

November 2003

# CLASS!

By, for and about Clark County  
high school students



**AMERICA AMERICA AMERICA**

**Who's The Real Patriot?**

# NEVADA POWER COMPANY

## Students of the Month



**Cameron Parker, Senior  
Palo Verde HS**

"Cameron Parker is the epitome of the perfect student. He is intelligent, athletic, motivated, charismatic and a great leader and more," says Palo Verde High School Principal Paul Oisboid.

Senior Cameron Parker has been on the varsity tennis team for the past two years, and as a sophomore, he won the state championship. He became an All-American tennis player for the year 2002, and this year was accepted to the first International Tennis Competition in Fort Worth, Texas.

Parker not only participates as an athlete, but also stays focused as a student. He is first in his class and has maintained a 4.0 un-weighted GPA, making him a candidate for valedictorian. He was class president as a sophomore and student body secretary as a junior. He has taken part in National Honor Society for the last three years and, in his church, is part of the choir and is one of the pianists for the Christmas performance. He even finds time to work toward his Eagle Scout award.

Parker has already been invited to Dartmouth, but plans on applying to Harvard University as well.



**Amanda Suits, Sophomore  
Chaparral HS**

"We're very proud of Amanda's accomplishments," says Chaparral High School Principal Penny Elliott. "She represents Chaparral in an excellent manner, both in and out of the classroom."

Sophomore Amanda Suits has been taking part in rodeos since she was 9 years old and still is very active today. Over the summer, she was in the High School Nationals Rodeo in Farmington, New Mexico, which is the largest competition in the U.S. She placed 45th overall out of the 250 participants in her event. She also went to a rodeo this past September in Winnemucca and won the All-Around title.

Suits has competitions almost every weekend and practices everyday after school, yet she still finds the time to give three girls in her community riding lessons. She is also president of the Boulder City Rodeo Club. One of her goals is working with the National High School Rodeo Association in trying to get high school rodeo to be recognized as an individual sport in the schools.

She maintains a 3.8 GPA and is thinking of attending UNLV as a Business Major.



**Nevada Power** SM

*Electricity Powers Your Lifestyle.*

*Use It With Respect.*

[www.nevadapower.com](http://www.nevadapower.com)

## Get Your Foot in the Door



### Who's Hiring?

IT'S HARD TO APPLY FOR A JOB unless you know who has jobs you can apply for. There are lots of ways to find out who has jobs, but most people just settle for looking in the newspaper and answering want ads. That can work, but the jobs in the want ads are only a small fraction of what's available.

Put your creative hat on and think of other ways to find out who's hiring.

*Assignment: Working with a small group, add at least 10 creative ways to find out who's hiring to the five ways listed below.*

- Look in the newspaper at the want ads.
- Check with private and government employment services.
- Talk with people who already work where you would like to work.
- Talk with your minister, priest or rabbi.
- Call the office of the union that would cover the job you want.

\*2003 Job Jargon

### This month's featured jobs:

#### Office Helper

Bilingual student needed to answer phones, type, file and perform other office tasks. Must be 17 years old and have a work permit. Workdays are Monday-Thursday from 2-5 p.m. The wage is \$7.00 per hour. Job Number: 7798

#### Bookkeeper

If you are a serious student who knows some accounting, this may be the job for you. Must have computer skills on Microsoft Excel and Word and be able to 10-key. Applicant also must be 17 years old and have a work permit. Flexible days and hours, totaling 15 hours per week. The wage is \$7.00 per hour. Job Number: 7797

#### Stocking/Cleaning

Attendant needed to stock shelves, clean store and assist with customer service. Must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Flexible days and hours, totaling 24 hours per week. The wage is \$7.00 per hour. Job Number: 7796

#### Crew Member

If you are interested in cooking or cashiering, this may be the job for you. Must be friendly and have good customer service skills. Applicant must also be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays are flexible, with hours available from 11 a.m.-11 p.m., totaling 20 hours per week. Job Number: 7794

#### Receptionist/Secretary

Assistant needed to answer phones, file, fax, type and learn a little accounting. Must be a responsible student with good organizational skills. Applicant must also be 17 years old, bilingual, have a résumé and a work permit. Workdays are Monday-Friday, 1-5 p.m., totaling 20 hours per week. The wage is \$6.50 per hour. Job Number: 7793

**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.**

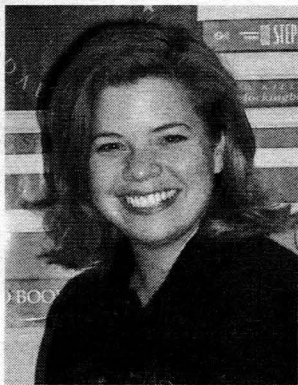
from the editor

You might expect an America-themed cover closer to Independence Day or the anniversary of Sept. 11. This isn't some misguided holiday message. There's been debate recently about the lack of patriotism being taught in high schools. It got us wondering if today's students are proud of their country. Toward the end of 2001, there was a surge in the number of teens who were interested in military service ... is this still the case? When you work for a newsmagazine, there's only one thing to do: send out the reporters!

Our cover section (pages 15-18) addresses these questions by revealing what teens think about patriotism and our country. Do teens care about what is happening in their world? Do you think voting and political knowledge is important? From reading these stories, the answer is a resounding "Absolutely!"

Perhaps November isn't such an odd time to have a cover reflecting a belief in what our country stands for. This month includes both Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving. What better way to honor those who have served our country and give thanks for the freedoms we have than putting it right there on the cover?

So I hope you enjoy your four-day weekends (two in one month!) and have a chance to reflect on your own feelings about living in this country, whether they're positive or negative. After all, having your own opinions, popular or not, is one of the joys of being an American.



*Allie Smith*

Allie Smith  
Editor/Executive Director  
www.classmag.com



**TELL THE WORLD  
WRITE YOUR VOICE  
GET PUBLISHED**

Do you have something to say about any of these articles? Talk back to CLASS! Write a response or introduce an issue on your mind. Tell us how it is by e-mail or letter:

classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu  
CLASS!, UNLV, Box 451025,  
4505 S. Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025

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

news

Clark County journalists convene for the Ninth Annual CLASS! Journalism Workshop. 4

opinion

Read your fellow students' opinions on forms of violence, whether it's video game violence, terrorism or random violence on local streets. 5

body vibe

Would you eat something if it dropped on the ground? Learn about the "five-second" rule. Plus, did you know that diabetes can strike teens, too? 9



sports

What makes a boy want to be a cheerleader? Or a girl go out for football? 12

the look

If you think you dress punk, think again. 13

law & order

If street racing is so dangerous, why are teens becoming involved in it every day? 14

cover story

Though America's students may be exposed to both pro- and anti-American rhetoric in the classroom, some local teens speak out in support of their country. 15

diganos

¿Qué relación tiene el champú "Herbal Essence" con la sexualidad? Descubre esto y mucho más en nuestra sección. 19

education

Two students meet head-on in their opposing views about privacy, sex and parents. 23

between us

Does the school dress code stifle your personality? Plus, learn why those high school relationships rarely last. 26

time out

CSI: Crime Show Imposters! Learn why the TV show makes the career so appealing. And, one guy lets the girls in on a big secret: how to get rid of a guy...fast! 30



home room

Is freshman spirit obsolete? Read one girl's story. Then take a seat at the "theater of death" and witness the horror of a simulated car wreck. 33

calendar

November is in full swing with concerts to karaoke, plus the premiere of the musical "Jekyll and Hyde" at Las Vegas Academy. 36

scholarships

Start applying for those scholarships now. Check out our latest list. 38

On Our Cover ...

Chaparral HS senior Jennifer Carlton expresses her love of country in two obvious ways.

# CLASS!

Vol. 10, Issue 3

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

## EDITORIAL OFFICE

UNLV, Campus Services Building, Room 226

## MAIL

UNLV, Box 451025, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025

PHONE: (702) 895-1504 • FAX: (702) 895-1505

EMAIL AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

classpub@ccrmail.nevada.edu

## THE CLASS! STAFF

EDITOR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Allie Smith

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Maureen McDonough

ART DIRECTOR

Craig Dickson

DIGANOS EDITOR

Lina Hernandez

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

Sandra Bird

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Matt Mayhood

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Angel Flowers

COVER PHOTOGRAPHER

David Phillips

## INTERNS

Jennifer Carlton, Chaparral HS

Myrae Carrasco, Bishop Gorman HS

Juan Carrillo, Liberty HS

Josh Chase, Community College HS

Stephanie Espinoza, Green Valley HS

Stephanie Hartman, Centennial HS

Rachel Hommel, Green Valley HS

Danny Gobaud, Las Vegas Academy

Michael Gobaud, Las Vegas Academy

Ariel Gove, PAL Intern, Las Vegas HS

Natalie Minev, Community College HS

Julez Rodionova, Durango HS

Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS

Charles Trujillo, Green Valley HS

Lori Valiente, Las Vegas HS

## FOUNDERS

David Phillips • Paul Aizley • Sari Aizley

## CLASS! BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Beverly Rogers

Vice-President, Sunbelt Communications

Vice-President: Mary Hausch

Asst. Professor of Journalism, UNLV

Secretary: Daphne Grabovoi

Award-winning journalism and English teacher,

Silverado High School

Treasurer: Beth Casotti

Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank

Founding President: Barbara Buckley

Nevada State Assemblywoman;

Executive Director, Clark County Legal Services

Dr. Paul Aizley, Professor of Mathematics, UNLV

Sari Aizley, Publisher and Grant Writer

Barbara Cegavske, Nevada State Senator

Kathleen Frosini, Director, Career and Technical Education, CCSD

Sharon Gwyn Mills, President, GEMS

(Gwyn Event and Marketing Services)

Veronica Hummel, Grants Development, Nevada

Cancer Institute

Judith Jenner, Content Manager, Vegas.com

Denise Karpelenia, Coordinator 6-12 English

Language Arts, CCSD

Margaret McMillan, Director of Govt. Relations, Sprint

David Phillips, Photographer

Ed Rivera, Creative Director, KSR Advertising

Dr. Carrol Steedman, UNLV Director of Credit

Programs and Associate Director, Summer Term

Judi Steele, President and CPO,

Clark Co. Public Education Foundation

Myma Williams, County Commissioner, former Assemblywoman

## HONORARY BOARD

Shelley Berkley, U.S. Congresswoman

Jan Biggerstaff, Member, State Board of Education;

Owner, Graphics 2000

Kirby Burgess, Director, Family & Youth Services

Thalia Dondero, University & Community College Board of Regents

Jessie Emmett, Chair of the State Job Training

Coordinating Council

Mark Fine, Developer

Robert Forbuss, Chamber of Commerce,

Board of Trustees

Carlos Garcia, Superintendent of Schools, Clark County

Dr. Carol Harter, President, UNLV

Mark Manendo, Nevada State Assemblyman

Larry Mason, Member, Clark County School Board

Julie Pippenger, Executive Director, Andre Agassi Foundation

Sarah Ralston, Public Relations Consultant

Patricia Wright

Elaine Wynn

## news

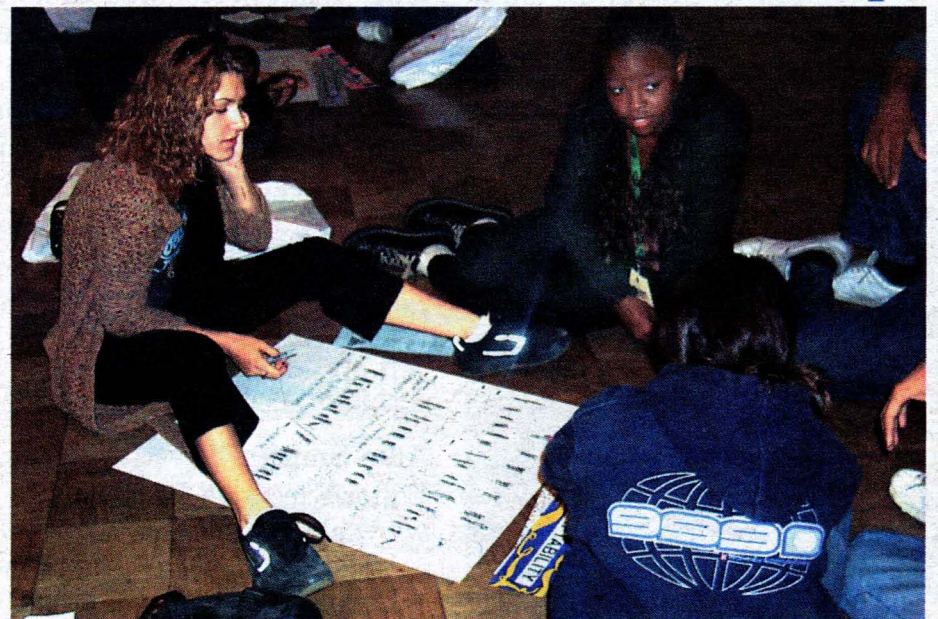


## CLASS! holds 9th Journalism Workshop

More than 160 journalism teachers and students from 25 Clark County high schools gathered for the Ninth Annual CLASS! High School Journalism Workshop on Oct 14 at UNLV.

Local journalism professionals conducted seminars for students and teachers on topics ranging from copyrights to careers. Speakers included political commentator Jon Ralston, Las Vegas Sun columnist Susan Snyder, Channel 8 sports anchor Chris Maathuis, Las Vegas Sun sports columnist Ron Kantowski, attorney Michael McCue and Las Vegas Sun Assistant Editor Jean Norman.

CLASS! would like to thank all those who participated.



During the career seminar, attendees interacted and discussed how to go "From Backpacks to Briefcases."



Perusing other high schools' newspapers is almost as good as reading CLASS!

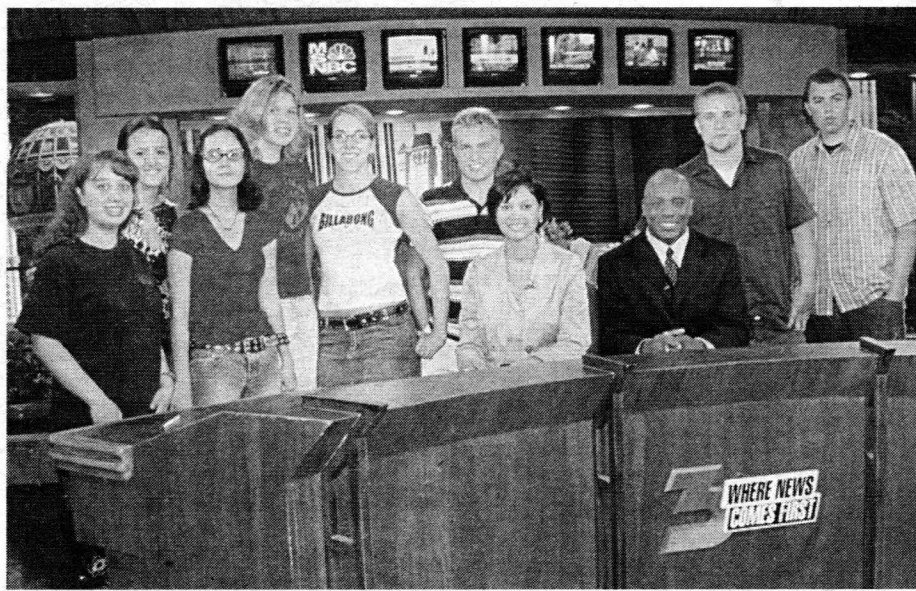


Above, Ron Kantowski and Chris Maathuis, local sports journalists, review their responsibilities. Below, attorney Michael McCue explains copyright law.



## In the news studio

CLASS! staff and interns recently toured the KVBC Channel 3 offices and sat in on a live newscast. From left to right: Stephanie Espinoza, Green Valley HS; CLASS! Diganos Editor Lina Hernandez; April Corbin, Las Vegas HS; Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS; Rachel Hommel, Green Valley HS; CLASS! Advertising Manager Matt Mayhood; KVBC anchors Sue Manteris and Kori Chambers; Josh Chase, CCHS; and Charles Trujillo, Green Valley HS.



## CLASS! Thanks Our Distinguished Donors

The Andre Agassi Foundation • Dr. Paul Aizley and Sari Aizley • American Pacific Corporation • American West Homes • Bank of America • BankWest of Nevada • Barrick Goldstrike Mines • Bechtel Nevada • U.S. Congresswoman Shelley Berkley • Boyd Gaming • Jay Brown • Assemblywoman Barbara Buckley • Senator Barbara Cegavske • Christopher Homes • Circus Circus • Clark County Commission • Clark County Health District • Clark County Public Education Foundation • Clark County School District • Senator Bob Coffin & Mary Hausch • Colours, Inc. • Community College of Southern Nevada • Cox Communications • Crockett & Myers • DaFey Advertising • DeLuca Liquor & Wine • Diamond Resorts International • Diane Dickerson • Regent Chair Thalia Dondero • English Garden Florist • Fertitta Enterprises • Mark L. Fine • First Security Bank • Four Seasons Hotel • Fremont West, LLC • Dominic P. Gentile, Ltd. • Gill's Printing • Daphne Grabovoi • Greenspun Family Foundation • Robin & Danny Greenspun • Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. • Harris Foundation • Hearst Newspapers • Hills Center Business Park II, LLC • Hispanic Broadcasting Company • Howard Hughes Corporation • Household Bank • Gary and Sandra Johnson • Keefer, O'Reilly & Ferrario • KLAS TV-8 • KVBC Channel 3 • Ellen and Vic Koivisto • Kolesar & Leatham, CHTD. • Kummer, Kaempfer, Bonner and Renshaw • Lamar's Donuts • Lamar Outdoor Advertising • Las Vegas Sun • Lori Lipman-Brown • Joyce Mack • Mandalay Resort Group • MGM/MIRAGE • Barbara Molasky • Neiman Marcus • Nevada Arts Council • Nevada Beverage Company • Nevada Department of Education • Nevada First Bank • Nevada Gaming Foundation for Educational Excellence • Nevada Health Division • Nevada Palace Casino • Nevada Power Company • Nevada State Bank • Nevada Title Company • Dr. Marvin Perer and Irene Perer • Plaza Commerce Center, LLC • R&R Advertising • Sarah Ralston • Republic Services of Southern Nevada • Jim & Beverly Rogers • Rogich Communications Group • Joe and Kim Rolston • Sierra Health • Signature Homes • Sletten Construction • Snapdragon Interactive • Southwest Gas Corp. • Southwest Printers • Sprint • Station Casinos • Dr. Carol Steedman • Judi Steele • Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center • Sunbelt Communications • Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada • Charles Thompson • Ron Tiberti • Triad Development • Tropicana Resort and Casino • U.S. Bank • University & Community College System of Nevada • University of Nevada, Las Vegas • UNLV Boyd School of Law • V.A. Clinic Associates • Venetian Foundation • Wells Fargo • Commissioner Myrna Williams • Kerry and Meredith Withrow • Mel Wolzinger • Richard & Patty Wright • Elaine and Steve Wynn

## opinion

# America's newest mantra: 'Don't worry — be angry'

**Violence, conflict are commonplace in today's world**

By Kenneth Brown, Rancho HS

Is it just me, or is America on its way to needing a nationwide anger management course?

Pop culture has a history of guiding people to an environment that is happier and more enjoyable than their current living arrangements. Now, all of the problems that used to be privately endured by the average American family are commonplace in almost all of the entertainment media.

I understand that, in the worlds of film and television, people like to indulge in the fact that they can escape from the perils of their lives. But now, both film and television have definitely been leaning toward angrier, more provocative plot lines. If you think that it only affects TV and the movies, they are only the tip of the ice-

berg.

Let's be honest here. Americans love a good, old-fashioned fight. This love of carnage and conflict has been lying dormant for years, but now it's surfacing in almost all forms of the media. The concept of friendly competition has become extinct. We want World War III to start over spilled milk. Think about it, how many of us haven't chanted "Fight! Fight! Fight!" whenever a skirmish breaks out at school?

We find that there is almost no greater example of this than

me to say that, at some time or another, I haven't enjoyed violence and confrontation. Not all the time, but I do like violence in small doses. Some people satisfy this blood lust through sport. In a controlled environment, violence is sporting and entertaining. Martial arts, boxing and professional wrestling are good examples of controlled violence for the purpose of sport and entertainment.

But even so, we still have people who take those sports and defile them for their own twisted enjoyment. Recent examples of amusement through random acts of violence include the "Bumfights" videos and the recent "311 Boyz" crimes. Regardless of the moderate enjoyment one

receives from viewing such random acts of violence, I still harbor the belief that everything has its day and time.

In times of war and terrorism, you'd think humanity would be able to put such petty acts of stupidity aside. Perhaps this is truly the age of sex and universal angst, or maybe it's just the world letting its hair down. Who knows? Maybe it really is just me.

*"It would be hypocritical of me to say that, at some time or another, I haven't enjoyed violence and confrontation."*

in the lives of celebrities and in the tabloids that reflect their every flaw and failure. In the music world, we have 50 Cent vs. Ja Rule and Beyonce vs. Ashanti. In politics, there's George vs. Saddam and Davis vs. Schwarzenegger. These are just evolutionary versions of the sandbox battles of childhood. Everyone has some type of beef with someone else.

It would be hypocritical of

CLASS! is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization accredited by the United Way of Southern Nevada and the Nevada Bureau of Alcohol & Drug Abuse. The opinions expressed herein are the views of the student writers who submit their work. CLASS!, its Board of Directors, its donors and the Clark County School District do not necessarily agree with these views. Submissions considered for publication may be checked for plagiarism through Turnitin.com.

## Video game violence: A closer look

By Spencer Hensley, Faith Lutheran HS



For the past decade, video games have become an integral part of American culture. Sadly, so has the popular belief that teenagers are radically more violent than members of their age group of days past. With school shootings, murders, gang violence and whatever else the news might throw at an individual on any given evening, people are desperately craving something to blame. More often than not, society turns its disapproving eye toward the video game industry.

An often-cited study observes college students playing "Myst," a slow-paced puzzle game, and "Quake," a fast shooter game from the maker of the infamous "Doom." The results show that after playing

"Quake," the students exhibited a tendency to be notably more aggressive than after playing "Myst." At first glance, one might think that this is an open-and-shut case.

However, the same thing could be said of anything, regardless of the medium. A person is certainly less likely to be aggressive after writing haikus in a rock garden than that same person would be after, say, sitting up until 2 a.m. to finish revising a neglected editorial.

In fact, I will go so far as to submit that video games actually keep kids from being violent. Recently, video-gaming has become a social activity as much as any other.

With large gaming conventions dotting the country, and countless Local Area Network parties going on in any given suburban neighborhood on any given weekend, video games have given kids who might otherwise feel ostracized by their

## Americans' gas-guzzling habits fuel terrorism

By Jeff Karl, Las Vegas HS

In our current state of fighting terrorism, we Americans must analyze how our lifestyle may fuel the problem. I remember seeing posters about how marijuana supported terrorism. The idea that pot smokers support terrorism is totally ridiculous. The real culprits are Americans and their love for cars.

It seems to me that terrorists get their money from oil. In this country, oil is used as if it's as abundant as oxygen. Oil is the real opiate of the masses (at least in America's current state). The only thing that Americans think about at the pump is the extremely high \$2 gas prices, although in Europe that would be considered inexpensive.

I've been listening to all the complaining that Fox News has been doing about high gas prices as if it's an American's right to be able to buy gas for a dollar a gallon.

It's not. I embrace the high gas prices because maybe it will teach Americans not to be so reckless with gas. Maybe it will teach us to catch the bus instead. Maybe it will teach us not to support terrorism at the pump.

Neither the Democrats nor the Republicans will do a thing about the amount of money that Americans pump so recklessly into their mammoth SUVs. Democrats get money from car labor unions while Republicans get their money from oil companies.

So the burden lay on the citizens of this country. We need to realize that consuming gas to power our cars is not a right, but a privilege. We need to realize that our own dependence on the motor vehicle has supported terrorism. We need to conserve gas.

peers a large clique of individuals with similar interests where they can feel like they belong, keeping them from nurturing negative or hateful feelings toward anyone. Video games give kids an escape from their problems. If anything, games keep them from snapping earlier.

Another problem with the idea that video games cause violence is that Japan, the world's foremost violent video game producer, has only 87 deaths a year in handgun-re-

lated incidents. Here, in the U.S., 10,527 people die a year because of handguns. Clearly, video games cannot be to blame. Or, at the very least, we cannot possibly try to blame them solely.

If a solution to the problem of aggression in America is to be found, assuming a solution truly can be found, I suggest that we try a different approach than simply inventing scapegoats and making excuses for ourselves.

## Picture perfect

# How the media harms women

By Marlo Starr, Community College HS



As a girl flips through a magazine, she comes across a perfume advertisement where half of the woman's face is cut off, and her cleavage is the focus of the picture. Another ad features a set of legs, and another has a midriff as its focal point. She continues to turn the pages without a second thought, soaking in the images that use the female body to sell products.

On billboards, on television and in magazines, people are bombarded with images such as these every day. Often they are overlooked, but they may have a stronger influence on our culture than we realize.

Perfect, slim and youthful bodies complete the range of women's images in the media. With the exceptions of Roseanne and Bette Midler, though they are not held up to the same standard of beauty, only one body type is represented in the media.

The average female suffers from constant dissatisfaction about her appearance, and the limitations caused by this are more far-reaching than just to self-esteem. Her identity is decided by society's perception of beauty and ugliness.

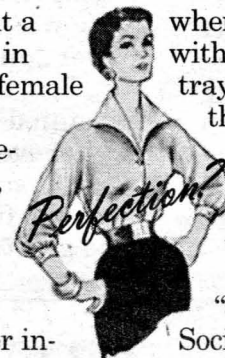
The population is surrounded by false images of women. Faces are airbrushed or retouched by computer, and sometimes, whole faces are assembled using parts

of different models' faces to create a completely new person. Also, according to the Eating Disorder Information Web site, the average woman is 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds, while the average model is 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs 117 pounds.

Besides the fact that the mass media do not reflect the general population or portray the true woman, it sexually objectifies females in order to make sales. Many advertisements focus on only one body part, and when the woman is juxtaposed with the product, she is portrayed as a commodity. When the face is focused on, many times no emotion is displayed, showing that the woman is just an image without a personality.

