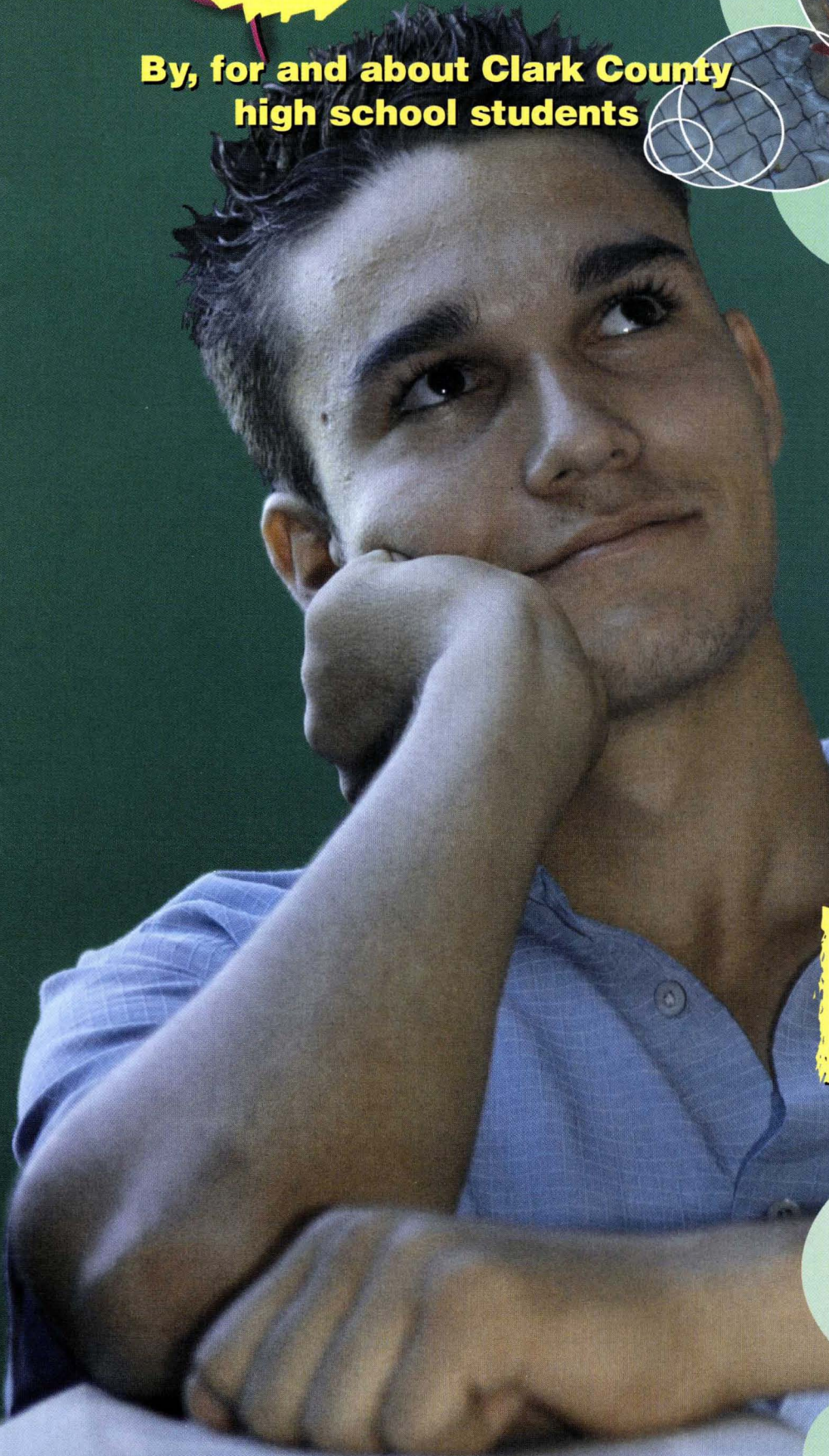
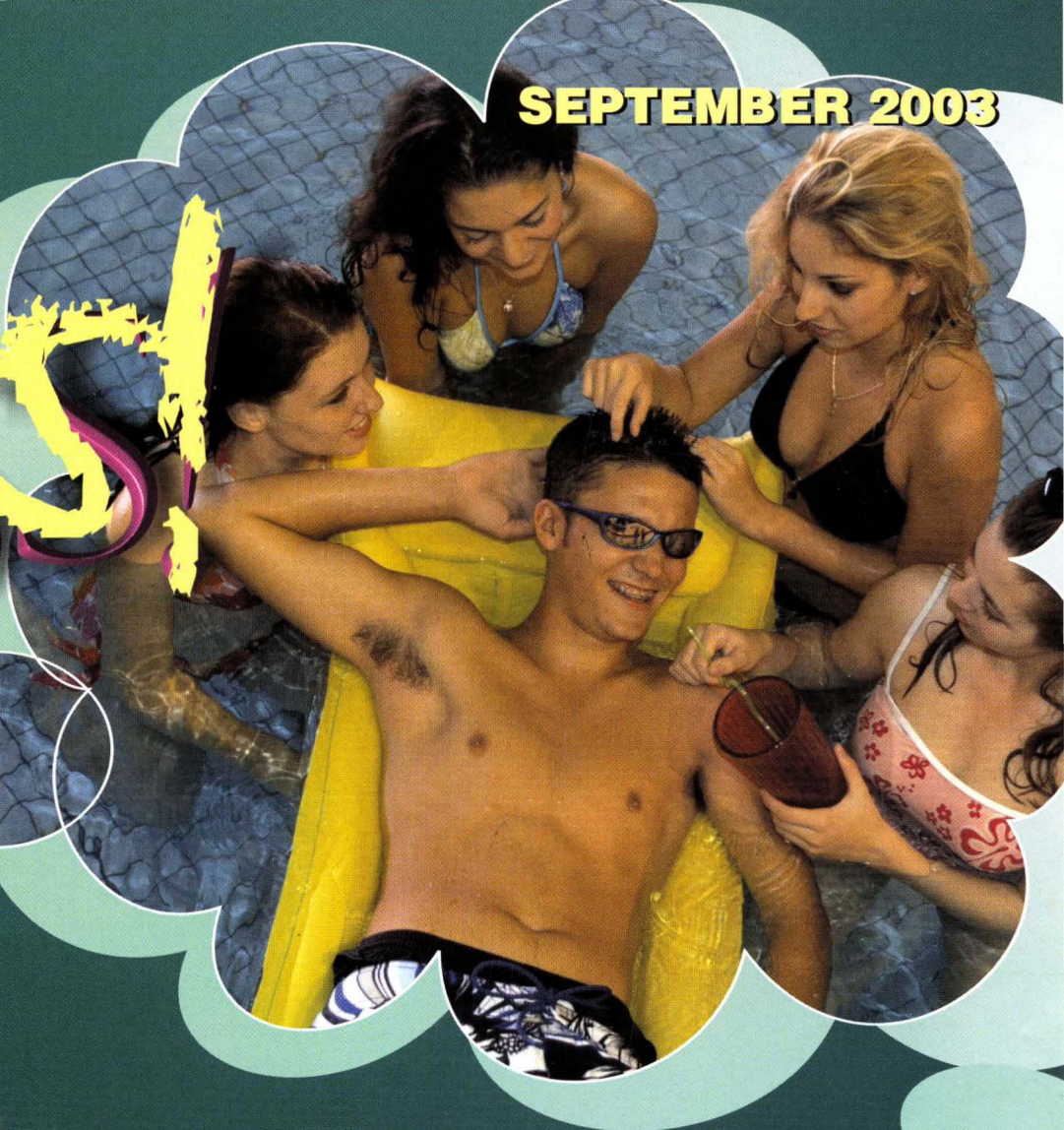


SEPTEMBER 2003

# GLASS!

By, for and about Clark County  
high school students



## READY OR NOT

Glad to be back?  
Or is summer  
fun still on  
your mind?



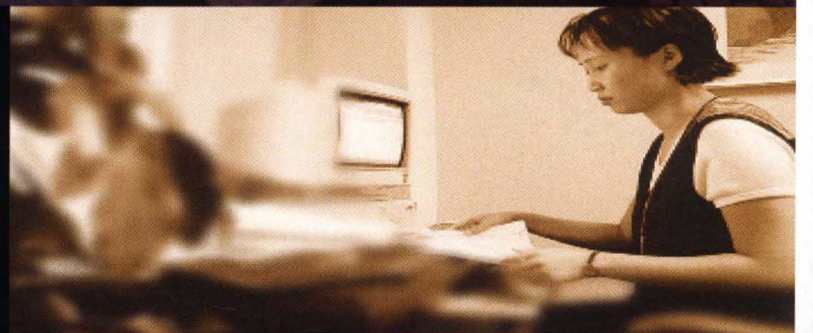


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School has started? Already? But I haven't read the fifth Harry Potter book yet, and I still haven't seen "Pirates of the Caribbean." I didn't even make it to the beach once!

It seems like just yesterday that teens were hanging out poolside with their friends and gossiping at the mall. Now you're all knee-deep in textbooks and school supplies. If you think you're the only one whom the school year has snuck up on, think again. Teens all over the valley are struggling with the introduction of new schedules and new demands on their time. If you're in this category, read on! We have all the information you need to make a smooth transition from summer to school.

The first thing you need to know is that others are sharing your shock. You already gathered that from our cover photo, but check out Marlo Starr's article on page 8 as she recounts years of disappointing fall semesters. Taking the opposite view, also on page 8, is Josh Chase, who has multiple reasons for welcoming the new school year.

There are stories to help you cope from Rachel Hommel's time management article on page 5 to Sydney Alford's story on page 36 about trying to stay focused in class. We've got tips for the latest fashions, including Micala Hall's handmade handbags (see page 30). Be sure to check out your horoscope on page 16 to see what the start of the school year has in store for you!

We've also included plenty of information on activities for you to pursue in those glorious moments when you're not cramming, from new music to books that have nothing to do with studying.

So while you're buckling down and getting serious about new classes and experiences, remember to find some time for fun and enjoy your teenage years. Be sure to write about your experiences and send them in. Using your voice in your community is the best way for teens across the county to connect with each other!

Have a fabulous school year!

*Allie Smith*

Allie Smith  
Editor/Executive Director  
www.classmag.com



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**back to school**



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**On Our Cover ...**

Centennial HS freshman Robert Hartman daydreams about his summer. His fantasy girls are Kelly Corcoran, Palo Verde HS, Tiffany Yanke, Shadow Ridge HS, Chanel Herren, Centennial HS and Stephanie Hartman, Centennial HS. Special thanks to the YMCA of Southern Nevada for the use of their facilities.

# CLASS!

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## back to school

# Shadow Ridge, Liberty High Schools open this year

By Natalie Minev, Community College HS



Opening in the north-west region this school year, Shadow Ridge High School has much to be proud of for its first year. Several different things make it unique from any other school in the valley.

With almost 1,800 students coming in from several different schools, including Centennial and Mojave High Schools, as well as incoming freshmen from Lied and Cram Middle Schools, Shadow Ridge will only have freshmen, sophomores and juniors, but no seniors. The class of 2005 will be the first to graduate. The school will also start with about 75 teachers on its staff.

When Shadow Ridge High School first started recruiting high school students from other schools during the last school year, some controversy broke out

when students and parents were reluctant to change schools. However, Principal Cathy Andrews explained that all it took was some communication between Shadow Ridge and the students to help smooth out the wrinkles.

"During pre-registration time, we visited students, met with parents and answered questions," says Andrews. "When they found out that Shadow Ridge offered the same classes and sports as their old schools, they felt better about it."

Shadow Ridge is also unique in that it is starting an earth science honors program, and for a great reason. Adjacent to the school lies a 90-acre archeological dig, and it will be open to science classes, providing a rare, direct scientific experience for the students. The school was also given a \$150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to help further its projects in the science field.

Students will have eight periods, and all basic high school classes are being offered, in-

cluding electives, languages and AP classes. NJROTC is not offered, but Principal Andrews says that Shadow Ridge has recently applied to include it in the curriculum in the future.

The school is located off Decatur Blvd. at 5050 Brent Lane, and the Shadow Ridge mascot is the mustang, with navy blue and tan as the school colors.

Joining Shadow Ridge as CCSD's newest high schools, Liberty High School could very well become the most unique high school in the valley; its education program is unmatched. The curriculum of the school is based on classical studies, incorporating ancient Greek and Roman history into classes, and emphasizing a sense of family unity on the school campus.

The idea was that of Principal Emilio Fernandez, who firmly believes that students should learn the history and teachings of the classical period. However, not many students in America are able to obtain knowledge of classics un-

## Summer's gone, but is it forgotten?

See our special section beginning on page 9.



less they attend elite, private schools. What makes Liberty High School so exceptional, Fernandez says, is the fact that it is a public school that teaches the ideals of the classical period to all its students.

"There are few public schools in our country that offer classical studies," Fernandez says. "Liberty High School is not a magnet school; it is a public school that offers basic high school classes, with the theme of classics incorporated into the curriculum."

Liberty High School will also be very patriotic, hanging American flags and pictures of bald eagles and the Statue of Liberty throughout the school. Fernandez, who came from Cuba with his family to the United States searching for freedom, is proud to have a school that pays tribute to America.

Starting off with about 1,100 students, there will be 55 sports teams. Liberty's mascot is the Patriot, and school colors are those of the American flag.

All the teachers at LHS have some knowledge or background in classic-related topics, and there are two Latin teachers. A method of teaching called Paideia is used to blend the classical teachings into the normal course of study in the most effective way for students.

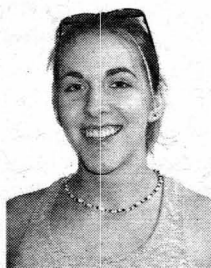
"I was attracted to Liberty when I found out that it's a classical arts/Latin-based high school," says Liberty sophomore Juan Carrillo, who attended Coronado High School last year. "I also knew that this would be a great school because of its commitment to unity."

The theme of Liberty High School goes beyond the classroom. A familial unity is encouraged between students, teachers and all staff members. This includes what Fernandez calls a "campus wardrobe." Students are expected to wear khaki-colored bottoms and red, white, or blue solid-colored tops throughout the academic year. The same type of school spirit dress code could be found on college campuses throughout the United States, which is what inspired the idea.

"You go to UNLV, you go to Yale, you go to USC, and you see the students wearing their school colors," Fernandez says. "I want people to drive by our school, not even look at the sign, but look at the kids and say, 'That's the Liberty family.'"

## Beat the clock with time management strategies

By Rachel Hommel,  
Green Valley  
HS



**T**ime flies when you're having fun. Although this cliché may be true, why does it seem that life in general seems to fly by at an electrifying speed? Aren't humans supposed to stop and smell the roses? Well, it may be hard to do that at the rate people are going.

In high school, sometimes it feels like students just don't have enough time in a day. Not only do students have to worry about school, but they also are confronted daily with family problems and social activities that take up just as much or even more time than school work. With only 168 hours in a week, students need to learn to make the most of their time.

### If you fail to plan, you plan to fail

In order to be prepared for the unplanned, a student must be organized and keep him or herself together. Organization is by far the ultimate way to save hours of precious time. Not being able to find homework, losing money and forgetting important appointments can all be avoided by organizing and planning ahead.

"I usually struggle with finishing homework due to my after-school activities, so I have a timed agenda for everything," says Chaparral High School junior Ashley Jacober. "Time management is definitely important because I tend to procrastinate, and it certainly doesn't make things easier."

With such things now as palm pilots and planners, there shouldn't be a problem with getting organized. Ultimately, a calendar might have been the most remarkable invention to date. Not only can teens keep track of events going on, but they also are able to plan ahead. It might be scary for some, but planning ahead is a great way to make the most of time. It may even be wise to make a "master" schedule for the entire year, kind of like an overview of what is needed to succeed.

"I actually feel more organized when I'm not organized," says Ian Cruz, a junior from Bishop Gorman High School. "I tend to forget where things are because I'm not used to being an organized person, so I usually don't have a set schedule. If I want to do my homework at night, then I will; if I want to procrastinate and do it at the last minute, then I'll do that, too."

However, he adds, "I understand I'm not going to be a teen forever, and I can't use my laziness as an excuse."

### Too busy to procrastinate

Another huge problem with teenagers is procrastination. It seems as if everybody is running away from the responsibilities placed upon him or her. As young adults, we sometimes use the "I don't care" approach. Not only does that anger adults, but it achieves nothing. So instead of writing that research paper at midnight the night before it's due, write it a few weeks in advance, so you have time to edit and revise. And if a student "must" procrastinate, at least write it when you get home after you've had your fun!

"I'm pretty good at finishing things on time, if not early," says Bishop Gorman sophomore Michelle Abbate. "I like getting things out of the way because it just makes high school less stressful. I try to give myself enough time to finish things that need to be done without having to rush."

High school is all about the social scene. Whether it's a game, concert or party, teenagers love to be out and about. But sometimes it goes too far. For example, when teens stay out on a Saturday until the wee hours of night, it not only makes them sleep longer the next day, but can also lead to crankiness and irritability. A student will not be able to do their homework properly and they will be wasting valuable hours of the day that could be spent doing something productive. If students indulge themselves and waste time on trivial activities, they are only making it more difficult for themselves.

*Continued on page 6*

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# 'Yikes, I'm in high school!'

## CCHS senior offers words of wisdom to new freshmen

By Natalie Minev, Community College HS

So many stories that have to do with freshmen start with the infamous, "On my first day of school, I couldn't find any of my classes and I was so scared." I also found it daunting to look for all six of my classes on my first day of high school, but everyone gets accustomed to finding their classes within a week. There is some advice that would have been useful to me in my freshman year though, and I'd like to share it with you.

Freshmen, you have something ahead of you that many upper-classmen wish they had: a chance to begin again. No matter how well or badly you did in junior high, academically or otherwise, high school is your chance to start off with a clean slate, and it's so important that you take advantage of this opportunity.

I can't emphasize enough how crucial it is to make the best of the education that is given to you in high school. Make the effort to learn, to do well, and to open up your mind to things you didn't know before. Don't be lazy when it comes to schoolwork, don't procrastinate, and don't let your mind go out to lunch. Sleeping in class and staring at the wall the whole period doesn't make school easier. Really focus and try to get yourself interested in what is being taught, even if it is geometry!

Don't worry so much about appearances, clothes, nice hair, popularity and cliques. That's just the gloss of high school that will melt away once you enter into the real world. Socializing is great, and having friends is awesome, but make sure the friends you have are the ones that are bringing out the very best in you. Don't be surprised if some friendships drift apart; it'll happen. You'll be able to find friends who have the same interests as you, which will make your high school experience all the more enjoyable.

Get involved and personalize your schedule to your own interests. If you like sports, try out for the team. If you love music, join band. If you enjoy reading, hit the school library. Being able to do an activity that you like and can look forward to makes it so much easier to wake up for school in the morning.

Advising you to stay away from drugs and alcohol shouldn't even be necessary, but I guess it will be around and you obviously should avoid it. Keep your mind and body as sharp and sound as possible. Don't give in to the peer pressure that so many kids give in to just to be "cool." These stupid activities only hold you back from excelling to your full potential.

High school is whatever you make of it. You can make it incredibly enjoyable or dreadfully boring; it's up to you! Have fun, and may the next four years be your best yet.

## Strategies

*Continued from page 5*

"There were many times last year when I chose to hang out with my friends rather than use that time for school work," says Jacober. "I have to admit, I spend much more time on social events than I do on school work."

### Perfectly crazy

There is a flip side to procrastination. Working too hard may be just as time-consuming as not working at all. A student may waste time by putting things off, but he or she can also waste time by overdoing things. People are only capable of doing so many

things. When that limit is pushed, it leads to extreme levels of stress and irritability. It can lead to panic disorders and even nervous breakdowns.

Some teens tend to take too many responsibilities into their own hands. Many students not only work to help support their families, but are also tied down with honors classes and maybe even several extracurricular activities. Students should know that the whole world is not depending on them. If they can't do something, teens may feel they are letting others down. Students should only do something because they want to do it. If parents are putting too much pressure on their kids, the kids need

to let the parents know when they are in over their heads.

Studying is another aspect of adolescence that needs to be taken in stride. Some students have to spend hours cramming while others need only a few short study sessions. So, which one's better? It all depends on the student; however, doctors have suggested that it's wise to take study breaks. Research usually doesn't sink in all at once. This is why many teachers suggest reading over material every night. That way, come test day, a student isn't scrambling to memorize all the notes. Students just need to pace themselves. Some professionals suggest listening to your "inner rhythms." Your body should be able to tell you when you are doing too much.

Keeping a clear head is a key factor in time management. By stressing over petty situations and "freaking out," nothing will ever be accomplished. As mentioned before, putting off events because you don't want to think about them leads to years of wasted time in the long run. Students need to realize that not everything is the end of the world, and there are far more serious problems out there.

However, with the stress of getting into college, it may be hard to feel that getting a bad grade is not the end of the world. Yet, if students look at a situation from the right perspective, they may start to realize what needs to be fixed and what may not be fixable. Teenagers spend too much time worrying about being perfect when great is good enough. Don't be a perfectionist!

### First things first

Knowing what you want is an important aspect of managing time. By looking at the pros and cons, it gives students a visual way of figuring out what they want to achieve through their decisions. Keeping a list of goals is crucial in a time when students have so much going on. If goals are met, students may start to notice how much they are achieving and want to do even better. Teens are not robots. They can't possibly do every task put in front of them. One way to solve this problem is by deciding ahead of time what tasks can be left undone or put to the side. Although this may sound like procrastination, it's logic.

For example, if a student has a big test to study for the next day,

**For more great time management tips, check out "Organizing from the Inside Out for Teens" by Julie Morgenstern and her 17-year-old daughter, Jessi Morgenstern-Colon. On the Web, you can find lots of great time-management advice at [www.time-management-guide.com](http://www.time-management-guide.com).**

that should be his or her main priority. Many times students will get all their homework done first, and then realize they're tired and want to go to bed. Research has shown that for every hour of studying done in daylight hours, it will take one-and-a-half hours to do the same task at night.

"Starting homework while it's still fresh in your mind is a great way to get more done. The earlier the better," says Kelly Teemer, a Green Valley High School junior.

In addition, interruptions are a common way to lose time. A phone call from a friend can set a student back hours, not to mention cause the complete loss of focus on whatever task he or she was doing at the time. During the week, it should be about school — homework, reading and studying. Weekends are the fun times. It's absolutely insane to go out when a student knows he or she has a test the next day.

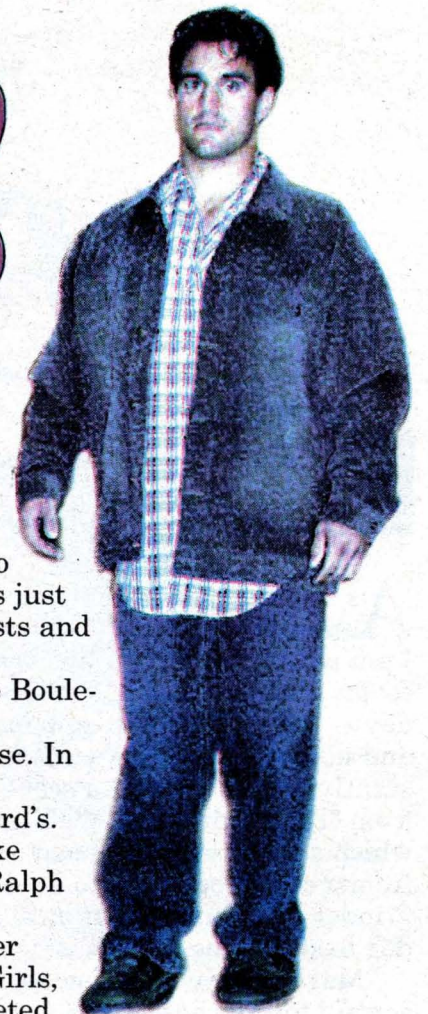
No matter what, it's the students who ultimately decide how they want to manage their time. They may or may not waste it, but they need to realize the consequences of their decisions on their own. If the outcome is unappealing, then they may finally realize that they need to change.

