

DECEMBER 2003

By, for and about Clark County  
high school students

# CLASS!



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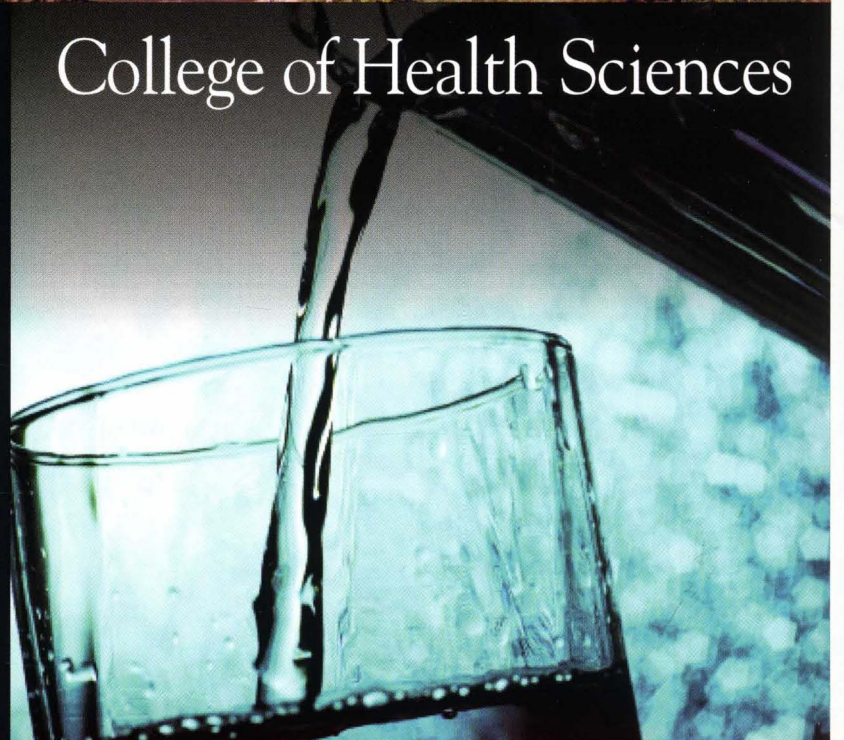
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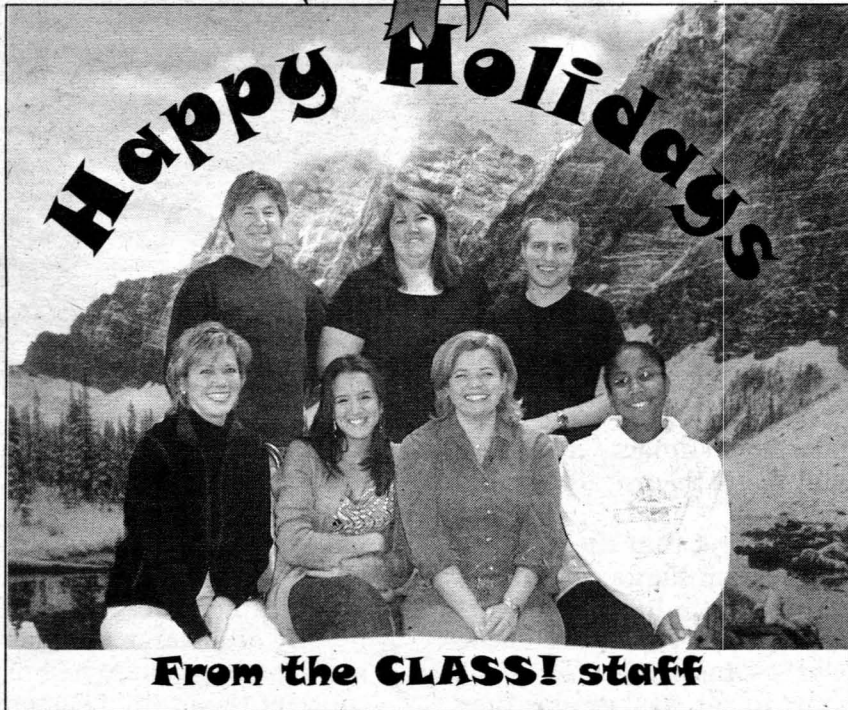
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## news

# Grading system changes raise questions

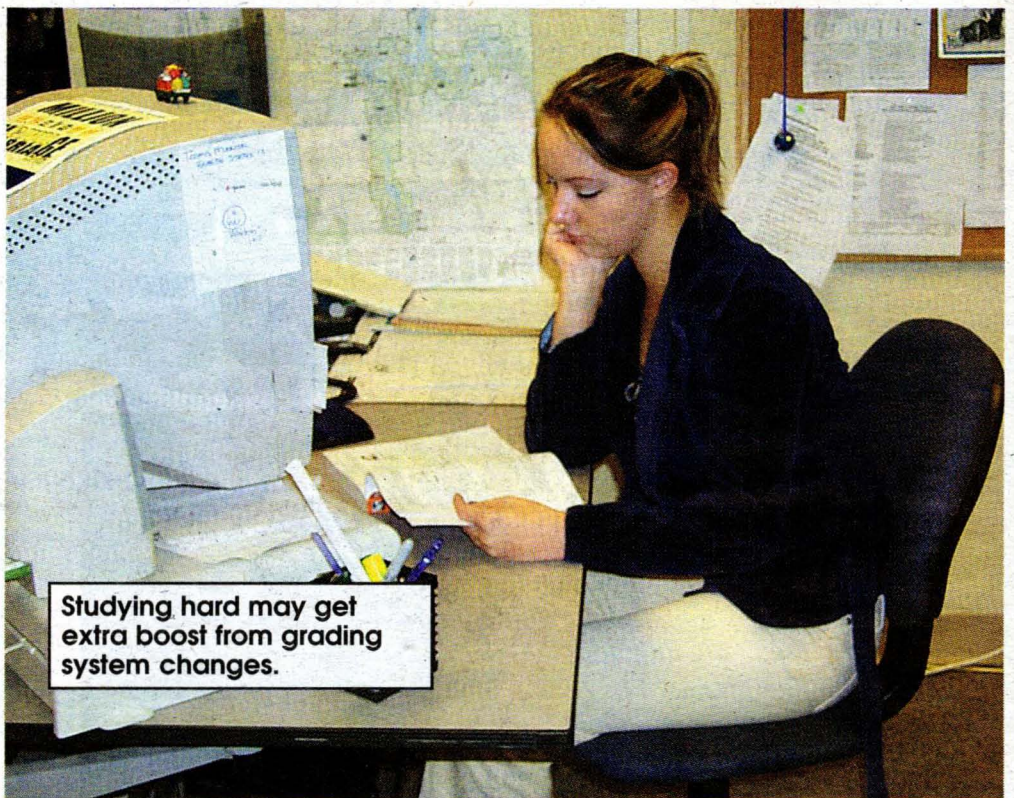
By Heather  
Trujillo,  
Green  
Valley HS

As the  
second  
quarter  
of the school

year begins, many changes are happening to schools in the southeast portion of the Clark County School District. For example, changes being made to the grading system are supposed to bring consistency to classrooms, but both students and teachers are questioning whether it is really doing that or just creating more hassle.

In the past, students' grades were figured using a percentage system in which 90-100 percent earned in a class equaled an A on the report card, 80-89 percent equaled a B, and so on. Now, teachers have been instructed to include an additional method in how they determine some students' grades. The added step, called the ordinal system, uses a point system similar to the way a student's GPA is figured out, in addition to the basic percentage calculation.

Confusion over how the changes will affect students' grades has resulted in petitions being circulated by students at Green Valley High School, asking that the changes be reconsidered. Students and teachers both are concerned that the changes may help some students but hurt others. Administrators say the changes will



Studying hard may get  
extra boost from grading  
system changes.

only help students in need and will result in overall grade consistency.

"I think that the new grading system limits certain individuals from becoming better," says Green Valley sophomore Chris Tanjuaquio. "They will start to get good grades they don't deserve. Yes, it does help those in need, but it also hurts those who are more intellectual."

"It discourages the kids that try, and it encourages the kids who get D's and F's," says Thomas Keeley, a sophomore at Green Valley. "They can do okay one quarter, fail the next quarter, and get a D on the exam and still pass. Why encourage these kids? They're the ones who don't really care about school anyway."

However, some students, like Charles Trujillo, a junior at Green Valley, do not object to the changes.

"I guess, if you just have a bad quarter because of things outside of school, it can help you get a better grade than you may have deserved, where before, you really wouldn't have been able to get a higher grade," says Trujillo.

Jeffrey Horn, principal at Green Valley, stresses that he is not instituting a new grading system at all and that he has asked teachers only to use the ordinal system in extraordinary cases. According to Horn, teachers have been asked to use the grading system that best reflects a student's effort, whether it is a straight percent-

age system or one with the additional ordinal scores. He also assures that including the ordinal system in grade calculation will not result in any student's grade being lowered.

"By all means, I do not want a student's grade to be hurt because of the ordinal system," says Horn. "If a student earns a higher grade based on percentages, if that is how the teacher figures out the grades, they need to give the student that grade."

"I was concerned about the student who was being hurt by percentages," he adds. "I wanted teachers to look at that, and use another when appropriate to determine a student's grade, so we don't hurt kids with percentages."

## School of mediocrity

Students aren't the only ones who have something to say about the grading system changes.

Wade Bycroft, a teacher at Green Valley, says, "I think that the ordinal system is a terrible idea. It will hurt the AP kids the most. These are the kids who generally accelerate a lot more than others. Now, they have no incentive to go above and beyond."

Bycroft says he believes that these changes to the grading system will allow students to minimize the work they do to get the grade they want. He is concerned that the changes are going to help the students who don't work hard, and that they will lower school standards.

"I don't think having everyone in this middle range is good because we then become a school of mediocrity," he says.

"Kids can figure out how to work this system to minimize their workload," Bycroft says. "Is that really what we want?"

Jeri Roberts, a teacher of 29 years in the Clark County School District, agrees with Bycroft.

"Certainly, there are cases where a student gets an F for the first nine weeks, but works really hard to get a decent grade in the second quarter and on their final exam, and they should pass, even though the percentages may not work out. The ordinal system would make sure that they did."

Roberts says that she doesn't think the changes to grading procedures will give honors students less incentive to do well because they are usually already motivated to achieve.

"But students in regular classes may feel less incentive because they could get a C in the first nine weeks, an F in the second nine weeks, and a D on the exam and still pass. The student knows that," she says. "I think in general, this system hurts more students than it helps."

### Incentive to achieve

Carol Shaffer, also a teacher at Green Valley, agrees with the changes to the system.

"It helps the kids who are struggling and really bomb out one time and really make an effort the next time," she says.

When asked if she thought these changes gave students less incentive to work for higher grades, she says, "I would think it would be the opposite."

Shaffer explains that if a student has a really tough quarter and gets a 70 percent for a grade, then in the next quarter gets an 80 percent, and then an 82 percent on the exam, with the exam being 20 percent of your grade, the student would get a 77.3 percent, which is a C in the percentage system, but with the ordinal, it is a B. Shaffer also comments that the ordinal system is the grading system used by colleges.

"I think it really helps the kids who are really low most of all," she adds. "I understand the concerns about it because I

do not think that we should be giving [grades] away, but I don't think this is wrong. I think [the students] are learning if they are making the effort."

### Fairness and consistency

Many students and teachers believe that the idea to make changes to the current system came from Southeast Region Superintendent Dr. Edward Goldman.

"I heard he came up with it, and told everyone to use this system," says Green Valley sophomore Alex Fairchild. "Shouldn't someone have voted on this?"

"Contrary to what people might think, I did not come up with this ordinal system. The teacher advisory council did," says Goldman.

However, Goldman says he has personal experience with grading inconsistencies affecting his own daughter's grades in high school.

"All I am asking for is consistency," he says. "I don't want one student to get an A because they have Ms. Jones, and another student to get a B because they have another teacher, even though they did the same on the work."

When asked if the teacher advisory council came up with the changes, Green Valley teacher and advisory council member Todd Peterson says, "No. We talked about the rationale behind the system. It was more of a 'let's talk about this, what are your thoughts and feelings about this idea.'"

"Ultimately, the philosophies and decisions for the direction of the school come from me," says Horn. "Essentially, I will take input from staff, parents, community, and obviously Dr. Goldman, and decide how I want the school to run, whether it is grading or dress code or what have you. So, it comes from me."

He adds, "I didn't come up with [the ordinal system]. I mean, that is what I want here at the school, and it's not a system really. It is a fairness and a consistency."

For example, Horn explains, when students get their report cards, it doesn't say that they have 88 percent in a class; it says they have a B. What Horn says he wants to emphasize to teachers is the understanding that no matter how they deter-

mine the students' grades, whether they use points or percentages or letter grades, once they determine their quarter grades, it's a letter grade not a percent anymore.

But, where's the consistency in using one system except when the other one helps a student more?

"I don't think it is really what makes your grade higher. I think it is what is fair," says Horn. "I think that if a student earns an A the first two quarters and a B on the exam, the student should get an A. It needs to be consistent, and it may sound inconsistent, but I want it to be fair. I don't want to inflate grades by any means."

Horn says that what he stressed to the teachers is not to deflate a student's motivation to want to achieve because he or she did poorly in one quarter, maybe because of an illness. He says that he doesn't want the student to feel there's no use in trying to get a better grade in the second quarter or on the exam because the teacher uses a percentage grading system.

"I told teachers to use the system that they have always used," Horn says. "When they have an extreme situation like [a student with poor grades due to illness, etc.], revert to the ordinal system to see if it is a better representation of their grade."

He adds, "I don't want kids to give up because they did bad one quarter. As a principal, I think I need to help students achieve and not discourage them. I just want it to be fair."

### Teachers or talking heads?

Some teachers, however, feel that consistency will not work.

"I think consistency is a fine thing and a good thing in theory," says Bycroft. "But, are you going to tell me that AP kids should be learning the same thing as a regular kid? It's not realistic. You take an AP class as a college-level course, so there are going to be differences in those courses."

Roberts adds, "Unless we switch to a system like France where on any given day, all classes are on the same page of the same book across the country, [consistency] is not going to happen."

*Continued on page 42*

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# No Child Left Behind Act affects CCSD

By Latoya Brookins,  
Clark HS

## To the editor:

A senior at Community College High School recently wrote an article for CLASS! magazine, giving advice on how to cope with high school (CLASS! September 2003 Issue, "Yikes, I'm in high school!" by Natalie Minev, Community College HS).

Say again? A Community College High School student giving advice about coping with high school life? What does anyone at CCHS know about life at a school like mine — Eldorado?

Why should anyone listen to her? She doesn't even go to a real high school. Advice without credibility doesn't mean much, even if it's good advice.

[The writer is] like someone, who has never been in the water, giving swimming lessons. [She] tells people to get involved and personalize their schedules to their own interests. Now that is good advice. Here's my question: What sports and clubs do they have at CCHS? How involved are CCHS kids in school activities?

I know she was trying to do something nice, and I know she had good intentions, but life at CCHS isn't life at EHS. It's hard to take her advice seriously, no matter how good it is. Tell us about coping with life at CCHS. I'm sure it's challenging. But don't try to tell us about regular high schools. We're here; she's not.

Kalla Kipp, Eldorado HS

**Editor's note:** To clarify, while the writer of the freshman advice article does attend Community College High School now, until this school year she was a student at Centennial High School. Her three years of experience at Centennial provide the credibility with which she makes her remarks.

We appreciate all comments from our readers. We encourage dialogue and debate. In her letter, Kalla suggests that Natalie "tell us about coping with life at CCHS." We are pleased to provide an article on this topic on page 30 of this issue, so that we can all better understand. We thank Kalla for the suggestion.

We invite our readers to send all comments to the CLASS! editorial staff at [classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu).

A new topic that teachers, students and administrators are discussing at schools and districts around the nation is something called the No Child Left Behind Act. Many people have heard of it, but there are still some that do not quite understand what it is or what it was meant to accomplish.

The No Child Left Behind Act was proposed by President George W. Bush. He said, "Too many of our neediest children are being left behind." The main goal of NCLB is to improve student achievement and,

in the process, change the very nature of America's schools.

There are numerous ideas on how to improve student achievement. NCLB supports learning in the early years because that will prevent many learning difficulties that may arise later. Under NCLB, schools must use their federal funds to make needed improvements. By targeting resources for early childhood education and providing better information to teachers and principals, they are improving teaching and learning, thereby helping youngsters get the right start.

The act also aims at getting parents to be more involved with their children's school life.

NCLB will do this by alerting parents to important information on the performance of their child's school and their child's progress.

There are some drawbacks to the NCLB Act, such as weakening school principals' authority, firing some teachers, and closing down the school if it continues to show no improvement.

Every school has new guidelines to meet and many areas they have to change or fix. Under this act, schools are going to be under a great deal of pressure to be the best that they can be in order to stay open and not be singled out as bad schools.

## New phone system benefits schools despite bugs

By Barbara Lee,  
Durango HS

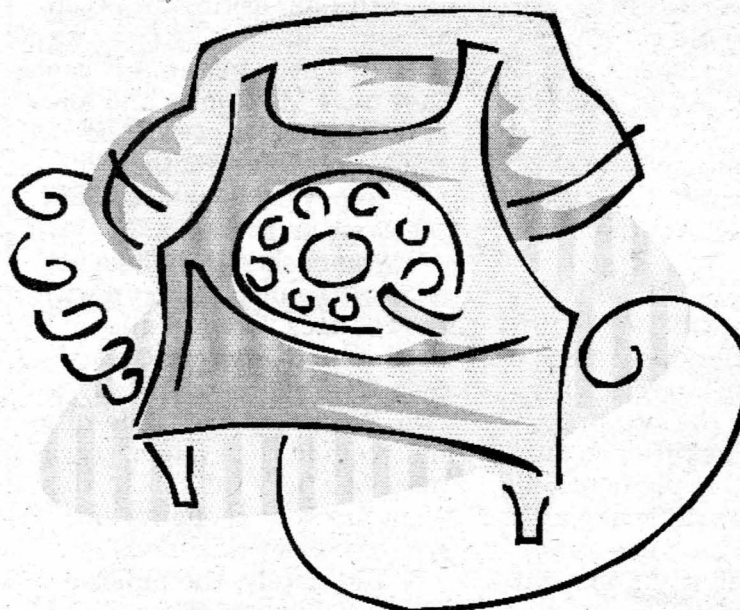
How can the Clark County School District afford to spend money buying a new phone for every classroom in the entire district when we are in a budget crisis?

In actuality, the new phones will eventually save the schools more money than they cost to install.

This sounds absurd, but it's true. Here's how it works: the new phones are now hooked up to computers, not to phone lines. They all run on a single system throughout the Clark County area, as compared to before when there were over three hundred different systems. Now, all phone calls are made through the system, instead of through a phone line.

Although the project of installing phones for approximately 27,000 administrators and faculty, new voicemail boxes and related equipment cost about \$15 million dollars, not having to pay for operational and installation expenses will ultimately save the school district several millions of dollars a year.

Other benefits of installing a unified system is that voice messages can be sent to every staff member throughout the district, new safety features were added, and the phones will be easier to maintain from



's were given to four pages of instructions on how to use the new, more complex phones.

"You have to be a neurosurgeon to use them!" says one teacher at Durango High School.\*

A slight downfall to the system is

a distance.

Still, the question remains, why does every classroom need a phone?

The Chief Technology Officer and Assistant Superintendent for the school district, Philip Brody, explained that the decision to have a phone in every classroom, including foreign language classes, was made by the Board of School Trustees.

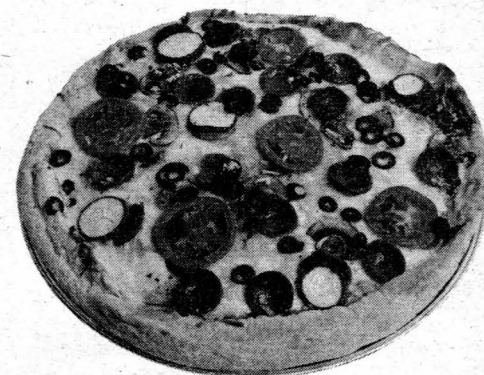
"[They] determined that school and home communication, as well as school safety, could be improved by providing a phone in every classroom," Brody says.

The old phones could not work on the system, so they were taken out of circulation, and new ones were brought in.

that classrooms that formerly had a phone and an extension number have new ones.

Students who have been speculating on why the phones were put into each room now know that the answer is no, the phones were not put into the classroom for students to order pizza.

\* Name withheld



# double talk

*Breaking up is hard to do — or is it?*

## Whether dumping or getting dumped, girls take breakups seriously

By Linda Robinson, Foothill HS

Long, lonely nights spent watching old movies and eating ice cream, a river of tears and hours spent on the phone asking your best friend what went wrong — welcome to the heartbreak hotel.

If you have ever broken up with someone, then you know exactly what I'm talking about. You know how it feels to get your poor little heart smashed into a million pieces. You know how it feels to want to lock yourself in your room and never come out, and you know how it feels when it seems like no one cares about your problems. As bad as that may be, it is only one end of the spectrum.

Many times, teens couldn't care less if a relationship comes to an end. Many teenage girls date just to say, "Hey, I have a boyfriend," so they wouldn't lose any sleep over a breakup. In fact, girls who go into emotionless relationships are usually the ones who do the dumping. Often, the relationship becomes boring, and the girl gets tired of her sweetie and decides to move on to some fresh meat.

## For boys, breakups are no big deal, just give us TV, food, sports

By Jeremy Stoker, Foothill HS

Steady relationships are a really great experience, minus all the fights, the constant complaining, giant bills, wasted weekends, boring ex-lover stories and of course the tragic breakup. But the breakup isn't as traumatic an event for the boy as it is for the girls.

Girls' lives are filled with friends, long phone calls and long, romantic relationships. Guys only need three things: sports, food and television. All in all, we don't like long relationships. Most of the time, they are more harmful than they are beneficial.

When a girl breaks up with a guy, she plans it out with extreme prejudice, making sure that all of her friends are present, that her makeup is on perfectly and that she's had a full, hearty breakfast. She positions herself in the middle of a well-popu-

lated area where she knows he walks with his friends regularly. As the unsuspecting guy approaches, she wipes a little bit of onion juice under her eyelid, forcing herself to cry. Just as the guy asks what's wrong, she explodes like an atom bomb. Words, tears and chewed up breakfast remains are thrown from her mouth quicker than rounds from an anti-aircraft weapon.

The guy stands there with a blank face of wonder. How could a sweet little momma's girl turn into a sailor, slurring like a ferocious beast of hate and pre-chewed breakfast burrito in a matter of seconds? The guy is a little attracted to this new, angry, wild dominatrix. But to save face so that he can date his girlfriend's best friends, he becomes somewhat sympathetic. Asking the girl to "calm down" and to "just listen," when really he is thinking, "Where am I going to lunch today?" or "Man, I can't believe the Raiders lost to the Bears."

After the girl has listened for a second, she calls him a dirty liar among other filthy slurs. Not being able to handle the humilia-

tion that she has brought upon herself, she is gone, disappearing faster than Osama into Afghanistan. Still bewildered at what just happened, the guy turns, looks at his friends and asks, "Want to go to Denny's?"

Guys try to avoid confrontation, humiliation and unintelligent conversation, so they simply call a girl on the phone, ask her how her day was, and then tell her that it is about to get worse by saying, "I don't think you and I are going to work out." It is that easy. We hang up and then call our friends and tell them the good news.

Girls claim that it is terrible to see the guy in her classes following the breakup, but guys don't mind. It is more of a stress-relieving daily experience. Guys easily forget past loves; we can still be friends with our exes, but we don't have to be friendly.

If girls learn one thing from this, let it be this: Guys don't need to have one girl to get by. There are many more fish in the sea, and they are only in a small river right now.

you one day and says that he thinks you should see other people. The heartache begins immediately, and if you were in love with him, it would be twenty times worse.

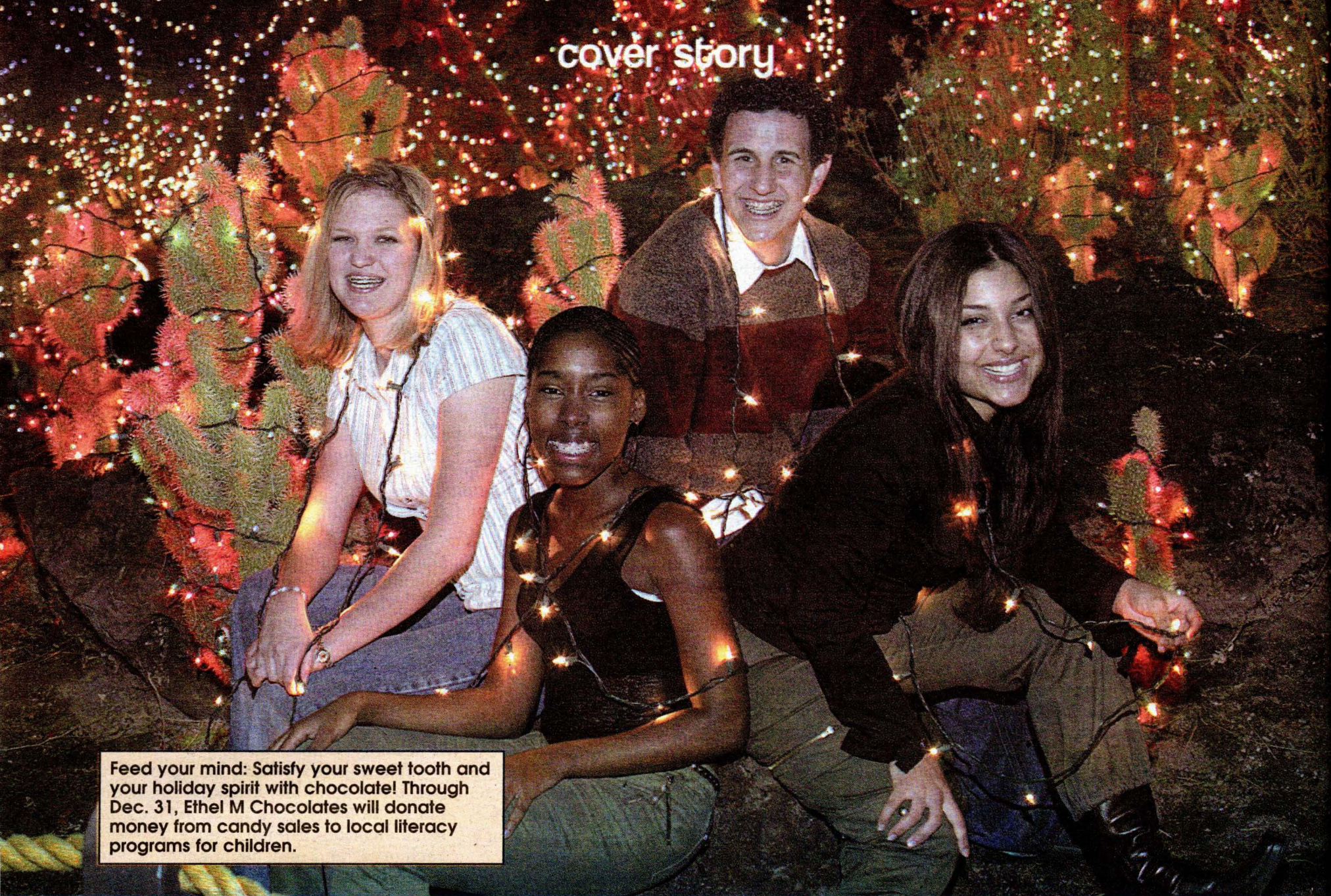
But that's just one day. Now you have to deal with moving on and getting over him. At this point, moving on is next to impossible when he is in three of your classes and you are forced to look at his face every day. So you decide to be friends with him because if you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

Everything seems to be going fine until you realize he has a new girlfriend. That wouldn't be so bad, but you accidentally catch them kissing in the hall, and your heart breaks all over again. That makes the "getting over him process" that much harder. But somehow you manage to move on and actually make a good attempt at forgetting how bad he hurt you. The whole friends idea doesn't seem so bad anymore. It actually seems doable.

