for my first tournament after 2-3 months of fencing," says Don. "I am not too concerned about winning...for now. And there are a lot of good fencers who have fenced for a lot longer than I," he adds.

Everyone who was at the tournament felt a sense of accomplishment. The event's organizer, Evan Ranes, says, "It was a fantastic tournament. It was the first High School Open, and it had a great turnout." He adds, "The competition was stiff, and high school fencers in the Las Vegas area have a lot of potential."

Rancho High School offers a special fencing program just for high school students.

"It would be great to get more fencers from Valley," notes Don.

Take a trip to the Southern Nevada Fencing Center and give fencing a try. It's open Tuesday and Thursdays from 6:00-9:30 p.m., and Fridays from 4:00-7:00 p.m. The first time is free for everyone.

For more information on either of these programs, call Evan Ranes at the Fencing Center, 642-3966.

WHAT?

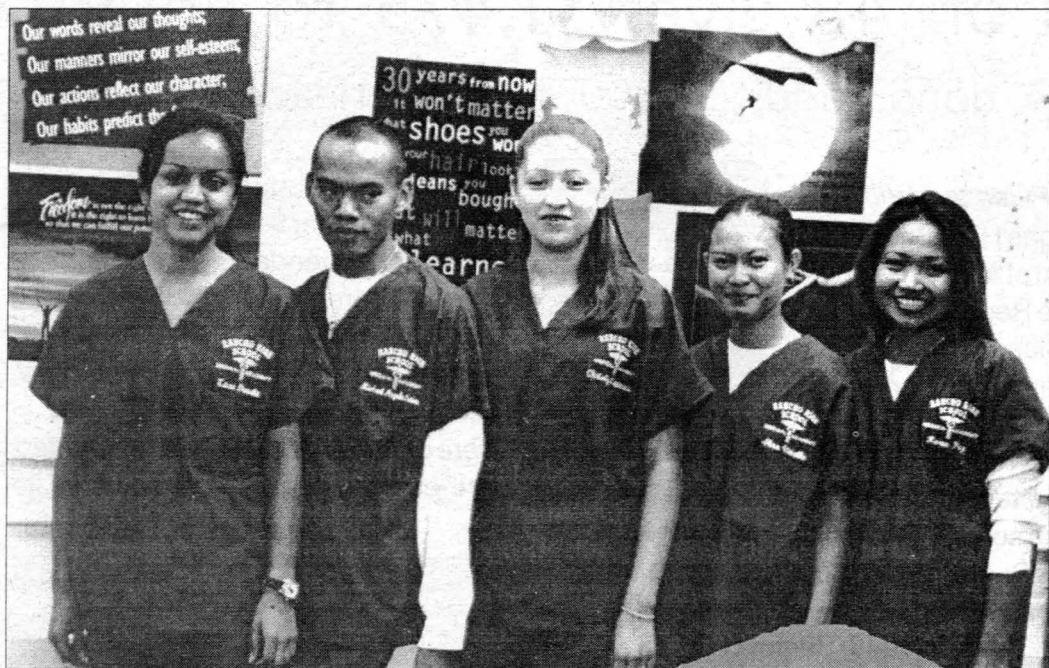
We didn't hear you!

But lots of kids want to hear what you have to say — and see the photos you take, read the poetry you write, laugh at the cartoons you draw, learn about your strange hobby, etc. etc.

PLEASE SEND STUFF TO CLASS!
(You don't have to be in journalism)

HOW?

- By mail to CLASS!, c/o UNLV Box 451025, Las Vegas 89154-1025
- By fax to 895-1504
- By e-mail to classpub@cmail.nevada.edu
- Or if you don't know what to do, call us at 895-1504



RAMTEC KIDS INTRODUCE UNIFORMS

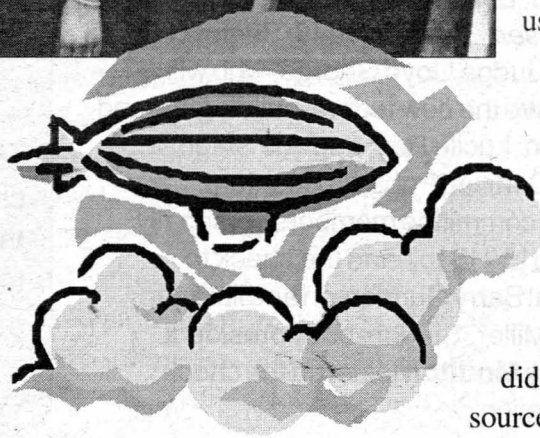
By Anthony Stark

In order to achieve a more professional look, RamTech has acquired its first uniforms. The medical uniforms are scrubs, varying in color, while the aviation uniforms have gone from flight suits to polo shirts.

The medical program would like students to wear uniforms one day of the week for a grade, but uniforms cannot be mandatory due to Clark County School District regulations. So students who do not wear or do not have uniforms will have an alternate assignment to make up for the grade. Aviation will not count uniforms as a grade.

Uniforms are a way to show pride in the magnet programs. Also, magnet students who go to internships or on field trips will be positive representatives of Rancho High School and Ram Tech.

Parents have expressed concern that a student wearing an uniform would be a target for taunting and even physical abuse. However, JROTC uniforms have not caused many problems among the students and the same is expected with the magnet uniforms. Still, some students believe that the uniforms will make them stand out and,



instead of unifying, they will separate Rancho and the magnet schools. Sarah Etnire, a freshman in the aviation program, says, "I think that it is a bad idea because it pinpoints us, when we are just trying to blend in."

What do other students say?

A majority of students in a randomly picked medical class said that uniforms are a good idea, but 100% of that same class suggested that the uniforms were too expensive. In an aviation class, 73% said it was a good idea and less than 10% said their uniforms were too expensive.

Christy Locopicalo, a medical student says, "I think they are good in the sense that they will help us prepare, but they are bad because it separates us from the regular school."

"I think uniforms are a good idea because they will give the magnet kids a sense of identity and purpose," says one chemistry teacher. "Plus, schools that have tried uniforms have noticed that grades go up and behavior gets better."

AIRCRAFT CLASS? WHAT A GAS!

By Diana Guthrie

What's lighter than air, gassy as heck, and able to fly across a room? It's a project in the Fundamentals of Aviation classes at Rancho.

The project was to build a lighter-than-air aircraft—specifically, a dirigible or a blimp. The idea was to help students get a better understanding of how aerodynamics works in lighter-than-air vehicles.

In the process, students learned the lifting capabilities of helium and they used geometric formulas to determine vehicle displacement.

A dirigible is a maneuverable airship with a frame, unlike a blimp which has no frame. Dirigibles are made to be lighter-than-air because of the gas used to make them float, helium.

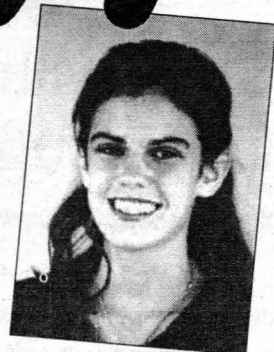
(Hydrogen was used in a famous airship called the Hindenburg, which blew up over New Jersey earlier this century. Helium is much less dangerous.

The airships that students made were not, by definition, dirigibles. Instead they were a mixture of a dirigible and a blimp. Students did make their machines move, but only forwards, by using different sources for propellers. They used helium as their lighter-than-air source, and put together any other materials they felt necessary to get their vehicle afloat.

Students competed to see whose airships would hold the most weight and still float across the length of the Aviation classroom.

Few students were successful in getting their airships to fly. Many of the ships either stuck to the ceiling, sank to the floor, or had holes and could not fill up in the first place. They tried to fix these problems by adding more weight, taking some weight away, or taping holes. Still, only eight groups of students were able to get their aircraft across the room.

All objectives of the experiments were met. Students learned and had fun.



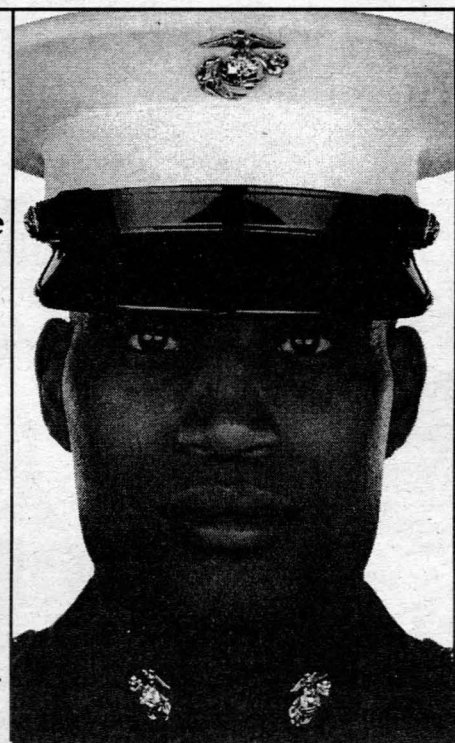
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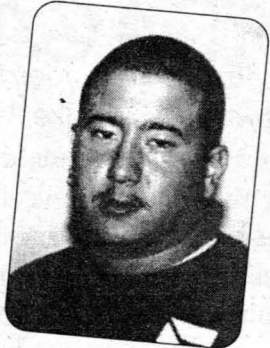
Marines
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LAS VEGAS

Shop with Cop has LVHS support!

By **Billy Schaeffbauer** (right)

Las Vegas High School collected \$400 for a special holiday program called Shop with a Cop. The program is sponsored by the Metropolitan Police Department and North Las Vegas police.



Students, faculty and athletics donated the money to school police officers, who used the funds to see that needy children have a better Christmas.

Lists of eligible children were provided by nearby elementary school principals. Each child chosen received \$100 to spend at K-Mart with an officer.

Six major groups donated to the program. Student Council donated \$200, *The Desert Breeze* donated \$100, and the Junior Class and Speech Club donated \$50 each. Men's and women's basketball donated \$20, and the vocal club and National Honor Society also contributed.

Class of '48 gives \$1,475 to library

Private donor adds \$1,000 for cheerleaders

By **Cassy Palanza** (right)

Las Vegas High School is the recipient of a \$1,475 donation from the Reunion Committee of the Class of 1948. The money is earmarked for library book purchases.

At its 50th reunion, the committee voted to donate the money to the school. Committee members include Supreme Court Justice Myron E. Leavitt, who was the editor of *The Desert Breeze* in 1948; Senior U.S. District Judge Lloyd George, who will soon have the new federal building named after him; Lucile Ray; and Joe Slago, a retired Certified Public Accountant.

The committee members personally came to LVHS to hand the check to principal Barry Gunderson and librarian Peggy Miller. Student body president **Brittany Moulton** joined in the check presentation.



In addition, Judge Myron E. Leavitt donated another \$1,000 to the varsity Wildcat cheerleaders. During the donation ceremony for the library's money, Judge Leavitt says, "I voted to give it [\$1,475.52] to the cheerleaders, because I have five daughters who were cheerleaders, but was out-voted by the committee."

Once Upon a Mattress
February 10-12
 This wildly popular play, based on the children's fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea," will be performed at Las Vegas High School Feb. 10-12. 7 pm. each evening. The public is invited.

YEEEEEEAAHH!

Have a heart-pounding good time at The Adventuredome. Go for a spin on the Canyon Blaster, the only indoor, double-loop, double-corkscrew roller coaster in the United States. Ride the waves on the Rim Runner, or take aim in our Hot Shots Laser Tag arena...and now you can hang on a four-story rock wall or bounce 20 feet high on a bungee trampoline at the Xtreme Zone. Big fun, little price. The Adventuredome opens daily at 10 a.m. Call 794-3939 for more information.

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CIRCUS CIRCUS
 LAS VEGAS

Don't despair — scholarships are there



etc.), *Robinson*

Adapted from a report by *Lakeisha Robinson*

Despite the fact that most of the world lives in poverty, young people in this country should be able to fulfill their dreams of attending a university or college. The whole idea of scholarships is to give students a fair chance in life.

Scholarships are based on a variety of factors — academic excellence (GPA and standardized test scores), special talents (athletics, music, drama,

leadership (class officers, for example), community service (scouting, volunteering), communication skills, and financial need.

Among the sources of scholarships are the military, business and professional associations, fraternal and civic organizations, religious groups, and individual donors or foundations. And funds might also be available through your parents' employers or their union.

In Southern Nevada, local donors offer grants ranging from \$100 to several thousand dollars. Application forms for UNLV, UNR and the community college are available through your high school counselor.

During the 1997-98 school year at Western, approximately 150 students went to college. Almost all of them received some type of financial aid and 30 of these students received scholarships.

Hey!

That's not Mike Tyson!

By *Chloe Whitney*

When rising in the morning does the thought of seeing two fellow students duke it out over nothing excite you? Well if it does, that only means one of two things: You have no life, or you're up for Biggest Dork award.

Fighting. Honestly, what does it accomplish? Is it all the praise you receive after your all-expense-paid trip to R.P.C-Ville? Or, does the fact of watching your so-called opponent nurture that beautiful black eye that you placed on them make you feel as though you're the Creme de la Creme? Is that the real reason most people are motivated to get out of the bed in the morning — to discuss who had the first hit, and who had more blood on their clothes?

Students complain that we have only 20 minutes for Nutrition Break, but some would rather run around looking for a fight than stand in line for food. I wonder: why do we act like front-row ticket holders at a Janet Jackson concert when we hear the words "Meet me after school"? Actually, a fight can be prevented. It's the people who like to see blood, sweat and tears who make it happen. If you want to see all that, watch a Mike Tyson fight.



GORMAN

Title IX offers women equal opportunity

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972

"No person in the U.S. shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal aid."

By *Andrea Thompson*
Bishop Gorman High School

Twenty-six years ago, a groundbreaking law changed society: President Richard Nixon signed Title IX, the federal law that guarantees women athletes the right to equal opportunities in sports programs in schools.

"Title IX has given more opportunities to women...It shows women are just as good as, or even better than men," says one coach.

Almost six generations of young women had been cheated out of participation and athletic scholarships before Title IX was passed. High school sports participation in 1972 was 8% female. It was not lack of

interest but lack of opportunity. Last year alone, girls' participation grew to 39%.

Women athletes succeed in more than their sports

High school girls in sports are 80% less likely to have unwanted pregnancies, 92% less likely to be on drugs and three times more likely to graduate and have higher levels of self-confidence and self-esteem, according to a study of gender equity in sports.

Imagine if Title IX had not existed. Women's sports at Gorman would not be at the top-of the ranks. Lady Gael's tennis, soccer, golf and volleyball would not have achieved their level of accomplishment.

"I think our day is going to come," said athlete Sheryl Swoopes long before women's professional sports associations began. "That's my dream — one day, in my lifetime, to have some type of professional league in the United States for Women."

The development of two women's leagues followed.

In 1981, a campaign for the first Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA)



Thompson

began. However, the league itself did not begin until June 21, 1997. This league is the women's counterpart of the NBA (National Basketball Association). The women's league began with eight teams; in the following season they added two more teams. WNBA games are played on ESPN and Lifetime television during the summer months.

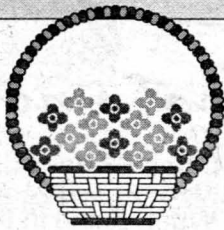
Meanwhile, in October 1996, the American Basketball Association (ABA) started with nine teams. However, this organization declared bankruptcy in December and closed down.

Thanks to Title IX, girls now have the right to equal opportunities in sports as well as in education and careers.

YOUNG WISDOM

6-year-old: "For a long time, people thought the moon was made of green cheese. Then the astronauts found that the moon is really a big hard rock. That's what happens to cheese when you leave it out of the refrigerator."

BOOK REVIEWS



Flowers for Algernon

The Contradiction of Charlie

By Chad Ferranti (below)



In the book *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes, Charlie, the central character, progressed from low intelligence to high intelligence after brain surgery.

Charlie coped with his problems better than most people who don't have a disability. For example, he went to work every day despite not being liked. People would try to get Charlie in trouble, but he never gave up his job.

Also, Charlie didn't give up when Algernon, a mouse, won a race by running through a maze before Charlie. He said, "One day I'm going to beat that mouse." He handled his disability maturely.

However, there were times when Charlie should have been sheltered. He didn't know when people wanted to hurt him or were laughing at him. He didn't know what friends were...or have good judgment.

When Charlie had his surgery, it was for his intellectual growth, not his emotional growth. He didn't understand his new feelings. He remembered his mom yelling at him. She wouldn't let Charlie hold his baby sister or even be alone with the baby.

There's a contradiction about Charlie as he matures. He wonders what "smart people" think about...he's curious about very difficult subjects, like procreation and his own surgery.