Studies published in the "Journal of Personality and Social Psychology" demonstrate that women may have become socialized to view themselves as objects. The study claims that images in American culture have influenced women to look at their physical bodies from an "observer's perspective," and therefore, see themselves as objects of beauty, sex or ugliness.

The media's portrayal of women sets real women up to an impossible standard of beauty, and it dehumanizes them by turning them into sexual objects. Since we see this portrayal so often, we don't think it has any kind of impact on us, or we may have become desensitized to it. But when we come across these images, maybe we should think about them twice before we brush them off as harmless pictures.



# double talk

***Should teens talk to their parents about sex?***

## Adult decisions require adult responsibilities

By Kaycee Lewis,  
Centennial HS

**I**t is obvious that many teenagers want what they can not have. Why is it such a thrill to smoke a cigarette or try alcohol for the first time? It is the thrill of knowing that you are not supposed to. So what is different when it comes to something as sacred as sex?

We are teenagers. We are practically adults. Knowing this, we tend to rationalize in our minds that it is okay to behave as if we really are adults.

The fact is that some teenagers will drink, smoke and have sex no matter how many times they hear that it is not moral or correct. What teenagers do not realize is that although you may participate in these acts thinking you are capable of handling it, you are in fact still a child.

Every girl knows how irre-



sistible guys can be. At times it seems that they are programmed to say exactly the right things at the right time until they have

you at the precise place they want you. Next thing you know, it's time to have sex, but are you ready? It is just sex, right?

Wrong. You are still a child. Making an adult decision like having sex does not classify you as an adult.

So what happens if you do have sex and something goes wrong? You are now pregnant. But wait, you are still in high school. How could this happen? You are just a kid.

Of course, your parents know nothing about your contemplating sex or participating in promiscuous ways. Yet, if

### I'M FOR IT

you are such an "adult," shouldn't you be brave enough to sit down and discuss your situation with your parents?

Perhaps if you did, they would understand. They would help you obtain birth control in case you do decide to have sex, or if it were too late, maybe they would help you through the pregnancy or the abortion.

Places like Planned Parenthood make it easier for teenagers under the age of 18 to have an abortion. Teenagers are encouraged to tell at least one adult, but if you do not want to, you cannot be forced.

In states with required parent-teenager interaction, the pregnant teenager is required to tell one parent. If the teenager refuses, they must appear in front of a judge and explain the reason.

Nevada, however, is not one of these states. Sadly, teenagers can run around wild with practically no consequences to their "adult" decision. Parents are now left in the dark with no idea of what their son or daughter is really doing in their spare time.

So, if we are all as "adult" as we think we are, maybe we could put ourselves in their shoes and see why that could mean so much to them. Think of how scary is it to know your son or daughter is running around, having sex, getting pregnant and who knows what else, all behind your back.

There is no reason a teenager should hide such a life-changing condition such as pregnancy, or prevention of pregnancy with birth control, from their parents or legal guardians. If someone is "adult" enough to make that decision, they are "adult" enough to face their parents and tell the truth.

## Enforcing parental consent jeopardizes teen health

By Danielle Klevgard,  
Centennial HS

**T**he issue has been beaten back and forth across the "opinion tennis court" for years: should parents be involved in their child's sex life when it comes to medical treatment?

Parents say, "It's our right to know what is going on in our children's lives. We need to know what kind of treatment they're getting for STDs, whether they're on birth control, and if they've had an abortion or are even pondering it."

As the current law stands in Nevada, a pregnant teen is not required to attain parental consent for an abortion, for STD testing, or for any type of birth control. There are some clinics

### I'M AGAINST IT

that require it, but many do not. According to the A-Z Women's Center in Las Vegas, once a female is pregnant she is emancipated; that is, she is free from parental constraint. Parents may be fighting to change the law, but so are teens all over the nation. Putting an end to the confidentiality of STD testing or birth control could have quite a dramatic effect on teenage society.

Most teenage girls would agree that they feel uncomfortable talking with their mother or father about proper birth control. By eliminating their choice to exclude parental involvement, the law will tighten yet another leash around the

adolescent's neck. Young women or teens around the nation would be urged to have unprotected sex because they are embarrassed to go to their parents for consent regarding birth control.

The same argument can be effectively made where STD testing comes into play. If a young male or female adolescent suspects that they may have contracted a potentially harmful STD, but are not able to get tested without the consent of a parent, the individual will likely remain silent for fear of their parent's reaction. Leaving an STD undiagnosed can lead to traumatic effects later on, which may ultimately result in death.

Parents would also argue that they have the right to

know what's going on in their child's life. In their minds, their innocent daughter would never have unprotected sex, or they think they are strict enough that their son or daughter wouldn't have the chance to do something like that.

Here's the truth: If teenagers want to have sex, they will. As blunt as that sounds, it's the truth. They will find a way. It's not a matter of whether they find a way — it's when.

Whereas society 40 years ago would undoubtedly have frowned on the idea of sex, the truth of the matter is, today it's not uncommon for a 15 or 16-year-old girl to have already lost her virginity. Do we really want to tell her that she can't have birth control because she

*Continued on page 8*

# To pierce or not to pierce ... that is none of the school's business!

By Amber Salmo, Eldorado HS



**D**o you like ripping holes in your skin? Plenty of teenagers do.

And so do adults for that matter. Piercing your skin and sliding metal through the hole you make is your choice.

The school district is trying to place a ban on wearing visible piercings to school. They feel that the ornamentation is a distraction from the learning environment. Do any of you get "distracted" when a kid walks in with his nose pierced? I doubt it.

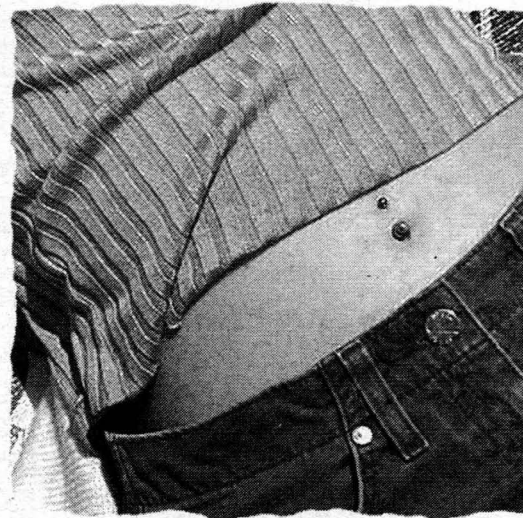
More often than not, the hot chick who walks in wearing a

skirt that barely qualifies as a handkerchief causes more "distraction." And that's just the cheerleading squad. Don't get me wrong, I think school activities are vital to our atmosphere and definitely have a place. What I am saying is that the argument for distraction is flawed when it comes to piercings.

"Individuality is something that you lose when you are an adult in the nine-to-five business world. Kids should be allowed to express themselves, within logical reason," says an Eldorado parent.

In fact, this is the feeling of many parents. They feel that teenagers should be allowed to wear piercings to school because it is a form of self-expression that doesn't hurt anyone else.

But there are some teens that



Though navel rings and studs are in fashion as expressions of individuality, some feel the schools' ban is going too far. Others support it, believing those who sport body jewelry are seen as troublemakers.

to join them in getting their eyebrows pierced. They simply want the right to pierce their own bodies without sacrificing their right to get an education.

agree with the potential ban on piercings at school.

"Piercings makes people look irresponsible," says Candice Owens, a sophomore at Las Vegas High School. She feels that the students who have piercings at school are immediately labeled as troublemakers, and usually that stereotype fits.

Owens says that kids who get pierced play into stereotypes; in her mind piercing is a "monkey-see, monkey-do" phenomenon. How can a teacher tell if the guy in the back row who has his lip pierced is a good student or just filling up some space?

Student Brenda Lee agrees with Owens. "They are pointless and look foolish," Lee says.

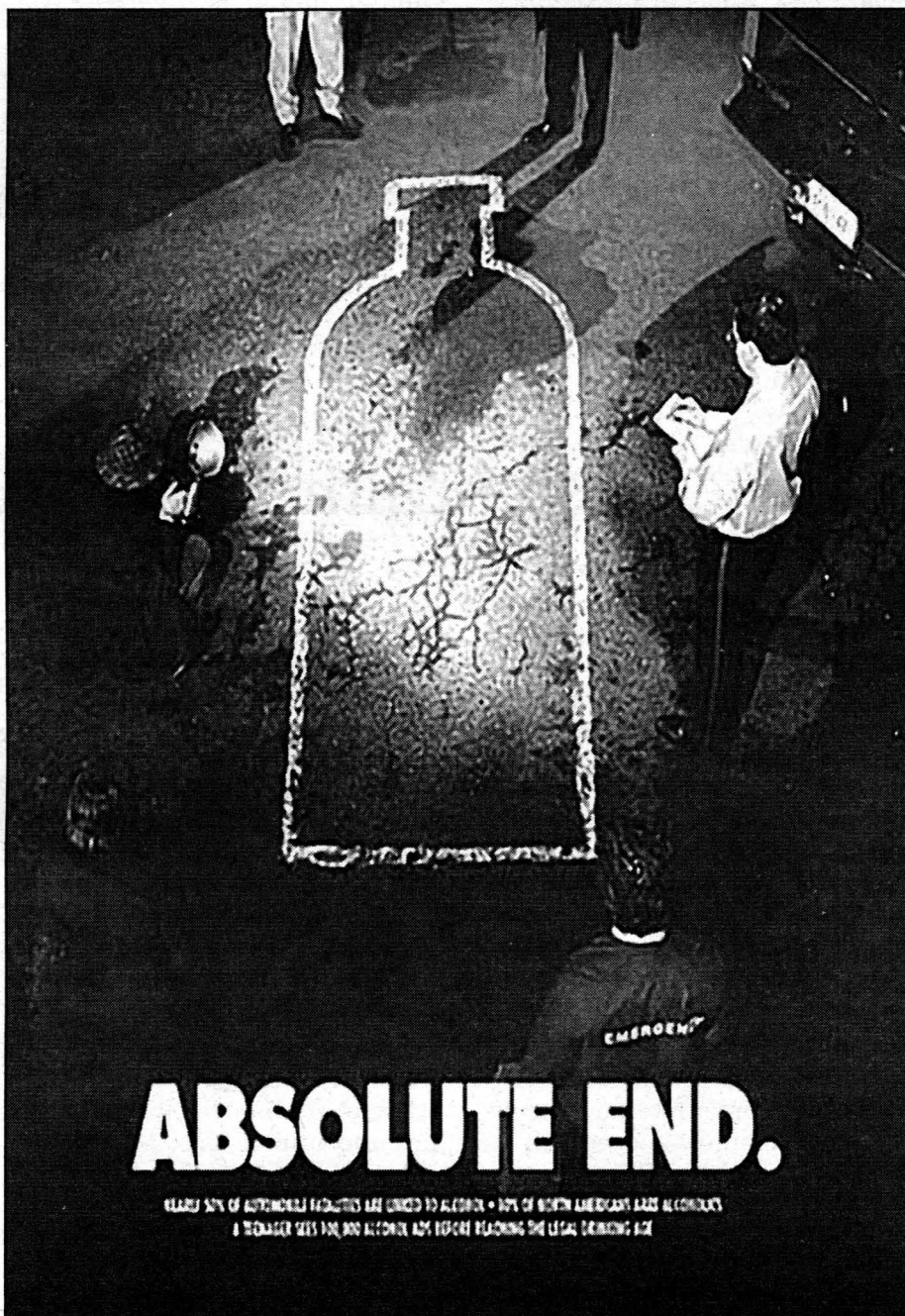
Many adults might agree with her, but kids aren't asking adults

Elmer Salmo, a concerned parent, feels that parents are the only people who should control what teens do to their bodies.

"It's unfair to regulate what anyone does to their own body," says Salmo.

And what about the seniors who are 18 and can legally get pierced? They should not be denied their right to the pursuit of happiness, which is exactly why most people get pierced — because it makes them happy.

We are taught that public education is not only a privilege, but it is also a right. Does the fact that someone has a piercing veto that right? I don't think so. Maybe the school district should rethink its plan to ban piercings. It would do much more harm than good.



## I'M AGAINST IT

*Continued from page 7*  
hasn't told her mother about her sex life? Honestly, what would your mother say?

"Hey, Mom, I was thinking about having sex. Do you want to take me down to get some birth control?" Or, "Hi, Mom, what's up? What did I do today? Oh, nothing much. I just messed up and accidentally had sex. Do you want to take me to get tested for STDs?"

If you have parents who are supportive of that sort of thing, give them a standing ovation; that's wonderful! For the most part, however, parents don't get that jazzed about hearing such things from their 16-year-old son or daughter.

Decisions such as testing, birth control and especially abortion, are not to be taken lightly and probably should be

revealed to a guardian, but this isn't how teenage society works. As teenagers we are known to be inconspicuous and sneaky. We don't want our parents to disapprove, but at the same time, we want to be free of their oppressive rule.

Only about 30 to 40 percent of teens will willingly converse with their parents about sex. Having sex is not a game. It's something that can be dangerous, and although the law does not require a parent for various testing, control, etc., that doesn't give us as teens the right to abuse the freedom from parental involvement.

If a girl gets pregnant, despite the fact that she doesn't need a parent to "okay" an abortion, she still does have to deal with the pregnancy. She just has to choose whether she wants to go through it alone or not.



# Five-second rule may save your cookies

By Andrew Chang,  
Coronado HS

Oops! I accidentally dropped an Oreo cookie on the ground; is it safe to pick it up and eat it? It touched the ground for maybe a mere second, so there must be a few seconds left before it goes bad, right?

According to the "five-second rule" of food safety, the answer is yes. But the decision on whether food is safe or not after falling on the ground is really a matter of chance, rather than a matter of truth.

"The five-second rule, which might have started out as a rule for children before, has now become the normal routine for many adults as well," says Jillian Clarke, a senior at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Studies, on the News-Gazette.com Web site. Clarke investigated the five-second rule during her summer apprenticeship at the University of Illinois this year.

According to her studies, 70 percent of adult women and 56 percent of adult men use the rule, especially when the food contains sugar or sweets. Also, sweets are much more likely to be picked up than vegetables.

The five-second rule has been around for thousands of centuries, even before the invention of disinfectant sprays or conventional ovens.

"It begins as far back as the age of Genghis Khan," says Clarke. "Khan was the first to determine how long it was safe for food to remain on a floor when dropped. But unlike today, Khan had slightly lower standards though; he was led to believe that food was allowable to eat after a 12-hour span on any floor, even dirt filled ones."

Dr. Meredith Agle of the University of Illinois, who



helped Clarke on her crusade for truth behind the myth, was amazed at the results they found during the investigation on the campus grounds.

"I've probably picked up some bad habits since grad school; generally, I'd pick stuff up off the floor and eat it, but the floors at the University of Illinois were really clean," Agle told News-Gazette.com. "The fact that we swabbed the floors and found very low (bacteria) counts astonished me."

Agle was so surprised that she doubted Clarke's test results.

"I had her check by the vending machines," she says. "When she showed me her results, I told her to go do it again, but the floors were really clean in fact."

After visiting many other campuses, they both determined that on dry surfaces, there is only a small amount of bacteria, making food permissible to eat after five seconds. While on the other hand, they also found that if bacteria is present, especially on damp surfaces, food will most likely become contaminated within five seconds or less if it comes in contact with the ground.

Either way, the next time you think about picking up food after it hits the ground, you might want to look around the premises and think twice before putting it in your mouth.

## Juvenile diabetes can strike you, too

By Jamie Austria, Cheyenne HS

Teenagers are uneducated on the chronic and life-altering disease diabetes. Most are unaware that juveniles can be victims too.

There are two types of diabetes, Type 1 and Type 2. Diabetes is not contagious, but is either acquired through genetics or environmental factors. No cure for diabetes has yet been found. People under the age of 30 seem to be more susceptible to developing Type 1 diabetes.

Both types of diabetes involve the body's inability to process the blood sugar released during digestion. The insulin hormone, created in the pancreas, makes sugar (glucose) in the bloodstream usable for the body. Research by the American Diabetes Association shows that most diabetics have a high level of antibodies. Autoantibodies are antibodies that have "gone wrong." They tend to attack the pancreas and the cells that produce insulin. Type 1 diabetics cannot produce insulin, so they are dependent on injected insulin. Type 2 categorizes people who produce little insulin, or their bodies have trouble using it. Type 2 diabetics do not require insulin shots.

Julian Morales is one of the few diabetic students at Cheyenne High School. He was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes approximately a year ago after noticing one of the symptoms, frequent urination. He takes three doses of insulin a day as well as monitoring his blood sugar levels. He also had to learn how to watch his diet.

"The normal sugar level I have to keep it at is about 82 to 120. If it's past that, it's too high or low," explains Morales.

Low blood sugar is known as hypoglycemia. Causes of hypoglycemia may include not enough food consumption, too much activity (which rapidly burns off sugar), or too much insulin. Some symptoms are headache, sweating, shakiness, extreme hunger, feeling cold and clammy, weakness/dizziness, rapid pulse rate, blurred vision, loss of coordination, mental confusion, seizures or unconsciousness. Symptoms are treated by consuming something with sugar to raise the sugar levels in the blood.

"I can only play basketball about a quarter of the game, then you'll have to take me out. I get weak because my sugar gets burned off," says Morales.

High blood sugar is known as hyperglycemia. It is less likely to happen than hypoglycemia, and its symptoms are gradual over a couple of days. These symptoms are extreme thirst, frequent urination, lack of or increase in appetite, high levels of sugar in urine or blood, drowsiness, lethargy, a fruity odor in breath, and eventually stupor or unconsciousness. In this case, it may result in a trip to the hospital.

Although it's incurable, diabetes can be controlled in three ways: exercise, insulin and food. Food makes blood sugar levels rise while exercise and insulin make it go down. Diabetics must be consistent with regular meals, insulin and exercise to balance things out.

"If students learn about their diabetes and follow their daily regimen and proper diet, they can lead fairly normal lives," says Cheyenne's school nurse, Andrea Kenney. "If they don't take care of their diabetes, it can lead to complications."

Diabetics are more prone to gum disease, mouth infection, eye disease, foot problems, kidney disease and in some extreme cases nerve damage. Coping with diabetes is not only hard on the body, but is stressful to the mind. Diabetics often have extreme mood swings between anger and sadness.

Morales learned how to handle these mood swings during therapy when he first was diagnosed. He also learned how to live a better lifestyle.

"If anyone ever gets diabetes, they need to quit all the other [bad] stuff they do and try to look ahead in life," says Morales.

For more information, call the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International at 1-800-JDF-CURE or visit [www.jdf.org](http://www.jdf.org).

# Kick 'the habit' by making new ones

By Jennifer Carlton, Chaparral HS



If you are trying to quit smoking, you're not alone, and you're not alone in trying to figure out the best way to break the habit.

John Smith, a smoker since the age of 15, tried many different methods to quit over the years. Finally, he decided to try giving himself a great incentive to quit. Instead of buying cigarettes, he saved up the money and bought himself a pool table.

"Every time I wanted to buy a pack of cigarettes, I just thought about how much longer I'd have to wait for that table," says Smith. "The longer I could put off buying cigarettes, the easier it got and the more money I saved up for the pool table. I was amazed at how much I was spending on cigarettes."

Having an incentive to quit smoking worked for Smith, but there are other ways to stamp

smoking out of your life for good. Giving yourself an incentive to quit might work for you, but for more suggestions, here's a list of ways to quit that have helped others and that may help you:

1. Carry gum, hard candy or toothpicks — something to put in your mouth instead of a cigarette.

2. Put a rubber band on your wrist, and every time you get a craving, flick your wrist; soon you will associate smoking with pain.

3. Exercise; you will feel fit and energized, and you won't want nicotine in your body to have a negative affect on you.

4. Ask your doctor about prescription medications.

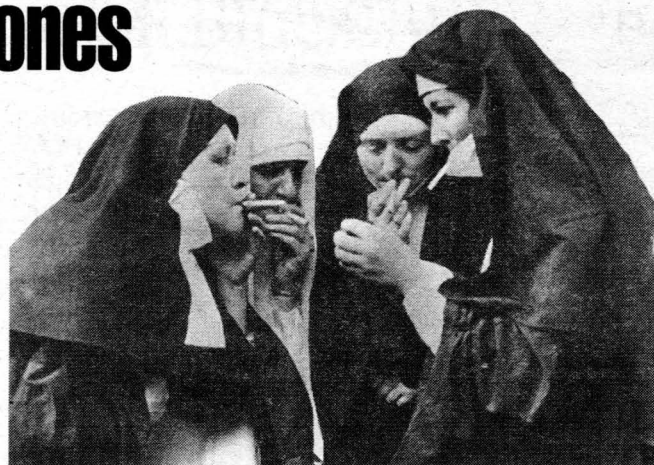
5. Join a support group.

6. Avoid high stress situations.

7. Drink water and other liquids; just try to avoid beverages containing caffeine.

8. Make changes to your routine; for example, try a different restaurant to go to for breakfast.

9. Set a quitting date for yourself, make sure to tell family or friends, and make sure to



Inhabiting a habit makes some smokers beyond reproach, but we "habit" on good authority that substituting something else in your mouth, like candy or gum, will help break the habit.

ask for their support.

10. Throw away all your cigarettes, ashtrays and lighters.

11. When you have an urge to smoke, take a few deep breaths and find something to occupy yourself with until the urge leaves you.

12. Go to non-smoking places.

13. Keep busy!

Unfortunately, there are some side effects to quitting that you should be ready for. You may feel moody, depressed and tired, and experience headaches and weight gain. When you feel depressed, have people whom you know you can call and talk to. When headaches come, take a few deep breaths, lie down and just relax. Make

sure to get plenty of rest, which also helps prevent feeling tired. Weight gain occurs because eating gives you something to do in place of smoking, and it relieves depression. To fight this tendency, make sure to exercise regularly. Also schedule set times to eat and snack.

These side effects may seem very discouraging, but cravings and withdrawals only last for one or two weeks. After a couple of weeks have gone by, your body will not need the nicotine anymore and you will be smoke-free. Congrats! You did it!

For more information, call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at 1-800-CDC-1311, or go to [www.quitsmoking.com](http://www.quitsmoking.com).

## Teens need more than low-carb diets offer

By Sarah Burgman, LV Academy

From grandmas to teenagers, all across America, people are trading in their muffins for burger patties and their chips for pork rinds. Have aliens brainwashed the appetites of millions, 15 to 30 million to be exact, or is it the newest diet craze to sweep America?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, 65 percent of adult Americans are overweight or obese. In addition, with the number of obese children doubling since 1980, teens as well as adults are seeking deliverance from their health woes in a low carbohydrate, high protein diet popularized by Dr. Robert Atkins in his book "Dr. Atkins' Diet Revolution: The High Calorie Way to Stay Thin Forever."

The diet works by reducing the carbohydrate intake to almost nothing: 20 grams a day for the first two weeks.

Marco R. della Cava in USA Today says, "A carb-free body searches elsewhere for energy. First, blood sugar reserves in the liver are reduced, followed by those in the muscles. Weight is lost in the form of water and eventually fat."

As time goes on, the daily carbohydrate intake is increased to slow weight loss to about a pound a month until an ultimate weight loss goal is reached. Healthy eating habits should be maintained after this point to keep thin.

For years, doctors and nutritionists were skeptical about the safety of a low-carb, high protein diet, potential risks being kidney stones, liver damage and bone loss. The low-carb diet is not necessarily the best for

growing teenagers due to the restrictions on vegetables, grains and fruit, all vital to developing bodies and minds.

Nikki Wilson, a Las Vegas Academy sophomore, says, "There's so many diets out there that Atkins in my opinion is unhealthy because you're consuming so much protein."

However, Suma Nathan, a local diet guru and employee of Kristen's Lo Carb Kafé, says differently. Nathan "lives and breathes" a low-carbohydrate lifestyle. She is also a certified Chinese herbologist and has been in the health business for 30 years. Her prescription for staying thin is 50 percent exercise and 50 percent healthier lifestyle. She believes people come to the café looking for something different to lose weight and feel better about themselves.

Kafé customers range from

14-year-old to 75-year-old health nuts. The most popular items ordered by the teenage crowd are the low-carb shakes, bagels, pizzas and sandwiches. For the real sweet tooth, items such as fudge balls, brownies à la mode, iced brownies and muffins are available, each under four carbs. Even America's favorite guilty pleasure, ice cream, is available in chocolate and vanilla soft-serve, containing just five to seven carbs.

Kristen's isn't the only low-carb specialty shop looking to provide the supply for the demand of low-carb products. According to USA Today, there are already 200 similar stores nationwide and growing. The diet industry is big business, taking in about \$30 billion each year.

Although it took 30 years to catch on, this is just the beginning of a low-carb phenomenon.

# Tips to take control of your



By Christine Han,  
LV Academy

It is 2 a.m. and, heavy-eyed, you put the final touches on the English paper that is due that morning and collapse thankfully into the welcoming bed.

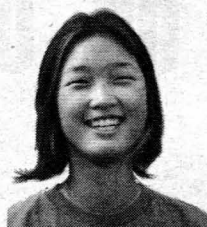
That day, the sun seems unduly oppressive, even threatening. The lectures slide through your skull and right out the opposite ear; all that is caught is the next assignment due too soon for your overworked body to sustain. And you know that you look like something spewed up by the cat.

A few days pass, and with three upcoming college admission tests, college applications, advanced placement tests, semester projects, semester and quarter finals, a nagging mom, and of course, the normal, everyday homework, life appears a bit crowded. Perhaps more than a bit crowded.

Stress is that constant unwanted neighbor, that annoying kid in class that keeps on appearing in your view. And it goes hand in hand with life as a high school student. Adults, parents especially, occasionally remark upon their childhoods and how when they were young, they also lived through stress. Apparently, this is supposed to make it all better.

The bouts of headaches, depression, anxiety, insomnia (assisted by nightly caffeine shots), nervous twitches and various other conditions plague those constantly drowning in stress. The student is a veteran in the war against the affliction, though the source of the tension is often unknown, leaving the poor sap feeling even more drained on some days without a clue why. It is buried and ignored though the effects continue to take their toll.

"All the clinical and lab research shows that the perception of not having control is very stressful," says Paul



Rosch, a clinical professor of medicine and psychiatry and president of the American Institute of Stress, in an

interview with USA Today.

