

“The great pleasure of a dog

OCTOBER 2003

By, for and about Clark County  
high school students



# NUTS ABOUT MUTTS:

Unleash your  
wild side with  
your best friend

make a fool of himself too.” – Samuel Butler

is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and

not only will he not scold you, but he will

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## Students of the Month



**Juan Carrillo, sophomore, Liberty HS**

"Juan is a great young man who is very involved, a team player, and has a lot of push. I am very proud that he is a part of our school," says Liberty High School Principal Emilio Fernandez.

Juan Carrillo stays committed to leadership within his school. He is the new sophomore class president at LHS and the student aid for the principal's secretary. He has also been involved in FBLA and DECA. Carrillo is also active in the community, volunteering at St. Rose Dominican Hospital and working as an intern at CLASS! Publications. As busy as he is, he still maintains a weighted 4.075 GPA as well.

After high school, Carrillo is thinking about attending Stanford, Harvard or Berkeley University and majoring in business and political science.



**Tiffany Yanke, junior, Shadow Ridge HS**

"Tiffany is enthusiastic and articulate. She is willing to work and help the school in any way she can," says Shadow Ridge High School Principal Cathy Andrews.

Tiffany Yanke is a model example of student involvement in her school. She is on Shadow Ridge High School's varsity dance team and cheerleading squad. She is also on the varsity tennis team and is president of the forensics team.

Yanke has also created her own organization called "Tiffany's Angels." Her group has done much for the community; a few tasks include putting books on tape for children in shelters and making blankets for babies in the neo-natal unit of local hospitals. To top it off, she made the top five in the Miss Teen USA Pageant last year and works three jobs, all while maintaining a 3.4 GPA.

Her goal after high school is to continue her education at UNLV's Law School and become a family law attorney, and later a judge.



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## The Three Dangers of Résumés



Job-hunting isn't a big deal. All you have to do is write a summary of your experience, put it in an envelope or press send on the Internet, then sit back and wait for the job offers to roll in. Right? Well, not really. Instead of being finished, your job hunting has only just begun. If you think a résumé will get you a job, here are three things to think about:

**1. Your résumé has a lot of competition.** Employers may receive dozens of résumés a day in the mail. If a job is advertised on the Web, they may receive thousands. The chances of your résumé getting read every time you send it are very slim.

**2. Your résumé is only part of the plan.** If you see it as your total plan, your job hunt may be a long one. Statistics show that there is only one job offer for every 1,470 résumés distributed. Use other approaches besides posting and mailing your résumé.

**3. Your résumé can impact your self-confidence.** If you really believe that your résumé will get you a job, and it doesn't happen after a few tries, you're likely to lose some self-confidence.

Given these three dangers, it's wise to carefully choose the organizations to which you send your résumé. Research companies that interest you, ask every friend you have about job openings, and then through these contacts, send your résumé. It will take more work on your part, but you'll find your résumé will be working harder for you in the end.

### THIS MONTH'S FEATURED POSITIONS:

#### Chiropractor's Assistant

Assistance is needed in helping the doctor with patients and general office work. Bilingual skills are a plus. Applicants must be 17 years old, have a résumé and a work permit. Workdays are Monday-Friday after school until 7 p.m., and 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, totaling 30 hours per week at \$6.50 per hour. Job number: 7763

#### Accounting Clerk

Student assistant needed for part-time position in bookkeeping and accounting. Preference is given to juniors or seniors with experience in bookkeeping. Applicant must be 17 years old, have a résumé and a work permit. Workdays are Monday-Friday, from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., totaling 15 hours per week. The wage is \$6.50 per hour. Job number: 7759

#### Medical Assistant

If you have a good phone voice, like filing charts and are computer literate, this job may be just for you. Other responsibilities include assisting patients to exam rooms, weighing and drawing shots. Applicants must be 16 years old, be bilingual in English and Spanish and have a work permit. Workdays are Monday-Friday, with flexible hours totaling to 20 hours per week. The wage is \$8.50 per hour. Job number: 7757

#### Sales Associate

Attendants needed to do computer work and general cleaning, including work with tuxedo rental outfits. Applicant must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays are Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with varying hours totaling to 20 hours per week. The wage is \$6.00 per hour. Job number: 7755

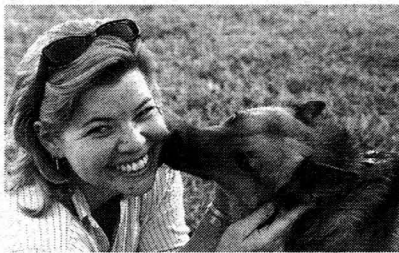
#### Sales Associate

Outgoing, motivated and friendly sales associate wanted to sell cosmetics and various beauty products. Applicant must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Bilingual skills are a plus, but not necessary. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 25 hours per week. The wage is \$7.00 per hour. Job number: 7753

**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.**

You're used to seeing your fellow students on our covers, but you may have noticed that featuring dogs is new for us. We're highlighting these former pound puppies to let everyone know that October is Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog month!

As you'll see from the quotes on page 11, there are plenty of great reasons to have a dog. And if your family is ready for a dog, there are even more reasons to adopt from a shelter! You've probably all heard the



My pal Coyote Bonita, a loving mixed breed.

shocking statistics that approximately 13,000 dogs and cats turn up at shelters across the country every day. Most animals are taken to local shelters because the family does not have the ability or space to take care of the pets any longer. The devastating part is that most of these furry friends won't make it out alive.

Some people don't think they want shelter dogs. Maybe you have your heart set on a German Longhaired Pointer or a Shar-Pei. We're not talking about mangy

mutts in these shelters; one in four of these dogs are actually purebreds. You may be able to work with an adoption counselor who can notify you when the dog of your dreams appears at their door.

Some families want a puppy. A baby dog is just like a baby human: they need loads of attention, affection and discipline. Most of the older dogs you'll find at the shelter are already housebroken, which will save you from scrubbing stains out of the carpet. If you decide you HAVE to have a puppy, you can find those at some shelters, also. According to the Humane Society of the United States, in six years, one female dog and her offspring can potentially produce 67,000 dogs, and many of these unwanted dogs will end up in shelters. (I'll save the lecture on spaying and neutering; this number speaks for itself.)

If it's not a good time for you to take on this new responsibility, there are other things you can do to help. You can donate blankets and sheets to your local shelter, and they are always in need of dog and cat food. Or maybe you have a few hours each weekend you can spend helping walk or wash dogs. Some shelters even have volunteers who will spend time with the animals to help with their socialization skills to make them more comfortable with potential new families.

Before you bring any animal home, make sure to do some research. There are plenty of online resources, including quizzes on whether or not your family is ready to adopt a new pet. The Web sites www.hsus.org and www.aspc.org are great places to start.

As always, if you want to share your ideas about pet adoption, or any other topic, send us an article or letter so you can have your voice heard. In the meantime, have a wonderfully spooky Halloween!

Allie Smith

Allie Smith  
Editor/Executive Director  
www.classmag.com



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

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Who's walking whom? Clark HS junior Crystal Glasso and sophomore Kevin Ford get caught up playing with new pals.

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# BLACKOUT

## in the Big Apple

### One Las Vegas teen braves the nation's worst blackout

By Natalie Minev,  
Community College HS



The electricity went out at around 4:10 p.m., Aug. 14, in many cities in the northeastern United States and Canada.

Every summer, my mom and I go to New York City to visit my brother, Chris, so it wasn't much of a surprise that we were there the day of the blackout. That day, my mom and I had been shopping downtown for a while, and I had bought a new watch. We got on the subway going back uptown, on the Q train. I looked at my new watch. The time was 3:58 p.m.

When we emerged from the subway station and onto the streets of Times Square, the stores looked shadowy, and people were standing outside. We walked to a theater to buy some tickets for a show, but with all the computers down, no one was permitted to make any purchases.

We asked a ticket seller why the electricity had gone out. He answered, "There's a fire in the hotel across the street." This would be the first of many false pieces of information we would hear that day.

After a while of waiting, we decided to call my brother to see if he knew the story. One problem: nobody's cell phones were working. In a matter of 10 minutes, I looked around and everyone on Times Square was trying to place calls without any success.

I jumped to answer my phone when it suddenly rang. It was my brother, calling from his of-

fice phone. He asked where we were and said, "Listen to my instructions carefully. Walk to the Sony building and meet me there. The power is out all over the northeast, and it might be a terrorist attack."

That last sentence truly didn't help. At this point, however, the uncertainty was inevitable. No one knew what was going on; no one could flip on CNN and be reassured. Overcome with panic, my mom and I rushed down to Madison Avenue to meet my brother.

While walking there, I noticed many things. The traffic was tremendous, with no traffic or crosswalk lights. The already obnoxious New York cabbies were in a honking frenzy. People were jaywalking and yelling. By this time, most businessmen and women were leaving work, and the streets and sidewalks were absolutely crammed. Emergency sirens wailed above the chaos.

I heard bits and pieces of other dialogues around me. "I was just stuck in an elevator!" "Want to get home fast? I'm selling my bike for \$600!" A lady that walked by said to her friend, "This reminds me of something that I don't even want to say."

Thanks, lady. When we got to the Sony building, we found my brother. He had a bag full of some food and cold bottles of water, which came in handy later on, especially when restaurants and stores started charging sky-high prices for food and drinks.

My brother suggested that we go to Central Park, which turned out to be a great idea.

Being away from the streets and the panic was a relief. We sat on a bench for a long time, trying to get phone calls through and failing. We observed the people around us. It was like a mass exodus going through Central Park. Hundreds upon hundreds of people were walking through, heading toward their homes. The thick, wet heat made

it unbearable for many; businessmen walked by with their ties loosened and their shirts soaked. An empty look was in everyone's eyes — an emptiness not caused by fear, but by heat, weariness and uncertainty.

A lady on the bench next to us had a small radio. Twenty people crowded around her listening to the news. The news promised the power would be back on soon. Rumors were also circulating that a building was bombed on 14th Street, and that there was a fire on another street downtown. These proved to be false later, but in the meantime, it made us really scared. It was 6:00 p.m. The sun was still out.

My brother was able to e-mail my dad, who was here in Las Vegas, through his cell. He assured him that we were fine. We got a few hot dogs, which were selling like crazy, and decided to go back to the apartment, so we could climb the stairs before it got dark. My brother lives on the 16th floor, the top floor of his building.

When we got to the apartment building, we looked up the flight of stairs. It was completely and utterly pitch black. The doorman was kind enough to lend my brother a flashlight. Chris went upstairs himself to check how hot the apartment was and to see if everything inside was working properly. Again, this turned out to be a wise decision.

My mom and I waited outside, fanning ourselves. The sun had set finally, and the streets looked eerie and unreal. New York at night is made of buildings glowing with rectangles of lighted windows and streets beaming with colors. This night was made of shadows; stark, black silhouettes of the buildings against a dark blue evening sky.

When my brother came back down, he told us that the plumbing and water in the apartment were not working. He gave the doorman back his flashlight.

However, he brought a three-wick candle from his apartment and a lighter, which provided us with light the rest of the night. Shockingly, many people were using candles that night. It was as if we were warped back in time to the 17th century.

Thanks to a great maintenance guy in the building named Ritchie, we were given an apartment on the second floor that had working utilities, for which we will be forever grateful. My brother and I decided to make one more trip up the sixteen flights of stairs to get more stuff from the apartment, like inflatable beds, soap, clothes, water and food.

It was a climb to remember. Going up those sixteen flights, I wished that I was a marathon runner. Breathless, tired and tremendously out of shape, I basically stumbled and crawled up that last flight of stairs. The air was densely packed with humidity and heat. When we got to the apartment, we started packing things, and out of nowhere we hear a loud, cracking "BANG!" My brother and I rushed to the roof to see what happened. We laughed. Some people over on 76th Street were setting off fireworks on their roof. Other people were also on our building's roof, laid out with blankets, drinking wine, talking and looking at the stars. The Big Dipper, glittering in the sky, seemed close enough to touch.

After getting settled on the second floor, the three of us walked the city streets. People were sitting on the curb of the sidewalks, chatting and drinking. Many people volunteered to be traffic operators and stood out in the intersections guiding the cars and buses.

Before we went to sleep, we flipped on all the light switches, to be sure when the power came back on. It was a long, humid, half-asleep night. Outside, people slept on the roofs of their buildings and talked, sang and got drunk until after midnight.

Then at 6 a.m. a blinding brightness woke us up. The lights came on, the air conditioners started with a roar, and we expected to hear cheering. But it was silent; the neighborhood was asleep. New York had been unplugged for fourteen hours.

We moved the stuff back into my brother's real apartment, this time, by using the elevator! My mom, brother and I then went out to go eat breakfast. New

York City looked as though it hadn't blinked an eye. We got the papers, and read about people sleeping on the streets, walking across the Brooklyn Bridge, and worst of all, getting stuck underground in the subways. We found that the Q train was one of the trains that had to be rescued; my mom and I had gotten off it literally in the nick of time. And that night, we walked down Times Square. I'd never been so grateful for seeing the world in lights

and technicolor again.

The blackout was a scary but incredible once-in-a-lifetime experience. The darkness wasn't that petrifying, but the uncertainty was overwhelming, especially in the first few hours. The way people dealt with the problem, however, was what will remain in my memory always. New York City is as resilient, prepared and confident as it has ever been, and it was clearly evident, even in its hours of darkness.

## opinion

### Centennial's Iron Cross ban misses mark

By Jonathan Kochan,  
Peterson Center

Alleged members of the notorious 311 Boyz gang have been getting more and more press coverage as the group's despicable actions have been revealed, such as their "Bumfights"-like video fights and the random beatings of innocent people. This truly is horrific, and the problem seems more shocking when you consider that the so-called "gang" in question is not the stereotypical poor youth gang from America's toughest slums (who probably would have gotten 25-to-life for similar offenses, but hey, that's different, right?), but rather middle or upper-class kids from the suburbs.

Many of the accused teens attend Centennial High School, so what does Centennial's administration plan to do about this gang in the future?

Establish new anger management and peer mediation programs for students like "the Boyz"? Nope.

Talk to the "311 Parentz" to find out if the teens' home lives are responsible for driving them to a life of gang-banging? Guess again.

Institute a ban on otherwise popular t-shirts and necklaces that bear a certain skateboarding symbol, the "Iron Cross," which the 311 Boyz made their official logo? BINGO!

Goodbye, responsible government; hello, "in the name of the children."

Centennial says it wants to keep those who might be 311 Boyz' associates out of the school

and keep those who might be mistaken for 311 Boyz' associates safe. Local ministers and rabbis have asked kids to think about the symbol's meaning, considering that it was most well-known as a German military award throughout both world wars before being "reclaimed" by the skateboarding and punk cultures.

However, those who insist they are not gang members or neo-fascists, but rather average skateboarders and punks, have taken to the streets to protest the ban. They've stood in front of school wearing the banned t-shirts, asking people to sign petitions.

The American Civil Liberties Union's Web site, [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org), under the section "Freedom Of Expression — ACLU Position Paper," cites that certain types of speech are not protected under the First Amendment, including:

- Fighting words: anything that intentionally incites people to violence such as Al-Qaeda's bomb-making Web sites.
- Libel or slander: intentionally untrue, false or defamatory statements.
- Public obscenity: material that appeals to sexual interest, is offensive and lacks value to society.

Both sides of the ban debate have very good points. Whether you agree with this ban or not, you can't deny that once the 311 hoopla dies down and people forget the case, the ban will have to be repealed.

Here's something to consider: free speech is still alive and kicking if you want it.

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# In the dean's office? It's gotta be the shoes



By Johnny Driggs,  
Coronado HS

Quiz time, students! Place all your textbooks on the floor and pull out any pencil that is not a number two pencil. Your quiz today consists of the single following question: do you find anything wrong with the fact that arguably the main source of contention between faculty and students is the rule that states students cannot wear flip flops? Fill in one of the bubbles below to indicate your answer.

- Yes
- No

By now, you most likely have done one of three things: A) Quietly formed your own opinion in your head; B) leaned over to your friend, pointed out this article, and mentioned what an injustice it was when the hall monitors made you go to the dean's office because you

were wearing flip flops; or C) actually filled in one of the bubbles. If you did either B or C, I honestly and sincerely fear for you.

Do not get me wrong; I think it is an odd rule, and I would wear the things myself from time to time if I had the option, but in all seriousness, is it that big of a deal? Is this something worth going to the dean's office for?

Student #1: I'm in here for beating up 15 other students, how about you?

Student #2: I'm in for wearing unsanctioned footwear.

This is such a big deal at Coronado that it was practically the first thing mentioned on the P.A. system on the first day of school. "All right," I thought to myself, "at least they got that out of the way." But the very next day, during my open first period while getting a parking application, I

saw nearly ten students in the dean's office brought in for wearing flip flops. Walking out to the parking lot, I saw more students being barred from entering based on their shoes.

I am almost sure these people were not wearing them as a form of civil disobedience, and I am quite certain they knew of the rule, if not from the preceding day's announcement, then from the previous year's announcements. Why then, do they insist on wearing these things? They cost five bucks; it's not as if you are losing some significant investment by not wearing them to school.

Sure they are comfortable and easy to put on, but there are thousands of shoes out there that do not fall into the flip flop category. Beach sandals are practically the exact same thing, yet they are not regulated. Factoring in the great deal of effort expended on sliding your toes around the strap, flip flops are harder to put on than beach sandals. Let's be realistic, with school uniforms and so called "campus wardrobes" at other schools, asking students to refrain from strapping two slabs of rubber to their feet is not asking too much. I realize that people will continue to wear flip flops and will continue to be sent home; just see if you can't stop complaining about it every day.

# Teachers are people too!

By Tiffany Yanke,  
Shadow Ridge HS



With all of the controversy and attention that the budget cuts and tax increases received, why is it that our

teachers don't get the positive recognition and attention that they deserve?

Teachers help us to dream, use our imagination, hope, and of course, learn about things we might not learn about otherwise in our daily lives. I think it is important for us to know that teachers are people too. They spend all day at school teaching and then half their nights grading papers and preparing for the next day. But there are many teachers that do even more than that; they take on extra-curricular activities, clubs and sports.

It takes someone special to be a teacher, and I think we have some of the best teachers in the country right here in southern Nevada.