He goes to the library to become more intelligent...he wants to find out everything. He was getting smarter and enjoying his new-found intelligence.

Charlie's intelligence helped him to see the doctors as they really are. He walked by their office one day when the doctors admitted they were not sure what to do. Up to then, Charlie always thought that whatever they said was right.

[One doctor wanted to discuss Charlie's surgery at a medical convention, but the other said it was too soon, that Charlie was still changing.]

Charlie's intelligence continues to grow. He is destined to become a genius. But is it worth the price?

This is a story that makes us think about the way we treat people who are less smart or more intelligent than we are.

Kids with learning differences find success at New Horizons

"Patty" is very, very bright. The 16-year-old is a wonderful, creative writer. She's an excellent artist, and a quick student of history. But she has trouble with her manual skills — such as the simple act of using a pencil.

"Ben" was close to graduation when he got into trouble at his "regular school." He was smart, but he hated schoolwork and seemed to have no hope for the future.

Both teenagers — and these are their fictitious names — found success at the New Horizons Academy, along with a dozen others in the high school class.

What? You haven't heard about it? New Horizons has been around since 1974. It is a private, non-profit school that is supported by donations and fees — and it's a United Way Agency.

Non-traditional but effective

New Horizons serves kids with "learning differences." These are the students who have average or above average intelligence, but who learn better in a non-traditional setting. Some have visual or hearing problems that cannot be corrected with glasses or hearing aids. Some, like Patty, have trouble with coordination. Others just cannot concentrate in a regular classroom.

The school is licensed by the state Department of Education and it meets all of Nevada's education requirements.

The principal is Roger Gehring, who has been in the school district for 32 years as a teacher and principal. He helps to design the personalized program that each student follows; much of it involves working independently.

Differences — not disabilities

"Many of the kids that come to us," Gehring says, "are frustrated in traditional classrooms because of their learning differences. This does not mean *learning disabilities*," he emphasizes, "but real differences.

"They work in small groups, sometimes just four or five at a time," Gehring adds, "and their relationship with their teachers is fantastic."

Strong emphasis is placed on the core subjects — language skills and math — and on developing self-respect and a sense of responsibility.

On this page are excerpts from two book reports written by New Horizons high school students. (They are edited for length; the originals are in-depth discussions of the two books.)

The Pigman

Three's a company

By Chris Brown (right)

The Pigman by Paul Zindel is a story about two high school sophomores — Lorraine and John — and Mr. Pignati (The Pigman). They had some exciting adventures.

In the beginning, John's pranks were funny. He put a bomb in the bathroom, and glued keyholes.

Lorraine was a fatalist — she thought everything happened for a reason. Lorraine was even superstitious when a kid grinned at her — she thought it had to do with the future.

Mr. Pignati was a lonely old man who didn't have any friends, so he found a pet...pets will always be faithful. At the zoo, Bobo, a baboon who liked to play, came out of his cage every time The Pigman showed up. Mr. P played with him by throwing peanuts at him.

Lorraine and John liked Mr. Pignati better than they liked their own mothers. Lorraine even dreamt about The Pigman being her father.

Therefore, it was incredible that the two teenagers ended up regretting the way they treated The Pigman.

If you want the full story, you'll have to read *The Pigman* — it's fast reading.



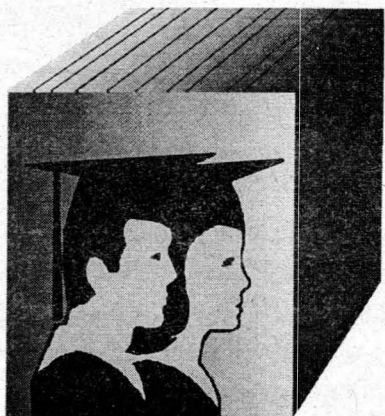
Deep Thoughts by Strange Students

Often, when I am reading a good book, I stop and thank my teacher. That is, I used to, until she got an unlisted number.

- Allen, 15

The only stupid question is the one that is never asked — except maybe "Isn't it morally wrong to give me a warning when, in fact, I was speeding?"

- Pat, 17



High school in college offers rare opportunities

By Ellisa Bender, Senior

Community College High

School is "the exotic fish that stands out in the sea of schools" that have flooded the Valley.

Opportunities offered to CCHS students reach far beyond honors courses and varsity letters. A student who graduates from this unique program can have more than a year's worth of college under the belt — and in today's fast-paced society, that's something to write home about.

We are a select brand of students who may not know what we want, but we have taken the initiative to at least go forward and test our possibilities.

While doing this, we accumulate dual credit: one-half high school credit for every college class we take, *in addition to* the number of college credits we earn.

Since it is college, the range of

classes is wider. Some of us want to excel in many fields of industry and technology, making for a more diverse economy in the long run.

This program also gives us the leeway to make our own schedules. However, we are expected to act maturely, with the responsibility required to be a good college student.

Another advantage of the CCHS program is that it gives us an easier transition into college life, and it helps us understand what will be expected of us at a major university.

This is my second year at CCHS. It has helped me to find the road I must take in order to achieve my goals in life. It taught me to study hard and plan my days a month ahead. I never would have gotten this from a regular high school.



Internet chatting: Is it an addiction?

By Erin Brundage (right)

I speak from personal experience when I tell you that chat rooms are dangerous.

Over the past several years, the Internet has become the new wave of communication. Adults as well as kids — even toddlers — have access to the Internet.

Thousands of different chat rooms are open for the public. From Barney to pornography, it is all accessible.

At one point in my life, all I did was sit in front of the computer and chat with friends I had acquired on the Net. Then I realized that it was pathetic to spend my time like that.

At first it may seem fun, but then you realize that you're never going to meet the person you're talking to. Why waste time sitting in front of the computer when you could be out making real friends?

It's easy to get hooked on chatting, but next time you sit at the computer and you're about to type "So, where are you from?" I ask you to reconsider. Maybe go outside and play basketball or go see a movie. Please, don't waste away in front of the computer.

Some ads flunk!

Clairol introduced the "Mist Stick" curling iron in Germany, not knowing that "mist" is slang for manure. Not too many people had use for a manure stick.

Our ticket to the Web

CCHS computer lab is awesome!

From a report by Katheryn Dubois

[Editor's Note: The Community College High School (CCHS) has three locations: on the Henderson, West Charleston and Cheyenne campuses of Community College in North Las Vegas.]

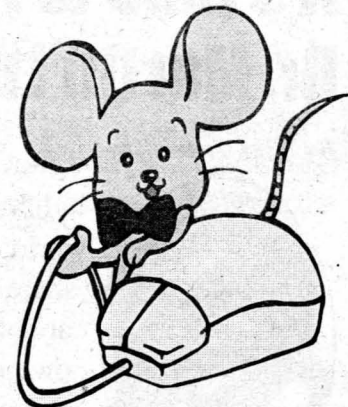
The Cheyenne campus of CCHS has the biggest computer lab in the state. With more than 300 computers, the lab becomes a second home for a lot of students in the valley.

There are computers from Pentiums to Macs — and, with their own server, users don't spend much time worrying about lagtime.

But before anyone gets too excited, you need to know this: the computer lab exists primarily for students to complete schoolwork.

Even though there are so many computers in the lab, it's often full and people are usually waiting or wandering around looking for an available computer.

You may use the computers for Internet games and chat rooms only if no one else is waiting to work on a report or other important things. In cases



like that, a staff member will ask those who are just using the computer for fun to please leave the lab for a while.

Some college classes even have homework assignments on the computers; students complete them on their own time, using a program that the professor has put into the computers.

Just because it isn't a computer class you're taking, it doesn't mean you will not have to know the basics of a computer. Although many programs available to students are simple to use, some can become pretty frustrating if you're not sure of what you're doing. Hence the staff members who circulate around the lab.

The computer lab is open daily from 8 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays, it's open until 11 p.m., and weekends it's open until 5 p.m.

1999 INNER-CITY GAMES

Registration booklets will be in your school Feb. 11!

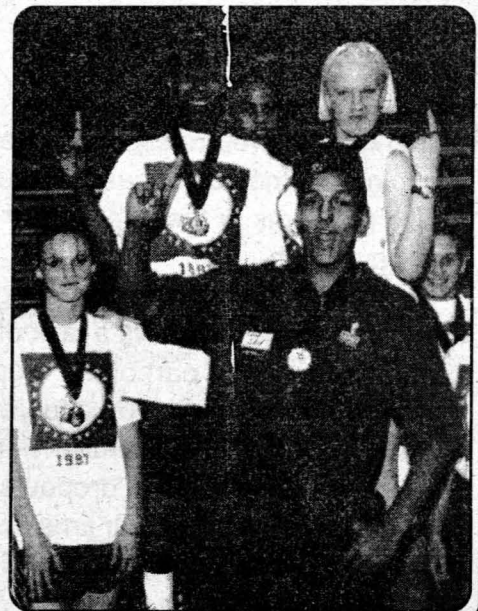
Pre-registration continues only until the middle of March.

The Games are scheduled for April 10 through August 28.

Questions? Call 223-5300



"If you play, you win"



It's time to remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Niki Travis (below)



It's often a cruel world, a world we share with some who are blinded by their own pessimism, while others are downright hateful. Some spite others simply on the basis of who's black and who's white. And this is not so much about the outside world; this is about the person inside.

One man who never gave into pessimism or bigotry was Martin Luther King, Jr. When the word *martyr* rings in my ears, his name always accompanies it.

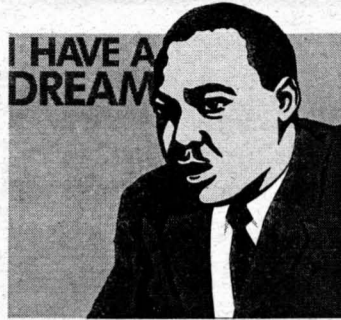
He was a peaceful man and a great believer in applying the forgiveness and kindness of the gospel to our society and its institutions. This man was the founding father of the Civil Rights Movement, a motivational speaker, and a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1964. Dr. King was a non-violent protester, a minister, writer,

leader, and believer in hope and acceptance.

Regardless of the consequences, he stood firm to his beliefs. Although he was stabbed in Harlem, had stones thrown at him in Chicago, was arrested in Birmingham, and had his house in Montgomery bombed, Dr. King remained a peaceful man.

Unfortunately, tragedy struck on April 9, 1968, when, at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. King was assassinated. This great injustice robbed the world of an extraordinary man, and denied future generations the opportunity to meet this legendary civil rights leader. He touched the lives and hearts of many, and, in the legacy he leaves behind, he will always do so.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. did not die in vain, but for a great and wonderful cause. In his own words, "If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."



Martin Luther King, Jr.

Happy New Year, Las Vegas

By Casey Lundquist

Twas the night of New Year's and everyone was out: not a person was home, not even the pouts, Las Vegas Boulevard is where everyone's at, including my mom and my Aunt Pat.

The gamblers were losing all of their cash, it was as if their money was turned to ash. My friend Tim and I walked up the street, we walked so far it hurt our feet.

When all of a sudden a volcano roared, and everyone looked and waited for more.

We continue to stroll along the pavement, down the Strip to the Treasure Island we went.

The air was polluted and cold to the touch, the wind kicked up, but not too much.

The noises of drunks kept the night alive, especially the one that took the dive.

Into the fountains is where he jumped, but it was very shallow, and his head he had bumped.

The police were everywhere, all around they had six men pinned to the ground. To Harrah's, The Mirage, Bally's, the MGM, then Caesar's, then Luxor, and Treasure Island.

All of the lights lit up the sky, the Megabucks jackpot was extremely high.

The slot machines were tremendously loud, as we pushed our way through the crowd.

The imitation pirates performed very well, and into the water is where they fell.

The weather was cold, but the ladies were hot, the clothes they wore revealed a lot.

Then all of the sudden a fight broke out, the police maced them quickly without a doubt.

Soon the paddy wagons came around the corner, the next thing I knew, the men were goners.

We were on a mission in the city of lost wages, as we passed the police, one asked our ages.

19 and 18 we quickly replied.

Then one man punched another in the eye, off the cop went to bust some more punks,

but no he didn't, he went to his trunk. Out came an extremely large-looking gun, quickly it hit me that it was no more fun.

The officer began to fire a round, it flew through the air then hit the ground. The donut eaters soon threw on their masks, then I realized it was tear gas.

We began to run right on the spot the riot-like crowd had my stomach in a knot.

We continued our journey on down the street, we thought to ourselves that we would not be beat. I looked at my watch, and it was almost midnight, soon the fireworks came in my sight.

And then the crowd kicked up a tremendous cheer, and as the clock struck twelve, everyone yelled,

"Happy New Year!"

Students have their say:

Does dropping out mean giving up?

By Gordon Mertens

The number of high school dropouts in Las Vegas has increased by 12% since 1989, according to a poll taken by the Clark County School District. Several students were interviewed about their views on why students drop out.

Lasey Simons, a senior, said that she felt finishing high school was the responsibility of every student, but there are cases where dropping out may be necessary, such as health problems or the opportunity of a well-paying job.

Margaret Kelso, a senior, suggests that quitting school shows a lack of commitment on the part of the dropout.

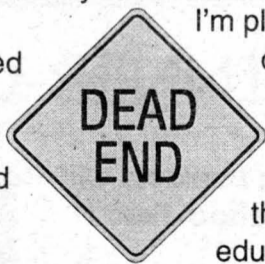
Karle Morello, a junior, and **Jeff Kampa**, a senior, share similar views. Both say that high school dropouts are "stupid" for wasting all their time in elementary and middle school and not even taking the time to graduate.

Lellani Winters, a senior, sees it differently. "I'd drop out of high school if I could." She adds, "Yet, for my career, I'm planning to become a flight attendant, which requires a high school diploma."

Horizon West counselor Michael Donnelly supports the belief that everyone needs an education to succeed in life.

"High School dropouts won't have financial security, due to [their] lack of education," he says. Donnelly goes on to say that employers look for a commitment, and that commitment is shown through a diploma. Also, dropping out of high school is easily preventable by offering more opportunities for education.

Before a student drops out, he or she needs to understand how options for the are limited without an education, and that there is a lot at stake.





Depression can lead to life-threatening action

By Jennifer Spooner (left)

Adolescent suicide, many times a result of depression, takes more lives from the ages of 15 to 19 than cancer or heart disease. Depression affects roughly 20% of the teenage population, but is commonly overlooked in diagnosis.

Many people dismiss troubled teens as just more overreacting 16-year-olds magnifying their problems out of proportion. Since adolescence is a time of emotional turbulence, a teenager who shows the symptoms of depression often could be at the mercy of uncontrollable hormones.

The symptoms of youth depression are similar to those experienced by adults, but can be displayed in different ways. Lingering sadness can be shown by teens who continuously wear black clothing and write sullen poems.

Sleeping problems are common amongst many depression victims. They also sit through all-night television sessions to try to stop their minds from racing.

Depression can often explain missed classes, lower grades, a lack of motivation, lowered energy, and loss of concentration. Eating disorders or boredom can also be symptoms.

But more common than these obvious and well-publicized symptoms are the simple things that friends, parents, and even the sufferers themselves might not recognize as anything serious.

"It's up and down. Sometimes I'm fine, and other times I have no energy for anything" says one junior, embarrassed to admit her dependence on antidepressants. "I'm not excited about anything. I don't care about anything."

Depression can be triggered by any number of things, from minor to major tragedies. Often, symptoms begin in adolescence.

"In a way, teenage depression is blowing things out of proportion," says one counselor. "Because of a larger, more dangerous problem, they overcompensate by letting the small things in life throw off their whole equilibrium."

The hardest thing for depressed adolescents to do is seek help. Even if they want to, it becomes difficult to confide in a parent, even if the teenager comes from a loving home where the parents have the teen's best interests in mind.

Ignorance is a major problem within the adult population. Reports show that 70% of adults believe that depressed people can pull through depression and

that depression is the fault of the individual.

Several forms of treatment are available for adolescents.

Psychotherapy is used most often to treat someone with mild depression. Often, if patients can work out problems that extend from their childhood, they can ease their depression and work on the smaller problems as they occur.

Medication can be used, but it is generally for more serious cases. The primary need of a teen suffering from depression though, is support from family and peers. If the depressed teen feels alone in the world, they refuse to even try to recover.

PSEUDO-BUDDHAS: TRACK & DESTROY!!

By Lauren Berrigan

Yes, they are history experts. Yes, they understand chemical equations. And yes, they are consulted by literary critics for opinions on symbolism.

But no, they are not publishing books. No, they are not lecturing in college halls. And no, they are not winning Nobel prizes.