"I remember last year I had to write 100 note cards with facts on them for a research paper, and I waited until the night before," says Cruz. "Not only did I stay up past midnight frantically writing, I learned never to procrastinate like that again."

Summer is over and the days of laziness have to be put to rest. Teens have an abundance of activities and little time to do them. It's commonly believed that each of us wastes two to three hours a day. That's why we invented something called prioritization. Luckily, there are hundreds of ways to manage time, and the new school year is a perfect time to start fresh. Get ready to beat the clock! Tick, tock, tick, tock.

# PERSONALIZE!

By Jennifer Carlton, Chaparral HS



As we go back to school, along with getting pens, pencils, backpacks and all the other supplies for the year, one thing on everyone's mind is clothes. What kind of a statement will you make this school year?

People are often thrown into categories by the clothes they wear. There are punks, preps, skaters or divas. So it is difficult to say, "This is the style and everyone is wearing it" because that is just not the case. But as far as what is trendy, there are fashion musts and fashion faux pas.

I attended "The Scene," a back-to-school fashion show at the Boulevard Mall, to see what is trendy for the new school year.

The first series of clothes were modeled from Charlotte Russe. In this store, you see the trendy, preppy look.

Another great place to find all the styles you want is Dillard's. Whether it is that baggy rapper look you find with brands like Ecko, Sean John or Phat Farm, or that clean, fresh look of Ralph Lauren or Tommy, you'll find it all at Dillard's.

Guys: the look is baggy. Girls: the look is tight. Whether you're into baggy or tight, cargo pants are very popular. Girls, with cargo pants, wear a netted shirt. This look is completed by a chain, cami-patterned or cargo belt.

Plaid is back. Plaid pants (also look good with a netted shirt) and plaid skirts are very cute. You may want to try taking the least dominant color in the skirt/pants and accent it with a solid shirt of the same color. If

you're wearing a skirt, top that look off with a pair of knee-high boots. You can find the cutest plaid looks at Wet Seal.

Everyone looks good in leather. Leather is always a classic look, and whatever your style — skater, punk, prep or diva — leather helps to complete any look.

"The Scene" recommended Wilson's as the place to get leather. This season, Wilson's Italian lamb leather is a hot item.

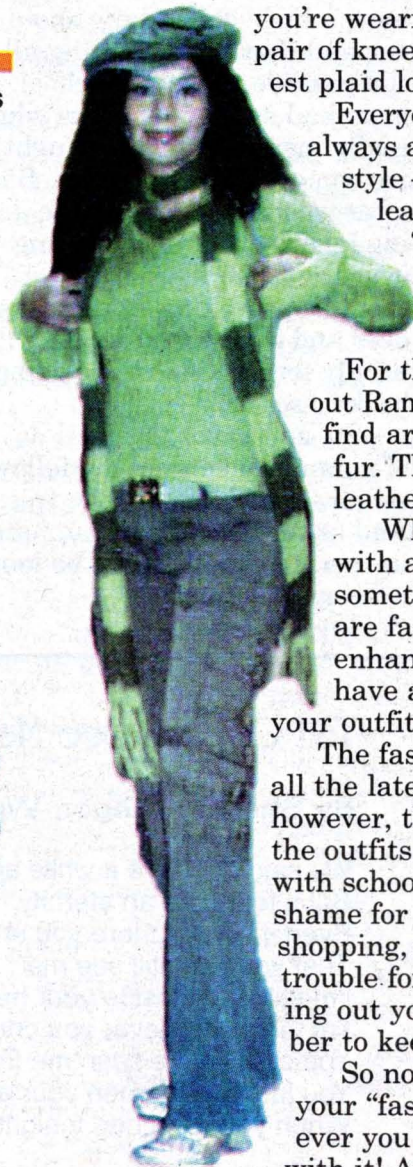
For the more sophisticated look, check out Rampage. This is a store where you'll find argyle sweaters, pinstripes and faux fur. The sophisticated look is like leather, always classic and always in.

Whatever your outfit, complete it with a belt. Belts are more than just something to keep your pants up — they are fashion accessories. They can really enhance an outfit. And girls, always have a matching handbag to finish off your outfit.

The fashion show was a great place to see all the latest fashions for back to school; however, they can be misleading. Many of the outfits would not have been in keeping with school district dress code. It would be a shame for someone to do all his or her school shopping, only to find they would get in trouble for wearing the clothes. When picking out your fashions for this year, remember to keep them within the dress code.

So no matter how you plan on making your "fashion statement" this year, whatever you want your style to be, have fun with it! And make it comfortable for you.

Though caps and teeny minis are *verboten* in school, your look can be stylin' with help from fashion trendsetters like No Fear, Anchor Blue and the Wild Side.



# double talk



## Hello, school daze

By Marlo Starr, Community College HS

As the summer dwindles to an end and school starts up, I am reminded of the way classrooms always smell on the first day — a weird mixture of paper and new clothing. The scent instantly brings to mind a scene from “Pink Floyd: The Wall” in which students are dropped from a conveyor belt into a grinder and churned out as a dog food-like meat.

Maybe I’m just feeling resentful for all those lost autumn days that I would have preferred sitting outside in the grass but was instead trapped in class listening to the same grammar lesson that I had learned every year since the eighth grade.

However, looking back, I realize that I have spent the majority of my life being a number in the American public education system. Since kindergarten, I have been shaped and conditioned by this societal institution, being prepared for the “real world.” Yet, instead of being taught to be an independent thinker who questions her environment, I have been taught to sit down and shut up in order to make the grade.

And then there’s high school: the great American

caste system, where you are judged by your manner of clothing and overall outward appearance rather than the content of your character. It is the place where girls are taught that they need to be pretty and boys to be aggressive in order to succeed, where male teacher’s eyes may wander down their students’ blouses, where sex is casual, love is temporary, drama is pervasive, expectations are low, and talk is cheap (but maybe that’s because we’re too full of rote information to have anything to say.)

I know that it sounds like I have a huge chip on my shoulder and that I am ignoring all the positive aspects of school. I have had several teachers who really inspired me and taught me something worthwhile. But after wasting so much time doing busy work and rehashing over the same less-than-thought-provoking information over and over again, I can hardly feel anxious to be going back to school.

So, as I savor the final days of summer, I remind my fellow seniors that soon we’ll be free. And as for the rest of you, hang in there, fellas. It won’t be long until next summer.



## Bye-bye, summertime blues

By Joshua Chase, Community College HS

**“Overall, I’d have to say that a lack of money is the worst part about the summer. The more spare time I have on my hands, the more time I spend throwing away my money.”**

Well, school just began a few days ago and I feel like I’m alone. Not in some depressing, teenage-angst kind of way. It’s just that I’m actually glad to be back in school, and I don’t know of anybody, except parents, who feels the same way. I didn’t even realize it was so close until a few weeks ago when I heard a “Back-to-School sale” commercial for some clothing store.

When it finally hit me that the summer would be ending, I didn’t feel the usual disappointment. I guess my first reason is the fact that this is my last

year in high school. Not that I didn’t enjoy school, but it’s nice to be finally transitioning into the next phase of my life.

My next reason for welcoming the school year is the heat. I absolutely cannot stand heat. I’ve lived in this town all of my life and can still never get used to the summer. I know that climate and school are not directly related, but the beginning of the school year seems to keep my mind preoccupied, as well as mark the beginning of fall. As long as school is here, I know that the temperature is soon to decrease.

And finally, the number one reason that I can’t wait for the school year is: I am absolutely sick and tired of my paychecks not lasting more than a week. Overall, I’d have to say that a lack of money is the worst part about the summer. The more spare time I have on my hands, the more time I spend throwing away my money. At least now that school is in, I’ll be spending a lot of time in the classroom: a place where my money stays in my wallet.

So bring on the books, pens, teachers and tests because I, for one, am ready for this summer to end.

open mic



## You Can Still See Me

By Shaun Krueger, Western HS

We said goodbye a while ago,  
But it feels like an eternity.  
Even if I’m not there you should know,  
That you can still see me.  
I’m still deep inside your heart,  
I’m there whenever you cry.  
You could have seen me from the start,  
You just had to open your eyes.  
When you lie in bed tonight,

I’ll be lying right next to you,  
So know that it will be all right,  
Know that our love will always feel like brand new.  
You can see me when you daydream,  
You’ll see me all over the place.  
I’ll be following you all over it will seem,  
And my love will always be right in front of your face.  
Even on your loneliest nights,  
When comfort and safety are what you need,  
Please know that everything will be all right,  
And know that you can still see me.

Dedicated to Danielle





# Aloha from Hawaii!

## Centennial NJROTC cadets learn skills, earn honors in paradise

By Stephanie Hartman, Centennial HS

Traveling across the country with Centennial's Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps was amazing. You can imagine my disbelief as I stood in the center of Oahu's main airport in Honolulu, awaiting 16 days packed with a combination of fun, hard work and leadership training.

It was a nonstop, six-hour flight on Hawaiian Airlines, but the long trip had no affect on the building excitement of the 12 students and three chaperones as they entered an island considered to be paradise. From June 13 to June 27, 2003, we would be creating an ocean of memories.

Many one-way streets and several lost vehicles later, we situated ourselves in our hotel rooms. Shortly thereafter, we went to Waikiki Beach and were an audience for a wonderful performance by the Hawaiian National Guard. As though expressing the apprehension of the weeks to come, fireworks concluded the evening, symbolizing a threshold leading from inexperienced novices to experienced and confident leaders.

The next day, we were set and ready to visit the Dole Pineapple factory: home of the world's largest maze. The taste of pineapple and ice cream was well worth scrambling through the maze around tall shrubs and getting lost in the overbearing humidity. That afternoon we traveled to Waimea Bay where every student dove into clear blue water off a cliff forty feet in the air. The exhilaration, adventure, and especially the adrenaline made the moment exciting.

On our final morning of freedom, before we would be released to Marine drill instructors, we drove to Hanauma Bay for a snorkeling experience I will never forget. While snorkeling, swimmers were able to



view the coral reef and assorted fish, close enough to touch. The water was crystal clear and surprisingly warm at 80 degrees.

Shortly after, we arrived at the naval base and established ourselves in Smedley Hall, our home for the next 13 days.

My first day at the Leadership Academy consisted of the issuing of clothes, finding a room and getting acquainted with my roommates — nothing too stressful. Everything was wonderful, until we met our Marine Drill Instructors. They got right down to business, marching us two miles to dine at the Silver Dolphin Bistro, a chow hall. The 106 cadets in the Academy would become very familiar with this dining facility as we ate there day in and day out.

As the days passed, a routine was established: reveille, form for breakfast, physical fitness, attend a class, take a test, eat lunch, go back to class, take a test, go to dinner, clean your room, shower, and finally lights out. If you were one of the unlucky students, you had two to three hours less to sleep as you carried out night watch duties.

We did have a two-hour time frame when we could clean, study or enjoy the company of the other cadets outside. A snack bar was set up, and if you bought a candy bar for a dollar, you would get a free water bottle.

Although it may appear to be a light schedule, it was rigorous. The students were split into four platoons and were constantly competing. The drill instructors pushed cadets to their physical and mental limits.

By the end of the first week, we had been canoeing, learning

the parts of a sailboat, sailing and hiking Diamond Head Volcano.

To graduate the Academy, cadets had to pass a sailing test, do well in their classes, create an exhibition and pass a physical fitness test consisting of sit-ups, push-ups and a 1.5-mile run.

The Academy also took cadets to the swap meet, and then we toured the USS Missouri and the USS Arizona Memorials located in Pearl Harbor. Seeing the sky so clear and empty made it hard to believe that just half a century earlier it was filled with airplanes, never-ending clouds of black smoke and fire.

Every minute was accounted for. We lived by the moment, sometimes not knowing what was coming next. After a few night watches, I became a sleep-deprived cadet, which led me to appreciate the little things in life, for instance, the 10-minute naps some instructors would give us at the end of class.

Despite the lack of sleep, there was never a shortage of food or water. There were three square meals a day and water bottle refill breaks all the time.

In the final days of the Leadership Academy, students prepared for graduation. Everyone learned the manual of the sword as well as the 16-count manual of arms using an M-1 drill rifle.

Graduation took place on the football field of Radford High School. Everyone performed his or her exhibitions, a

pass-in-review took place and awards were distributed.

The Distinguished Cadet Awards were given out to the following students from Centennial High School: Greg Emry, Academic Achievement; Stephanie Hartman, Outstanding Military Achievement; Kenneth Hynes, Outstanding Male Athlete; and Megan McCleary, Delta Platoon Honor Cadet.

Distinguished Graduates of the Hawaii Leadership Academy, graduating in the top 10 percent of their class from Centennial High School were: Ike Igwe, Stephanie Hartman, Kenneth Hynes, Greg Emry, Patricia McCleary and Carlos Bernal.

The Leadership Academy Aiguillette, a military uniform decoration, was distributed and pictures were taken. Everyone that graduated glorified in his or her moment of completion. Smiles were everywhere. That evening as a celebration, the cadets went to the movies.

The next day was my last at the academy. Everyone was happy to be a graduate and to be returning home, but there was also a formidable sadness in the air as the friends we made were going in their separate directions to Guam, Alaska, Oregon, California and Nevada.

As William Shakespeare once said, "Parting is such sweet sorrow." Even being surrounded by paradise, constant temperatures with light rain, and new friends, there was a sense of relief to be going back home to my own comfortable bed.

## Get more than you give by volunteering

By Anna Scarpa, Coronado HS

The last bell rang, and school was finally out for the summer. I remember striding happily toward the car to be rid of work and books for a whole three months; this put me in the happiest of moods.

Of course it only took me a few days to remember that my summer wasn't going to be without books at all, but full of them and work also. Ah yes, how could I have forgotten? I had volunteered to work at the library.

Dwelling on how many important and needed hours of sitting in front of the television or sleeping in I would miss instantly made me question: why on earth did I agree to this? Then I remembered — community service is as good as gold on college applications. There was simply no getting out of this one.

All too soon, the first day of volunteering arrived, and I was off to the Paseo Verde Library with my "volunteer buddy." Both of us would be sharing the shift together. We quickly learned what we were to do and got straight to work.

All that the job involved was completing small tasks and sign-

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# Are we there yet?

By Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS



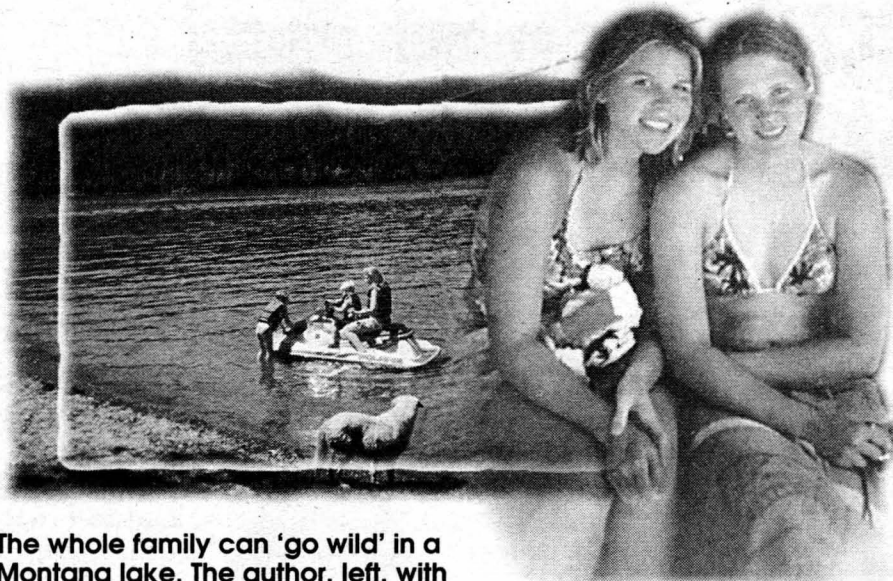
Most people have played a word association game, or at least seen it in movies. When you hear certain words, you automatically think of things to associate with them. For example: grass = green; shopping = clothes; and Nevada = Las Vegas. Some words don't have such good associations, such as RPC and homework. One of those words for me was Montana.

Having lived in decent-sized cities all my life, I associated words like cows, desolate prai-

ries, freezing cold weather, small towns, hicks and farmers with Montana. When I was in fifth grade, my best friend moved there. I was so sad and thought, "When I go to visit her, we'll be miles and miles away from people."

When I found out that I was going there this summer, after the initial excitement of being able to see my best friend, I have to admit, I was a little disappointed. Why couldn't she have moved to L.A. or New York? No, she was in Great Falls, Montana. Since she was my best friend, I figured I could put myself through that to see her though.

After flying for three hours on a plane (with one connecting flight), I was expecting to land on a grassy airfield that was full of



The whole family can 'go wild' in a Montana lake. The author, left, with her local friend, Crystal Munger.

cows. When I didn't, I was pretty surprised. I stepped off the plane into an airport that was nowhere near the size of McCarran, and I thought, "Here I go."

I got into my friend's car and we started driving around. I looked at all of the old buildings as we made the 15-minute trip from one end of town to the other. This city had only two high schools, one mall and one Starbucks. It was such a big change from Vegas, that I thought there would be no way I would ever grow to like it.

After about a week, I started to notice little things that I wish I lived around all the time. When I would go for my morning run, people would stop me to ask how things were going. They were all so friendly. In Vegas strangers don't say hi or wave or smile at you when you are running. You run, and they keep to themselves. Here, people would stop what they were doing to see how you were. The whole town seemed so closely knit.

Another great thing about Montana in the summer is the weather. It was great not to wake up in the morning to 110-degree weather. The high temperature was always around 90 degrees, even though most of the time it only got to about 85 degrees. There were even days when it would rain. It was not like the summer rain we get in Vegas, when it is still 100 degrees even though it is raining, making it hot and humid. They had cold rain, which was refreshing.

Montana is also filled with wildlife and national parks. There is the Charles M. Russell National Refuge, Glacier Inter-

national Park, Waterton International Park, a portion of Yellowstone National Park, countless national forests, and numerous lakes and rivers. It is also one of the few states in the U.S. that has wolf packs naturally in the wild.

The best part about being in a smaller city was not the animals, or the weather though; it was the stars. In big cities, you may be able to see a few stars here and there, but that is nothing compared to being able to look into the sky at night and see stars covering every square inch. It was like someone sprinkled the sky with glitter. On certain nights, depending on how clear the sky was, you could see the aurora borealis, the night-time rainbow that can only be seen in the north.

There is so much you can learn when you go places you think you could never grow to love. I understand now that even though a city may be small, there are still good things about it. I no longer think of words like hicks and farmers. There are normal teens there and they have the same interests as teenagers in Vegas do.

I realize that people in big cities may be oblivious to the true beauty of places that are not overcrowded with people. Taking this trip was a great learning experience that I would recommend to anybody who has never really been out of a big city. It doesn't even have to be to Montana. Places like North Dakota, Idaho and Wyoming share many of the same qualities that Montana has. There is a lot more to do, see and learn than you may think.

## Library

Continued from page 9

ing up young children for the summer reading program in which they read for prizes. What became a shock to me, however, was how pleasant little children truly can be if you just take the time to talk to them. Soon enough, my partner and I surprisingly began to enjoy ourselves in our volunteer work.

The first few shifts we attended were fairly busy, as people were just starting to sign up, and the library was filled with many small tasks that needed to be completed. If we ever had free time, we were perfectly welcome to enjoy the library and grab some books. This was a great help, as I was able to complete my required summer reading and get volunteer hours for it as well. My partner and I began to think that volunteering wasn't as bad as we thought it would be.

Soon after the first few weeks, we hit what we named "the dry spell." Most of the kids were signed up and trying to complete their reading; all of the library tasks were completed; and the required summer reading was finished. I soon began to worry about what we would do to occupy ourselves so that the three-hour shift wouldn't seem like three years.

Just when I thought I would be stuck in an eternity of boredom surrounded by books, the other volunteers, complete strangers to us, began to strike up conversations. Not long after, my volunteer partner and I had met many new friends and had become well acquainted with the friendly staff at the library, ending "the dry spell."

The summer was winding down, and the reading program was ending; this is what started the "crazy state." At our desk, there were lines filled with little children, accompanied by their parents, all waiting to exchange their finished logs for their prizes. I don't believe my partner and I got much "free time" that day, but it was the quickest three hours I've ever spent in my life. This had not only concluded the summer reading program, but our volunteer jobs as well.

As I walked out of the library that last day, I thought of how wrong I had been, and how enjoyable the volunteer experience really had been. Volunteering at the library proved to be very rewarding to me, and I definitely look forward to doing it next summer. It helped me make many new friends, occupy myself and feel accomplished. It will look good on applications and will help me with some clubs I belong to such as Key Club and National Honor Society. After all, that was 39 fewer volunteer hours that I have to worry about during this school year.

# CCSD students rub elbow patches with Harvard crowd

By Dan Hill,  
Green Valley HS

Beyond the sign marking the room in question, "Harvard Book Prize Banquet," I expected to discover olive tweed coats with leather elbow patches and hints of gray pinstripe and Beluga Caviar — pronounced, of course, "caviaaah." I was half correct — alas, no caviar was to be found.

Nonetheless, I was impressed with the caliber of the soirée, foreshadowed by the fancy letterhead on the fax notifying me of my being awarded a Harvard Book Prize. I straightened my tie and entered the banquet with the confidence of one involved in a function put on by Harvard — pronounced, of course, "Haaahvard."

A long while back, a number of people in the valley were given the opportunity to apply for the Harvard Book Prize, an award that gives a small number of college-bound students the privilege of boasting on their applications that they have received this

honor. It requires two letters of recommendation, a short essay in which one has to prove him or herself, a résumé of all of the activities we trade in our high school childhood to do, and a transcript of grades.

These packets of doom would appear before a committee of Harvard alumni, which would then, in turn, decide upon a select few to receive the prize. Our principal kindly made a Broadway production a few months later to let us three from Green Valley High School know we would be attending the banquet. I was a touch unnerved about the competitive nature of the nation's oldest university, but arrived in the oak room on the scheduled day.

What I discovered, however, was nice, elbow-bumping folk and lots of delicious food, al-

though I was hard pressed to identify most of it. I was not at all threatened by my humble positioning on the economic food chain. I was relieved to see that the other winners were just like I was, and it was instantly clear that it does not take a Swiss bank account and knowing people in high places to get in with the Harvard crowd.

There were important gangs there, folks I had only heard about from my friends who drop treasures of small nations to partake in SAT prep with the best in the valley. But there I was shaking their hands, and only on the merits of what I could do with my own study habits and skills.

So the ten of us sat down, our noses uncontrollably pointed strangely upward. A proud moment indeed. After being warmly welcomed by the aforementioned people in high places, we reached the mainstream of the evening's symposium. It was the highlight, as each winner was called up one by one and adored by his or her colleagues.

The winners from Las Vegas included Rosalie Miletich and Jereme Peters from The Meadows School; Gabriel Padilla and Denise Gonzalez from Desert Pines; Peter Grey from Rancho; Alana Bereck from Centennial; Maritha Chan from Palo Verde; and Andrew Chang, Erin Horan and I from Green Valley. My jaw dropped as Claire Roth, the event organizer, introduced each of the fabulous winners and offered to our amazement their credentials. I was inspired and humbled by what my colleagues in academia had accomplished.

After the ceremonies, we were inundated by wonderful handshakes from wonderful people, each offering his or her business card and unyielding support in our academic ventures. It was a marvelous show, and really provided a taste of Ivy League and an incentive to pursue the nation's most reputable university.

My adrenaline is still on high, and every day I glance at the Harvard View Book to decide which of the 12 houses found there would best suit me. At the end of the evening, we all left, stuffed with what I thought to be lamb, but what was rumored to be salmon.