Whether they would like to admit it or not, teens don't like breaking up. It may not mean heartbreak for each side, but some emotions are felt, even if they hate each other and may never speak to each other again. When breaking up, keep in mind that just about everyone will go through it at one time or another, so you're not alone. And speaking from personal experience, it is quite possible to move on and be happy again.

**It is!**

**It isn't!**



Feed your mind: Satisfy your sweet tooth and your holiday spirit with chocolate! Through Dec. 31, Ethel M Chocolates will donate money from candy sales to local literacy programs for children.

# Christmas, Vegas-style, takes some getting used to

**Despite palm trees and cactus,  
it's still Christmas, even in the desert**

By Riley Marriage, Coronado HS



**H**aving grown up in ski-resort infested Lake Tahoe with its cold weather and frequent snow, the winter holidays were always associated with neighborhood snowball fights and days when school would be canceled due to excessive snowfall. The buildings were all decorated in twinkling lights and tinsel, and the anticipation for the holidays just seemed to buzz in the air. The first winter I spent in Las Vegas was a complete culture shock to me.

Instead of the 30-degree and below freezing temperatures of Lake Tahoe came the mid-60 degree temperature of the desert that hardly even required a coat. The shopping mall did not host the typical jolly Santa Claus that lets kids sit in his lap, but instead an electronic talking tree named "Bruce the Spruce" that shouted insults at shoppers as they walked by. It was of some reassurance to see a couple of Christmas lights in the distance, but only until it was pointed out that they were strung around palm trees.

Somehow, I had traded in the landscape of the snowcapped Sierra Mountains for the glitzy, yet bland Las Vegas Strip in a city where it seemed totally unnatural to spend the holidays. It just felt completely odd and insincere.

It was not until Christmas Eve when sitting around the table with my family, talking and teasing one another and eating the food we have eaten year after year that it hit me. What really defines the holidays? Is it the shopping and gift giving? Is it the weather and decorations?

In the end, I realized the holidays were not about the scenery or any of the materialistic things surrounding me. At that point, I realized I had the laughter and company of the people I love, and that truly is what the holidays are about.



**Ready, set ... GO!**

## Survive the holiday shopping frenzy with these stress-free strategies

By Kelli Schlueter,  
Coronado HS

It's time to prepare for the battle of holiday shopping!

On the morning you are getting ready to set off on your shopping excursion, there are a few precautions you must remember.

First and most important are your comfortable running shoes. You may need to sprint to the 50 percent-off rack for the last red sweater. They also come in handy when diving out of the way of other manic shoppers.

To keep you hydrated, a water bottle will be necessary; to keep you organized, a shopping list is needed; and to keep you in touch with the outside world, bring your cell phone. Now, packed and ready to go, it's off to the mall.

The first obstacle is parking. After you have fought your way into the last open space, grab your supplies and head for the first store. Your head may

be filled with Christmas music, babies crying and moms yelling, but you must keep focused. Start at the top of the list. As you find each item, your arms will become weighed down by the heavy shopping bags, but do not let this slow you down.

Stay energized by grabbing a quick bite and a double espresso. This will also keep you prepared for round two. This is a fast-paced, lightning round that should not take more than an hour. Run from each section — kids to adults to home and garden — and grab any last things you need. You'll know it's over when you cross off the last name on your list. Then maneuver your way to your car, tightly shove your packages in the trunk, and you're ready to leave.

Once you're home, away from all the craziness, it is safe to relax. Just remember as you throw yourself on the couch, you still have all those packages to wrap.

## Winter break fun doesn't mean you have to leave town

*You can find lots of things to do on break right here in Clark County*

By Allie Moriarty,  
Coronado HS

Winter break is just around the corner and many students have family plans to go out of town, some to cold and snowy parts of the country. This year, however, according to the almanac, Las Vegas is supposed to have plenty of snowstorms. Now that would make some Christmas wishes come true.

When I moved to Las Vegas in 1999, I was surprised to find that it stays around 60 degrees or higher all year round. Coming from a Midwest state like Nebraska, you do not usually find people swimming in No-

vember. Although having warm temperatures all year long can be fun, it gets rather monotonous.

If you are looking for cooler temperatures, a nice place to visit this winter is Mount Charleston. Cute lodging and snowy hills create the perfect atmosphere for the holidays. You could sip hot chocolate while watching your little brother being beaten with falling ice. Also, sledding is the bomb! Unless you get whacked with a tree stump, it is the place to be this winter. Bring along friends, and you could even grill up some hot dogs if you are too cheap to buy food like my dad.

Family holidays are always a way to relieve school stress and put a few pounds under your belt, which is not a prob-

*Continued on page 10*

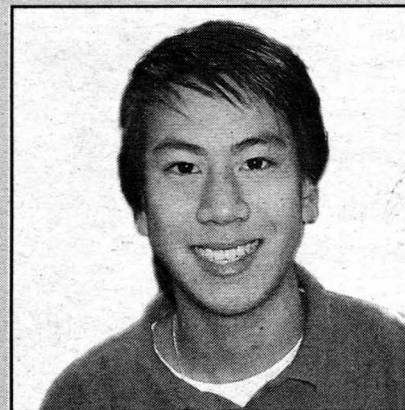
**SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT:  
GREEN VALLEY**

## What is your fantasy holiday gift?

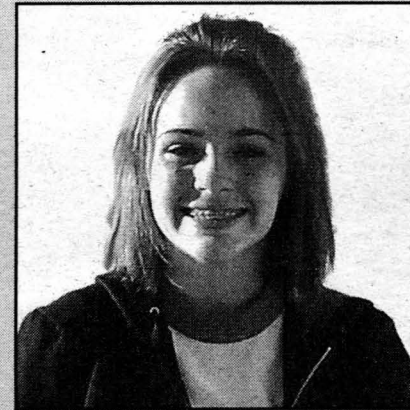
By Heather Trujillo,  
Green Valley HS



**Alex Fairchild, sophomore**  
"I would want the mall, unlimited shopping at any store!"



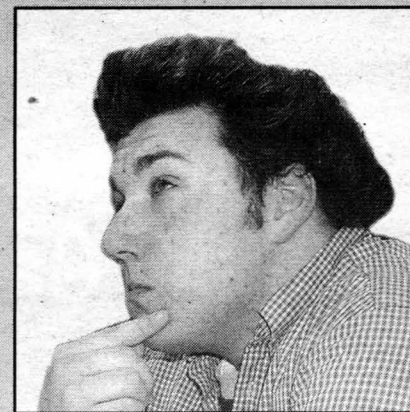
**Jimmy Tran, sophomore**  
"I want a time machine, so I could witness significant events in history and maybe even change them."



**Megan Stanphill, sophomore**  
"I would like my own beach house. Then I could check out those hot surfer babes all the time!"



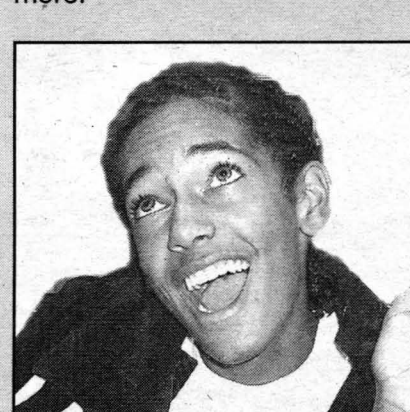
**Susan Shultz, sophomore**  
"I want Disneyland! That place is awesome!"



**Max Stevens, senior**  
"I would like admission to Harvard, U Penn, or Brown, so I don't have to stress about it any more."



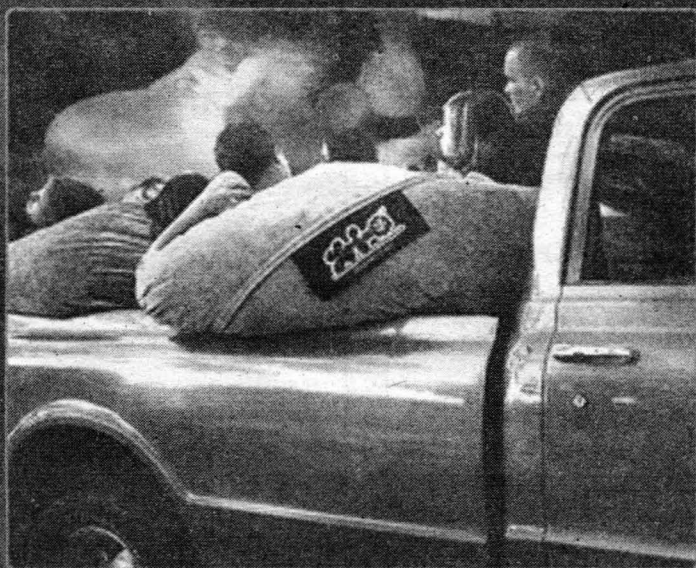
**Bianca Scott, sophomore**  
"I want to own a record label, so then I get to listen to all the new music."



**Gibran Baydoun, sophomore**  
"I want a helicopter because I hate traffic."

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## During the holidays, family is the real gift

By Danny  
Gobaud,  
LV Academy



It is almost Christmas, and people are already starting to think about what gifts to buy for their friends and family. In fact, that is probably the biggest thing on everyone's mind. It is as if we think that if we don't buy the right gift for a loved one, they will stop loving us. But love is not a thing you can buy with a present or that is based on money spent on one. Everyone has become obsessed with material things and has forgotten what Christmas is really about: bringing families closer together.

Every year during the holiday season, stores hire more employees to handle the extra business of the holiday season. On television, the news is full of expert advice on what the best gifts are and where to find the best deals. And of course, every year has a new "hot toy," that one toy that is on every little boy's and girl's list. These toys become so popular that parents wait in line for hours just to get one, but their time would be better spent with their children than waiting in line to buy them a present that will be forgotten in a few

weeks. People may think that gifts will buy their families' love, but it will not, and it will not bring them any closer together.

Presents have become so important to Christmas that most of us cannot imagine it without them. We feel that they are so essential to Christmas that many of us send presents to those who cannot afford them in pity, but it is they who should pity us. When did those who celebrate Christmas with presents start thinking that they were better off than the families who spend all of those precious hours together rather than shopping for, wrapping and unwrapping presents? I would much rather spend a day simply spending time with my family than unwrapping shiny paper and playing with new toys all day.

Although one might be excited upon receiving the most fashionable clothes or a state-of-the-art computer for Christmas, there is no true value in them. By next year, the clothes and the computer will be outdated, but time spent with family can bring you closer together, and that is something that will last forever.

Maybe you shouldn't listen to me, but after Christmas is over, and after the tree comes down and all of your presents are unwrapped, what will you have left?

### Holiday fun

*Continued from page 9*  
lem if you like to steal Santa's cookies. Cooking is one of the best ways to hang out with your folks and have a jolly time. Also, if you want to spice up your cooking abilities, make gingerbread houses. Homemade ones will make your house smell good, and you will get to eat it later.

With all the fun ways to spend winter break, this is the best time of year in Las Vegas!

### Top gift ideas for the family for 2003

Do you know what to get your loved ones for the holidays this year? This year's top gifts include:

**Girls:** Earrings, charm bracelets, clothes from Pac Sun, shoes and studded belts.

**Boys:** CDs, the "Matrix Reloaded" DVD, skate shoes and gift certificates.

**Moms:** Pajamas, perfume and jewelry.

**Dads:** DVDs, surround-sound speaker systems and big appliances.

— Allie Moriarity

# Common sense left behind with Bush's No Child Left Behind Act

By April Corbin,  
Las Vegas HS

Las Vegas High School Principal Dr. Patrice Johnson says that Las Vegas High School "believes that every child can learn, given the time and support." This belief is now the law. Although it was passed in 2001, President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind Act has only recently started showing major affects within the schools, and recently stirring up controversy with its numerous faults.

The new schedule at LVHS this year includes four-minute-longer days on Monday through Thursday and a shorter (by 20 minutes) day on Friday. During this extra time on Friday, teachers go to "collaboration" to discuss what they are teaching. The idea is that if students need to change teachers during the year, they will be learning the same things; therefore, they won't get "left behind" in their new classes.

Guidance period was added to replace the Sustained Silent Reading of the past to allow students more time at school to do homework, to study or to receive extra help from teachers and peer mentors. Learning labs were added as a place where students could go for help during guidance period. Also more after-school classes are being made available for students.

It sounds like a good thing. The fault of the No Child Left Behind Act is in its execution and standards.

"[No Child Left Behind] was not written by educators, only by legislators," Johnson says. "Some of what they are asking will be hard to meet."

This all-or-nothing opinion is one of the major problems many people are discovering. If a school fails to meet just one of the 36 categories, the school is put on the "watch list." The National Association of Secondary School Principals recognized Becker Middle School in 2002 as one of six exemplary middle schools in the United States.



Yet, Becker MS appeared on the watch list because the Hispanic population failed to meet the requirements in math, the

special education students did not test well enough in English or math, and students receiving free or reduced lunches did not make adequate progress in math or English.

Likewise, Green Valley High School, named this year as one of Newsweek magazine's top 739 high schools in the country, is on the watch list because its special education students did not demonstrate enough progress on math testing. If schools fail to meet their adequate yearly progresses for too long, they will be placed on the "inadequate list." If found to be inadequate, they risk losing federal funding and parents of students have the option of enrolling their child into a school that is adequate.

"There is a lot to [the act]" teacher Randy Steen says. "Most teachers don't understand it completely either."

The confusion about what exactly NCLB means for students, administrators, parents and teachers is something the Bush administration has looked at and is trying to fix. From what typical high school students do understand about NCLB, they are finding major faults with it, and the biggest problem is the racial subgroups.

In a letter printed in the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Clark County School District Board of School Trustees President Shelia Moulton and Super-

intendent Carlos Garcia wrote that NCLB is aiming to provide "the best possible education" for all students "regardless of ethnicity, ability, fluency in English or socioeconomic status."

"Why do these subgroups matter?" questions Las Vegas sophomore Krystal Chong. "It only fuels the generalization of students." A student is a student, regardless of whether or not they happen to be Hispanic or Hawaiian and regardless of how they pay for their school lunches.

If male students do better statistically on tests than female students, should the people behind the NCLB Act give more attention to female students? Maybe right-handed students are scoring better on the math proficiency tests than left-handed students. Should schools suddenly start paying

rational that schools will focus and dedicate more time to the students in groups that are performing at a lower level than other groups. Is this necessarily a good thing? Not if it comes at the expense of others.

"You can't sacrifice the kids who are already achieving," Steen points out.

It is a wonderful idea that the government is acknowledging the importance of an education. It is already difficult in most places to find a decent, well-paying, full-time job without at least a high school diploma or GED equivalent. For many jobs these days, a college degree is required.

However, we live in Sin City. In this 24-hour town, it is not impossible to make enough money to live comfortably by getting a job working in a casino. People reason that this is why our city (and state) high school dropout rate is higher than most. There are plenty of teenage students, with (in their opinion) good jobs, who are sitting around waiting until they are able to drop out and work full time. There are other students who simply do not care about school. Despite whether or not people believe that is wrong or right, it is a decision that each person makes. No law, no act and no bill can ever be passed to change that fact. Yet, it seems to many that the NCLB Act disagrees.

Education starts before any kindergartener walks nervously into any classroom. A good family environment is the cornerstone of a good education. Parents need to be behind their children 100 percent. Government can never outweigh the importance of parents in regards to school.

"If the parents already left the child behind, we've already lost," Steen says. "There is only so much teachers can do."

Between the confusion surrounding what the act means, unrealistic standards and the potentially long-term problems that the act is sure to create, the No Child Left Behind Act should be ... well ... left behind.

**Between the confusion surrounding what the act means, unrealistic standards and the potentially long-term problems that the act is sure to create, the No Child Left Behind Act should be ... well ... left behind.**

more attention to providing left-handed school supplies in schools? Perhaps blondes are not as proficient as brunettes in English classes? Many high school students are asking where the subgroups begin and where they end. Does being Hispanic or Asian Pacific Islander change your ability to learn? Does your socioeconomic status? These are questions many wish to have answered.

Trying to keep the individual subgroups of students afloat is only going to be detrimental for those students who are already succeeding in school. NCLB puts schools under pressure to get and stay off of the watch list. It is entirely

# Senior personality contests promote school spirit

By Toya Young,  
Las Vegas HS

**B**est Athlete," "Best Dressed" and "Most Changed" are just some of the categories you would find on a senior personality sheet this year. Every year the yearbook committee gives these infamous papers to the government teachers to give out to their excited seniors. Although many students enjoy the good clean fun these provide, some seem to think they are a set up.

"It is just a big popularity contest," says Las Vegas High School senior Randon Byrne.

In response, the LVHS yearbook editor, William To, says, "Not every one of the 537 seniors turned in a [vote,] and of course, the popular kids are going to vote for each other and get others to vote for them."

Some students believe that only the athletes and student council ever land one of the famous titles, and therefore it is a joke.

"My government teacher never even gave them out to us, so I didn't even get to vote," Byrne says.

Some of these students even take multiple sheets to try to bump up their chances and their friends' chances by voting more than once.

Even with all the negative comments, there are some positive opinions on this subject, too.

"I agree with [the senior personality contests]. I think they are kinda' fun," says LVHS student Chiquita Toliver. Since the results don't come out until the end of the year, Toliver says, "They are a good way to end the year."

The senior personality competition is something younger classmates can look forward to. Even if it is a popularity contest, it is still a good thing. Really, it is not causing any harm to anyone.

LVHS student Haley Todd says, "It is good for the students. It gives them a chance to get some recognition, even if it is something like 'Class Clown' or 'Teacher's Worst Nightmare.' I can't wait to see who got what!"

So what is the solution for

the kids who don't agree and think it is a set up? School staff members in charge of the voting make sure to keep everything a secret and even do some of the tallying themselves. Despite all the rumors and gossip, the yearbook staff still stands strong that the competition is not rigged.

According to editor Valerie Gubler, "We sit for hours and tally votes so we can get the student body's attention. Only the editors and administrators know who will win before it is released."

Maybe these teens should just sit back and consider why

the athletes and student council kids always seem to win this "popularity contest." Could it possibly be because they contribute a lot to the school? I say the more you are involved with school functions, the more likely you are to be nominated for these coveted titles because more people know who you are. You can't expect to win a title if you are not involved in any school activities.

"Usually the ones who don't vote or are not involved in anything are the ones who are the first to start criticizing us for what we are trying to do," says To.

So, all you underclassmen, if you want to be voted "Most Spirited" or "Class Clown," start getting involved and get some exposure. Otherwise, stop complaining.

## Years after Pearl Harbor attack, U.S. still has lessons to learn

By Andrew Reyes, Coronado HS

**Y**esterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."

These are the famous words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Many older Americans remember this famous quote, which was broadcasted on the radio into their homes across our great country after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

As the 62-year anniversary approaches, we have to ask ourselves, what lessons did we learn from this terrible and horrible tragedy? After America was attacked on that day, many people thought we would never be caught off guard and attacked again. Then Sept. 11 happened. Almost 60 years after Pearl Harbor, America found itself under attack yet again by surprise.

Many Americans suddenly woke up as terrorism was not a distant problem anymore. The cowardly acts of terror had been brought to our shores and brought hard in the form of 3,021 Americans dead for something so stupid, so meaningless in American eyes. America let her guard down again, and yet again, we were attacked by surprise. The lessons of Pearl Harbor did not seem to apply in this situation, or did they?

Obviously, if America did learn something from Pearl Harbor, we should have known 9/11 was coming. After 60 years, Americans made the mistake of assuming that because we live today in more "modern" times, and we are more civilized than we were 60 plus years ago, we would not be attacked by surprise again.

Americans are the most hated and the most celebrated people in the world. With the hate, come these acts of terror. In the good times, we have to prepare for the bad. People get jealous of American ideals and the quality of life in America, and they want it. They want to feel as free as Americans do everyday. They want to feel as you all should feel when saying the "Pledge of Allegiance." They want to take away everything that makes America great because in their eyes, if they do not have it, why should anyone else?

As we try and move on with our lives, we must remember the lessons of Sept. 11 and Pearl Harbor. We have to come together, and if we succeed, there will not be a third-time surprise. We never know what we really have until it is gone.

## Hello! Cell phone policy makes no sense

By Dasheena Reed,  
Desert Pines HS

**I**t is ridiculous to make a rule that cellular phones can be used at school but other things aren't allowed, such as beepers, CD players, hats, two-way radios and other things.

The new policy that allows cell phones to be used in school is okay, but it seems no one has thought about what comes with using cellular phones on school campuses.

Some cell phones have other capabilities that can be used, such as cameras. Did administrators think about what those cameras on phones can be used for during school?

Also, students having phones can cause confusion and confrontation. Someone may think someone else stole his or her phone. Then it becomes a big confrontation.

If schools are going to allow phones, it doesn't make sense to me that beepers and CD players can't be used when they won't cause any more problems than cell phones will. Making CD players legal on campus is a policy that should have passed. Students should be able to use CD players on their lunch breaks.

Along with the usage of cellular phones, why can't hats be worn at school? The school policy makes no sense to me. Administrators don't think about how a phone can be more of a disruption than anything else. Yet, they pass a policy that doesn't allow things like CD players, beepers and hats that aren't really disruptions.

There may be students who aren't as responsible as others and who are ignorant enough to cause a problem with a cell phone as much as with anything else. Why let one thing be used in school but exclude all the rest that are no more or less disruptive than the phones allowed under the new policy?

If cell phones are allowed to be used, then other things that are small enough to be put away when it's time for class should be able to be brought to school just as well.

# What's wrong with the world? SpongeBob SquarePants

By Joseph Fogarty,  
Sierra Vista  
HS



Let's talk about MTV — Music Television. I believe wholeheartedly that MTV is responsible for the downfall of America's youth.

There are people out there who blame all kinds of stuff for this. Movies, television, video games and McDonald's just to name a few. But those people are wrong.

There is a sole evil behind corruption of young people — the MTV corporation. Not just MTV, but also Nickelodeon, which they own.

On a slightly related note, I feel BET, the Black Entertainment Television network, is, in

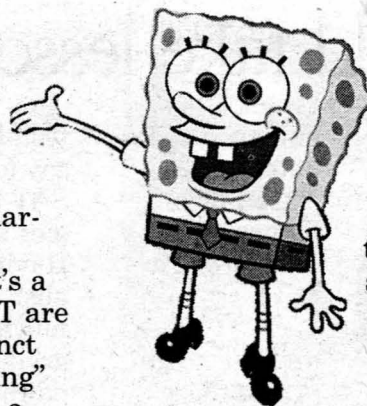
accordance with MTV, declaring war on hip-hop.

Hip-hop is not music; it's a lifestyle, and MTV and BET are slowly causing it to go extinct as "pimping" and "bling-bling" rap continue to spread like a pox upon the land. Please pray for hip-hop. But it's not just hip-hop that's being destroyed. MTV has also done a number on every other genre of music.

Gone are the days of brilliant guitar solos and thoughtful lyrics. Nowadays, rock music is nothing more than belting out power chords and whining angsty lyrics into a microphone.

The perfect example of this new perversion is Linkin Park, with lyrics that sound like they were written by an illiterate, depressive teenager rather than a professional musician.

The true shame is there are real, talented artists who go ig-



nored because the masses would prefer to listen to the garbage their televisions and radios feed them rather than to go out there

and find music on their own.

As for MTV's other channel, Nickelodeon, its wretchedness is permeating everywhere, including Sierra Vista High School. "SpongeBob SquarePants" does not belong in a middle school, much less a high school. What is everyone's fascination with this moronic icon? He's a talking sponge. A SPONGE! WITH SQUARE PANTS!

It's so ludicrously stupid, I don't understand how anyone can even watch this show without feeling the urge to smash their television in a violent rage.

It reminds me of the "Teletubbies" craze from middle school. Teenagers were worshipping a show meant for children who can neither walk nor control their bodily functions. Why?! I have no idea. I've watched both "Teletubbies" and "SpongeBob SquarePants," and I can tell you that my I.Q. honestly dropped a couple of points because of it.

"SpongeBob SquarePants" is neither funny, nor clever. The animation is terrible, the voices are as pleasant as listening to someone drag their nails across a chalkboard, and the storylines are unfathomably stupid.

What happened to good children's cartoons? Back in the day, children's cartoons were amazingly well done. Now they're full of deformed characters, babbling mindless drivel.

I'm grateful I can't imagine what kind of adults this next generation is going to make; I'd probably scare myself to death. They should bring back "David the Gnome."

## What foster care does for you

By Sherri Lockinger, Silverado HS

Foster care is not what you might have heard. Kids who have never been in foster care don't know what it's like, but it's not all that bad.

Foster parents are loving, caring and supportive of what you want to do and need to do. Many foster kids think that the only reason why the state has placed them in foster

care is to pick on them. The state is not doing it to pick on them, but is doing it to protect them.

Take me for example. I was taken away from my parents on Sept. 13, 1989; I was only a little over two years old. I went into foster care for about six months, and then I lived with my grandmother (dad's mom). After a few years with her, I was put back into foster care on May 20, 1995, only eight days before my eighth birthday.

I feel that you learn a lot more when you are in foster care. Since I've moved down to Las Vegas, I've learned a lot in the Independent Living program. I've learned how to bud-

get money and not to spend it on anything that I don't need.

I've also learned what "ohana" means. Ohana means family; and family means no one gets left behind or forgotten. My parents and my other family members have never been there for me, but all my foster parents and foster families have always been there for me through thick and thin.

There are other parents that you could possibly count on. Why? Just in case something happens at home that you don't like, you can go to the other parents' houses and talk to them about it. But always make sure that they know you are counting on them.



## Music downloading should not be a criminal offense

By Daniel Steffey, Sierra Vista HS

People, mostly college students, all over the country are being arrested and prosecuted for downloading and sharing music files. Hundreds of students have been caught, but is this right?

It all started with the downfall of Napster. Then other file sharing programs arose, such as Morpheus and Kazaa, and there are no centralized servers

to these programs, making them more difficult to shut down.