They are...sitting in your fifth period. We constantly suffer those people who have convinced themselves they are more intelligent than the entire world. They are everywhere — the pseudo-buddhas who actually believe they are "the enlightened ones."

They are sometimes snooty, sometimes intimidating, and always arrogant. It's our job to stop them — but how? It's simple. Follow these steps and rid yourself of pseudo-buddhas forever.

Step #1: Recognize the problem. Identify the infested areas. Pseudo-buddhas commonly sit in the front corner so

(Please see Pseudo-buddha, page 30)



Quarter-million teens call free help hotline

In an average year, about 500,000 people call the Boys Town National Hotline for help with a problem. More than half of those calls come from kids who are 19 or younger.

It's NOT just for boys. It's for people who need help — and this counseling is FREE.

The Hotline is open every day of the year, 24 hours a day. If these professional counselors can't help by talking you through the problem, they will give you the names of people to contact in Southern Nevada. Call the Hotline: 1-800-448-3000.

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gets better
when you have the right place to enjoy it.

It's this simple.

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It's this complex.

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Positive teen lifestyles.
Increased public safety.
Stress-free environments.
Stronger family bonds.
Successful futures.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



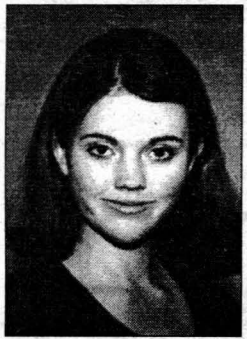
A Place To Call Home

Thanks in part to Parks & Recreation.

To know more about the many benefits that the City of Henderson Parks & Recreation Department can bring to you call 565-4771.

Obesity: America's deadly disease

By Jennifer Hampton (below)



The U.S. is killing itself with a disease that many Americans don't even know exists. That disease is obesity.

Is obesity taking over our country? If we keep stuffing our mouth with junk food instead of fruits and vegetables, then by the year 2030 every American will be obese.

The percentage of adults who are obese has grown from 43 percent in the '60s to 55 percent to date. The average man now weighs 25 more pounds than his great-grandfather would have weighed.

Sachike, who is the director of nutrition research and education programs at the University of Nevada, Reno said, "Obesity is the number one poor nutrition problem in the United States."

"The environment encourages people to eat too much of the wrong foods," says Yale University psychologist Kelly Bronwell. We drive instead of walk, and fast food is available 24 hours a day. Also, fast food is available in school lunch rooms.

Academy lunches offer the same nutritional problems. A typical lunch at the Academy offers chips and a soda or chicken fingers and fries. You rarely walk around the cafeteria and see someone eating a sandwich and a banana.

One quarter of all the vegetables we eat are french fries. "The average American, particularly children, recognizes 'supersize' as a verb," said Bronwell.

The disease obesity is one of the hardest to control. Many diet drugs are being developed so that one day doctors will be able to control body weight completely.

Obesity causes 75 percent of all diabetes cases. It also causes one half the high blood pressure cases of high cholesterol levels. Very few people realize the seriousness of obesity. This disease causes death. It requires regular medical attention and a lifelong commitment to good health.

Americans between the ages of 20 and 60 gain an average of one half of a pound per year. Due to obesity, 60 percent of all overweight children have a medical complication.

Older people are starting to become more and more obese. One of the causes relates to all of the television that elderly people watch. Obesity is a disease that affects the young as well as the old.

One must wonder: Is society strong enough and willing enough to overcome this disease? For the sake of our future, it better be.

TODAY'S HOTTEST DEBATE:

Should Cannabis be legalized for medical use?

By Maggie Tabach (right)

Three joints a day, four days a week. This could possibly be someone's prescription from their doctor as Question 9 passed 59% to 31% during the recent elections.

The controversial question asked whether marijuana should be legalized for medical purposes. Nevadans, as well as citizens of Colorado and Washington, voted to enable doctors to prescribe the genus Cannabis, better known as marijuana, to patients.

The legalizing of the drug has been debated for decades; ever since peace loving, bell-bottom wearing hippies openly and widely used it.

In the '70s, a brief flurry of research began on the substance's healthy and harmful effects as tolerance for it grew in society. But this drive for knowledge about marijuana was abandoned as Reagan came to office in 1980 with his "get tough" on drugs policy.

States vote yea; feds say nay

Although weakened, the debate rumbled on and in Nov. '96, California and Arizona paved the way by voting to allow patients to legally smoke marijuana on doctor's orders. The federal government was quick to remind the states that marijuana was still illegal under federal law and physicians who exercise the state law could lose their licenses and perhaps go to prison.

Passage of the law in the two states prompted the US National Institute of Health to request that a group of experts spend two days reviewing all the evidence pertaining to marijuana. After scrutinizing the few scientific studies that have been done, the panel concluded that the drug could be useful for treating glaucoma, nausea from chemotherapy, AIDS-related wasting, and symptoms from other diseases.

Opponents to legalization point out that cannabis is a schedule II drug, same classification as morphine, and they say that studies have not proven that marijuana does anything another legal drug can't do.

Former Secretary of Health Joseph A. Califano, stated that "teens who smoke pot are 85 times more likely to use drugs such as cocaine than those who have never done so."

On the other side, William Beaver, a pharmacologist at Georgetown University said,



"The major problem is getting good data here. You can argue policy all you want, but if you haven't got the data then the politics make no sense. For at least some of the potential indications, the data are good enough to recommend that new, controlled studies be done."

One of marijuana's better known side effects is its ability to significantly boost one's appetite. Patients dealing with AIDS battle the wasting-away of their bodies, and the drug does help weight gain, but opponents ask if it is "useful weight," such as muscle.

The same reasoning for the use of marijuana as an appetite booster for AIDS victims is used for anorexics.

Glaucoma, a blinding disease, and the muscle spasms associated with multiple sclerosis, Huntington's disease, and Tourette's syndrome are other disorders that marijuana is said to help by relieving severe pain.

There is a major problem with all the arguments in measuring marijuana's effectiveness: it is hard to obtain solid, verifiable information from a placebo group (those who are smoking a non-marijuana substance) to compare with those actually smoking marijuana. Patients in these studies are not supposed to know they are being given a fake drug. However, most people in a placebo group realize they aren't really smoking marijuana.

Studies not controlled

The very fact that marijuana is smoked creates another problem when attempting to get hard evidence. Therapeutically, administering the drug this way is reported to be good since the drug reaches the bloodstream immediately. However, patients are able to regulate their doses since they can control the size of each puff and how long they hold it in their lungs. So, this is not an accurate controlled study and it does not give precise data for the effects of a specific dose.

Still, proponents continue to lobby for the drug's legalization, doctors risk losing their licenses to practice medicine, and people grow it themselves, risking jail time.

In Nevada, the state's 134-year-old constitution requires public approval twice for ballot questions that originated in petition drives. The question of whether or not marijuana should be legal will appear on the ballot in 2000.

(Information retrieved from *New Scientist* and *Science News*.)

Lauren Berrigan



DIGANOS

¿Tiempo para hacer todo?

Por Lauren Berrigan, Green Valley

Dormir. Comer. Trabajar. Comer. Repetir de nuevo.

Cerca del 30% de los jóvenes entre los 16 y los 17 años trabajan, y por lo tanto se ven confrontados con el eterno círculo vicioso de actividades escolares, trabajos de medio tiempo, y demás, dejando muy poco tiempo para relajarse o simplemente divertirse.

En vista de todos los gastos que los jóvenes tienen—tal como ropa, salidas nocturnas, comida, el coche, el seguro, ahorrar dinero para la universidad—muchos jóvenes deciden que vale la pena trabajar para recibir la quincena que cubre sus gastos.

Desgraciadamente, es muy difícil tratar de hacerlo todo, y muchos de los estudiantes que van a la escuela y trabajan, tendrán que evaluar que es lo que es más importante. Muchas veces tendrán que sacrificar horas de trabajo, y por lo tanto, dinero, para poder estudiar y recibir mejores calificaciones. Así, tendrán la oportunidad de tener un mejor trabajo después.

Algunos estudiantes piensan que no vale la pena. “Aparte de ir a la escuela, soy parte del equipo de fútbol americano. Estas son mis dos prioridades. Si empezara a trabajar, no podría darle toda la atención a lo que es más importante para mí,” dijo Sean Newell, el cual es *senior*.

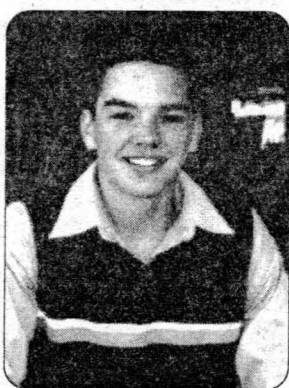
Afortunadamente, muchos negocios de Las Vegas son muy flexibles con sus horarios para que los estudiantes no tengan ningún tipo de conflicto entre sus clases y el trabajo. Pero eso sí, cuando uno trabaja, se tiene una gran responsabilidad no sólo hacia la escuela, sino hacia el negocio también.

Diana Tram, la cual es *junior*, dice que “no creo que los jóvenes de hoy tengan tiempo para tener un trabajo. Si estás tomando clases avanzadas, tal como AP, te dejan mucha tarea, así que casi no te sobra tiempo.”

Erin Stutelberg, la cual es *senior*, tiene una opinión diferente. “Llevo dos años trabajando, y lo considero una parte de mi educación, porque he aprendido cosas que no aprendería de libros escolares. Aparte, gasto mi dinero en cosas relacionadas con la escuela.”

Pero eso sí, se ha visto que al trabajar más de 20 horas a la semana, los éxitos escolares por lo general disminuyen de una manera u otra. Así que para evitar las consecuencias negativas de tantas horas de trabajo, los expertos recomiendan que los jóvenes trabajen menos de 15 horas a la semana.

Alison Swallow, la cual es *junior*, dice que “trabajar es muy bueno para la mayoría de los estudiantes. Nos enseña como tener responsabilidad. Aparte, nos prepara para la vida real.”



EXCEPCIONAL ESTUDIANTE

Kyle Cardin, el que es *senior* en la preparatoria de Cimarron-Memorial, ha sido nombrado como uno de los finalistas en el National Hispanic Recognition Program. Este programa, el cual es patrocinado por el College Board, le da reconocimiento a estudiantes excepcionales de origen hispano. De más de 150,000 seniors hispanos de todo el país, se eligen a 3,000 como finalistas.



Angela Rodriguez, Investigative Reporter, Canal 13

Yo salí ganando. ¡Tú también puedes!

Por Judith A. Jenner

(Nota de la editora: De acuerdo a un reciente estudio realizado por UNLV sobre presentadoras de televisión, se descubrió que ellas afrontan un número de obstáculos en su área de trabajo. Algunos de estos problemas son: la obsesión con la belleza física, la falta de sistemas de networking para mujeres, y la dificultad de balancear la vida hogareña con un trabajo como profesional. Sin duda alguna, Angela supo sobreponerse a todos estos problemas.)

¡Ella sí que no es ninguna actriz muerta de hambre! Angela Rodriguez siempre quiso trabajar en televisión, y aparte siempre ha estado interesada en las noticias. Así que en vez de ser actriz y posiblemente pasar hambre, Angela decidió que podía tener lo mejor de los dos mundos, y así fue como llegó a ser *investigative reporter*.

Siete días a la semana

Pero el éxito no es nada fácil de obtener.

“Para poder ser exitoso/a en la vida, tienes que tener muchísimas ganas de tener éxito,” dice Angela. “No te puedes quedar de brazos cruzados esperando a que las cosas te caigan del cielo. Por mi parte, trabajé los siete días de la semana mientras estaba yendo a la universidad.”

Angela, de 34 años de edad, empezó con el canal 13 como un *intern* los fines de semana. Lentamente, fue subiendo por los rangos.

“Es muy duro llegar a ser alguien en mi profesión. La competencia es muy dura. No es fácil tomar el primer paso y no es fácil llegar a tener éxito. Lo mejor que pueden hacer para mejorar sus chances de éxito es educarse. Aprendan todo lo que puedan. Les aseguro que lo van a necesitar,” dice Angela.

Error más grande de mi vida

“Mi abuelo inmigró de Cuba,” cuenta Angela. “Desgraciadamente, no hablo español! Apenas ahora lo estoy empezando a aprender muy lentamente.”

“Creo que el no aprender el idioma de mi abuelo fue el error más grande que he cometido en mi vida. Pensándolo ahora, me hubiera

(Continúa en la página 18)

¡Oigan chicas -- presten atención!

Las mujeres jóvenes son el grupo que más rápido está creciendo y está siendo afectado por el SIDA/VIH, debido al contagio por relaciones sexuales sin protección.

¡Incluido en este grupo están las alumnas de la preparatoria!

Más o menos el 75% de los casos del SIDA en las mujeres son causados por las drogas. Sea por inyectarse, o por tener relaciones sexuales con alguien que se inyecta.

¡Chicas! Si tienen la inteligencia para saber como proteger su piel del sol con lociones antisolares, entonces pueden usar su cráneo y aprender a protegerse de la amenaza mortal del SIDA.



EL PAGAR LA UNIVERSIDAD: DIFÍCIL PERO NO IMPOSIBLE

Por Tina Griego, Las Vegas High School

¿Es la universidad sólo para los inteligentes? ¿Los ricos? ¿Los pobres? ¿Las minorías?

Muchos de los estudiantes de preparatoria que quieren seguir estudios superiores se encuentran con las manos atadas. Porque aunque sean aceptados en

la universidad casi siempre se les hace difícil conseguir el dinero para pagar sus estudios.

Esta es la época en que muchos seniors están buscando como conseguir ayuda económica y becas para financiar sus gastos universitarios. La pena es que para recibir muchas de estas becas, el estudiante tiene que presentar una composición escrita y también obtener una nota alta en el examen de la SAT o ACT. Y si el estudiante obtiene malas notas en estos exámenes, tendrá dificultad en recibir ayuda aunque tenga buenas notas escolares.

Los estudiantes que vienen de familias de poco dinero son los que más ayuda reciben. Estudiantes también reciben becas si pertenecen a ciertos grupos étnicos o minorías. Lo sorprendente es que los estudiantes de clase media son los que más dificultades tienen. Porque según las reglas oficiales, las familias de estos estudiantes ganan dinero por encima de lo que

está permitido para recibir ayuda. Pero, al mismo tiempo, estas familias no tienen el dinero suficiente como para poder enviar a sus hijos a la universidad.

“Es tristísimo,” dice Mundana Ess-Gaghabadi, “cuando no se puede recibir la ayuda que uno tanto necesita.”

Sí, es difícil conseguir becas y ayuda económica. Pero si el estudiante se dedica, encontrará que hay becas al alcance de todos. Este es el momento en que el estudiante tiene que empezar a coleccionar cartas de recomendación, hacer copias de transcripts, y escribir composiciones mostrando la habilidad y dedicación que uno domina y posee. Otro modo de conseguir ayuda es participando en programas que van más allá del plan de estudios, así como deportes, música, y teatro. También es bueno ofrecer servicios voluntarios como el de embajador estudiantil.

¿Para quién es la universidad? Es para todo estudiante que dedica su tiempo y que hace lo necesario para financiar sus estudios universitarios.

Es como estar en la universidad...

Por Ellisa Bender

Community College High School

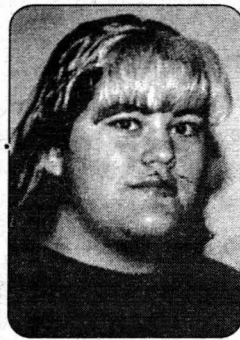
La preparatoria del *Community College* es una de esas escuelas que sobresalen entre las muchas escuelas que han brotado en el valle. Las oportunidades ofrecidas a los estudiantes van más allá de cursos en honores o *varsity letters*.

Somos un grupo selecto de estudiantes que aunque no sepamos lo que queremos, por lo menos tenemos la iniciativa de seguir adelante y poner a prueba las posibilidades.

Al ser parte de este programa, tenemos una oportunidad increíble: podemos acumular medio crédito escolar por cada clase universitaria, más los créditos universitarios que ofrece cada clase. Tenemos la libertad de hacer nuestro propio plan de estudios, y podemos escoger entre una variedad de clases, que no se limita a economía doméstica y carpintería. Esto es muy bueno, ya que no todos los estudiantes de preparatoria quieren construir bancas de madera. Algunos queremos sobresalir en carreras de industria y tecnología.

