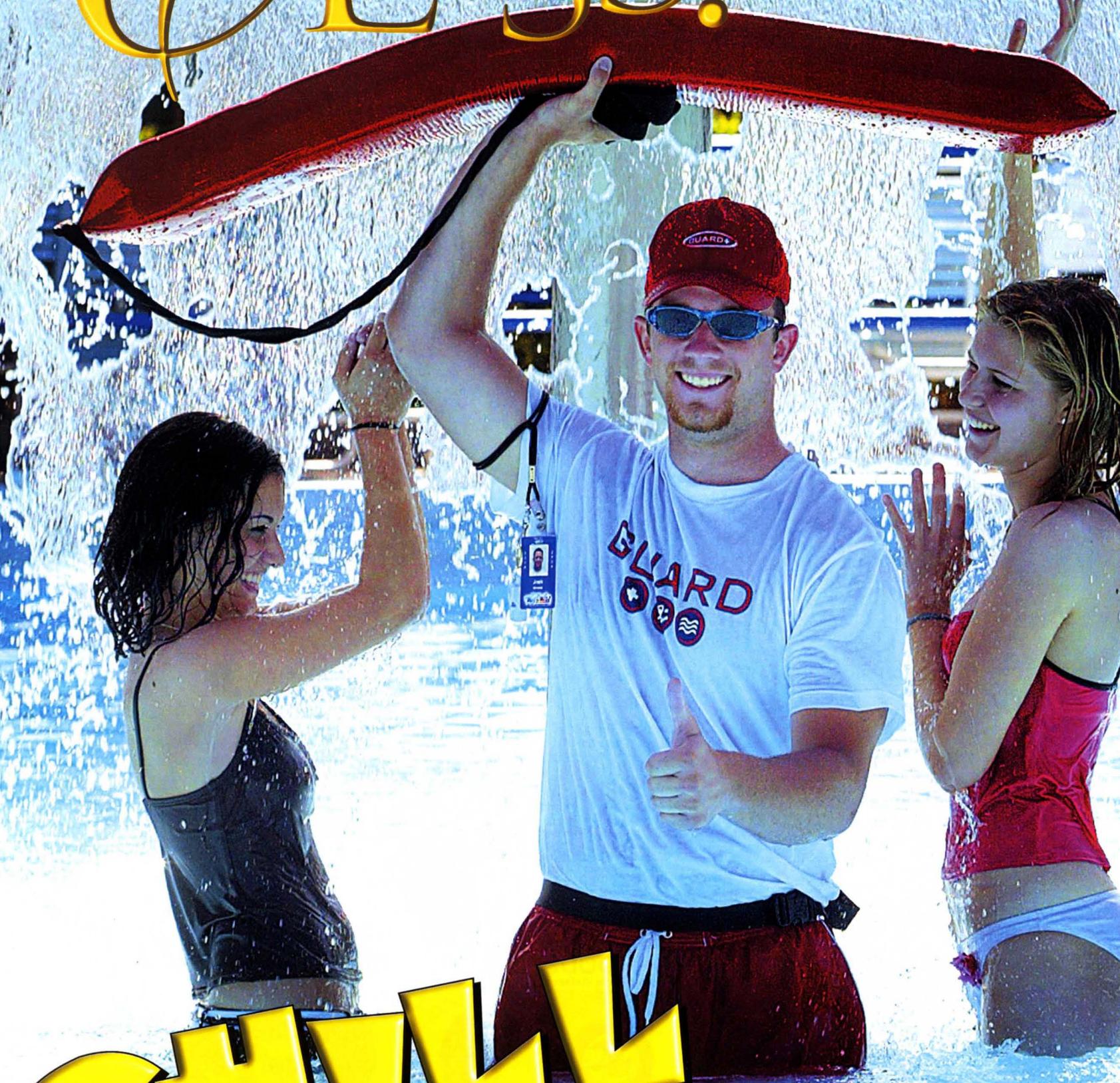


MAY 2004

CLASS!

By, for and about Clark County high school students

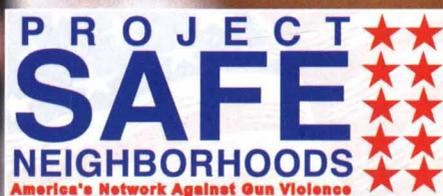


CHILL OUT!

SUMMER FUN TO THE RESCUE

You're it!
It's not a game when someone dies.

Save our kids and neighborhood **385-GUNS**



Project SAFE Neighborhoods • America's Network Against Gun Violence

May always seems to be the busiest month for students. Returning students are trying to wrap up their school year and arrange jobs and internships for the summer; seniors are preparing to graduate while juggling decisions about college and the future. Talk about stress!

But this year, students are thinking about something else as well. This fall, many of you will be eligible to vote in the presidential election for the first time. Breanna Stock from Coronado High School points out in her article, "Political distance, distrust could keep youth vote at home" (page 20), that 18-year-olds were not allowed to vote until 1972. One must wonder why, as Stock continues, "... only 30 percent of people aged 18-25 voted in the last election." The articles on pages 16-20 show it is certainly not because potential youth voters don't care. Stephanie Hernandez from Las Vegas High School provides interviews in her article, "MTV's 'Choose or Lose' helps teens get voting facts" (page 16), that show many teens either feel that their vote won't count, or they have never been taught how to register and actually vote. Hernandez provides excellent resources on conquering both of these challenges, as does Rob West from Basic High School in his article, "Voting is easier than you might think," also on page 16.

Still don't care? Read Dylan Doherty's (Durango High School) article on page 18, "Young people have much at stake in election." He explains how all those older people going to the polls are making decisions that can pull money right out of your paycheck to pay for Medicare increases for the senior population. If older generations are the only ones showing up at the polls, whom do you think the politicians will be working to please?

Take some time this summer to research the candidates and the issues. Use the resources provided in these articles to get registered and educated. If you won't be 18 by Nov. 2 of this year, perhaps you can inform your older peers and family members about what you've learned. You can also volunteer for local candidates or issues you support.

So as we depart for the summer, congratulations to all the graduates who have worked so hard. For all of the students returning next year, don't forget to write for us and send your articles in via e-mail, fax or mail. Have a great summer!



Marlo Starr, right, accepts the Journalism Student of the Year award. See more winners on page 4.

Allie Smith

Allie Smith
Editor/Executive Director

plunge into summer!

How to stay cool during the break ahead yet keep active enough to stave off the doldrums. We take a look at new summer movies; plus, tips on how to get and keep a tan, the healthy way! 8

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One student questions the abuse of teen girls in polygamous marriages. 12

your vote, your voice

The importance of being politically active. 16



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How one teen copes with prejudice toward her Arabic heritage. 21

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¡Tenemos los ganadores del concurso de poesía! Ya empezamos a hablar de las elecciones presidenciales. Escríbeme. ¡Felices vacaciones! 23



body vibe

Read what teens *really* think about smoking. Plus, one writer reveals the problem of drinking on school campuses. 28

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Journalism is an honorable profession, and a dangerous one, too. 31

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Read about how Project Safe Neighborhoods strives to rid the streets of gun violence, and why breaking the law takes a toll on everyone involved. 32

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Life after graduation: What to expect. 34

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Two former high school sports stars return to talk about their careers: one's a race car champ, the other an NCAA Woman of the Year. 39

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Concerts, plays, movies ... there's almost too much to choose from in May and June. 44

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Deadlines are quickly approaching for applications. 46

on our cover ...

Kaela Andriaccio, a junior at Cheyenne HS, Josh Dalton, a junior at Cimarron-Memorial HS and Taylor McPhail, a sophomore at Bishop Gorman HS, cool off at Wet 'n Wild. Talent provided by the Lenz Agency.

Wed., May 26 3 p.m.

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at the CLASS! office at UNLV
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If you don't have time to intern, we still need you to write for us! We're already planning our September issue, so please send your articles to us during the summer via e-mail: classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu, fax: 895-1505, or snail-mail: UNLV Box 451025, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025.

CLASS!

Vol. 10, Issue 9

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

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The staff of the Centennial Bark! won 1st Place in the layout category for tabloid-sized school newspapers.

CLASS! hosts Sixth Annual High School Journalism Awards

Celebrating high school journalism at its finest, CLASS! Publications hosted more than 200 students, educators, parents and community leaders at its sixth annual awards event on April 28 at the Clark County Library Theater.

Along with the elegant, glass plaques awarded to the top three journalists in 13 categories, first-place winners received certificates of recognition from Congresswoman Shelley Berkley. In addition, Senator Harry Reid sent a letter of commendation to be read to attendees, congratulating students on their accomplishments.

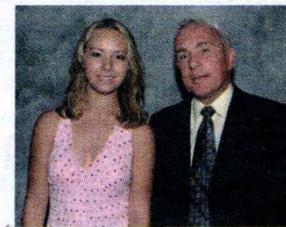
Addressing the students in the keynote speech, guest speaker Dr. Brian Cram, former Clark County School District superintendent and current director of the Greenspun Family Foundation, focused on the importance of journalism in education. He also encouraged future

journalists to take seriously their responsibility to seek and report the truth and to defend their First Amendment freedoms.

"A free society is absolutely dependent on a free press," Cram said. "It's your job to protect that right as responsible journalists."

Students were also recognized for their contributions to the Spanish poetry contest, Concurso de Poesía, featured annually in the Díganos Spanish-language section of CLASS!. Cash prizes were awarded in the amounts of \$125 for first prize, \$60 for second prize, and \$40 for third prize.

In addition to the awards, CLASS! also announced the winners of its four scholarships: The Sandy Thompson Memorial Scholarship for \$10,000, funded by the Greenspun Family Foundation;



Ariel Gove, a senior from Las Vegas HS, received the Sandy Thompson Memorial Scholarship from Gary Thompson.

two MGM/MIRAGE Diversity Scholarships for \$4,000 each, funded by MGM/MIRAGE; and the CLASS! Student Journalist of the Year Scholarship for \$500.

CLASS! would like to congratulate all the winners and extend our appreciation to all the students, teachers, administrators and community members who have participated with our organization this year. We also offer our heartfelt thanks to the Las Vegas Sun and its staff for its continued support of CLASS! and high school journalism in Clark County.



CLASS!'s Díganos editor Lina Hernández presents Janette Ureño, Vo-Tech HS, with the 1st Place award for the Concurso de Poesía.



The Bishop Gorman Lance newspaper staff won the award for 1st Place in layout for reduced format school newspapers.

CLASS! 2004 Journalism Award Winners

News Writing

- 1 Angela Jupp, Green Valley HS
 - 2 Daniel Steffey, Sierra Vista HS
 - 3 Lori Valiente, Las Vegas HS
- HM Rachel Hommel, Green Valley HS
HM Rachael Pearl, Coronado HS

Feature Writing

- 1 Lori Faber, Green Valley HS
 - 2 Angela Jupp, Green Valley HS
 - 3 Caitlin McGarry and Monique Ford, Centennial HS
- HM April Corbin, Las Vegas HS
HM Eric Noggle, Palo Verde HS

Editorial Writing

- 1 Lori Valiente, Las Vegas HS
 - 2 Rica Barris, Cheyenne HS
 - 3 Brady Johnson, LV Academy
- HM Severo Baltazar, Faith Lutheran HS
HM Yesenia Pena, Mojave HS

Column Writing

- 1 Toya Young, Las Vegas HS
 - 2 April Corbin, Las Vegas HS
 - 3 Davina Coady, Centennial HS
- HM Elyse Hughes, Green Valley HS
HM Jeremy Stoker and Linda Robinson, Foothill HS

Review Writing

- 1 Matt Blunk, Sierra Vista HS
 - 2 Rachel Hommel, Green Valley HS
 - 3 Angela Jupp, Green Valley HS
- HM Lori Valiente, Las Vegas HS
HM Natalie Minev, Community College HS

Sports News Writing

- 1 Jimmy Tran, Green Valley HS
 - 2 Solana Brooks, Cheyenne HS
 - 3 Jon Fortenbury, Foothill HS
- HM Riley Marriage, Coronado HS
HM Rebecca Webb, Centennial HS

Sports Feature Writing

- 1 Renee Kashka and Riley Marriage, Coronado HS
 - 2 Jimmy Tran, Green Valley HS
 - 3 Sierra Chambers, Centennial HS
- HM Danielle Klevgard and Ashley Barnes, Centennial HS
HM Tara Maguinness, Centennial HS

Sports Photography

- 1 Kaila Hart, Centennial HS
 - 2 Lindsay Congemi, Sierra Vista HS
 - 3 Marco Medellin, Bishop Gorman HS
- HM Renata Kloepfer, Faith Lutheran HS

Non-Sports Photography

- 1 Douglas Gonzalez, Community College HS
 - 2 Marlo Starr, Community College HS
 - 3 Drew Bennett, Foothill HS
- HM Tasha Lahera, Eldorado HS
HM Jason Emord, Sierra Vista HS

Art and Illustration

- 1 Kevin Ignacio, Coronado HS
 - 2 Kevin Bettencourt and Renata Kloepfer, Faith Lutheran HS
 - 3 Andrew Suriano, Centennial HS
- HM Thomas Powell, Las Vegas HS
HM Bert Burchette, Bishop Gorman HS

Editorial Cartooning

- 1 Thomas Willis, Las Vegas HS
 - 2 Andrew Suriano, Centennial HS
 - 3 Johnny Driggs, Coronado HS
- HM Severo Baltazar, Faith Lutheran HS
HM Katorrey Smith, Eldorado HS

Issue Layout: Tabloid

- 1 Bark!, Dec. 2003, Centennial HS
 - 2 Bird's Eye View, Sept. 2003, Foothill HS
 - 3 The InvestiGator, Feb. 2004, Green Valley HS
- HM Desert Breeze, Nov. 2003, Las Vegas HS
HM Coronado Roar, Oct. 2003, Coronado HS

Issue Layout: Reduced Format

- 1 The Lance, Feb. 2004, Bishop Gorman HS
 - 2 The Pony Express, Feb. 2004, Meadows HS
 - 3 Mojave Messenger, Dec. 2004, Mojave HS
- HM Crusader Chronicle, Feb. 2004, Faith Lutheran HS
HM The Lance, Jan. 2004, Bishop Gorman HS

PUBLISHER'S AWARDS

Advisers of the Year:

- Drew Linginfelter, Mojave HS
Nancy Thompson, Coronado HS

Principal of the Year:

- Andre Denson, Mojave HS

Student Journalist of the Year:

- Marlo Starr, Community College HS

Concurso de Poesía de Díganos

- 1 Janette Ureño, Vo-Tech HS
- 2 Patricia Gutiérrez, Vo-Tech HS
- 3 Gladis Barrios, A-Tech HS

MGM/MIRAGE Diversity

Scholarships

- Dennis Dizon, Silverado HS
Neal Morton, Community College HS

Sandy Thompson Memorial

Scholarship

- Ariel Gove, Las Vegas HS

FIRST PLACE WINNERS



Angela Jupp,
News Writing



Kevin Ignacio,
Art and
Illustration



Lori Valiente,
Editorial Writing



Toya Young,
Column Writing



Riley Marriage,
Sports Feature
Writing



Kaila Hart,
Sports
Photography



Thomas Willis,
Editorial
Cartooning



Douglas
Gonzalez,
Non-Sports
Photography



Lori Faber,
Feature Writing

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More than words

To the editor:

I agree with the story "Stand for the Pledge that stands for your freedom" by Amber Schirling [February 2004]. Many students don't respect their heritage. When the Pledge [is recited] in the morning, you will see most of the students stand, but you will also see some students who won't stand. Don't they understand that [the Pledge] represents the people who gave their lives to make our country what it is today? I think we should show as much respect for our great country as possible.

John Scafetta
Foothill HS

Pledge of respect

To the editor:

I just wanted to say thank you to Amber Schirling for writing the article, "Stand for the Pledge that stands for your freedom" [February 2004]. Hopefully, it will make people think twice when they hear the Pledge and don't stand. I hope we will see at least a slight difference in how many people stand and show respect for the soldiers who gave us our freedom. If it weren't for them, we wouldn't be allowed to choose to stand up or not.

Like Schirling said, it really is the least that we can do.

Reahana Senk
Foothill HS

Mars and Venus

To the editor:

"Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus" — is that really the case as the self-help book claims and as reported in the February issue of CLASS! ["Getting together when you're worlds apart," Brittany Porter, February 2004]? Physically, men and women are different, but even that can change. It's 2004, the millennium has passed and times have changed. Women no longer stay at home to knit and tend the kids, and men aren't out hunting and gathering to provide for their families. I think that men are put on Mars and women are put on Venus to sell books. Things that seem to justify the difference between a woman and a man are in fact stereotypes. The old traditions are out, and the line between masculine and feminine is blurring. Who can say what's manly and what's not when those so-called borders are crossed every day? I think men are from Earth and so are women. If men are from Mars and women are from Venus, then those planets must have collided.

Lauren Van Der Veen
Palo Verde HS

Waiting is worth it

To the editor:

I agree with the article "Men don't really want 'just one thing'" [Josh Sedillo, February 2004]. There are people in this world who don't believe in waiting until they're older to have sex. I think a person should wait until he or she is married and in love. Of course, many people don't agree with me, and that's perfectly okay, but that doesn't mean they have to disrespect themselves or others. Our society has the tendency to blame the male in a relationship if the couple has sex. I don't agree with that. Women can say no. People don't even stop to think that the female could have wanted sex. I know plenty of guys who have waited and continue to wait for the perfect moment and the perfect person.

Shivali Singh
Foothill HS

Teaching tolerance

To the editor:

I am writing in regard to the article about the denial of the gay-straight alliance club at Las Vegas High School ["Denial of gay-straight alliance may violate equal access regulations," Lori Valiente, March 2004]. Vo-Tech has attempted in the past to start such a club, but as of this moment, has been denied on all attempts. Meaningless clubs and organizations arise at school when a club of this magnitude is denied — a club that will educate those who are willing to listen and learn, with students who are willing to step away from society's views on homosexuality and finally bridge a gap and build an alliance.

Jeremy Cannon
Vo-Tech HS

Gay clubs inappropriate

To the editor:

I've noticed the gay awareness club issues heating up in CLASS! magazine as of late and wanted to shed some light for both sides. Whether homosexuality is seen as morally correct or incorrect in society is of no consequence; the point is that sexuality has not, to this point, been an allowable subject in publicly funded schools, and thus should not suddenly have clubs that represent it. Sexuality, in any form, is not allowed in schools, period. Until students are allowed to express their sexuality without reprimand in their schools, any club representing its practice, in whatever form, is not appropriate.

James Jobin
Silverado HS

The Passion

To the editor:

I wanted to respond to the article "Realistic, heart-wrenching 'Passion' brings audience to tears" by Samantha Bieber [April 2004]. I agree wholeheartedly with Bieber. She noticed the same flaws in the film I did, but the movie made a lot of people think. She stated that she heard from many people among the Jewish community that it would portray a bias against Jewish people. I believe that the Jewish people along with all the rest of humankind

need to realize that it wasn't the Jews that put Him on the cross. It was every single person that has ever lived on the face of this planet. Everyone sins, and everyone makes mistakes because nobody is perfect.

Sasha Jaykins
Shadow Ridge HS

Teens are not adults

To the editor:

I strongly agree with Heather Trujillo's opinion in her article "Teens should not be tried as adults" [February 2004]. Teens are not mature enough to know what consequences come from reckless decisions. Teens may be old enough to drive, and they may be old enough to make some of their own decisions, but teens are not mature enough to know whether their decisions are right or not.

John Stroud
Foothill HS

Looking good

To the editor:

I am writing concerning the article "Looking good doesn't mean looking like someone else" [Bobby Jerbic, February 2004]. I agree with the author; girls wear too much makeup, and it just makes them look fake to me. People are so consumed in vanity that it bothers me. Yes, you try to look good, but looking good doesn't mean changing yourself to appeal to others.

Dana Anderson
Foothill HS

Gay marriage debate

To the editor:

I recently read an article by Jeremy Stoker about gay marriage ["Same-sex couples seek fundamental rights," March 2004], and I'm extremely angry about it. In my experience, most high schoolers blindly support gay marriage without any background knowledge on the topic. To think that there is no way to justify banning gay marriage is not to know all of the facts on the issue. I'm glad that Stoker feels strongly about an issue and that he took the time to write about it, but I do think gay marriage harms me as it tears down marriage and everything I believe in.

Taylor Sellers
Mojave HS

Uniforms bring down barriers

To the editor:

I would like to say a few things about the article "School uniforms stunt teens' emotional growth" [Sydney Alford, March 2004]. The writer states, "What a person is wearing helps you determine from a distance whether you would be able to be friends with them or not." How will you ever know a person if you determine who that person is before he or she speaks two words to you? Yes, I agree that uniforms won't solve all school issues and most likely won't solve any, but if wearing uniforms will open somebody's mind up about another person, then maybe students should be required to wear them.

Barbara Tolbert
Sierra Vista HS

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**Eric Alder, Senior
Mojave HS**

"Eric has been an invaluable asset to the Broadcast Journalism program and to the school newspaper," says Mojave High School Assistant Principal Kevin McPartlin.

Eric Alder's talents cover the range from academics to athletics. While maintaining good grades, Alder also captains the varsity soccer team, where he has been a member for three years. Alder's athletic abilities also landed him a spot representing Mojave on the All-Northwest Division soccer team.

Perhaps Alder's greatest contribution to his school is in helping to establish its broadcast program. Every morning, Alder delivers the morning announcements to his entire school. He also keeps his school informed by writing articles on current events, politics and sports for his school newspaper. In fact, Alder hopes to combine his talents in broadcasting and reporting to pursue a career as a television anchorman, preferably with ESPN.

After graduation, he plans to study broadcasting first at Community College before transferring to UNR's broadcasting program.



**Hayley Croop, Sophomore
Faith Lutheran HS**

"Hayley is a role model for students because of her positive attitude, encouraging words and actions, and polite demeanor," says Glenn Rollins, principal at Faith Lutheran High School. "She exemplifies the model student in her creativeness, energy and dependability. Her articles published in this year's Crusader Chronicles showcase her faith and maturity."

Hayley Croop has made a big impact on her school, even though she is only in her sophomore year and is in her first year at Faith Lutheran. After spending her freshman year at Centennial High School, Croop took on the demanding curriculum at Faith and immediately became an active member of the student body. She represented Faith on the school's girls' soccer team this year, and was voted "Best Personality" for her class during Homecoming.

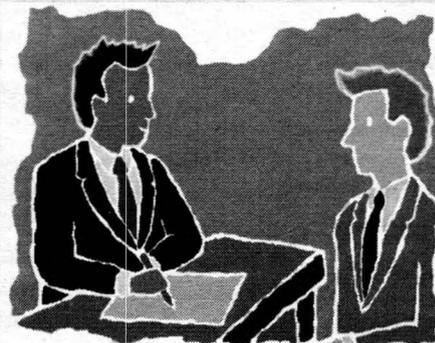
Croop's outgoing personality has made her a successful reporter for her school's newspaper. As a writer, editor and designer, Croop has created some of the most popular features in the publication. Her ability to use her creative talents to bring news, information and entertainment to her fellow students has made her an asset to her school. Since Croop has wanted to be a journalist since fifth grade, she plans to pursue her dream by studying journalism at an eastern university and becoming a magazine writer.

How to fill out a job application

If you follow these suggestions, you'll always be ready to fill out any job application:

- ✎ **Be prepared.** Always take a copy of your résumé, notes about where you've worked and what you did and a list of references. Take two blue or black ballpoint or roller ball pens and a bottle of whiteout.
- ✎ **Take your time.** Employers don't care how long it takes you to fill out an application. They do care about what it looks like and what it says. If it takes an hour, it takes an hour. Just do it right.
- ✎ **Read the whole thing before you start.** This might take a few minutes, but so what? After you read it, follow the instructions to the letter. If it says not to leave any spaces blank, fill them in.
- ✎ **Finish what you start.** If a question doesn't apply to you, write "does not apply," or "NA." Never leave a blank space. It's okay to copy word for word from your résumé. It's also okay to staple a copy of your résumé to the application when you turn it in.
- ✎ **Never lie.** What else can be said? Tell the truth.
- ✎ **Proofread.** If you make a mistake, use the whiteout and correct it neatly.
- ✎ **Look it over.** When you finish, read it word for word, then read it again. If you don't like the way it looks or sounds, ask for another application and start again.

The bottom line: Even though you complete applications by hand, they should be as perfect as you can make them. Make sure your application says, "This person would be a good employee," instead of "This person will do sloppy work."



© Job Jargon

This month's featured positions:

Crew Member

If you are interested in cashiering, ushering, concession and customer service at a movie theater, then this may be the job for you. Applicants must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 25 hours per week. The wage is \$5.15 per hour. Job Number: 7934

Weekend Receptionist

A motivated and friendly assistant is needed for customer service, answering phones and other general office duties. Applicants must have computer knowledge, be at least 16 years old and have a work permit, driver's license and a car. Workdays are Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., totaling 12 hours per week. The wage is \$9.00 per hour. Job Number: 7969

Receptionist

An assistant is needed for filing, answering phones and general office duties. Applicants must be at least 17 years old and have computer skills, a résumé and a work permit. Workdays are Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., totaling 25 hours per week. The wage is \$5.15 per hour. Job Number: 7953

Customer Service

If you are a motivated person with exceptional communication skills, you may enjoy a job in this high-volume retail store. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible. Job Number: 7970

Office Helper

An assistant is needed for filing, answering phones and general office duties. Applicants must be at least 16 years old, bilingual and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible on weekdays, Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., totaling 16 hours per week. The wage is \$7.00 per hour. Job Number: 7961

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.

By Stephanie Espinoza, Green Valley HS



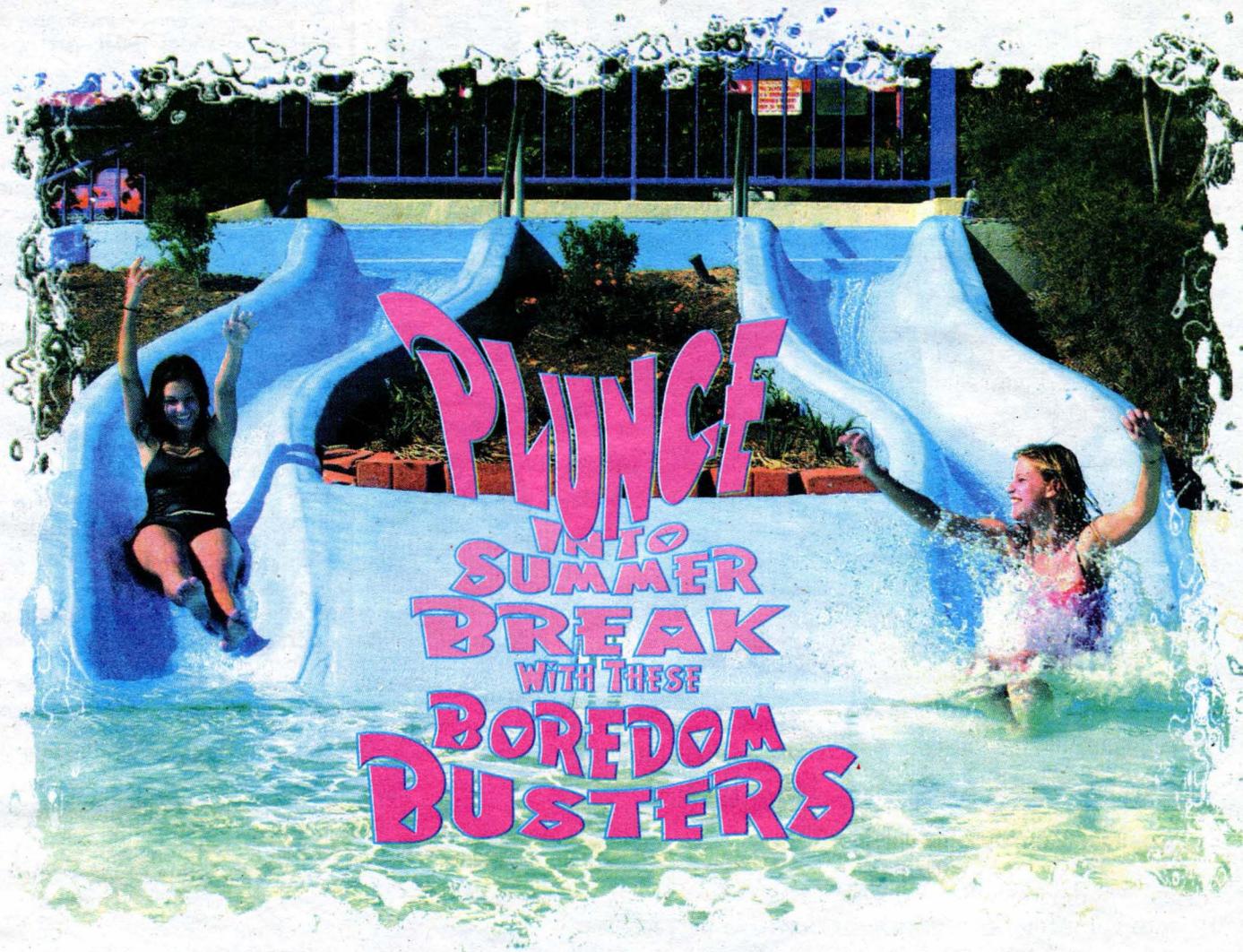
You just got back from a family vacation. Your friends are all still out of town. It's the middle of July, 120 degrees outside, and you find yourself so bored you're actually looking forward to the start of school and even homework.

