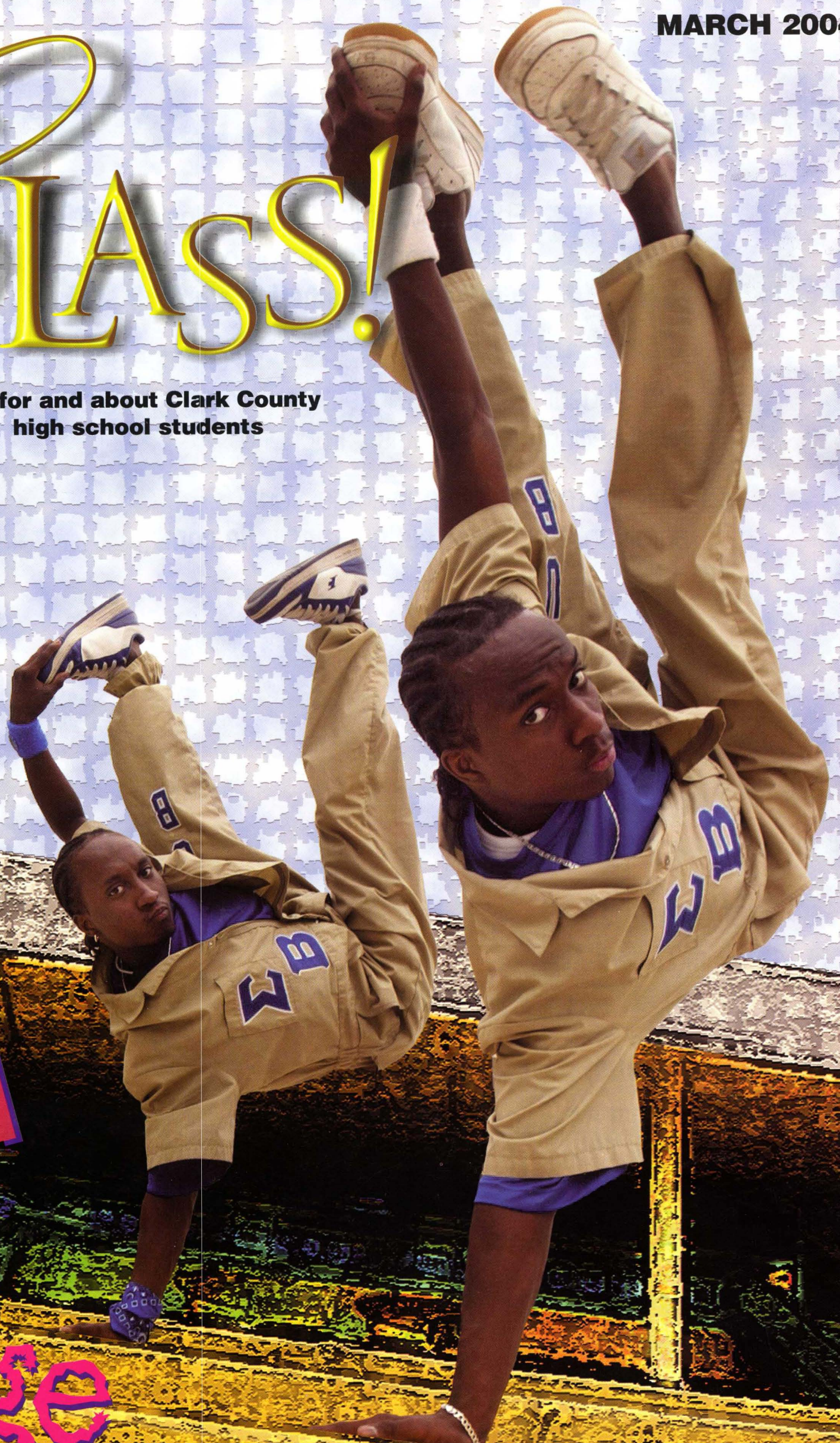


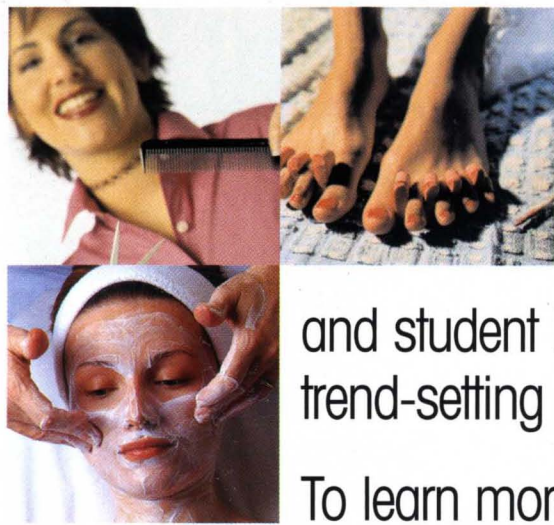
# CLASS!

By, for and about Clark County  
high school students



ART  
On  
the  
Edge

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Imagine a world without art. Imagine a life with no paintings, no music, no dancing, no poetry, no creativity. Can you? I can't. It's not even possible.

My life would not be the same without art. I would have missed the struggles of trying to duplicate Monet's "Garden in Giverny" as a freshman. I would not have developed the calluses on my fingertips when learning to play guitar as a sophomore. I would be without the fond memories of playing Fifi, the French exchange student, in the theater production during my junior year. There would be no published record of the poetry I wrote during my senior year. Even my college years, when I was studying dance, would have left me feeling like I had missed something very important.

Humans need art like we need air to breathe. Even if a person has no interest in creating the art, everyone has an inherent need to experience art. We are color, we are music, we are dance, we are poetry. This month we celebrate those teens who express themselves through these avenues. We admire their passion, vision and dedication.

Of course, we can't celebrate the teens who create without celebrating the teens who observe, experience and appreciate the art that has been created. It's all give and take: half of the joy of creating art is knowing that someone, somewhere, just might be touched by what you've done.

Take some time to read through our special "Art" section. There are reviews of must-see art exhibits ("Radical ideas, new perspectives, highlight Monet exhibit at Bellagio," by Stephanie Hartman, pg. 8; "Art Encounter offers perfect atmosphere for new art lovers," by Rachel Hommel, pg. 9; and "Arts district, First Friday showcase student talent," by Danny Gobaud, pg. 10). You might enjoy your school's next play even more after reading about what it's like to get involved in acting ("Drama, onstage and off, marks first-time actor's debut," by Kyle Jones, pg. 12; and "Despite stage fright, auditioning for school play is worth it," by Harmoni La Huillier, pg. 14).

So to all of our artists and art appreciators, keep up the good work, no matter what your form of expression is. Enjoy "Youth Art Month" and remain open to experiencing new artistic endeavors!



*Allie Smith*

Allie Smith  
Editor/Executive Director  
www.classmag.com

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## news

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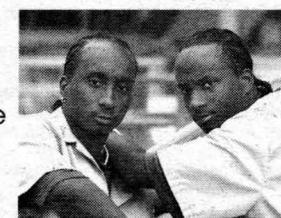
From concerts and plays to volunteering and making a difference, there's plenty to do in March. **44**

## scholarships

Check out March's list of scholarship opportunities. **46**

## on our cover ...

Twins Steven and Greg Washington express themselves through a dance routine on the courtyard steps at Green Valley HS, where they are seniors.





# Rezoning shuffle affects high school students

By Rickey Lofton,  
Sierra Vista HS

It seems reasonable to assume that the high school you enter as a freshman will be the high school you graduate from as a senior. That's not true in Clark County.

"Sierra Vista High School will be undergoing a new zone change for the next school year," says Principal Emil Wozniak. "I have asked the zoning board to keep Sierra Vista at 2,350 students. With that number we will be able to maintain all of our programs which will be most beneficial to students."

The construction of three new high schools has caused the rezoning, with two of the new schools impacting Sierra Vista. Zoning meetings are still ongoing with changes to be finalized by the school district's board of trustees in March. The future of many students attend-

ing Sierra Vista and other schools will be determined by these decisions.

The Attendance Zone Advisory Commission consists of 15 members; each school board member appoints two, and Clark County School District Superintendent Carlos Garcia appoints one member. The AZAC may change proposals according to input at various meetings and decisions made at their regular meetings.

The AZAC must follow CCSD Regulation 7111, which outlines the important factors in zoning decisions. The most important factors depend on the surrounding community, as well as building plans in the area. Factors taken into consideration include the following: diversity, feeder schools, safety, stability, projection growth and distance. The proposals will only affect freshmen and sophomores. Upperclassmen will be able to choose which school

they want to enroll in, Sierra Vista or their newly zoned school.

Because of the growing population, CCSD is forced to build new schools and change the zoning of these areas because of overcrowding.

Many Sierra Vista students are actually for the new zoning proposal because there are many advantages that go along with the proposed zoning changes.

"I'm happy because the population will go down, and we'll have smaller classes," says Sierra Vista junior Sommerly Simser. "Hopefully, it'll be better and an easier learning environment. Teachers will be able to spend more time with us."

There are many disadvantages to having overcrowded schools such as safety issues, educational disadvantages, and not having enough desks for

*Continued on page 6*

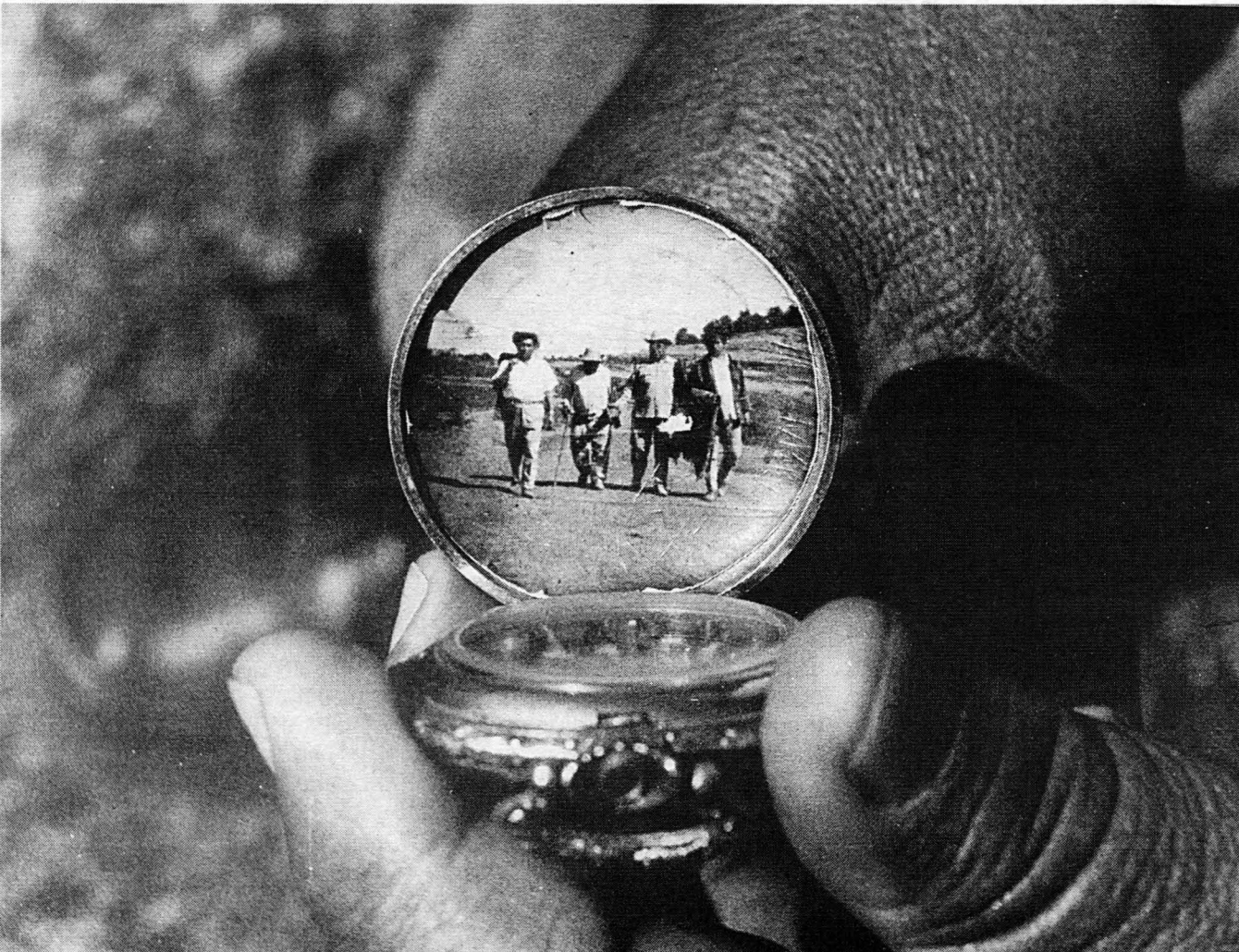
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## gallery

"Generations," Oscar Valencia, LVA senior.

Throughout this issue, you'll find visions by Las Vegas Academy photography students and others. CLASS! is proud to recognize these talents as part of March's celebration of the arts.



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## The CLASS! Scholarships are back!

This year, CLASS! gives you three opportunities to catch a cheaper ride to school. These scholarships are being offered to high school seniors interested in pursuing a degree in communication at an accredited college or university. A minimum 3.0 un-weighted cumulative GPA is required and students must demonstrate financial need. This year's awards are:

★ **Sandy Thompson Memorial Scholarship**  
(funded by the Greenspun Family Foundation):

One award in the amount of \$10,000 to be used for tuition costs at the UNLV Greenspun School of Communication.

★ **MGM/MIRAGE Diversity\* Scholarship:**

One award in the amount of \$4,000, to be distributed over four years.

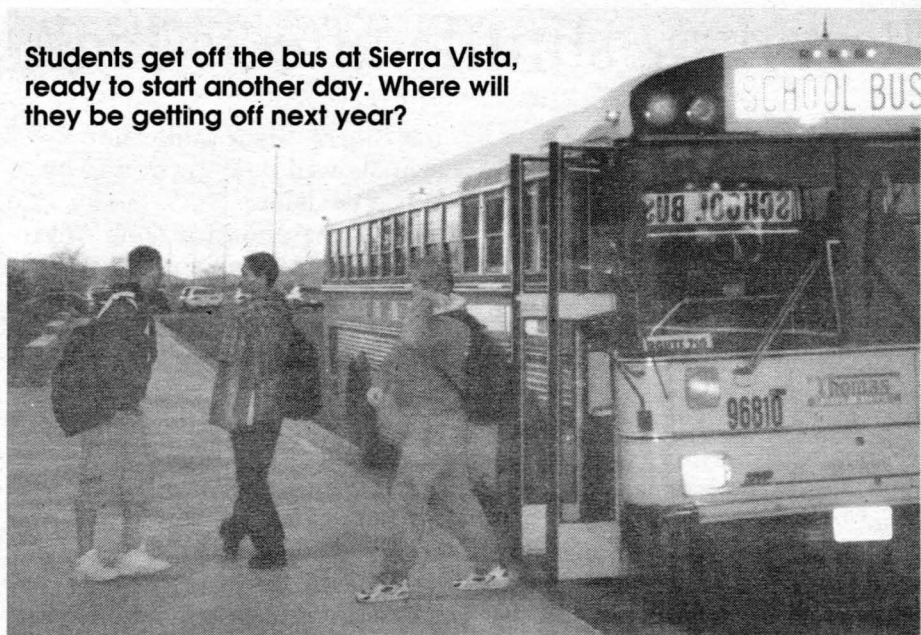
★ **MGM/MIRAGE Achievement\* Scholarship:**

One award in the amount of \$1,000, to be used in one year.

*\*In addition to completing CLASS! Publications' requirements, applicants for MGM/MIRAGE Scholarships must be of a minority race or ethnicity. The MGM/MIRAGE Scholarships can be used for tuition or books.*

**Applications must be received in the CLASS! office (not postmarked) by 5 p.m. on March 26, 2004.**

**Get a copy of the application from your school's counselor, or print your own copy from [www.classmag.com](http://www.classmag.com). Call 895-1504 or email [classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu) for more information.**



Students get off the bus at Sierra Vista, ready to start another day. Where will they be getting off next year?

## Rezoning

*Continued from page 5*

students. However, many parents and some students have still argued the drawbacks of changing schools.

These concerns were voiced at the Jan. 12 AZAC meeting at Durango High School. Areas of high concern included athletic and extracurricular activity participation, giving the option to stay at current schools, the harmful effects of changing schools several times, and the importance of staying with middle school peers.

"I just moved here from California and I would hate to switch schools just after I got used to this one," says SVHS student Samuel Stubbs. "Plus, I live with my aunt and uncle,

and my cousin will be a senior. We'll end up going to different schools and we live together."

The majority of Sierra Vista students who will be rezoned will be attending Spring Valley High School, near Buffalo Drive and Twain Avenue, in the fall of 2004. The other new schools will be Canyon Springs High School, located at Fifth Street and Alexander Road, which will also relieve Sierra Vista's overcrowding, and Del Sol High School, near Russell Road and Pecos Road, which will impact schools in the southern and eastern areas of Las Vegas.

To find out if your school will be affected by zoning changes, log onto the school district Web site in March and check out the rezoning maps at [www.azac.ccsd.net](http://www.azac.ccsd.net).

## Silverado HS to host student council national conference

By Adrienne Stauffer,  
Silverado HS

The 68th Annual National Association of Student Councils' National Conference will bring 2,000 student leaders and their adult advisers to Las Vegas this summer from all over the United States and several neighboring countries for five exciting days of leadership, skill-building and learning opportunities.

Every year, a different school in a different city is chosen to host the national conference. Silverado High School's student council has been working very diligently for two years to ensure that this year's conference is the

best one yet!

Participation in this event will introduce and reinforce the qualities and values that are essential for these future leaders of this century. It will be a unique and positive learning experience for everyone involved. Participants will come away with renewed enthusiasm and a greater understanding of diversity and lifelong friendships.

The delegates will travel to popular Las Vegas sites such as the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Wet 'n Wild and Nellis Air Force Base. The goal for the conference is to show these students what Las Vegas is really all about.

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No match for The Matches

To the editor:

Thank you! It's about time someone recognized The Matches for their musical talent.

In the February 2004 music review section of CLASS!, there was an article on The Matches. I am definitely a fan of punk music, but it seems that the only bands we hear anymore are members of the cookie-cutter genre of pop punk. I've seen The Matches several times, and each time I'm impressed by the originality of their lyrics and music. Their music is creative and keeps the listener engaged. They are profound in their words and aren't repetitive in their songs. I'm so glad that they are being appreciated in Las Vegas!

Lauren Napier  
LV Academy

Harmless fabric

To the editor:

I found that your story, "Thong thing: Teens targeted for sexy skivvies" in the February issue read too much into the meaning of underwear. The fact of the matter is that thongs are just that — underwear. As long as they stay under clothes where they belong, nothing is wrong with them.

The article stated, "Las Vegas showgirls aren't the only ones who are sporting thongs." Unlike those showgirls, teens aren't wearing their thongs as their whole outfit! While I admit that it is disturbing to see someone's thong when she sits down in class, it is just as disturbing to see granny panties hanging out.

The article commented on Monica Lewinsky and Bill Clinton. This statement blames the whole presidential scandal on the thong, a harmless piece of fabric. The truth is, if Lewinsky hadn't been wearing a thong that she showed the president, she would've found another way to "try and be sexy." Don't blame the underwear; blame the wearer.

Brittany Faber  
Valley HS

Prescription for trouble

To the editor:

In the December issue of CLASS!, there is an article titled "Prescription drug abuse on the rise among teens." In this article, Lori Valiente of Las Vegas High School writes about the rise of the prescription

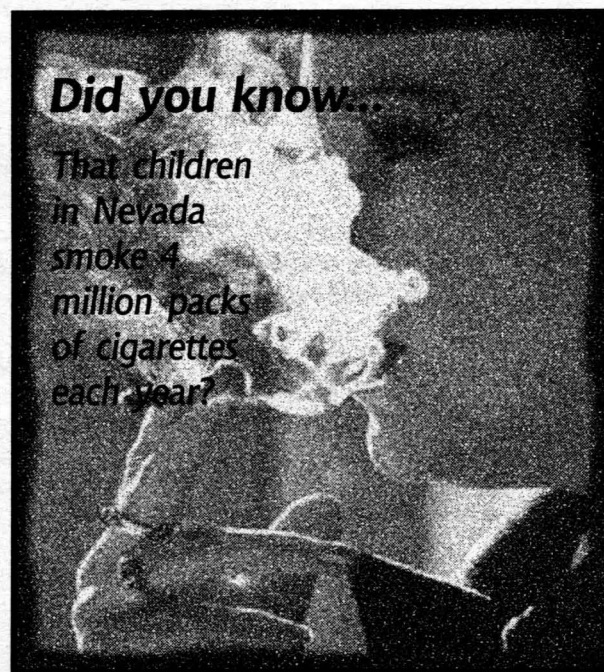


drug OxyContin. While she is correct in that the drug is becoming popular, she only talked about one drug. I think she should have also talked about more of the drugs out there.

OxyContin may be one of the more serious drugs because it is a narcotic pain reliever similar to morphine, but what about the very addicting Lortab? I feel that Lortab is one of the more "popular" drugs of choice. More teens' lives are ruined over Lortab than OxyContin, in my opinion. Another drug teens are flocking to is Percocet and other similar pain killers.

Discussing a variety of the drugs teens are using would have been more informative to readers.

Anna Hughes  
Foothill HS



Did you know...

That children in Nevada smoke 4 million packs of cigarettes each year?

## Radical ideas, new perspectives, highlight Monet exhibit at Bellagio



By Stephanie Hartman, Centennial HS

of Fine Art.

In the past several years, Las Vegas, with its reputation for showgirls and casinos, has made great strides in promoting culture for all age groups. One of the city's greatest accomplishments so far can be seen at the Bellagio Hotel's Claude Monet art exhibit, currently on display at the hotel's Gallery

The availability of such a renowned artist's work on display is something that should definitely be taken advantage of whether you know anything about art or not.

On loan to the Bellagio from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 21 paintings, ranging from 1864 to 1905, span the career of the great French Impressionist artist, Claude Monet. Such a large loan of Monet's works by the MFA to a single institution has not occurred in more than a decade and is one of the largest collections of works by the celebrated Impressionist master outside of France. While critics argue that art and slot machines should not go together, the Bellagio keeps Monet's masterpieces under the same conditions as any museum in the world would — maintaining high levels of security, care and professionalism.

As a teenager not necessarily exposed to art often, I was amazed at Monet's work. The idea that I was in the presence of the creations of such a widely acclaimed artist was overwhelming. Taking into consideration the hard work and creativity necessary in the construction of such admirable works, the passion and emotions that come through each piece are inspiring. It is remarkable also to consider that, a century ago, this man combined his observations with originality in creating art that, to this day, is studied and marveled at.

Upon entering the gallery, visitors are immediately immersed in an atmosphere that complements the color and tones of Monet's paintings. Accenting the artwork are antique frames hanging on bold royal blue and soft gray walls that merge into hardwood floors and an accented ceiling, completing the overall display.

As all ages admire the various works, a noticeable sense of reverence lingers in the air. Each visitor may view individual pieces at his or her leisure and hear descriptions and information about each work, provided via a user-friendly piece of audio equipment.

Each piece was unique with its own character. Famous paintings on display included "The Stroll, Camille Monet and her son Jean" (1875), "Wheatstacks" (1891), "Rouen Cathedral" (1894), and "Water Lilies" (1905).

As an Impressionist, Monet redefines the way in which individuals perceive the world. This is evident in his portrayal of landscapes and architecture through a series of brush strokes that make an image appear to be a "living" still life. The door that Monet and the Impressionists opened for the development of art in the 20th century was a significant milestone in the world's culture.

Completely awestruck by Monet's "Water Lilies," I admired the calming colors at every possible angle, each evoking a new emotion and showing a different perspective. I eventually sat down on the well-varnished hardwood floor and let my mind wander into the painting itself. I was captivated by the complete genius of Monet for hours and am confident that any visitor, both teen and adult alike, will be too.

Visiting the collection is not just an opportunity to view 19th century French masterpiece paintings. It is to experience a robust combination of hues, contrasting expression of emotions and light, radical ideas and captivating brush strokes that will leave admirers with a slightly different perspective on the world.

Students may view the Claude Monet exhibit from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Sept. 13, 2004 for a ticket price of \$12. Tickets may be purchased at the Gallery of Fine Arts located within the Bellagio, by calling 693-7871, or by going online to [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com).

## Celebrate ART in our schools — while you can

By Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS

Art is defined as more than just a picture or painting. Of course it includes all of the connotations that you may think of when someone says "art," but it also includes dance, music, theater, even drafting, and much, much more. Arts education has been a part of school curriculum for many years, but recent school district budget problems have threatened arts funding in Clark County schools, raising questions about the need for the arts in education.

Shilpa Modi, a junior at Green Valley High School, supports art programs in schools.

"Not only do these programs broaden our minds, they can give you a different outlook on life, and it can change your passions," says Modi. "Some people want to be an artist, a singer or a dancer when they grow up and these programs can really help them."

While these programs are fun and can help people, they can also give people releases for their anger and frustration, and for some kids, they're the only reason to come to school. Without these programs, students would only be left with the basic core curriculum and this could lead to an even greater dropout rate.

"People can express themselves through art and be individuals," says Kristen Cooper, a Green Valley junior. "Without art, you may not be able to show your own interests. People may think cutting art will help the budget, but it won't. It may just be creating more problems for them."

She adds, "Teens like to express themselves because they need that outlet in high school. Plus, these classes can help teens develop skills they will use later in life."

With programs like dance, art, music and theater, many Clark County schools have ways for students to express their creative side in the classroom. Without these programs,



where would kids find their outlets?

It has also been shown that music therapy, and just listening to music in gen-

eral, can put a person in a better mood. Drawing can also be a release for pent-up frustration and anger. Some of the best pieces of artwork were made under the hand of an angry artist. Dance is a great way to keep in shape and to express your emotions. Theater cannot only express your feelings, but it can affect the people who see the productions.

"Not only does doing art make you happy, it can make other people happy, too," says Alex Fairchild, a sophomore at Green Valley. "A person can be more well rounded from these programs. Taking these things away would benefit no one. It's simple — art is important."

### Budget concerns

If so many teens think that art is really good for them, why is there always talk of taking these programs away whenever money is tight in the schools?

"I think that if people really looked at the budget and saw where the money was being spent, they would be able to get enough money worked around to be able to definitely keep these programs around," Modi says.

"I noticed that compared to my friends in California, people here tend to not appreciate art as much, and that is just sad," Modi adds. "There is so much beauty out there and if we take these programs away, we are taking away the knowledge some people can gain from it."

While budget cuts are not as big an issue as they were last year, school funding is always a problem in Clark County and arts education often heads the list of cutbacks. Students need to realize that it is best to take advantage of these programs and broaden their horizons while they are available to them now.



# Art Encounter offers perfect atmosphere for new art lovers

By Rachel Hommel,  
Green Valley HS

Step inside a world of art, passion and culture, with 8,000 square feet of talent, all jam-packed into the Art Encounter. Located in Chinatown, the room overflows with Impressionism, Realism, and any other "-ism" imaginable.

From the outside, the Art Encounter gallery looks like a small "mom and pop" shop; however, inside is an exquisite blend of fine art and local flavor. Being the oldest and largest gallery in the valley, it is able to display paintings from more than 100 local and international artists. Some of the countries represented include India, Ecuador, Israel and Japan.

However, more than 30 percent of the gallery is dedicated to local artwork. The Art Encounter allows these local artists the exposure they need to not only get their name out



there, but also to sell their artwork.

The shining star of this gallery is undoubtedly Las Vegas Academy graduate Jennifer Main.

Since high school, her artwork has shown up on the walls of the Art Encounter. Becoming one of her mentors early on, Art Encounter owner Rod Maly was able to introduce her to prominent artists all over the nation.

Main was 17 years old when she first brought Art Encounter her work. She was still in high school and had to get a job to pay for space rental. However, after four months, she had already sold several pieces of artwork and gladly quit her day job. Now at 23 years of age, she has artwork displayed in Colorado, New York, Texas and California.

Art Encounter actually started out as an art gallery in

Dallas. It was a favorite of Maly's, who was an art collector himself. He was so impressed by this gallery that he decided to buy it. After he moved to Las Vegas, the family decided to open up another Art Encounter and sell the Texas location.

With more than 100 artists in the gallery, it may seem like anything goes. However, only about 35 percent of the artists who apply for space actually receive it.

Because this is not a museum, the Art Encounter is far more diverse in styles and art medium. From hand-painted American Indian feathers to decorative jewelry, this gallery offers more than just a canvas. In the 12 years it has been open, it has received numerous awards and recognition.

Back in 2001, Loppo Martinez, another featured artist at Art Encounter, worked directly with the Andre Agassi Grand Slam Benefit. His collection, titled "Waiting for the Children" was a commemora-

tive effort to raise money for this worthwhile charity.

Compared to the various galleries in town, the Art Encounter seems more equivalent to a museum. The staff allows people to look around and really take the art in piece by piece. There is no pressure to buy anything or even to ask a price. It's a perfect museum for high school students because the atmosphere is so laid back.

Although the artwork could be in an upscale gallery at the Bellagio, it seems to take on a more lively, passionate feel at the Art Encounter. They let people simply enjoy the art (without those goofy listening devices). The staff is very friendly and enlightening because their goal is to inform, not to sell.

"We're no snooty, highfalutin' gallery," says Maly. "We welcome people who aren't familiar with the gallery. We try to fill a wide range of needs. We try to be an art encounter."

## Virgin Valley students display work at Mesquite Arts Center

By Christi Olcott, Virgin Valley HS

Virgin Valley High School art students were the featured artists with their



work on display at the Mesquite Arts Center during January.