Otra ventaja del programa es que facilita la transición a la vida universitaria. Bueno, la verdad es que ya estamos en la universidad, y por eso debemos portarnos maduramente tal como se requiere de un buen estudiante universitario

Este es mi segundo año en la preparatoria del *Community College*. El programa me ha ayudado a encontrar el camino que necesito tomar para alcanzar mis objetivos. Me ha enseñado a estudiar duro y a planear mis días con meses de anticipación. Todo esto nunca lo hubiera conseguido en una preparatoria normal. Estoy orgullosa de decir que seré una graduada de la clase de 1999 del C.C.H.S. Mis gracias al distrito escolar del condado de Clark por haberme dado esta oportunidad.



Prieto

Por Elysia Prieto, Las Vegas High

El día empezó como cualquier otro, pero acabó en un caso de discriminación contra jóvenes estudiantes.

Hace poco, varios alumnos de nuestra escuela, Monique Miller, LaToya Barber, Jazmyn Simon, y Brandy Clayton decidieron ir a comer. El lugar de su elección fue una *service station* cerca de la escuela. Allí compraron sus alitas de pollo y se sentaron en las mesas que hay para que los consumidores

se puedan sentar a disfrutar de su comida. ¡Pero no no las dejaron disfrutar su comida!

Un empleado del lugar se les acercó y les dijo que se tenían que ir. Al parecer, otros jóvenes habían usado las mesas para grabar dibujos con navajas, así que por eso les dijeron que se fueran.

“Yo estaba de lo más enojada,” dice Miller, la cual es *senior*. “Le dije al empleado que yo soy cliente de la tienda al igual que todos los demás.” Añade que, “Yo pagué por mi comida, así que tengo el mismo derecho de sentarme aquí como los adultos.”

“El empleado nos dijo que nos podía echar del lugar porque se trata de propiedad privada,” cuenta Miller.

Los estudiantes piensan que los corrieron del establecimiento por ser jóvenes. Este tipo de discriminación es igual de ilegal que discriminación por el color de piel.

Barber explica, “si discriminan a cualquier adulto, todos los medios de comunicación se escandalizan. Si

discriminan a jóvenes, no le importa a nadie.”

Las cuatro jóvenes están tratando de demandar a la compañía que es dueña del lugar. “Ya hemos escrito a *Equal Rights*, pero todavía no nos contestan,” dice Barber.

Las estudiantes se quejaron de que sí les dejaron comprar la comida pero nos les dejaron consumirla allí mismo. “Parece que nuestro dinero sí es lo suficientemente bueno para ellos, pero nosotras no lo somos,” dice Miller.

“Hay muchos adultos que roban, pero en grupos no los corren de las tiendas,” dice Barber, “pero si los jóvenes hacen algo mal, los corren.” Añade, “yo trabajo y gano mi propio dinero. Así que tengo las mismas responsabilidades que los adultos. Por lo tanto, yo debería de tener los mismos derechos.”

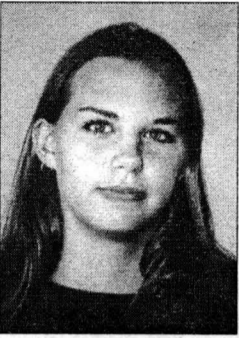
Hay una analogía muy triste a todo esto. En los años sesenta, no se le permitía a los afro-americanos entrar a tiendas bajo la misma excusa: que era propiedad privada.

NADA ES IGUAL

Por Caryne Renna y Summer Burton, Silverado, quienes escribieron este artículo tal y como se los contó la víctima



Caryne Renna



Summer Burton

Yo estaba en mi casa junto con mi familia viendo una película. A las 10 de la noche, se me ocurrió que tenía que ir a casa de una vecina a platicar sobre un asunto. Vive a varias casas de la mía.

Después de hablar con ella, empecé el camino a casa. Eran las 10:45. Pensé que sería más seguro caminar sobre el sendero (*path*) que en plena calle. El *path* ofrece más protección porque tiene paredes de los dos lados y poca gente sabe de su existencia.

De repente, un hombre vestido de pants negros, guantes negros, y mascarilla de esquí brincó sobre el muro en frente de mí. Se me estaba acercando, y por lo tanto me pegué a la orilla del *path*, en dónde está el pasto. El hombre se me lanzó encima y los dos nos caímos al suelo.

Me trató de quitar la ropa, y me rompió la blusa.

Cuando intenté defenderme, empezó a rasguñarme la cara. Sabía que tenía que escapar a como diera lugar porque sus intenciones eran muy claras.

Tuve miedo de morirme. Empecé a defenderme, y logré separarme de él. Salté sobre el muro que está junto al *path* y corrí a nuestro departamento lo más rápido que pude.

Al llegar, mis papás me preguntaron qué estaba pasando y que por qué mi blusa estaba rota. Fui a la esquina del cuarto, me cubrí con una manta y lloré mientras me mecía de un lado a otro.

Para eso, mi madre sabía que algo estaba mal y llamó a la policía. Cuando llegaron, me hicieron muchas preguntas, pero no pude contestar ninguna de ellas. El cuerpo del hombre que me atacó había estado cubierto completamente, y por lo tanto no pude dar ninguna descripción física.

Después de que se fueron los oficiales de la policía, mis padres trataron de consolarme lo mejor que podían. Lloré hasta que por fin me quedé dormida.

Al despertar en la mañana, mi vida no parecía muy distinta. Pero sé que nunca será igual.

Las mujeres de las minorías étnicas corren el mayor riesgo

De todas las mujeres que sufren del SIDA, el 75% son de origen hispano o afro-americano.

- EL SIDA es la causa principal de la muerte de las mujeres afro-americanas de 25 a 44 años de edad en este país. Muchas de estas mujeres se contagiaron cuando eran todavía adolescentes.

- Una mujer encinta con SIDA o VIH puede transmitir el virus y contagiar a su bebé aún no nacido.

¿Tienes niños pequeños?

Tienes que inmunizarlos

El Clark County Health District te recomienda comenzar un programa activo de inmunización para los niños antes de que cumplan 2 meses de edad. La inmunización es una manera segura y efectiva que ayuda al cuerpo en la prevención y rechazo de ciertas enfermedades. Cada niño debe estar protegido contra las nueve grandes enfermedades: polio, sarampión, rubeola, difteria, tos ferina, tétano, paperas, hepatitis B, y meningitis bacteriana.

Recuerda que es muy importante mantener un registro de las vacunas que haya recibido tu niño. Tu proveedor de salud debería de tener una copia de ese registro para estar al tanto de las inmunizaciones del niño/a. ¡Así que no te olvides de empezar con las vacunas lo antes posible!

Si tienes preguntas, puedes contactar a tu proveedor de servicios de salud o el Clark County Health District al teléfono 383-1357.

¿Tienes talento?

¡A ver si es cierto!

Si eres buen cantante, bailarín, tocas algún instrumento, o eres bueno/a para actos teatrales, ¡entonces estás invitado/a al 20th Annual Search for Talent contest!

Hay varios etapas del concurso. Ganadores de las diversas categorías (para ustedes, sería la categoría de junior, de los 10 a los 14 años, o la de seniors, de 15 a 18 años) podrán competir en el Area Final, evento que se efectuará aquí, en Las Vegas.

Los ganadores de esta competencia tendrán la oportunidad de participar en la District Final de California-Nevada. De ahí, los ganadores irán a los Regional Finals.

El jurado del evento evaluará varios aspectos: showmanship, personalidad, calidad de la presentación, dificultad, técnica, y la reacción del público.

¡Se trata de un evento bastante grande! Hay cientos de participantes alrededor del país, que compiten en 40 divisiones locales, 20 divisiones de área, y 5 regiones. Nuestra parte del estado puede estar muy orgullosa, ya que, entre otros, tenemos a varios ganadores a nivel regional. Ellos son cantantes, pianistas, arpistas, y bailarines. ¡Tú podrías ser el próximo ganador, así que atrevete!

Este evento es patrocinado por la City of Las Vegas tal como el Las Vegas Breakfast Exchange Club. Para más información, puedes hablar al teléfono 229-6211.

El último día para registrarse es el 28 de enero



¡Para Nuestros Amigos Hispanos!

DIGANOS es una sección especial que existe exclusivamente para tí.

Te presentaremos información acerca de la juventud hispana e información importante que podrás compartir con tus amigos y hasta con tus papás! Publicaremos de todo: tu poesía, tus dibujos y tus fotos, tus pensamientos e ideas acerca del mundo o de la vida en Las Vegas, anécdotas de tus actividades escolares y tus éxitos en la escuela, artículos de tu música favorita, de películas y de entretenimiento.

¡Queremos oír TUS opiniones!

Si te gustaría publicar algo puedes: Pedirle al profesor del periodismo en tu escuela que nos mande tus trabajos

Enviarnos tus trabajos por correo a la siguiente dirección:

CLASS
University of Nevada Las Vegas
Box 451025
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-1025

Mandarnos tus trabajos por fax al 895-1505.

Angela Rodrigues:

Yo salí ganando. ¡Tú también puedes!

(Viene de la Página 15)

gustado que mis padres me hubieran forzado a aprender el español."

Angela dice que le encantaría ser adolescente de nuevo, para poder usar las oportunidades de la vida de una manera mejor.

"Hay un sinfín de oportunidades para todos. O las toman, o las dejan. Yo sugiero que las tomen."

Angela se graduó de la preparatoria de Chaparral. "Allí aprendí muchas cosas muy importantes, tal como escribir a máquina," recuerda. "Si no hubiera tomado esas clases, no podría hacer el trabajo que tengo ahora."

Desgraciadamente, tuve que alejarme de algunos muy buenos amigos que eran una muy mala influencia en mí," cuenta Angela.

"Ellos empezaron a meterse en problemas y a consumir drogas. Yo no quería tener nada que ver con eso, pero fue difícil separarme de ellos. Ya saben, la presión de los amigos."

Muchos años más tarde, Angela tuvo que hacer un reportaje de un asesinato y suicidio. Resulta que el culpable era uno de sus muy buenos amigos de la adolescencia que mató a su novia antes de cortarse el cuello. "Fue terrible," dice. "Estuve muy feliz de haberme alejado de este grupo de personas."

Nerviosa todo el tiempo

¿Así que que tal se siente estar en la televisión en vivo? "Siempre estoy muy nerviosa cada vez que estoy en el estudio," admite. "Tienes que estar nerviosa. Si es que no lo estás, no estás tomando tu trabajo muy en serio."

Angela Rodrigues dice que tiene una responsabilidad muy grande. "Tengo que tener mucho cuidado con lo que digo cuando transmitimos en vivo. Podría arruinar la vida de alguien o provocar que alguien demande a mi canal por mi culpa."

¿Qué efectos tiene su carrera en su vida personal?

"Estoy en un negocio muy estresante. La mayoría de la gente se enferma físicamente, y yo no soy ninguna excepción. Trato de distraerme hablando con mi



comprometido y con la ayuda de varios muy buenos amigos que no tienen nada que ver con mi negocio."

Es muy difícil compartir las experiencias que tuviste durante el día si

debes de mantener muchos de ellos en secreto.

"Hay muchísimos asuntos que no puedo discutir con nadie. Esto es muy difícil para mí. Pero es parte de mi carrera y tienes que aprender a hacer lo que debes."

Hacerlo mejor

Dentro de cinco años, Angela dice que quiere estar haciendo exactamente lo que hace ahora—solamente mejor. Le acaban de proponer matrimonio y piensa casarse pronto.

Su consejo para estudiantes de preparatoria:

"No tomen decisiones prematuras. No se casen cuando muy jóvenes. Mejor aprovechen las oportunidades que les presenta la vida."

Hay que ver 'La Bandera Vieja' por MARS

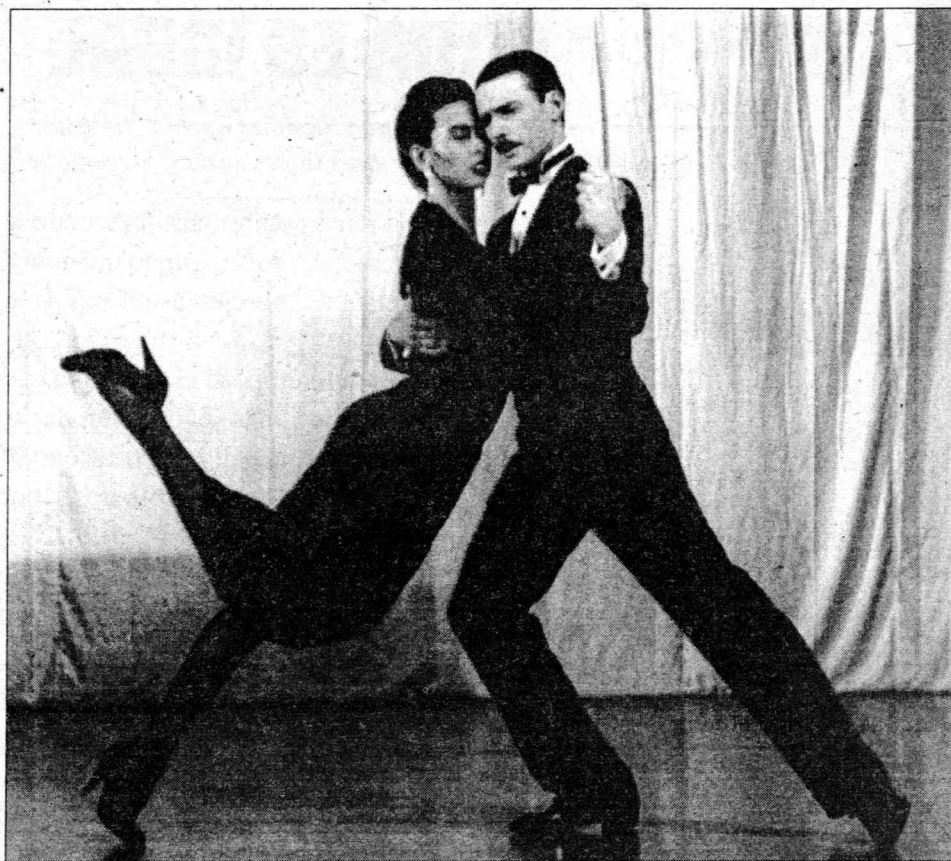


Están invitados a ver la exposición La Bandera Vieja, en el Winchester Gallery desde ahora hasta el 5 de febrero. La entrada es GRATIS.

La Bandera Vieja es una creación del conocido Movimiento Artístico del Rio Salado (MARS). La exposición demuestra la reacción de diversas personas al ver la bandera de los Estados Unidos.

El movimiento MARS es una organización no comercial (non-profit) que presenta obras literarias, dramáticas y de las bellas artes por artistas chicanos de México y de Arizona. La Bandera Vieja expone temas como los de la libertad de la palabra, la autoexpresión y lo que simboliza y significa la vida estadounidense.

Winchester Gallery está situada en 3130 South McLeod Drive, cerca de la calle Desert Inn. La exposición se puede ver de lunes a viernes, 8am-9pm y los sábados de 9am-5pm. Para mayores datos, llamen al 455-4730.



TANGO BUENOS AIRES

¡No te lo pierdas!

Tango Buenos Aires, la famosa compañía de baile, presentará dos funciones a las 8 de la noche, el martes y el miércoles, 19 y 20 de enero, en la sala de conciertos de la UNLV.

Entradas al precio especial de \$10 estarán disponibles para esos estudiantes de la preparatoria que se presenten ante la casilla de ventas una hora antes de la función. (Esto es una super-ganga, ya que los precios normales varían entre \$44 y \$108 per persona.)

El Tango Argentino es una mezcla de música de España y de Africa combinada con la "milonga" típica cantada por los gauchos de la pampas. Hoy en día goza de gran popularidad por el mundo entero y se clasifica como la música nacional de ciertas regiones del "cono sur" de Sud América. Para mayores datos, llamen al 895-3801.

¡Marquen sus almanaques!

Hay cosas buenas que hacer en el Downtown

20 de enero: Ultimo día para inscribirse en el Concurso de Talento en el Reed Whipple Arts Center. (Para más información llamar al 229-6211).

21-31 de enero: "Big River" una alegre comedia musical basada en Las Aventuras de Huckleberry Finn por el autor y humorista Mark Twain. En el Charleston Heights Art Center. (Para más información llamar al 229-6383)

12-21 de febrero: Adventures in Old Nevada. El Rainbow Company presenta una nueva producción de música y leyendas que cuenta la historia de nuestro estado. (Para más información llamar al 229-2111)

febrero: Black History Month.

Could California's Prop 5 cut into Nevada education?

By Ryan Ferguson, Las Vegas High School

Californians recently voted in favor of Proposition 5, which will allow the expansion of gaming within that state's Indian reservations, a move that has the potential to cripple our economy.