**It was instantly clear that it does not take a Swiss bank account and knowing people in high places to get in with the Harvard crowd.**

## Summer Business Institute prepares students for college

By Nick Pizzo, LV Academy

This year I am entering my senior year at the Las Vegas Academy of International Studies, Performing and Visual Arts. I have always had great self-expectations and aspire to be a productive, successful person, which is why I participated in the Clark County Summer Business Institute during the school break.

This eight-week summer program was highly competitive because it offered the best salary, classroom instruction and work experience to students my age. The Summer Business Institute used a real-time workplace to let young, college-bound scholars get an idea of how they want to spend their professional careers, and then how to make the most of it.

During the summer, I was employed at the Bank of Commerce on West Sahara. I learned about the types of services a bank offers and, since it is a community bank, also learned about aspects of banking not commonly experienced at a franchise bank. I also got to see how banks play a role in our nation's economy, which increased my interest in economics and business as a college major.

**Pizzo sets his sights on a degree from one of the nation's top business schools.**

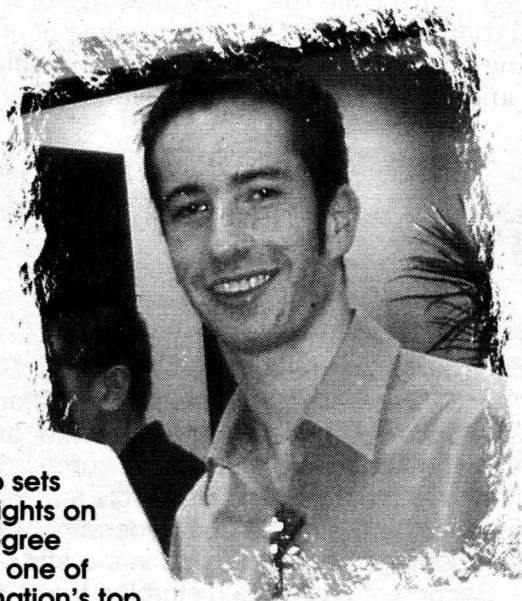
The Summer Business Institute is ideal for motivated young people. It provides valuable college information and generous opportunities for scholarships and grants. Using my newfound knowledge from working at the bank, I will get the most out of my classes this year.

In addition to learning a lot through the

program, I also gained a job. After completing the program, the bank offered me a position, and I plan to work part time at the bank while taking five classes. Through the busy and exciting school year, this job with Bank of Commerce is ideal for me. The convenience of having nights and weekends off allows enough time off for filling out scholarship applications, participating in community service, or applying to more than one college.

My college goal is to obtain a degree from one of the top 10 business schools in the nation on a full scholarship. I hope to then work out of New York City or on Wall Street with my oldest brother who lives there and pursued a similar career.

Programs like the Clark County Summer Business Institute assist in providing student participants the knowledge and experience they need to become successful and rewarded later on. This program has had a profound impact on how I see the workplace and has fostered an idea of how to pursue a career that will make me the most satisfied and successful person I can be.



These days, there are many types of high schools out there. There are religiously affiliated high schools, as well as ones that specialize in performing arts or technical trades. Soon, however, there may be a new type of school. New York City is creating the country's first public high school for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth.

Named Harvey Milk High School, after San Francisco's first openly gay city supervisor (who was murdered in 1978), the school plans to open this fall with around 100 students enrolled. The controversial school raises questions of whether or not this is a positive thing.

According to the Hetrick-Martin Institute (the managers and financers of Harvey Milk High School), 69 percent of LGBTQ youth reported experiencing harassment or violence of some sort. Likewise, their Web site claims that 28 percent of gay teens drop out of school annually. In related appalling statistics, HMI shows a study done by the National Mental Health Association that claimed gay and lesbian youth are three times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual youth. The Sexual Information and Education Council of the United States stated that 40 percent of high school students said they were prejudiced

## Gay high school causes more problems than it solves

against homosexuals. With disturbing statistics like these, the idea behind a gay high school is honorable. They want the school to provide a safe haven from harassment and fear. However, as the popular saying goes, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

In history we are taught about the nation's racism. Blacks were slaves, considered to be animals and not humans. Even after slavery was abolished, the black community was harassed and blacks were not considered equal to whites. The government created a new motto, "Separate but equal." There were black and white schools, bathrooms and restaurants. Of course, the white schools had all the money, and the white bathrooms were cleaner. "Separate but equal" was obviously not equal.

When desegregation began, blacks and whites were forced to be together in the same schools. The struggle for equality was not easy. With time the general population became better at accepting one another, proving once and for all that

when things are equal, there is no need for separation.

With that in mind, people can see that separating the LGBTQ high school students from straight ones would not be beneficial in the long run. Supporters of the school claim that it is not the same because students are not forced to attend the school. Enrollment is voluntary. Yet the knowledge that a gay high school exists is sure to only cause more violence upon teenage homosexuals. Arrogant and closed-minded straight students will harass gay high school students, trying to drive them away. It is not a stretch of the imagination to believe that if Harvey Milk High School is created and kept running, students around NYC may harass homosexual teenagers, cruelly saying, "Get away from our school. Go to your own school." No one should be forced, legally or by social influences, to leave his or her school.

It is obvious that spreading the message of tolerance and understanding of others would be far more valuable to everyone than simply shuttling away the

problem. Likewise, the discrimination and hate crime violence issues will only escalate with the opening of the school. The world is often a cruel place in which LGBTQ youth must learn to deal with what faces them. Harvey Milk High School will not eliminate problems for them. It will only isolate them and make them fit in less. The school will be nicknamed "the gay high school," if not with crueler, more derogatory names.

Whenever anybody asks them what high school they go to, Harvey Milk High students will be forced either to lie or to admit they go to the school. Immediate judgment will be passed upon them because it will be obvious they are a part of the LGBTQ community. Although the students may not be ashamed of who they are, they may not want to openly parade around their sexuality for fear of being harassed or discriminated against. The type of discrimination that is sure to come along with the opening of this high school is immense and worries many.

The school building is undergoing a \$3.2 million renovation, and money of that magnitude would have been better spent creating gay/straight alliances or tolerance programs in existing high schools. Segregation is never a good thing, especially in matters like this. Society needs to become more accepting of the LGBTQ community. There should be no need for a high school of this type.

## Why 'Generation Y'?

By Johnny Driggs, Coronado HS

### Dear American Society:

I feel I should make an appeal on behalf of my age group. It has come to my attention through various periodicals and newspapers that those of us who fall into the eight-year span of high school and college attendance are synonymously referred to as "Generation Y." This, I am afraid, must cease immediately.

I'm sure that the reasoning behind this label is that the current generation was born after that which was known as Generation X. Let's see, the letter Y comes after the letter X, so obviously the generation following Generation X is Generation Y! Ha ha! Such hilarity! Seriously, I bet it took all night to come up with that one!

There are several, legitimate reasons why this accursed name must be destroyed. First of all: It's uncreative. As I mentioned before, any monkey with access to a typewriter and knowledge of the alphabet could come up with the name. Are we so lethargic that we can't choose the name of a generation without resorting to something so inane and lazy?

Second, it creates a disturbing trend that could continue if left unchecked. What will the generation after us be called, Generation Z? Maybe this arrangement would work better if we started somewhere earlier in the alphabet, but we left ourselves with only three letters! What happens after Generation Z? Do we go back to the beginning? Do we double up on letters, Generation AA, Generation AB and so on? Do we go Greek and start with Generation Epsilon? When will the madness end?!

## IS 'Z' next?

Third, it senselessly excludes females, themselves bereft of the Y chromosome.

Last, and I couldn't possibly stress this enough, IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING! The Baby Boomers were named because of the explosion in birth rate when they were born. Generation X was named after probably half a dozen novels as well as a Billy Idol-fronted band. Generation Y means nothing, and by nothing I mean a bottomless abyss of insignificance.

If you could find it in your figurative heart to name the generation proceeding Generation X something other than Generation Y, I, and I'm sure my peers, would be most appreciative. Anything other than Y would be just great. Well, Generation Next would be bad too, but I'm pretty sure Pepsi has a trademark on that.



## Nothing to gain, everything to lose

By Mike Lukowski,  
Coronado HS

One of the things that our country proudly supports is the thought that everyone is created equal; therefore, every American accused of a crime is entitled to the same rights and is treated fairly, just as any other person in the same situation would be treated. Having said that, it would mean that no matter how much money you are worth or how big a star you are, it would not influence your treatment. All that should matter is the crime itself.

Kobe Bryant is a name that is familiar to almost everyone in the U.S. as an idol who is a three-time national basketball champion and the humble, loving husband who cares about his wife more than anything else in his life. Up until recently, people viewed Bryant as a loving man not only because of the game he plays, but also because of his attitude toward his family.

Unfortunately, on July 18, 2003, the nation was shocked as Eagle County, Colo. District Attorney Mark Hurlbert pressed charges against Bryant on behalf of his 19-year-old client, who stated that Bryant forced her to have sex that was not consensual. According to sources close to the case, Bryant met his alleged victim when she gave him a tour of the Lodge and Spa at Cordillera, in Eagle, Colo. During the tour, Bryant extended an invitation to the woman to come to his room later that evening,

which she accepted. The woman did go to Bryant's room the night of June 30, where she spent less than half an hour, according to the sources.

The day after the accusations, Bryant publicly stated that he had committed adultery on the night of June 30, but that the sex was consensual. While trying to hold back tears, Bryant said that the sexual assault charges were false. Throughout the media's onslaught of questions, Vanessa Bryant sat by her husband's side. With the trial still pending, the prosecution has publicly stated that they have physical evidence proving that the sex between Bryant and the young lady was not consensual.

This horrible occurrence, although repulsive, is not the first time we've heard about sports stars losing it all because of what they claim is a stupid mistake. Yet, with these mistakes also comes the unfair treatment that sports stars receive when accused of wrongdoings.

There have been other disappointing letdowns regarding role models from the sports arena. Pete Rose is a baseball legend that many Americans have heard of. One memorable September night in 1985, Pete Rose transformed his baseball career into something legendary. With hit number 4,192, Rose passed Ty Cobb to become baseball's career leader in hits. Boys and girls around the world looked up to him. Yet, four years later, Rose was banned from the sport after an investigation found he had gambled thousands of dollars on

baseball games as a player and as a manager for the Cincinnati Reds. This had come as a shock because Americans fell in love with him and did not want to see him go down.

O.J. Simpson, the former Buffalo Bills superstar running back, is another person who had it all and let it slip through his hands. In 1995, O.J. Simpson was accused of murdering his wife, Nicole Brown.

It should not be the popularity or great reputation of the lawyer you have that determines whether you win or lose a case, because not everyone has the benefit of having millions of dollars to pay for one. It should be about fairness, evidence, and punishing people equally, whether it is an unemployed man or a famous sports star.

Many cases in United States' history have proven that equality of rights, which the government stands by, has not been enforced, which is proof that equality has not yet been achieved in the country that presents itself as a poster child for equal opportunity and fairness.

Being banned from baseball and not being allowed into the Hall of Fame was punishment for Rose. This case has been brought back to life, and now Major League Baseball is considering whether or not to let him into the Hall of Fame because of the immensity of his accomplishment.

This is definitely unacceptable because it seems as if, after a while, people start to feel sorry for the stars we once looked up to, so we tend to forget about how bad their behavior and wrongdoings were. We should

stand by the judgment that was made at the time the crime was committed (unless new evidence is presented), and not let Rose into the Hall of Fame, no matter how many records he holds, because inducting him into the Hall would be unjust and unfair to the true heroes.

Some of the reasons that Simpson won his case were not because of the strength or weakness of it, but because of the popularity he had as a football player, and the fact that he had Johnny Cochran on his side, probably now the most famous lawyer of all time.

**America cannot accept that an idol we adore and love could really be a horrible person or show very bad judgment when they are being paid millions to just play a game.**

Why else would Simpson run from the cops and lead them in a car chase if he was not obviously guilty of some misconduct?

All of these people have everything in life set for them. They have fame, fortune, no concerns about money or any of the worries the run-of-the-mill person would have. Yet, they are willing to give it up because of foolish mistakes, which, if anything, they should be punished more for, because of their status as role models. In spite of all this, they are let off easier than an average person who is working many times harder than the "star" is.

Why? Because America cannot accept that an idol we adore and love could really be a horrible person or show very bad judgment when they are being paid millions to just play a game. We let our heroes off easily because we don't want them to suffer; we need someone to look up to. This is why fairness and equality of rights does not fully exist in America and why there will always be a double standard.

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## If you failed your math proficiency tests, check again

By Jennifer Carlton, Chaparral HS

**D**id you fail your math proficiency exam? You may want to check your scores again. As of June, requirements were drastically reduced to help more seniors graduate high school.

This year, 16 percent of students failed the math portion of the proficiency exams. The state legislature lowered the passing scores with Senate Bill 1, which stated that rather than the score of 304 required before, now seniors need only a 290 to pass. Because of the legislature's change, the state Board of Education also lowered the minimum passing score.

They claimed that the reason for the low scores is a change in the exams. The exams were made more difficult, but the curriculum students are being taught did not change. The board plans to raise the minimum passing score each year until the score is brought back up to the 304 it once was. So if you graduate in 2004, you now only need to receive a 293 to graduate. The class of 2005 needs a 296, and those graduating in 2006 need a 300. And if you are in the class of 2007, you are graduating the year they are bringing it back to a score of 304.

So what does all this mean for we who took our math proficiency last year? If you took it and passed, congrats! Now you have a great score. Say for example you just barely passed with a 304, now that the passing score is lower, you passed with more points rather than just getting by. If you took this test as a sophomore or a junior last year and failed, check your score again because you may have passed. Even if your results were marked as failing, if they are within the new guidelines, you pass.

The school board was reassured when Paul LaMarca, director of assessment for the state Department of Education, told them that people once thinking they needed to attend summer school may not need to after all.

Another noteworthy fact is that Harcourt Education Measurement, the company that manufactures the exams, was signed on for a four-year contract extension. This is somewhat surprising as the company does not have the best track record. Last year, Harcourt inaccurately gave failing scores to some 736 students and were then fined by the state for \$475,000.

School board officials say that Harcourt has fixed the problems and is working well with Nevada's state education officials, so the contract was extended. The board said replacing Harcourt with a different company could lead to new problems, so they will remain with Harcourt.

The decision to continue working with Harcourt disappoints me. The school board does not sound very confident in this company, so why are they putting their trust in a company that obviously is not completely trustworthy, especially when it comes to our education? When the board uses vague terms such as "fixed the problems" and "is working well with state education officials" to refer to Harcourt, it sounds like there is still room for improvement on behalf of Harcourt. When it comes to education, I don't think that is the place to make mistakes.

As for the changes in the scores for the test, I am somewhat disappointed in that as well. I failed my math test when I took it in my junior year, and I planned to take the time to study and be prepared to take it again in my senior year. However, now that they've changed the standards, I've passed, and it's great to know that I have all my proficiencies out of the way before I even start my senior year. I know if it hadn't been for the changes, I would still have to make plans to pass it.

Yet, I feel like I didn't really earn it. It's also pretty discouraging to know I couldn't pass the exam until they lowered the standards. I think rather than lowering the standards, they should not have changed the test without having time to change the curriculum. That, I think, was very foolish. I'm happy to know that eventually students will be challenged to their full potential again when the scores are raised to what they once were.

## Sex ed classes leave teens with more questions than answers

### Parental involvement is key when it comes to sex education

By Brittany Jaarsma, Centennial HS

**W**ith half of high school students having sex sometime within their high school years, and three million adolescents acquiring an STD each year, some feel that Nevada's conservative approach to sex education is not doing enough to help inform Nevada teens on what they really need to know about sex.

"I think we need to do more to help inform kids about sex education," says Centennial High School health teacher Sam Toomer. "Telling someone what a condom is is not going to be enough when the student decides whether or not they are going to have sex."

In Nevada, all students receive sex education in elementary, middle and high school. In elementary school at the fifth grade level, students are taught the very basics: this is a boy; this is a girl. Students learn what puberty is and how it affects some students' bodies. Hygiene is the main focus of the class. Students learn why and how their bodies are changing.

Both boys and girls receive deodorant, and girls also receive a few sanitary napkins. Girls receive a pamphlet that goes into a little more detail, but sex education is not mentioned again for three more years when you enter the eighth grade.

Once there, at the end of either the first or second semester, students take two weeks to discuss sex education. Students are once again taught the basics — male and female anatomy and pregnancy problems that could occur as the result of having sex.

Abortion is a moral issue to some teachers, and it is up to them about how much or how little they talk about that subject. STDs, HIV/AIDS and pregnancy are explained on an informational basis. The program in general teaches abstinence

only.

"I feel that teachers are looked at like parents," says Molasky Junior High School health teacher Mrs. Wojtowitz. "It is our job to inform students about sex, but it is the parents' job to teach their kids about it."

In high school at the end of the first or second semester of health class, there is a two-week session on sex education. Like in elementary and middle school, a parental consent form is needed to take this class. During these two weeks, students are taught more in-depth as to which STDs are out there and the effect they can have. They teach abstinence first. Next, they teach that if students are going to be sexually active, they should be smart and protect themselves.

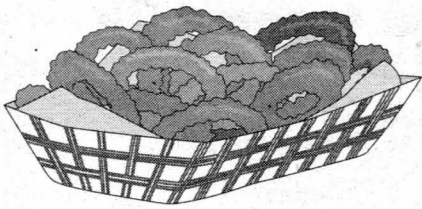
"Because of our high pregnancy rate, we should definitely focus more on safe sex," says Centennial senior Will Schlotzhauer. "Just telling kids not to do it won't stop it from happening, just like it hasn't stopped teens in the past."

Dr. Gene Butler of the CCSD Sex Education Advisory Committee says that Nevada teachers are not allowed to teach students how to use contraceptives and where you can find them. They are only allowed to explain what they are and what they are used for.

Health teachers are only required to teach about AIDS and HIV. Teen pregnancy and STDs are not topics that have to be taught. In most cases, teachers do explain the STDs, although some only go as far as giving the students book definitions, which some students say just isn't enough.

Parental involvement is key when it comes to sex education. Parents are the ones who initially decide whether or not their child is allowed to partake in the sex education classes, and they also decide on how much their child learns about sex in school.

"Teaching sex education is very important," says Centennial health teacher Pat Condron. "However, parents need to be involved when it comes to teaching their kids about sex."



# Forget fast food, it's not that hard

By Johnny Driggs,  
Coronado High School

I don't eat fast food. It's not a vegetarian thing, or an anti-big business thing, or a labor thing, or even a health thing, though that last one does play a small role. I'm by no means boycotting the places. I'm not some sort of rabidly anti-corporate person who despises any entity once it becomes recognizable to more than 50 percent of the American population. If I thought that my not buying a Spicy Chicken Sandwich every week was a bold political statement and actually affected the grand scheme of things, I would have issues to work out. In other words, I don't avoid eating at these places for any of the good reasons why I should. I've decided it's just not

worth it. Considering burgers can cost as low as 50 cents, that's saying something. It's not worth it to get into your car, drive there, wait in the drive-through, and then eat whatever you have ordered. The chances of remembering eating a Big & Tasty two days afterward are pretty slim. I only eat something if I am pretty sure that it will be worthwhile. I'm not going to remember a Taco Bell Burrito the following morning, so why should I pay 80 cents for it today? Honestly, has anyone ever said to himself in the morning: "Gee, it's a good thing I had those chicken nuggets last night, otherwise I might not be able to take on the day!" My theory is that this is the reason people take so long to order at these places. These people have been there 5,800 times. It's not like they haven't memorized the menu by now; it's that the food they have

eaten had such little impact on them that they are not even sure what they like. They stand there bewildered, grasping to remember if they liked the Seven-Layer Burrito or the Macho Burrito better. Optimistically, some news from the fast food front foretells the doom of one of these "restaurants." I have approximately five-dozen friends who work at McDonald's, the most famous of these establishments, and I have received an interesting tidbit concerning its new business model. It appears that McDonald's has been losing money by handing out those little plastic tubs of barbecue sauce for free. Apparently, the little things cost more to produce than a Big Mac, a fact that does not reflect well with the sandwich's quality of ingredients. In any case, the company is now instructing franchises to charge 11 cents for the condi-

ment. As we all know, once people are convinced they do not have to pay for goods, mercy be upon they who try to convince them otherwise (just ask the music industry). According to my friend, customers have literally thrown food back in employees' faces when informed that they must now pay a little more than a dime for the sauce. If your local McD's does not charge you, rest assured they are courageously sticking it to the figurative Man by refusing to follow suit. Once again, I must reiterate that I have nothing personal against these companies, but nothing would give me greater pleasure than to watch McDonald's crash in a demonic, fiery demise as a result of this new policy. No less than rioting in the streets will be the result if MickeyD's aggressively forces its franchises to follow orders. True, some may die in the resulting carnage, but remember, I myself do not eat at these restaurants.

## Cheating at school is cheating yourself

By Joey Gugino,  
Silverado HS

Have you ever had the urge to look at your neighbor during a test and see what they have written for, say, question number five? From a random poll at a lunch table, out of seven people, four admitted to cheating that day. Cheat: To deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud. At magnet schools such as Vo-Tech, students can be expelled if caught cheating. Even a suspicion of cheating could get them in trouble. If a student brings information about another's cheating to a teacher, there is a chance that the school will kick the student out. When you're doing your homework, and you don't understand a question, you may call your friend and ask, "What did you get for number four on

the math homework?" Would you consider that cheating? Students polled on the subject said it's not cheating because it's like asking for help. Homework is thought to be there to help you understand a subject, but if you are getting the answers from your friends, you aren't learning to understand it at all. If you have a huge book report due in English, and you haven't even read the book yet, you may turn to the Internet for answers. There are more than 100 Web sites that offer pre-written essays for sale or just to copy. Some students don't use the Web sites for fear of being caught because most teachers know about the sites and will fail you for plagiarism. Nowadays teachers won't threaten to use the ruler, but they can always give you a zero or detention. Who would want to be spending his or her afternoon in detention when they could be doing something actually entertaining? Next time you forget to study for that killer test in anatomy, don't let your roaming eyes get you into any trouble. It's better to take the zero instead of an RPC, which would definitely be on your record for a longer time.

## Zap Those Zits Dept.

# Tips for breaking out of the acne trap

By Toya Young, Las Vegas HS

It's the night of your big date, and as you go into the bathroom to get ready, you notice a fat zit the size of Mount Everest on your chin. Yuck! What exactly is acne, and how do you deal with it? Acne is the term for plugged skin pores and includes blackheads, whiteheads, pimples, cysts and nodules. It can occur on the face, neck, chest, back, shoulders and upper arms. Acne affects many teenagers, though the disease is not restricted to one age group since even adults can get acne. At the least, having acne can be upsetting. At the worst, it can be disfiguring. The worst cases of acne can lead to permanent scarring. There are four different levels of acne: Mild acne: People with grade one acne generally have blackheads or whiteheads. Moderate acne: Blackheads, whiteheads and small pimples are present. Severe acne: Blackheads, white heads and deeper pimples are present. Very severe: The outbreak is wide spread and frequently involves the neck, shoulders, chest and back. Scarring is also found. Some basic guidelines for treating acne are as follows: Stop popping! Picking, squeezing or popping acne can make it worse by spreading inflammation. Wash your face gently twice a day with a mild soap. Scrubbing irritates the skin and makes acne worse. Use "noncomedogenic," or non-acne-causing, cosmetics. Avoid aggravating acne with oils, irritating clothing or sporting equipment like helmets. Give acne products a chance to work before giving up on them. Wear a hat and sunscreen since acne products can increase the skin's sensitivity to sunlight. Stay away from tanning booths, also. If acne products don't work for you, see a dermatologist. There are many treatment options that can help you zap your zits.