The hypothetical student is overburdened, but that isn't the entire enchilada of the problem. That kid is driven by what is expected and what has to be done, stressed from the lack of control.

I once heard a threat that if I didn't ace my classes, and that if I didn't get into an acclaimed university of good standing, and that if I didn't earn myself a good job, my life

would be screwed up. Of course, my retort was when was I supposed to experience childhood; when was I to live? When I turn 80? A good grade is nice; it makes you feel special.

A good college is nice; it makes you feel special. A good job is nice; it makes you money. But, if I give myself a heart attack from stressing, how am I to reap the fruits of my pain and suffering?

The brand new year is tough for some and nerve-racking for others, but the fact is that it is your year and your life. Life is the trudging on the unknown road; don't give yourself hair loss, heart problems, skin problems or muscle pains to go along with it.

Imagine your happy place, relax, or as Rosch suggests, make a list of the stressful and take control. Also, aerobic exercise "promotes health and energy," says David Myers, a social psychologist in the USA Today.

If you are one of the really lost, buy a guidebook to relaxation and make yourself who you want to be, not that irritable crank only the best of friends will not avoid. And don't procrastinate on that killer project.

**Headaches, depression, anxiety, insomnia and twitches plague those constantly drowning in stress.**

## LoveSac Use #191

### Comfortable Drive-In Seating.



Mention this ad through November 26th  
and receive 10% off your sale.

## Now open! In the Galleria Mall



1300 W. Sunset Road, #2313  
Henderson, NV 89014

702-434-0047

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sun. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

# Athletes challenge gender bias on, off the field

By Tara Maguinness,  
Centennial HS

Going to a game in 1950, the average person would have noticed all the cute little girl cheerleaders cheering for the big, masculine football players. However, as the years have passed by, the separation of girls and boys in sports is starting to diminish. So instead of seeing girl cheerleaders cheering on guy football players, one might see male cheerleaders cheering on female football players.

For many sports, girls' teams have been established for the girls who are interested in playing. Take Centennial High School for example. At the moment, there are girls' teams for golf, basketball, bowling, tennis, swimming, volleyball, soccer, cross-country and track. There are no girls' teams for football, wrestling or baseball (softball is not the same game).

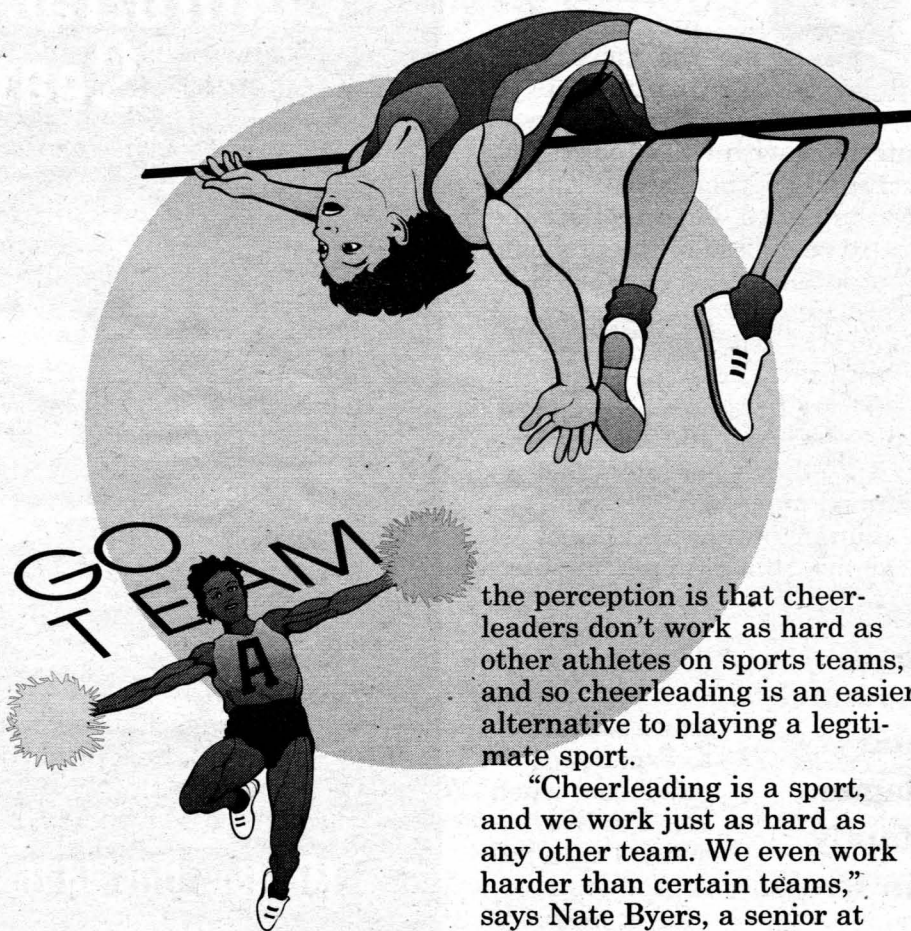
According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, as cited by Sports Illustrated, 2,870 girls played prep football in the 2001-2002 school year, and 1,141 were on baseball teams. Alongside that, 2,200 boys played traditionally female sports in 2002.

Many people believe that girls' and boys' sports should be completely separated. The typical male and female stereotypes are still widely believed, and this could prevent a harmonious relationship between the sexes on a playing field.

"The stereotypical roles of men are known to be aggressiveness and power, and women's stereotypical characteristics have been more passive, sympathetic and submissive," says Mr. Beattie, the psychology teacher at Centennial.

Male cheerleaders make a big difference in the way a cheerleading routine runs. They are able to provide leadership and make the routine easier.

"Male cheerleaders are a lot stronger than girls and give us the strength we need to get



through the routine. They also make the squad more fun and make everything look easier," says Jillian Ferrario, a junior at Centennial.

Some people like to make fun of male cheerleaders, and they are targeted often because of their public attention. One of the things many male cheerleaders are accused of is being homosexual. There are some male cheerleaders who are, but there are also many who are not.

"Cheerleading has traditionally been a female activity," says Beattie. "Whenever a particular gender enters a field which the opposite gender has populated, they are perceived as sharing those same characteristics. Male cheerleader equals female characteristics."

Cheerleading has many times been challenged on whether or not it is considered a sport, or is merely a club or activity in which the people with skill participate. This could also be a problem that male cheerleaders face because

the perception is that cheerleaders don't work as hard as other athletes on sports teams, and so cheerleading is an easier alternative to playing a legitimate sport.

"Cheerleading is a sport, and we work just as hard as any other team. We even work harder than certain teams," says Nate Byers, a senior at Centennial.

Byers is one of the three male cheerleaders on the cheerleading squad at Centennial. He can hold a girl up in the air with one hand and is an example of the strength males provide to cheerleading. Many people's opinions change when they see how well the male cheerleaders work with the female cheerleaders.

"I think people look at them differently, but when they see what they can do, they're actually impressed," says Ferrario.

If a boy wants to get involved with cheerleading, it could prove to be very beneficial. Many colleges throughout the country provide scholarships for male cheerleaders.

"Guys shouldn't be afraid to cheerlead because it's not that bad as far as catching flack for it," says Byers. "Plus you'll get a scholarship practically anywhere you want to go. I'm planning on getting one from the University of Hawaii."

Cheerleading is the primary sport in which the average person will see males and females

working side by side, and it is the most commonly accepted. Girls, on the other hand, have much more controversy surrounding them when they play a male-dominated sport.

Many guys face some psychological problems when they are competing against girls. Thoughts flash through their minds of what their peers will think of them if they win or lose. According to the stereotype, if a guy beats a girl in a sport, it isn't considered a big deal, but if a girl beats a guy in a sport, that guy will face taunts from his peers.

"I am terrified of being beaten by a girl," says Weston Robinson, a senior varsity football player. "That's my pride and dignity down the drain and thrown out the window all at one time. It may be a guy thing, or me, but I would do anything to beat a girl or not lose. In my mind it's not an option."

There are different theories as to why males are so threatened by being outplayed by a girl.

"If a male believes in the gender stereotype of a female being passive, submissive, 'weaker,' then he may feel that getting beaten by a female illustrates that he himself has those same characteristics," says Beattie.

Because of social problems that may occur on a team, some think that it may be better to form completely separate teams for girls in the sports that do not offer alternatives. Others don't see the need or the popularity demand to do so.

"I don't see the need to separate boys and girls in wrestling," says Tad McGuire, a junior and varsity wrestler at Centennial. "It would get too complicated. Girls are proving themselves more capable all the time. I think before we know it, they'll be taking guys out."

The way females and males would get along with each other is a major concern in the minds of young girls thinking of trying

*Continued on page 13*

# Coronado athletes reverse traditional male, female roles

By Renee Kashka and Riley Marriage, Coronado HS

In a world where women can walk on the moon and men can bake cookies, the gender-specific ways of early stereotypes no longer seem so evident.

It is no longer uncommon for a CEO to conduct office meetings in a miniskirt and heels or for a nurse to have a five-o'clock shadow. Break-

ing out of society's traditional male and female roles, three Coronado High School students have performed a "role reversal." In this fall's sports season, the varsity

football team features a female kicker, and the varsity cheer squad sports two male cheerleaders.

Cheerleading is more than girls with bouncy hair and short skirts. It's a sport, and a tough one at that.

"I would love for [judgmental people] to try out and experience the difficulties of cheerleading," says Anthony, a Coronado junior and one of the male cheerleaders.

Ali Smallwood, the newest member of the Coronado football team, says, "Everyone is pretty cool with me being on the team."

While Smallwood's com-

ments about her involvement with the football team have been positive, Anthony says, "Of course I have been treated differently! You have chauvinistic men who like to make derogatory comments."

While the reasons for joining their respective activities are different, neither regrets his or her decision.

"[The football coach] asked my soccer coach if he had any-

one interested in kicking for the football team," says Smallwood. "My name came up and I was asked to come out to practice, and now they can't get rid of me." Smallwood has been one of the main

goal scorers on Coronado's girls' soccer team for the past two seasons.

Anthony joined cheerleading because it seemed like an interesting thing to do and something that would stand out on his college applications. Both students agree that the coaches have not treated them any differently from their teammates.

"To the coaches, I'm just another player who happens to be a girl," says Smallwood.

Society may never truly agree to the idea of role-reversals among men and women, but this is certainly a small step in the right direction.

have all been the most nervous we've ever been," says McGuire.

It is thought in the near future that most sports will become co-ed because, as some people say, females are becoming stronger physically and mentally as each year passes. Despite that no one knows how long it will take for sports to become co-ed, it is definitely a good possibility.

"If sports aren't co-ed in the future, then they definitely should be," says Byers. "There should be no segregation at all. If you think you can, just do it."

**"To the coaches, I'm just another player who happens to be a girl."**

**— Ali Smallwood**

## Gender bias

*Continued from page 12*

out for a male team. They don't know how the coach, the players or the audience will treat them.

"A girl on the baseball team would be treated very differently," says Will Scarlett, a senior varsity baseball player at Centennial. "Since it is so uncommon for a girl to be on the team, the guys would feel awkward in her presence."

"Myself and everyone else I know who has wrestled a girl,

## the look

# There's no room for 'pop' in real punk

By Yoshabel Cortez, Las Vegas HS

About every three years, teenagers dig up some crazy fashion trend from back in time.

In 1997, platform shoes and bellbottom pants from the '70s era were popular in schools. In 2001, a wave of the '60s era trend would be in every girl's closet. From hemp chokers to tie-dyed shirts, this hippie trend was famous for about a year. Now in 2003, a new trend has been borrowed from the '80s era: punk.

"Pop punk" is a new trend that has been infecting America since Kelly Osbourne started wearing her hair fluorescent pink and Avril Lavigne started wearing her cut up tube socks on her wrists. This seems like a beginning to another mock of an era's fashion.

This isn't a new discovery, though. Punk was famous even before we were thought of.

Las Vegas High School junior Kim Dobiesz says that pop punk is "trying to bring back something that has been gone and lost."

Punk music derived from the style of the '70s and the early '80s. The music is guitar motivated. The importance is upon content, belligerence, and having a hidden message that will affect the audience somehow. It is very essential to keep in mind that punk music was an answer to disco and arena rock. The new wave of '80s punk introduced this nation to new bands like Black Flag, The Ramones, The Sex Pistols and The Clash.

All you see now around campus and on TV is punk. Bright-colored hair, two differently colored Chuck Taylor shoes, and stretched out piercings with big plugs.

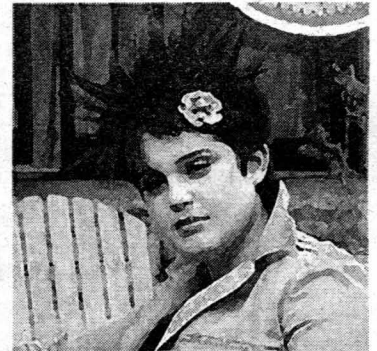
Frankly, punk isn't even close to coming back. Teenagers swear on anything that being punk is having the clothes, shopping at Hot Topic and listening to the music.

Melissa Melendez, a Las Vegas High junior, exclaimed that teenagers "are not trying to be punk anymore. Punk back then was original; nowadays, it's a copy from everybody else."

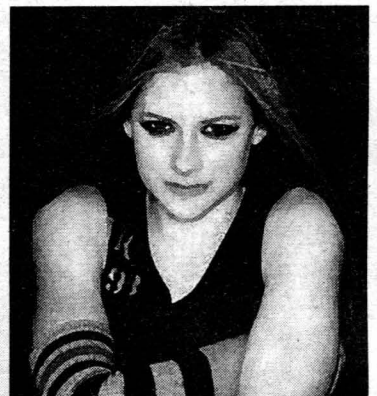
Just because a year ago you were wearing Gap clothes and now you have been shopping at Hot Topic and buying a whole bunch of Sum 41 t-shirts doesn't label you a punk. Or as Melendez explained it, "One day a preppy chic would be like, 'Oh My Gosh!' and then they will start saying 'I'm punk.'"

Dobiesz's definition of punk is "someone who doesn't care," but she notices that kind of punk is extinct. She expressed that, "If you want to be punk, be punk, but stop trying to be pop."

The bottom line is, punk is not punk from MTV, or from what the media have been broadcasting. Punk can be defined in many ways. There can be preps who have Pennywise in their CD players or chic girls who have Sevendust posters all over their rooms. True punkers would not worry about how many spikes they have on their chokers, or how erect their Mohawks are; a true punker doesn't care about what other people think.



Kelly Osbourne, above, and Avril Lavigne helped usher in the new punk "revival."



Imagine: A teenage boy and a small band of other teenagers set out to race late Friday night. The spectators are lining up as the boy's adrenaline pulses through every vein in his body; electricity charges the air around him as he slides into the familiar driver's seat and prepares to race.

There's the signal! With the reflexes of a cat he slams down the clutch, shifts into gear and rockets forward. Soon each of the two racers is flying, 90 miles per hour, down a rural road. Each teen inches forward until the hood of the cars are even. Sweat glistens on the boy's brow and his palms feel slick.

Suddenly the headlights of a van turning the corner just beyond the racers splash across the windshield of each car, illuminating the panic-stricken faces of the young adults. Nothing can be seen; nothing can be heard but the screech of tires as they hammer the breaks and then the sickening crunch of metal against metal. A racer opens his eyes in the dark of night to catch all too vividly the destruction that lies ahead. The van is unrecognizable, two cars entwined as one, shattered glass, bent iron, jagged aluminum, and a bumper sticker reading: "Baby on Board."

Among the infamous sports participated in throughout the United States, street racing is quickly gaining popularity. Within the last four years, street racing has hugely gained fame, growing from that of a small town pastime to a devastatingly dangerous sport.

Street racing is the congregation of two or more vehicles on a long road or highway where, at a given signal, they race. Street racing has become popular enough that there are in fact different styles of races: organized races, impromptu races and poker races.

During an organized race, cars will line up on an industrial roadway to race in the early hours of the morning. An impromptu race is classified as two cars that pull up to a red traffic light and then race when it turns green. Finally, a poker race is a race in which a starting point and a final destination are selected, and the racers must weave between traffic to arrive at the selected point first.

Each year, more people are killed in vehicle-related accidents than in all other crimes combined. Hundreds of these are



Photo by Stephanie Espinoza.

"Every 15 Minutes" staged this accident at Green Valley HS. See the complete story on page 34.

## 2 Fast, 2 Furious 2 Live! Illegal street racing lures teens down deadly road

By Danielle Klevgard, Centennial HS

contributions from street racing. So what is causing teens to congregate late Friday and Saturday nights to take part in or observe these races?

Metro Undersheriff Douglas Gillespie attributes some blame to movies. He believes that since "The Fast and the Furious" hit theatres, teens and adults alike have been seeking the heart-pounding adrenaline rush produced in this 2001 box-office hit. In the movie, street racing is glorified to look cool and rugged.

"Kids just don't think about the consequences of their actions," Gillespie says.

Unfortunately illegal racing isn't a movie. It is not something for which one gets a stunt double. When a person wrecks the car, they can seriously injure themselves as well as innocent bystanders.

According to Gillespie, spectators contribute to a lot of the peer pressure and danger during races. And why shouldn't this be? With seven of a guy's closest buddies urging him to race because "it would be fun," how can he

turn it down? With the girls (or guys) watching apprehensively, waiting to be impressed, how can he resist the sweet taste of potential victory? How can he risk looking like a "wuss"?

"I'd tell them to think about the consequences of their actions. Think about how they'd feel if they lost control..." says Gillespie.

What would you do if you lost control?

"It makes me nervous knowing that there are reckless people who are out racing," says Centennial High School senior Jordan Lietz.

Street racing is a serious offense. A street racer may be issued a ticket worth up eight demerits on his or her driving record. There is approximately a 10 percent increase in insurance for every demerit on an individual's driving record. So, obtaining eight demerits will not only seriously threaten a person's driver's license, but will cause his or her insurance to increase by about 80 percent!

Along with increased insurance, a person pulled over for

street racing may also face a \$200-\$1,000 fine, imprisonment, suspension of license, loss of license or vehicle impoundment. Although these penalties exist, the real goal is to keep racers off the street completely, not to deal with them once they're there. Some would argue that these laws are unfair and too harsh.

"They are fair," says Centennial High School senior and street racer Ricky Roche. "I know it's a dangerous hobby."

Since the Las Vegas Motor Speedway opened, an "Operation Safe Street Program" has been undertaken in an attempt to lure racers off the streets and onto the track. On designated nights, for a small fee of \$10, licensed drivers 18 years of age and up and with legal vehicles may meet at the speedway for a simulated street race. The goal is to make the race as similar to an actual street race as possible.

Is this program working? The number of illegal street racers arrested has not shown huge improvement. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a way, as of yet, that will prevent all illegal street racing. According to Officer Gillespie, people just aren't interested in something fake. There isn't as much of a danger aspect to it. It's not illegal, and getting away with it, if you can, is half the challenge.

The speedway has rules, whereas illegal racing does not.

If racing is so dangerous, then why are teens taking part in this deadly affair? Some say it's the adrenaline rush, while others, such as Roche, say, "For fun and thrill. Also to try to make my car one of the fastest on the street."

Whatever the reason is, more teens seem to be getting involved in racing every day. Perhaps in the future, a foolproof and effective plan may be drawn up to remove illegal racing for good, but for now police must deal with it one racer at a time.

Imagine: A small group of teenagers are hanging out at a 7-Eleven late Friday night when one of them suggests hitting the races tonight. One teenage boy thinks for a moment before answering, "Hey, why not just go chill back at my house?"

Meanwhile, a van, miles away, turns the corner, its headlights sweeping an empty street and a 6-month-old baby rests silently in the back seat as her mother sings gently to her through the still of a starry night.

# Students learn to take the bad with the good

**Editor's note:** The recently released study, "Education for Democracy" conducted by the non-partisan Albert Shanker Foundation criticizes American high schools for teaching an overly "negative depiction" of American history. According to the study, Nevada ranks among the worst in educating teens about U.S. government and history. To read the report, go to [www.ashankerinst.org](http://www.ashankerinst.org). To register your opinion, vote in our online poll at [www.classmag.com](http://www.classmag.com).

By Stephanie Espinoza, Green Valley HS



What is patriotism? It's defined as feeling or expressing love for your country. When my history teacher last year asked the class how many people considered themselves patriotic, a majority raised their hands. But I didn't know whether to raise mine or not. Did patriotism mean nothing more than wearing red, white and blue to school on Sept. 11? Did it mean you had to agree with the government no matter what it did?

I also wondered about how teachers were portraying America. In elementary school, you learn to say the Pledge of Allegiance every day without considering what it means, and you hear about how perfect our founding fathers were. But when you get into high school, you learn more about the mistakes that took place, and a lot of the bad things America did. People could take this to mean that students are taught to be anti-American, but I don't see it that way at all.

What a lot of people fail to realize is that the world is not as black and white as we make it out to be. When casually tossing out labels of patriotic or anti-American, the possibility that someone might lie somewhere in the middle is hardly noticed. But that doesn't seem fair. Why should someone be thrown into the category of "traitor" if they support the military, just not the war?

In school, we are being taught about the mistakes our government and our country made, but we are also being taught about the great triumphs our nation has had. Rather than learning to hate our country, we learn

that it is rather like a human being — it has within it the ability to be good or bad, and can show characteristics of either or both. With this viewpoint, I don't see how America can be loved without question, since no one is that perfect — or completely hated, since we have built ourselves into an amazing society.

This is what I have gotten out of my classes, especially since my teachers have been able to instruct without bias in either direction. But I wanted to know how my peers felt as well.

After taking a survey in one of my senior classes on the subject of America, I was able to receive many diverse opinions that were interesting to hear all at once.

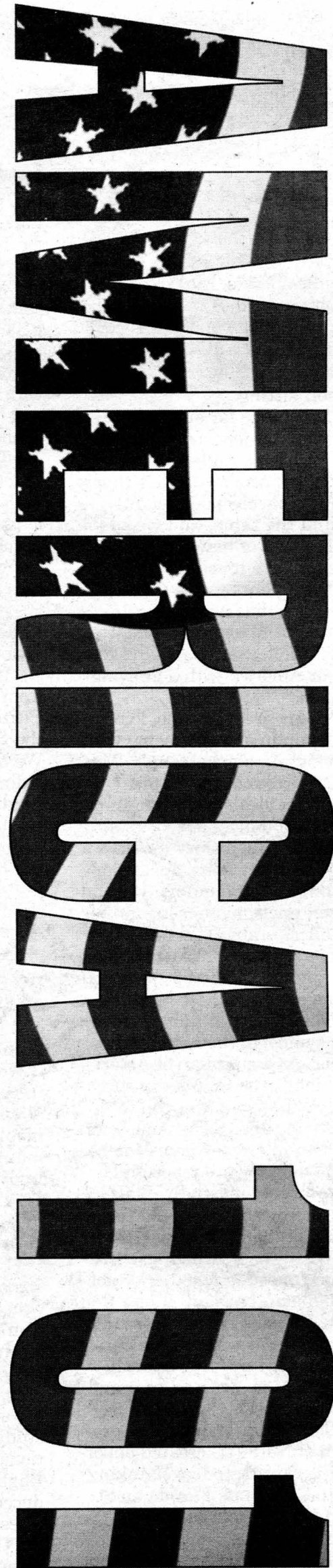
My first fear was that in asking if students thought themselves to be patriotic, anti-American or somewhere in the middle, most would answer "patriotic" because of the positive connotation the word holds. But only half of the students considered themselves strongly patriotic while the other half stated they were somewhere in the middle: supporting our country on many occasions, but not unwilling to question it.

When asked how their social studies teachers portrayed America, most responded that the classes were unbiased, with teachers showing America just as I had seen it.

"My government teacher has done a fairly good job of pointing out both the good and the bad, as does my Econ teacher," says Green Valley High School senior Joe Rosania. "My teachers are generally pretty liberal, and I consider myself conservative. Hearing their opinion strengthens mine, although I try my best to remain objective."

So even if teachers do reveal some of their own opinions in class, it doesn't appear that the lessons themselves are influencing students in any direction against their will. The majority of my classmates responded that they were able to learn for themselves in the classes, though they did hold respect for the opinions of their teachers who had more experience.

It seems that students do believe themselves to be getting a fair education in regard to our country. It also seems that many are able to form their own strong ideas about it. The hope is that in the future, moderation will be given as much thought as the extreme. People don't deserve to be categorized so specifically any more than America does. Like our country, each person is made up of so many different parts.



# U.S. military offers benefits at home and abroad

By  
Stephanie  
Hartman,  
Centennial  
HS



**A**s a  
**CLASS!**

intern, I recently found myself sitting at their office for our monthly production meeting. We were discussing possible story ideas for the November issue's theme. Thoughts were pouring out around the table, and we came to the topic of how and what teachers are teaching students.

In response to the proposed viewpoint that Americans are being taught to hate America, I find myself disagreeing and rooting for America with a growing passion.

To my great fortune, I've grown up in a decent home with a loving, supportive family. My life is surrounded with pro-American ideals that I am reminded of daily.

My family history includes a long list of veterans. Just from my immediate family, my grandfather, uncle, mother and father are all veterans. This fact has taught me to appreciate the military and its benefits from a young age.

The American military serves as a symbol of the nation's power. As a guardian of American rights, the military ensures that no foreign power can infringe upon or violate American freedom in any fashion. Members of the military are respectful, honorable, heroic individuals who sacrifice much in the performance of their duties.

With this upbringing, there was no question whether or not I should join the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program when it was available to me. I signed up for it immediately. This is my third year and I have no regrets.