The passage of Proposition 5 may be unconstitutional according to California state law, which states that no Nevada or Atlantic City-style gaming is permitted within the state; this includes Indian reservations.

WHAT ABOUT MONEY FOR SCHOOLS?

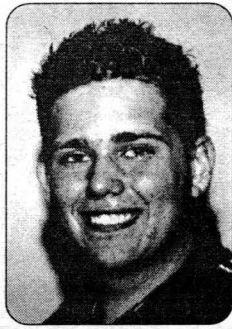
According to the *Reno Gazette*, the effect of "Prop 5" is already surfacing in Nevada. Nevada's projected budget for 1999 was \$560 million, which was reduced to \$238 million, less than half of the previous outlook, after Proposition 5 passed.

As a result of these cutbacks, educational budgets may be reduced drastically.

Jim Muhall, of the Bellagio resort, denies that there is a problem. "There is no immediate impact," he says. Since the California Supreme Court ruled that any expansion on reservation gaming would be against state law, it is, therefore, illegal. Until a new ruling or a new law is passed, an expansion in reservation gaming will have to wait. According to Mr. Muhall, "The next action of the tribes will probably be to seek an amendment to the Constitution and allow them to expand gaming."

Until the constitutional issue is resolved, there will not be a big effect on Vegas gaming.

Other casinos agree with Muhall that Prop 5 may not seem like a big threat now, but if the tribes do get a constitutional amendment passed, Nevada revenue will be seriously threatened.



REPORT:

Nevada lacks drug treatment programs for teens

A report just issued by the Nevada Institute for Children says that this state is way behind the rest of the country in treating kids who are struggling with alcohol and drug abuse problems.

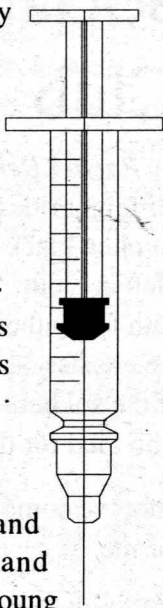
The Institute, which is based at UNLV, estimates that nearly \$3 million is needed to provide the necessary programs — including residential and outpatient treatment, and transitional housing for young people between the ages of 15 and 19 years.

The survey shows that about 12% of kids in this age group in Clark County are in need of some type of substance abuse treatment, intervention, or prevention program. About five percent require residential or outpatient services.

Many parents and substance abuse professionals point out that addicted youths in Nevada are being put on waiting lists or are sent out of state for treatment.

In Clark County, the study shows, 469 teenagers need residential or outpatient treatment, detoxification, transitional housing or evaluation. However, state funds provide only 16 residential beds and 39 outpatient treatment slots in this county.

The Institute will use its study to convince state legislators that Nevada teens need more services in the area of substance abuse.



Everyone talks about it, but... What is AIDS, really?

It's a battle for control of your body!

Your immune system defends you from many diseases and infections. AIDS knocks out your defense, and the attacking diseases take over. You could die from one (or more) of many illnesses — cancer, pneumonia, etc.

AIDS stands for **A**cquired **I**mmunodeficiency **S**ndrome. Its virus is HIV (**H**uman **I**mmunodeficiency **V**irus).

HIV is transmitted from person to person — by unsafe sex or by sharing needles with someone who is infected.

And HIV is sneaky! It can hide in a person's body for ten years or more before it shows up as AIDS. Just because you can't "see" it in someone, don't assume HIV is not there.

That's one assumption that could kill you.

This will knock your sox off!

Of all people newly diagnosed with AIDS, one-fifth of them picked up this fatal disease while they were teenagers!

One of every five people who have just learned they have AIDS are in the 20-29 age group. Since AIDS can hide out in your body for 10 years or more, they probably picked up the disease when they were in their teens.

And listen to this: alcohol and drugs can alter your immune system and make you *more* susceptible to HIV infection.

Sure, you understand all about how AIDS and the HIV virus work. Sure, you know you have to die sometime.

But do you understand that even though you are young and healthy now, you can still get AIDS through risky behavior?

HEY, GIRL, LISTEN UP!

Young women are the fastest-growing group getting HIV/AIDS through unprotected sex. That includes high school girls!

About 75% of all AIDS cases in women are associated with injected drugs — either because the girls used drugs themselves or had sex with a man who shoots up.

Heck, you use sun lotion to prevent a bad burn. Why not use your brains to prevent death?

Caught In The Act

PHOTOS & CONCERT REVIEWS

By Scott Harrison

Have questions or comments? Want photos?

Call Scott @ 435-FOTO (3686)

or send e-mail to Harrisos@nevada.edu



FIRST PLACE AWARD,
ESSAYS

2ND PLACE AWARD, ESSAYS

Is This Right?

By Kellee Pigeon

An aging Japanese-American lost his job and home and was placed in a camp away from his family and freedom. Hundreds of others had the same story — placed in camps, mistreated...barred from society in the 1940s because of the paranoia of the American people. Is this right?

A Native American tribe is removed from its ancestral home and forced to give up its customs, rituals and culture. During the 19th century, Native Americans were relocated to reservations, foreign to all they knew and believed. Is this right?

A young African-American woman was forced to give up her seat on a bus to a Caucasian man for no reason other than the darkness of her skin. African-Americans were segregated during the 1950s and '60s, being made to use decidedly inferior facilities for such things as eating and schooling. Is this right?

A young Hispanic boy is moved around the country continuously with the change of the harvesting seasons. He is unable to receive a suitable education because his parents are immigrants and — for lack of opportunity — were forced into becoming migrant farmers. Is this right?

No, this *isn't* right! ...
Article 2 of *The Declaration of Human Rights* (Freedom from Discrimination) specifically [prohibits] these wrongful actions. Groups such as Amnesty International work to enforce these inherent, inalienable rights — to insure the equality of everyone, every color, every ethnicity, everywhere.

2ND PLACE AWARD, POETRY

Broken

By Emilee Tidwell

She stands separate, divided, refused.
The very essence of her being is confined to an unfavorable vessel.
Their blind eyes look no further than the eminence of the flesh.
Her divine nature crumbles under the judgments of her counterparts.
In them, a genius for an unrestricted destruction of individual worth.
In her, an agonizing outcry for freedom from relentless discrimination —
yet words never escape her lips, her burdens humbly sustained in silence.
Still, she presses forward with a steadfastness, an everlasting hope for an amended world — liberated, untained, broken from the echoes of imprisonment.

3RD PLACE AWARD,
POETRY

Hate

By Josh Ratner

Hate.
You hate me.
I see your swastika flag flowing in the frosty December air.
We are tied and bound.
It is not fair.
The Star of David burns behind me ever so bright.
It is like Satan's eyes,
It is a terrifying sight.
Why do you discriminate against my body?
My soul?
Would it matter if I was black?
Yellow? Red?
Or is it my religion?
Matzos. Passover. Yom Kippur.
Kosher.
Do these words frighten you?
I believe so.
You are a coward.
Discriminate against me if you must.
Die I might, but with honor.
I will win.

The right to be educated

By Jillian Collins (Excerpts)

Education is something we all need at some point in our lives. Of course, one can be street-smart, but to really utilize life's opportunities, education is vital. Everyone has the right to a free education... Learning all the necessary skills and gaining knowledge enables people to avoid being taken advantage of by others. Education allows all of us to take advantage of life.

Education should be free for...those who desire it. It should even be mandatory, up to a point.

Those who choose not to use it wisely have the right to do what they choose, but the option should always be there...

Through education, we sometimes learn the "between the lines" part of life, and we become capable of understanding what is going on around us.

One part of schooling — Government — shows us what our leaders can and can't do to us. It teaches us our constitutional rights so we know when they are being violated. Education teaches us these Universal Human Rights — the rights that we are born with.

In the Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26 states that we all have the right to an education. It is there for us to utilize in life.

FIRST PLACE AWARD,
POETRY

Social Club

By Rachel Bennett

Midnight rides
on pitch black horses.
Men in cloth
with fire in their hands
are ghosts
of the soldiers
who died for their cause.
They've come
for me.
Splintering wood,
they burst into my house.
Shoving my wife
out of their way,
they are on a mission,
a mission to rid
the world of me.
They've come
to kill me.
Throw a rope
of fear and lies
over a branch.
Loop your hate
around my neck.
Protect me, Lord.
Watch over my wife
and children.
"Tight enough for you?"
Kick my world
out from beneath me.
Snap.

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

The Declaration of Human Rights, drafted by the United Nations in 1948, is based upon equality, freedom, the right to life, and the right to mutual respect.

Amnesty International is chief among the worldwide organizations that work on behalf of human rights in the world.

In honor of Human Rights Day, Amnesty International sponsored a competition throughout the nation. Students were asked to express themselves about any of the 30 articles contained in the Declaration of Human Rights.

On this page are some of the winners from Clark County.



The Princess (and her famous, lumpy pea) come to LVHS!

The Hot House Theatre at Las Vegas High School invites the community to attend a wonderful, fanciful performance of "Once Upon a Mattress" February 10-12, 7 p.m. at the Frank Brusa Theater. This story is based on the favorite fairytale "The Princess and the Pea."

Shown above (from left) are the

student stars: **Natalie York, Alan LaPratt, Jared Peterson** (Prince Dauntless), **Amanda Pfundstein** (Princess Winnifred), **Kyle Brunner** and **Jorge Gonzalez**.

Tickets are just \$4 for students and \$5 for adults — for reserved seats. Make your reservation or just ask for information, call 799-0180.

Latin Connection

A Concert by The Nevada Jazz Orchestra

Sunday, January 17 at 2:00 p.m. at Winchester Community Center
3130 McLeod Drive (1/2 block north of Desert Inn)

18-piece jazz ensemble performs Latin music —
Cuban, Brazilian and other styles.

Tickets \$7 general admission.

For more info: 455-7340

WHAT?

We didn't hear you!

But lots of kids want to hear what you have to say — and see the photos you take, read the poetry you write, laugh at the cartoons you draw, learn about your strange hobby, etc. etc.

PLEASE SEND STUFF TO CLASS!
(You don't have to be in journalism)

HOW?

- By mail to CLASS!, c/o UNLV Box 451025, Las Vegas, 89154-1025.
- By fax to 895-1504 ● By e-mail to classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu.
- Or if you don't know what to do, call us at 895-1504.

Young voices from other places

"What's Happening" is a newsletter that documents the stories, poetry and art of inner-city youth from the Camden, New Jersey area. These teenagers dictate their ideas to the newspaper coordinator at the Youth Center and the handwritten publication is then duplicated and distributed. Following are a few examples from a recent issue.

I Miss You, Dad

By Michael, Age 19

I miss you, Dad.

I miss you for all the things you taught me.

You taught me:

Always respect your parents.

Always do good in school.

Always read the Bible.

But you've been away so long now —

I almost forget.

I miss you, Dad.

Sixteen: Too Young To Be A DAD

By Joey, age 16

Sorry, Mom.

When Dad went to prison, I promised you.

I'll never leave your side. I'll always be there for you. I'll be your friend. I'll stop hangin. I'll do good in school. I'll never let you down.

We cried together when I promised you. We hugged and kissed.

I promised Dad. I'll keep the family goin.

Three kids. We needed a Dad.

I couldn't take his place. Sixteen is too young to be a Dad.

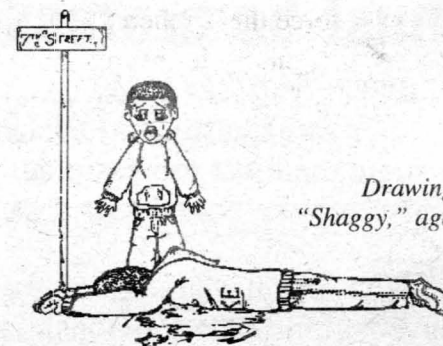
The streets keep callin. Men with power and money.

You pulled.

They pulled.

Mostly the streets win.

Sorry, Mom.



Drawing by
"Shaggy," age 17

My Mirror

By Omar, age 17

Sometimes I look in the mirror and I see a doctor, a lawyer, an artist, a gentleman, an honor roll student looking back at me.

I need that mirror.

Because when I don't look in that mirror, I see a drug dealer, a kid that fails in school, a boy with a gun, a boy with an attitude, one of the wannabes on the street — a kid that's heading for jail.

I see a MISTAKE.

YOU are my mirror, Uncle Glenn. YOU are my mirror, Mom. YOU are my mirror, Juvenile Detention Officer. YOU show me the image of how I can live my life.



My day as a nerd

By Ryan Buttle (right)

In my opinion, the highlight of the season was Nerd Day. I decided to hit every thrift store in town until I found the ultimate, most off-the-hook Nerd apparel.

After about five minutes, I found my outfit. Red highwaters from the ladies' section, a blue sweater vest, a clip-on Looney Tunes tie, and velcro shoes. I couldn't decide between rainbow ankle socks or blue Polo tube socks, so I used one of each. The cost of my Nerd Day outfit was \$7.63. That night I got a good night's rest for the busy day ahead of me.

I woke early and ate a balanced breakfast, including Ovaltine, Flintstone Vitamins, and cherry Kool-Aid (which happened to leave a maroon mustache). Then off to school.

The day was going great. I was getting all kinds of compliments like "look at that nerd!" I knew I had the contest in the bag. By third hour, somebody had put a "kick me" sign on my back, and in fourth hour "really hard" was added.



I had everything now. Broken glasses that were taped up, a pocket protector, some stray toilet paper hanging from my pants, and a "kick me" sign. How could I lose?

At lunch the highly anticipated Nerd contest began. When the announcer said "The nerd in the red pants!" The crowd erupted in cheers. I held my briefcase high in the air in celebration of the victory. Then my heart sank. I realized I'd only won second place. The real winner was announced.... "The nerd in the yellow pants!" How could I have lost? I was devastated!

I wept, as nerds often do, for the rest of the day. After about eleven hours of crying in the boys' room, I realized that I wasn't even a nerd, I was a geek. There was no possible way I could've won.

I was in a league of my own.



Student-teacher relationships must be professional

By Antoinette Wilson (right)

For some, a student-teacher relationship is more than just professional. Who's to say where the boundaries should actually be drawn?

You may have heard of teachers who have had intimate relationships with their students. What made them let their student-teacher relationships escalate to that level? Could it be lack of judgment?

CCSD rules state that teachers should not have any physical contact with students. One teacher says, "Handshakes are OK. I think the world is a bad place if we can't shake hands and say 'well done' to encourage our students."

When it comes to encouraging

a student or helping with a problem, teachers should feel free to help their student, but should not get so involved that their relationship crosses the line. It is professionally and morally wrong.

It can also damage people's emotions as well as their lives.



A Harmless Little Sip

By Aysha Lawson

She took a little sip
How could she have known
A harmless little drink
Would be a habit that she'd own
She took a little taste
Dripped it on her lips
Yet she knew it was wrong
As she licked her fingertips
She felt it warm her body
Burn inside her throat
She longed to tell her friends
Oh how she would gloat

And as she thought about it
She knew she really would
Have a little more
Than she ever thought she could
As she staggered in the door
She knew not what to do
Her curfew was 11:00
Yet it's nearly two
She stumbled up the stairs
She rambled a reply
As her dad started shouting
Her mom began to cry
She told them she was tired
The only lie she'd ever tell
She told them to get off her case
They began to scream and yell
Her father turned his back
Her mother ran outside
She looked up above and asked,
"God, why had I lied?"
Until this very morning
She was daddy's little girl
Never done a thing
Pretty as a pearl
She woke up in the morning
Wondering what she'd done
And as her head started pounding
She was blinded by the sun
She stepped outside her room
Wishing to stop the pain
Walking down the stairs
Hearing the thundering rain
Went to tell her dad
How sorry that she was
She ran back up the stairs
Sobbing all the way
Wishing her dad could hear
All the things she wanted to say

She reached into her purse
To see if it was there
She untwisted the cap
And drank it all without a care
She felt the sweet sensation
As it clouded up her mind
And yet she needed more
Another bottle she had to find

She rummaged through the cabinets
Longing for some more
Knocking over shelves
Stomping on the floor
Her mother couldn't stand it
She ran out of the house
Her brother got scared and
Scampered behind her like a mouse
Her father pushed her out
But tried to grab her hand
She turned her back on him
And threw back her birthday band
He told her that he loved her
She said nothing back
The daughter started laughing
Because good sense is what she
lacked

As she opened up the door
And jumped into her car
The look in her eyes was wild
And she wouldn't get very far

She backed down the driveway
Vision blurred by tears
What was she doing
This surpassed all her fears
She didn't see the truck
As she swerved off the road
The truck turned sharply
Spilling it's heavy load
She wasn't even touched
Not a cut or broken bone
And yet as she looked around
She heard a painful moan
She heard a faint choking
A child-like crying
Got out of the car
And saw two people dying
She looked above her head
And prayed to God in heaven
The boy that's dying here
Tomorrow will be eleven
She looked back at her life
And all the things she'd done
And realized that this started
All with a sip of beer; only one

And as the clouds burst open
The sky shed tears for them
The little one said a prayer for her
Even after she'd killed him
As he said his last words
His last breath he sighed
She ran in front of a bus
And that's how a brother and sister
died

That really was the end
There's nothing left to say
Except that little sip of beer
Just may sign your life away.