Each month professional artists are invited to display their work at the Center. Tourists from around the nation visit the shows each month. This is the first time that student artwork has been the focus of the display.

Prior to the opening reception, local artists judged the artwork and ribbons were placed on the art to designate the awards.

Best of Show honors were given to VVHS student Abigail Tsinnijinnie for her Kaleidoscope Design piece, "Tribal Ways." Taking first place in painting was Cynthia Flores

with the work titled, "In the Shadow, the Rose Smells the Sweetest." Ashley Peterson took first in Kaleidoscope Design with her work, "Messed Up World." In the Clay Masks division, Cynthia Flores placed first, and in Photography, Federica Galasso won the division with "The Anger Within."

Others placing in the judging for painting were Abigail Tsinnijinnie with "The Beauty of Mother Earth," second; Ashlee Jensen, "It Was a Stormy Night," third; Ashley Peterson, "Do You Really Want to Know?" honorable mention; and Tabitha Webster, "Cotton Candy Love and Sugar Plum Dreams," honorable mention.

In the Kaleidoscope Design division, winners are Ashlee Jensen, "Out Of This World," second; Rokelle Layton, "Confusion," third; Yolteolzin Garcia, "Me Against the Universe," honorable mention.

Rueben Kelly won second in Clay Masks with Gladiola



Abigail Tsinnijinnie took Best of Show with her "Tribal Ways" and second place in painting with "The Beauty of Mother Earth" in the student art show held at the Mesquite Arts Center during January.

Arreola placing third and Rokelle Layton receiving an honorable mention.

The winners in Photography were Cynthia Flores, "Peeka-Boo," second; Candice Lecheminant; "Face Down," third; and Cesar Coronel, "An Ancient Christmas Wish," honorable mention.

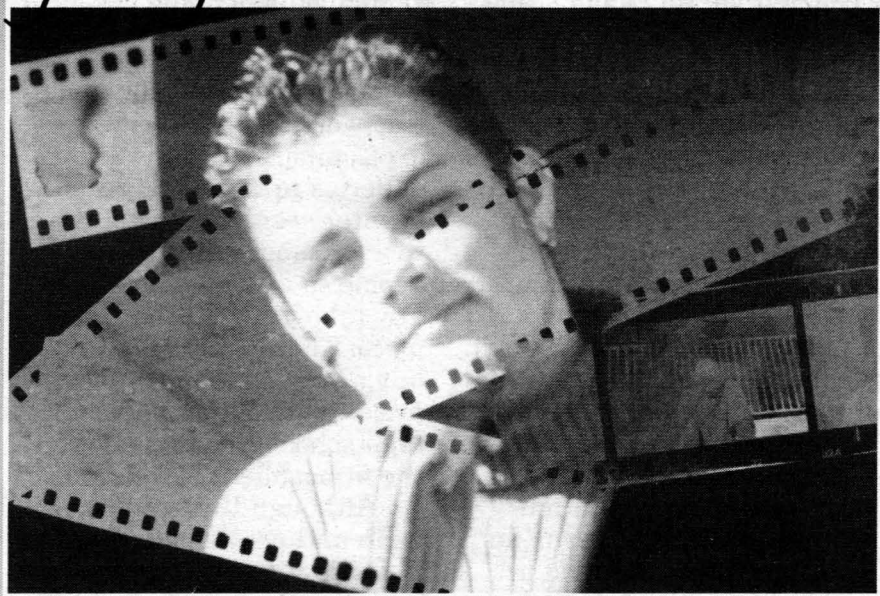
Other students with paintings displayed were Julio Baltazar, Monique Demers, Tom Glieden, Gustavo Sandoval, Cody Almond, Yesica Lemus, Lucia Mejia, Herlinda Hermosillo, Alex Hermosillo, Mayra Ruvalcaba, Sheldon Beltran, Juan Lara, Yolanda Rodriguez, Gladiola Arreola, Maria Reynoso, Rokelle Layton,

Larry LeMieux, Rikki Smith, Tiffanie Heath, Jacob Munson-Decker, David Traxler and Brandy Duvall.

Displaying in the Kaleidoscope Design are Tabitha Webster, Laura Beltran, Julio Baltazar, Monique Demers, Yesica Lemus, Alex Hermosillo, Mayra Ruvalcaba, Sheldon Beltran, Laura Hermosillo, Maria Reynoso, Ashley Peterson, Rokelle Layton, Larry LeMieux, Rikki Smith, Tommy Sengdao, Cassie Rasmussen and Tabetha Marshall.

Student ceramic work, including original masks based on a primitive emotional theme and plaster mold works, were also on display.

"Negative," Mike Patterson, LVA senior.



## Academy students accepted to international honor band event

By Danielle Clark,  
LV Academy

Natalie Molina, a Las Vegas Academy junior, joined several other LVA musicians and student musicians from around the world in the 2003 Western International Band Clinic, an honor band program that brings student musicians together with professional musicians and composers.

Though this was her first year participating in the WIBC, Molina was accepted as first chair in the flute section in the top-level Thunderbird band.

Derek Nance, an LVA junior who also participated, says that "meeting all of the amazing conductors, composers and musicians" was his favorite part. Nance played French horn in the Phoenix band at the WIBC.

Other LVA students who were also accepted into this nationwide honor band included: Daniel Becker, Julian Tanaka and Michael Napieralski on clarinet; Elijah Tredup on tenor saxophone; and Michael Woodard, John Mactal and Anthony Solano on trombone.

To play with the WIBC bands, the students had to learn a selected *étude*, a piece of music played to show both technical and artistic values, and record themselves on tape or CD for judges. Upon acceptance, the students were sent music to learn depending upon which band they made. The top

group is Thunderbird, followed by Firebird, Sunbird and Phoenix. Each group had an average of about 75 students.

Students traveled to Seattle, Wash., where they spent most of their time in rehearsals, clinics, workshops or listening to other talented musicians play. The students had two-and-a-half-hour rehearsals, with up to three rehearsals a day.

Students in each of the bands played under the direction of world-renowned conductors in band performances. Conductors, composers and musicians worked with students in several workshops. Besides playing, the students were also able to hear some extraordinary music being played by other musicians as well.

The Iwakuni Commercial High School Wind Ensemble came all the way from Japan to play for the students. The U.S. Military Band from West Point played as well. Central Washington University, Oregon Symphonic Band and the WIBC Alumni Band also put on concerts for the students during those four days.

On the last day of the conference each band had its own concert and then performed a grand finale of "Never Walk Alone," with over 330 musicians playing together.

About her experience at the WIBC, Molina says, "It brought me closer to people at school whom I didn't know before."

## Arts district, First Friday showcase student talent

By Danny Gobaud,  
LV Academy

Before the development of the Las Vegas Arts District and First Friday, the Las Vegas community and visitors wishing to view art had few choices. High-class galleries such as the Bellagio Fine Arts Gallery and the Guggenheim at the Venetian Hotel opened offering some quality artistic works for patrons to view. Although museum-quality art galleries are important, the Las Vegas art culture was not complete without an arts district.

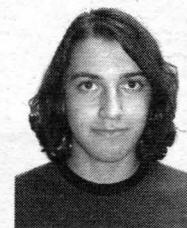
On the first Friday of every month, artists and spectators gather in the Las Vegas Arts District to visit a unique group of galleries, shops and studios in a free event open to the public called "First Friday." This event gives people in Las Vegas a chance to experience a variety of local art, including paint, music, sculpture, performance and film.

Dawn Anderson, a photography teacher at the Las Vegas Academy, says, "First Friday is the best time to see new art."

First Friday was started in October 2002 by Cindy Funkhouser, owner of an antique store called the Funk House in the arts district. In less than two years, First Friday has evolved into a significant artistic and social event, with a growing number of artists and a diverse group of people, ranging from teenagers to adults from all walks of life, gathered to view art while enjoying food and music.

"First Friday is a great place for all people to go and enjoy art," says Patty Beltran, a sophomore and visual arts major at the Las Vegas Academy.

The center of First Friday and the arts district is the Arts Factory, a collection of 12 art galleries and studios, the most



in any one place in Las Vegas. The Arts Factory is located at 101-109 E. Charleston Blvd.

The arts district, which is located south of downtown near Charleston Boulevard and Main Street, also includes other galleries, shops, murals and restaurants. Some of these are S2 Art Center, which has an exclusive collection of fine-art lithographs, a retro shop called The Attic, and Red Rooster Antique Mall, the oldest antique mall in Las Vegas. If you don't have a car to get around the 20-block arts district, never fear; the city provides a free shuttle bus with various stops throughout the arts district.

First Friday is an invaluable addition to the Las Vegas art community. It provides the public with a one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience new art. Local artists get a chance to showcase their work, whether it is inside one of the



Photo by Danny Gobaud

**Local artists show their work in gallery settings at First Friday, which many believe gives unknown artists and musicians the opportunity to get exposure for the first time.**

many galleries or out on the street. Many high school artists also show their work during the event.

"First Friday is a good medium for artists and musicians to get exposure," says Mary Haddad, a film major at UNLV.

First Friday is an important cultural event that has enhanced the art community in Las Vegas. So join your art community on the first Friday of every month to support local art and have a great time.

# To tattoo or not to tattoo

## Expressing yourself in body art is a lifetime commitment

By Heather Trujillo,  
Green Valley HS

While some artwork is hanging in famous galleries being looked at in awe all the time, another form of what some people consider art is being seen everyday on people's skin.

Millions of people in North America get tattoos every year, and this doesn't even take into consideration the large number of tattoos given in other cultures as symbols, not just pictures.

"Tattoo" comes from the word "tatu," which is Tahitian for "to mark something." Tattoos have been around for thousands of years, with archaeological proof that they were regular attributes in ancient Egyptian, Italian, Greek, Persian, Native American, South American, Arabian and Asian cultures. Remains that were found preserved in gla-

ciers had tattoos on them.

Tattoos have also carried many superstitions and stigma. Some societies believe they could help keep you safe. For example, people in Burma believe that a tattoo over the heart will stop bullets, and Native Americans believed that ceremonial war paint and tattoos would help them in battle. Others believe that people who get these tattoos are macho men or biker babes, which is not necessarily true. Many people you know may have tattoos that you just can't see.

To get a tattoo, a hollow needle with permanent ink in it pushes into your skin over and over at a rate of 3,000 punctures per minute. The needle then drops ink below the surface of the skin, permanently dyeing the skin. Treatments like laser removal are seen in some cases, but are costly and can be dangerous. This type of pain sounds like an adult thing to handle.

Sebastian San Andres, a

night school student, says, "I got a tattoo because I turned 18. It symbolizes that I'm an adult and it looks cool."

In many societies, getting a tattoo is a sign that you are becoming an adult; it shows that you take responsibility for your actions and your body. Does this rite of passage, however, symbolize art or stupidity?

"I know my tattoo is art. It's a picture on my arm, and a picture is art," San Andres says. "It will never go away and I know that I will always remember it."

Amie Kemberling, a freshman at Green Valley High School, thinks differently.

"It really depends on a person's opinion of art," says Kemberling. "I don't think it's art because someone is putting a design on your body they already have made up. It really isn't art because it's not like a painting or a sculpture that you made up on your own with creativity."

Green Valley High School junior Sneha Parikh points out that art is such a broad term, it can't be confined to just conventional art.

"Tattoos are art. You are expressing yourself through the

tattoo," says Parikh. "Art is really just showing your creativity and individuality, and getting a tattoo can do both of those. Most people think of art as pictures, but it can be music, dance, acting or even a tattoo. The word art is just so broad."

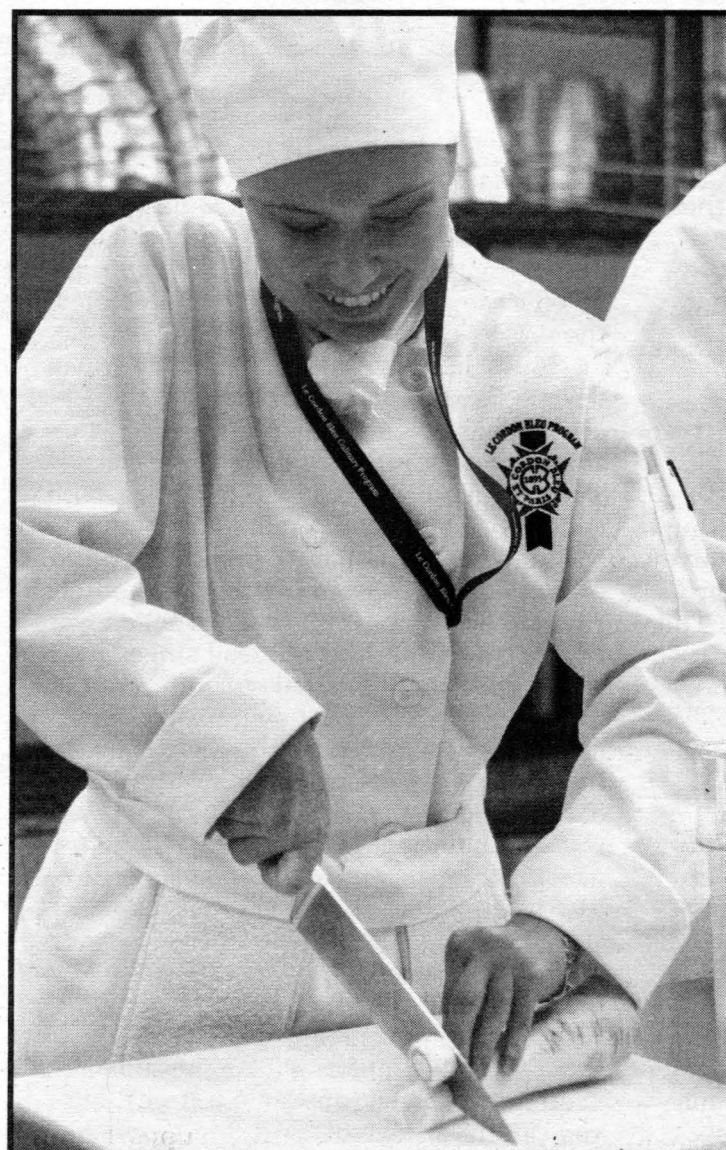
Getting these tattoos may seem like a great way to express yourself, but what about when a person gets older? Will he or she regret this "art" the rest of his or her life?

"I know I will never regret this," San Andres says. "It will be a reminder for me forever."

Parikh thinks there are degrees to regretting it and loving it.

"I think that if you really think about the tattoo you are going to get, you won't regret it," says Parikh. "It really needs to symbolize you. If you rush into it, you will probably regret it because you'll realize it wasn't what you wanted in the long run."

However you look at it, the tattoo debate really depends on how you view art and its different groups. A tattoo may be an example of your adulthood, but it may also just be a sign of childish stupidity.



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# Drama, onstage and off, marks first-time actor's debut

By Kyle Jones, Basic HS

A sign on the door reads: "Auditions on Monday for 'The Dining Room': Please be sure to have your monologue memorized!" This was the play I was waiting for. I practiced day and night on my monologue just so it would be perfect, just so I could get a part in "The Dining Room."

Finally, that fateful day arrived and my stomach did somersaults in all of my classes before the auditions even started. As I was going up on the stage, I felt like I could fall down the stairs in nervousness.

As I started to perform my monologue, the words were falling out of my mouth like a leaky faucet. Finally, I finished and, as I returned to my seat, I felt like I had just finished running a marathon. Each person who came in to perform got better and better, and my self-esteem got lower and lower. Why did I even audition when there are so many more talented actors and

actresses than me? When I went home, I couldn't sleep. I tossed and turned all night, thinking of what I could've done differently or better.

The next, fateful day, the list of those who'd made it was posted. The first name on that list was not mine.

"Okay, I'm fine. I'm used to rejection," I told myself. "You have to be when you're in theater."

I looked at the second name on the list. It wasn't mine, either. I skimmed the rest of the list, and as I got farther and farther down, my hopes of landing a role were getting smaller and smaller. I got to the end and, to my surprise, the LAST name on the list was mine! I felt like I had won the lottery, but it was 10 times BETTER than that. The first rehearsal was that day and we had to pick up our scripts from the theater teacher. When I picked mine up, I proudly carried it down the hallways like it was a newborn baby.

When we started rehearsals,



Kyle Jones and Maria Corral act in "The Dining Room."

the actors' emotions were overwhelming. We got up on stage and all the actors poured their hearts out for their characters. A couple of weeks later, after a great deal of critique from the theater teacher, we started on blocking, which is planning out where the action will take place on stage.

People got impatient, one actor didn't like working with another actor, and various other kinds of drama flared up. As the blocking progressed, the actors got their characters down, but they didn't progress in memorization. After a few "helpful" words from the teacher, however, we got our butts in gear.

After a few weeks of acting boot camp, the day arrived when

we had our terrifying opening night. A few actors had a little (okay, a BIG) fight, but eventually got over it. After we had everything figured out, the night went flawlessly. The cues and the lights were excellent that night, but we still had two more days of excruciating pain to go through.

Still, the next night was even better than the first, at least on stage. Though we had only one makeup person in the crew, someone else didn't like how the makeup was being done, so that person went backstage and started to do the actors' makeup instead. You see, people in theater seem to think they can multitask. Let me tell you, there was a big fight going on backstage! It was great! I thoroughly enjoyed my front-row seat at this free-for-all. By the way, the acting was good, too.

Then came the third and final night. It was closing night and everyone was emotional about the curtain closing on our wonderful stage performance. As the curtains closed, so did this chapter of all the theater peoples' lives, and a sudden feeling of completion fell over the entire cast. It was the best feeling ever. If I get the chance, I'll do it all over again!

## 'Classic' rock music stands the test of time

By Riley Marriage, Coronado HS

One afternoon while eating lunch with a couple of friends, the topic of "what was your first concert?" came up. Some kids mentioned names of local garage bands, and others made references to groups from the late 1990s' bubble-gum pop explosion — NSYNC, Ricky Martin, etc. But for me, it was legendary blues musician B.B. King.

I am not really sure why my father thought it was the best of father-daughter activities to take a first grader to a blues concert, but I found myself, at the tender age of six, mesmerized with the production and the reception the crowd had toward the musician on the stage. From that point on, I realized the impact music has on its audience and the mystical way music can capture the true essence of a time period and culture.

In turning the dial of a radio today, the mix displays numerous hip-hop moguls rapping about their enormous mounds of cash and bling-bling, country crooners searching for lost lovers, and skateboarding teenagers



blaring about how nobody understands them. With everything being so overtly produced and MTV-ready, the main difference of the music of today from that of the past is that the state of music changed from being created in a studio to being assembled in a manufacturing plant. Only one question emerges: Has an art form once known as true music been lost?

The argument lies in the idea that the art of expressing music comes from within the souls of artists in their search to convey their artistic ability and then make a profound effect on their audience, such as The Who did with "Tommy" in 1969 or as Bruce Springsteen did with "Born in the U.S.A." in 1984.

Throughout the years, music has produced true artists who have weathered the test of time. Every generation, in its own way, will discover the legacy left behind by the Beatles, whether from the collective efforts of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" or the whimsical peacefulness of John Lennon's "Imagine." It cannot be denied that with the swivel of Elvis' hips, the uproar of rock and roll was truly born as the infectious dance movement gave light to a war-heavy environment. And whether she was the material girl, the wide-eyed virgin, the cross-

burning vixen, or the rodeo cowgirl, Madonna found every way to capture the attention of the media and have fun doing it, in an effort to promote feminism and become the perfect example of an entertainer.

Music has also seen some artists travel down a harder road to reach the highest levels of achievement, as in the rags-to-riches stories of west coast/east coast lyricists Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls that both ended with gun shots. Another sad story was told in the distinctive howl of tortured brilliance that escaped between the guitar rifts of Nirvana's 1991's "Smells Like Teen Spirit," which plummeted lead singer Kurt Cobain into an unwanted superstardom.

Maybe people only frown upon the music of today, not for its production or packaging, but out of pure nostalgia for the good, old music of the good, old days. Music has a way of emulating certain emotions and events, so for many listeners it acts as a way to reminisce about old times.

As for me, I do not believe the soundtrack of my life will ever include anything from Billboard's Top 100. Instead, it will be set to the opening guitar of The Eagles' "Hotel California." As the song says, "You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave."

# Bring art to life with Rainbow Company Youth Theater

Participants learn skills benefitting them regardless of career

By Jennifer Carlton,  
Chaparral HS



One form of the arts often overlooked is theater. When people are on stage performing, wearing their costumes to "become" the parts they are portraying, they are displaying an art form much like the artist with a pallet and brush in hand painting a still life. Theater takes stories and brings them to life.

For 27 years, the Rainbow Company Youth Theater has been giving a chance to young people, ages four through high school age, to be artistic through theater. This public service is free of charge and open to anyone who undergoes the audition process.

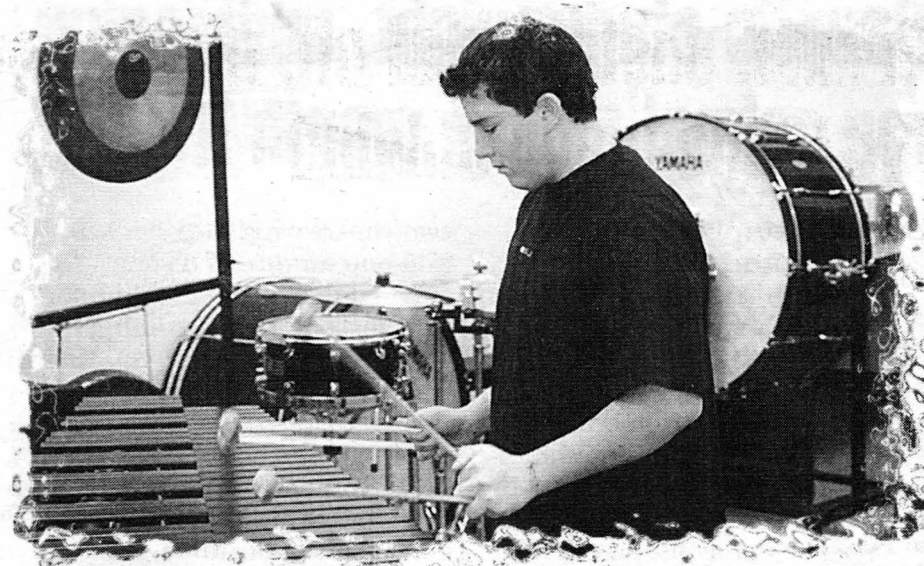
Program directors show participants the ins and outs of performing. They also do some musical productions that give a broad range to their theatrical

spectrum. After learning about the art of acting, participants get the opportunity to put on five productions a year.

For anyone between the ages of 10 and high school, the Rainbow Company offers the ensemble program that takes the theater experience a step further. This older group of students is given the chance not only to act, but also to work with the technical aspects of theater. The only requirement for the ensemble is that the students attend a weekly class.

Teens interested in theater should definitely check out this nationally recognized, award-winning program. Because Rainbow Company directors "focus on the process, not just the production," they do not expect participants to pursue a career in acting. Instead, they teach important skills that will benefit people throughout their lives regardless of what career path they choose.

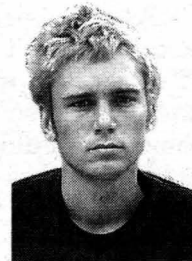
During this month, as we recognize the joy brought to our lives by art, don't forget that theater is a very special form of art — art brought to life. To find out more information about the Rainbow Company Youth Theater, call 229-6211.



Sophomore Chris Kennedy practices the marimba during lunch. Kennedy is a member of the Sierra Vista HS concert band.

## Concert band has challenging schedule all year long

By Daniel Steffey,  
Sierra Vista HS



Many people may not know what their school's band does after the football games are done and marching season is over. While some play at school sporting events in the winter, there is much more to their agenda than that.

Take Sierra Vista High School's band for example. The end of the marching band season marks a change of pace into concert band season. Throughout the winter and into the spring, the band plays many performances, including the winter concert, spring concert and the Clark County Festival.

The Clark County Festival is held every year at UNLV, in which more than 50 different groups come to display their talents to a panel of national judges. Since the school's opening, the Sierra Vista Concert Band has received superior ratings every year. No other band in the city has ever received a superior rating during its first year.

Another event that takes place during concert season is honor band auditions and concert. Honor band is composed of three different groups. There is one top band and two other bands. About 650 students from all over the city auditioned for honor band this year, and 200 were accepted. Sierra Vista had

eight people make the cut with three of them being in the top band.

When chosen for honor band, students are given music a few weeks prior to the concert. The students must then perform the music to show that they know it. Finally, one day before the concert, they gather to rehearse as a group for 12 hours, only to rehearse again during the next day and perform in concert that night.

"Being selected for Honor Band is a great honor, because it shows you are one of the best performers on your instrument," says Phillip Haines, band director at Sierra Vista.

Those who make Honor Band then have the chance to try out for All-State. Students from all over Nevada try out for the All-State group. This is a highly competitive group to get into because the finest players in the entire state try to get a spot.

"Honor band is a good experience, a lot of fun and a lot of work," says Sierra Vista student Lynsey Gees, one of the honor band members.

After Festival, Honor Band and All-State performances are done, the school band then prepares for its spring concert, where the band performs a variety of music along with the orchestra, jazz band and percussion ensemble. The spring concert is the band's last concert of the year.

"A lot of people are unaware of what a band does during the school year. I think they'd be surprised how busy we really are," says Haines.

## 'Y' Art contest set for spring

By Chloe Goya, Boulder City HS

Are you an artist? The "Y" Art? Southern Nevada High School Art Competition is designed to give personal recognition to artistically talented Clark County students, and to raise the awareness of the community to the presence of young, local artists.

The district-wide art contest is open to all public high school students in Clark County. The deadline for all entries is April 12, and entries should be submitted to the "Y" Art? Contest through the Clark Country Community Partnership.

An awards ceremony will be held after judging at the International House of Blues Music Hall at the Mandalay Bay Hotel. The top three entries in each category and the Grand Prize winner will then be sent on to the Art Institute of Las Vegas where they will be displayed in the reception room

"Y" Art? has attracted outstanding local artists as judges, including Jennifer Main, a graduate of the Las Vegas Academy whose art is being shown throughout the nation. Her exceptional artistic talents have earned her several awards, including first place in the Project 21 and the We Care contests. For more information about Main, see Rachel Hommel's story, "Art Encounter offers perfect atmosphere for new art lovers" on page 9.

For further information, call 281-8687.

# Despite stage fright, auditioning for school play is worth it

By Harmoni La Huillier,  
Sierra Vista HS

You know the feeling — sweaty palms, shaking knees, thousands of butterflies in your stomach. Chances are you've felt stage fright at some time before and are not eager to repeat the experience.

So why do people so eagerly try out for school plays? To find out, I decided to audition for a recently staged Sierra Vista High School musical, "Once on this Island," and to experience the thrill of theater for myself.

It is reported that 90 percent of people experience stage fright. Stage fright is a very powerful force. It can make people forget their lines, where they are supposed to be, freeze, and look blankly into the crowd. How does someone overcome this?

As I was preparing the things I needed to audition —

two contrasting monologues and one minute of a song — I learned one of the most important lessons in overcoming stage fright: Do what you know!

Don't try to impress the judges by reciting an extravagant monologue with words or ideas you don't understand, and don't try to sing a song that you don't feel comfortable with and don't know very well. This is just asking for disaster. Under stress, you're likely to forget things that aren't familiar to you.

I learned this the day before the audition. I had decided to do a song from "Phantom of the Opera," and I had never sung it before.

As I was practicing, I realized I wouldn't be able to perform my best with the song I had chosen, so I switched to something I did know — Disney!

"As long as you've done your best, that's all you can do," says

ART  
Rebecca Morejon, a Sierra Vista senior. "I chose a monologue from a movie, so it would be easier to remember, and I would already know how to act it out."

Monologues are speeches given by one person alone, talking to himself or herself, to someone else, or to no one in particular. They are an important way to show the judges just what you can do. It's best to choose a monologue that shows a great deal of emotion. I've practiced these in front of a mirror, my family, and even recorded my voice so I can hear what I want to change.

"When you sing, sing your heart out," suggests Meagan McGhie, a sophomore at Sierra Vista. "Sing like you want the entire town to hear you."

Singing a solo is torture to some people, but others definitely rise to the occasion.

When auditioning for a musical, make sure you're prepared to sing. There will be plenty of it. Everyone who auditioned sang with gallons of feeling, lots of volume, and sheer confidence. A strong voice and a face full of character is the best

way to go.

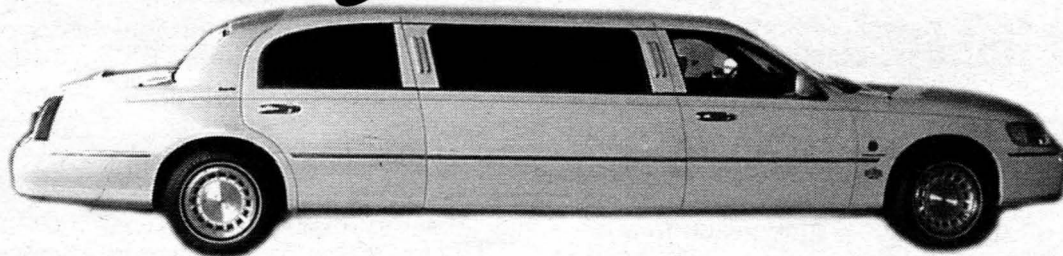
Dancing was a huge part of "Once on this Island," so those auditioning had to learn a dance and perform it on stage. Again, the best thing to do is to show, you guessed it, emotion! When you dance, you show attitude and make everything big, but not so big that you smack your neighbor.

"We're looking, not for people who never mess up, but for people who can make a mistake and keep dancing!" says Sierra Vista choreographer Blaine Blair.