So to combat the problems of "piracy" and "copyright infringement," the Recording Industry Association of America is starting to sue college students. The RIAA has prosecuted hundreds of college students for "copyright infringement," but don't the artists al-

ready make enough money from selling music?

Of course, album sales have dropped due to music downloading, but it is not to the point that the artist can no longer put food on his or her table.

If the artists want people to stop downloading so much of their music at no charge, they should charge reasonable prices for their albums. I don't think very many people are too enthusiastic about paying \$17, \$18 or even \$20 for an album.

If the artists considered themselves actual artists, they would not be so uptight about music downloading because they would not be doing it for the money, they would be doing it for the sake of art.

Music downloading is also a

way to get your music out there. If you are an up and coming band, you could put your songs on a Web site or on some other file-sharing program, and allow people to download them at no charge.

In the end, music downloading is an excellent way to save money, to avoid paying excess amounts for albums by certain artists, and maybe even to get your own music out there.

Musicians need to deal with a little drop in album sales and to think about the people who don't have the money to pay \$20 per album. They should also consider that the more people are exposed to their music, the more opportunities they have to sell albums.

# Review-Journal should take lesson from 'remedial' students

## Sloppy editing, typos, mistakes occur daily

By Alex Roberts,  
Eldorado HS



If you know nothing, the best thing to do is shout out your opinion and hope people think you know what you're talking about, right? If you agree with that approach to life, welcome to the Las Vegas Review-Journal's world.

Recently, the R-J published an editorial about the poor performance of Clark County School District students (*"Who needs the remediating?" Las Vegas Review-Journal, Sept. 30, 2003*). The R-J's basic premise was that local kids don't know much about English. The R-J based its opinion on the fact that 43 percent of UNLV's students take English A, a remedial course, instead of English 101.

But the editorial writer simply didn't do his homework. If he had, he would have explained that the SAT college

entrance exam determines class placement at UNLV.

Here are the facts:

1. It takes an SAT score of 510 to qualify for English

101 at UNLV.

But the SAT national average last year was 504. Yet to qualify for English 101 at UNLV, you have to score at least 510. In other words, if you don't score above average, you don't get into UNLV's English 101 course.

2. The R-J editorial complained that Clark County students have "remedial spelling, grammar, punctuation, and other basic written communication skills," suggested by the enrollment numbers in UNLV's remedial English course

But the fact is, the SAT, which determines course placement at UNLV, does not test for mechanics or spelling, and there is no written skills section on the

test. What the R-J writer didn't say (or didn't know) is that the SAT focuses on reasoning, analogies and reading interpretation. Having a complete grasp of English mechanics will not help you much on the SAT. You could be a grammar expert and still bomb on the test.

3. The R-J editorial blamed the CCSD for the "appalling" state of education in Nevada.

Yet, Nevada's students have consistently scored above the national SAT average every year for the past 20 years. Nevada's average verbal scores for the past three years are 510, 509 and 509. The SAT's national average has not been above 506 during the past two decades.

4. The R-J editorial also failed to mention this: More than 20 percent of the students at UNLV are from out of state, states like California (average SAT verbal 496) and Hawaii (average SAT verbal 488).

If only Nevada students were as perfect as the R-J's professional staff of editors and writers.

Oh, wait a minute. Maybe local kids need better role models. The UNLV-UNR football game was the lead sports story in the R-J's Oct. 5, 2003 Sunday edition. Let's take a look at what a "remedial" class at Eldorado High School found in the R-J's story.

"Their offense awoke in time to pull out a 16-12 victory that seemed destined to be go the other way..."

And later in the same story: "It might have been Robinson's sweetest victory over UNR, particularly after he hit by the bottle at half time..."

Two mistakes in one story. Two mistakes in the biggest sports story in the Sunday paper. And consider what that story went through before it was printed.

First, a professional journalist wrote it. Then an editor looked it over. Then a copyeditor checked it for errors. One of the R-J's best writers handling the most important sports story of the week, and he got it wrong.

I wonder what English class he took in college.

## Recent California elections make me glad I'm a Nevadan

By Julez Rodionova, Durango HS

If anyone even tried to follow the 2003 electoral vote for governor of California, they most likely gave up because it was absolutely useless. The first ballot was a total flop, just like those running, and the recall warped into the strangest election in U.S. history. The outcome of this insane adventure: Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected governor of California.

Is it just me or are people completely brain dead? Did anybody actually listen to his proposals? I think not because if they had, they would have realized that Arnold never actually addressed any issues in detail. He said the exact same things as his fellow candidates said, but apparently his ways of slipping his old movie quotes into speeches made those proposals seem so much better than the rest.

Did anyone even watch the political discussions between the candidates? Arnold proposed that Arianna Huffington be a villain in the next "Terminator" movie for her aggressiveness during their discussion. Yes, that sure sounds like a wonderful governor to me. I can just see it now: the next "Terminator" movie will be focused on the tax crisis in California, and instead of fighting robots, he'll fight immigrants.

Oh yeah, he's also against immigration, which makes total sense since he himself is

an immigrant. Wow, this guy is a total genius!

Aside from his obvious lack of knowledge of politics and the economic crisis in California, he can't even seem to wave aside accusations of personal matters, such as those women who accused him of sexual harassment.

During a press conference, Arnold said that he denies everything that those women said but, and I quote, "Where there is smoke, there is fire." Then he went on to saying that it was all just harmless fun, and he didn't realize that he was causing any harm or damage to those women.

But come to think of it, Arnold couldn't possibly elect himself; the people of California did that. During his bus tour throughout the state, people were just satisfied with touching his bus. This is absolute proof that not only is America stupid, it's also star struck. In fact, there was a poll conducted of the people who voted for Arnold. They were asked if he had actually addressed any specific issues during his campaign, and an overwhelming amount of those people said that he did, in fact, not address those issues.

It's as if these people know exactly how stupid they are and advertise it with flying colors.

I join in the collective sigh of relief made by all the people who moved away from California. We are truly spared.

## Casinos need to do their part

By Joseph Fogarty, Sierra Vista HS

Casinos have corrupted our city beyond redemption.

Less than a year ago, the largest homeless shelter in Vegas was closed down. Why? It didn't have the funding to stay open. I'm sorry, but when there are people in this city who can afford to build a new, billion-dollar casino every six months or so, how can there not be someone who can spend a couple of thousand dollars to house people who have nowhere else to go? Heartless.

True, many of these people put themselves on the streets, but everyone deserves a second chance. Many of them are veterans, and this is the thanks they get for fighting for our freedom.

Schools were also hit hard. Again, we can continue making casinos, but we can't afford to buy little Johnny a math textbook that doesn't mention slide rules.

And recently business taxes were raised. I went to rent a video this weekend at a local video store, and they now have to charge sales tax. Why not tax the money monsters that are casinos?

The casinos fund many of our politicians' political campaigns. Making the casinos mad pretty much ensures you won't have any sort of political power in this state again.

That's called corruption, and that's Vegas.



By Lori Valiente, Las Vegas HS

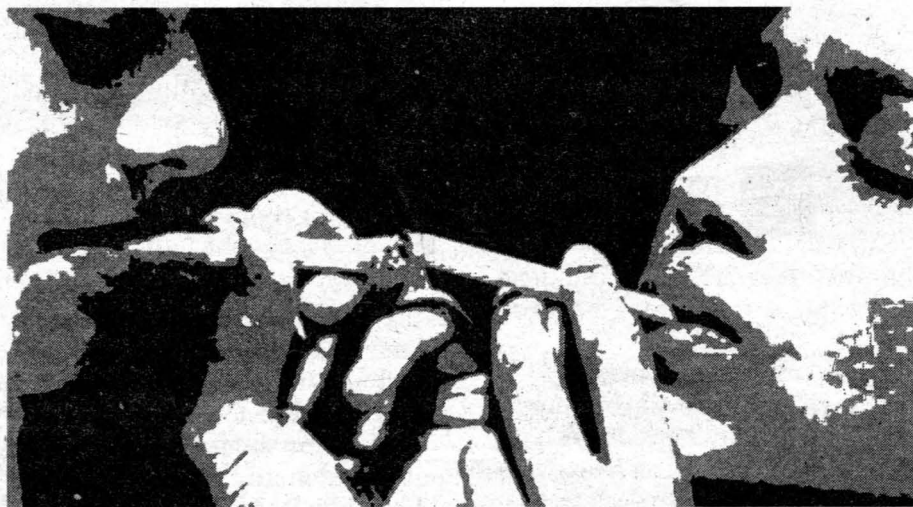
**T**ell me who your friends are, and I'll tell you who you are."

That is something my dad always says to me because he doesn't like whom I hang out with and the influence they may have on me.

Falling victim to your environment is an excuse teenagers use when they have done something wrong. Blaming other people for what they have done — finding excuses for why they did drugs or why they were drinking and driving — places blame on everyone but the teens themselves.

Psychologists have theories about what happens during adolescence. Teens trying to find out who they are, experiencing family problems and dealing with other situations can cause them to give in to peer pressure. Trying to make new friends or to get into the "in" crowd are things that some teens would die for; therefore, they think, "Well, if I only take a hit of the joint, smoke a cigarette or drink this beer, they'll think I'm cool."

Situations come up. You may be at a party, and the cute boy or girl you have a crush on starts smoking and asks you if you want some. The music stops and one second feels like forever. It seems like everyone



## When it comes to peer pressure, the choice is up to you

turns and looks at you. You feel two different things going on inside your head: one side is saying, "No, I don't want to smoke. It's stupid," and the other side is saying, "If I don't smoke, they won't like me." Once you give in, you go home saying, "It was peer pressure. I had to do it." The truth is, you never really had to.

In my situation, I am constantly around illegal things, like drugs, alcohol, theft and graffiti, but I am not a victim to my surroundings. Though I choose to have these friends and to hang out with people who do things that in my opinion aren't right, I'm not going to judge them and not have them as my friends because, at the end of

the night, the only thing that matters are my choices.

They respect the fact that I choose not to drink and smoke and that I pay for everything I want, and I know it doesn't make me any less "cool" than they are. The first time they offered and I said no, it was not a big deal. The party kept going and they didn't make fun of me or keep asking me to do it. Instead, they respected me more because I'm doing things in my life that I wouldn't be able to keep up with if I was doing drugs and all these other things.

I'm sure in some situations, you could run into jerks who may say mean things, but that shows you that you shouldn't put yourself into a situation where you'll

feel uncomfortable.

Thomas Willis, a senior at Las Vegas High School, says, "I think that you shouldn't go to a party if you can't handle saying no to something you don't want to do."

Thankfully, over time, teens can learn how to circumvent peer pressure, and through experience, they learn that saying no is not that difficult.

My turning point was May 9, 2002 when I witnessed my friends get into a car accident ahead of me on the road. Watching one of my friends slowly die, with me standing in front of her not able to do anything to help her, was the worst thing I've ever had to go through in my life.

Thinking back to that day is extremely difficult, but people say, "out of everything bad must come something good." Even though it was devastating to watch one of my friends die, it taught me a huge lesson and gave me a reason to change my life. Never again would I feel any sort of peer pressure. I found out the hard way that you never know what can happen next or if you'll even have another second to think about it.

In whatever situation, no matter who's around or what circumstances you are in, it's your choice and it's okay to say no. You might think that if you say no, you'll be walking away with nothing, but you're not. If you do give in, you are walking toward nothing.

## Stereotyping closes doors on new friends

By Latoya Brookins, Clark HS

**M**ost people agree with the saying "You can't judge a book by its cover," and yet they do not seem to apply those words of wisdom to humans.

In society, people are constantly being unfairly judged due to their ages, genders, races and styles of clothing. Stereotyping occurs so often that there are people who do not even realize that they are doing it. Many people do not want to admit that they have glanced at someone and automatically assumed they knew what kind of person he or she was despite the

fact that they have never met the person.

Many people believe that their assumptions are correct but can't explain why. How many of your opinions actually stem from personal experience instead of what you were taught to believe? If happy gothic people surrounded you, would you still think that most goths are moody and depressed? Just a few years ago there was a stereotype saying that white people couldn't rap, and then Eminem came out and proved everyone wrong.

It is not fair to judge someone based solely on his or her physical appearance or social status. People are too complex to be neatly categorized into certain groups. Stereotyping is like living in a one-dimensional world where everything is what it seems. In the real world, people have hidden depth and different shades to their personality.

Since when did the clothes you wear determine the content of your character? How much

can you really tell about someone's personality if they are wearing designer brands or hand-me-downs? Not everyone who wears glasses is highly intelligent; wearing baggy pants doesn't mean you have to like hip-hop music; and if you like the color pink, it doesn't make you any more girly. It is a misconception that all cheerleaders are conceited and superficial, as many happen to be nice girls with a great deal of school spirit.

It is not hard to get to know someone before you falsely label him or her. No one wants to be judged, and yet they feel the need to do just that to people whom they barely know or have never met. Everyone is so quick to criticize and jump to conclusions that it leads to negative first impressions and false conceptions.

If you took the time to get to know someone before you passed judgment on them, you might end up with some pretty interesting and close friends.

# 'Baby, Think It Over' experience makes you think

By Rebecca Morejon,  
Sierra Vista HS

Picture this: you're walking down the aisle toward your soon-to-be husband, whose eyes are so wide and glazed over, you worry that a doll has been put in his place. An imposter Elvis with a beer belly stands behind a podium and keeps calling you "little lady." Your mother sobs her eyes out, talking about all the dreams she had for you, while your father grumbles about how much this is going to cost him and how he loathes that "moron" (a.k.a. his new son-in-law). Just before you say, "I do," you feel a sudden rush of morning sickness, and as you desperately try to get to a trash can, you hear your significant other (and the father of your child) pass out.

Sound like a perfect scenario? Um ... no. This sounds like every girl's worst nightmare. Unfortunately, more girls go through this than you would think!

In fact, thousands of teens get married each year in the United States alone, and of those married teens, the majority is



getting married because the girl is pregnant. Girls and boys ages 14 through 19 are giving up on their youth and their freedom to take

complete responsibility and, let's face it, teens just aren't mature enough.

Since most teens obviously can't make it financially on their own, they usually move in with one of their parents, relying heavily on them. The alternative doesn't sound any better. Adolescents who believe they're established enough to do this themselves end up moving out and then experience some of the greatest problems coping with reality.

A couple of years ago, it was shocking to see a teen family, but over the years, it has become more common. Some high schools even have daycare centers so that mommy and daddy can still attend their classes.

On one hand, this is a good thing. More teens will be able to stay in school, but I think it's

also giving some teens the idea that starting a family so young is a good thing!

To check it out, I decided to step into the shoes of a teenage girl who has a child and who is just about to get married. Sierra Vista High School has a program called "Baby, Think it Over" where a student can take an electronic "baby" home for a day or an entire weekend. I thought it couldn't be that hard; it's just a baby doll that cries occasionally. Boy, was I wrong!

In my two last classes, the baby was an angel; it didn't cry once! While at home, it only cried a couple of times, but never for that long.

My mom suggested I take it out to lunch and then go somewhere like Wal-Mart just to see how people react. Unfortunately, lunch wasn't as successful as I had wanted it to be. Some people snickered and one woman said I was a little too old to be playing with a doll.

I had to think of a better way to play this off, so when my boyfriend came over, I wrapped the baby in a blanket so you couldn't see its plastic face, but that wasn't enough.

Rather than just have the one child, we decided to stuff a towel in my shirt to make it look like I was a couple of months

pregnant.

Then the teenagers sneered and scorned, and I even heard them call me some unmentionable words. I noticed that while I was being treated like I was lower than dirt, my boyfriend was getting sympathetic looks. WHAT? It takes two to tango, and he would be just as much at fault as I would be!

As for sleeping, forget about it! The baby cried every 10 minutes for almost an hour. No one in my house slept, so it doesn't just affect the mommy.

I can honestly say I was happy for the weekend to be over, so I could go back to only worrying about what I was doing after high school because I still have those options, but real teen moms may not. If I had wanted to, I could have taken the batteries out of the doll and slept peacefully, but you can't do that to an actual kid. This is an around the clock job that lasts for 18 years!

You know, teenagers need licenses to drive, to work some jobs, and to marry (which is actually a good thing because if we didn't, I'm sure more teens would marry), but you don't need a license to be a parent — one of the most life-changing experiences out there for you, your husband, your family and your baby! Think about that.

**3** **WHERE NEWS COMES FIRST**

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# HOROSCOPE

## December Forecast



**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Isn't it nice to be able to relax again? No more worries or stress for you for the rest of the year. Enjoy!



**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Did you spend that extra cash you just received? Ouch, the holiday season won't be pleasant on your pockets. You should have saved a little of that money.



**GEMINI (May 21-June 21):** You have to release yourself from the pain because everything is going to work out. You may or may not be able to see it, but jubilation is on the horizon. Be optimistic!



**CANCER (June 22-July 22):** It is time to give back to all those people who were there for you when you were afraid to open up. Now that your social life has expanded a bit, maybe a small gathering of friends at your place is in order. They'll appreciate your warmth.



**LEO (July 23-August 22):** There is so much laughter and excitement surrounding you that it must be hard to become upset. A loved one could present you with some great news, only adding to your happiness.



**VIRGO (August 23-September 22):** Your family may be focusing all of their attention on you for no big reason. Your life has begun to turn for the better, so what could all the commotion be about? Maybe a surprise awaits you!



**LIBRA (September 23-October 23):** Wow, it feels like a new romance is in front of you, and it doesn't look like you should run from this one. Embrace the impending joy that is to come from your new significant other.



**SCORPIO (October 24-November 21):** Hope you enjoyed last month because things may not be as sunny as they were before. You may experience a little bit of envy from someone you would never expect, so you may want to address that issue before it becomes more than it is meant to be.



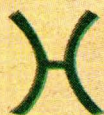
**SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21):** You will be enjoying yourself a lot more now. It is definitely a point in your life where you will be making more friends, taking fun trips, and just absorbing everything life has to offer. It must be great to be in your shoes!



**CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19):** Not everyone that you call a friend will be demonstrating those qualities this month. Watch out for false promises and lies from a few of these "friends," although it is nothing that cannot be resolved later.



**AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18):** Don't begin to doubt yourself. You have started to listen to various voices of those who do not have your best interests at heart. Trust your gut instinct and go with it.



**PISCES (February 19-March 20):** Your self-sacrifice to keep friends happy is starting to deteriorate your more compassionate side because deep down you feel trapped, and that is stirring up emotions of anger. Think about whether these people are really worth keeping in your life.

# Teen relationships can work for the right people

By Ariel Gove,  
Las Vegas HS

Can you really find your soul mate in high school? Do you think you can make it last and stay together for the rest of your lives? I recently read an article in the November 2003 issue of CLASS! magazine, titled "Live and learn — teen relationships don't last" that was written by a girl who doesn't seem to think so.

This article is based on the views and opinion of one girl. Yes, she did research and it had many useful facts to back up her opinion, but I want everyone to remember that it is only one opinion.

The writer of the article, Las Vegas Academy student Regina Froman, says, "Whatever relationship you are in, it will not last. It is as simple as that."

This is a very bold thing to say. I commend her for her bluntness, but I do not agree with the statement. I believe that if we always have people telling us that our relationships will not last, it will become a fact. It is true that odds are against high school students who want to marry and live their lives with the person they are with now. But I believe that if they want it to work, and they are truly in love with the other person, they can make it work.

How many teenagers even want to be with their partners



forever? Not many that I have talked to. Most high school students date to have fun in high school. The trend

seems to be having a boyfriend or girlfriend for a few weeks and then dropping them to find someone new. This is okay to do. Until you have a ring on your finger, you do whatever makes you happy. But if you have found that someone, why not consider spending forever with him or her?

Carlsbad High School graduate Sean Bauer of California says, "I met my girlfriend the summer before my senior year at a camp we both went to. That was almost three years ago and we are still together today. The first time we met, I knew she was the one I was meant to be with."

"Of course we have had hard times," he says. "We have had times that we wouldn't talk to each other for days. But the cool thing is that whenever we get into a fight, I know that no matter what, we will be okay."

He adds, "It doesn't matter what the fight or argument is about because we love each other enough to get through it. She is worth more to me than anything, and I would never let a fight, argument or disagreement take her away from me."

When asked what their

plans for the future are, he says, "She still has to finish high school before we can really start thinking about planning our lives together, [but] I feel that if I have found the woman I plan on spending the rest of my life with, why waste any time? Why would I wait years just because society tells us we are too young to have this feeling?"

Remember, this is just one person's feeling. Yours may be totally different. If you and your boyfriend or girlfriend constantly fight, you probably aren't going to make it forever. With relationships, you just need to be honest with your-

**I believe that if they want it to work, and they are truly in love with the other person, they can make it work.**

selves. Think about whether or not your "soul mate" treats you the way you want to be treated for the rest of your life. Think about whether or not this person would make a good mother or a good father to your children. Think about your feelings and if you can see them lasting forever. No one can tell you whether or not your relationship will last or not. You and your partner are the only people who can even begin to know what the future holds.

While others may speculate and tell you their advice and what they think will end up happening, you have to follow your heart. You will always know deep down if this person is the one or not. If you feel it, you will know it. There will be no question in your mind that you have found the person that will be your one and only. If you just don't know, give it time; you can't usually tell if an apple is sweet or sour by looking at the outside. This is true with relationships too. You need to let it show its true colors with time. If enough time goes by and you still don't feel anything, then you had fun and you are not missing out on anything.

"I dated a lot during high school," says Las Vegas High

School graduate Stephanie Heredia. "Nothing ever got serious because I was having way too much fun just dating around and seeing the differences between guys. It was kind of my way of testing the waters. I found out what attributes I wanted my future husband to have and which ones I couldn't stand."

Dating many different people during high school is also a good idea. If you don't have that special someone yet, then why not go out into the playing field? Going on a date or two with more than one guy is not a sin; it is not wrong in any sense of the word, as long as you are honest with the people you date. Why not go out and learn all about the different behaviors of the opposite sex? That way when you are ready to look for a spouse, you will know what to look for and what to steer clear of.

It is fun to get out there and try new things, and to meet new people. Dating a variety of people is a very good way to broaden your horizons and experience new things.

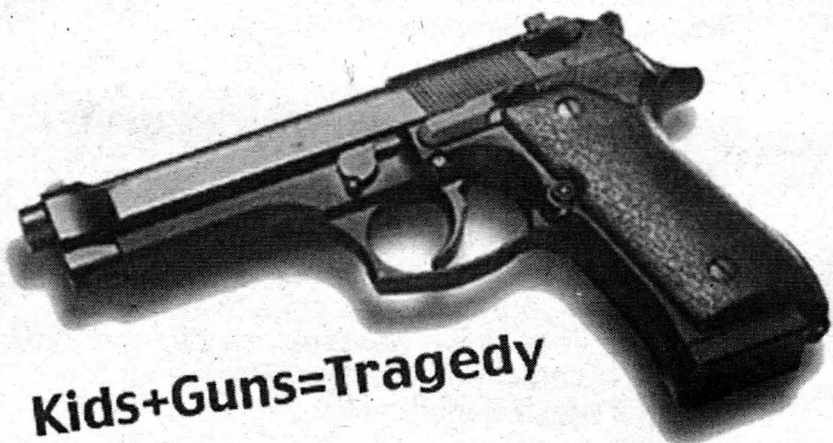
Las Vegas High School graduate Sabrina Gove says, "All throughout high school, I dated around, never had a specific boyfriend per se, just a lot of close guy friends that I would date occasionally."

She adds, "It wasn't until after high school that I settled with one guy. We ended up having a beautiful baby girl together. He didn't turn out to be my future husband after all, but I am okay with that."

"I know I will have many opportunities to find that special someone who will love my baby and me," she says. "I am not worrying because I know that all things come with time. But until he gets here, I am going to keep working on my schooling and raising my [daughter.]"

The main point of this article is not to bash one of my fellow journalists, and it is not to tell you that you have to find your soul mate in high school. It is meant to let you know that you have a choice. Don't let anyone tell you what you can or can't do. Anything you put your mind to, you can accomplish. No matter what happens, you will always be given another chance when it comes to relationships; you just have to be patient and remember, "All things come with time."

**Remember when a student packed a lunch instead?**



**Kids+Guns=Tragedy**

# Why be yourself...

By Joey Basham,  
Foothill HS

Armed with enough admiration to make even a queen ill with jealousy, she walks across the quad, emanating an aura so nonchalant you can't help but take notice. And with nothing more than a click of her pen, every head turns in her direction. All eyes are focused, awaiting her next move. Girls turn away in anger and envy, while the boys continue to stare, lusting after what most of them can only dream about. Her sheepish followers watch in disappointment as she strolls by, seemingly unaffected by the attention. She says nothing. Just before disappearing through the doors, she turns back and in what could very well be the longest second of your life, she smiles and makes everything seem worthwhile.

They love her. She has everything they want, and is everything they'll never be. Behold the power of cool.

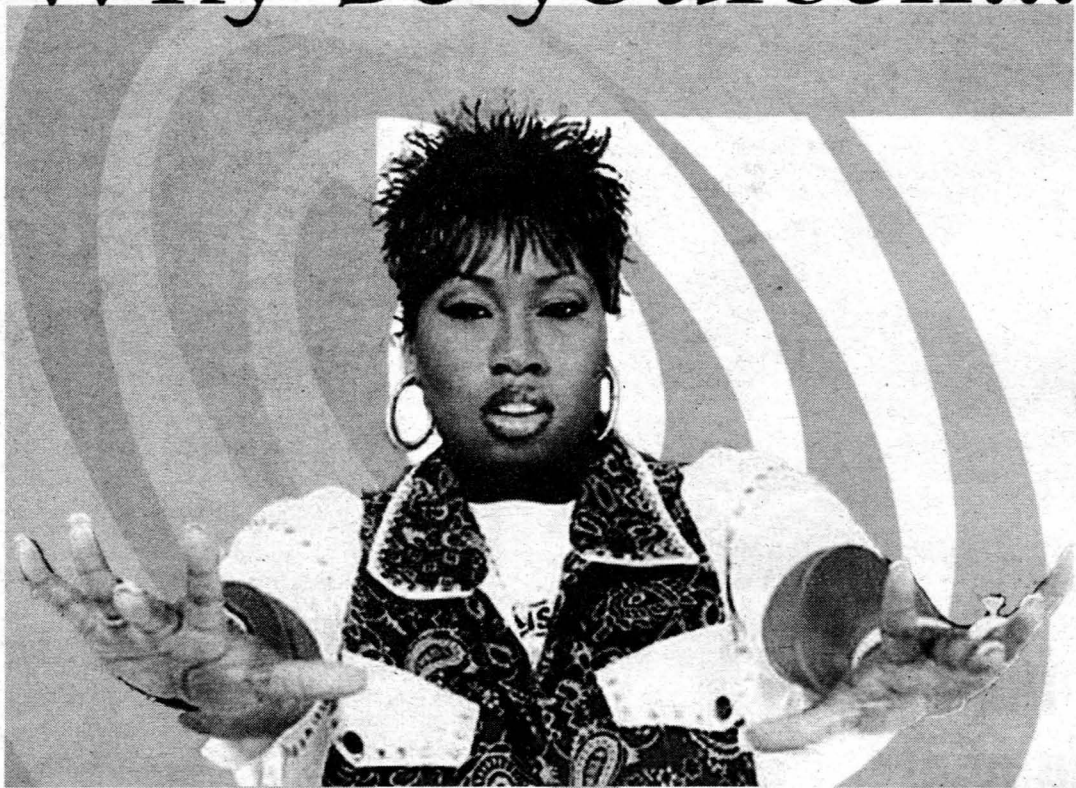
I know what you're thinking; scenarios like that happen all the time in Hollywood. We've all seen it in the movies and on TV, but being a student in an actual high school leads me to wonder: does anybody really make popularity that big of a priority?