Silverado students make and break ancient Egyptian culture

They really DIG EGYPT!

Ever get a grade for digging in the dirt? World History students at Silverado High School did.

Last November, students excavated a mock-archaeology site based on the Egyptian culture, unearthing beads, tools, and clay pots similar to those that would have been used in Egypt thousands of years ago.

The "artifacts" were created by Silverado art and ceramic students, who spent almost a year preparing for the dig, which took place near the ceramics classroom. Students from design-and-crafts, wood working, home economics, and weight training all pitched in to make the project a reality. Biology classes even

performed mummification experiments.

Ceramics students made clay pots — and then smashed and buried them — so that the history students could piece the objects back together, just like real archaeologists.

Silverado will present an Egypt Day on January 21 at 6 p.m. The reassembled artifacts will be on display. Everyone is invited.

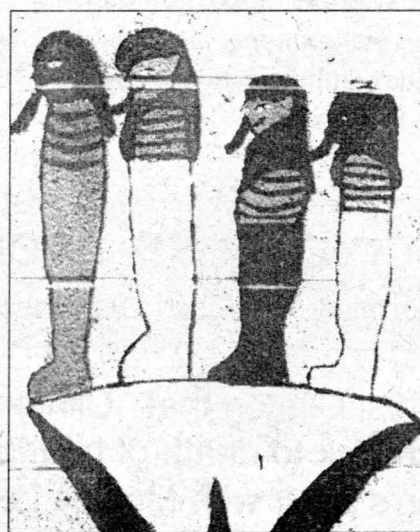
Special thanks to **Jennifer Sawyers, Danielle Oryson, Ryan Bown, and Barbara Hull** for providing information about this project.




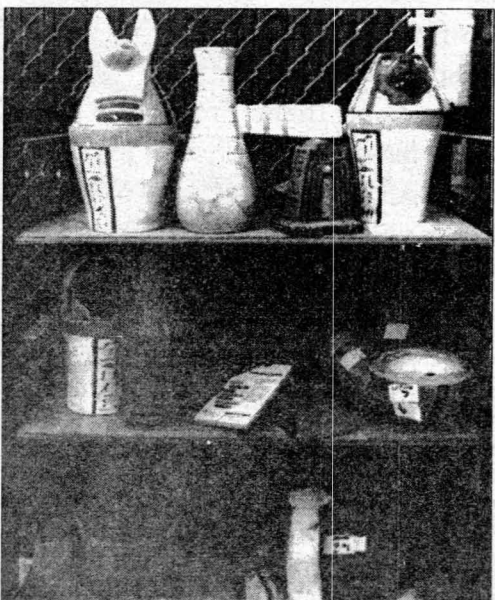
Photo by Danielle Oryson.



Photo below by Kelly Buchanan.



Egyptian Day
 January 21, 6 PM
 Silverado High
 Open to the public!

Photos: above by Luke Ham, far left by Danielle Oryson, near left by Jen Sawyers.



Photo by Barbara Hull.

C-SPAN mobile unit visits Durango

By Lisa Kim (below)



Senior government students at Durango recently toured C-SPAN's "School Bus" — a 45-foot, yellow, mobile TV production studio and media demonstration center.

Currently, two such buses travel the nation, informing students and adults on media issues and explaining how the mobile equipment operates.

Inside the bus are three cameras, two of which are robotically controlled and one that has off-bus production capabilities. The equipment also includes an eight-channel audio board, six tungsten lights...and two laser disc players.

The bus was launched in 1993 to demonstrate cable television's commitment to education. In 1996 a second bus was added to handle the growing demand from schools around the nation.

C-SPAN also offers educators free membership services, teaching guides, grant and fellowship opportunities, seminars and workshops, and programming in their classes. These help to educate students on current world issues.

Students who toured the bus agree that they gained a better understanding of the importance of the media.

"I think it's good that the C-SPAN bus is showing current events...to kids," says senior **Candice Gomez**. "I like how they came to us, rather than to adults, to get our opinions."

"They educated well on nationwide communications," says senior **Spencer Humphrey** of the C-SPAN staff.

BLOWING OFF STEAM!

Where the heck did you learn to drive?

By Matt Medcalf (below)

"How am I driving? Call 1-800-...." Well, you know the rest. That's a common bumper sticker you see on many cars around Las Vegas.

It's usually on the beat-up junkers with missing bumper parts and horribly dented fenders from accidents they caused.

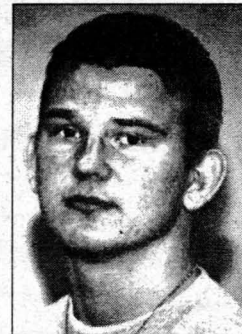
Driving in Las Vegas has become atrocious and annoying. People cut someone off without caring, make an illegal turn, then get angry when another person does the same to them.

I was in my first real accident a couple of weeks ago, when someone pulled out of his parking space without even looking — and I was right behind.

Everything is OK with the accident. My car will soon be repaired and the person who hit me accepted responsibility.

I've had a license for more than two years now, and I just keep seeing things get worse on the road. People don't care about others when they drive.

I know I'm not a perfect driver, but I feel that I'm one of the few who learn from mistakes. How can someone think it's all right for them to do something



dumb, but others are "bad drivers" if they do the same thing. It's like a huge ignorance party on the road and everyone's invited!

Road rage is also becoming a huge problem on the mean streets of Las Vegas.

The Metro police are not helping the situation either. I've

seen people run red lights (and I mean red, red lights) with a copy literally behind them and the copy just let it go. What I really love is how the cops decide to...give people tickets for going 40mph in a 35mph zone. You have to love how they stop those dangerous offenders.

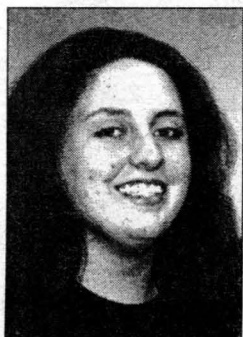
In the end, this column will change nothing. People will not think differently next time they get into a car because they read this.

But please do me a favor and think for a second. What if you or your family were in the car and someone ran an "extremely red" light and hit you head-on?

"Watch out for the other guy" should be anyone's motto when it comes to driving in this crazy city.

Confusion and craziness over Clinton

From an editorial by Sarah DeHart



Clinton this, Clinton that. Clinton! Clinton! Clinton! I'm sick to death of hearing about President Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky.

But guess what this column is about. Clinton.

Ask yourself: "What do I know about President

Clinton and politics besides the whole Monica affair?"

Some students might actually know what is going on in the Middle East and Ireland, but too many haven't a clue.

Some say that Clinton is trying to divert attention away from the Lewinsky affair with his handling of foreign and domestic issues — but he is just doing what he's supposed to do: his job.

Now I'm not what you'd consider a Clinton supporter, but everyone needs to kind of back off.

Okay, so he screwed up. But overall, in terms of the country's welfare, he's not doing that badly.

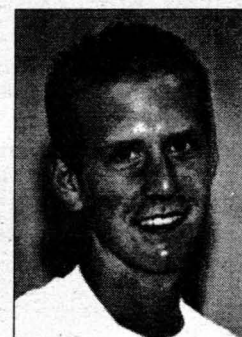
Don't get me wrong. I think his morals stink. He's supposed to be setting an example for America and the rest of the world. But look at the progress the country has made: the deficit is lower, the unemployment rate is low, and he attempted to make peace in Northern Ireland and the Middle East.

We need to wake up, read a newspaper and realize that, as president, Clinton has done many things right; he's not all bad.

Most likely, he'll continue to be our President. Americans realize that removing him from office would be more detrimental to the country than allowing him to remain.

Students chat with outta-sight astronaut

Excerpts from a report by Ross Pugh (below)

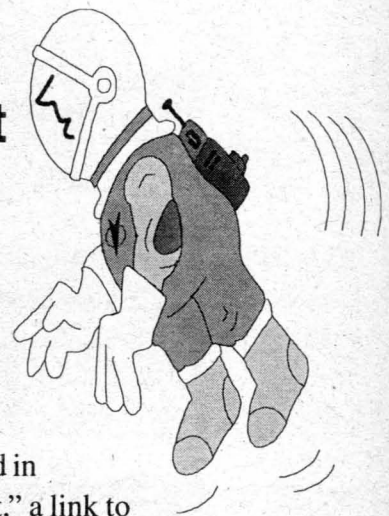


Twenty lucky students participated in "AstroChat," a link to the space shuttle during its November flight. From 10am to 11am, the students were able to talk with NASA astronaut Carlos Noriega, all live via satellite.

"It was interesting to be able to talk to somebody in space," says freshman Brian Townsend. "I always wondered what it would be like to be in space. I got as close as I could get without actually being there."

Having a live link was a rare privilege. It is difficult for astronauts to take time out of their space missions.

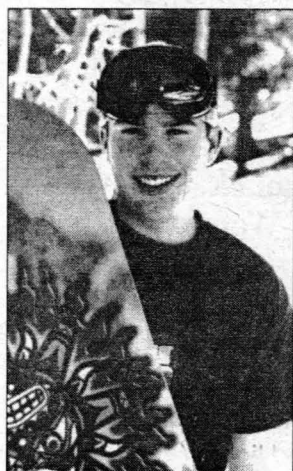
Noriega explained how he became interested in being an astronaut and how he trained. He spoke often about an international space station during the hour.



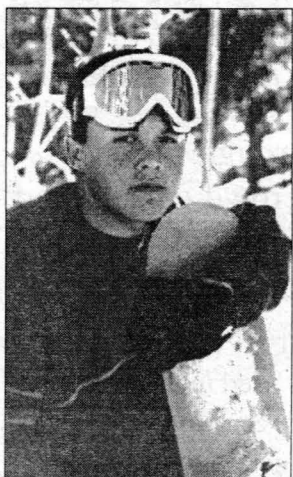


COVER

CATCH SOME AIR UNDER YOUR BOARD.



Above, Sam
Below, Jon



"The first day, you pretty much spend on your butt."
Sam Zawisza recalls his snow-board lessons four years ago. "I always wanted to ski, then I saw snowboarding and knew it was perfect because I used to skateboard a lot."
 Sam, the one who's sitting in the cover photo, is a freshman at Chaparral. He hangs around pretty much with **Jonathan West**, the other cover-guy, also a Chaparral freshman.

"I'm getting where I can really go big [taking on tougher snowboarding challenges] but I gotta go bigger than Sam does," Jon admits. "Then he has to go bigger than me....we get better off each other," he says.

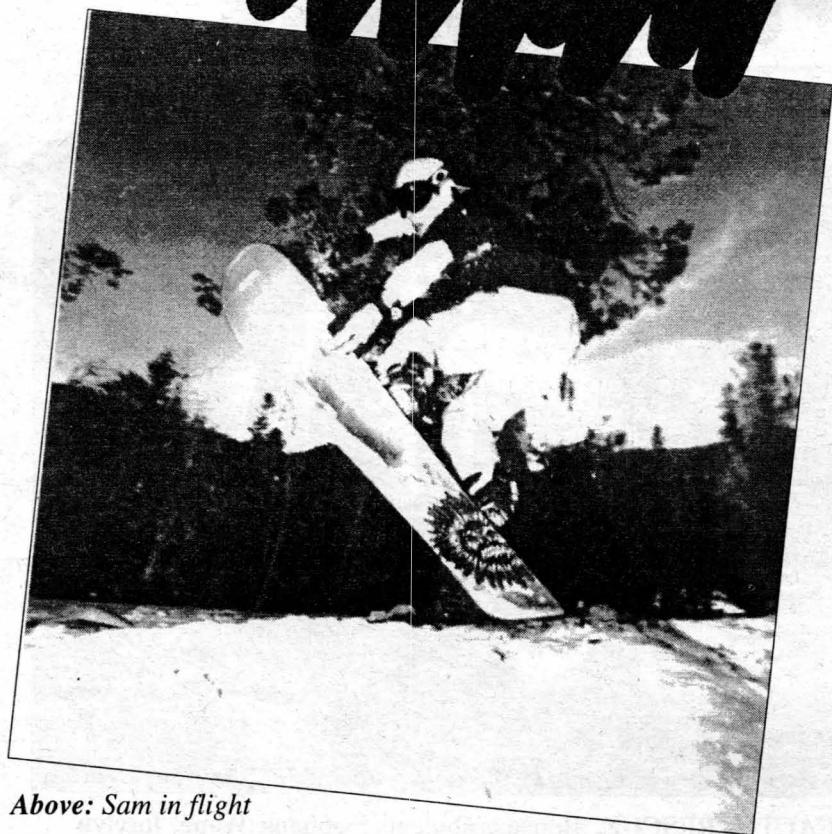
Sam took his first lessons at the Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort in Lee Canyon. The resort offers private one-hour lessons for \$50 an hour or group lessons (6-8 in a group) for \$15 per hour-and-a-half.

Jon remembered the day when the cover photo was taken. He and Sam were to meet the CLASS! photographer at 10am. But on the way there, the bus broke down.

"It was only about 15 minutes to Lee Canyon," Jon says, "but we hitch-hiked anyway so we wouldn't be late."

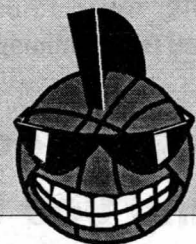
In addition to snowboarding, Jon plays baseball. In fact, he's played since he was five — "catcher, right field, first base, whatever," he says.

(Thanks to Barry Leydecker at Sub Skates for his help in arranging the cover photo and introducing CLASS! to Sam and Jonathon.)



Above: Sam in flight

Who plays what in high school?



What is the most popular competition sport chosen by boys in high school? It's either basketball or football, depending on how you read the numbers. And what's the most popular sport among high school girls? Basketball — *anyway* you look at it.

According to a nation-wide study of high school sports participation during the 1997-98 school year, more schools had boys' basketball programs (16,617) than any other sport, but more boys (nearly a million) played football.

Basketball swept the field for girls who take part in competitive sports: in 16,428 schools, about 454,000 girls played the game throughout the United States.

And what about Nevada?



The report says that during the 1997-98 school year, 29,843 high school students, male and female, participated in school-based sports. (Compare this to Texas, the state with the most teenage jocks, where more than 771,000 kids are in competition athletics.)

Another comparison: how many kids played a sport last year compared to 20 years ago? The number remained just about even for boys who were in competition (about 3.7 million) — but the number of girls who participated in sports increased by almost 50%, from 1.75 million to 2.57 million last year.

The top 10 sports for boys in the U.S. — based on the number of teenagers who participate in competitions — are football, basketball, outdoor track & field, baseball, soccer, wrestling, cross country, golf, tennis and swimming/diving.

For girls, the top 10 competition sports are basketball, outdoor track & field, volleyball, fast-pitch softball, soccer, tennis, cross country, swimming/diving, competitive spirit squads, and field hockey.

(Thanks to Al McDaniels of UNLV's Physical Education Activities Department for sharing this report issued by The National Federation of State High School Associations.)

24-hour hotline offers free help to teens

In an average year, about 500,000 people call the Boys Town National Hotline for help with a problem. More than half of those calls come from kids who are 19 years or younger.

What are their problems? To name a few: fighting with parents, threatened by gangs, hooked on alcohol, sexual abuse, pregnancy, depression, suicidal thoughts, and being a runaway.