# Trick-or-treat not just for kids

By Michelle Sneck, Coronado HS

The faint crackling of candy wrappers rustling within plastic jack-o-lanterns, accompanied by pattering feet running door to door — these sounds seem to tickle the senses of all the trick-or-treater veterans when October looms near. I can remember eagerly waiting for the sun to set, donning my costume for the year, my face painted and hair arranged to depict whatever character I was to play in the charade we call Halloween.

My heart soared when I heard the doorbell ring, and I saw outside another child such as myself, arms outstretched to receive whatever goodies we might be willing to part with. I would grab the candy bowl, which was festively shaped to resemble a pumpkin, and open the door, a wide grin of power suddenly slipping over my painted lips. The sacred exchange of "Trick-or-treat" for a Halloween goody happens all too fast before your guest flutters off chiming a "Thank you" unceremoniously over his or her shoulder.

Times have not changed for me. My costumes have become more elaborate, and the candy sacks have grown twice as large. It seems my friends and I do not grow older but wiser. The spark seen within every child's eye is not foreign among the "senior" trick-or-treaters. I can see myself, cheeks reddened by the frosty air, waiting for that one elixir that every child pines for.

So it seems things never change. Children of all sizes continue to look at Halloween as a time to be someone different, younger perhaps, to reminisce on days lost and rejoice in the new. So when you see "older" trick-or-treaters standing upon your doorstep, smile, because the spirit of Halloween lives on within yet another generation.



# 9/11 conspiracy theories spur debate

By Graham Haugh,  
Palo Verde HS

Since the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, there has been much heated debate surrounding how much the Bush administration and various national security bureaus, such as the FBI and the National Security Agency, actually knew about the attacks before they happened. As usual, conspiracy nuts have something to say about it, and scarily enough, there just might be some credibility to one of their theories this time around.

Naturally, there have been conspiracy theories involving 9/11 since the second everyone heard about or saw the planes crashing into the World Trade Center. Most of these were the usual drivel saying that it was the government acting entirely by itself using some made up terrorist cell as the scapegoat, etc.

New (and more believable theories) were thought up months afterward when former FBI agent Colleen Rowley publicly exposed (and slammed) her bureau for the disgusting amount of reluctance they showed in finding information and capturing people related to Al-Qaeda.

Due to Rowley's whistleblowing, more news features involved the reluctance of the government to heed all of the early signs, warnings and reports of possible terrorist attacks in the homeland. All of these ended with the same conclusion though: there was little chance of the attacks being stopped.

But there are many who would argue otherwise, and what some of these reports had revealed only fueled their fire. There had been many reports from the Clinton administration involving heightened Al-Qaeda activity within the states and warnings to watch the skies. These were given to many high-ranking security officials in the Bush administration who supposedly didn't think much of it and decided to deal with it later.

Considering the increase of Al-Qaeda operations and terrorism, this is most shocking. Leading up to the 9/11 attacks, these operations included the bombings of African embassies; hostage situations in the Philippines; thousands-of-years-old Buddhist statues in Afghanistan being defaced by the Taliban despite warnings not to;

and the bombing of the USS Cole. Why would top security officials ignore or dismiss such a seemingly glaring and obvious threat? According to the theories, it was so their political party could gain more power

Think about it; doesn't it seem a little fishy that all of this information was ignored that was going around to all of these different areas of the government, but particularly to the White House, which the Republicans had just gained control of? It's a scary thought that much of the top brass could have done a great deal more to stop the

**It's not a bad thing for people to want to show off their patriotism, but it's a terrible thing when they do it out of fear of being verbally lynched.**

attack, but didn't because they foresaw the political power they could gain from it.

Unsurprisingly, the theory doesn't point out anyone specifically, but it seems to propose that President Bush was not very involved. Bush is again portrayed as a puppet to his own political party. He is assumed to be easily manipulated into doing something based entirely on eye-for-an-eye, man-playing-god-type moral values. Supposedly, the most important information was kept from him, and he was left in the dark.

For any amoral, desensitized officials, knowing that they could use the attacks to justify any of their actions to the American public and the rest of the world, and therefore increase their power to advance their wealth, the attacks would have been too good of a chance to pass up. The theory suggests that officials knew a huge attack would unite the country for just the right amount of time to create the perfect environment to manipulate people into another Red Scare/Cold War kind of mood in which anyone who happens to be foreign is seen as a threat. Bush would obviously gain more support, as most presidents in a time of war or crisis tend to get a more positive public opinion. This way, they could further their agenda through the manipulation of the public with the president and the media as their main tools.

Just take how patriotic everyone became after the attacks. Many Republicans had flaunted their supposed patriotism in the past and did tenfold after 9/11. Any time people who oppose the militaristic view (some of whom are Republican themselves) bring up their opinions, they are labeled as being unpatriotic and are attacked because apparently it's impossible to be patriotic and not support the majority at the same time. Due to this, people are afraid to show any sign of anti-patriotism. It's not a bad thing for people to want to show off their patriotism, but it's a terrible thing when they do it out of fear of being verbally lynched.

Any time they need to justify a new foreign war, they use the 9/11 and patriotism angle. Look at how often it was used as reasoning for The Gulf War Part II: New Blood. It's sickening how many times the dead are used to justify even more killing of civilians caught in the crossfire. Interestingly, one of the reported reasons behind the 9/11 attacks themselves is because Americans had been accused of killing innocent civilians in predominantly Muslim countries.

Is this some kind of hellish, Orwellian nightmare? Are these theories really all that solid? The truth of the matter is probably not. Still, some theories have some fairly firm ground. They raise questions such as why it took so long after the attacks to set up an independent commission investigating 9/11 compared to, say, the one set up after the Columbia exploded; was Bush a puppet; why were political actions accepted that would otherwise have been questioned more quickly; why was close to half of a 900-page report on 9/11 blacked out; why wasn't more done to stop the attacks after the first plane struck; and why were numerous signs of possible attacks ignored?

There are a few theories that seem like a bit much and just turn into ranting. For example, Bush just happening to be at an elementary school at the time of the attack (as if they knew the exact date) and that everyone in American politics is an imperialistic pig-dog come to mind. Yet, the possibility of any of them being true is an extremely scary and fairly intriguing thought and can make you look at the government with an entirely different perspective than before.

## Soon-to-be adults face future shock

By Sean Roche,  
Peterson Center

Do you ever find yourself in a state of worry thinking about the future? The future is a good thing, but also a stressful thing. There are so many questions that distort the subject. As high schoolers, we are young adults, who generally can be classified as soon-to-be-adults. We see our parents live their daily lives of hitting up the nine-to-five and paying bills. It makes you think, "Am I going to be like that?" Maybe, maybe not.

The future can be planned, but not perfected. We all are subject to coincidences, so therefore it makes you wonder what the future has in store for you. There are all kinds of images around us that inspire us and motivate us. At the same time, there are many negative images that do otherwise. The best thing to do with that is to find a positive role model who has achieved what you see yourself doing in the future and get some guidance. Avoid the ones who didn't turn out so well.

There are a lot of choices to make for a young adult's future. There is college, trade school, culinary arts and career training. There are plenty of options, but the question is which one is right for you? Figuring that out is probably the first step to obtaining a career. The thing that I wonder about is college — not college itself, but the life afterward. I was once told that you could obtain a master's degree in a certain field but then struggle to land a good career afterward. You might also question inside whether or not the field you are pursuing is right for you.

There are multiple things to consider when you are pursuing a career and creating a setup for life as a young adult. A career must be utilized, inevitable priorities must be taken care of, and perception must be clear. So I propose the theme that as a young man that is about to reach adulthood, I find that the future is a stressful thing, but if you see it that way, then that is how you know you care. Everyone wants to make the right choices and to make a bright future for him or herself, and as young adults, it is important that we be on that level.

# President's personal values cloud judgment on anti-gay marriage laws

By Eric Noggle,  
Palo Verde HS

*"Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman."*

That is how a recent proposal to amend the Constitution reads. President Bush, after avoiding the subject for quite some time, has finally backed this amendment.

"I believe marriage is between a man and a woman, and I believe we ought to codify that one way or the other, and we have lawyers looking at the best way to do that," Bush said, as reported on CNN.com.

Many people are critical of

the President and his statements referring to his position on marriage between homosexuals. Unfortunately, they are not critical enough. It seems as though he views this issue simply from a moral standpoint, *his* moral standpoint. This is a huge mistake.

The only factor that should influence who should and should not marry is how two people feel about each other. However, it seems these days that people's religious views are getting in the way.

"I think it is important for our society to respect each individual, to welcome those with good hearts," Bush said at the same press conference. "On the

other hand, that does not mean that someone like me needs to compromise on the issue of marriage."

Not only is this statement hypocritical, it is untrue. Bush does need to compromise on this issue. He is a representative of Americans and what Americans want. While it is important to recognize and respect Bush's views, he is not approaching this issue with objectivity, which he needs to do in order to be a successful leader.

A non-objective Bush is nothing new. There have been very few issues during his term in office where he has been objective.

This is a crucial issue where a crucial decision has not been made. If the issue of homosexual marriages is not resolved, we will be looking at a homosexual movement comparable to that of the Civil Rights Movements. That is not a bad thing. Homosexuals are a group that deserves to be liberated in all aspects of life; they are Americans and, more importantly, human beings who deserve the rights that everyone else possesses.

There are many rights that are granted by marriage that

homosexual couples are missing out on. One of these includes the benefit of inheriting a share of the their spouse's estate, receiving an exemption from both estate taxes and gift taxes for all property that is left or given by the spouse.

Homosexual couples who cannot marry also miss out on obtaining insurance benefits through a partner's employer, on being able to make medical decisions in case the spouse becomes incapacitated and on being able to express how they want to be treated.

The benefits that gay couples get in terms of the family are very sparse. Homosexual couples cannot file for joint adoption. If a couple splits after having a child, then the person who has custody of the child does not have to grant visitation rights; they should not expect child support since the other party is not obligated because the couple never got married.

These rights are given to every married couple in the United States — to the drug addicts, alcoholics, abusers and incompetents. Yet, even the chance to get these rights is not given to homosexuals.

## Remembering Sept. 11, 2001

### The day that changed everything

By Riley Marriage,  
Coronado HS

The video images of the second aircraft slicing into the tower will be with us forever.



We may move on with our lives, but we always will remember where we were and what we were doing the day America was attacked. Only two years later, the horror still clings to the air. Although it may fade with time, it can never be erased from our minds.

Sept. 11 is a focal point from which we plan our future and value our past. How each individual American deals with it is different, but as a nation we have each other to help us heal.

The nation spent Thursday, the 11th of September 2003, the second anniversary, with moments of silence and candlelight vigils commemorating the nearly 3,000 lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001. In New York City, a U.S. flag stood on the site where the World Trade Center towers once were as children sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

In Washington, President Bush was on the South Lawn of the White House to contemplate the moment when American Airlines

Flight 11 slammed into the Trade Center's north tower, which was the start of the attacks.

"We remember lives lost. We remember the heroic deeds. We remember the compassion, the decency of our fellow citizens on that terrible day," President George W. Bush said after attending the service at St. John's Church near the White House.

A ceremony at the Pentagon included a moment of silence at 9:37 a.m., when the impact of American Airlines Flight 77 killed more than 180 people. In southwest Pennsylvania, bells rung shortly after 10 a.m. to mark the time when the fourth jet, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed into a field killing the 44 onboard.

As for the servicemen and women who have given their lives to fighting for America in Iraq and Afghanistan, Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of the U.S. Army's Fourth Infantry Division fighting in Iraq, asked soldiers not to forget the victims associated with Sept. 11, and to remember them all as heroes.

"It is our job to ensure that we maintain this freedom for years to come. For our children. For our children's children," Odierno said, as reported by CNN.com. "This is why we are here. And it will make a difference."

Long-live America.

### Coronado students debate possibility of uniforms

By Rachael Pearl,  
Coronado HS

According to several rumors, school uniforms may be imposed next year at Coronado High School. There have been rumors circulating around at Coronado that Liberty High School students may not be the only ones in the Clark County School District who have to wear uniforms.

People's opinions have been very mixed as to whether they want Coronado students to have to wear uniforms.

When Coronado junior Candice Watkins was asked whether or not she wanted to wear a uniform, she replied, "No!!! The student body has been told by the principal himself that the school is doing well all around. If we're doing so well, I don't understand why we should have to be told what to wear."

This has been the same theme throughout Coronado for most students although some

opinions do differ.

One Liberty High School student says, "My sister likes wearing the uniforms. She says that it's easier for her in the mornings when she has to get ready. All she does is throw on her uniform."

She also says, "It's easier to fit in because everybody is wearing the same kind of clothes, and nobody gets judged." Although they are expensive, she seems to think they are well worth it.

Some schools with uniforms are stricter than others. At Glen Taylor Elementary School, the faculty requires the students to tuck in their uniform shirts because they think it looks neater.

Schools say they institute a policy of uniforms simply to create a more structured and disciplined environment.

While it is not a fact that uniforms will be required for the 2004-2005 school year, many faculty members say it is a possibility.



# Slang can be totally gnarly, dude

By Davina Coady,  
Centennial HS

Flash forward to the future about 50 or 60 years from now and say to the first person you come across, "Hey, dude, what up? Man, that shirt is so tight, and your hairstyle is freakin' awesome!" They will most likely look at you with a dumbstruck expression and politely ask what you're talking about.

Or, travel about 50 years in the opposite direction, maybe even 30 years, and a "normal conversation" would just not exist. Gnarly, stoped, groovy, far out, righteous, tubular, and neat would be a few of the many words you would come across. Sure, you've heard them before; they're just not used anymore. So, placing them in an everyday conversation would throw you off.

When you hear someone say tubular, especially if it is one of your parents, you just want to

say, "Tubu-what-er?" Nobody says that anymore. Tubular has been replaced with tight or awesome or cool by the teens of today. Yet, our parents, even though they have been present during this word transformation, never seem to jump on the bandwagon.

In that case, in years to come, my daughter is going to come down the stairs with her best friend and tell me they got an A on their history project. I'll say, "Tight!" and she'll turn bright red with embarrassment, glance at her friend and say, "Mo-om!" while stomping back up the stairs. Can you only imagine?

So, why does the slang change over the years? Music? Movies? Culture? All of the above, really. Music most likely influences it the most. When an artist needs a word to rhyme with the last line, he or she has an "author's license" to make up one. If the song is a success, the statement usually catches

on like wildfire, and soon enough, Webster's Dictionary says it's a word, too.

However, slang isn't just something that changes over time, it differs from country to country as well. This summer, I spent five weeks in Ireland surrounding myself mostly with young people. In the beginning, it was quite difficult to carry on a "teenage" conversation with someone. About every sentence, I had to ask, "Huh?" or, "What does that mean?" or just smile and nod stupidly.

A popular Irish question is, "How's the craic?" All I could think was how's the what? What crack? Oh my gosh, I'm going to jail in a foreign country. I'd look around and realize nobody was doing drugs, calm down and just figure they were discussing a problem with their bodily functions. How wrong I was. Basically, all it means is,

"How are things going?"

The Irish also like to use "quare" as an adjective. I know what you are all thinking it means, because obviously I thought the same, but it's just another word for "really." For example, Irish lingo: "That was a quare good film"; American translation: "That was a really good movie." See how confusing things could get? Bollixed, savage, eejit, amadon and gobshite are a few more to add to the list.

What's next? What are my great grandkids going to be saying when they are chatting on the phone about the latest gossip? Most likely, something along the lines of: "That tee Sam was sporting today was quare awesome. Too bad he's such a gobshite. Totally savage, though. Dude, and last night was a neat good craic. Man, that film was so groovy, I was stoped." Oh, no...

## Recent disaster offers chance to be grateful

By Cristhina Shaikh,  
Coronado HS

You never really know what you have until you have lost it." True or false? We as teenagers do not really think too much of the value or the significance of the things we own, have and use every single day of our lives. Take, for example, a pillow. How important is that pillow in reality? What if one day you wake up and all of a sudden you have lost completely everything, including that pillow? You have nowhere to go, nothing to eat with, nowhere to sleep, nothing to cover yourself up with when you are cold, or to rest your head on to sleep. Just imagine a life completely opposite to what you are used to living.

On Sept. 4, 2003 a shocking fire destroyed many condominium units. My mom was flipping through the channels and stopped on Channel 13 Eyewitness News. It was a massive fire that had broken out at around 8:30 p.m. That is when it hit me. I just sat there, watching this fire destroy all these condos, thinking to myself that could be my apartment complex. I thought about what I would do if it was me in the situation.

Of course, these condos were still under construction, and the fire has caused many people to have to wait longer to be able to move into their new homes. How many of those people are going to be able to wait longer? What if they are going to be put in the streets just because of this fire that destroyed their soon-to-be new homes? It all just made me realize how lucky and how blessed I truly am. Although I do not have everything I wish I could have, I have everything I need.

I realized that most teenagers my age do not realize nor appreciate what we have. Life for us is too easy. Our lives revolve around how much homework we have, what parties to go to, what to wear, who will say what about us — the typical teenage dramas. Do we ever stop to think about how ridiculous our "problems" are and realize that we have so much that a lot of other people do not?

Whatever problem we have, there is someone else out there with a worse problem. So the question is, can you really imagine losing everything you have? How much do you appreciate everything you have, and better yet, do you appreciate everything you have?

## open mic



I'm in Between

By Shaun Krueger, Western HS

My feelings take a definite turn,  
What exactly do you do to me?  
Hopefully soon I will learn,  
Why explaining my feelings makes me so uneasy.  
When I'm with you, my words become mixed up.  
I can't ever find the right words to say.  
Why can't I learn to just shut up,  
Instead of being nervous and confused each day?  
My nerves jump every time I see you.  
What am I feeling now?  
I never know what I'm supposed to do.  
I want to say my true feelings, but I don't know how.  
You're just the same as I.  
Even though you might have the same feelings to show.  
To you I could be just another guy,  
'Cause when I ask you what you feel, you always say, "I dunno."  
Until you and I figure it out,  
We'll just have to wonder what it could be.  
And until we can say how we feel out loud,  
When you ask me how I feel, I'll just say, "I'm in between."

# MAN CAN BE A DOG'S BEST FRIEND, TOO



Crystal Glasso, a Clark HS junior, and Kevin Ford, a Clark HS sophomore, finally pull the reins in on the dogs. Both Coyote Bonita and Nala are rescued shelter dogs.