Needless to say, our teen years are fragile; they are years of self-discovery, lasting impressions, and thanks to a combination of lowered maturity levels, raging hormones, and instinct based on impulse, they are years of mistakes and regrets as well.

Keeping that in mind, why would anyone want to spend four of the most vital years of his or her life trying to con people, who won't really matter in the end, to hand over a name tag that reads: Popular Kid #312? Changing your morals or personality in the name of all things cool is a ridiculous concept. Back to the old cliché, it's better to be disliked for being yourself, than to be adored for something you're not.

"Being cool is about respect and honesty. When people are fake, it only makes you wonder what they have to hide," says Foothill High School senior Cortney Brinkerhoff.

In most cases, individuality



## when you can be COOL?

is a higher valued quality than access to daddy's MasterCard. However, high schools are infested with naïve, easily-influenced youth who, by human nature, long for the approval of their peers and will spend countless hours conjuring up the perfect plan for acceptance. Luckily, not everyone wastes his or her life obsessing over what so-and-so said, wore, or ate for lunch, but instead makes time for people and things that might actually matter in the years to come.

Foothill senior Courtney Tackett feels that coolness isn't based on what clothes you have, "it's personality, attitude and respect that gets people noticed." Several students agree that to be cool is to be yourself.

### Same difference

Wait! If it's not the money, the clothes, the car, or how many points you scored during last week's big game, then could popularity be equally distributed along with your locker combination, so that everybody has a fair chance to land a spot on the Homecoming Court?

Probably not, but some students, such as senior Michaelee Paonessa, believe that a high school campus is "a mix of everything. Nobody really dominates

over anyone else. We're just here."

Well, if that's true and the standards really are the same throughout the entire student body, why isn't high school one big, preppy, Brady Bunch-esque family? The answer is simple: a lot of us just don't like each other.

"High school is like a four-year soap opera," says Paonessa. "All of the scandal and drama floating in the air leaves little to no room for a plot."

Sadly, this is probably the most honest thing I've heard in months.

With nobody claiming to follow trends anymore, it's getting harder and harder to tell each "individual" apart. Ironically enough, most of the popular kids, labeled cool by allegedly being themselves, look, act, and in most cases, think alike. It's probably just coincidence that by mid-day, our cafeteria looks like lunch hour at a Hollister convention. They're not the only victims of this apparent clothing drought; finding something that nobody else has is an incredibly time-consuming task.

### What's big this year?

"Anything punk rock is a lot trendier this year than ever before," says Foothill senior Lind-

say Boteihlo. "Everybody wants to be different."

There is so much emphasis on uniqueness, but when a majority of the kids are doing all of their shopping at the mall, how does anyone plan to be different?

Come on, this is high school, where the motto is: why be different when you could be cute?!

"Girls' clothes are getting as close to breaking dress code as humanly possible," says Foothill senior Mickey Beljin. "As for the guys, I think we're more conscious of our appearance."

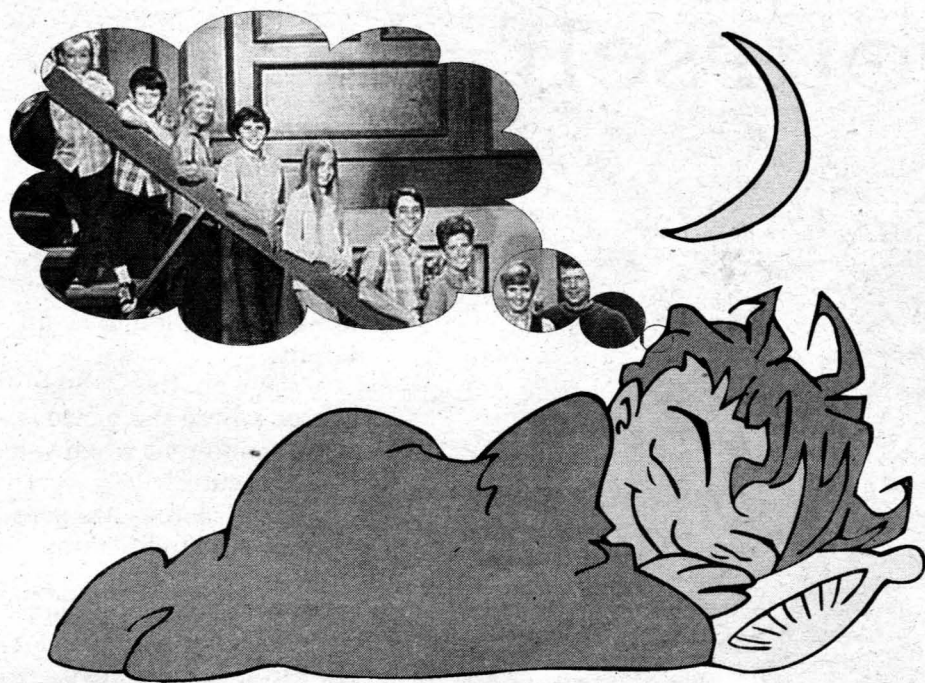
It does seem that by the time senior year rolls around, students realize that it's not really how people see you, it's how they'll remember you. That way of thinking appears to be perfectly logical and genuine, but keep in mind we're talking

about teenagers — the age group with a combined substance level that probably couldn't fill a kiddie pool.

### Mixed messages

Although finding a person who will admit that they lack any intellectual depth is rare, anybody who interacts or even observes teens will most likely have a different opinion than the accused. It seems that when our generation was sent to the mystical lake of personality and depth, several of them mistook it for a beach party and completely skipped the water, in fear of anything that might interfere with their tanning. Like, what a total bummer.

Unfortunately, because of how quick we are as humans to judge, people can't really be exactly who they are. Even though we are encouraged from a very young age to be ourselves, somewhere in the journey from the cradle to the mall, somebody decided that all the pretty people should come before anyone else. It's been this way for years upon years, and each generation of "cool people" will continue to swear that "it's not looks, money or athletic ability that matter, it's all about who you are as a person." Ah, the modesty of important people.



## 'Brady Bunch' family life is a thing of the past

Children of failed marriages don't necessarily give up the idea of perfect families

By Riley Marriage, Coronado HS

Everyone dreams of having that perfect family with two parents who love each other, who have a couple of cute, bubbly children, and who copy the basic family formula set by the "Nick at Nite" TV show staples like "Leave it to Beaver" and "The Brady Bunch."

While such an idea of perfection may actually exist somewhere, the stereotypical idea of what a perfect family is like is on the demise. With more and more marriages flaming up into divorce, the cookie-cutter image of family seems to only live on through the glossiness of the pages of House and Garden Magazine.

Although divorce rates have flattened out a bit in recent years, about half of U.S. marriages still end in divorce. The National Center for Health Statistics released a report which found that 43 percent of first marriages end in separation or divorce within 15 years. While the wife and husband are faced with many complications from the ordeal, it is also apparent that children deal with a lot of

stress resulting from the fall-out of their parents' failed marriage.

Some children of divorce suffer from depression and other disorders, but they also have to endure other problems that come along with having separated parents. The chance of a parent remarrying, holiday celebrations being divided and one household becoming two are all common situations that children of divorced parents deal with.

A typical Friday night at McCarran Airport reveals a mixed crowd of the regular commuters, the weekend partiers, and also a group of children and teenagers ranging from 5 to 18 years old. Pounding away on Game Boys or quietly reading novels, these are kids who regularly take flights every couple of weekends back and forth between their parents.

"Yep, I am a member of the Unofficial Southwest Airlines Divorced Kids Club," smirks regular Anna Peterson. "My parents have been divorced for four years, and I do this every other weekend. It's annoying and stressful, but I've gotten used to it."

It is hard to imagine with so many broken families out there that the once sought after "perfect family" actually exists. In reality probably a few do, and they are very, very, very lucky!

## True friends don't pressure friends to do wrong

By Dasheena Reed, Desert Pines HS

Peer pressure is a huge issue in school and in society. A lot of youth feel that if they are not with a certain crowd, if they don't dress like them, if they aren't athletes, then they're nothing. That is absolutely wrong.

Too many teens want to be like the next person, not realizing what caused the individual to be in the situation they're in. So many teens are pressured by their peers to take drugs, smoke, steal, have sex, party and join gangs. Because they want to fit in, they don't think about some of the consequences that may come with it later.

They have the choice to say no, but because they feel they will be laughed at, talked about or disowned, they give in to doing whatever those around them want them to do. Too much peer pressure is going on, causing many teens to hate their lives, hate who they are, and want to commit suicide. Peer pressure is what causes many teens to become stressed out to the point they feel like giving in, as if their lives don't matter when they actually do.

The problem is that so many teens don't understand that those leading them in the wrong direction aren't their friends. Friends don't criticize and encourage other friends to do wrong. Friends let a friend be him or herself when around them. They don't pressure a friend to become a part of something negative or dangerous.

If you are being pressured, it's hard to say no. You may not realize that it's okay to say no. You will feel 100 percent better by saying no than you will by saying yes to something that will put you in a bad situation. Who you are is who you are, and if those around you can't accept you, then you don't need to be associated with them.

If someone is pressuring you to do something you know isn't right, why do it? Because they're your friends and you don't want them thinking you're scared? Do you do it just to impress them? In the long run, they're going to laugh in your face, and then who's going to look like the idiot? You!

Don't let those you hang around judge you; you are much wiser than them. Let them be the fools all by themselves. Know how to hang with a crowd or an individual without following in their footsteps. Why let those around you make your decisions when you can make your own choices and feel much better about them than someone else's?

It's not right that so many teens feel that they are nobodies because they don't have \$120 Jordans like the next person does. Don't let other people's appearances fool you. Don't let people pressure you into doing something wrong that could end up costing you your life. You have to recognize that, depending on what that person is trying to get you to do, it could end up being the last day you see on Earth, just because you wanted to fit in and impress the crowd.

Too many teens say, "I want to look like him or her," "I wish I had the clothes and the money he or she has," or "I wish I was as popular as he or she is." Think about it: you don't know what those people had to do to get their clothes or money. Yet, you want to be like them because you feel that they have it all. Appreciate yourself and what you have, and don't let others judge you and tell you what you should wear, how you should dress, or who you would be if you had this and that. All that is going to do is bring pressure on you and make you want to change who you are because your peers don't accept you. It shouldn't even be about the outer you; it's all about the heart.

Too many young and beautiful teens are letting negative-minded people get them into a hole by influencing them to do wrong when they should be influencing their peers to do right. Be a role model to those around you instead of letting them lead you. Remember, if your friends make you feel discouraged and like you're a nobody when you refuse to be a part of something that's not right, they aren't your friends in the first place.

# Digamos

## Ultima hora: más adolescentes abusando de drogas 'legales'

Por Rachael Pearl,  
Coronado HS

Con más frecuencia en los últimos tiempos, la medicina con receta médica esta siendo consumida llegando hasta el abuso. Los jóvenes ahora la utilizan para sustituir otra clase de drogas que no se pueden conseguir con tanta facilidad como ésta. Cada día, muchos jóvenes se mueren por sobredosis de drogas. Ahora, se hace sorprendente que estas muertes ya no son causadas por drogas ilegales, sino por las legales.

Para la mayoría de personas, las aspirinas adquiridas con receta médica son utilizadas para anestesiar el dolor que se siente en cierta parte del cuerpo, sea después de una cirugía o por una herida. Las personas que consumen una dosis más grande de lo recomendado se están volviendo adictas. La mayor parte de quienes ya tienen esta adicción, la adquirieron después de que empezaron a tomar estos medicamentos con mucha regularidad.

En la Encuesta Nacional de Abuso de Drogas en Hogares (National Household Survey on Drug Abuse) en 1999,

se encontró que un estimado de cuatro millones de personas están abusando de la medicina recetada. De acuerdo con este estudio, es más común que una niña entre los 12 y los 17 años abuse de la medicina recetada que de otras sustancias; y sorprendentemente, es también muy común en las personas de tercera edad.

Los drogas que constantemente son abusadas son opioides (también llamados aspirinas para el dolor), las aspirinas depresivas y los estimulantes. Los opioides son utilizados para aliviar el dolor; las aspirinas depresivas para el sistema nervioso cen-

tral, son usadas normalmente para combatir los problemas al dormir; y los estimulantes, como



droga disminuye la respiración, lo cual puede ser fatal y puede resultar hasta en la muerte. La mayoría de personas que abusan de estas aspirinas abusan también, simultáneamente, de otra droga.

Los estimulantes que habitualmente son tomados son Ritalin y Dexedrine. Si se ingiere una dosis grande de este estimulante, puede resultar en un aumento en la sangre causando presión alta y acrecenta también, los latidos del corazón.

Se sugiere que el paciente sea sometido a una revisión médica para saber si antes ha abusado de alguna clase de las drogas mencionadas anteriormente. Los doctores y farmaceutas tienen la obligación (supuestamente) de informarle al paciente los efectos secundarios de la droga que están a punto de tomar y darles una explicación clara de como las deben ingerir.

De igual manera, todas estas prevenciones que se pueden tomar para que el paciente no malgaste el medicamento se van con el viento, por que al fin y al cabo, todo depende de una sola persona: el paciente.

Ritalin, son utilizados para tratar a pacientes que tienen problemas de déficit de atención.

Los opioides más usados son OxyContin, el cual es más o menos parecido a la heroína; y Vicodin, una aspirina muy fuerte. A parte de aliviar dolores, los opioides también hacen efecto en otras regiones del cerebro, el cual recibe este efecto como un efecto de placer. Los efectos secundarios o negativos más comunes son dolor en los huesos y en los músculos, escalofríos y vomito.

Los tipos más comunes de aspirinas depresivas son Xanax y Vailum, generalmente usadas para tratar la ansiedad. Este tipo de



La popularidad de estas drogas recetadas han creado hasta camisetas como ésta, que puede ser comprada por Internet.

# Aquí está lo que quieres saber acerca del seguro de un automóvil

Por Troy Steadman,  
Basic HS

Todo el mundo sabe de los jóvenes que manejan sin prudencia. No todos manejan como tu tía Alicia, pero son los jóvenes varones en particular los que tienen más problemas al pagar el seguro del carro. Una encuesta entre algunas agencias locales de seguro le dieron luz propia a este dilema. ¿Por qué?

“El seguro de carros es más para los chicos que para las chicas, porque los hombres son más imprudentes,” dice Tina, una de las recepcionistas de GEICO, una compañía aseguradora.

Si es verdad, mis queridos amigos, nosotros pagamos

más por las estadísticas y por discriminación. Somos imprudentes. (¡Qué mala suerte!)

Cuando dos estudiantes del último grado de Basic HS, Chad Mackelprang y Ashley Brown, fueron cuestionados sobre su cuota mensual para el seguro de su carro, Mackelprang dijo: “Yo pago aproximadamente \$150 dólares al mes, un dólar más, un dólar menos.” Cuando se le preguntó a Brown la misma pregunta, ella comentó: “Alrededor de \$87 dólares al mes.” Para aquellos que no son genios en matemáticas, ¡son \$63 dólares de diferencia!

Pero no se preocupen. Hay unas maneras del que el seguro del carro te salga más barato. Por ejemplo, usualmente los



estudiantes que obtienen buenos grados obtienen un descuento de sus aseguradoras. Farmers Insurance Group, una de las agencias más grandes de Nevada, ofrece un 15 por ciento de descuento a los estudiantes que mantienen un promedio de 3.0 en sus notas. Sí, inclusive para los chicos. Eso le rebajaría hasta \$23 dólares de la cuota a Mackelprang. Para Brown,

serían alrededor de \$13 dólares.

Esta compañía también muestra que el seguro del carro puede subir “hasta un 25 por ciento si el estudiante se ve envuelto en un accidente,” aclara Kelly Peart, una de las secretarías de esta agencia, localizada en la calle Horizon Drive en Henderson.

Otra manera de bajar el costo del seguro de tu carro es muy simple: envejece más. Casi siempre cuando tienes 25 años, estos costos se bajan en un gran porcentaje.

Entonces amigos, sus novias pueden que estén pagando menos por su seguro en este momento, pero tengan en cuenta que algún día las van a alcanzar. No se preocupen.

## Cuando vienen las presiones, la decisión está en tus manos

Por Lori Valiente,  
Las Vegas HS

“Dime con quién andas y te diré quien eres.”

Esto es algo que mi padre siempre me dice porque no le gustan mis amigos y se preocupa por la mala influencia que puedan tener en mí.

Caer victima en tu propio mundo es solo una excusa que los jóvenes usan cuando han hecho algo malo. Culpar a las otras personas por lo que han hecho (buscando excusas de porque están consumiendo drogas o porque toman y manejan) hacen caer la culpa en todos menos en los verdaderos culpables: los jóvenes.

Algunos psicólogos tienen teorías acerca de lo que pasa durante la adolescencia. Los jóvenes tratan de saber quienes son, tienen problemas en la casa con sus padres y batallan con otras situaciones; esto puede causar que ellos caigan en la presión de los demás. Tratar de encontrar amigos o pertenecer a “un grupo” son cosas que algunos jóvenes se mueren por hacer; entonces, por eso piensan, “Igual, si solo pruebo un poquito de esto, me

fumo un cigarrillo o me tomo una cerveza, ellos pensarán que soy el candidato perfecto para entrar a su grupo.”

Las situaciones se presentan. Puedes estar en una fiesta y el chico o la chica de tus sueños empieza a fumar y te pregunta si quieres un poco. La música se apaga y sientes que un segundo es una eternidad. Pareciera que todo el mundo se voltea a mirarte. Sientes que dos cosas completamente diferentes pasan por tu cabeza: un lado dice, “No, no quiero fumar. Es estúpido,” y el otro lado dice, “Si no fumo, no le voy a gustar.” Después de que finalmente lo terminas haciendo, vas a tu casa diciendo, “La culpa fue de la presión de la gente, lo tuve que hacer.” La verdad es que nunca lo tuviste que hacer, lo hiciste por que quisiste hacerlo.

En mi caso, estoy constantemente entre cosas ilegales como drogas, alcohol, robo, graffiti, pero no soy victima de todo esto. Aunque yo soy la que escojo mis amigos y que para mí, no hacen cosas correctas, yo no puedo juzgarlos y dejar de ser su amiga porque al fin y al cabo, lo único que importa son mis decisiones.

Ellos respetan mi decisión cuando prefiero no tomar o fumar y sé que eso no me hace menos importante que ellos. La primera vez que ellos me ofrecieron algo indebido y yo dije que no, no fue el fin del mundo. La fiesta siguió y ellos en ningún momento se burlaron o se alejaron de mí o me insistieron en que lo hiciera. En cambio, ahora me respetan más porque saben que todo lo que estoy haciendo en mi vida no lo hubiera podido hacer si estuviera consumiendo drogas u otras cosas.

Estoy segura que en ciertas ocasiones puedes tropezarte con un tonto que te diga cosas vulgares, pero eso demuestra que no debes estar involucrada en una situación en la cual no te sientes cómoda.

Thomas Willis, estudiante del último año de Las Vegas HS, dice, “Pienso que no deberías asistir a una fiesta si no puedes decir “no” a las cosas que no quieres hacer.”

Afortunadamente, en un tiempo, los jóvenes aprenderán a desechar la presión de los demás y con experiencia, aprenderán que decir “no” es más fácil de lo que piensan.

Lo peor que me ha pasado

fue en mayo 9 del 2002 cuando fui testigo de un accidente de carro en el cual iban unas amigas. Ver morir a una de ellas lentamente, estando parada en frente de su cama sin poder hacer nada, ha sido la peor experiencia que he vivido en mi vida.

Pensar en aquel día es extremadamente difícil, pero hay gente que dice, “de todo lo malo siempre hay algo bueno.” Aunque fue devastador vivir esa experiencia, me enseñó una gran lección y me dio una razón para cambiar mi vida. Nunca más iría a sentir presión de nadie, ni siquiera de mis amigos. Aprendí a las malas que nunca sabes lo que va a pasar después o si al menos tendrás otro segundo para pensarlo.

En cualquiera que sea la situación, no importa quién este alrededor o en que clase de circunstancias te encuentres, es tu decisión y está bien decir “no.” Puede que pienses que al decir no, caminarás sin haber conseguido nada, pero no es así. Si decides dejarte llevar por la presión de la gente e irte por el camino que no es, seguramente sí terminarás sin nada.

## Mozart incrementa el poder del cerebro

Los seguidores de este compositor todavía creen en su magia, 212 años después de su muerte

Por Danielle Weinstein, Basic HS

Kayla volvió a golpear su cabeza contra su escritorio -otro examen que perdió.

Ella recuerda la noche anterior: como su cabeza le dolía de tanto escuchar "Metálica" y como cada parte de su cuerpo gritaba por un poco de descanso cuando las manijas del reloj daban la medianoche.

"¿Por qué no pude estudiar la semana pasada?!" pensó.

Como Kayla tuvo que volver a presentar el examen, esta vez tomo otra estrategia. Después de escuchar de un conocido que estudiar bajo la música de Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart antes de los exámenes da muy buenos resultados, Kayla decidió tratarlo. ¡Y pueden creer que sacó una A! Ahora, ¿es esto posible?

En algún momento de la vida, se ha escuchado que escuchar música te hace mejor persona y conocedora de más cosas. Pero una frase que mucha gente no escucha es que escuchar música clásica (la de Mozart en particular) posiblemente pueda hacerte una persona más inteligente.

De acuerdo con estudios hechos en el Instituto de Desarrollo Neural de Inteligencia Musical (Music Intelligence Neural Development Institute) en 1993, esto puede ser cierto. Esta investigación mostró que los estudiantes universitarios que escuchan la melodía de Mozart "Sonata de Dos Pianos en D Mayor" produjo una mejoría temporal en su razonamiento espacial. Esto hace que a los estudiantes les vaya mejor en la escuela, especialmente en ciencias y matemáticas. Esta idea de que Mozart mejore la capacidad mental se le llama "El Efecto Mozart."

"La música, como estímulo, une más partes del cerebro que cualquier otro estímulo," dice el director de la banda de Basic HS, Brian Downey. "Es diferente para cada persona, pero entre más joven se empiece a escuchar o a tocar ésta música, más puede ser el potencial que se obtiene para los estudios."

Weston Duschen, quién ya se graduó de Basic lo afirma. "He tratado 'El Efecto Mozart' en la universidad. Me ha hido muy bien. Pienso que entre más lo aplicas, mejores son los resultados, pero puede variar dependiendo de cada persona."

El argumento de que todo varía depende de la persona es cierto. Algunos están tratando de probar que esta técnica no sirve de ningún modo ni para ninguna persona. Investigadores de la "Universidad Estatal Apalachian" rehicieron los experimentos exactamente como la vez pasada y los resultados no fueron los mejores. Estos muestran que escuchar la música de Mozart no afecta el nivel de inteligencia de nadie. Entonces, "El Efecto de Mozart," ¿es un hecho? o ¿es solo ficción?

"Pues, no sé," dice Scott Young, estudiante de Basic HS; "pero tiene sentido. Pienso que ésta música puede hacer el estudio un poco más fácil."

Chelsey Borthwick, otra estudiante de esta escuela, está en desacuerdo y dice, "No creo que eso de verdad funcione. Yo escucho música metálica mientras hago mis tareas y sigo sacando As."

Tú decides. ¿Puede un músico famoso (que ya está muerto) ayudarnos a mejorar nuestras calificaciones en los exámenes finales? ¿Vale la pena sacrificar una hora de caricaturas para ir a estudiar con Mozart? Puede que sí, puede que no; pero no te cuesta nada intentarlo, ¿no?

# LEYENDAS DEL MES

## Presentadores de televisión

Ahora nos damos el lujo de conocer un poco de tres grandes cantantes que han dado su vida por la música. Diviértete en estas vacaciones y nos vemos en enero con otros tres personajes.



Alejandro Sanz

Alejandro Sánchez Pizarro nació en Madrid, el 18 de diciembre de 1968. Músico, compositor y cantante comenzó su carrera artística en 1991 con la grabación del álbum "Viviendo de prisa." Con siete discos de platino y más de un millón de copias vendidas esta obra marcaría el ascenso de una de las figuras más honestas y singulares de la música española actual. Entre 1993 y 1995, grabó discos "Si tú me miras," "Alejandro Sanz, básico" y "Alejandro Sanz III." Su siguiente producción hecha en 1997 es titulada "Más" con la cual se destacó por toda Latinoamérica y España, vendiendo más de un millón y medio de discos. De ahí salieron sus hits "Amiga mía" y "Corazón partío." Otros de sus álbumes son "El alma al aire" y "Alejandro Sanz, unplugged," (que quiere decir "en vivo.")

Durante el mes de octubre de este año, lanzó su más reciente producción "No es lo mismo." Hoy en día esta casado con la modelo mexicana Jaydy, criando juntos a su pequeña hija Manuela.

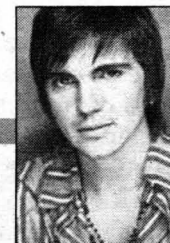


Celia Cruz

Si hay una artista en el mundo de la música Latina que define una leyenda, tiene que ser la única, reina de la salsa, Celia Cruz. Su carisma y talento fueron las características con las que escribió uno de los capítulos más importantes de la historia musical afrocubana y del mundo. Sus más de 70 álbumes generaron una cosecha interminable de discos de platino y oro; y ha recibido premiaciones de prestigiosas instituciones alrededor del mundo.

En 1960 dejó su natal Cuba y se mudó a los Estados Unidos, engañando al régimen, diciéndoles que se iba de gira con la sonora matancera. Castro nunca le perdonó eso y le negó la entrada a Cuba. Celia y su esposo Pedro Knight, trompetista y líder de la banda, tuvieron uno de los matrimonios más sólidos y cariñosos del mundo del entretenimiento.

El pasado 16 de julio Celia falleció, pero ella fue, es y será sinónimo de ese género musical y la mejor embajadora de la cultura hispana del mundo. La llevaremos en nuestros corazones por siempre.



Juanes

Juanes, cantante, compositor y guitarrista colombiano, toma su nombre artístico como una abreviatura de su verdadero nombre, Juan Esteban Aristizabal. Nacido en Medellín, Colombia el 9 de agosto de 1972, cayó felizmente atrapado desde los siete años en las redes de la música. Fue el líder del grupo Ekhyosis con el que grabó cinco discos. En 1998 se va para Los Angeles, CA, a vivir en una pieza chiquita, en una ciudad tan grande. "Fíjate bien," su primer sencillo, es la marcha de los desplazados por la violencia que se tienen que ir del campo a tragar asfalto en las capitales de sus países.