Never fear — there is a cure for the lazy, dog days of summer. There are countless activities available to keep you busy, having fun, and staying cool over those three long months of break.

If you're not stuck in summer school or working 24/7, summer vacation can be a great opportunity to get things done with all that free time. How you spend your summer falls into one of the following categories: the active outdoor summer, the active indoor summer, the sedentary outdoor summer, and the sedentary indoor summer.

The active, outdoor summer

It's hot outside, but it's a dry heat. Maybe you want to enjoy that weather. Maybe you've got cabin fever and can't stand to be cooped up at home any longer. Either way, summer in the desert doesn't have to be enjoyed all at home.



- **Join a sports team.** One great thing about being off school is that you can play a sport without having to worry about it cutting into homework time. Going to practice offers a great opportunity to get exercise, socialize and do something fun. Going to the games offers a competition to strive for and even gives something for parents to do: watch you shine.

- **Jump into the pool.** To beat the heat, nothing's better

than a dip in a pool. Wet 'n Wild offers the same relief, though it may be cheaper to go to a local recreation center. If you've got transportation, a day trip to Lake Mead can be a great way to have fun.

- **Take a mini-vacation.** If you get really bored, find out what all the tourists know and plan a mini vacation to ... Las Vegas! You can spend the night at a local hotel with a couple of friends, get free pool

access and see all the sites.

The active, indoor summer

While three months would be the perfect time to finally get your room in shape, an active, indoor summer doesn't have to be indoors at home. The active, indoor summer involves anything from learning to helping to just doing something indoors — from getting a summer job at a place you enjoy, to taking a summer class for high



Sequels, as usual, dominate summer movie season

By Riley Marriage, Coronado HS

As the Las Vegas temperatures start to surpass the 100-degree mark, it would be wise to load up on the popcorn and ice-cold sodas and head down to the nearest movie theater.

While the pre-Oscar season was dominated by hobbits and war epics, with the release of much-anticipated sequels to

"Harry Potter," "Shrek" and "Spiderman," along with new films "Troy" and "Catwoman," the summer of 2004 is predicted to belong to the wizards, ogres, superheroes and ancient warriors.

Troy

Release date: May 14
Rating: PG-13
Brad Pitt. In armor. Need more be said?

Shrek 2

Release date: May 21
Rating: PG
Everyone's favorite ogre is back, and now having found love with Princess Fiona, Shrek gets to experience all the wonders of married life, including meeting his new in-laws. Starring the voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz and Eddie Murphy, this one is sure to be the big, family breakout.

school or for college, or even just for fun.

• **Take a class.** Ever wanted to learn ballet? Pottery? Underwater basket weaving (which is another great way to stay cool)? You can find all kinds of classes at your local recreation center, or you can start a hobby on your own. UNLV also offers summer classes from English to weight training, which are open to most teens with junior standing. The school district also offers a driver's ed course over the summer since many schools don't teach it during the regular school year. Got a little free time? Take your permit test. Learn to drive. Or if you already have your license, learn to drive better.

• **Volunteer your time.** Getting your wisdom teeth removed might take your mind off of the sun's rays, but you might prefer something more along the lines of a nice air-conditioned hospital to volunteer in. Sure, it will help your résumé and college application, but it will be helping others with your free time no matter where you choose to volunteer. As with a summer job, you can choose the place that's right for you.

• **Party!** Plan an indoor party. Give it a theme. Make it unique. It can be at home, at a café, at an arcade, or taken out to the Circus Circus AdventureDome theme park. The Fourth of July is a perfect excuse to have a get-together. But remember: fireworks are for outdoors.

The sedentary, outdoor summer

Sedentary basically means

"not moving," and you don't have to move to keep entertained, especially if you've been working hard the whole school year and need some serious relaxation.

• **Get a tan.** Kick back, soak up the rays and get a healthy glow, but remember to be smart, use sunscreen and avoid the most brutal hours of sunlight.

• **Read a book.** Find your favorite shady spot, throw down a blanket and crack open that novel you never had time to read during school (you know you've been dying to finish the latest "Harry Potter" book).

• **Make a movie.** Borrow your parent's camcorder, get your friends together, and exercise your creative talents with a movie to remember your summer break forever.

• **Play with your little brother or sister.** It doesn't have to be strenuous, just a game of catch or a trip to the park. You'll have fun reconnecting to them and to the little kid in you.

• **Walk the dog.** Maybe it's not totally sedentary, but a nice, leisurely stroll with man's best friend can be relaxing, especially if you do it at either early morning or evening when the weather will be coolest. To beat the heat, take Rover for a walk through sprinklers.

• **Open a lemonade stand.** Okay, so maybe this only works for 5-year-olds, but why not help a 5-year-old get some business experience? If you get the right permit, you can even arrange to sell food and drinks at sports games.

• **Have a picnic.** Invite all your friends or just someone you really, really like. It makes

a fun and inexpensive date experience.

The sedentary, indoor summer

A lot easier than not moving outside is not moving inside — where there are beds and chairs and sofas. While you don't want to become a lazy couch potato, some of the best things you can do over the summer include relaxing at home.

• **Catch up on reruns.** Now's your chance to catch up on your favorite sitcoms you missed during school. Feel the nostalgia of old Nick at Night and TV Land shows. Get back into those "Full House" and "Boy Meets World" episodes you adored as a child. Invite your friends and host your own video marathons of Disney, Tim Burton movies, or season one of "Malcolm in the Middle."

• **Be a mall rat.** Head to the mall to people-watch, munch on a pretzel, Build-a-Bear or get an aqua massage.

• **Enter a contest.** The anticipation of waiting for the results will give you something to look forward to during the summer. Go online and type "Contests" in a search engine, and the possibilities are endless. Somebody has to win, and it might just be you!

• **Do something creative.** Write a story. Paint a picture. Take some photos. Learn to play a musical instrument. Express your thoughts and feelings through your creative skills and have something to show for your summer.

All it takes is a little creativity to avoid summer boredom. In short, summer is long. It would be such a shame to waste that time in boredom just because you can't think of something to do.

When 'junioritis' strikes, say goodbye to summer break

By Natalie Minev, Community College HS



Gone are the days when I used to spend my summers loafing around the house listlessly. Those summer days of watching reruns from dawn until dusk are now only memories of my childhood.

As a junior in high school, I've learned to say goodbye to lazy, endless summers. With the future looming with everything from SATs to college applications, summers are just not what they used to be.

Teenagers everywhere have recognized the lazy and careless condition of senioritis; however, no one ever gives a thought to what I like to call "junioritis."

Basically, this disease catches on around the spring of your junior year, usually when you realize that standardized tests, college applications, unfinished high school credits, scholarships, community service hours, internships and jobs all pile up at a frightening speed.

Before you know it, you're listing ridiculous goals for your summer that would have been unheard-of when you were 12. For example, my things-to-do list for this summer consists of "Start college applications," "Volunteer for at least 50 hours for NHS," and "Go bowling 150 times to make up PE credit." Of course I'm exaggerating, but you get the picture.

For many juniors, summer seems to be increasingly academic and decreasingly fun. It's absolutely no wonder why many high school students seem to mentally and physically crash during their senior year. I can just imagine how lifeless, drained and lazy I will be after I finally know where I am going to college!

Until then, I'll have to deal with the insomnia and nerves that complement college preparation and applying to schools over the summer. We juniors can only dream of spending these upcoming months sitting around lazily watching cartoons, but I think in the end, all this tough work and sacrifice will pay off!

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Release date: June 4

Rating: PG

In the third installment of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, Harry begins his third year at Hogwarts. Sirius Black, an escaped convict from the wizard prison of Azkaban, is on the prowl and there is only one thing he wants: the famous wizard with the scar on his head.

Spider-Man 2

Release date: June 30

Rating: PG-13

It has been two years since

Spidey crawled onto the big screen, but Peter Parker is still facing the confusing dimensions of his "great power and great responsibility." Dr. Otto Octavius emerges to take on Spider-Man, and while nothing might ever top the steamy upside-down kiss of the original, Mary Jane returns to capture Peter Parker's love interest.

Catwoman

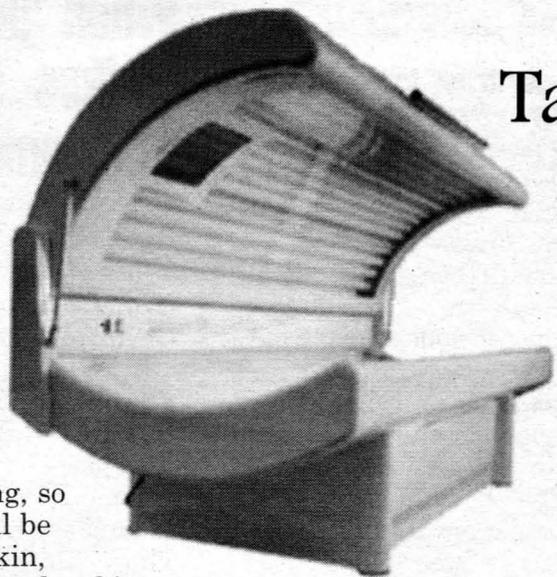
Release date: July 23

Rating: Not yet available

After being killed and brought magically back to life, Halle Berry gains feline abilities to aid her in the search for her murderer.



Based on the DC Comics' character, expect lots of leather and cleavage shots.



Tanning salons pose radiation dangers

By Laura Dembinski, Basic HS

Summer is coming, so that means we'll be seeing a lot more skin, and for some reason, the skin we'll be seeing is becoming more and more tan. A majority of these golden bodies are cheating the time spent out in the sun by going to one of the many tanning centers that Las Vegas has to offer.

The point of a tanning salon is to give a lot of "sun" in a little time. However, this means getting sun damage more quickly, too. Tanning beds use UV lights to provide the effects of the sun, so just as the sun does, UV lights increase your risk for skin cancer, also known as malignant melanoma.

In fact, malignant melanoma is more likely to be found in tanning booth visitors under 30 years old than in any other age group. These lights not only can damage your skin, but they can be very harmful to your eyes as well. The UV lights give off radiation that has the capability of burning the top layers of your cornea, which can lead to cataracts. Even worse is that you wouldn't feel the pain from it until several hours later. The radiation emitted in tanning booths is 100 times more dangerous to your eyes than being outside, and closing your eyes or wearing sunglasses will not block that radiation. Those goggles they give you are no joke; they're for your protection.

Jared Kuntz, a junior at Basic High School, not only enjoys tanning, but it's part of his uniform for work. Kuntz works at The Tan Factory and feels that going to a tanning booth is a "safer and faster way to get tan." He said the only complaint customers ever have is a simple rash similar to sunburn, but even that is uncommon there.

If you are a first time customer to The Tan Factory, you will have to fill out standard skin analysis forms. These forms mean the difference between a beautiful bronze color or a painful hot pink on your skin.

"The analysis will tell us how long the customers should stay in [the bed] according to their skin type," Kuntz explains.

Don't lie on these forms either because if you're taking certain prescription drugs, for example certain types of birth control, the beds aren't a good idea. Also, if you just got a tattoo, stay away from tanning places because your tats will fade much more quickly.

Despite all the warnings from the medical community, the tanning industry rakes in over one billion dollars a year and is still rapidly growing. The businesses are so popular in fact that some doctors are now admitting that the beds could actually be safer than the sun if, and only if, they are used correctly.

TIPS FOR HEALTHY TANNING

A tanning booth Web site provides the following four tips for keeping a healthy tan habit:

- Don't over do it. Start with short tanning periods and build your way up.
- Always wear the proper eye protection provided.
- Avoid direct contact with the bulbs.
- Always ask an expert any questions you have about tanning time according to your skin type.

Whether or not you believe the good or the bad ideas about tanning beds, there is no way to escape the hot, hot sun outside. So make sure you take the proper precautions before you lie on a bed with the real sun over you, or on a bed with fake, fluorescent "sun" all around you.

Sun survival: Get the glow without risking your hide

By Riley Marriage, Coronado HS



With bathing suit season in full swing, many people feel the need to get an accompanying bronze tan. While for a long time Barbie and "Baywatch" babes have sported the orangey glow, does it really mean it is healthy to get a tan?

Each time skin is exposed to ultraviolet rays, damage is done to individual skin cells and DNA. Some skin cells repair themselves by purging the dead DNA, while others turn cancerous. Ultraviolet light from sunlight weakens the

body's immune system and makes it difficult to destroy defective cells, which is why ultraviolet rays are the leading cause of skin cancer.

To avoid the sun's harmful rays, some people turn to tanning salons as a safer alternative, but are tanning salons really safe?

Sunlight contains a mix of UVA and UVB radiation, with some rays filtered out by the ozone layer before it reaches the Earth. In tanning salons, sun beds produce mainly UVA radiation, which doesn't burn the skin, but which penetrates deeper into the skin, giving longer-lasting color in a shorter time than the sun. However, the intensity of the ultraviolet radiation makes it equally as harmful as tanning in the sun.

Sunless tanning products are a safe alternative, as long as your skin does not have an allergic reaction to them. A chemical in these products, dihydroxyacetone, causes a chemical reaction in the dead skin cells on the surface of your skin, darkening their color. It takes about an hour for these products to work, and the tan can last up to seven days. Seemingly, the only danger in using these products is assuming that they replace sunscreen and being unknowingly exposed to the sun's rays without protection.

Sunscreen has proven to be the most effective solution to preventing sunburn and skin cancer. Sunscreen contains chemicals that block or absorb UVB radiation, protecting skin

cells from sun damage. The SPF number, or Sun Protection Factor, tells how long a person can receive the sun's rays before the skin is damaged. If it takes 10 minutes for a person to begin to tan or burn, then sunscreen with SPF 10 would allow that person to stay out in the sun for 100 minutes. A person who tans or burns in five minutes could stay in the sun for 150 minutes using an SPF 30 sunscreen. Most people don't realize, however, that sunscreen doesn't work on UVA rays, so the best bet is to avoid too much sun altogether.

While some might find tans attractive, is it really worth it to risk suffering skin cancer? Be wise, as this little rhyme offers good advice: SPF is better than death!

double talk

Outsourcing: Growing the economy or the unemployment rate?

FOR

Outsourcing not ousting opportunities

By Michelle Sneek,
Coronado HS

**Outsourcing
... cost cuts
enable the
consumer
to purchase
items at an
exceedingly
lower price**

Your new pair of Nikes and that hula girl taped to your dashboard both have origins far beyond your nearest Wal-Mart. In fact, they journeyed from as far away as China, Korea and Taiwan, as well as many other small Asian countries that house factories producing commonly used American items.

It has always been the "American Way" to pursue cheap and efficient methods of production to cater to overwhelming demand. Eli Whitney, a contender in the industrial revolution, invented the cotton gin, automating the cotton harvesting process. Subsequently, many blacks, who typically worked in Southern cotton fields, were no longer needed. Cotton, along with cloth, was rendered at an alarming rate. This seemingly simple contraption ultimately was a catalyst to producing different, cheaper and synthetic fibers. Outsourcing is no different.

Despite the many picket lines and relatively high rates of current unemployment, outsourcing benefits

the American people, as well as the country that receives the migrating conglomerate. Yet the benefits are not as easily seen as they were when the cotton gin was invented, although the average American can still compare prices and appreciate a bargain.

Due to the extremely low cost of labor overseas, it is often more economical to outsource jobs from menial labor to the most complex computer programming. These cost cuts enable the consumer to purchase items at an exceedingly lower price. If companies ignored outsourcing prerogatives, the American public would witness increasing prices.

When blacks as well as indentured servants were no longer needed because of quicker production methods, they dispersed to other areas and, in time, found another source of employment. Whether it was dealing again with agriculture or not, their focus was on something more essential. Perhaps they developed other machines that aided in productivity.

Similar things happened during the 1990s in America. Jobs were being outsourced, yet new companies continually developed in their stead. By discarding industries that can be easily catered to elsewhere, we make way for new technologies. Innovations like this have been exhibited as early as 12000 B.C. among hunters

and gatherers. As the populace became more agriculturally inclined and no longer had to scour for food, religions and technologies started occurring. This eventually developed into society as we know it.

Just like in the days of the cotton gin, Americans are still extremely industrious. We are an economic world leader for a reason. Items are produced overseas, and even within country boundaries, at an amazing rate. Assembly lines and machines enable companies to eliminate unneeded workers, thus increasing efficiency. This easily explains our growing economy, yet our lack of jobs. A depletion of the blue-collar workforce is not entirely due to just outsourcing, but also pure and cunning strides toward economic stability.

Outsourcing ultimately makes way for new industries. Without these new industries developing, America's unemployment rate will continue to increase. Instead of focusing on the horrors of distant companies employing foreigners, we should place more emphasis upon developing new and perhaps improved industries here. Producing more fuel-efficient cars, discovering a stable source of energy that can be harnessed like fuel, and even colonizing the moon are all speculated, up-and-coming industries that will indubitably employ thousands.

AGAINST

Outsourcing leaves American workers jobless

By Joey Sommers,
Coronado HS

Americans no longer compete solely among themselves for the jobs they trained for in college. In today's expanding free-market world, American workers are vying for jobs with people on different continents. With the majority of foreign labor costing a fraction of what labor costs in America, corporations see no interest in employing workers inside

the United States. Instead, they can "outsource," or send, the same jobs to another country and pay that person less for the same amount of work. While this may aid countries with struggling economies, what might it foretell of America's future?

Many of our manufacturing and software jobs are being sent overseas. For example, Nike and IBM have more than 50 percent of their product made outside the United States, and both plan to send more American jobs to countries like India and Mexico within the next 10 years.

Students studying in the technology industries, such as software development or computer program-

ming, are becoming too expensive for American companies to employ. In less than 10 years, India will have more college graduates enter the software industry than the United States. In 2003, India proclaimed Delhi, its capital, the "new Silicon Valley." Their current number of employees in the technology industry outnumbers that of those in California's Silicon Valley.

When today's high school students graduate from college, will there be jobs for them that will offer more than minimum wage? Find out what our legislators are doing to prevent jobs from being outsourced by calling them at the following numbers.

U.S. Sen. Harry Reid: 388-5020

U.S. Sen. John Ensign: 388-6605

U.S. Rep. Shelley Berkley: 220-9823

U.S. Rep. Jim Gibbons: 255-1651

U.S. Rep. Jon Porter: 387-4941

Teen girls suffer abuse, oppression in polygamous marriages

Taliban-like abuses toward girls allowed to persist in Western U.S.

By Amber Schirling,
Sierra Vista HS

Although we are a country that prides itself on its freedom, child protection and equality despite gender, America is home to a secret community practicing child abuse and the severe oppression of women. Members of this cult-like community are most commonly known as polygamists.

The thought that polygamy is a problem of the past is a common misconception. There are presently more than 100,000 people in the United States alone practicing polygamy virtually without consequence. This is a hard fact to fathom considering that polygamy was made illegal years ago.

According to the dictionary, polygamy is the practice of having more than one spouse at the same time. However, it goes much further. Polygamy is often related to many other serious issues such as physical child abuse, sexual child abuse, incest, denial of education, prejudice based on gender, underage marriage, welfare fraud, tax evasion, medical neglect, domestic abuse, mental torture and the trafficking of minors across borders for the intention of sexual activity.

In a typical polygamist society, young girls are married somewhere between the ages of 12 and 18, most commonly around the age of 15. Because of this, these marriages are illegal and should be considered sexual child abuse or statutory rape, as it would be in any other situation. The men these girls are forced to marry are many years older, somewhere in their mid-thirties to their late fifties and it would not be unusual for them to be stepsiblings or cousins. When it becomes unsafe to continue breeding in the same family for developmental hazards, girls are brought in from other communities to be married upon their arrival. For example, a case in

Colorado City, Ariz. displayed a 45-year-old man recently wed to a 15-year-old girl. The man had 23 other wives and 75 children.

Educational facilities only go up to the 10th grade, and girls are forced to study only certain subjects that will benefit them in their future endeavors as housekeepers and wives. Television, radio and other forms of media entertainment are banned in many of these communities, in fear of "radical ideas" being spread.

These frightening towns filled with old-fashioned and illegal lifestyles are not far from here, with the majority of them present in Utah and Arizona. Polygamy is also connected to strong religious cults claiming to be Christian or Mormon in faith. However, both religions discourage polygamy, and it is cause for excommunication from either faith.

What do polygamists have to say for themselves? According to the pro-polygamy Web site, Polygamy.com, they say that "polygamy removes the pressure from a husband to commit adultery, gives women a way to have a female friend for life, allows people to meet diverse needs, and provides less potential for state dependence and unemployment."

As for the oppression of women, how could polygamy possibly benefit a woman? According to these societies, since there is more than one woman to do the housework, cooking, cleaning and childrearing, it gives women more free time for themselves. This statement is the perfect example of how sexist this way of life is; it obviously views that the woman's job, and only the woman's job, is to cook, clean and raise the children of her poor, laboring husband. Women have fought for years to eliminate this very idea that the only place women belong is in the home.

Why aren't actions being taken against these cults even though they are clearly breaking

many laws? The practice of polygamy has been interwoven with the local communities in states such as Utah for so long that the American Civil Liberties Union, local chapters of the National Organization for Women and other groups are saying it should be protected as a religious freedom. Today, Utah's state government still refuses to take any preventative or proactive measures to rid Utah of polygamy.

As a nation, we cannot forget the thousands of children who are being forced into this Taliban-like way of life. Women are being subjected, exploited

and degraded every day. The governments of these polygamous states is ignoring the violations of these people's basic human rights.

This is not a problem that should be ignored or justified simply because of one's religion. Many serious crimes are being committed in these secluded towns that would be immediately punished if they were present in any other situation. It is time to open our eyes to this growing problem. Let it be known that this blatant disregard for American laws, oppression to women and abuse to children is not acceptable.

America's morals continue downward spiral

By Jessica Pyritz, Rancho HS

Why is it that people are falling into post-modernism and totally denying the existence of a God?

Post-modern people think there are no rules, nothing is moral or immoral and anything goes. These people are steadily spiraling downward. They are becoming negative balls of energy and have become so indifferent. In this new era, people are always looking for more and are never fulfilled because of their moderate views. A combination of a lack of self-respect, influence from the media and attempts to please everyone has promoted the fall of morality.

I truly feel that pop culture has contributed more than its share to the fall of morality. For example, Janet Jackson and Britney and Madonna would not have pulled their little stunts back in the Fifties. If they had, their careers would be over and they would have been shunned. The media have told society over the years that, in order to be accepted, we have to do certain things or dress a certain way. It's all about image, and people just want to live it up rather than focus on the important things in life.

I do not think that religious people are the only moral ones left, but I have noticed that they tend to hold themselves to a higher standard. I find that those who are actively involved in their religion are accountable for their actions, image and speech. I believe they are less likely to fall into the roles of society because they have something else that they live for, and they have a significant amount of self-respect.

"Good" is the new "bad" to a lot of people. Some parents are busy trying to protect their children from prayer in school and do not care that their kids watch offensive programs. People have become so disrespectful in their thoughts and actions that they've somehow made "God" into a swear word.

Mention anything good and you're condemned, but mention or do something that is inappropriate and you're commended. America is constantly trying to please everyone while at the same time contradicting itself. It is not ideal to keep everyone content; it will never happen.

Perhaps if we stop trying to make everyone happy and start laying down the law we could put down the shovel and jump out of this hole of unprincipled decisions. America needs a positive influence to help bring people out of their iniquitous state.

Prejudice, tolerance grow from same pain

By Ryan Foster, Centennial HS



Being half-Irish and half-Jamaican, I felt the urge to re-search African history online. I naïvely clicked on a Web site ad I thought interesting. It turns out I logged onto a white supremacy Web site and chat room. I could hardly believe the hateful, despicable slurs and statements made between chat room participants. They've never seen nor heard of me, but I can rest assured they'd rather see me dead.

My heart sunk deeper the more I read, though my mind was reassuring me this sickness isn't prevalent. And I want to make sure it stays that way. I've never come face to face with pure unadulterated hate; I hope I never do, frankly. I just want to take this opportunity to get my point of view across to those who have converted to hatred, without getting curb-stomped.

To anyone who subscribes to white supremacy, let me say this: I am not even about to rant or go off on a moralistic, humanistic tirade. I just want to tell you something about me. My goal is not to convert you or change your mind or tell you that your feelings are wrong or evil. If at the end of this you only wonder, great. If you simply ask yourself "Could I be wrong?" that's it. Here goes.

I was born on June 27, 1986 in Phoenix, Ariz. to Clinton and Margaret Foster. I'm what you may call a half-breed, Oreo, mulatto, peanut butter or chocolate milk. I like to call myself Ryan David Foster. I have never met, to my knowledge, a white supremacist. How, then, am I so familiar with the above mentioned terms? I didn't have to look for them. My elemen-

tary school, junior high and high school classmates and friends were proficient teachers.

At age 10, I was trying to get a swing, at 14 a lunch table, at 17, though my sense of self was strengthening, a true friend. Instead I had to settle for the monkey bars, for introversion (not a bad exchange I found), and for accepting those who would never accept me. You may be glad to hear this. I hope not.

Don't misunderstand me; I am blessed and thank God every morning and every night for my family and my health. And here's the point: All of us need and want other people for a sense of inclusion and belonging; everyone needs a friend. A person who feels excluded will act out negatively and shamelessly to get attention or psychological recompense.

I went through that stage in the sixth grade. I got C's, I got into fights, I was disrespectful to adults and I didn't know why. But I do know this: I hated the world as a whole and life in general, and as a result I projected that hatred onto random people in my relationships. I guess I was lucky. I was never sought after to join a gang or do drugs or drink. I swear if I had, I would have and now would not be here. I was broken inside. I had nowhere to go — except up, that is, and I did.

I learned to live with people and lived to learn about myself. I had poor math, English and science grades in junior high, and I ended up signing a "challenge" in order to take classes I "obviously wasn't capable of managing." I didn't even believe in myself at that point, but I wasn't about to be the dumb half-breed. I had so much to prove and I took every opportunity to prostitute my personality in order to gain more acceptance. Sure I had friends, but I guess you have to be a minority

to understand — is that a copout?

High school saw my personal growth in confidence and identity, which is good preparation for senior year when one of your closest friends calls you a half-breed. Few things hurt worse than that — pains that the sternest face must betray. I assume this emotion, what we'll call betrayal, has been felt by all at some point.

To wrap up this mourning session, let me say that every-

one bleeds. The same fear, hatred, betrayal, disgust, violence and rage you may feel, all may feel. So if by my very nature I am inferior, evil, whatever, just know that I'm just trying to put food in my mouth and fall in love until I can put food into my own little mouths and raise them to love as I was taught. This teaching took 18 years and snuck up on me. No dictums were ingrained here. I hope this has been though ... that's all. That's all.

Pledge doesn't reflect reality

By Beau Forbes, Durango HS



I stand for the Pledge of Allegiance because I believe it's a time to show respect and to express my pride in America. To say I do it every school day, though, would be a lie since I often use homeroom to read or finish homework. Still, I think I stand up enough to show my loyalty to America.

However, after analyzing the Pledge itself, I can also see why some other students do not stand up and repeat it. Let this article quickly guide you through a dissected and reviewed version of the Pledge.

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America ..."

That's easy enough to understand. This part of the Pledge just states one's devotion to the United States — no real problem here, unless a student is not American, such as a foreign exchange student, for example.

"And to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God ..."

What if an American doesn't believe in God? What if he or she praises Allah or calls upon a goddess? Maybe more people would say the Pledge if Congress hadn't added the words "under God" to it in 1954.

"Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The Pledge includes this statement even though our nation is divided on many subjects actually, such as war, abortion, gay marriage, and hundreds of other topics. Why would a gay man, who is denied the right to marry the person he loves, stand for the Pledge that falsely says that he has just as much liberty as a straight man? Or that he lives in an undivided nation? Why would he pledge a lie?

I do believe that those few students who say that the reason they don't stand for the Pledge is because they don't want to "conform" or be "on a set schedule to show their respect" are just trying to get some attention. Thinking that the government set up the Pledge to see how well people would conform is just plain asinine and doesn't make a good reason not to say the whole one-minute passage.

Nonetheless, after reviewing the Pledge, it's easy to see why some people don't stand up for it, much less say it. Even this debate on our country's Pledge shows the division among us as a nation. Until the United States really has equal rights for all and is agreeing on all subjects, why should one pledge (or lie) that it is?

It's unfair to judge people on whether or not they stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance because, in these times, there are many obvious reasons not to.

Wal-Mart labor abuses roll back workers' rights

By Mytae Carrasco,
Bishop Gorman HS

The big, yellow smiley face is usually seen on "Rollback" products in Wal-Mart stores and, as everyone knows, if you are looking for cheap prices and good deals, Wal-Mart is the place to be. Why would people go anywhere else when Wal-Mart superstores have everything? People can get their hair cut, walk over to the produce department and then get their detergent in aisle 12 — what a concept!

As a result of its success, Wal-Mart is one of the biggest corporations in America right now, but in many communities, the company's success is a leading example of how big businesses take over small businesses, and how abuses can be the result.

"I'd like to see the biggest corporation in America treat its



workforce more fairly," says Dr. Jeffrey Crouse, a Bishop Gorman High School teacher who has done extensive re-

search on Wal-Mart.

The majority of people who work at Wal-Mart are women. Some statistics show that the same number of women who were able to move up in managing positions is the same as it was in 1975. As a result, former female employees have filed a lawsuit against the company to recover wages and damages. Wal-Mart has also been accused of other labor violations as well.

"The retailer awaits results of a federal probe in Pennsylvania into whether it knew contractors hired to clean stores

were using illegal workers," says a USA TODAY article from January 2004. "It also is awaiting a court decision on class-action status for a sex-discrimination lawsuit filed by six women who say they were paid less than men for the same work."

The article also reported the results of a labor audit that reviewed more than 25,000 employee time-clock records. The audit revealed more than 1,000 instances of minor-aged employees either working later or longer than the law allows. The records also showed 60,000 instances when workers didn't clock out for breaks and 15,000 instances when employees didn't clock out for mealtimes. Wal-Mart officials claim that the audit is invalid because it does not reflect times when employees forgot to clock out, which they say is a common occurrence. Representatives of the retailer state that standard company rules require that all employees receive breaks.

According to Crouse, Wal-Mart uses political influence to avoid problems.

"They will try to get in good with county supervisors or city officials through lobbyists and other things," says Crouse. "They make sure to get permission to create a superstore, regardless if the local population



Who pays the price for the yellow smiley-face's roll-back deals?

wants one or doesn't want one."

Another question to consider is how Wal-Mart can have so many stores and so many employees, yet sell their products so cheaply.

"It is because they are paying their workers such a pitiful amount of money," says Crouse. "They are paying them minimum wage or slightly above.

[The company offers] healthcare [for employees] to buy, but with those wages, you just can't do that."

While Wal-Mart is one of the richest companies in America, it prevents its workers from organizing into unions to fight for higher wages. For example, employees at a Texas Wal-Mart superstore actually got through all the obstacles toward unionizing the meatpacking department at their store. Wal-Mart's response was to close the department and sell only pre-packaged meat, making the meatpackers unnecessary. Wal-Mart officials say the changeover to pre-packaged meat was unrelated to the union effort.

Wal-Mart can also be considered anti-capitalistic because small businesses cannot compete with Wal-Mart's cheapness of goods. How can single, small grocery stores go against the largest corporation in America? They are wiped out, leaving consumers only one choice for their shopping needs. If the American economy depends on capitalism and free-market competition, then how does Wal-Mart operate this way, which is non-competitive?

Also, Wal-Mart is one of the largest employers in the country. If people are so unhappy with Wal-Mart, then why do so many choose to work there? Simple: If Wal-Mart has destroyed the competition in an area, people have little choice but to work there. Any job is better than no job.

Regardless of how tempting the big, yellow, smiley "Rollback" face can be, the ethical question to consumers remains: Who is really paying the price for that great Wal-Mart deal?

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SHE SAYS

Yadda yadda yadda: Should English be America's national language?

Cultural understanding begins with common language

By Alex Derringer, Rancho HS

It makes me upset that some people believe that they don't need to speak English because this is a free country. I believe that it is absolutely necessary for people to take the time to learn to speak our language. Right now, not speaking English isn't illegal; however, it is much more difficult to live in America if you only speak a foreign language.

The main reasons why we should speak English in the United States are the many benefits a person gains in the choice of careers or colleges. If a non-native person already speaks his or her country's language, plus learns English too, then he or she would get even better career opportunities by being bilingual. In addition, it doesn't matter how well a person speaks English; it only matters that he or she can speak and understand it as well as possible.

Currently, it is each person's decision whether he or she should learn English or not. However, English-speaking Americans should not be held accountable if they work at McDonald's, for instance, and someone requesting a Happy Meal in Spanish becomes upset because the employee cannot understand the request.

While it is each person's responsibility to learn English or not, think of all the stress people would leave behind if everyone spoke English. Choosing not to learn English sets up a life that will be a maze of letdowns and despair. Plus, the government only helps non-English-speaking immigrants with their problems to a certain extent, leaving many frustrated.

Learning English will benefit newcomers to America in many areas of life, so why not?

Diverse languages keep America free

By Megan Tapp, Rancho HS

In the United States, the languages used vary due to all the different ethnicities we have. Who's to say these people coming from different countries MUST speak English?

It's highly understandable for the people in China to expect me to speak their language if I go to their country because Chinese is their set language. When someone comes to America from another country, though, how can we say that they have to speak English? Nowhere is it stated that English is the official language of the United States.

Whatever happened to America being the land of the free? To my understanding, in order to cross any border legally to come to the United States, a person must undergo certain tests and vaccinations that are required by the government. If the government felt a person should or must know English in order to come here, wouldn't they enforce that as well?

Learning a different language is one of the hardest things a person can do. Why should a person coming from Mexico, Japan or anywhere else have to learn English if they can get by just as well without it? If the government forced everyone here to speak, write and read English, we would no longer have as free a country as we have now.

Since America is a free country, a person from another country who doesn't speak English can still enjoy life here. For instance, a person from Mexico can make it here without knowing English. Our government helps those immigrants live a normal life by assisting them in getting a job and supporting their families while obtaining their citizenship. They can do this without having to wake up every morning worrying about what they will feed their children for breakfast or how they will pay to get their children to school.

America is a free country and our free society is what brings people here from all over the world. If we consider ourselves a free country, we should allow immigrants to live here happily with the right to speak however they want.

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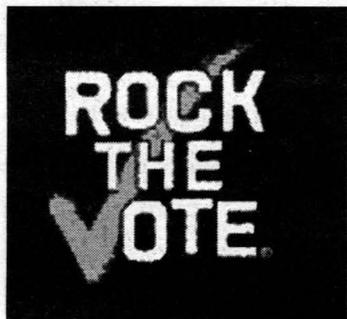
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Voting is easier than you might think

By Rob West, Basic HS

Have you ever wondered how to vote? It's easier than you think. To vote in Nevada, a person must be 18 years old, be a U.S. citizen and be a resident of Nevada for 30 days before the election. Even if you are not 18 yet, you can still register as long as you turn 18 before the next general election on Nov. 2. The last day to register to vote for the general election is Oct. 12.

There are a few different ways to register. The easiest way is to go to one of the many voter registration Web sites already up and running, such as RockTheVote.com. At this site, click on the "Register to Vote" tab on the home page and you will see a picture of a young woman who will start you on the process of becoming a voter in the great state of Nevada.



Another way to register would be to go down to the Clark County Election Department at the Clark County Government Center on 500 South Grand

Central Parkway, First Floor, Suite 1117. There, you can sign up in person with officials who make it as quick and painless as possible for you. The Election Department also has its own Web site at www.co.clark.nv.us/election where you can find out about the many different methods available for registering to vote.

After you do finally choose a place to register, you also have to decide if you want to declare affiliation with one of the many political parties out there, as your political party affects how you can vote. Some of these parties include the Republican, Democratic, Green and many smaller parties that all take a particular stand on certain issues. To find out more about these parties, check the links on the Election Department Web site. If you don't want to be associated with any of these parties, you can register nonpartisan.

After that, you should receive voting information and a sample ballot in the mail. Take time to get educated on the issues, and then head out to the polls and cast your vote for our country's future.

"Every young person should go out and vote," says Basic High School social studies teacher John Wallace. "It's their constitutional right."

MTV's 'Choose or Lose' helps teens get voting facts

By Stephanie Hernandez,
Las Vegas HS

With the 2004 presidential election just around the corner, it is around this time that new campaigns arise to get younger voters out to the election polls. One such campaign is MTV's "Choose or Lose 2004," which is trying to get unprecedented numbers of young people to the voting polls this year.

Through a vigorous ad campaign, various shows on MTV and a Web site, "Choose or Lose" organizers plan to encourage the youth of the United States to get involved with the political process during this election season.

The truth is that only about 28 percent of 18-24-year-olds voted in the last election. According to an article on Foxnews.com, "Young voter turnout diminishing at polls," about 8.4 million 18-24-year-olds voted in the 2000 presidential election, and according to the "Choose or Lose" campaign, about 18 million 18-34-year-olds voted in the last presidential election in total.

"[Young people] don't think that their voice is powerful enough to make a difference," says Las Vegas High School senior Monela Beroni on why voter turnout is so low.

However, campaigns like "Choose or Lose," "Rock the Vote" or "Get Out The Vote," all nonpartisan organizations developed to encourage youth to use their voting rights, seem to disagree.

"Choose or Lose" made it a goal to reach the 20-million mark of 18-34-year-old voters this presidential election. Officially, the "Twenty Million Loud" movement is a national campaign of organizations mobilizing more than 20 million young adults, age 18 to 30, to vote and be a deciding factor in the 2004 presidential election.

However, most young people don't actively involve themselves in the political process. The truth is that most young people would like to vote and involve themselves in the great right on which this country was founded, but don't know how or feel like their vote won't make a difference.

Las Vegas High School senior Teinesha Irvey says, "I want to [vote], but I don't know how. I don't know about the voter registration papers."

This is why nonpartisan organizations are being developed to help youth in making the big decision of whom they will choose to be the next leader of the United States.

One such nonpartisan organization is the Youth Vote 2000 Coalition, which is the leading organization in the tidal wave of organizations that have been developed to help youth vote in upcoming elections.

Its main goal, as stated on its Web site, www.youthvote.org, says, "The Youth Vote 2000 Coalition is the largest nonpartisan coalition ever created to encourage the civic and political participation of America's young adults. The Coalition was developed during the 2000 election cycle and will continue to work to reverse the declining political engagement of America's youngest citizens ..."

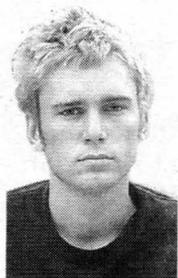
According to a study done by Youth Vote 2000, people who received one informational phone call from a "Get Out The Vote" campaign were actually eight percent more likely to vote than those who did not receive a call.

In the study "Getting Out the Youth Vote: Results from Randomized Field Experiments," Professor Donald P. Green and Associate Professor Alan S. Gerber of the Pew Charitable Trust state, "For young voters, nonpartisan contact represents a bridge to electoral participation. They sense that the election is important, but many regard themselves as spectators. They need the authentic encouragement of a peer to become a participant."

By going to www.mtv.com/chooseorlose, anyone who wishes to vote, yet needs that extra information before making a decision, can go on the Web site and find information on anything from the candidates and the issues they support to voter registration sites.

"If it's available, yeah, why not go [to the Web site]?" asks Las Vegas High School senior Jamie Schmitt, who will vote for the first time in this election.

"Choose or Lose" does not work alone, however. They want voters to be informed with the best information, so if the site doesn't contain what a potential voter is looking for, "Choose or Lose" has many links to various other nonpartisan organizations that will supply anyone with information on voting.



Stop Bush before its too late

By Daniel Steffey, Sierra Vista HS

George W. Bush has been our president for more than three years now, and his administration is damaging this country more than any other in recent history. His environmental policies hurt more than they help, public education and health care are worsening, and his foreign policies are out of control.

Bush has passed a large amount of legislation that is designed to help our environment, but very little of it actually does. Bush's cabinet is made up of about 36 people who have ties to the oil industry, so it is no surprise that he proposed the idea of drilling for oil in Alaska.

Bush also pushed through Congress the Healthy Forests Restoration Act that was supposed to help "clean up" forests across the country. People were misled into believing this would help prevent fires in the future, which is true in a way because the act allowed loggers to go in and cut down a huge amount of trees.

Public education is also a big issue, and Bush's policies are directly affecting Clark County schools. The No Child Left Behind Act was made to help younger students from the start and hold the schools that do not meet certain standards accountable for the students' failure. This is financially damaging to many schools. Schools all over the country are having their funds cut because of the Act, and due to this, some schools are withdrawing the lowest performing students, just to keep adequate funds.

At the same time, Bush has increased school funding by 59 percent; however, most of this money goes to schools where students perform at higher levels, while inner city schools are often ignored. The best solution to this problem would be to spread the money out accordingly between inner city and suburban schools, and help all the schools.

One thing that would greatly reduce the cost of health care for senior citizens would be allowing the importing of prescription drugs from Canada. However, Bush does not want this because it would take away profits from the American pharmaceutical companies and cause greater competition between them.

At a time when 40 million Americans are living without health care in the United States, and with many senior citizens not able to afford quality health coverage, the only reasonable solution would be to create a nationalized health care system.

It is not likely that will be done with the current state of the country; however, it would be good to at least take steps toward actually making a better, more quality, health care system for the elderly. Allowing the importing of prescription drugs from Canada would almost cut Medicare bills in half, which is a rather large step toward a better system.

One of the biggest issues concerning Bush's presidency is foreign policy. Since Sept. 11, the United States has been involved in many affairs around the world. Countries involved include Afghanistan, Iraq and North Korea, just to name a few.

The Bush administration's decisions on foreign affairs continuously break international law. The war in Iraq was not supported by the United Nations. This forced the United States to spend billions and billions of more tax dollars to fund the invasion.

The reason for the war in Iraq was because Saddam Hussein allegedly had weapons of mass destruction. No weapons have been found. Both George W. Bush and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell are under tremendous pressure. Powell has even come out and said that he may have been wrong about Hussein's stockpile of weapons.

With an election coming up at the end of the year, it will be interesting to see what the outcome will be. Will Bush steal another election? What kind of strategies will the presidential candidates use during their campaigns? Will Bush come under more pressure because of the failing war? We'll just have to wait and see.

Bush policies right for America's future

By Melissa Butler and Amber Schirling, Sierra Vista HS

Many people have opinions about President George W. Bush. In a time that is filled with international chaos, we should be proud and thankful to have such a dedicated and caring president looking out for our best interest. Health care, education, environment and foreign policy have been controversial issues in Bush's administration.

The quality of health care in America has slowly deteriorated. Bush is taking steps toward modernizing and strengthening health care. His policy is designed to improve accessibility, affordability and accountability for every American. One of the solutions Bush has designed to improve health care is to help all Americans get affordable health care coverage and ensure access to doctors.

He is taking steps toward allowing patients the choice of doctors, hospitals or treatment centers and providing full coverage for disease prevention. The president's budget backs up his agenda with investments, expansion and health care.

President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act supports resources for early childhood education so that all students get the correct start in reading and math. By providing options over failing schools, children will no longer be trapped in schools that continue to fail. If a school does not improve, children will be able to transfer to higher-performing local schools, receive free tutoring or attend after school programs. The Act was passed with an overwhelming bipartisan majority and is already showing results for America's children.

The protection and conservation of our environment is crucial. President Bush supports this and believes that making improvements to our environment is not just a personal responsibility, but also it is a public responsibility! The President has launched initiatives that express this commitment. By almost every indicator, environmental quality in the United States is improving with cleaner air, water and land. Bush is aware that the federal government has an important role to play and with his new and innovative policies, these goals can be achieved. Over the past two and a half years, the Administration has introduced initiatives that have already begun to deliver significant environmental results for all Americans.

"When government, landowners, conservationists and others work together, we can make dramatic progress in preserving the beauty and the quality of our environment," says Bush on his campaign Web site.

The most opposed issue regarding Bush's presidency is that of his current and past foreign policies. Some insist that since we have yet to find weapons of mass destruction, they do not exist. This makes no sense; there are many possibilities to where these weapons could be. Whether they have been buried, sold or destroyed, it does not change the fact that they once were in existence.

President Bush can point to a growing body of evidence that shows there was cooperation between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda. Hussein has many suspected ties to al Qaeda as a supporter and benefactor. President Bush's decision to invade Iraq was one based on concerns for our national security and responsibility to promote peace throughout the world. Bush's past foreign decisions have proven to be effective and necessary.

No terrorist attacks have occurred on U.S. soil in more than two years. This absence of attacks is due to the President's decisions on security, intelligence upgrades and increased cooperation with foreign governments. In a free and open society, you can never guarantee total security, but it is obvious that Bush has taken every precaution in protecting our home.

President Bush is a respectable and devoted leader who is committed to his country and the citizens of the United States of America. Bush is making improvements to promote peace and provide safety for the American people. He is working toward a better tomorrow with changes in education, the environment and health care. Become informed about our president's strengths and policies.

Current negative campaigns add nothing to election

By Brett Lofgren,
Faith Lutheran HS

As of a few months ago, the election campaign of 2004 commenced. Thanks to my being able to vote this year, I have paid much more attention than the years before. A new will to vote justly had sparked inside me, so I began watching the campaigns, but what I found was disheartening.

First, I've noticed that the news, whether on CNN or Fox, covers little but the election. This, at first, was helpful, but after finding the coverage trivial, I stopped watching.

During this time, the negative comments among the candidates really began to annoy me, which led me to really appreciate John Edwards' slogan vowing not to talk poorly against his running mates. I think that's a very brave thing to do in a time filled with politicians broadcasting their childish banter.

A few days ago, I saw an anti-Bush ad on TV. In it, a man with the initials GWB on his boots, of all places, pulled a rug out from under some elderly people and caused them to fall and hurt themselves. Later, the ad explains that this is what President Bush does to the elderly. This may just be me, but I sincerely believe that Bush has never done this, and in his lowering Medicare funding, which the commercial implies, he had his reasons.

The thing that angers me the most about all this is that the person being poked fun at is our president, the main representative of America to other countries. What will other countries think if we make fun of our own leader? We can't sit back and allow even the slightest of his mistakes. We just have to point out every little minute problem he has and make fun of him in front of an audience of millions. The president is our leader, and he is a man to whom we all owe a great deal.



Young people have much at stake in election

By Dylan Doherty,
Durango HS

Too many young people in this country do not vote. In the last election, 68 percent of citizens between the age of 18 and 24 stayed away from the voting booths according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

An example of this attitude can be seen at Durango High School. Students do not seem to care whether or not their future is put into the hands of a capable government. Out of 200 Durango students polled, only 16 percent said politics mattered to them a great deal. Sixty-eight percent said politics did not matter to them at all. Maybe they think they're too young to care, or maybe they think that the government has little to do with them.

What if the next president decides to sign a bill for random drug testing at all public high schools? How about if he asks for a bill to be passed that would require proficiency testing in even more subject areas before a student could graduate? These are the types of issues that could affect high school students when a new president enters (or the current one stays in) the White House.

So how do we change the apathy with which so many young people view politics?

Vote if you can, and bring a voting-aged friend with you! If

the number of young adults who vote, rather than those who don't, reaches 68 percent, the politicians would surely take notice of what they had to say. They might even show more concern for issues affecting young people if they knew that the youth were watching — and voting.

Higher education provides many with the opportunity to succeed. However, it is getting more expensive. The presidential candidates have different ideas on how to ease the burden of college tuition. President Bush, for example, plans on increasing the number of Pell grants to first time college-goers, and to make all qualified tuition savings plans tax-exempt. U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), running for the Democratic Party presidential nomination, said he would make public universities free for everyone. Although Kucinich's plan would certainly benefit many college-bound students, he only received two percent of the vote in the New Hampshire primary. Perhaps young voters could have made a difference.

Along with education, teens should be concerned with another important issue: the draft. Given America's current involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, there have been whispers that the draft could be reinstated. If that happens, all

males 18 and older could potentially be called upon to serve in the armed forces. Vote! Then at least you will have a say in something that could drastically affect your future or that of someone you love.

While insurance for the elderly may not seem like a youth-oriented issue, it will impact the soon-to-be work force. Medicare is paid through payroll taxes; thus, a generation pays for the one before it. Our generation is facing a major problem: "Baby Boomers," the generation now preparing to retire. There are a lot more of them than there are of us, and we have to pay for them. So, if Congress decides to increase Medicare benefits by increasing payroll taxes, we will lose more out of our paychecks. We can stop that from happening, but only if politicians fear losing our vote if they ignore our will.

Youth have the numbers to affect the outcome of political races, but they must get those numbers to the voting booth in order for their size to matter.

So, when Election Day comes on Nov. 2, go out and make your voice heard. Show an interest in politics so politicians will in turn show an interest in issues that matter to you and your peers. Then, when you're 25, run for Congress! We sure could use some younger people there.

Teens *can* make a difference in this election year

By Karla Vega, Clark HS

For the past three years, we have seen a lot of problems in America, from Sept. 11 to the war in Iraq to a failing economy. All that can change this year by kicking George W. Bush out of office. We have seen nothing but disappointment from the Bush administration. That's where we come in.

What can you do? If you are 18 years of age, then register to vote. Just go to your local post office and register. It's not that hard. Why is it important? Look at everything that has gone wrong. It's so important to vote; this is the one opportunity that you and millions of other teenagers like your-

self get to take a stand on whom you want in the president's office.

Many people think that teenagers have not one single care about what is going on in our country, which is just not true! I'm not just talking to seniors, but to every high school student, whether you can vote or not. It's important to understand that if we want a change in this country of ours, we have the job to vote or become politically active if we can't vote, and make sure that we are being heard. Every single vote counts for this election.

Remember we are the future, and it is up to you and me to take a stand on what we want for our country. That is the beauty of democracy — we have a choice.

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Students, teachers sound off on upcoming election

By Caitlin McGarry and Monique Ford, Centennial HS

It's all over the news: talk about Kerry this, Nader that. What about Bush? And what does it all mean? Here's what's going on: There's a presidential election later this year, and many students will be able to participate in it, so they need to know the facts.

"In order for a democracy to successfully respond to its citizens, voters must be actively involved in the political process," says Mrs. O'Donnell, an AP U.S. History teacher at Centennial High School. "[They] must educate themselves on all of the candidates and their stances on issues."

"It's going to be a very close election," adds David Fish, an AP U.S. Government teacher at CHS.

Sen. John Kerry, the Demo-

cratic Party frontrunner, believes that the U.S. government should go back to the international community and to the United Nations and offer a real partnership in Iraq.

Kerry also aspires to help students get quality educations. His "I Have A Dream" scholarship will give \$1,000 to those who sign up for college prep programs. Along with Kerry's emphasis on pre-college planning, he also wants to increase the number of Advanced Placement courses offered nationwide, allowing juniors and seniors to obtain college credit while still completing high school.

"I would vote Kerry just to get Bush out of office because his foreign policy dictates to other countries and only caters to America's needs," says German foreign exchange student Alex Bindheim.

"I think President Bush is doing a good job," says Centennial senior Dane Bowen, a newly registered Republican. "It's good to keep other countries in check but not to go too far, [and] I don't think he went too far."

It is now clear that Kerry will be named the official Democratic nominee at their convention in July, and President George W. Bush is considered a shoo-in for the Republican nomination. With a seemingly improving economy and the recent capture of Saddam Hussein, Bush's approval rating has hovered around 50 percent.

Ralph Nader, an independent candidate, who many might recognize as the Green Party's candidate from the 2000 election, is considered to be the "dark horse" of this year's race.

"We can't afford to have Ralph Nader in the race," says Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe on CNN.com. "He could pull away votes from the Democratic candidate."

In recent polls that included Nader, Bush was leading at 48 percent with Kerry at 46 percent and Nader at 6 percent.

"I think [Bush] is doing what he believes in," says Fish. "I do think he jumped the gun with Iraq and should have done a better job getting U.N. support. I think people have the perception that he's done so



much on foreign policy that [they] think he should focus more on domestic [issues]."

"Bush tries hard. He's not perfect. I don't agree with all of his

policies, but I'm going to vote for him," says Centennial senior Preston Mathews.

The issues of gay marriage and abortion have become debatable topics for this year's election. Kerry has been a strong pro-choice advocate, and while he doesn't personally support gay marriages, he believes it is an issue that should be reserved for the states to determine.

Bush, however, has publicly announced his desire to amend the U.S. Constitution so that the definition of marriage is clearly between a man and a woman.

"I like the fact that [Bush] is against abortion and doesn't want gay marriages," says Mathews.

"I could care less about civil liberties," says Bowen. "I am voting for George W. Bush because he's willing to let me keep my money instead of donating it to crack addicts."

With such a wide variety of candidates and ideas to choose from, teens have the option of finding one that addresses their needs. The upcoming elections will provide an opportunity that many students have never had — a chance for input where none was allowed before.

Political distance, distrust could keep youth vote at home

By Breanna Stock, Coronado HS

It is Election Day in the United States, and the polls are swarming with your average middle-aged soccer moms and retired war veterans. If you are lucky, you might see some 20-something college kids ready to voice their opinions on the presidency.

So what are the reasons behind 18-25-year-olds deciding not to vote? A few come to mind. Many young Americans believe that their single votes will not have an effect on the outcome of an election. This is far from the truth. One vote or a thousand votes could determine a winner (depending on the Electoral College).

This age group seems to have a strong distrust in the government. American people have the divine right to vote whomever they want into office. This is just a dream to citizens in other countries. The 1972 election was the first time in American history when people 18 and over could vote. Only 50 percent of them showed up at the polls. Since then, about 30 percent of people aged 18-25 voted in the last election. Maybe the youth of America believes no one is listening or they lack faith in what politicians promise.

Because these voter turnout rates are dropping, many efforts have been made to discourage voter apathy. TV programs such as "Rock the Vote" on MTV get the word out on tons of election-related information. They let viewers in on who is running for office and what some of their platforms are. Also, Web sites like "Yvote2000" promote First Amendment rights and give praise to those who decide to vote.

My only answer to this ongoing problem is to just vote. Read up on the politicians and see what they stand for. Complaining that the government does not care or does not listen will not get you anywhere. If you're 18 or older, stand up for your rights and exercise them freely. Put your pride aside and hit the polls on Election Day!

Never Forget That Night

By Courtney Caron, Community College HS

Dirty; even after many showers,
For all control was taken away;
Someone was hurt, the worst conceivable way;
"No" was said but it held no powers;
Now the victim turns away and cowers;
Although she could do nothing, thought does stay,
Of more that could've been done, to keep this day
From happening; hate high as the Sears Tower,
Disturbed in life always — CONTROL in mind!
Never revealed her truth, out of sheer fright;
She keeps bottled up; hopes to put behind
All bad; but she never forgot that night;
Nothing was done, with no justice to find;
Attacker is free, next victim in sight!

Author's note: Summer is coming which means a lot of free time, later curfews and parties. Before you go out, please remember this: A woman is raped every two minutes in the United States. If you do go somewhere and you have an unsure or bad feeling about a person or situation, GET OUT AND GET AWAY! You are probably right and need to leave immediately. Try never to put yourself in a situation where "someone was hurt, the worst conceivable way!"

Safe Place offers a home away from home for teens in trouble

By Harmoni La Huillier,
Sierra Vista HS

I need a safe place." This simple sentence may be the most important five words teenagers could say in their entire lives. It may mean the difference between becoming statistics in the death rate of homeless and runaway teens, or getting to a place that will protect them and help them onto the path to getting their lives back.

In the Maryland Parkway area alone, there are estimated to be 300 homeless youth. Approximately 500 are estimated to live in the streets and deserts of Las Vegas. Out of those, 20 percent report being forced to leave their homes, and 80 percent report choosing to leave because of abuse.

One in three homeless teenagers dies every day in the United States alone. Some homeless teens turn to prostitution or crime within 48 hours of being on the streets. Needless to say, the street isn't the safest place to be, but there is a "safe place" teenagers can go. Whether they are homeless or

experiencing a family crisis, there is a place where youth under 18 can go to receive help, instead of resorting to the streets.

This haven is called Safe Place. There are a total of 454 Safe Place stations in Las Vegas. Any Terrible Herbst, CAT bus or fire station is a Safe Place site. Just look for the yellow sign in the window. Any teenager or child, ages 10-17, who needs help can go into a Terrible Herbst or fire station and talk to one of the employees or tell a CAT bus driver, and he or she will drive to the nearest Safe Place facility.

The employees will give you a comfortable place to rest and a snack while you wait for a trained counselor to come pick you up and take you to Girls and Boys Town. They'll talk to you and see what you need.

The number one reason for runaway teens to leave home is family problems, and Safe Place provides counseling for the parents and youth. If it is unsafe to return home because of a form of abuse, Safe Place can set up living arrangements with a relative, or a room at Girls and

Boys Town. It is required by law for them to notify parents or guardians that you are with them. At any time, it is all right to change your mind and not go with the counselors.

After receiving help, most teenagers return home. Others decide to stay at Girls and Boys Town, a long-term residential facility. The average time spent here is one to three days, though some stay much longer. Girls and Boys Town holds 30 teens at a time, and has helped 300 youth over the past year. The atmosphere of Girls and Boys Town is geared to a family-type setting.

"A lot of people have jobs that are important, but I feel that mine is really making a difference in a kid's life," says Donna Martin, Safe Place activities coordinator. "What we're doing is giving kids a choice. If that helps just one child, then I feel that what we're doing has made things better for today and the future."

Upon entering the Girls and Boys Town facility, a kitchen and dining room can be seen. Most of the occupants will probably be in the lounge. Most likely a video will be playing and everyone will be sitting down on the couches and chairs. Down one hall are the girl's bedrooms and bathrooms. Each room is painted and decorated differently. Everyone is

responsible for making beds, doing laundry and vacuuming. Everything is very clean and looks almost like a typical house. The boy's hallway is similar.

A classroom for the teens is located in the building. Special lessons for each person are provided, depending on what level he or she is on. In class, a point system for good manners, good grades and participation earn students points, which in turn earns them privileges. Also, each week, everyone votes in a manager who is in charge of things like cleanup and chores. This gives them a chance to be a leader and to work on skills needed for a job or career.

"I like it here because I get to meet new people," says one occupant. "Nobody here discusses why we came here, so in a way, we are all the same."

Instead of resorting to the street as the only place left, these teens came to Safe Place. Now, instead of being cold, hungry and endangered on the streets, teens can go there for help. Safe Place is providing teens with hope for their lives when it seems as if there is nowhere they can turn.

Now pass this story on, so teenagers like you won't become part of the terrifying statistics, and teenagers like you will feel safe again.

Have you ever felt fear because of your heritage? Not just a small amount of fear, though — the kind of fear where you feel your life is in danger. I have felt that kind of fear and it isn't fun.

Sept. 11 was a horrible day for Americans and people worldwide. But how did Arab-Americans feel in the weeks and months after that awful event? I'll tell you how they felt, or at least how I felt, because I am a quarter Arab. My grandfather immigrated to America from Lebanon, a small country by Syria and Jordan, to go to college. I don't look Middle Eastern, but my heritage is part of me, and it is sometimes on my mind.

I still remember the attacks on Arab-Americans a few days and weeks after Sept. 11. My mom sat me down and told me not to tell anybody about my grandfather and where he was from because they might try to hurt my family or me. That was when I realized the reality of Sept. 11 and where part of me is really from. Everything hit me

Tensions decrease for student with Arab heritage

By Amy Taylor, Basic HS

like an iron fist.

Walking in the halls at school in the months after Sept. 11 was different after my mom had me keep a secret. I would hear jokes about "ragheads" and what people would do if they ever met one, and I felt offended. They must have thought that if one or two Muslims or Arabs were bad, then the whole lot were bad as well and all deserved to pay for what a few had actually done.

But does that actually make sense to people if they really think about it? Does it

sound right or fair? When you or your family's heritage is on the receiving end of those threats, it isn't fair and it isn't right.

After a while, that kind of talk died down and I started telling people where a part of me was from. They thought it was pretty cool and didn't seem to care because they already knew me for who I was.

Now I'm comfortable with telling others who want to know about my background that, in fact, I am a quarter Arab. Some of the people I know closely still don't know, but it's never been the right time to tell them. Some responses from the people I have told are "that's tight," or they jokingly respond, "Terrorist! Are you a terrorist?!" It's always funny and they're laughing when they "accuse" me.

As time went by, the fear became less and less, until it was completely gone. I won't ever forget how the events of Sept. 11 affected me in more than just one way. It now helps me respect my country, and my roots, even more.

Sexism still plagues today's woman

Society's attitudes leave women with something to prove

By Amisty Roberts,
Las Vegas HS

"Women should remain at home, sit still, keep house and bear children," says 16th century theologian Martin Luther.

Centuries later, some men today still believe as Martin Luther did, that women are to sit at home. They have the mental picture of their wives and girlfriends scrubbing the floor with Pine-Sol and a sponge. "Honey, dinner is ready," these men want their wives to say around 5:30 p.m. every night.

Men like this believe they are the dominant ones, the ones who can do anything. They will push a girl aside to lift something so she doesn't break a nail. What if we don't have nails? Women are just as capable of lifting a 300-pound dresser up a staircase as men. With a little help from another female, they can do it.

Sexism is everywhere: in schools, at work and even in the Bible. Sexism is treating people differently because of their gender.

Shannon Curry, a water enforcement officer at the Las Vegas Valley Water District, says, "Being a woman on the job tends to be a little more challenging due to the fact that you're always a minority, feeling as if you are always trying to prove yourself as an equal team player."

Do we have to prove ourselves to be treated equal? We have jobs, so apparently we were good enough to hire. Should we be put to the test and prove ourselves to men?

Religious writings over the last 2,000 years illustrate ways that societies have treated women. For example, in the Bible in 1 Timothy 2:12, it states, "I permit no women to teach or have authority over men, she is to keep silent."

Do women really want to keep silent, or do we want to speak out and become president?

In the 17th century, Samuel Butler wrote, "The souls of women are so small that some believe they have none at all."

Some men may think that women have that petite, Barbie-Doll, "oh-my-gosh-I-broke-a-nail" image, but that doesn't mean we have small souls or no souls at all. We may not speak out loud much, and we may obey most rules (not all), but we have souls. Our dreams, families, feelings, homes and lifestyles are all parts of our souls. Our dreams of being pediatricians, teachers, lawyers, and whatever else we want to be, come from our souls. Is it true that we don't have souls, or that some men just choose to ignore them?

Women can do just about anything men can do. We may find some things to be a little more challenging, but we can get the job done and done right. Women want to be treated as equal team players and not looked down upon as the weaker of the two genders. It is that simple.



More than just an identity crisis

By Trisha McInvale, Basic HS

Do you ever wish you were someone else? Doesn't it seem as though your life would be much easier if you were anyone but yourself? What if you are someone else but don't know it? Sure, it sounds ridiculous, but what if you had two or more completely different personalities without having any knowledge of it?

That's called Multiple Personality Disorder. In recent years, it has also been recognized as Dissociative Identity Disorder, although there have been debates between psychologists on whether the two can actually be considered similar disorders. MPD/DID are technically specified as a mental condition in which two or more personalities appear to inhabit a single body.

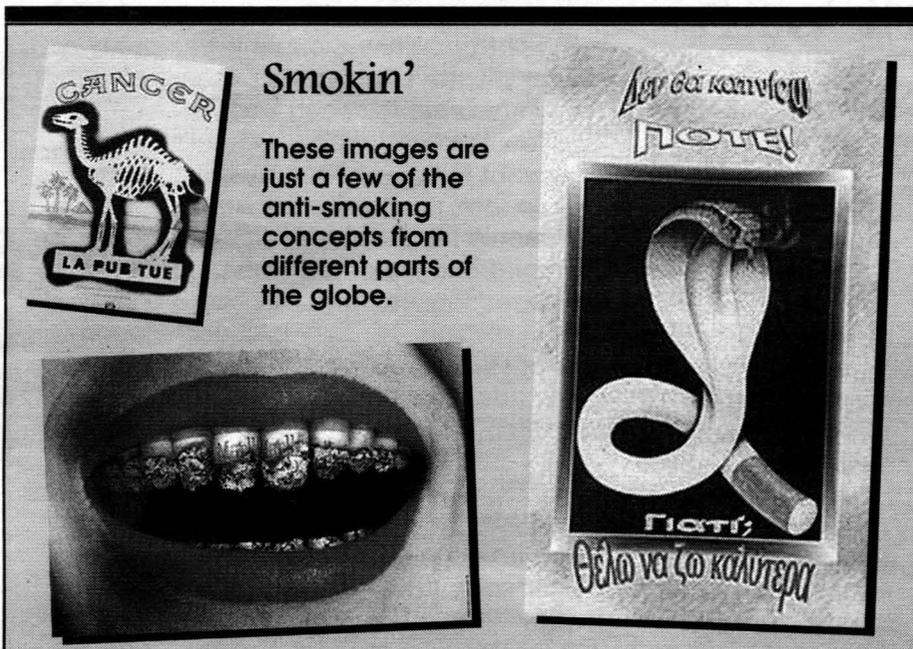
Ever since the 1970s, it was believed that this disorder has been caused by very severe abuse during childhood years. Often, if a child experiences extreme violence, it is impossible for them to handle the trauma, which leads them to dissociation instead. Dissociation is an experience where a person loses touch with his or her surroundings. Most people have associated with this state of mind at some point, even if it is as simple as daydreaming or being occupied in a book.

According to James Randall Noblitt, a clinical psychologist in Texas who has been working with MPD/DID for many years, a child that undergoes dissociation due to abuse or stress tends to create an alternative personality in order to escape from the moment. More alternatives may be formed depending on how long the abuse continues.

Basic High School psychology teacher Melanie Snively provides a broad explanation of this disorder. She reported that her classes cover the symptoms and characteristics of MPD/DID, which fit into the category of "abnormal psychology." Judging by the given information, it makes sense to assume a person with MPD would be aware of their alternative personalities, but that is not necessarily true. Certain memories from one personality may be inaccessible to another, leaving a person completely unaware of the events that took place while their identities were altered.

Going from one identity to another is simply called "switching." People with MPD can become aware of their disorder if they can't recall certain periods of time, don't remember purchasing certain products, or being unaware of past events that a family member might refer to.

There is a cure for someone with MPD. Often, the healing process begins when a specialist is able to reveal every one of the person's identities one at a time to find out exactly what took place during the time they were active. From there, the specialist is able to counsel the identity that has suffered through abuse and help them cope with it. With proper care, eventually the person will be able to face his or her fears using only one identity.



Dígannos

'Estás gorda!'

La 'gordura' y los problemas alimenticios acaban con la juventud

Por Gladis Barrios,
A-Tech HS

Imagínate que estás comiendo en tu casa cuando de repente llega alguien y te dice, "¡Ay niña! Ya deja de comer que te estás poniendo más 'gorda' cada día." ¿Cómo te hace sentir esto? Duele que te lo hayan dicho, ¿verdad? Duele porque la persona que te lo dijo es alguien querido. Tal vez no estés "gorda" pero si otras personas te lo dicen, en la mente te queda la duda.

Hoy en día, la mayoría de jovencitas se preocupan por su peso. Una encuesta hecha por la Universidad de Exeter en Inglaterra, concluyó que la apariencia es el detalle de mayor importancia para las jovencitas entre las edades de 12 a 15 años. Tan grande es la importancia de su apariencia, que algunas dejan de comer por no "engordarse" y después esto resulta en anorexia. La anorexia es un desorden alimenticio donde una persona crea pensamientos de obesidad con su mismo cuerpo y deja de comer. En la juventud, una de cada 100 jovencitas entre los 10 y los 20 años de edad dejan de comer hasta el punto de llegar a morir.

Por otro lado, el tema del "sobrepeso" no se habla mucho. En realidad, no le

damos la importancia que debería tener.

Muchas veces los comentarios de la gordura que constantemente se escuchan en la escuela pueden deprimir demasiado a aquellos que se sienten mal consigo mismos o con sus cuerpos. Estas situaciones son muy comunes entre los jóvenes porque se encuentran en esa etapa en donde ellos se preocupan por el "que dirán," y muchas jovencitas piensan: "Esa chava es mucho más delgada que yo y por eso todos los chavos andan detrás de ella. Necesito rebajar." Una etapa donde se preocupan exclusivamente por su figura.

Muchas jovencitas no quieren estar gordas y desean rebajar unas "cuantas" libras para que ese chico que les gusta, pueda salir con ellas. Desdichadamente empiezan una dieta que se va hasta el extremo de no comer ni un solo bocado. Otras, prefieren evitar que sus familias les hagan preguntas o se burlen de su "dichosa" dieta y proceden a comer para devolver la comida después. Es aquí donde la situación se convierte en bulimia. La bulimia es otro desorden alimenticio que está conectado con la anorexia, con la diferencia que en



ésta, la persona causa el vómito a propósito después de comer cualquier bocado.

Puede que el plan que tienen para adelgazar les parezca bueno, pero la realidad es que el chavo que las traía por el "piso," ni caso les hará cuando se dé cuenta que sufren de anorexia. Esta enfermedad cambia vidas por completo, trae muchos otros problemas como la depresión, más bellos en la cara y en los brazos, hace que el cerebro funcione mucho más despacio, trae dificultades al caminar, al dormir y al sentarse. Peor aún, preocuparán demasiado a su familia y amigos.

Ahora, imagínate que estás en la etapa final de la anorexia. Imagínate que estás en un hospital a punto de morir y tus familiares están afuera llorando por ti. Ahora es el momento que empiezas a pensar lo que hubiera sido de tu vida si no te hubieras empeñado en perder peso, simplemente porque la gente te lo decía; si no hubieras perdido el tiempo viendo esas revistas donde

aparecían modelos con un cuerpo "escultural," y hubieras pensado en cambio, que tenías una belleza única tanto interior como exterior. Es aquí donde te pones en devolver el tiempo para decirle "no" a aquellas dietas que no funcionaron y que ahora te mandaron a un hospital.

Imagínate que aún existe la esperanza de recuperarte. Existen centros de ayuda para personas que sufren de anorexia. El tratamiento es lento pero poco a poco podrás ir avanzando hasta acabar con la enfermedad. Mientras estás recuperándote, tu familia y amigos aún sufren ya que muchas de las jovencitas que padecen de anorexia, nunca volverán a ser las mismas de antes.

Es muy difícil estar contento en una sociedad que nos impide serlo. Muchas personas no están satisfechas con lo que tienen y la sociedad empeora la situación

presentando a una mujer delgada y bonita como la mujer perfecta ... "y si no lo eres, pues ni modo." Muchos piensan que hoy en día no importan los sentimientos sino la apariencia. Para quienes no están contentos con su apariencia, la cirugía plástica les devuelve la "alegría" si tienen como pagarla; pero las que no, se convierten en víctimas y hacen parte de las horribles estadísticas.

La situación anterior es solo una suposición, pero miles de casos como este ocurren cada día. Así que la próxima vez que escuches un comentario como "estás muy gorda," no te sientas mal, ignóralo. Cree en ti misma porque tú posees una belleza interior única. Si le dices esto a alguien, piensa en las consecuencias. A ti tampoco te gustaría que te dijeran gorda, ¿verdad? Piensa antes de hablar y no te conviertas en el culpable de haber arruinado la vida de alguien más.

¡Ya llegó el verano!

Por Riley Marriage, Coronado HS

Ahora que la época de los vestidos de baño está en su apogeo, muchas personas ven la necesidad de acompañar esta estación con un buen bronceado. Por décadas los modelos tipo "Barbie" y las protagonistas de "Guardianes de la Bahía," han popularizado ese color zanahoria en la piel, pero ... ¿es saludable broncearse?

Cada vez que la piel se ve expuesta a los rayos ultravioleta, cada célula de la piel y de nuestro DNA se

Vea página 24

GANADORES DEL CONCURSO DE POESÍA DEL 2004

PRIMER PUESTO

Los Padres Trabajadores

Por Janette Ureño,
Vo-Tech HS

Ha perdido su lenguaje, su cultura y su raza;
La razón de esto, es no tener a sus padres en su casa.

Pues ellos trabajan, trabajan hasta morir,
Para poder darle un mejor vivir.
Le dieron todas las cosas que necesitaba y hasta más,
Pero de darle tiempo, amor y cariño, no fueron capaces.

Pues ellos trabajan, trabajan hasta morir,
Para poder darle un mejor vivir.
Esta niña inocente, tan humilde y cariñosa,
Poco a poco se fue haciendo malandrina y caprichosa.

Pues sus padres trabajan, trabajan hasta morir,
Para poder darle un mejor vivir.
Al sentirse sola, amistades se buscó,
Quienes le enseñaron los drogas y el alcohol.

Y sus padres trabajando,

GRACIAS A TODOS:

Como todos los años, es muy difícil escoger solo tres ganadores entre tanto talento. Gracias a todos los estudiantes que participaron y no olviden que el próximo año tendremos otro. Quiero también dar las gracias a los jueces por su tiempo y dedicación: Judith Jenner, Adriana Martinez y Don Schmiedel. ¡Hasta la próxima!

trabajando hasta morir,
Y todo para darle un mejor vivir.

Un día, el día de sus quince años,
Esta niña estaba sola, en su casa llorando.

Pues sus padres trabajando, trabajando hasta morir,
Y todo para darle un mejor vivir.
No soportando la soledad, en ese día tan especial,
Tratando de obtener un poco de felicidad.
Tomó alcohol y drogas hasta llenar,
Esta niña solitaria de una sobredosis murió.

Su padre no entendía la razón de su morir,
Su madre gritaba de dolor al las noticias recibir.
Un dolor más grande estos padres no pudieron tener,
Al saber que por falta de atención,
A su niñita no volverán a ver.

Ahora estos padres destrozados, lo único que hacen es trabajar,
Y todo para poder darle a su tan querida niña, ¡un lujoso funeral!

SEGUNDO PUESTO

Si Yo Pudiera

Por Patricia Gutiérrez,
Vo-Tech HS

Si yo pudiera apartar de ti toda maldad,
Guardarte en mis brazos cuando todo el mundo te de frialdad.
Si yo pudiera guardar cada lágrima tuya en mi ser,
Para que tú nunca sufieras, nunca sepas temer.

Si yo pudiera regalarte los colores del arco iris para que alegres tu sonrisa,
Y darte el olor de las rosas cuando las toca la brisa,
Si yo pudiera cambiar el mundo para que nadie te dañe,
Terminaría la violencia,
Para que tu inocencia no se empañe.

¿Cómo explicarte que casi no existe la bondad?
¡Qué hace mucho tiempo entre humanos, no existe la hermandad!

Arlene, cuando crezcas tú serás diferente,
No serás egoísta como toda la gente.

Poco a poco aprenderás que es mejor dar que recibir,
Que hay que soñar para vivir, pero no vivir soñando,
Si no tocar tus sueños cuando de pie estés caminando.
Si yo pudiera ...

TERCER PUESTO

Mis Lágrimas

Por Gladis Barrios,
A-Tech HS

Siento una miserable y salada lágrima deslizarse de mis ojos
Y lentamente veo que cae en mis labios.

Quisiera gritar, pero mi dolor es tan grande,
Que no me deja hablar.

Lo único que puedo hacer es llorar de odio, tristeza y dolor
Porque esa es mi vida desde que perdí tu amor.

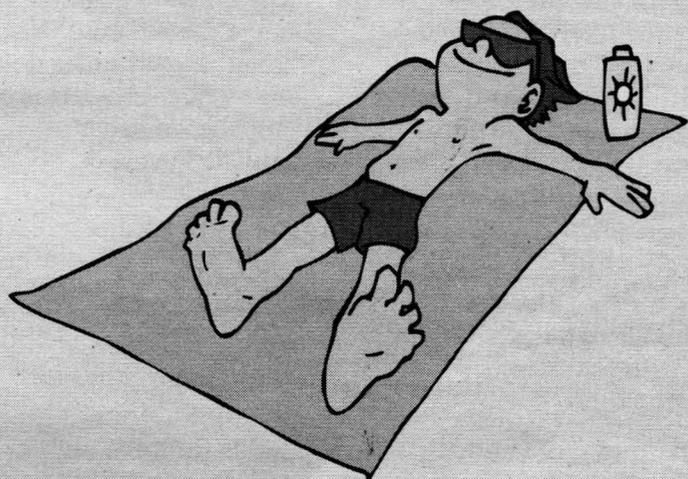
Quisiera poder olvidarte
Pero tus recuerdos me llegan a cada instante
¿Por qué no puedo olvidarte?
¿Por qué tengo que llorar cada noche antes de acostarme?
¿Por qué eres tan feliz?
En cambio yo sin ti, ¡no puedo vivir!

Siento una miserable y salada lágrima deslizarse de mis ojos
Y lentamente veo que cae en mis labios.

Quisiera gritar, pero mi dolor es tan grande,
Que no me deja hablar.

Pues, ¿qué más puedo hacer si tú no me supiste valorar?

Lo único que puedo hacer es ...
... es seguir caminando con esta gran herida,
aunque pronto te darás cuenta que yo también era tu vida.



¡Ya llegó el verano!

Continuación de la página 23

ve afectada. Algunas partes se recuperan reviviendo las células muertas, pero otras se vuelven cancerosas.

La luz ultravioleta que proviene de la luz del sol, debilita el sistema inmune de nuestro cuerpo y hace que se dificulte la lucha contra la destrucción de las células dañinas. Es por eso que los rayos

ultravioleta son la mayor causa del cáncer en la piel.

¿Los sitios de bronceado son seguros?

La luz del sol produce una mezcla de radiación de los rayos ultravioleta A (UVA) y los rayos ultravioleta B (UVB), los cuales se filtran por medio de la capa de ozono llegando a la superficie de la tierra. Las cámaras y camas bronceadoras producen radiación de los rayos ultravioleta A que penetran profundamente en la piel dejando un color duradero en menos tiempo; pero de igual manera, cuando éstos hacen contacto con los rayos ultravioleta B del sol, contribuyen a trastornos graves de la piel, poniendo en riesgo nuestra salud.

Aunque algunas personas crean que los bronceados son algo atractivo, ¿vale la pena arriesgarse a que se convierta en cáncer? Howard P. Isermann se inventó el protector o bloqueador solar en 1942 y se ha comprobado que es la mejor opción para prevenir quemaduras y manchas hechas por el sol y el cáncer en la piel. Toma una buena decisión a la hora de extenderte al sol o de ir a una cámara bronceadora. ¡El protector solar es mejor que la muerte!

Hispanos a la expectativa para las próximas elecciones

Por Lina Hernández,
Editora de Díganos



Para muchos es muy temprano hablar de las elecciones presidenciales que se realizarán en noviembre. Para otros, ya es un poco tarde. El voto hispano es uno de los aspectos más importantes para las elecciones de este año. Hemos visto y oído las constantes riñas entre el Presidente Bush y el candidato demócrata John Kerry. Su interminable pelea gira en torno a un solo objetivo: apoderarse del voto latino.

Hace poco Bush hizo una propuesta para legalizar temporalmente a millones de trabajadores indocumentados. El 45 por ciento de los hispanos rechazan la idea porque esto no permitiría que los inmigrantes se convirtieran en residentes y mucho menos en ciudadanos. Según el artículo de Jorge Ramos, presentador de noticias en univision, 63 por ciento de la comunidad hispana considera que a Bush le interesa más ganar el voto latino para su reelección, que resolver el problema de los indocumentados.

Muchos culpan al Presidente Bush de un mal manejo del país. Las acusaciones en su contra se deben a la pérdida de trabajos durante sus cuatro años de gobierno, a la falta de beneficios médicos en la comunidad hispana y por no cumplir su promesa de gastar millones de dólares en escuelas públicas. Por otro lado, el partido republicano se defiende sacando a relucir que la propuesta de Kerry, al aumentar los impuestos, perjudicará a todo el país, en especial a la comunidad latina.

Lo que sí es cierto es que ya salió a la luz un comentario que podría afectar la campaña de Bush para su reelección ya que de acuerdo con el artículo de Ramos, David Kay, jefe de inspección de armas en Irak, reportó que éste no tenía armas de destrucción masiva antes de la guerra, lo cual confirma que Irak no era una amenaza inminente para Estados Unidos. No había razones. Hasta el momento no se ha escuchado ninguna disculpa de parte del gobierno de Bush ni una explicación que justifique la muerte de más de 500 soldados estadounidenses.

Todos los candidatos a la presidencia luchan por ganar nuestros votos, pero después de ser elegidos nos mandan al baúl de los recuerdos para más tarde sacarnos de nuevo en la siguiente elección. Los candidatos saben que los latinos pueden definir las elecciones presidenciales en noviembre, por eso su lucha siempre sigue en pie.

De acuerdo con el Consulado Nacional de La Raza, el número de votantes hispanos alcanzó los seis millones de personas en el 2000 y se espera cerca de ocho millones este año. Más y más inmigrantes se convierten en ciudadanos y más personas hispanas nacidas en los Estados Unidos cumplen 18 años recibiendo el derecho al voto.

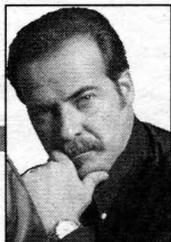
Como Ramos dice, "Los hispanos estamos cambiando la cara, la cultura, la política y la economía de la nación más poderosa del planeta. Somos el 42 por ciento de la población de Nuevo México, 33 por ciento en California, 32 por ciento en Texas, 25 por ciento en Arizona, 22 por ciento en Nevada, 16 por ciento en la Florida, 15 por

Vea página 27

LEYENDAS DEL MES

artistas

Para nuestra última edición del año escolar, les tenemos dos grandes actores y una bella actriz. Si tienen alguna idea para hacer un suplemento como éste el próximo año, no duden en contactarme. ¡Nos vemos pronto y que tengan unas buenas vacaciones!



César

César Evora nació en la Habana, Cuba, el 4 de noviembre de 1959. Viviendo en un país comunista como lo es Cuba, tenía que estudiar ya que si no lo hacía, tenía que integrarse al servicio militar. Estudió geofísica, para dedicarse a la búsqueda de petróleo y minerales. Un día se fue a la filiación de una película y se dio cuenta que lo que quería hacer en realidad, era actuar.

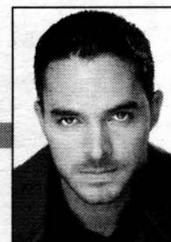
Tuvo sus primeras apariciones en México hasta que apareció como un cura en "El Privilegio de Amar," novela que lo lanzó estelarmente. Otras de sus novelas han sido "Entre el Amor y el Odio" y "Mariana de Noche." En 1999 obtuvo su ciudadanía mexicana y desde entonces reside en la capital. César Evora ha tomado una exigente carrera con arduo trabajo donde ha demostrado que el esfuerzo y la perseverancia lo han llevado al éxito.



Gabriela

Gabriela Spanic nació en el estado de Guárico en Venezuela, el 10 de diciembre de 1973. Su padre se trasladó con sus abuelos de Croacia a Venezuela en 1947. Estudió psicología por un año, pero su verdadera pasión siempre fue la actuación. También se incursionó como modelo, ganando varios premios.

Spanic comenzó a aparecer como extra y luego Venevisión le dio la oportunidad de hacer papeles pequeños en novelas venezolanas. Durante ese periodo conoció a quién fue su esposo Miguel de León, también actor. La cadena Televisa le ofreció trabajar en México en "La Usurpadora" donde ganó fama a montones. Después viene "La Intrusa," donde hace una historia similar. Vuelve a la televisión años después con "La Venganza," que fue un éxito en todo el país. Ahora protagoniza otra producción de Telemundo llamada "Prisionera."



Manolo

Manolo Cardona nació en Cali, Colombia el 25 de abril de 1975. Este colombiano de ojos azules fue uno de los galanes más cotizados por la audiencia femenina durante el 2001. Fue el diablo bueno y bello de la telenovela "Por Qué Diablos," fue la cara de varios comerciales y presentó shows en la televisión hispana. En los últimos años sus papeles en las novelas han logrado que la mujeres alrededor del mundo lo tengan entre sus galanes preferidos y que miles de jovencitas coleccionen sus fotos y se desvivan por un autógrafo suyo.

A los 18 años se muda a Bogotá e inicia sus estudios de Finanzas y Relaciones Internacionales. Además de actuar, Manolo tiene pasión por la tecnología y ha aprovechado sus ratos libres para poner en marcha su sitio en Internet llamado subastaplaza.com. Incluso tiene el sueño de llegar algún día a ser el presidente de su país.

¿Sabe lo que sus niños están llevando a la Escuela?

Proteja a nuestros hijos y vecindario **385-GUNS**



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La propuesta del Presidente Bush genera confusión y desconfianza

Por José Galindo, Las Vegas HS



Al principio de este año el Presidente de la nación George W. Bush, dio una conferencia de prensa muy esperada por todos los ciudadanos y especialmente por la comunidad hispana. Dicho evento se llevó a cabo en la Casa Blanca en donde Bush comenzó su presentación agradeciendo la presencia de varias figuras políticas. Entre ellos, se encontraban miembros de su gabinete como el Secretario del Estado Collin Powell y hasta el

embajador de México en los Estados Unidos, Tony Garza. Después de tan cordial bienvenida, Bush dijo que haría un anuncio el cual incluiría declaraciones sobre la política migratoria y que consideraba que su anuncio haría de Estados Unidos, un país más compasivo, humano y fuerte.

El Presidente Bush habló varios minutos sobre la inmigración a través de la historia y como ésta ha influido en el crecimiento de la nación. De sus palabras nació una frase muy conmovedora que sin lugar a dudas, resulta ser verdadera: "Por tradición y convicción, nuestro país es una sociedad acogedora. Es una nación más

fuerte y mejor debido al arduo trabajo, fe y el espíritu empresarial de los inmigrantes." También se reconoció que aproximadamente 14 por ciento de la fuerza laboral nació en el extranjero y son ellos [los inmigrantes] quienes contribuyen a los empleos difíciles y a trabajar por horas largas en industrias importantes.

Durante los 20 minutos que fueron dedicados especialmente a hacer declaraciones de política migratoria, el Presidente Bush admitió que Estados Unidos necesita un sistema de inmigración que contribuya a la economía estadounidense y refleje el sueño americano. Su propuesta, la cual solo fue dicha en palabras y no fue presentada en un proyecto estable ni escrito, consiste en lo siguiente: Crear un nuevo programa de trabajadores temporales que puedan adquirir una visa por tres años, la cual podrá renovarse después de su vencimiento. Estos trabajadores deberán tener un empleo estable en el país o al menos una oferta de trabajo. También, se agregará

una cuota única para la matrícula. Sin embargo, la cuota no sería ninguna complicación ya que los trabajadores recibirían los mismos beneficios de los trabajadores estadounidenses. Además, los trabajadores temporales podrían viajar de manera legal y libre y al mismo tiempo habría más seguridad en las fronteras del país.

Después de que el Presidente Bush anunció sus planes acerca de los trabajadores inmigrantes, la controversia se desató. Quizás el presidente no eligió el momento más adecuado para hacer la propuesta y supuestamente ponerla en marcha, ya que los críticos dicen que esta propuesta es solo un plan para ganar el voto hispano en las siguientes elecciones que se llevarán a cabo en noviembre de este año. Nadie asegura que esta propuesta se vaya a hacer realidad. La pregunta aquí es, ¿podemos confiar en semejante propuesta del Presidente Bush después de todo lo que ha pasado?

Miles de inmigrantes

Por AnaRosa González, Western HS

Miles de inmigrantes siguen entrando de las más diversas formas a Estados Unidos en busca del sueño americano, buscando vivir sin tantos riesgos, con un futuro más accesible en la tierra de la oportunidad; para poder lograr estar de este lado. Muchas veces en esta dura aventura se pierde la vida, así como también muchas veces con la ayuda de Dios se consigue estar aquí.

Vivir en este gran país solo es durísimo, es difícilísimo establecerse pues el no tener papeles y el ignorar totalmente el idioma, es un gran problema. También se dificulta el encontrar un buen trabajo, estable, legal, con buenos beneficios de seguro médico y sin muchos riesgos. Casi todos comienzan en la construcción trabajando de sol a sol, dando lo mejor siempre; o bien, en otros trabajos más duros y cansados que se les ofrece a las personas ilegales. Lo peor, desconociendo muchos fraudes que les hacen.

No entiendo cómo algunas personas pueden estafar a otros que vienen aquí con tanto sacrificio y lo que es peor, muchos de estos estafadores son hispanos. Estos se convierten en un descrédito para los buenos hispanos que trabajamos correctamente.

Esta nación está creciendo fuerte por el trabajo duro y el esfuerzo de nuestros inmigrantes. Los hispanos somos la minoría más grande de este país. Tenemos estatura pero no tenemos voz. No tenemos la fuerza para unirnos y votar y es así como no nos consideran un poder político. Tenemos muchos derechos y contamos con el apoyo de diferentes organizaciones en nuestro estado.

Sin embargo, creo que esta historia siempre regresará para confirmar que no hay nada nuevo bajo el sol y la mejor solución para ser legal es vivir aquí pacíficamente y basado en esfuerzo. El futuro será justo y algún día todos mirarán y realizarán con merecimiento el sueño americano.

¡Adelante, si se puede! Quizás hoy en día hay una gran oscuridad, pero de la noche sigue el día y aunque parezca que no hay salidas, sin embargo "siempre amanece."

Elecciones

Continuación de la página 25

ciento en Nueva York, y 12 por ciento en Illinois."

Se espera que los números de votantes hispanos aumenten este año. Si todos nos pudiéramos de acuerdo a votar, cada estado podría tener su propio "grupo de fuerza" latino para luchar y definir nuestros derechos.

La forma más usada por los candidatos para tratar de ganar nuestros votos es hablándonos en español. Pero tanto Bush como los candidatos demócratas saben que hablar unas cuantas palabras en español no será suficiente. Ahora exigimos que se dediquen a resolver problemas más graves. Nuestros problemas varían entre la educación juvenil, ver nuestros sueños rotos al hacer parte de un número extravagante de desempleados, no tener beneficios médicos como el resto de los ciudadanos estadounidenses, la discriminación, la deportación, entre muchos otros.

Para ganar nuestro voto, los candidatos a la presidencia tienen que hacer mucho más que

hablar español en sus campañas. Claro está que no perderían nada haciéndolo. Tienen que estar dispuestos a crear una unión entre sus deseos y nuestros deseos. Nos tienen que entender. Tienen que saber que no llegamos ayer, que algunos de nosotros hemos estado aquí por muchos años luchando por un mejor vivir.

Ramos escribe algo verídico, "Es necesario que sepan de dónde venimos, cómo nos comunicamos, qué nos gusta, qué nos hace sufrir, cuánto aportamos a la economía, cómo estamos ligados a América Latina, cómo peleamos en las guerras de este país y por qué somos una parte importante de los Estados Unidos, y luego proponer soluciones concretas a problemas específicos."

No debemos dejar que las suposiciones de que el voto hispano crecerá este año se queden solo en eso: suposiciones. Todo los jóvenes que tengan 18 años en adelante y que puedan votar, regístrense y háganlo. Animen a las personas que lo pueden hacer y hagamos escuchar nuestra voz. Somos un grupo demasiado grande en este país y no podemos pasar desapercibidos.

After the lecture

What teens really think about smoking

By Ariel Gove,
Las Vegas HS



How many anti-tobacco ads have teens seen? How many classes have they sat through telling them how bad smoking is for their health? This article is not going to be like the millions of others that most teens have read. It's not going to be full of facts that mean nothing to the average high school student; it's not going to tell smokers that what they're doing is wrong; it's not even going to tell them that they have to stop smoking.

What it is going to do is let everyone know what teenagers think about smoking and about those who do it.

"I think smoking is a disgusting habit," says Las Vegas High School senior Mikaela Cavida. "I can't understand why people would want to hurt themselves in that way. I know that they think it is the cool thing to do, but why would you risk your life to be 'cool.' I just don't get it."

Mikaela's younger sister, Megan Cavida, who is currently in 10th grade at Las Vegas, says, "Boys who smoke are gross. I hate to talk to a guy after he has just had a cigarette because he

just reeks of smoke, and it makes me sick."

On the other side of the spectrum, Las Vegas senior Kathy Dickenson says, "I smoke. I'm not ashamed of it. It's just something that I do. It's not who I am."

Dickenson says that anti-smoking campaigns make all smokers out to be horrible people whose lives revolve around a cigarette.

"I have done it for years, and I'm not addicted. I could quit right now if I wanted to," she says. "It's just a matter of when the right time is. My boyfriend smokes too, and it doesn't bother me. I guess I am just used to it."

Can a person who smokes only date other people who smoke so they aren't offended by the odor? Other physical changes

caused by smoking that might cause someone to avoid relationships with smokers are yellowing fingernails, wrinkling and premature aging of the skin and tooth decay.

"Smoking is a disease that I do not want around me," says senior Myriam Lopez, who attends Las Vegas Academy. "I am trying to work hard my senior year and accomplish as much as I can. I would never cut off valuable time from my life because I wanted to try [smoking], or because all of my friends were doing it."

The number one reason that high school students begin to smoke is because their friends are doing it. They don't want to be left out when everyone else in the group has a cigarette. The risks of smoking are not even a factor in these cases, despite the fact that studies have shown that one pack of cigarettes can take seven minutes off a person's life. Even casual smokers who smoke socially every now and then risk serious health damage. Poisonous substances from cigarette smoke accumulate in the lungs until the body's natural purification process can't take it anymore and shuts down.

"I would never smoke. I want to live as long as I can, and as healthy as I can," says Las Vegas High Senior Class President and varsity football player Marc Steele. "If I started smoking, I would not be able to run as fast in football."

He adds, "I don't want to always have to try to catch my breath for the rest of my life. I have enough things to worry about. There is no need for me to add smoking diseases onto my list."

Many smokers notice that they have shortness of breath after the first pack they smoke.

Jon Kroll, a 2002 graduate from Colorado Springs, Colo., says, "I have smoked before — not a lot, and only with my friends. It made me gag the first few times I inhaled, but then I guess I just got used to it."

"After graduation, the group I hung with wasn't around anymore and I went off to college," he adds. "Sometimes, I still have problems catching my breath. The problems don't go away when you stop smoking. They just stop getting worse."

Whether or not one smokes is his or her own decision on what is most important to him or her. Similarly, those who choose not to smoke must decide if the problems that go along with inhaling secondhand smoke are worth a relationship or friendship with someone who smokes and puts their lives at risk. What teens decide to do with their lives today will affect them tomorrow. They have to consider the risks to themselves and to those around them who may be influenced or affected by their actions.

Teens are old enough to make their own decisions, and they just need to be sure they are educated enough to make the right one.



"After graduation, the group I hung with wasn't around anymore and I went off to college ... Sometimes, I still have problems catching my breath. The problems don't go away when you stop smoking. They just stop getting worse."

Excuses, excuses, excuses: Safe sex starts with you



By Alex Roberts,
Eldorado HS

Condoms. There, it's been said. Everyone knows what they are and what they do. If that's true, then why are there so many unwanted pregnancies?

Only 15 percent of young people aged 18-24 say they always use condoms when they have sexual intercourse. That's a scary fact considering that nearly two-thirds of all STDs occur in people younger than 25 years old.

Laboratory studies have demonstrated that latex condoms provide an essentially impermeable barrier to STD pathogens. But few teens

wear them or wear them properly. Some say that it takes away from the mood, and others just shrug off the consequences with the attitude, "That only happens to other people."

Guess what? To everyone else, you are that "other person." Here are the most common excuses for why people don't use condoms, with answers to those excuses:

X "She's on the pill; we don't need a condom." The pill doesn't provide any protection against STDs.

X "Just this once!" Once is all that it takes to get an STD or get pregnant.

X "I don't have a condom with me." I do. OR let's not take the risk. OR let's go buy some and try out different styles.

X "It's embarrassing to buy and carry

condoms." It's a lot more embarrassing to get or pass on an STD, and if you're too embarrassed to deal with condoms, then you're probably not ready to deal with sex anyway.

X "It's up to him. It's his decision." It's YOUR health, YOUR future, YOUR body and YOUR decision.

X "We've already done it without one." Right, and that was a mistake; let's be smart and not repeat it.

X "I'm afraid to ask him to use a condom. He'll think I don't trust him." If you can't ask him, you probably don't trust him.

There are a million and one reasons why people don't wear condoms, and a million and one statistics to go along with them. Be smart; you have a long life ahead of you.

Clear up the air with public smoking ban

By Monica Snoblen,
Coronado HS

To smoke or not to smoke? In Nevada restaurants, you don't really have a choice.

Because smoking in public places is legal in Nevada, the first thing you hear when you walk into a restaurant is, "Smoking or non?" Why should nonsmokers be subjected to the secondhand smoke of people who cannot even make it through a meal without lighting up?

People should not be able to smoke in public places where there are others who don't want to breathe in the air smokers have contaminated. Almost as many people are getting sick from secondhand smoke as are from actually puffing the cigarette. According to the American Heart Association, every year there are approximately 35,000-40,000 deaths from heart disease in non-smokers. The secondhand smoke also makes asthma attacks much more severe than normal in 200,000 to 1 million children. The smoke that the children breathe in makes them more susceptible to getting

respiratory sicknesses as a result of smoke inhalation.

Side stream smoke, the smoke inhaled by nonsmokers, has more carbon monoxide, methane, ammonia, tar and nicotine than the mainstream smoke, which is what the smoker breathes in. The side stream smoke causes just as much, if not more, sickness than smoking directly. Studies show that infants who are exposed to secondhand smoke are at a higher risk for developing lung impairments and having lung problems their whole lives.

A study done by the University of California and the National Cancer Institute found that the number of people who suffered heart attacks decreased by 60 percent when a no-public-smoking ordinance went into effect in the area. The authors of the study concluded that because smokers were forced to smoke only when they were in the privacy of their own homes, many reduced the amount of smoking they did or quit altogether.

Smoking should be banned

in public places. It's a major health risk for all who are exposed to it. If a person is unable to control his or her urge for a cigarette for the time it takes to eat a meal, then that person has a problem and must find a way to fix it. Yes, everyone has rights, including smokers, but what about the nonsmokers?

More and more people are becoming nonsmokers. Just look at any restaurant. There is always a longer wait to sit in the nonsmoking section than there is to sit in the smoking section. By eliminating the smoking sections, some say that the restaurant businesses will lose money. But, even

smokers sometimes choose to sit in a section without smoke whether it's because they are with nonsmokers or because they choose to enjoy a meal without a smoky flavor.

Restaurants might make more money if they eliminate their smoking sections altogether. Not only would they attract more nonsmokers, but also they would probably even keep most of their smoking customers because the environment is healthier.

Make smoking a private activity. Don't penalize nonsmokers for their healthier lifestyles by making them just as sick as smokers.

Reading, writing and ... drinking?

Despite risks, alcohol still flows on campuses

By Maria Elena Millard, Coronado HS

The legal drinking age is 21 everywhere in the United States. If a person younger than 21 is caught with alcohol, there are severe consequences ranging from jail time and driver's license revocation to being expelled from school or put in an alternative school. Even with such severe punishments, high school students are still bringing alcohol to school.

Students who bring alcohol to school do it because they want to see if they can get away with it. Some may want to show off to their friends to prove they're "cool." Still, others are just not thinking or have a serious drinking problem.

Punishments aren't limited just to the drinkers either. Even if a student is only holding alcohol for a friend but not drinking it, it's still in that student's possession and there are going to be consequences.

"There is no point to drinking in school. You will just end up getting caught," says Coronado High School junior Johnathon Vega, who was caught drunk at school and had to go to an alternative school for three and a half months.

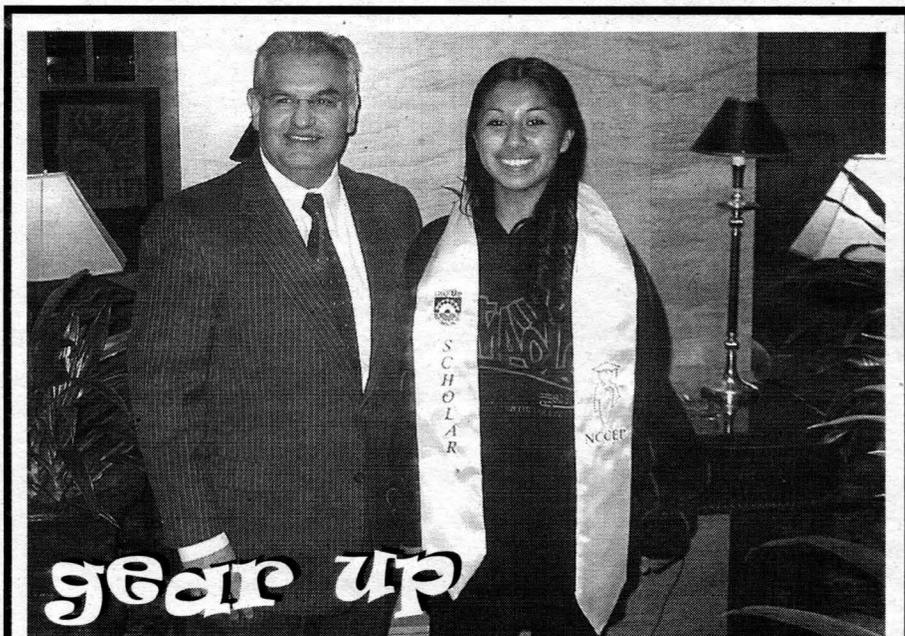
The immediate effects of alcohol result in students walking around drunk all day, sleeping in class, displaying behavior problems or acting drunker than they really are. Other effects include impaired vision, slurred speech and becoming aggressive, obnoxious or even violent. Long-term effects of drinking include problems with the stomach, kidneys, blood vessels and liver.

How are these students getting the alcohol and bringing it into schools? Teens either steal the alcohol or have an adult buy it for them, such as siblings, parents, neighbors or friends. Teenagers have also been known to stand outside liquor stores and ask adults to buy for them.

Students sneak alcohol to school in their cars or backpacks. From their backpacks, they take it out in restrooms or somewhere they think they can't be seen and pour it into another drink, usually a soda, juice or a cup with ice. If they bring it in their cars, they either drink it in the car or mix it with a drink in the car before bringing it into the school.

The consequences for underage drinking need to be more severe than they are. Adults and students need to remedy this problem before it becomes worse than it already is.

"If you are going to drink underage or have alcohol in your possession, be ready to suffer the consequences when you get caught," says Vega. "Think before you do something really stupid."



Clark High School freshman Blanca Rugerio (right), pictured with Hector Garza, president of the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships, served as GEAR UP student ambassador for the state of Nevada as she presented the 2004 "Champion for Student Success" award to Sen. Harry Reid at the capitol building in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 26, 2004. GEAR UP, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is an educational program for high school students sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Education to increase students' academic achievement, high school graduation rates and college enrollment. There are 407 Clark students among the 2,800 statewide GEAR UP members.

The National Day
To Prevent Teen Pregnancy

KNOW THE SCORE QUIZ

Have you thought about sex? Of course. Who hasn't? But do you know what you'll do when the moment arrives? How will you avoid getting pregnant, or getting someone else pregnant? How can you say no? If you know where you stand, take this quiz to find out how you would handle different situations. You might surprise yourself. After you've answered these questions, check out the Web site www.teenpregnancy.org. You'll learn your score and plenty of interesting facts about abstinence, peer pressure and teen pregnancy.

SCENARIO 1:

CHAD HAS AN OLDER BROTHER, Robert, who has always given him good advice. Usually, he can ask Robert anything, but this time Chad is not so sure. In the stairwell at Chad's school, boys and girls have been making out and going pretty far. This time, Chad was one of them. He always had a crush on his friend Ashley, so when she took him into the stairwell, he followed. Things moved fast and they ended up doing a lot more than either one of them meant to. Chad is embarrassed to face Ashley now and he's surprised by how confused he is. Everyone acts like it's no big deal, but Chad is really upset. He doesn't know what else to do, so he tells his brother Robert everything. If you were Robert, what would you say to your younger brother?

a) Wow, my kid brother is finally growing up! It sounds like you weren't ready for this, so slow down. It will get easier.

b) Making out is one thing — but going farther than you want to is a big problem. People pretend this is no big deal but it really is, even if nobody wants to admit it. You never have to do anything you don't want to do. I'll always back you up. You and Ashley need to wait.

c) People have been kissing in that stairwell since I was your age. What's the big deal? If you can't handle it, then don't do it.

d) I know you have a thing for Ashley. Tell her you're upset too, and that you guys don't have to move so fast. Most people your age aren't going that far, no matter what they tell you. Don't be embarrassed to tell me this stuff. It's not that weird.

FACT: One in five teens has had sex before age 15. The younger teens are when they first have sex, the more sexual partners they are likely to have, which exposes them to more risk of pregnancy, STDs and other consequences.

SCENARIO 2:

AMANDA AND TOMMY HAVE ONLY BEEN going out for six weeks, but they've spent every day of it together. Tommy leaves for college in a week, and Amanda doesn't want to return to high school without him around. Tommy is so much cooler than any of the guys in her class, and he makes her feel special. He could have his choice of any girl in school, and she still can't believe he chose her. However, Tommy is acting like something is wrong.

Amanda: "Is everything okay?"

Tommy: "Yeah, it's just that I'm leaving soon, and I thought things would have gotten farther with us by now."

She knows he's talking about sex. She's not sure she's ready, but she doesn't want to lose him

to all those college girls.

Amanda: "I think I'm ready now. No, I'm not ... I'm sorry. Wait, okay. I am. Really."

What should Tommy say now?

a) You're driving me crazy. I'm sorry. I need to be in a more mature relationship now. I don't think we can stay together when I'm in college. You should find someone your own age who's at the same place with all this.

b) You know, the time feels right. After all, I'm leaving for college next week, and who knows when we'll be together again?

c) But I can tell you're not. I don't want you to do this just because I'm leaving. We should wait.

d) You are? Great! I know this will feel right, since we're so good together.

FACT: About 80 percent of teens, ages 12-19, say they feel pressure to have sex. Girls say romantic



partners put the pressure on them, and boys say pressure comes from their friends. Younger girls with older guys are more likely to have unplanned and possibly unwanted sex.

SCENARIO 3:

NATALIA, MARINA AND ANJELICA have been best friends since first grade. However, since Anjelica began dating Emanuel, she's started to change.

Marina: "How was the party with Emanuel and his friends last night?"

Anjelica: "Okay, I guess. Kind of weird."

Marina: "What happened? You don't look right."

Anjelica: "Emanuel and I almost did it. I wasn't sure, so I said no. Now I'm not sure what's going on. I think he's mad at me. But he hasn't ever done it either. Promise you won't tell any of his friends that."

Marina: "So what happened? What did you say?"

Anjelica: "I said I wanted to wait. Even though I've thought about it a million times, he asked me what I was waiting for and I couldn't answer. He wants to get it over with before his friends find out that he's still a virgin, but I know some of his friends are virgins, too."

Natalia hasn't said anything yet. If you were Natalia, what would you say?

a) You've always said you were going to wait until you got married, or at least out of high school. You were right to do what you believe. I bet Emanuel likes that about you, too.

b) Well that's a good question. What are you waiting for? I've heard that the first time isn't so great anyway, and he really loves you, so maybe he's right — you should both get it over with.

c) Maybe you will both feel more ready next time. At least you have some time to think about it. Plus you have to figure out what you're going to do to protect yourself if you do go ahead with it.

d) If you don't do it with him, he'll find someone who will. You're probably supposed to feel this confused.

FACT: Two out of three teens who have had sex by age 18 say they wish they had waited longer. While most teens think everyone is having sex, the fact is that one out of two high school-age teens has had sex.

**This quiz is for educational and/or entertainment purposes only. For more information about preventing teen pregnancy, visit www.teenpregnancy.org or consult your local health care provider.*

The National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy quiz has been reprinted with permission from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (www.teenpregnancy.org).

Battling for truth: The dangerous life of a true journalist

By Beau Forbes,
Durango HS

Journalism is the practice of reporting on daily, local, national and worldwide news, much like what can be read in this publication, written by student journalists. Up front, it seems like an average career, with nothing extraordinary or dangerous about it, but that is not entirely true.

Journalism is so much more than just taking notes and creating an article; it is an art unto itself. And like so many other arts, it has its consequences when displayed to the public.

The consequence seen in journalism is commonly criticism. Often magazines and newspapers will publish a page where readers can express their opinions about past articles and even argue the facts. Readers range from witty intellectuals to the downright arrogant and rude, but criticism isn't the kind of retaliation that journalists need to be aware of. Incidents have happened that are much more personal and much more dangerous.

Take for example, one of the better-known cases of brutality against a journalist, the murder of Veronica Guerin.

During the time that Guerin, an Irish journalist, spent trying to uncover the drug ring that was destroying the Dublin community, she was beaten, shot and finally assassinated. Death was the price she paid for reporting the news and trying to create a safer environment in Dublin.

However, her death was not in vain. In the few years following her death, more than 150 criminals have been arrested with ties to organized crime, and Ireland's drug and crime rate has decreased.

The murders of journalists are not that few and far between either. In the past decade, more than 300 journalists have been killed in the line of duty. In 2003 alone, 36 were slain and countless more harassed or attacked.

This number includes those brave men and women in foreign lands who were covering the war efforts, as well as those who were

working on exposing the dangers and illegalities of their homelands.

Journalists in compromising positions are not on their own however. The independent organization called The Committee to Protect Journalists was founded in 1981. The non-profit group helps to protect members of the press and their right to write freely. Their efforts include pushing for answers in the unexplained deaths of journalists and bargaining for lighter sentences or freedom for imprisoned writers across the globe.

Their lists on journalists who have been censored, attacked, threatened, imprisoned, kidnapped and murdered are outstanding, and it's terrible to see just how many good reporters, as well as freelance writers, camera people and publication staff, are harassed and killed each year.

Even with the number of journalists who have been in situations like the ones above, it shouldn't put fear into potential writers to look for another profession.

Guerin put it perfectly when she said, "I am simply doing my job ... no hand can deter me from my battle for the truth."

Serious journalism

Here are only a few of the journalists and writers who have been harassed, imprisoned or killed for shining the light of truth in dark and deadly places through their writing. They paid the ultimate price for the basic freedom to think for oneself.

- Editorial Director **Roberto Javier Mora Garcia** of the Mexican newspaper *El Mañana*, who was involved in reporting about drug trafficking in Mexico, was stabbed over 25 times on March 19, 2004. It is suspected that his editorial position and journalism ties were the motives for the killing.

- **Yelena Tregubova**, Russian author of "Tales of a Kremlin Digger," which criticizes the Russian government, got an unwelcome surprise on her doorstep on Feb. 2 of this year — an exploding package. Tregubova was not injured, but the attack came shortly after her controversial book was published.

- **Lui Di**, a college student from Beijing, China was arrested on Nov. 7, 2002 for "endangering state security" because she posted essays on democracy on an online message board. She was imprisoned for four months before being able to contact anyone on the outside and was never allowed to see her family for the entire year of her detainment. She was released after a year when all charges were dropped due to lack of evidence.

- **Parmenio Medina Perez**, a Costa Rican radio journalist, was shot three times on July 7, 2001. The shooting may have been the result of his show, which was a satirical program that denounced official corruption.

- **Daniel Pearl**, an American correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal*, was abducted in January 2003 and killed a month later in Pakistan by militants attempting to silence his efforts to prove links between Pakistan, an ally of the United States, and suspected terrorists.

Salary report guides students in making career, college choices

By Jeff Barker, LV Academy

"I don't have a clue what my major is going to be," says Las Vegas Academy sophomore Marcus Davis.

Davis still has time to figure out his career path, but for high school seniors, college is only around the corner. It's time for them to start thinking of a major, and the classes they will take along with it. Recently the National Association of Colleges and Employers did a survey of which majors offer the highest paying starting salary after college graduation.

Majors such as computer engineering and chemical engineering top the list of most rewarding college degrees. Average starting salaries for computer engineers reached \$53,117, up very slightly

from their levels at this time last year. Starting salaries for chemical engineers, meanwhile, rose 2.5 percent to \$52,563.

On the other hand, there are starting salaries for those who major in civil engineering and electrical engineering that still match up with those professions, but are on a small decline from the previous year.

For the first time since 2001, employers reported increases in starting salary offers to students in computer science, information sciences and systems, and management information systems. The average offers for computer science majors rose 9 percent to \$48,656, and more than half the offers surveyed topped \$50,000.

On the downside are psychology majors, who unfortunately probably won't be seeing a big paycheck. Their starting average

fell 8 percent to \$25,032.

For students who major in the arts, employment is ample. Take theater for example. Theater classes give students the broad vision that all liberal arts students are supposed to acquire in college. Second, many students find that theater helps them develop confidence that's essential to speaking clearly, lucidly and thoughtfully. All of these oral communication skills are helpful in getting through a job interview and in working with people on the job. Majoring in the arts in college is not an easy task, but can be very helpful.

If one's main priority in going to college and graduating is to make big money, getting information on potential salaries would be a good place to start on choosing which major you prefer.

Project Safe Neighborhoods urges teens to give up guns

By Lori Valiente, Las Vegas HS



More and more guns are manufactured each year, and instead of going to responsible adults, these powerful weapons are falling into the wrong hands. Gun ownership is becoming a popular trend among the youth of America. It may be thought cool to own a gun, but once you own and carry a gun, you are also more likely to find yourself in a situation that you won't be able to handle.

Illegally carrying guns is not uncommon, but not many of the people doing this really consider the dangers that come with owning and using these deadly weapons.

Many teens die each year and more families are grieving the deaths of their friends and family members due to gun violence; however, these tragedies are far from the minds of people who own illegal guns. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey in 2000, more than half a million victims of serious crimes, such as rape and sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault, say that they faced an offender with a firearm.

Project Safe Neighborhood is a nationwide program targeted to reduce gun violence by

catching and prosecuting gun violators. Lt. Robert Duvall and other officers of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department participate in a prosecution task force in the Metro firearms unit. Through posters and lectures, these officers are trying to make the city streets safer by taking illegal guns out of people's hands before they either hurt or kill someone.

"We are trying to remove the most common tool used for hurting people," explains Duvall.

The officers use a hotline to receive tips from anyone who knows of someone who owns an illegal gun. Duvall explains that he has had many calls from teenagers whose friends have guns and want to shoot someone at school. He also receives calls from gang members' mothers who have found guns and want to get them out of the hands of their children.

With the hotline, the Metro officers use anonymity. Callers speak directly to police and don't have to give their names. Also, when prosecutors take the suspect to court, the witness doesn't need to testify, since, when the police confiscate the gun, they are their own witnesses.

Duvall says that if people have friends who have illegal guns, they should either convince them to get rid of the guns, or call the officers so they can immediately retrieve the guns.

"Once we get the gun, we concentrate on tracing it back to find out who gave them the gun," says Duvall.

Since juveniles get treated differently from adults, if they find an illegal gun, police will take the gun away, talk to the parents and get them help so they can "see where [the parents'] state of mind is at." Duvall explains that sometimes teenagers use guns because parents leave their guns lying around.

If a person is 18 years old or older, by just possessing an illegal gun, it is an automatic felony and two to five years in prison. Duvall says that those sentenced to a federal prison receive "truth sentencing," which means that if they are convicted and sentenced to 10 years, they will serve all of them.

Teens are finding it easier to pull the trigger now more than ever. Without giving anyone time enough to say anything, they take matters into their own

hands. Kids feel like they can take someone else's life and it isn't a big deal, or they believe that they'll get away with it. Sometimes they just want to play around with guns, not knowing how dangerous they can be. It takes one second to pull the trigger, but the consequences aren't worth it.

If you or anyone you know has information about someone who possesses an illegal gun, call 385-GUNS, and help keep Las Vegas' neighborhoods safe.

Speed demon gets fast ticket to trouble

Breaking the law takes emotional, financial toll

By Jen Probert, Basic HS

I wasn't running late. I was actually early. It was a Saturday night at about 6:45, and I was headed to work. I made a right turn onto Boulder Highway from Lake Mead Parkway, going about 50 miles per hour. I moved over into the fast lane and hit the gas. The only other vehicle around was a small green truck that was going about 10 miles an hour in the slow lane.

Then I saw him: A police officer on his motorcycle pulled out of the Yamaha store parking lot with his lights flashing. I knew I was going too fast, so I immediately hit the brakes and slowed down. I watched the cop in my rearview mirror as my heart raced. I thought I had been caught, but the police officer was behind the green truck.

I felt an immediate sense of relief, but just as my blood pressure returned to normal, I noticed the motorcycle cop, with his lights still flashing, merge over into my lane. I thought I was going to have a heart attack! And as I looked into the rearview mirror, I saw him flash his blindingly bright headlight at me.

Part of me said, "Keep on going! Don't stop! You could run away to Mexico, never to be heard from again!" But luckily I didn't listen to that little voice in my head, and I pulled over to the left hand side of the road. When I turned off the ignition and my headlights, I noticed that my hands were shaking. I tried to stop them, but I couldn't. The officer came up to my door and I rolled down my window.

"Ma'am, I pulled you over for doing 53 in a 45 mile per hour zone," said the officer.

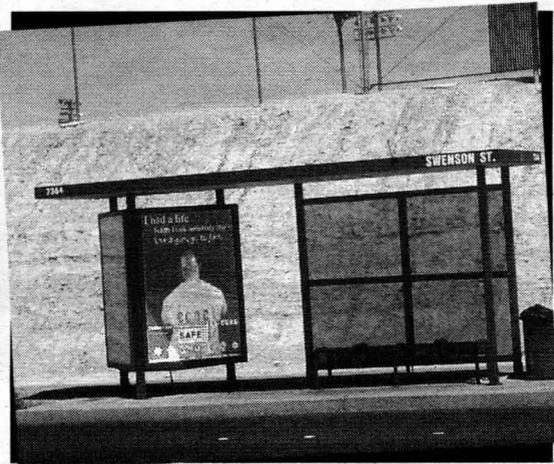
"Oh, okay," I said, "I'm so scared."

"Why are you scared?" asked the policeman. "I'm the good guy."

I handed over my license and registration. As soon as he walked away, I began to cry. I couldn't stop! The floodgates just opened up.

After I regained some composure, I called work and told them that I would be a little late. Then I called my parents. My mom was just glad that I was okay and that I hadn't gotten into an accident. My dad on the other hand was quite angry. He yelled for a couple of minutes (which didn't help the fact that I was crying), and then told me that he'd see me after work.

The officer came back to my door about 10 minutes after walking away to verify my information. He told me that I had to go to court, accompanied by a parent and then pay a fine and probably go to traffic school — all that, plus being late for work, and having my parents mad at me, just for going only eight miles per hour over the speed limit. Not only does speeding not pay — it costs a lot!



Metro has extended the campaign to bus stop kiosks such as this one near UNLV.

School safety greatest concern for parents, not teens

Bullies, drugs, guns top list of parents' worst fears

By Regina Froman,
LV Academy

Parents are more worried about their kids' safety and about their being exposed to violence and drugs than they are about their children's education.

Back when today's parents went to school, there was rarely the fear of someone bringing a gun to school or of bullies pushing drugs on kids.

The baby boomers from the 1950s, the older boomers, were not as exposed to alcohol and drugs as kids today. In the 1970s, use of marijuana and other illegal drugs peaked. Alcohol use on campuses started to become common in the late 1970s, reaching its highest point in the 1980s. As far as

violence went, there were the occasional fights and bullies, but seldom was anyone in serious danger of being really injured.

"Students were more naïve when I went to school," says Las Vegas Academy government teacher Robert Zambon, who graduated in 1969. "Now students are more worldly and aware, which brings problems up that we wouldn't have even thought of back then."

As time goes on, the problems seem to worsen with guns appearing on school campuses.

The Columbine High School tragedy is just one example of violence in schools. One nationwide study on the number of violent deaths in schools, conducted by S. Patrick Kachur for the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, shows that 81 percent of school deaths are homicides, with firearms causing 77 percent of deaths and knives causing 17 percent.

Statistics say that kids are mostly satisfied with their teachers and are getting a better education than ever before, but other, serious problems in a teen's everyday high school life are commonplace. Could it be that today's students are desensitized to the threat? Well, their parents are not.

The worst problems at today's high schools were minor concerns during parents' teen years.

- Seventy percent of today's parents say drugs and alcohol are a major problem now; only 25 percent say it was a big concern at their high schools.

- Sixty-four percent see undisciplined and disruptive students as a significant problem today; only 1 percent recalled this as a major difficulty in their school years.

- Fifty-four percent list violence and lack of school safety as a key problem now; only 7 percent saw it as a paramount concern during their teen years.

However, some say that schools are the safest place for kids, considering their surroundings at home and on the streets.

On the American School

Board Journal's Web site, Scott Poland, president of the National Association of School Psychologists, says that when very rare events like Columbine High School happen, they get high publicity and exaggerate the threat. Schools today aren't as bad as the news makes them out to be, according to Poland.

There are also many solutions to the problems of violence in schools. Metal detectors and campus police officers are deterrents that kids are used to seeing at school, but having a formal violence-prevention or reduction program is becoming popular in schools all over America. The goal of the program is to teach kids to solve conflicts peaceably and create a culture where weapons and violence are shunned at an early age.

Recent surveys show that school violence has steadily been dropping from 1992 to 2000, and as the need dictates, campus policing is the fastest growing area of law enforcement.

Between intervention and deterrence, authorities are beginning to find solutions to the problem of violence in schools.

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Get out there, help someone

By Ariel Gove, Las Vegas HS

When was the last time you went out and helped someone else? If it was less than a year ago, you deserve a pat on the back. Too many teenagers today only live for themselves and feel no desire to help anyone else.

"I enjoy every opportunity that I get to help others," says Senior Class Historian Christine Matta of Las Vegas High School. "It's not only a service project to me, but also it's helping my community, and to me that means I am helping myself, my family and everyone that I love and care for."

When you help out your community, you are helping all of those who live in it. For example, when you feed the homeless at a soup kitchen, you are keeping them from starving, which in turn may be keeping them from having to beg for food on our public streets or steal food from people who have worked hard for it, possibly even someone you know.

Another example is when you clean up litter in a park around your community. This keeps the children from having to play in trash and filth.

No matter your age or whether or not you think you have time, you can always make even a small amount of time to help. I challenge you to talk to

your teachers about it. Ask your teachers, parents or church leaders to help you organize something. Community service can be fun especially if you do it with your friends, so get everyone involved.

What better way to spend your time than by helping someone else? None of us is above the need for help every once in a while. Remember the Golden Rule: "Do unto others, as you would have others do unto you." The next time someone needs your help, consider what would happen if the tables were turned.

Brian Carnes, a 2002 high school graduate, says, "I helped my community by going to an old man's house and helping him clean out all of his war medals. These were then displayed in a case at our local library, and my name was listed on a nameplate as one of those to receive special thanks from the library."

"A few months later, my mom got really sick and I had to quit my job to help take care of her," says Carnes. "No one would hire me because I could only work from home, until one day I got a phone call from a man who had seen my name in the library. He said that he was also a war veteran and he had a job for me that I could do from my home computer. Because I helped someone else, I was helped in my time of need. It was a wonderful feeling."

Your volunteer efforts can help make the world a better place. Everyone has a special talent or skill to help others with. Find out where your skills are needed, and where you can volunteer. If all humanity can unite in good and noble actions, we could achieve the best life possible for everyone. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

Volunteer for a summer to remember

By Natalie Minev, Community College HS

During the summer, a majority of teenagers at one point or another sigh that inevitable phrase: "I'm bored!"

When you hear yourself utter this during the heat of July, instead of resorting to television, consider volunteering. Community service is often looked upon as boring and tedious by many high

school students; however, if you take a closer look, there are many awesome volunteer opportunities that can be interesting.

Whether you love reading, sports or animals, a volunteer opportunity is waiting for you out there. Not only does volunteering help out others, but it also will look great on your college résumé. If you want to get experience in the field you're interested in, volunteering is the way to go!

- ✓ **University Medical Center.** Has the medical field always intrigued you? Call volunteer coordinator Suzanne Fain at 383-2388.
- ✓ **Las Vegas/Clark County Library District.** For voracious readers, visit www.lvccld.org to find the library nearest to your neighborhood. Volunteers are always welcome.
- ✓ **Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.** Eager to catch some criminals? Well, maybe not on your first day. For more info on the LVMPD volunteer program, call 229-4304.
- ✓ **Thomas & Mack / Sam Boyd / Cox Pavilion Super Star Volunteers.** If you want to help out at big events, such as sports games or concerts, you and your friends can sign up and volunteer as a group at any one of these arenas. Call 895-1946 or visit www.thomasandmack.com/fb/group/faq.groups.shtml.
- ✓ **YMCA.** Interested in helping, teaching, or playing with kids? Give the YMCA a ring at 877-9622.
- ✓ **Red Rock Canyon.** Calling all nature-lovers! Visit www.redrockcanyon.blm.gov/Involved/ to apply as a volunteer at Vegas' most beautiful park.
- ✓ **Lied Animal Shelter.** Whether you just love animals or are aspiring to become a vet, you'll gain valuable experience working with all kinds of animals. Call 384-3333 for more information.
- ✓ **The Salvation Army.** With many locations to choose from, the Salvation Army allows you to help out the needy. You can reach them at 870-4430.
- ✓ **Las Vegas Fire and Rescue.** Surround yourself with real firefighters. Contact them at 383-2888.

Still stumped? Contact the Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada at 892-2321 or visit www.volunteermatch.com for local opportunities that are updated daily. Happy volunteering!



Furbies: the trend didn't last

Technology, terror, trends define legacy of Generation Y

By Bryan Manalang, Foothill HS

A history book or a photo collage of the 1950s most likely establishes the rise of the nuclear family, men and women coming home from the war and raising families, the increasing popularity of television, a booming economy, and of course, Andy Griffith. However, about 50 years from now, when a student researches what life was like in 2004, how will our generation be defined?

Although the events of Sept. 11 and the war on terrorism will probably dominate the headlines, technological advancements would probably be at the forefront of our generation. CD sales fell to a record \$32 billion in 2002 due to mass downloading from unauthorized person-to-person file-sharing programs on the Internet. The rise of the mp3 file format has fueled much of this piracy, so much so that the Recording Industry Artists' Association stepped in recently and began bringing up legal suits against downloaders.

It was originally thought that cell phones and laptops would only exist in the workplace. Not only was that prediction way wrong, Personal Digital Assistants, or PDAs, and other highly technological gizmos are being utilized in school, at home and virtually everywhere.

According to CyberAtlas.Internet.com, Internet access is at an all-time high with 132,151,758 active Internet users in the United

Continued on page 35

States alone as of December 2003, with about 25 hours of Internet usage per user each month. We weren't the generation that started the Internet, but we could best be described as the generation who advanced its usage, as most Americans use it to play multiplayer video games online, find out about political candidates, do research, read the daily news, find a date and correspond via email.

We've also seen a dramatic change in people's eating habits. It was originally thought that if people maintained at least a moderate exercise regimen and watched what they ate, they would be able to maintain a normal body weight. However, for some people, it didn't work out, so the low-carbohydrate diet proposed by Dr. Robert Atkins, was reintroduced and followed by a hungry generation of zealots who could buy Atkins-friendly meals at virtually any restaurant. We are definitely not the generation of exercise.

The television industry has also changed with prime time TV, which was formerly dominated by sitcoms such as "Friends" and "Will and Grace," being replaced by a cavalcade of reality shows like "Survivor," "Fear Factor" and "American Idol."

So, what will ultimately define our generation? There clearly is no answer, but a picture might show a mixed-race teen holding a video game controller in one hand, a flip phone in the other while wearing headphones that are plugged into an mp3 player blaring rock-rap or hip-hop while the computer screen blinks, "You've got mail."



THE FUTURE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER: With her mp3 player pinned to her shirt and her anti-gravity headphones floating so not to muss her hair, a Gen Y woman in 2030 still listens to her "oldies" from 2004 and rocks out.

College presents challenges before you even get in the door

By Ilana Sahn,
LV Academy

Many students can't wait to go to college. They've got their dream college applications filled out and in the envelopes with three stamps instead of two, just in case. They're counting the days until graduation, or rather freedom.

Freedom — that's what college is, isn't it? It's freedom from the bonds of childhood, and it's making the transition into adulthood — sounds exciting!

But what about scholarships, tuition, and most importantly, what college to attend? There are so many. How does one simply choose?

Counselors continually stress the importance of choosing a college. "It's the rest of your life," they say. They give countless lectures, especially to seniors, and the counselors' office is utterly bombarded with college posters, pamphlets and brochures.

"It's scary," says Las Vegas Academy senior Regina Froman. "In order to get anywhere in this world, you need to go to college to get a degree."

LVA junior Stephanie Orsalak says, "There is pressure in picking the right [college] and in finances. You worry about grades being good enough, and scholarships and SAT scores."

UNLV and UNR offer to cover nearly all the expenses of college if the student has at least a 3.0 GPA through the Millennium Scholarship, but what if you are aspiring to more than an in-state college? There's nothing wrong with UNLV or UNR, but what if you want to know more about what's out there? How does one go about choosing a college?

CosmoGIRL! magazine suggests considering five things when deciding what college to attend: the distance from home, campus culture, social life (sports

"In order to get anywhere in this world, you need to go to college to get a degree."

or academics), location and career choice.

It makes sense. Some students can't wait to pack their bags and move to some far off country like Australia, only to find themselves homesick, while for others, the entire reason why they are going to college is to get away from their families. Still, being from Las Vegas, going to a college up in Alaska might not be the wisest decision.

Then there are the colleges that eat, sleep and breathe football, while for others, textbooks and grades are the only concerns. Of course, a college with a reputable department in your career choice is definitely desirable.

"You want to go to a school that has a good knowledge of your major," says LVA senior Matt Hampton, "It should specialize in where you want to go and what you want to do."

However, neither the majors that colleges specialize in nor the distance from home seem to be the main concern of students. The cost of attending school is.

Tuition, books, dorms and other normal living expenses are what make many students think twice about going off to their dream college. Some end up settling for one less preferable. For some, cost becomes the ultimate factor in deciding which college to attend.

"It's just so expensive," Froman says.

For many, scholarships are the last and only resort to pay for the never-ending list of expenses pertaining to college.

Nevertheless, Orsalak still feels excited about the challenges and life that college offers.

"It means I'm growing up," she says. "I'll figure out what I want to be, and who I am. I'm starting a new chapter in my life."

Life after graduation: Are you ready for the real world?

By Kenneth Brown, Rancho HS

Many of us don't remember our first day of school. For some, it was a wonderful memory of the beginning of a social life; for others, it was "The Eve of the Apocalypse." From then on, school became many different things for many different people.

For some, school was the central core of their social universe. For others, school was the bane of their existence. Somewhere between the sandbox, the jungle gym and the "cool kids" table, we developed a sense of timidity and we settled for social mediocrity. But eventually, we got bored and tired of our surroundings and we wished for something better. So, like everything around us, we changed.

With every new school year, we began with the same mantra, "Things will be different this year." Unfortunately, when the same old song played its annoying intro, we began thinking the same thing that we've always thought around the end of the year: "Only this long until graduation." Somewhere in the nether regions of our minds, the promise of

"The Real World" was beginning to entice us more and more, as we closed in on the light at the end of the tunnel. But what exactly happens when we get there?

For some, there will be college or vocational school. They will choose to further their education and gain a degree in their chosen profession. For others, who feel that college may not be a necessity, they'll figure it out as they go along. Either way, we will all be done with high school, but from there on in is where things get a little complicated.

Ask anyone in the class of 2004, or any graduating class and they will tell you, "I can't wait to get out of high school!" Almost true to contradictory fashion though, as graduation rolls around, there will be tears galore — tears of sorrow and some of regret.

I don't know what the future holds. All we can do is hope for the best and prepare for the worst. I do know one thing, graduation, whether we like it or not, is the end of our time here as high school students. I can only say that I will be happy, I will be sad, and I will move on, with four fingers in the air, yelling "04" for the last time.

Seniors ready for big leap to the future

By Malina Montgomery, Foothill HS

There comes a time in all our lives when we must look into the future and decide which path our lives will follow. For some, this decision is a tough one and for others, it's a breeze.

Some start choosing at an early age, and others still haven't given it a thought. High school is a time when students blossom and create their own destinies. For seniors who have chosen to put off thinking about the future, it will be slapping them hard in the face sooner than they expect.

Senior year is full of angst, with that ever-popular case of "senioritis" and big decisions to be made. This semester some students will be digging through piles of college applications, looking hard for the one college that offers everything they want or need. Will they live on campus or stay at home? Go out of state or attend UNLV? What classes will they take, and how drastically changed will their extremely important social lives be? All these questions are filling senior brains.

Choosing a college is something students

should not take lightly. It is a decision that will drastically shape their future, and for some seniors, the decision is a stressful one. Some feel the nervousness of leaving and some are happy and ready to leave.

"I'm excited to finally leave the high school drama," says Foothill High School senior Sydney Fox.

The excitement of getting out on their own and leaving high school can be just as overwhelming as the "what ifs" that some seniors are now worried about.

"I don't have a college picked out right now. I'll probably go to UNLV, but I'm still really nervous that things won't work out the way I expect them to," says Foothill senior Kenny Stalnaker.

Whether or not these Falcons are ready to leave the nest, the time is upon them to spread their wings and learn to fly solo. For some seniors, the thought of leaving is a scary one, and they are not entirely sure if they can handle life outside of high school.

"I know that even after I've left, I'm still a Falcon at heart," says Foothill senior Gregory Walton.

High school takes four long years, and leaving its familiarity is a big leap off a tall cliff, but seniors can feel comforted knowing that all they have to do is spread their wings and they can soar above any obstacle.

education

Take charge of your education

Knowing the options lets you personalize your school experience

By Brianna Schaefer, Silverado HS

There's more to school than just reading, writing and arithmetic. When it comes to your education, think outside the box and look for alternative classes or programs that interest you and that will give you a head start on your future.

Silverado High School, for example, offers a variety of educational tracks to suit individual abilities and interests.

There is a business track for future businessmen and women, and a culinary track for potential chefs, which Silverado's food and nutrition teacher, Ms. Taylor, recommends to all students.

"Every student should get involved," says Taylor. "[The program teaches] skills about your body and the requirements for being healthy."

Silverado also offers an art track for the creative types, and, for those considering becoming teachers, there is a child development track.

If your zoned school doesn't offer a class that you may be interested in, there are some alternatives you may want to consider.

One option is to attend a magnet high school, or attend your zoned school part time and take vocational classes at a trade school like the Area Technical Trade Center.

Community College High School is a unique high school experience that allows you to take both high school and college classes at the same time, giving you an advantage in your college career.

Another route that students may wish to take is to try to get a zone variance to a school that offers an education program that you're interested in. For example, Coronado High School and Green Valley High School both offer auto mechanics, which is not provided at every high school. If you are mechanically inclined and thinking about getting into automotive work, then getting a zone variance to one of those schools is an option you may want to consider. Of course, zone variances depend on your grades, school populations and administrative approval.

Though these options may take more effort, the payoff is a more interesting and valuable education for you.

Diploma doesn't reflect readiness

By Jeff Barker, LV Academy

After all of those years of work, it seems that a high school diploma might not even be enough to get you along in the real world. A high school diploma has little meaning in determining whether a student is ready for work or college.

More rigorous and demanding math and English requirements for graduation are needed to restore the significance of a high school diploma, according to a review by the American Diploma Project.

"I think most of the classes are pretty easy, so maybe they could make them harder, but it's up to the students to respond," says Las Vegas Academy sophomore Marcus Davis.

The American Diploma Project leaders include top education officials from both President Reagan's and President Clinton's administrations. Comments from more than 300 educators and employers, plus an

analysis of employment trends, were used in the report.

The organization says that improvements can be made by students knowing enough of the same core subjects, but many students don't get the emphasis they need to understand them. Some of the main topics students should be learning include geometry, data analysis, statistics and advanced algebra, as well as written and oral communication skills, plus analytic and reasoning ability typically linked with honors courses.

People are not satisfied with the report showing that the high school diploma is losing its worth because they know how hard a student works to achieve one. However, many employers and college admissions offices regard the diploma as "little more than a certificate of school attendance," the report says.

"I work really hard to get good grades, and I don't

want that going to waste," says Las Vegas Academy sophomore Patty Corrales.

An article from the Las Vegas Review-Journal clashes with these points and argues that the local and state education community has mobilized to improve Nevada public education. The state revised its own board operations and expanded new committees and advisory groups to be responsive to emerging education needs.

The argument as to who is to blame could go either way. The students could be at fault for not striving to learn as much as they can in the four-year span of high school. On the flip side, teachers are responsible for relaying the information to the students in an efficient manner.

Placing blame, however, is not going to solve the problem. Only work from both sides of the fence will ensure that the diploma regains some of its importance and merit.

Personalized attention, free college credit highlight new Nevada State High School

By Stephanie Espinoza,
Green Valley HS

The opportunities for students to get ahead in life are constantly expanding, and now another new school may be opening soon to give high school students even more options.

Nevada State High School, in conjunction with Nevada State College, is preparing to give high school juniors and seniors a chance to start their college experience a little early. A public charter school known as an Early College High School, Nevada State High School is planned to be open for the fall semester of 2004.

Pending approval of charter-school status this summer,

NSHS will work with and be accountable to the Clark County School District, but at the same time, maintain independence from many district policies, allowing it to provide innovative programs for students.

NSHS will offer a curriculum of challenging courses in English, history, government, science, math, the arts and computer technology.

Dr. John Hawk, co-director of the program along with Dr. Wendi Hawk, says that the idea for the school came from "hearing of several similar programs across the nation, such as the Early College Initiative schools established by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and our local Community College

High School."

He says, "After reviewing the potential for a complete curriculum of dual credit, and then partnering with the Nevada State College, the Nevada State High School was created."

The high school classes will take place at Nevada State College, allowing juniors and seniors to earn dual credit for high school and college classes, similar to the Community College High School program.

While Hawk acknowledges that the Community College has provided inspiration, he says the programs do have differences, and he believes Nevada State High School also has a few improvements.

"The Community College High School has a limit on the number of classes that can be taken for dual credit," says Hawk. "At the Nevada State High School, students will attend college on a full-time basis and can earn up to 60 college credits in two years while working to graduate from high school."

In addition, NSHS will pay all student tuition and textbook expenses for their college classes.

Also the school can offer "simply another alternative for the hundreds of thousands of students in the Clark County School District," Hawk says.

Students attending the Nevada State High School will be "continually monitored and counseled," according to Hawk, "to ensure success in their classes."

Along with his co-director, both of whom are licensed high school teachers, Hawk will also provide tutoring, study sessions and academic advising to students, providing the individual help they need.

"Students who are undecided on a college major can take classes to fulfill core college classes that may transfer to other universities," he says.

Also, with Nevada State College's focus on teaching and nursing, students interested in those careers will find transferring from Nevada State High School to Nevada State College "seamless."

Pre-registration information sessions will be held at the Henderson Multigenerational Center on May 24 and 25 at 6 p.m. For more information, call 992-2017.

Southeast Region students gear up for zoning changes

By Daria Lake, Green Valley HS

Due to rezoning in the Southeast Region of the Clark County School District, students from several high schools will be attending new schools next year.

One school already preparing for the change is Green Valley High School. The new zoning arrangement will affect about 126 current GVHS students. Those students will attend Del Sol High School next year.

Of the affected students, only this year's juniors will be excluded from the zoning changes since these students will be seniors next fall. The sophomores affected by the zoning changes will start next year at Del Sol as upperclassmen (no seniors will attend) and become Del Sol's first graduating class in 2006.

Many have criticized the zoning changes since GVHS' boundaries shrank only two years ago when the district rezoned some Green Valley students to Foothill High School.

Still, the CCSD said the area being affected hasn't changed since GVHS opened.

"The area being rezoned for Del Sol hasn't changed in 12 years," says school district representative Sharon Dattoli. "Some areas that are rezoned are actually located closer to Del Sol than they are to Green Valley."

GVHS isn't the only school affected by the new zoning. Also losing students to Del Sol will be Silverado, Valley, Las Vegas and Chaparral high schools. Chaparral will be affected the most, as they are slated to lose approximately 1,217 students.

At GVHS, though, some concern exists about the possibility of losing staff members and cutting programs due to the loss of students. Since GVHS will be reduced in student size, Dattoli says that a loss is "inevitable," but staffing won't be done until later in the year.

"Programs are based on how the principal of the school schedules teachers and classes, along with the enrollment number of the students attending," she says.

Though it seems as if GVHS will be negatively affected by the zoning changes, this may not be the case.

"Green Valley has always taken in more students than its total capacity can handle," says Dattoli. "These zoning changes will cut down on Green Valley's overpopulation."

Special needs of special students ignored by No Child Left Behind Act

By Elyse Hughes,
Green Valley HS

Objective #1: Students will be able to identify which sense is being used and measured by student work samples.

Objective #2: Students will be able to put the events of the day in order by numbering sentences.

These are the objectives that guide the lesson for Mrs. Diskin's Mentally Challenged Students classroom at Green Valley High School.

While most of us wouldn't give a second thought to reviewing our senses or trying to remember and write down what we did yesterday, it helps these students to use basic memory and identifying skills.

In Diskin's class, the students file in one by one as they are dropped off at the school, but something is different about these kids — they are friendly! Each one looks over, gives a wave and says,

"Hi!" After a student enthusiastically calls out the right answer to a question, it is followed by a big "high-five" from the teacher and from classmates.

While assistant Brandon Perry leads the lesson, he asks a student if he would like to come up to the board and draw what people use to hear. What starts out appearing to be an ear turns into a squiggle line. Only with encouragement, Mr. Perry asks what it is.

"A worm!" the students call out proudly. Everyone chuckles.

It is the smiles of these kids that make them different. It is the immense amount of effort they put into every task, small or large. They are at the heart of GVHS, and they are only part of the thousands of kids across the country left behind.

The No Child Left Behind Act, made as an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary

Continued on page 38

Special students

Continued from page 37

Education Act, was signed into law in January of 2002 by President Bush, as an attempt to reach out to public schools in need of improvement.

While the Act appears to have good intentions, many of its requirements are seemingly too hard to live up to. New testing regulations laid down under the Act have created quite a stir across the nation. By mandating testing of all students within a public school in order to determine proficiency, the Act has served as a detriment in many cases.

"The test must be based on 'challenging' standards," explains Gerald W. Bracey in his article "The No Child Left Behind Act: Just Say No" on the Web site for the Education Disinformation Detection and Reporting Agency. "Schools must show Adequate Yearly Progress until, after 12 years, all of the schools' students attain the proficient level."

This would serve as an adequate goal for educational reform except that significant factors of each school's proficiency level are being ignored. By focusing on test scores as a way of determining a school's adequacy, the Act overlooks programs within schools performing at an adequate, and in many cases, above-average level. A universal test score may not interpret the goals and accomplishments made within these programs correctly.

Recently, Clark County School District Superintendent Carlos Garcia released the names of 82 schools that have been placed on a Nevada watch list for failing to meet the goals outlined in the Act.

"You have to get 100 percent or you fail," Garcia told the Las Vegas Review-Journal. "We're hoping that people will look at what the sub-issues are and realize that these are not bad schools."

In order to end up on the list, a school merely had to fall short in one of 36 categories.

Among the schools on the watch list is GVHS, named this year as one of Newsweek magazine's 739 top high schools in the United States. Green Valley was included on the watch list because special education students did not demonstrate adequate progress on math tests.

This is not a small issue. According to Special Education Facilitator Juli Rousseau, on na-

tional average, special education students comprise around 12 percent of a school's population. At GVHS alone, there are around 230 students currently receiving support in Special Education.

A special education lesson might entail how to use a key to open a door, allowing students to learn how to let themselves into their homes. Progress might come in the form of being able to hold a broom and learn how to complete the action of sweeping, or remembering one's entire name and address. The actions might come easily to some, but are truly important accomplishments for others.

"The only thing that [the Act] does not consider is that for some students with mental retardation, for example, progress for them is just maintaining a skill," says Diskin.

Fortunately, these accomplishments may be measured by an alternative test called SCAAN: Skills and Competencies Alternative Assessment of Nevada, which was approved as an adequate alternative test for students who qualify. This test does not apply to all special education students; however, it serves as an evaluation that factors into a school's overall proficiency rating.

A problem still exists due to the fact that most special education students are still required to take the standardized tests, and only a few qualify to take the alternative test. For the students who are required to take the test, certain accommodations are provided.

"There are certain things we can do to level the playing field, but there are certain things we can't," says Rousseau. When dealing with the Act, these accommodations only go so far.

And what about the students who are left behind already? It is hard to say. Many changes lie in wait on the horizon for the Act, and the outcome of the November election might just tell the fate of the Act.

With high expectations, the No Child Left Behind Act swept the nation in hopes of reform. While it has made some headway, it has sidetracked the goals of programs like special education. We can only hope that a brighter future and a classroom full of smiles and "high-fives" exists for the students that work so hard and love the opportunity to work for the independence many take for granted.



MAY FORECAST

Aries (March 21-April 19): Lately, you have been feeling a bit bored and ready for a change of pace. Figure out what would make you most happy and try to put those plans into action.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): There is a lot of pent up anger and frustration inside of you. The first step to getting back to your normal behavior is to forgive the person who hurt you and move on.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Sometimes events in life can throw us for a loop, and we are not sure what to do. Your search to get to the bottom of things may not be so easy. Just let things resolve themselves naturally. It's the only way for things to go back to normal without giving you much anxiety.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): A new friend sheds some light on a very intriguing person that you have been interested in getting to know. Listen carefully. There may be a bit of irony to this situation.

Leo (July 23-August 22): The hobby you are most involved in now may influence the career you choose in your long-term future. Develop this skill; you may be astonished as to the paths that can be taken.

Virgo (August 23-September 22): Start thinking about what activities you want to get involved in this summer. Remember that vacations require a bit of money, so you may want to look into getting a summer job.

Libra (September 23-October 23): Stop being so harmonious and take a stance on this new debate between two of your friends. It may be weird, but you know you agree with one side completely. You just need to make your opinion known.

Scorpio (October 24-November 21): Enjoy the arrival of some warmer weather by throwing a barbeque or a pool party. An event to preview what is to come during the summer will put you and all of your friends in a good mood.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): Pamper yourself by taking a day out to do things that you enjoy. Invite some family members to come along; they will enjoy your leisure as well.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19): You've become more cheerful as the summer approaches. Keep this attitude, and a brighter outlook can be maintained for you.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18): A few people in your life are being really petty, but don't take their behavior to heart. They'll realize the fault in their actions very soon.

Pisces (February 19-March 20): Don't be timid on this new idea that you have been pondering. Put all your effort into this venture, and you will be rewarded for your persistence.

Local teen on fast track to making history

By Ashley Sunstrum and Kylie McBeath, Faith Lutheran HS

Formula 1 Championship racing is considered the most prestigious event in the world of motorsports and equal in worldwide popularity to the Olympics. However, it may come as a shock to some that Americans don't participate. It's not that they don't want to — it's that American racers don't qualify. Red Bull, the maker of the energy drink, has made it its mission to change that fact, and they're going to do it with a teenager from Las Vegas.

Matt Jaskol, 19, a former Faith Lutheran High School student, won the 2003 Red Bull Driver's Search, beating out thousands of other drivers across the country for the opportunity to join Red Bull's racing team. Since then, Jaskol has been training all over the world with the Red Bull team to eventually qualify to compete in the Formula 1 Championships in Europe.

Jaskol has been driving go-

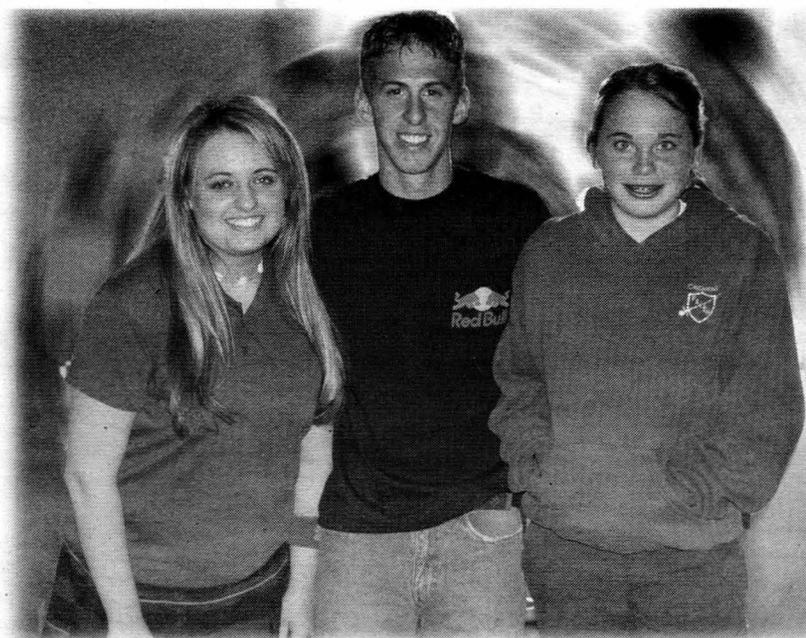
karts since he was 10 years old, and before that, he raced motocross at age 7. By the time he was 15, he had already rolled up five junior championships. At only 19, he has already won more than 70 kart races. Among his numerous racing awards, Jaskol has already earned a Skip Barber Racing School Scholarship and was invited to test-drive Team Rahal's 850-horsepower Champ Car in 2001.

"A lot of kids in school used to think it was stupid of me to race cars when I was so young," says Jaskol. "Now I wish I could see their faces when they see me on ESPN."

He is now signed with Team Autotecnica to drive the 2004 Formula BMW in the North America Championship this season. His favorite part about racing is the excitement and thrill.

"I love going out on the race track, because the sensation of the fast-paced cars gives me a natural high," says Jaskol.

As its main goal is to get an American back into the European Formula 1 car races, where there hasn't been an American winner in more than



Faith Lutheran HS reporters Ashley Sunstrum, left, and Kylie McBeath, right, met up with Red Bull racer and former Faith student Matt Jaskol, center, at the 2004 Driver's Search kick-off event.

20 years, Red Bull is back with a new competition for 2004. The competition is open to youth, both male and female, ages 13-17, and Las Vegas is one of only 58 sites in America where drivers can qualify. The reason the pre-qualifying age is so young is that team trainers want to begin molding the driver now so he or she is ready to compete in the Formula 1 races when he or she is older.

Teens can sign up for the competition at Fast Lap Indoor Kart Racing Center at 4288 S. Polaris, near I-15 and Tropicana Avenue. Drivers race laps and their best times are posted on a leader board. Drivers can race as many times as they want to improve their times, or to challenge those drivers with better times.

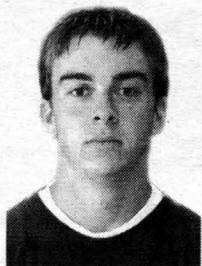
Keep in mind, though, that each 10-minute race costs \$20. The open competition runs through June 13.

The top four drivers from each location will move on to the run-offs in July and August. Up to 10 drivers from the run-offs will move on to the semi-finals in September, where they will be judged by a panel of professionals and a select few will be allowed to compete in the finals on an undisclosed track in Europe in October. Only four drivers will survive the intense two-day racing assessment, like Matt Jaskol did, to become part of the Red Bull Junior Series Race Team.

"I am very lucky to be sponsored by Red Bull because they offer many positive attributes to my career," says Jaskol.

Local college athlete tells about life on other side of graduation

By Eric Alder, Mojave HS



It is just about every high school athlete's dream to play basketball at Duke University, football at Florida State, baseball at USC, or maybe even hockey at the University of Minnesota, but that's why they call it a dream.

The odds of getting onto a college team are as slim as Ally McBeal on the Atkins Diet. Only about 6 percent, or about one in 17, of all high school seniors playing football will go onto play at a college.

Basketball is even worse. Less than one in 35, or approximately 3 percent, of high school senior boys playing basketball will go on to play men's basketball in college, and only about 3 percent of high school senior girls who play basketball will go on to play in college.

Getting into a Division I-level school and actually playing for them is a different story. But let's say the odds favor you and you do make it; it's not all peachy-keen after that.

"College life is a lot different. You don't get much sleep and the training is a lot harder," says Jessica Zarndt, winner of the 2003 NCAA Nevada Woman of the Year award.

Zarndt, a graduate from Cheyenne High School, where she won state championships in track and field and cross-country, attended UNR first, where she ran indoor and outdoor track and field and cross-country for two years. She then transferred to UNLV for another two years and continued both sports.

Zarndt says the hardest thing about athletics in college is being tired all the time and missing so much school.

"For the first couple of years, the traveling was fun, but the last two, you realize you're missing so much school," says Zarndt. "The first competition is always great. You're dealing with schools like UCLA, not Pahrump Valley."

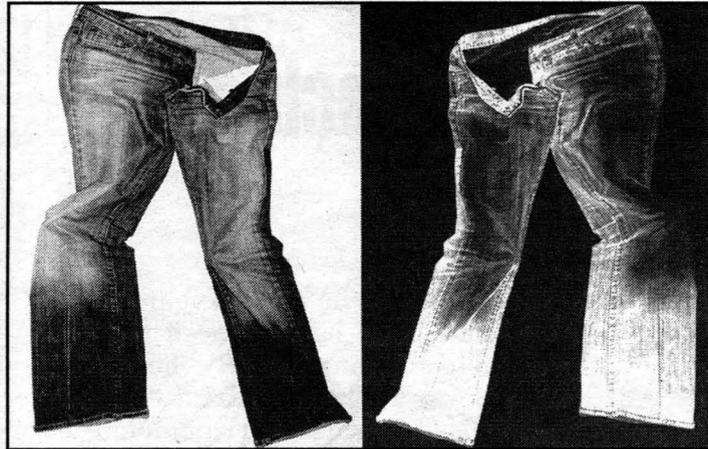
Being a college athlete can be fun, but it's very strenuous. Cheap hotels, missing school and long training hours are a few of the challenges to getting through it. In the long run though, the athlete gains friends he or she would never have had before and he or she learns valuable life lessons.

If the NCAA does choose you, remember, all the fun, glamour, TV spots and popularity are only gained with a little bit of luck and a whole lot of work.

2004 CCSD Photography Contest Winners



1st Place, PEOPLE, "Shannon," Katrina Dean, Palo Verde HS



1st Place, EXPERIMENTAL, "+/-," Ruby Sherman, Palo Verde HS



1st Place, ARCHITECTURAL, untitled, Hanife Koch, Las Vegas Academy

BEST OF SHOW
Daniel Christian Olsen, Palo Verde HS, "Autumn Storm"

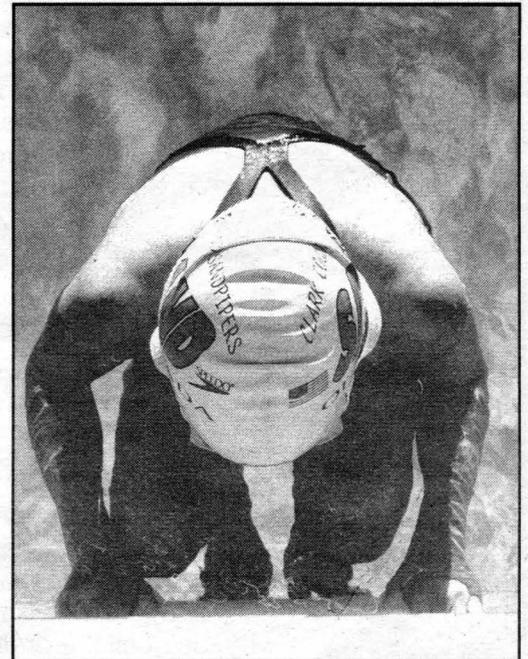
Category 1
SPORTS
 1st Place: **Cassie Bright**, Coronado HS, "Ready ... Set ... Go"
 2nd Place: **Sean Baker**, Mojave HS, "Landed"
 3rd Place: **Brittany Lyles**, Mojave HS, "Clockwork Orange"

Category 2
LANDSCAPE
 1st Place: **Drew Buggie**, Bonanza HS, "Yellow Flowers"
 2nd Place: **Kylie Ball**, Coronado HS, "Serenity"
 3rd Place: **Daniel Yoken**, Bonanza HS, "Night"

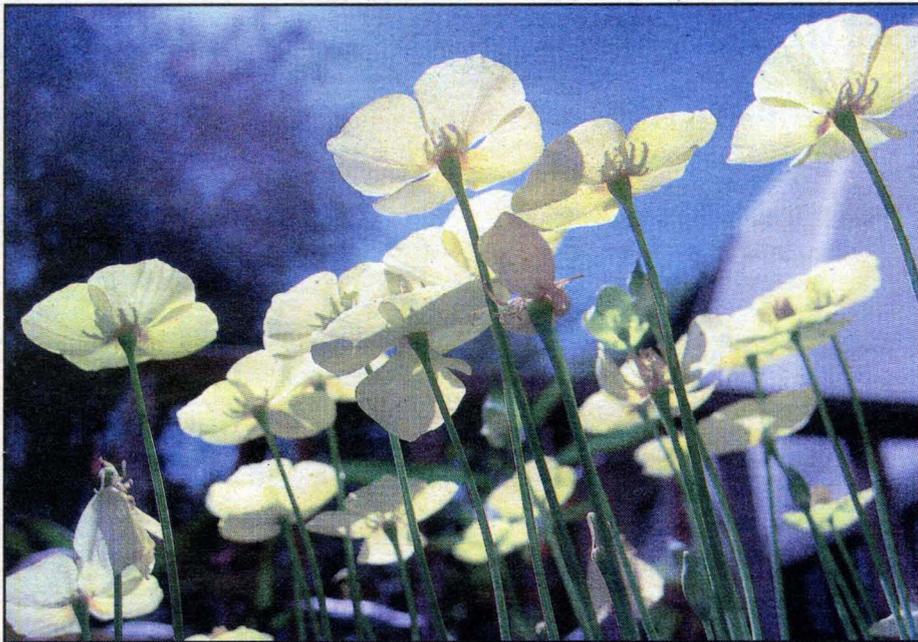
Category 3
ANIMALS
 1st Place: **Jenna Wheaton**, Bonanza HS, "Portia"
 2nd Place: **Spencer M. Rands**, Bonanza HS, "Got Salt?"
 3rd Place: **Brittany Lyles**, Mojave HS, "Mad Cow"
 3rd Place: **Thomas**



BEST OF SHOW, "Autumn Storm," Daniel Christian Olsen, Palo Verde HS



1st Place, SPORTS, "Ready ... Set ... Go," Cassie Bright, Coronado HS



1st Place, LANDSCAPE, "Yellow Flowers," Drew Buggie, Bonanza HS

Sammons, Western HS, "Up Close"

3rd Place: **Brittany Lyles**, Mojave HS, "Stairway to Heaven"

Category 4

PEOPLE

1st Place: **Katrina Dean**, Palo Verde HS, "Shannon"

2nd Place: **Ariana Sherman**, Palo Verde HS, "The Young Guitarist"

3rd Place: **Katrina Dean**, Palo Verde HS, "Kara"

3rd Place: **Krista Kendhammer**, Coronado HS, "Gondola Ride"

Category 5

ARCHITECTURAL

1st Place: **Hanife Koch**, Las Vegas Academy, untitled

2nd Place: **Aubrey Forston**, Las Vegas Academy, "St. Vincent's"

Category 6

EXPERIMENTAL

1st Place: **Ruby Sherman**, Palo Verde HS, "+/-"

2nd Place: **Victoria Mroz**, Coronado HS, "Daddy's Dimensions"

3rd Place: **Kylie Ball**, Coronado HS, "Exstasy"

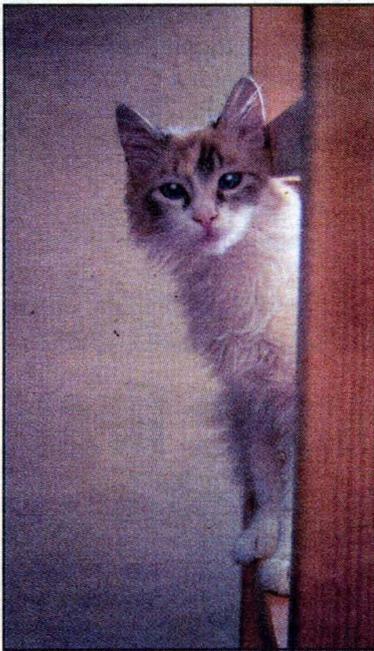
Category 7

UNCLASSIFIED

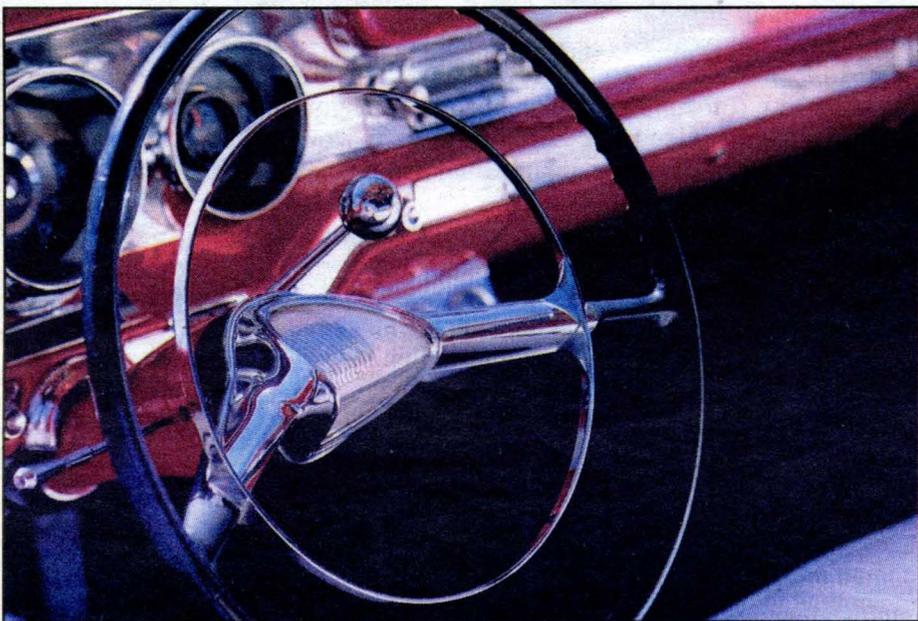
1st Place: **Rachel Andersen**, Coronado HS, "Life in the Fast Lane"

2nd Place: **Rachel Andersen**, Coronado HS, "Fall Leaves"

3rd Place: **Misuzu May Nomura**, Coronado HS, "A New View"

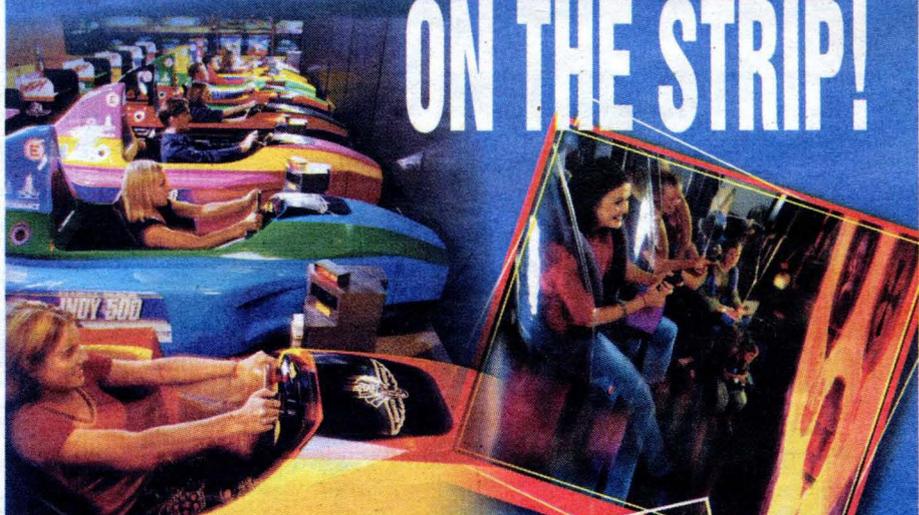


1st Place, ANIMALS, "Portia," Jenna Wheaton, Bonanza HS



1st Place, UNCLASSIFIED, "Life in the Fast Lane," Rachel Anderson, Coronado HS

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Spring fashions mean it's makeover time

By Farah Minwalla,
Palo Verde HS

This spring, as it does every season, the fashion world has now proclaimed what is "in" and "out."

Here's the breakdown:

- Skirts replace trousers.
- Sorbet colors are in instead of inky blacks.
- Any type of print is hot.
- Floral cardigans take the place of vests.
- Charm necklaces with a bit of a vintage flair substitute for pearls.
- Espadrilles replace Ugg Boots.
- Delicate chandelier earrings are the best way to make anybody look like they came from Rodeo Drive.

But no slave to fashion, however devoted, remakes her entire wardrobe every time the unpredictable fashion world cries, "Switch!"

Almost everybody knows that fashion makeovers have bombarded daytime television, but the truth is you don't really need one. The truly stylish woman begins every season with a shopping spree, through her very own closet. The key is to figure out what you already have and that it only takes a few new pieces every season to stay up to date.

Ever since the year 2004 hit the fashion world, bright colors have been everywhere! If your wardrobe tends toward a dark palette, mix in some brights. The season's most popular hues are citrus: full-bodied oranges and yellows, as in cheery, have-a-nice-day, lemon-banana yellow. It's a difficult color for many women to wear, but mixed into an existing palette, it can add a bit of sunshine into any crowd.

To add an extra layer of femininity, lingerie is the way to go, as long as it's lacy and delicate. If you have a small, fitted blazer; try wearing it over a smoky camisole edged in lace, or let lacy bits peek slightly out of a V-neck.

On another note, one thing many women have picked up in recent seasons is a baggy pair of cargo pants with dropping pockets and a saggy backside. This is the season to let them go. Some other items to let go of this season are skimpy scarf tops, scarves in general, bum-baring jeans, and Ugg Boots. The look of this season is Audrey Hepburn, not Britney.

If anybody asked a fashion guru what makes a simple, ordinary outfit look wonderful, he or she would say one thing: accessories. Accessories are always an inexpensive way to get a new look. If you find yourself in a situation where you suddenly need to look more formal, or less formal, than you're accustomed to, the right shoes, bag and jewelry can do it. The accessories to invest in this season are a pair of feminine heels, flat strappy sandals (think Greek-style), and a pair of colorful pumps. When talking about jewelry this season, the major trend is chandelier earrings. Worn with hair pulled neatly back, they're a wonderful rescue on a bad hair day.

The most important thing to remember about giving yourself a makeover is that the fashion tide flows constantly. Hang on to what looks right and if you just can't resist an over-the-top trend, don't worry about it. As Oscar Wilde once said, "Fashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to change it every six months."

A step ahead or out of step, anti-fashionists buck trends

By Amber Keene,
Desert Pines HS

When you look into the mirror, do you seem as though you just came off a human assembly line or like you were dressed by your personality?

Starting in the 1980s, an anti-conformity-type punk genre started with unique dress and loud, crazy music. In 2004, it's still kept going strong by those who love to be individual — the anti-fashionists.

At Desert Pines High School, for example, students who are trying to keep up their uniqueness do so by expressing their inner selves through the canvas of their outer bodies. Purposely going against the set norm of society, these teens set the style standards for themselves that

make those more in the mainstream cringe. They wear what is "so last year," they forget about the fashion "do's" and "don'ts," and they dress and act how they want.

"I've just always been like this," says Desert Pines freshman Alexa Mastriano to explain how she has always dressed "weird."

Most anti-fashionists will wear basically anything, including things such as wide-legged pants with many zippers, fishnet stockings and plaid.

Unfortunately for the true anti-fashionists, Anti-fashion is becoming fashionable. So does that mean that this will force non-conformists to dress "normal" to be different, or will they have to become even more creative in order to stay one of a kind? Only time and trends will tell.

Be beautiful inside first

By Barbara Lee,
Durango HS

Being attractive by wearing expensive, brand name fashions, having perfect makeup and silky, shiny hair may grab attention and stares, but being an underweight, flirty type of girl should not be the main concern of teenage girls.

Appearance is not everything. It should not be the most important thing on female adolescents' minds while they have to study for their final exams.

Many girls want to be Hollywood stars, but fantasizing about looking like a famous actress will not get you an audition. You could be voted "Greatest Looking Gal" in your school, but without the ability to remember your lines, an acting career would never happen.

Teenagers are painfully missing the point of being naturally beautiful. Magazines and movies have led most young girls to believe that the only way to be accepted by everyone is to be beautiful, thin and established with the "in-crowd."

Women who appear in clothing catalogues and fashion magazines are usually not at a healthy weight for their height. Some girls would rather sacrifice their health to look thin, but it is more than just for health reasons that teenagers should realize they do not have to be thin to be pretty. How can someone live life to the fullest if she is weighing herself after everything she eats?

Beauty is massively overwhelmed by personality. Attractiveness is only a bonus in life, like having that extra five minutes of sleep after a long night of hanging out with friends. If life were like ice cream, then being attractive would only be the whipped cream and cherry.



If you feel like Quasimodo on the inside without your perfect haircut and stylin' clothes, you may want to rethink your priorities.

Matches' lead singer on touring, downloading, hitting the big time

By Jess Roadhouse,
Indian Springs HS

Anna Scarpa of Foothill High School was right in her concert review in the February issue of CLASS! when she said that it wouldn't be the last we would be hearing about The Matches. I recently interviewed Shawn, the lead singer, when the band rolled into town to play the annual Extreme Thing festival.

JR: What will differ from the original release of the CD to the re-release ("E. Von Dahl Killed the Locals," May 11, 2004, Epitaph Records) ?

Shawn: The original release was recorded and mixed with a couple friends from our high school and local area in our kitchens and basements. And so for the Epitaph re-release, we added a couple of songs and we remixed all the songs.

JR: What or whom do you miss most when touring?

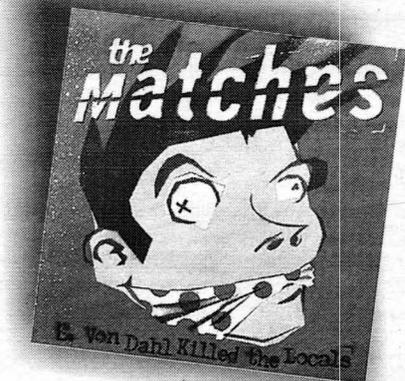
S: I miss my sister a lot when we tour. I live with my parents when I go home. My sister is a singer in a band called Go On Red with our bass player's little sister also. I like being around and hanging out with her, so I miss her a lot on the road.

JR: What were the best and worst shows you've ever played?

S: (Laughs) Worst show we ever played ... well, we played well, but the crowd sucked, and we opened up for a band called The Casualties. They're kind of gutter, hardcore punk. Anyway, our drummer had never heard them before, and we got offered the show and he was booking the shows at that point, and he was like, "Dude, we're playing a show with The Casualties!" And I was like, "Are you sure, dude?" And he said, "I already accepted the show." I downloaded some of the songs and let him listen to them, and we were like, "Oh crap." So the crowd was not really into us. That was a bad show, for the self-esteem anyway.

JR: Best show?

S: I'd say our shows back at



home in Oakland. I don't know if it's that we played really well, but we started the scene over there, and it's been selling out for the past year and a half and it's a really, really cool scene. And, actually, we normally don't play that well at the shows. Our strings always break, and stuff always falls apart, but the crowd is so good, that it just makes it seem like it's the best show ever.

JR: What is it like to tour in another country, and is it worth giving up time with family and friends?

S: Touring in another country can be pretty surreal. I'd say the most surreal experience was either Japan, or we just got back from Croatia and Bosnia, and that was a pretty surreal experience. They're not too big on the Americans, politics-wise, in Bosnia. But the fact that we came over there, and they're like, "In my lifetime, you're the first American band that's come here." We learned a lot about what we see on our news, and it was kind of a culture shock. Great shows, though.

JR: What is your favorite part about being in a band?

S: I'm an artist, right? And being in a band is like the most all-inclusive sort of occupation or pastime, whatever you'd like to call it, that I can possibly think of because I get to do the visual art, I get to do all the stuff on our Web site, I get to be in contact with people, and music, of course, being art. Being on stage is another one of my things. It just, it encompasses everything that I feel I want to share with people and share with the world.

JR: How do you feel about

downloading music for free?

S: Downloading music for free, I do it. I feel pretty good when I do it. There are arguments on both sides. I mean, I do feel guilty when I really love a band, and then I have a burned copy of their CD, so I always like, as soon as I get money, I go and buy the CD that I've been listening to forever, even though I have the album already, it's burned, and then I give my burned copy to somebody else who doesn't know about the band yet. There are a lot of bands where I just like three or four songs in which case I don't want to spend 15 bucks on their CD. So, I'm mixed about it. I think that it's initiative to make a really great CD so that people will want to go buy the whole thing.

JR: What bands or artists are you currently listening to?

S: I've been listening to a band called The Jam. Jon Feldmann from Goldfinger gave me some of their music, and it's really cool. It's like '70s garage punk rock, sort of. I love Outkast, and this guy named Damien Rice, who is kind of like slower songwriter stuff, but I'm really into that right now. Oh! This band called Billy Talent. I think they're really cool. We got

to play a show with them two and a half weeks ago in the UK. I'd never heard of them, and I just assumed that they were like a pop punk band that got signed to a major label. Dude, they're awesome!

JR: Yeah, they're really good.

S: They're so good.

JR: Yeah, we went and saw them a month ago.

S: Dude, I'm a big fan, so I've been listening to their CD a lot. I love it.

JR: Even though you are gaining more popularity, will you still play the L3 shows ("Live, Loud and Local" concerts in Oakland, Calif.)?

S: Yep, that's our home. We're really proud of that. I mean L3 got us where we are. Because we started that scene, it enabled us to make money back at home and start touring nationally on our own budgets and everything. That's how all the record labels heard about us. And that's how we got signed to Epitaph Records because they heard about the L3 show. It all started there, and that crowd is really our family.

To find out more about The Matches, check out their Web site at www.thematches.com.

School movie-viewing restrictions hamper learning opportunities

By Brianna Rizzo,
Cimarron-Memorial HS

Parental guidance is needed for kids under age 13 when watching a movie rated PG-13. Though not many 13-year-olds, if any at all, attend high school, PG-13-rated movies are currently restricted from being shown in any Clark County School District classroom. However, if a PG-13-rated movie pertains to a subject being taught, why can't teachers show it?

Teachers cannot even show a PG-rated movie without parents' consent. This means that a monumental movie like "Remember the Titans," a true story about the racial integration of a high school football team, cannot be watched by students on campus without parents agreeing to it.

The school district needs to keep up with the fast-paced world, but how can it when it puts restrictions on learning, espe-

cially in the technological world we live in today?

Students get tired and bored out of their minds taking notes. Notes should be taken in class to provide a reference for what students have learned, but taking endless amounts of pages of notes every day is boring. If teachers found movies or movie scenes that went along with their lesson plans, they could easily captivate as well as educate their students.

History teachers can talk about war and the Great Depression, but what about visual learners? If students see a war depiction or people suffering from starvation, they will understand these periods of time a little bit more. If you notice, most teens remember lines of movies and lyrics to songs easily, but if you ask them when the Magna Carta was signed or what a predicate nominative is, they probably won't re-

Continued on page 46

MAY

Through May 30

Las Vegas Academy Student Art Exhibition. Art students display works in a variety of media. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Free admission. 229-4674.

May 12

The W.O.W. (Women of the World) film series honors the diverse and courageous spirit of women by showing the film "The Joy Luck Club." Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo. 7 p.m. Free admission. 507-3459.

May 13

Pennywise in concert with Authority Zero and Autopilot Off. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 6:45 p.m. Tickets \$15. All ages. 632-7600.

Summer Job Success. Learn tips on landing a job in our three part series, which will include résumé-writing skills, a mock job interview and discussion with a job panel. Spring Valley Library, 4280 S. Jones Blvd. Free admission, pre-registration required. 507-3823.

May 14

The Matchbook Romance in concert with Maxeen, The Matches and Bleed the Dream. The Huntridge, 1208 E. Charleston. Tickets \$10 advance, \$12 day of show. 678-6800.

May 14 and May 21

Teen Childbirth Preparation. If you are a pregnant teen, this class is for you! You will learn about your nutritional needs during your pregnancy, the birth process, baby care, car seat safety education, and relaxation and breathing techniques. St. Rose Dominican Hospital's Home Health Services, 1125 American Pacific Dr. 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Free admission. Registration required. 616-4901.

May 15

Asian Cinefest Film Festival. This National Tour is once again proud to present its list of independent Asian-American films, which will include feature-length, shorts, animation and documentary films. Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo. 2 p.m. Free admission. 507-3459.

Las Vegas All-Star High School Jazz Band. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 2 p.m. Free admission. 229-6211.

May 16

Arena Football. Las Vegas Gladiators vs. San Jose Sabercats. Thomas and

Mack Center, UNLV. 12 p.m. Tickets \$9.50-\$63. 739-FANS.

May 17

Maroon 5 in concert with Big City Rock. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 7:15 p.m. Tickets \$17.50-\$20.00. All ages. 632-7600.

May 18

WWE Smackdown. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$23-\$43. 739-FANS.

May 21

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

May 22

Dave Chappelle in his standup comedy routine. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 7:15 p.m. Tickets \$37-\$60. All ages. 632-7600.

Performing Arts Center Season Finale Hal Hollbrook as Mark Twain Tonight. Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, UNLV. 8 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$45. 739-FANS.

May 26

Meet the Triple Nickles. Learn about the first all African-American paratroopers unit, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion. West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 6 p.m. Free admission. 507-3980.

May 28

The Diary of Anne Frank. This impassioned drama about the lives of eight people hiding from the Nazis in a concealed storage attic during World War II has become a classic in American Literature. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St. Performances on May 28, 29, June 3-5 at 7 p.m. Performances on May 30, June 5, June 5 and June 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$7 adults, \$5 teens and seniors, \$3 children 12 and under. 229-6383.

The Higher in concert with Silverstein, Alexis on Fire, Emery and Hawthorne Heights. The Huntridge, 1208 E. Charleston. Ticket prices TBA. 678-6800.

May 29

Tito Puentes Jr. Orchestra. Enjoy the eclectic sounds and rhythms of Puentes Jr. Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, Southwest corner of Lorenzi Park. 8 p.m.-10 p.m. Tickets \$15 gate, \$10 advance. 229-1087.

Harry Potter Marathon. View the first two movies as we await the release of "The Prisoner of Azkaban" on June 4. West Charleston Library, 6301 W. Charleston Blvd. 11:30 a.m. Free admission. 507-3940.

May 30

Arena Football. Las Vegas Gladiators vs. Columbus Destroyers. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 1 p.m. Tickets \$9.50-\$63. 739-FANS.

JUNE

June 3

Cypress Hill in concert. House of Blues, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. 8 p.m. Tickets \$28-\$38. All ages. 632-7600.

June 12

Community Roots Theatre. Watch "The Life Story of Billie Holiday," which is based exclusively on Holiday's autobiography. West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 3 p.m. Free admission. 229-4800.

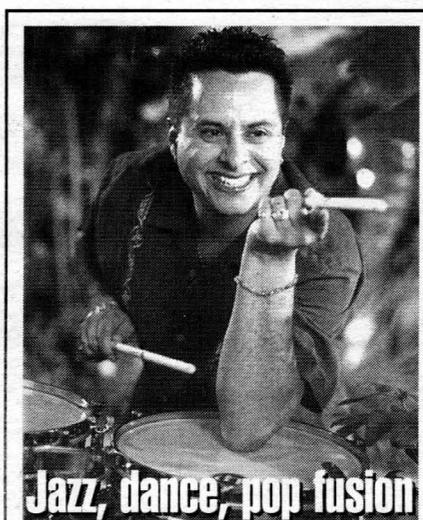
June 18

Jason Mraz in concert. House of Blues, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. 7 p.m. Tickets \$26.50-\$35. All ages. 632-7600.

June 19

Juneteenth Celebration. Celebrate Juneteenth with cultural and educational activities, guest speakers, live entertainment and traditional soul food. Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza in Lorenzi Park, Twin Lakes Dr. off W. Washington. 3 p.m.-10 p.m. Free admission. 255-6659.

Broadway Melodies with Mark Thomsen and Patricia Welch. Listen to some of your favorite songs from Broadway musicals and enjoy light refreshments, or bring a sack lunch. Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, 333 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Free admission. 229-1087.



Enjoy the eclectic sounds and rhythms of Tito Puentes Jr. and his orchestra Memorial Day Weekend, May 29, at the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza in Lorenzi Park at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the gate, \$10 in advance.

announcements

Cool stuff

A new exhibit featuring "cool stuff" from the collections of the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas is now open and will run through October 2004. The "Cool Stuff From the Back Room" exhibit features some of the fascinating pieces belonging to the museum's collection that are rarely seen due to limited exhibit space. The museum is located at 700 Twin Lakes Dr., Lorenzi Park, and is open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. General admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors 55 and over, and free to children 17 and under. For more information, call 486-5205.

Teen mom support

St. Rose Dominican Hospital's Family-to-Family Connection Center holds a regular Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Group. It is a chance for teens who are pregnant or already have their babies to share concerns and questions with peers and a Family-to-Family nurse or educator. Meetings take place on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. The center is located at 31 Church St. in Henderson. The meetings are free. For more information, call 568-9601.

Add some spice

Salsa music and the Cuban culture will be featured at Mi Son Guajiro Festival, May 16 at Sunset Park, 2601 E. Sunset Rd. Clark County Parks and Community Services and Siboney Promotions are hosting the festival, which will feature entertainment, a dance floor, food vendors and special guests. Gates open at 10 a.m., and the event will continue through 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for ages 15 and up, \$10 for ages 62 and up, \$5 for ages 10-14, and children under 9 years old are free. Contact Siboney Promotions at (760) 952-1354 or (866) 263-2295 for more information.

Southern cookin'

Come dance, eat and learn something new. The public is invited to enjoy a festival highlighting the Louisiana Creole Heritage on Saturday, May 22, at Sunset Park, 2601 E. Sunset Rd. The festival runs from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and will feature music, food and information about the culture. Admission is \$5 at the gate. Call 455-8200 for more information.

Tomorrow's leaders

The 11th annual Latino Youth Leadership Conference will take place June 23 through June 27. The LYLCC brings together 60 Latino students from local high schools for five days of intensive leadership training and development on the UNLV campus. Juniors/seniors and students just beginning to explore their leadership potential are encouraged to apply. No prior leadership experience is necessary. The program is free for students; just

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

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Scholarships

Fisca National Scholarship

Contact: www.fisca.org
Amount: \$2,000
Deadline: May 17
Requirements: High school seniors may apply for this scholarship. Awards are based on academic achievement, financial need, leadership skills in school and the community, and an essay written expressly for the competition.

CarDonors.com Scholarship

Contact: www.cardonors.com/cardonation-scholarship.html
Amount: \$500
Deadline: May 31
Requirements: Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA and be planning to attend an accredited U.S. college in the 2004-2005 school year.

National Black Police Association Alphonso Deal Scholarship Award

Contact: www.blackpolice.org
Amount: varies
Deadline: June 1
Requirements: Applicants must be U.S. citizens in their senior year of high school. Applicants must also be of good character, have a recommendation and current transcript and be accepted to a two-year college or university prior to the date of award.

Illustrators of the Future Contest

Contact:
www.writersofthefuture.com

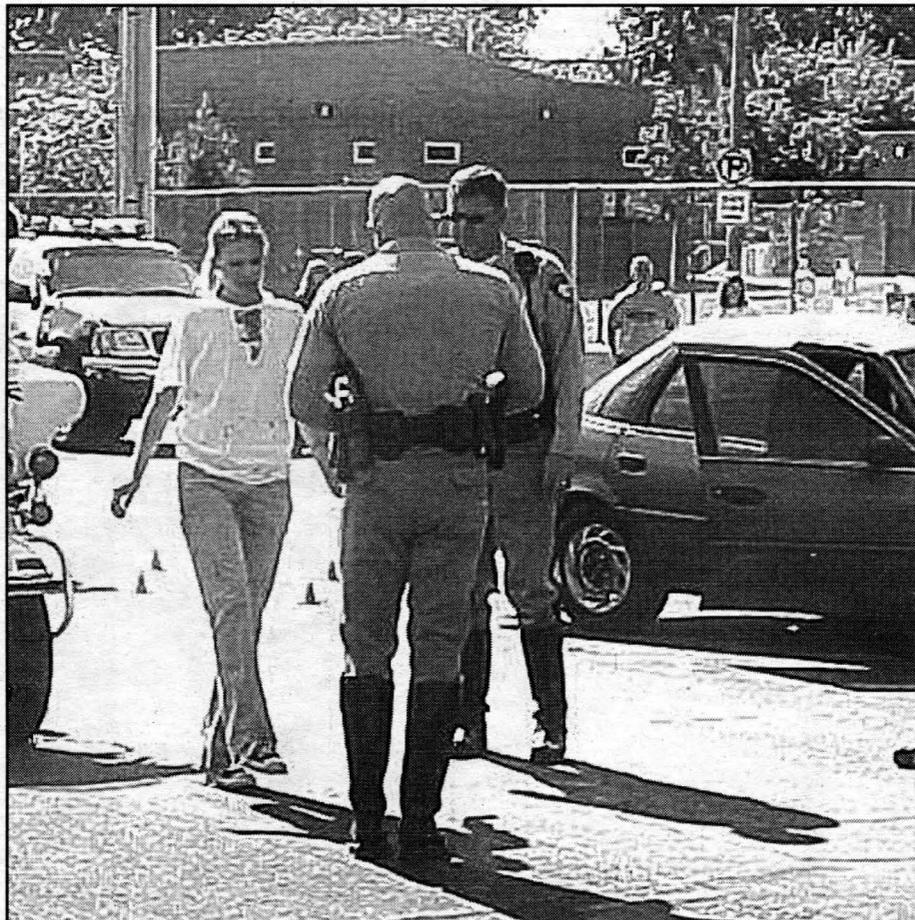
Amount: \$1,000
Deadline: July 1
Requirements: Artists are welcome to apply for this scholarship. Each applicant must submit one entry, which is considered to be three black and white works illustrating a science fiction or fantasy story with no recurring theme. Entries may not have been previously published.

Helping Hands Book Scholarship

Contact:
www.helpinghandsbookscholarship.com/pages/405814/index.htm
Amount: Up to \$1,000
Deadline: July 15
Requirements: Awards are open to students who are planning to attend a two-year, four-year or vocational institution within the U.S. Scholarship recipients are selected according to merit on a competitive basis. In addition, applicants must demonstrate career and academic potential measured by a combination of factors, including past performance and career objectives.

Presidential Freedom Scholarships

Contact: www.nationalservice.org
Amount: \$1,000
Deadline: July 16
Requirements: High school juniors and seniors may be nominated by their schools to receive this scholarship. Applicants should be able to demonstrate commitment to community service and leadership.



Walkin' the line

Valley High School sophomore Chiara Velotta takes a field sobriety test with officers from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Velotta joined several senior and junior VHS students as participants in the school's first staging of the "Every 15 Minutes" drunk-driving education program on April 28. A full report on the students' experience will appear in the September 2004 issue of CLASS!, so watch for it at your school.

Movies in school

Continued from page 43

member. Movies get drilled into your mind.

Unfortunately, the best movies that could enhance learning are sometimes R-rated and will probably never be allowed in schools, but showing clips from these films won't damage a student's mind. It will only improve it.

Some parents may object to clips from R-rated movies, but as is now required for PG movies, send a letter home! If the profanity in an R-rated movie is what scares parents, they should realize more profanity is used at school during passing periods than in "Saving Private Ryan" or "We Were Soldiers," two wonderful R-rated war films.

It is great that the school district keeps parents informed about movies, but why aren't parents informed when their child is

reading a questionable book such as "Of Mice and Men," which contains profanity and gory content? The school district assumes that since these books have been taught in schools for decades, parents won't care.

If the violence of R-rated films is what makes parents object, they should realize it is realistic violence with educational value. It is not the same violence for entertainment that occurs in video games or Vin Diesel movies that parents allow their children to play and watch. The violence in quality films has a purpose that students need to learn about.

If students were given the option to watch movies in school that showed historical moments or Shakespeare's words in action, maybe they would step back and want to become interested in the world and how it works, and will appreciate all that they have. Letting students see with their eyes will help them perceive the world in a more interesting way.

announcements

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submit your applications via fax to 385-2614, or mail to P.O. Box 7500, Las Vegas, NV 89125. For more information, call Olga Medoza at 339-4693, or visit www.lyla.org. Applications are due May 25.

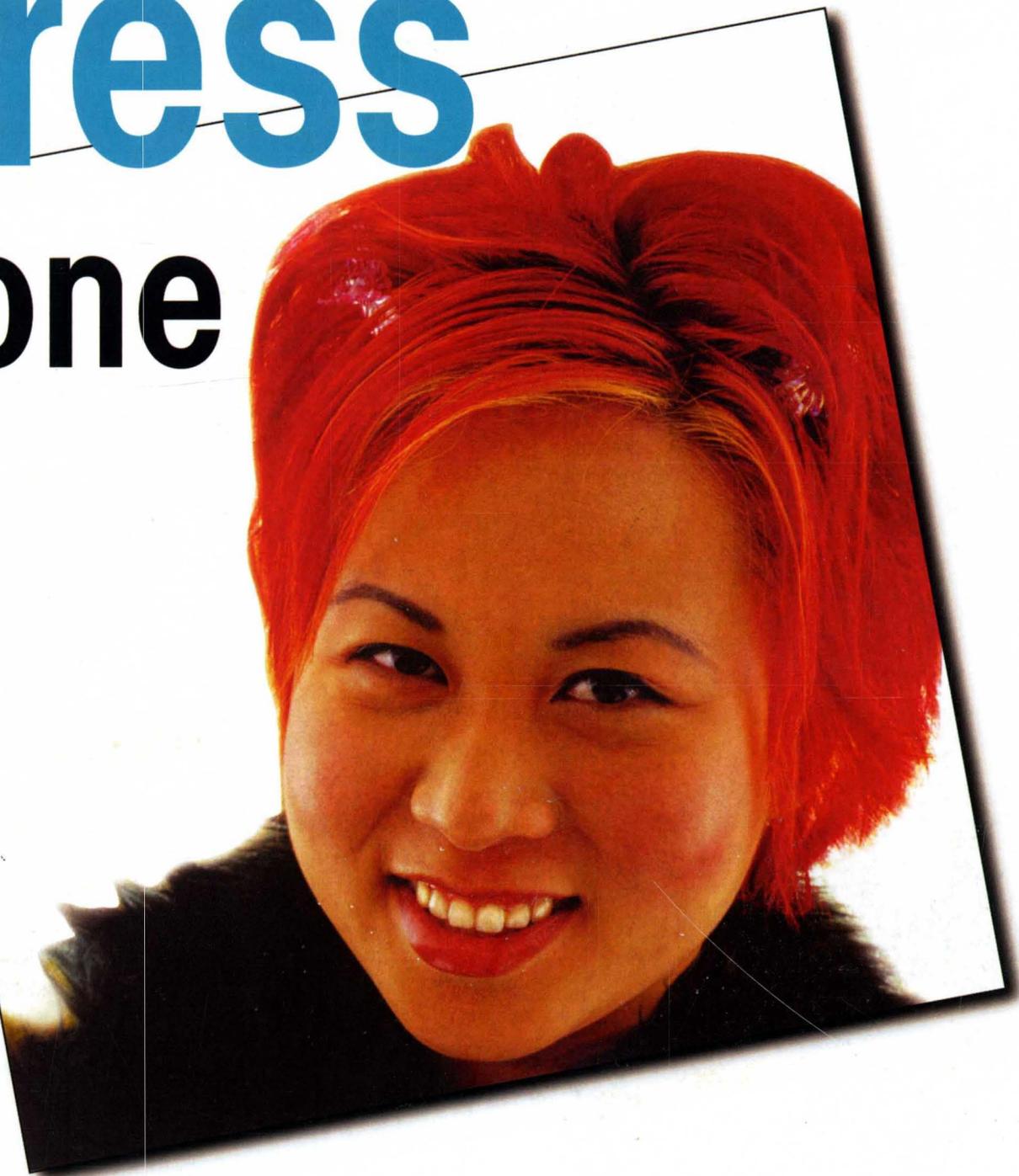
Rock on!

Planning to attend UNLV or CCSN this fall? Want to take a really fun class? Earn three elective or fine arts credits by enrolling in the "History of the Beatles!" It will feature videos, music and discussion that cover every important phase of the world's most successful and beloved rock band. It is offered at UNLV, Monday evenings from 7-9:20 p.m., or at CCSN (Cheyenne Campus) Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 10:20 p.m. Registration for UNLV's fall semester classes begins on May 19. Registration for CCSN's fall semester classes runs now through August 27.

Battle of the Bands

"B.O.B." is back! Take part in the largest band invasion in the history of the world as WorldFolk launches its Sixth Annual Battle of the Bands Festival! The B.O.B. Festival kicks off June 4 and runs until Sept. 4 at various venues, with registration running throughout the festival dates. To register your band, or if you would like to be a sponsor, a volunteer or to judge the bands, go to www.worldfolk.com, or call 353-8178.

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Attend one of our informational meetings:

Nevada State College Campus

1125 Nevada State Drive; Henderson
Friday April 30; 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Saturday May 1; 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Henderson Multigenerational Center

250 S. Green Valley Parkway; Henderson
Monday May 24; 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Tuesday May 25; 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

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