By April Corbin,  
Las Vegas HS



**D**ogs have always been known as man's best friend.

From Lassie, Benji and Rin Tin Tin, to Old Yeller, dogs are constantly being portrayed as helpful sidekicks or stars. Popular books like "Where the Red Fern Grows," "Shiloh," and "Old Yeller" have all been heartwarming stories about dogs and their owners. Likewise, New York Times' best-selling author Dean Kootz is known for always trying to include a dog in his novels. These dog-praising works of fiction are rooted in truth. From waiting for you at the front door after school to bringing you the newspaper every morning, the positive energy and love that dogs have given to man seems endless.

Although only around 7,000 of the 1.3 million blind people in America have guide dogs according to the "Statistics and Sources for Professionals," it is unquestionable that dogs have given some people the ability to be more independent. Guide dogs for the blind must be obedient and loyal enough to follow their master's commands, yet they also must be able to recognize the possible dangers of following those orders. For example, an owner may wish to cross a busy intersection. The guide dog needs to be able to recognize oncoming traffic and disobey its master's order. To do these extraordinary things, guide dogs are bred, raised and trained by professionals for years before ever meeting their blind masters.

While some canine companions are helping the visually impaired, others are helping bring criminals to justice. It is not uncommon to come across a police officer with a canine as a patrol partner in airports, parks and high-risk places. Likewise, there are tracking dogs for missing people and suspects, and substance detector dogs. Substance detector dogs are able to sniff out well-concealed drugs, explosives, accelerants (for arson cases) and other things that human detectives and police officers would easily overlook.

While dogs are capable of amazing feats, most dog owners

best remember and love their dogs for the small everyday joys they can bring into a person's life.

Toya Young, a senior at Las Vegas High School, raves about her dog Sassy. "She's always there for me when I'm in need of a friend. Dogs don't judge you like humans do."

For some people, dogs are closer than friends; they are family. Chaparral High School junior Eric\* considers his Kees-hond Chelves more than just your everyday pet. Moving to Las Vegas as a child, Eric didn't know anyone and tricked his parents into getting the young puppy from a next-door neighbor. Now eight (human) years old, Chelves is inseparable from Eric. Chelves "always sleeps by my side," Eric explains. "He's my companion. He's always up for playing."

Many dog owners, like Eric, go out of their way for their dogs. Eric admits to putting Chelves in the back of a truck and driving him around. He also takes him to the dentist once a year, and for years, each winter he would dress Chelves in sweaters made for dogs.

"He's the cutest dog in the whole world," Eric proudly declares. "Poodles ain't got nothing on him."

The affects of dogs in people's lives are extraordinary. This type of close bond between dog and owner is envied by those without dogs.

Unfortunately, some circumstances will not allow people to own dogs. This is a modern day tragedy because now more than ever, dogs in shelters need warm, loving homes. This is something Heather Engelken, LVHS senior, knows all about.

While interning at Hap-E-Dog Kennel here in Las Vegas,



Heather Engelken with Angelo.

she grew close to a dog named Angelo. Angelo was part Pit Bull, part Dalmatian and Boxer mix and had been abandoned at the kennel around a year and a half earlier. Since the kennel was no longer making money from Angelo, they gave him to Dewey Animal Shelter. Dewey Animal Shelter keeps animals for six days and if they are adopted, all is well. However, if six days pass, they put the animal to sleep. Engelken, upset with worry over Angelo's date at Dewey, went to the shelter and took him out, despite not having a place for him.

"When I went to Dewey, I hoped he wasn't there," she admits.

Although she hoped he'd already been adopted and had a new home, she was upset to see that was not the case.

"I saw him and it broke my heart," she says. "In the shelter when he saw me, he recognized me, and he whined. It was the first time I'd heard him whine."

Engelken felt like she had to try and help Angelo. "He was my homie. He was just really sweet and he had squishy cheeks!"

While she wasn't able to keep the dog herself because of parental issues, a friend kept him for a week while Engelken frantically searched for a home.

"I asked people at school, made the teachers send out a memo, put up flyers, called the Heaven Can Wait sanctuary, tried to get him into Lied Animal Shelter..." Engelken recalls. During this time, she also got him neutered and got him shots he needed.

Unfortunately, Engelken's search seemed fruitless and she was unable to find a home for Angelo. "I had a few leads," she remembers. "But they all failed." With great reluctance, Engelken was forced to give Angelo back to Dewey Animal Shelter.

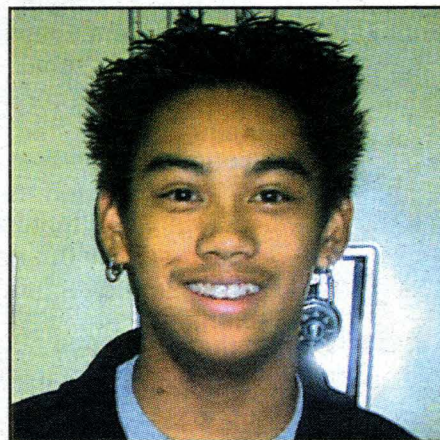
Dogs have made an impact on millions and millions of people's lives. "They'll love you unconditionally," Engelken says. Too many dogs, however, are unnecessarily dying due to an overpopulation of dogs and people abandoning them. In an effort to change these grim statistics, October has been declared National Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month. We can only hope that people will go out and brighten up their lives by saving a great dog's life.

\*name withheld

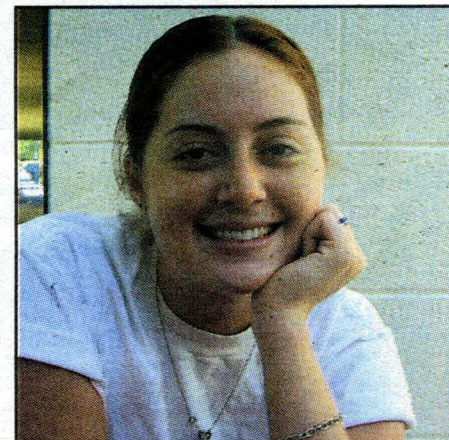
## SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: BISHOP GORMAN

# What's your favorite kind of dog and why?

By Mytae Carrasco, Bishop Gorman HS



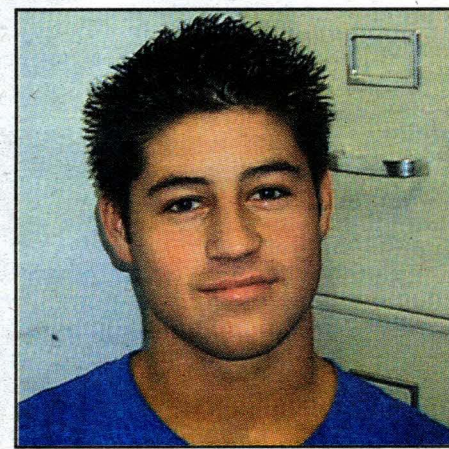
**Christian Lapuz, senior:** "Beagles, because they are always physically active."



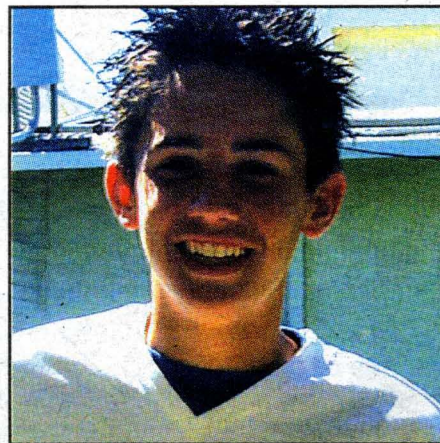
**Jacquelynn O'Connell, senior:** "German Shepherds, because they are good bomb dogs."



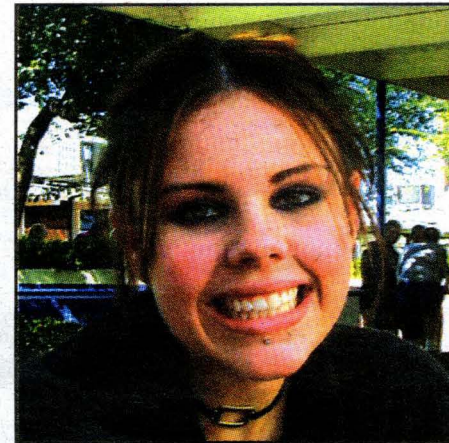
**Lilliana Pisani, senior:** "Dalmatians, because I have one and because I liked the movie."



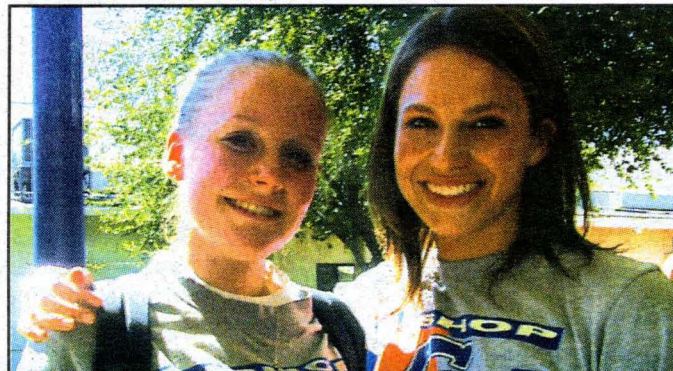
**Manny Abeyta, junior:** "Great Danes, because they are athletic and protective."



**Kyle Bonnici, senior:** "Siberian Huskies, because I liked the movie 'Shiloh' and because they go owwww!!!"



**Jacque Dayton, senior:** "Rottweilers, because they are loyal, overly friendly and cute."



**Chanel Gainer, left, senior:** "Beagles, because they are cute."

**Amanda Gootkind, right, senior:** "Chihuahuas, because of the one in 'Legally Blonde.'"

Mytae Carrasco, Bishop Gorman HS,  
with Toby, pretending to be a bunny.



Marlo Starr,  
CCHS senior,  
and Honey, a  
real bunny.



## TOP 25 REASONS TO HAVE A PET

1. Someone for you to cuddle and love.
2. A constant garbage disposal.
3. Someone to cheer you up when you have a bad day.
4. A way to learn responsibility.
5. Someone to spoil.
6. Someone you can talk to that will just listen and not interrupt you.
7. You can dress them up for any occasion.
8. They are always there to greet you when you get home.
9. You can give them silly names.
10. They can lick the floor clean.
11. They are never judgmental of any actions in the human world.
12. They keep your feet warm at night.
13. You can blame things on them you don't want to 'fess up to.
14. They can always make you smile when you've had the worst day.
15. They really are your best friends.
16. They love you no matter how you smell.
17. They're a great excuse when you forget your homework.
18. They're great company when you're lonely.
19. They will always listen when you need someone to talk to.
20. They help society (fire fighting dogs, drug sniffing dogs etc.).
21. It has been scientifically shown that they make a person happier.
22. You know they miss you when you leave.
23. They are always ready to play with you.
24. They are content watching TV with you.
25. Someone to love you, unconditionally.



Blackjack Trujillo belongs to  
Green Valley students Charles  
Trujillo, junior, and Heather  
Trujillo, sophomore.



Cover models Kevin Ford and Nala make each other's  
acquaintance during the CLASS! cover shoot.

## open mic

### Jesse

By Jennifer Cutshall, Palo Verde HS

Long and lithe, a hunting machine,  
Her eyes are the clearest shade of green.  
Glistening fur of black and white,  
She is always ready for a fight.  
Teeth and claws sharp as knives,  
She has taken many bugs' lives.  
Paws as silent as a graveyard,  
Useful for stalking in my backyard.  
Full of courage, she is a small panther,  
Except when she sees something that is bigger.  
Then she will turn tail and flee  
To her favorite person, who is me.  
She'd never survive out on her own.  
Thank goodness for her she has a home  
And a loving, caring family,  
But most of all, my cat has me.

### Caesar

By Jennifer Cutshall, Palo Verde HS

Caesar was a great, magnificent dog.  
To and fro with messages he would jog.  
In Bougainville, he was the soldiers' best friend.  
He would serve them faithfully until the end.  
Guns burst around him everyday,  
But from his task he would never stray.  
To the front lines and back again,  
He was the lifeline of all the Marine men.  
Caesar was a good watchdog, too.  
When a grenade was thrown at his foxhole, he knew.  
He alerted his handler who threw it back;  
The next morning eight dead enemy soldiers were found, that's a fact.  
Many attempts were made on Caesar's life.  
He evaded them all, but won throughout the strife.  
On a sneak attack, the Japanese shot him twice.  
His poor, broken body was cold as ice.  
But this dog was brave and he pulled through.  
Brave Caesar, with this poem, we honor you.

# double talk

## *Should the Strip's curfew laws be altered?*

### Sin City Strip needs early curfew

By Rachael Sanman, Centennial HS

**S**in City — these two simple words epitomize Las Vegas, and more importantly, the Strip. Conveniently located in the epicenter of the city, the Strip attracts millions of tourists each year, making it a magnet for all types of sin.

Over the years, the Strip went from being not-so-family-oriented, to being more and more so each day. With more attractions for children, there were more reasons to take a family vacation to Las Vegas — gambling, drinking and all-night partying for adults; and amusement parks for children.

No matter how many sad attempts the CEOs of the hotels make to bring more families into Las Vegas, there will always be

**There are plenty of movie theaters, malls and other sources of entertainment that aren't on the Strip, so why avoid these places?**

that hint of sin in all family fun. Lately, there has been a major decrease in family activities, and the "sin" is returning to Las Vegas in its encore performance. Giving up all hope of making Las Vegas into Disney World, the Strip is taking on a more racy theme than it has had in the past several years.

With all of the suggestive and indecent billboards, flyers, cards and signs on and around the Strip, there is no fathomable reason to further subject our children to this exposure.

It's bad enough that, from a

distance, children and teens are subjected to this type of outright lewdness, but to extend curfew on the Strip would be an invitation for trouble and sinful thoughts.

However, not only is the smut on the Strip, but also around it, in places such as downtown and neighboring casinos; furthermore, it is not only tourists' children being exposed to nudity and risqué themes; it is more so the residents of Las Vegas.

On a typical weekend in Las Vegas, carloads of teenagers find their way to the Strip. The teens merely expect to have some fun at GameWorks, the M&M Factory or the Forum Shops at Caesars Palace, but their attention is rudely interrupted by taxicab billboards and the Little Darlings' newsletter. Though both of these items can easily be viewed during the day, each of the attractions geared toward a teenager's "disposable income" can also be enjoyed prior to 9 p.m.

Aside from the House of Blues at the Mandalay Bay, there is no reason for anyone under the age of 21 to be on the Strip after 9 p.m. If you're not 21, you can't drink, gamble, go to clubs or do anything that really makes Las Vegas "Sin City." Troublemakers or not, tourists as well as residents under 21 can find something else to do after 9 p.m. There are plenty of movie theaters, malls and other sources of entertainment that aren't on the Strip, so why avoid these places?

The obscenities and dangers of the Strip, downtown and bordering casinos should be enough proof that the curfew is best where it is — it's not too late, and it's not too early. You have enough time to enjoy yourself before the weird people come out and the partying begins.



### Curfew criminalizes innocent teens

By Caitlin McGarry, Centennial HS

**I**magine walking down Las Vegas Boulevard with some of your friends on a Saturday night. It's only 9:30 p.m.; you are not causing any problems, and you'll be home before the curfew your parents set for you. Suddenly, two po-

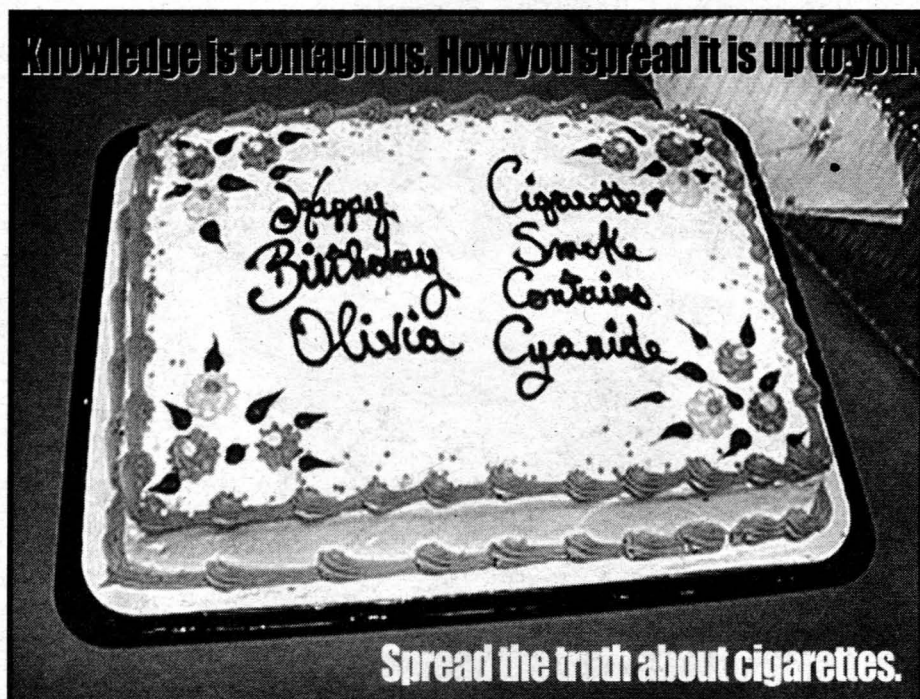
lice officers pull you and your friends out from the crowded sidewalk, determine that you're underage, write you up for being on the Strip after 9 p.m., and have your parents come pick you up.

Not only is this type of situation embarrassing, it's completely unnecessary. Besides the fact that a 9 p.m. weekend curfew on the Strip isn't needed, the posted signs alerting teens to the curfew rules are hidden from view. When kids are caught, they aren't given any warning, and the context of the situation isn't taken into consideration.

Setting the Strip's curfew at 9 p.m. is unreasonable in the first place. Many downtown attractions are geared towards teens; the M&M Factory, the Fashion Show Mall, the Forums in Caesar's Palace, the MGM movie theater, concerts at the House of Blues in the Mandalay Bay, and other activities are all oriented towards the younger crowd. Driving or walking down the Strip to any of these places risks a court date and a fine at least.

In order to maintain the early weekend curfew, each of the aforementioned places would have to be limited to those 21 and over, which hurts business in the long run. After all, teens are always being told that they are the most important consumers because of their "disposable income."