Su segundo álbum es "Un día normal" que resulta ser superior que el primero con 11 de las 12 canciones compuestas por el mismo. Las letras de sus temas reflejan el sentir de los jóvenes latinoamericanos, su desesperanza, pero a la vez, un profundo romanticismo, amor a la vida, a los propios y a la pareja. Todo esto sitúa a Juanes entre uno de los máximos exponentes del Rock Latino.

# Los estereotipos le cierran las puertas a nuevos amigos

Por Latoya Brookins,  
Clark HS

La mayoría de personas están de acuerdo con ese dicho que dice: “no puedes juzgar al libro por su carátula,” pero aún así esas personas no saben aplicar esas palabras con seres humanos.

En esta sociedad, la personas están constantemente abiertas a ser juzgadas por su edad, género sexual o su manera de vestir. Los estereotipos ocurren tan frecuentemente que hay quienes no se dan cuenta que lo están haciendo. Muchos no quieren admitir que han mirado a alguien por primera vez y que automáticamente han asumido que saben como es la persona sin ni siquiera haberla conocido.

Muchos otros creen que lo que asumen acerca de los demás



está correcto, pero no pueden explicar el porqué.

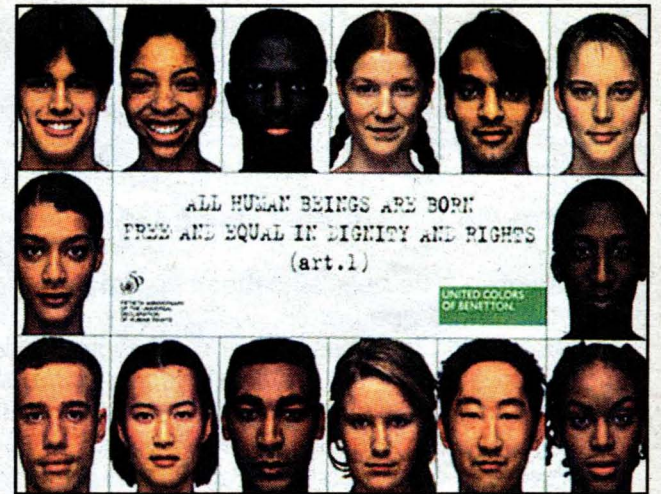
¿Cuántas de tus opiniones salen de tus experiencias personales? ¿Cuántas otras

crees que son verdad simplemente porque tú las dices? Si una persona “gótica” (que casi siempre se viste negro) que está a tu alrededor, se mantiene feliz y sonriente todo el tiempo ¿seguirías pensando que solo por el hecho que se visten de negro, todos tienen mal genio o están constantemente deprimidos? Hace unos años, alguien dijo que las personas de raza blanca no podían “rapear,” y luego Eminem llegó y le dejó la boca cerrada a todo el mundo.

¿Desde cuándo la ropa que tú te pones determina tu carácter como persona? ¿Qué puedes decir de la personalidad de alguien que se viste con ropa de diseñador y otra persona que se viste con los súper descuentos de fábrica? No todos lo que se ponen gafas para leer son extremadamente inteligentes;

ponerse los pantalones más anchos que encuentres no quiere decir que te tenga que gustar la música hip-hop; y si te gusta el color rosado, no quiere decir que tengas más tendencias femeninas.

No es difícil. Trata de conocer a una persona antes de que la clasifiques injustamente. A nadie le gusta que lo juzguen. Irónicamente, todo el mundo es bastante rápido a la hora de



Este mensaje publicitario refleja un mundo donde todos tenemos el mismo derecho.

criticar y sacar falsas conclusiones que llevan a impresiones negativas y a muchos errores.

Si te tomaras el tiempo para conocer a alguien antes de que le pases tu “máquina aplanadora de prejuicios” encima, podrías terminar conociendo personas muy interesantes, las cuales pueden llegar a convertirse en tus grandes amigos.

Uno de tus amigos se sienta al lado tuyo y te pregunta, “¿Estás listo para el examen?” Parpadeas y lentamente te das cuenta que se te olvidó por completo que tenías un examen a esta hora. Te maldices y sacas tus notas, ¡dos minutos antes de que empiece el dichoso examen! ¿Qué haces? Miras a la chica que se sienta en el escritorio junto al tuyo; ella siempre saca buenas notas...algo pasa por tu cabeza. ¿Deberías hacerlo? La profesora ya les dio los exámenes. Ya se acerca el final del tercio del semestre. No puedes esperar a que te vaya mal en esta prueba. Miras el examen de tu compañera por un segundo. Marco la letra C en la pregunta número uno. Tú también marcas C.

Esto no es nada nuevo. La deshonestidad académica, también llamada trampa, puede ser fácilmente catalogada como una epidemia dentro de las escuelas. En una encuesta hecha a 400 estudiantes de Las Vegas HS, 92 por ciento de ellos dijeron que hacen trampa “ocasionalmente.” Estas estadísticas no sorprenden, a nadie.

“Hacer trampa es normal,” comentó un estudiante.

Otro dijo, “Si alguien dice que no hace trampa, está mintiendo.”

La mayoría de estas trampas o engaños ocurren en las tareas, cuando los estudiantes se olvidan o simplemente no las hacen en casa y toman el papel de otra persona para pasar las respuestas. Esta forma es muy común, pero la mayoría no reconoce que es un engaño y que está mal.

Cuando se les preguntó [a los

## ¡Tramposos al ataque!

Por April Corbin, Las Vegas HS

estudiantes] si se copeaban las tareas entre sí, un estudiante dijo, “Sí, yo copeo las tareas de los demás, si es que a eso lo consideran trampa.”

Muchos estudiantes también hacen trampas en los exámenes. Once por ciento de los estudiantes que participaron en la encuesta dijeron que ya habían hecho trampa en un examen final. El trece por ciento de ellos admitieron que han cometido plagio y que han hecho trampa en trabajos de investigación. Su creencia es “Si no te pillan, ¡síguelo haciendo!”

La verdad es que la mayoría de los estudiantes sienten que hay unas clases en las cuales es muy fácil hacer trampa. De igual manera, el profesorado hace lo que puede para capturar a los tramposos. En la encuesta, la clase que fue votada la más difícil para hacer trampa fue la de la profesora Tonya Rose. Aunque ella sabe que hay uno que otro que se escapa y lo hace, ella trata de reducir el número de tramposos.

“Mantengo rondando por la clase mientras ellos toman el examen.” Ella también aclara que esto ayuda y comenta de un estudiante el cual tenía escritas las respuestas en el brazo. “De vez en cuando se

alzaba la manga de la camisa para chequear la respuesta. Hizo todo esto sin darse cuenta que yo estaba parada detrás de él.”

La forma más común de hacer trampa es mirando el papel de la persona de al lado para copearle las respuestas. Otra manera muy popular incluye programar las ecuaciones en la calculadora o escribir las respuestas en diminutos papeles, en los asientos, en los brazos y dedos, en la parte de adentro de los bolsillos, o en los lápices.

Pero, algunos estudiantes llevan la trampa hasta el extremo. Una chica admite que se escribe las respuestas en su pecho, “Si el profesor le da por mirar, lo acuso de hostigamiento sexual.”

Mientras que gran cantidad de estudiantes han hecho trampa o la siguen haciendo, muchos admiten que esto también tiene consecuencias. Además de que te pillan y te quitan crédito por esa tarea o examen, muchos estudiantes no hacen trampa por que a la larga no aprenden nada. Es por eso que el profesorado tiende a poner un porcentaje más alto en los exámenes que en las tareas.

Muchos están de acuerdo diciendo que hacer trampa es “adictivo” y un “mal hábito.” El estudiante que copee todas las tareas de otra persona, no estará preparado para ningún examen.

Hacer trampa es injusto con la gente que no lo hace, éstas personas si estudian por ellos mismos. No obstante, esta idea parece quedarse indefinidamente; porque así como un estudiante dijo, siempre habrá gente que “prefiera sacar un A falsa, a una F verdadera.”



# Prescription drug abuse on the rise among teens

By Lori Valiente, Las Vegas HS

**D**eadly addictions and teens — you hear about it all the time. Teens who get addicted to hardcore drugs like heroin, crystal meth, cocaine, marijuana and ecstasy are all over the news. But times are changing, and the youth of America are getting sucked into the newest trend in drug abuse, prescription pills.

“OxyContin makes you feel like the drunkest you’ve ever been — times ten,” says Chris.\* The first time Chris tried the prescription drug, he was at a friend’s house. All of his buddies were trying it, so he did too.

Prescription drug use is on the rise because pills are so easy to obtain. Teens steal them from parents and friends, or they get traded around school. Other ways to get the drugs are through fake prescriptions, or “scripts.”

The Federal Drug Administration has been following numerous reports of OxyContin addictions and abuse that have resulted in a black market for the drug. In April of 2002, the Drug Enforcement Administration reported that OxyContin has been implicated as the direct cause or main contributing factor in 146 deaths and as a likely contributor in 318 deaths. Slowly, the popularity of this drug is becoming an epidemic. Teens and adults are dying daily due to this little pill. Many TV networks including MTV, CNN and ABC are starting to pick up on stories about this deadly addiction, but the problem is teenagers not

knowing the big risk they are taking when just a night of fun can turn deadly.

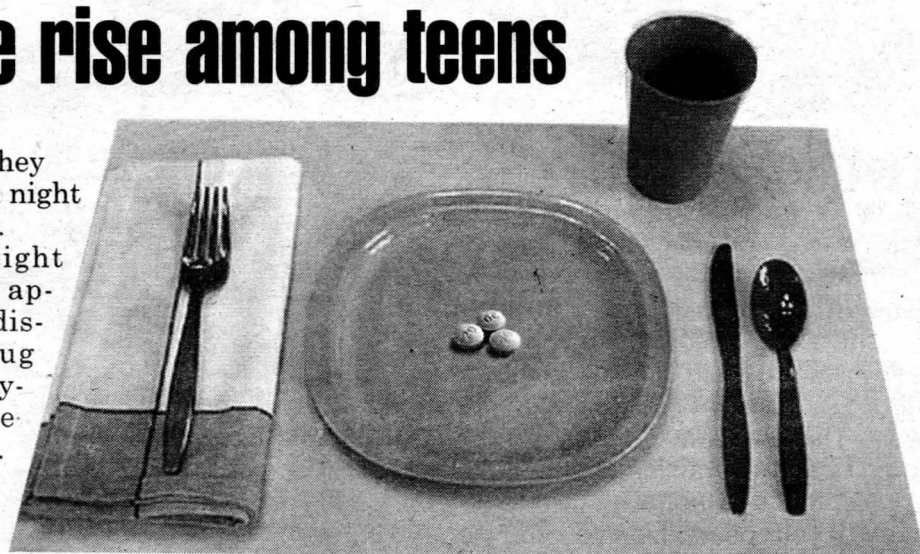
In 1995, only eight years ago, the FDA approved and started distributing a new drug called OxyContin (oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release). OxyContin, also known as Oxy or O.C., contains oxycodone, a narcotic pain reliever similar to morphine. But this isn’t your normal Advil or even Loritab. OxyContin is derived from opium, the same plant that heroin is made from. Since Oxy is pure opium, it is designed for people who are opioid tolerant. If used incorrectly, it can be fatal.

Methods abusers use to consume OxyContin are breaking, chewing or crushing pills that are then snorted or injected into the veins. As a result, large amounts of oxycodone are released all at once, potentially resulting in a dangerous or fatal overdose. After becoming addicted to OxyContin, it is extremely difficult to get off it unless you receive medical attention.

Steve,\* a counselor who works at Montevista Behavioral Health Center, says that over the past year the number of people getting treated for Oxy addictions has increased tremendously, but the ages of the patients have decreased.

“Before, we would see 40-year-olds or over, but now they’re 17 or 18.”

When you get treated for your addic-



tion, depending on your withdrawal symptoms, you get different medication. Withdrawal symptoms are insomnia, flu-like symptoms, nausea, severe cramps in legs, irritability and hot and cold flashes.

“It’s the worst feeling I’ve ever felt,” says Chris. “I can’t get out of bed, and if I do, it’s to throw up.”

Chris claims to take up to ten, 80-milligram pills per day.

“When you are addicted, it isn’t a certain number that you take, it is taking as many pills as you can get,” he says. “You need it to be normal.”

Chris says that he can’t stop, even though he knows the dangers of OxyContin. Only three months ago, one of his best friends overdosed on Oxy. He was only 26.

Though OxyContin hasn’t been well publicized throughout these last couple of years, America is starting to catch on and bring this huge issue forward. Doctors, parents and teens need to realize the dangers of prescription pills and start being more responsible.

\*Names withheld

## Despite anti-tobacco efforts, teens still light up

By Melanie Turmelle, Basic HS

**F**ederal law currently prohibits smoking in federally funded schools nationwide. So why do some students still smoke?

Recent studies show that about 3,000 teens take up smoking each day. Also facts indicate that more and more teenagers are leaving school campuses to smoke, leading to more trancies and fines.

Who are the people that have to pay for this? Certainly not the big tobacco compa-

nies, nor the schools, and definitely not our parents. We, the youth of America, are the ones who have to pay.

Some teens use smoking to relieve stress or hunger, to help lose weight or even to keep the drama of the everyday high school life out of sight and out of mind. Others just do it to do it, with no real reason why. But is that a good enough reason to start?

Numerous studies show what smoking tobacco really does, and an estimation on how severe the brown plaque from tobacco can get to be on a person’s lungs.

The World Health Organization’s Web site at [www.who.int](http://www.who.int) states, “We can expect tobacco’s death toll to nearly triple in the developing world over the next 20 years, killing in numbers that will rival any other world epidemic in human history.” However, that number does not include the fact that secondhand smoke kills about 53,000

Americans each year.

“I don’t know why smoking is such a big deal for teenagers in our schools,” says Basic High School junior Jessica Smith. “So many of us do it anyway, and it’s not like anyone will make us quit.”

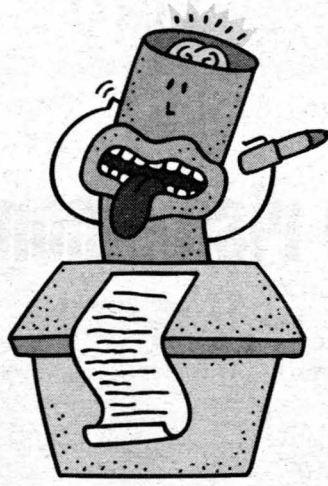
A random poll of 60 students at Basic taken during one week in September revealed that more than 40 teens either smoke cigarettes or have at least tried smoking once or more at parties.

“I don’t get the point of smoking. It doesn’t do anything,” says Miguel Cuevas, a junior at Basic.

*If you’re interested in quitting, you can talk with your health care provider, or the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 or the American Lung Association at 1-800-LUNG-USA for useful information on how to quit.*

# Knowing your limits keeps stress under control

## STRESS under control



By Laura Dembinski, Basic HS

Wake up, go to six hours of school, go straight from school to five hours at your job, then go home to do two hours of homework. That's already 13 busy hours on a rare day when you don't have to go to sports practice or club meetings.

No, that's not a day in the life of a busy college student, but the story of your peers, kids you know or maybe even you, using every waking minute of the day and making it worthwhile. You may ask yourself, "Why?" Why go to work rather than go to parties? Why play soccer rather than watch TV?

Basic High School junior Lindsay Gilmour is working hard just because she can. Gilmour plays on the golf team this season and swims; she also is a member of student council and plays viola in the orchestra. She also takes piano and voice lessons and goes to clogging classes once a week. After all her long days, she still finds time to volunteer at St. Rose de Lima Hospital on Sundays.

Another multitasking teenager who tends to sleep a little more in class is senior Kayden Campbell. But who would blame him for dozing off? Campbell, a member of the men's varsity cross-country team and the president of his choir class, also works at Black Mountain Recreational Center and attends church activities. This sometimes-stressed out teen says, "It's worth it because I have money to do the stuff I want to do."

The only problem is now that he has the money, he just needs to find the free time to spend it!

Although these teens are sometimes overachievers and aren't always available on the weekends, they're proving that high school students can be multi-taskers, keeping jobs and good grades and still being able to be teenagers.

But having too little time for fun could also take a toll on their health. Holly Rounds, a CCSD school psychologist at Basic, says stress can be greater for teens that do more than the average teen because with every added responsibility there comes more stress. But different kids can handle different amounts of activities, so you should only do the things you know you and your body can handle.

If you feel like you're a kid who just can't handle all the stress of growing up, Rounds says having a "good friend to talk to when you're unable to handle things in life is a very good thing." Other good techniques in stress management are meditation and exercise.

Though all the activity sounds pretty dangerous on fragile teenage lives, there are many upsides to it. Being active gives you great experiences in life and keeps you busy, which in turn will keep many away from drugs or alcohol. I mean, come on, when are you going to find the time to party when you have so much on your plate already? So maybe taking that extra yoga class is a good choice!

### Good News

Teen smoking rates have declined for the sixth year in a row according to the Center for Disease Control's Youth Risk Behavior report. The percentage of teens who smoke has gone from 36.4 percent in 1997 down to the current rate of 28.5 percent.

Way to go!

## law and order

# Paying your debt to society can take a lifetime

By Shane Cole, Eldorado HS



It's not an easy story to tell, where to begin and where to end my story about life in the justice system.

It happened on a Saturday afternoon when my friend from California and his girlfriend came to visit me. That day we went to the Meadows Mall, so they could shop for clothes and gifts for their friends back in California. After we were done shopping we decided to grab a bite to eat at the food court.

While we were eating, a group of guys started making comments directed at us. I had no desire to start any trouble, so I nicely asked the guy to respect my friend and his girlfriend. He stopped for a while, but then he started back up again. So once again, I asked this gentleman to stop the comments and to please respect my friend and his girl.

Again he stopped, but only briefly. He started up again, and this time he went too far. I ended up saying some pretty nasty things to him, and he didn't like it one bit. He stood up, walked toward me, spit right in my face and asked me what I was going to do about it. I realized that if this guy took the first shot, I was going to get the crap kicked out of me. So I took one step back and hit him as hard as I could with brass knuckles on the left side of his face. He dropped back a couple of feet, then stumbled and started to take a swing. But before he could, I kicked his face and shattered his jaw.

As he was falling to the ground, I turned and ran and ran and ran... right into a security guard about 20 times my size. In no time, the cops were there;

they arrested me and I was booked for assault and battery. They threw me into a cell with some old guy, and that's where I spent about a week in jail until my hearing.

Life in jail stinks. There's no other way to describe it. It just stinks. The living conditions stink, the food stinks — everything just stinks. And once you're in the system, it seems like there's no way out.

Everyday we got up at about four in the morning and watched TV, read, cleaned and then just sat around the rest of day. They gave us plastic utensils to eat with, to prevent anyone from

killing or harming himself or his cellmates.

Jail is not fun. Think twice before committing a crime because life is a

lot harder in jail than you might think, and I can't tell half of what I saw going on in there.

At my hearing, my attorney got me out of jail, but the judge gave me probation for two years. If I do anything wrong, I'll go right back to jail. I have to keep in contact with my probation officer too, because if I don't, they can take me back to jail for violating probation.

When you're in the system, there's no getting out, even when you finish probation. Your record sticks with you for the rest of your life.

For example, when you try to get a job, you have to say that you've been in jail. You may be an honest person and a good worker, but because you have a criminal record people look at you differently. Even if you are fortunate enough to get hired, they watch everything you do.

So this is my advice to you: don't get caught up in the justice system. Nothing good comes from it. If you make stupid mistakes when you're young, you'll pay for it the rest of your life.

# Shoplifters make everyone pay

By Barbara Lee,  
Durango HS

Shoplifting is the best way to get what you want.

Wrong! In fact, shoplifting hurts everyone more than most teens think. Often, price inflation is directly caused by the loss of products through shoplifting.

Teenagers also face the risk of being arrested and taken to a juvenile delinquent center or even jail. Although individuals do not always get sent to jail, they may face problems with their parents at home. By stealing, a person faces losing their parents' trust.

What motivates a person to shoplift?

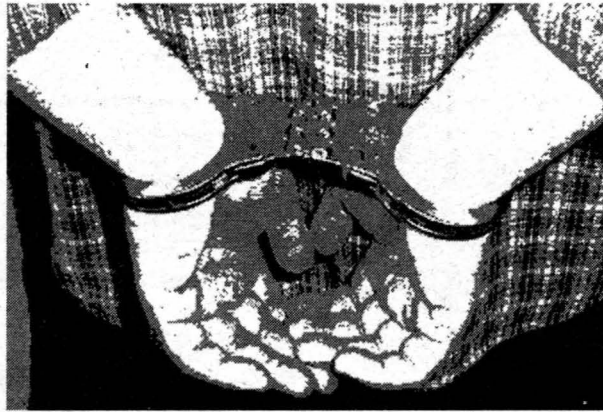
Often it can be a case of getting attention from their parents or anyone else for that matter, or even trying to seem "cool." A good example of this is Winona Ryder, a famous star who has all the money to pay for things, but decided to steal merchandise instead.

Other things can motivate a person to steal.

"I don't like paying for things when I can get them free," says one Durango High School senior.\*

Another Durango student\*

\*Name withheld



says that "stealing is wrong, but I do it anyway. If I don't have to pay for it, I don't care."

Most people know that stealing is wrong, but some do not think or care about the consequences.

Individuals who work may steal food from their work places, or even let their friends sneak into a movie for free. Taking food that would have been thrown away or letting people into a movie for which many tickets have not been sold, hurts businesses in an unseen way. Thus, the revenues lost from the sales of movie tickets have increased the price on the fee that regular customers pay.

Food and movies are not the only ways that people steal. A number of people have ways of getting free pay-per-view movies on their televisions. Others

lie about the amount of hours that they have worked.

Shoplifting is an endless cycle. People may steal because the prices are unaffordable, but the prices continue to rise because of the loss of products.

"As long as people keep steal-

ing, prices will keep rising," says Durango sophomore Sarah Casale.

Some may not see stealing as a bad thing. If a person has been ripped off by a store, they may end up thinking that it would be okay to take something back from the store. Others know they will not get caught and continue to cheat companies of their profit.

Methods used for stealing are not as incognito as teens think they may be. Long-sleeved coats, loose sleeves, double layering garments and trying them on are all techniques that store owners know to look for.

Teens may get the thrill of getting away with free merchandise, but typically have problems walking back into that same store that they stole from. Teenagers need to wake up and realize that stealing is a crime!

## Park it! Southeast region students pay up or risk RPC

By Jamie Hopster, Foothill HS

Foothill High School senior Anthony Avena exchanged his vehicle information and two dollars for a blue rectangle. The rectangle sticks easily to the left corner of his windshield and is the school's new parking pass. For the first time in three years at Foothill, Avena has to pay to park at the school.

If students don't purchase a permit, they must park off campus, or they will get RPC'd. The parking pass is new to Foothill this year as well as to every high school in the southeast region.

The pass was created for security reasons.

"Too many cars were vandalized in our parking lot last year, and we want to stop that," says Foothill Dean Gene Carpenter.

The vandalism included cars being keyed and stripped, and some people even got their hubcaps and rims stolen.

If the faculty sees a car being vandalized, they can easily know whose vehicle it is by the four-digit number on the parking pass assigned to the car. The faculty will be able to contact the vehicle owner and let him or her know what happened as

soon as possible.

Students need to pay for the parking pass because "it is a privilege to park in the school's parking lot," says Carpenter. "The passes will allow us to have more control."

The parking pass rule began this year and will continue until the school is told otherwise by the district. The money collected from the \$2 parking fee will be given to the school bank to use for parking passes for next year and for signs to go in the parking lot.

Students aren't too fond of the fee, especially the seniors who haven't had to pay to park before, but most of them aren't making a big deal about it.

"It's kind of unfair that we are forced to come to school and then forced to pay, but oh well, it's only two dollars," says Avena.

The parking pass was put into effect for many good reasons. Although it may be a little unfair, it is only two dollars, and it will last the rest of the year. Don't risk getting RPC'd; just go down to the school bank and purchase your pass to save yourself some trouble.

## Car insurance questions answered

By Troy Steadman,  
Basic HS

Everyone knows reckless teenage drivers. Not every teen drives like your aunt Alice, but males in particular seem to get the short end of the stick when it comes to paying for car insurance. A survey of some local insurance agencies shed some light on this dilemma.

"Car insurance is more for teenage boys than for teenage girls because boys are more reckless," says Tina, an employee who answers the phones at GEICO insurance company.

Yes it's true, my fellow men, we pay more because of statistics and profiling. We're reckless. Grrrr...

When two senior drivers from Basic High School, Chad Mackelprang and Ashley Brown, were asked how much they each pay for car insurance, Mackelprang stated that he pays "\$150 a month, give or take a couple of dollars." When Brown was asked the same question she commented that she pays "about \$87 per month." For all those who aren't math geniuses out there, that's a \$63 difference!

Don't get discouraged. There are ways that car insurance can be purchased for less. For example, students who get good grades often get price breaks from their insurers. Farmers Insurance Group, one of the largest insurers in the state of Nevada, offers a 15 percent discount to students who maintain a 3.0 grade point average. Yes, even for guys. That would lower Mackelprang's premium by up to \$23. For Brown, it would be a savings of \$13.

Farmers Insurance has also shown that car insurance costs can jump "up to 25 percent if the student gets into an accident," according to Kelly Peart, a secretary at a Farmers agency on Horizon Drive in Henderson.

The other way to lower the average teenager's insurance bill is very simple: get older. Usually at about 25 years of age, there is a big drop in insurance costs.

So guys, your girlfriends may be paying less for their insurance than you are now, but keep in mind some day you will catch up.

# Match your clothes to your body shape

By Lilia Garcia-Rojas, Basic HS

It's the time of the year again when guys and girls are hooking up, getting to know each other, and going to high school dances. It's the time when guys think of fun and clever ways of asking their special girls to dances, and girls start setting appointments for hair, nails and makeup. But what about the most important part of all, the dress? How do you know what kind of dress suits you?

"Sometimes its hard because dresses are either too short or too loose," says Basic High School senior Tiffany Smith.

We all have different body shapes that make us unique. We can be banana, pear, apple or strawberry-shaped. For example, you're an apple shape if your waist is bigger than your chest and hips, and a pear shape if your hips are bigger than your chest and waist.

Stephany Garcia-Rojas, a junior from Basic, says, "I love my body shape, and I think that all dresses suit me."

To help you match your body shape with the best dress for you, take the following tips and use them to your advantage. Walk into any dance feeling proud to be who you are, no matter what your shape.

## APPLE, PEAR, BANANA OR STRAWBERRY? WHICH SHAPE ARE YOU?

Here's what to wear and what to avoid!