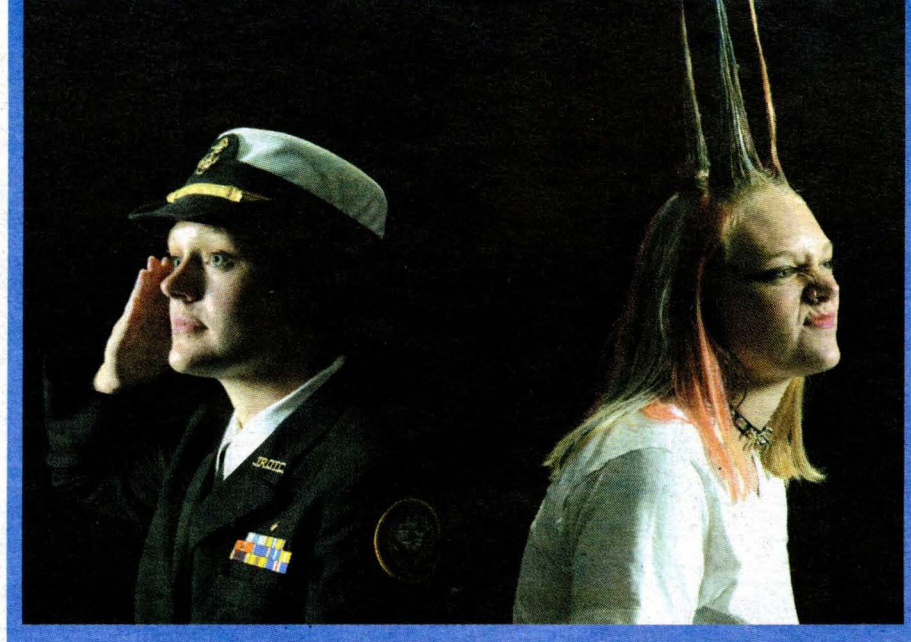
The military-sponsored program of NJROTC created opportunities for me to travel, taking me to California, Florida and even Hawaii. (No complaints here.)

In addition, I have the opportunity to have the military spon-

sor me to go to any college with an ROTC program. Essentially, if I take this path, I'll receive a degree for free and become an officer! Think about it. The military can pay for my college and give me an occupation. Even if I choose not to make a career of the military, I will be trained and prepared for applying to other jobs as an individual with a vast amount of experience and training. The military opens windows of opportunity.

The military and the U.S. government have provided me with many benefits: traveling, learning life skills, improving discipline, fine-tuning my attention to detail and getting an education. The list goes on and on. It is safe to say that I will even continue to reap the benefits of a country such as ours.

It's not just me who benefits from U.S. government programs. Citizens from countries across the world are benefiting as well. We help countries in need by providing food support, government-establishing guidance and natural disaster aid. We also provide support in various conflicts, and our breakthroughs in science are



Americans show their patriotism in many ways, from military service to red, white and blue painted hair.

shared with others, along with health awareness education provided to poor countries without access to information.

John F. Kennedy's famous quote, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," rings true to me. America provides much to her citizens, and I feel I owe something to her in return.

Sure, America has had some hiccups and bumps in the road of its short history. Because America is not perfect, it doesn't make me love being an American any less. In fact, it makes me work harder to utilize my rights

as a citizen in a flourishing democracy to improve America's future as a society.

A combination of my family and environment has helped me to evolve into the patriotic, supportive citizen that I am. I know that I am an American. I feel pride running through my veins into my heart, to my very soul, which ultimately guides me to do what is right. I am forever indebted to America for what it has done and will do for me.

Therefore, I want to wholeheartedly serve the nation because it not only serves me, it serves me well!

## Looking at America from the outside

By Stephanie Hartman,  
Centennial HS

**I**'m proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free..." Lee Greenwood's patriotic song lyrics strike a burning inspiration in the hearts of many Americans and, surprisingly, even foreigners.

I was given the opportunity to have an interview with one such person visiting the U.S.

Nicole Zehrfeld, a 16-year-old senior at Centennial High School, is a citizen of Germany visiting the U.S. until June.

In August, she bravely left her comfortable home, her parents, a younger brother and her cat in Germany. For what? To study under the American educational system and to improve her English skills while being introduced, firsthand, to the culture of a resident American.

Certainly, as with many exchange students, there was a

level of culture shock for Zehrfeld. After all, there is a dramatic difference between a small country town with 400 residents and the bustling, busy metropolis of Las Vegas.

For example, her class size dramatically increased from an average of 20 back home to 35 students per class at Centennial. While she is studying similar subjects to those in her home school, Zehrfeld considers it a privilege to educate herself among the Las Vegas community.

A week or so before her departure, she and several other German exchange students were briefed on German history, including the Nazi era, and prepared for the possibility that some individuals may not have forgotten the past. Upon being asked if they were proud to be Germans, the students didn't respond to the question.

"Americans are proud to be

Americans," Zehrfeld says. "We could never be so proud of our land. I mean I could never say I'm so proud of Germany."

Regarding a recent study about the teaching of anti-Americanism in American public high schools, I asked Zehrfeld: Are Americans being taught to hate America by their teachers?

Having been here for several months, she observed from an outsider's perspective that this was not the case. She commented on the displaying of the nation's flag everywhere from schools to gas stations to government buildings. In addition she remarked that we stand daily, as a school, and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

"They haven't these things in Germany," she says.

In fact, Zehrfeld was in disbelief over the question.

"American people love America, and you can see that."



# High school elections choose popular, not best, candidates

By Farah Minwalla, Palo Verde HS

One aspect of high school life that has students fired up is the student council voting process.

Typically, popular students are elected to student council. In the cluster of high school life, all you need is to be popular. If you can have this popularity, the upper-classmen will not ridicule you or turn you upside down and throw you into a trashcan.

Of course, some student council members are so-called "blessed" with being popular, but what is really on my mind is: Will these girls and boys represent our school with the justice it deserves? Will they actually think about what can be improved on the campus? Or will these "representatives" only think about how they get

to leave class early, or even something more stupid: how they get to go to the dances for free?

Many times I see students run for class office with no actual purpose for it. The requirements to hold office include

maintaining a cumulative 3.0 GPA throughout their term. Shouldn't the expectations be elevated to a 3.5 GPA?

Why do students get voted in for

positions that are way above their potential? The saddest thing is that the more qualified, though not-so-popular student — the underdog — is more than likely not voted as the winner.

Pick the candidate whom you trust and who can actually make a difference. An individual actually has to know how to work hard to get somewhere in life. This is a skill that popular students will wish they had learned.

## Will these girls and boys represent our school with the justice it deserves?

# Veterans' Day is more than just another day off

By Charles Trujillo, Green Valley HS

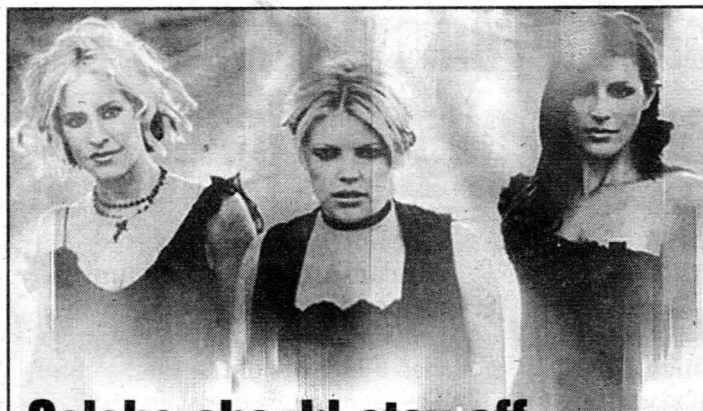
On Nov. 11, all students in Clark County have the day off for Armistice Day, also called Veterans' Day. Almost everyone sees it as another holiday that we get off to go hang out with friends and sleep in or catch up on homework. But there is an actual significance to this day, and in this current time of war, the meaning of Veterans' Day is important to all of us.

Originally, Veterans' Day was known as Armistice Day, the eleventh day of the eleventh month, when the truce that ended World War I was declared in 1918. On the anniversary of the truce each year, many states declared the day a holiday to remember all the fallen soldiers who had fought in the war.

In 1926, Congress issued a proclamation, making Nov. 11 a national day to remember the soldiers of WWI. In 1938, Congress extended the honors by making Nov. 11 "Armistice Day," a national holiday to celebrate peace and to honor veterans of the World War. After World War II and the Korean War, in 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower and Congress widened the scope of veterans honored on Nov. 11 by proclaiming it "Veterans' Day."

Now, veterans of all wars and those who currently serve in the armed forces are honored in order to recognize those who have helped us gain and keep our independence throughout every war and conflict we have fought in.

To have the freedom to have holidays like this and to get off school and relax is great. So when you're with your friends and you're having a good time, remember the reason this day exists.



The Dixie Chicks lost half of their fan base by criticizing President Bush. Does being a public entertainment figure give them the right to publicly voice their personal political opinions?

# Celebs should stay off the political soapbox

By Tasha Lahera, Eldorado HS

Hey Punk Rock Kid, stay out of politics! That's what President Bush is thinking right about now.

Everyone's got an opinion. Celebrities are no different, but some stars have chosen to be more vocal and forceful about their opinions. A few well known musical artists are not only being vocal, they have decided to take it one step further by compiling an album called "Rock Against Bush" to voice their frustrations with our current president.

The CD will be followed up by two U.S. tours for the same cause — preaching to young people. The bands are enraged about what's been going on in the country under Bush's tenure; they want to oust him and "change the world."

The question that this poses is whether they should be using their celebrity status to propagate their personal opinions. They feel that kids need to vote against Bush.

Yes, they hate Bush and they want you to vote against him too. They want their fans and all the kids in the "punk rock community" to vote against Bush because they feel that's the way all people who live in the punk rock lifestyle should feel.

They have some good arguments, but their passion has riled up others. Many feel that celebrities, specifically these celebrities, are unequipped (too biased) to look at both sides of the story, and others just think they should shut up and stick to playing music.

Are they going too far by pushing their opinions on others, or are they just fighting for something they believe in? The bands, other than Sum 41, are just citizens like everyone else, but many of them have been put under fire for expressing their not-so-popular opinions.

"I don't think celebrities should peddle their opinions; look at what happened with the Dixie Chicks," Eldorado High School senior Natalie Cook says. "They were criticized and lost half their fan base just because they expressed their feelings against Bush."

By definition entertainers entertain. Do they have the right to use their fame to push anything other than CDs?

Freedom gives us the right to attack policies we disagree with. But when entertainers start telling their fans who to vote for, they've crossed the line, and anyone who follows like an automaton is just flat out dumb.

"I think performers should keep their opinions to themselves," Eldorado senior Patty Eliason says. "People idolize celebrities and will follow whatever they say, even if it's an opinion and not fact."

The fact is there will always be those who slam any opinion that differs from their own. These bands might just be making it worse for their cause by "pressing the wrong buttons" of people who might otherwise take them seriously in a different form.

The Bush administration has made some questionable decisions, but "spouting off" never works, especially when people base their arguments on passion rather than reason.

Is it a good idea for music artists, actors and sports stars to get involved in public displays of partisanship? That's debatable, but it is hoped that most people will not blindly vote one way because some famous people got up on stage without much knowledge and told them to be cool and follow what they say.

# Civil Rights Movement paved road to freedom for all Americans

By Neal Morton,  
Community College. HS

In December of 1955, a black seamstress named Rosa Parks started a chain of events that would lead to a momentous era in American history known as the Civil Rights Movement.

In Montgomery, Ala., any black person who occupied a seat on any city bus was required to give it up if a white person ordered it. Parks, in courageous defiance, refused to give up her

seat and was thus arrested. The African-American community formed the Montgomery Improvement Association to supervise a boycott of the bus system. This boycott, led by Martin Luther King Jr., made way for the banning of segregated buses.

Similar events, headed by other bold civil rights activists, inspired a movement for more rights for African-Americans. "Sit-ins" (where protestors like Joseph McNeill would quietly sit at segregated lunch counters), "kneel-ins" (blacks would pray on

the steps of churches where they were denied entrance), and freedom marches were among those events. One notable event occurred in Little Rock, Ark. Here President Eisenhower was forced to send in the military to stop a mob from blocking nine black students from entering a desegregated high school.

On Aug. 28, 1963, hundreds of thousands of marchers, including both blacks and whites, converged on Washington, D.C. to demand that Congress and President John F. Kennedy grant equal access to public facilities, public education, equal employment and decent housing for African-Americans. It was here that Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his emotive "I Have a Dream" speech that helped convince Congress in 1964 to pass the Civil Rights Act, which stopped minority groups from being excluded from, or being segregated in, restaurants, motels, theaters and other public buildings. The Act prohibited discrimination because of race, color, religion or national origin, thus stopping segregation in public buildings.

However, none of these incidents compared to an event in Marion, Ala., known as Bloody Sunday. In Marion, a state trooper killed a peaceful demonstrator. Outraged by the incident, the black community organized a massive march, led by King, and they planned to go from Selma to Montgomery, the state capital. There, they would ask the governor to stop the police brutality and focus on helping the black struggle for the right to vote. On March 7, 1964, "Bloody Sunday," marchers

reached the city line and were met by state troopers who immediately used tear gas and batons against the praying group of protestors, finally chasing them into a black housing project where police continued to beat the demonstrators. This event attracted national attention, causing President Lyndon Johnson and Congress to finally pass the Voting Rights Act in 1965, prohibiting states from using any method that prevented African-Americans from voting.

While the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 did bring the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin, African-Americans still had a long way to go to battle racism and discrimination.

Nevertheless, this momentous period in American history inspired many other movements, including the feminist movement. Even today, gay rights activists look back to the civil rights movement as a model for gaining victories in the battle for civil rights.

Thanks to national heroes like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Joseph McNeill and thousands of others courageous enough to stand up and fight for the equality ensured by the Constitution, America is striving to become a nation in which no one's children will be judged by the color of their skin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disabilities and other differences.

Someday, America will be a country in which all of these differences will be forgotten, and everyone will truly be judged solely by the content of his or her character.

## Students need to care more about their government

By Daniel Steffey,  
Sierra Vista HS

Can you name the vice president of the United States? What about the chief justice of the Supreme Court? Or even the secretary of state?

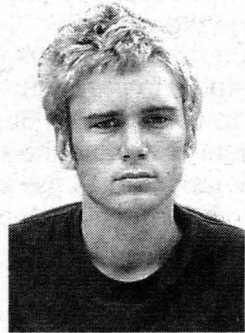
It seems as if today's youth cannot answer many of these questions. Why is this? It surely does not mean that they are unintelligent — just apathetic.

A survey was taken at Sierra Vista High School in which random students were asked these five questions: Name the president, vice president and the secretary of state, and name which political party has the majority in the U.S. Senate and which political party has the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Out of the students surveyed, 90 percent were able to name the president, 60 percent were able to name the vice president, 40 percent were able to name the secretary of state, 25 percent were able to tell what party has the majority in the Senate, and 30 percent were able to tell which party has the majority in the House.

Of course, not all people would be able to answer all of these questions, and that does not make younger people less intelligent.

However, it does show how the youth of today do not really



keep up with political issues as much as the youth of the 1960s and 1970s did.

For those who do not know, George W.

Bush is the president, Dick Cheney is the vice president, Colin Powell is the secretary of state, and the Republican Party has the majority in both the House and the Senate.

Sierra Vista senior Nick Snyder comments on the results of the survey saying, "I am very disappointed in the youth for not being more involved in political affairs."

Voter turnout has also been decreasing over the years with a few increases only in times of depression and war.

Voter turnout is about 50 percent in federal elections, with about 25 to 35 percent in state and local elections, as well as primary elections.

Lack of political knowledge does not necessarily mean lack of intellect, but rather shows that the apathy of the American public is on the rise. Students and adults need to shake off the apathy and care about who is running our country. Important freedoms may be lost if this is not done.

open mic

### Immortal

By Sandra Buensalida, Coronado HS

Up at the clear sky, are my innocent eyes  
Lost in a bottomless sea, my secret lies  
On remote mountaintops, echo my ears  
In low murky clouds, drop and hold my tears.  
Beneath the coarse soil, my pain is buried  
By the curious wind, my mind is carried.  
With nervous quakes, my prime fear grows  
Engraved in diamonds, my spirit glows  
Along barren beaches, my ego is free  
Imprinted on stone, is my memory.  
Within a young flower, blooms all of my love  
Amongst the distant stars, my soul hangs from above  
And thus I live immortally in line  
For my heart beats forever in precious time.

# Díganos

## La acción afirmativa le roba a los estudiantes sus derechos

Por Colleen Bill, Eldorado HS



¿Debería ser la raza el factor más importante a la hora de decidir si asistes o no a una universidad en particular? Parece que algunos colegios sí lo piensan así.

En muchos papeles de admisión en las universidades le dan una consideración especial a los estudiantes que hacen parte de una minoría. En una situación donde dos estudiantes tienen un expediente académico similar, su raza puede ser lo que determine la aceptación a la universidad. ¿Es esto una práctica para darle a las minorías una ventaja justa? La respuesta es no.

“Soy china-americana,” dice Christina Chea, estudiante del último año de Eldorado. “Considero que soy parte de la minoría asiática aquí en de Estados Unidos, pero la raza no debería ser ningún factor importante y menos para las admisiones en las universidades. Ya existen becas que ayudan a las minorías; darles extra puntos no sería justo para otros estudiantes.”

Otra estudiante de Eldorado, Patty Eliason, quien está de acuerdo con

Chea dice, “A nadie le dan privilegios por su raza; no es culpa mía que soy ‘gringa.’”

La acción afirmativa supuestamente ayuda a las minorías dándoles un empuje y trayendo diversidad a las universidades. ¿Qué pasaría si una persona de raza blanca llena su aplicación en una universidad tradicionalmente de raza negra, como la universidad de Howard? ¿No debería tener la persona puntos extras ya que está trayendo diversidad a esta universidad?

¿Qué tal si algunos estudiantes católicos quieren asistir a BYU, un reconocido “colegio mormón”? ¿Traería su presencia diversidad religiosa, aceptación y entendimiento? Los homosexuales son una minoría, entonces, ¿deberíamos poner preguntas de preferencia sexual en las aplicaciones? Estamos tratando de ser justos, ¿cierto? Entonces, ¿por qué las personas homosexuales no tienen puntos extras mientras que una persona hispana sí tiene mucha más consideración?

La mayoría de los que viven en este país son una minoría de algún tipo, pero son pocos los que son recompensados por su singularidad. Ser parte de una minoría no es un indicador de que serás un

buen estudiante o no.

“Cualquier raza puede adaptarse en el colegio; el color de su piel no debería importar,” dice Chea.

Muchas personas creen que la acción afirmativa es la única manera para compensar la discriminación que fue, y sigue siendo, una gran parte de nuestra sociedad.

“Soy una mujer de raza negra, y nadie puede decirme que un

hombre de raza blanca y yo con los mismos grados, tenemos el mismo chance de entrar a cierta universidad,” dice Dominique Stingley.

Ayudar a un grupo de personas “robando” a otras es como tomar dos pasos para adelante y un paso hacia atrás.

Si un administrador de una universidad dijera, “Le daremos puntos a los estudiantes por ser de raza blanca,” él



o ella sería reprendido y llamado racista. Entonces, ¿cómo sí está permitido para los estudiantes de una minoría? Los colegios que les dan ese trato tan especial a las minorías son alabados por ser diversos y de mente abierta. ¿Para quién tiene sentido esto?

## Desde un champú hasta una ensalada mexicana, los avisos con contenido sexual isí se venden!

El sexo se vende — no hay duda alguna. La verdad es que el sexo es atractivo para personas de cualquier edad, género sexual, salario o religión. Desde las películas hasta la comida, el sexo siempre vende el producto. Los publicistas saben esto y hacen comerciales, pancartas y panfletos con el famoso “dulce para el ojo.”

En la sociedad de hoy, hermosas mujeres semi-desnudas son la clave para vender la mercancía. Estas mujeres son admiradas por los dos sexos --para las mujeres que quieren ser como ellas y para los hombres que quieren



Por Davina Coady y Megan McGinty, Centennial HS

estar con ellas.

La ciudad de Las Vegas es la capital del pecado y la tierra de producción de toda clase de avisos sexuales. Toma la vida de noche como un ejemplo: “Crazy Girls” (Chicas Locas), “Zumanity,” “Jubilee” (Jubileo), “Enter the Night” (Entra en la Noche), “Splash”

(Chapuzón), y otros son eventos exóticos en cabaretes llenos de oropel y glamour. Esas producciones tan “sofisticadas” muestran avisos alrededor de la ciudad de mujeres hermosas y glamorosas en poca ropa.

Detrás de la belleza de Las Vegas, se esconden poderosos hombres encargados de promover eventos de este tipo. Los turistas vienen de todos los lugares del mundo a ver la magnífica y famosa ciudad de Las Vegas, pero en cambio son bombardeados con imágenes pornográficas.

“Es verdaderamente inapropiado y de mal

Veá página 20

# 10 maneras de perder a un hombre... (rápido)

Por Eric Ruiz,  
Virgin Valley HS

Hay muchos misterios en la secundaria y los chicos no son uno de ellos. Todos somos criaturas con vidas muy simples. Hay muy pocas cosas que requerimos para poder seguir con nuestra existencia. Sin embargo, para muchas de ustedes, chicas, que no han encontrado la manera de retener a un chico, déjenme informarles de 10 cosas que de seguro te harán perder ese chico que tanto te gusta.

## 10. Ser "demasiado buena"

No me malinterpreten. Esto es para aquellas niñas que siempre entran a clase puntualmente, sacan perfectas calificaciones, nunca llegan tarde a casa, etc. Después de un tiempo, estas niñas se convierten en personas muy aburridas. Si tú crees que eres "demasiado buena," hazte el favor a ti misma y a tu novio de dejar las cosas un poco. Una actriz famosa alguna vez dijo, "Si sigues todas las reglas, te perderás de la diversión."

## 9. Siempre saber lo que él está haciendo

Esta puede llegar a ser irritante. Los hombres tienen que tener cierta privacidad. Créanme, si ustedes supieran exactamente todo sobre nosotros, no querrían saber nada de ningún hombre por el resto de la vida. Dale a tu chico un poco de espacio y muéstrale un poco de confianza.

## 8. Insistírle que le gusten tus amigos

"Amigo" es un término muy chistoso. Chicos y chicas tienden a llevar camarillas y mirar cómo todo el mundo actúa. Nosotros no esperamos que a ustedes les gusten todas las personas con las cuales compartimos, entonces por favor, ofrézcanos la misma cortesía. Hay personas que definitivamente no se pueden mirar de ojo a ojo, no importa qué tanto lo intentemos.

## 7. Hablar de sus ex-novios con él

Esta sí es bien grande. No nos importan sus ex-novios. No nos interesa qué tan mal las trataron, o qué tanto los odian, o cuánto los quieren, o qué tanto desean volver con ellos, o cuánto dinero gastaron en ustedes. Casi siempre nos molestamos cuando sale algún tema acerca de ellos.

## 6. Llorar mucho cuando estás con él

A los chicos no les gusta lo emocional. Tendemos a crecer más

con la lógica que con los sentimientos. Por lo tanto, no le encontramos sentido a estar llorando cada vez que alguien las mire mal. No justificamos una ruptura emocional porque no nos fue bien en un examen. Toleramos las lágrimas, pero chicas, ¡por favor traten de ser razonables!

## 5. Preguntar su opinión sobre todo

De nuevo, repito que nosotros los chicos somos muy simples. Lo que te pongas, tu peinado, la cantidad de maquillaje que te pones -esos detalles no son de importancia. No estamos con ustedes por cómo se visten ni por su peinado.

## 4. Llamarlo constantemente

Es aquí donde la mayoría pierde el control. Chicas, de verdad que nos gusta hablar con ustedes. Pero hasta cierto punto, hay algo que se llama 'demasiado.' Hay un diferencia entre llamar a tu novio lo suficiente y aburrirlo con las llamadas. Tengan mucho cuidado para que no se pasen del límite.

## 3. Fumar

Hasta ahora uno de los peores hábitos es el cigarrillo. No hay nada más feo que ver a una chica con una cigarrillo en la boca, espirando el humo. Confíen en mí, fumar no es nada atractivo o chévere, es inmaduro y una gran decepción.

## 2. Ser falsa

Una de las cosas que me molestan en cantidad es cuando una chica no es ella misma. Sean ustedes mismas, y las respetaremos más que si pretenden ser otra persona. Nosotros no queremos salir con otra persona, si fuera así, ya lo hubiéramos hecho. Estamos saliendo con ustedes por una razón en especial --porque nos gustan.

## 1. Tratar de cambiarlo a él

Esta es la manera más rápida de deshacerse de un chico. Nosotros estamos contentos con quienes somos. No queremos cambiar la forma en que nos vestimos, la forma en que actuamos o hablamos; no queremos cambiar a las personas con las que compartimos nuestro tiempo, la música que escuchamos, las cosas que hacemos; mejor dicho, ¡no queremos cambiar! Si intentas cambiarnos, nos aburrirémos fácilmente.

Por favor recuerden que estas 10 cosas no son universales. No hay una ley que diga que esto está escrito en piedra. Solo son algunas pautas con que pienso la mayoría de los chicos estarían de acuerdo.

## Sexo, champú y ensalada ...



Continuación de la página 19  
gusto que haya personas ofreciendo estas imágenes cuando yo lo único que quiero es pasarla bien con mis amigos," dice Bryce Knudson, estudiante del último año de Centennial.

Una ciudad antes clasificada como "sitio de orientación familiar," ahora se ha transformado. "Lo que pasa en Las Vegas, se queda en Las Vegas" es el nuevo lema para traer más ingresos económicos a la ciudad. ¿Para la familia? No. ¿Para insinuar relaciones de solo una noche y adulterio? Sí.

La publicidad erótica tiende más a desarrollarse en la industria del entretenimiento. En los afiches promocionales de películas como "American Beauty" (Belleza Americana), los publicistas decidieron tomar la estrategia de colocar personas atractivas con muy poca ropa para atraer a más audiencia. Con una película como ésta, los productores quieren atraer su "audiencia usual" de 25 años en adelante. Mostrando una joven y bella actriz desnuda en la portada, puede atraer a una audiencia completamente diferente --chicos jóvenes.

Lo mismo les pasa a las chicas. ¿Cuántas estuvieron realmente interesadas en la película de carros "The Fast and the Furious?" No muchas. El hecho de que Paul Walker, Tyrese y Vin Diesel estaban en la producción fue suficiente para que algunas fueran a ver la película al menos dos veces. La historia no importa, el hecho de que Paul Walker no será ganador en los premios "Academy Awards" y que Tyrese debería simplemente dedicarse a la música, tampoco les molesta.

Madonna, Britney Spears y Christina Aguilera son conocidas como cantantes fuertemente sensuales y de algún modo talentosas, ¿cierto? Pues bien, ahora son conocidas por otra razón: intercambiaron saliva en los premios de los mejores videos de MTV el pasado agosto. Es verdad que este truco publicitario hizo reír a la

audiencia y excitar a los hombres, pero ¿qué pasó con los televidentes que querían ver a sus estrellas favoritas ganar un premio?