So, here is a suggestion: police should set the curfew at a later time, like 11 p.m. (a reasonable time for kids to be off the streets), and up until that time, let the parents take responsibility for their children. There are definitely dangers to walking around Las Vegas Boulevard after dark, but those dangers exist everywhere. Instead of criminalizing kids, police should be eliminating the real threats. They can't expect that we'll be safe until the streets are cleaned up, no matter where we are at 9 p.m.



# Local programs give everyone chance to make a difference

By Kaycee Lewis and ShaRyan Brown, Centennial HS

As school has started up again, it seems we watch our free time slowly dwindle away. Too often, we get caught up in all the homework, after-school projects, and demanding social lives to actually do something positive for the world or even for ourselves.

So are you ready to get involved? Believe it or not, there are many teen-oriented groups out there waiting for you to join. The best part is that most of them are not even school-related.

One group is called Leadership Las Vegas Youth. This is a program for juniors in high school who are interested in going through an eight-week course learning everything from government to Las Vegas behind-the-scenes. This program is an excellent opportunity to meet other teens just like you. Oh yeah, you also get to miss eight days of school. If this sounds like the activity for you, just listen closely to your daily announcements to find out more details.

Explorers is another program providing awesome opportunities for teenagers willing to put in time and effort for an excellent learning experience. It is brought to you by the Boy Scouts of America and is associated with many Las Vegas businesses and organizations, like local fire departments, CLASS! Publications, and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. The Metro Explorers program, for example, lets teens spend time with officers, even on ride-alongs, to decide if they want to pursue a future in law enforcement.

To find out more about the Explorers program, you can log on to [www.learning-for-life.org](http://www.learning-for-life.org).

HEROs, Helping Everyone Recognize Opportunities, is a teenager-friendly program that promotes a drug-free environment.

"My life has permanently changed because of HEROs," says Jessica Polk, a Centennial High School senior. "It has

taught me how to stand up for what I believe in and how to be mature and responsible when it comes to making decisions."

Meetings for HEROs are held every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at

— *Jessica Polk, Centennial HS*

the YMCA across the street from Meadows Mall. If you are interested in joining HEROs, you can contact Mark Heywood at 227-9932 or Mike Palmieri at 567-3495.

The American Legion also has a program for students entering their senior year of high school. Boys and Girls State are two programs that give an in-depth look at what government is really like. When attending the program, you will be divided into cities where you will have the opportunity to run for a city official's position. Once you're "elected," you will spend a day at the legislature building where you will discuss prior bills created. If you have decent grades and are interested to know more, just ask your counselor.

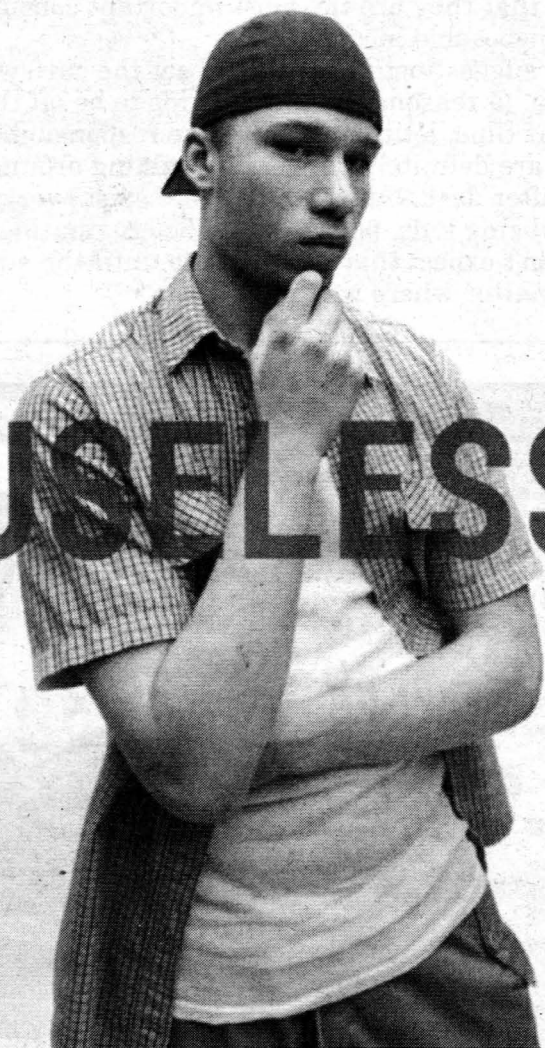
The best part about most of these programs is that it costs you absolutely nothing to join. So what's holding you back? Get your voice heard and get involved. Meet new people and get connections. The time is right. The time is now.

**FRIENDS  
DON'T LET  
FRIENDS  
DRINK  
AND  
DRIVE**

Now I need a job to support my baby.

My scholarship is

**USELESS**



sex has consequences | [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)

# Digamos

## La violencia doméstica es problema de todos

Por Tiffany Yanke,  
Shadow Ridge HS

Cuando las personas escuchan las palabras “violencia doméstica,” prefieren cambiar el tema. No quieren hablar de eso, y algunos creen que por no pensarlo, el problema deja de existir. La verdad es que sí existe y está en todas partes. Probablemente tengas un amigo o amiga que esté pasando por esto en su hogar. Estas personas, necesitan tu ayuda y tu comprensión. Ellos necesitan hablar con alguien y sentir que se preocupan por ellos.

Los niños y adolescentes que están envueltos en violencia doméstica casi nunca saben que hacer para terminarla. Quizás estén siendo abusados física, sexual, emocional o



mentalmente. Si son forzados a irse de sus casas, deben hacerlo sin llevar ropa extra, libros o juguetes. Ellos piensan que sus amigos tal vez no lo van a entender, así que no dicen una sola palabra. Se sienten confundidos, heridos y apenados.

Si tú estás en medio de una situación violenta, necesitas buscar ayuda. Nadie merece ser abusado.

No es tu culpa. Anda y habla con los consejeros de tu escuela; ellos estudiaron para brindarte ayuda y contactarán a alguien que sabrá qué hacer para ayudarte. Trata de buscar un lugar al cual puedas ir en caso de emergencia. ¿Tienes vecinos, amigos o personas que conozcas de tu iglesia a los cuales puedes acudir? Siempre ten listo contigo un maletín pequeño donde puedas llevar dinero extra, ropa, libros y tu identificación, y para los niños pequeños, no se olviden de los juguetes. Memoriza los teléfonos de emergencia.

Si tienes amigos que están pasando por una situación crítica en la casa, escúchalos. Sé un amigo. Llévalo con tus padres a ver si ellos pueden ayudar de alguna manera o dejar que se quede en tu casa para ofrecerles

protección. Dale tu confianza pero no la acabes contándole lo que pasa a otras personas.

Yo estuve envuelta en violencia doméstica. Nuestros vecinos lo ignoraban y fingían que no estaba pasando. Hablaban entre ellos pero no con nosotros; no querían involucrarse. El rector y su asistente de la escuela de mi hermano menor le negaron su ayuda, a pesar de que él y mi madre la pidieron y de que su profesora estaba interesada. Cuando un amigo de la familia llamó a los Servicios de Protección a Menores, tampoco supieron qué hacer con nuestra

situación.

Estoy plenamente agradecida con un consejero de mi escuela media, el señor Wincheck, quien escribió cartas y siempre estuvo ahí cuando yo necesitaba con quien hablar. El le dio a mi madre números de teléfonos para buscar ayuda profesional. Cuando en cierto momento, tuve que testificar en la corte, decidí que no debía asustarme, que debía ser más fuerte; entonces le escribí a los jueces y llamé a la policía para obtener ayuda. Finalmente, mi mamá encontró un abogado ejemplar quien de

*Vea página 16*

## Los estudiantes de Coronado discuten la posibilidad de tener uniformes

Por Rachael Pearl,  
Coronado HS

Después de escuchar varios rumores, se dice que la escuela Coronado tendrá uniformes el próximo año. De igual manera, ésta no será la única escuela con esta norma, ya que también se rumora que muchas de las escuelas del Condado de Clark adoptarán esta medida.

Hasta el día que fue escrito este artículo, muchos profesores han escuchado estos rumores

pero mucho otros no, lo cual significa que hay un gran debate entre las personas que saben, discutiendo los pros y los contras de esta posibilidad.

Al preguntarle a Candice Watkins, estudiante de undécimo grado en Coronado HS, ella respondió, “¡No! El rector de la escuela les dijo a los estudiantes que todo iba de maravilla. Entonces si nos está yendo tan bien, no entiendo porque nos deban decir cómo

*Vea página 16*

**Si necesitas ayuda o conoces a alguien que la necesita, por favor comparte estos teléfonos:**

**Westcare Youth Emergency Shelter (albergue de emergencia): 385-3330**

**National Domestic Violence Hotline (línea nacional de violencia doméstica): 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**

**Nevada Domestic Violence Hotline (línea de violencia doméstica en Nevada): 1-800-500-1556**

**Safety Support Shelter (albergue de protección las 24 horas): 564-3227**

**Safe House (casa segura): 451-4203**

**Safe Nest Domestic Crisis Shelter (albergue para la crisis**

**doméstica las 24 horas): 646-4981**

**Domestic Crisis Counseling Number (consejo de crisis doméstica): 877-0133**

**Safe Place (lugar seguro): 1-866-U-ARE-SAFE**

**HELP of Southern Nevada (ayuda del sur de Nevada): 369-4357**

**Clark County Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (línea de abuso a menores del Condado de Clark): 399-0081**

**DASH: Domestic Abuse Stops Here program (programa: abuso doméstico se termina aquí): <http://nationaldashprogram.org/nationaldashprogram.index.html>**

# Acaba con la comida chatarra: hay otras opciones

Por Natalie Minev,  
Community College HS

Con el ajetreo y el bullicio de la vida escolar, es difícil pensar en la comida saludable. Suena mejor, que cuando tu estómago empieza a gritar por un bocado de salvación en plena clase, tú estés pensando en comerte una hamburguesa con queso, no pedazos de zanahoria. Para calmar tu hambre, vas a las máquinas de comida entre

clases, le metes unos cuantos dólares, y sacas un paquete de papitas fritas y una soda. Si te relacionas con esto, escucha muy bien lo siguiente.

La Semana Nacional del Almuerzo Escolar es de octubre 13 a octubre 17. Su propósito es motivar a los estudiantes a comer saludablemente, a consumir almuerzos nutritivos en la escuela en vez de la comida chatarra o rápida como solemos decirle. La Asociación

Americana de Servicio de Comidas Escolares enfatiza que los estudiantes deberían empacar sus almuerzos o comprar los que ya están hechos, que contengan los cinco grupos alimenticios. Un ejemplo de un almuerzo bien balanceado incluye un sándwich de pavo, unas zanahorias, una ensalada, una manzana y un vaso de leche. En un artículo de salud de CBS en CBSNEWS.com, Kathy Henderson, la directora de estilo de vida de la revista Child Magazine, sugirió que los estudiantes necesitan cerca de "500 a 600 calorías en su almuerzo, ricas en los nutrientes que se encuentran en los cinco grupos alimenticios."

Desafortunadamente, los jóvenes usualmente escogen soluciones rápidas en vez de soluciones saludables. "Alternativas saludables son ofrecidas, pero los estudiantes no las compran," comenta Susan Scarberry, supervisora de la cafetería en Bonanza HS. "Pienso que también se debe a la presión porque no hay mucho tiempo para comer, hay mucha línea para comprar y además el hecho de que vivimos en un país libre no nos permite forzar a los estudiantes a comer lo que no quieren."

Las comidas más compradas en las escuelas son pizza, pedacitos de pollo y palitos de pan, aunque comidas más saludables están al alcance de todos. Estas incluyen ensaladas verdes, sándwiches de atún y pavo, jugos de frutas, sopas, yogurts, y frutas frescas.

"Estos almuerzos son ofrecidos en todas las escuelas de la ciudad," dice Scarberry.

Deja que la Semana Nacional del Almuerzo Escolar sea un recordatorio de que deberías estar comiendo saludablemente, especialmente en la escuela. Resiste la tentación de las máquinas de comida y de las comidas rápidas que no son nutritivas. Aprovecha todos esos productos buenos que venden en tu escuela o prepárate un almuerzo en casa y no dejes que te de pena de sacarlo ante tus amigos a la hora de comer. Si sigues estos pasos puedes mejorar tu salud y darle a tu cuerpo la cantidad exacta de energías y nutrientes necesarios para la apresurada vida escolar.

## La violencia domestica

*Continuación de la página 15* verdad se preocupó por nosotros y le pidió a la juez que nos escuchara. Después de que hablé con la juez, finalmente me retiró la visita de mi padre. Fue el mejor alivio y lo mejor que me pudo haber pasado en ese momento. El día que fui a dar mi testimonio, decidí que en un futuro quiero ser una abogada y ayudar a niños y adolescentes que son despreciados y abusados.

Tristemente, nunca podré olvidar a aquellas personas que nunca quisieron ponerle atención al problema, pero siempre recordaré con gratitud a las que sí me ayudaron.

No hay excusa para la violencia en los hogares. El hogar debe ser un lugar seguro lleno de amor y comprensión para cada uno de los miembros de la familia. Este problema no se acabará si lo ignoras. Podemos hacer una diferencia si hacemos algo para acabarlo.

Si quieres ser parte de mi club "Los Ángeles de Tiffany," si quieres donar juguetes y libros para niños o si simplemente quieres contarme tu historia, escríbeme a whatnow007@aol.com.

## Uniformes

*Continuación de la página 15* vestirnos."

Este ha sido el pensamiento de muchos de los estudiantes de esta escuela, aunque hay opiniones que varían.

Un estudiante de Liberty dice, "A mi hermana le gustan los uniformes. Ella dice que es mucho más fácil para arreglarse en la mañana. Lo único que se hace es ponerse el uniforme." Además añade, "No hay problemas porque todo el mundo se viste igual y nadie juzga a nadie." Aunque los uniformes sean costosos, pareciera que valen la pena imponerlos en las escuelas el próximo año.

Algunas escuelas que ya tienen uniformes son más estrictas que otras. En la escuela primaria Glen Taylor, los estudiantes deben tener la camisa por dentro porque los maestros piensan que se ve mejor. Dicen que los uniformes son para crear un ambiente más firme y disciplinado.

Aún no se ha comprobado si Coronado tendrá uniformes para el año escolar 2004-2005, pero muchos dicen que es una posibilidad.

## ¿Será que podemos confiar en nuestros padres?

Por Rannah Alcalen, Palo Verde HS

Algunos dicen que muchos de nosotros presentamos más de tres personalidades diferentes: una cuando estamos con nuestros amigos, otra con los profesores y otra diferente con tus familiares. Pero casi siempre es muy difícil confiar en nuestros padres por miedo a que se molesten y nos castiguen. Como es de humanos que los padres siempre protejan a sus hijos, es muy difícil, especialmente para los que estamos en la secundaria, comentarle a nuestros padres algunas cosas.

Aunque nuestras mamás y papás digan que podemos ser abiertos con ellos, siempre quieren tenernos bajo sus alas para protegernos de los peligros de la vida; por lo tanto, tienden a prohibir que hagamos ciertas cosas. El sexo y las drogas son los dos temas más difíciles para que los padres hablen con sus hijos, porque no se pueden imaginarlos a ellos haciendo estas cosas. ¿Entonces, las restricciones y prohibiciones dejan que los jóvenes dejen de hacer estas cosas?

Algunos padres están dispuestos a hablar con sus hijos abiertamente de toda clase de temas, incluyendo temas como el sexo; además les permiten que lo experimenten. Pero también otros discuten que estos padres no pueden ser un ejemplo a seguir.

Existen culturas que son más estrictas que otras. En mi propia experiencia familiar, por ejemplo, yo sé que si voy a decirle a mi mamá, "Estoy en una etapa de intriga en este momento mamá, solo quiero saber que se siente estar drogado." Mi mamá me encerraría en casa hasta que me graduara... ¡de la universidad! Entonces, esto es lo que hace que los jóvenes experimenten esa clase de cosas a espaldas de sus padres.

Las edades entre los 13 y los 19 años, son para experimentar y créanlo o no, nuestros padres saben esto. Es por eso que sus comentarios suelen ser, "Sí Suzie, tienes que estar en la casa APENAS se termine el baile porque te estaré esperando," o "¡No te puedes quedar en ese hotel en la supuesta 'fiesta de cumpleaños' de Jimmy!"

La razón por la cual ellos dicen estas cosas es porque se preocupan; si los padres no se preocuparan por sus hijos, habría muchos jóvenes durmiendo en las calles. Así les den restricciones, ellos los dejan vivir su vida y prepararse para que cuando salgan al mundo real puedan tomar buenas decisiones y llevar sus vidas por un buen camino. Entonces la próxima vez que tus papas te digan que no puedes salir con un guapo muchacho o una linda chica de 25 años, solo recuerda que lo hacen porque se preocupan y porque te aman.



# No te olvides de tomar los ACT o los SAT

Por Mytae Carrasco,  
Bishop Gorman HS



Si vas a graduarte de la escuela este año y quieres ir a una universidad o a un colegio pero aún no haz tomado los exámenes ACT o SAT, no te preocupes, ¡todavía hay tiempo!

Estos exámenes son uno de los muchos requisitos para entrar a instituciones de educación superior. Estos exámenes contienen la mayoría de lo que haz estudiado desde el primer año de preparatoria y si no obtienes la calificación requerida o deseada, lo puedes tomar cuantas veces quieras. No importa cuantas veces lo intentes, los colegios solo toman en cuenta la mejor calificación que hayas sacado. El único problema es que tienes que pagar veinticinco dólares cada vez que los tomes.

La manera más rápida para registrarte y así poder tomarlos es por Internet. Las otras maneras son por correo regular y por teléfono, pero éstas dos últimas toman más tiempo. Si decides hacerlo por correo, vé a la oficina principal en tu escuela y pídele a tu consejero que te dé una aplicación. Después de que te inscribas para tomar

**“La calificación mínima en estos exámenes puede variar entre 19 en el ACT y 1200 en el SAT. Practica desde hoy mismo.”**

alguno de los dos exámenes, mira bien la lista con las opciones de los lugares donde puedes tomarlos. Elige el más conveniente para ti. Es una buena idea que si tienes tiempo tomes los dos exámenes en caso de que obtengas una mejor calificación en uno que en el otro.