**BANANA:** Tall, long, skinny; *Cameron Diaz* →  
**What to Wear:** Tight fitted top with A-line ballroom skirt to accentuate curves

**What to Avoid:** Stay away from empire slim cut that can make you look taller.



**STRAWBERRY:** Broad shoulders, small waist; ←*Chyna*

**What to Wear:** One-sleeve dresses or strapless gowns with an A-line cut skirt

**What to Avoid:** Avoid high halter tops that make you look buff or like you have a short neck.



**PEAR:** Curvy hips, small waist; ←*Beyoncé Knowles*

**What to Wear:** Tight fitting dress, to show off your nice curves

**What to Avoid:** Avoid loose fitting clothes that will make you lose your curves.



**APPLE:** Big bust, big hips; short or tall; *Sara Rue* →

**What to Wear:** Nice ballroom gown with scrunchy top to give nicer curves

**What to Avoid:** Stay away from baggy dresses and straight-line skirts that make you look shorter.



## Are you paying too much for J.Lo's clothes?

By Stephanie Hubbert, Basic HS

Are celebrities like Jennifer Lopez, Puffy and Nelly pulling money out of your pockets with name-brand fashion lines, but without quality of merchandise? At this very moment your closet might be sporting designer names of entertainers whose clothing lines don't live up to the hype.

Everyone knows that the clothes of the rich and famous are marketed off their names and bodies. You, on the other hand, may not be getting the same quality of attire. You might be paying a lot more for a lot less.

For females, the average J.Lo shirt ranges from \$35 to \$70, according to Jenniferlopez.com. Pants and skirts average \$50 and up. But what's the outfit without the matching \$100 and up

jacket and outerwear?

"Really, I think it's a rip off," says Leslye Acosta, a junior at Basic High School and frequent shopper. "The only people who are really going to buy their clothes are other celebrities, not teenagers. The prices are too high."

Compared to prices at the local malls in Las Vegas and Henderson, some of these designer clothes are double the cost. At Charlotte Russe, JC Penney, Wet Seal and Hot Topic a girl can purchase the same quality shirt and blouse for \$20. Pants, skirts and dresses on average range \$20-\$40, not including sale days and markdowns. Other women's fashion, like Nelly's Applebottom, Kimora Lee Simmons' Baby Phat, Eve's Fetish and Britney Spears' upcoming line, cost \$40- \$400, according to a recent poll by USA Today.



Girls may have it easier than boys. Girls' fashion is more versatile and it's hard to tell designer from knock-off with an untrained eye. For boys, there are lines like Jay-Z's RocaWear, Puffy's Sean John, Nelly's Vokal, Master P's No Limit Clothing (plus P. Miller, his signature line), Fat Joe's FJ560 and Bow Wow's Shago. Representatives of these lines say they are regarded with great respect for quality among the fashion industry and are said to provide more than just a name.

"People look at the clothes as being good clothes as opposed to being Jay-Z's line," claims CEO of RocaWear Damon Dash to USA Today. "That might have gotten their curiosity going, but you have to make quality clothes to stay in

the business."

RocaWear ranges from \$23 to \$600 for young men's apparel for ages 14-30. One of the most popular fashion lines among entertainers is Sean John by Puff Daddy, which can set you back a pretty penny, from as low as \$30 and as high as \$110, according to SeanJohn.com.

If you're interested in buying a whole wardrobe of fashions by stars, you'd better break out your piggy banks. The good part is the average teenager can afford a couple of J.Lo or Sean John threads without putting credit cards in debt or going to the poorhouse. The way you choose to dress can definitely be an expression of yourself. It's important to remember that you're paying money for the clothes you want, not the name stitched on the butt.

# Student journalists benefit from CLASS! conference

By Lindsay Congemi, Sierra Vista HS



Recently my fellow classmates and I took a trip to the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for a journalism workshop.

The workshop, presented by CLASS! Publications, was open to all high school students who are active on their newspaper staffs.

Many schools attended to learn and share techniques. Most of the schools brought newspapers from this year to share and to compare with others.

"We had so much fun, and I learned so much," says Sierra Vista High School junior Ashley Oberling. "Even though I have been in journalism for three years now, I got so much information out of the conference."

There were different workshops that each group attended. Topics such as sports writing, plagiarism, what a news story is all about, and all the different careers that are offered in the journalism field are some of the topics that were addressed.

The information given was extremely helpful and very informative. We heard from many different people who write for

the Las Vegas Sun and also some television newscasters who attended to speak to us about what they do, day in and day out.

Columnists and newscasters compared and contrasted their own jobs so that we could see the difference. We saw many awesome presentations and watched many good news segments to see how the pros do it.

"The (CLASS!) workshop was good," says Sierra Vista senior Casey Piggott. "It really taught us to work as a team and to work through all the situations that we were handed."

Those of us student journalists who attended really enjoyed the workshop, and it helped us to realize that we are not working on our school newspapers just for ourselves, but rather for the students at our schools.

The number one reason we are motivated to put a paper out every month is because we want to inform our schools and to recognize the accomplishments of the students. It is important for us to let our readers know what is going on. We want them to know what is happening in the world, and we want to know what their thoughts are as well.

With that being said, please contribute to your school newspaper. We would love for the students to be not just more ac-

tive in what gets printed in the paper, but also to be more active in school. Submit letters, poems, opinion writing or anything that you would like to see printed in your paper.

If you are thinking about pursuing a career in the journalism field, then this is your chance to gain some experience and get published. In addition, it is a great sense of accomplishment to see your work printed.

So, if you would like to inform the student body about your particular viewpoint, please contact the newspaper

staff at your school.

*Editor's Note: While some high school newspapers are produced solely by their journalism staffs, others are open to including articles from their readers. Check with your school's journalism adviser for your school's policy. As always, CLASS! welcomes articles, opinions, reviews, poetry, artwork, cartoons and photography from all high school students throughout Clark County, not just those in journalism classes. For more information, see the ad at the bottom of this page.*

## Mozart may increase brainpower

### Followers of Austrian composer still believe in his magic, 212 years after his death

By Danielle Weinstein, Basic HS

Kayla banged her head on the desk — another failed exam. She briefly remembered the night before and how her head hurt from the Metallica blasting and how her body ached for sleep as the clock struck midnight.

"Why couldn't I have studied last week?!" she thought.

Because Kayla had to retake her exam, she tried a different approach. After hearing that listening to the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart while studying could help one do better on tests, Kayla decided to try it. And wouldn't you know it, she aced it the second time around! Now is this really possible?

At some point or another, most people have heard that playing music makes you a more "well-rounded" person. A phrase most people don't hear is that listening to classical music (Mozart in particular) could possibly make you a smarter person.

According to studies done by the Music Intelligence Neural Development Institute in 1993, it may be true. Their research showed that college students who listened to Mozart's "Sonata for Two Pianos in D Major" had temporary improvement of their spatial-temporal reasoning. This enables people to excel in school studies, especially in the areas of math and science. This whole idea of Mozart improving mental capacity is called "The Mozart Effect."

"Music, as a stimulus, engages more parts of the brain than any other [stimulus]," says Basic High School Band Director Brian Downey. "It is different for every person, but the younger someone starts playing music, the better potential they have to do well in school."

Basic graduate Weston Duschen agrees. "I've tried 'The Mozart Effect' at college. I thought it worked pretty well. I think the longer you use it, the better the results, but it could differ with every person."

The effect differing with every person is right. Some people are trying to prove that it couldn't work with any person at all. Researchers at Appalachian State University redid previous experiments exactly and their results failed to show that listening to Mozart had any effect on any one person's I.Q. So is "The Mozart Effect" a fact, or is it just fiction?

"Well, I don't know," says Scott Young, a Basic freshman, "but it would make sense. I think it could make studying easier."

Chelsey Borthwick, a freshman at Basic, disagrees, saying, "I don't think it could really work. I mean, I listen to black metal music while doing my homework and I get A's."

You decide. Can some famous, dead musician really help us get better grades on our algebra midterm? Is giving up an hour of SpongeBob for studying with Mozart worth it? Maybe, maybe not; but it can't hurt to try, right?



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Submittals may be edited for AP style, grammar and space restrictions.

# CCHS offers advanced learning while maintaining high school involvement

By Natalie Minev, Community College HS



Community College High School is the only school in Las Vegas that allows students to take both high school and college courses at one of the three campuses of the Community College of Southern Nevada. Students are offered invaluable opportunities, are able to experience campus life, and can get a head start on their post-secondary education for free.

The high school is for juniors and seniors only, meaning that all CCHS students previously spent their freshmen and sophomore years at other public or private high schools. Students who apply to CCHS must fill out an application, send in their transcripts, write two to three essays, and submit two to three letters of recommendation. The student's GPA, level of classes taken prior to applying, test scores and attendance records are also taken into great consideration.

CCHS offers basic high school classes such as English, government and math. The rest of the classes a student takes are CCSN college courses, with up to twelve credits per semester paid for by the high school. In addition, certain college classes count as dual credit toward a student's high school diploma. The affordability and accessibility of college courses seems to attract many students to the school, especially those who want to start on their college education, or those who just want to experience higher-level instruction in an adult atmosphere.

"You're not a kid anymore. You're treated like an adult, especially by your college professors," says Tiffany Tien, a senior and sergeant at arms at CCHS' West Charleston campus.

Being able to take up to four college classes per semester means that half of a student's teachers may actually be professors with doctoral degrees in the subject they teach. Under the instruction of professors from all over the country with more than ten years of study in

their fields, a high school student can experience the rigorous, fast-paced demands of college work. What a regular high school class covers in a year is covered in one semester of a college class.

"You need way more self-discipline here," says CCHS-West Senior Class Representative Noel Just. "Your college professor doesn't care [if you don't turn things in]."

An agreeable schedule also makes the CCHS experience satisfactory for students. High school classes can be taken on A days (Mondays and Wednesdays) or on B days (Tuesdays and Thursdays) from 12:30 p.m. until 4:55 p.m. High school classes are also on Fridays, starting at 9 a.m. for A day students, and 12:35 p.m. for B day students. Students who are involved in after-school activities such as sports or band at their home schools can adjust their schedules to an A/B schedule, allowing them to arrive to practice on time every day.

"Almost 25 percent of our students [at the Charleston campus] have the A/B schedule," says CCHS counselor Brian Myli. "Students don't have to give up their commitments at their home schools and are still well rounded."

CCHS also has high school activities that students can get involved in, including various

clubs, National Honor Society and student council.

The high school schedule is only half of a CCHS student's week, however. Up to four college classes must also be distributed throughout the school week, often forcing students to get up earlier than noon.

"Most students take their college classes in the morning, usually starting at 8:00 a.m. or 9:30 a.m.," says Myli. "Students can't be lazy."

"It's extremely challenging balancing a high school and college schedule," says CCHS-West senior and Student Body President Josh Wattenbarger. "Sometimes I wish I could go back to my old high school. But in the end, it is really so rewarding."

All three locations of the Community College High School — the Henderson, Cheyenne and Charleston campuses — allow students from all over the city to join the program.

The unique high school and college blend seems to pay off. Upon graduation, students can leave with more than thirty college credits under their belts. More importantly, they graduate with a great experience that prepares them for the continuation of their college education as well as their entrance into the adult world.

# ATTC students score high marks at VICA conference



By Jasmin Terrazas, ATTC

Nevada's Association of SkillsUSA-VICA sponsors a leadership conference every year for its members. This year 46 students from the Area Technical Trade Center attended this conference, making ATTC the largest group there. It was held in Kings Beach, Calif. on the north shore of Lake Tahoe.

The state officers organized the conference for their members to prepare them for leadership positions and leadership roles. The conference opened with Scott Greenberg, an exceptional inspirational speaker. The members were then split up into four groups; these four groups were prearranged so that the students were able to meet and interact with different students from throughout the state. The groups were then divided into five committees: ways and means, community service, SkillsUSA champions, professional development and public relations.

Throughout the three-day conference

students learned about SkillsUSA, were instructed how to hold proper business meetings, and were taught leadership and communication skills. It was a great opportunity for the members to learn more about themselves and, as Greenberg said, "how to push yourself to the edge without falling off."

The conference also held competitions between the four teams as well as leadership competitions for selected members. Students who volunteered for the leadership competitions had the choice of participating in extemporaneous speaking, job interview, quiz bowl and prepared speeches. Two students from Quality Customer Service took second-place awards in these competitions: Jasmin Terrazas in job interview and Jazmin Franco in extemporaneous speaking.

At the end of the conference there was a dinner dance for all the members and state officers. It was a great conference overall and ended on a fun note. The SkillsUSA-VICA members arrived at the conference as amateurs and left as champions.

ATTC students garner second-place awards at Nevada SkillsUSA-VICA leadership conference.

# Teen pop artist takes morality mainstream

By Rachel Hommel, Green Valley HS



Pop is definitely not what it used to be. Just ask 17-year-old Stacie Orrico. She has hit mainstream stardom because of her talent, not because of a skimpy wardrobe.

Orrico is the newest, youngest and definitely hottest female artist to define the boundaries between pop and R&B. Recently, I was fortunate enough to set up a phone interview with this young talent while she was on tour in Florida. She not only gave me insight into her religious beliefs, but also a general idea of who Stacie Orrico really is. She is sweet, compassionate and very genuine. Although she acts older than her age, she was quite goofy on the phone, and I felt like I was talking to one of my best friends — a very sociable person to say the least.

Being around the same age, I noticed that Orrico's inspirations for many of her songs were issues I had dealt with myself. She seemed very inspired by her faith, and it became clear that family was one of the most important parts of her life.

"My faith is the biggest part of my life," says Orrico. "As a Christian, everything I deal with eventually pertains to faith because God is the center of my life. It allows me to treat people the way they want to be treated."

Orrico's career launched at the age of 12. She was a singer in her church's gospel choir and even her school's choir. Her parents were anything but the "showbiz" type and never pressured her into anything. Orrico was actually quite unsure if she even wanted a musical career, but when her brother noticed his sister's talent he soon per-

suaded her to give it a try.

"My parents made sure I wasn't too lonely on the road, yet allowed me to have the freedom I needed to be independent," Orrico says. "Any good parents would be concerned no matter how much they trusted their kid. They are 100 percent supportive."

At the age of 12, Orrico performed in a vocal competition and was soon picked up by Christian music label Forefront. While at the competition, Orrico was introduced to Roy Lott, president of Virgin Records. The minute he saw this fresh, new talent, he was interested and a year and a half later, he signed her over to Virgin Records. Two years later, she released her first CD "Genuine," which sold over 500,000 copies and was No. 1 on Billboard's Heatseekers chart.

By the time Orrico was in high school, her résumé was growing as well as her appeal. At the age of 15, she was asked to open for Destiny's Child. Her "Sweet 16" was even sweeter when she went double platinum in Japan while holding her ground in more than 11 other countries. In America, her music videos are top requests, her face is plastered on teen magazines, and her music can be heard anywhere from The Roxy in L.A. to MTV's "TRL" in New York.

## Substance and style

Sexuality is a huge part of the media and is sometimes the only thing people want to see. However, Orrico has the ability to combine looks and glamour with talent and mass appeal. She describes her style as being rather eclectic: anywhere from grungy and urban-inspired to girlie with a classy flair. Orrico admitted she is quite laid back and enjoys being comfortable. She joked that it was hard to become "glamorous" (three hours in makeup) when she



Soul sister: Stacie Orrico, 17, enjoys pop success without losing her values.

album a very strong and consistent piece of work.

Orrico states that her new song, "More Than This," is about that ultimate fulfillment in life. In her video, directed by Dave Myers, she portrays a trailer park mom, an athlete and a supermodel, to name a few. The theme is that people try so hard to be happy that they find this "fulfillment" in all the wrong places.

"Everybody goes through times when they feel empty. People can spend years striving for

things that don't really make them happy," says Orrico. "Why spend all that time and energy and realize it's not that great? With time, people will achieve that true happiness."

"Strong Enough" is a powerful track that showcases one of the most solid vocal performances on the CD. The piano is a beautiful touch that works perfectly with Orrico's soft whispering at the beginning. Although inspired by religion, many girls could relate this song to a former love. The lyrics, the piano and the music were all put together by Orrico.

## Soul sister

Orrico has been compared to such contrasting artists as Christina Aguilera, Nelly Furtado and Gwen Stefani, but Orrico's influences include Lauren Hill, Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday. Her love of soulful music is evident throughout her self-titled CD, "Stacie Orrico." Many of her R&B grooves were created by hitmakers Dallis Austin (Pink, TLC) and the Underdogs (Tyrese). She is able to not only produce soft, creamy ballads, but also funky, exuberant hits.

Orrico's voice is clear and beautiful, and there is a pure, genuine quality in her music. Her faith echoes throughout the CD like a silent melody and is very inspiring. The typical pop clichés are non-existent. Her love of music as an art form is evident as well as her soulful personality. Unlike other pop stars of the past, her voice is powerful, but not overly produced. Each song brings a new topic to the table, making the

things that don't really make them happy," says Orrico. "Why spend all that time and energy and realize it's not that great? With time, people will achieve that true happiness."

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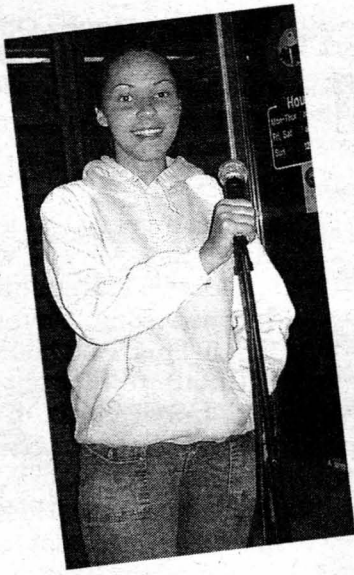
"Will my weakness for an hour/ make me suffer for a lifetime/ Is there any way to be made whole again,/ if I'm healed, renewed and find forgiveness,/ find the strength I've never had,/ will my scars ruin all God's plans?" read the lyrics of "Strong Enough."

"Security" is a cheery song celebrating new love. The music is very animated with a slew of different ranges and a sexy, fun-loving appeal. It's about the excitement of finding that love, and how the world seems brighter with that love in your life.

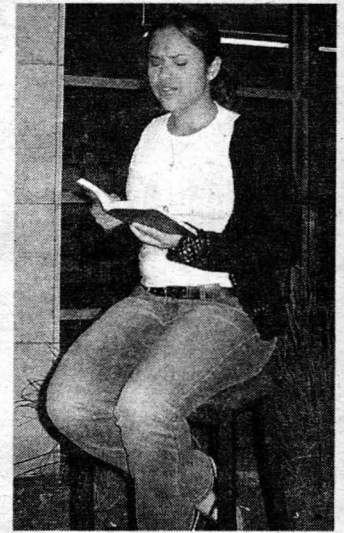
## Living the teen dream

And even this pop diva has dreams about marrying a certain rock star — what girl doesn't? Early on in Orrico's career she got a chance to share the stage with Johnny Rzeznik of the Goo Goo Dolls. She not only suffered from being star

Continued on page 32



Open Mic Night participants were (from left): Casandra Butler, Devon McGillivray and Andy Hoskins, George Theriault, and Bianca Perez.



## Paseo Verde Library's first 'Teen Open Mic Night' a success

By Stephanie Carlson, Coronado HS

Do you have anything you need to say? Do you ever wish there was just a random microphone someplace where you could perform your songs, stand-up or poetry? Did you know that now there's one nearby?

In addition to the Paseo Verde Library's new, improved and technologically advanced Teen Spot, the library is also of-

fering new programs targeted towards teens, one of which was the Open Mic Night on Oct. 21, 2003.

Held on a warm evening in the PVL courtyard, this was a perfect opportunity for many high school students to express themselves through their writing or music in a welcoming environment. Members of the Creative Writing class at Coronado High School performed original poetry they'd written.

Coronado sophomore George

Theriault presented a comedic monologue from his work-in-progress, "The Disgruntled Takeover of the Globe," a one-act play, which he hopes to someday put into production. Another Coronado student, Casandra Butler, read a heart-wrenching excerpt from her journal about a friend who had committed suicide. Bianca Perez, a senior at Coronado, dramatically performed an excerpt from her journal, as well as an original poem titled "Familiar Strangers," which was about an ended relationship.

In addition to the performances, there were also games ("Name That Poet"), drawings, prizes (candy or t-shirts, anyone?), and a rainbow of crayons to color the butcher paper tablecloths with (who doesn't love that?!).

Finishing up the night were Coronado seniors Devon McGillivray and Andy Hoskins from the local band How 'Bout

That. Hoskins and McGillivray are both skilled guitarists and talented songwriters, entertaining their small but captivated audience with original songs such as "The 6/8 Song," "Sunrise," fan-favorite "Ten Days," and the powerful and catchy ballad "I Could Die."

The Paseo Verde Library's Teen Open Mic Nights are great for any teens in the area who want to express their creativity through writing or performance, and for all those teens who just want to watch to see what their peers are doing. It's a fun night and, best of all, it's free!

"I think the Open Mic Night went really well. Everyone seemed to have fun," says PVL's Teen Specialist Amy Johnson, who plans to do more of these Open Mic Nights in the future.

For more information about PVL's teen programs, contact Johnson at the Paseo Verde Library at 492-6581. Hope to see you there!

## Miss Misery: Elliott Smith dies at age 34

By Joshua Chase, Community College HS



Leaving behind legions of fans, indie singer-songwriter Elliott Smith, 34, was found at his home on Oct. 21 with a stab wound to the chest, an apparent suicide.

Smith was born in Omaha, Neb. on Aug. 6, 1969. Raised near Dallas, he later moved to Portland, Ore. after receiving degrees in political science and philosophy from Hampshire College. In Portland, Smith formed

the punk band Heatmiser.

In 1994, Smith began his solo career with the album, "Roman Candle." His third release, "Either/Or," was released in 1997 and featured many of the songs that would later give Smith his first taste of mainstream success when filmmaker Gus Van Sant used them for his "Good Will Hunting" soundtrack. Smith's next two albums, 1998's "XO" and 2000's "Figure 8," were both released on DreamWorks Records.

For years, Smith battled depression and addiction, both of which may have spawned from a problem earlier in his life. According to his friends, Smith was a victim of child abuse, although the specifics were never made public. This year, he started the Elliott Smith Foundation for Abused Children.

Still, many of his friends say Smith was free of addiction at the time of his suicide. Last summer, he entered the Neurotransmitter Restoration Center in Beverly Hills. The process, still not approved by the FDA, includes introducing amino acids and vitamins into the body. The chemicals affect the brain in such a way that the body is no longer physically dependant on a drug, heroin in Smith's case.

Supposedly the process was a success, which just leaves more questions about the motives of Smith's suicide.

At the time of his death, Elliott Smith was in the process of making "From a Basement on the Hill," his long-awaited sixth album.

## Stacy Orrico

*Continued from page 31*

struck, but officially named Goo Goo Dolls her favorite band.

"I really don't have time to date, but I would make time for one if I wanted," says Orrico. "I'm a 17-year-old girl just enjoying traveling and these opportunities I have been lucky enough to receive. I'm willing to wait for a guy that means something!"

The last track on the album is a soft and refined ballad that brings the whole CD to a final heart-felt conclusion. The song is all about helping

and loving. It seems to epitomize Orrico's views on the world and her charitable personality.

"I want to be a good role model and just encourage, challenge and give people hope. I hope to be that person that uses their success for something good," she says. "My mentors have helped me along the way, and I hope to return that favor to others someday."

Beautiful on the inside and out, Orrico epitomizes what a singer should be. With breathtaking vocals and a smile that warms hearts, Orrico is on her way to stardom one big step at a time.



# 'Return of the King' to open in special holiday marathon

By Andrew Chang, Coronado HS

Pop the popcorn and grab some tasty treats because this holiday season theatergoers will be in full swing and jolly spirits as the final installment of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, "Return of the King," comes back into action on Dec. 17. The classic tale for the battle of Middle Earth, which began in film version two years ago, has once again cast some new light into the little hearts of hobbit fans everywhere.

The classic tale, written by J.R.R. Tolkien, with the cinematic help of director Peter Jackson, has brought about a variety of beloved characters including the ring-bearing hobbit Frodo (Elijah Wood), the care-giving warlock Gandalf (Ian McKellen), and the "precious" bipolar demon himself, Gollum/Smeagol (Andy Serkis).

In the past, each edition of the epic trilogy was shown separately over a consecutive one-year period, but now, audiences everywhere can expect to see something dramatically dif-

ferent.

In a special holiday release, "The Fellowship of the Ring" and "The Two Towers" will be shown during the first two weeks of December. On Dec. 16, in a one-time only, special-edition screening, the two films will be shown in a marathon event that will end with the premier of the trilogy's final installment, "Return of the King."



Viggo Mortensen is Aragorn.

If there are any hardcore fans out there, now is a good time to bring out the old pen and paper and jot down these simple yet impor-

tant notes. For a one-time, exclusive peek at all three movies, the only theater that is set to showcase the special screening event will be the Regal Cinemas Green Valley Ranch 10 Theater inside the Green Valley Ranch Station Casino. Even though this may be a long drive or walk for some, just keep in mind that this is the first big test for a true diehard fan.

In order to see this special preview though, tickets must be purchased in advance. For more information, call the Regal Cinemas Green Valley Ranch 10 Theater at 361-4064.

# 'Dude, Where's My Country' mocks motives behind U.S. foreign policy

By Joshua Chase, Community College HS.

Released on Oct. 7, Michael Moore's newest book, "Dude, Where's My Country," brings up many questions about the state of the nation and the motives of its leader.

With chapter titles like "Oil's Well That Ends Well," "Jesus W. Christ," and "Woo Hoo! I Got Me a Tax Cut," Moore shows that he knows how to take a serious topic, give solid information, and add a little humor. Make no mistake, though, Moore takes the issues seriously.

In "Dude, Where's My Country," Moore unleashes his arsenal of reliable sources, often citing information from the New York Times, the Washington Post, Time Magazine and others.

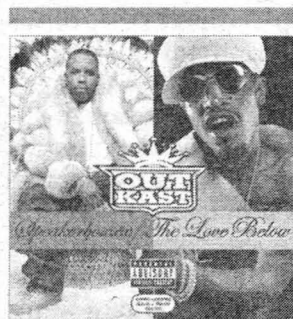
In its first chapter, titled "7 Questions for George of Arabia," Moore directly calls upon the president to answer questions about his family's ties with the Saudi Royal Family and the Bin Laden Family.

"Dude, Where's My Country" is hands down one of the best books of the year. It points out many of the problems faced in our country, but better yet, offers solutions. For those already questioning the current administration and its policies, this book is great. For those who have not yet questioned the administration, this book will definitely open your eyes.



## Sounding Off

By Caitlin McGarry, Centennial HS

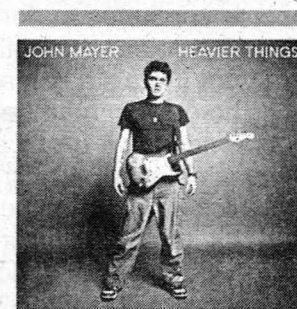


### OutKast:

#### 'Speakerboxxx/The Love Below'

OutKast is known for their fun, thoughtful and highly strange mix of beats and lyrics. Their sixth album, "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below," actually contains two discs from the band's duo — the first is Big Boi's and the second is Andre 3000's. The duo has separated their musical interests and influences and created two distinctive styles on their respective CDs. Big Boi's "Speakerboxxx" is an album about life and the issues that everyone deals with, from spirituality ("Church") to the world after Sept. 11 ("War"), and includes guest rappers like Jay-Z and Ludacris. Andre's effort, "The Love Below," is lyrically about relationships, and is musically all over the place. He collaborates with artists like Norah Jones and Kelis, but only raps with Big Boi on one track, "Roses." The fact that the two don't work together more is a slight disappointment — after all, OutKast is not two great solo artists, but one great duo. However, "Speakerboxxx" and "The Love Below" are a set of experiments worth purchasing.

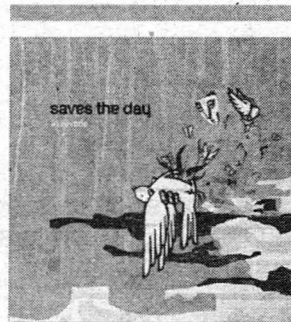
band should be used to the surprises. Saves the Day has experimented with fast punk on their debut "Can't Slow Down;" with pop punk on "Through Being Cool;" with acoustic guitars on the "I'm Sorry I'm Leaving" EP; with mellow indie rock on "Stay What You Are;" and now with pop rock on their latest album. At first listen, it's a shock. Lead singer Chris Conley's voice has gotten higher, the music is slower, and the lyrics are not as odd as usual (which isn't saying much). However, first impressions can be deceiving. The band's ever-evolving music is different from anything else out there right now, and it's genuinely good (especially "Driving in the Dark" and "Tomorrow Too Late"). So whether you're a first-time listener or a longtime fan, give "In Reverie" a chance. It will grow on you.



### John Mayer:

#### 'Heavier Things'

"Heavier Things" is an ironic title because there's nothing heavy about John Mayer's latest album. It isn't a big change from his last hit, "Room for Squares," and he maintains his signature simplicity. Mayer became famous with his mellow guitar and uniquely soft voice, and he sticks with that formula. While "Heavier Things" doesn't break any molds, it is a sweet and thoughtful album with plenty of good songs ("Split Screen Sadness," "Only Heart"). Those who are already fans will love it, and those who are into artists like the Dave Matthews Band and Jason Mraz will probably enjoy it as well.



### Saves the Day: 'In Reverie'

"In Reverie" is strange, but those who are familiar with the

# Get ready for the sights, the senses, The Sounds

By Rachel Hommel,  
Green Valley HS

Sweden's hottest import, The Sounds, is ready to take over the United States one American at a time. Their ability to combine contemporary European songwriting with strong '80s punk melodies has turned this catchy dance quintet into the superstars of tomorrow.

Hailing from Heisingborg, Sweden, The Sounds consists of Maja Ivarsson (vocals), Felix Rodriguez (guitars), Johan Bengtsson (bass), Jesper Anderberg (synthesizers) and Fredrik Nilsson (drums). Rodriguez and Bengtsson were childhood friends and when

high school approached, they decided to come together and form a group. Along for this ride was drummer Nilsson, who was also a friend of the duo. Singer Ivarsson was a former classical horn player but her love for rock music and charisma resulted in an invitation to join the mayhem.

Despite the band's influences from Blondie, Duran Duran, Kraftwerk and Ultravox, they lacked synthesizers and knew the band would be incomplete without them. Soon enough they encountered Anderberg at the Hultsfred Festival and months later named the band.

Thanks to their lack of studio experience they were able to



experiment with many different sounds and rhythms. Finally after five years as a band, they released their American debut "Living in America" in May 2003.

Although they are proud of their heritage, they share little in common with other Swedish acts that have bridged the gap to the United States (such as the Hives). The song "Living in America" is a not a political statement but ironically deals with Sweden's obsession with the States.

"We're not living in America/ but we're not sorry/ I knew there was something that we never had/ but we don't worry/ no we're not living in America/ but we're not sorry/ we don't care about the world today/ we're not sorry for you," states "Living in America."

However, Americans are crazy about the hot new imports. In this year alone, The Sounds have been on the Late Show with David Letterman, The View, Last Call with Carson Daly (filmed at The Joint in Las Vegas), The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn, MTV and MTV2. They have been published in such notable magazines as Rolling Stone, FHM, In Style, Teen Vogue, Jane and even Abercrombie and Fitch Quarterly.

Not only do The Sounds play at Hollywood hot spots such as the Viper Room, they have many fans in the business such as The Donnas and Producer Pharrell Williams of N.E.R.D. Even Dave Grohl of the Foo Fighters asked permission to wear a Sounds' shirt in the video for "Times Like These."

The Sounds are simply in a category of their own. Their freshness and vivacity make for a delectable treat of old school punk and new wave glamour. The band's lyrics are creative and kooky and the musical talent is by far years ahead of

American pop culture. The music is intimidating, yet has a certain sweetness about it, very much like lead singer Ivarsson. Her onstage presence is spectacular. She has the looks and sex appeal of Debbie Harry of Blondie with the added sassiness of The Donnas.

"I like The Sounds because Ivarsson is just so cool," says Green Valley High School senior Lori Faber. "She's so confident and sexual and in your face. She knows who she is and she's not afraid to show you that."

The synthesizers help whip the punk music into a result that is similar to bubblegum pop with an added dash of sophistication. The guitar and keyboard complement each other by adding a zing to the music. With the typical pop punk stereotype, it's a pleasant change to see musicians who are willing to take music to a higher level of art.

The song topics are similar to what a teen would find in their old diaries: love, boys, rock 'n' roll and heartbreak. However, The Sounds achieve perfection by relating these issues to adult themes. For example their song "Hit Me" is about domestic abuse, and the song "Seven Days A Week" is an ode to a friend of Ivarsson who overdosed and died. The CD takes the listener through a journey into the Swedish nightlife, while still maintaining a friendly, positive vibe. The songs are so ridiculously catchy and cheesy that it's a perfect CD for cruising in the car or dancing at a party.

Fans look up to The Sounds for their positive message, not only toward females, but also toward life in general. They are unapologetic for their actions and their music is wholeheartedly inspired by their love for music.

"We are all about the 100 percent attack," says Bengtsson on MTV.com. "We never want to give the audience room to think. That can happen afterwards. This is all about dancing and having a good time."

This band not only portrays what live music should be about, but they revive what music has lost in the past decade: individuality. With their creative, carefree nature and excitement for life, they are bound to remain in heavy rotation in the years to come. Keep your ears open for The Sounds.

## 'Cheers' to Obie Trice, Eminem for Shady's next big thing

By Jason Anderson, Foothill HS

Shady Records continues to dominate the hip-hop culture as it releases another chart-topping artist with Obie Trice's debut album "Cheers."

Introducing the newest member to the Shady family, Eminem produces a debut album that is selling at an amazing pace. With the hit song "Got Some Teeth," which includes some unique beats and hilarious lyrics, the CD is finding its way into everybody's stereo.

The album includes some of the top names in the rap game, including producer Eminem, artist of the year 50 Cent, and Lloyd Banks of G-Unit. It also includes Busta Rhymes, Timbaland, Nate Dogg, D12 and Dr. Dre.

There are a lot of great beats, bashing lyrics and hilarious lyrics. The CD also includes some more trash-talking to Ja Rule, Jermaine Dupree and Curtis Jackson.

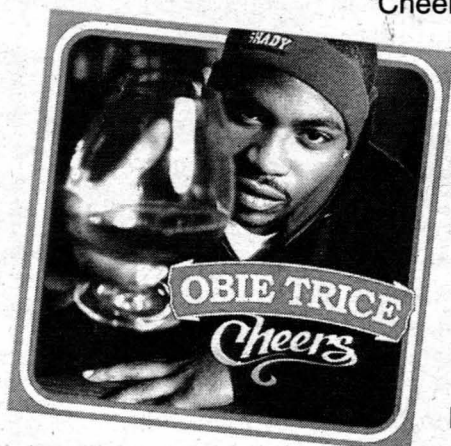
Eminem plays a Willy Wonka role in the release of the album. In the first 500 copies sold, there will be three golden tickets included. The people who discover these tickets will get to spend one day with Obie Trice and listen in as Eminem records his upcoming album.

The songs are co-written by Marshall Mathers (Eminem) and Obie Trice. There are several other writers as well, including Dr. Dre and Luis Resto.



"Cheers" is a great debut album that will most likely lead to a great career under the guidance of Eminem. My favorite song on the album is "Outro," which has Eminem, D12 and Obie Trice. Another great song is "We All Die One Day," which has Obie Trice, Lloyd Banks of G-Unit, 50 Cent, and Eminem.

There are a few slow songs on the album that are sort of boring, but other than that, this album will be one of your favorites, and you'll be singing it all day long.



# Kick back, give One More Weekend a listen

By Sydney Jensen,  
Las Vegas HS

**B**uried in the ground but not dead." These are the lyrics of a local band on the rise. One More Weekend has a little something that you might want to hear.

One More Weekend is a four-piece rock band from Las Vegas. They combine incredible instrumentals with enticing screams, reaching beyond what the average band produces and striving for something much more intense.

OMW is made up by Nick Faiella, vocals and guitar; Justin Dionisio, guitar and vocals; Pat Laundrie, bass; and Pete Kraynak, drums.

OMW is supported by a generous number of kids at all of their shows, both new faces and old. They can't stand still, watching as drummer Kraynak fiercely rips apart his drum set and guitarist Dionisio screams into the air, sending shrill goose bumps down their spines.

"There is no better feeling in the world," Dionisio explains, "than crashing the last note of a song and hearing a crowd scream."

An active street team that consists of more than 50 Las Vegas members also supports the band. Posters and signs are put up all around town, and

stickers are plastered on city light poles, letting everyone know just how badly this band needs to be heard. There are also several street team members from out of state, reaching as far as New York.

"I think they are the main reason we have exposure," says Kraynak. "The word of mouth and good word spread by everyone on the team plays a huge role. I always have people telling me, when they find out I am in One More Weekend, 'Oh, I hear about you all the time, and I see your stickers everywhere.' I love every one of them for it."

They have a constant schedule here in Las Vegas at one of the few all-ages venues, The Huntridge. With singer Faiella's emotional lyrics and Laundrie's technique, kids keep coming back for more. They have also played at Café Roma, where they recently had a show after a long stretch of touring in California.

"After our San Diego shows, between car problems and stuff falling over on stage, it's nice to relax and play at home in front of our friends and family," says Faiella. "Our last show at Roma was a lot of fun, and it was cool to see everyone hanging out again."

They have also played at Vegas' never-ending chain of closed all-ages venues: The Brickhouse, The Castle and

Tremors.

"The lack of all-ages venues has been the hardest thing to overcome," Laundrie says. "A good majority of our fan base, including our street team, can't get into bars. We always try to play all-ages shows whenever possible."

OMW also spreads their talent to California, Arizona, Utah and Idaho. They also travel around Nevada playing as far away as Reno, which has helped their fan base grow into something phenomenal.

"At this point we have been playing in Vegas so long, we see a lot of the same faces, which is so amazing," says Kraynak. "It feels like playing for family, and we know we can just have a good time and play songs for people who want to hear them."

Kraynak adds, "Playing out of town means playing for people that, most of the time, haven't heard or seen us before, so there's a certain different mood and feel for those shows."

Wherever they may be, Laundrie never fails to express his thanks to the people who have come out to the show. He tries to make them feel as welcome as possible by talking to the crowd, letting them know how great it is to be there.

OMW has also played with national acts such as Vendetta Red, whom I think plays a big

role in the way this band sees itself.

"Every time we play with them makes us realize we need to step up and go full force," Kraynak says. "Those guys bleed for each other on stage and we want to show them we can keep up with them."

They have also played with The Beautiful Mistake, Something Corporate, The Casket Lottery and Elliot.

"Bands like Elliot and Vendetta Red are so cool because they treat everyone as equals and give and get the respect they deserve," says Faiella. "There are no dirty looks or jealousy with bands like that."

One More Weekend is progressing its way to the top. The band has been featured in Billboard Live magazine and local magazine The Mercury. They were also featured in the local music issue of City Life, with guitarist Dionisio on the cover. They also had reviews in the UNR Sagebrush, a newspaper based at the University of Nevada, Reno.

For a band that was just formed in 2001, there have been many steps that they have taken to make their band as solid as possible. Take the time and give their three-song demo a quick listen, and see for yourself what all the excitement is about.



By Aleisha Turner,  
Peterson Center

**I**t seems that Las Vegas has a scene for almost everything.

I recently went to the Take Action Tour, a benefit show for 1-800-SUICIDE. The show consisted

of five post-melodic hardcore bands: This Day Forward, Throwdown, Shadows Fall, Avenged Sevenfold and Poison The Well.

Statistics show that Las Vegas has the highest teen suicide rate in the whole country, so it meant a lot to the bands that played for us. They each had something to say before they took the stage. Most of them just pleaded for us to not ever kill ourselves.

The slaughter videos playing, the straightedge kids screaming, and the slam dancers slam dancing really set the right mood. I thought the show was quite interesting.

## Go hardcore to the CORE

Since most hardcore kids have the same strong beliefs, they really make a true scene. For example, they are against the slaughtering and eating of animals, having sex, and of course, they are so true to the edge.

Straightedge is just a way of life to these kids. It means no drugs and no alcohol. They wear the sign of the X to represent themselves and what they stand for. I find it incredibly moving to see so many kids in Las Vegas who will stick to what they believe in and take it so seriously, while representing the scene. Their main anti-drug is the hardcore bands that breed the music that invented hardcore slam

dancing, which is just an extremely passionate way of dancing. It looks more like a bunch of mad kids trying to kill each other with the speed of their own hand and foot movements.

Most of the kids spent the night dancing around the pit while others were screaming back into the band's face with their fists in the air. It's something you definitely have to understand I guess. I had never seen anything like it in my life until I was introduced to hardcore over the summer. I fell in love with everything about it. I do not have all of the same beliefs as most of those kids, but I accept them for themselves, all beliefs set aside, and they show me the same respect.

Overall the show was great, the best one of the year so far. Hardcore is not a gang, cult or club. It is simply a way of passionately expressing your rage through music. Anyone who enjoys heavy, melodic, fast and aggressive hardcore music should check out a hardcore show. You just might question your own beliefs.

# Tarantino produces original, killer flick with 'Kill Bill'

By Bryan Manalang,  
Foothill HS

Before "Kill Bill: Volume 1," I'd never seen a film fully directed and produced by Quentin Tarantino. All I'd heard leading up to "Kill Bill's" release was that most of Tarantino's films featured bloody mayhem with ultra-violent fight scenes. Watching "Kill Bill," that's what I saw — bloody mayhem with ultra-violent fight scenes, but with some comedy and added spice too.

"Kill Bill" is centered on a female assassin whose actual name is not spoken, but who is referred to as "The Bride." The Bride is played by Uma Thurman, who is attacked and marked for death on her wedding day by her crime syndicate and its boss, Bill, played by David Carradine. Although she is badly injured, she survives the savage attack and is left in a coma for four years. Suddenly one day, she awakens and begins her quest for vengeance on those who betrayed her. The first target on her "death list" is Cottonmouth, a yakuza boss played by Lucy Liu, and Copperhead played by Vivica A. Fox.

The movie is one of Tarantino's best works and almost makes it seem as if Tarantino is "thinking out of the box" and capturing the effects of old-school filmmakers.



Uma Thurman exacts her revenge in "Kill Bill."

Most of his movies are either about mobsters or arms dealers; however, in "Kill Bill," he combines the western imagery we saw in old cowboy movies with martial-arts style action and ninja swashbuckling.

What that all adds up to is a female assassin seeking revenge while executing kicks and punches. The fight scenes are extremely brutal, with more blood being spilled and limbs removed than seemingly any other movie produced before it. Though the fight scenes may be violent and gory, they are almost operatic in the martial arts and swashbuckling; they are artful, expressive of the

true art of the martial-arts masters and sword saints, and the desperation of the characters.

I am a fan of the action genre and I like the violence and tools of destruction that go into every film of this type, so by default, I was hooked into the movie. Even if you aren't hooked by the action, cut-'em-up style movies, then you will be more than surprised.

"Kill Bill" also manages to add ironic, yet comical lines in the heat of the moment. Tarantino manages to mold dark humor with terror, which is another recurring theme in all of his movies. The scenery

and musical score that accompany the entire movie seem to make the movie flow smoothly and add to the adrenaline that is already going through the viewer.

"Kill Bill" shows that martial arts and sword-dueling should be more artful and expressive, and it provides a brilliant alternative to movies like "The Matrix: Reloaded" or "Mortal Kombat," both which had terrible red-herrings and delays, and fight scenes that were computer-generated and created by special effects.

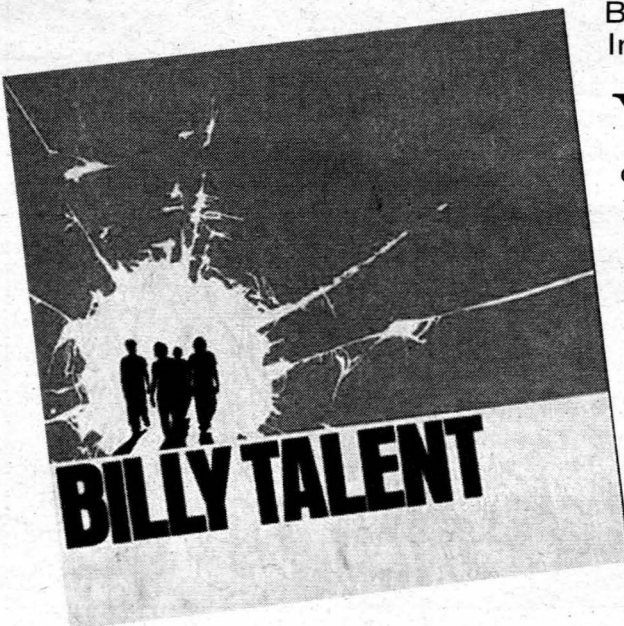
Thurman, who in my opinion was perfectly suited for the part, brilliantly performs the role of The Bride/female assassin. Thurman plays the cool and calculating heroine and her acting seemingly fits the part like a glove. The viewer will actually begin to cheer and support her plight as the movie goes on.

No doubt "Kill Bill" is by far the best action movie of 2003. The plot and storyline are very tight and well done; the action is amazing and well choreographed; the music fits in with the scenery and the casting is dead-on. When it unfortunately reached its conclusion, I was hungry for more, and more will come as "Kill Bill: Volume 2" is released in early 2004.

If this is any indication of all of Tarantino's movies, then I might as well start dishing out the greenbacks at the video store.

## Billy Talent CD debuts with fiery, inspiring intensity

By Jessica Roadhouse,  
Indian Springs, HS



You must give credit where credit is due, and Billy Talent deserves it. The Canadian punk band blends catchy beats with pure emotion to create the ultimate music experience.

Billy Talent didn't look to other bands for their inspiration; they reinvented inspiration. Each song on their self-titled, major-label debut explodes with emotion. They aren't scared to be themselves, and they aren't worried about what people will think.

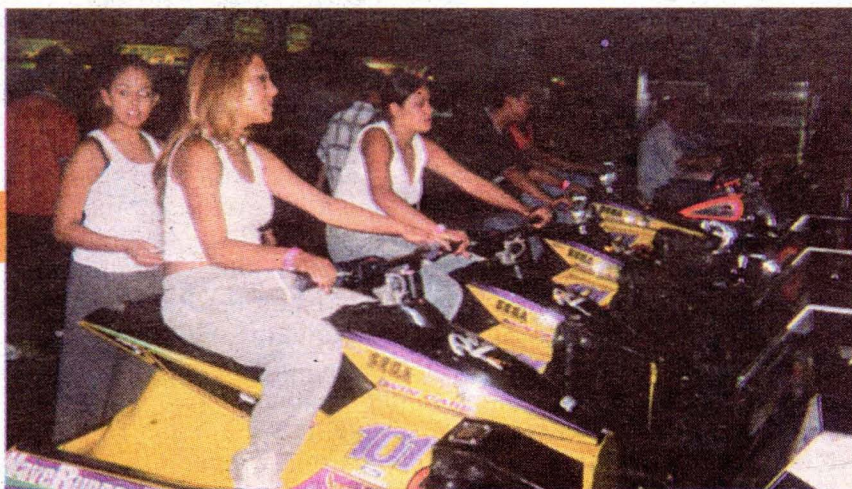
Each song tells a story. "How It Goes" is an emotional account, telling of a friend being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Feelings of rejection and teenage ridicule lace the song, "The River

Below." The lyrics may be heavy, but the music doesn't drag on sadly. Each song has a distinct beat that catches your attention and keeps it until the end of the CD. The lyrics are delivered with a fiery, intense emotion that instantly sets them apart from most bands.

"Lyrics are about imagery, telling the story, and expressing an emotion in which the music compliments the words and the words the music. My inspiration comes when I'm not comfortable, when I'm faced with situations and have to let everything out," says Benjamin Kowalewicz, the band's vocalist, on their Web site at [www.billytalent.com](http://www.billytalent.com).

With an already huge underground following, the guys can only go up from here. But unlike a lot of bands out there now, they wouldn't mind if they weren't embraced by the mainstream world.

Check them out today.



Citalli and Stephanie ride the WaveRunner at GameWorks while Theresa looks on.



Jordan Chesin voted everyday in class. He's with CLASS! writer Tiffany Yanke.

## Desert Pines survives 'High School Elimination 2' contest to win a GameWorks night

By Tiffany Yanke,  
Shadow Ridge HS

And the winner is ... Desert Pines High School! Congratulations to all the Desert Pines students who participated in radio station KLUC's High School Elimination 2 contest; they won a free night at GameWorks on Oct. 9, paid for by KLUC.

During the month of September, all high schools in southern Nevada were invited to participate in an online contest from KLUC. The rules were simple: just log on to [www.kluc.com](http://www.kluc.com), find your school and vote for it. You could only vote once a day.

At the end of each day, Bo Jaxon, one of the crazy DJs at KLUC, would tell listeners on the air which schools survived that day's voting. The private schools were eliminated first, and then one by one, the rest of the schools were eliminated.

Last year Vo-Tech was the winner, and they put up a good fight this year, too. In the end they made it to the top five, but the last two schools in the running were Shadow Ridge High School and of course, the winner, Desert Pines.

My sister, mother and I voted every day. It was really easy. Desert Pines student Jordan Chesin also voted every day in his teacher Miss Gunn's

class.

"My teacher is really cool, and she let all of us vote during class when we had time," Chesin says.

Many teachers also got involved with their students in the voting as well. My dance teacher Ms. Dooley at Shadow Ridge let some of her students vote after class also. Most students said they voted at night while they were online chatting with friends or working on homework assignments.

Many of Desert Pines students came to this "Big Party" at GameWorks on Las Vegas Blvd. All they had to do was walk up to the registration table, show their school I.D. to the KLUC staff, and they received a wristband for free game play, dancing, food, music and lots of free stuff! DJ Kekoa was upstairs spinning all the favorite music and creating a fun lightshow. The staff from KLUC was giving away CDs, T-shirts and concert tickets. There was also a dance and karaoke contest. It was a fun night for all the Desert Pines students!

A big thanks goes to KLUC for hosting this fun game of survival for the schools of southern Nevada. I think it is great when local radio stations have fun contests and events for us to participate in, and KLUC has always been doing just that. I will definitely be voting again next year in hopes that my school will make it to victory!



Seniors Christine Silipo, Chris Nelson and Erica Caire hanging together during the free night of play at GameWorks.

## Broken Hearted

By Amber Murphy,  
Burk Academic Center

My heart skipped a beat when I saw your brown eyes,  
When I felt your strong alluring stare, I was instantly hypnotized. I felt something for you that I have never felt before;  
It was a feeling that I wanted to explore.

Every time I heard your voice, my heart would melt,  
My feelings got stronger; it was like I was under a spell.  
I didn't know what to do; there was no way out.  
My feelings were too strong; I was in love without a doubt.

In love for the first time, what would I do?  
The chemistry of love was nothing I knew.  
I was kind of scared; I didn't know how long it would last.  
My heart was given to you just a little too fast.

I was getting too attached; it was like we were meant to be.  
Me with only you is something I could already see.  
I was ready to give myself to you because you already had my heart,  
But I guess I was wrong because all the problems came to a start.

I couldn't believe what was happening;  
Our relationship started to end.  
I lost all the dreams but I still feel the same,  
And you just wanted to be friends.

I had nothing left; I was empty inside.  
I gave everything; in you I really did confide.  
You still have my heart and my feelings for you,  
But there is nothing more I can do.

Why did it happen? I hate all this pain.  
If I fell in love again, I am sure I would go insane.  
I wish we could be the way we started, but I guess you let us go,  
So this is why I feel "Broken Hearted."

P.S. I fell in love with you and that's a dream come true.

## New theater construction underway

### *School welcomes new additions to performing arts*

By Jeanette Stratton,  
Basic HS

Driving down Palo Verde Road in Henderson, the first object to catch your eye is sure to be the monumental new addition currently under construction at Basic High School. Although the 3.5-million-dollar project may look like an eyesore now, in just a few short months, it is sure to be the beautiful new theater building it has been promised to be.

A far contrast to the older, smaller theater, this new addition will be spacious with a lobby complete with a concession stand and restrooms. The house itself will seat about 450 people at a time. And just what would a new theater be without new equipment?

According to BHS Principal Susan Segal, "Everything about this new theater will be completely state-of-the-art from the sound and lighting systems to the smoke machine and fly-system."

"Because of the size of the new theater, we will have more opportunities to do bigger shows," says Basic senior and Thespian Club President Gianna Imbriani.

When asked about the new addition, Assistant Principal Carl Barbeau says, "Parents and students alike will be anxious to see this new addition. And when good things happen, it has a way of snowballing."

New Basic theater teacher Stacey Churchill is also optimistic and says she is sure the new equipment will "help to bridge the gap." She also hopes this will bring new interest to the performing arts programs.

"It's going to be great!" says Basic senior and Thespian Club Secretary Chris Babine. "The shows will be better and bigger, and we promise to use [the new theater] to its fullest ability."

## Sierra Vista receives prestigious AYP Award

By Sommerly Simser,  
Sierra Vista HS

Though many schools in Clark County are dealing with the recently released No Child Left Behind watch list, Sierra Vista High School received the Adequate Yearly Progress Achievement award. In fact, Sierra Vista was the only school in the southwest region to meet the goals set forth by the NCLB law.

The AYP measurement is a compilation of safety measures and testing score standards. Sierra Vista had a low number of suspensions and expulsions, which met AYP safety goals.

The tests administered through the NCLB law are designed to collectively assess the level of education of each student. This information determines the areas where improvement is needed. Because of the ever-changing criteria, this creates a new challenge

each year. It is further complicated by the fact that the southwest region is continually growing and our student body will continue to change.

Our administrative faculty came up with a plan to test over a two-week period during required classes such as social survey for freshmen, Health/Driver's Ed and Careers for sophomores and Junior Studies for juniors.

Because students didn't have to cram testing into two days and they could still attend their core classes, testing was a much easier and relaxing process this year.

"These classes have helped us to reach our targets," says Sierra Vista Assistant Principal Zane Gray.

"Block scheduling and having a full lunch instead of a nutrition break has helped to keep students focused," says Sierra Vista Assistant Principal Kim

Friel. "Also the fact that our students take testing seriously makes a major impact on their high scores, which is what students need to do."

Just because you don't receive a grade for testing doesn't mean that these tests aren't important. When students don't try hard on testing and schools don't meet the goals set forth, the school is placed on a watch list and has two years to improve.

After two years if the school hasn't improved in the needed areas, parents have the choice of moving their child to a different school. Not only does the school lose that student, but they also will have to pay for the transportation to the new school if the student needs it, tapping already limited funds.

So, next time you sit down to test, don't blow it off as if it doesn't matter, because it really does.

## School receives new energy source

By Harmoni La Huillier,  
Sierra Vista HS

Environmentalists everywhere tell us the earth is running out of nonrenewable resources.

Studies have shown that the world's caches of fossil fuels, one of our main sources of energy and a leading cause of pollution, will run out in the next 100 years. The alarming amounts of carbon dioxide found in the earth's atmosphere are thought to be caused by burning fossil fuels.

What are people doing about these problems, or are they doing anything at all? Sierra Vista High School is taking a step toward solving this problem with the installation of the first wind-powered generator at a Clark County high school.

The Free Energy Store is awarding Sierra Vista High School with an alternative energy supplier, powered by wind. This will not only cut back significantly on the school's electric bills, but there are many other advantages also.

For one, the wind generator is what people call "green en-



A wind generator will provide lost-cost energy.

ergy." It uses natural resources that will never run out. The sun, water and wind are some of these resources. By using green energy, resources that cannot renew themselves are not used, and no pollution is caused. Secondly, Nevada Power grants facilities that use alternative power supplies a rebate.

Also, this interesting machine will serve as an object for many science classes to observe and to perform experiments.

"It's a win-win situation," says Sierra Vista Assistant Principal Zane Gray. "We receive it for free, and it cuts back

on our costs."

It is expected that the wind generator will be installed in a few weeks. The site will be behind the softball field. The generator will tower 40 feet above the ground. With a good wind, the device can provide 80 percent of the energy needed to power a small business.

The Free Energy Store makes other machines that provide power using green energy. Some of these products are solar panels that reflect UV rays, solar water heating units that collect heat and direct it to pools, and devices that reduce heat coming into your home in the summer and stop it from escaping in the winter.

"We believe that our homes, offices and grounds can actually be put to work to make living in the desert less expensive, more comfortable, responsible and healthier," say representatives of the Free Energy Store.

Sierra Vista is proud to be the first high school in the district to be the home of this smart alternative. With our example, perhaps other schools and businesses will see the hundreds of advantages to green energy.

# Performance enhancers do more harm than good

By Eric Alder, Mojave HS

**M**any high school athletes strive to be the best in their sports; whether it's for the fame, fun, or chance at athletic scholarships for college, winning is important. But there's a line that can be crossed when achieving those goals. The line is performance enhancers such as anabolic steroids.

In 2000, the rates of steroid use reported among boys in grades 8, 10 and 12 were 2.2



percent, 3.6 percent and 2.5 percent. For girls in the same grades, the rates of use were 1.0 percent, 0.8 percent and 0.9 percent. Using performance enhancers puts athletes at more than just the risk of harming themselves. Us-

age can keep them from being allowed to participate in their high school's athletics, and it can keep them from receiving that college scholarship they wanted so badly.

In a recent CNN report, a study at the Mayo Clinic asked local high school athletes whether they used creatine, a legal supplement that may enhance muscle growth in athletes who lift weights. Researchers found that eight percent of the 328 boys and girls who took part in the study used creatine, including some as young as age 14.

"Where I suspect I am seeing signs of steroid use is during screening physicals for junior college teams," says Aynsley Smith, Ph.D., of Mayo Clinic's Sports Medicine Center on CNN.com. "Many of those players are hoping they'll still catch on at a four-year school. They look ripped, and I see lots of stretch marks, but not like

they've been working hard in the gym."

Performance enhancers like steroids can have harmful, if not fatal, effects on the body. Stunted growth, failure to perform sexually and severe mood swings are just a small portion of the list.

"I've never really thought of using steroids. I've known people who have and yeah, it made them big, but it made them dumb as well," says Mojave High School senior Kyle Avance, a member of the Mojave varsity football team.

Daniel McGhie, another Mojave senior, says he has known of kids at Mojave who have actually used steroids, and he says he's done all that he can to avoid them.

"I don't think steroids actually help people perform better," Avance says. "It just looks like they can."



## Break out the snowboards! Winter in Vegas means riding the waves

By Barbara Kaminsky, Coronado HS

**H**ave you ever surfed a never-ending winter wave down a snow-covered mountain? If you are not a snowboarder, you probably have not. Snowboarding was created by borrowing skills from surfing and skateboarding.

In order to snowboard, you need a board, bindings and boots, as well as the right clothing. There are three basic board types: freestyle, carving and free-ride. Freestyle boards are the shortest and widest of the snowboards and make turning and carrying out tricks easy. Carving boards are longer and stiffer than freestyle boards and are made to travel in one direction. Most free-ride boards fall in between freestyle and carving boards in stiffness, length, turning ability, and how well they perform. They are all about five feet long and attach to your feet. Bindings that give support and added power on turns are located on the backs of the attachments behind the heels.

To make sure you do not get frostbite, it is a good idea to pile on layers of clothes. I suggest an inside layer for heat and dampness, a middle layer for insulation, and an outer layer for wind and to keep snow from getting inside.

Unlike skiers, who move their weight from one ski to the other, snowboarders shift their weight from heels to toes as well as from one end of the board to the other. When snowboarders change their weight to the nose (front of the board), the board heads downhill. When snowboarders change their weight to the tail (back of the board), they head uphill or slow down. Pushing the back foot forward or pulling it backward to change direction achieves fast speed. To stop, they push their heels or toes down hard to dig the board into the snow.

Most winter resorts have special areas for snowboarding known as half-pipes and snowboard parks. A half-pipe is a long, deep ditch dug in the snow and shaped like a pipe cut in half along its length. Riders "fall in" the pipe, using the walls of the hole to fly into the air and perform a range of jumps and spins. Snowboard parks consist of easy to medium-difficulty slopes with a mixture of bumps, jumps, holes and other extreme depths that riders use for jumping, getting air and doing tricks.

Next time you want to float or glide through fresh, powdered snow and then pull off a spin into the air, just be careful to watch what you are doing. There is so much to snowboarding that if it is going to be your first time this winter, you should consider taking a lesson or two from an instructor.

Take your bod and your board up to Lee Canyon this winter and grab some big air.

# Life on the line: Football linemen deserve more respect

By Cameron Fielder,  
Foothill HS

He is truly a modern-day warrior. As he steps to the line, his heart skips a beat. Sweat slowly dribbles from his wet hair into his worn eyes, causing him to feel a slight sting. His enemy, straight ahead of him, growls and tries to intimidate him as he patiently awaits his leader's battle cry. At the third sound, he rushes toward his adversary. They collide, hold, and he begins driving his foe back, all the while yelling at the top of his lungs. He finally stops at the sound of a whistle, only to go back and do it all over again.

After a long game, win or lose, linemen don't get the respect that they deserve, even though they have some of the hardest jobs, both offensively and defensively, in sports. Linemen are the most underrated players in the NFL and in sports in general. If a poll asked 1,000 people if they could name five NFL linemen, only about 100 probably could! It's sad because most people can name at least five quarterbacks off the tops of their heads with more to spare.

I'm not dissing the quarterback; he is the most important player without a doubt. However, can a Q.B. drop into the pocket if there is no pocket? Can a running back find a hole if there is no hole?

"The quarterback would be killed without us and he knows it," says Foothill High School junior varsity guard Spenser

Dewees with a sigh of frustration. Dewees was injured during the JV game against Centennial High School.

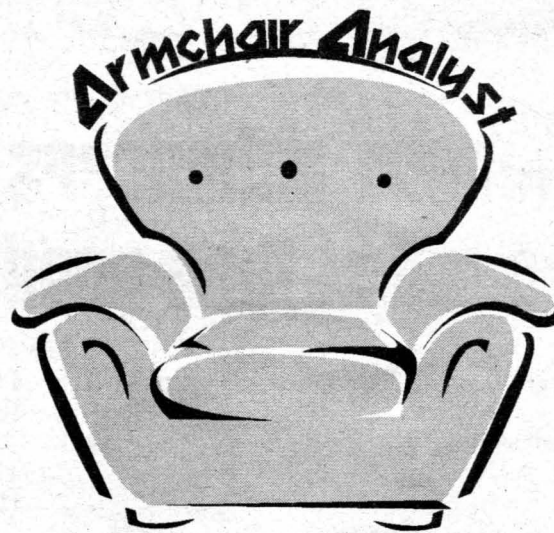
"No one said being a lineman wasn't dangerous," Dewees says, pointing to his broken hip. "Sometimes you get knocked around, and sometimes you're the one doing the knocking around. It all depends on how determined you are."

Maybe the biggest reason for the media's lack of respect for linemen is that linemen don't handle the ball. Every once in a while, a lineman intercepts the ball or picks up a fumble, and that lineman, for the first time, gets real recognition. One lineman who has received media accolades is Warren Sapp, who plays for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Sapp leads one of the NFL's best defenses and gets as much media time as any quarterback out there. He raises brows on and off the field.

Quarterbacks, however, aren't oblivious to linemen and their job's importance. Some quarterbacks have been known to take their offensive linemen out to dinner.

"I would too if they were my only protection," says Foothill JV lineman Brandon Patti.

Unfortunately, the future looks dim for linemen. Unless more players like Sapp emerge, the headlines will be for quarterbacks, running backs and wide receivers who, so flushed with arrogance, carry Sharpies in their shoes to sign touchdown balls and give them to their agents to sell.



## From Kobe to QBs, a quick look at pro sports

By Matt Blunk, Sierra Vista HS



June 30, 2003. The Lodge & Spa at Cordillera—**Kobe Bryant** makes a bonehead decision, and it changes the way fans view him; it changes the way the Los Angeles Lakers view their game plan; and it changes Bryant's life forever.

The media had previously portrayed Bryant as a spectacular basketball player and a noble hero. Comparisons to legendary **Michael Jordan** were made. Now, all that has changed. While Bryant may be a good person at heart, this one mistake will affect him for life. He claims to be guilty only of adultery, but the Colorado district attorney claims he is guilty of rape. No matter what, he is guilty of ruining his own image as a hero to young kids and NBA hopefuls.

The NHL is the most underrated sports league in the country. Much like soccer, hockey is believed to be secondary to the likes of football and baseball. People don't respect the **Joe Sakics** or the **Mike Modanos** as they do the **Derek Jeters** or the **Marshall Faulks**.

This isn't right. In my opinion, all athletes are equal; some excel in one area, and some in another. Besides, tell me watching a fast-paced NHL game isn't fun.

There is much uncertainty in the NFL right now. Posterboy Atlanta Falcons Quarterback **Michael Vick** has missed the first chunk of the season, but will likely return sometime in December. The often-injured and less-effective St. Louis Rams Running back **Marshall Faulk** will never return to his 1999 form. Philadelphia Eagles Quarterback **Donovan McNabb** hasn't played up to his full potential so far this season. So who can step up and be the league's most exciting player? My pick would be either the technically sound Tennessee Titans Quarterback **Steve McNair** or Kansas City Chiefs Running back **Priest Holmes**. Both are the best at their respective positions this year, and both have a style of play that livens up the game and makes things thrilling.

Want more uncertainty? Try the New England Patriots. They go from getting embarrassed by Buffalo in Week One, 31-0, to pounding the Eagles, 31-10, the week after, then losing to a weak Washington Redskin team a couple weeks later. I'm having a hard time figuring this team out. However, a couple of things I am certain about: the Dallas Cowboys have a chance in a weak NFC East and the Minnesota Vikings, led by a **Randy Moss** who wants to play, are for real.





**DECEMBER**

**Through Jan. 30**

Selected public art projects completed through the City of Las Vegas Arts Commission's Art in Public Places Program. City Hall Bridge Gallery, 400 E. Stewart, 2nd floor. Free admission. 229-4674.

**Dec. 11**

Holiday Havoc 2003, featuring Jane's Addiction, Static X and Smile Empty Soul. The Orleans Arena, 4500 W. Tropicana Ave. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$35. All ages. 284-7777.

**Dec. 12**

Super Joint Ritual in concert with Devildriver. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 6:45 p.m. Tickets \$15. All ages. 632-7600.

**CLASS!** publishes only calendar items of possible interest to teenagers.

*To submit calendar items, send the details by e-mail, mail or fax:*

**E-mail:**  
classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu

**Mail:** UNLV, Box 451025  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025

**Fax:** (702) 895-1505

**Dec. 13**

In Like 20 in concert with Far Away and False Verdict. Doggystyle, 4440 S. Maryland Pkwy. 9 p.m. Tickets \$3. All ages. 732-2011.

**Dec. 13**

Miss Nevada USA and Miss Teen USA Pageant. UNLV's Judy Bayley Theater. 7 p.m. Tickets \$10. 895-ARTS (3827).

**Dec. 13-14**

Little Shop of Horrors. The musical fun begins when a down-and-out skid row floral assistant discovers an exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St. 2 p.m. Tickets \$7 adults, \$5 teens, \$3 children 12 and under. 229-6383.

**Dec. 17**


Make-N-Take Craft. Decorate a holiday candle for someone you love, or be selfish and keep it for yourself. Paseo Verde Library, 280 S. Green Valley Pkwy. 4 p.m. 492-6581.

**Dec. 18**

UNLV Runnin' Rebels basketball, Northern Arizona vs. UNLV. Thomas and Mack Center. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$10-\$26. 739-FANS (3267).

Rainbow Company Youth Theatre

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**



**December 5-14**

*Continued on page 42*

Rose Redd

By David Torres, Peterson Center

Roses that are red wither, die and shred  
They fall upon the zombie's head  
And lead you toward the immortal rose of bed  
No longer struggle, plea or fight  
Bid farewell to living plight  
Close Thine eyes and tilt thy head  
And bid farewell to morning light  
When lambs are lost in winter's frost  
And wolves not far behind  
Know that zombie's love knows no cost  
For sanity pays no mind  
Your cries inane  
You feel no pain  
The world is never kind  
So as morning dew graces thy head  
It's warning you of roses dead  
For no destiny shall you find  
So as you walk upon the winding path  
Bare and naked bore your feet  
You stalk the zombie's blinding wrath  
For rare is the lore of immortal reap  
Yet souls bound to the earth  
Know the sound of rebirth  
And shall hound the blood you seek  
Truth sees your eyes  
You know the night's lies  
Yet humanity lingers and wrecks  
For insanity continues to speak  
In ears of the gods  
You conquer the odds  
A feast of mortal coil hath fed  
You lie in the somber rose of bed  
For no longer do roses wither, die or shred

Who Would Have Thought This Is How We Would End

By Aleisha Turner, Peterson Center

If I take this fall alone, I'm not sure I will have the strength to pick myself up again,  
And carry on because this is not the first time, and I can't help but wonder if the falling will ever end.  
Can you find loyalty in one true friend?  
Could you ever break the hearts that haven't yet had time to mend?  
Could you really feel the breaks but not the bends?  
Steal the trust from the ones who would have loved you until the end.  
I've learned my lessons for the day.  
One being that we have to learn to accept the goodbyes we will never have a chance to say.  
When two beings that lust can destroy the best of any friendship and get in the way,  
This life is really too long to live.  
So get used to being stabbed in the back on and on and again.  
In this lifetime, realize that you are your only trustworthy friend,  
And the ones whom we choose true colors will eventually shine bright and reveal every lie that has been told in the end.  
But I swear I'll somehow be okay, try it again, live to see better days and choose better friends.  
Better just make sure to have your own back because we all die alone in the end.

open mic

## Grading system changes

Continued from page 5

Roberts says that the problem with trying to make all grades consistent is that not all teachers teach the same way.

"I think that teaching is an autonomous job where you have that opportunity to get off onto topics [outside the lesson] if you want," she says.

"How would you ever give an essay?" she asks. "Technically, you couldn't if you were going to have total consistency because you could look at an essay and I could look at an essay, and we could both come up with different grades. It should be within a five-point range, but you could give it an 85 percent, and I could give it a 90 percent, and that could make a

big difference in the end on what your grade was."

Roberts says that the idea of consistency is an argument that does not go very far in education.

"I would hate to see the day when every teacher and student was on the same page in every school in the district, let alone in the country," she says. "You might as well just have a talking head up there, you know, something on TV, where, for example, [one teacher] would teach all of the government classes in the country. All you would have to do is press a button to turn it on."

While some students will be affected by the changes to the grading system and some won't, everyone will just have to wait to see how, and whether, the system works.

## calendar

Continued from page 41

### Dec. 19

Poet's Corner. Hosted by Keith Brantley and Pendelita Toney, the series features established poets and open mic participants. West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 7 p.m. Free admission. 229-4800.

Downtown Cultural Series: The Tenors 3 and Divine Divas return for their annual holiday performance, which includes arias, carols and holiday tunes. Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, 333 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 1 p.m. Free admission. 229-1088.

Celebrate with Desert Spring Chorale, Sierra Vista Choir, Guest Soloists and the DSA Orchestra as they perform selections of Handel's "Messiah" and Pergolesi's "Magnificent." Desert Spring United Methodist Church, 120 N. Pavilion Center Dr. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 general admission, \$7 seniors, disabled and children under 12. 256-5933.

### Dec. 20

Old Time Barn Dance. Callers and live fiddlin' music for square dancing, mixers, contras waltzes and polkas. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St. Tickets \$6 adults, \$3 students. 229-6383.

Las Vegas Showdown college basketball tournament. Alabama vs. Oregon and Auburn vs. UNLV. Thomas and Mack Center. 7 p.m.

and 9:30 p.m. Tickets \$22-\$28. 739-FANS(3267).

### Dec. 27

Kwanzaa Celebration. Take a musical journey to celebrate the spirit and principle of discovering and cultivating the gifts within ourselves. West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 3 p.m. Free admission. 229-4800.

### Dec. 28

UNLV Runnin' Rebels basketball, Bradley vs. UNLV. Thomas and Mack Center. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$10-\$26. 739-FANS(3267)

### Dec. 30

UNLV Runnin' Rebels basketball, Montana vs. UNLV. Thomas and Mack Center. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$10-\$26. 739-FANS(3267).

### Dec. 31

GameWorks, Cox Media and 98.5 KLUC present the 3rd Annual Noon Year's Eve. GameWorks, 3785 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Three hours of game play for only \$15. 432-4263.

### Jan. 7

UNLV Runnin' Rebels basketball, Occidental vs. UNLV. Thomas and Mack Center. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$10-\$26. 739-FANS(3267).

### Jan. 9

"The Disappearance of Angela Day" Mystery Game. Is Angela a runaway, or the victim of a crime? Paseo Verde Library, 280 S. Green Valley Pkwy. Registration required. 6:30 p.m. 492-6581.

# Scholarships

## Illustrators of the Future

### Scholarship

Contact:

www.writersofthefuture.com

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: Jan. 1

Requirements: Artists are welcome to apply for this scholarship. Applicant must submit one entry, which is considered to be three black and white works illustrating a science fiction or fantasy story with no recurring theme. Entry may not have been previously published.

## Discover Card Tribute Award

### Scholarships

Contact:

www.discoverfinancial.com

Amount: \$2,500

Deadline: Jan. 9

Requirements: High school students in their junior years as of Sept. 2003, who have at least a 2.75 GPA at the end of 10th grade, may apply for this award. Applicants should be able to demonstrate achievement in Special Talents, Leadership and Community Service and should be able to show how he or she has faced a significant roadblock or challenge.

## San Francisco Foundation

### James Duval/Phelan Award

Contact: www.free-4u.com

Amount: \$4,000

Deadline: Jan. 15

Requirements: Applicant must be a resident of Nevada and majoring in drama/theatre, secondary education, English, humanities or literature.

## National Peace Essay Contest

Contact: www.usip.org/ed/npec

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: Jan. 22

Requirements: Applicants in grades 9-12 must select two cases where post-conflict reconstruction was undertaken, at least one of which should be post-Cold War, and write a 1,500-word essay on the topic.

## DuPont Challenge Science Essay

### Awards Program

Contact: www.glcomm.com/dupont

Amount: \$1,500

Deadline: Jan. 28

Requirements: Applicant must

write a 700 to 1,000-word essay discussing a scientific or technological development, event, or theory that has captured your interest and attention.

## 6th Annual National High School

### Poetry Contest

Contact: www.geocities.com/diet-lps/contestrules

Amount: \$1,500

Deadline: Jan. 31

Requirements: All U.S. high school students are eligible. Applicant must write a poem 20 lines or less that is unpublished, the sole work of the entrant, and not entered in any other concurrent contest.

## The Vegetarian Resource

### Group

Contact: www.vrg.org/student/scholar.htm

Amount: \$5,000

Deadline: Feb. 20

Requirements: High school seniors who have promoted vegetarianism in their schools and/or communities may apply. Vegetarians do not eat meat, fish or fowl. The application must also include a copy of transcripts, three or more recommendations, and any documentation related to your promotion of vegetarianism in high school.

## SportsToSchool.com

### Scholarship

Contact:

www.sportstoschool.com

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: Feb. 20

Requirements: High school students in grades 9-12 as of 2003-2004 can apply. Applicants must participate in athletics and wish to pursue their sport(s) in college.

## American Meteorological

### Society Industry Minority

### Scholarship

Contact: www.ametsoc.org

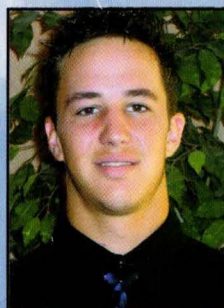
Amount: \$3,000

Deadline: Feb. 21

Requirements: Senior minority students who plan to pursue careers in the atmospheric or related oceanic and hydrologic sciences. Applicant must submit transcript, recommendation letters, and a copy of SAT or similar national college entrance exam scores.

# NEVADA POWER COMPANY

## Students of the Month



**Josh Webster, Senior  
Desert Pines HS**

"Josh Webster is the type of student that every principal loves to have on campus," says Desert Pines High School Principal Roger Jacks. "Josh is quick to volunteer for any school activity that raises academics, promotes Jaguar pride, or improves the quality of life for students."

Josh Webster is captain and starting quarterback of Desert Pines' varsity football team. He also participated last year on the NIAA All-Academic football team. He is an ambassador for the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference, as well as a nominee for the Wendy's High School Heisman. He has even been a member of his school's student council and the National Honor Society for the past three years.

Academically, Webster has managed to maintain straight As since freshman year and keep a 4.0 GPA. He has also been on the National Honor Roll. Webster has been looking at Harvard, Columbia and Brown Universities as a few of his college possibilities.



**Tara Staley, Senior  
Sierra Vista HS**

"Tara is an outstanding young lady and an incredible student with tremendous potential. She is so effervescent, and her quality as a person is wonderful," says Sierra Vista High School Principal Amil Wozniak.

Tara Staley is a model example for her peers. She is the student body president of SVHS, and participates actively on the student council. She is also a very accomplished swimmer. She is on her high school's swim team, as well as being a dedicated member of the Desert Storms, a swim team outside of her school.

Even with her busy schedule, Staley maintains a 3.7 GPA, and has chosen to attend Colorado State University, which awarded her a scholarship. She plans on majoring in broadcast communications to become a news anchor.



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### You Said You'd Never Need Them



Remember back in grade school when you started learning about capital letters? You said you'd never need that stuff and it was all common sense anyway. Is it? Let's find out.

One of the things employers expect is for employees to be able to write notes, memos and letters. If you don't know when to capitalize, spelling won't help much.

How much do you remember? Rewrite the following sentences. Capitalize when necessary. If it's all common sense, you should get 100 percent correct.

1. ms. Smith stopped by aunt grace's house last Monday.
2. the Christmas display in fountain square park looks great this year.
3. i applied for 5 jobs at the wilshumer employment agency.
4. we just got back from seeing the movie, how to lose a guy in 10 days.
5. will you please fax the copy of my u.s. passport to judge lewis?
6. have you ever gotten your oil changed at the quickey lube?
7. it's so warm it feels like the first day of spring.
8. do you think you're going to get the graphic design job over at the obq company?

See the answers below:

1. Ms. Smith stopped by Aunt Grace's house last Monday.
2. The Christmas display in Fountain Square Park looks great this year.
3. I applied for 5 jobs at the Wilshumer Employment Agency.
4. We just got back from seeing the movie, How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days.
5. Will you please fax the copy of my U.S. passport to Judge Lewis?
6. Have you ever gotten your oil changed at Quickey Lube?
7. It's so warm it feels like the first day of spring.
8. Do you think you're going to get the graphic design job over at the OBQ Company?

(c) Job Jargon. February 2003

### This month's featured jobs:

#### Sales Associate

Many different positions are available. Applicants must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible. Job Number: 7823

#### Chiropractor Assistant

If you are interested in assisting a doctor with patients, this may be the job for you. General office work is needed, and bilingual skills are a plus. Workdays are Monday-Saturday, with flexible hours, totaling to 30 hours per week. The wage is \$6.50 per hour. Job Number: 7825

#### Customer Service

Outgoing, positive customer service representative wanted to greet customers and cashier. Must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Two schedules are available, 1 p.m.-8 p.m. and 3 p.m.-8 p.m. Workdays are Monday-Sunday. The wage is \$6.50 per hour. Job Number: 7826

#### Office Helper

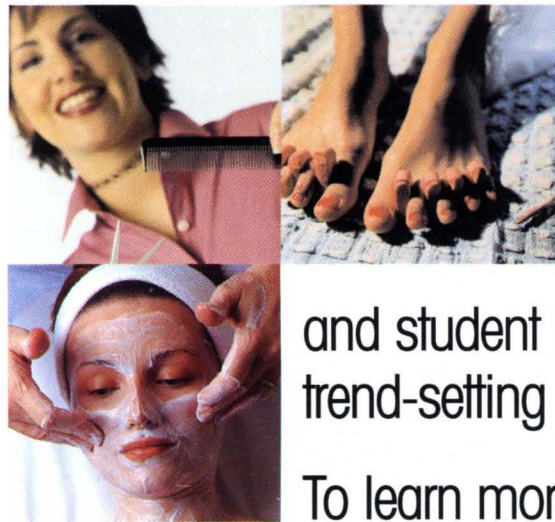
Assistant needed to clean-up files, move files into binders and perform other work. Must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 16 hours per week. The wage is \$6.50 per hour. Job Number: 7827

#### Warehouse Worker

If you are interested in performing miscellaneous duties, including restocking and folding, this may be the job for you. Must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays are Monday-Friday from 3 p.m.-7 p.m., totaling 20 hours per week. The wage is \$6.90 per hour. Job Number: 7828

**For more information about these jobs, or to view the entire list of available job opportunities, contact the work experience coordinator at your school, or call the CCSD Job Bank at 799-8461.**

# Finally, a **B.A.** you can use: **Beauty Arts.**



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