El sexo en general, así sea un método publicitario o el acto en sí, trae un ingreso económico. Una parte de la imagen de Britney ha sido la inocencia y su decisión de permanecer virgen hasta el matrimonio. Cientos de revistas alrededor del mundo discutían si Britney estaba o no teniendo relaciones sexuales --tomando en cuenta que ella es un ídolo para niños de 12 años alrededor del mundo y que no debe promover el sexo. No obstante, si no se hubiera mencionado hubiera sido mucho mejor. Aunque la privacidad de la vida sexual de alguien no se vende, los lectores quieren el "jugo," no importa que no tenga tanto.

Britney demostró que no se necesita tener sexo para venderlo.

"Pienso que es una broma que Britney Spears ande por ahí semi-desnuda, pero promueva su supuesta inocencia," dice Megan Munro, estudiante de Centennial.

Los publicistas han llevado este método aún más lejos. ¿Desde cuándo McDonald's y la sexualidad tienen algo en común?

Aparentemente desde que la nueva propaganda de McDonald's con su nueva ensalada mexicana apareció en televisión. Este comercial muestra una mujer en su oficina disfrutando la ensalada, disfrutando también de sus sensuales compañeros de trabajo. ¿Le encuentran sentido? No.

"Cuando vi por primera vez el comercial de McDonald's con su nueva ensalada, pensé que era un aviso de colonia para hombre," dice Maureen McGinty, estudiante de Centennial.

Los comerciales del champú y acondicionador de Herbal Essence son otro perfecto ejemplo de la conexión absurda entre el sexo y algunos productos. El champú no le va a dar a nadie una 'sensación de orgasmo.' Pero aún así en estos comerciales, Herbal Essence continúa representando su producto como un proveedor de satisfacción sexual.

"Herbal Essence utiliza una publicidad falsa; yo utilizo su champú y acondicionador todos los días y yo nunca siento esa sensación," dice Brynn Mohr, estudiante de Centennial.

Desde los supermercados hasta la industria del entretenimiento, el sexo es la clave. Encuéntrale un ángulo sexual a un producto y considéralo vendido.

# ¿Vale la pena sufrir por alguien?

Cuento adaptado por Lina Hernández, editora de Díganos



¿Qué tan dispuestos estamos a sufrir por alguien?

Cuentan que una bella princesa estaba buscando cónyuge. Aristócratas y adinerados señores habían llegado de todas partes para ofrecer sus maravillosos regalos. Joyas, tierras, ejércitos y tronos conformaban los obsequios para conquistar a tan especial criatura.

Entre los candidatos se encontraba un joven plebeyo que no tenía más riqueza que amor y perseverancia. Cuando le llegó el momento de hablar, dijo, "Princesa, te he amado toda mi vida. Como soy un hombre pobre y no tengo tesoros para darte, te ofrezco mi sacrificio como prueba de amor. Estaré cien días sentando bajo tu ventana, sin más alimentos que la lluvia y sin más ropa que la que llevo puesta. Esa será mi fortuna."

La princesa, conmovida por semejante gesto de amor, decidió aceptar y dijo, "Tendrás tu oportunidad: 'si pasas la prueba, me desposarás.'"

Así pasaron las horas y los días. El pretendiente estuvo sentado, soportando los vientos, la nieve y las noches heladas. Sin pestañear, con la vista fija en el balcón de su amada, el valiente muchacho siguió firme en su empeño, sin desfallecer un momento. De vez en cuando, la cortina de la ventana real dejaba ver la esbelta figura de la princesa, la cual, con un noble gesto y una sonrisa, aprobaba la faena. Todo iba a las mil maravillas. Incluso algunos optimistas habían comenzado a planear los festejos.

Al llegar el día noventa y nueve, los pobladores de la zona habían salido a animar al próximo monarca. Todo era alegría y júbilo, hasta que de pronto, cuando faltaba una hora para cumplirse el plazo, ante la mirada atónita de los asistentes y la perplejidad de la joven princesa, el muchacho se levantó, y sin dar explicación alguna, se alejó lentamente del lugar.

Luego de unas cuantas semanas, mientras deambulaba por un solitario camino, un niño lo alcanzó y le preguntó, "¿Qué fue lo que te ocurrió? Estabas a un paso de lograr la meta. ¿Por qué perdiste esa oportunidad? ¿Por qué te retiraste?" Con profunda consternación y algunas lágrimas mal disimuladas, contestó en voz baja, "Si ella no me ahorró un día de sufrimiento, ni siquiera una hora, es porque no merecía mi amor."

## COMENTARIO:

El merecimiento no siempre es orgullo sino dignidad. Cuando damos lo mejor de nosotros mismos a otra persona, cuando decidimos compartir la vida, cuando abrimos nuestro corazón de par en par y desnudamos el alma hasta el último rincón, cuando perdemos la vergüenza, cuando los secretos dejan de serlo, al menos merecemos COMPRENSION.

Que se menosprecie, ignore, olvide o desconozca fríamente el amor que regalamos a manos llenas es CONSIDERACION o, en el mejor de los casos, desinterés o ligereza. Cuando amamos a alguien que además de no correspondernos desprecia nuestro amor y nos hiere, estamos en el lugar EQUIVOCADO. Esa persona no se hace merecedora del afecto que le prodigamos. La cosa es clara: si no me siento bien recibido en algún lugar, empaco y me voy. Nadie se quedaría tratando de agradecer y disculpándose por no ser como les gustaría que fuera.

En cualquier relación de pareja que tengas, no te mereces quien NO TE AME, y menos aún, quien te lastime. Y si alguien te hiere reiteradamente sin "mala intención," puede que te merezca pero no te CONVIENE. Retirarse a tiempo con la satisfacción de haber dado lo mejor de nosotros mismos NO TIENE PRECIO.

# LEYENDAS DEL MES

## Presentadores de Televisión

El pasado mes de octubre tuvimos la oportunidad de leer un poco acerca de tres grandes escritores de todos los tiempos. Este mes nos deleitaremos conociendo un poco a tres grandes presentadores de la televisión. No te pierdas los tres personajes del próximo mes.



Jorge Ramos



Patricia Janiot



Mario Kreutzberger

Ramos es, desde el 3 de noviembre de 1986, el conductor titular del Noticiero Univision en los Estados Unidos. De hecho, es el personaje de la televisión en español que más tiempo ha estado en el aire de manera ininterrumpida, y es considerado uno de los hispanos más influyentes de Norteamérica. Ramos ha cubierto cuatro guerras, numerosos eventos históricos y ha entrevistado a algunas de las figuras políticas y culturales más importantes de nuestros tiempos. Además del Noticiero Univision, Ramos trabaja en la radio, escribe una columna semanal, participa con análisis y comentarios en Internet y ha publicado cuatro libros.

En el 2001, recibió el premio Maria Moors Cabot de periodismo internacional que otorga la Universidad de Columbia. Jorge Gilberto Ramos nació en la ciudad de México; estudió la carrera de Comunicación en la Universidad Iberoamericana y en la Universidad de Los Angeles estudió un curso en televisión y periodismo.

Janiot se unió a CNN en Español en 1992 y desde ahí, ha viajado por toda Latinoamérica haciendo coberturas periodísticas en innumerables eventos. Ella presenta el "Noticiero CNN Internacional con Patricia Janiot" y "Las noticias con Jorge Gestoso y Patricia Janiot." Patricia es también la consejera del presidente de la cadena de televisión en donde trabaja. En el 2000, cubrió las famosas elecciones presidenciales de México y Venezuela. En su carrera, también ha entrevistado la mayoría de jefes de estado de Latinoamérica incluyendo a Fidel Castro y Augusto Pinochet. Janiot también ha presentado en vivo el desarrollo de importantes eventos como las elecciones presidenciales de Estados Unidos, el funeral de la Princesa Diana y los conflictos más recientes alrededor del mundo.

Patricia Janiot nació en Bucaramanga, Colombia y asistió a la Universidad de la Sabana en Bogotá y el Colegio Superior de Telecomunicaciones en Bogotá.

Kreutzberger, más conocido como Don Francisco, es uno de los personajes más populares en el mundo de los medios de comunicación de habla hispana. Esta fama fue adquirida gracias a su programa Sábado Gigante, que ya cumplió 40 años de transmisión ininterrumpida. Su máximo logro es ser el creador de la Teletón chilena, una iniciativa de beneficencia destinada a los niños minusválidos. Hoy en día lo ven más de un millón de televidentes latinoamericanos en más de veinte países. En el año 2001, recibe la estrella de la fama en Hollywood, que lo consagra como el animador latino más famoso de la historia.

Además, ha sido galardonado con más de ochocientos premios y distinciones, entre las que destaca ser nombrado embajador de la UNICEF. Don Francisco ha sido fundamental en la vida de muchos artistas nacionales.

Hijo de padres judío-alemanes, Mario Kreutzberger nació en Talca, Chile en 1940 con las cualidades innatas de un animador.

# Norteamérica 101: Los estudiantes aprenden a diferenciar lo bueno de lo malo

*Nota del editor: El reciente estudio "Educación para la Democracia" realizado por la fundación de Albert Shanker critica a las escuelas secundarias en América por enseñar una "descripción negativa" de la historia americana. De acuerdo con el estudio, el estado de Nevada tiene una de las peores enseñanzas acerca de la historia y el gobierno de Estados Unidos. Para leer el reporte, visita la página en Internet [www.ashankerinst.org](http://www.ashankerinst.org). Para registrar tu opinión, vote en nuestra urna electrónica en [www.classmag.com](http://www.classmag.com).*

Por Stephanie Espinoza,  
Green Valley HS

¿Qué es patriotismo? El patriotismo es definido como el sentimiento o la expresión que una persona siente hacia su país. El año pasado, cuando mi maestro de historia le preguntó a la clase cuántos de nosotros nos considerábamos patrióticos, la mayoría levantaron la mano. Pero la verdad, yo no supe si levantar la mía o no. ¿Ser patriota significa vestirse solo de rojo, blanco y azul los onces de septiembre? ¿Significa que tenemos que estar de acuerdo con el gobierno en todo lo que diga?

También estuve analizando la manera que los maestros presentan este país. En la

escuela primaria, te enseñan a recitar el juramento a la bandera todos los días, sin explicar su significado y escuchas de que tan perfectos fueron nuestros fundadores. Pero cuando empiezas a asistir a la secundaria, aprendes más de todos los errores que cometieron y la cantidad de atrocidades que Norteamérica hizo. Cualquier persona que escuchara esto diría que a los estudiantes les están enseñando cómo ser anti-americanos, pero yo no lo veo de esa manera.

Cuando estamos clasificando a los patrióticos y a los anti-americanos, la posibilidad de que alguien esté en la mitad difícilmente se nota, pero sí existe. Eso no parece ser justo. ¿Por qué alguien debe ser acusado de "traidor" si apoya a los militares, pero no la guerra?

En la escuela, estamos aprendiendo de todos los errores que nuestro gobierno y nuestro país una vez hicieron, pero también nos están enseñando los grandes triunfos que nuestra nación ha tenido. En vez de aprender a odiar a nuestro país, estamos aprendiendo a ser humanos — a tener la habilidad de diferenciar entre lo bueno y lo malo y a mostrar las dos caras. Con esta opinión, no entiendo cómo América no puede ser amada sin duda alguna, pues nadie es perfecto — o completamente odiada, ya que constantemente estamos

subiendo a un nivel más alto en la sociedad.

Eso es lo que yo he podido aprender en mi clase de historia, especialmente por que mis maestros han sido capaces de enseñar sin tener ninguna inclinación a ser partidarios ni a estar en contra de nuestro gobierno. Pero también quería

## ¿Por qué alguien debe ser acusado de "traidor" si apoya a los militares, pero no la guerra?

saber lo que mis compañeros pensaban acerca de este asunto. Después de hacer una encuesta con respecto a este tema en una de mis clases, pude recibir diversas opiniones, muy interesantes.

Mi primer temor fue pensar que si al preguntarle a los estudiantes si se consideraban patrióticos, anti-americanos o en el medio de estos dos, todos responderían "patrióticos" simplemente por la connotación positiva que esta palabra tiene, para no sentirse mal o no recibir comentarios. Pero solo la mitad de ellos se consideran fuertemente patrióticos, mientras la otra mitad se catalogan como aquellos que están "en la mitad:" apoyando al

país en muchas ocasiones, pero sin hablar mucho del tema.

"Mi maestro de historia ha hecho un buen trabajo mostrando lo bueno y lo malo, como también el de economía," dice Joe Rosania, estudiante del último año de Green Valley.

"Mis maestros son más bien liberales y yo me considero conservador.

Escuchar su opinión le da fuerza a mi opinión, pero trato de permanecer objetivo."

Y aunque algunos maestros compartan con los estudiantes sus comentarios en clase, parece ser que

no tienen ninguna influencia y que la clase no estaba basada en esos comentarios. La mayoría de mis compañeros de clase dijeron que ellos podían aprender por sí mismos durante las lecciones pero de igual manera respetaban la experiencia y las opiniones de sus maestros.

Parece ser que los estudiantes están contentos con la educación que nos están brindando y con la información acerca de nuestro país. Además, ellos saben que son capaces de tener sus propias ideas. La esperanza es que en el futuro piensen tanto en la moderación como en el extremo. Como nuestro país, cada persona está hecha a base de diferentes elementos.

## ¿Qué está pasando aquí?

Por Allyson Hallam and  
Britney Porter, Coronado HS

En las escuelas de hoy en día, llenas de gente, hay algunos fastidiosos que hacen a los demás estudiantes pensar, "¿Qué está pasando aquí?"

Por ejemplo, todos sabemos que entre clases solo tenemos cinco minutos para ir a los lockers y después a nuestras clases. Lo último que necesitamos es tener que pelear por subir las escaleras porque a otros les dio por pensar que es el lugar perfecto para enterarse del

último "drama" o "chisme" del día, parando completamente el tráfico.

Finalmente cuando llegamos a nuestros lockers, encontramos las parejitas paradas exactamente enfrente de nosotros - ¡besuqueándose y amacizándose! ¡Por Dios, gente! ¿Que no se pueden esperar hasta que se termine la escuela para su besuqueadera? ¡Tengan consideración!

Mientras caminas por los pasillos de tu escuela, es grandioso poder hablar con un amigo, pero puede ser una inconveniencia para la persona que esté caminando al lado. Piénsalo — si estás tratando de llegar

a tu clase, ¿quieres que un saludo te pase por tu cara, o que te empujen para otro lado cuando a alguien le dio por abrazar a su amigo? ¡Personalmente pienso que es una gran molestia para nuestro espacio personal! A nadie le gusta llegar tarde a clase, especialmente cuando no fue tu culpa. Entrás a tu clase y todo el mundo te mira. ¡Qué vergüenza!

Entonces, la próxima vez que estés haciendo algunas de esas cosas, piensa en este artículo y no te conviertas en esos que hacen a otros pensar, "¿Qué está pasando aquí?"

# “Are the SATs valid?”

## SATs flunk out when it comes to fairly measuring students' knowledge

By Cherish Dollar,  
Community College HS

In this, the fall of senior year for many students, the race to begin the college application process has started. Along with scrambling to gather transcripts and soliciting teachers for recommendations to colleges, students are also taking measures to ensure high scores on the SAT exam.

Whether spending \$800 on a Princeton Review course, or buying those arguably useless SAT study books, students are well aware of the fact that the SATs are all important; doing well on this single test can determine which colleges a student gets admitted to or rejected from.

However, the biased nature of the SAT has caused people to question its validity.

Testing expert Ben Florman has written in his “Sparknotes Study Guides” that male test takers score higher than their female counterparts. This is because males are more aggressive in their test taking and are more willing to take risks in answering questions while females think more thoroughly about their answers. It is puzzling that an academic test rewards and even encourages haphazard guessing strategies.

Studies also show that minorities don't do as well as whites on the SAT. These minority students take the test with the expectation that they will not do as well. A student's socioeconomic status plays a role as well. Obviously, affluent students who have studied at the best high schools will have a definite advantage over other students.

This is the standard by which all students are measured? Students across the nation receive the message loud and clear that it does not matter how much one learned during his or her four years in high school; it only matters that he or she “play the game” and are equipped with strategies and tricks to get a good score on the test.

How can a test with such deficiency in fairness be given any merit?



## SATs stand the test of fairness

By Neal Morton, Community College HS

In an address to the American Council on Education in 2001, Richard C. Atkinson, president of the University of California, recommended that the Scholastic Assessment Test no longer be used for college admissions. He claimed that “an overemphasis on the SAT is distorting educational priorities and practice.”

Of course, he cited no facts to support this assertion.

Atkinson then went on to allege that “the test is perceived by many as unfair” and the results of it “can have devastating impact on the self-esteem and aspirations of young students.”

Heaven forbid something lowers self-esteem and is considered — dare I say it? — unfair! Oh, the horror of unfairness!

Get over it.

Atkinson and the entire academic establishment seem to think that this three-hour long test, which, might I add, objectively and correctly determines a student's knowledge, is an illegitimate test. They also assert that it discriminates against the underprivileged, meaning minorities and the poor. They even go so far as to say the SAT is racist.

How preposterous. The SAT is not illegitimate. Were it not for the SAT, colleges nationwide would have no impartial indicator of how much an applicant knows (or doesn't know) as compared to every other fairly judged applicant.

Yes, I know the SAT is long and boring and hard and annoying and ... BOO-HOO! Go cry to your mommy. This is the real world, and the fact of the matter is the SAT is the only color-blind, class-blind, everything-blind assessment of how much a student learned during high school. Colleges don't have the time or resources to individually interview and judge each applicant's intelligence. So, they have to rely on a standardized, impartial test. Where's the “illegitimacy” in that?

Which brings us to the argument that the SAT favors the financially privileged. Liberal kooks and anti-education loonies (the National Education Association, for example) claim that since poor families don't have the money to pay for SAT tutors, their children do worse on the test. However, it's been proven that 300 hours of tutoring increases the average test taker's score 70 measly points. Besides, old tests are available to anyone, regardless of income.

There are also some who profess the test is “racist.” What?! I myself am one of those selected minorities (of which Asians are not included). As a Hispanic, I took the SAT after getting only four hours of sleep. Being raised in a not-so-rich family, I received zero hours of tutoring, and I didn't study one minute. To make matters worse, I also forgot to bring my calculator. Even with those four “detriments,” I still managed to, surprisingly, scrape a high 1,290. And so did all of my other “underprivileged” and minority friends. Just because I'm Hispanic and not rich doesn't mean I'm stupid. Give people more credit than that.

So no, the SAT is not illegitimate; it's the only way to determine, nationally and fairly, how much a student knows. In addition, the SAT isn't racist or discriminatory against the poor; it just takes extra effort on the part of the student.

So before you ludicrously suggest getting rid of the SAT because of poor scores or low self-esteem, just realize you're condemning the nation's youth to a lifetime of ignorance.

SHe SaYs

HE SAYS



# The other forensics: Fun, fulfilling ... and no dead people

By Victoria Vannozi, Palo Verde HS

What does the word "forensics" mean to you? For most people, it calls to mind images of corpses and DNA samples. You might recall a commercial for the TV show "Forensic Files." However, I'm talking about a different kind of forensics. You might be surprised to find out that your school has it, too.

Forensics, in the high school and college setting, is not criminal investigation. Forensics is speech and debate. It is far from boring, as you might expect. Forensics covers everything from ten-minute, one-person shows to structured, congressional debates.

However, this is different from your stereotypical teen-movie, geek-squad debate society. The people you'd find in your forensics teacher's classroom are not the cast of "Revenge of the Nerds." Rather, forensics attracts the most entertaining, intelligent people you are likely to meet in school.

It also gives you an opportunity to meet other people around the city. You compete in citywide tournaments, which occur once a month at various high schools. Though you have to give up the occasional weekend for this, it is well worth it. You compete in up to four events for trophies and ribbons. And once you are inducted into the Na-



**Debate is great training for anything you might become. You learn how to stand in front of people and speak.**

tional Forensics League, you are a member for life. This looks good on college scholarship applications or on résumés.

Forensics is the most important thing I have done in high school, and it is also the most fun.

Most importantly, forensics makes you smart. It is hard to participate in debate and not have some idea of what is going on

in the world. What is more, debate is great training for anything you might become. You learn how to stand in front of people and speak. You learn to enunciate, to choose your points carefully, and to have confidence.

The core of forensics competitions is team debate, but there is another area, the individual events. IEs include speeches, such as oratory, expository and extemporaneous speaking. Oratory is persuasive, while expository is informative. Extemporaneous speaking deals with current events, and you are given a half-hour to make up a speech based on a given question.

There are interpretations including humorous, dramatic and duo, which can be funny or sad, and has two people. Finally, there is prose and poetry interpretation. These events allow you to act, or interpret, a script of your choice.

There is no extracurricular activity I can recommend more than forensics. However, it is not for everyone. You must be willing to prepare, whether it be your debate cases or memorizing your IE. If you are looking for an extracurricular activity that is fun, doesn't take up all your time, and will help you later in life, check out forensics.

**3** WHERE NEWS COMES FIRST

News 3's The Scene:  
Sunday Mornings @ 6:30  
Only on News 3

**THE SCENE**  
For teens, by teens!

News comes first with the KVBC News Team!

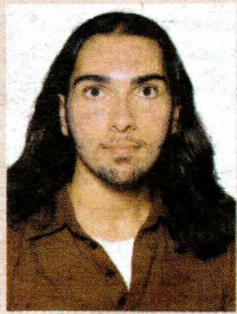


# Dress codes teach youth to conform, not challenge

By Michael Gobaud, LV Academy

*"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."*

— Benjamin Franklin, Historical Review of Pennsylvania, 1759



we would never develop as a free society.

Las Vegas Academy junior Sarah Boka says, "At one time, integrating black and white students in school was a disturbance to learning. But that changed for the sake of equality."

Self-expression through appearance is another issue where the majority is simply not comfortable with the minority. If we are taught to conform to society's standards beginning in high school, then the people in this minority will never be accepted. Change has to start somewhere.

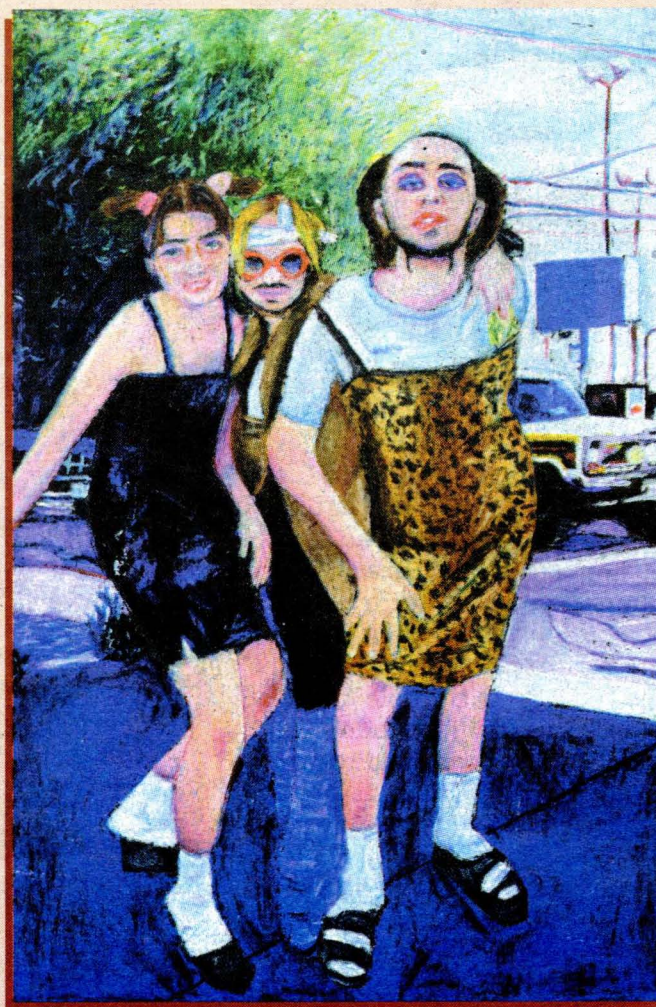
Linda Shillingstad, dean of students at the Las Vegas Academy, explained that the school dress code is meant to prepare students for entering the work force, which is likely to have a similar dress code. This is true; there is a dress code at most jobs. Many people go through their whole lives being told what they can and can't wear much of the time. The good news is you can do whatever you want when you're not in school or on the job.

In CCSD Regulation 5131 (Dress and Appearance), gender is never mentioned. They are the same rules for both sexes. In fact, the LVA Nondiscrimination

Not too long ago, I witnessed something quite interesting happen at school. While I was walking to class one morning, I saw the Las Vegas Academy principal, Bob Gerye approach a male student who was wearing a dress. Gerye sent this student to the office and made him change into clothes made specifically for his gender.

"The [students] have to look at you. You could make a disruption," says Dr. Paul Vigil, dean at the Las Vegas Academy.

Outrageous fashion can indeed cause a disruption in the learning process. However, if we stay in our comfort zone, and do not allow alternative thinking,



spirit of the law in making certain discrimination does not exist in its policies, regulations and operations."

According to these rules, to make boys unable to wear skirts, you would have to prohibit girls in the same way.

"I feel that it is sexist to allow only girls to wear skirts and not guys because sex is the only thing that separates them," says Wadih Sader, a junior at the Academy.

Whether you believe that students should be allowed to express their individuality through

Statement says, "the Clark County School District shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, color, national origin, religion or handicap in the educational programs or activities which it operates."

It goes on to say, "It is the intent of the Las Vegas Academy to comply with both the letter and

alternative fashion, or feel that some things just go over the line and are not only distracting to the learning environment, but are also just not accepted in our society, the important thing is to have acceptance for people and things that may seem weird to you. That's how to really make a difference.

## Early graduation: What's the rush?

Pushing yourself to an early graduation could lead to risking problems in college



By Gina Cassaro, Sierra Vista HS

With school back in session, some students want to get ahead of the game and try to graduate early. Yet, graduating early is an option that few students even know about.

First of all, students who are serious about early graduation need to talk with their counselors. Recommended times are at the end of the student's sophomore year or beginning of junior year.