Solo tienes que estar muy pendiente del plazo que tienes para mandar tu aplicación y de las fechas de los exámenes. Si obtienes un buen puntaje puedes calificar para algunas becas ofrecidas por las diferentes universidades y colegios. La calificación mínima puede variar entre 19 en el ACT y 1200 en el SAT. Todo depende de la institución de educación superior a la que los presentes. Ten en cuenta que cada institución tiene diferentes requisitos.

También existen clases que te ayudan a desarrollar estrategias para obtener mejores puntajes; pero la verdad es que no hay ninguna manera que puedas saber exactamente qué estudiar porque cada examen es diferente. Simplemente estudia todas las materias en general. A la misma vez, puedes comprar libros que son una réplica de los exámenes, para que puedas practicar un poco y tengas una idea de lo que puedes estudiar.

Si estás en undécimo grado y quieres estar preparado para tu último año, te recomiendo empezar a tomar estos exámenes de una vez para que sepas qué tienes que mejorar. Tal vez en tu último año, no tengas tiempo suficiente y no puedas mejorar la calificación.

La mayoría de universidades aceptan cualquiera de los dos, así que no te des por vencido. Recuerda que ¡sí se puede!

# LEYENDAS DEL MES

A partir de este mes de octubre tendremos la biografía de tres personas diferentes en cada edición. Será una oportunidad para conocer los Latinos que están sacando la cara por nosotros a través de la música, el arte, el deporte, la televisión y mucho más. Así que no dejes de conocer las historias de estas grandes personas. Por este mes los dejo con tres de los más grandes escritores de todos los tiempos.

## Escritores

*Gabriel García Márquez*



García Márquez nació el 6 de marzo de 1928 en Aracataca, un pequeño pueblo al norte de Colombia. Después de sus estudios en la Universidad de Bogotá, empieza a escribir artículos para el diario El Espectador. En 1956 el General Pinilla cierra las oficinas de ese diario y sin ninguna entrada de dinero, García Márquez viaja a París y escribe “El Coronel no Tiene Quién le Escriba.” Nueve años después escribe su más famosa obra literaria “Cien Años de Soledad,” que fue publicada en 1967, ganando varios premios internacionales.

Uno de los años más importantes para su carrera fue el de 1982, cuando recibió el honor de ganarse el Premio Nobel de Literatura. Desde 1975 a la fecha de hoy, pasa su tiempo entre Bogotá y la Ciudad de México, trabajando en causas políticas, pero lastimosamente Gabriel García Márquez se esta retirando lentamente de la vida pública por razones de salud: cáncer linfático.

*Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra*



Cervantes fue un novelista, escritor y poeta, mundialmente reconocido por su obra literaria “Don Quijote de La Mancha,” que a su vez es el símbolo de la literatura española.

Cervantes Saavedra nació en Alcalá de Henares, un pueblo cerca de la ciudad de Madrid. La gran parte de su infancia la vivió viajando de pueblo en pueblo mientras su padre, un cirujano boticario, buscaba trabajo. Después de estudiar en Madrid entre 1568 y 1569, viajó hacia Roma al servicio de la armada. Alrededor de 1571, participó en la batalla de Lepanto, donde recibió una herida que le paralizó permanentemente su mano izquierda. A partir de ese momento fue llamado “el manco de Lepanto.”

Después de terminar su carrera militar, se dedicó a la literatura y así murió en Madrid el 23 de abril de 1616.

*Mario Vargas Llosa*



Vargas Llosa nació un 28 de marzo de 1936 en la ciudad de Arequipa, Perú. Sus padres ya estaban separados así que conocería a su padre a los diez años de edad. Estudió la primaria hasta el cuarto año en Bolivia. El reencuentro con su padre, años después, significó un cambio en su formación e ingresa a un colegio militar en Lima. En 1953 ingresa a la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, donde estudia Letras y Derecho. A los 18 años decide contraer matrimonio con su tía política Julia Urquidi.

Además de estudiar desempeñó varios trabajos: redactó noticias en Radio Panamericana, fichó libros y revisó nombres de la tumbas de un cementerio. A pesar de esto, los méritos y reconocimientos lo acompañan a lo largo de su carrera. En 1975 es nombrado miembro de la Academia Peruana de la Lengua y en 1976 es elegido Presidente del Pen Club Internacional. En 1994 es designado como miembro de la Real Academia Española. Sus obra “La Verdad de las Mentiras,” han sido traducidas a 32 idiomas diferentes.

**En el próximo capítulo: tres de los mejores presentadores de la televisión. ¿Quiénes serán?**

## No te pierdas los próximos eventos en honor al mes de la herencia hispana

Por Lina Hernandez,  
editora de Díganos

No se olviden que todavía no se ha acabado el mes de la herencia hispana, así que tenemos tiempo para celebrar. Pongan mucha atención a los siguientes eventos que se harán en honor al mes de los hispanos.

Muchos de los escritores chicanos renombrados en nuestra comunidad participarán en el Segundo Festival de Libros del Valle de Las Vegas, de octubre 23 al 25 en Henderson, Nevada. Formando este grupo, estos escritores representan lo mejor de la literatura chicana contemporánea. Para darte una muestra de lo interesante que va a estar este evento aquí te doy un adelanto de sus



participantes.

Rudolfo Anaya, el famoso novelista aclamado como el fundador de la literatura

Chicana moderna y el autor más leído en las comunidades Latinas. Algunas de sus obras son "Bless Me Ultima, Tortuga y Albuquerque." El poeta Alberto Ríos, quien fue finalista del Premio Nacional del Libro en el año 2002. Su más reciente colección es "The Smallest Muscle in the Human Body" ("El Músculo más Pequeño del Cuerpo").

También encontraremos a Lucha Corpi, poeta, novelista y autora de varios libros para niños y quien también fue la

presidenta en el Centro Chicano de Escritores en pasados años. Richard Yáñez, con su obra "El Paso del Norte: Stories on the Border" ("Cuentos en la frontera"), explora las fronteras entre países, culturas y lenguajes. Sus cuentos están basados en la comunidad Chicana de su tierra natal, El Paso, Texas. Por último, tenemos a José Skinner, con su primera colección "Flight and Other Stories" ("El Vuelo y otras Historias") basado en la relación de la raza blanca y Latina en el suroeste de nuestro país. Galardonado con el premio Revisión Literaria "Frontera" por la mejor historia escrita por un hispanoamericano.

El Festival de Libros del Valle de Las Vegas es un programa de tres días de lectura, escritura y discusión literaria. Es el único evento público realizado para celebrar y promover la literatura en el sur de Nevada. Aproximadamente 50 escritores más de diferentes lugares de los

Estados Unidos participarán. El último día, sábado 25 de octubre, se realizará una feria de libros al aire libre, con más de 40 librerías, música en vivo, y libros autografiados. Para mayor información acerca del evento, visita la página en Internet [www.vegasvalleybookfest.org](http://www.vegasvalleybookfest.org).

Otros importantes acontecimientos se harán durante todo este mes en las diferentes bibliotecas de la ciudad, celebrando el mes de los hispanos. Se realizarán talleres para saber cómo cocinar los diferentes platos típicos de algunos países, talleres para aprender a bailar salsa, se leerán historias para los niños más pequeños, habrá comida, música y muchas sorpresas más. No te pierdas de esta gran oportunidad para celebrar tus raíces y estar orgulloso(a) de donde vienes. Vista la página en Internet [www.lvccld.org](http://www.lvccld.org), para enterarte de las fechas y las horas exactas.

¡Felicidades y que tengas un excelente mes!

## El distrito escolar obstruye los 'huecos'

Por Joshua Chase,  
Community College HS

Imagínate quedarte atrapado en un lugar por ocho horas al día, por doce años de tu vida. Mientras estás ahí, las únicas personas con las cuales tienes contacto son con tus compañeros de clase, que constantemente juzga tus apariencias y tus acciones, y un pequeño grupo de personas mayores a quienes les pagan por juzgarte. Además de eso, vas a casa solo para pasar tus últimas horas trabajando en lo que no pudiste terminar.

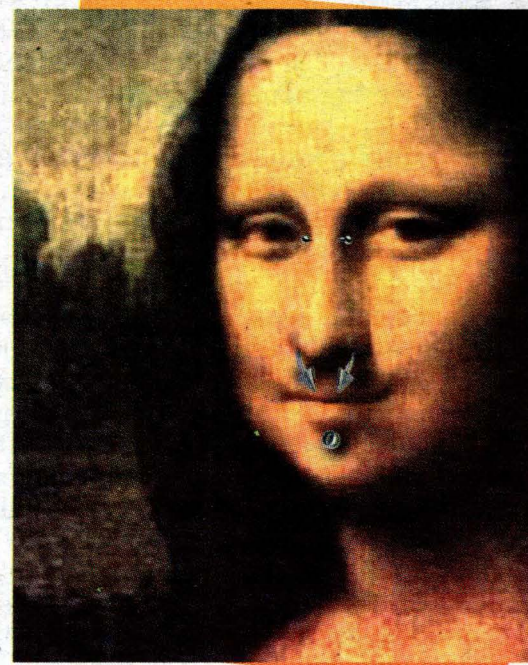
Ahora, no estoy diciendo que no vale la pena ir a la escuela. Particularmente, la disfruto. Pero, también sé que la escuela se puede convertir en un lugar incómodo y estresante. Sé que todas esas "opiniones" hechas por estudiantes y profesores pueden llegar a ser insoportables y algunas veces dolorosas.

Muchos de ustedes probablemente ya hayan escuchado las últimas regulaciones del código de vestir. Los estudiantes ya no se pueden poner piercings en ninguna parte del cuerpo,

excepto las orejas. Me cuesta trabajo entender el propósito de esta nueva regla. Este código de vestir está hecho para mantener las distracciones alejadas del ambiente escolar; se entiende que la ropa con mensajes obscenos y subliminales esté prohibida en la escuela, se puede ver cómo las vulgaridades en la ropa puede ser medio de distracción. ¿Pero los piercings?

Yo no tengo piercings, por lo tanto no me siento tan afectado. Ni siquiera pienso que la apariencia física sea la forma más importante de expresión de una persona. Algunos sí lo piensan así, y eso lo respeto. Pero si los piercings no tienen nada que ver con la individualidad de una persona, entonces se justifica decir que los piercings no tienen nada que ver con la distracción de otras personas. Si los estudiantes se distraen frecuentemente por el número de huecos en el cuerpo de algún compañero de clase, el problema no está en los piercings, sino en las clases, en el currículo, o en los estudiantes que se distraen. El problema está en la forma en que la educación está siendo presentada.

Imagínate estar en un lugar por una tercera parte de tu juventud. Todas las



Esta es la nueva moda: tener "cositas" metálicas por todo el cuerpo. ¿Es éste tu retrato?

comodidades de tu casa se han acabado. Estás siendo constantemente vigilado y juzgado. Y para añadirle más al tema, te están diciendo que no tienes derecho a escoger los huecos que quieres poner en cualquier parte de tu cuerpo.

Bienvenido(a) a la escuela.



## Domestic violence is everyone's problem

By Tiffany Yanke, Shadow Ridge HS

When people hear the words "domestic violence," they want to change the subject. They don't want to talk about it, and some believe that if they don't think about it, it doesn't exist.

The fact remains, it does exist. It's everywhere, and you're probably friends with someone who is going through it in his or her own home. These people, your friends, need your help and support. They need to talk to someone and to know that people care about them.

Children and teens involved with domestic violence often don't know what to do or how to make it stop. They may be physically, sexually or emotionally and mentally abused. If they are forced to leave their homes quickly, they must leave without extra clothes, schoolbooks or toys. They don't think their friends will understand, so they don't say anything at all. They're confused, hurt and embarrassed.

If you're in the middle of a

violent situation, you must get help. No one deserves to be abused. It's not your fault. Go to your counselors at school and talk to them; they've been trained to help, and they can put you in contact with people who know what to do. Find a safe home you can go to in case of an emergency. Are there neighbors, friends or people from church you can go to? Keep a small bag with extra money, clothes, books, identification, and for little children,

don't forget toys. Memorize emergency phone numbers.

If you have friends who are in bad situations at home, listen to them. Be their friend. Go with them to talk to their counselor. Talk to your parents to see if they can help and if you can give them a safe home to go to when they need it. Give them your trust and don't break that trust by telling other kids.

I've had personal experience with domestic violence myself. The neighbors who lived around us ignored it and pretended it wasn't happening. They talked to each other but not to us; they didn't want to get involved. The elementary school principal and vice principal didn't want to get involved to help my little brother though he asked, and though my mother asked, and though my brother's teacher was concerned. When a family friend called Child Protective Services, they wouldn't do anything to help us either.

I'm grateful to a wonderful school counselor at my middle school, Mr. Wincheck, because he wrote letters and was always there when I needed to talk. He gave my mother phone numbers to get help. At one point, I was supposed to testify in court at a domestic battery trial. I decided I didn't want to be afraid anymore, so I needed to become strong. I wrote letters to judges and called the police to try to get help. My mom finally was able to find a fantastic attorney who really cared about us, and he asked the trial judge to talk to us. After I talked to the judge, she finally released me from visitation with my dad. It was the biggest relief and best thing she could

have ever done for me. I decided the day I had to testify in court that I wanted to become an attorney and help children who are ignored and being hurt.

Sadly, I will never forget those people who did not want to get involved, but I will always remember with gratitude and love those people who did something to help.

There is no excuse for violence in the home. A home should be a safe place filled with love and support for each member of the family who lives there. Domestic violence will not go away if you ignore it. We can make a difference by getting involved.

If you would like to get involved with my group, "Tiffany's Angels," which collects toys and books for the children in shelters, or if you would like to share your story, please contact me at [whatnow007@aol.com](mailto:whatnow007@aol.com).

## House of Pain

### Some facts about domestic violence

In the United States, millions of people are affected by domestic violence each year, and without help, it often gets more severe over time. Sometimes it can become deadly.

Battery can occur among people of all races, classes, ages and religions, and to both males and females.

Domestic violence is the single major cause of injury to women — even more than auto accidents, rapes and muggings combined. A woman is a victim of domestic violence every 15 seconds, according to Time magazine.

Often there is substance abuse with severe drugs and alcohol involved, but this is not the source of the problem. Abusers must get counseling and learn to deal with anger and addictions.

The mental, physical and emotional scars that children receive when involved with domestic violence can remain throughout their entire lives, possibly causing them to repeat the abuse when they have children if they don't get help.

**IF YOU NEED HELP or know someone who does, please keep these phone numbers:**

- WestCare Youth Emergency Shelter: 385-3330
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- Nevada Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-500-1556
- Safety Support Shelter (24-hour hotline): 564-3227
- Safe House: 451-4203
- Safe Nest Domestic Crisis Shelter (24-hour hotline): 646-4981
- Domestic Crisis Counseling: 877-0133
- Safe Place: 1-866-U-ARE-SAFE
- HELP of Southern Nevada: 369-4357
- Clark County Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 399-0081
- DASH: Domestic Abuse Stops Here program: <http://nationaldashprogram.org/nationaldashprogram.index.html>

# Kids today are raising better parents

By Shannon Hedger,  
Coronado HS



Would you prefer Dan and Roseanne as your parents?

Lately I have been wondering why and how the parents of the 1950s and 1960s are so different from the parents of 2003.

This question popped into my head after watching a television marathon of the "Wonder Years." Following this, I turned the channel to watch an episode of "Yes, Dear." After watching these two very different generations of families, I wondered how parents could have changed so dramatically. My answer came to me after researching the situation quite thoroughly on the Internet.

During the middle 1950s through the early 1960s, kids were often looked down upon. Sometimes it was almost as if they were completely invisible to their parents. Children's opinions did not matter. Many times, when their children walked out of their front door on the weekends, their parents had no idea where they were going or what time they would be back.

Because there was not much communication between children and parents during this time, parents were not aware of everything going wrong in their kids' lives. It is

not that they did not care because they did, but during this time, parents thought that it was a good thing to give their children as much freedom as they could. Although many kids during this time said they did not mind that they got so much freedom, later on in their lives they explained that deep down inside, they really did care.

Now, in 2003, parents have changed dramatically, for what many think is the better. These days parents are much more involved in and aware of what their children do. They care about what is going on in their lives, they listen to their opinions, and they give help when it is needed. Now when kids walk out the door on the weekends, most parents know where they are going, whom they are with, what they are doing, and when they will be home. Kids of today still have freedom but only to a certain extent. Studies have actually shown that the more parents are involved in their lives, the more successful kids will be in the future. Like I always say, "Times have changed."

# Can we open up to our parents?

By Rannah Alcalen, Palo Verde HS

Some say that most of us portray three different personalities when we are with our friends, our teachers and our parents. Oftentimes, it is hard to be able to open up to our parents about important issues for fear of being punished. Since it is human nature for parents to be protective over their children, it is hard, especially for those in high school, to tell parents certain things.

Though moms and dads may say that their kids can be open with them, they still want to keep them under their wings to shield them from the dangers of life; therefore, they tend to restrict their kids from doing certain things.

Sex and drugs are the hardest things for parents to talk about with their children because they cannot possibly imagine their own offspring doing such deeds. Yet does punishment and restraint keep kids from doing those deeds?

Granted, there are those parents who are very open with their kids and can talk to them about everything including such things as sex, and even allow them to experience it. Still, others might argue that those parents may not be good role models for their kids.

There are some cultures that tend to be stricter on their kids than others. From my own personal experience, for example, I know exactly what would happen if I ever went up to my mom and said, "I am in a curious state right now, Mom, and I just wanted to know how it would feel to get high." My mom would lock me up in my house until the day I graduate ... from college! As a result, teens oftentimes rebel against their parents and experience these curious desires behind their parents' backs.

The ages between 13 and 19 are experimental times for 'tweens and teens, and believe it or not, parents know that. That is why most of their responses may be, "Yes, Suzie, be home RIGHT after the dance ends because I'll be waiting up for you," or "No you can't stay over at the hotel for Jimmy's so-called 'birthday party!'"

The reason why they say these things is because they care; if most parents did not care for their kids, there would be tons of teen dropouts sleeping on the sidewalks. Whether or not they restrict their kids, parents let them experience their lives and prepare them to go out into the real world in order to make better decisions and lead better lives.

So the next time your parents tick you off because you can't go out on a date with that hot 25-year-old, just keep in mind that they care and they love you.

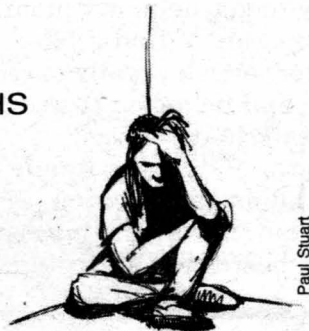
## open mic

### The price you have to pay

By Nichole Gwin, Palo Verde HS

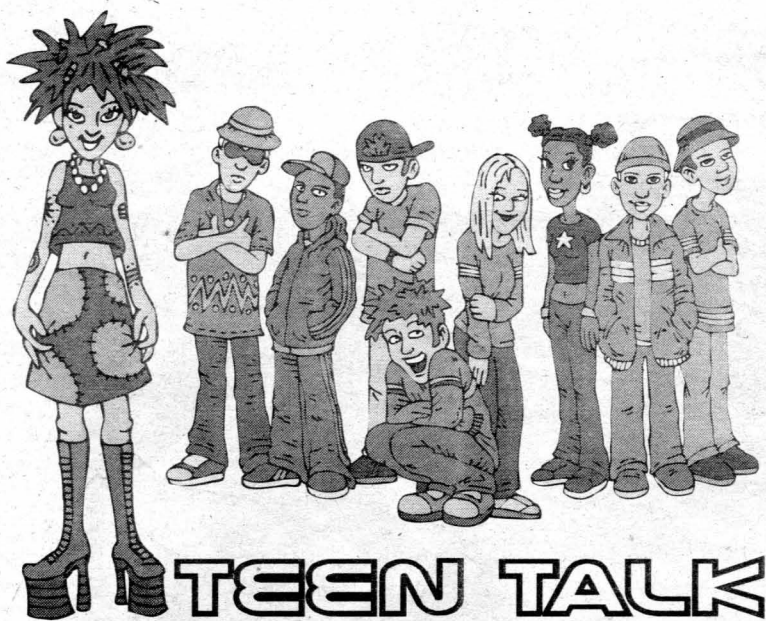
It's the price you have to pay,  
It's the price you have to pay,  
When friends move away or  
When your life is down the drain;  
It's the price you have to pay,  
When things don't go your way or  
What others have to say.

It's the price you have to pay,  
When you go away, do some things  
That throw your life away;  
It's the price you have to pay,  
When you lay there upon her grave;  
The price you have to pay,  
When they take you away,  
It's the price you have to pay,  
When you're best friend is in heaven;  
It's the price you have to pay,  
When you got angry;



It's the price you have to pay,  
When you sit there on the  
Cold hard cement floor;  
It's the price you have to pay,  
When you get carried away.

It's the price you have to pay,  
When you take your friend's  
Life away;  
It's the price you have to pay,  
When it's time they have to throw your  
Life away, too.



By Monique Ford, Centennial HS

**Dear Monique,**  
I just started my senior year, and I know that it's time to start thinking about applying to college. I've decided that I definitely want to attend, but I'm not sure what college to apply for, and when do I send in my applications? Please help.

**Confused about College**

Dear Confused about College,  
Applying to college is a huge and important step in determining your future, but if you know where to start and who can help,

it will make the process much simpler. Early admission application deadlines vary, but most are around early November, which means you should get started ASAP. First decide which aspects of a university are most important — size, location, majors offered, etc. Research online to find colleges that meet your wants and needs. Also, make an appointment for you and your parents to meet with your counselor. They can help you get the information you need about your choice universities, financial aid and scholarships as well as with the spe-

cific steps to filling out the applications. Good luck!

**Dear Monique,**  
Now that I'm back in school, I have become really self-conscious about my looks, how I dress and whether or not people will like me. What can I do to avoid this?

**Worried**

Dear Worried,  
Most people are their own worst critics. So many of the flaws and doubts you have about yourself or your appearance aren't noticed by others. The most important thing is to stop worrying so much, and be yourself. This makes it easier to make new friends and allows you to be more comfortable around people, which in turn will make you more confident with yourself.

**Dear Monique,**  
It's only a couple of weeks into school, and I think I'm already suffering from senioritis. I'm always bored and dozing off during my classes, and I have no motivation to work. Usually, I'm not this lazy. What should I do to keep up my grades?

**Suffering from Senioritis**

Dear Suffering from Senioritis,  
Some seniors may be getting their first taste of the disease, and

others have been battling the plague since freshman year. Although after three years, high school has become somewhat routine, you've already made it this far. Why quit now and ruin your chances for success? Make the year more interesting. Become involved in extracurricular activities, attend school games and functions and meet new people. It's a year you'll always look back on, so don't make the mistake of sleeping through it.

**Dear Monique,**  
I had a crush on this guy all of last year, and it turns out that we have another class together this year. I only talked to him a little before but didn't hang out with him over the summer. How can I make things easier for us to start talking now?

**Quiet**

Dear Quiet,  
This is a new year and possibly a new start. This time around, make the effort. Sit down next to him and ask how his summer was. You know a little about him and his interests, which gives you more to talk about, and considering you two are already acquainted, he will most likely be open to having a conversation with you. Once the first step is completed, building a friendship, or more, will come easy.

## the look

# Make Homecoming special without breaking the bank

By Katie Cucullu, Coronado HS

The most exciting thing that comes around right after school starts is Homecoming! What a blast it would be to go to the Homecoming dance, but once your dream man has asked you to go, what do you do next? You need a dress!

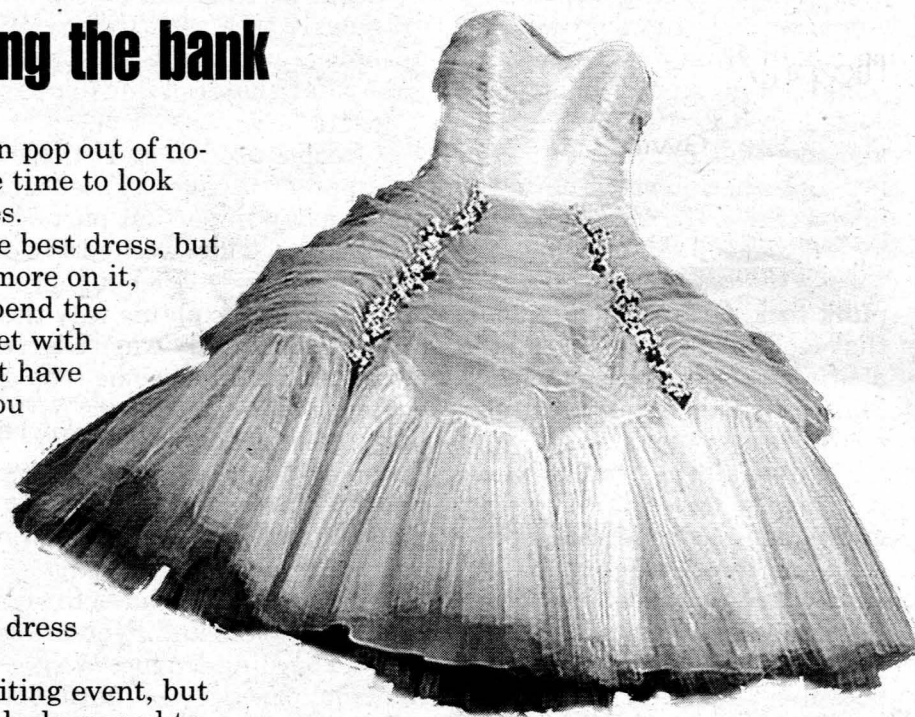
Just about every girl can agree that looking for the right dress can be, well, just a little nerve-racking. The first thing to do is to gather up all of your friends and hit the mall! A girl's favorite place is the mall, and you know that you will be able to find your dress there.

The most important question you need to answer is how much you are willing to spend on your dress. You don't want to spend an arm and a leg on this dress that you know you are only going to wear once. The best advice is to go to the department stores and look around. You never know

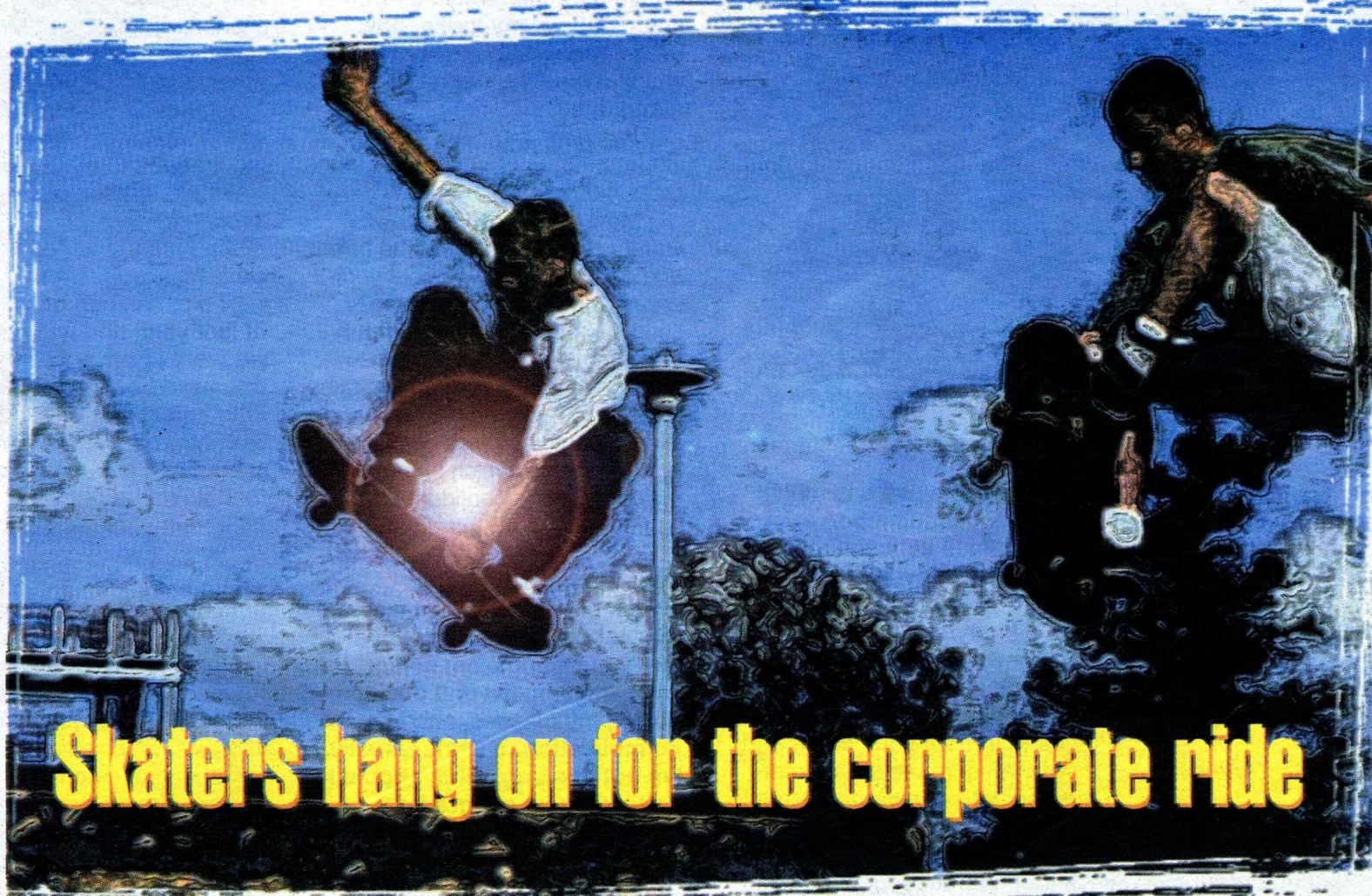
what might all of a sudden pop out of nowhere if you only take the time to look around and open your eyes.

Of course you want the best dress, but why spend up to \$300 or more on it, when it is only going to spend the rest of its time in the closet with all your other dresses that have been worn once? To tell you the truth, it is down right stupid. The only time you should spend that much money is if you make sure there is another time in the future when you would wear the dress again.

Homecoming is an exciting event, but make sure that when you look around to find bargains, you really take the time to look! It does not hurt to look and to open your feelings to everything.



Homecoming dress, circa 1955.



## Skaters hang on for the corporate ride

By Daizee Balcum,  
Centennial HS

**R**ecently, the skateboarding industry has expanded, or perhaps exploded, with many new clothing and shoe labels and sponsors. Apparently, our generation has adopted a popular skater/punker-style kind of image. That's good for the companies, and the sales increase some pros' paychecks, but others who have been in the skating scene for years seem offended.

It's the old-school spirit of punk rock. Skating is all about that feeling of rebellion and the attitude that goes along with it. Many refer to skateboarding as a culture, not just a sport.

"It has all the ethics of a culture. We have our own language, dress code, ethics, attitude and the actual activity of skateboarding," says Josh Baltensperger who maintains a Web site dedicated to the skateboarding culture.

The majority of older generation skaters agree: hype has overtaken reality. Since skateboarding's boost in popu-

larity, many new companies have been founded to sponsor new people for professional teams. There has been a nearly 40-percent increase in the industry in the past two years alone. Now ES shoes and Volcom clothing can be seen regularly on a wide variety of people. Some of these people are what skaters refer to as "posers."

People used to start these companies because skateboarding was an important part of their lives. They wanted to apply themselves to what they loved, which explains why the market originally wasn't large enough. But after some took a chance, other marketers noticed the interest among younger people. More and more companies were started, and now people aren't happy either way.

"If things keep flowing mainstream, we'll have to sign up for a Parks and Recreation skateboarding league. We'll have to practice real hard if we want to make the high school skateboarding team," says Baltensperger in a post on his site.

Strangely enough, in the past, skateboarders were banned from most areas. In many places, a person would be issued a citation. Most of society disapproved of skaters.

The newfound acceptance of skateboarding should make those associated with it feel validated, yet many disagree with the trend it has become. The phrase "selling out" is used regularly.

An example of selling out: say the Pokemon characters started skateboarding. The manufacturers decided to release a pro series fingerboard. But what does Pokemon have to do with skateboarding? It sells more products for the Pokemon fingerboard makers, but exploits the culture built upon what was originally thought of as "uncool."

Many skateboarding purists believe that the X-Games are responsible for pushing skateboarding into the mainstream. In many ways, holding such events is good for exposure and showing how much skill is involved. However, the industry has gone over the top

with the way the events are promoted now. In the beginning, the fact that the X-Games were on ESPN, a broadcasting station meant for more athletic types, was an issue.

Since the X-Games, skating has been more accepted by society. It's grown extremely popular in the past year. On the downside, many have become accustomed to the look, which has confused people in diverse crowds. People are wearing clothing smeared with skate logos, but can they kickflip? It's simply accepted now, whereas years ago they would be considered "posers."

"The influx of money for companies is good for smaller labels that in the beginning wouldn't make it. But on the downside, instead of staying true to skating, other companies have become more money-grubbing," says Tac Anderson, an employee at City Boardshop.

While some skaters have learned to live with all the hoopla, others are optimistic that, like all trends, this one will come and go.

# For hair-raising Halloween fun, check in to the **ASYLLUM**

By Joshua Chase,  
Community College HS

Halloween is right around the corner. Ah, you can almost smell the fresh aroma of candy corn and toilet paper. With less than a month to go, haunted houses can be seen popping up in parking lots all around the valley. But one haunted house may have a little more in store for valley high school students than just a good scare.

The Asylum, a haunted house created by R and J Productions, has cast some holiday light on different high school organizations throughout the school district. With the economy in turmoil, it's become quite difficult for school clubs and organizations to receive the funding needed in order to operate during the school year.

Each weekend throughout October, the Asylum allows a different high school organization to participate in the event. The students dress up in costumes and work in the house as the actors. At the end of the weekend, R and J Productions gives the school organization a portion of the earnings for that weekend.

The Asylum began about five years ago and has since changed the face of spooking as it was once known. Instead of being a



Gruesome twosome: High school ghouls welcome visitors to The Asylum.



house of horrors composed of separate rooms with no related theme, The Asylum sticks to one idea that carries through the entire house. The house's theme remains true to its title. It has doctors, dentists, patients and more.

"It's like walking through a living movie," says Rich Strelak of R and J Productions.

Each year, the Asylum takes about twenty percent of the house, and adds new rooms and features. To do this, they get feedback from the actors in order to know which rooms are working and which rooms need improvement.

Another feature that distinguishes the Asylum from many other haunted houses is that the actors get the opportunity to scare multiple times with each group of people coming through the house.

Strelak says, "By the time one actor finishes scaring a group, the next group is

ready to come through." The house isn't a constant scare, though. This house likes to use what is called the "roller coaster" effect: a tactic used to build the audience's suspense.

Strelak says using different students every weekend helps to keep the actors fresh. It also allows the students to have "one big weekend in which they can scare their friends."

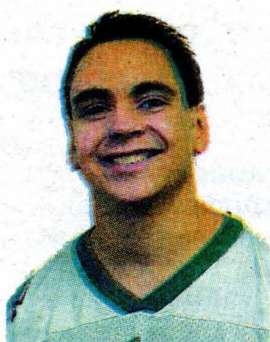
The Asylum will be open at the Sam's Town Hotel and Casino on Boulder Highway every weekend from 6 p.m. between Oct. 4 and Nov. 2 with special events on Oct. 29, 30 and 31. For more information, call 636-9515 or go to [www.xtremescreampark.com](http://www.xtremescreampark.com).

## Ferocious feminine foursome opens VMAs with a bang

By Eric Ruiz,  
Virgin Valley HS

To be in the presence of a single pop star is something unique. To be in the presence of two is something truly unforgettable. To be in the presence of three is absolutely inspiring. But MTV has never shied away from breaking barriers. Opening the 2003 Video Music Awards, MTV threw together four of the world's mightiest superstars in a historic and stupefying performance.

It began with world-renowned pop diva Britney Spears singing the opening verses to Madonna's 1984 smash hit "Like a Virgin." Anyone who knows VMA history



will tell you that Madonna shocked the world with a provocative performance of the song at the first Video Music Awards in 1984. Spears was wearing a hardly there wedding dress, which resembled the attire that Madonna sported in '84.

Second, the electric Christina Aguilera came in with the song's second verse. Aguilera carries a Madonna-like vibe about her, pushing the envelope

much like that for which the Material Girl is infamous. Also like Madonna, Aguilera transformed from a girl to a woman before America's very eyes.

Up until this point, the performance was great. But what happened next would make it VMA folklore. The queen diva herself, Madonna, emerged from beneath the stage in a tailor-made groom's outfit. She then sang her new single "Hollywood" while playfully teasing the audience with Aguilera and Spears before shocking the building with an open-mouthed kiss for each of the young superstars.