For those who auditioned, it was a nerve-racking experience. When you put yourself on the line, it's good to know that someone liked your performance, and all the others auditioning were great at that. Everyone performing received a huge round of applause. After the day of auditions were over, people gave each other backslaps, hugs and compliments.

Whether or not you get a part in your school's play, auditions give you more confidence, experience and a feeling of accomplishment.

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# Acting may look easy, but success takes study

By Ariel Gove,  
Las Vegas HS

Many teenagers dream of becoming an actor someday and making it big on stage or the big screen.



While most do not succeed, there are a select few who have what it takes to excel above and beyond the rest.

But you may be wondering, exactly what does it take to make it?

Just ask actor John Armond, who also instructs aspiring actors at the John Robert Powers acting and modeling academy and who has appeared on "The Carol Burnett Show," "Kojak" and "Wild, Wild West."

"You have to have the fire, the drive, the ambition and the dream, and without that, no matter how much you study, you will never make it," says Armond.

When asked about what skills were needed for this occupation, Armond says, "First and foremost, you need believabil-

ity. This is a technique that you can't learn unless you study and train in the methods of acting."

Next, there is voice projection, then stage presence; this is all of your body movement while on stage. To learn stage presence, you would study jazz, ballet and any other dance and movement classes that would help you while acting. It would also only be to your advantage to study playwrights and to keep yourself very well read.

Finally, you need to "observe human behavior," as Armond says. Watch other people's reactions to every type of scenario. This will help you in developing your own skill as an actor.

According to Armond, the best way to get ahead in the industry is to study, study, study! There are drama schools, college acting classes and private studios to help you advance your studies.

"Each person is different," Armond says. "You need to learn your craft. You can do this by going to classes or straight into the industry. It

just depends on what is the best thing for you."

Some perks of being in this profession are the opportunities that present themselves to you. Acting is the best perk of all because you are able to showcase your talents and do what you love, as well as being cast in different roles, even in dream roles that you have always wanted to be in. Another positive aspect is the massive amount of money that you can potentially make.

One of the more negative aspects of this profession is favoritism, which can occur in casting when someone is cast in a part because he or she knows

the director. Another downfall is the inconsistency of jobs available.

A variety of jobs open to those who perfect the skill are acting in movies, plays and commercials; being an acting instructor; motivational speaking; and any profession that requires poise or public contact.

The last bit of advice that Armond offered to all students considering going into the acting industry was to "follow your heart, your dream. Don't be swayed by negative feedback — everyone gets that. Master your craft. Just know what you enjoy doing and work it to your advantage."

## Snap up a fun, challenging career in photography

By Ariel Gove, Las Vegas HS

Have you ever looked at a photograph and found yourself entranced by its beauty and depth? Have you ever seen a picture that let you escape into its serenity and out of your stressful life for even just a split second? This is the power that pictures can have over you, and this is the power that photographers hold in their hands every time they pick up a camera.

A photographer can take any object or scene and make it appear any way he or she wishes. The picture of an average apple, with the correct lighting and angles, can appear warm and inviting to the person viewing it or rotten and diseased, giving the onlooker a dark and unpleasant feeling. The photographer has the power to make the viewer see whatever he or she wants them to.

For those interested in photography, there are many things you should know before you can get a job. One way to find out what you need to know is to talk to a professional.

Local photographer John Doring got his first photography job at Caples Productions, after taking just four years of photography classes at Eldorado High School.

According to Doring, a person looking for a photography job needs to be able to "demonstrate an overall knowledge of the lighting around you, know what the correct exposure for each individual picture is, learn every operation and format of different cameras, learn how to develop film digitally and manually, and have a basic overall background knowledge of photography."

Doring adds, "All of this must be learned before you can begin creating your portfolio."

A portfolio is basically a scrapbook where your talents are showcased and your best work is displayed for potential employers. A portfolio is turned in with your résumé when you apply for a job.

Photography is a wonderful field to work in if you have the desire to excel in it. It can take you to places all over the world, and you have the ability to let people see things the way you see them, or the way you want the world to see things.

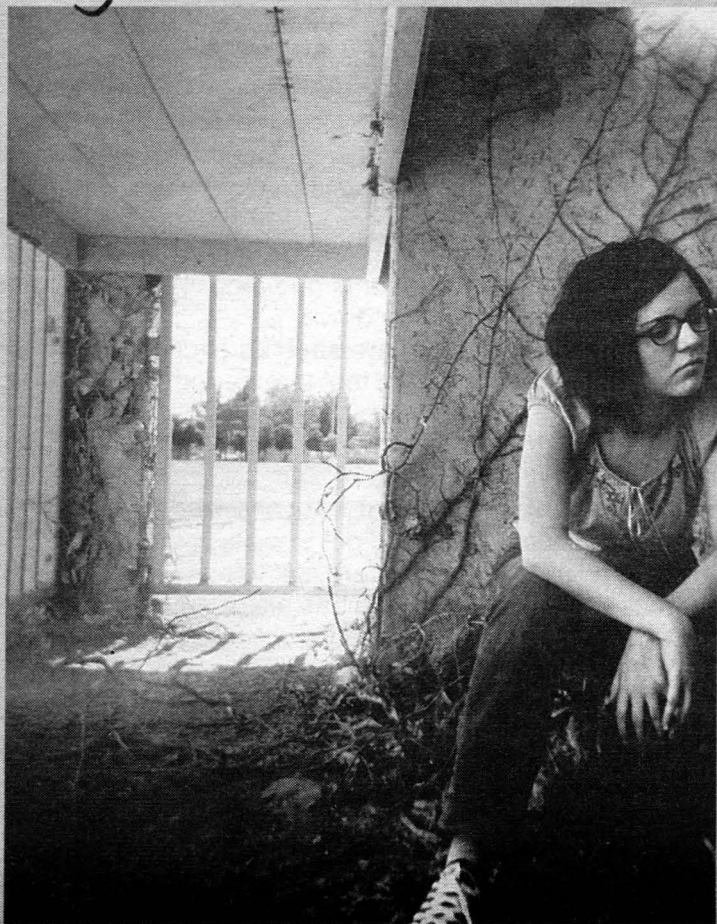
To get a job, you must be able to create what someone else wants. To see things the way someone else does without an example will be one of your hardest tasks. But once you experience it hands on, it will become easier to duplicate others' views.

A downfall of this profession is that most of the time you cannot make your own hours. If you have to film a sunrise, you must be up before the sun comes up. Another negative aspect would be the lack of job consistency. You may have two or three jobs one day and then no jobs for a week. The better your name gets known, the more jobs will line up in your path.

Some final advice that Doring offers is to, "Press your work onto anyone and everyone. Always want to learn more and be open-minded. Take as many pictures as possible because the more you take the better you become. Know your skills and don't get discouraged."

gallery

"Enigmatic," Amanda Merten, LVA senior.



# Car surfing kills

Short-term thrill rides can cause permanent damage

By Tiffany Yanke, Shadow Ridge HS

I recently went to my school's talent show to watch my sister perform to a sold-out crowd in a show with many awesome performers. Lots of fun took place that night. However, after the show was over, when we were taking my sister's equipment to the car, I heard screaming and then saw someone lying in the middle of the parking lot. I ran faster than I knew I could to get to the injured person's side and then realized it was a close friend I'd known since sixth grade.

My sister and I immediately took off our coats and put them over my friend's legs because she was only wearing shorts and the wind was very cold. We yelled for someone to call 911, and I talked to her and held her hand until the ambulance got there. I knew something was very wrong when the paramedics called for the Flight for Life helicopter. It took about 20 minutes for them to get there, but after they landed on the football field, they transferred her from the ambulance to the helicopter.

What was the cause of the accident? What was the outcome? That is the saddest part of this story. The cause was "car surfing" and the outcome was that my friend died.

I guess I had a hard time understanding it because it seemed like such a simple, "no big deal" thing. Car surfing can't kill someone, right? Wrong. The combination of speed and turning a corner made my friend fly off the hood of the car and hit the pavement headfirst.

Still, she opened her eyes when I called her name. She looked fine, and she moved her legs from the cold when I took the coats off her before she was

put in the ambulance. It was a shock when I heard she had died from her injuries, and for what? Something stupid. Was the couple of seconds of fun worth it? So many lives have been changed for less than 30 seconds of "fun."

Although there is no specific law in Nevada against car surfing, there is a law saying you must have a seatbelt on inside a car. There is even a law about riding in the back of a truck. I guess because it is just such an unthinkable thing that kids would ride on the hood of a car, legislators have not felt the need for such a law here. I went through a driver's education course; this was not discussed nor cautioned against. It is one of those things that you should just know better than to do, but why is it that so many kids don't think about it?

Why is it that, when another student at the school also was injured from a car-surfing accident after a previous school event, our administration did not talk to us about these dangers? If we had been cautioned and taught of the dangers, this may not have happened.

Why were the school police not hired for this event? According to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, this event was never even put on the main CCSD police school event calendar. The school must pay to have police officers at events like dances, plays, meetings and sports events. If there had been a police car and policeman outside the school the night of this event, this may not have happened.

The teachers who were there did the best they could to contact parents and keep everyone calm, but where were the administrators? They should have been there in case of an emergency with the students they are responsible for. At a high school, the day does not end when the last bell rings; in my opinion, it ends when the last student leaves the last activity at the school for that night. It's not about just the fun

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# Not-so-dumb jocks: Why athletes are more than just brawn



By Kenneth Brown, Rancho HS

In the high school social hierarchy, athletes reign supreme. They are seen as exceptional because of their physical skill and talent.

But with some modicum of fame comes criticism and disapproval. How so? Watch any TV show or any typical teen movie, and you're sure to find them: the stereotypical beatnik (i.e. Geek) and not far behind is his brooding, brawny, letterman-jacket-wearing jock bully named "Butch" or "Brian" (take your pick.)

No one is quite sure when suspenders, glasses and a jacked-up haircut made a genius, but ever since that time, the stereotypical athletic, alpha male has been left as the polar (as well as intellectual) opposite. Neither are we exactly certain of when this mentality became cemented into the common psyche of society. Thankfully, there is a change on the horizon.

A new breed of student-athlete is rising. In the past, many athletes' motivation has solely been on the promise of sports fame and the possibility of making it big. But recent scholar-athletes are equally concerned with making the grade just as much as making the big play. They maintain a strong athletic presence as well as leading the academic heap.

There are many examples of such a hybrid at Rancho. On the football team alone you have at least 10 seniors who maintain a solid GPA of 3.0 or higher. These are just a handful of the scholar-athletes who are paving their way to college and beyond.

But for those of you who aren't quite convinced; why not hear it in the words of the athletes themselves. A few athletes were asked for their views of the stereotypes and how it has affected their performance on the field and in the classroom.

Senior Antonio Scott believes that, "It's not an intelligent thing to say, especially when some athletes receive better grades than regular students."

This is a statement supported by the fact that when someone comes to school for more than casual learning, he or she tends to do well in other aspects of academic life. Extracurricular activities (sports or otherwise) teach important values of leadership, camaraderie and decision-making.

As senior Lionel Vincent says, "I know people who make better decisions based upon their athletic experiences."

Not every scholar is purely concerned with grades and not every athlete is just a sports buff.

Senior Matt Goins says, "I know athletes who get into college based purely on merit and some who make the grade just to play the game."

Motivation aside, the modern athlete is more than just muscle. Still, most people, students and faculty alike, feel that the stereotype will almost never die down.

"As long as certain people are seen as exceptional, those who feel inferior will also always feel threatened," says senior Dyane Hill.

Most athletes stand united on this particular issue, and they have all provided different points of view.

Senior Josh Fox believes that, "Anyone who is doing something positive is always bound to get some negative feedback."

The bottom line is that jocks are just like everyone else, with a little something extra. Everyone has his or her something. Just because one person is exceptional at bouncing a ball and another person can write an exceptional essay, neither person is better or worse than the other.

I can only give you opinions and quotes. It's up to you to change your point of view. Who knows, someday, when the "Jock" can be seen as an intellectual and the "Geek" can be athletic, this will just be one of those taboo ideas that we are soon to forget.

Yeah, and some day we will have world peace.



# Have you had your daily dose of VIOLENCE today?

By Michael Higdon,  
Silverado HS

It is outrageous to think that while students sit safely in their classrooms, they are missing upwards of eight hours of their daily dose of violence.

They are missing the violent passages from their Bibles, their violent home lives, and most importantly, their violent TV shows and movies because none of these things are allowed in school. In fact, parents should think twice about allowing their kids to attend such a

## Car surfing

*Continued from page 16*

things like football, basketball or dances, but about any event that happens at the school. All students should feel safe and supervised no matter how late they are at the school.

According to Metro's fatality division, in 2003 two students were killed in Laughlin from car surfing. In Iowa, two injuries and three deaths were reported within a year in one town alone. In California, a 14-year-old died while skateboarding and holding onto the back of a car, and the driver was charged with vehicular manslaughter and reckless indifference to life. In Florida, a 15-year-old freshman died from head injuries after falling from a car, and the 17-year-old driver was charged with manslaughter.

Car surfing is described as riding on a car's roof, trunk or hood, or holding on to a window, door or spoiler. It also includes sticking your head or body out of a window or sunroof. It can also involve rollerblading or skateboarding while hanging onto a car. Deaths have occurred from speeds as low as 15 mph.

If you're thinking of having a really short-term thrill ride, think before you do it because it can cause you or someone else permanent damage. My friend made the wrong decision and she paid the highest price for that. I will really miss her, and I hope that others will learn from this horrible, tragic accident. Car surfing KILLS.

fluffy, unrealistic environment as school.

Since the beginning of human existence, violence has played a very important role in our lives. Whether it is the violence one inflicts upon a jar while opening it, the accidental violence of bapping someone in the head with a toy, or the genocide justified in the name of civilizing or conquering another race, violence is as prevalent in our lives as is the fact that there are two genders on our planet.

Yet, as we are certainly advanced humans, our instinctual need for violence is not as great as it once was. We use advanced technological tools to open jars instead of banging on them; we articulate our feelings toward each other instead of making loud, blanket statements that will later be regretted; we forgive, forget and hold our tempers when angered instead of shooting someone over a parking space; we are, after all, civilized creatures.

Still, if you have taken an anger management class for any of the aforementioned reasons and you still need your daily dose of violence, we can't forget the magic of television. One may think that he or she can overcome the powers of television, but more often than not, we hear stories of persons emulating that which was spouted forth from the screen. For example, the infamous "Jackass" copycats were effective in only breaking bones and accidentally killing one of their partners.

If that's not enough for you, TV shows have begun fighting for ratings; that is, seeing which channel can televise the most gore and violence. During sweeps week, the time when ratings for television shows are determined, HBO aired its most racy shows, as "ER" competed with its big-bang episode, explicitly showing a man's arm getting chopped off by a helicopter blade. Of course, if you are into more sophisticated showings of violence, you should watch "CSI." This drama intelligently shows the most vile scenes of dismemberment, human anatomy and realistic, Las Vegas-style violence.

Some people may say that our country's leaders have more influence over the youth than TV does. Well, I say to them, of course they do; they actually blow stuff up. I want my kids to be just like them when they grow up! In fact, we should start community militias and surprise the President on his birthday by presenting him with a countrywide status of War Readiness. That way, when he finally destroys the only other important country in the world — Iraq — we can all open our eyes to the threats around us and take over all of the other tyrannical governments that don't agree with us. Let's just take over the whole world while we're at it.

Finally, the real problem is addressed. There is so much violence everywhere else that it seems as though schools do not have enough, when in reality, they have too, met their quotas for 50 years into the future. Perhaps then, the DARE program should be enhanced to encompass not only drugs and alcohol, but the elimination of

**So how do we get six billion people on the planet to be nice to each other? "We bring them up that way!"**

violence as well. Perhaps the school should spend less time on petty crime and "zero-tolerance policies" and should crack down on real threats to the lives of its students. Perhaps parents should, instead of picking on the school's inability to control 4,000 students at once, take a more active role in policing their own children. Perhaps the entire country should take a more active role in fighting the decline of our morals and our ethics. Instead of feeding off the instinctual needs of violence, we should be fighting them. Instead of killing each other, we should be learning from one another.

Now, we must ask, how do we stop violence in schools; or more so, how do we end violence in general?

Some people believe that abolishing violence in the enter-

tainment industry — video games, music, television — is the answer. They believe that stopping the negative influence will put an end to violence, or at least slow it down. The debate over whether or not the media influences people has been going on for years. However, before all of that existed, there was still violence. Again, we come back to the history books. Everything in them is bloody and horrid and violent: people being killed or conquered always in the name of advancement of civilization. Would these things not continue?

Furthermore, other people argue that we need understanding and compassion to stop violence. Many of us would agree that if we all had patience and love for one another, there would be less violence. So how do we get six billion people on the planet to be nice to each other? "We bring them up that way!" you say zealously. In fact, with the proper discipline and nurturing, our next generation will create an era unlike one we've ever seen. What we need are productive, passionate, responsible people — a rare find in this world today.

It's sad to hear and see just how little

parents participate in their kids' lives. Schools and other programs are being forced to take over the role of the father or mother. Parents should not allow themselves to be pushed away by their "independent" teens. Parents should infringe on their kids' space, provoke them to vent and discuss their day, and above all, care and be genuinely interested in their son's or daughter's life. Parents should love their kids; discipline them, listen, and brag about how much they brag about them. Only this can effectively slow or even stop the spread of violence in our society.

Violence is too commonplace and accepted when it should not be. Violence should be as taboo and unaccepted as incest. Violence in the world shouldn't exist.

# Battle over Pledge rages on while its meaning is already lost

By Stephanie Michael,  
Eldorado HS

I pledge allegiance to the flag ... blah, blah, blah.

We all know it by now. It's something we've recited since kindergarten and continue to recite, as half-heartily as it may be, to this day. But now, parts of the Pledge are being questioned ... actually just one part, in particular. There is a movement to remove the phrase "under God" from the Pledge.

Many people are upset about the possibility that these two words might be pulled from the daily routine, voiced in classrooms across America.

"I believe in separation of church and state, so I do not believe [under God] should be in there," says Jesse Reed, a teacher at Eldorado High School.

Others simply don't care.

"I don't see what the big deal is," says Eldorado senior Chiavelli Locsin. "It's not like they're asking to take the Pledge out of school altogether."

When America instated the



Pledge to commemorate the 400-year anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of America, the wording was different from the modern version. It originally read:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag, and to the Republic for which it stands: one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

If the phrase "under God" were taken out, the pledge would be restored almost to its original wording. Some people think this fact makes the question an open and shut case.

"Personally, I want to know why anyone is making a big deal about it," says Audrey Johnson, an Eldorado senior. "It's not as big a problem as everyone in Washington is making it out to be. It's an oath you say nonchalantly everyday because it's mandatory. It isn't a big part of my life or the life of anyone

else I know. I think politicians should focus on other things instead of this stupid issue."

So why are politicians so fired up over those two words: "under God"? Why don't they work on the national debt or maybe even, gasp, the war in Iraq? Why? Because some people feel that any change to a national tradition is equivalent to unpatriotic behavior. But is the phrase really a "national tradition"? Hardly. The phrase "under God" wasn't added until 1954.

In fact, in 2002, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, the federal appeals court over Nevada and other western states, ruled that those two words made the entire Pledge unconstitutional because of the establishment clause of the Constitution separating religion from government by law.

When the issue was brought before the Senate, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle blasted the ruling as "outrageous," "nuts" and "stupid." They immediately passed a resolution 99-0 supporting the Pledge.

Erika Gonzales, a Las Vegas resident, believes that "everyone is taking this way too far. The case was first brought up in 2002 and here we are in 2004 and everyone is still talking about it.

I'm tired of hearing about it on a regular basis. It wastes my time and the time of the reporters who are covering it."

Amen to that.

But the feeling in Washington is quite different. Senator Kit Bond, a republican from Missouri, was one of many lawmakers who immediately reacted in anger and shock to the ruling.

"Our Founding Fathers must be spinning in their graves," Bond said, quoted in a June 2002 article on CNN.com. "This is the worst kind of political correctness run amok. What's next? Will the courts now strip "so help me God" from the pledge taken by new presidents?"

Hours after the federal appeals court declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional, the Republican political machine in Washington geared up to fight the decision. The National Republican Campaign Committee, which coordinates Republican congressional campaign efforts, went into high gear to fight the court's ruling. Conservative lawmakers contacted many local school boards and told them to "nullify this decision" and urged them to allow the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited as is in classrooms.

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# Been there, done that: Being an original in a copycat world

By Christine Han,  
LV Academy

I can't think of any thing profound to say, especially something with that oomph the fast-paced people in society look for in practically everything not made by themselves.



The oomph, the general pizzazz that could spark imagination, is nonexistent in our generation, and we lack the ability to siphon ideas, like electricity in the air, into the lightning rods of our minds.

The fact is that we copy.

The very language that we speak so appallingly was taken from the various civilizations of the past, along with the music, the architecture, the fashions, and the list just recedes into the distance, on and on and on.

Author Laurence J. Peter once said, "Originality is the fine art of remembering what you hear but forgetting where you heard it." It's like this quote and many others. Where did I find it, and where do I find all the information I babble about other than from muddy memories of people that

my mind glosses over?

There is not one completely foolproof, definitely original idea that we can think up at this moment. What is left to think of in art? The movies we watch, the books we read, the stress we go through, are all a repetition of the world that came before us, every second containing hundreds of other writers who had the same awesome idea for the same exciting editorial.

It is plain that one consequence of such copycat mentality is plagiarism.

Attesting to the problem are the disturbing stories about this or that person who happened to copy another's article, word for word (except for that part where they brilliantly used the thesaurus), and did not know that they were committing a serious offense, which in most schools is punishable by being given a zero for an assignment or something equally ominous.

This horrendous and ignorantly unoriginal rip-off of sources has editors and English teachers stunned. A while back, my boss at CLASS! Magazine was editing through a pile of stories, and she came across a very factual story that was basically worse than being slapped by a three-day-old tuna fish. That tuna would have

been welcome.

As it turns out, the words were barfed up from an Internet site, and the copycat hadn't even used the thesaurus. The teacher was notified, became furious and found out that the student had no idea that he or she had been doing the devil's work.

A humorist, Josh Billings, said, "About the most originality that any writer can hope to achieve honestly is to steal with good judgment."

What I've found is that though the ideas may not be all that fresh, the twist on those stale mental conjurings, the experiences each of us have that vary our perspectives, kicks our brains and forces them to yell oomph. Others may have similar lifestyles, but how many can say with faultless assurance that they are exactly and absolutely identical? Even twins have different paper cuts.

So, my non-profound statement is that though you may think that switching a couple of words around and adding an adjective here and there will give you that easy A, you are being as clever as a cucumber with a zero for a grade.

I don't plagiarize, as funny as that would be for this story. I found the quotes at [www quotationspage.com](http://www quotationspage.com).

# Movie piracy gives studios excuse for making bad decisions

By Graham Haugh,  
Palo Verde HS

With the rise of peer-to-peer sharing programs and high-speed Internet connections, movie piracy (well, entertainment bootlegging in general) has become a greater issue than ever before.

By now many people know about how file sharing came about. College's "hip geeks" made programs to freely distribute software and media files. It was limited mostly to those colleges until higher-speed connections were more readily available to "Joe average-middle-schooler/high-schooler" in the 'burbs. Joe gets the file-sharing programs and thinks to himself, "Dude, I am so in the mood for some Metallica right now, let's see if I can download it. While I'm at it, I'll download the latest Dr. Dre CD too." Cue the impending lawsuits and mass publicity for file sharing in general, leading to a massive boom in these programs.

Until recently, movies were still a bit harder to come by online (in peer-to-peer services at least). Once Napster was fully shut down, more new programs came out that supported video files — large video files, requiring less compression, resulting in better audio and video for movie files. This helped give today's disenfranchised youth of suburbia another way, beyond pornography and mp3 files, of sticking it to

## The Pledge

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As for the court, its position is that the Pledge can continue, but the phrase "under God" has to go. The decision continues to be argued in the courts.

Here's the real problem with the Pledge: Kids don't recite the words reverently and patriotically. It's more like blah, blah, blah ... and that's the real tragedy. While politicians and judges rail about the phrase "under God," school kids recite the Pledge so often that it has lost its meaning.

"the man" while pushing their modems to the limit.

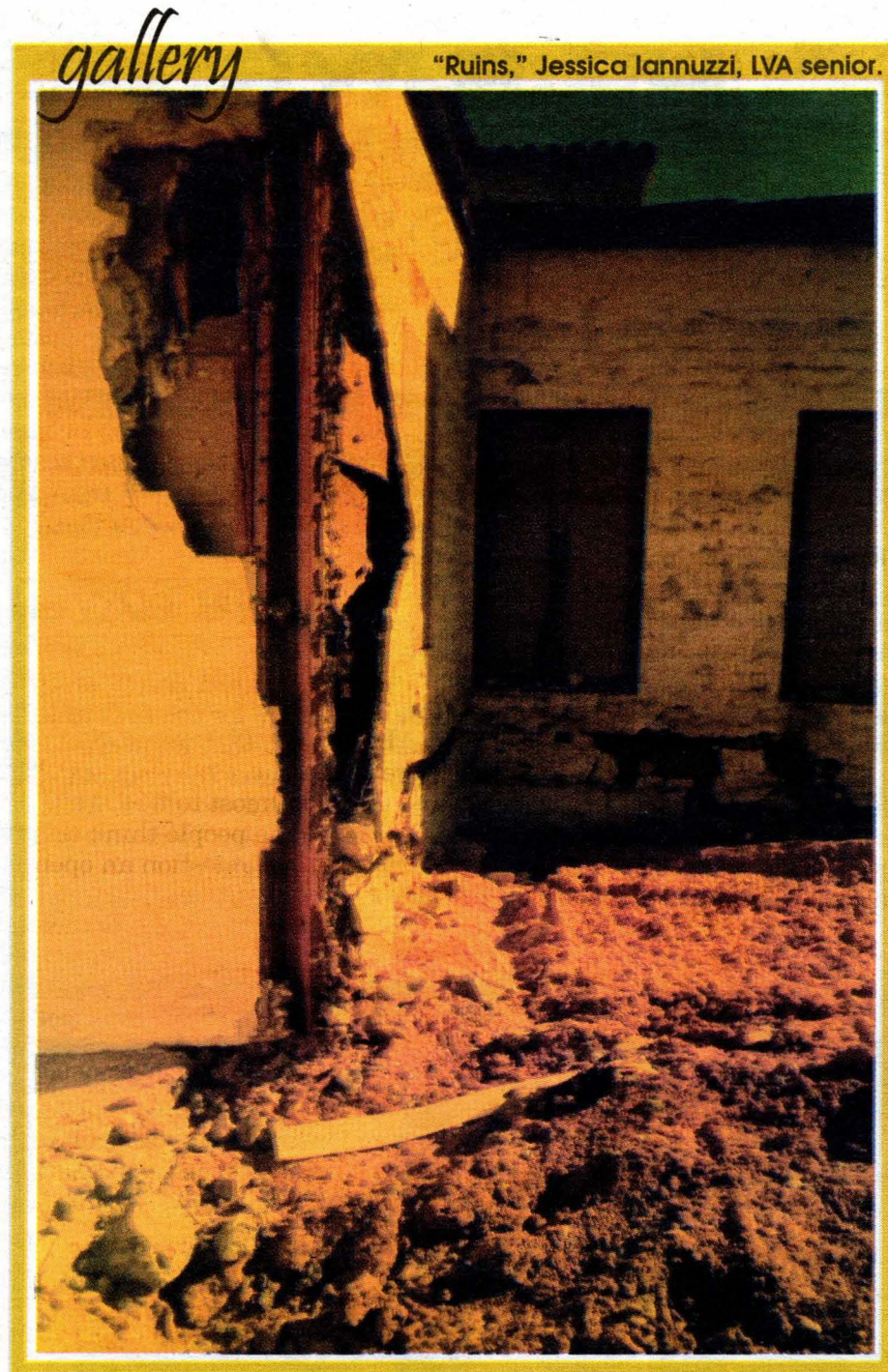
That was a few years ago with Internet movie piracy in relative infancy. Cut to the present and you have an alarmed state of Hollywood's iron-fisted studios. Movie piracy has probably been around since movies themselves, but never so readily and threateningly as now. This means plenty more excuses for studios to hold back production or distribution of movies and blame their failures on piracy.

In a way, the piracy issue has become Hollywood's scapegoat. Let's say two sequels in the same franchise are released in the same year. The first to be released did fairly well at the box office but disappointed the audience. The next sequel is shown in fewer theaters and turns in only a bit of profit. According to the studio, the low ticket sales were due to movie piracy, and there's no chance that people just didn't care about the movie, even though bootlegging would prove that, as it shows they don't want to pay. It also gives a studio like Miramax a good reason to avoid making an expensive ad campaign and pesky mass-distribution by claiming that the movie failed because of piracy, not because they didn't even let audiences give the flick a chance.

The most hilarious ploy by the studios is the advertising campaign with a teamster claiming that it's piracy that's costing him. What they don't tell you is that the division of the money from his and his co-workers' paychecks went to the star's salary and the company bigwig's new car.

In no way am I justifying piracy; it is illegal and it should be, but studios aren't losing nearly as much money as they claim to be. Most piracy happens after the film is already out on DVD. So I guess it cuts into sales and rentals. Maybe a bit, but it's only that small minority who can afford to buy all the DVDs they wanted (remember, people who download movies usually can afford to have high-speed Internet access), who are too lazy or antisocial to go to a store.

A real funny bit that some



of these pirates like to put on is that they're movie buffs. I don't know many "movie buffs" who love to watch films in terrible, low-resolution quality when a better version is available. While technology allows for producing high-quality video and audio, that doesn't mean problems don't often plague the presentation of digitally bootlegged films. It's only worse when the file was shot using a hand-held camera in a theater, as are most bootlegs, not ripped off a DVD.

There may be a small bit of justification for a minority of bootlegging: a foreign film that isn't set for release in U.S. theaters or the U.S. video market any time soon. A perfect example of this would be the Hong Kong marital-arts comedy "Shaolin Soccer." This was one of the top downloaded movies of last year. However, Miramax has distribution rights to the

movie, so it's still illegal for anyone else to distribute the movie.

The problem with Miramax's handling is that it's been "set for release" for various dates within the past two years. They keep pulling it back to re-edit and re-dub the film for the mainstream American audience. When they will release it is unknown. Most people are guessing that even more of the movie will be chopped off to make it 30 minutes long, and that it will see release in the year 2020.

The bottom line is this: If bootlegging grows further, it will become as bad as the movie industry is making the current situation out to be and even fewer chances will be taken with films. This means a very probable regression in the growth of filmmaking as an art form.

# HE SAYS

# SHE SAYS

*Are boys or girls more afraid of the opposite sex?*

## **Fear, not etiquette, keeps girls from making the first move**

By Kevin Sagers,  
Centennial HS

Are you kidding me? Who is more afraid of the opposite sex? Who do you think? Girls can't even start conversations with boys, much less anything else that involves brains and a bit of self-confidence.

Think about it for a second. Guys have to talk first, call first, ask out first and make the first move. Ever notice why? Because guys have the guts to do all that.

Sure some guys are shy and delay doing these things, and some are not shy enough and do them too early, but the point is, it gets done.

### HE SAYS

Girls aren't just scared of talking to guys for the first time, either. Even if they know the guy, he can scare the crap out of her with little to no effort. All it takes is a simple, "Hold on a sec," or, "I'm busy right now, I can't talk," and the girl won't even go

near the guy because she thinks he's mad at her. It's actually kind of ridiculous.

Need more proof? Guys, how many times have you heard this, or something like it: "Hi, my name is so-'n'-so, and my friend over there wants me to talk to you for her. She thinks you're hot, and she asked me to get your phone number for her?"

Yep, lots. Come on, girls. Guys think that is the most pathetic thing in the world. If you can't approach someone and talk to him yourself, you're really not worth the time. Sorry, but it's

the truth.

The worst thing is, this isn't some new fad. It's been going on forever. Girls say it's a "tradition" not to call guys or ask a guy out. Rather than a tradition, I say it's just a genetically transferred "wussy-ness," and girls are just used to it by now, so they say it's a rule of society. And that's that.

There it is again. "Guys rule and girls drool," ... drool over the guys, that is, and it'll be the same until they get some cowardly lion courage and do something about it.

## **Boys, beware! Girls have the power, and they know how to use it**

By Kaila Hart,  
Centennial HS

Yeah, I guess we girls can be pretty scary sometimes with our curled hair, pink skirts and nail polish, but looks can be deceiving. Rejection, intimidation, control, manipulation and high standards are just a few of the things that really scare guys off.

The first thing guys are afraid of and always will be is rejection. This explains why, with just a week before a dance left, the guy finally grows a spine and gets the guts to ask the girl.

We all hear it from our parents when they hear us complain about not having a date on Friday night: "Guys are just intimidated by your beauty and all that you have going for yourself." So, if you wait for the guy to ask, you'd be stuck at home eating pretzels and watching "She's All That" with your kid sister, while the guy guzzles down junk food and plays video games with friends.

If I was a guy, I'd be scared of girls, too. We hold all the power! Girls can lead a guy into thinking she likes him, only to crush his hopes of a possible relationship by dating his best friend.

Besides leading guys on, girls also possess another power: word of mouth. Everyone knows guys

talk with their friends, but their conversations usually don't end up causing as much drama as girl talk does. When you hear the word drama, what comes to your mind? Girls. For instance, guys, how many girls do you know who think your existence is a waste of space because you didn't call one of their friends back after your date? Guys would have to take off their shoes to help count the numbers.

Or maybe the reason guys are so scared of girls is because we have high standards. Girls have this image of the perfect guy and compare everyone to it. Ex-boyfriends, actors and superheroes are a few of

the possible contestants on the new hit high school drama, "Date that Guy." I'll be the first to admit that girls can sometimes be judgmental, but is perfection really too much to ask?

If any guy thinks that a girl is afraid of him they are sadly mistaken. The only thing that scares a girl from a guy is his chronic halitosis and chapped lips.

What are little girls made of? Sugar and spice and everything nice. Seems like it would be hard to be afraid of baking ingredients, huh? It's funny how guys haven't been able to overcome their fears of the opposite sex, let alone cook anything up between the two.

gallery

Untitled, Cassi Thomas, LVA senior.



## School uniforms stunt teens' emotional growth

By Sydney Alford,  
Foothill HS



The preppy girl sits in front of you, diligently working on her assignment. To the left of you, the punk kid is blasting music on his headphones; that is, of course, until the teacher tells him to stop; and the gothic kid on the other side of the room is scribbling on his notebook. Welcome to high school.

We are not the same. We have different friends, different families, different lifestyles and different ways of dressing. Your personality isn't chosen by the kind of clothes you pull from your closet every day; you chose your own clothes no matter what they are, because of your personality. Sure, you can show your personality in other ways, like by the way you talk, decorate your binders and backpacks, or the kind of socks you wear, but what makes more of a statement about you than the clothes you're wearing?

Teachers, parents and friends continually remind you to be yourself, an individual, because that's what will help you succeed. How are we supposed to be ourselves if we're forced to wear what school administrators want us to wear?

The old saying goes, never judge a book by its cover. Yeah, right! What you wear affects what other people think of you, whether or not anyone admits it. Now, some would say that's a bad thing; it divides the student body, forms cliques and leaves people out. But we live in a diverse world that's separated by many different fac-

tors, and kids need to get used to it. Since everyone is different, not everyone is going to be friends. What a person is wearing helps you determine from a distance whether you would be able to be friends with them or not.

For example, if you dress rather preppy, you probably wouldn't become good friends with one of the extreme punk kids from school because your views are more conservative than theirs. Wearing your own outfits doesn't impair people from forming friendships with others; you still have the ability to get to know someone "not in your social group" during the chemistry lab or English project, but it allows you to have a closer connection to others who have similar views.

Won't uniforms solve a lot of the problems at school? Not necessarily. Someone who can afford to buy the Abercrombie khaki pants will still wear them, while others will be shopping at Wal-Mart. The school district can set a standardized dress code, which means everyone will have to wear a specific color top and khaki pants. But, with no restrictions on the style of pants or tops, there is still plenty of room to bend the rules of dress code.

When we graduate and move into professional careers, we will have to learn to conform to specific rules and wear what the company says. But the last time I checked, I wasn't an adult, and I wasn't getting paid to attend school. I'm still a teenager, and before the chance to express myself is taken away, let me figure out who I am first.

## When you need a friend, Natural Helpers are there

By Chris Pfau,  
Centennial HS

Drugs, alcohol, domestic violence and suicide all encompass high school students in their daily lives. However, at Centennial High School, Natural Helpers are here to help, and the name says it all.

Natural Helpers is a peer-counseling group made up of Centennial students who work with the counseling office to help other students deal with difficult situations. They are nominated by teachers to become Natural Helpers because of their natural abilities to help and aide other students. Natural Helpers must be kind, willing to listen and easy to talk to. A Natural Helper is available during any time of the school day, and students who want to talk to a Helper can even choose what gender, age and type of person they want to talk to.

Natural Helpers also perform thought-provoking presentations for the student body. Last December, the Natural Helpers did a skit for the freshmen titled "Turn Around," about a girl who got herself into drugs. She became addicted and was not able to stop using them, and she steadily fell into a pit of depression. When she

needed her friends and family the most, they rejected her, which leads to the girl's suicide.

Courtney Welte, a Centennial freshman, says, "I thought it was really powerful. I looked around and saw everyone was watching the play very intently."

"We do these skits to increase awareness for drugs, alcohol, suicide and domestic violence," says Aaron Prado, a junior at Centennial.

All of the skits the Natural Helpers do are to aide teens in their daily lives and to show them what to do when faced with hard decisions.

In April, the Natural Helpers will be doing an event called "The Day of the Dead." Randomly chosen students will be "killed" in a drinking and driving accident. Those students who are "killed" will represent how many people die in the course of a school day due to drinking and driving. The event is important because statistics show that, every 15 minutes, a person between the ages of 16 and 24 is killed in an accident involving drinking.

A teen's life can be very stressful. Centennial students are fortunate to have Natural Helpers there ready to help out.

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## Short people may be small, but they're capable of big things

By Amanda Woolworth,  
Cheyenne HS

I am a short senior, really short, and I have never considered myself strong, brave or anything else except short.

I am also a military brat, born and raised in Japan around every branch of military, with a now-retired Air Force dad and with a grandpa of the same design. Although I have this background, no one ever would have expected little me to make the decision to follow in my father's and grandfather's footsteps.

Since the beginning of my teenage years, I have always been somewhat of a brat — no attention to detail, rebellious, mouthy, etc., all traits of an average teenager, right? Wrong.

I realized at the end of my junior year that I needed a desperate change in my lifestyle. I had no respect for my "elders" and was starting to lose respect for people my own age. So in November 2003, I made the choice to allow my dad to be at least a little happy with his oldest daughter by getting an appointment with an Air Force recruiter.

I walked into the U.S. Armed Forces building with the preconception that I would not fit in with "these" people, even though I was raised around them. I got through that day, and now I know that I am leaving for Texas in September 2004 for boot camp, or basic training, as it is commonly known. All I can do is wait for it to come and hope that I make it through those gruesome six weeks.

Next time you see a short person, try not to let your preconceptions get in the way of reality. We are capable of more than you think.

# HOROSCOPE

## March Forecast



**Aries (March 21-April 19):** You've made it this far; so don't shy away from upcoming events. You may have doubted yourself, but you are stronger than you may think, so don't underestimate your judgment.



**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** The stubborn side of your nature is emerging again. It would be wise to come to a compromise with your friend, otherwise you will be sure to lose not only an argument, but also a confidant.



**Gemini (May 21-June 21):** An acquaintance may come to an intellectually inclined person, such as yourself, for some serious advice. Be honest and give them the same advice you would give a good friend.



**Cancer (June 22-July 22):** Reality sets in for you and you realize that not everyone can nurture your moody behavior. Cut out the whining and move on.



**Leo (July 23-August 22):** A new idea for something different in your life has kept your mind racing. Talk it over with friends and family because you may find the input you are looking for.



**Virgo (August 23-September 22):** When was the last time you took some time out from your meticulous behavior to enjoy life? You are about to meet a person who will bring mass amounts of spontaneity into your world.



**Libra (September 23-October 23):** You are not alone. Everyone goes through tough situations; just take some time for yourself to think through your problems. The future does not hold this type of pain for you very long.



**Scorpio (October 24-November 21):** Why stress now? Your fearless behavior at work is bringing in lots of customers. There is no way that you won't succeed in this job.



**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21):** Here is the truth: Call or talk to your new love interest. You will never know if there is a possibility for a relationship if you don't take that step and make contact.



**Capricorn (December 22-January 19):** If you always "play it safe," you could miss out on a lot of opportunities. Let your ambitious side guide you through this new trial.



**Aquarius (January 20-February 18):** Your idea is very original so don't forget it. Develop this idea into a plan. You'll be happy that you didn't back down, and your community will be positively affected as well.



**Pisces (February 19-March 20):** The focus you have put into your studies is almost flawless. Don't forget what it feels like to hang out with friends. You may need to take more time out of your day to do just that.

# Díganos

## Tatuarse o no tatuarse: un compromiso de por vida

Por Heather Trujillo,  
Green Valley, HS

**M**ientras que famosas piezas de arte permanecen colgadas en galerías, otra forma (de lo que la gente llama arte), se ve todos los días en la piel de las personas.

Millones de habitantes de Norteamérica se hacen tatuajes cada año, y esto ni siquiera cuenta los millones de tatuajes que otras culturas llevan considerándolos símbolos, no dibujos.

"Tatuaje" viene de la palabra "tatu," que significa "marcar algo" en tahitiano. Los tatuajes han



estado en nuestra sociedad por miles de años, con pruebas arqueológicas que indican que eran atributos muy normales en culturas egipcias, italianas, griegas,

indígenas, sudamericanas, arábigas y asiáticas.

Los tatuajes también simbolizan muchas supersticiones y estigmas. Muchas culturas piensan que los tatuajes te ayudan a permanecer a salvo de los malos espíritus. Por ejemplo, en Birmania, la gente cree que un tatuaje sobre el corazón puede parar las balas de una arma y los indígenas norteamericanos creían que los tatuajes y las ceremonias de pintura los ayudarían en las batallas. Otros piensan que las personas que se tatúan son los típicos machos o amantes a las motos, que no es necesariamente cierto.

Para hacerse un tatuaje, una aguja con tinta permanente se tiene que presionar contra tu piel una y otra vez, a una velocidad de 3,000 agujazos por minuto. La aguja bota la tinta en la parte superior de tu piel. Tratamientos para remover los tatuajes con láser se pueden utilizar pero son bastante costosos

y peligrosos. ¡Esta clase de dolor solo se lo puede aguantar los adultos!

Sebastián San Andrés, un estudiante nocturno, dice, "Me hice un tatuaje porque cumplí 18 años. Significa que ya soy un adulto, además se ve bien."

En muchas sociedades, hacerse un tatuaje es  
Ve a página 26

9 de abril es la última fecha para el...

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## Exhibición de afiches de Fernando Botero: 'La evolución de un maestro'



Por Lina Hernández,  
Editora de Díganos

**H**asta el 18 de abril, dentro del Museo de Arte de Las Vegas, se estará llevando a cabo una exhibición de afiches de Fernando Botero, con más de 80 afiches conmemorando cada una de sus 80 exhibiciones internacionales que ha presentado a lo largo de su carrera como pintor y escultor. De todas las obras artísticas que hemos apreciado con los años, ninguna es tan inconfundible como las de este artista proveniente de las grandes montañas de Colombia.

Su estilo, con enormes y grotescos cuerpos de gente obesa, proclama la originalidad de este artista. Los símbolos satíricos de sus pinturas reconocen el

mundo ordinario de la política de nuestra sociedad y en sus obras encontrarás un punto de vista auténtico que personifica nuestro mundo actual.

Visita la página en Internet [www.lasvegasartmuseum.org](http://www.lasvegasartmuseum.org) para más información o date una pasadita para que no te pierdas esta exhibición. Si no sabes quién es Fernando Botero, lee las "leyendas del mes" y te darás cuenta.

Estos son los datos:

Museo del Arte de Las Vegas  
9600 W. Sahara Avenue  
(702) 360-8000

Horario: martes a sábado de 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. y domingos 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Admisión general: \$5

(Exhibición organizada por el Museo de Arte Latinoamericana, gracias a la colección de Enrique Michelsen, conservada por Alex Slato)

# Jóvenes latinos se superan en Estados Unidos

Por José Galindo,  
Las Vegas HS



Los jóvenes latinos venimos a este país principalmente tratando de lograr un objetivo: buscar nuevas oportunidades para mejorar nuestra forma de vida. A causa de eso, tenemos la necesidad de abandonar nuestro viejo país para llegar a otro totalmente diferente.

Nuestra vida cambia drásticamente al momento que emigramos y que ya no podemos ver a las personas por las que sentimos un gran afecto, como nuestros amigos y familiares. Pero a pesar de la distancia que nos aleja, nuestro corazón no puede olvidar nuestros años de adolescencia. Y relato esto, porque ha sido algo que me pasó a mí y les seguirá pasando a muchos jóvenes más.

A partir de que yo abandoné

mi hermoso país, me di cuenta que al igual que yo, muchos jóvenes latinoamericanos emigraban a los Estados Unidos. Yo, en lo personal decidí venir por mi propia voluntad para completar mis sueños y mis metas. Una de mis prioridades era aprender el inglés y hasta el momento me siento orgulloso porque he visto un gran progreso.

En una pequeña encuesta que le realicé a un grupo de alumnos del Programa ELL de Las Vegas High School, les pregunté por qué habían tomado la decisión de venir a este país. Algunos de ellos me contestaron que aquí les daban mayores oportunidades de educación y trabajo. Y eso me hizo pensar que coincidían con mi decisión. Sin embargo, casi la mayoría me contestó que no tenían ni la menor idea que iban a venir, y que la decisión fue de sus padres quienes optaron por superarse y buscar un mejor futuro para ellos.

Otra de mis cuestiones fue si realmente ellos, que tienen la oportunidad de estudiar, están tan agradecidos con este país como yo lo estoy. Me respondieron que ha

sido uno de los regalos más grandes que han recibido, y que el hecho de ser inmigrantes no les quita el derecho a tener el valioso privilegio de estudiar y prepararse para una vida profesional. También me dijeron que este país les abre muchas puertas y que si sabes aprovechar estas

oportunidades, llegarás a tener éxito y superación. Me conmovió escuchar todo el entusiasmo que ellos proyectaron en sus respuestas.

Por otro lado, tanto para ellos como para mí, uno de los primeros conflictos que tenemos que

Vea página 26

# Las religiones están aumentando los prejuicios entre jóvenes

Por Ashley Barnes,  
Centennial HS

Pelo rubio, ojos azules, buenas calificaciones -mormones. Están en todas partes, ¿cómo no verlos? Ellos forman el "Sendero de mormones" cada mañana camino a la escuela cuando salen de su seminario. No es ninguna sorpresa que el 85 por ciento de los estudiantes de Centennial creen que ésta es la religión líder de la escuela. Muchos se sorprenderán al enterarse que no es así.

Más de la mitad de los estudiantes de la escuela dicen haber sido juzgados como mormones, pero los resultados de una reciente encuesta indican que solo el 14 por ciento lo son.

Se cree que toda religión tiene sus prejuicios. Si alguien tiene pelo oscuro, una nariz grande, o bigote, muchas personas dirían que es judío(a). Si alguien es hispano, entonces todo el mundo piensa que es católico(a). Las personas afro-americanas son consideradas bautistas, y alguien que venga del Medio Oriente o con descendencia afro-americana puede ser considerado musulmán.

¿Es esto justo? Es como decir que eres inteligente si te pones lentes o que eres un pandillero si te pones pantalones anchos.

Un vivo ejemplo es Teresa Sands, quien dice que la gente cree que es mormona cuando en realidad es católica.

En una encuesta hecha a 300 estudiantes de Centennial HS, se pidió que dijeran lo primero que se les viniera a la mente cuando pensarían en diferentes religiones. Los resultados mostraron que los estudiantes tienden a atribuir ciertos comportamientos a los miembros de estas religiones.

Algunas personas piensan que todos los mormones son "creídos y antipáticos," los cristianos son "niños de la iglesia," y los musulmanes son "terroristas." Y todo esto se cree por ignorancia.

Maureen McGinty es de la

religión mormona y piensa que algunos mormones son buenos y otros son malos, así como en todas las religiones. Ella dice, "Siempre escuchas o de los muy buenos o de los muy malos, pero nunca de los que se encuentran en la mitad."

Algunas personas piensan que los cristianos no son tan dedicados a su religión como Kylie Day que dice, "[Los cristianos] son personas buenas, pero no hacen cosas tan religiosas algunas veces." Otro punto de vista es que los cristianos siempre tratan de convertir a otras personas al cristianismo.

Los católicos se ven como personas muy religiosas. "Santos, crucifijos y confesiones" son las primeras cosas que los estudiantes de CHS piensan acerca de los católicos.

Nuestra escuela no tiene muchos estudiantes judíos, solo el tres por ciento de acuerdo con la encuesta. Pero ellos, a pesar de que son muy pocos, también reciben críticas y burlas.

Las personas religiosas son juzgadas por muchos; pero, los que no son religiosos también. Los ateos, quienes no creen en Dios, es uno de los grupos en CHS.

Hay opiniones grandes acerca de los ateos. Hay quienes dicen que los ateos son "independientes," con "mente abierta," "liberales," o "científicos," y hay quienes piensan que están en mal camino por no creer en Dios.

Ninguna religión es mejor que las otras. A pesar de todos los prejuicios religiosos, la religión es una decisión que cada una de las personas tienen que tomar en un punto de su vida, así como la decisión entre gafas y lentes de contacto, entre papel y plástico. Todos somos humanos, y todos tenemos el derecho de escoger qué religión queremos practicar en nuestras vidas.

"Pienso que todos somos iguales," dice Megan Wheeler. "Solo debemos juzgar situaciones basadas en nuestras propias experiencias e individualidades."



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# ¡No más estereotipos injustos!

Por Yoshabel Cortez, Las Vegas HS

Los latinos hemos sido víctimas de estereotipos por muchos años, pero no hemos sido capaces de corregir estos errores. Esta división que se crea por las diferentes razas es simplemente ridícula.

Debido a que he crecido con piel clara y con ojos café claros, ha sido muy difícil adaptarme a mi cultura. Mucha gente asume que, porque tengo piel pálida, soy automáticamente "americana." Considerando que mi familia emigró de una parte de América, de Centroamérica para ser exacta, el título que me da la gente está mal. Me gustaría saber la definición correcta de la palabra "Americano."

Me río de las personas que me preguntan si hablo "mexicano." Seguramente hay quienes no entienden que "mexicano" no es un idioma, es un nombre que se utiliza para referirse a una persona proveniente de México; y español es literalmente el término que se utiliza para nuestro idioma.

La misma sociedad ha mostrado a los latinos como personas de mente pequeña, incapaces de alcanzar sus metas. Hay quienes literalmente insultan a los latinos, con el objetivo de mandarlos a su "país."

Jessica Icabalceta, estudiante de Las Vegas HS, dice, "[La sociedad piensa] que todos los mexicanos son pandilleros."

Joselyn Trujillo añade, "Eso, o piensan que las chicas [latinas] siempre terminan embarazadas."

Un artículo con el título, "Los comentarios oficiales del Presidente Bush crean estereotipos para los latinos," escrito por Russell Contreras y publicado en la página de Internet Proyecto Progresivo de Comunicación, dice que el encargado de la comisión de salud en Texas, cree que "... Las latinas planean su boda días después de sus 'quinceañeras,' y que a los jóvenes de 13 años no les importa cambiar pañales o calentar la leche después de sus partidos o prácticas de fútbol."

Los medios de comunicación frecuentemente simbolizan a los latinos en general como damas de limpieza y buenos-para-nada.

"Muchas de las películas muestran a los latinos saliéndose de estudiar," dice Lethie Ramírez, una estudiante dedicada a romper con esos prejuicios.

"América no sería la misma sin latinos," dice una estudiante, Isabel Ayala.

A los latinos se les conoce por trabajar en construcción o limpiando cuartos en hoteles; y sin embargo se les habla mal por emigrar a los Estados Unidos desde la tierra de los "pandilleros." ¿Qué pasaría si los latinos no pudieran pasar esa división? ¿Quién trabajaría en construcción o limpiando cuartos?

¿Qué pasó con la canción, "Esta Tierra es Tu Tierra," escrita por Woody Guthrie? Ya veo que las generaciones van cambiando, o la verdad es que nadie le puso atención a la canción.

¡Despierten! El color de la piel, es solo eso, un color. Los Latinos no son los que van a comer a Taco Bell todos los días y planean cómo estropearse la vida.

"Deberían darnos una oportunidad antes de juzgarnos," explica Icabalceta.

Acepten que los latinos estamos creciendo cada día más. Estamos ocupando posiciones más altas en la sociedad. Otra cosa, no cometan el error de llamarle "mexicanos" a los latinos, nosotros no les decimos británicos a los norteamericanos, ¿o sí?

Eduquémonos primero antes de iniciar una discusión de este tipo. Si todavía tienes tiempo para juzgarnos, entonces no pretendas que perdamos el tiempo contigo. Los latinos somos los que le ponen "chilito" al mundo, no los que ponemos la crema agria en los tacos.

# LEYENDAS DEL MES

## Pintores

Sus cuadros, sus esculturas y sus historias. Estos son tres pintores latinoamericanos que han dejado huella en las galerías de arte. Rivera, Guayasamín y Botero simbolizan la expresión de nuestros países en un solo pincelazo.



Diego R.

Rivera es considerado como el máximo representante de la Escuela Mural Mexicana. Nació en Guanajuato en 1886. Su brillante personalidad, su gusto por la polémica, además de su talento como pintor lo volvieron un personaje reconocido en el panorama cultural y político del México de los veinte y los cincuenta. A lo largo de su carrera como pintor, Rivera logró viajar por muchos países de Europa gracias al apoyo del gobernador de Veracruz, en ese entonces Teodoro Dehesa. También se hace famoso por importantes murales.

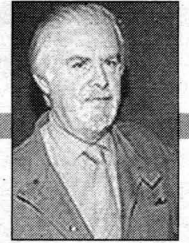
Uno de los momentos más importantes y más controversiales de su vida fue su tercer matrimonio con Frida Kahlo, con quien compartía el amor hacia el arte. Con ella vivió los mayores logros de su carrera. Aún así su amor siempre fue considerado algo extraño puesto que estuvo lleno de engaños, peleas y pasión. La muerte de Kahlo en 1954 lo dejó desamparado y enfermo. Rivera vive sus últimos tres años de vida en su casa de San Angel Inn y Acapulco y fallece en 1957.



Oswaldo G.

Guayasamín nació en Quito, Ecuador, el 6 de Julio de 1919. Se graduó de pintor y escultor de la Escuela de Bellas Artes de ese país. Sus obras siempre fueron humanistas y señaladas como expresionistas. Sus obras reflejan el dolor y la miseria que soporta la mayor parte de la humanidad y denuncia la violencia que le ha tocado vivir al ser humano en el monstruoso siglo XX, marcado por las guerras mundiales y las guerras civiles, los campos de concentración, las dictaduras y las torturas.

Guayasamín ha expuesto en museos de la totalidad de las capitales de América, y muchos países de Europa tales como Roma, Praga, Madrid, Barcelona, Varsovia, Moscú, Leningrado, entre otros. Realizó unas 180 exposiciones individuales y su producción fue muy fructífera en cuadros de caballete, murales, esculturas y monumentos. Después de varias condecoraciones oficiales y cantidad de premios, Oswaldo fallece el 10 de marzo de 1999, a los 79 años.



Fernando B.

Botero nace en Medellín, Colombia en 1932. Este pintor y escultor Colombiano se gradúa de la Universidad de Antioquia y se va a estudiar a una casa de artes en Europa. A principios de los años sesenta se estableció en Nueva York, donde sus pinturas le granjearon una notable popularidad en el mercado artístico estadounidense. Entre sus obras más conocidas cabe destacar "La alcoba nupcial," "Mona Lisa a los doce años," y "El quite." El estilo de Botero se caracterizó en lo temático por la representación de personas y animales siempre como figuras corpulentas, por no decir obesas, como mucha gente lo denomina, incluso claramente las más cotizadas del mundo, y algunas esculturas cuyas realizadas en bronce y en mármol, pasaron a ser parte integrante del paisaje urbano de muchas ciudades.

Después de su acogida en los Estados Unidos, consigue la fama y la alta cotización de sus obras. Hoy en día Botero sigue dando exhibiciones en muchas ciudades del mundo.

## galería de arte

Sin título, Erica Kahr, LVA senior. Lomo camera.



Sin título, Travis DeZalia, LVA senior. Digital.



## Los tatuajes

*Continuación de la página 23*

símbolo de que eres un adulto; muestra que ya tienes responsabilidad para controlar tus acciones y tu cuerpo.

Entonces, ¿esta manera de crecer simboliza arte o estupidez?

“Yo sé que mi tatuaje es arte.

Es un dibujo en mi brazo y un dibujo es arte,” dice San Andrés, “Nunca se desaparecerá y sé que lo recordaré por siempre.”

Amie Kemberling, una estudiante de Green Valley HS, piensa diferente. “Todo depende de la opinión que tenga la persona acerca del arte,” dice Kemberling. “No creo que sea arte porque alguien está poniendo sobre tu piel algo que ya estaba creado. No es arte porque no es un cuadro de pintura o una escultura que creas a base de tu propia creatividad.”

Otra estudiante de Green Valley HS, Sneha Parikh opina que arte es un término demasiado grande y que la gente frecuentemente habla de él como arte convencional, que no es lo mismo.

“Los tatuajes son arte. Estás expresándote por medio de ellos,”

dice Parikh. “Arte es mostrar tu individualidad y creatividad, y hacerse un tatuaje puede hacer estas dos cosas. Muchas personas ven el arte como pinturas, pero puede ser música, danza, teatro o hasta un tatuaje. La palabra arte significa muchas cosas.”

Hacerse un tatuaje parece ser una buena manera de expresarte, pero ¿qué pasa cuando la persona se envejece? ¿Se arrepentirá de este “arte” por el resto de su vida?

“Yo sé que nunca me arrepentiré,” dice San Andrés. “Será un recuerdo para siempre.”

Parikh piensa que hay niveles de arrepentimiento y de amor hacia el tatuaje. “Si de verdad piensas bien en el tatuaje que te quieres poner, jamás te arrepentirás,” dice ella. “Necesita representarte. Si lo haces solo por hacerlo, lo más seguro es que sí te arrepientas porque te darás cuenta que no era algo que querías tener por el resto de tu vida.”

De cualquier manera que veas este asunto, el dilema del tatuaje depende solo en tu opinión acerca del arte. Un tatuaje puede ser un ejemplo de tu madurez, pero también puede ser un símbolo de un acto infantil y estúpido.

## Jóvenes latinos

*Continuación de la página 24*

enfrentar, es adaptarse a una nueva cultura, lengua y medio ambiente. Para mí eso fue muy difícil y hasta el momento todavía sigo aprendiendo cosas interesantes de la cultura norteamericana. Ellos están muy agradecidos que exista un programa especial para enseñar inglés con maestros audaces que dedican parte de su vida a enseñarnos.

Después que les hice las preguntas a los estudiantes, me decidí a conversar con una de mis mejores maestras de ELL en LVHS, Ms. Mandado. Le pregunté si ella creía que los estudiantes latinos estábamos progresando en nuestras actividades escolares. Ella me respondió: “Por una parte sí porque muchos estudiantes se esfuerzan para aprender. Por otra parte digo que no, porque muchos de los jóvenes latinos no participan en actividades extracurriculares como el deporte, agrupaciones, bandas o algún coro.”

Me di cuenta de que es muy

cierto lo que dijo y realmente no sé cuál sea el motivo de esta lamentable noticia. Talvez, porque venimos de otro lado y no hablamos un inglés perfecto no nos animamos a participar, pero eso no es ninguna razón para dejar de involucrarse en actividades extra curriculares.

Finalmente, me doy cuenta que los jóvenes latinos tenemos la gran capacidad de superarnos en cualquier lugar; no importa si no es nuestro lugar de origen. Nosotros somos personas muy hospitalarias. Además, me da mucha alegría ver que los que venimos de otros países no somos las personas que formamos vandalismo. Por el contrario, somos los que buscamos superación y ayuda. Y nuestros padres participan en nuestro desarrollo trabajando arduamente para pagarnos el privilegio de ir a una universidad.

Hay que darle gracias a la vida que nos da esta oportunidad, ya que muchas otras personas desearían estar en nuestro lugar. ¡Aprovecha tu tiempo, estudia y sal adelante!

## Industry Resistance Unit exposes the truth about tobacco tricks

By Mytae Carrasco,  
Bishop Gorman HS

**M**ore than 150 teens participated in the Industry Resistance Unit training program at UNLV on Jan. 16, 2004, sponsored by the XPOZ Coalition, an organization that arms teens with information to help them resist the social pressure to start smoking.

The IRU helps teens understand why XPOZ continues to fight the tobacco industry and how the industry's actions are negatively impacting our generation. The purpose of the IRU training is to prepare Las Vegas high school students to join the IRU and fight the efforts of the tobacco industry here in Las Vegas.

The training included workshops packed with information focused on the manipulation of teens by the tobacco industry to get young people hooked on cigarettes for life.

One session, "An Industry Gone Mad," presented facts on the history of tobacco use in America. Historically in America, tobacco was used as a medicinal plant or used in Native American tribal rituals. However, since then, tobacco has been manipulated and tainted with addictive chemicals to get people hooked and to generate years of profits for tobacco companies and even for the U.S. government through tobacco taxes.

Workshop presenter Marin Poole, Utah's 2001 top high school youth volunteer, blames the federal government for addicting her grandfather to cigarettes because they were included with his food rations while he served in the military during World War II.

"My grandpa, Lewis Smith, fought as a fighter pilot in the South Pacific and was shot down four times and survived," says Poole. "He was one of the soldiers who got cigarettes in his rations and began smoking during [the war]. He recovered from his injuries and won many honors, but



the one thing he wasn't able to get away from was smoking."

She adds, "His whole life, he was ashamed that

he was addicted to tobacco, and he could never get away from the addiction."

Poole explained that the Master Settlement Agreement, reached in 1998, was a major blow to the tobacco industry. Forty-six states, including Nevada, sued the major tobacco companies for repayment of money the states paid in government aid to cover medical treatments for people with diseases resulting from tobacco use. Billions of dollars each year must now be paid to state governments by tobacco companies to

fund addiction treatment programs, to repay medical costs and to establish national and local anti-tobacco education campaigns. As a result, organizations like Truth and XPOZ were created to mobilize people to fight against the use and marketing of tobacco products, especially in relation to young people.

Yes Duffy from MTV's "Road Rules" uses his artistic talent and celebrity status to motivate young people to resist tobacco use. He presented the IRU workshop, "Creative Resistance," and explained that he got involved with Truth and XPOZ for very personal reasons.

"A very good friend of mine died from [using] tobacco," Duffy told the teens at the workshop. "It wasn't a typical death. She wasn't 40 years old, and she didn't have emphysema or cancer. She was 17 years old."

"She was an old friend of mine since I was a little kid. She was my first kiss. She was a real cool girl," Duffy says. "She graduated high school early and went to art school in New York, and she was a smoker. She was smoking in her dorm room and fell asleep with her cigarette in her hand. It lit her dorm room on fire and she died in the fire."

Describing the impact of his friend's death, he says, "I was a senior in high school at the time, and everyone from school was at the funeral and we were all thinking, 'This is crazy. Alice died and it's kind of her fault because she smoked and passed away with a cigarette in her hand.'"

When Duffy had the opportunity to join the Truth campaign against tobacco use five years ago, he did it for his friend and other young people who may become victims of the tobacco industry.

"When I realized all the stuff the tobacco industry has kept from us and all the stuff the government has been keeping from us and all the stuff that I don't know and that we don't know about the tobacco industry, I actually realized it wasn't Alice's fault because the tobacco industry puts chemicals in their cigarettes," says Duffy.

One of the chemicals put in cigarettes is just to keep them burning, Duffy explained. Just about everyone has seen cigarettes thrown out in the street that keep burning for a long time, even though they're made of paper and tobacco — highly flammable materials that should naturally burn out quickly. With chemical additives, cigarettes take longer to burn out, allowing fires to more likely occur and also to allow the release of secondhand smoke to contaminate the air. Duffy believes his friend might not have died if the cigarette she'd been smoking had not continued to burn, allowing time for it to light her room on fire.

At the IRU and other events sponsored by XPOZ and Truth, teens' eyes are opened to tricks like these used by tobacco companies to get them hooked on tobacco products. Knowing the truth about how the tobacco industry manipulates people, businesses and even the government can give young people the tools they need to bring down an industry that profits from disease and death.

"It's really easy to say that this big industry is doing all this bad stuff, but we can't touch them because they are too big for us," says Maria Azzarelli, director of XPOZ. "Actually, there are things at the local level that we can affect ... kids can make a difference and that is what we talked about at the Industry Training."

## New anti-drug ads appeal to friends to stop friends before it's too late

By Riley Marriage, Coronado HS

**T**he television sweeps ratings period in February held the usual high profile events such as the "Grammy Awards" and the "Friends" wedding episode, but it also debuted a new series of anti-drug commercials urging parents and friends to confront teenagers who are abusing drugs and alcohol.

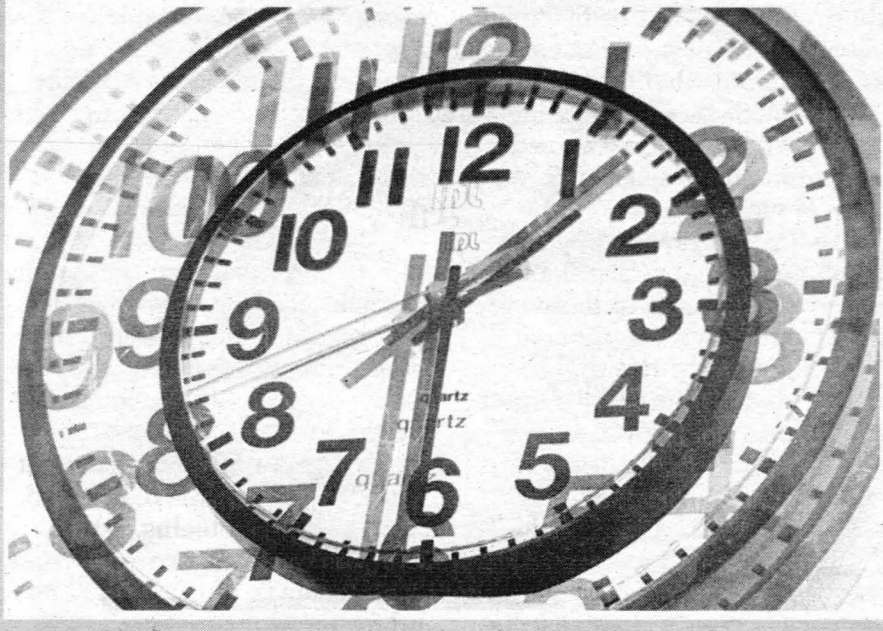
During the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl, a young female's fall into substance abuse flashes back to the moment when her mother could have talked to her about it. Meant to have a profound effect on the youth of America, its message may have been lost among the majority of beer commercials and the flash of Janet Jackson's breast.

Since the mid-1980s, such ads have run, including a young Rachael Leigh Cook holding up an egg and calmly saying, "This is your brain. Now this is your brain on heroin." She then proceeds to smash the egg with a frying pan and destroy the kitchen setting around her.

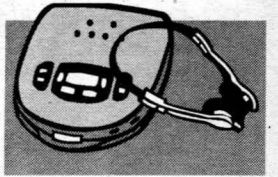
After a study in 2002 concluded that teens who have viewed similar ads were no less likely to use drugs, the Office of National Drug Control Policy opted to revamp their approach.

In another recent ad, a group of swimmers stands around waiting for a race, but one lane is missing its competitor. The loudspeaker calls two or three times saying, "Does lane four have a competitor? We need a swimmer on lane four." A few seconds pass, and another voice comes through, "Just tell your teammates you were out getting stoned ... they'll understand." The voice is unforgiving in its sarcasm.

Whether or not the new commercials will have any effect on its target of America's youth has yet to be determined.



## 'Turn that thing down!' And save your hearing



**A repeated pounding of music and noise that goes on for a long time can result in deafness**

By Yoshabel Cortez,  
Las Vegas HS

**L**isten up; loud noises could make you partially deaf if exposed to them for too long. Teenagers nowadays listen to their music at high volumes, but most don't recognize the damage it can do to their hearing.

No matter what kind of music you have bumpin' in your radio, it still can cause short-term or long-term loss of hearing. A repeated pounding of music and noise that go on for a long time can result in deafness. If one is exposed to loud music for a couple of hours and then starts yelling out to hear themselves speak to someone less than three feet away, there is a definite problem in the inner ear.

You may ask how the inner ear could get injured by listening to your favorite tunes. The ear is divided into three areas: the outer, visible part of the ear; the middle and the inner ear. There is a thin membrane, known as the eardrum, that divides the middle and outer ear. When we hear, the sound waves go through the outer ear and down the ear (auditory) canal sending the sound waves to the eardrum causing it to vibrate.

These vibrations are then carried to the three small bones found in the middle ear. From the middle ear, the sound waves are forwarded to the inner ear where little tiny hairs in a snail-shaped organ, called the cochlea, mutates the sound vibrations into nerve impulses. These nerve impulses then send the sound waves to the brain to get reaction. However, if exposure to loud noise is excessive, it can damage the tiny hairs in the cochlea and result in permanent loss of hearing. This condition is called "noise-induced hearing loss."

Erick López, a former drum player, explained how his past band experiences have alerted him to this condition. He stresses the fact that he, "always put earplugs in, especially in drumming. It helped me listen to some specific sounds while playing, and it prevented me from hearing the music too loud."

Four out of five people who were asked if they listened to music at high volume said yes; yet, all five people knew that listening to loud noises could damage their hearing.

"If you are in a car, the windows are rolled up, and you have the music high, your ears will start to ring," says Las Vegas High School junior Pauline Cota.

If you start hearing ringing, buzzing or hissing in the ear, this could be indication of the start of noise-induced hearing loss. If so, you need to stop putting the volume on full blast!

So next time you listen to some music, instead of putting the volume all the way up, protect yourself and jam-out wisely by listening to your favorite song at a moderate level.

## Cutting marks need for help

By Shannon Hedger, Coronado HS

**M**ore than one million people in America are self-mutilators. These people are not suicidal, but cut themselves to release depression. Though the majority of the cutters are women from age 13 to 30, every gender and age has been known to cut himself or herself.

From the outside looking in, many of these kids' peers ask questions like, "Why would people do that, that is so gross, how could they hurt themselves like that?" What their peers do not realize is that these same questions run through the minds of the cutter as well. For most of them, this is their way of handling problems, almost like a stress reliever.

One cutter who wishes to remain anonymous, says, "Physical harm is something real that keeps you in touch with reality. It focuses you on the pain and temporarily solves your problem. It is something you do when you do not know how to handle your emotions or the environment around you."

Most people think that this kind of behavior cannot go on forever, and that the cutters will grow out of it.

Dr. R. Davidson, a medical physician who is familiar with this disorder, says, "This type of behavior does not just 'go away,' and kids do not just grow out of it. Ignoring it usually just makes the problem get worse, cuts get deeper, cutting becomes more frequent, and there could be chances of infection or even the accidental cutting of a major vein."

He continues, "These patients present us with a very sad but classic case of self-mutilation. Treatment would be most beneficial to uncovering the patients underlying issues and controlling this problem."

There are often other misconceptions about these people having low intelligence. This could not be farther from the truth. Many cutters are smart and sensitive. This disorder is frequently associated with sexual abuse. In addition, they also have a family history of drug and alcohol abuse or mental abuse.

When this cutter was asked what friends and family thought, the response was, "I truly do not care what they think, and as long as it is keeping me sane, they should be happy with it. Undoubtedly, I know they do not approve and are disappointed, but I can't help it."

### Here are some ways to protect yourself from becoming partially deaf:

- **Stereos or other types of amplification should be at moderate volume, not high.** If you find it difficult listening to someone who is talking to you, then that means you have the volume on too high.

- **For the kids who like to listen to their CD players, watch out with your headphones.** If the volume is too loud and the other person who is standing a few steps away can hear the music, turn it down.

- **Wear protection!** Earplugs are always good for protection of the ear when at concerts or playing in a band.

# Not enough help for Vegas' teen smokers

By Stephanie Espinoza,  
Green Valley HS

• Each day, more than 6,000 people under the age of 18 try their first cigarette.

• Each day, more than 3,000 people under the age of 18 become daily smokers.

• In 1996, an estimated 1.3 million people under 18 had become daily smokers.

• Currently, at least 4.5 million adolescents between 12 and 17 smoke cigarettes.



addiction as teenagers. It makes sense to stop tobacco problems at the source so that teenage smokers don't end up as smokers for life, especially when one-third of those addicted will die prematurely.

Yet teen smokers don't seem to be given the attention they need in relation to adult smokers.

Being underage, teens don't have the same options for quitting that are available to adults. Most of the gum and patch products for quitting require consumers to be 18 years or older to buy or use. Therapy is an expensive option that can be seen as degrading and even scary to young people. While many smoking cessation programs are not against having younger members, they don't do much to encourage teenage participation or to welcome young people into environments that may be unfamiliar and difficult to approach alone. It may be even harder for teen smokers to

These are facts that you can find easily from a search on the Internet. But what are surprisingly impossible to find are statistics on the number of teens who quit smoking every day, the number of teens who are getting help, and the number of programs that are being made available to the millions of teenagers across the globe who want and need to kick the habit.

Helping to stop teen smoking should be considered a top priority. After all, a high percentage of the 46.5 million Americans addicted to nicotine started their

admit their habit since the purchase of tobacco for those under 18 is illegal in most states. Not to mention the fact that teens have the added obstacles to getting help, such as attending school, having little to no income, and lacking transportation, that addicted adults don't usually have to face. It may be difficult for teens to find out about the available options they do have if they want to quit smoking, since research can be time consuming and information scarce.

Yet programs and answers do exist. Raising awareness is always a good place to start. Whether or not others don't realize it or simply choose to ignore it does not change the fact that underage smokers do exist and need just as much help as adults, if not more.

Though smoking cessation programs are not widely advertised, they seem to be an option for teen smokers that is more accessible. In Las Vegas there are five organizations, three of which include teens in their programs, though none are specifically designed for teens alone.

WestCare is a non-profit drug treatment center that focuses on every tobacco user from adults to teens to pregnant

women. This program, however, only offers five classes per year for teens, as opposed to the 10 classes per year available to adults.

The Puff Stops Here is another organization, with 12 classes offered per year, where participants can obtain some medication, and with a fee of \$35 to attend.

Bridge Counseling Associates QUIT-T Smoking Cessation is also available with classes ongoing all year long, no fee to attend, and even offers classes in Spanish as well.

The only way for teens to get the help they need is to start admitting their problems, especially if they want to quit smoking for their family, their health and for their general peace of mind. If teens have half as many options for quitting smoking as adults do, then they're just going to have to work twice as hard to get results. In the future, perhaps teenagers will be able to cast aside their fears and speak out for themselves to obtain these results. When this happens, teen smokers will most assuredly be able to breathe easier.

For more information about the listed programs, visit [www.livingtobaccofree.com](http://www.livingtobaccofree.com).

## Interviewing hints and tips

### Never say just 'Yes' or 'No'

Your objective in an employment interview is to get the job. To do that, you'll have to convince the employer that you're the best applicant for the job. How? Just accomplish four specific things. You'll want to convince the employer that you will:

- Have a positive attitude.
- Have the skills to do the job.
- Add value to the organization.
- Fit in with the other employees.

The only way you can accomplish your objectives during the interview is to do what you went there to do — talk. This sounds obvious, but far too many job seekers give in to the temptation to answer questions with a "yes" or a "no." If you were the employer, how impressed would you be with an applicant who just answered yes or no?

**Assignment:** Each of these questions could be answered Yes or No. Select a job for which you are qualified and pretend you are being interviewed. Write out an answer for each of these questions:

- Would you say you have a positive attitude?
- Do you have the skills for this job?
- Would you say you would add value to our organization?
- Do you think you would fit in here?



## This month's featured positions:

### File Clerk

Assistant needed for filing and general office duties. The applicant must be 16 years old, have a work permit, and be bilingual. Workdays are three times a week, with flexible hours, totaling nine hours per week. The wage is \$6.00 per hour. Job Number: 7902

### Customer Service

If you are interested in movies and other video films, understand cash register operations, and have good customer service skills, this may be the job for you. Applicants must be 18 years old. Workdays and hours are flexible. Job Number: 7901

### Sales Associate

Outgoing, motivated and friendly sales associate is needed to cashier, stock and assist in customer service. Applicants must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 24 hours per week. The wage is \$6.50 per hour. Job Number: 7896

### Sales Associate

Assistants are needed for associate positions. Applicants must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 24 hours per week. The wage is \$6.50 per hour. Job Number: 7897

### Sales/Cashier Associate

Attendants are needed for part-time sales, stocking and customer service. Applicants must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 24 hours per week at \$7.15 per hour. Job Number: 7894

### Crew Member

Assistants are needed as grill cooks, fryers, maintenance workers and customer service representatives. Applicants must be 16 years old, and have a health card and a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible. The wage is \$6.00 per hour. Job Number: 7898

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.

© Job Jargon

# Déjà vu remains a mystery to science, students

By Trisha McInvale,  
Basic HS

What the heck? What is this strange feeling that has taken over my mind?!

I've been here before. Wait, no, I haven't. Yes, I have. No. Yes. Ahh, I don't know.

Déjà what, you ask? Déjà vu. It's French for "already seen." You know that weird sense of familiarity you get sometimes out of nowhere, for no reason at all? You may be suffering from déjà vu.

No one really knows where it comes from or how it happens, although many sources have attempted theories.

For years, psychologists have struggled with this topic and have come to the conclusion that perhaps déjà vu is caused when the optic processing centers of the brain take longer than 25 milliseconds to

transfer information from one eye to the other.

According to psychological experimentation, it is a known fact that most visual events are distinguished well within 25 milliseconds, thus, explaining why déjà vu is typically unusual. This awkward phenomenon is thought to only occur to the sense of sight and in the minds of a few select people.

Be aware that déjà vu is not the same as precognition, which is when a person has an idea of what will occur in the future. It is also not to be confused with "clairvoyance," which is when a person comes to know about a simultaneous event that took place somewhere a long distance from them. It is certain that modern science does not currently endorse adequate explanations of any of these phenomena.

Basic High School senior

Heather Sharp says, "The scientific explanation makes much more sense to me."

"You know, it might be just a reminder of a past memory," says Basic senior Paul Williams.

Others believe that déjà vu is a relation of past events in our lives. In other words, it is believed to be a strange feeling of recognition that simply reminds one of something that has already happened.

The account of this phenomenon tends to be terrifying in a way, although in reality, it's more of an indescribable experience.

"What is there to say about it, really? It happens, and you're just like 'holy crap!'" says Basic sophomore Rebecca Fishbourne.

So, will déjà vu ever be understood completely? It's a mystery. No one knows.

## Live healthy now to avoid problems later

By Samantha Bieber,  
Rancho HS

When it comes time to face the facts, as a country, 60 percent of the population is overweight. There are some Americans who can say they meet the Body Mass Index criteria for their weight and height, but obesity in America is on the rise. The reason why people become overweight is because we devour more calories than we burn.

Consuming so many calories probably has to do with the countless fast food joints where just about everyone eats for breakfast, lunch and dinner, compared to 20 years ago when eating out was a treat to most people. Even buying food from the grocery store becomes unhealthy because meals that are fast and fatty are preferred over those that take time to prepare and are healthy.

Eating fatty foods wouldn't be so much of a problem if Americans participated in activities that burned calories. Instead, "couch potatoes" rule the land. Even adolescents are couch potatoes with their video games, computer games, and even going out only on the weekends, as the need to have fun requires less and less physical activity every day. The truth is if you never want to leave your house except to go to work and to get food, you don't have to. Everything is made so fast and simple for Americans, which is taking a toll on our health.

While it is encouraged by

the Surgeon General for schools to provide healthier food for students, it is not enforced. The United States Department of Agriculture states that school lunches should have no more than 30 percent fat, but the average is 34 percent. Not only do schools provide students with an unhealthy and fatty lunch, they provide even healthier snacks. How often do you see a healthy snack in the cafeteria or a school fundraiser selling something other than candy and junk?

Being overweight or obese is a major health factor. It can cause diabetes, heart disorders, high blood pressure and many other health problems including death. The worst part about this is that the cure is simple — diet and exercise.

According to statistics cited by the Surgeon General in December 2001, 300,000 people in the United States die every year from illnesses caused by obesity. If this rising trend continues, obesity-related deaths may soon overtake tobacco as the primary cause of preventable deaths. Estimates indicate that treatments for obesity result in an economic cost of nearly \$100 billion each year.

The solution to our problem is to consume only the calories we will burn. Taking a walk, jogging or playing your favorite sport will not kill you; actually it will do the exact opposite. So the next time you pick up your favorite candy bar, chips and soda, think of the health risks you might experience. Eat right, exercise and live longer!

gallery

Untitled, Brian Glenn, LVA junior.



# Regardless of age, punishment should fit the crime

By April Corbin,  
Las Vegas HS

Being a teenager is a difficult time in people's lives. While they are no longer carefree children, teens are not yet considered fully responsible adults and therefore are not endowed with all the same privileges as adults. This leaves teenagers in a very confused place.

Parents, teachers and administrators are telling them they must grow up and be more responsible. But at the same time, they are telling the same teenagers they are not ready to be doing certain things. One of the most confusing and contradictory messages given in society today seems to be whether or not teenagers are responsible for their own actions.

Anyone under the age of 18 is considered a minor, yet courts can try a minor as an adult if they choose to. Such is the case with 16-year-old Las Vegas teenager and Green Valley High School student Sean Larimer. Last November, after having his driver's license for nine weeks, Larimer got behind the wheel of his car with a blood alcohol level of 0.19 percent. That's more than twice the legal limit for adults. Furthermore, the legal drinking age in this state is still 21, not 16. Police reported that Larimer's car was going 80 mph in a 25 mph area. After these poor decisions were made, Larimer and four friends got into a single-car crash in Henderson. All but Larimer and one other passenger died.

A judge ordered Larimer to be placed under house arrest until his trial began, saying that his decisions had led to the deaths of three people and that the circumstances showed he was a threat to the community. Prosecutors pushed to try him as an adult, saying his decisions were major, not minor, and that the punishment should fit the crime committed.

Those close to Larimer insisted that he is being used as an example; that unjustly try-



ing him as an adult would be a futile attempt to stop underage drinking and driving.

Yet, it doesn't matter how good

of a student Larimer can be, or how many detentions he's had. None of that changes the fact that he made some very poor decisions that had the potential to injure or kill even more people than he did. To call this tragic incident an accident is a step in the wrong direction. This tragedy could have been easily avoided, but it wasn't.

If tried as an adult and found guilty, Larimer would have faced being in prison for up to 20 years. If convicted in the juvenile court, he could be incarcerated for as little as six months.

In mid-February, prosecutors agreed to a plea bargain. Larimer will be incarcerated in a youth detention facility for two years. When he is released at the age of 18, he will be on formal probation and will not be able to apply for a driver's license or learner's permit until the age of 21.

In cases like these, age should not matter. Teenagers are inundated with campaigns and adults telling them of the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol. Every mentally competent 16-year-old should, by now, realize that drinking and driving do not mix. There is no excuse for that behavior anymore. Maybe teenagers will begin to shape up and start acting more responsibly if they understand that their actions will not go unnoticed by police.

In Nevada, if anybody between the ages of eight and 18 is charged with murder or attempted murder, they are immediately treated as an adult. Such is the case with 13-year-old Kody Fitzgerald, who was arrested in late January after stabbing a fellow middle school student.

In a highly publicized court case in Florida, a 12-year-old named Lionel Tate was arrested and tried as adult for beating a 6-year-old to death. The defense argued that Tate was merely imitating pro-wrestling moves he had watched on television. The jury didn't buy it, believing instead the prosecution's evidence, which said that the more than 30 injuries that the 170-pound Tate inflicted upon the 48-pound girl were not consistent with those of "play fighting."

However, the Fourth District Court of Appeals overturned the ruling, saying he should not have been tried as an adult. Tate, instructed by his mother and family, turned down a plea bargain that would

have sent him to juvenile prison for only three years.

Courts around the country need to send a clear message to students. When there was obvious intent to harm — as is obvious with Fitzgerald and which jurors decided was the case with Tate — the punishments need to fit the crime committed, no matter what. This same belief should be upheld when a person is obviously old enough to understand their actions, as Larimer is.

With all the freedoms that teenagers are constantly fighting with authority figures to gain, they need to understand that their actions are serious and warrant serious consequences.

## Bad boys, bad boys: Can teens and police ever live in peace?

By Miriam Baughman,  
Desert Pines HS

"You're going to jail tonight!" I never thought that I would be handcuffed at the homecoming game in my senior year. All the while, my friends and teachers were walking by wondering what the heck was going on. Was I fighting? Did I try to bring alcohol into the game? Was I wearing a bandana and throwing up gang signs? Not at all. I asked a simple question that caused a misunderstanding and that nearly landed me in juvenile hall.

This type of thing happens to a lot of students. There is never a sporting event or school function where someone does not get into a scuffle with the school police. After football and basketball games, the police wait outside for students to exit the game. What should be a time for everyone to come together and congratulate the team becomes a shouting match with the police telling kids to go home immediately and get off the campus.

For students who are simply leaving the game and trying to say their last goodbyes to a few friends, the police shining a bright light in their faces can be extremely upsetting. Where there was no problem at all, there is now a possible conflict that could have been prevented. It seems as though the police have already prejudged the students, assuming we are all acting to make a scene and cause a disturbance.

There is a very strong stigma that comes along with being a high school student and even more so, for being a high school student at a facility with high numbers of minorities in attendance. Not only do the people from other communities stereotype those students, but the school police and other law enforcement officials do too. This causes officers to have a harder and less understanding attitude.

In the police code of ethics, it states that the fundamental duty of law enforcement officials is to serve the community

*Continued on page 32*

# Shoplifting is no thrill when you get caught

By Kaila Hart and Brittany Jaarsma, Centennial HS

She was stumbling to place the shirts into one of her shopping bags before the sales clerk noticed. She glanced around Dillard's one last time to make sure no one had seen her. Little did she know, security guards were watching her through hidden cameras discreetly placed around the store.

As she made her way through the store to the exit into the mall, she looked over her shoulder and noticed six security guards heading in her direction. All she could think to do was run, but it was too late. Busted! At that precise moment, her life was changed forever. A security guard took her down as she passed the store sign.

Placed in handcuffs, she sat in the detained area in the security room while the tape was played back to her of the theft. Her parents were notified of the incident as well as the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. She received a citation and had to appear in court to receive her sentence. Jane Smith's\* case was classed as petty larceny, and she was sentenced to enroll in a Petty Larson Program, along with paying the \$30 for the class.

"I regret doing it and if I could go back I wouldn't have done it. Even though I got off lucky, memories of what I did will be with me forever," says the 17-year-old Smith.

Costing retailers over \$10 billion in merchandise each year, the crime of retail shoplift-

ing is growing across the United States. Being the primary cause of one-third of small business bankruptcies, shoplifting is estimated to cost companies \$25 million a day.

With approximately 23 million shoplifters in the nation today (or one in 11 people), only 10 million have been caught in the past five years.

There is no exact standard

***Placed in handcuffs, she sat in the detained area while the tape was played back to her of the theft.***

description that fits the profile of a shoplifter. Teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 make up 25 percent of the apprehended shoplifters, and the other 75 percent are adults. Ironically, 55 percent of adult shoplifters say that they started shoplifting in their teens.

Kleptomania is a rare condition that is found in fewer than five percent of shoplifters, more so in females. Kleptomania is the recurrent failure to resist impulses to steal items even though the items are not needed for personal use or for their monetary value.

With various reasons for why people resort to shoplifting, it all comes down to one: getting something for nothing. Many want to see if they can get away with it using the excuse, "It's a big store, they can

afford it," while others do it for the excitement. The excitement generated from getting away with it produces a chemical reaction resulting in what shoplifters call a "rush" or a "high" feeling. Many shoplifters will tell you that this high is the "true reward," rather than the stolen merchandise.

Shoplifting among teens usually revolves around family, school and peer pressures. When teens are asked when caught shoplifting why they did it, they most often replied, "I don't know." Most commonly it was because they wanted to have nice things, or felt pressured by friends. Some were suffering from anger, boredom or depression and it was an escape for them.

Although teens usually know right from wrong, when their lives become too stressful, they become more susceptible to peer pressure, temptation and other things that can lead them to shoplift. This is especially true when teens feel unattractive, unworthy or not accepted by their peers.

What shoplifters do not seem to understand is that their thieveries affect more than themselves. It adds to the store's security expenses, costs the consumer more for goods, costs the communities lost dollars in sales, and overburdens the police and the courts.

The shoplifter's idea of a five-finger discount winds up costing the retailer and the consumers more in the end. With the average shoplifter stealing on average of 1.6 times per week the estimated theft from retail store costs the American public \$33.2 billion dollars per year.

According to Richard C. Hollinger, the Director of the National Security Survey and criminologist at the University of Florida, in 2000, retailers lost 1.75 percent of their total annual sales to shrinkage, proving to be a multi-billion dollar source of revenue loss. To compensate for the losses, retailers need to add a surcharge amount of about three percent to the retail price of their goods.

Being educated about shoplifting and knowing the consequences are key to ending the habit. Once people understand the penalties to themselves, to

families and to the companies, they will realize that jeopardizing their futures is not worth stealing a lousy shirt.

If you or someone you know has a problem with shoplifting, help is only a phone call away. Shoplifters Alternative offers a confidential program to help one overcome his or her problem. Call (800) 848-9595 to get more information.

## Teens and police

*Continued from page 31*  
while enforcing the law courteously and appropriately. It makes you wonder why the police are rarely calm or courteous.

Desert Pines High School senior and VICA Club President Gabby Lopez was pulled over by a CCSD police officer for what he told her was speeding.

Gabby says, "The officer was rude and he would scream at me if I moved a step close to him. He made me feel like a criminal for no reason, and in the end he didn't even give me a ticket."

Situations like this are truly unnecessary. While every teenager is not the All-American kid, not all of us are troublemakers.

If history repeats itself the attitude of the police will not change. The reality is that students are at the bottom of the food chain in comparison to the police. We all know how "cops" can be; therefore, we have to be completely aware of our rights going into a situation where we interact with the police. A simple ride home or sporting event should not be turned upside down simply because an officer is having a bad day.

The knowledge and understanding of what rules the police have to follow can be a possible way to avoid acquiring a criminal record. While most of the time fighting the police can be futile, you could be right in the situation. You never know who will be willing to take up for you. We have to speak for ourselves so that we as students can show that the days of being seen and not heard are long gone.

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# CCSD book policy more lenient than many districts across nation

By Laura Dembinski,  
Basic HS

When students think of school rules, they probably think: no facial piercing, no leaving campus for lunch, no flip-flops and no reading Harry Potter books.

Wait! What is with the "no reading Harry Potter books"? In the year 2000, Harry Potter and all his "witchcraft" lovin' friends topped the list of most frequently "challenged" books in America.

In order for a book to be considered challenged, it has to be brought to the attention of a school district as "inappropriate" by a parent or member of the community.

While "challenged" only means the book was put under question, "banned" is the next level.

To have a book banned means the book is no longer allowed on the shelves where it was banned. In some extreme cases, banning a book means the book is no longer allowed to be published.

Since its publication and distribution in 2000, many high schools have been bombarded with complaints and requests to take the Harry Potter series and books like it off the shelves at public high schools. But luckily you are a student in the Clark County School District and, as of now, there are no legally banned books in this district.

Clark County, unlike many other school districts in America, is very liberal with books that are allowed to grace our school library shelves.

One of the main reasons a book is challenged in the first place is because the opinions expressed in the book contrast with those opposing it. Lynda Badger, Basic High School's head librarian for almost 10 years, feels her library "represents all opinions," and she says she is offended every time she hears of a book being challenged.

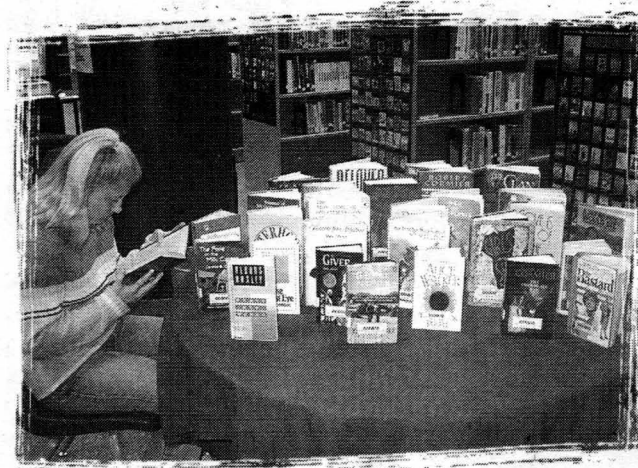
"Just because it doesn't agree with your opinion, doesn't mean it couldn't agree with somebody else's," says Badger.

The controversy over banning books isn't just a school district issue; the U.S. government has banned thousand of books over hundreds of years. Books from "The American Heritage Dictionary" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" to "Little Red Riding Hood," were all banned at one point.

Since then, questions have arisen. Wouldn't this censorship fall under an infringement of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution? Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are real, and to have those rights overruled by a school district is a major issue.

Therefore, in order to have a book removed from a classroom, the person has to first file a 12-question review with the school librarian. Then the librarian has to give the paperwork to a committee in the school. From there, the book in question has to be read by each member of the committee. After the committee reads it, the book can either be left in the classroom, removed from the classroom, or only be used with students who have written, parent permission.

Since four of the five students interviewed for this story



Sophomore Jennifer Clark reads S.E. Hinton's "The Outsiders" in the school library. Carter sits next to a table filled with books that have been banned in various places in the country.

don't read books outside of school, issues like banning books don't affect them as much as it might a teenager who reads more, such as in a state like Kentucky or Texas where a student wanting to read "Fahrenheit 451" couldn't find a copy of it at any public school library. School libraries across the country have had to remove certain books for various reasons, while Clark County has yet to have a title banned.

Books like "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain, "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck and "A Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley, all which have been considered challenged books in other school districts, are part of the curriculum at Basic. Most of the students who read these books weren't even aware of the book being banned!

Chelsey Borthwick, a sophomore in an honors English class, admitted she never even realized the book, "Of Mice and Men," assigned to her class, was banned. She even suggests the title to other students.

"It was a really good book and definitely worth the read! My parents even suggested that I should read it," Borthwick says.

While a classmate of Borthwick's, Carl Winder, knew the book was banned, he still found no problem with completing his assignment and enjoying the classic.

Although there are no legally banned books in CCSD, don't think that teachers haven't had problems with one or two parents objecting to the teaching of any certain book. Lisa Larnerd, English department chairperson and a teacher at Basic for 10 years, recalls when a parent complained about "Of Mice and Men." This incident was toward the beginning of Larnerd's career, nearly seven years ago. A parent felt the book was inappropriate for her child, so Larnerd allowed the child to read another title in place of Steinbeck's book.

Larnerd says, "If one or two parents complain, I'll let their children read alternative titles." But if she knew it would make more than just a couple of parents complain, she would take the book in question out of the curriculum all together.

"Teachers have to take credit for what they teach and why they teach it," Larnerd says. "It's also how the teacher approaches the book that sets the stage to alleviate the fears of parents."

Another English teacher at Basic had a similar, yet more recent problem with a book in her curriculum. This year, Jill Cone introduced her students to Aldous Huxley's "A Brave New World" during her unit on satire.

"Some parents raised concerns about the strong views expressed in the book, and [the parents] have every right to be heard," Cone says. Cone went on to say that it's up to the parents to decide what their child is exposed to, but also stressed, "It's just a book. You can shut it."

*In addition to the titles listed in the article, the following books have also been banned somewhere in America:*

**BANNED**

- "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou
- "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger
- "Goosebumps" (Series) by R.L. Stine
- "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker
- "Blubber" by Judy Blume
- "The Outsiders" by S.E. Hinton
- "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee
- "Harry Potter" (Series) by J.K. Rowling
- "James and the Giant Peach" by Roald Dahl
- "Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret" by Judy Blume
- "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding
- "Carrie" by Stephen King
- "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," by Mark Twain
- "Where's Waldo?" by Martin Hanford
- "Christine" by Stephen King

# Denial of gay-straight alliance may violate equal access regulations

By Lori Valiente,  
Las Vegas HS

**W**e knew it would come to this, and we have been preparing for the executive student council to deny our club. We're not going to give up without a fight," says Las Vegas High School student Kelsey Cutler, proposed president of the LVHS Straight and Gay Alliance, which was recently denied club status by the school's student council.

The club's purpose is to promote equality among students in the school and the community in order to promote an atmosphere of acceptance. The club's constitution, which was submitted to the student council on Jan. 5, also states the club's purpose is to reduce anti-gay violence, harassment and discrimination by educating the school community about ho-

mophobia and by encouraging a greater degree of understanding from students and school personnel.

Three weeks later, the SAGA club received the final decision, denial of club status. One of the reasons stated for denial was because the student council deemed it as "controversial," and that it would not promote unity among LVHS students. The official denial letter stated, "Although the celebration of diversity is encouraged, the magnifying of differences is not."

In response to the denial, SAGA officers plan to review the constitution and seek counsel from the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada.

Bob Bellis, executive director of the Center, says, "I think that the response the student council gave is horrible. It's a shame that it went through the

school and student council denied it."

He also explained that it is sad that teenagers now aren't more accepting.

The Clark County School District's Equal Access Regulation 5132.4, states that any school that receives federal funding and already has at least one limited open form, which is a student-led, non-curriculum club that meets outside of class time, must allow the creation of a Gay-Straight Alliance, even if the school board or principal disagrees with the group's purpose. Otherwise, the school could lose all federal funding. LVHS currently has over 30 clubs and receives federal funding. Therefore, LVHS falls under this regulation.

The American Civil Liberties Union is a group of civil rights activists who work daily

in courts, legislatures and communities to defend individual rights. The ACLU has taken more than a dozen cases that involve gay clubs in schools. Over the past decade, the ACLU has won cases in Colorado, Utah and Kentucky.

In one case against Utah in 1996, the Salt Lake City Board of Education determined that they had only one method of legally eradicating a student gay/lesbian support club at East High School. That was to eliminate all 46 student-led extra-curricular clubs. In 1996, rather than allow a homosexual support group to exist, the school board spent more than a quarter million dollars in attorney fees in this case trying to defend their decision.

There is now a gay-straight alliance at every public high school in Salt Lake.

## Do honor rolls embarrass low achieving students?

By Ashleigh Gutierrez and Karla Vega, Clark HS

**A** recent decision by Tennessee school lawyers has made it taboo for teachers in that state to post honor rolls, good student work, or any other positive information on student achievement. This was a decision that was made after parents complained their own children were ridiculed for not being on these lists.

Do local students feel that honoring extraordinary student achievement is an invasion of privacy? And do they discriminate against students who are not recognized? Many students, as well as teachers, are split on their decisions.

Mr. West, a psychology and AP Government teacher at Clark High School, feels that it is all about competition within the school system.

"The reality is that we live in a competitive society and to not recognize the value that competition can serve in school is to do the students a great disservice," says West.

Not only are things such as the honor roll affected, but also during graduation ceremonies, Tennessee students will not even be allowed to wear their ceremonial sashes that display their achievements during their high school career. Also, assemblies that recognize those students will be taken away.

Many do not agree with this.

Vanessa Hicks, a junior at Clark, says, "These assemblies are rewards for those who earn it. If you have not worked hard, then you don't deserve any awards until you prove that you can."

This controversy is also forgetting about how the students feel about it. Freshman Stephanie Snow says, "If students want to be part of the honor roll system, then all they have to do is try harder and apply themselves."

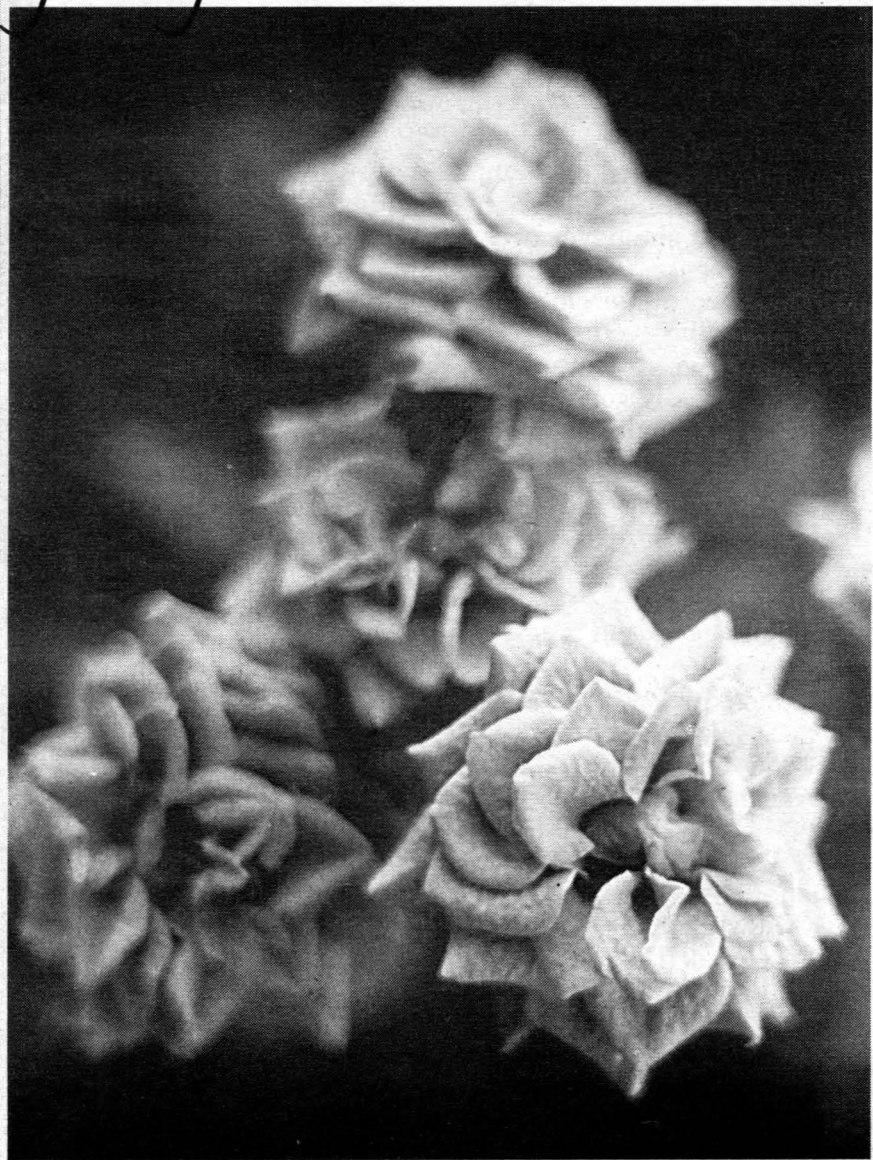
Many Clark students feel that this does not make a difference. They will still look upon their classmates the same even if they do or do not make the honor roll.

"It's about being the best you can be and being acknowledged for that, but if you don't try to be the best, then you don't get acknowledgment," says Jillian Fitzgerald, a Clark junior.

Although right now this is isolated to schools in Tennessee, it may set a precedent for other schools across the country. Just like the Oklahoma case when a mother challenged the practice of posting grades, this could have repercussions for students and teachers nationwide.

gallery

Untitled, Katie Morine, LVA junior.



# Durango education students assist county reading program

By Nur Kausar,  
Durango HS

What happens when a 10-year-old has trouble reading the sentence, "The dog chased the cat"?

He would probably go on to middle school with the same low reading skills, end up with remedial courses in high school, and have trouble passing the proficiency exam in order to graduate.

Unfortunately, this scenario is a reality. Every year, a large number of students have trouble in basic English classes and fail the Nevada Proficiency exam. At Durango this year, 67 seniors out of 616 had not passed the reading proficiency examination as of the beginning of February.

When President Bush passed the "No Child Left Behind Act," he said that every student would read at grade level. With the population in schools rapidly increasing and the number of second language students on the rise, how will this be ensured?

Students from Durango's Experiencing Education class have found a way to improve literacy among elementary school students in their community by joining a program called "Clark County Reads." These "teachers-in-training" visit Marion Earl Elementary once a week and are assigned to two fourth and/or fifth grade students. Their task is to help bring up their students' reading and comprehension skills to the appropriate level.

"These kids definitely need help," says Durango junior Alec Featherstone, one of the volunteers.

"There are fourth and fifth graders reading at a second grade level," says junior Samantha Hargraves.

Now halfway through the 10-week program, children are making progress and both groups involved are enjoying the experience.

"It's cool to go in there and know that you're helping," says Hargraves. "And now [the kids] get excited when we come because they know it's time to read."

Durango is the only high

school that has students volunteering in "Clark County Reads," according to the adviser at Marion Earl, Linda Boulton. Nineteen Durango students and parents of elementary school children are involved in the program. Even though this may seem like a small number, these volunteers can make a big difference in a student's future. They have basically taken the "No Child Left Behind" idea and turned it into something that works, Boulton said.

For instance, the children read by level of difficulty of the books — the higher the number, the more difficult the book. The volunteers said they have all seen big jumps in the levels for their pupils since they began.

"I had someone go from a level 13 to level 18 in a few weeks," says Hargraves. "That's a huge difference."

Featherstone says that they also test the child's comprehension by asking them questions after they read so that not only are they reading, but also understanding the book.

The Experiencing Education students did say the program causes them to feel a huge sense of responsibility because the child's education and ability to read is partly in their hands. However, the time they put in pays off, and they have all grown bonds with their pupils over the weeks.

"We call them our mini-me's," says Hargraves.

So what about students who are in high school and have trouble reading? The Clark County Reads program was only established this year, so the middle-schoolers about to start high school, who needed the extra help when they were younger, did not receive it.

However, Durango is starting a new program may help these students. Starting next year, incoming freshmen who need the extra help will be placed in a class that will come with a new type of reading computer software.

Though Durango Principal Elizabeth Fraser says the program costs \$190,000, it will aid those students who lack in basic reading skills.

## SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: SIERRA VISTA

### Why were you late to class?



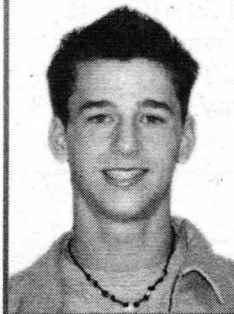
**Christina Dixon, junior**

*I was late to school because I got in a car accident with a junior studies teacher from our school!*



**Darby Whisenhut, senior**

*I was late because Sunday night I was in Beaver, Utah, and was snowed in. The highways going north and south were both closed, and we had to stay in a hotel until the roads opened.*



**Wes Merren, senior**

*I was on my way to school going down Durango, and just before I hit Tropicana I see that traffic is backed up. All of a sudden Flight for Life flies overhead really low and lands in the middle of Hacienda and Durango. A car was totaled, and it was just a big paperweight, like out of a movie. So then I told (my teacher) that I was late because a helicopter held me up!*



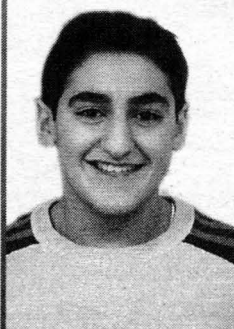
**Megan McGhie, sophomore**

*I swear, I was only late today because of my brother. There was this freak accident in the bathroom. My brother and I had run into our daily routines of fighting over the shower. Well, this morning I couldn't take it anymore, so I grabbed the curling iron and ... I swear, besides burning a hole through his clothes, the rest was an accident! I never meant for his hair to burn or for his arm to break. So I'm late because we had to drive him to the hospital.*



**Casey Rossal, sophomore**

*I was walking to class... and this girl comes out of nowhere with a broken leg. She asked me to walk her to class. I couldn't say no to her, so I did. When I got there I looked at the clock and ran to class until I fell. That's why I'm late.*



**Hamed Emamcadeh, sophomore**

*I fell down the stairs coming from my locker and everyone was pointing and laughing.*

## Magnet students get honors while other students overlooked

By Yazel Navarrete, Clark HS

Graduation is the time when a student is proud to go to their parents and tell them what he or she has accomplished during his or her high school days. Most importantly, the student wants to show high school pride. Many students have done one thing or another to represent how dedicated they are to being proud members of the student body, yet only certain ones are singled out for recognition at graduation.

Clark High School senior Shaunte Rufo-Meyer says, "It's not fair that magnet students are recognized by being given special honors during graduation when the rest of the student body do as much or more for Clark High School."

In contrast, Clark sophomore Luke Pankhurst, a member of Clark's Academy of Mathematics, Science and Applied Technology magnet program, says, "In my opinion, the people who work hard in what they do deserve to get special recognition. It isn't fair when you get recognition for doing absolutely nothing during your high school days."

Graduation is something that is remembered for the rest of our lives and should be remembered the right way, whether or not you were in any special academy. The truth is that we all deserve to be remembered in some way.

## Silverado cheerleaders head for national competition

By Allison Jones,  
Silverado HS

The Silverado cheerleaders are attending the United Spirit Association's High School Spirit Nationals after receiving a superior rating, above 85 points out of 100, in the regional competition on Jan. 17, 2004 at Liberty High School.

The cheerleaders have been practicing two to three times a week since November 2003 for the competition in hopes of receiving a bid to the nationals. Perfecting stunts, dance moves and tumbling, the cheerleaders put in a tremendous amount of effort that has paid off.

"It took a lot of dedication and time, but even though we are tired of doing the same thing, all our hard work will pay off in the end," says Silverado cheerleader Chelsea Allen.

They placed third in the Show Cheer Advanced category, placing above all other Las Vegas schools.

"I'm very proud of the girls. They've worked very hard and are continuing to strive to be better," says Ms. Garner, the adviser for the cheerleaders.

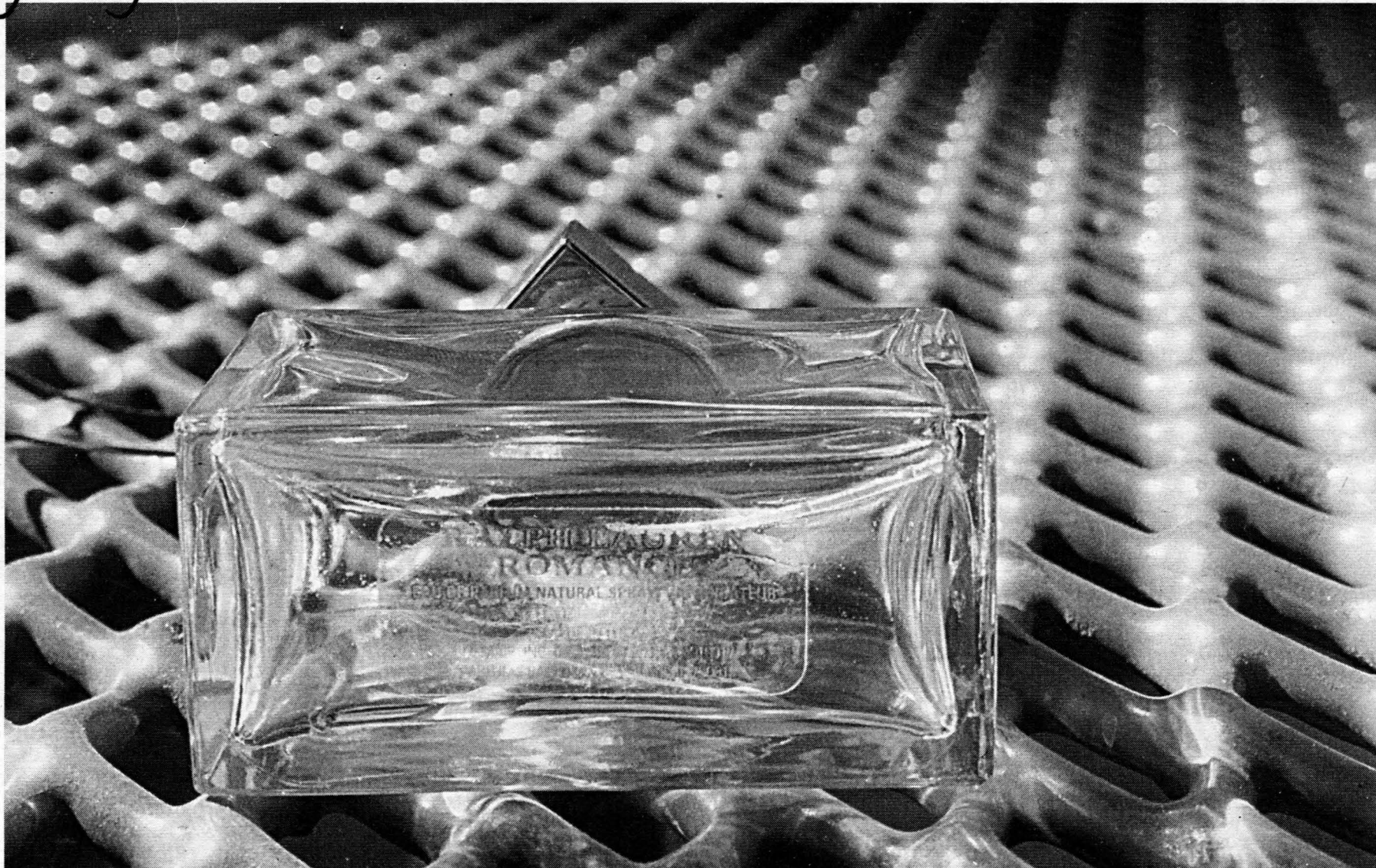
The national competition consists of all-star, high school and junior high school squads that have all received bids from the scores they received at the regional competition. The national competition will take place in Anaheim, Calif. at Disneyland from March 19-21.

"Nationals is exciting. It's going to take a lot of work, but I'm looking forward to it," says Jasmine Esragh, a Silverado sophomore.

There are 18 girls competing for Silverado. Fourteen of the girls are on the varsity squad and four are on the junior varsity squad. They will be competing for the chance to win scholarships to the colleges of their choice, trophies, ribbons and a nationals' banner to hang at Silverado.

gallery

"Romance," Sarah Vargas, LVA senior.



# Home schooling can be good alternative for right student

## Learning at home takes commitment, but relieves school pressures

By Kalla Kipp, Eldorado HS



**J**oAnne Jones went to a regular high school, but she realized it wasn't for her when she

started having suicidal feelings and coming home with tears in her eyes. That's when she and her mom decided to try something else.

"I used to come home wanting to kill myself," Jones says.

"She would come home all depressed, and she even told me she was going to kill herself," Jones' mother, Rosemary Matheson, says.

High school is supposed to be about learning and working toward a bright future, but for many kids, it's little more than a place of drama and anxiety. School isn't supposed to be about who is wearing what, or who is doing what with whom. But it is.

Then there's the schedule. They force you to attend six hours a day, and that doesn't fit everyone. Sometimes it's hard for kids to go to school, do homework and meet work and family obligations.

If you get behind in school, the next thing you know, you start failing tests and quizzes because you don't understand

what's going on. It can be very nerve-racking, and no one should have to deal with that when there are alternative ways to get a diploma.

Home schooling is one of those alternatives.

Matheson swears that unconventional learning was the best thing that ever happened to her daughter. She says that it gave Jones a personality, and it made their household a more peaceful one. Quite simply, it turned both of their lives around for the better.

Kids can be very cruel, and not everyone has the personality to deal with all the pressure of going to a school with 3,000 students.

"It's so much easier now," Jones says. "I can do things at my own pace and convenience. Going to a regular high school was emotionally damaging."

But Jones' mother adds, "I think an unconventional learning path is great, but it's only for people who have the willpower to structure their own day and get things done."

Not everyone thinks home schooling is a good idea.

"Everyone should go to regular high school," Eldorado student David Urquhart says. "It's important for kids to have interaction with people their own age."

Yvonne Viramontes, another Eldorado student, feels the same way.

"I wouldn't even consider not going to my high school," she says. "Social events and seeing your friends is very important. You only get to do high school once."

But Jones doesn't see it that way.

"High school is for people who need or can't live without the social life," she says. "It's for people who need things like the prom."

There is a downside to alternative education; you don't get to take the "cool" electives. But Matheson says, "I could have gotten any class for JoAnne because, by law, you can take any class you want to."

Donald Frias is a home-schooled elementary student, and he loves it. "I don't like going to my babysitter's for even an hour; why would I like going to school for six?" he asks.

Like Jones, Frias says he doesn't have any problems "fitting in" with people. "I don't feel like I am missing out on anything," he says.

It cost Matheson \$499 to pay for four years of unconventional education for her daughter. The way she looks at it, it was much cheaper than "free" regular high school.

"You have to pay for new

clothes, new supplies, lunch and things like lab fees," Matheson says. "Over four years, that can add up."

Jones adds, "If you go to a regular high school, you wake up every morning worrying about what you're going to wear and if you're going to fit in. Why put yourself through all of that when you can just get your schoolwork in the mail, complete it and send it back?"

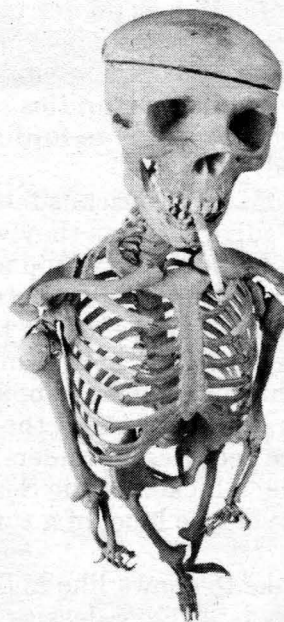
But Urquhart says Jones' outlook on high school is short-sighted.

"Sure, everyone wakes up worrying about what they're going to wear and what people are going to think of them. That's life, not just high school," he says. "High school is a preparation for life; it makes you a stronger human being. There is peer pressure no matter where you go. That also is just life."

Alternative education isn't for everyone, but for some, it's a solution to their problems. In the case of JoAnne Jones, what more could you ask for than success and happiness?

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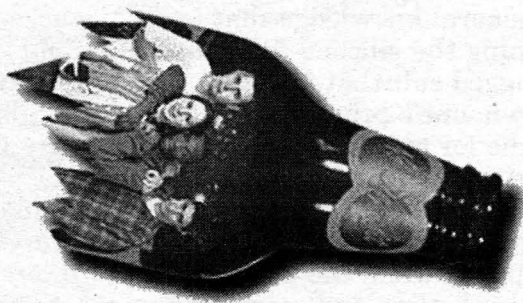
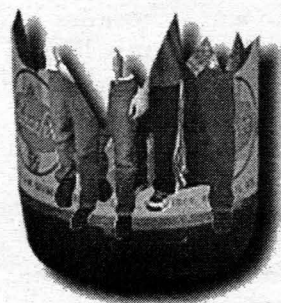
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**Don't CRACK under peer pressure**



# Seeing the stars fall: America's love affair with celebrity dirt

By Joey Basham,  
Foothill HS

After what seems like days, I impatiently continue to wait in line at the checkout counter, along with so many other anxious bodies, for any sign of movement that could mean the goal of being first in line is near.

In an attempt to divert my attention from the icy drink in my hand sending my fingers into the second stage of frostbite, I contemplate counting the remaining hair on the head of the short balding man who just happens to be directly eye-level in front of me.

Forcing my concentration elsewhere, I am suddenly aware of my exceptionally bizarre surroundings. Miss Britney Spears is off to the right of me, trying to avoid recognition while kissing another woman's alleged husband, while the infamous Hilton heiress, Paris, is seen posing alongside Tara Reid with "Wild Nights of Hollywood's Party Girls" written all over them. I direct my gaze to the left, only to be consumed by the unforgettable image of Orlando Bloom and Brad Pitt, both giving me a knee-weakening, melt-worthy 'come-and-get-it' smile.

Although this could easily be mistaken for one of the extravagant celebrity events that attract the paparazzi like flies to feces, the painfully high-pitched "NEXT!" coming from the Albertson's employee fidgeting behind the counter sends me spiraling back down to reality.

The basis of my daydream was merely the magazine covers and tabloid headlines that have taken over the shelves of supermarket checkout lines. I quietly pay for my items and solemnly exit the store. I'll never be Mrs. Orlando Bloom.

Why is it that faces, both famous and infamous, seem to be visible no matter where you look? As a society that seems to obsess over perfection, we tend to perceive celebrities as the spokespeople for all things immaculate.



"Television makes celebrity lives come across as perfect and leads the audience to believe that they should want to have a similar lifestyle, but everybody has flaws, even famous people," says Foothill High School senior Ashley Thomas.

This is obviously true, and when a celebrity makes an error, society feels the necessity to magnify and publicize what is really nobody else's business in the first place. Quite often, the public will make a sport out of knocking whoever happens to be Media King for the day off his mighty pedestal. The yearning to feel better or higher than those who are socially more significant is very common, and lately several opportunities have been presented to fulfill that need.

Millions of Americans felt a surge of superiority as they witnessed a blonde, busty, pop star turn to her incredibly-built trophy husband and, referring to her tuna sandwich, ask, "Am I eating chicken or fish?" Apparently we underestimated the intelligence required to understand the "Chicken of the Sea" reference on the label of a tuna can.

Thanks to shows like MTV's "Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica," "The Osbournes," and several other celebrity-based reality shows taking over the primetime line-up, people everywhere can tune in and get a full 30 minutes of reassurance that, despite the belief of most stars, Hollywood-generated beauty is just that, no brains

necessary.

Not every star is notorious for being a complete moron, though. Many have other noticeable personality characteristics that the public loves to pick apart. Take J. Lo, for example. Her love life is always highly publicized, partially due to her incredible success, and the rest is a result of the world expecting the minimum of two marriages per year from the superstar. It's not surprising that last year the 'Ben and Jen' engagement was given more airtime than George W. Bush, our nation's president, while the U.S. was at war. Some may have been concerned that the political world was taking a backseat to pop culture, but those minds can now rest easy. California has solved the problem for all of America by merging the two groups to form "PopLitical." The imaginary, but totally conceivable group's first mission: elect Arnold Schwarzenegger for the leading role in "The Governator." So cheesy, so ridiculous, so entertaining.

Isn't entertainment what movie stars, musicians, comedians, etc., are supposed to provide us with anyway? There is a general knowledge that upon joining the silicone-filled, hair-plugged cult that is Tinsel Town, one's private life is fair game for anyone who holds a camera and a press pass. Luckily for us, "Celebrities Uncensored" offers a peek inside what happens when the paparazzi cross the line and stars strike back. We love this part. Seeing

someone who is known for his or her eloquence and beauty suddenly snap in an airport and attack a nosey photographer is undoubtedly quality TV.

Okay, so it's obvious that despite anything Angelina Jolie or Marilyn Manson ever do, the chance that it would directly affect us is slim to none. One might think that that would be enough to drive the world away from the land of movie stars and lead guitars, but alas, the obsession only seems to grow stronger with every National Enquirer sold. It's incredible that by taking just 30 seconds to skim over headlines, one can obtain up to more than 20 minutes of amusing, and possibly degrading, conversation material. It's a beautiful thing.

"Celebrities are hot, probably a lot hotter than whoever is sitting next to you," Foothill junior Jessica Climente says. "By nature, we like pretty things. It's like the Apple Jacks commercials. You don't know why you love celebs, you just do."

Those on the covers of popular magazines know that they have a reputation to uphold, but whether it is good or bad is completely up to them. There are those we love, and those we love to hate, and it's really not all that complicated. Hollywood stars have all the money, glitter and fame that most of America dreams about. Without that, they are nothing more than you and me. The only difference is nobody cares about your chest enhancement, but Britney's made the cover of Rolling Stone.

As long as people stay interested in entertainers, their lives will remain an open book for all those who care, and to all those who want checkout-line amusement. The only logical explanation for our fascination is this: "People are curious," says Foothill senior Raelynn Maestas. "We want what we cannot have, and celebs have everything we don't. Hence, the interest in their lives, or the dream lives, most of us will never have."

# Video gamers raise more than \$150,000 for children's charity

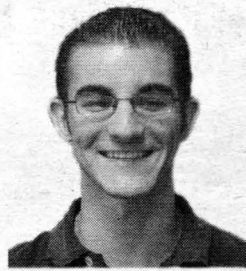
By Spencer Hensley,  
Faith Lutheran HS

Video games and their players receive a lot of negative press these days. They've taken more than their fair share of hits and certainly deserve this little piece of positive news.

Mike Krahuilk and Jerry Holkins run what is arguably the largest video gaming community. As the creators of the popular video-game-based Web-comic, "Penny Arcade," they have become a large force in the gaming industry, as well.

Last month, Krahuilk and Holkins made an announcement. They had read enough about games that allegedly trained children to kill. They knew gamers, were gamers themselves, and knew what they were really like. They asked their readers, if they felt so compelled, to buy items from a wish list on Amazon.com in "Penny Arcade's" name, to be sent to sick children in the Seattle Children's Hospital. They dubbed this charity "Child's Play."

Initially, Krahuilk and



Holkins had hoped to receive 100 toys for the children. Instead, they received well over 100 toys in the first hour alone,

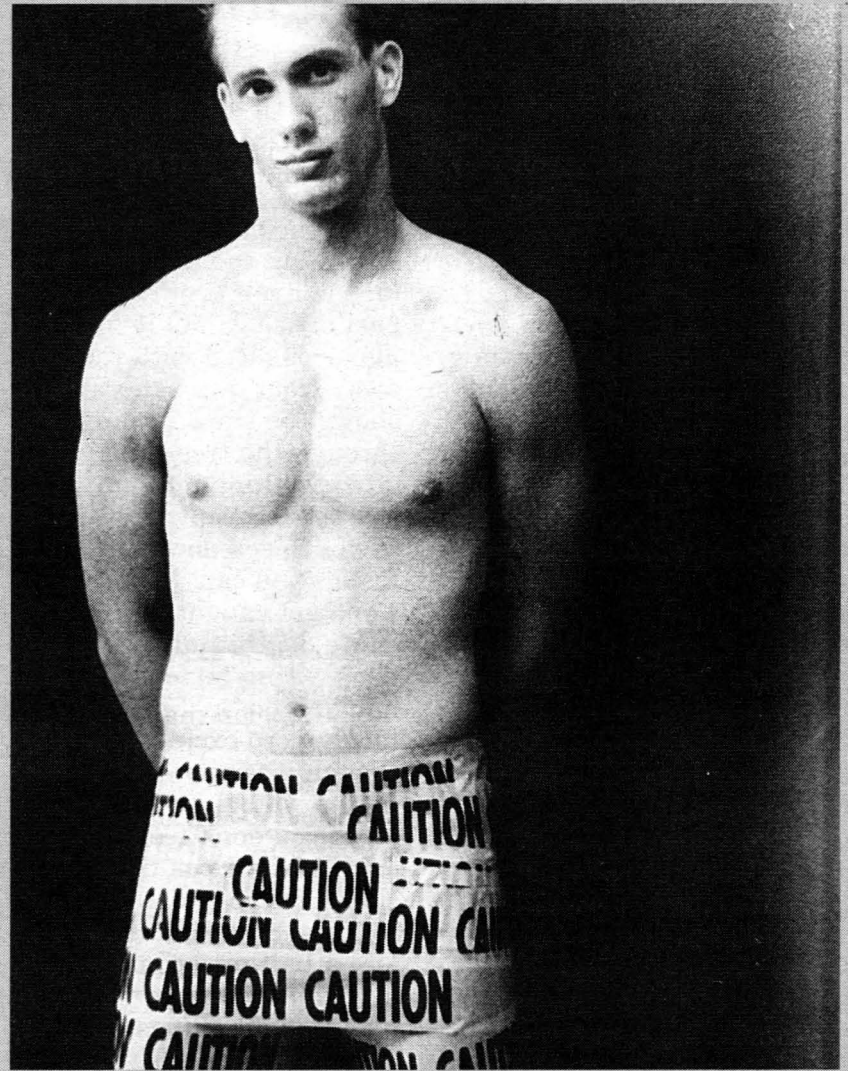
from a fan base of nearly 150,000 gamers.

By the end of the charity's run, the gamers had raised \$125,000 in toys, as well as \$27,000 in cash donations. All of this was raised in three weeks with no more advertising than a single announcement on their Web page. Many of the toys purchased were remakes of older video games, demonstrating that "Penny Arcade's" readers were not simply throwing money at the charity but were eager to share with these kids things that were an important part of their own childhoods.

"They said that kids who played video games would grow up abnormally," says Holkins on the Web page. "They were right. We grew up with abnormally large hearts."

gallery

Untitled, Katie Morine, LVA junior.



## Inspiring 'Tree Girl' is an eye-opener

By Brytani Caipa,  
Silverado HS

In a world where the youth of our country are brought up to believe that possessions are ev-

everything, how much would we be willing to give up before our will to live is lost?

"Tree Girl" by Ben Mikaelson is the passionate tale of a young girl striving to live through wars, deaths and the constant state of destitution in Guatemala.

"Tree Girl" tells the story of Gabi, a teenager growing up in a small Guatemalan canton, an area similar to an American county. Like every other family, Gabi's has very little money. Schooling is very expensive and, for most in her canton, an impossible vision. However, Gabi's mother recognizes something in her daughter's eyes that is missing from the other children — dreams. Because of her strong spirit, Gabi's family scrounges up enough money to send her to school where she excels so much in

her own studies, she begins to tutor the younger students.

Although her reality is much different than we can even imagine, we still share some of the same feelings Gabi struggles through. Like any other teen, Gabi is very insecure and feels isolated from the rest of her peers. There is only one place where she feels confident enough to be herself. Gabi's sanctuary is in the shelter and branches of a tree. This may have started out as a place to escape her family and, "come closer to heaven," but little did she know it would save her life more than once.

As her country is torn apart by war, the conflict is never as real to her until her brother is taken by soldiers at her Quinceanera, a celebration recognizing Gabi's entrance into the world as a woman. Although this day is intended to be one of the very best in a young girl's life, it turns out to be the beginning of many heartbreaking mishaps.

After her canton is raided, Gabi and her younger sister, Alicia, are all that remain of Gabi's family. Rather than concentrate on the fact that, in such a short amount of time,

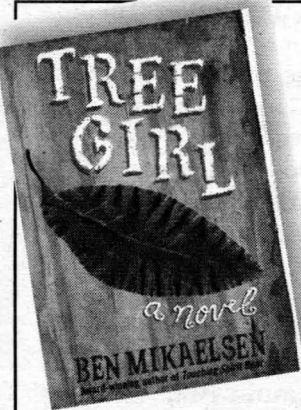
she has lost everything important in her life, Gabi realizes she must stay strong and fight, if not for herself then for Alicia.

Every day, Gabi struggles to live and travels farther and farther from her home in hopes of finding sanctuary. As if she hasn't experienced enough traumatizing events, Gabi soon loses her sister. However, no matter how much her body or mind aches, she continues to fight for survival.

The amazing thing about this story is that even at Gabi's lowest point, she must go on.

This book, to say the very least, is an eye-opener. When hearing reports on the radio or even seeing them on the news, horrifying situations such as the ones Gabi goes through in Guatemala are never so clear as when shared with us by a peer.

Living in America, it is impossible to understand the things Gabi and her friends experienced in Guatemala. When our lives are so focused on material objects, it may sometimes be difficult to recognize our true blessings. By reading this novel, our eyes are opened to the priceless things in our lives we have always taken for granted.



# Hit the slopes with Nintendo's '1080 Avalanche' game

By Julez Rodionova,  
Durango HS

If you're ready to catch some big air in front of the warm glow of your television, you're going to love Nintendo's "1080 Avalanche." The game promises various intricate changing environments along with a thrilling game experience, but it's good to be skeptical.

Fear not, though, for "1080" is the complete package and delivers 100 percent. From the second the disk starts spinning, you know you're in for an adventure. The menu screens are detailed and lifelike as well as easy to understand. The characters all have different personalities and skills, from cocky and perfectly balanced to shy and slick, it's clear that the creators spent much time on the entire feel of the game as well as on its look.

The soundtracks of most life-simulation games do not appeal to a broad range of music tastes, but anyone can enjoy this song selection. Punk rock, grunge, techno and easy going indie tracks make up one of the best game soundtracks I've ever heard, which makes it awesome to play the game no matter what mood you're in.

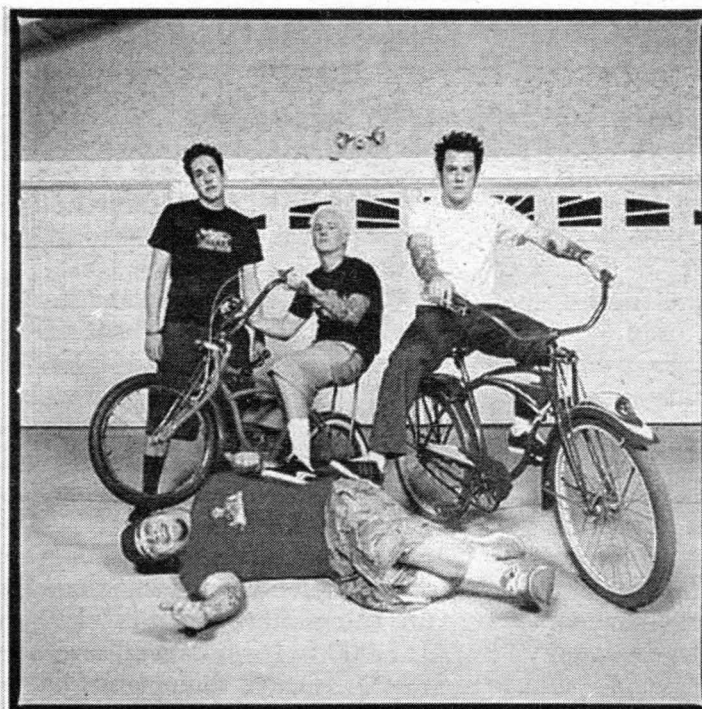
The slopes themselves get progressively harder and are filled with hidden tracks, shortcuts and other surprises along the way. The game's creators went so far as to create environments so life-like that deer,

rabbits and squirrels run through the courses, distracting the player and sometimes even getting in the way completely.

The only problem is that while the game includes "avalanche" in the title, the avalanche itself is only a small part of the game. Before the player is faced with racing away from it, a panoramic view shows the snow ripping through the trees and wiping off everything into puffy white smoke. The controller quakes as you speed down the track as fast as you can, hoping you won't get caught up in the white death. But this all happens within 50 feet of the finish line and doesn't give the game much more excitement, even though it is incredibly attractive to watch.

If you don't feel like racing for the best clock time down the slopes, you can opt for the trick courses. Spin contests in the air and a half-pipe competition leaves plenty to do if one would like to make things a little more interactive. I've never even seen some of these moves done before in X-Games, but they are also incredibly hard to pull off. Limber fingers make for top scores in this feature.

Overall, "1080 Avalanche" is definitely worthy enough to be one of my top three favorite games of the year on the Nintendo GameCube. Watch out, a rating of four-and-a-half stars out of five almost wiped my memory. Caution!



Mest: from left, Jeremiah Rangel, Tony Lovato, Matt Lovato, and Nick Gigler in front.

## Mest kicks it off in Vegas

By Jessica Roadhouse,  
Indian Springs HS

Mest kicked off their tour right here in Las Vegas on Jan. 31 at the House of Blues at Mandalay Bay.

Madcap started it all off and got the crowd pumped for the show. Of course, I only heard two of their songs because I was late as usual. The guys handed out promotional samplers all night at the merchandise booth.

Up second was Fall Out Boy, and I shoved my way through the crowd to get as close as possible. As always, they were awesome, and the kids were really getting into them. The crowd was intense, an obvious sign of the bands growing fan base. Even the boys from Madcap jumped into the pit to support them.

The boys had to sell their shirts for \$20, rather than the usual \$12 or \$15, for undisclosed reasons, and I shelled out the cash.

Next up was Home Grown from Orange County, Calif. By now, the kids were beyond stoked. Almost everybody was singing along. The crowd favorite seemed to be the cover of Aqua's "Barbie Girl," and even I sang along to that one. And, charming as always, John E. stopped the band in the middle of a song to fart into the mic.

During the break between Home Grown and Mest, I hung out by the merchandise booth and watched the other kids talking to the various band

members there, patiently waiting for a break in the steady stream of fans. Then, bassist Pete Wentz from Fall Out Boy came over to me. He signed my ticket and I slipped him a sheet of paper with the Web address for "Alternative Dimension," a music news and reviews site, and he said he'd check it out.

Finally, Mest was up. The kids were hyped and going nuts, and the band was full of energy. They played some new songs, such as "Jaded (these years)," which was dedicated to their friends in Good Charlotte.

"I don't care what you think of these guys," said Mest singer Tony Lovato, in support of his friends. "Half of you people that call them sell outs are 15 years old, living at home. This is for Good Charlotte."

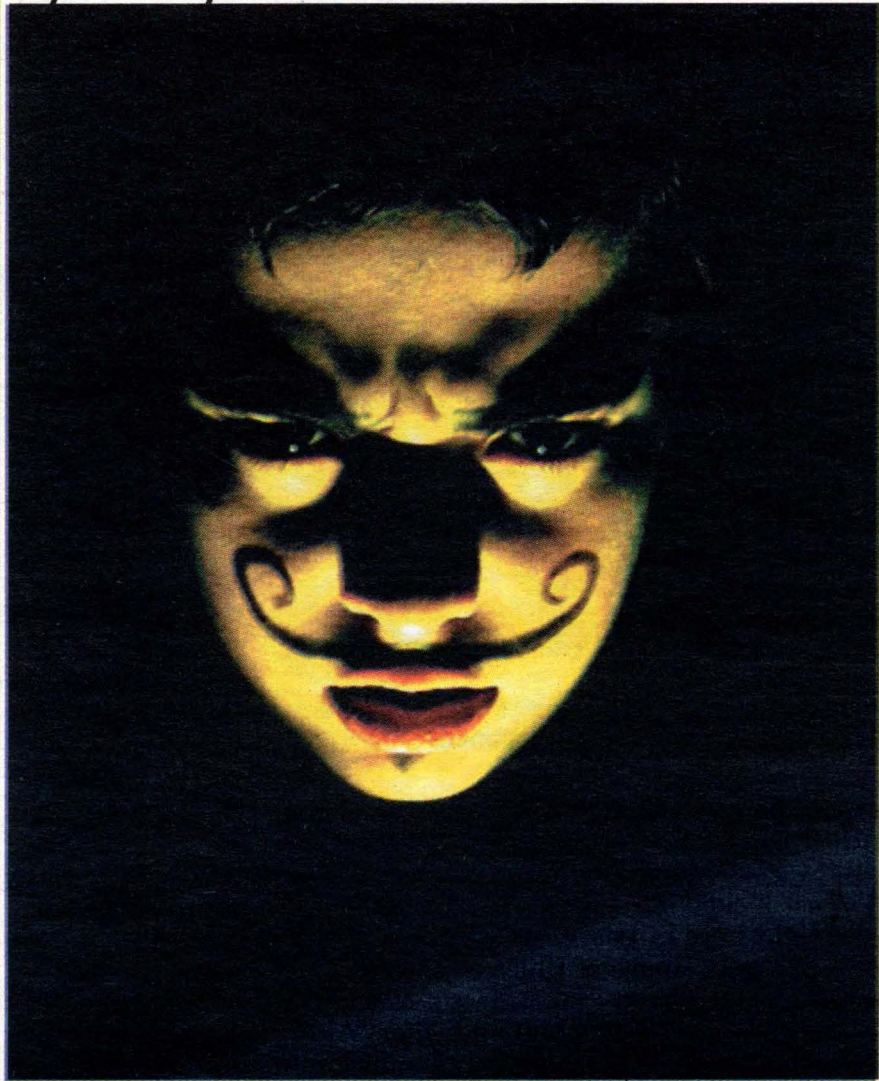
They also played some old favorites such as "Hotel Room" and "Greyhound Bus." During "Cadillac," Tony brought in the songs "In Da Club" by 50 Cent and "Milkshake" by Kelis, shaking things up a little bit and making everybody laugh.

Kids were jumping on stage all throughout the set, and one guy went as far as to grab the mic and start singing before being dragged off stage and running out the back door, all the while being chased by security.

The guys played three more songs after their set for an encore, and all the kids I talked to had an awesome time.

To find out more about this band, check out their official Web site at [www.Mestcrapp.com](http://www.Mestcrapp.com).





open mic

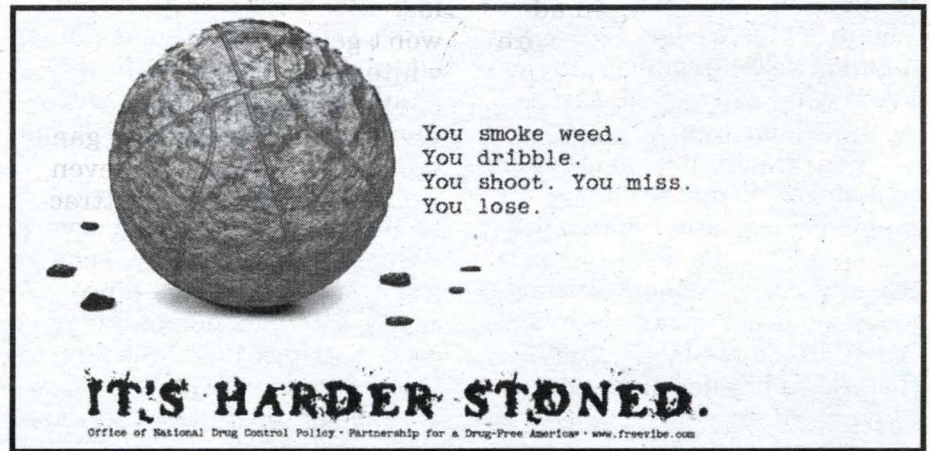
Sometimes

By Maria Elena Millard, Coronado HS

Sometimes decisions seem so tough  
Sometimes the best just isn't enough  
Sometimes the sky gets cold and gray  
Sometimes hearts ache in the worst way

Sometimes people get numb  
Sometimes dreams never do come  
But sometimes smiles burst with sunlight  
Sometimes wishes seem so right

Sometimes the hope that was always there  
Removes the feeling of a dark despair  
And sometimes life needs no change  
It's perfectly perfect and perfectly strange



You smoke weed.  
You dribble.  
You shoot. You miss.  
You lose.

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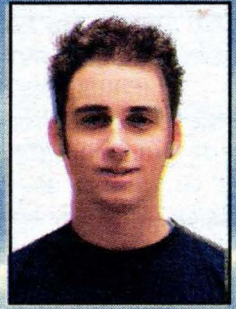


**Jordyn Smith, senior  
Green Valley HS**

"Jordyn follows the Green Valley High School commitment to excellence by excelling in academics, activities and athletics," says Green Valley High School Principal Jeff Horn. "She is a role model for many students on our campus. Jordyn is a student who is organized enough to do it all."

Jordyn Smith is a very talented individual. She has been on her school's student council for four years and is student body president. She has participated on the varsity volleyball and track teams for the past four years. She also has been a part of the National Honor Society for two years and the Spanish Honors Club for three years.

Smith is also involved in activities outside of school. She has been a part of the National Charity League, a mother-daughter philanthropy charity group, since seventh grade. Club volleyball is also another sport that she has participated in for the past three years. She maintains a 4.1-weighted GPA and plans on attending a university in either Southern California or Oregon to major in Kinesiology.




**Brady Johnson, Senior  
Las Vegas Academy**

"Brady has been on our school newspaper staff for three years, and this year he is serving as co-editor," says Las Vegas Academy Principal Stephen Clark. "His columns and editorials are insightful, thought-provoking, interesting to read, and are written with intelligence."

Brady Johnson exemplifies accomplishment in all areas of life. As co-editor of the Las Vegas Academy student newspaper, *Accolades*, Johnson guides the voice of the academy's student body, bringing news, information and humor to the LVA campus. In addition to his writing talents, he also plays French horn for his school's wind ensemble, the top musical performing arts ensemble at LVA. Though he is dedicated to developing his artistic talents, he also manages to maintain a high GPA and will graduate this year with honors.

Outside of school, Johnson is an active leader in his church youth group. In fact, while other students will be relaxing over spring break, Johnson will be on a mission in Mexico with his church, building homes for the poor. When he's not working hard at school or in the community, Johnson also enjoys playing hockey and rock climbing at Red Rock Canyon. After graduation, he plans to attend college and has already been accepted to several of his top school choices including the University of San Diego and Boston University.

  
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# Nod (and) Shake Experience debuts at Las Vegas Academy

By Michael Gobaud, LV Academy



The Nod (and) Shake Experience held its first live show on Friday, Feb. 6, 2004 at the Las Vegas Academy's Brian Lewis Gallery. I attended this show, and my life has never been the same since.

The Nod (and) Shake Experience is one of Las Vegas' newest local bands. But according to the band's guitarist/vocalist, Wadih "Odie" Sader, "We're not a band, we're an experience." From what I observed, this describes them well.

The "experience" is created by two Las Vegas Academy art majors, Sader and his partner Michael Gobaud. These two create music via Gobaud playing percussion using two upturned trashcans (one plastic, one metal), and Sader singing and playing guitar.

Once the show started, the gallery lights went down. The crowd began applauding; some had been waiting hours. Fog poured out from a back room. Sader came out and picked up his guitar. He took a seat and adjusted his megaphone, used in place of the more popular "microphone." Gobaud approached the trashcans holding

two large, dirty, chipped wooden dowels that look like they've been used to beat on just about every object imaginable. Sader began strumming chords on his guitar. Gobaud brought a dowel down hard on one of the two large trashcans several times. The boy's first song, simply titled "Opening Song," was fast and hard. When the song was over, the crowd burst into approving applause. The boys seemed pleased.

"This music makes me go crazy!" yells Las Vegas Academy junior Jessica Morrison during the show. This is a huge compliment according to the band. As Gobaud says, "Our music is meant to induce insanity."

During the show, a dollar raffle was held in which several items were given away, such as a limited edition Nod (and) Shake tote bag, one of Sader's guitar strings that broke during the show, one of Gobaud's dowels that broke during the show, Sader's right shoe and Gobaud's favorite paintbrush.

Before the last song, Gobaud announced that it was time for "Shake's Zoom Zoom Strong Man Challenge." For this, Gobaud revealed a metal hand strengthener. He recruited the strongest boys in the audience to participate. The person who was able to squeeze



Michael Gobaud and "Odie" Sader, LVA juniors, hosted and performed at the Nod (and) Shake Experience.

the grip the most times in 30 seconds won a one-of-a-kind red Nod (and) Shake t-shirt. The boy who won seemed very happy with his prize.

All in all, the Nod (and) Shake Experience put on a decent show. The best part was that, even if you didn't like the music, you could at least appreciate their original performance style.

"I feel that our performance is equally as important as our musical style," says Sader.

They may have been off beat a few times, but no one seemed to notice because they were too enthralled in the performance.

When asked what their fu-

ture plans are, Sader replies, "Take over Las Vegas."

"And then, the world," adds Gobaud.

The Nod (and) Shake Experience will be performing next at the New York-New York Hotel and Casino in the arcade on March 19 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. They will be performing again on March 20 in "Demoritized," an art show by Casey Newberry, at Haan's Military Surplus, 2908 E. Lake Mead Blvd. just east of Civic Center from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. All ages are welcome at both shows. For more information, send an email to: [otacon45@hotmail.com](mailto:otacon45@hotmail.com), and use the subject "Nod (and) Shake."

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## New 'Ghettopoly' game: racism or good fun?

By Rebecca Metzger, Faith Lutheran HS



David Chang, a 28-year-old Taiwanese American, created a game he calls "Ghettopoly." Although the game is based on "Monopoly," Hasbro, "Monopoly's" creator, has nothing to do with the game.

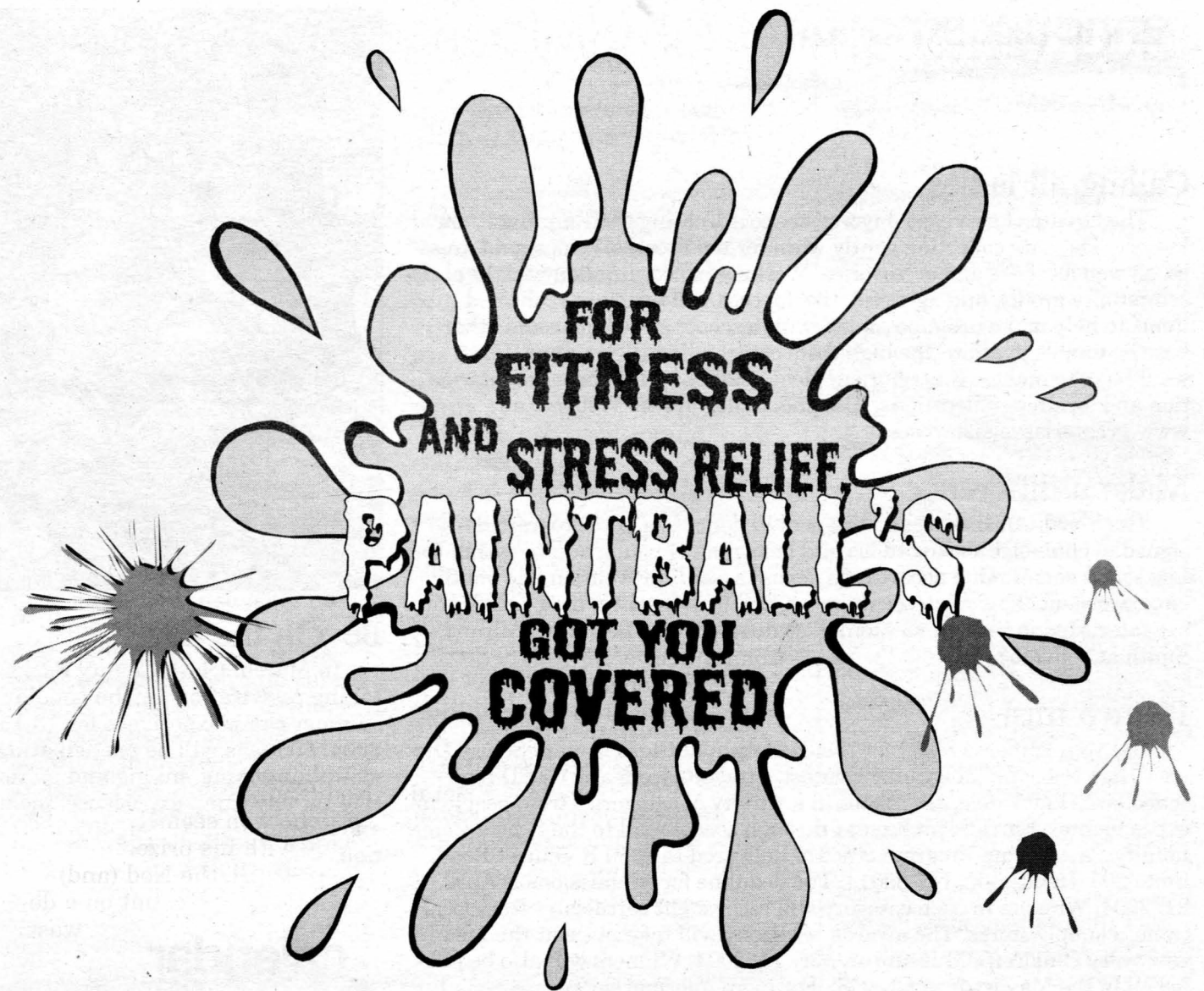
The game features an African-American man with a bottle of malt liquor in one hand and an Uzi in the other, in place of Mr. Monopoly, the white-haired, top-hat wearing, "Monopoly" trademark.

The controversial game also contains "playas," or pieces, that include a marijuana leaf, a 40-ounce bottle of malt liquor, along with many other "ghetto"-related objects. Some properties include "Busta Rap Recording" and "Hernando's Chop Shop."

With the game's theme, much controversy has risen. The game has been taken off the shelves of the Urban Outfitters stores as well as others where the games were sold. The removal of the game came as a result of black community leaders' complaints about the game's racial connotations and stereotypes.

"Ghettopoly is controversial because its both fun and real life," says Chang, in an interview on the New York Daily News Web site. "It draws on stereotypes not as a means to degrade ... If we can't laugh at ourselves and how we each utilize the various stereotypes, then we'll continue to live in blame and bitterness."

Locally, the KB Toys on Las Vegas Blvd., Fantasy Toys on Meadows Lane., Toys 'R' Us on Sunset and the Wal-Mart on Tropical Way haven't stocked or sold the game.



By Charlie Hedrick, Basic HS

**R**unning, jumping, diving and shooting: No, this is not a scene from a war movie — this is paintball!

Paintball is a sport of teamwork, skill and determination. Thousands of teens across the globe play paintball, as it can be played at designated fields or even out in the middle of a desert. In Las Vegas, teams practice at designated paintball locations such as Tektonx, Pabco, Desert Storm and Paintball Adventure. Basic High School is home to several paintball teams including Yer Mom!, Dysfunction, Who's Next?, Two White Guys and a Mexican, JT Kidz and Exit 56.

Jared Causie, a senior at Basic who plays for the Dysfunction team, heard about paintball from his dad's friend and from magazines devoted to the fast-growing sport. Causie has been playing for about two years. He spends about \$150 to \$200 a month on the sport. He plays at All-American Sports Park or Tektonx.

Basic junior Derek Zarembo and his teammates juniors Jared Waller and Javier Reyes are

based at Tektonx and have also been playing for about two years. They practice twice a week and, as a team, spend \$200 to \$300 a month on paintballing.

Steve Conner, a Basic senior, and his team, JT Kidz, are sponsored by All-American Sports Park as well as other sponsors. Being sponsored means that the team does not have to pay for paintball-related expenses such as supplies, tournament entry fees and equipment. A sponsored player may also be paid to wear certain equipment from paintball supply companies.

"To get sponsored, you have to play a lot and work with your team well. Oh yeah, and do well in the tournaments," says Conner. "We entered Pan Am, National Paintball Players League and Best in the West."

Entering tournaments can cost a non-sponsored player about \$200, but the prizes range from clothing to guns to cash.

While many hardcore paintballers dream of becoming sponsored players, some players just love the sport as a great way to get exercise and to blow off steam.

## Paintball Primer

*Know the lingo before you go*

**Mask:** covers face for protection; remember, it is a mask, not a helmet.

**Paintball:** oil-based, hard plastic paint shell.

**Marker:** paintball "gun;" shoots paintballs.

**CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>:** gas used to power markers to shoot paintballs.

**Bunker:** place to hide during the game.

**Bunkered:** occurs when someone from the other teams comes to your bunker and shoots you.

**Splattered:** occurs when paint from the bunker gets onto you or your marker.

**Hot:** refers to a player of the other team being at a designated bunker or side of the field.

For more information on prices, places and how to get started, go to [www.tektonxpaintball.com](http://www.tektonxpaintball.com) or [www.paintballgear.com](http://www.paintballgear.com).

# announcements

## Calling all ladies

The Greater Las Vegas Jaycees are coordinating their annual Prom Project! They are collecting gently worn formal dresses, bridesmaid dresses, as well as shoes and accessories. Working in coordination with local community groups and agencies, the Jaycees will distribute collected items to help make prom possible for high school girls who would otherwise be unable to afford the high costs of attending their proms. If you would like to make a contribution, please call 869-5179 for more information and for drop-off locations. Also check the Jaycees Web site at: [www.greaterlasvegasjaycees.org](http://www.greaterlasvegasjaycees.org).

## Make a difference

The Youth Alliance Against Sexual Violence is a new program designed to challenge the attitudes and behaviors of young adults within the Las Vegas community, focusing on sexual assault prevention and youth empowerment. This program meets on Sundays from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. If you are interested in being a mentor/advocate (aged 12-17), contact Miranda Smith at 385-2153.

## Picture this!

Get your cameras ready for the 37th Annual Clark County School District High School Photography Contest. Students from any CCSD high school are eligible to enter photos in a variety of categories from people to experimental. Entries can be sent through school mail to the School-Community Partnership Program office or delivered to 4350 E. Sunset Road, Suite 205, Henderson, NV 89014. The deadline for submissions is April 21, 2004. Winners in each category will receive gift certificates from local camera supply stores. The awards ceremony will take place at the Lied Discovery Children's Museum on May 11, 2004. Winners will also be published in the May issue of CLASS!. For more information, please e-mail Candy Schneider at [cschneider@interact.ccsd.net](mailto:cschneider@interact.ccsd.net).

## Las Vegas history

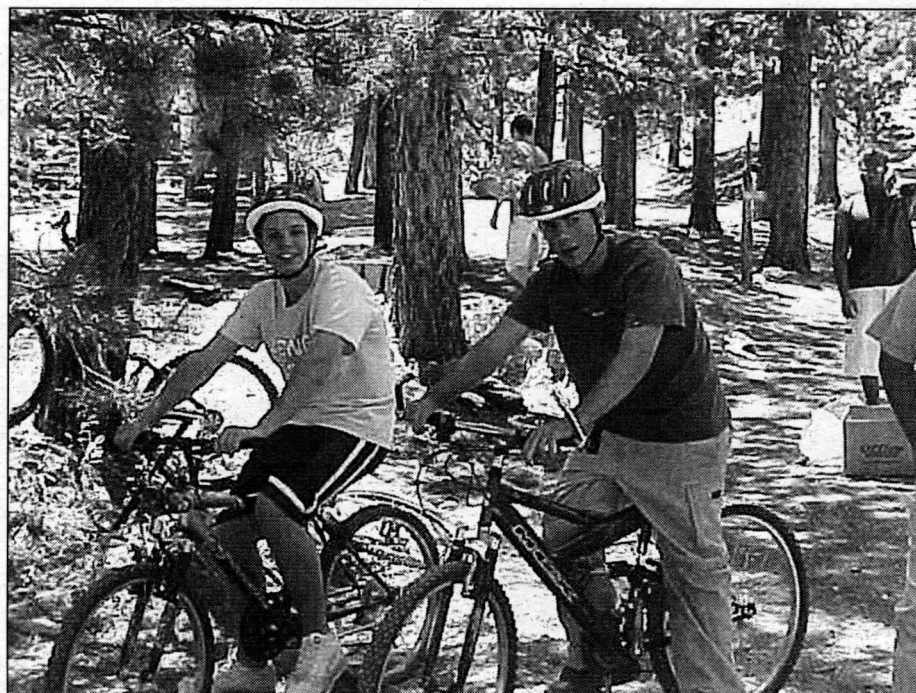
The Nevada State Museum and Historical Society worked with the non-profit Neon Museum to produce "Neon Unplugged: Signs from the Boneyard." This exhibit, which has been extended through June 27, features historic signs saved from Las Vegas' past and stored outdoors in a neon "bone yard" maintained by the Neon Museum. For more information, call Bob Harmon at (775) 687-8323 or visit the department's Web site at <http://www.nevadaculture.org>.

## Get involved

This year, Clark County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition's Media Committee is working with two Las Vegas High School PAL students on the development of a coalition Web site, which will be a resource for both youth and adults. The Special Events Committee will hold the first of four 2004 youth workshops around the city on March 18. If you are interested in providing your input, you can join our CCTPPC Yahoo! Group ([www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)). The next CCTPPC meeting will be held at Montevista Professional Building, 6000 W. Rochelle at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13. For more information, please call Mary Rosenthal, Coalition Chair, at 318-8452 x248.

## Start your engines!

If you think you're the next Indy 500 racing star, here's a chance to get on the road to success. Red Bull, the maker of the popular energy drink, is sponsoring a national go-kart competition for teens, male or female ages 13 to 17, with Las Vegas as one of only 50 sites in the United States qualifying drivers. The overall winners will become members of Red Bull's Formula 1 Racing Team and will be trained as competitive drivers. One of only three racers to win spots on the Red Bull team last year was Las Vegas Matt Jaskol, a 2003 graduate of Faith Lutheran High School! This year's qualifying races will take place from March 15 to June 15 at the Fast Lap Indoor Kart Racing facility at 4288 S. Polaris, with winners determined by fastest race times. Each driving session costs \$20 to participate. For more information, go to [www.redbulldriversearch.com](http://www.redbulldriversearch.com).



## Be 'On the Edge'

In March, Clark County Parks and Community Services will be taking registration for the popular On the Edge Teen Camp, a unique summer camp experience for 13-15 year olds. From June 27-July 2, 2004, 60 teens will be participating in many outdoor activities, such as mountain biking, hiking and more. The registration fee is \$350 for this six-day camp experience, including all meals, activity supplies and a camp t-shirt. Call 455-7560 for an application or more information.

## calendar

### MARCH

#### March 9

Got Game? You asked for it and now you've got it — it's the return of Got Game at the Las Vegas Library! We'll supply the games and you bring your friends. Las Vegas Library, 833 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 6:30 p.m. Free admission. 507-3500.

Tuesday Afternoon at the Bijou: Films from 1939. Come out and enjoy the film "Stagecoach" in the main theater. Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd. 1 p.m. Free admission. 507-3459.

Poison the Well in concert with Saosin. The Huntridge, 1208 E. Charleston. Tickets \$10. All ages. 678-6800.

#### March 10

The Culture of Gender. Join a discussion on how different cultures and sub-cultures impact perceptions and understanding of gender. UNLV Moyer Student Union Room #202. 12 p.m. For more information, contact Joseph Rios at 895-3221.

#### March 12

Newport Jazz Festival 50th Anniversary Tour. Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, UNLV. 8 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$50. 739-FANS.

David Mamet's "The Children's Plays." ChickPea Productions puts a more adult spin on your favorite fairy tales. Summerlin Library, 1771 Inner Circle Dr. 7 p.m. Free admission. 507-3860.

#### March 13

Metallica in concert with Godsmack. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$58-\$78. 739-FANS.

#### March 14

Arena Football: Las Vegas Gladiators vs. Arizona Rattlers. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 3 p.m. Tickets \$9.50-\$63. 739-FANS.

Papa Roach in concert with Die Trying and Still Life Projector. The Huntridge, 1208 E. Charleston. Tickets \$15. All ages. 678-6800.

The Poetry Nook. Express yourself by bringing your lyrical works of wonder and share your vision with others during an open mic event in the Jewel Box Theatre. Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd. Free admission. 507-3459.

#### March 15

Slam Poetry. Enjoy the original work of visiting Slam Poet Suzy LaFollette, as she uses her distinctive voice to share her story. UNLV Moyer Student Union Room #204. 6 p.m. For more information, contact Joseph Rios at 895-3221.

*Continued on page 46*

**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

# 'Everybody's doing it' ... or ARE they?

"Everybody's doing it" may not be the truth anymore. The 2003 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey has just been released and it shows that across nearly all aspects, Nevada teens are engaging less in risky behaviors. The changes from year to year may only reflect a modest drop, but the overall trend since the first YRBS nearly 10 years ago has been a slow downward decline. The biggest declines can be seen in unintentional injuries, tobacco use, alcohol and drug use and sexual behaviors.

## The 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows a downward trend

The decrease in sexual behavior risks is good news not only for Nevada's youth, but also for the agencies throughout the Las Vegas valley that target teen pregnancy prevention and promote safe sexual behaviors and sexual health. The Clark County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition unites these different agencies together under one umbrella.

### Birth data reflects that trend

In their 2003 Report to the Community, CCTPPC reported that teen pregnancy is on the decline nationwide and within Clark County as well. Between 2000 and 2001, the teen birth rate in Clark County dropped from a rate of 34.5 per 1,000 to 30.4 per 1,000. This shows that more Las Vegas teens are making healthy, responsible decisions about sex, such as abstinence or contraception, to prevent pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and other negative outcomes.

### What can we learn from this trend?

It appears that youth behaviors are changing faster than youth culture. Pressures to have sex still exist, and the messages passed by students in the hallways still seem to say, "Everyone is doing it." However, more students are choosing personally not to go along with "everyone," even if they don't want to say it out loud. Las Vegas youth need to know that even if no one is talking about it, more and more teens are choosing to make healthy, responsible decisions.

## How The Clark County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition can help you:

### I choose to wait to have sex

The percent of high school students reporting that they have 'ever had sex' has steadily dropped from 58 percent in 1993 to 49 percent in 2001 and 46 percent in 2003.

For some students this decision is rooted in a strong belief in remaining abstinent until marriage. However, for many students this decision reflects a desire to simply wait until later in life to begin having sex. Waiting until you are more emotionally mature to make the decision can help you deal with the responsibilities that can arrive with the onset of sexual activity.

Students seeking further advice or information on ways to say no and the benefits of delaying sexual behavior have an array of sources to contact. Parents, adult family members and trusted adults may be your best source of information and support. Your faith community can be a trusted source of advice as well as any one of the coalition partners.

A number of coalition partners offer after-school programs that you can either participate in or help by volunteering, including:

YMCA's Yes-To-Youth Leadership Club is taking a leadership role in developing CCTPPC youth events. (877-7230)

Community Counseling Center's New Vision Theater performs throughout the city. (696-0284)

S.U.G.A.R. (Sophisticated Unique Girls with Aspirations and Respect) Step Team is a teen pregnancy alternative program at Cambridge Community Center. (262-1094)

### I feel pressured to have sex

The percent of high school students who reported having been 'forced to have sexual intercourse against their will' increased from 9.2 in 2001 to 11.0 in 2003.

Many behaviors are changing, but the voice of peer pressure has not gone away. The pressure to have sex before both partners are ready is still a reality among Nevada's teens. Sometimes it's more than just peer pressure though, and all Nevada youth need to know that "no means no" and that nobody has the right to force sex upon another person. Sexual assault is a serious violation of another person's safety, and despite feelings of isolation, you are not alone. You always have the right to say "no" at any stage.

Sometimes you need someone whom you can talk with in confidence. These agencies can help you sort through your feelings and give you the proper information and referrals that you need. CCSD school nurses are active coalition members and are your first resource in the school.

Other resources that provide information, referral and counseling include:

Safe House (320-1812)

Safe Nest (646-4981)

Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence (940-2033)

Community Counseling Center, including gay/lesbian issues (369-8700)

The Rape Crisis Center (385-2153)

### I am (or my girlfriend is) pregnant

This is one of the most difficult situations teens may face. Nevada's teen pregnancy rate, while improving, is still ranked 12th worst in the nation in 2002. It is important to realize that no matter what course you choose for yourself, dropping out of school does not have to be one of those decisions. Clark County school nurses offer assistance to high-risk pregnancies (nearly all teen pregnancies) that can keep you enrolled in high school and working toward your diploma through all stages of pregnancy and early parenting.

The following coalition partners should be able to help you talk through your situation, including talking with your parents, explore your options and get information and referrals for more assistance without forcing you to take their option:

Abandoned Babies (205-9035)

Catholic Charities (385-3315)

LDS Family Services (385-1072)

Planned Parenthood (878-3622)

The Adoption Alliance (968-1986)

### I am having sex and I don't want AIDS or chlamydia

If you are not abstaining from sex, you risk becoming infected by your partner each time you have vaginal, anal or oral sex. Your partner may not even know that he or she is infected. Viral infections can be controlled, but not cured and treatment for bacterial infections can be lengthy. While no contraceptive provides 100 percent protection, using no protection is just not sensible.

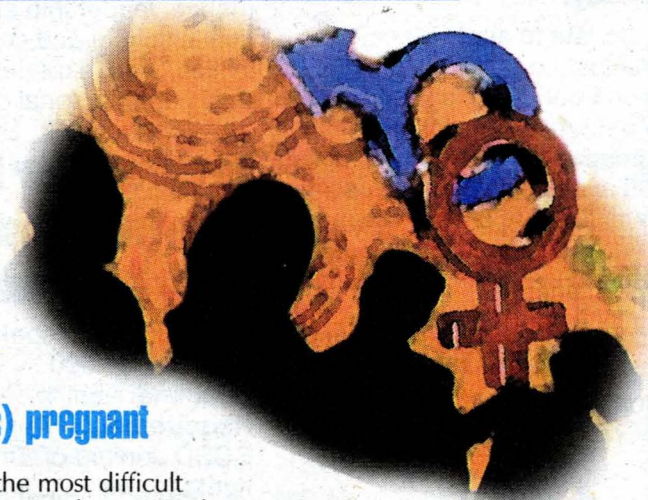
The following coalition partners can provide medically accurate information and resources:

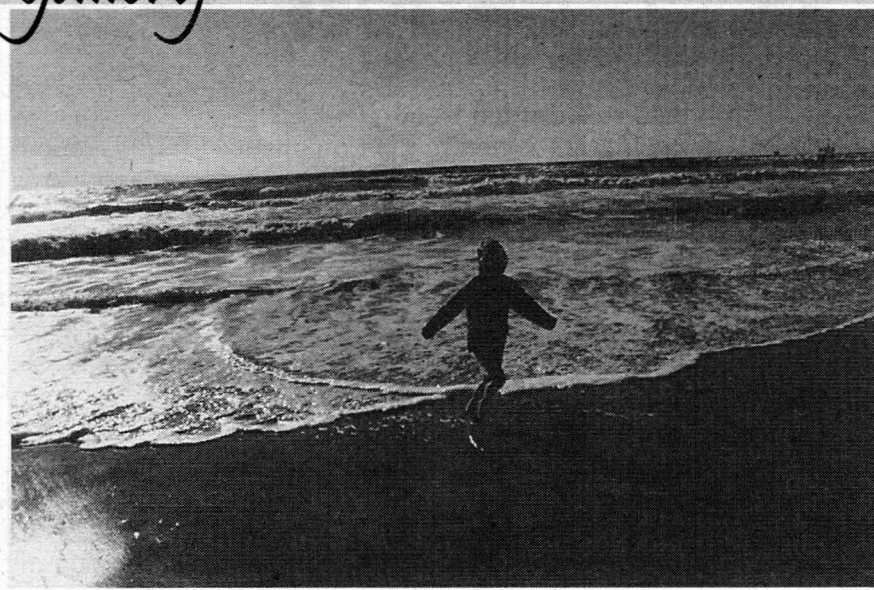
Clark County Health District (385-1291)

Facing AIDS in our Community Today (383-1892)

Huntridge Clinic (732-8776)

Planned Parenthood (878-3622)





# Scholarships

## Free money!

It's not too late to apply for college scholarships! Log on to the Public Education Foundation's Web site, [www.ccpef.org](http://www.ccpef.org), and a link from their homepage will show you more than 128 available scholarships worth over \$400,000. Read through to find those you qualify for and, if selected, you could receive awards ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 a year. Most deadlines are March 19, 2004, so don't delay. For more information, call Kevin Biesinger at 799-1042.

## Mervyn's Scholarships

**Contact:** [www.mervyns.com](http://www.mervyns.com)  
**Amount:** \$1,000-\$10,000  
**Deadline:** March 15  
**Requirements:** Applicants must be high school seniors who plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study or an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school located in the United States. Applicants must also provide a transcript, essay and letters of recommendation.

## USA Funds Access to Education Scholarships

**Contact:** [www.usafunds.com/borrowers/access\\_to\\_education\\_scholarship.html](http://www.usafunds.com/borrowers/access_to_education_scholarship.html)  
**Amount:** \$1,500  
**Deadline:** March 15  
**Requirements:** Applicants must be high school seniors and demonstrate economic need. Awards are targeted to members of ethnic-minority groups or individuals with physical disabilities. Consideration

is also based on academic performance, leadership and participation in school and community activities, work experience, career goals and personal circumstances.

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee — Keeping the Dream Alive Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.ccpef.org](http://www.ccpef.org)  
**Amount:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** April 1  
**Requirements:** Applicants must be CCSD seniors of African-American heritage, with a 2.5 GPA and must demonstrate financial need. Also, applicants must provide an essay of 300 words explaining their career goals and aspirations, two letters of recommendation, a transcript and test scores.

## The Lemonade Series Writing Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.DadsLemonadeStand.com](http://www.DadsLemonadeStand.com)  
**Amount:** \$500  
**Deadline:** April 1  
**Requirements:** All students in grades 9-12 currently enrolled in a high school or home school environment may apply. Applicants are required to write a story, essay or personal narrative of no more than 500 words intended to describe how someone positively inspired them to change their lives.

## Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.jackierobinson.org/index03.htm](http://www.jackierobinson.org/index03.htm)

**Amount:** \$6,000  
**Deadline:** April 1  
**Requirements:** Applicants must be minority high school seniors, U.S. citizens, have SAT scores of 900 or above or ACT scores of 21 or above, have leadership potential and demonstrate financial need.

## Finish Me Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.finishme.net](http://www.finishme.net)  
**Amount:** \$500  
**Deadline:** April 1  
**Requirements:** Applicants must demonstrate character, academic achievement and seriousness of purpose. In addition, one of two questions must be answered by an essay, "If I were a size 12 or smaller, would I have self confidence and esteem?" or, "If I were a size 12 or larger, would I have self-confidence and esteem?" The essay must be a minimum of 250 words. Applicants must also provide two letters of recommendation and a sealed transcript.

## George R. Faenza Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.stars4space.org](http://www.stars4space.org)  
**Amount:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** April 14  
**Requirements:** Applicants must be high school seniors and write a one-to-two page essay titled "Why Does the United States Need a Space Program?" Applicants must also provide a synopsis detailing student and work activities, three

letters of recommendation, and a letter on high school letterhead verifying Class of 2004 graduating status.

## National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation Scholarship

**Contact:** [www.nraef.org](http://www.nraef.org)  
**Amount:** \$2,000  
**Deadline:** April 16  
**Requirements:** Seniors who have demonstrated commitment to both post-secondary food service education and a career in the restaurant hospitality industry are eligible to apply. Applicants must have at least a 2.75 GPA and performed a minimum of 250 hours of foodservice-related work experience.

## Holocaust Remembrance Project Writing Contest

**Contact:** [www.holocaust.hklaw.com](http://www.holocaust.hklaw.com)  
**Amount:** \$1,000 - \$5,000  
**Deadline:** April 30  
**Requirements:** Applicants must be 19 years of age or under and currently enrolled as a high school student (grades 9-12) or who are enrolled in a high school equivalency program. A typed, double-spaced essay of no more than 1,200 words is required with the application.

## calendar

*Continued from page 44*

**March 16**  
 Japanese Anime. Join us for episodes of Japanese animated TV series and movies that you won't see on Cartoon Network! West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 6 p.m. Free admission. 507-3980.

**March 19**  
 "Tiny Souls" performance art show featuring artists Charles Calixto, Catherine Calixto, Crystal Lucero, Sarah Lucas and eMily Weeteling, and bands Chemical X, Hung By Halos and the Nod (and) Shake Experience. New York-New York Hotel, 3790 S. Las Vegas Boulevard. 5-7 p.m. All ages. Free admission and refreshments. 740-6969.

**March 20**  
 Avenged Sevenfold in concert with Opiate for the Mass. The Huntridge, 1208 E. Charleston. Tickets \$12. 678-6800. All ages.

Ludacris in concert with Chingy, Knocturnal, and David Banner. The House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 8 p.m. Tickets \$35-\$55. All ages. 632-7600.

"Demorilized," an art show by Casey Newberry, featuring the Nod (and) Shake Experience. Haan's Military Surplus, 2908 E. Lake Mead Blvd. 4-6 p.m. All ages. Free admission and refreshments. 649-6819.

**March 23**  
 Lasting Memories. Bring two or three photos from home and celebrate Women's History Month by creating a Heritage Album scrapbook. Pre-registration required. Las Vegas Library, 833 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 7 p.m. Free admission. 507-3500.

**March 27**  
 Xtreme Thing 2004. Head out to the park for a day of music, dance and extreme sports. Desert Breeze Skate Park, 8275 W. Spring Mountain Rd., 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Tickets \$15. [www.extremething.com](http://www.extremething.com).

## APRIL

**April 3**  
 Saturday Matinee Movie: "Freaky Friday." Follow up April Fool's Day by enjoying this fresh and funny remake of the 1976 Disney classic. Sunrise Library, 5400 Harris Ave. 2 p.m. Free admission. 507-3900.

**April 6**  
 Enjoy the blockbuster film Pirates of the Caribbean. West Charleston Library, 6301 W. Charleston Blvd. 2 p.m. Free admission. 507-3940.

**April 14**  
 Read and Write Poetry. Celebrate National Poetry Month by attending a writer's workshop to explore the ideas of famous poets and create verse. Whitney Library, 5175 E. Tropicana Ave. 7 p.m. Free admission. 507-4010.




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For more information call 895-3443 or visit us on the web at [www.unlv.edu](http://www.unlv.edu).

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- ▶ Enough credits to be in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade and an average of a 2.0 or higher; or
- ▶ Five recommendation letters from high school teachers in the content areas; or
- ▶ Minimum scores on one of the following standardized tests:
  - SAT score of 900 or higher
  - ACT score of 22 or higher

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