The basic requirements include 16.5 credits completed by the end of the sophomore year, the passing of all proficiencies, a parent conference and administrative approval.

Sierra Vista High School counselor Duane Nelson gives more insight into risks and benefits of early graduation. According to Nelson, sometimes students will graduate early to avoid schoolwork. This can lead to lacking the college prep experience a student gains in higher-level classes like Honors or AP classes.

Also, with having to take two English or history courses, a stu-

dent may not be able to take more challenging classes. Stress levels increase and students begin to focus more attention on the number of credits to graduate, rather than class difficulty level.

"Colleges would rather see a student with four solid years of classes," says Nelson.

It is also important to consider the added responsibility of attending college at a younger age. Some students really need to attend all four years of high school before they are mature enough to handle college.

"For some students, the more preparation the better, which includes taking more rigorous and challenging classes, for better college preparation," Nelson says.

There are also alternatives available for a reduced amount of classes during senior year. Students have the option of taking only four classes. If you are interested in a reduced schedule, you will also need to talk with the counselor who will thoroughly explain all options.

"I really want to graduate more for personal reasons," says Kathy Van Guilder, a Sierra Vista sophomore who has high interest in graduating early. "It's not because I want to get out of school, but because I have set my goal to graduate early, and I really want to accomplish it."

If a student is interested, highly motivated and mature enough to handle early graduation, then they should go for it. With proper planning, a good work drive and focus, early graduation can be a success. But why not wait, relax and make your years of high school a fun-filled, memorable event, rather than a stress-filled endeavor?

# Break the silence, break the chain of abuse

By Ariel Gove,  
Las Vegas HS

Abuse is everywhere. When you walk outside and hear your neighbors swearing at each other, when your boyfriend or girlfriend yells at you, when your mom or dad or any one hits you, when someone touches you where he or she shouldn't, this is all abuse and it needs to stop.

There have been many reports from within our school district alone about abuse cases. While most reported cases are physical and sexual, we cannot let that fool us into believing that those are the only forms of this horrendous crime. From babies to adults, everyone can be a victim of abuse, and more people than you think already have been.

If you are a victim of abuse, it's not your fault. It doesn't matter what you did — if you didn't take out the trash right away, or if you knew you shouldn't wear your pajamas around a certain individual because he or she has problems controlling him or herself — it's not your fault. The person abusing you wants you to think it's your fault so they don't get into trouble, but all they are doing is hurting you and getting away with it.

## Words can hurt you

Verbal abuse is only one of several forms of abuse. Verbal abuse is not the firm lecture your parents give you over bad grades. Verbal abuse is all about making the person doing the abusing feel better, at the cost of someone else's emotional health. Verbal abusers will put you down every chance they get.

You may not even know when you are being verbally abused. It may happen so often that you don't even notice it anymore. It can damage you for the rest of your life if you don't put a stop to it. You are worth way too much to let someone disrespect you by acting like you are beneath him or her.

If the abuse is from your boyfriend or girlfriend, he or she is

not worth your time. You have so much to offer; don't limit yourself to those who will bring you down. Ditch that person and find someone who will treat you like the prince or princess you are. If your friends are verbally abusive, they're not your friends. These people keep you around to yell at and to build themselves up. They may pretend to care about you and they may try to help you with things, but if they constantly put you down, they don't care about you at all. Tell them that you deserve to be treated with respect, and you can't be friends with them anymore. You need someone who will help you feel good about yourself, not someone who will try to change you into a doormat that will take everything dished out.

If you are being verbally abused, talk to your school counselor. Make an appointment and tell him or her what's going on. You can also talk to your parents about the situation and get their advice on what to do. If the abuse is coming from your parents, tell your counselor as soon as possible. Any kind of parental abuse can lower your self-esteem to a point where you won't feel like you're worth anything anymore.

## Deadly anger

Physical abuse is a better-known form of abuse. Though the victim may acknowledge this kind of abuse, he or she may also believe, without a shadow of doubt, that it is his or her fault. Feeling this way can leave a person scared and confused. Physical abuse occurs when anyone strikes, hits, kicks or harms another in any way shape or form. It can be a deadly way to express anger.

Physical abuse is not just a spanking for being bad; it's not a slap on the hand for grabbing a cookie before dinner. It's when you come home five minutes late, and

your mom comes after you with a belt. Or when you don't hear your dad calling you from downstairs, and he comes upstairs to make you pay for it. How to punish kids has always been up to the parents, but times have changed. You know the difference between getting into trouble for something and being reasonably punished, and being beaten for something unreasonable.

## The unspoken crime

Another type of abuse not often talked about, especially in school, is sexual abuse. It is the type of abuse that is least often reported because the victims are ashamed of something they could

**You may not even know when you are being verbally abused. It may happen so often that you don't even notice it anymore.**

not control. Most sexual abusers are family members or someone who is very close to the family. Others who may be abusers include boyfriends or girlfriends, friends, neighbors, teachers, priests, bosses and many others. Sexual abuse occurs when someone makes you do anything sexual in any way without your consent, either by force or persuasion. If this happens, you may be left with many feelings that you don't understand. You may get depressed; distance yourself from friends, teachers, or anyone close to you; and you may become edgy and very private.

Sexual abuse is a crime that is virtually unspoken of in many homes. No one believes it will happen to him or her and then when it does, the victim feels as if it's his or her fault. Don't let anyone coax or talk you into something you don't want to do. If your teacher asks you to stay after class and then grabs you or touches you in places you don't want to be touched, it's wrong! If your boyfriend holds you down because he has "waited too long," it's wrong! Don't be ashamed! You did nothing wrong, the abuser did.

If someone rapes you and threatens your life or the life of someone around you, it's because the rapist is scared. The rapist knows that he or she has done something illegal and is trying to save him or herself from the consequences.

Tell your parents. Tell your

counselor. Tell one of your friends. Tell anyone whom you trust. You have people who care about you and who will help you.

Don't feel badly if the abuser is someone you know, and you don't want to hurt him or her or family and friends. Maybe it's your best friend's dad, and you don't want to hurt your friend or your friend's family. The abuser could possibly hurt your friend too if you don't tell. Maybe it's your dad and you don't want to tell anyone because it would hurt your family. What happens when he is doing the same thing to your little brothers or sisters? Put a stop to this violence. Report any incident you think is worthy of reporting. Know that you can get help as soon as you're ready to get it.

## Get help now!

Abuse is a criminal offense that is growing wildly out of control. When you are a victim and you keep it a secret, you are enabling your attacker to do it again to you or someone else. It does not get better with time — it gets worse. You will be emotionally scarred if you keep this inside, and it may affect you for the rest of your life. If you are abused as a child, you may become an abuser or be drawn to a relationship with an abuser.

Put a stop to it now. Please don't be afraid to get help if this is happening to you. No one has a right to cause you pain. It's a scary thing to come out and tell someone. It may cause you embarrassment because you may believe that you somehow deserve the abuse or that it was your fault. People are available to help. There are numbers, hotlines and specific counselors just for this problem. You are not alone, and abuse happens to countless people around you every day.

When you step forward and get help, you may inspire another young girl or boy to get help as well. Be an example to the little girl down the street who doesn't want to tell her mom that your neighbor is molesting her. Be an example to the boy at school whose dad beats him everyday for not being man enough to take it. Be an example to the girl who listens to her boyfriend tell her she is stupid and not worth anything. You may even save a life — possibly your own.

Tell someone and you can make a difference. You can be the start of a chain, the positive chain that is going to put a stop to abuse.

## From Pilgrims to parades, it's all about giving thanks

By Charles Trujillo,  
Green Valley HS

As everyone knows, November means Thanksgiving. For many people, it means your family will get together, not argue with each other and eat.

But there is more to Thanksgiving than that. In the United States, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of every November, to commemorate the Pilgrims' settlement in the New World. Yet, even before the Pilgrims settled in North America, the Western Europeans held Harvest Home Festivals, which celebrated the successful gathering of the season's crops.

People have been giving thanks ever since the first Thanksgiving in America was celebrated in 1621 by the Pilgrims and their Native American guests, the Wampanoag tribe. The Wampanoag had helped the Pilgrims survive the harsh winter by bringing gifts of food and blankets as a polite gesture toward the colonists. The surviving colonists showed their gratitude by sharing their future harvests with the tribe.

Two years later during a drought, a day of fasting and prayer was changed to a day of thanksgiving because rains came during the prayers. Gradually, the New Englanders celebrated the thanksgiving annually after the harvesting was done.

Puritans held thanksgiving observances on special days throughout the year to give thanks for God's blessings. These "holidays" were not held regularly, but only in times of crisis or after a period of misfortune. The Puritans' Thanksgiving ceremonies were also very religious and had only a small resemblance to the modern-day American Thanksgiving.

Now, Thanksgiving is seen as a day to pig out on food, but also to appreciate the things you have. So what ever you do during Thanksgiving, remember to be thankful.

## Live and learn – teen relationships don't last

By Regina Froman,  
LV Academy

Over the summer, I read an amazing book titled, "Dateable: Are You? Are They?" It was one of those books that completely punch you in the stomach, and you cannot believe you didn't think of this logic on your own.

Thinking back of all the boy/girl dramas I have seen throughout the years now seems totally ridiculous. Often I would walk into the bathroom and see a girl crying because her boyfriend dumped her, or I would overhear guys talking about how much crap their ex-girlfriends put them through. Not to mention my own drama: "I thought we would be together forever, and now we're not!" The fact is that whatever relationship you are in, it will not last. It is as simple as that.

Yes, that may be a hard thing for some of you to swallow, but it is the truth. Statistics speak for themselves. Out of 100 people polled, only 22 people got married to their high school sweethearts, and out of those 22 people, only five of them stay married. Do you see how sad that is?

Some of you commit your whole life to that person you are crushing and then you break up.

So what happened to all the time and thought you invested into that relationship? It's gone. My point is that your time in high school is precious. To stress over whether you can make your relationship last or not, or where you will be five to ten years from now isn't worth it. It's great if you end up staying together, but chances are that you won't.

**You are still a kid and have plenty of time to have a responsible, mature relationship, but not now.**

Dating is for fun. You are supposed to get enjoyment out of it and learn from it, so that in the future, you will know what you want in a real relationship like marriage. If you devote all of yourself into these high school relationships, how are you going to learn anything but heartache? If you allow yourself to have fun with them, enjoy their company and realize that it will not last, and that it will eventually end, then you will be getting more out of the dating experience.

Admitting that it will not last is saving you from future heartaches and suffering. It is reliev-

ing you from all the pressures of relationships. Hey, newsflash: relationships are not supposed to be this hard when you are in high school. You are still a kid and have plenty of time to have a responsible, mature relationship, but not now.

Don't worry. Some of you may be thinking, "When will I find that special person that I will spend the rest of my life with?" He or she is out there somewhere, but you still have a lot of growing to do before you find him or her.

My advice is this: date the people you are crushing. Enjoy the way you feel around them. Talk to them, have fun with them and be with them. But remember from the very beginning of the relationship that it will not last. Then when it comes to an end you won't be resentful or hurt because you knew from the beginning that it was not going to last. You will be able to cherish all the memories and good times you had with that person. You won't regret anything because you didn't lie to yourself that it would last forever, and after giving yourself a little time, you will be able to move on to someone new and create more fun memories with that crush.

Think on the bright side; if it does last, it's a nice surprise, but don't expect it.

## Sticks and stones may break bones, but words can break a heart

By Cristhina Shaikh, Coronado HS

I just finished reading the book "The Great Gatsby," and the first thing that caught my attention was a quote on the first page: "Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone ... just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had."

This quote got me thinking about one word, "criticism," a common thing that many people do. Whether it is constructive criticism or flat out rude criticism, just about everyone does it.

Unfortunately, during high school, the criticism seems to become a habit. Teens criticize everyone and everything. They begin to categorize people and things, and then they criticize those things, eventually making some kind of reputation for them. This habit grows as the teens grow and becomes stronger, crueler and harsher. Teens let the criticism get the best of them, and it begins to cause problems with peers and co-workers.

No one likes to be criticized, so why do people criticize others? Why do we let criticism become such a harsh and inconsiderate habit? If people made an effort to just stop and think about how

they emotionally hurt others by criticizing them; if they could just remember that not everyone has had the advantages that they have had; if they could just consider the other person's feelings; or if they just climbed into the other person's shoes and walked around in them for one minute, then there would not be so much cruelty toward one another.

People are too easily controlled by their own emotions. When we are around different groups of people, our mentality changes, and in some cases we may become insensitive. Our emotions, opinions, morals and ethics all revolve around the people with whom we spend time. But why do we act in such a manner? Why can't we stick to our own beliefs? Why must we change ourselves around certain people?

Criticism can lead to the destruction of one's self; it can lead to the destruction of the world. We wonder why there is no world peace. We wonder why there are so many neurotic maniacs in the world. We wonder why we have had so many world conflicts.

Could it all be because of that one word, criticism?

# High school survival rule No. 1:

## Be popular!

By Chelsea Bailey,  
Eldorado HS

Teachers, parents and adults all over the U.S. tell their children the same thing. It's what's inside that really counts. It's not about looks or popularity.

Do adults really believe this is the truth? When they were in high school, was that really what they believed? Every high school kid in America knows better.

"It's all about popularity," says Eldorado High School junior Kari Lichtenwalner. "If you're homecoming queen, everyone knows who you are. If you're the quarterback of the varsity football team, everyone cheers for you. If you're the kid not involved in anything, you may as well be invisible."

Sure, being popular matters. It matters to the guys hungering for attention like it's the bread of life. And it matters to the girls craving it as if "it" was more important than life itself.

Every student knows that the kids who were popular in high school will go somewhere, do something important, be someone later in life. Yearbooks are filled with "Best Dressed," "Best Smile" and "Most Likely to Succeed."

"Knowing that people know who I am makes me feel good," says Eldorado senior DreAnn Story. "And it gives me confidence in everything I do."

"I play varsity baseball and football," Eldorado senior Robbie Achord says, "and it helps so much if you are in sports for people to know who

you are."

Playing sports is a big deal to many students. Sports help kids make friends, get involved in school and stay in shape. From the freshman benchwarmer to the varsity star, being on a team brings friends, notoriety and popularity.

"Athletics help me stay in shape, and I get a name for myself," junior Erika Macke says. "Everyone knows my dad (an assistant principal at Eldorado), but they know me because of what I do, not just because everyone knows my dad."

Getting involved with clubs and especially sports can help build popularity. But one senior told me that being involved in school activities isn't so important.

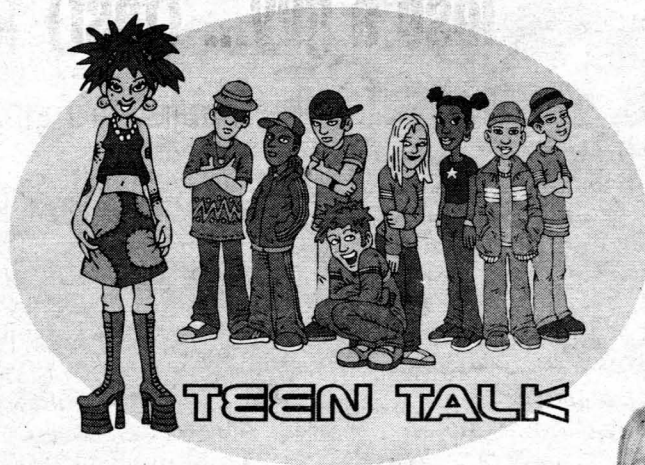
"I try to focus on my grades and not really what I do in school," he says. "What will matter after high school won't be the sports I played or the clubs I was in. Saying that you were on the soccer team won't ever be on your transcript."

But that attitude is a tough sell on a high school campus. Everywhere you look, you can spot couples holding hands, passing notes and even kissing.

Eldorado junior Chris Larsen says, "When someone likes you, it seems everyone knows. It helps."

Everyone's heard it. It's what's inside that really matters. Yes, blah, blah, blah. But, the truth on a high school campus is much different.

As Lichtenwalner adds, "It's all about popularity."



By Melissa Butler, Sierra Vista HS

Dear Miss Melissa:

**My boyfriend, Tod, treats me like a little girl. He is always telling me what to do and making sure my laces are tied and my shoes fit right. He even sometimes cuts my food! He acts more like my dad than my boyfriend. One night we went to a party, and my dad said I had to come back by 1 a.m. That's fair, right? Tod took me home at 11:30! I was like, "What the heck. I am not going home this early." Tod argued with me that 1 a.m. was just far too late for me to be out. Though I am almost 17, I look like I am about 12 or 13, but I am well aware of what is good for me and what isn't. I can't figure out why he treats me the way he does. If I'm wearing something that is a little more mature, he freaks out and makes me change. My dad doesn't even make me change. So I am coming to you with a scream of HELP!**

*Tod's Little Girl*

Dear Tod's Little Girl:

I can't believe that your boyfriend treats you like that. I wonder ... do you ever stand up for yourself? When he cuts your food, girl, you better grab that knife and tell him you can do it yourself. When he makes you come home WAY TOO EARLY for curfew, get out of the car and go back to that party. About the clothes thing, any guy who makes you change and isn't your parent, oh girl, I'd better see you dump him like a bag of trash. You could do so much better. You might look young and you might be just the cutest little thing, but you're one of the lucky ones who will still look young when you grow old. Don't let anyone bring you down. You hold more power

than you think. Stand up for yourself and get a new man.

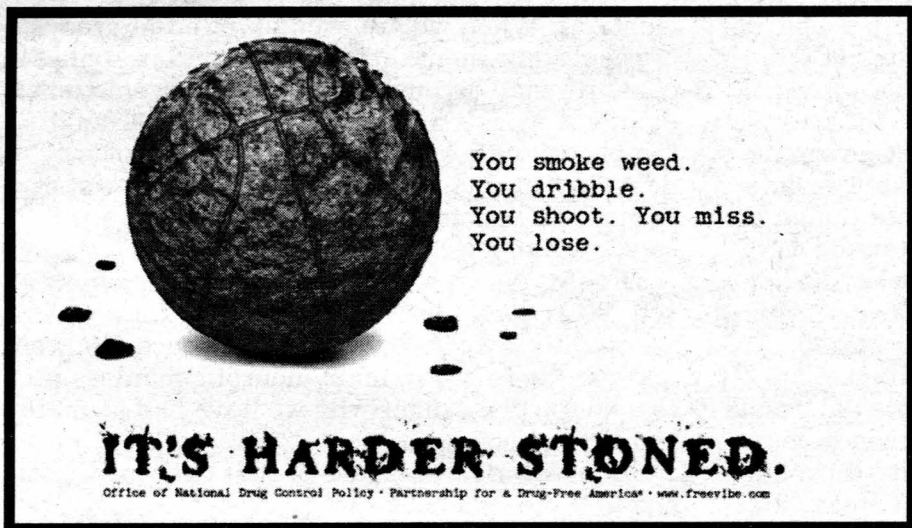
Dear Miss Melissa:

**My mom goes to all my football and baseball games. The problem is, I don't ever want her to. You know those parents at the games who yell and scream and fight with the referee about a bad call? My mom is one of those parents. She is so embarrassing. I will be up to bat or get a fumble, and I can hear her yelling and screaming at the referee in the stands. I love my mom and she is my biggest supporter, but I hate it when she acts like that. I don't even want to claim her sometimes as my mother. She acts more like those dads who attack the coaches with baseball bats or beat up the other player's dads. I am getting tired of her and need her to stop. I am pleading to you for help.**

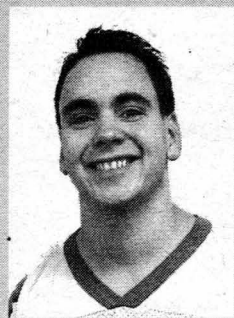
*Have Out-of-Control Mama*

Dear Have Out-of-Control Mama:

There have been many cases where parents have gone to jail or even committed a crime, all because of their son's or daughter's sports. Tell your mom that she needs to calm down and just go with the flow of the game. I've been at games where I've seen parents who are just like your mom, so don't think you are alone. Your mom, of course, is not going to listen to you, so you need to sit down with her instead of yelling at her and talk to her about her crazy actions. If she continues to act the way she has, then you need to tell her that you don't want her at your games anymore until she can calm herself down and accept the calls that the referees are making.



# 10 ways to lose a guy... (fast)



By Eric Ruiz, Virgin Valley HS

There are many mysteries in high school. High school guys are not one of them. We are all truly simple creatures with even simpler lives. There are very few things that we require to continue our Neanderthal-like existence. However, for those of you young ladies who have not figured out how to keep a guy yet, let me clue you in on 10 things that will be sure to make you lose a guy:

## 10. Be "too good"

Don't get me wrong with this one. There is a certain appeal to the girl who is always on time to class, gets straight A's, never breaks curfew, etc. However, after awhile, such a girl can become very boring to be around. If you find yourself being "too good," do yourself and your boyfriend a favor and loosen up a little. A famous actress once said, "If you follow all of the rules, you miss all of the fun."

## 9. Always have to know what he is doing

This one can be a bit irritating. Guys have to have a certain amount of privacy. Believe me, if you ladies knew absolutely everything about us, you would never want to see another man for as long as you lived. Give your guy some room, and show him a little trust.

## 8. Insist he like your friends

"Friend" is a funny term. Girls and guys alike tend to travel in cliques of anywhere from three to 20 or more at the high school level. We do not expect you to like all of the people we spend our time with, so please, extend us the same courtesy. There are some people who just can't see eye to eye, no matter how hard they try.

## 7. Talk about old boyfriends with him

This is really a big one. We don't care about your old boyfriends. We don't care about how bad they treated you, or how much you hate them, or how much you loved them, or how much you wish you were back together, or how much money they spent on you. We tend to get intimidated

very easily when you bring them up.

## 6. Cry around him too much

Guys don't like emotion. We tend to thrive on logic rather than feelings. Therefore, we can't see the point in crying every time someone looks at you the wrong way. We can't justify having a nervous breakdown because we did not perform well on a test. Tears are tolerable to guys, but ladies, please try to keep it reasonable!

## 5. Ask his opinion on everything

Again, I will restate, guys really are simple. What you wear, the style of your hair, how much makeup you put on — these details are all very unimportant to us. We are not going out with you because you wear certain clothes, or do your hair in a particular style.

## 4. Call him constantly

This is where a lot of girls mess things up. Ladies, we really like talking to you. But at some point, there is such a thing as too much. There is a very distinct line between calling your guy enough and starting to get on his nerves. Please, be careful not to cross it.

## 3. Smoke

By far one of the most disgusting habits you can pick up is smoking. There is nothing worse than a girl with a cigarette in her mouth, puffing away. Trust me on this one, smoking is not attractive or cool, but very immature and a huge turnoff.

## 2. Be fake

One of the things that gets on my nerves the most is a girl who is not herself. Be yourself, and we will respect you more than we would if you were pretending to be anyone else in the world. We don't want to date somebody else, otherwise we would. We are with you for a very specific reason — because we like you.

## 1. Try to change who he is

This is the quickest way to get rid of a guy. We are happy with who we are. We don't want to change the way we dress, act or talk, and we don't want to change the people we hang out with, the music we listen to, the things we do in our spare time or anything about us! If you try to change who we are, we will get quickly annoyed.

Please remember that these 10 things are not universal. There is no law anywhere that says that these things are written in stone. But they are just a few guidelines that I think most guys will agree with.

# Study shows young people are grumpier

By Leilani Zee,  
LV Academy

In American culture, the stereotype of "grumpy old people" is ingrained in society's mind, but that is about to come to an end. A recent study involving numerous people from different age groups has shown that it is the younger generations, and not their elders, who are more prone to peevish and pessimistic attitudes.

"Our generation is more pessimistic because we have so much more to deal with," says Sarah Vargas, a Las Vegas Academy senior. "The expectations are greater for us now. The high divorce rates prove that something is wrong."

In the study, which was printed in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, psychologist Susan Turk Charles of the University of California-Irvine and partner Laura Cartensen took 208 adults, ranging in age from 18 to 86

years old, and asked them to look at a selection of negative, neutral and positive images. The participants were then asked to recall and describe as many images as they could. The results

showed that the adults in their 60s and older remembered as many pleasant images as younger people, showing that old age has nothing to do with being crabby.

"It's as though older people are saying, 'Don't sweat the small stuff' because they realize life is short, and they don't want to spend their time looking at the bad things," said Charles in a USA Today article.



**"Crabbiness is an equal opportunity personality trait. I know grumpy old people and grumpy young people."**

But the study also showed that the younger the age, the more likely the person was to recall unhappy images. Other tests have also proved this age-linked, selective memory in America's youth, helping to explain why kids and grandchildren are at higher risk to contract serious depression than their so-called "grumpy" elders.

"Young adults may need an

antenna for ugly or threatening aspects of life as they jockey to establish careers and find partners," Charles said. "As adults age, they put more value on emotional meaning in life, often through deep intimacy and peace of mind. Selective memory for positive events may further these goals."

Though tests have been administered and results have been tabulated, some people, like LVA psychology and sociology teacher Ms. Alford, find these statistics hard to believe.

"These tests could be flawed," says Ms. Alford. "Grumpiness can't be categorized. I don't know about grumpier young or old people; I know both kinds."

But both Vargas and Alford agree that the stereotypes of younger generations as moody and crabby aren't all true.

"Not all of us are rebellious and deviant," says Vargas.

Alford concurs, saying, "The media would have us believe that teenagers are spoiled airheads, but our school is not so, although we do have some."

As for older people being grumpier, Vargas says, "It's pretty mixed. When I walk around with pink hair, they give me funny looks, but I just say, 'Hi!'"

Alford sums up her analysis by saying, "Crabbiness is an equal opportunity personality trait. I know grumpy old people and grumpy young people. You know them too."

# CSI: 'Crime Scene Imposters'

### Investigative career in crime forensics not as simple as TV show

By Yoshabel Cortez,  
Las Vegas HS

The bloodthirsty "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" episodes that come on every Thursday night at nine o'clock on CBS are so suspenseful, that by the end of the show one imagines him or herself being part of it.

You would probably be sitting on your nice, cozy, cushioned couch in front of the 43-inch, big screen TV with potato chips in your mouth, screaming, "THAT'S THE GUY!" Unfortunately, you, the actors and some viewers at home have no idea what that liquid spray does.