Suddenly, the performance took a turn for the direction of mainstream hip-hop when

Missy Elliot joined the trio, putting her fantastic lyrical prowess on display. The quartet brought Radio City Music Hall to its collective feet and left no doubt that they would be remembered for a long time.

In my life I've seen my fair share of amazing performances. But this is one that I will not soon forget: the world's greatest pop star, the mascot of modern day feminine sexuality, a piece of pop music godhood, and one of the most prolific female rap artists of all time — four of the greatest musicians today, all creating music history.

If there is a better way to open the 20th annual Video Music Awards, I have not seen it yet.

# Drive-Thru Records tour invades Las Vegas scene

By Brytani Caipa, Silverado HS

Another night at The Huntridge featured more acts from the label at high demand, Drive-Thru Records. On Sept. 5, 2003, the Las Vegas Punk community was treated to one of the most energetic shows in some time.

Senses Fail, The Early November, Allister, Home Grown, The Starting Line, and special guest for Las Vegas only, Andrew McMahon from Something Corporate all came together for Drive-Thru Records 2003 Summer Invasion Tour.

Senses Fail was up first. Some of their members are as young as 18, making this one of the youngest bands to sign with Drive-Thru. The band played several songs, including "Free Fall Without A Parachute," and "One Eight Seven." The singer, Buddy Neilsen, was all over the stage, and the band played with great conviction. This band was just enough to get the crowd pumped up early on in the show.

Senses Fail was followed by The Early November, one of Drive-Thru's newest bands. The crowd went insane as they performed "Baby Blue," a track from "The Room's Too Cold," which will be released in October 2003. The band thrived with such a large and enthusiastic audience. Although they only have an EP out, it was amazing how most people in the audience knew the words to every song. This band had a more somber style than most of their label-mates, but still put on an enthusiastic set.

Allister didn't need ties to prove how much they've matured as a band since their last CD, "Dead Ends and Girlfriends." The music said it all. The band put in a solid set including songs from their new album of complete punk/pop excellence on Drive-Thru, "Last Stop Suburbia." While keeping the fun-loving, live atmosphere, their audience had a great reaction to their new sound.

Up next was Home Grown, a band that includes some of the oldest members of the Drive-Thru Records family. As soon as Home Grown appeared on the stage, the crowd went wild. The energy the band gave the crowd was equally returned as circle pits opened. Songs performed included "I Love You Not," "Give it Up," and the crowd's favorite "You're Not Alone." Home Grown has been together for more than eight years, and although they're considered the old guys on tour, their set was just as involved as the others.

Just when the crowd was expecting the familiar faces of The Starting Line, a piano was pushed out onto the stage. That only meant one thing — Something Corporate. Andrew McMahon, who plays piano and does vocals for Something Corporate, had been celebrating his 21st birthday and joined the tour for Las Vegas only. Andrew opened with "Punk Rock Princess" and followed with a track off the upcoming album "North," coming out in fall 2003. After about five minutes of the slow song "Konstantine," which lasts more than ten minutes, the crowd began to crave some upbeat tunes and began throwing empty water bottles at the piano. Although this act didn't prevent Andrew from finishing the song, the point was well taken and Andrew left the stage to make way for The Starting Line.

The Starting Line owned the night. Their full-length debut "Say it Like You Mean It," along with their exciting and fun live show, has gained The Starting Line a great deal of praise and attention. As emo punk bands' records pop up in every local record store by the dozens, The Starting Line has found a way to stand out with their killer songs and a live performance that everyone could love.

"Up and Go," "Leaving," "Best of Me," and many other favorites were performed with a high intensity, and the crowd ate it all up. The Starting Line won't be packing up their act any time soon. They are on their way to the big time with or without commercial airwaves.



## 'Cabin Fever': caught it and loved it

By Beau Forbes, Durango HS

Scary, gory and bold, Eli Roth's horror-thriller "Cabin Fever" has got to be one of the better horror films of the year.

This cult classic in the making takes place in the secluded woods where five friends rent a cabin for a quick vacation after their college finals. After having settled in, the group encounters a man who appears deathly ill and desperately needs their help.

Afraid of catching the man's flesh-eating virus, they harshly turn him away, but somehow one of the teens has gotten infected. Fear and a need for survival turn friends against friends and make for a good movie.

The acting was nowhere near bad, but the characters that the actors and actresses portrayed were unbelievable and sometimes downright silly. The cast is a bunch of people who, for the most part, seem to have spent most of their acting careers in B films that don't give them a chance to show us

the talents they possess. In this movie, however, they are given that opportunity, and they exercise it well. I hope that audiences will have more chances to see them in future films.

Roth's writing and directing are simply great. He blends genres and does it in style, creating a nice, thorough flick. He places comedic relief and scares precisely where they're needed and makes the movie fun to watch. He is definitely one filmmaker to watch out for.

Another reason why this was such a good film was the mere fact

that Roth's budget was lower than what most films have to work with, and it was still well done. Although it had none of the makings of a Hollywood blockbuster, it was well filmed and played as if it were one.

In short, "Cabin Fever" is a perfect horror movie, complete with gruesome and shocking scenes sure to make audiences jump and turn away.

"Cabin Fever" has a running time of 94 minutes and is rated R for strong violence and gore, sexuality, language and brief drug use.

**"Cabin Fever" is a perfect horror movie, complete with gruesome and shocking scenes...**



# John Mayer's 'Heavier Things' is a must-own

By Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS

After waiting more than a month for the release of John Mayer's new CD, "Heavier Things," the follow up to "Room for Squares," I was extremely thrilled when I finally got it. I went upstairs, tore it open and popped it into my CD player. I sat there and listened to it until it was over, and as it ended, I found myself wanting more. Maybe this is just my way of dealing with my fascination with Mayer, but I can honestly say that it is one of the better CDs I own.

I am sure you have probably heard the first song from this CD, "Bigger Than My Body," and you may have liked it, or you may not have. One of the things I love about this CD is that there is such a wide range of different-sounding music. If you don't like the way one song goes, there is another one on the CD you are bound to like. With songs ranging from ballads about love and loss, like "Daughters" or "Wheel," to songs that make you think, like "Clarity" or "Something's Missing," or songs that make you want to dance, like "Only Heart," you are definitely going to be able to find one you like.

While Mayer's last CD was very good, I think there really is no comparison to which one is better. These songs have a wider range of vocals and music. The lyrics also seem much deeper.

If all that hasn't convinced you to buy his CD, just taking one look at him on the cover will make you want to pick up a copy. He has the whole smoldering scowl thing down to a science.

Overall, this is definitely one of the best CDs that has come out this year. If you loved Mayer's last CD, you'll love this one even more. If you didn't like his last CD, you should give this one a try. It is different, but in a good way. Plus what's hotter than a guy who can play his own instrument and write his own music?

## At 15, Metallica's 'Justice' rocks on



By Austin Wood, Coronado HS

Coming up on the 15-year anniversary of its release, "...And Justice for All" by Metallica is recognized as a coming-of-age record as far as heavy metal is concerned, and a staple in the collection of any serious music enthusiast.

Facing emotional difficulties from the sudden death of bassist Cliff Burton in a tour bus accident, the band, not wanting to break up after only five years, quickly recruited Flotsam and Jetsam bassist Jason Newsted and pushed on with their fourth album.

Inlaid with intense guitar riffs, thundering double bass, and deeply meaningful lyrics, "Justice" prevails in classic Metallica style as being about issues instead of just mindless noise. Hetfield's deep and dark lyrics reveal topics such as war in "One," which relates the story of a blind, deaf and mute quadruple amputee, ravaged from the aftereffects of war. Also issues such as insanity ("The Frayed Ends of Sanity"), injustice ("...And Justice For All"), and problems with troubled youth ("Dyers Eve") prevail throughout the album.

Following its release in August 1988, the album was praised by fans of the band and of metal music alike. The video for "One," which included clips from the movie "Johnny Got His Gun" (from the book the song was based on), was also critically acclaimed.

"...And Justice For All" is surely a classic, and its songs and content have made not only metal history, but rock history.

# Sounding off

By Caitlin McGarry, Centennial, HS

## Dashboard Confessional "A Mark, A Mission, A Brand, A Scar"

Dashboard Confessional began as a one-man acoustic project for Chris Carrabba, who was in the band Further Seems Forever at the time, and has since evolved into a rock band.



The sound has changed over Dashboard's three full-length albums, but Carrabba's voice and

heartfelt lyrics ("I'd cover my heart and hit the deck / I'd brace myself for the impact if I were you") convey the same intensity and emotion in songs like "Am I Missing," "As Lovers Go," and "Carve Your Heart Out Yourself." "A Mark, A Mission, A Brand, A Scar" is a good rock album that will most likely launch Dashboard into the mainstream, so expect to hear more of them.

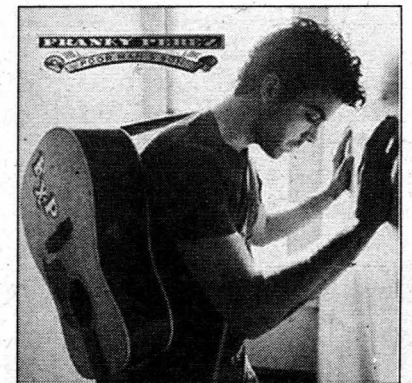
## Hilary Duff "Metamorphosis"

Let's be honest: Hilary Duff's music is for the same kids who watch the Disney Channel. That category includes some teens, apparently. The 13 tracks fit the movie star 15-year-old's personality. They're all catchy songs about ... well, they're almost too generic to tell, but most of them deal with growing up and boys in some way or another. You can tell Duff's voice is helped (with a computer) because she's not the most talented singer out there, and it seems that she's trying too hard to be one of those singing/dancing/acting superstars. If you liked The Lizzie McGuire Movie, you'll love Duff's debut, but don't expect too much — and don't be too surprised if the Olsen twins decide to make a CD, too.

## Jessica Simpson "In This Skin"

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past few months, you know that Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey (of boy

band 98 Degrees) recently got married. Simpson doesn't want anyone to forget it, apparently, because her third album is devoted to the subject. That wouldn't be so terrible, except most of the songs are boring, and Simpson's voice is annoying at best. Her first single, "The Sweetest Sin," is a forgettable ode to marital bliss, and the other songs aren't much better, even the faster ones. There are too many other talented female artists in the music scene (Christina Aguilera, Kelly Clarkson, etc.) with better songs; there's just no use for Jessica Simpson.



## Franky Perez "Poor Man's Son"

You might not have heard of Franky Perez yet, but you will. Perez is a Vegas native who manages to package heavy lyrics about abusive relationships ("Something Crazy"), patriotism ("America, You Are Part of Me"), and finding freedom in a new city ("Two Lost Angels") in catchy guitar-driven rock songs. Perez references his Cuban heritage on tracks like "Southwest Side," and you can hear Latin influences throughout his debut album, "Poor Man's Son." Although he got his big break in L.A., his hometown gets a shout-out or two on the record. "Angel Park" is a song about Perez's childhood in Vegas, mentioning "hangin' on to [his] mama's hand as [they] walked through Meadow's Mall." Las Vegas is name-dropped constantly in songs of all genres, but it's interesting to hear a native's perspective; Perez makes it known that the city isn't just about neon and gambling for people who really live here. Check out Franky Perez if you like good rock songs and want to support a local artist. You won't be disappointed.

# School District plugs the holes

By Joshua Chase, Community College HS

Imagine being stuck in one place for eight hours a day, for 12 years of your life. While you're there, the only people that you come in contact with are your peers, a group constantly judging your looks and actions, and a smaller group of elders, who are paid to judge your looks and actions. On top of that, you come home only to spend hours working on your leftover work.

Now, I'm not saying school serves no purpose. I actually happen to enjoy it. But I also know that school can be a pretty uncomfortable and stressful place. I know that the judgment passed by students and teachers alike can be overwhelming and



even painful at times.

Many of you may have heard about the school district's latest dress code regulation. Students may no longer wear piercings

on any part of the body, except the ears. I find it incredibly difficult to see the point in this rule. Most dress codes are made to keep distractions out of the learning place. It is understandable that obscene clothing is prohibited in school. One could see how vulgarities on tee shirts could be distracting. But piercings?

I don't have any piercings, so I don't feel too biased. I don't even feel that appearance should serve as a main form of



Even with a smile and dressed in a tuxedo, facial piercings are against code.

expression. Some students do, and that too is understandable. But if piercings hold no bearing on one's individuality, then it seems justified to say that those same piercings should

hold no bearing on the distraction of others. If students are easily distracted by the placement or the number of holes in a fellow student's body, the problem is not in the piercings themselves. The problem is in the classes, the curriculum, or even those students being distracted. The problem is in the way education is being presented.

Imagine being in a place for a third of your youth. All the comforts of home are taken away. You are constantly being

watched and judged. And to top it all off, you are told that you aren't even allowed to choose where to put holes in your own body.

Welcome to high school.

# Dump the junk: Take another look at what's for lunch

By Natalie Minev, Community College HS

With the hustle and bustle of high school life, it's hard to think about healthy food. Most likely, whenever your stomach pains for a morsel of salvation during class, you're probably dreaming of eating a cheeseburger, not carrot sticks. To fend off your starvation, you hit the vending machines between classes, jam a few dollars in, and get a pack of Twix and a Mountain Dew. If this sounds like you, listen up.

National School Lunch Week is Oct. 13-17. It is devoted to encouraging kids to eat healthy, nutritious lunches at school instead

of the quick, junk food fix. The American School Food Service Association stresses that students pack lunches, or buy meals, that consist of all five food groups. An example of a nutritious lunch includes a turkey sandwich, carrots, a salad, an apple and a glass of milk. In a CBS health article on [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com), Kathy Henderson, the lifestyle director for Child magazine, suggested that students need about "500 to 600 calories at lunch, balanced among the food groups."

Unfortunately, teenagers often choose quick hunger solutions over healthy ones.

"Healthy choices of food are offered, but the teenagers just don't buy them," says Susan Scarberry, lunchroom manager at Bonanza High School. "I think it has to do with the pressure of time to eat, long lines and the fact that we live in a free country; you can't force a kid to eat what they don't want to."

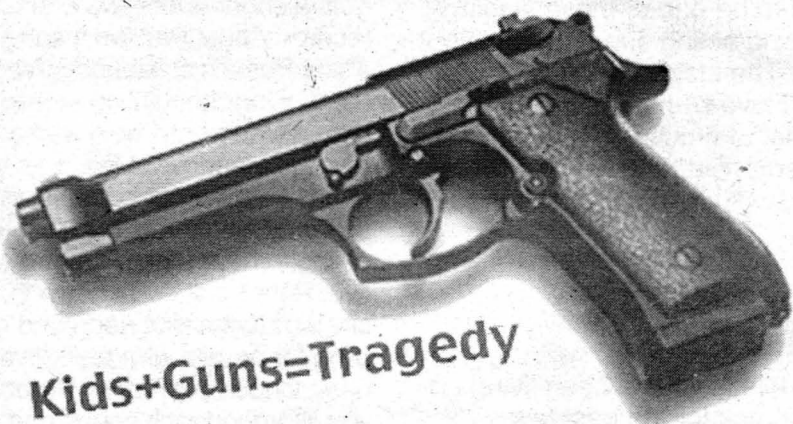
The most popular food items purchased by students at Bonanza were pizza, popcorn chicken and breadsticks, although healthier foods are clearly available. These include garden salads, tuna and turkey sandwiches, fruit juices, soups, yogurt, and fresh fruit.

"These healthy foods are offered at all schools," Scarberry says.

Let National School Lunch Week be a reminder that you are supposed to be eating healthily, especially at school. Resist vending machines and junk foods that have empty calories. Take advantage of the healthy foods that are offered at your school, or pack a nutritious lunch, and don't be afraid to whip it out at lunchtime in front of your friends. Taking these steps will improve your health and supply you with the right amount of energy and nutrients necessary for the lightning-fast pace of high school life.

**"Healthy choices of food are offered, but the teenagers just don't buy them."**

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



# Tobacco may have more influence on the media than you think

By Heather Trujillo,  
Green Valley HS

Although commercials for tobacco-related products have been banned from television for a while, television shows and movies are still showing characters smoking. This may not seem like such a problem, but many of the television programs and movies that are showing characters using tobacco products are aimed at children and teenagers.

When you are watching a movie, do you ever notice how much tobacco use is in it? There are 10.5 uses of tobacco per hour in a PG-13 rated movie. A group called STARS, a program of the American Lung Association, released the results of a yearlong research project they had been doing on May 31, 2003 to correspond with "World No Tobacco Day." This research brings attention to tobacco use



in movies over a year's time span. The results were surprising to say the least. Of the 145 most popular movies during

the project year, 106 of them showed people using tobacco products.

The interesting part of this research though is what type of movies had smoking in them.

Forty-six of the movies reviewed were rated R, and 76 percent of them showed some form of tobacco use.

Seventy-seven of the movies reviewed were rated PG-13 and 82 percent of them contained tobacco use. These included movies such as "Anger Management," "Down With Love" and "X2."

Eighteen of the movies were

rated PG, and 39 percent of those featured tobacco use including the Disney movie "Holes."

There really isn't a problem with showing tobacco use in R-rated movies because the majority of people who go to see them are over 18, and it is considered "okay" to market tobacco products to adults, even though RJ Reynolds and the rest of the tobacco industry claim they do not advertise to people under 21 years of age.

When it comes to teenagers and children though, tobacco companies are not allowed to market their products to these young people. When more movies aimed at a teenage level portray tobacco use than those aimed at adults, you can see why so many teenagers smoke. It's really all around them.

They see their favorite stars smoking, and they may not think it's just their characters. They may think that this person, whom they see as cool, smokes. Therefore if they smoke, it will make them cool.

For example, Sports Illustrated is read by teenage boys, and it has more tobacco and al-

cohol ads than any other magazine. If these teens are seeing their idols surrounded by these substances, of course they are going to think they are cool.

Movies are not the only way big tobacco lures in kids. A survey of six-year-olds showed that Joe Camel, the Camel cigarette logo, was as recognizable to them as the logo used by the Disney Channel.

As you can see, there are more ways than one that the tobacco industry can advertise to the youth of America without using commercials. These were just two ways; think of all the others the tobacco companies are using to make teenagers and children into "mindless sheep" (a nickname the tobacco companies have used on teenagers because of their ability to conform so well).