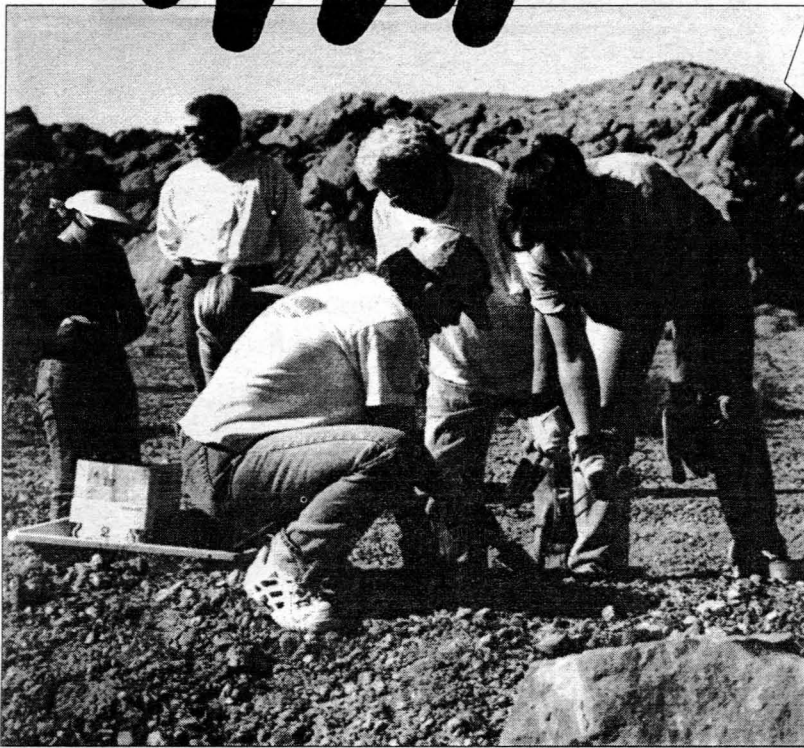
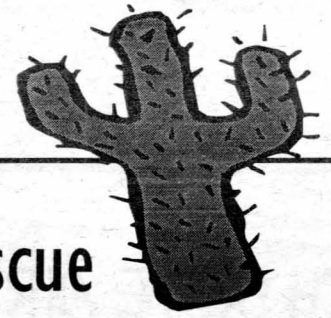
If you have a problem you can't deal with (or if you can't think of anyone in our community to go to), you may call the Boys Town Hotline. It's NOT just for boys. It's for people who need help — and this counseling is FREE.

The Hotline is open every day of the year, 24 hours a day. If these professional counselors can't help by talking you through the problem, they will give you the names of people to contact in Southern Nevada.

If your troubles are too big for you to handle, call the National Hotline at 1-800-448-3000.

WHO PLAYS WHAT: The Statistics

SPORT	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Badminton	3,668	9,084	12,752
Baseball	449,897	1,262	451,159
Basketball	544,463	454,000	998,463
Bowling	8,957	7,932	16,889
Canoeing	224	435	659
Spirit Squad	4,807	58,737	63,544
Crew	938	1,008	1,946
Cross Country	178,672	150,846	329,518
Equestrian	68	351	419
Fencing	805	749	1,554
FieldHockey	1,491	56,589	56,603
Football (11 player)	971,335	779	972,114
Golf	159,501	49,690	209,191
Gymnastics	3,227	21,347	24,574
Ice Hockey	27,245	3,016	30,261
Judo	265	123	388
Riflery	2,057	900	2,957
C-C skiing	5,025	5,070	10,095
Alpine skiing	6,217	4,268	10,485
Soccer	309,484	246,687	556,171
Softball (slow-pitch)	48	30,387	30,435
Swim/Diving	83,781	126,062	209,843
Tennis (indiv.)	137,827	151,539	289,366
Track & Field	45,499	41,591	87,090
Volleyball	35,285	373,219	408,504
Weight lifting	13,266	3,962	17,228
Wrestling	229,176	1,907	231,083



The great cactus rescue

Six members of Bonanza's National Honor Society helped to rescue 200 cacti recently, by transplanting them from an area that was "dangerous to their health"—a mining area in Blue Diamond—to the Logandale Recreational area.

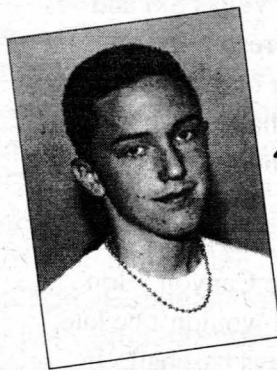
These plants, some of which were more than 180 years old, were airlifted from their original location, then were hauled by truck

and trailer to the new planting site. Some of these cacti are found only in this part of southern Nevada.

Cactus-rescuers were **Karleen Gallagher, Stephanie Wong, Stephanie Hammack, Emily Vinson, Jocelyn Woods, Chris Perry,** and adviser Wende Lestelle.

"It gives you a good feeling to know you saved something from extinction," says Hammack, "even if it is just a cactus."

CACTUS RESCUE. Bonanza students **Stephanie Wong, Jocelyn Wood** and **Stephanie Hammick**, along with three other members of BHS' National Honor Society, helped to rescue and transplant 200 cacti from a mining area in Blue Diamond.



Speed — route to disaster

By Jesse Fernandez (left)

Methamphetamines sweep through the streets of Las Vegas, leaving behind a crowd of paranoid kids, teens, and adults in a sleepless, virtually food-free blur of parking lot drug deals.

injured or even dead.

The ingredients used in the production of meth are very easy to get. Psuedophedrine, which is contained in most over-the-counter cold medicines, is also the main ingredient in meth. It overloads the brain's pleasure centers, therefore making the habit harder to kick than heroin.

Meth is different from many other drugs in the sense that it prevents you from functioning normally in society. Many people who use pot, or even cocaine, daily, can still hold a job and maintain relationships with their loved ones. On the other hand, meth creates an extreme feeling of paranoia that makes it impossible for users to relate to anyone. "Feds in the trees" are not uncommon to those who abuse meth. Nor would it be uncommon that the Domino's delivery guy is really an IRS agent.

The possession or manufacture of meth carries severe penalties. Manufacturing meth can lead to a prison term from 25 years to life. Possession charges vary from a possible 1 year to 20 years in jail.

Meth is a vicious drug. At first, it makes you feel like you are on top of the world. You feel handsome, invincible, and even more productive. Then, all of a sudden, your world collapses and next thing you know, you have no friends, no job, and no ambition. Once a person has reached that point, meth has found another life-long slave.

"It's the most widely used drug in the Las Vegas valley," says Detective Chris Bunn, who works with Metro's clandestine laboratory squad, a sort of "seek and destroy" team that hunts down meth labs. "Every time we get out, it's guaranteed that we will see meth somewhere," says Bunn. "We never know where we will find it. Once we bought it from a 65 year-old man, while another time we found some meth on a day-care worker."

This drug, known as crystal meth, speed, crank, or glass, is a true example of the "one time and you are addicted" drugs. Meth knows no bounds, and it is impossible to link to solely one class, race, or age.

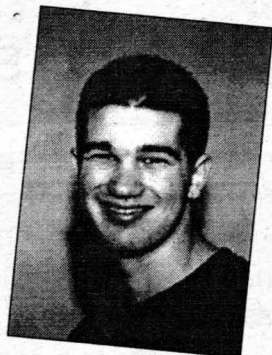
To make matters worse, it can be produced in anybody's kitchen. So how can you control it? You hardly can.

Every day, home kitchens are converted into meth labs and are used to make 2-3 ounces of the drug. So far in 1998, more than 200 meth labs have been busted, or recovered, as the police say. In addition to being instantly addictive, meth converts ordinary kitchens into potential bombs. Every year, a handful of labs blow up, leaving people

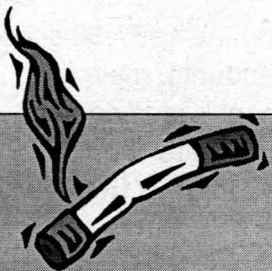
Formal dances: And you thought the price of college was rising!

By Michael Schwartzer (right)

Oh, the magic of those formal dances. The flowers, the fancy dinner, the pictures, the excitement, and of course, the dance. We males have to impress in order to get a date for a big dance. Unfortunately, making a good impression is not a cheap thing to do. Ironically, I spent \$300 and was considered the thrifty (AKA cheap) one of the group. I am not Steve Forbes, although it feels like you have to be in order to make the dance just right. This is



Please see DANCES, page 30



Let's light 'em up, baby

Smoking is cool. Smoking is a sign of rebellion. Smoking is sophisticated, macho, virile, sexy, sensuous, and maybe even romantic.

Smoking is stupid. Smoking is also dangerous, debilitating and deadly. Each year, it's responsible for 90 percent of lung cancer cases and nearly one third of the 565,000 cancer deaths.

"That won't be me," you say. Anywhere from one third to a half of teenagers who try just one cigarette get hooked.

But you can quit anytime, you say. Only five percent of seniors who smoke daily believe they'll be smoking in five years. Actually, almost 75 percent will be! And most teens who try to quit can't; they've learned what their parents know — it's really hard to quit smoking.

So...cool? Sophisticated, macho, virile, sexy, sensuous, romantic? (Ever kiss an ashtray?)

Just be smart. Don't ever smoke that first one.

Camp Anytown USA accepts applications

If you are between 13 and 18 and are interested in learning how to be a leader throughout your life, consider attending Camp Anytown USA in February or April.

Selected participants spend three days at the camp interacting with other students from diverse ethnic groups and interests. The setting is either Mt. Potosi or Mt. Charleston — and only two sessions are left. For details, call 799-8515.

Miss Clark County pageant highlights scholarship awards

The Miss Clark County/Miss Las Vegas competition will be held Saturday, January 30, 2:00 pm at the West Las Vegas Library.

The winner will compete next June for the title of Miss Nevada — and this leads to the famed Miss America pageant. The Miss America Organization is the largest scholarship organization in the world for women.

There is no entry fee to enter the Miss Clark County/Miss Las Vegas pageant, which is open to young women 17-24 who have never been married and are citizens of the U.S.

Tiffany Oulles, a student at Basic High School, is one of the contestants.

Each participant is encouraged to present a platform: some issue that is of importance to the community — for example, former Miss Americas worked on projects for literacy, AIDS education, and preventing child abuse.

Jessica Lindley, who is coordinating the local program, is a former contestant in Indiana. She was able to attend college only because of the \$5,000 in scholarship money she won.

"I was a good student, but I wasn't going to school on an academic scholarship," she explains. "I was athletic, but I didn't earn an athletic scholarship. I loved to perform, but I wasn't going on a music scholarship."

For more information, call Lindley at 579-9019.



African-American experience

Kim and Reggie Harris will perform in Las Vegas on Friday, January 22 — a concert of traditional and original music and storytelling with a focus on the African-American experience. The concert will be at the Winchester Community Center, 3130 South McLeod (near Desert Inn). Tickets are just \$7.

Check your calendar!

Good things to do downtown

Jan. 20: Deadline to enter the Annual Search for Talent at Reed Whipple Arts Center (For details: 229-6211)

Jan. 21-31: Mark Twain's classic, "Big River" — the adventures of Huckleberry Finn. A joyful musical at the Charleston Heights Arts Center. (229-6383)

Feb. 12-21: Adventures in Old Nevada. Rainbow Company does the music and tales of our state's history at Reed Whipple Arts Center. (229-6211)

Black History Month FREE Events

West Las Vegas Arts Center
947 West Lake Mead Blvd.
Phone 229-4800 for details

Feb. 1- March 15: Gallery Exhibit: Reflections on the Black community (sculpture, photography, ceramics, drawings)

Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27: African Caribbean Drum workshop series (1:30 each Saturday)

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23: Readers Discussion Groups, 6:30pm each evening:

Feb. 4: *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

Feb. 11: *In the Meantime* by Iyanla Van Zant

Feb. 18: *Heart of a Woman* by Maya Angelou

Feb. 25: *Pillar of Fire* by Taylor Branch

Feb. 8-12: Storytelling for all ages, stories rich in African-American culture and history. Drama and song, a joy for the whole family, 5:30 each day.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE!

Talent
Search
deadline

Jan. 21



Do you sing, dance, play an instrument, or perform a novel act? Are you 18 or younger? You should sign up for the 20th Annual Search for Talent.

This event is sponsored each year by the City of Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Breakfast Exchange Club. Winners in each age division will compete in Area Finals (in Las Vegas), then can move up to district and regional finals.

Judging is based on showmanship, personality, excellence of performance, technique and audience response. For more details, call 229-6211.

High school news from other places

Talk about soundproof!

A high school in Massachusetts just put \$45 million into building a brand new classroom wing. The only problem is that the classrooms are so sound-proof that students cannot even hear the fire alarms!

Okay, so they know they have to put some more money into their public address system — but that will take time and money.

What's their solution? Until the repairs are made, the school is paying \$1,000 a day for three firefighters, who stand by at the school all the time.

Eyeball-to-eyeball

Colored contact lenses are not news. Patterned contact lenses are not news. What is news, however, is that teenagers have discovered a new way to spread disease: trading contacts.

This problem has grown so serious in Texas, that a warning was recently sent out to all public school officials that sharing lenses can cause infections that lead to permanent eye damage.

You should wear contacts only if they are prescribed for you — and nevernevernevernever trade contacts with your friends.

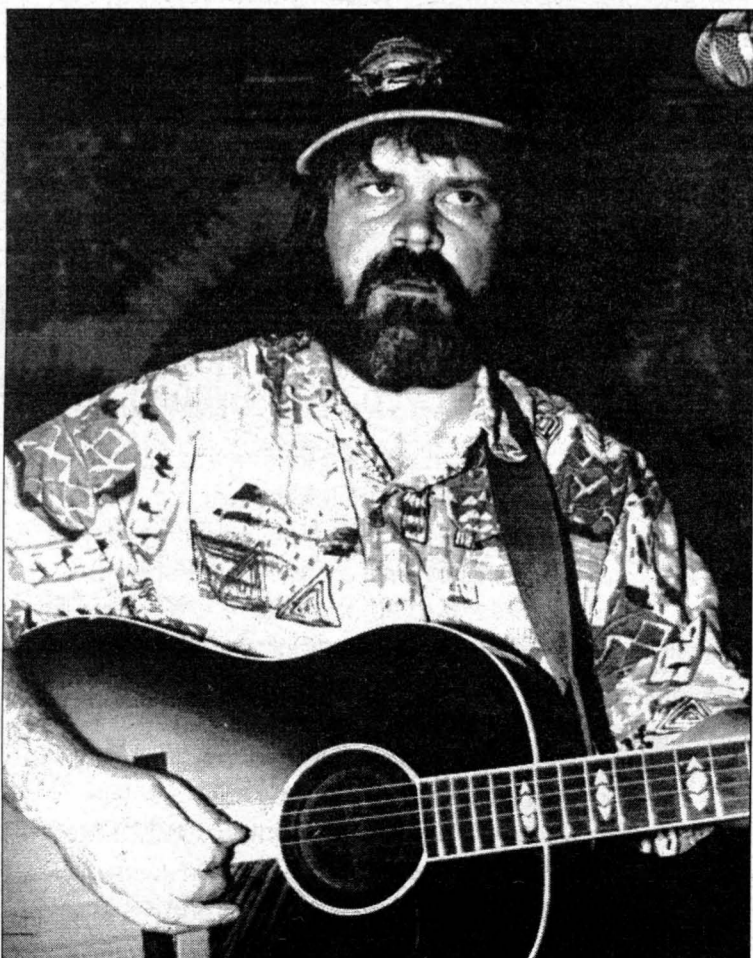
LeAnn Rimes

What a show! What a fantastic young country performer! Between concerts at Caesars Palace — and in town to accept a Billboard Music Award at the MGM — **LeAnn Rimes** presented a multi-night run of near-capacity shows early last month. With plenty of Vegas experience at different venues, Rimes is growing up before our very eyes. A very young teenager when we first saw her a few years ago, Rimes is *still* young but has matured plenty — her looks and her voice. Not appearing as so much of a “young-un” this time around, Rimes expanded her stage set-up, which looked like an arena configuration scrunched to fit the Hilton stage. Never letting the crowd down, she performed all her Country Top 40 hits, along with some new material and rock ‘n’ roll covers. Chances are we’ll see LeAnn back in Vegas again later this year.



godamongmen

Didn't think any local bands were worth listening to? Forget that silly rumor. Here is **godamongmen**. Managed by my good friend Nicole Sligar (owner of Shoestring Records), this group is without a doubt going on to bigger and better things outside of Vegas. This particular show was at the Huntridge, a perfect venue for local crowds and a great night for the band to gain even more exposure and experience performing live. Liz Adkins, Brian Ball, Andrew Blair and Gary Hopkins are all very nice people and I believe that quality is just one that will take them to the top. Having already released a few records, the most recent “fear” now available in stores, this quartet is having a great time while working their behinds off to make something of themselves in the tough and cutthroat music business. Keep your ears open for two singles now being played on local radio: “genius” and “killing me.” Tap into their website for more bio info, the best photos in the world of them(!) and much more: www.godamongmen.com.



LEFTOVER SALMON



Talk about unique — these guys and their music are *it!* WOW! This is definitely my kind of music!!! Playing to capacity crowds at Legends with a two-night stand, **Leftover Salmon** showed Las Vegas why they are selling out even bigger and more well-known venues such as the Fillmore in San Francisco. Compared to groups like the Grateful Dead and Phish, Leftover Salmon treats the crowd with tunes filled with instruments rarely heard in today's rock circles. Actually, this is more of a folk band, with banjos, mandolins and acoustic guitars. This is real music — not machine made like too much of today's Top 40 records. The guys in the band — Vince, Drew, Mark, Jeff and Tye — are all fantastic musicians, which clearly shows through in their live performances. How much nicer

can they be, meeting and greeting fans at their concert stops and make friendly conversation with the audience during their sets. I really hope to see this band back in Vegas in 1999 — maybe at a bigger venue where they'll be able to attract a larger crowd. Good to see classic folk music alive and kicking!

Scott Harrison, a UNLV senior, did the photos and wrote the reviews. Scott has photographed 400+ bands since 1992. Check out *his website* — www.HarrisonPhotos.com. You can reach Scott at 435-3686 or e-mail him at ifotomusic@aol.com

Express yourself -- but stick to code

By Melissa Byrnes, Boulder City (below)



The dress code is really toughening up on students today. However, it may be going a little too far. The rule that shorts must be no higher than five inches above the knee seems fine, but the cheerleaders' skirts are way above that. If the cheerleaders are allowed to wear skirts that almost show their rear-ends, other students should be given some leniency. Boys don't really have a problem with their shorts, but at some schools, boys are required to be clean shaven.

At a school in Iowa, a guy was trying to grow a beard and the principal made him shave it off. At the same school, a boy was not allowed to play basketball because he dyed his hair an outrageous red. That is not right — he was just expressing himself.

The dress code is good to have but it should be fair to everyone and not restrain our right to express ourselves. Everyone needs to be able to show who they are and what they stand for.

Kissing up.



The high school principal had a problem with girls and lipstick. When applying lipstick in the school bathroom, they would blot their lips on the mirrors, leaving red lip prints.

Talking with the girls did absolutely no good. The mirrors were always a mess.

Finally, he had a brilliant idea.

One day, he gathered a large group of girls together, took them into the bathroom and lectured them about how hard it was to clean the lipstick off the mirrors.

You could see the girls smiling at each other, smirking.

The principal then asked the custodian to demonstrate how difficult it was to clean the mirrors. The custodian took a long-handled brush, dipped it into the toilet, and vigorously rubbed the lipstick off the mirror.

From that day on, the mirrors remained lipstick-free.



ABSTINENCE IS THE ANSWER

It's easier to get pregnant than to deal with the consequences

By Tammy Muniz, Silverado (right)

Every teen girl has heard the lecture time and time again: If you make the decision to have sex, do it safely and think of the consequences.

Although so many hear these words, how many teens actually listen? Every year, one million teenagers get pregnant. Eighty percent of those pregnancies are unplanned.

So what are the options for the girl once she realizes this life-changing event is occurring?

Marriage. A word not on the minds of too many teens. However, for couples in love with a child on the way, this may be one of their options. It's a fantasy that many girls have — to have someone who will be with them forever, to love them, and to support the baby and create a loving family environment.

HIGH DIVORCE RATE FOR TEENS

But this rarely happens. Sixty percent of teenage couples divorce within five years. If pregnancy is the reason for the marriage, the odds for divorce jump up to a whopping 90 percent.

Marriage shouldn't be a quick decision. Consider things like how you and your boyfriend will support the child and finish your educations — and ask yourself if you're really ready to commit to living with this guy for the rest of your life. Be sure to weigh all the options before making your choice. And remember, it is your choice.

Imagine taking care of a baby, going to school, and holding a job. This is what single mothers have to do. Sometimes for girls who want to keep their babies, family members will help out.

Two Silverado students decided to keep their babies. **Susan Montoya** (not her real name), a junior, had her baby in mid-November. She says, "My parents, brother and sister, cousins, and all my immediate family will help out. They've always been there for me."

Jana Jones (not her real name), a senior, supports her toddler daughter by working and receiving help from her family. "If it wasn't for my family, my life would be very difficult," she admits.

Education is important to both girls. Susan plans to get home schooling until second semester and will then return to Silverado and do whatever it takes to graduate. Jana plans to graduate this year and says it's a must that she go to college.

These two girls are part of the 50 percent of teen moms who actually graduate high school.

Most girls decide to get a full time job rather than finish their education. Unfortunately, teen moms are more likely to have low paying jobs or becoming unemployed.

You've got to understand before you decide to raise the baby alone, that single parenting is an extremely hard job. It also leaves you with many problems — dealing with money, rent, education, and the raising of an infant.

Pregnancy termination is thought of as one of the easier ways out of a pregnancy. This thought couldn't be further from the truth. Many who decide to terminate their pregnancy feel guilt, depression, and shame afterwards. Also, some states require parental consent and you may have to wait 24 hours after a consultation with a doctor.

Adoption is a choice that could end up being the best idea — not only for the pregnant teen, but also for the unborn baby. Many teens don't believe in pregnancy termination and know they can't raise a child by themselves.

Adoption gives them many choices and arrangements that will give the baby the best future. The birth mom can select the adoptive parents from pictures and letters, meet the adoptive family, spend time with the child after birth, and even receive pictures and reports of the baby.

Some agencies will support the girl financially during the pregnancy and some adoptive parents will pay for pregnancy care and delivery.

If this is what you choose for your baby's future, think of all the possibilities. Is the birth father willing to give up his rights to the child? Can you face having to meet the child in the future? Be sure to face all the possible choices your decision may bring.

The best way to avoid pregnancy, of course, is abstinence. If you don't have sex, you have nothing to worry about when it comes to deciding someone else's future, along with yours.

However, if you decide to have sex, think about the possible consequences. Be wise and use protection. If you think you might be pregnant, go to your doctor or a clinic such as Planned Parenthood. Call toll-free 800/230-PLAN. There are people who can help you make the best decision for you and your unborn child.



Do Something

Will you get caught in a random act of kindness?

More than a million students around the country will take part in the annual Kindness & Justice Challenge, January 18-19. It's the ideal program for high school students.

Students, classes and student organizations get involved by performing specific acts of kindness or justice. For example:

"I helped a student who was having a hard time being understood because she had a stroke," says Adam, age 16. "She was frustrated to tears and my heart went out to her."

"I help my neighbor by taking out her trash every Tuesday... because she has trouble getting around," says Dustin, 14.

What is an act of Justice? That's when you stand up for what's right, even when it's not popular. It might be telling another student to quit repeating racist jokes, or defending someone, or making peace between others when there is trouble. It can be writing a letter and speaking out on what is just.

PRIZES? YES!

The student who performs the most Acts (of kindness and/or justice) in the nation will receive a

National Champion Trophy, a computer, and a year's worth of video rentals from Blockbuster. The top student and top school in each state will also receive trophies. And every student who participates will receive a certificate signed by Martin Luther King III.

The Kindness & Justice Challenge program was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the impact that he had on generations of Americans. The program is sponsored by *Do Something*, a national non-profit organization that trains, funds and mobilizes young people to be community leaders of the very best kind.

What is racism? By Geneva Ruiz, Horizon West

To really understand racism, you would have to acknowledge that you have experienced hatred. You see, racism is just another form of hate.

When I see people with different color skin, they are just other people. Yet, in our society, we get judged by the cut of our clothes, the color of our skin, our hair, race, and even gender.

I believe we live in the most racist country in the world. In school, we mostly worry about what to wear, whom to sit with, is our hair okay, things like that. Yet, I find myself also wondering, could I be a racist, too? If we all have some sort of hate, I guess we all can be racists.

I have friends who have been beaten, kicked, slapped, and almost killed because of the color of their skin. We all have to understand that this is the '90s — not the '50s or '60s. We put terrible racial inequal-

ity behind us, made gains with civil rights, yet now it is all getting thrown back in our faces again.

If we want a peaceful world, we must start now *with our generation!*

The next time somebody tells you something that makes you feel uncomfortable because it is a racist remark, please let them know. The only way they will quit is if we all stand up for ourselves.

I have a lot of hurt from my own personal experience. I know how it feels to be the target of someone's racial slurs. But I won't let it get to me because I am stronger than that person will ever be.

I don't need to pick fights with other people to feel strong because I know I am strong.

Will racism always be around? Maybe. Probably. With our generation, let's try to move past the hate and on to greater acceptance.

Stories continued...

Dances: Must you take out a loan?

(Continued from page 26)

how my personal experience went.

It was the morning before the dance and, thanks to my excellent planning, I had the dance tickets and the dinner reservations all lined up. I thought everything was going to be smooth, until my mom asked me about flowers. "You can't go to a dance without flowers," she said, sharing traumatic experiences of disappointment when SHE did not get any flowers for a big dance. So, in five minutes flat I was at the florist inquiring about those precious flowers. This particular florist was so swamped with orders that she actually directed me to another florist. There I dished out the fifty that it took to get a dozen roses. And I still had about an hour before I had to pick up my date.

After quickly getting into my most uncomfortable suit (but I looked damn good), I rushed over to Christy's house. With a remark about how beautiful the flowers were, she put them in a vase and said, "Let's go." I can't believe I spent \$50 for that!

Then we had dinner at a fairly expensive country club. Now, for \$30 you would expect quite a big steak, right? Not so where I went. I was afraid of swallowing the whole thing in a bite. I hear you pay for the atmosphere, and the atmosphere is quite nice, but \$60 for atmosphere and a side order of steak insults my common sense.

After that lovely meal it was off to the main event, the dance. As soon as my group arrived at the dance, we went straight to the pictures. We had to wait in a line that reminded me of DMV. After that, we were off to the dance floor where we danced to music that can now be heard on the soul channel.

This concludes my big, formal, dance night. You might think from this article that it wasn't worth it for me. Actually it was, and there is one reason for that, Christy. It was her night as well, and as long as she enjoyed it I was fairly content. Plus, those dances are such wonderful experiences! You part with them after high school and it is great to have those memories. Plus, I will probably get good pictures out of it.

PSEUDO-BUDDHAS

(Continued from page 13)

they are within the teacher's view, or possibly in the back so their voices sound omnipotent — a word only they would use.

Step #2: Find a target. While they may try to deny this, every pseudo-buddha hides some weakness. Could it be an inconsistency when arguing about philosophy, or the tendency to relate everything to one irrelevant topic? A little investigating will provide a point for destruction.

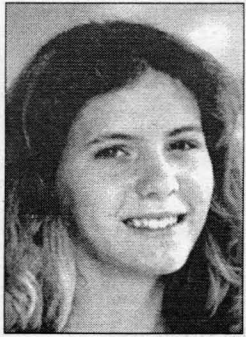
Step #3: Study, study, study. In this case, insignificant details create a stronger base for argument. The people who think they know everything, the pseudo-buddhas, are very annoying to the people who actually do know everything. This would be you.

Step #4: Wait to pounce. Bring it on, baby. The pseudo-buddhas must be shown that, unless they are like that boy in *The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes* (a classic Disney film), they don't know everything. Show them you know as much as they do. Maybe you don't...but maybe they don't know as much as they think either. Throw some silly comments into the conversation and raise your AIQ (Assumed Intelligence Quotient, one measured by others' opinions).

It's all about respect. Go get 'em, troops.

What Are We Saying?

By Natalie Everett (below)



Terms we use every day offend many people. Have you ever caught yourself making some derogatory remark and then saying to yourself, "Could I have offended someone?" Chances are, you have.

What's the big deal, though? They're just words, and after all, sticks and stones...

The big deal is that we are implying that it's wrong or embarrassing or shameful to be a certain way. An innuendo here, a hint there, add up to a great big fuss from nearly everyone who falls

outside of the realm of what we call "the norm."

It's hard, if not impossible, to change the way you are, especially if you have no wish to change. We are born as we are, with a certain background, and our own personality and physical attributes. Why is it so hard to accept this fact and leave people alone?

Consider remarks that teenagers use so casually. If something seems ridiculous to us, we call it *gay*. If an idea is especially foolish, we call it *retarded*. Call me *crazy* for saying so, but I think these words used in this context are ignorant and demeaning. These words sting people who fall into certain categories.

The question I'm asking is, where do we draw the line? Are the Dutch people really offended when we imply that they're cheap by *going Dutch* on dates?

Have you ever been jumped by a gypsy who is angry because you say you've been gyped?

These words have been in our vocabulary for at least a century. Can we really eliminate all the potentially harmful words and use others to express our emotions or get a point across?

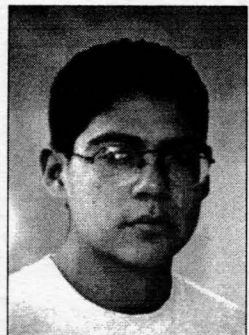
The next time you use a slang word to express your feelings, ask yourself this, "What am I really saying?"

Reckless Driving

By John Lopez (below)

Driving is a big part of our lives. Almost everyone we know has a car or needs one. Once we have that privilege, though, some teenage drivers break the rules.

Taking advantage of being a licensed driver can be risky. People pay fines for running stop signs, speeding, parking, etc. This is nothing compared to the serious things that happen on the road. Recently, some teens took a short cut through a construction zone near Eldorado, and their vehicle landed in a deep ditch. One died instantly, and the other two survived with injuries.



If you have a good attitude and follow the rules, most likely nothing bad will happen when you drive. Show your maturity behind the wheel.

IS PAINTBALL TOO HAZARDOUS TO PLAY IN SCHOOL?

By Eric Urry (right)

There you are, running around trees and over bunkers, looking all around for him. Your heart is beating wildly. Then all of a sudden bang! Bang! BANG! Where is it coming from?

You look around...then you see him. Your opponent. You jump behind a bunker while your teammate gets into position and starts shooting at the guy while you slide out of the bunker and run around to his flank.

He's there. In front of you. Right out in the open. His attention is

directed at your teammate. You line up your sight and take the shot. Splat! You won.

Sound like fun huh? It's paintball, an action-packed team building sport that promotes good sportsmanship and a respect for war and guns.

So if paintball promotes all these positive ideals, why can't students have a paintball club at school?

Is it because paint markers look something like guns? If so, why is ROTC allowed to run around campus with guns that really look like guns?

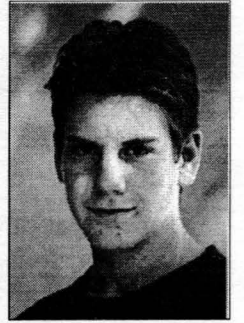
According to an EHS assistant principal, "ROTC's a different situation." What's so different?

Is it because we are launching balls of paint at each other, which creates a perception of danger? Eldorado principal Tom Barberini, says he could not accept the liability that would come with an injury.

"What do we do," Barberini asks, "if a student loses his eye to a paintball?"

Being an avid paintball enthusiast, I can vouch that the sport is very safe when proper precautions are taken. Responsible paint-ballers wear masks that make eye injuries virtually impossible.

So why can't a paintball club be organized at Eldorado? After talking to the decision-makers, I still don't know.

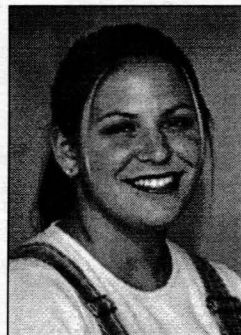


FAMILY LIFE

Maybe not perfect but you're not alone

By Kourtney Darrington (below)

Are you living with a lot of contention in your home? Do you find yourself often saying that you hate your family or a certain family member?



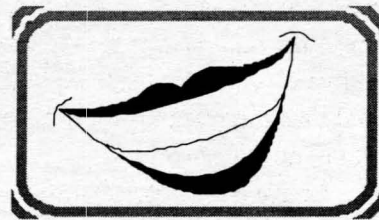
Many families in the '90s seem to be crumbling apart. Whether you live in a single-parent home, or have a parent who is never home, or one who's not there for you — or

your parents just recently divorced — everyone has a share of family problems or conflicts.

Some people say that having a certain day when you do things with your family is a way to cure the problems. Others say religion can help: "When you're closer to God, you are closer to your family."

Sometimes just talking about family problems, without yelling, can make things a lot easier.

Ultimately, you just have to accept your family members for who they are. Just remember, you're not alone. Everyone goes through things, just like you.



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What does one do with a doctorate in mathematics education? Juli Dixon would say, just about anything. At UNLV, she teaches new teachers how to teach math. As one of the country's top female skippers, she uses complex geometric calculations to sail her Hobie Cat into competition. And she and her husband recently had a new baby girl. Guess you'd call that multiplication.

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