# HOROSCOPE

## Back to School Forecast

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** All right, Aries, now that school has begun, it's time to get involved with your high school. If you're not a part of a billion activities already, try taking on a new role. It could be worth your while.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Sometimes school may not be the most exciting place to be, but that's no reason for you to be stubborn about entering the new school year. Think of the greater reward and look forward to the fun events. Attending an athletic game or dance could be entertaining.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21):** It's time to stop all that pointless chatter and use your intellect for prosperous endeavors. By applying your imagination and wit to ideas more useful to your future, you may create opportunities you never dreamed were open to you.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22):** It's time to come out of your summer shell and get back into the swing of school. Make the transition easier by arranging study groups with friends. The year will seem less intimidating.

**LEO (July 23-August 22):** You're always ready for anything, so the new school year is no big leap for you. Joining your theater department may add appeal to your already ambitious character. There's nothing like making an entrance, so make it center stage.

**VIRGO (August 23-September 22):** Try not to overexert your energy now that you have homework again. Take a breather every now and then from all the methodical studying. Enjoy spending time with friends this year.

**LIBRA (September 23-October 23):** You are the negotiator for everyone. This year, negotiate what would be best in your life and put that plan into effect. Think about what you want, and try not to let friends dictate your plans with their ideas.

**SCORPIO (October 24-November 21):** This year looks good, but don't make choices that could detour you from your own path. Curiosity can be an equally good or bad thing, so walk carefully.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21):** Knowledge is power, so take advantage of all the new lessons you'll receive. Be careful not to become too argumentative just because one person may not have your same opinions. Listen to what they have to say, but make your own deductions.

**CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19):** Get out of your "play it safe" mode and embark on something exciting this year. Hard work already comes naturally for you, so mix things up a little and add some zest to your life.

**AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18):** This is the year of new ideas for an Aquarius. Something extraordinary could come within your grasp. It's up to you on how you mold this into your own creation, opening up many doors for your future.

**PISCES (February 19-March 20):** Volunteering more of your free time this year toward a charitable cause would be a good idea for you. Helping others is always a beautiful gift, but you may receive a greater gift in return.



# Got your books? Pencils? Ritalin?

By Stephanie Hartman, Centennial HS

“What’s the difference between an adult and a child?” asks David B. Stein, Ph. D., Associate Professor of Psychology at Longwood College in Virginia. His answer: the adult’s on Prozac and the child’s on Ritalin. America is becoming dependent on performance drugs.

“Production of Ritalin has increased more than sevenfold in the past eight years, and 90 percent of it is consumed in the United States,” writes Time Magazine Editor Nancy Gibbs in her 1998 report, “The Age of Ritalin.”

The number of teenagers, ages 15 to 19, taking medications has increased dramatically over the past decade and a half. Ritalin (methylphenidate) is helping to raise young adults in today’s society. Every year, physicians prescribe this amphetamine to a million people with Attention Deficit Disorder.

Despite the increase in prescriptions of Ritalin for ADD, the terms for diagnosing are still wavering.

ADD, although looked upon by many as a disease, has been defined as a syndrome of learning and behavioral problems

characterized by a combination of symptoms, including inattention, hyperactivity, impatience and impulsiveness.

As it hasn’t been scientifically proven to be a disease, more and more professionals have begun to hypothesize that instead of ADD being a disease, it is merely a show of poor thinking patterns and a lack of motivation.

Author Jann Flury says in her article “Perspective Ritalin Ripple Effect” on the EducationNews.org Web site:

“If parents plied their children with alcohol or cocaine to alter their behavior, that would be a crime and a clear case of child abuse. Such parents would be forced, by law, to surrender their children to some government welfare agency.

Yet, in modern society, our educator, in collusion with the school psychologist and the family physician, regularly badger and coerce parents into feeding their children, especially boys, a harmful prescription of Ritalin.”

Some doctors make it very clear that in most cases young adults labeled with ADD have nothing whatsoever wrong with them. There are simply parents who’ve been pushed by school officials to place the

child on medication.

Three to four times more boys than girls are prescribed Ritalin. Flury has debated that in the politically correct society of today, boys are no longer allowed to be boys. Their unpolished, boyish behavior must be tempered, their restlessness must be calmed, and their attentiveness to the teacher must be enhanced.

Flury also states that Ritalin has become a sort of cure-all for poor teaching and learning.

Are more boys being affected because they are living in a time when women are predominately the gender of teachers? Are teachers making recommendations and assumptions about behavioral problems because they don’t want to deal with the stress? Are parents too tired for the frustration and are just giving up and resorting to mind-altering drugs?

Think about it. How can doctors treat with such a powerful drug for something that hasn’t been proven to be a disease? If it’s not a disease, then why is Ritalin a means of treatment, though it is considered to be a gateway drug more powerful than marijuana? Because it has been proven to work

Yet, at what cost in human health?

Ritalin is still dangerous and isn’t a drug to be experimenting with on America’s youth on a trial-and-error basis. Sure, it produces a subdued feeling and calming effect, but it utterly drugs the person. The side effects range from rebound irritability and toxic psychosis

to palpitations and angina.

“In the Federal Government Control Act of 1988, Ritalin is classified in Schedule II, the same category as cocaine, opium and morphine. This indicates that it has a high potential risk for abuse and addiction,” says Stein.

Studies have shown that students on Ritalin develop a dependence on the drug. Peter Breggin, M.D., director of the International Center for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology, emphasizes that diagnosing and drugging children makes them feel blamed and stigmatized, ultimately lowering their self-esteem. It encourages them to believe that they cannot learn to control their own behavior without resorting to drugs.

Since the 1970s, Ritalin has been the drug of choice. It’s possible that the drug needs re-evaluation for the treatment of ADD. In today’s day and age, we should find the causes of ADD. For example: was the child full term? Was there chemical dependency during pregnancy, genetic disorders, or is the child seeking attention? How does the child’s culture mix into society? Are teachers taking on too much or teaching students that are too young for their tolerance level?

We should focus on what is causing the hyperactivity that is essentially ADD instead of masking the issue by resolving to prescribe a pill. Also, keep in mind, not every person can be a perfect gentleman or polite young lady. Everyone has those moments.

# Friends don’t let friends drink

By Crystal Hughes, Western HS



Alcohol, drugs and parties — it seems teenagers are growing up pretty fast. Teens are still in high school and doing things that only older people are allowed to be doing. But why do many teenagers turn to alcohol?

For many teens, insecurities may be the cause for this risky behavior. When a teenager is feeling insecure, he or she should stop and realize that drinking may not be the best way to go.

Western High School sophomore Michelle Goshorn states, “Some people might drink to make themselves feel better about themselves, but that is still no reason to drink so young.”

Peer pressure among teenagers can be very strong. When a friend is doing something, it seems right to follow along.

Western senior Jonathan Layol states, “I think the big reason that so many teens drink is because their friends are doing it.”

Whatever happened to being an individual? Most teens demand that they dress and look different from everybody else and that they are so different from everybody else. Falling for peer pressure is not being an individual; it is trying to fit in.

Do teenagers drink underage as much as they do because teens want to be older? It seems like some teenagers even pretend that they are older.

Western junior Amber Fabila says, “When teens get older, they’re going to wish they were younger, so I don’t really understand why everyone wants to be older now.”

If teens want to be so much older, they need to realize that it is not possible if they kill themselves at a young age with alcohol. Most alcohol problems start at a young age. When starting to drink alcohol at a young age, bigger problems come from it later. Teenagers can drink to the point of alcohol poisoning or even liver disease.

Teens should know that drinking alcohol leads to a loss of coordination, poor judgment, slowed reflexes, distorted vision and memory lapses. It can damage every organ in your body. Maybe teenagers should think about that before the next time they are ready to take a shot.

# Smoking 'cure' can be addicting

By Charles Trujillo, Green Valley HS

The main ingredient in cigarettes that gets people hooked is nicotine. Now, studies are showing that the nicotine-based gum that people use to quit smoking has

gotten people hooked as well.

"Nicotine is more addictive than heroin," says Dr. Elliot Wineburg, director of Mount Sinai Hospital's New York Stop Smoking Medical Center, on the Action on Smoking and Health Web site.

Like cigarettes, nicotine gum is something people don't think they will get addicted to. Yet, as a result of this addiction, sales of the gum have gone up 500 percent in the last eight years.

Smokers are supposed to gradually stop using the gum after about three months.

However, of those who don't resume smoking, 10 percent continue using the gum for a year and two percent continue using it for even longer.

Though it is as addictive as cigarettes, the gum is not as harmful as smoking. It does not contain carbon monoxide, cyanide and other organic chemicals found in cigarettes that cause cancer and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

If you are trying to quit smoking, consult a doctor to find out which method is the best way for you to quit.

# Getting rid of stress can be as easy as breathing

By Yoshabel Cortez, Las Vegas HS

Stress can take control of your emotional life and break you down. However, there is a simple way to cool yourself down after a long, hard day of school. Yoga can lower stress and at the same time tone your body.

Yoga originated in India more than 5,000 years ago, and is still practiced today. Yoga means "union" and is a program of meditation that includes exercises to improve flexibility. It is based on the principles of mind-body unity. Yoga takes patience and time; however, at the end of it all, you've rejuvenated your body and soul.

There are five essential elements for proper yoga: breathing, exercising, relaxation, diet and positive thinking.

## Proper breathing

For proper breathing, you must concentrate on exhalation rather than inhalation, to clean the lungs of stale air and remove toxins from the body. By doing so, you can practice nasal exercises that include breathing from the nostrils only, rather than through the mouth. When doing the exercises, breathe in slowly and breathe out leisurely from your mouth. Breathing properly can make it easier for meditation and can make your lungs cleaner.

## Proper exercises

The goal of proper exercising is to improve strength and pliability. Exercises are called poses or asanas, and are to be done slowly. Avoiding fast or violent movements while doing a pose is best. If you perform a pose violently, trauma to a muscle or fatigue can occur. Each asana has its own function to improve the body, and is designed to tone internal organs, to ease muscle tension, and to promote suppleness of the body's joints and ligaments. Most asanas consist of

counting time and holding a pose for a few minutes to increase endurance.

## Relaxation

By relaxing the mind and body, tension is released and helps keep the body healthy. In the beginning and during the entire session, relaxation is used to ease your mind-body unity. Think of this period like a warm-up before an exercise and a cool down after an intense workout.

## Proper diet

The ideal diet for a yogi is vegetarian. Natural foods help prevent the body from becoming overwhelmed with impurities like chemicals and toxins. A yogi does not necessarily need to follow a vegetarian diet, but healthy and easy to digest foods help balance one's metabolism.

## Positive thinking, meditation

In yoga, meditation is very important. Meditation is when you mentally detach yourself from everything around you. When first practicing meditation, you must learn how to calm your thinking and focus your mental energy inward. Focusing on your breathing or listening to calming music can help you meditate. As you meditate, stress decreases and your energy is refurbished and positive thinking results.

After a few months doing these exercises, you will feel like a different person. Doing yoga in the morning gives you a fresh start for the day, and performing yoga at night prepares you for a well-relaxed sleep. If interested in practicing yoga or in yoga-related topics, the Internet offers many sites with in-depth information.

## Some basic poses for yoga

### Lotus (Sukhasana):

Sit Indian-style, but position the soles of your feet turning upward and heels pressed against the lower side of your stomach. Posture must be straight.

Place your hands on your knees, palms up and hold as long as you want.

This posture can be used while meditating. The head must be raised high and eyes are closed. This pose enhances equilibrium.

### Leg Clasp (Padahasthasana):

Stand straight up.

Bend forward and bring your arms behind your knees to grasp your hands.

Secure your arms behind your knees; then bring your upper torso to where it is comfortable; your head should be lowered and should be facing your knees. Hold for 10 seconds.

Lower hands to calf level to bring your body inward and hold for 10 seconds.

Unclasp your hands, raise your upper torso up slowly; when rising, inhale leisurely. Once raised, do the other side and start again. This tones and firms the thighs and calves. It also improves hamstring flexibility.

### Simple Spinal Twist (Ardha Matsyendrasana):

Sit on the floor and place your right sole to your left thigh.

Cross your left foot over the right knee and place the sole of your foot firmly on the floor.

Place your left hand flat on the floor behind you.

Bring your right arm to your left knee and tightly hold it.

Slowly twist your trunk and face to the left. Keep your chin close to your shoulder and hold for 10 seconds.

Slowly get out of that pose and relax, then reverse the leg position and do again. This allows the spine to become flexible and to release tension from it.



# Díganos

## Décimo aniversario de la Conferencia de Liderazgo para la Juventud Latina

Por Mytae Carrasco,  
Bishop Gorman HS

**C**elebrando su décimo año, la Conferencia de Liderazgo para la Juventud Latina se realizó por cinco días durante este verano, empezando el 25 de Junio en la Universidad de Nevada, Las Vegas. Solo 66 estudiantes de más de cien que aplicaron para asistir, fueron seleccionados para participar en este prestigioso evento que anima a los Latinos a tomar el papel de líderes en la comunidad.

Patrocinado por la Cámara de Comercio Latina, por la Universidad de Nevada, Las Vegas y la Universidad de Nevada, Reno, el Colegio Comunitario del Sur de Nevada,



MGM/Mirage y Cox Communications, el evento no fue una simple conferencia

de liderazgo. Los temas expuestos eran personales y se podían identificar con cada uno de nosotros. Hicieron que la palabra liderazgo surgiera a otro nivel. Cada día se presentaba una persona diferente quien daba una charla muy amena con actividades que hacían un gran énfasis en la cultura Latina. Este evento se basó en la importancia de saber quien eres y lo más importante, nunca olvidar de donde vienes.

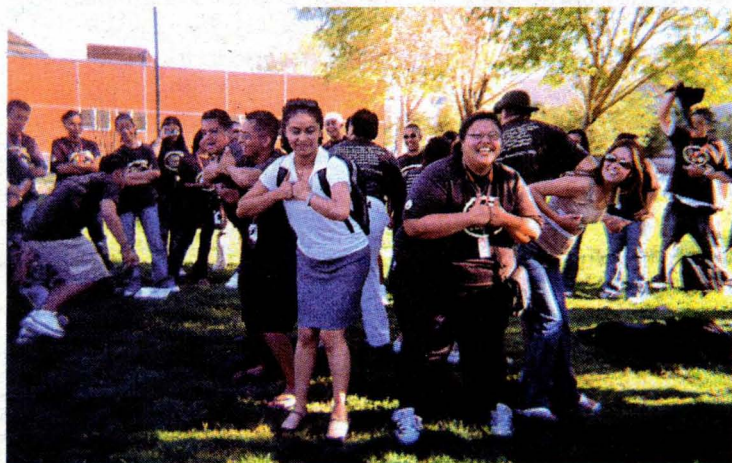
Muchos fueron los temas presentados en esta conferencia, tales como el

porqué las familias Latinas vienen a los Estados Unidos. Se habló también del peligro que corren muchas de éstas al cruzar la frontera en busca de una mejor vida para sus hijos, con una educación mejor que la que ellos tuvieron.

Este evento incluyó diferentes culturas Latinas por que uno de sus propósitos era crear unión entre toda la juventud. Para obtener el verdadero significado detrás de esta conferencia, los participantes quisieron abrir un poco su mundo e invitar a que otras personas convivieran en él. Aquí, el enfoque no era en un solo individuo, era buscar métodos para que la comunidad Latina se hiciera ver. Se pretendía encontrar lo que cada uno podía aportarle a ésta comunidad.

Para lograr estas metas, los 66 participantes fueron divididos en "familias" y cada familia tenía uno ó dos facilitadores. La mayoría del tiempo era compartido con los miembros de la misma. Para muchos, la conferencia fue una gran experiencia que les abrió los ojos. Cada participante compartió sus historias personales, algunas que fueron muy duras pero les dieron una gran lección

*Vea página 20*



Algunos de los participantes demuestran su entusiasmo bailando.



## A empezar de nuevo...

Por Lina Hernandez,  
Editora de Díganos

**B**ienvenidos a un nuevo año escolar. Muchas puertas se han cerrado pero otras se abren con nuevas oportunidades, metas y expectativas; esto es lo que en este momento me está pasando a mí. La verdad nunca imaginé poder llegar a ser la editora de la sección en Español de ésta revista. Sin pensarlo, he conseguido lo que por mucho tiempo parecía haber perdido. Hace ya cuatro años llegue de Colombia buscando un mejor estilo vida. Buscaba vivir sin tantos peligros ni riesgos, con un futuro más accesible. Fue muy difícil acostumbrarme a este país y a su cultura, pero con la ayuda de mi familia y la motivación que me dieron en la escuela, pude derribar esos obstáculos. Acabo de graduarme de la secundaria y ahora estoy empezando mi carrera como periodista en la Universidad de Nevada, Las Vegas.

Infinitas gracias a Franco Carranza, quien fue editor de Díganos durante los pasados cuatro años y quien desempeñó un excelente papel. Franco creó cambios a beneficio de Díganos y gracias a él tenemos el concurso de poesía durante el mes de abril. Yo espero ofrecer la mejor calidad de trabajo posible a favor de todos los que cada mes están pendientes de nuestros artículos.

Ser la nueva editora de Díganos es una gran responsabilidad, pero estoy dispuesta a dar lo mejor de mí y desempeñar un buen papel para que los fieles lectores de esta sección y por que no, los nuevos lectores, estén satisfechos conmigo y con los internos. Así que aprovecho éste espacio para motivarlos a que escriban lo que sienten, para que sus artículos sean publicados y todas sus opiniones sean escuchadas. La decisión está en sus manos. ¡Aprovechen esta oportunidad! Recuerden que pueden enviarlos vía e-mail a [CLASSDiganos@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:CLASSDiganos@ccmail.nevada.edu).

De antemano les deseo un feliz comienzo para éste nuevo año escolar y espero que les traiga las mejores experiencias y los más bonitos recuerdos. No olviden que el éxito se consigue a base de esfuerzo y que cada uno de nosotros construimos el futuro que queremos. Buena suerte para todos.

# Escuelas homosexuales causan más problemas que soluciones

Por April Corbin,  
Las Vegas HS

En los últimos tiempos, se han creado muchas escuelas secundarias. Existen algunas relacionadas con alguna religión en particular, así como también las que ofrecen especialización en artes técnicas ó vocacionales. Muy pronto, por cierto, se creará otro tipo de escuela. La ciudad de Nueva York esta creando la primera escuela pública para la juventud homosexual, bisexual y travesti.

Será llamada Harvey Milk High School, en honor al primer supervisor gay de la ciudad de San Francisco (quién fue asesinado en 1978). La escuela piensa abrir sus puertas éste otoño con cien estudiantes ya inscritos. Esta controversia genera preguntas y opiniones acerca de que si la idea es positiva ó no.

De acuerdo con el Instituto Hetrick-Martin (supervisores y financieros de esta nueva escuela), 69 por ciento de ésta juventud reportó experiencias relacionadas con abuso y violencia. De la misma manera, su página en Internet muestra que el 28 por ciento de los jóvenes homosexuales dejan de estudiar anualmente. En estadísticas relacionadas, el instituto muestra el estudio hecho por la Asociación Nacional de Salud Mental reclamando el hecho de que los chicos homosexuales y las chicas lesbianas están tres veces más propensos a cometer un suicidio que la juventud heterosexual.

El Consulado de Información y Educación Sexual de los Estados Unidos afirmó que el 40 por ciento de los estudiantes de la secundaria dijeron tener prejuicios en contra de los homosexuales. Con estadísticas tan perturbadoras como éstas, la idea de tener una escuela homosexual es honorable. El propósito es ofrecer seguridad para los estudiantes sin abusos ni miedos. Sin embargo, como dice el dicho, el camino al infierno está pavimentado con buenas intenciones.

En clase de historia nos enseñan acerca del racismo. Las personas de raza negra, eran considerados animales, no humanos. Aún así, después de

que la esclavitud fue eliminada, la comunidad de raza negra seguía siendo maltratada y no eran considerados como blancos. El gobierno creó un nuevo lema: "Separados pero iguales." Habían escuelas para blancos, escuela para personas de raza negra, baños y restaurantes separados para las dos razas. Claro, las escuelas blancas tenían todo el dinero y los baños para blancos eran más limpios. "Separados pero iguales" obviamente no era igual.

Con esto en mente, se puede ver que separar la juventud homosexual de la heterosexual no traerá ningún beneficio en un futuro.

Los seguidores de HMHS claman que no es lo mismo por que los estudiantes no están forzados a asistir. Las inscripciones son voluntarias. Pero el saber que existe éste tipo de escuela puede causar más violencia entre jóvenes homosexuales y heterosexuales.

Es obvio que esparcir el mensaje de tolerancia y entendimiento tendría más valor que simplemente tratar de tapar el problema con una alternativa como ésta. La discriminación, el odio y la violencia se incrementará más con la inauguración de ésta escuela.

El mundo es casi siempre cruel con ésta juventud, y ellos tendrán que saber manejar la situación con perseverancia. HMHS no eliminará sus problemas. Al contrario, lo único que hará es alejarlos más de la civilización. La escuela será llamada "la escuela gay" ó con nombres más crueles.

Cuando alguien les pregunte a que escuela asisten, los estudiantes no tendrán más remedio que mentir ó que aceptar que van a ella. Inmediatamente serán juzgados por ser parte de la comunidad homosexual. Aunque algunos estudiantes no se avergüencen de quienes son, no estarán de acuerdo con abrirse totalmente al mundo y hablar sobre su sexualidad por miedo a ser discriminados ó burlados.

Este es el tipo de discriminación que se ve venir con la apertura de ésta nueva escuela y sin duda alguna preocupa a muchos.



Algunos de los participantes de la conferencia.

## • Conferencia de Liderazgo

*Continuación de la página 19*  
en la vida, haciendo que unas cuantas lágrimas salieran espontáneamente.

Esta conferencia les dió la oportunidad a muchos para que rompieran con ese estereotipo que la misma sociedad ha creado hacia nosotros los Latinos: que todos somos ilegales. Se debería pensar que en vez de ser la minoría que más perjudica a la

nación, somos las personas más trabajadoras de todo el país.

Antes del evento, la universidad era para muchos más estudio. Ahora, quieren asistir para hacer una diferencia en la comunidad y en su cultura. Esa intimidad que muchos jóvenes sentían, ya no la tienen. Es importante enseñarle a la sociedad no mirar por encima del hombro a la fuerte y creciente cultura Latina.

## ¿No podemos todos ser amigos?

Por Charlene Díaz, Western HS

Hay un dicho que dice, "las personas pasan por nuestras vidas como las hojas del árbol, pero un verdadero amigo es como un diamante raro."

Mantener una amistad es una de las cosas más difíciles en la vida, no solo para los jóvenes, sino también para los adultos. Encontrar a esa persona que esté dispuesta a compartir los buenos y los malos momentos contigo, es un desafío grande en la vida de un adolescente.

Si hablamos de lógica, amigos "perfectos" no existen. Si alguien trata de conocer muy bien a los demás, siempre encontrará defectos.

Jaime Maines, estudiante de Western HS, alcanzo a tener éste tipo de amigo. Ella también aclaró: "Mientras conocía a esa persona, empecé a notar cosas en ella que no me agradaban." Este es un de los peligros de examinar a las personas muy a fondo. Tal vez, si las personas aceptaran a las otras tal y como son, con sus diferencias, las amistades durarían mucho más.

Naturalmente, muchas personas recurren a amigos innecesarios, causando problemas y muchos arrepentimientos.

Shane Anderson, otro estudiante de Western HS, opinó acerca de que si una pelea con un mejor amigo sería necesaria para llevar esa relación a un fin. El dijo: "Eso depende de que tan grave sea el problema."

Una de las razones más grandes para terminar una relación entre dos amigos es una discusión por culpa de segundas personas: una chico ó una chica. Casi siempre una amistad se acaba cuando uno de ellos empieza a compartir el tiempo con otra persona la cual no le agrada a su amigo, ó tal vez le agrada demasiado. Básicamente, la clave para decidir si terminan ó no esa amistad radica en la profundidad y la fuerza de la pelea.

Para aquellos que ya encontraron ese "diamante," tómense el tiempo para apreciarlo. Para los que todavía no conocen el verdadero significado de la amistad y están tratando de encontrar esa persona que tenga todas las cualidades para que sea ese amigo "perfecto," están esperando demasiado. No pierdan su tiempo y límitense a querer a las personas tal y como son.

# ¿No pasaste el examen de Matemáticas? Asegúrate

Por Jennifer Carlton, Chaparral HS



Si te dijeron que no habías pasado el examen de matemáticas requerido por el estado de Nevada para graduarte, deberías preguntar de nuevo y asegurarte. En junio los puntajes bajaron drásticamente para ayudar a algunos estudiantes del último año a graduarse.

Este año, el 16 por ciento de los estudiantes no pasaron ese examen. La legislatura del estado redujo el puntaje requerido con la nueva ley del senado 1. Esta ley propuso que en vez de pasar la prueba con un puntaje de 304, solo necesitarán un 290 para pasarla.

Se dijo que la razón de los puntajes bajos era un cambio que se había hecho en el examen. Ahora los han hecho mucho más difíciles, pero el currículum de estudio de los estudiantes no cambió. El consejo planea subir el puntaje mínimo

cada año hasta que quede en el original 304. Si te gradúas en el 2004, solo necesitas un 293 para graduarte. La clase del 2005 necesita un 296, y los que se graduaran en el 2006, un 300. Eso quiere decir que para el 2007, el puntaje requerido será nuevamente de 304.

¿Entonces, qué significa todo esto para los que tomamos la prueba el año pasado? Pues bien, si lo pasaste, ¡felicidades! Ahora tienes un puntaje alto. Piensa por ejemplo que si lo pasaste con un 304, ahora que está reducido, te fue mucho mejor. Si lo tomaste estando en el grado 10 ó 11 y lo perdiste, mira tus resultados otra vez, que hay una posibilidad que todo cambie. No importa que el resultado diga que lo perdiste, si tu puntaje se encuentra entre la nueva ley, ¡lo pasaste!

El consejo de escuelas lo garantizó cuando Paul LaMarca, director de evaluaciones del Departamento de Educación del estado, dijo que las personas que pensaban que tenían que asistir a clases durante el verano, ya no debían hacerlo.

Hay algo más que encontré

muy interesante: la compañía que elabora estas pruebas, Harcourt (Medida de Educación), firmó otro contrato por cuatro años más. Esto es un poco raro, ya que ésta compañía no tiene los mejores antecedentes. El año pasado, Harcourt erróneamente entregó puntajes reprobados a 736 estudiantes y el estado le impuso una multa por \$475,000 dólares.

Oficiales del consejo de las escuelas dice que Harcourt ya arreglado sus problemas y ahora está trabajando a la perfección con los oficiales de la educación de Nevada. Fue por eso que se firmó un nuevo contrato. El consejo replicó que cambiar de compañía sólo traería más problemas, así que no la van a reemplazar.

La decisión de continuar con Harcourt me decepciona. Ni siquiera el consejo está totalmente seguro con ella, ¿entonces por qué ponen toda la confianza en una compañía que obviamente no está haciendo las cosas bien, especialmente cuando se trata de nuestra educación? Cuando la junta utiliza términos como “ya arregló sus prob-

lemas” y “esta trabajando a la perfección con los oficiales de la educación” para referirse a Harcourt, suena como si todavía existiera la duda. Cuando se trata de educación no creo que exista espacio para errores.

Con respecto al cambio de los puntajes, estoy un poco decepcionada también. Perdí el examen el año pasado y quería tomarme el tiempo para estudiarlo bien en mi último año. Sin embargo, ahora que cambiaron la ley, lo pasé, y es grandioso que ya salí de todos los exámenes sin ni siquiera haber empezado el año escolar. Si no lo hubieran cambiado, todavía tendría planes para estudiar y pasarlo.

De igual manera siento que no me lo gané a base de esfuerzo. Además es un poco desalentador saber que si no hubiera sido por esa ley, no lo hubiera pasado. Pienso que en vez de haber cambiado los puntajes, lo mejor hubiera sido cambiar el currículum del examen. Es agradable saber que eventualmente los estudiantes tendrán que esforzarse otra vez a medida que el puntaje suba y llegue a 304, como al principio.

## Jóvenes trabajadores sufren violación del derecho del trabajo

Por Lori Valiente, Las Vegas HS

Cumplir 16 años es todo un sueño que a veces viene muy rápido para muchos. Te dan tu licencia y tal vez un carro, pero después de tantos regalos y fiestas tan lujosas viene la palabra que casi todo el mundo odia: T-R-A-B-A-J-O.

Después que empecé a trabajar, estaba entusiasmada de tener mi propio dinero y responsabilidades. Nunca imaginé que mi supervisor se aprovecharía de mí. Algunos piensan que simplemente por que eres joven, pueden ponerte a trabajar hasta muy tarde, horas extras y sin suficiente tiempo para un descanso.

“Empiezo a trabajar a eso de las seis de la tarde y termino a las cuatro de la mañana,” dice Jonathan\*, estudiante del último año de Las Vegas High School.

“No me preocupa levantarme para ir a estudiar por que siempre estoy cargado con energía, y con el dinero que me gano cada noche, no tengo ningún problema.”

Trabajar horas extras y sin descansos son parte de las injustas practicas de los empleadores. Los domingos son los días que usualmente trabajo 12 horas sin descanso, y si me dan uno, es casi siempre diez minutos para comer. Los lunes son los peores días para mí en la escuela. Difícilmente me puedo concentrar después de un largo día de trabajo. Me siento muerta hasta el jueves que llega mi día de descanso. Se me esta haciendo muy difícil mantener mis calificaciones.

A parte de las largas noches de trabajo, lo que está pasando es que no tengo suficiente tiempo para descansar. Cuando nuestro restaurante esta vacío, todos podemos comer. Nos tomamos de 15 a 20 minutos pero no tenemos que marcar hora. Esta es una de las razones por las cuales nadie se queja: comida gratis y salario valen la pena aunque no sea suficiente tiempo. Suena muy bien, pero cuando esta muy ocupado, puedes trabajar ocho horas seguidas, parada ó corriendo, sin ni siquiera cinco minutos para sentarse y respi-

rar. Es ahí cuando se pone difícil.

Tener problemas para levantarse en un día escolar, siempre estar cansado y nunca tener el tiempo para tus amigos y tu familia son algunas de las señales de que los jóvenes están trabajando más de lo requerido. Cuando la gente escucha esto, ellos mismos se preguntan por que éstos jóvenes no renuncian. Razones hay muchas: desde tener un buen cheque hasta tener los mejores días libres, y desde necesitar dinero para pagar la cuota del carro hasta tener que alimentar un bebé.

Cualquiera que sea la razón, éstas situaciones en el trabajo se pueden arreglar, pero el problema es que nadie las reporta. Estos lugares pueden ser multados por violar los derechos del trabajador. Situaciones como ésta, se han hecho más frecuentes; pero como nadie las reporta, nada cambia.

Mientras estemos estudiando deberíamos tener un trabajo, pero solo de medio tiempo para no violar la ley.

\*Nombre escondido por protección

# La Marcha de la Libertad para Los Trabajadores Inmigrantes

Por Juan Carrillo,  
Liberty HS

El pasado martes 12 de agosto aquí en nuestra ciudad, inmigrantes locales y activistas celebraron una reunión bajo las sombras del estatua de Martin Luther King Jr. para apoyar los derechos de los trabajadores inmigrantes. Los partidarios de los derechos de inmigrantes creen que ellos merecen que se les conceda la ciudadanía y puedan reunirse con sus familias que dejaron atrás en búsqueda de una vida mejor en la tierra de la oportunidad.

La Marcha de la Libertad Para los Trabajadores Inmigrantes es una organización dedicada a obtener la legalización de los individuos indocumentados en los Estados Unidos. Esta organización también llevará a cabo el Tercer Paseo de la Libertad en la historia. Inspirados por el Movimiento de los Derechos Civiles, serán llevados en autobuses cientos de trabajadores inmigrantes, sus aliados y amigos locales para recorrer 10 de las ciudades más importantes de Estados Unidos. Las Vegas entre una de ellas, será recorrida en los últimos días de Septiembre.

"Esto no es una edición política, es una edición social. Ya es tiempo que todos se legalicen" dijo el dirigente local Tino Camarenas.

La meta de esta organización es demostrar un amplio distrito electoral nacional para lograr la

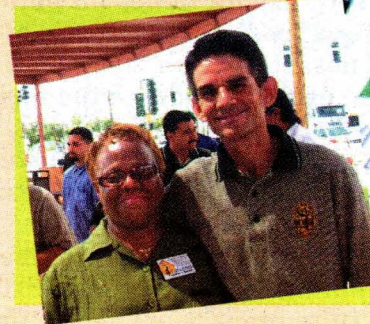
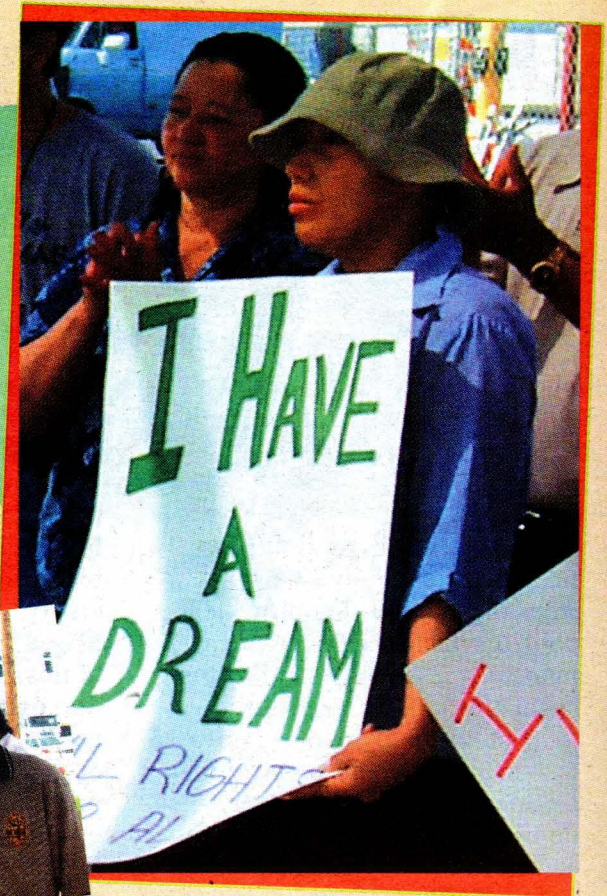
reforma significativa de las leyes para inmigrantes, y también animar la participación cívica de los nuevos y futuros ciudadanos. Esta propuesta educará al público y a los funcionarios elegidos sobre las tres áreas principales en que se está centrando en la realización de la reforma: legalización para todos los trabajadores inmigrantes en los Estados Unidos; el derecho de los trabajadores inmigrantes de reunirse con sus familias; y protección de los derechos de los inmigrantes en el lugar de trabajo.

Cuando los dirigentes de La Marcha de la Libertad crucen los Estados Unidos, pararán en docenas de comunidades para reunir ayuda a favor de la reforma de inmigración. Después de celebrar en la ciudad de Washington, los jinetes de la libertad terminarán con una reunión masiva el sábado 4 de octubre en la ciudad de Nueva York.

La Marcha de la Libertad Para los Trabajadores Inmigrantes está siendo endosada y organizada por uniones internacionales importantes, grupos de inmigrantes nacionales, grupos civiles, organizaciones religiosas, estudiantes, personas de la comunidad, funcionarios elegidos y muchos otros.

"Esto está construyendo energía para los trabajadores inmigrantes," dijo Liz Moore, coordinadora de la alianza progresiva del Sur de Nevada. "La meta del grupo es solo una: es restaurar el sueño americano para la gente

A la derecha un joven escucha a los protestantes; Abajo, Ana Sotelo y Tino Camarenas viajarán a Washington, DC.



que trabaja."

Las Vegas fue elegida para representar a nuestros trabajadores inmigrantes no solamente por que es la ciudad creciente más rápida de la nación, sino también por que la población inmigrante ha crecido enormemente en los últimos años. Miembros de la coalición La Marcha de la Libertad Para los Trabajadores Inmigrantes de Las Vegas planea un principio fuerte y duradero.

"Nuestro estado y nuestra nación han crecido fuerte por el trabajo duro y el esfuerzo de nuestros inmigrantes. Los inmigrantes han venido a este país para trabajar, pagar impuestos y

encontrar el sueño americano. Mis padres eran inmigrantes y puedo decirle que ellos son trabajadores duros y contribuyen con los impuestos," dijo Miguel Barrientos, presidente de la Asociación Política Mexico-Americana de Las Vegas.

El martes 23 de septiembre, una reunión masiva será celebrada en el Freedom Park para apoyar a nuestros dos dirigentes locales, Tino Camarenas y Ana Sotelo, quienes esa tarde se subirán al autobús y se irán para La Marcha de la Libertad en busca de los derechos de los inmigrantes. Si desea saber más sobre esta organización, visite la página en Internet [www.iwfr.org](http://www.iwfr.org).

## Consejos para salir de la pesadilla del acné

Por Toya Young,  
Las Vegas HS

Es la gran noche con tu esperada cita, y caminas hacia el baño para arreglarte, notando que tienes un barrito del tamaño del Monte Everest en tu mentón. ¡Qué asco! ¿Qué es exactamente el acné y cómo combatirlo?

Acné es el término utilizado para describir los poros en la piel que han sido tapados por bacterias; se le llaman también puntos negros, puntos blancos, espinillas, pequeños

quistes y nódulos. Se pueden presentar en la cara, el cuello, el pecho, la espalda, los hombros y en la parte alta de los brazos.

El acné afecta a la mayoría de los jóvenes hoy en día, más éste no discrimina edad, pues también muchos adultos pueden sufrirlo. En un principio, tener ese indeseado problema cutáneo puede ser triste, pero después se puede convertir en una pesadilla. En los peores casos puede desfigurar ó terminar en cicatrización permanente.

Existen cuatro niveles diferentes en el acné:

Acné leve: Las personas que se encuentran en el nivel uno generalmente tienen puntos negros ó puntos blancos.

Acné moderado: Puntos negros, blancos y pequeñas espinillas se presentan.

Acné severo: Puntos negros, blancos y las espinillas son más profundas.

Acné muy severo: El brote ya está esparcido en partes como el cuello, los hombros, el

pecho y la espalda. Empieza la cicatrización.

Estos son algunos pasos básicos para el tratamiento del acné:

¡Deja de reventarlos! Lo único que consigues con molestarlos y apretarlos es que la inflamación se riegue por toda el área afectada. Lávate la cara con un jabón muy suave dos veces al día. Restregarse la cara irritará a piel y hará que el acné se empeore. Evita que la enfermedad se agrave alejándote de productos aceitosos, pañuelos irritantes y equipo deportivo como los cascos. Dale la oportunidad a los productos que trabajan especialmente contra el acné antes de botarlos a la basura. Tal vez si funcionan. Utiliza gorras y bloqueadores solares ya que con los rayos del sol, el acné incrementa la sensibilidad de la piel. Aléjate de las cámaras bronceadoras.

Si estas recomendaciones no funcionan, consulta un dermatólogo. Hay muchos tratamientos que te pueden ayudar a apagar esos volcanes.

In the last century, labor laws protected young workers, but abuses continue to occur today.



## Working students can suffer labor law violations

By Lori Valiente, Las Vegas HS

Turning 16 is a dream, and that dream comes too soon for many teens. You get your license and maybe a car, but after all the luxurious gifts and parties comes the three-letter word that just about everyone hates, J-O-B.

Once I started working, I was excited to finally have my own money and responsibilities. I never would have thought my employer would be taking advantage of me. Some employers think that just because you are a teenager, they can make you work late hours, overtime and without the sufficient time for a break.

"I start work around 6 p.m. and end at about 4 a.m.," says Jonathan\*, a senior at Las Vegas High School. "I don't really mind waking up for school the next day because I always have tons of energy, and with the money I leave with every night, I don't have a problem with it."

Overworking and getting no breaks are part of the unlawful practices of many employers.

Sundays are the days that I usually work about 12 hours with no break, and if I do get one, it's for about 10 minutes to eat and hurry back to work.

Mondays are the worst days for me at school. I can hardly concentrate because of the long day before. I just feel dead, but it's not until Thursday that I get a day off, so it's starting to be very hard to keep my grades up.

Besides late nights, what

also is happening is there is not the sufficient time for breaks during work shifts. When our restaurant is slow, employees can usually give each other breaks, so we can eat. We each take about 15-20 minutes, but we don't have to clock out. That is one of the reasons why the people at my work don't complain: free food and getting paid to eat is well worth not getting enough time.

Sounds good, but when it's busy, you can work an eight-hour day, standing or running around, with not even five minutes to sit down and breathe. That's when it starts to get difficult.

Trouble waking up for school, always being tired and never having time for friends and family are some of the signs of overworked teens. People hear these things and wonder why those teens don't just quit. Reasons vary, from getting good pay to getting good days off, and from needing to make car payments to having a baby to support.

Whatever the reason, these situations at work can be fixed, but the problem is no one is reporting them. Work places can get fines for labor law violations. Situations like these are starting to happen more frequently, but since no one reports them they are getting away with it all the time.

While in high school, teens should have jobs, but they should stick to part-time jobs that don't break the law.

\*Name withheld

## Teen drivers need more time to mature

By Davina Coady, Centennial HS



After the sixth-period bell rings, many students walk to the parking lot and get into cars, either their own or a friend's. I am willing to bet that not one student thinks about the danger, and that the risk of being killed is at its highest.

Surprised? As depressing as it sounds, more than 5,000 teenagers are killed each year in car accidents. To stop this rate from increasing, the driving age should be raised to 18.

The problem with teens is they believe they are invincible and that it cannot happen to them. Let me assure you, it can and it does. Accidents do not pick favorites. They can happen to anyone; the race, age or sex doesn't matter.

With teen drivers' minds set on being invincible, as many people as possible pile into one car, the music goes up and the speedometer increases. All of these factors increase the risk of an accident occurring. You add one passenger and the chance of an accident doubles; add three passengers, and you are five times more likely to get into an accident. Are you responsible enough to take someone else's life into your hands? Could you live with yourself if your best friend died?

The argument teens usually use is, "I just want to drive to and from school. It's a short distance; nothing can happen. I don't want to take the bus!"

Wrong, wrong, wrong — the majority of teenage auto accidents happen before school, during lunchtime and after school. Local school officials realized these statistics and did something about it. The Clark County high schools in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City are now closed campus schools, which means the students cannot leave for lunch.

"I was thrilled to get my license, but my grandparents won't let me drive to school with friends for a long time, and I am grateful for that. I found out what can happen," says Centennial senior Megan Munro.

It's not just school either. Sixteen-year-old teens have to get to and from work, extracurricular activities and other events.

There are options to getting behind that wheel at 16. The city bus goes all around the Vegas valley. Even if it does take longer, just manage the time. Also, maybe one of your parents could drop you off or a sibling could take you. There will always be another alternative, though less convenient.

Not only would the higher-age law decrease the fatal car accidents, it would also be cheaper for teens and parents. The majority of teens get a job to pay for a car or insurance. Just think, on Friday nights, you could go out with your friends instead of flipping burgers at McDonald's. For teens that have their parents pay for their cars and insurance, they could get them to pay for something else, like a vacation or clothes.

Between the ages of 16 and 18, people grow and change. Teens mature greatly in the short span of two years. At the age of 18, you are heading off on your own; you have no choice but to learn how to be responsible. The responsibility of driving a car with passengers is an overwhelming one.

Even if the driving law is not raised to 18, drivers should not be allowed to carry passengers until that age. Emotionally, physically and mentally, young teens cannot comprehend the power of a car, nor handle it if it got out of control and someone was killed.

Just think about it: 5,000 kids are killed each year — that wipes out all Centennial High School students and more. Next time you are driving, slow down, turn down the radio and realize that your friends will still be your friends, even if you don't drive them around.

# Forty years after MLK's March on Washington freedom rides again

By Juan Carrillo, Liberty HS

In the shadow of the Martin Luther King Jr. statue at the Clark County Community Resource Center, local immigrants and civil rights activists held a rally to support immigrant workers' rights on Tuesday, Aug. 12.

The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride event will conclude in late September at a gathering in Washington, D.C. Supporters say that this event will bring attention to the fact that everyone seeking a better life in the land of opportunity deserves the chance to be granted citizenship and to reunite with families left behind.

Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride is an organization dedicated to bringing legalization to undocumented immigrants in the U.S. Inspired by the Freedom Rides of the Civil Rights Movement, buses will be filled with hundreds of immi-

grant workers and their local allies and friends to set out from 10 major U.S. cities, Las Vegas being one of them, in late September.

"This is not a political issue; it's social. It's about time everyone is legalized," says local Freedom Rider and immigrant rights activist Tino Camarenas.

The goal of the IWFR is to mobilize both citizens and non-citizens to create a social movement that will bring about reform of immigrant laws and will encourage new and future citizens to get involved in American society and its political process. The IWFR plans to inform the public and elected officials about the need to legalize immigrant workers in the U.S.; the right of these workers to reunite with their families; and the abuse immigrant workers face in the workplace.

As the Freedom Riders cross the U.S., they will stop in dozens of communities to organize support for immigration reform. After

holding a large rally in Washington, D.C., the Freedom Riders will end their trip at a massive event on Saturday, Oct. 4 in New York City.

The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride is being endorsed and organized by major international unions, national immigrant and civil rights groups, religious institutions, student and community organizations, elected officials and many others.

"This is about building power for immigrant workers,"

says Liz Moore, Southern Nevada Coordinator for the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada. "The goal of labor and immigrant rights groups is one and the same. It is restoring the American dream for working people."

Las Vegas was chosen to represent immigrant workers because it is a booming city. It is not only one of the fastest growing cities in the nation, but has also grown tremendously in immigrant population. Members of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride Coalition of Las Vegas plan to make the Freedom Ride the beginning of a strong and lasting coalition.

"Our state and our nation

have grown strong by the hard work and effort of immigrants," says Miguel Barrientos, president of the Mexican-American Political Association of Las Vegas. "Immigrants have come to this country to work, pay taxes and find the American Dream. My parents were immigrants, and I can tell you that immigrants are hard workers and are taxpayers."

Camarenas and his fellow Las Vegas Freedom Rider Anna Sotelo will depart Las Vegas on the Freedom Ride on Tuesday, Sept. 23, after a rally at Freedom Park. If you would like to learn more about immigrant rights and the Freedom Ride, visit [www.iwfr.org](http://www.iwfr.org).

## XPOZ'd teens protest legislative inaction

By Tiffany Rumsey, Liberty HS

I'm sure many have heard of XPOZ, but what is it? XPOZ is a youth coalition founded in 2000 that is active against the tobacco industry. I joined XPOZ a year ago because I don't like smoking, and I'm against the tobacco industry. I felt that by being a member of XPOZ, I'd have a chance to be heard and take down the influence of the tobacco industry.

XPOZ has a new group they put together called the Industry Resistance Unit. The IRU was created to motivate everyone to fight the industry. The IRU, like XPOZ, is a volunteer group of teens who take action against the tobacco industry. The difference? The IRU takes action by doing protests and taking the action to the streets.

Within the IRU, there are two different groups of teens: a small group that organizes the demonstrations, manages the group, and comes up with ways to get the messages heard; and the demonstrators: a large group of outraged teens that goes out to the streets to get the messages heard.

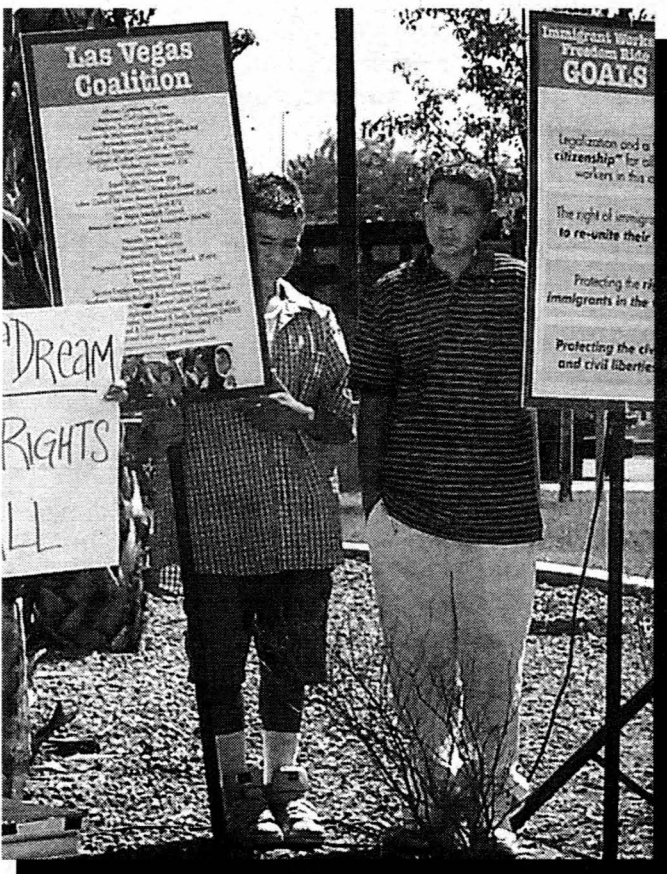
The IRU's first task was to take action on the state legislature's inaction regarding the secondhand-smoke concerns of Clark County voters. Sixty-seven percent of voters in Clark County voted to ban smoking in places where children are like grocery stores, shopping complexes and restaurants. Representatives from the tobacco industry presented false studies to our legislature, persuading them to basically ignore our vote.

To speak out against the issue, to reclaim democracy in Nevada and to have Nevadan's voices heard, the IRU protested at the Grant Sawyer Building on Aug. 14. We had a loud protest, where we chanted things like "The people spoke, so take a hint!"; "Nevada votes get trashed!"; and "Why vote if no one listens?"

We also held a rally with picket signs, each with its own message: "How much did the tobacco industry pay you?"; "Who will protect us from secondhand smoke?"; "Stop forcing cancer on us"; and "Wanted: Those who killed democracy in Nevada."

Another thing we did was a simulated vote. Mock ballots were placed in a ballot box, which of course was a trashcan, to simulate how Nevadan's votes were treated. Finally, a sign was placed in front of the building that read, "Welcome to the state of LIMITED DEMOCRACY where the people vote, and nobody listens."

Overall, the protest went great, and it was even covered live on TV channels 3 and 8.



Young Las Vegans rally to support immigrant rights.



# The Four R's of Interviewing



Everyone knows the three "R's" of the employment interview:

- Research the Industry*
- Research the Company*
- Research the Job*

Now there's a fourth "R." It's *Research Yourself*.

"Myself?" you might ask. "I think I know myself pretty well," you might say. Perhaps. But do you know what you want in a job and why you want it? You'd better because that's what employers are going to want to know.

One of the hottest questions employers are asking now is, "Why?" You can bet you'll be asked some why questions such as: "Why do you want a job with Universal Health Corp.?" "Why do you want to live in Atlanta?" "Why do you think we should hire you?"

In a small group, discuss what you would say when you answer these questions. Then role-play the interview including these questions.

(c)Job Jargon, February 2003

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED POSITIONS:

### Office Assistant

If you have a good phone voice, a positive attitude and are computer literate, this job may be just for you. Applicants must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Duties for this position include making up client file folders, answering phones and having high contact with clients. Workdays are Monday-Friday, from 12-4 p.m., totaling 20 hours per week. The wage is \$7.00 per hour. Job Number: 7738

### Sales Associate

Outgoing, motivated sales associate wanted to sell brand name designer fragrances and cosmetics. Applicants must be 16 years old, have a résumé and a work permit. Workdays are Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., totaling 20 hours per week. The wage is \$7.00 per hour. Job Number: 7739

### Ride Attendant

Attendant needed to operate rides and safely load/unload guests. Must be 17 years old, able to lift lap bars weighing 10 lbs, and have a work permit. This job requires prolonged standing and walking. The work days and hours are flexible, with a wage at \$6.50 per hour. Job Number: 7728

### Internship-Teller

This is a two-year internship with the possibility for permanent employment. Must be 16 years old, have a 3.0 GPA or higher, and have a work permit. Workdays are Monday-Sunday, from 2-6 p.m., totaling 20 hours per week. Job Number: 7722

**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.**

## Two sisters reach for scouting 'Gold Award'

By Dannielle and Rebecca Harrington, Silverado HS

Our names are Dannielle and Rebecca Harrington. We are sisters, and we are also Senior Girl Scouts in Troop No. 265. We are both currently working towards earning Girl Scout Gold Awards by creating events designed to serve the community. This is the highest award in Girl Scouts and is available to senior-level scouts, or those in 10th-12th grade.

Dannielle's project is called "Art from the Heart" and Rebecca's project is a workshop called "Teaching Teen Moms."

We thought it would be better if we both did our Gold Award events at the same time. For the past year, we have been doing all of the preliminary work that was necessary before starting the projects. We are really excited about our events being successful since both events benefit our community, and that feels good.

**Art from the Heart** is an art show and contest for all young artists in grades 9-12. It will be held on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2003 at Neonopolis from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The art show will give high school students the opportunity for exposure that they usually do not receive as well as the chance to win great prizes for their hard work. There will be first, second and third-place winners in each grade level. Gallery space, art supplies, gift certificates and art framing are just some of the prizes up for grabs. All participating artists will receive ribbons. One of the goals of this event is to give students a sense of accomplishment and encouragement for a positive future.

If you are interested in submitting your artwork to the show, please see the contact information below or speak with your high school art department. Participating public high schools will have submission



**Girl Scouts Dannielle and Rebecca Harrington go for the Gold.**

forms available. There will be three different classes to educate teens who are pregnant or who have an infant to learn more about being a mother. Five professional consultants are helping by teaching or speaking at the event.

At the end of the event, the participants will be provided with gift boxes. The boxes include baby clothing, toys, diapers, formula, bedding, coupons for items and gifts for the mother. They will also receive pamphlets and information about resources that teen mothers can access if needed.

If you are a teen mother or know a teen mother who is interested in participating, please see the contact information below. There are a limited number of spaces available and a waiting list will be kept to fill any cancellations.

If you would like to get involved in these projects or in Girl Scouts, contact Carol Harrington, Girl Scouts of Frontier Council, at 385-3677 ext. 241, or email [LVDDee@aol.com](mailto:LVDDee@aol.com).

## Teens get addiction-free at Westcare

By Marlo Starr,  
Community College HS

**A**cross the room, teenagers stares sullenly at a small television screen. Around the corner, a young girl cries quietly into the telephone. The group looks much older than its age and seems to have been beaten down by life. Some come from broken homes, others from the street, and many are suffering from drug addiction.

WestCare is an organization providing numerous health and human services to the community. In the youth substance abuse treatment program, three teenagers talk about their addictions to methamphetamine, breaking the habit, and learning to see the value in life.

Seventeen-year-old Annie\* has lost the cartilage in her nose. She has had two out-of-place ribs, four cracked ribs, and two torqued vertebrae. After being beaten severely so many times by the people whom she thought were friends, many of her broken bones could not heal.

She was arrested for possession of meth and was referred to WestCare by the courts. When asked where she thinks she would be if she weren't in WestCare, Annie replies, "There's no doubt in my mind I'd be dead."

"I have friends who will never see the light of day again and friends in mental institutions because they did so many drugs. It messed them up so badly that they would never be able to function in the real world," she says. "You don't know what it can do until you've already done it, and trust me, you don't want to know."

At the age of 13, Annie began using drugs, and she says that her life became a "rollercoaster." She explains that often people imagine life to be "light and airy," but much of her time was spent in "dark rooms."

In order to get money for drugs, she had to steal from

family members. Her younger sister refuses to speak to her, and her mother no longer lives with her because she was unable to handle Annie's mood swings. Many of her friends abandoned her, and others committed suicide.

Annie, who has now been clean for a few months, is trying to pick up where she left off. Through WestCare's counseling and anger management sessions, she is learning to cope with life without using drugs to escape from her emotions.

John\*, who is 15 years old, also began abusing substances at the age of 13. He began by smoking pot and later started using meth. After stealing an elderly woman's purse, he was put on probation and then sent to WestCare to break his addiction.

"I didn't care about anything but the drugs. Drugs were everything to me — escapism, dealing with life, just everything," he says. "Now that I'm off drugs, I see that life really is beautiful. I never got the chance to see that before."

Sixteen-year-old Lee\* says in agreement, "Like John said, drugs were everything. From the first time I tried drugs, it just sucked me in like a vacuum."

Lee began by "huffing glue" in the fifth grade. Since he was 11, his drug use has escalated from marijuana to cocaine and finally to meth. He broke into people's houses in search of money, jewelry or guns in order to pay for the drugs. If one of his friends had a job, he would wait until his payday and rob him.

Lee explains that in a way he was "a drug addict before he was a drug addict" because "you are your environment." His father was a drug user, and both his mother and stepfather were drinkers. Also, he says, "I started hanging out with the wrong crowd very early."

"Drugs stole my innocence," he says. "Normal people grow up into nice, young individuals, but it made me grow up into a dark person with a messed-up

outlook on life. My whole thinking process is warped."

Because of their addictions, Annie, John and Lee were forced to grow up in violent atmospheres, but as they are breaking free from drugs, they are learning to deal with and enjoy life instead of escaping from it.

Annie explains that going through the program is all about growing up because "when you start using drugs, your emotional growth stunts."

Darlene Terrill, Youth

Emergency Services Coordinator for WestCare, has been dealing with youth crisis situations every day over the past dozen years. She says, "I've seen 40,000 families come through here in the past 12 years, and I've entered a lot of kids' lives... (WestCare) has always been home. When everything else in their lives has broken down, this has always been constant."

On breaking his addiction, Lee says, "I was in quicksand, and somebody gave me a stick."

## Homophobia rampant among high school students

By Nick Haas, Silverado HS

**I**n today's world, we are told that people are very open to new things and that we accept all different styles of life. But that's not entirely true.

There are many people who don't accept the way that some people live. Homophobia is a major cause of discrimination in America today, causing people to lose many things ranging from jobs to lives. And it's not just adults who are discriminated against; it happens even among teens.

Most people think homophobia stems from a person's view on the AIDS epidemic. However, in most studies, it is found to start from fear of one's own sexuality. Though many people are becoming accepting of homosexuals, bigots are still using AIDS as a means for discrimination. Many, even if indifferent to gays and lesbians, still find homosexuality morally wrong. In fact until 1975, it was considered a mental illness and was treated by psychologists.

Today we know that homosexuals are not mentally ill, nor are they the only people who contract AIDS. AIDS is actually found most common in heterosexual males between the ages of 17 and 25. AIDS has taken thousands of lives of both heterosexuals and homosexuals.

As with any form of discrimination, there are side effects for the individual concerned. For gay and bisexual teens, the effects of discrimination include loneliness and isolation, hopelessness, fear of rejection and low self-esteem.

Many surveys have shown that the suicide rate is higher among teens who are gay or bisexual. One in five teens have considered committing suicide, and among those, one in four has actually planned out how he or she will do it. This rate goes up drastically among gay youth.

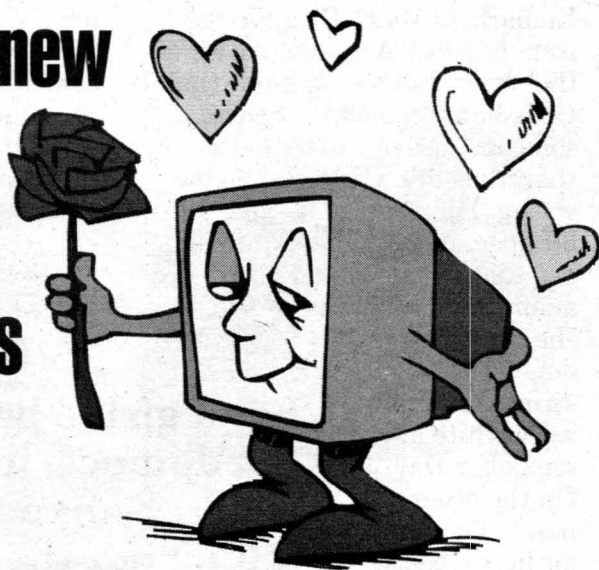
Many think anti-gay violence is a bad thing, yet studies show that hostility toward gays is more accepted than any other hatred. In fact three in four homosexuals have been verbally abused and one in four have suffered physical abuse. In a survey of 2,823 students from eighth to 12th grade, three-quarters of boys and half of girls said it would be bad to live next to a homosexual. It has been found that adolescents are more biased toward homosexuals than toward any other group because that is what they have been taught.

There are gays who are afraid to do things, fearing an attack by homophobes. Living with those fears can lead to a number of personality disorders. The most common among gay youth is depression. It can get so bad that they do not want to go outside during the daytime.

So even with the so-called "acceptance," there is a large amount of discrimination in the world. Let's just hope that we can bring an end to stupid bickering because one group of people feels differently about another group.

\* names have been changed

# Youths face new challenges as Internet relationships boom



By April Corbin,  
Las Vegas HS

We have all heard of the forty-year-old, balding men living in their parents' homes, posing as 15-year-old girls on the Internet, only to lure real teenage girls into meeting them and then attacking the girls. Although it is extremely important to keep in mind the dangers of having an online social life, there are actually many good things that can come from talking to people via the Internet.

It seems everywhere in the world, people are looking for their special someone. A new trend in relationships has been falling in love online. However, most people ask themselves: do these relationships ever work?

For former Las Vegas High School student Donna Corbin, it did. Although she met her boyfriend of nearly two and a half years online, she doesn't think

people should go out looking for love online. "It just sort of happens," she says.

As for the flack that couples who meet online get, Corbin says that that is all quite silly.

"I don't think it's all that different or weird at all," she says. "Lots of people go out to clubs and places like that looking for people to meet. Being online can be another form of that for some people. It's actually got advantages because it is through a computer screen. People are forced to be less judgmental about looks when they're online."

Love aside, online friendships have experienced a giant boom. Many teenagers now have online diaries or Web logs in which they vent about their day, their feelings, goals, fears, happiness and lives. Free online facilities like [livejournal.com](http://livejournal.com) and [diaryland.com](http://diaryland.com) have made reading the inner most thoughts of strangers in

other states and even countries a daily thing.

Vicki Starrett, a junior at Las Vegas Academy, met Robyn Krause through an online journal and the two have been friends ever since.

Friendships that start online can be just as valid, and sometimes more so, than those made in the real world.

"High school wasn't a good time for me at all," Krause reflects. "What I learned in college was that who I was in high school was okay. I didn't have to change into what everyone else was to really be cool. I really wish that someone had been able to tell me that then. That's part of why I'm really close friends with some younger people through the Internet."

Being older and getting through her hardships, Krause is happy to be able to help other people too because she says she knows what it's like to be sad and not to understand it. "I'm

sort of an older sister to Vicki. Someone needs to be there, and it's easier this way."

However, online relationships come with their downsides. Being hundreds of miles away, Krause says she often feels like she can't do anything. "When you're messaging someone online, you don't know what they're doing, who else they are talking to, or what else is going on."

Also, making efforts to communicate any way other than online is weird. Talking to someone offline can often be weird too, simply because you aren't used to it. This is true for both online romances and online friendships.

The online lives of teenagers can often exceed their parents' knowledge of computers, which can lead to unknown hazards and dangers. However, the Internet is here to stay, and there are many benefits to having friends across the world.

## Net safety rules!

When traveling the Information Superhighway, remember to follow these rules of the road:

- When talking online or through your online journal, be careful about how much you reveal about yourself, your location and other valuable information.
- Don't be in a rush to meet someone you met online.
- Remember: not everyone thinks honesty is the best policy.
- Trust your instincts, but don't rely strictly upon them.
- If planning to meet someone from online, use the buddy system and meet in a public place. Sure, it may seem dumb, and we're not in kindergarten anymore, but the risk is still there.

# Can't we all just get along?

By Charlene Diaz, Western HS

An old maxim states, "Most people pass through our lives like falling leaves, but a true friend is like finding a rare diamond."

Maintaining a friendship is one of the hardest things to do in life, not only for teenagers, but also for adults. Finding that one person who is willing to share all the ups and downs associated with life produces a difficult challenge for the average teen.

In all logic, "perfect" friends do not exist. If one looks long enough at people, there will always be imperfections.

Jaime Maines, a Western High School senior, had just that kind of friend. She says, "As I got to know that person, I

started to notice things about her that made me dislike her."

This is one of the many dangers of examining people too closely. Perhaps if people accepted others for their differences, friendships could last longer.

Naturally, many people chase friends out of their lives unnecessarily, causing drama and a whole lot of regrets.

Western junior Shane Anderson was asked if a fight with a best friend should be allowed to cause the end of the friendship. He replies, "It really matters on how bad or severe the problem is. I think it really depends on the situation."



"Friends are a girl's best diamonds."

The biggest reason for a teen terminating a friendship is usually a dispute over a boy or girl. Often friendship ends the moment one friend becomes involved with someone his or her friend doesn't like or the friend likes them "a little too much." Basically, the key to deciding whether to terminate a friendship or not lies in the severity of the argument.

For those who have found that "diamond," take a moment to appreciate it. For those other people who are missing the true meaning of friendship and trying to have someone meet their standards of what "perfect" friends might be, you are expecting too much of friends.

# Even when it's over, it's not really over

## Breaking up a relationship can be an ugly thing

By Rachael Sanman, Centennial HS



**B**reaking up is hard to do. It's common knowledge that girls sometimes take things harder than guys and get more emotional about things. Although, when it comes to break ups, girls can be the stronger party. Sure, they are affected by it, but truly, they handle it better.

There's one end of the spectrum — wanting to be friends with "the ex." Then there's the other end — celebrating that you don't have to talk to the ex and wanting to keep it that way.

Somewhere in the middle, there's a little black hole that goes unnoticed. Being friends with the ex, but wishing that you weren't. Contrary to popular belief, more girls find that they want nothing to do with their ex-boyfriends.

Guys, on the other hand, don't have a little black hole. They have two choices, friends or enemies. Surprisingly, most guys wanted to be or are friends with

their ex-girlfriends. Some may say, "Better friends than enemies, right?" That may be the truth, depending on the circumstances of the break up. If the break up was revengeful and nasty, the guy's comment could very well be, "I don't get along with her and don't want to!"

From both sexes, there is a little spark of hope somewhere within. Maybe the girl wishes for a better relationship with her ex. From the male perspective, he might want to get back together with her in the future. Even through hate or love, there's always something in the back of their minds, wondering about the other person.

"Does he think about me?" girls may ask themselves regularly, even after a nasty break up. No matter how much girls want to believe that they don't think about him, or still dream about him, they do. The same goes for guys, too. If people have to think or talk about how much they loathe their exes, or how much their exes hurt them, they're still thinking about them.

The next question would be who would feel more pressured not to be friends with the other, the dumper or the dumpee?

Most girls are inclined to say the dumpee. But what is some girls' biggest fear? Rejection?

Embarrassment? Disapproval from friends? Actually, it's all of the above, but we all knew that. Girls hate the fact that there is someone else out there better than they are. Girls hate to be wrong. For a girl to be the dumpee, it would be like telling her that no one would notice her again if her hair was on fire, if she wore polka-dots with stripes, or if she wore white after Labor Day. On the other hand, it's okay for her to be the dumper.

Nevertheless, there will always be those emotional girls who take every situation to the next level — those who live life in the emergency lane. They treat every little mishap as if it were a big, emotional emergency. Those types of girls may feel that both parties wouldn't want to be friends. Of course, it's all on an emotional level: guilt from the dumper's perspective and jealousy and sadness from the dumpee's point of view.

However, some guys seem to think that if you're the dumper, you automatically have the unspoken right to not be friends with the dumpee. Guys always seem to love to be the dumper, as anyone would, but they want it

for the upper hand over the girls. They want to feel as if they're in control and they had some say in the relationship. The guy didn't want the relationship anymore; therefore, he gets to decide whether he wants to befriend his ex.

Without a doubt, guys and girls like having the upper hand in the relationship and how it may end. Afterwards, they seem to forget about their controlling side. Both guys and girls won't tell their friends to stay away from their exes. Most figure, "It's their lives; they

can do what they want." They're completely correct. The friends don't need more parents; they already own a few.

Guys may say they don't care, and they're right. Unless they cared for a girl a lot, "it's just another girl the crew can run through." To some girls, their exes are just "leftovers" that their friends can play with.

Whatever the circumstances, breakups end pretty ugly. The breakup itself may be calm and decent, but the aftermath could be a lot worse. From stealing each other's things to spreading rumors, somebody gets hurt in the end.

**For a girl to be the dumpee, it would be like telling her that no one would notice her again if her hair was on fire...**

## Leave the popularity game behind — be all that by being yourself

By Linda Nguyen, Western HS

**P**opularity has been said to be the foundation of high school, but is popularity really all that important? If so, what makes an individual popular? Confidence, body image, money and the way an individual accessorizes are common standards of popularity. Grades, intelligence and personality are qualities often overlooked. Setting standards for popularity that not all may fit excludes some interesting people.

Popular students may be well known and thought to be role models of the school, but is popularity an easy task to carry throughout the high school years? The pressures placed on students to be "all they can be" are enough to break students down. Living life through rumors, assumptions and opinions affects the way teens see themselves.

"I think popularity does affect a teens' self esteem," says Western High School Counselor Mrs. Reymer. "People who think they're not popular are conscious of themselves because they think they're being judged when they go out. Some people try to perfect their everyday images while others really don't care."

Teens who feel they do not look "good enough" have negative opinions of what they believe others say about them. Worrying about popularity too much can affect the determination and success a student has in school.

Reymer says, "Popularity can affect a student in classrooms if their focus is on the popularity and not on class. It can have a negative affect if they try to be popular and forget why they're in school."

Reymer says that if a teen directs his or her focus toward being popular, their success rate in school will decline because they are focusing on the wrong thing at the wrong time.

Junior Daniel Haynes says, "I think whatever will get a student to work is good, but what will happen when the need to be popular disappears? It is better to work hard because you want to be successful than to work hard to increase your popularity."

Whether a teen hangs with the "in crowd" and becomes popular through luck or skills does not matter as long as they are happy where they are.

Reymer adds, "I think being raised to be confident people makes children popular. It's easier for them to be popular because they're just nice to be around. Even on a bad hair day, they could still come to school and it wouldn't matter."

Reymer feels a confident person can turn bad things around, not be affected by the judgment of others, and still be cool and popular in others' eyes because of their own confidence.

Therefore, being popular in school requires not only a good personality, but also the right combination of confidence and skills to navigate your way through the social maze that is high school.

# Superstitions aren't real... knock on wood

By Brady Johnson,  
LV Academy

Superstitions are a part of our society's culture and have been around for hundreds of years. Some can be traced back to the Salem Witch Trials, when superstitions helped judge whether or not people were guilty of practicing witchcraft. Yet, even in modern times, stars like Jennifer Aniston and Cameron Diaz believe that luck plays a major role in their success.

Corinne Leo, a Las Vegas Academy junior, simply says, "Knock on wood," as she taps her lunch table. Many people believe that this can bring someone good luck.

Many people, however, don't really know where superstitions come from. Everyone knows the superstition that warns people not to walk under a ladder. Yet, not many know that the idea actually came from the early Christian belief that a ladder, when leaned against a wall, made a triangle representing the Holy Trinity. They said that if one disturbs the Holy Trinity, that person is in league with the devil.

In the sixth century, people were often blessed for sneezing because it was thought that when you sneezed, you were expelling any evil that might inhabit your body. Later, during a plague in Europe, the Pope passed a law requiring people to bless someone who sneezed because that was a symptom of the plague. Hence, when people sneeze today, we say, "Bless you."

Another common place to find superstitions is in the sports world. Some athletes believe it's good luck to wear the same socks throughout a championship tournament.

Sarah Burgman, an LVA sophomore says, "I have a lucky sock because I lost the other one, and so I always wear it at auditions. It has a monkey on it."

It is a very widespread superstition that you should carry a St. Christopher medal with you when you travel; however, most historians believe that there never really was a St. Christopher to begin with.

A very common superstition in practice is that which tells us to beware of Friday the 13th. This superstition began when someone noticed many horrible historical events occurring on Fridays. Historians say that Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden on a Friday, Noah's flood started on a Friday, and Christ was crucified on a Friday. Christians then added that at satanic ceremonies, 12 witches and one devil are represented. The two together are said to be deadly.

LVA students like junior Ashleigh Cortright also believe in superstitions. She says, "If you spill salt, it's bad luck, so you throw it over your shoulder."

Just to be safe, though, don't walk under a ladder or cross a black cat's path, and be extra careful on Friday the 13th. Better safe than sorry.

## sports

# NASCAR drivers to watch

By Bryan Manalang, Foothill HS

A few years ago, you may have gone grocery shopping and met someone named Matt Kenseth or drove down the street and met Kevin Harvick. Back then, they were nobodies, most likely fixing fire hydrants or fixing cars while they dreamed of becoming professional racecar drivers. Today, they're everywhere. You can't go down the street without seeing a poster of Dale Earnhardt Jr. or go into a library without seeing a Matt Kenseth poster. Who are these people, you ask? They're NASCAR drivers — athletes in America's largest sport.

You may find it hard to believe, but NASCAR has surpassed football and basketball in popularity and earnings the past five years, and it has brought some mega superstars with it. Around many parts of the country, the name Dale Earnhardt Jr. is more well known than Tom Hanks or George W. Bush, and the word NASCAR is just a part of normal life.

However, in the past three years in the elite NASCAR Winston Cup Division, three prolific drivers have arisen and separated themselves from the rest of the pack; those drivers are Dale Earnhardt Jr., Matt Kenseth and Kevin Harvick. What else do these three men have in common? They're all under the age of 35 and chasing their first Winston Cup Championship.

Earnhardt Jr., 29, has surpassed Jeff Gordon within the sport. He has also passed Gordon in popularity outside of it as the driver of the #8 Budweiser Chevrolet. After his father's death in the 2001 Daytona 500, Earnhardt Jr. inherited many of his father's fans and showed that he was more than ready to win that year, placing three wins and earning an eighth-place finish in the overall standings.

Since entering Winston Cup in 2000, he's had 140 starts and eight victories, with four of those victories scored at NASCAR's largest track at Talladega Superspeedway. Earnhardt Jr., prior to entering Winston Cup, already had two NASCAR Busch Series Championships under his belt.

After the death of Earnhardt Sr., his car owner, Richard Childress, had to fill the vacancy left behind by Earnhardt Sr.'s passing. Childress put Busch Series Rookie of the Year Harvick into the #29 GM Goodwrench Chevrolet. It turned out to be the right choice as Harvick won in only his third start in a close finish with four-time champion Gordon.

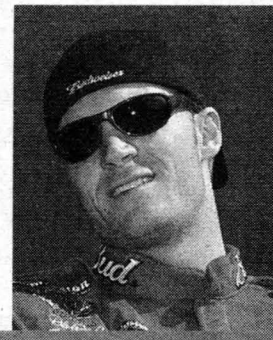
Since 2001, Harvick has added more accomplishments to his résumé by winning two Chicago land races, recording a ninth-place finish in the Winston Cup standings, winning a Busch Series Championship and scoring a win in NASCAR's most prestigious event, The Brickyard 400, in 2003.

If there was ever an underdog in the sport, it'd have to be the driver who always seems to overcome all obstacles and odds to win. That underdog is the soft-spoken Kenseth, 31, driver of the #17 Dewalt Tools Ford. Throughout his career, he has always taken a backseat to his counterpart Earnhardt Jr. Kenseth lost out to Earnhardt Jr. twice for the Busch Series Championship and found himself finishing second in almost every race he ran.

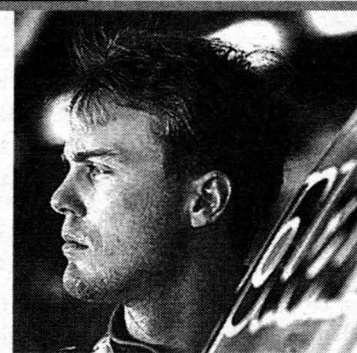
But that changed when both drivers made their debut in the elite Winston Cup division. Even though Earnhardt Jr. recorded three wins compared to Kenseth's one that year, Kenseth finished higher in the overall standings and won the Rookie of the Year Award.

Three years and six wins later, Kenseth leads the Winston Cup standings by the widest margin since 1987 over none other than Earnhardt Jr. Kenseth has one victory so far in 2003, winning the third race of the season at Las Vegas. His team hopes to continue its consistency and to end up at the head table at the Winston Cup Championship Banquet in December.

Right now these three drivers are all in the Top 10 in the NASCAR Winston Cup standings, and all are eager to win the championship. Ever since their debuts in the sport, they've raised the stakes and required the competition to step up their efforts if they want to win. These three drivers still have a lot to learn in the division, but with their impressive records in recent years, the competition finds itself in their rear view mirrors.



Top, Dale Earnhardt Jr.; left, Matt Kenseth; bottom, Kevin Harvick.



Alispor/Getty Images

Going back to school not only means you have to start waking up early and sitting through six-hour days, but it also means that it's time to go out and buy new clothes that are of the latest fashion.

It is common knowledge that every year styles change and new concepts are formed, and it is important to have what looks great. Yet, since starting my own line of homemade purses, seeing the new fashions has become even more interesting.

My line, Micala Jayne's Didi Bags, has definitely been the beginning of something big for me. I plan to go into a career in fashion, and this has been a wonderful learning experience. My mother's profession, as well as her artistic hand, largely affected my great interest in fashion and design fields. My mother is Leslie Parraguirre, CEO of Colours, Inc., an interior design firm here in Las Vegas. I have worked for and with her over summers for as long as I can remember, which I believe planted the seed of a need to create. She taught me to paint and has always pushed me to do something with my artistic abilities. Her influence has definitely been a big help and a point of reference for my future goals.

My bags are all made with a special type of yarn. Every bag is different in some way due to the fact that each one is handmade either by my grandmother, Wanda Jacobs, or by me. Each bag takes from three to four hours to make. My grandmother helps out a lot; I couldn't do it without her. It is tedious work, but it does pay off and I love doing it. Everyone gets such a thrill out of the bags that I have to continue to make them!

Micala Jayne's Didi Bags can be used for just about any occasion, from shopping at the mall to attending a formal event. They are good for anything. I think that could be why they have become so popular. People want something they can use more than once.

These bags are pretty easy to get ahold of, especially if you are a local. They are currently



Back-to-school style is in the bag with Micala Hall's one-of-a-kind creations.

## Going back to school in style

By Micala Hall, Palo Verde HS

being sold at Ryan Gallery in Las Vegas and in a boutique in Sun Valley, Idaho. I also have begun experimenting with the idea of trunk shows. I have had two to date and I am looking forward to having more in the near future. It's a fun environment with purses, food and music — a perfect way to spend the day with the girls! I always have fun doing those with my Mum. She is always such a big help in getting things set up and organized. Without her strong business sense, this could never have been realized.

If you have ever seen a Didi bag, you would know that there are truly no two alike. Individuality is important to me, and I love knowing that I have something for everyone. It's not

about being the same and being in style. That was never the point. It's all about creating your own style and walking around with confidence in yourself.

Over the years, I have found that people are most afraid to stand out and be different, and I think that is the main reason that I push the concept to the extreme. I have never fit in any one place. I have always had friends from every group and every background, and it used to bother me that I didn't have a "group." Now that I'm 17, I have realized that being different is the best gift I have been given. People that "fit in" are never noticed; they are merely the wallflowers that envy those who can rebel against the mode

that our society has formed for us.

As I find myself getting closer and closer to graduation, I have been thinking a lot about what I will do with my life after the golden high school years. Last summer when I first began the Micala Jayne line, I decided that fashion was what I would like to do.

This year to prepare myself, I have been taking some classes in school to better equip myself for joining this industry and running my own business. I have taken fashion merchandising, which was a wonderful class that broadened my understanding of merchandising as a whole; a fashion apparel construction class, where you learn to follow pattern guides; and a consumer education class, which helped me in the understanding of laws and consumer needs. I will attend a college with an emphasis in fashion as well as merchandising. I hope to attend either the Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles or the California College of Arts and Crafts in San Francisco.

With all these plans for the future, I still find it important to enjoy my last year at Palo Verde High School. I have made some great friends there, and I truly feel lucky to have all of them as supporters. They come to all of my Micala Jayne events and are always willing to help me out. Friends are so important to have. They truly make life more fun.

As for who inspires me in my life, I would have to say that aside from my Mum and my friends, I have always loved the artist Andy Warhol. He is such an amazing person — strange in his lifestyle, but his artwork has truly changed the way that I look at things. He inspires me through his work. He integrated his sense of humor into everything that he did, and I am a strong believer in the idea that if you can't laugh, you have nothing to live for.

My favorite quote from "The Philosophy of Andy Warhol" serves as a perfect ending to this article: "They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself."

# Dress for success, not trouble

By Tiffany Boydston,  
Western HS

It's hard trying to find a cute, yet school-approved outfit. When students find the perfect outfit, they soon realize, "Oh, no! It's against dress code regulations!" However, there really is a way to meet the Clark County School District dress code, yet still dress in style.

Think about it: low-rise, slightly boot cut jeans and flare jeans still top the "must-have" list. One could wear a pair of low-rise jeans with a cute peasant top, or any other top that covers the torso and is three fingers wide for the straps.

Yes, the tops that are the cutest are the ones that are not school approved. However, it's actually acceptable to wear those shirts, as long as students wear an over shirt or a jacket. Having to cover the latest style is a bummer, but at least students wear the shirts they want, and they don't have to continue to wear an over shirt or jacket after school hours.

Western High School Dean Mr. Kennedy states, "If you dress in a successful manner, you feel confident about your outlook and work place. It psychologically puts people in a mode where they can be productive."

When asked how students can dress better without having to wear outfits that they don't care for, Kennedy states, "Students need to understand that school is a work place. Students can and should wear popular

outfits when appropriate. For example, athletic events, weekends and anytime after school hours."

Students make common and reoccurring mistakes and are caught by deans and school monitors. Kennedy states, "Students assume that when their friends wear outfits that aren't school approved and do not get caught for it, then the students can wear the same outfits the next day and not get caught."

Many students disagree with pretty much everything about the dress code. When asked if there was one rule that he disagrees with, Mr. Kennedy states, "When the straps are pretty close to three fingers. Some deans may let it slide, while others may not. Yet I still have to do my job, according to district policy."

To adhere to the rule that states that tank-top straps must be three inches and cover the shoulder, or that shorts can't be too short, just wear an over shirt or wear a skirt that isn't too short. To avoid the hassle of being stopped in the hallways for shorts being too short, some students wear their shorts frayed (make sure the shorts are not cutoffs; they need to be hemmed). It tends to give the look that is daring, but is still within the dress code.

What high school teenagers wear to school determines who they are, and it says something about their personalities. With an understandable and clear dress code, it makes it easier too. Dress for success, not trouble.

## time out



## Punk music: Catching on or faking it?

By Jess Roadhouse,  
Indian Springs HS

It seems that now everybody is into punk rock or plays the music. We see all sorts of bands on MTV saying, "Yeah, we just wanna let the kids have fun and play true punk." But are they?

Punk, in some people's opinions, is not made for MTV or magazines. It's supposed to be something you do for yourself. You make the music you want to make because you can.

Joe Strummer, the guitar player from The Clash, said, "I will always believe in punk rock because it's about creating something for yourself."

But now it's being turned into "the cool thing to do." Some kids say they "dress punk" because they like the style, but punk isn't about the clothes. It's about you, your life and the music. You can't put punk into a tee shirt or pair of pants.

Some Vegas teens even argue punk is no longer real. A lot of them say punk was true with bands like The Ramones, Sex Pistols and The New York Dolls. Others say punk will always be real, as long as the kids who like it still exist.

The question "is punk real anymore" is as easy to answer as how many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop. The world may never know.

## Rowdy crowds shut down local music venue

By Joshua Chase, Community College HS

It's a sight seen far too often in Las Vegas' local music scene. The loss of a venue comes as a devastating, however unsurprising, blow to the scene's supporters and participants. In a town based on odds, failure is a recognized and accepted part of the game.

Although the Java Joint has been around for about five years, its latest owner, Sheila Robinson, has only been a part of the business for just over a year. The San Francisco native bought the coffee shop in June of 2002 and soon after decided to start an open-mic night. Originally on Friday nights, the show gave local musicians a chance to perform their songs, polish their chops and have a great time.

As the open-mic night grew in popularity, Sheila moved the event to Wednesday nights and began booking bands to play shows on weekend nights. As time went on, the Java Joint became a venue-of-choice to many local acts. The café featured repeat performances by bands like GDB, the Tray Surfers and Stuck Naked. There were also performances made by such acts as Travis Mercer, Blu Realm, Karla Jo Davis and Daniel Blackerby.

Naturally, as the shows became more popular, they also grew in attendance. Unfortunately for the Java Joint, as well as the local scenesters, this rise in numbers eventually translated into a rise in trouble.

At a GDB show in early August, a series of incidents occurred, including show-goers climbing to the roof, drinking underage and shoplifting at nearby businesses. Business owners complained to the owner of the shopping plaza where the Java Joint is located.

As a result, even though these events took place outside of the Java Joint itself, the café has been forced to stop all forms of live entertainment and to cancel all future shows.

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

# Burger wars: Where to get the best burger for your buck



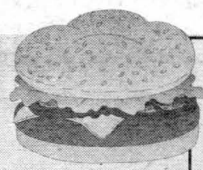
By Charles Trujillo,  
Green Valley HS

ODDS ARE that everyone you know has probably eaten at a fast food place such as McDonald's, Burger

King, In-N-Out or Wendy's over the summer. One day out of boredom, someone suggested that we should find out which place has the overall best burger in town. My friend Thomas Racioppo and I determined our grading scale and headed off in search of Vegas' best burger.

Our point scale allowed ten points possible in each of six categories: size, taste, price, toppings, freshness and overall quality. There was a total score of 60 possible. See the chart at the right for our findings.

After tasting the burgers, we gave an average of 45.5 points out of 60 to the



**Burger King  
Whopper  
\$2.13**

**In-N-Out  
Cheeseburger  
\$1.56**

**McDonald's  
Quarter Pounder  
\$2.46**

**Wendy's  
Classic Single  
\$2.76**

RANK	1 (tie)		1		1 (tie)		2		3		4		4		3	
JUDGES	Charles Thomas		Charles Thomas		Charles Thomas		Charles Thomas		Charles Thomas		Charles Thomas		Charles Thomas		Charles Thomas	
Size	10	10	7	4	5	5	7	6	7	6	7	6	7	6	6	6
Taste	7	7	7	8	7	6	3	6	7	6	3	6	7	6	6	6
Price	6	6	7	7	5	4	2	4	5	4	2	4	5	4	4	4
Toppings	8	7	8	9	5	6	8	5	8	6	8	5	8	6	5	5
Freshness	7	8	8	8	7	4	7	6	7	4	7	6	7	6	6	6
Overall	7	8	8	8	7	6	6	6	7	6	6	6	7	6	6	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>

Whopper, which was Thomas' favorite burger of the bunch. The only thing wrong with it was that it cost too much, and the best thing was that it was the biggest burger, so it won first place in our scoring.

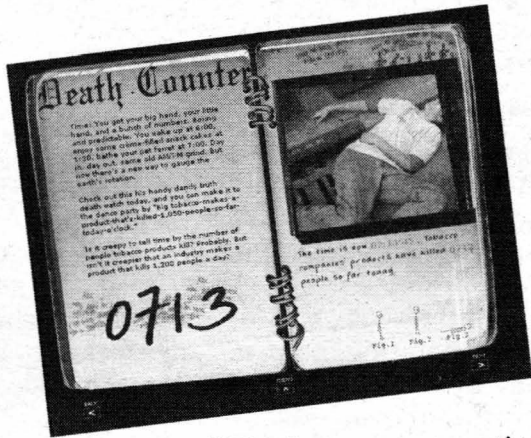
In-N-Out came in second with an average 44.5 out of 60 points. The worst thing was the size of the burger and the best thing was the toppings.

McDonald's squeaked passed Wendy's for third place with an average of only 33.5 points, with the worst things being the

freshness of the toppings and the price of the burger. The best thing was probably the taste of the burger or the amount of toppings.

Wendy's scored only 33 points and came in last place. The worst thing about the Single was the price you paid for such a small burger. The best thing was the freshness of the vegetables.

So, there you have it. The best fast food burger in Vegas is the Whopper from Burger King.



Web site images from thetruth.com try to get the anti-smoking message to teens.

## Exposing truth about ineffective anti-smoking campaigns

By Cherish Dollar,  
Community College HS

The prevalence of organizations like Truth and Xpoz are sure signs that facts about the dangers of tobacco use are not lost on adolescents; both of these

anti-smoking, for-teens-by-teens groups spread their messages through commercials and Web sites.

Yet, despite efforts made by these organizations, many teens continue to smoke.

Though young adults are well

aware of the consequences of cigarette smoking, why is it that so many continue the destructive habit?

Apparently, teenagers smoke for reasons not targeted by Drug-Free America, Truth or Xpoz.

Some teens smoke because they find it rebellious. Nothing is more alluring than what is forbidden; this idea carries over to the relationship teens have with smoking. When

teens are told by parents and the media that they should not smoke, the act becomes appealing. Rather than steering teens away from smoking, anti-smoking forces only serve to romanticize the act.

Teens also use smoking as a way to create an identity or persona. Adolescence is the time of physical and emotional upheaval when one makes the transition from child to adult. A teen may discover that dealing with this period is easier when finding an identity is as easy as paying \$5 for a pack of cigarettes.

Anti-smoking groups should be seeking real solutions for the teen smoking epidemic. Rather than spewing slogans of "Just Say No," a real effort should be taken to get teens to discover qualities that make them unique individuals. A campaign stressing how rebellious smoking *isn't* may also help teens realize that when they light up, they are falling in line with countless others who are addicted to cigarettes.

As cutting edge as Truth and Xpoz may believe themselves to be, statistics show that such organizations have little effect on the choices teens make about smoking. The truth about nicotine's damaging effects has been common knowledge for quite some time. Organizations with teens' interests in mind should go back to the drawing board and think of more substantial ways to help teens kick smoking.





# CRASH RADIO breaks out on their debut CD



By Rachel Hommel, Green Valley HS

**L**os Angeles — the city of stars, glitz, glamour and glory. And now Los Angeles will roll out the red carpet for a band that is not only original but has vast potential. Be careful. You are about to crash into Crash Radio.

Crash Radio was formed in December 2000 in sunny Los Angeles, Calif. Crash Radio is Michael St. Germain (vocals and guitar); Jason Giordano (guitars); Edward Shemansky (drums and vocals); Jay Gillie (guitars); and Johnny Martin (bass and vocals). After performing a total of only six shows, Crash Radio was signed to Virgin Records. Matt Serletic, CEO and president of Virgin Records, has been known to work with Matchbox 20, Santana and even Aerosmith.

Crash Radio's self-titled debut album is an intricate blend of '80s rock with a unique pop-punk sound. St. Germain, the lead singer, has an amazing vocal range that can switch from soft mutterings to loud, boisterous wails. The band is certainly not afraid to toy with the listener's ears. Many of their songs start out like a soft love ballad and go into several furious verses of high-strung energy and resentment. It's a great rush that leaves you wanting more.

The vocals sound like a mix of Incubus and Stone Temple Pilots with a dab of Foo Fighters and a sprinkle of Jane's Addiction. However, musically it's hard to put a finger on a certain sound. At times they sound like The Starting Line, yet have a faint reminiscence of Matchbox 20.

With such varied influences ranging from Guns N Roses and David Bowie to The Descendants and Jellyfish, it's easy to see why this band can appeal to a diverse audience. They are even influenced by modern-day rock bands like the Deftones, Finch

and NOFX. But above all, Crash Radio admits their inspiration comes out of their admiration for the Foo Fighters.

"I know all of the band members would love to tour with The Foo Fighters. They are our favorite band," says guitarist Gillie. "We've had the privilege to hang out with them a few times. Not only are they the best band out right now, but I must say, out of all the rock stars I've met, they are the coolest."

Indeed, Crash Radio has fans of their own. Their street team has already gained tons of diehard fans, and the band is interested in their fans' lives. Fans from all over the U.S. come together online and spend hours chatting about their favorite band, not to mention promoting it. Crash Radio will answer any questions the fans have and are consistently on the message boards. They have even gone so far as to give out their screen names to their fans.

Along with their dedication, Crash Radio's style is also VERY important to note (for the women at least.) They have amazing hair that seems to fall perfectly in place around their masculine features. Their eyes have a deep passion in them, yet their smiles are very reassuring and friendly.

But most importantly, when placed in leather, they look like none other than the infamous Motley Crue, and they seem to be just as swank and debonair.

For example, their song titled "101" is all about the glitzy and quite pretentious L.A. music scene. However, it's also about the love they have for their crazy city. The lyrics are raw and energized, not to mention extremely catchy:

*"It's not the hair/ it's not the shoes/ it's just the cocaine/ how we met out on the set/ welcome to L.A./ choking on cigarettes/ drowning at the whiskey bar/ I want to be a superstar."*

Track 8, titled "What I'm On," is an ideal model of Crash Radio's unique appeal. Vocally, it's rugged yet has a sweet underlying tone.

However, the last track of the album proves to be the greatest treasure on this CD. It reveals the musical talent of the band: funky yet romantic. The song "Breathe" is about not only doubting relationships, but the feelings of emptiness when that loved one is suddenly gone and out of your life. It also suggests the pain and confusion of seeing them again. Although a rather bittersweet anthem, it's beautiful:

*"Am I nobody?!/ I guess that I/ just can't believe/ what this does to me/ just having to see you here over and over again,/ and I just can't breathe/ without you close to me/ and it's killing me/...I'm only human/ so please don't dismiss me/ there's something about you that never dilutes me/ I can't trust myself/and I feel like I'm fading here over and over again..."*

After the last lyrics, an '80s guitar melody goes strong until it slowly fades out. It's a perfect finish to a great album.

There are three components to a good band: vocals, lyrics and music. Crash Radio's debut CD does a superior job of vocally showcasing the talents of St. Germain. The lyrics are a little predictable and clichéd, yet the music is fun and the album proves to be a vocal masterpiece.

This summer alone, they participated in TransWorld Media's first ever BMX Movie Tour. Although they didn't come to Vegas, Crash Radio performed here last May with Kevin Martin, The Hiwatts and Magna-Fi. And things are only going to get bigger and better.

"I can't wait to play the West Coast, and meet the West Coast Street Teamers. See you at the shows!" says guitarist Giordano.

# Konnichiwa!

## Japanese manga offer great reading, window into another world

By Stephanie Espinoza, Green Valley HS

There's nothing quite as satisfying as sitting down to read a favorite comic book — backwards.

Right to left is how the Japanese read their graphic novels, and incidentally their influence seems to be catching on fast over here. Those who have been in a local video store recently have probably noticed the growing anime section that now holds so much more than “Dragonball Z,” “Sailor Moon” and (shudder) “Pokemon.” But a majority of these on-screen titles originated as stories in Japanese graphic novels known as manga — another, more portable and literary form of Japanese culture taking America by storm.