Crime scene investigation requires a lot of forensic science. Forensic science can be defined as the science that is applied to legal matters. In other words, trying to solve the crime and asking the questions who, what, where, when, why and how.

However, do not be mistaken by the media's portrayal of how to solve crimes. Sure, it is exciting watching the actors running all around the building trying to find the murderer, but it is not that simple in real life.

Danielle Garry, a teacher from Chaparral High School, says, "Crime does not get solved in 60 minutes, minus commercials."

Garry worked for an organ donor clinic for about two and a half years. After an organ donor passed away, Garry would be responsible for cutting those organs out. From eyes to toes, she did it all. However, after one particularly gruesome autopsy, she told herself that she didn't want to do her job any longer and wished to do something more than dismembering humans.

She then fell in love with forensic science and tried to get a

position where she would be the first person at the site of a crime scene, also known as a crime scene investigator. Unfortunately, her background did not fulfill the requirements. Instead, the Clark County crime scene investigators offered her the job of assistant to a pathologist, a doctor who determines the cause and manner of a person's death, but that was not her passion. Garry then looked into a teaching career and is now teaching biology and marine biology at Chaparral.

Garry explains that the CSI career "is not a job for everybody, but it's very high in demand."

The coroner's office in Clark County allows the investigators, the pathologists and the entomologists (one who studies insects and uses them as evidence) to work there to solve crimes. According to census reports, Clark County holds approximately 75 percent of the Nevada population, so it would be hard to solve all the crimes in a day. Yet, the CSI positions are in great demand so more crimes can be solved and more killers can be put in jail.

She also explains that if one is thinking about getting involved with this career, one should have a very strong stomach and have realistic expectations. Investigating a crime scene is not like TV.

The detective shows on TV make it seem so easy and clean. Garry states that the TV shows are censored because the real thing is too gruesome to be put on television. Instead of showing the gory crime scene that the investigators find here in Clark County, the media emphasizes verbal drama as opposed to physical drama.

Garry says the forensic science field is broader than you think. She says that most of the actors in the CSI show are playing more than one part.

"It takes many more people to investigate and solve a crime than five characters," she says.

There are different departments in the coroner's office. Originally, there is a CSI team

that contains the team leader, photographer and the photographic recorder, prepared sketcher, and the evidence recorder who all stick with their specialties and cannot do someone else's job. For instance, you would not see the prepared sketcher replacing the team leader because the sketcher would not have the same knowledge as the team leader.

Nonetheless, on the "CSI" show you would see one character playing the investigator and then testing the blood tubes.

Could this crime be solved? Is the "CSI" show exactly like the real CSI? Maybe we need more evidence... Or maybe we should just sit back and relax with our potato chips and watch another episode of "Crime Scene Imposters."



Freshman Matt Hullum sits at a home computer downloading the newest music off KaZaA. Such CDs as Linkin Park's 'Hybrid Theory' or 'Meteora' had Hullum downloading music into the late hours of the night.

## Internet piracy robs musicians, but provides a larger audience

By Nick Madrid, Basic HS

It's happened to you. Come on, don't lie. You're sitting at the computer, downloading that new Eminem or Justin Timberlake CD two weeks before it's put on the shelves at Best Buy. Suddenly, the transfer from the World Wide Web to your hard drive comes to a screeching halt because of some unknown error. The frustration shoots from your head, to your fingers, to your toes as you attempt to resume the download. This is the unpredictable world of media piracy — the act of downloading things from the Net, then burning and selling them, a growing trend since the creation of a few little devices called CD and DVD burners.

While teens and even adults download movies and CDs, the artists and people behind the

media cannot fathom where the entertainment industry is going to be in a decade, two decades or three decades even. As musicians continue to make music just for the love of it, they are also striving to put food on their tables by showing their hatred towards supporters of illegal downloads. But is piracy really as bad as people are making it out to be?

"No, not really. These people are still making money like us," explains Basic High School Algebra teacher Matt Jackson. "Personally, I don't think it's so evil. But maybe charging a dollar or two would make things better."

In the long run, though, would a fee for downloads really help? There will always be someone who is able to get around the charges. Popular

*Continued on page 31*

# Reviews

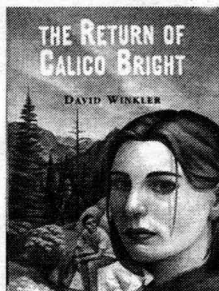
## 'Calico Bright' packed with action, deception, wisdom

By Stephanie Espinoza,  
Green Valley HS

Those who create for the public always seem surreal, as if they exist someplace far away that you can never quite reach. This is why it's so amazing when you can find someone like a published author right in your own backyard.

David Winkler lives right here in Las Vegas with the normal job of reading teacher at Orr Middle School. And yet he is beginning to rise in the literary world.

"The Return of Calico Bright," Winkler's second book, is already making waves. It is a Young Adult novel packed with emotion, excitement and issues. The book begins with the woes of protagonist Callie Weston, named after her great-great-great grandmother, a frontierswoman called Calico Bright. Throughout trying to deal with her weight, her best friend's advice and dreams of her crush, Callie is encouraged by the tales of adventure her mother reads from Great-Gran's journal. After facing everything from sudden popularity to deep deception, Callie decides it is time for her to make changes in her life. It is during a school trip to the mountains in the second half of the book that Callie truly comes of age, discovering who



she wants to be and who she is. The story is packed from all sides with teenage issues including racial discrimination, homosexuality, poverty and girl-power, but basically centers on the themes of tolerance and trust. The feel of the book is a little different than most YA novels; Winkler himself described it

as "atypical." But that doesn't mean readers should turn away. The overall telling of the story is very good, teaching without preaching. It also manages to keep readers turning the pages with something new happening at every corner.

At a Barnes and Noble book signing, directed by Community Relations Manager Leigh-Ann Melton, Winkler was able to give an exclusive interview about his creation of the teenage novel.

### **CLASS!: What made you decide to write this book?**

Winkler: First of all, it was important for me to write a book from a female point of view; I wanted to see if I could do it. And then one day I was in my backyard in the hammock watching my daughter climb the tree and making sure she didn't fall. All of a sudden this line just came to me, and it became the first sentence of the novel: "I was named after my great-great-great-great

dropped 20 percent, according to a recent issue of Rolling Stone Magazine.

"I don't really mind bootlegging, or the money; I just want to get heard," protested senior James Light, lead vocalist for the band In the Shadows. "It does take away from paychecks, but definitely not from the music."

So, it's evident that many people are not opposed to Internet piracy. In fact, a lot of people are well in support of it. And the ones who do disagree with downloading media are good at keeping themselves anonymous.



CLASS! writer Stephanie Espinoza, gets a signed copy of "Calico Bright" from Winkler during her interview.

### **favorite character in "The Return of Calico Bright"?**

Winkler: Trotter. Trotter is perceived initially as an under-achiever. He doesn't fit in to any recognizable category of success. But he is highly skilled in other areas. He is kind, compassionate, wise, trustworthy and a good friend. It's very important to me to give each character a life of his or her own. If you take out any character from the book, it would be weaker. Any character or event can't be just tacked on. They should be integral to the telling of the tale.

### **CLASS!: What advice would you give to aspiring authors?**

Winkler: Show up for work. Many people come to me and say, "I have an idea for a book." But unless you're willing to do the work, it won't get done. Everyone has an imaginative personal view of the world worth sharing. You have to be willing to fashion it. It's just like playing the piano — you have to sit down every day and practice. You have to sit down every day and write. And that goes for any career. You show up for work, and you'll be successful.

grandmother, Calico Warrenfield Bright." Then I just went from there and made it up as I went along. With a lot of it, I didn't know what was going to happen ahead of time.

### **CLASS!: How long did the process take?**

Winkler: It took about nine months altogether just for the rough draft. But then I had to go back through for revision. Revision is the almighty force behind any successful author. You have to really roll up your sleeves and get everything as smooth and perfect as possible. I like to use the analogy with my students that it's like taking a shower before a party. You're wrapping a towel around you when suddenly the doorbell rings and it's your date. You don't want to be seen yet. You are a rough draft. You're not ready yet. It's the same thing with a manuscript.

### **CLASS!: Do you have a fa-**

## Dashboard Confessional

By Cherish Dollar, Community College HS

"The Places You Have Come to Fear the Most," the CD released in 2001 by Dashboard Confessional, made a huge impression on suburban, teenage indie-rock fans. In ten years, when these Chuck Taylor-shoes-wearing, emo-loving kids turn into nostalgic twenty-somethings, they will most certainly regard "Places" as one of the most important records of their adolescence.

"Places" is a tough act to follow, but Dashboard Confessional make an admirable attempt with "A Mark, A Mission, A Brand, A Scar," released in August of 2003. On this offering, lead singer and chief songwriter Chris Carrabba treads familiar lyrical territory. Most of us have come to accept that the bulk of songs on Dashboard albums will be about relationships, when they end, and not much else.

Carrabba's apparent lack of growth lyrically is offset by his great melodic sense and willingness to try new things on this album. The best example of this is "Ghost of a Good Thing" in which Carrabba stretches himself as a vocalist, with impressive results. Though Dashboard Confessional is largely Carrabba's project, the backup band (drummer Mike Marsh, bassist Scott Schoenbeck and guitarist Johnny Leffler) serves the songs well.

"A Mark, A Mission, A Brand, A Scar" is a solid album, but many longtime Dashboard fans will feel obligated to hate it; this has less to do with the music itself and more to do with looming 18th birthdays. After all, once you reach a certain age, is it really acceptable to still be listening to Dashboard albums?

## Internet piracy

Continued from page 30  
download platform Kazaa went the route of charging 99 cents per download. However, their peer-to-peer networking quickly had users getting around the fee, which caused Kazaa to only charge for full album downloads.

"As a fan, it's cool to get free music," says Basic sophomore Jason Man. "But as a musician, we lose money."

Since 2001, Sony-recording artists' record sales have

## 'Life of Pi': story of improbable survival

By Natalie Minev,  
Community College HS



Shipwrecked, abandoned and hopeless: "Life of Pi" is an adventurous story of survival on the infinite expanse of the Pacific Ocean.

Pi Patel, a 16-year-old Indian boy, is a sensitive and bookish animal lover, who dabbles in the Hindu, Islamic and Christian religions, searching for spirituality. As the son of a zookeeper, he understands the behavior of animals, which turns out to be a lifesaving asset. Pi and his family move from India to Canada on a Japanese ship, with cages of zoo animals aboard. As the ship unexpectedly sinks, Pi ends up in a lifeboat with a zebra, orangutan, hyena and a ferocious Bengal tiger. Ahead of him is a fantastic, unforgettable journey of survival on the largest ocean in the world.

Bereft of his family, Pi finds hope and perseverance through prayer on his drifting, endless voyage on the sea. Starvation, thirst and exposure take their toll on Pi, as well as emptiness and fear. The tiger, named Richard Parker, devours the three other animals on the boat until all that is left are cleanly licked skeletons. Pi's knowledge, however, places the tiger at his mercy, and an interesting relationship develops between boy and tiger.

Sustaining Pi and Richard Parker are meals of dried fish, turtles, algae, crabs and fresh water from rain and solar distillation. Day by painful day, their survival is depicted in delirious, blurry accounts, with many moments of surrender, gore and desperation.

Author Yann Martel crafts Pi into a heroic, likable young man by revealing both his mountainous resolve as well as his touching sensitivity.

More than a firsthand account of a tremendous battle to survive, this book is truly the story of Pi, who firmly believes to the end that his spirituality and faith will help him overcome any obstacle. It is a book of fiction for the imagination and the soul, as it truly defeats all impossibilities in life.

## AFI rocks House of Blues

By Jessica Roadhouse,  
Indian Springs HS

Hardcore punkers AFI rocked the crowd during its Sept. 26 concert at the House of Blues at Mandalay Bay. The show also featured openers Bleeding Through and Hot Water Music.

First up was Bleeding Through, which I didn't see due to parking problems. The next up was Hot Water Music, and the crowd was pretty into them, but it was AFI that got everybody pumped.

As soon as the lights were off the whole crowd was cheering "AFI! AFI! AFI!" Fog began to float around the room. The music started and the band walked out. As soon as the song started, everybody was screaming along, "Love! Your hate! Your! Faith lost! You! Are now! One! Of us!" The crowd's sing-

ing completely blanketed AFI vocalist Davey Havok's voice. Havok was joined on stage by band members Jade Puget on guitar, Hunter on bass, and Adam Carson on drums.

Throughout the show, Havok kept saying how much he loved Vegas and how awesome of a crowd we were. During the show, he front-flipped into the crowd and walked along the kids. The audience was huge. There were tons of kids there, and we were all smashed together, but if you ask anybody who was there, it was well worth it.

"Ecstasy is an understatement," says Branden Kaltsas, an alumnus of Indian Springs High School.

The energy from the band surged through the crowd dur-



ing the entire show. I would have to say that it was, and will always be, one of the best experiences of my life.

To find out more about AFI, check them out at their official Web site: [www.afireinside.net](http://www.afireinside.net).

## 'Density of Souls' takes fast-pace ride through high school hell

Son of horror writer Anne Rice chills with his debut literary work

By Beau Forbes, Durango HS

Four friends, upon entering high school, discover that they have all drastically changed. Two are now cruel football jocks, one is having trouble coming to terms with his homosexuality, and the other is facing the harsh reality of popularity. This is the dramatic premise of Christopher Rice's first novel, "A Density of Souls" in which he spins a mesmer-

izing tale of love, hate, fear and prejudice.

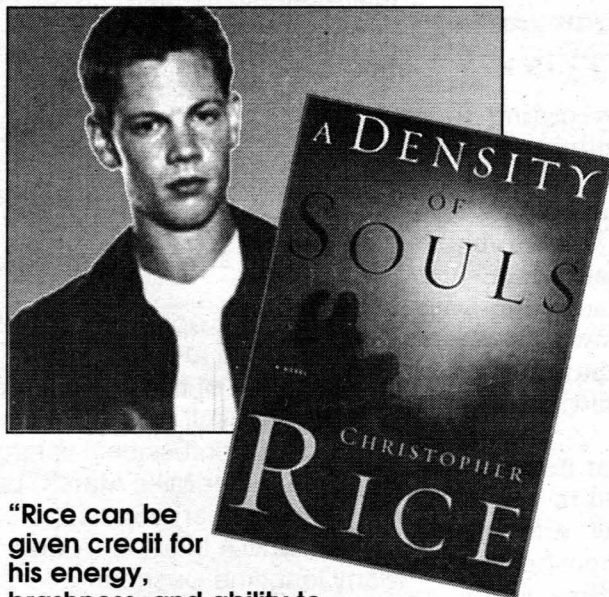
Rice is the son of literary vampire queen Anne Rice, and in this case it's a good thing the apple hasn't fallen too far from the talented tree. He does, though, have his own originality and writing style (no vampires, witches or mummies), and reading his novel can almost be considered a guilty pleasure.

But with the pros there are the cons — or in this case just one. Making sure that this miniscule problem wasn't just something I made up, I asked a friend who also read the book and we both agreed that it left us confused in some areas.

Rice gets so into his story and moves it along at such a fast pace that it's easy for the reader to lose track of which sub-story they left off on. This flaw didn't stop me from reading the novel again though, and like in most cases, it made all the more sense the second time around.

The novel is motivated by characters that are realistic and somehow make the reader feel for them, a talent that is rare and difficult to achieve, even more so in an author's debut novel. The plot is rushed but very intriguing, and the story is powerful and filled with a descriptiveness to die for.

"A Density of Souls" wouldn't just be recommended to lovers of the drama genre as I, a lover of horror and suspense, was quickly drawn into the tale and have now placed it on my personal favorites list. It's definitely one novel to look out for the next time you find yourself in a bookstore.



"Rice can be given credit for his energy, brashness, and ability to capture the real misery of the teenage years." —USA Today



# R.E.M. delivers 'pure music' at T&M event

By Brad Nelson,  
Community College HS

The lights dim until the entire room around the audience is completely black. That is, except for the stage filled with shimmering lights reflecting a magnificent red. Three letters hang above the stage, simply spelling "Luv." The band appears with a spotlight on lead singer Michael Stipe, wearing a jacket and beret and preparing to sing "World Leader Pretend" as if the world were ending tomorrow. This is R.E.M. in every light, in every possible incarnation. This is pure music.

R.E.M. started their new world tour a few weeks ago, celebrating the upcoming release of their greatest hits collection, "In Time." During the second week of the tour, they played Las Vegas on Sept. 11 at the Thomas and Mack Center. The concert was made even more of a main event due to the fact that it was the Thomas and Mack's 20th anniversary. With all this in the mix, this event was ultimately expected to be one excellent concert. And it was.

R.E.M. entered as a rock band, playing their more high-energy, rocking songs first. Further along in the show, the songs grew a bit more melancholy, but the power of the band had not been lost.

The encore was even more brilliant than the first set, with the spectacularly lifting performance of "Everybody Hurts." Stipe and Mike Mills, celebrated bassist and pianist of the band, collaborated for an endearing version of "Nightswimming" — that is, until Stipe accidentally messed up the lyrics. Though they picked it up again, it was a rare moment of humor in an otherwise somber song, which, through Stipe's reading of a Patti Smith lyric, was attributed to the attacks on Sept. 11.

The performance, in the end, was an exhilarating and uplifting experience. R.E.M. controlled everyone in that audience and delivered a show worthy of their 20 years of musical history.

## home room

# Is freshman spirit obsolete?

By Nicole Magli,  
Chaparral HS

Thinking about my freshman year of high school brings back precious memories, memories that I can look back at and cherish as an adult. I still feel the anxiousness I felt the very first time I strolled down the halls of my high school. I knew from the first moment I stepped onto high school grounds that these years would be everything I had expected. I remember the boys, the sounds, the inexpressible feeling of inadequacy resulting from feeling so miniscule in comparison to such a newer, larger world. Most of all, I remember how happy I was to be in high school.

In recent years, as I have become an upperclassman, I have noticed school spirit diminishing with the arrival of each new class. The students don't seem to find high school as appealing as I found it to be my freshman year. As they saunter through the halls of high school, these freshmen seem agitated, not intrigued like I once was. When assembly time comes rolling around, the freshman turnout is depressing! Where has freshman class spirit gone?

The key to having a successful high school experience is involvement. I am not talking about homework and projects; I'm talking about joining clubs and activities and making new friends. I understand it may be hard to join something new, to step into the unknown, but the end result will be worth it, and you will fit right in.

The clubs most schools offer fit almost every student's needs. As diverse as the students are, the clubs meet diversity head on; believe me, there is a club for everyone! There are Bible clubs, Spanish clubs, French clubs, class committees, Future Business Leaders of America, and many more. I am sure if you take a minute of your time to check a few clubs out, you'll find not only an interesting extracurricular activity, but also a new group of friends.

I can't mention involvement

without mentioning sports. High schools offer a number of after-school sports to motivate students to become involved. You can try out for the basketball team or football team. There are also sports like tennis and swimming for the more unique sports junkie. Oh, and ladies, don't forget, you too can join any sport. This is not just a man's world anymore. Sports are becoming more and more dominant in the female world.

If you don't have any regular time after school, you can con-

# Valley's growth leads to crowded classes, hallways

By Jenna Arballo,  
Sierra Vista HS

Do you feel cramped in the hallways? Are there no seats at lunch? No desks in your overcrowded classrooms?

You are not alone. These problems that everyone is experiencing are just a few that arose this year at Sierra Vista, similar to the overcrowding at other valley high schools.

The population of the student body has skyrocketed to a shocking number — 2,700! Enrollment has soared since the school opened in 2001 when the number of students was 1,146. Last year the count was 2,169.

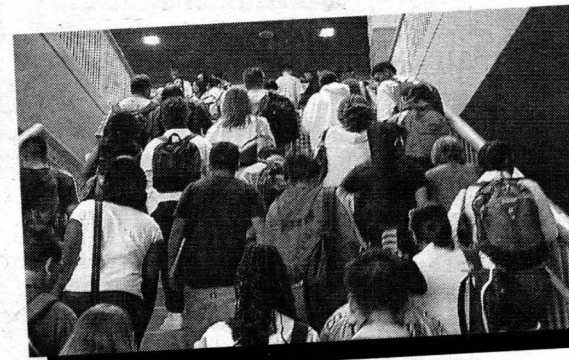
"This year we were only expecting 200 new kids and instead we ended up getting over 600," says head counselor Susan Sawyer. "Due to that fact, we had to push back a couple of procedures, and unfortunately some students aren't receiving the attention they need."

Teachers are also feeling the stress of the growing population. Many classes average 35 students and some even have 48! Las Vegas is rapidly growing, which means the more homes being built, the more students there will be at local schools like Sierra Vista.

"As long as they keep building new houses close by, we'll keep growing," says English teacher Robert Parker. "We better learn to like it!"

tribute to school spirit by helping with the class float or even just cheering at the games. Maybe high school doesn't seem so bad after all, does it?

So freshmen, come out to your school assemblies; join in on all the fun activities; wear your orange and blacks, purples and blues — whatever color your school is associated with! Just join in on the fun, and the spirit. If you fail to join activities and get involved, you're going to miss out on many great opportunities, and a huge amount of fun. What you choose to get involved in as a freshman will pave the road for your entire high school experience and shape the memories you hold as an adult after high school. Come and join the spirited — we all want you there! If these are said to be the glory years, make yours glorious!



Students hope that when Spring Valley HS opens next year it will help relieve the crowded conditions at Sierra Vista HS.

The crowds have overwhelmed students who have been here since the first year. Lunch, which is considered a time to chat with friends and reenergize yourself by eating, is now a hectic time with long lunch lines, limited seats available, and even shortages of food.

"I can't believe how packed the school is! I really hope this whole situation gets organized soon," says Sierra Vista senior Natalie Wilkerson.

On the bright side, the larger population brings diversity, more class options and even more school spirit. It also increases the number of students involved with after school clubs, organizations and sports.

"The variety of people is a big change compared to where I used to be," says Sierra Vista senior Chelsea Kaufman.

# 'Every 15 Minutes' brings death to life

By Lori Faber,  
Green Valley HS

An alcohol-related collision involving four Green Valley High School seniors occurred in front of the school on Sept. 25. Two girls died, one was injured and the fourth was taken to jail on charges of driving under the influence and involuntary manslaughter. Both Green Valley's junior and senior classes watched from the parking lot as police officers, paramedics and the city coroner dealt with the cleanup and immediate effects of the collision. The students would be the ones to deal with the long-term effects.

The accident was part of a two-day, anti-drunk driving demonstration, "Every 15 Minutes," sponsored by the Henderson Police Department. All the students involved in the crash were acting.

Twenty-six juniors and seniors participated as victims of the collision and members of the Living Dead — students who were removed from class by the Grim Reaper as their obituaries were read to their class. In the courtyard, a cemetery was erected, and a headstone was placed there with the name of each member of the Living Dead.

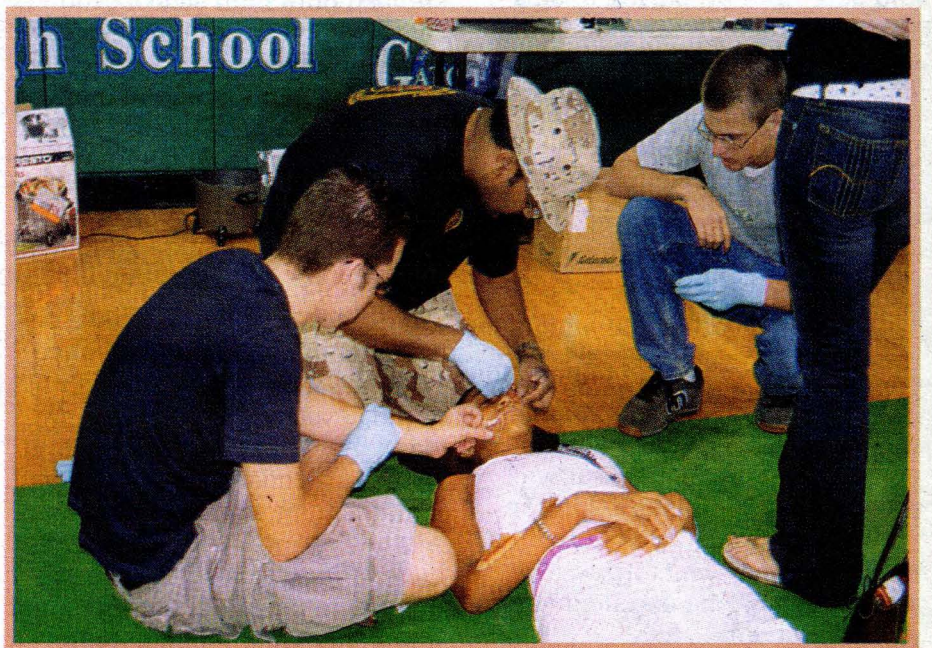
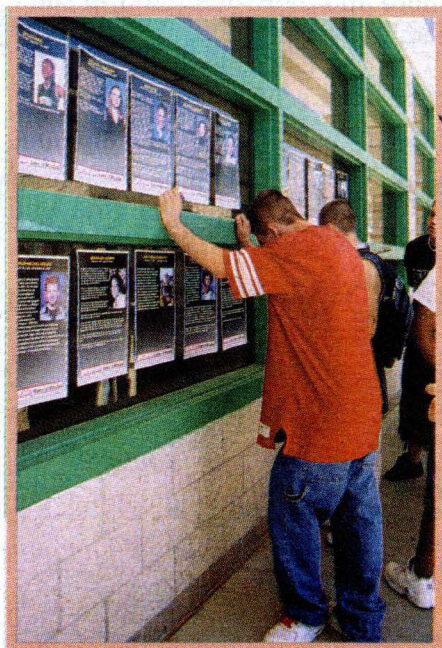
The students stayed in a hotel with a handful of police officers and volunteers, and for two days they were dead to all who knew them.

"I have a totally new outlook on life now," says senior Joel Peterman, one of the Living Dead. "I'm so grateful for everything I have after hearing people's stories of losing their children, it helped me realize what is important."

Every one of the students represented a teenager who dies every day in the United States as a victim of an alcohol-related automobile accident — the equivalent of one every 15 minutes.

The students were "brought back to life" on Sept. 26, at a funeral service and assembly held in the gym in front of their junior and senior peers.

Clockwise from the top: Henderson fire department workers carry a "victim" away; getting a "victim" ready for the theater of death; a student reflects on the obituary posters.