Don't become a "mindless sheep" and do what you see on TV, in magazines or on cigarette boxes because it "looks cool." When you see what those people look like in ten years, with their rotten teeth, wrinkly skin and yellow gums, you are going to realize that it's not cool; it's disgusting.

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## OCTOBER

### Through Oct. 25

Movie Night. Teen Read Week's "Read It Forward" program presents free library showings of "Pay it Forward." Check the library Web site for times and locations at [www.lvccld.org](http://www.lvccld.org).

### Through Nov. 2

Xtreme Scream Park and The Asylum Haunted Attractions. Sam's Town Hotel parking lot, 5111 Boulder Hwy. Weekends throughout October. 6 p.m. Tickets: General admission to park \$2; All-Attractions Pass \$16; VIP Pass \$30. [www.xtremescreampark.com](http://www.xtremescreampark.com).

### Through Nov. 7

Viva Downtown: Celebrating the Aerial Gallery. Original artwork from some of the artists whose banners hang in the Aerial Gallery. City Hall Bridge Gallery, Las Vegas Blvd. between Charleston and Fremont. 229-4674.

### Oct. 7

Join a TAG team (Teen Advisory Group) and have fun making things, participating in puppet shows and more. West Charleston Library, 6301 W. Charleston Blvd. 4 p.m. 507-3947.

### Oct. 8

Creative Survival Skills. Come and design your own t-shirt or pound out a tin luminary. Whitney Library, 5175 E. Tropicana Ave. 7 p.m. 507-4015.

### Oct. 9

Salsa Dancing. Learn step-by-step how to salsa dance and then practice to the music. Sahara West Library, 9600 W. Sahara Ave. 6 p.m. Free admission. 507-3644.

### Oct. 11

LvLocalMusicScene.com 5th Anniversary with Clockwise, Corner Stone, FFI, Yesterday's Tomorrow, By Death's Design, and Jeremy Williams in concert. House of Blues, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. 6:15 p.m. \$7. 632-7600.

Join others for a viewer's choice movie and popcorn event. Sahara West Library, 9600 W. Sa-

**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:**

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Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025  
Fax: (702) 895-1505**

hara Ave. 2 p.m. 507-3644.

### Oct. 14

Bouncing Souls in concert with Tsunami Bomb, Strike Anywhere and Vision. House of Blues, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. 6:45 p.m. \$11. 632-7600.

### Oct. 15

Anime Group. Bring and share your Japanese animation-related artwork and watch episodes of "Magic Knight Rayearth" and other animated shows. West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 4 p.m. 507-3983.

### Oct. 16

Godsmack in concert with Adema. House of Blues, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. 8 p.m. Tickets \$32-35. 632-7600.

Journal to Discover. Learn how keeping a journal can change your life. Las Vegas Library, 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N. 6:30 p.m. 507-3549.

### Oct. 17

Bring a date or friend to Free Date Friday. There will be a movie playing at the Gibson Library, 280 S. Water Street in Henderson. 3-5 p.m. 564-9287.

### Oct. 18

Rebel Football. UNLV vs. Utah. Sam Boyd Stadium. Tickets \$28, \$15. 739-FANS.

### Oct. 20

Young Adult Book Club. Kick off Teen Read Week by joining our book discussion group and enjoy free snacks, free stuff and free fun. Rainbow Library, 3150 N. Buffalo Dr. 3 p.m. 507-3712.

### Oct. 20-21

College Fair Plus. Meet admissions representatives from colleges and universities from across the U.S., plus get information on financial aid and college life. Cashman Center, 850 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 5-8 p.m. Admission is free. 386-7100.

### Oct. 21

Poetry Café. In celebration of Teen Read Week, come to our Open Mic Night and share your original poetry, prose and song. Summerlin Library, 1771 Inner Circle Dr. 7 p.m. 507-3865.

Open Mic Night. Share your poems, songs or other poetic creations. There will be door prizes and a special coffee shop. Paseo Verde Library, 280 S. Green Valley Pkwy. in Henderson. 7 p.m. Free admission. 492-7252.

### Oct. 24

NBA Pre-Season Game. L.A. Lakers vs. Sacramento Kings. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$82, \$30, \$20, \$13. 739-FANS.

### Oct. 25

Rebel Football. UNLV vs. BYU. Sam Boyd Stadium. Tickets \$28, \$15. 739-FANS.

### Oct. 27

Scare the daylights out of staff by attending the "Scream Fest." Sunrise Library, 5400 Harris Ave. 7 p.m. 507-3905.

Fright Night, Movie Night. Scary movies and free snacks. Rainbow Library, 3150 N. Buffalo Drive. 4-8:30 p.m. 507-3712.

## NOVEMBER

### Nov. 1

Native American Festival. Join us at this event featuring dance and artisan demonstrations, films, storytelling, food and a craft market with jewelry, pottery, carvings and more. Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 507-3436.

Enjoy a night of the blues in Las Vegas with guitarist John Hammond and harmonica legend Charlie Musselwhite. Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza in Lorenzi Park. 7 p.m. Tickets \$12 gate, \$10 advance. 229-6383.

### Nov. 5 and 6

Tony Showa, of the Sacred4<sup>s</sup> Intertribal Drum, will demonstrate various drumming styles. On Nov. 5 at Spring Valley Library, 4280 S. Jones Blvd. at 4 p.m. and Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd. at 7 p.m. On Nov. 6, at West Charleston Library at 4 p.m., and Enterprise Library at 7 p.m. For more info, check the Web site at [www.lvccld.org](http://www.lvccld.org).

### Nov. 7

Next Friday Concerts. Enjoy al-fresco dining while listening to live music. City Park, 4th St. and Stewart Ave. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Free admission. 229-4614.

### Lila Downs in Concert


**Friday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m.  
Charleston Heights Arts Center  
800 S. Brush St., 229-6383**


Lila Downs' mixed heritage has greatly influenced her music: Mexican folk songs from her mother, Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan and John Coltrane from her father. She appeared in the film *Frida* and has four songs on the soundtrack. Her haunting voice blends Mexican ranchera songs and Guthrie, salsa and ancient Zapotec folk sounds, creating an eclectic blend of cross-border Latino music. **Tickets: \$12 day of performance, \$10 door**





# HOROSCOPE


## October Forecast


 **Aries (March 21-April 19):** Now that you've gotten your foot in the door, don't stop there. Continue delving into your new list of activities. There is more fun to come.


 **Taurus (April 20-May 20):** A friend will call on you for a little advice soon. Will you be reliable, or will your stubbornness push them away? Think before reacting.


 **Gemini (May 21-June 21):** Your imagination could bring a new acquaintance in your direction, possibly a love interest. The conversation that takes place between the two of you could stir up new emotions in your life.


 **Cancer (June 22-July 22):** Moodiness may still be inhibiting you from a good time. Push past all of this and visit some friends. They will enjoy your company.


 **Leo (July 23-August 22):** Your warm and sociable character has been masked by a strong opinion you have on an issue, which may be creating tension around you and your peers. Stay true to your thoughts, but remember that everyone may not feel the way you do.


 **Virgo (August 23-September 22):** An issue that has been on your mind lately has made you even more critical. Your prying and picking may have you uncover something you're not ready to hear. Brace yourself for the news!


 **Libra (September 23-October 23):** Your objective outlook on life is keeping your school and social life very harmonious. Whatever you are doing, keep it up because there are only happier times to come.

 **Scorpio (October 24-November 21):** Determination to do well in a particular class is keeping you from investing your time in idle activities. Don't look back to old habits, but just continue to move forward. Your perseverance will be rewarded in the future.

 **Sagittarius (November 21-December 21):** Something odd, perhaps a troubled relationship, is clouding your mind. Clearing up your present situation is the only way you'll be able to focus again. Brainstorm, though, before you just begin babbling about a solution.

 **Capricorn (December 22-January 19):** A new job opportunity could be coming. Are you ready to put that mind of yours to the test? Dedication will definitely be needed for these new tasks, but you'll be up for it.

 **Aquarius (January 20-February 18):** There are so many new ideas splurging from your brain that it's hard to keep track. One in particular has your thoughts in a constant blur. Go with your gut on this idea and allow your mind to let loose.

 **Pisces (February 19-March 20):** Your easy-going attitude toward a certain event has made so many others' lives smoother. If more people had the compassionate nature you've been exerting lately, life would be so much simpler. Peers appreciate your help.

## Say hello to your inner hero

October is Make a Difference Month, but you may wonder how a young person can make a difference in an adult world. The answer can be found on the VolunteerMatch Web site at [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org). With this free, online service, it's easy for you to register your interests and preferences along with your location, and be matched up with a volunteer opportunity in your area that is perfect just for you. You can also register your school club for volunteer opportunities that not only help your community, but also look great on college and scholarship applications. Be a hero and make a difference today.

## We've got spirit, yes we do!

Calling all freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors: CALGON is looking for the U.S. high school with the most school spirit. Think yours is the one? Prove it. Register your school in the 4th Annual CALGON High School USA Competition and win \$500 for a Spirit Party at your school, courtesy of CALGON. For more information, go to [www.takemeaway.com](http://www.takemeaway.com).

## Get linked!

The hottest link on the web is the Teen Booklink! Check in each week for a review of the newest and the best young adult books in the library. Your opinion is wanted! Let them know how you feel on various topics related to each week's book or submit a review of a book of your own. For more details, visit [www.lvccld.org/teens/](http://www.lvccld.org/teens/).

## Make a difference

The Nevada Institute for Children will be holding the Second Annual UNLV Community Donation Drive. They are asking for items desperately needed for homeless teens living on the Las Vegas streets. The drive will be coordinated for Make a Difference Day on Oct. 25. All donations collected until Oct. 24 will be donated to the Sanctuary, a drop-in shelter for Clark County's homeless youth population. Contact Jennifer Personius with any questions at 895-1040 or by email at [Jennifer.person-ius@cmail.nevada.edu](mailto:Jennifer.person-ius@cmail.nevada.edu).

## Ha-ha, very funny!

Mike Nelson and Kevin Murphy, former writers for "Mystery Science Theater 3000," will head up a special satire panel at the Second Annual Vegas Valley Book Festival, Oct. 23-25. The Vegas Valley Book Festival is a three-day program of readings, lectures and panel discussions. For more information, please visit [www.vegasvalleybook-fest.org](http://www.vegasvalleybook-fest.org).

## So fun it's scary

No, Halloween is not just for little kids, and Henderson's Gibson Library can prove it. Dress up in costume and head to the library for the Halloween Extravaganza on Oct. 30 from 6-9 p.m. The Gibson Library is located at 280 S. Water Street in Henderson. The event will feature a costume contest, a Jack-o-Lantern contest, a scary story contest and more games, prizes and fun. Scary stories must be submitted to the library for judging by Oct. 21. For more information, call 564-9287.

## Unity through knowledge

The 32nd Street Theater's Ninth Annual Unity Through Knowledge Black College Tour will visit historical black colleges including Clark-Atlanta, Morehouse, Spelman and many more. The tour will take place April 4-9, during the CCSD 2004 spring break. Interested students must reserve a seat by Nov. 1. For more information, contact Rev. Kelcey West, at 399-6443 or visit [www.32ndst.us](http://www.32ndst.us).

## Time to rhyme

U.S. Bank is calling for entries for its Eleventh Annual African-American Reflections Poetry Contest in celebration of Black History Month 2004. The contest is open to all Clark County students in kindergarten through grade 12 and is intended as a resource to complement history, English and social studies classes in local schools. Students can submit their poetry at <http://poetry.usbank.com>. Entry deadline is Nov. 26. For more information, call (858) 642-4639.

# Scholarships

## Institute for Brand Leadership

### Essay Contest Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.instituteforbrandleadership.org](http://www.instituteforbrandleadership.org)  
**Amount:** \$3,000  
**Deadline:** Oct. 15  
**Requirements:** All students may apply for this award by submitting a 2,500-word essay on why consumers purchase brand-name products instead of cheaper generic versions. Essays must be submitted online.

## Sixth Annual National High School Poetry Contest Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.geocities.com/diet-lps/contestrules](http://www.geocities.com/diet-lps/contestrules)  
**Amount:** \$1,500  
**Deadline:** Oct. 31  
**Requirements:** All U.S. high school students are eligible to enter by submitting one poem of no more than 20 lines. Entries will be judged on creativity, originality, imagery, artistic quality and mastery of poetic expression. State and regional winners will compete for a national award.

## Coca-Cola Scholars Program

**Contact:** [www.coca-colascholars.org](http://www.coca-colascholars.org)  
**Amount:** \$5,000  
**Deadline:** Oct. 31  
**Requirements:** High school seniors who had a 3.00 GPA at the end of their junior year are eligible to apply. Awards are merit-based, and students must be able to demonstrate service to both their schools and community.

## Target All-Around Scholarships

**Contact:** [www.target.com](http://www.target.com)  
**Amount:** \$25,000  
**Deadline:** Nov. 1  
**Requirements:** High school

seniors intending to enter a U.S. university or college in the 2004-2005 school year may apply for this scholarship. Awards are based on number of community service hours; leadership awards and honors; letters of recommendation; and an essay on volunteer service.

## American Fire Sprinkler Association Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.afsascholarship.org](http://www.afsascholarship.org)  
**Amount:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** Nov. 6  
**Requirements:** High school seniors may apply for this scholarship by submitting a 1,000-word essay on current fire-sprinkler legislation. Only the first thousand essays received between Oct. 2 and Nov. 6 will be considered for awards.

## Intel Science Talent Search Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.sciserv.org](http://www.sciserv.org)  
**Amount:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** Nov. 19  
**Requirements:** All U.S. high school students are eligible to enter a science project for consideration for one of many awards at different levels of competition. Judges also consider the applicant's high school transcript, standardized test scores and letters of recommendation.

## The "Humanist" Essay Contest Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.thehumanist.org/essaycontest.html](http://www.thehumanist.org/essaycontest.html)  
**Amount:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** Dec. 1  
**Requirements:** Students between the ages of 13 and 20 are eligible to enter this contest. Essays should consist of no more than 2,500 words and should address a topic based on humanist philosophy.

Last month, "Back To School: Basics on Dating Safety," highlighted stories of real Nevada teens, "Serena," "Jessica" and "Nina." Their sexual assault experiences are not uncommon among high school teens and, although risk reduction is not a cure-all, remembering some basic safety tips will help you have more confidence, options and ultimately more fun.

## BASIC DATING SAFETY FACTS:

**ONE:** It's not enough to trust your date. Although this may not sound fun, or fair, trusting in yourself is a better choice anyway. Trust your instincts. When you feel uncomfortable, leave, distract them by getting the attention of someone else who can join in, or be direct and assertively communicate your boundaries.

**TWO:** Avoid drugs and alcohol. Alcohol is the No. 1 date-rape drug. Rape drugs such as Rohypnol, GHB, Ketamine and Ecstasy can be slipped to you without your knowledge and hidden in any drink (including water). Oftentimes the biggest danger is taking these drugs voluntarily. Don't think that just because you "know" what you're taking that you will be safe. Drugs and alcohol are often provided to unsuspecting victims with the sole purpose of disabling them against sexual advances.

**THREE:** Whenever possible, have your own transportation, or options you can use to get back home safely. Consider in advance whom you would call if you needed to get a ride. Don't go places where those options are not available to you, such as isolated places. Don't stay with a date alone in a home.

**FOUR:** Don't accept beverages in containers that are already open. Never drink from shared containers or punch bowls.

**FIVE:** Generally, drugs are produced to alter brain chemistry. Therefore, any drug can be a rape drug. Some commonly used, but less known, rape drugs include marijuana, cocaine, valium, opiates and some types of herbs.

**SIX:** There is no right or wrong way for a victim to assess and "handle" a sexual assault situation. Surviving is proof you did the right thing. However, you might feel more confident in daily life by the simple act of taking a self-defense course. These courses can show you a variety of tactics, and you can pick things that you are more comfortable with. One study showed that three out of four sexual assaults are attempted, but not completed, because the victim got away. Sometimes this is because of the victim's doing; sometimes it is because the offender was distracted by something else like a car or another person.

**SEVEN:** If you are under the age of 16, it is against the law for someone to have sex with you when they are 18 years of age or older, commonly known as statutory sexual seduction. This law is extended to students under 18 when the offender is a teacher, school employee or volunteer at the same school. These laws were put into place in order to protect minors from sexual predators. An offender may not "look" like a rapist, but assesses vulnerability, targets, lures and molests just the same.

**EIGHT:** Remember that girls are not the only vulnerable population to this crime. Boys are also susceptible, especially to others who are much older, or when they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

**NINE:** Listen to the concerns of friends or family members about a person you have met or are dating. Sometimes we can't see potentially dangerous characteristics about a person we are attracted to.

**TEN:** When online, never give your full name, the name of your school, or the location of where you access the Internet. Never assume that others on the Internet are giving truthful information about themselves. Savvy predators know how to talk and act like teens your age in order to win your trust and wear down your guard.

Talk to your friends about safety and sexual assault prevention. What steps do they take? Maybe you could form a buddy plan where you agree to come and go from a party together, no matter what (or whom you meet there), or plan to double date.

# ALCOHOL IS THE NO. 1



Say "no" while you still can.

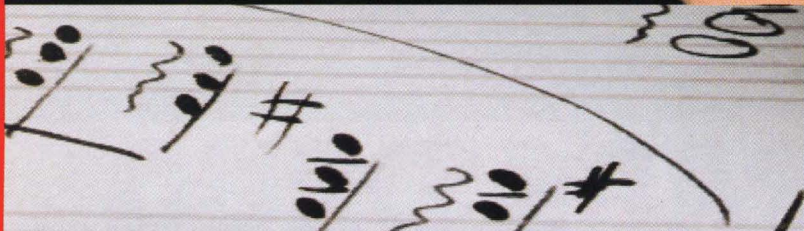
# DATE RAPE DRUG

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about acquaintance rape, statutory rape, drug-facilitated rape, sexual abuse or teen dating violence, call the Nevada Public Health Foundation at (702) 940-2033 to schedule a prevention program in your classroom. The Sexual Assault Peer Education Program is approved by the Clark County School District and has been presented to thousands of students in Nevada.

**IF YOU HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY assaulted, or want information on how you can help a sexually abused friend, call the Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network at 1-800-656-HOPE. You will be automatically connected to the nearest rape crisis center where support and local resources are available for you.**



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