Bookstores have moved from having a small shelf for manga to creating entire displays that advertise their hottest titles, many now being printed in the more authentic form of right to left. But if you've never opened a book backwards and seen the drawings of teens with big eyes, you may not understand just what manga really is. Manga is more than just comic books. It is a medium that teaches Japanese culture, a form of beautiful art, and a multitude of different genres within the category of Japanese animation. But let's start with the basics.

First off, gomen (sorry) to the expert manga fans who already know the meanings of my explanations. After being an otaku (anime fan) for only four years, there's still much I have to learn on the subject of manga



David Espinoza, a Green Valley freshman, kicks back with Shonen Jump magazine, a collection of the hottest new releases in Japanese manga.

and anime, but I hope to get teens interested in the genre by describing what newbies don't yet know. So here we go.

Despite the many genres of manga from fantasy, adventure, robots and so on, two basic categories that manga is primarily divided into are shojo (translated as girls' comics) and shonen (boys' comics). Of course, this doesn't mean that boys can't enjoy the gentle romances of shojo or girls can't enjoy the action-packed heroes of shonen. In fact, a well-rounded manga fan should enjoy some of both.

At a local bookstore, you may be able to find teen girls' manga in with the young adult fiction. Or in the magazine section, you can find the manga collection Shonen Jump, which incorporates seven serial stories in every issue (over 300 pages of manga at only \$4.95)! Of course to read it correctly you will have to re-train your eyes.

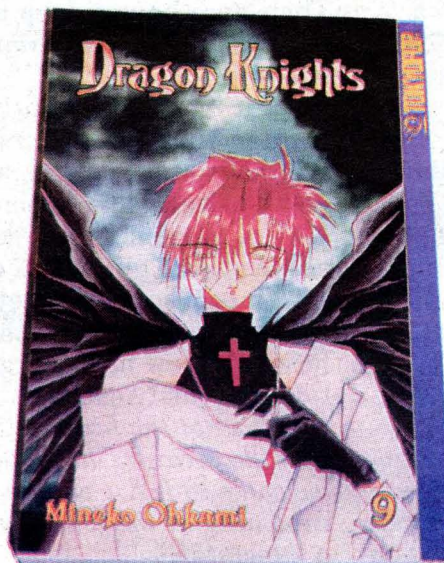
Among the many aspects of Japanese culture you can learn from manga, reading backwards is probably one of the most fun you can practice. In Japan, books are read in what we think of as backwards,

starting with the “back” cover and moving from right to left. Their books and graphic novels are also printed in kanji, Japanese symbols that appear one on top of the other and thus read from top to bottom. But in manga translated to English, you won't have to read words from top to bottom or backward letters. It's the comic book panels that are flipped. You start with the panel in the upper right-hand corner, read the words in the word balloon and then move to the panel directly to the left. Once the entire row of panels is read from right to left you go to the next row with the panel on the far right. It may sound confusing, but once you practice and get used to it, you won't want to read comics any other way.

Other parts of Japanese culture you can learn by reading manga range from clothes and customs to holidays and words. For example, in Japan, on March 14 (a holiday known as “White Day”), you give gifts to everyone who gave you choco-



Must-reads in manga.



late on Valentine's Day one month before. Now you have another excuse to ask for presents. And after just a little reading or research you can easily learn that “arigato” is Japanese for thank you, “gomen” means sorry, and “takoyaki” are octopus dumplings. Also, coming from a different culture, you'll often find stories that are more mature, in-depth, and that deal with issues for an audience of teens and above. These cartoons aren't just kids' stuff.

With that in mind, here are some brief descriptions of titles I recommend to old and new fans alike:

“**Dragon Knights**”: A 17-volume fantasy series that follows the story of three guys who each possess the power of a dragon ally, and fight demons to protect their home. The plot becomes a bit complex as the series gets further in, so you have to pay attention, but the drawings are high quality eye candy, and the humor spread throughout makes this title an enjoyable read. ★★★★★

“**One Piece**”: One of the titles published in Shonen Jump magazine, it's now available in graphic novel form. It's about a happy-go-lucky boy named Luffy, who wants to be the king of all pirates. The illustrations and story at first glance seem a little simple, at times even silly, but there are deeper messages beneath the surface. And you can't help but love Luffy's character once you get into the story. Funny and just plain fun. ★★★★★

“**Cardcaptor Sakura**”: Still an all-time favorite of mine, it tells the story of a girl named Sakura, who is charged with the task of capturing magic cards that have the ability to wreak havoc upon the world. The series comes in two parts, “Cardcaptor Sakura,” and “Cardcaptor Sakura: Master of the Clow,” where the story takes on a new turn after all the cards have been caught. The beauty of the drawings in these books surpasses even the animation of the DVD anime. You can relate to all the characters and their relationships and crushes, which are absolutely kawaii (Japanese for cute) without any of it ever being sappy. Not to sound like a cliché, but this really is for the young and young at heart. ★★★★★

# Celebrate your freedom to read

By Riley Marriage,  
Coronado HS



“Are you there, God? It’s me, Margaret. I can’t wait till two o’clock, God. That’s when our dance starts. Do you think I’ll get Phillip Leroy for a partner? It’s not so much that I like him as a person, God, but as a boy he is very handsome. And I’d love to dance with him once or twice.”

When Margaret has these conversations with God, she talks as if He were a normal friend and pays little attention to what kind of prayers are “appropriate.” Margaret asks God to help with growing up, from filling out her bra to starting her period, asking Him in her own direct way.

First published in 1971, “Are You There, God? It’s me, Margaret,” by Judy Blume almost instantly became the unofficial guidebook for all preteen girls. Brutally honest about the trials and tribulations of going through puberty, “Are You There...” quickly caught the attention of young girls who were coming of age, but it alarmed many parents who thought talk of training bras and menstruation crossed the line. It took very little time for it to disappear off the library shelves and join various

other novels in being a banned book.

An annual anti-censorship campaign, appropriately called Banned Books Week, is held every September as a reminder to Americans to cherish all different genres of literature and to fight the scrutiny placed upon certain pieces of writing. Although the First Amendment declares the right to freedom of speech, books (not unlike song lyrics) often are labeled inappropriate and unfit for reading. This year Banned Books Week will take place Sept. 20-27.

Last year, the American Library Association reported the following books as some of the most banned books: The Harry Potter series, by J.K. Rowling, for its focus on witchcraft and dark magic; “Captain Underpants,” by Dave Pilkey, for insensitivity as well as encouraging children to disobey authority; and “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” by Maya Angelou, for sexual content, racism, offensive language and violence.



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## TEEN REPORTERS WANTED:

KVBC is looking for fifteen students to research and deliver their news story on a live segment on News 3!

### DEADLINES

Sept. 15th-Teachers need to have submitted names to KVBC.

Sept. 22nd-Student notified if they have been selected.

Contact your journalism teacher to join KVBC's

# THE SCENE

For teens, by teens!  
SEGMENTS START IN OCTOBER!

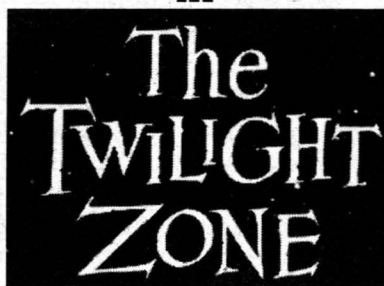
It's the middle of first hour, and the teacher is in front of the class giving notes on the Civil War. Two kids sit in the corner of the room intently staring at their calculators while another girl in the front row is decorating a less educational note with multi-colored markers. On the left side of the room, half a dozen students concentrate more on the information in their chemistry books than on the Battle of Gettysburg, and a less-than-silent sleeper occasionally interrupts the lecture.

There is no denying it. Every high school student has had at least one class where it is nearly impossible to stay focused. Before the hour is over, every kid in the class has forgotten about the lecture and distracted him or herself with another activity.

According to a recent poll, 20 percent of students work on other homework assignments while 16 percent daydream or stare at something aimlessly while class is in session. Other activities included writing notes to a friend, fixing one's hair, eating, sleeping and, for one anonymous person, picking his or her nose.

"It's impossible to stay fo-

## Overloaded students fight to stay focused in



By Sydney Alford,  
Foothill HS

cused 100 percent of the time," Foothill junior Kelsey Dettman says. "Even when you're trying to pay attention, sometimes teachers can be so incredibly boring!"

Unless it's disruptive to the class, Dettman believes it's okay to space out every once in a while, as long as she can still keep her grades up.

What is the real reason that students can't seem to pay attention? Most students agree that either the lecture is too long and boring, or there seems to be more important things going on with their friends. Another reason is that their lives are so busy that they use the extra hour to catch up on the homework or sleep that their job or extracurricular activities don't allow them to do

the night before.

"When I don't sleep the night before, my history class makes me extremely tired, and our books are really comfortable," Foothill senior Matt Hopster says.

Teachers constantly struggle to keep their kids interested in the lesson, instead of on their cute crush, who sits across the room.

"Most students are more interested in what their friends are doing, or they have homework from another class," says Foothill teacher Rose Greve. "Either that, or they think they know it all. When that happens I just stand there and wait until everyone's listening, which makes the rest of the class mad when certain students won't be quiet."

As far as catching students doing homework from other classes, Greve is very tolerant compared to other teachers. "If they're doing homework from another class, and they're caught up in my class, I'm usually fine with it. Only when they're not caught up do I get frustrated."

So what should teachers do in order to keep the class's attention, and still be able to teach them what they must learn? After all, as many teachers will point out, students are at school to get an education, NOT to be entertained by their teachers.

Although the classroom is supposed to be a purely educational setting, studies have shown that if students are given the opportunity to expand socially within the classroom by using various interactive or alternative assignments, they will excel more than if they are learning straight out of the class text.

"You do have to give them some credit," Dettman says. "Some teachers will make the class really interesting, with activities and group projects where we get to learn while hanging out with our friends. Really getting involved with the information can make even the most boring class interesting."

## homeroom

# Clark students, faculty prove ghetto stereotypes wrong

By Kellie Dodd, Clark HS

"Clark is such a 'ghetto' school..."

I have heard this exact, direct quote out of countless people, which shows there are many misconceptions going around other schools about Clark. I've learned that the two leading misconceptions are that Clark students are dumb and that we lack dedication.

On the first day of school in my freshman year at Clark, I was surprised at what I saw. All the horrible rumors I had heard in junior high turned out to be false. I looked around and saw excellent programs such as the three academies: Teaching Education at Clark High (TEACH), the Academy of Finance (AOF) and the Academy of Math, Sci-

ence, and Applied Technology (AMSAT). I also saw a great amount of dedication to programs such as theater, band, the NJROTC and after-school clubs.

For example, in the theater department, I saw a great deal of dedication to the school plays. Sometimes the older students would stay at school working on the plays until 10:00 p.m. The theater teacher, Ms. Statom, is very cool, and some of the students are so close to her, they even call her "Mama."

The whole theater community at Clark is very close. Not only do the students have dedication, but Ms. Statom does as well. In fact, she's been teaching at Clark for thirty years! My friends and I once noticed she was very tired. When we asked her why, she said that she often

stays at school until 11:00 p.m. and is back again by 6:00 the following morning.

When I went to the theater banquet, they handed out individual awards to the students who had been in the plays and gone to festival. I noticed that the lowest rating anyone got was superior, and that most of the ratings were excellent.

Another person with a lot of dedication is Mr. Smith, Clark's principal. He's at every school event we have, even though he doesn't have to be. He's always supporting the students in any way he can. For example, when the TEACH students had their dance, he was there to support them as he always is.

Also, he is concerned with parents' issues. When my sisters were in school, their principal took up to two weeks to return my mother's phone call. When my mom had an issue to discuss with Mr. Smith, he was genuinely concerned and called back the same day. Mr. Smith says he couldn't ever picture himself pursuing any other career because he can't imagine having as much dedication.

The students are involved in a lot of activities including schoolwork, sports teams, after-school clubs and electives. The students have a lot of dedication to their schoolwork, especially because a lot of them are in sports and the academies and have to maintain a certain grade point average.

Another devoted group is the NJROTC. This is a program that teaches discipline. Students who never would have thought about joining the Navy now want to enlist after only a month in the program.

I'm not trying to sell my school to anyone. I just want to say that my school is not "ghetto." It is actually quite the contrary. We have excellent teachers and devoted students. I just wanted to let all the students out there know that it offends me and the other Clark students when you speak poorly of our school.

Also, keep in mind that if you believe the rumors about Clark, then maybe some other students have misconceptions about your school, too.

SEPTEMBER

Through Sept. 21

People, Places and Things. Jonathan Puls uses his everyday experiences to connect to religious and mythological themes in his artwork. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 Las Vegas Blvd. N. 229-4674.

Sept. 5-Oct. 19

Sharon Allicotti's pastel artwork will be showcased. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St. 229-6383.

Sept. 11

REM Greatest Hits 2003 Tour. Thomas And Mack Center, UNLV. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20, \$68. 739-FANS.

Sept. 12

UNLV Oozeball. Tippa Irie, Nobody Cares and Over the Line in concert. UNLV Intramural Field. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 759-0450.

Las Vegas Classic: Battle of the Bands/Step Show. The Human Jukebox vs. Blue and Gold Marching Machine. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. 739-FANS.

Sept. 13

Las Vegas Classic: Southern University vs. North Carolina A&T. Sam Boyd Stadium. 6 p.m. Tickets \$78, \$53, \$43, \$33, \$13. 739-FANS.

Sept. 14

Suburban Legends in concert with Melee and Solemite. Jillian's, 450 Fremont Street. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets \$3 at door. 759-0450.

Celebrate Hispanic culture at this event. There will be crafts booths, music and food vendors. Freedom Park, East Washington and Mojave Road. Tickets \$7 for adults, children 12 and under free. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. 649-1198.

Sept. 18

Mack 10 in concert with Vishiss, Candyman and Poverty. House of Blues, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. 8 p.m. Tickets \$22.50. 632-7600.

Sept. 19

Nevada Conservatory Theatre: Annie Get Your Gun. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV. Tickets \$20, \$15. 739-FANS.

Fischerspooner in concert with Kenna. House of Blues, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20-\$22.50. 632-7600.

Rebel Football. UNLV vs. Hawaii. Sam Boyd Stadium, 6 p.m. Tickets \$28, \$15. 739-FANS.

Poet's Corner. Hosted by Keith and Pendelita Toney, the series features established poets and open mic participants. West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 7:30 p.m. 229-4800.

Sept. 20

Lift Ticket Benefit Concert featuring Bodies Burn, Down for the Count, Last Hour in Paris, Of Faith and Fire and Without Prayer. Proceeds benefit Shade Tree Shelter. Summerlin Smoothie King, 8502 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 6 p.m. Tickets \$5. 639-6366 or 429-5999.

Sept. 20 and 21

Pacific Islands Festival. The tropical islands come to the desert in the annual celebration of



Sharon Allicotti's pastel artwork will hang through Oct. 19 at the Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St. 229-6383.

Pacific Island culture. Lorenzi Park, Washington between Rancho and Valley View. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 229-6704.

Sept. 21

Forces of Evil in concert with City Drive and The Itis. Jillian's, 450 Fremont Street. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets \$3 at the door. 759-0450.

MTV 2 presents Dashboard Confessional in concert with MXPX, Brand New and Vendetta Red. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$18. 632-7600.

Sept. 23

A.F.I. in concert with Hot Water Music and Bleeding Through. House of Blues, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. 7 p.m. Tickets \$16.50-\$18.50. 632-7600.

Sept. 26

A DJ will be spinning the latest hits for young people, ages 11-16. East Las Vegas Commu-

nity/Senior Center, 250 North Eastern Avenue. 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets \$3 each, \$4 per couple with school I.D. 229-1515.

Sept. 28

Yesterday's Tomorrow in concert with Pilot to Orion and Next to Needles. Jillian's, 450 Fremont Street. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets \$3 at the door. 759-0450.

**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](mailto:classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu)

Mail: UNLV, Box 451025  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025  
Fax: (702) 895-1505

NEVADA POWER COMPANY

Students of the Month



**Aleisha Turner, Senior Peterson Center**

"Aleisha Turner actually helped design this school during the end of her sophomore year," says Peterson Center Principal Dave Garner. "Now as a senior, she is a model of how successful a student can be once they put their minds to it."

Turner has definitely stayed involved within her school. During her junior year, she was a member of WITS (Writers In The School), a weekly reading program hosted by UNLV in which students discuss literature with the famous authors. As a result, she received a \$1,000 scholarship for college.

Not only is Turner an avid reader, but she also maintains a 3.5 GPA, and is assistant editor of her school newspaper and yearbook staff. After high school, she plans on attending Berkeley or Washington State University and majoring in literature.



**Nick Haas, Senior Silverado HS**

"Nick Haas is doing an outstanding job in both broadcast and print journalism," says Silverado High School Principal Mark Coleman. "He's a great asset to the school."

As station manager for the Silverado High School broadcasting department, it is Haas' responsibility to make sure Silverado's broadcasts get on the air every day. Along with handling a typical academic schedule, Haas also manages everything from organizing production crews to repairing equipment. Each day, Haas helps produce the morning broadcast and each Friday, he broadcasts the half-hour "Friday Morning Live" show for the school. For his talents, he won a national Channel One Student Television News Award.

In addition to his hard work in broadcast journalism, Haas writes reviews for the school newspaper and participates in the Silverado Film Club. He plans to attend college after graduation to study creative writing and communication.

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# announcements

## Jammin' back to school

Culture Shock Las Vegas, a non-profit, hip-hop dance company and youth outreach program, will be holding its annual Back to School Jam on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 12:30-4:00 p.m. at Brinley Community School, 6150 Smoke Ranch Rd. Tickets are \$5. At the same event, teens may also participate in a pre-audition class to prepare to try out for Culture Shock's youth dance outreach program, Future Shock. The actual auditions will take place on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 3:30 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Athletic Club, 5200 W. Sahara Ave. The audition is free and open to all youth, ages 10-17. For more information, call Vangie Bisquera-Golda at 281-7588.

## Scare the @#%\* out of people

If your school club, team or organization is looking for a way to put some "fun" in your fundraising, this can be it! R&J

Productions will once again offer high school student organizations the opportunity to earn money by volunteering at one of the valley's premier Halloween attractions, "The Asylum." You can be a scary "inmate" or maybe just a friendly ticket-taker! It's like being on "Scare Tactics" every night! There are plenty of opportunities for everyone in your club to participate. In doing so, your group can earn money for its next trip or project. The choice is yours — a bake sale, a car wash, or scaring the @#%\* out of people? Groups will be considered on a first-come basis. For more information, call Jan at R&J Productions, 631-6682.

## Get in the groove

On Sunday, Sept. 18, Jillian's, located downtown at Neonopolis, will host the most exciting, all-ages show of the year. Forces of Evil, Starpool and The Itis will be performing. Who are these groups you ask? Let's just

say we have the who's who in the ska world. Even more exciting is that you will be able to preview these bands for the low price of just \$3. For more information, call 401-3311.

## Get out!

Henderson Parks and Recreation Department wants to invite you to get out and about around Vegas. The Teens on the Town program holds monthly, supervised social events for young people, ages 14-21. Each month, participants will join in different recreational activities as an opportunity to meet other teens and have fun in a safe environment. Upcoming events include the Scandia Miniature Golf day on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 7-10 p.m. with tickets costing \$10, and the Las Vegas Motor Speedway Super Car Spectacular on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with a ticket price of \$2. Register now and reserve your spot! Call 565-3453 for more information. 455-7340.

## Welcoming everyone back

Show your solidarity with your fellow students by attending a back to school party for the whole CCSD community. The local chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network invites all local high school students, parents, teachers and administrators to an information fair geared toward helping to create safe schools for all students and staff. GLSEN assists students and staff in forming Gay/Straight Alliance clubs and in promoting a positive educational atmosphere for all students. Information booths and activities will be available as well as free refreshments. For more informa-

tion, contact Matthew Polzin by phone at 735-9622, by e-mail at glsen@mtpolzin.com, or visit [www.MTPolzin.com/GLSEN](http://www.MTPolzin.com/GLSEN).

## Take center stage

Clark County Parks and Community Services is offering an ongoing drama class for children and teens, ages 10-16 years. The class will meet at Winchester Community Center, 3130 S. McLeod Dr., on Tuesdays for 12 weeks from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., starting Sept. 30 and ending with a final performance on stage Dec. 9. The cost of registration is \$45. Registration begins Aug. 15. For more information, call Darren Uhl at 455-7340.

## Making strides

Join the American Cancer Society on Saturday, Oct. 4 for the Fourth Annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer premier walk. All teams and individual walkers will gather at the JW Marriott Las Vegas for this non-competitive five-mile walk to raise money to fight breast cancer. If you would like to participate or to form your own team, please call 798-6877, Ext.33.

## Calling all knights and damsels

Come enjoy the merriment of the 10th Annual Age of Chivalry Renaissance Festival at Sunset Park on Oct. 10, 11 and 12. Tour the grounds of a Renaissance Village with over 300 artisans, craftsmen and encampments. See royal parades, Shakespearean plays, full contact jousting tournaments, Celtic rock concerts, magicians and more. For additional information, call 455-4200 or log onto [www.lvrenfair.com](http://www.lvrenfair.com).

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# WHAT DOES 'BACK TO SCHOOL' MEAN TO YOU?

**New classes? Dating new people? Fall season? Parties?**

## RAPE?

**F**OR MOST STUDENTS, going back to school is a seamless transition from summer break to familiar surroundings and fun new experiences. However, some students this fall will experience a string of events that start normally enough, but end up causing emotional and physical trauma.

Sexual assault is an act of a sexual nature that breaks down a person's trust and safety. Sexual assaults are committed when there is no active consent given, or when consent cannot be given (possibly due to drugs, alcohol or disability). Sexual assaults are never the fault of the victim.

Below are the experiences of three Nevada teens whose lives were changed forever when they were confronted with these dangerous situations. Remember, no one wants to think about all the potential risks involved in our daily lives. Yet, remembering some basic prevention skills and discussing prevention with friends and family can help you have a great and safe year.

### BEWARE THE INFORMATION YOU GIVE OUT ON THE INTERNET!

"Serena," a 17-year-old senior, was on the Internet talking to high school friends in a chat room when she met Timothy Mobly, 27. He used her online profile to target her, meet her in person, and then kidnap and rape her. He is now serving a sentence for the rapes of two women he met on the Internet.

### IT IS AGAINST THE LAW FOR TEACHERS, SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, OR VOLUNTEERS TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH A STUDENT!

"Jessica," a high school student, was enamored with the special attention she got from one of her teachers. She found that dating him made her feel older, more mature and more confident around other high school students. He convinced her to marry him and move out of state where he began teaching in a different jurisdiction, away from the accusations of teacher mis-

conduct. A few years later, he began to prey upon other young female students at this school as well. Jessica now has two children and the responsibility of raising them alone. She realizes she was the target of a sexual predator.

**UP TO 90 PERCENT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES INCLUDE THE USE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, EITHER BY THE RAPIST OR THE VICTIM.**

"Nina," a freshman, was at the home of a friend with some new school acquaintances watching movies and drinking. After complaining of a headache, a guy she didn't know well gave her some pills that looked similar to aspirin. The pills she described receiving perfectly matched an illegal party drug called Rohypnol. Nina soon blacked out and was raped while friends thought she was on her way home.

### SOME FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULTS AND SAFETY:

- ✓ One in four girls and one in six boys experience a sexual crime before the age of 18.
- ✓ Eighty-four percent of sexual assaults are committed by a person the victim knows.
- ✓ About two-thirds of sexual assaults occur between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- ✓ One in four sexual assaults occurs in the victim's home.
- ✓ One in six sexual assaults takes place in or near a friend or relative's home.
- ✓ One in five sexual assaults takes place on the street.
- ✓ One in six sexual assaults takes place in a parking garage or commercial building.

# University of Nevada, Reno

## Fall Preview & Information Fair



**We want to  
see you there!**

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**Stardust Hotel and Casino, Avalon Room**

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**OR**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

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