Guest speakers spoke to the group about their losses to drunk drivers, as well as the legal consequences of drinking and driving. Senior Daniel Scow read a letter to his family and friends, addressing everything he meant to say to them, but never did. Likewise, Bill Hughes read a letter to his daughter, senior Elyse Hughes, telling her the same.

"It was scary for me because I had to lay my emotions down in front of everyone," Scow says of reading his letter. "It was weird for me; I never do that. It was worth it because it had an impact on people."

To conclude the assembly and to illustrate how many people drunk driving affects, everyone who knew one of the Living Dead was asked to stand. Almost every person in the gym was standing.

The Henderson Police Department hoped that the program would touch students in

such a way that they would think twice before drinking and driving in the future.

"Every 15 Minutes opened my eyes to the dangers of

drinking and driving. You always know there's a danger involved, but this painted a picture for us," says senior Lisa Defuria.

## Jr. Statesman Club involves students in democratic process

By Daniel Steffey, Sierra Vista HS

School clubs allow students to expand their minds in almost any subject they choose. At Sierra Vista High School, one of the newest clubs is the Junior Statesman Club.

The Junior Statesman Club focuses students' attention on political and social issues that affect their lives every day. It also helps students increase their ability and skill in debate and speech.

Mike Harter, the club's adviser, says, "The goal of the club is to get students more involved in the democratic process with local, state and federal politics."

"The club's aim is to reduce apathy in the student body and to keep everyone well informed on daily issues," says the club's co-founder, Sierra Vista senior Blake Farmer.

Set up a club at your school and learn about the issues affecting your life.

# Smaller school provides enhanced learning opportunities

Funded by Bill Gates, Peterson Center's philosophy promotes excellence



schools in the United States that are funded by Bill and Melinda Gates in the Model Small Secondary Schools Project.

All small

schools are based on the same philosophy, using seven specific attributes:

1. Common focus: Collaborative teaching, block scheduling and project-based learning.

2. High expectations: Students are provided extra help in reaching their personal academic and success goals.

3. Performance-based: Teachers provide experiences for students to learn in context and solve real world problems.

4. Personalized Learning Environment: Students develop their own learning plan, have individual mentors and work in a culture of trust.

5. Respect and Responsibility: Teachers create an environment where respect and responsibility come together as they model the habits of success.

By Aleisha Turner, Peterson Center

Would you believe someone if they told you there was a high school in your city with a student population maximum of 200, where students could sit at tables with laptops and do class work using project-based learning skills?

Recently the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave \$51.2 million to the city of New York to help create 67 of these small high schools for minority students. This money is in addition to the \$30 million already given, for similar schools around the country, including Las Vegas' own Peterson Center.

Located in the Northwest Region, the Peterson Center, in its second year, is just one of eight

6. Time to Collaborate: Students and teachers are grouped into teams and travel together throughout the school day.

7. Technology as a Tool: Technology resources are used, not as a solution, but as one of many tools available to students to help them learn. Web-based portfolios serve as one example of the student's work and measure of improvement.

Unlike most high schools, Peterson isn't made of books and lockers to put them in. The idea is maybe if we go further than just memorizing and we actually implement information, we will get more out of the experience while being in a less stressful environment.

That's when technology steps in. How could we begin to explore the world with just a book? Although books will always be useful (and like every other school, Peterson has a library open to students), at the same time students are given the opportunity to choose different methods of learning, using firsthand experiments and technology to come up with a final product.

Whether they work in groups or independently, students get to choose which way they get their work done, and they always have something to show for it.

Students receive eight credits a year as well as extended com-

puter skills. Having its ups and downs like any other school, Peterson offers most typical high school classes, excluding physical education, music and art. Since Peterson can only take 200 students, they ask for the ones who feel underserved at their regular high school. Being at school at 9:00 a.m. and leaving at 3:00 p.m. may be a good or bad thing depending on which students you ask, but all in all students think it's worth it because of the strong relationships they gain with teachers, the personalization of the learning program and the performance-based learning.

Statistics show that only 40 percent of freshmen in urban high schools will graduate. Statistics also show that students have a more successful high school career and lower dropout rates in smaller schools. The plan is to create small schools nationwide, so that the dropout rate will decrease.

The main goals at Peterson are to get more students to graduate and to prepare high school students for college and other choices.

Linda Keller, one of the national directors of the Model Secondary Small Schools Project says, "Peterson is providing an innovative opportunity that extends student options for the future."

## New guidance period helps LVHS students catch up with homework, friends

By April Corbin, Las Vegas HS

The start of the 2003-2004 school year brought about a significant change from the traditional school schedule at Las Vegas High School — the addition of a seventh period. Replacing the Sustained Silent Reading period from previous years, all students now have guidance period for fourth hour.

The change was made to benefit students, according to Assistant Principal Debbie Brockett. She says, "It gives more opportunities to help students academically with tutoring."

Junior and senior students with a GPA of at least 3.0 were recommended by their teachers to be mentors. Each mentor is assigned to a specific teacher, and if students need help, mentors provide that for them.

"I think it really helps to have someone [the student's] age helping them," says mentor Angela Taylor, a Las Vegas junior. "You can really get on a friendly basis rather than an adult-student relationship. It helps."

In addition to helping out their peers, every mentor receives half a credit for the entire school year and a "genie in a bottle" wish each semester. The wishes can be used to change mentors' schedules when they have been denied a change by their counselors. Other creative ways to use the genie in a bottle wishes are being thought of and proposed by mentors.

Even for students who do not need or want tutoring, guidance



period offers time to complete homework, study or read. Those with jobs or extracurricular activities are getting the most from the extra 30 minutes.

"I have no time after school to do [homework] because of volleyball," says freshman Chelsea Olson. "I have a chance to do homework now."

Parents are happy about the change. Terrie Ramirez has had three children attend LVHS. She says that she wishes that the guidance period had been implemented years ago.

"I know it will help my daughters because they are involved in so many extracurricular activities," she says. "It will give them a chance to organize themselves."

However, some students are not so enthusiastic.

"It's a waste of time if you don't have any homework to do," says sophomore Mercedes Fleming.

For the students who would prefer to drop guidance period, they must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA, receive no Ds or Fs, and have no suspensions. If juniors and seniors meet these requirements, they can drop guidance period at the start of second quarter. If sophomores meet the requirements, they will have the opportunity to drop guidance period at the beginning of second semester. If a student fails to keep up with grades or is suspended, he or she will be required to attend guidance again. Students who drop guidance will be allowed to spend guidance period in the quad with their friends.

Whether or not students take advantage and study, or if they decide to use the free time to socialize, the new guidance period seems to have plenty to offer to everyone.

## NOVEMBER

### Nov. 7 through Jan. 4

Images from the Boneyard. Photographs, drawings and artifacts from the Neon Museum's collection. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 6 p.m. Free admission. 229-4674.

### Nov. 13

Obie Trice/Nappy Roots in concert. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 7:30 p.m. \$25-30. 632-7600.

### Nov. 14

A DJ will be spinning the latest hits for young people, ages 11-15. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush Street. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets \$3 each, \$4 per couple. 229-6383.

Karaoke Kraze II is back by popular demand. Sing your guts out, or just laugh at your friends ... either way it's a good time! Paseo Verde Library, 280 S. Green Valley Pkwy. in Henderson. 6 p.m. 492-7252.

### Nov. 16

Less than Jake in concert with Rufio and Fall Out Boy. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 7:15 p.m. Tickets \$15. 632-7600.

### Nov. 18

Las Vegas Youth Orchestras. Soloists from the Las Vegas Youth Orchestras will perform classical pieces. Reed Whipple Cultural Center Studio Theatre, 821 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 7 p.m. Free admission. 229-6211.

**CLASS!** publishes only calendar items of possible interest to teenagers.

To submit calendar items, send the details by e-mail, mail or fax:

**E-mail:**

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

**Mail:** UNLV, Box 451025  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025

**Fax:** (702) 895-1505

### Nov. 21

Poets' Corner. Hosted by Keith Brantley and Pendelita Toney, the series features established poets and open mic participants. West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Boulevard. 7 p.m. Free admission. 229-4800.

### Nov. 22

Movie Night. Join others for the movie "Catch Me If You Can," starring Tom Hanks and Leonardo DiCaprio. Whitney Library, 5175 E. Tropicana Ave. 2 p.m. 507-4015.

Lit/American Hi-Fi in concert with The Matches. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 7:15 p.m. Tickets \$18-\$20. 632-7600.

The Ramona Roses. One-woman delves into the cultural diversity and emotional complexity of the female students at East Los Angeles' Ramona High School. Strong language; must be 15 years or older. East Las Vegas Community/Senior Center. 7 p.m. Tickets \$5 at the door, \$3 in advance. 229-1515.

## DECEMBER

### Dec. 5-14

Little Shop of Horrors. The musical fun begins when a down-and-out skid row floral assistant discovers an exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 South Brush Street. 7 p.m. on Dec. 5, 6, 11-13, and 2 p.m. on Dec. 7, 13 and 14. Tickets \$7 adults, \$5 teens & seniors, \$3 children 12 and under. 229-6383.

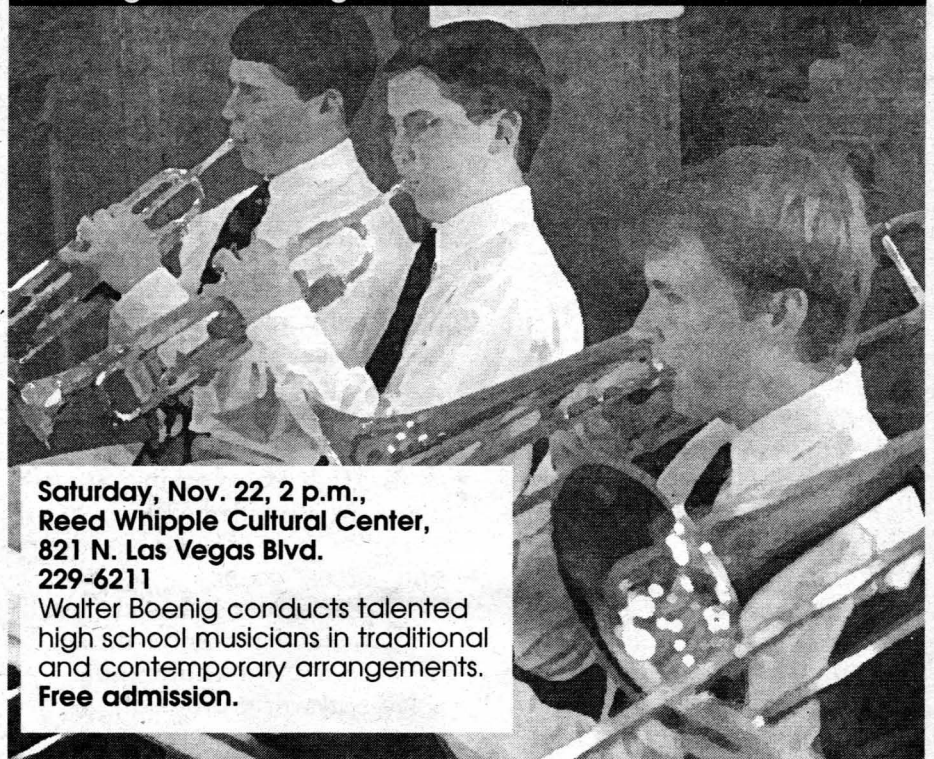
### Dec. 7

Default in concert with Blue October, Socialburn and Blue Epic. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 7:15 p.m. \$15. 632-7600.

### Dec. 13

Straight Ahead Jazz Series. Local jazz group, Rick Arroyo Trio, will be performing. Reed Whipple Cultural Center Studio Theatre, 821 N. Las Vegas Blvd. Tickets \$7. 229-6211.

### Las Vegas All-Star High School Jazz Band



Saturday, Nov. 22, 2 p.m.,  
Reed Whipple Cultural Center,  
821 N. Las Vegas Blvd.  
229-6211

Walter Boenig conducts talented high school musicians in traditional and contemporary arrangements.  
**Free admission.**

## LVA readies 'Jekyll and Hyde' musical for November opening

By Sarah Burgman, LV Academy

The air is already sparked with electricity and anticipation, awakening the Las Vegas Academy's production of the dark musical, "Jekyll and Hyde."

Rehearsals started shortly after school was in session, and cast members have been strenuously working in preparation for its opening night on Nov. 13. It will run Nov. 13-15 and 20-22, all at 7:00 p.m. In the spring, the show will continue on to the National Thespian Conference in Nebraska where many opportunities await LVA theatre majors. Besides the priceless experience students will gain by attending, colleges will be holding auditions at the conference for scholarships to their schools.

Many have described the musical as complex and thought provoking. The play is especially difficult on the lead actor, LVA senior Taylor Campbell, who must switch characters effortlessly on-stage from good-will Jekyll to conniving Hyde.

"It is the most challenging role I've ever had because of the two extremes, good and evil," says Campbell.

In short, Dr. Jekyll is researching a drug, which brings out his evil side in the form of Mr. Hyde. As Hyde takes control of Jekyll under the influence of the drug, he wreaks havoc on the citizens of London, murdering many. With unexpected surprises, and a special LVA twist, the show should be a definite hit.

Besides Taylor, other cast members include Emily Bourland, Ashley Price, David Andino, Harrison Decreny, Kellan Baker, Joey DeBenedetto, Santiago Villami, Donovan Kidd, Seth Love and Megan Koumis.

Danielle Harrison, a senior cast member of the ensemble is optimistic about the production. "I am thrilled to be a part of this show. The cast is filled with talented kids, and we are going to put on a high quality production."

Spirits are high and the adrenaline is higher as the opening night for "Jekyll and Hyde" nears.

# GERM WARFARE

## Fight bacteria!

### Your safety is in your hands

Bacteria are everywhere. They survive on our skin, hide in our hair, and conceal themselves under our fingernails. These one-celled microorganisms are often found on our food and, given the right conditions (which include the proper temperature, water content and acid content, they can readily reproduce.

Bacteria multiply through cell division: one becomes two, two become four, four become eight, eight become sixteen and so on. If you had one fast-growing bacterium (dividing every 20 minutes) on a piece of food at breakfast and left that food out of the refrigerator, by lunchtime there would be over 1,000 bacteria.

The United States has one of the safest food supplies in the world. Nevertheless, each year there are an estimated 76 million illnesses and 5,000 deaths caused by consuming contaminated food and water. To avoid food-borne illness (getting sick from food) follow the recommendations of the Fight Bac!™ program (Bac is short for bacteria): *clean, separate, cook and chill*.

### The Germ Q & A

#### WHAT ABOUT EATING OUT?

If you eat out, pick a place that looks clean. If you see employees handling food with their hands and there is no soap in the restroom, you should find somewhere else to eat. Order your meat well cooked and make sure it's served to you hot. If not, send it back. Put your leftovers in the refrigerator immediately.

#### IS BRINGING LUNCH TO SCHOOL A SAFETY ISSUE?

If you make sandwiches the night before, keep them in the refrigerator until you leave. Use an insulated thermos for soup or hot foods. You can fill the thermos with boiling water, let it stand and then empty it before adding your hot food to keep the food hot for a longer time. Take cold foods right from the refrigerator and use a cold pack. You can freeze juice containers overnight. The juice will thaw by lunchtime and help keep the rest of the lunch cold.

#### SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT FOOD AT PARTIES AND BUFFETS?

Bacteria that cause food-borne illness are often found when food is left out at room temperature. The two-hour rule should be applied: if food sits out for more than two hours, it should not be eaten. This rule does not apply to foods kept hot with chafing dishes, slow cookers or warming trays or to dishes kept iced. If you are eating outdoors at a picnic or cookout where temperatures are over 90°F, discard the food after one hour. Remember: Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold.

#### SHOULD I AVOID SALAD BARS?

Fresh produce is full of vitamins and minerals, nutritious to eat, and important for health. Unfortunately produce such as lettuce and spinach, grows low to the ground and may come in contact with contaminated fertilizers or irrigation water. Salad produce is difficult to clean. Check that the vegetables are not bruised or damaged. The salad fruit and vegetables should be in containers on ice and a sneeze guard should shield and protect the produce.

#### IS IT SAFE TO EAT SUSHI?

Sushi has become a very trendy food item. It can be made with raw, broiled or fried fish. When you order, remember that foods made with raw fish are more likely to contain parasites or bacteria than those made from cooked fish so choose wisely. A very popular type of sushi is the California Roll made with cooked crab, avocado and cucumbers. Many restaurants offer cooked fish or vegetarian varieties.

**Food safety is in your hands. Keep them clean and follow the recommendations of the Fight Bac!™ program: clean, separate, cook and chill to avoid food-borne illness.**

#### Clean:

Cleanliness is a major factor in preventing illness from food. Hands should be washed with hot, soapy water before handling food; after using the bathroom; after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; and after handling pets. Did you know that there are parasites that cannot be killed with bleach, but just the rubbing action will remove them from your hands? Counters, cutting boards and utensils that come in contact with raw meat products and eggs should be washed with hot, soapy water. Paper towels are best to clean kitchen surfaces. If you use dishcloths, keep them clean. Washing food prior to eating it is extremely important, particularly foods that will not be cooked.

#### Separate:

Cross-contamination is the process of spreading bacteria from one food to the next. To prevent cross-contamination, you need to keep fresh produce separate from raw meat, poultry and seafood in the grocery store, refrigerator and while cooking. Do not consume ice that has come in contact with fresh produce or meat. Serve cooked hamburgers and chicken on a clean plate, not the plate where the raw meat was originally, so any bacteria in the juices left on the plate will not spread to the cooked product.

#### Cook:

Foods must be cooked thoroughly to specific temperatures and measured by thermometers, if possible. Even if a hamburger is brown inside, it may not have reached 160°F, the temperature required to kill all bacteria in hamburger. A common cause of food-borne illness is food that has not been reheated to the appropriate temperature of 165°F. Harmful bacteria can grow rapidly in the "danger zone" (between 40°F and 140°F).

#### Chill:

Leftover hot foods should be refrigerated as soon as possible and within two hours of cooking. Big pots of food should be divided into small shallow containers. Thaw foods in the refrigerator, under cold running water or in the microwave — not on the counter.

Information on this page provided by the Nevada Department of Education and the Public Information Office of the Food and Drug Administration.

# announcements

## Painted from Memory

The Recommended Daily Quartet will perform "Painted from Memory," the Grammy-award winning song cycle by Burt Bacharach and Elvis Costello, on Saturday, Nov. 15 at Family Music Center, W. Sahara Avenue, at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but donations will be appreciated. For further information about the concert, please call 806-6239.

## Light up the holidays

A month-long "Christmas at the Liberace Museum" will kick off with a grand Holiday Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 5 p.m., at the Liberace Center in front of the Museum's main entrance at 1775 East Tropicana Ave. The Lighting

Ceremony is free to the public and special two-for-one coupons for adult admission will be available. Children five and under are admitted free. Call 798-5595, or visit [www.liberace.org](http://www.liberace.org) for more information.

## Celebrate America's history

The "Native American Festival" will kick off the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District's celebration of Native American Heritage Month on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd. In its fifth year, the festival is a family event featuring dance and artisan demonstrations, films, storytelling,

children's activities, food and a craft market with jewelry, pottery, carvings and more. Free and open to the public. There will also be additional programs and activities throughout the month of November. Visit [www.lvccld.org](http://www.lvccld.org), or call 734-READ for more information.

## Explore musical genres

The City of Henderson Parks and Recreation Department will host a performance by critically acclaimed Russian pianist Kirill Gliadkovsky at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9, at the Black Mountain Recreation Center, 599 Greenway Road. The free performance is part of the department's Coffee Shop Sundays concert series, which introduces a different musical genre each week. For additional information, call 565-2367.

## Hope and help

Alateen is an organization that

helps teens whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. During meetings, teens come together to share their strength and help each other learn how to cope with problems they face. Meetings are available in both English and Spanish. Currently, meetings are held at the following times and locations:

Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at Alateen Entwined Hearts, 1841A N. Lamb Blvd., call 438-9762;

Wednesdays at 6 p.m. for Spanish speakers at Por Mi, Spanish-speaking Alateen Meeting, 5130 E. Charleston Blvd, Unit 8, call 453-9967;

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Alateen: Together We Can Make It, Montevista Center (West Bldg), 6000 Rochelle, call 869-8833 or 227-3695;

Sundays at 11 a.m. at Alateen, TIE Club, 329 N. 11th St., call 438-0482.

# Scholarships

## 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.

## The Gates Millennium Scholars Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org)  
**Amount:** Varies based on need  
**Deadline:** Jan. 16  
**Requirements:** Applicants must be high school seniors of African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American descent to be eligible to receive this scholarship. Applicants must also be citizens or legal permanent residents of the U.S. and be entering a U.S. accredited college or university as a full-time, degree-seeking freshman in the fall of 2004. In addition, students must have at least 3.3 GPA.

## National Society of Professional Engineers Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.nspe.org/scholarships](http://www.nspe.org/scholarships)  
**Amount:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** Dec. 1  
**Requirements:** High school seniors planning to pursue study in engineering, who are also U.S. citizens, are eligible to apply for this award. Application includes a 500-word essay on the applicant's plans for the future.

## Imation Computer Arts Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.imation.com](http://www.imation.com)  
**Award:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** Dec. 12  
**Requirements:** Applicants must be U.S. high school students and must be nominated by their schools. Applicants must submit one computer-generated art piece through the Imation Web site. Winning entries may also be published in an Imation collection.

## Mensa Education & Research Foundation Scholarship

**Contact:** [merf.us.mensa.org/scholarships](http://merf.us.mensa.org/scholarships)  
**Amount:** \$1,000

**Deadline:** Jan. 15  
**Requirements:** U.S. High school students or legal residents entering college in the 2004-2005 school year may apply for this scholarship. Applicants must write a 550-word essay, describing academic or career goals.

## National Precast Concrete Association Education Foundation Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.pci.org](http://www.pci.org)  
**Amount:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** Dec. 31  
**Requirements:** High school seniors planning on studying in a field related to building, construction or the precast concrete industry are eligible to apply. Applicants must have a transcript and recommendation letters.

## Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarships

**Contact:** [www.discoverfinancial.com/data/philanthropy/tribute.shtml](http://www.discoverfinancial.com/data/philanthropy/tribute.shtml)  
**Amount:** \$2,500  
**Deadline:** Jan. 9  
**Requirements:** High school students in their junior years as of Sept. 2003, who have at least a 2.75 GPA at the end of 10th grade, may apply for this award. Applicants should be able to demonstrate achievement in Special Talents, Leadership and

Community Service and should be able to show how he or she has faced a significant roadblock or challenge.

## John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest Scholarship


**Contact:** [www.jfkcontest.org](http://www.jfkcontest.org)  
**Amount:** \$6,500  
**Deadline:** Jan. 10  
**Requirements:** U.S. high school students, home school students or students under 20 who are enrolled in a high school correspondence/GED program are eligible to enter the contest. Essays must be less than 1,000 words and describe either a current or past elected official since 1956 who has acted courageously to address a local, state, national or international political issue.


## American Radio Relay League Foundation Scholarships


**Contact:** [www.arrl.org/arrlf/scholgen.html](http://www.arrl.org/arrlf/scholgen.html)  
**Amount:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** Feb. 1  
**Requirements:** High school students who have current amateur radio operator licenses are eligible to apply. Various scholarships with different requirements are available.


# HOROSCOPE


## November Forecast


 **Aries (March 21-April 19):** Lately you have been feeling more and more stressed, due to the enormous amounts of worry you have invested into your personal life, making it hard to concentrate on other activities. It is great to stay involved, but take care of the personal matters before you go off for a weekend of fun.


 **Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Your friendliness towards others will be rewarded soon. A relaxing weekend or some extra cash could be coming your way. Enjoy the gifts because you've earned them.


 **Gemini (May 21-June 21):** Every day finds you in a mood for light conversation about life, but recent events could have you at a loss for words. Take it one day at a time because there is no easy explanation for these events and even conversation won't completely solve this problem.


 **Cancer (June 22-July 22):** You've finally started to enjoy some of the activities offered beyond home life. Friends will continue to make this time an enjoyable one.


 **Leo (July 23-August 22):** Your creativity is at an all-time high right now. Is the approaching holiday season giving your mind the jolt that has been needed? Take advantage of the freely flowing ideas coming to you.


 **Virgo (August 23-September 22):** Now that the haze of confusion and pain is gone, maybe life won't seem so difficult at this time. It may be time for a weekend getaway with the family.


 **Libra (September 23-October 23):** A new friend could confess a secret that you've been waiting to hear, but afraid to confront. Relax, only good things can come from this confession so just sit back and listen to what has to be said.

 **Scorpio (October 24-November 21):** This is definitely your month. Everything that could possibly become a problem will be resolved on its own. Don't stress about a solution, because it is already taken care of.

 **Sagittarius (November 22-December 21):** Now that your personal life is back in order, you will notice people trying to make heads or tails of your past behavior. Many questions will be coming your way, so hang on for the mental roller coaster.

 **Capricorn (December 22-January 19):** Your ego may have you overly confident about your performance in school, when deep down you know you should be putting in more work. Don't forget that once you get to the top, you should work to maintain that position.

 **Aquarius (January 20-February 18):** Your inventive new idea is taking form and turning the heads of people whom you thought would never take you seriously. Let this moment give you the opportunity to show them your work and all of its potential.

 **Pisces (February 19-March 20):** A friend has hurt your feelings and the hole that person has created in you is deeper than they know. Share your thoughts, because they may not know the damage that they've done.



HOW DOES KNOWLEDGE BECOME WISDOM?

EXPERIENCE.



## Honors College

The UNLV Honors College comprises some of the most talented young minds on campus. And now we're giving them the opportunity to learn alongside the most talented minds of a different generation.

Through a course called "Constitutional Issues," Honors students argue Supreme Court cases in mock trials along with individuals from UNLV's Institute for Learning in Retirement. In the end, these students learn more about the policies that shape our nation. And they learn more about the people that do, too.

For more information call 895-3443  
or visit us on the web at [www.unlv.edu](http://www.unlv.edu).

*Departments and Programs:*  
*University Honors Departmental Honors*  
*Honors Multidisciplinary Studies Track*  
*Honors Seminars*

**UNLV**  
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS