

SEPTEMBER 2004

By, for and about Clark County  
high school students

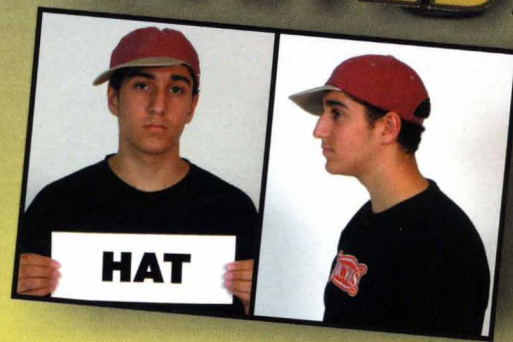
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# CLASS!



## BUSTED!

# THE USUAL SUSPECTS

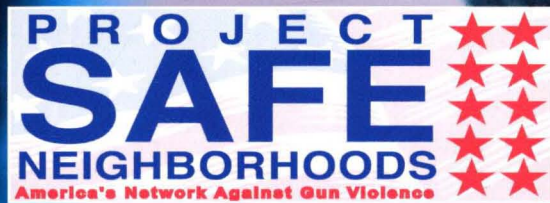


From dress codes to curfews,  
students challenge the  
fairness of rules that  
stereotype teens



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Welcome back to a new school year! The Clark County School District is now the fifth largest in the United States and is still the fastest growing. Believe it or not, there are more than 70,000 other high school students in your community going through many of the changes you're having to deal with this new school year.

According to Danny Gobaud's article on page 5, "New schools set to relieve overcrowding, offer unique opportunities for online learning," there are more than a dozen new schools opening this year. Three of them are traditional high schools, leading to many students being rezoned. Another is a Virtual High School, which allows a unique opportunity for teens looking for an alternative to the standard high school experience.

There are other non-traditional high school opportunities out there, such as the Nevada State High School, where you can earn college credit during your junior and senior years, and the Clean and Sober, Drug-Free School of Choice (see Chanae Alexander's article on page 7, "Clean and sober school offers choice to recovering students").

Try not to let your head spin as you go through all of the options available to you for your high school experience. Just make sure you learn about all of your opportunities so you can pursue the right education to put you on your path to success!

If you're one of the thousands of new students this year, or an incoming freshman, please consider becoming a writer for CLASS!. It's easy: just email us an article that you'd be interested in having published. (If you don't have access to email, you can also fax or snail-mail it to our office.) The deadlines for each issue are listed on our Web site so you'll know when to have it sent in. Just think, you could be a published author as a teenager! Not bad for the old resumé!

In the meantime, have a great 2004-2005 school year!

Allie Smith

Allie Smith  
Editor/Executive Director



THINK.  
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PUBLISH.

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

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on our cover ...

"Line up the usual suspects!" They are, from left, Chanae Alexander, LV Academy junior; Edna Gonzales, Liberty HS junior; Juan Carillo, Liberty HS junior; Whitney James, Liberty HS sophomore; and Michael Gobaud, LV Academy senior. Busted: David Hartman, Centennial HS freshman.



# CLASS!

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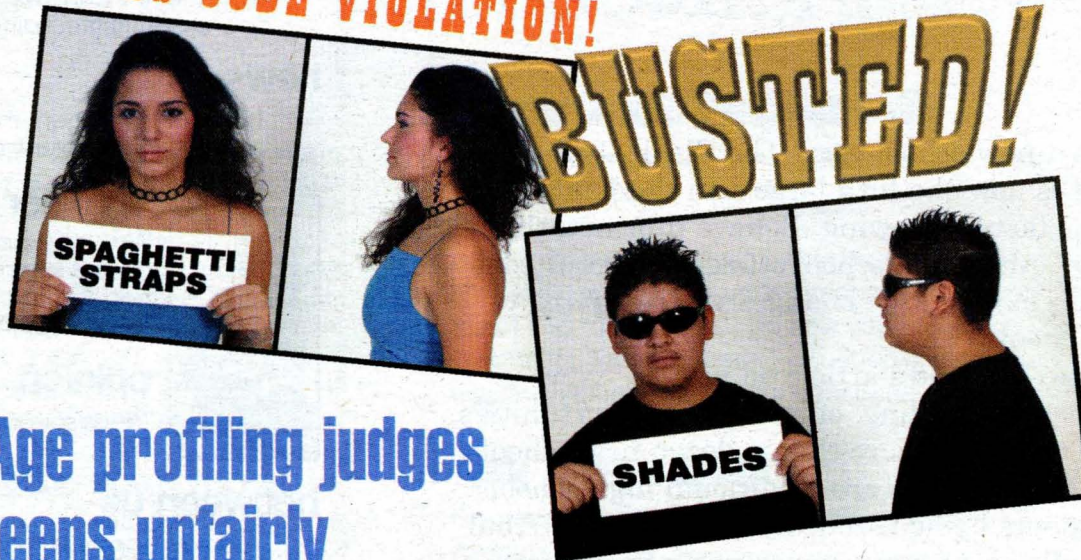
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DRESS CODE VIOLATION!



Stephanie Hartman, far left, a senior at Centennial HS, and Alex Carrillo, a freshman at Liberty HS, pose for CLASS! as "dress code violators."

## Age profiling judges teens unfairly

By Jamie DeSoto,  
Mojave HS



You may have a part-time job, be an honor student or a star athlete, but to most adults you are just a teenager.

We have been told all of our lives never to assume, stereotype or judge a book by its cover. Unfortunately, adults rarely seem to follow their own advice when dealing with adolescents. The rules that teens are forced to abide by, including curfews, closed lunches and dress codes, are rarely placed on adults. These restrictions send the message that teens are not worthy of the amount of trust and responsibility given to the rest of society. Similar to the racial profiling that civil rights groups have protested, age profiling assumes that people of a certain age will act irresponsibly or even criminally, if not prevented from doing so.

Growing up in Vegas seems ideal. From concerts to clubs to shows, we are definitely in the right city for entertainment. The problem is, most events are set up for adults only. There are very few clubs for those under 21, and though some clubs offer teen nights, they often fall on school nights, making it difficult to attend. Some casinos have set early teen curfews to cut down on loitering and violence. Texas Station, which hosts both a bowling alley and a movie theater, forbids the entrance of unattended minors after 8 p.m.! These restrictions severely limit the options for teen entertainment.

While Las Vegas truly comes alive after the city lights up, local teens can't enjoy the nightlife due to strict curfews. The county curfew rules state that for anyone under the age of 18, curfew is at 10 p.m. from Sundays to Thursdays and midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. This seems reasonable enough, considering the increased amount of teenage crime at night. The bigger issue is the Strip curfew. The Las Vegas Strip, the location of the best events and attractions, prohibits unattended teens after 9 p.m., no matter what occasion, holiday or event.

An early curfew, though aggravating, is understandable. The much bigger problem for all teenagers is stereotyping. Many adults consider teens to be lazy, reckless and irresponsible. A group of teens is thought to be dangerous, rude and unwelcome. This is shown in the treatment teenagers often receive from adults. Bosses are often more strict with younger employees and much quicker to chew them out for small offenses. Many places of business refuse to let groups of teens enter, no matter what their purpose. Teenagers are often pushed aside or ignored in adult situations, simply because of their age.

There is no denying that some teenagers do follow the typical stereotype, but it seems highly unfair to consider all teens the same. The teenagers who work hard to receive good grades in school, participate in sports or get involved with the community are considered exceptions to "normal" teens. Therefore, rules are created and regulations put into place that restrict teen activities

based on the general opinion of adolescents. In a country that proudly states all are innocent until proven guilty, the exact opposite is true for teens.

At a time in our lives when we are constantly being told to act more like adults, all responsibility is being taken away. Open campus lunches, which used to be enjoyed by many teens in the valley, are now closed. While Clark County did have very good reasons for closing campuses, it still proves that decisions for the entire generation are based on the actions of a small group of individuals.

Several schools in Las Vegas have adopted dress codes this year that strictly regulate what students wear. Jeans and T-shirts are forbidden and some schools specify certain colors that must be worn. The idea is to make the students appear more uniform and to improve the learning environment. Many students are concerned that the dress code regulations will inhibit them from expressing themselves. The real issue, however, is the fact that we have lost our responsibility to choose our own school clothes. Whether you approve of the new dress codes or not, there is no denying that it is another element of trust that has been taken away.

Will the common perception of teenagers ever change? Probably not, since it's easier for the adults making the laws to restrict everyone rather than punish only those who deserve it.

The truth is, most teens are making good choices and working hard. But as long as people continue to focus on the few who make bad decisions, all adolescents will suffer.



# New schools set to relieve overcrowding, offer unique opportunities for online learning

By Danny Gobaud, LV Academy



**F**ourteen new schools were added to the Clark County School District this fall to accommodate the nearly 12,000 new students expected for 2004-2005 school year, which will make total enrollment of more than 280,000 students.

"What a lot of people don't know is that a lot of these schools are a year or more ahead of schedule," says CCSD Superintendent Carlos Garcia in an interview with the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Of the 14 new schools, four will be high schools, including an online school offered by CCSD Distance Education. The names of the three regular high schools are Canyon Springs, located in the Northeast Region; Spring Valley, located in the Southwest Region; and Del Sol, located in the Southeast Region. The online school is called CCSD Virtual High School. The new high schools will help relieve 17 out of 25 high schools in and around metropolitan Las Vegas that are overcrowded.

Although most educators, parents and school board members agree that smaller schools are better, there are some advantages to larger schools. The more students a school has, the more funding it will receive. This allows the school to offer more classes, like electives or advanced placement and honors classes that small schools cannot offer because of fewer teachers.

As always, with new schools comes rezoning, an issue neither parents, educators, nor school board members like to deal with. Although rezoning for all three of the new high schools was difficult, the Southeast Region's Del Sol proved to

be the most challenging. It will be populated with students from Chaparral, Silverado, Valley and Green Valley High Schools. Spring Valley High School will rezone students from the Lakes region and Canyon Springs High School will include students from high schools to the north.

Spring Valley High School will be offering a special program where students are divided up into houses that are led by teachers and staff members. This will keep students more engaged and educated on possibilities after they graduate. Spring Valley will also be offering the only Chinese language class in the district.

Canyon Springs High School will be home to the Leadership and Law Preparatory Academy, a four-year academic program that provides students with a course of study emphasizing leadership, the law and global studies. The law academy opened this August with freshmen and sophomore students only.

In a creative effort to relieve school overpopulation, the school district is allowing students to take classes online full time.

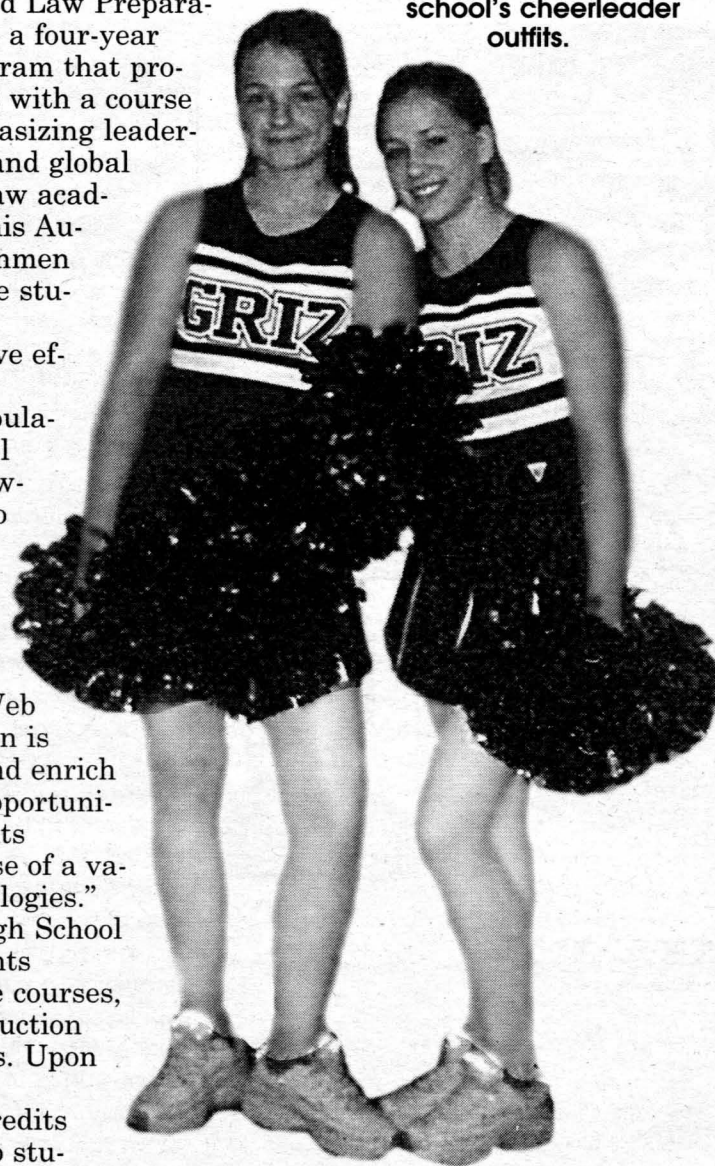
According to the Virtual High School Web site, its mission is "to enhance and enrich educational opportunities for students through the use of a variety of technologies."

Virtual High School teaches students through online courses, televised instruction and videotapes. Upon completion of coursework, credits are added onto stu-

dents' high school transcripts. Students interested in enrolling can find official enrollment forms in their school counselors' office or enroll online. While online courses completed registration on Sept. 2, students who would like to take televised or video courses may register until Sept. 24.

New schools in Clark County are built as part of a \$3.5 billion capital improvement program approved by voters in 1998. Over a 10-year period, a total of 88 new schools will be built with the money.

**Spring Valley High School freshmen cheerleaders Amanda Pickthall, left, and Destiny Ruggiero model the new school's cheerleader outfits.**



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# Clean and Sober school offers choice to recovering students

As a voluntary program the school will work *with* teens, not against them

By Chanae Alexander, LV Academy



"This is not a 'detox' school," says Dr. Edward Goldman, assistant superintendent of Alternative Education Services for the Clark County School District, about the new "clean and sober" Horizon School opening for the 2004-2005 school year.

Adjacent to Centennial High School, the Peterson Center Alternative High School will host the Clean and Sober, Drug-free School of Choice, a new program created to provide students in recovery or substance

abuse rehabilitation a monitored educational environment. Strictly voluntary, enrollment is open to any Clark County student, but it is recommended to those students who will benefit from the random drug testing through urinalysis and the class period devoted to counseling and dealing directly with drug issues.

The program is fashioned after Thoreau High School in the Los Angeles area, but modified to better suit Las Vegas youths. While Thoreau is strictly a "clean and sober" school, the CCSD drug-free program is mingled with other Horizon programs offered at Peterson Center. According to Goldman, there are only four students currently enrolled in the program and only 80 total will be accepted per year. However, until the roster is full, all of Peterson's programs will have to coexist as one to be able to fund the staff needed and available.

CCSD's Clean and Sober program is learning lessons from the Thoreau school's experience. One weakness in the Thoreau program occurs while students are out of school for the summer.

"I'll be honest. Over summer I'm gonna use, and I'm gonna drink," admits one Thoreau student.

To better prevent that exact situation from happening at the Las Vegas school, the school district is looking into a summer school program at Peterson that will provide the same courses as any other summer school and the counseling and monitoring aspects as well.

"For the first time, CCSD is creating an opportunity for those who will benefit from a program like this ... this isn't a punishment school," says Goldman.

While the school itself will spend about \$1,500 on drug tests, these tests are not used to put the students into correctional services. The actions taken after a student comes up positive for drugs or alcohol will vary and is unique to each individual student. The school is looking to work with the stu-

dents and not against them, thus the school must be voluntary or it compromises the whole program itself.

A student can join at any time throughout the school year, but must complete the year once they attend. They are allowed to return to their zoned schools, but this program is generally for those who are in it for the long run. The school will provide no extra-curricular activities, dances or sports since all can be done at the students' zoned schools. As of right now, there is no transportation provided for the students, and they must be able to get there themselves.

For the first time, CCSD is catering to those students who may be struggling, as well as to the students with the knacks for art or architecture. This is a school that will specialize in dealing with a drug habit, offering staff that will be trained to work with such students, or that have gone through a drug-abusing situation in the past themselves.

All in all, the purpose of the program is to create a supportive environment for education, rather than a tempting one.

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*Students of the Month*

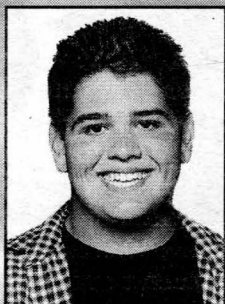


**Sara Ford, Senior Boulder City HS**

"I am looking forward to a great school year with Sara leading us as student body president," says Boulder City High School Principal Jeanne Donadio.

Sara Ford is a very talented student. She will be student body president of Boulder City High School for 2004-2005. She not only excels in her leadership capabilities, but she is an amazing athlete. She has played on her varsity volleyball team for two years, her varsity basketball team for three years, and been on the varsity track team for the past year.

Keeping up with all of her extracurricular activities is already a demanding task, but Ford is up to the challenge. She maintains a 3.3 GPA and plans to attend either UNLV or UCLA and major in broadcast journalism to become a news anchor.



**Robert Manzanares, Senior Basic HS**

"Robert is an awesome student who balances his love of music, leadership skills and other extracurricular activities very well. He is great all-around," says Basic High School Principal Susan Segal.

Robert Manzanares is dedicated to everything he is involved in. Last year, he was drum major for his high school's marching band, National Honor Society secretary, and was part of Boy's State, a program that displays the different undertakings of Nevada's government.

This year, Manzanares is the National Honor Society president and returns as drum major for his senior year. He also plays alto sax and received a Jazz Band Award for Best Player. He even manages to keep a 3.7 GPA.

After high school, Manzanares is planning on taking a mission with his church before going to college. Upon returning, he is thinking about majoring in pharmaceuticals.

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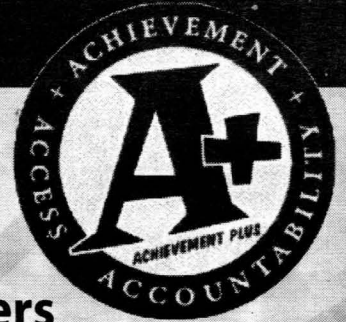


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# ROMAN AROUND EUROPE

## Las Vegas teens tour 'The Continent' as student ambassadors



Stephanie Hartman, a Centennial HS senior, stops for a posed shot inside Rome's ancient Coliseum.

By Stephanie Hartman, Centennial HS

Carrying out my dream to travel to Europe this summer was one of the most challenging, yet rewarding experiences of my life.

From the moment I'd heard about the People to People Student Ambassadors' program that would help me fulfill my dream, I knew that I would eventually be a part of it. This determination initially overlooked the amount of pressure I'd received from others — pressures that included a mix of positive and negative.

On one hand, participating in the program would be an experience of a lifetime! On the other, I would be an American in, not just another country, but on a different continent altogether, a place where I may be subject to hate, terrorists, or complications with the transatlantic flight.

My family, friends and I discussed the latter, harsher details for months, but I was adamant on visiting the foreign nations of Europe.

Knowing I would go was one thing; finding the money to pay for the expenses related to the trip was an entirely different situation. Most teenagers don't have \$5,000 for the cost of a

trip or additional monies stowed away for spending purposes. I certainly didn't have this luxury, so I acquired a job, saving for the majority of nine months and, in addition, made hundreds of attempts to have donations from sponsors. With a decent amount of determination and several handfuls of luck, I was no longer in the red monetarily.

The fact was I'd earned every penny on my own without the assistance of my parents, which made the trip to Europe even more pleasurable. This concept of independence added to my excitement as France's majestic hills came into view and the airline captain announced our descent.

Past customs, everything was noticeably different. A mess of architecture and transportation devices gave the impression of an old science fiction film, all the while contributing to my curiosities.

There were three weeks ahead of me, in which I would travel to France, Monaco, Italy (including Sicily) and Malta.

Forty-three students and teachers, mainly from Las Vegas schools, collected bags and were immediately on the go. Jet lag wasn't a factor in our schedule to tour the city of Paris via boat on the River Seine.

The following five days spent in France included visiting the Chateau de Versailles, ascending the Eiffel Tower, exploring the Louvre (having the opportunity to experience the majestic Mona Lisa), traveling to enchanting cities such as Avignon (a medieval village encompassed by 11th century city

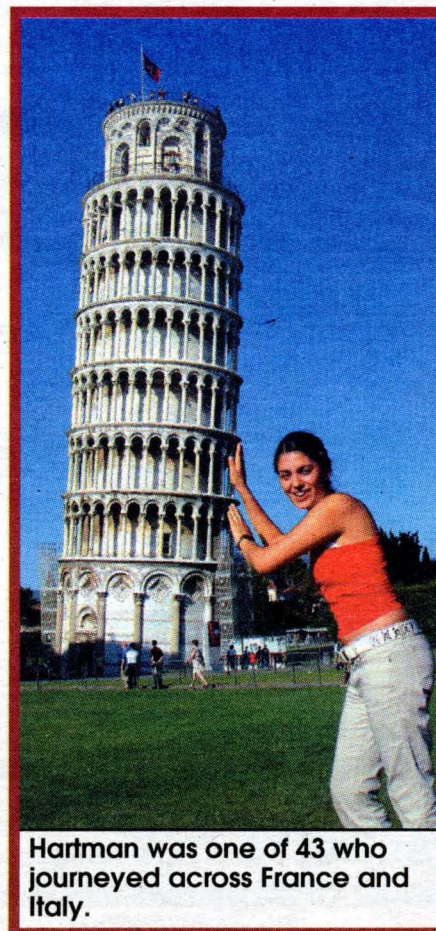
walls and the unfinished St. Benezet Bridge), and the wealthy French Riviera.

Throughout the entire time in France our group of 43 was unmistakable as a hopeless group of tourists. We risked our lives in the middle of roads taking pictures, talked too loudly and purchased everything in sight.

It was in Italy where the majority of the trip was spent. The mountain ranges and coastal areas seemed endless along with the amount of driving we endured. Pisa was the first place we visited. Here we did the traditional Leaning Tower photos, which make humans appear supernaturally strong.

As we traveled further south, our group visited the "Statue of David" by Michelangelo, along with other unfinished statues of his, which had at one point in time decorated the gardens of the famous Medici family. In Rome we spent a total of 15 minutes at the Coliseum, which was enough time to get through the line and walk alongside a quarter of the arena. With the exploration of the ancient city of Pompeii, destroyed by a volcanic eruption, came the impression of an ancient Las Vegas with some of the industries there.

Visiting the Vatican was an



Hartman was one of 43 who journeyed across France and Italy.



all day event for the Ambassador group. Early in the morning, we posted ourselves in the line to enter, which was a mile away from the main gates. There were things at the Vatican I never imagined I'd see in my life. First was the Sistine Chapel, but the second lay groaning outside the city walls — a peddler. She was no ordinary peddler because as she lay hunched over on the grime of the street moaning, the first thing you noticed was the wound on her head. A relatively large chunk of her skull had been removed by something. It looked painful and my heart reached out to her. I gave my small bills and could only hope that she would seek medical attention. Our tour guide informed me that, as with county hospitals in the United States, Italy offers a similar, free healthcare service. This woman was probably denying that such service existed, continuing in her illness to evoke pity and money from tourists' pockets. Who would want to live that way?

In Malta, I went into shock just a bit. We had a home-stay for three nights, staying with a

true Maltese family. Malta is a former British colony, so there shouldn't be any language barriers, but it wasn't all that easy. In my home in particular, I stayed with two other girls from the group. In the house,

**It took being so far away from home to realize that it's the simple things that one takes for granted, in terms of how comfortable life is**

we shared a single bathroom with nine people and were told to rarely take showers and barely use water, as it should be treated as gold in a place where all water must be imported. We were barely fed anything, and when we were, it was water and cereal or a fishy fish.

At this time I was thankful for my home and food back in Las Vegas. Despite the minor detail of housing and food, the

rest of Malta was wonderful. We visited the site where the film "Troy" had been shot, promenaded through botanical gardens, went to a mini grand prix to race the cars, and traveled two hours to a remote lagoon for a swimming day. My favorite part was doing community service work for an establishment that offered recreational activities for the disabled. I was tasked with washing windows, but the thought of helping the place improve was fulfilling.

At the end of the trip I was able to fly home with new ideas and beliefs. For one, Europe has a lot to do and see, and in three weeks' time, it is very difficult to see everything unless you sacrifice leisurely viewing things. Large groups aren't ideal for truly experiencing the culture of another country because it takes away from the atmosphere. Many of the Europeans I'd encountered, especially our tour guide Eva, were amazing in their multiple language capabilities. She spoke six languages fluently.

I was shocked with the forwardness and flirtation in some of the Italian men who would

follow girls around asking for kisses and sexual favors. One of our chaperones gave in to a brave gladiator outside of the Coliseum in Rome and irresponsibly kissed him!

While I enjoyed traveling to another continent, I couldn't help but realize that much of Europe is similar to the United States in the way that people live, work and enjoy life.

It was just weeks ago that I was on the shore of the Mediterranean, or gazing at the "Statue of David" in Florence, Italy. The memories are there, but it seems unimaginable that it actually happened. It took being so far away from home to realize that it's the simple things that one takes for granted, in terms of how comfortable life is with washing machines; not paying to use a public restroom; lemon, or even just ice, with a beverage; not having thousands of years of grime built up around your house; sleeping in your own bed and personal refrigerators.

Despite the dreamlike state of my memories, it was all real, and I definitely remember the feeling of the 22 hours of traveling that it took to return home.



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# Summer vacation's entertainment hits and misses

**L**iving in the city of entertainment certainly has its up and downs. But don't say there was nothing to do this summer. In case you were gone this summer, basking in the heavenly glow of the ocean sun, here is a list of things that topped and flopped in Las Vegas.

By Rachel Hommel, Green Valley HS



## The Hits

### Warped Tour 2004

Whether it was the hot weather, the hot bands, or the hot tempers of Las Vegas teens, this day in the sun always leaves something to talk about. From bloody moshing to sweet serenades, this year's Warped Tour offered a good lineup of bands. Although the afternoon was spoiled with the yelling of Story of the Year and the chirping of Yellowcard, the Sounds graced the crowd with fresh dance beats and Swedish blood. Other notable acts included Atmosphere, Ima Robot and My Chemical Romance.

### CineVegas

Once again, teens and adults alike flocked to the hip and happening Palms Casino to enjoy a week of movie hopping. After the movies ended, the lights came up, and the moviegoers turned on the heat; asking the directors questions as to how, when and where the movies were created. Although tickets alone were \$10 per movie, many people opted for

a \$50 pass that let them into any movies throughout the week.

### "Napoleon Dynamite"

A favorite at CineVegas, "Napoleon Dynamite" has skyrocketed to stardom thanks to constant commercials on MTV. This movie is not your typical high school loser movie, like "Revenge of the Nerds" or the like thereof. This movie had no plot in sight and made being awkward seem really cool. Due to countless random and bewildering moments, this movie has helped in making any geek or nerd look way cooler. It was a satire of just how ridiculous high school life truly is, prom and pimples included.

### Summer Olympics 2004

Oh, the thrill and excitement of watching the nation's best athletes perform for 17 days of sweat, tears and smiles. Newcomer Michael Phelps took home numerous swimming awards, along with the admiration of many fans. American athletes Paul Hamm and Carly Patterson each took home all-around gold medals in gymnastics. This is certainly a record-breaking year for America's Generation Y.

### Pedro the Lion (House of Blues)

Although this concert was poorly attended, the music was something to be reckoned with. The opening band, Tilly and the Wall, bedazzled the crowd with a mixture of stomping, clapping and harmonizing. There were no drums or bass; just wooden floors, tap shoes and smiles. Starflyer 59 was also wonderful, as if the whole crowd had taken a sedative and was lulled in the eerie whispers of their vocals. Definitely a laid-back summer evening event.

### "The Notebook"

The best moment this summer was undoubtedly witnessing this romantic love story

onscreen. In sickness and in health, the main characters, Noah and Allie, stayed true to their love for each other. Set in the serene parts of South Carolina, this movie brings back the classic beauty of simplicity. As the saying goes, love conquers all, especially when there is not one dry eye in the house. A must see rental.

### "The Surreal Life" reruns on VH1

This show is a great example of how sellouts can have another two or three minutes of fame. With all the sleaze and debauchery, this show is a classic summer boredom killer. From Ron Jeremy to Vanilla Ice, it's an in-depth look into the hearts and minds of some of the biggest losers in entertainment. Surprisingly however, the house and the competitions are enjoyable, and the drama seems like a watered-down version of "Real World." Look forward to a new season starting in September.

### The Killers Debut on Top

The Killers have officially made it and summer 2004 was their time to shine. With their album debuting in early June, they have since toured all over America and are planning to hit Las Vegas on Sept. 19. They are even scheduled to make an appearance on the "O.C." in December. They have already toured in the U.K., Germany, Ireland and Japan and show no signs of stopping. Their videos are played constantly on MTV,

MTV2 and VH1, and they are certainly a Vegas favorite.

### "Fahrenheit 9/11"

Finally, a political movie that's not afraid to do some Bush-bashing. Although opinionated, it graphically shows the terror and aggravation the American public has had to go through during the Bush administration. Although many people may feel this movie is anti-government, it's a good movie for the youth of our generation to see. A winner at the Cannes Film Festival, it'll be interesting to see how this movie fares in the minds of Americans when it comes time for the election.

### Dragon's Den Ride at Wet 'n Wild

Anything to beat the heat this summer can't be bad. At first, it was Der Stuka, then Royal Flush, now the big bad dragon. It plummets riders 45 feet down into the "dragon's mouth." The ride takes passengers up and down through a funnel-shaped enclosure. They are greeted by the fire-breathing dragon, with fog and special effects. This ride combines water parks with amusement parks and luckily, it's a ride for two.

## The Misses

### "Spider-Man 2"

Although the previews showed a romantic movie full of love and passion, only the opposite held true. The movie was more fantastical, overdone, and just plain silly. When a villain looks like an octopus, it's hard to take his sneering and threats to heart. It's a great movie for anyone who actually likes cheesy special effects and bad acting. At least Peter and Mary Jane fell in love.

### Reel Big Fish (HOB)

"Skanking," or rather dancing around in a circle, should be banned. This ska show was at first appealing, but soon sounded like a broken record. Although the Rx Bandits put on an energized experience, Reel Big Fish seemed tired and rather cranky. Their performance at Extreme



Rachel McAdams and Ryan Gosling star as the young lovers in this summer's tearjerker, "The Notebook."



Thing back in March certainly topped this mediocre performance. Although ska is meant to be fun and silly, it shouldn't take away from the actual music.

### "I Love the '90s" on VH1

Why were the '80s specials so much more entertaining? It may be the fact we actually can remember singing along to Backstreet Boys or \*NSYNC. This was definitely a show created too prematurely. Teens still like Britney Spears and TRL. It's not considered "classic" yet. Wait 20 years and maybe our generation will seem cool. The commentators on the show are old enough to know that the '80s were by far a better generation.

### "Man Behind the Mirror" (The Michael Jackson movie)

This movie is nothing short of disturbing. From watching "Michael Jackson" kiss Lisa Marie Presley, to watching him run around with kids, the movie couldn't show MJ in a worse light. It was frightening to get mixed up in Jackson's thought process. The actor's voice was creepy, Neverland is creepy, and Elizabeth Taylor, look-alike or not, is creepy. The Jackson's make any dysfunctional family seem like the Osmonds.

### Dashboard Confessional (Orleans Arena)

Although this show was slated to start off the summer in full swing, it was a wrecking ball of clashing identities. The Get Up Kids performed to a less than eager crowd, while Thrice showed no signs of actually being alive. Their set was rather dull, out of tune, and amounted to about 10 kids moshing in the front. Although Chris Carrabba is nothing short of amazing, his set seemed so inappropriate in a crowd of half-witted teens, barely singing along to hits such as "Hands Down." What could have been great turned out to be mediocre.

### "Doctor 90210" (E!)

What could be worse than watching filthy rich plastic surgeons talking about why they are so great? Set in Beverly Hills, we encounter Dr. Rey who seems to be more worried about losing his hair than losing his family. The show is quite graphic and typical to a Beverly Hills production. The opening scenes show Harry Winston, Rodeo Drive, and BMWs and Mercedes galore. It's hard to determine if this is a

show about growing up in L.A., or about having a practice in L.A. Very superficial.

### "Wanna Come In?" (MTV)

This show about turning geeks into studs is truly disgusting. Each guy has two coaches, or rather cocky guys who supposedly know how to "play" the game. These players try to make clueless nerds into studs that any girl would despise. During the date, they have the chance of earning money by doing foolish acts for a certain period of time. They can only claim this money if they get invited inside the date's house. This show is a new low for MTV, purely showcasing the idiocy of the American TV audience.

### The Cure skips Las Vegas

Once again, Vegas is cheated out of a truly magnificent moment. The Cure, on tour for the first time in years, decided to skip Vegas. Not only would this have been the concert of a lifetime for younger teens, opening acts include Interpol and the Rapture. Fans will have to check them out in California or Arizona if they want a taste of what good music should be about. Vegas may really need to rethink its lineup of shows.

### "Ashlee Simpson Show"

At first I loved the show, then soon realized that Ashlee Simpson just doesn't have it together. The whole entirety of the show was spent talking about how she felt inferior to her sister Jessica. In between trying to discover that she couldn't really sing and complaining, it's hard to stay amused for too long. Her sister, with all her little blonde quirks, is much more together than this 19-year-old could hope to be.

### "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story"

Although Ben Stiller is a hero in many eyes, this was just not a good film. Dodgeball is a great sport, but a movie about it is another thing. Although highly anticipated, it reminded me of "Home Alone" slapstick and rude humor. Although it got fair reviews, this sport should be left to the pros and, yes, dodgeball is a sport.

So alas, the summer is over and back to school time is here, but don't fear for there will always be more entertainment near.

## Las Vegas youth group puts beliefs to the test on mission to Mexico

By David Hartman and Stephanie Hartman, Centennial HS

**A**s members of Calvary Chapel's Lone Mountain Youth Group, we traveled to Baja, Mexico on July 19 on a Christian mission that would teach us as much as we would teach others.

After crossing the border, it was clear that we were no longer in the United States. Everywhere trash lined the roads, dozens of stray dogs roamed freely, and homes that would, in the United States, be known as shacks were haphazardly built unevenly on hillsides with plywood and scrap pieces of metal and brick.

The youth group stayed at an orphanage named Colina De Luz, which is translated as "Light on a hill." The orphanage offers a better life for its 83 kids, with facilities including a three-story playground, cafeteria-style dining, a computer room, and a guesthouse in which we stayed. It was established some 20 years earlier, and since then had been assisted by various churches that contributed to what it is today.

Daily, we dined with the kids, but not before the Spanish and English alphabets were recited, as well as Bible verses. Then, as if a time machine had taken us into an era of better manners, the teenage boys pulled down benches for the young ladies, and the older girls served a home-cooked meal.

On our second day, we traveled to an Indian reservation where we were able to barbecue for entire migrant families and show Christian films to the group, some of whom had never seen a movie. After doing all the cooking and serving of the food, we camped out on the location where the festivities took place. The next day as we drove away, we came across the same migrant families whom we had fed the previous evening working on the roads. Individuals ranging from little children to the elderly were making their living using shovels and rakes to make a road from heaps of dirt that had been laid down the length of the path.

### Baptisms on the beach

On another occasion during the week, we went to a beach for a day where baptisms were being held in the Pacific Ocean. In the black of the evening, we built a 20-foot-tall bonfire, sang worship songs and made s'mores.

As the week progressed, we prepared for a crusade to educate the community about our Christian beliefs. There certainly was a language barrier since most of us did not speak Spanish, but everyone did his or her best to get the message across.

Additional church members eventually joined us for the crusade, which had thousands in attendance.

It was a Saturday perfectly spent, entertaining the townspeople with games, carnival rides and worship music. Nine youths performed a drama that they had been preparing for months. Then our pastor closed up the day with a service in Spanish. Just before leaving the area, a group of little girls came to our vehicle to share some of the candy with us they had won. They gave us hearty hugs for such tiny bodies and smiled a wholesome smile of thanks. Seeing the appreciation in their eyes and playing with them for a while was the most rewarding feeling to be had. The entire week seemed to be summed up in those smiles.

To work with individuals on as personal a level as we had the week we spent in Mexico was to step outside of a comfort zone and live a little differently. Some people are more fortunate than others, but people make do with what they have. When we finally got home, we realized how much we are all blessed to live in this country.



# Summer Discovery program: a life-changing experience for this teen



By Barbara Kaminsky,  
Silverado HS

As I stepped onto the campus of the University of California, San Diego, I had no idea that this particular summer would dramatically change my life forever.

I attended a summer program arranged by the Summer Discovery Pre-college Enrichment Program for high schools students. This program allows high school students to live on a college campus for five weeks, taking classes and exploring the surrounding area to prepare them for attending college later.

Upon arrival, I dragged my gigantic duffle suitcases to the registration table, where many young college students were waiting to greet me. I collected my keys, class schedule, and green folder full of important information that I would need the rest of the summer.

I found out that I would be staying in Beagle Hall. I took a long, deep breath, as I was about to climb up four stories of stairs that would lead me to the suite where I would be living for the next 5 weeks with seven other girls. I felt bad for the two college

students that had to carry my extremely heavy suitcases. Finally when we reached the top, I put my key into the doorknob, and pushed the door to discover that the room was not small at all. There were five rooms in all, but one room was reserved for our Resident Counselor. As I entered the suite, I saw a common area, complete with a purple couch. That area led to my dorm room #405.

I was the first student in the suite, so I got to check out the two showers and two bathrooms, and look outside at the view from our balcony. Since I would be in the single room, I decided to rearrange it; I pushed the two twin beds together, separated the two closets, and pushed the two desks together. Now it was starting to feel much more cozy!

I then went downstairs to find many more kids arriving and welcomed them. I took a tour of the campus and shortly thereafter, all the students gathered for our first community meeting. We met the staff and RCs and learned all the rules. Every night we had check-in time between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. in the quad area; class attendance was mandatory unless you were sick; there was a computer lab available in the lounge for our use; breakfast, lunch and dinner were free for us in the Plaza Café on

the Revelle Campus dining hall (it was not the best food); we could walk to Price Center and eat fast food at Subway, Jamba Juice, Rubios or Panda Express; our linens and towels were changed weekly; we had to sign up for activities; there were arts and crafts outside every day; we could use the gym; and we had to do our own laundry. (I helped the boys do theirs!)

There was always something planned and always something to do. We took a bus trip to downtown La Jolla, took a Horn Blower Cruise, went on a Seal Tour and visited La Jolla Shores, Catalina Island, Sea Port Village, the Hotel Del Coronado and Fashion Valley.

We got to attend sporting events such as two San Diego Padres baseball games, the WNBA L.A. Sparks basketball game and the Acura Tennis Classic. Other activities included laser tag, going to the movies to see "Spider-Man 2," and touring San Diego Wild Animal Park, the San Diego Zoo and Sea World.

We participated in bonfires; hung out at Mission Beach, Torrey Pines Beach and Belmont Park; and got to check out other college campuses, like UCLA.

We took trips to the Rock and Bowl, Mission Bay Aquatic Center, Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills and the Hollywood Walk of

Fame. The program offered a Stress Management Session, Casino Night, Nights at the Movies, Karaoke Night and a Talent Show. We also saw some major attractions like Universal Studios, Knott's Berry Farm Theme Park and Disneyland.

As part of the program, I took a college-credit course of Introduction to Photography with college students. I learned to be on time to class, listen to lectures, make my own photographic prints in a darkroom, take a college mid-term and complete a final project.

As the summer came to a close, we had a Summer Discovery Superlatives ceremony. I was so pleased to be awarded several honors such as Best Dressed, Nicest, Best Person to Cheer You Up, Most Likely to be Found at Cheer Camp Next Year, and Person Concerned With Others' Well-Being.

It is difficult for me to explain how wonderful my experience was during this five-week program. I will never forget the friendships I made, the interesting people I met, the inside jokes I shared and the nicknames we created. Goodbyes are never easy, but I already have plans with five of my friends to fly to the east coast to see them all very soon! I expect these friendships to last a lifetime. This was the best summer of my life!

## For AP, honors students success means studying, even during summer



By Shannon Duncan,  
Silverado HS

Honors and AP classes make higher-striving students feel no end to studying ... even during summer. The final day of school's last bell rings, announcing an end to backpacks, tests and textbooks. However, for the school's braver students, this isn't always the case.

For those choosing to enroll in AP and Honors English courses, a required summer reading list with at least three books is almost always given out. With authors ranging from Hemingway to Fitzgerald to Shakespeare, only those who choose to tackle these often-large literary works right away have a chance of sneaking their own suspense novel enjoyment into the summer's short three months.

Higher achieving juniors and seniors

who choose to take AP government and U.S. history classes must be prepared to be given their textbooks for the following year during the last weeks before summer. Along with the books come reading pages and assignments. In other words, homework never ends.

Of course, most students plop their books and lists on their dressers and join their friends and family for summer fun, movies, games, sleepovers and vacation. Many plan to look at their summer work before school starts again, but for those who think not doing it shouldn't be a problem for the upcoming year's grades, teachers have ways to prove them wrong.

Within the first weeks of school, further assignments and even tests over the summer work are given out. English students are expected to have read their novels completely and to be able to write competent essays proving it. Government and history students are put on the spot and asked questions that should be easy to answer

if the textbook reading was completed. To further prevent students from leaving their work uncompleted, teachers often look up students' addresses and ask for email addresses before summer even begins. They hope that filling their students' mailboxes with reminders and follow-up assignments will keep them on task.

The question of who will actually complete all their work, of course, depends on the students themselves. No one wants to have to study schoolwork during their free hours of summer, but continually seeing that textbook lying on the ground eventually brings students to open it up. The desire to keep good grades reluctantly gives in to summer freedom. Backpacks find their way to public pools, and textbooks find themselves open on a plane flight to the beach.

Graduation from college seems to be the only end to schoolwork for many hard-working high school students.



# Bugs, blisters and bears, oh my!

## Hiking Yosemite has its risks, rewards

By Katherine Wright, Homeschool

Yosemite National Park in California is a beautiful place, home to swarms of mosquitoes, black bears, deer and a wide variety of insects and birds. It's a place of sore knees, scratches, mountain scenery, high altitudes, keen air, long paths and blistered feet for backpackers. It's also the place where I spent seven days this summer backpacking with my family.

It takes a lot of preparation to get ready to backpack, as I rediscovered. You'd think that after three previous backpacking trips, I would be slightly more prepared! We got a backpacking permit for five days. We had planned to start from Tuolumne Meadows and hike down to Yosemite Valley, a 27-mile trip. As far as that seems, with a 40-pound pack on your back, it feels more like 270 miles!

It is an eight-hour drive to Yosemite from Las Vegas, but to me, it felt like 80 hours. I have a younger brother and sister, and being in the car with them for eight hours is enough to drive anyone insane. They are very hyper and very loud. We made it, though, and everyone was still alive.

We planned on hiking that afternoon, and we climbed from 9,000 feet to 10,000 feet. Unfortunately, we did it too fast. My whole world started spinning, and I became nauseous. My head throbbed and I had to sit down. I had altitude sickness and was very disappointed.

My mom, a genius at preparing meals over a stove a quarter of the size of her stove at home, had made tacos, but I was too sick to eat. My friends and family could relax, but I was stuck in a tent vomiting. I hoped bears weren't attracted to vomit. Just in case, I decided to crowd into my parent's tent for the night.

I woke up the next morning feeling much better. It was beautiful outside! I was ready to continue hiking. We left around 10 a.m. and continued on down toward Yosemite Valley. The scenery was beautiful! We were at a high altitude, so there were still patches of snow on the

ground. The granite peaks towered above us on both sides, and the meadow we walked in was carpeted in a rich green grass, dotted here and there with brilliant purples and yellows.

In the forest that we next approached, we stopped on a fallen log, where we could glimpse the glassy water through the trees. It was one of the worst mistakes we had ever made! We had been sitting for all of 10 seconds before we were frantically swatting away at the millions of mosquitoes that had decided that a free buffet would be appreciated. Even though the mosquitoes loved the free meal, we did not appreciate the business.

We made a hasty retreat through the forest. We didn't stop again until we were out of that forest and in the meadow beyond it. As we descended, the number of mosquitoes seemed to decrease. We made camp after hiking around six miles. We were doing well, in two days we had covered around 14 miles out of 27.

We camped near a stream. Just across the stream, there were boulders and all sorts of places that we could explore. My friend and I spent the rest of the time we had playing over on them. Just because we could not see the mosquitoes didn't mean they weren't there! We neglected to put insect repellent on, and the mosquitoes decided that this was an opportunity they could not miss. We each came back covered with around several hundred bites!

The next day we decided to try to make it to Little Yosemite Valley, a 10-mile hike. We started hiking at around 10 a.m. and made very good progress to Merced Lake. The lake was clear, dark blue and very still. It almost looked like a mirror reflecting back the pines, sky, clouds and towering granite cliffs. The rest of the way was very level and easygoing. We made it to Little Yosemite Valley around 5 p.m.

Little Yosemite Valley is known for the many black bears that visit the campground. Compared with what we had been doing, the campground seemed like a five-star hotel. The campground had no mosquitoes, which was probably the nicest thing about it, and it also

had restrooms. We made camp on the far edge of the campground. There weren't many people there, and we wondered why. That night, we discovered our mistake.

We were up almost every other hour during the night chasing off bears. They seemed to think, "Hey, thanks for bringing my food this far, but, umm, you can leave it now." They think that everything belongs to them. They are very inquisitive creatures, and three of the eight that visited us stuck their heads into our packs, even though there was nothing edible in them! One bear even ran off with a pack. We were able to recover it, though.

The next day, we hiked down to Yosemite Valley. It was kind of sad, as our vacation was over. We made it down without any trouble. I tried to avoid mirrors. I knew what I would look like, with mosquito bites covering my face and arms, scratches on my legs, a general covering of dirt and tangled hair — I looked like a wreck!

Yosemite Valley was beautiful, but crowded. We stayed in the Backpacker's Campground, located just behind the North

Pines Campground. There weren't as many people there, only two groups besides ours. When we got there, I never wanted to see my backpack again. I set it behind a tree, out of sight, to prevent myself from kicking it. I'd had enough of backpacking for a while!

Despite the mosquitoes and bears, everyone really should go to Yosemite. It is a lot of fun, especially over the summer! Sure, people think you're insane, but it's worth it. To get a permit, you have to call the Ranger Stations and reserve one, and as they only give out so many per trail, you should call six months in advance. Or, if you don't want to backpack, you can stay in the valley. You can rent rafts and float down the river that winds itself lazily through the forest. Or you can rent bikes, and pedal all over the valley, along the network of paved bike trails. You can take the short hike up to Mirror Lake and swim under Half Dome, the towering granite peak that is one of Yosemite's major landmarks.

There are many things to do in Yosemite; it is a very beautiful and unique place.

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# School uniforms: failure or fantastic?

By Whitney James,  
Liberty HS



**I**t seems that many more high school students in Clark County will be required to wear uniforms to school this year, but no one is really sure if wearing uniforms is making a difference or solving any problems.

I attend Liberty High School, the first public high school in Clark County to require students to wear "standard school wardrobe," or uniforms, from the day it opened last year. Now, after a year's worth of experience, Liberty students have a lot to tell other students that will be making the change to uniforms this year.

In my opinion, school uniforms have not made much of a difference on campus. At Liberty, we're only allowed to wear khaki pants, skirts or shorts and plain red, white or blue shirts. Even though we all wore the same basic clothes, everyone looked different, and we definitely still had our share of problems.

It was hoped that making students wear uniforms would create a sense of unity on campus, reducing the number of fights among students. Sadly, that never happened.

"We had some fights, but what school doesn't?" says Mr. Herbert, a Spanish teacher and coach at Liberty. "But there's no data saying that violence was reduced by having uniforms."

Other problems arose because of the uniform rule. At first, students were required to wear Liberty clothing, such as polo shirts and t-shirts with the school's logo. Right away that had to change because not everyone could afford to buy the costly items. The school had to enforce the rule less strictly, so students were allowed to wear their own clothes, as long as they wore khaki bottoms with plain red, white or blue shirts.

As a result, students wore different shades of bottoms and tops and were able to express their different personalities and styles, not forgetting accessories like jewelry and belts. No one looked alike. I had to ask what was the purpose of the uniforms?

It had also been hoped that uniforms would ease the cost of buying clothes to keep up with fashion trends at school. Instead, the uniforms were an additional cost, since students still had to have regular clothes to wear after school and on weekends.

Another problem is that red and blue, two of the acceptable clothing colors at our school, are the two most common gang colors. Little cliques of students who would wear only one color formed on campus, which meant that some kids were still left behind.

I also felt it was harder on staff members trying to keep everyone in uniform. Some kids actually refused to wear their uniforms until they were suspended or had to sit in the dean's office all day. Eventually, they gave in and started wearing uniforms, but it took time away from staff.

"I don't feel the uniforms stopped cliques only because I think we're all different. We know what we like and who's like us," says one Liberty student. "I have been from Las Vegas High School to Coronado,



**Liberty Patriots show their school pride (pictured above and below): Liberty High School students display the variety of outfits possible for students to wear, while still complying with the school's "standard school wardrobe" policy.**

and now at Liberty, and honestly, I don't think that the uniforms made much of a difference."

While the impact of uniforms might not have been as strong as hoped, there were some positive results as well.

Student council benefited in its fundraising ability by being able to reward students with "Dress Down Days," which meant that students did not have to wear uniforms on those days. Those students who didn't participate in these fundraising events stood out when Dress Down Day came along because

they were the only ones in uniform.

"I think uniforms made our school look a lot better because the [students] couldn't dress trashy and the uniforms made them have class," says Liberty student Troy Edwards.

"I thought uniforms made our school look better," says Herbert. "It added a professional look to the students, so therefore they looked and acted in a professional way."

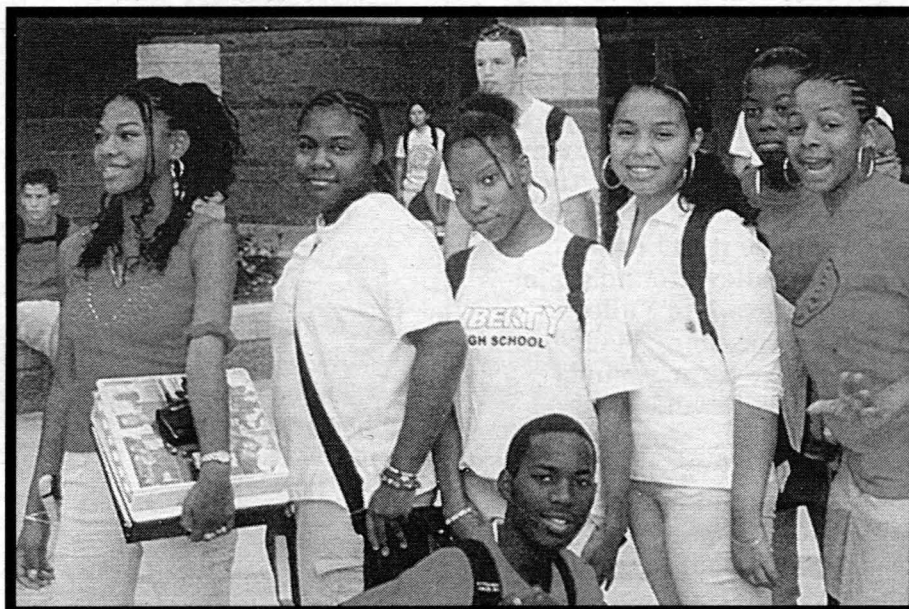
While Liberty still has somewhat of a uniform rule, we still have the ghetto groups, the thugs, the bullies, the preps, the cheerleaders, the jocks, the geeks, the quiet people, the loud people, the rich people and the poor people. Every group is present and you can still tell who was who.

Did the stereotypes stop? No. Did everyone become friends? No. Was everyone accepted equally? No.

But our school looked better. Fights did seem to be reduced, but that could have more to do with the fact that we have a couple thousand fewer students on campus than at other high schools. When everything is taken into consideration, I don't think it would have been any different if we didn't have uniforms.

Brooke Welch and Candace Peters are two of Liberty's incoming freshmen who will be wearing uniforms for the first time, just like many other high school students in Clark County. While both are happy to wear Liberty's uniform, they ask, "Are the uniforms good or bad? Did they work or not?"

There are as many different answers to the question as there are individuals in the schools, no matter how similarly they're dressed.



Photos courtesy of Liberty HS yearbook staff.



# Draft requirements shoot down young men's rights

By Alex Boschen,  
Valley HS

"Of all the violations of individual rights in a mixed economy, the military draft is the worst. It is an abrogation of rights."

This idea of Ayn Rand, an American writer of the 1900s, perfectly expresses how many American citizens feel. Mandatory military service is an outright infringement on the rights of American citizens, or should I say, American men.

It is understandable that in past centuries nations called on their men to fight. But now in the 21st century, in this nation of laws, mandatory military service contradicts the whole idea of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

On Dec. 30, 2002, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY) stated that he would introduce a bill in the next session of Congress to make military service man-

datory.

"A renewed draft will help bring a greater appreciation of the consequences of decisions to go to war," Rangel wrote in a New York Times editorial.

Rangel went on to say that only one member of Congress who voted for the war in Iraq had a child in the armed services. Rangel believes if a military draft were set in place, then the steps to declare war would be acted upon more cautiously.

While this may seem logical, it infringes on citizens' individual rights. It should be unlawful to send a young man to fight for the country in which he lives, unless there is an agreement between the citizen and the government that contracts with the citizen to go to war if needed, before the citizen is permitted to live in the country.

The military draft is truly a selective service system. In 1920, women of the United

States were finally allowed to vote, with leaders like Alice Paul and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. So now men and women are "equal" as it states in the Constitution. But if men and women are equal, then why do only men ages 18 to 25 become eligible for a draft? It is wrong to only draft a particular group; draft all or none at all. Drafting only men is sexist; and it is very doubtful that women will fight for the dreadful obligation to be drafted.

With all the controversy surrounding this idea of mandatory military service, a solution needs to be created. The inmates of prisons across the nation are locked in cells because they owe a debt to society. Why not let individuals that "qualify" repay their debts by fighting for the country, instead of forcing citizens who contribute toward the economy to leave all their goals and aspirations in the United States, as they gamble with their lives overseas.

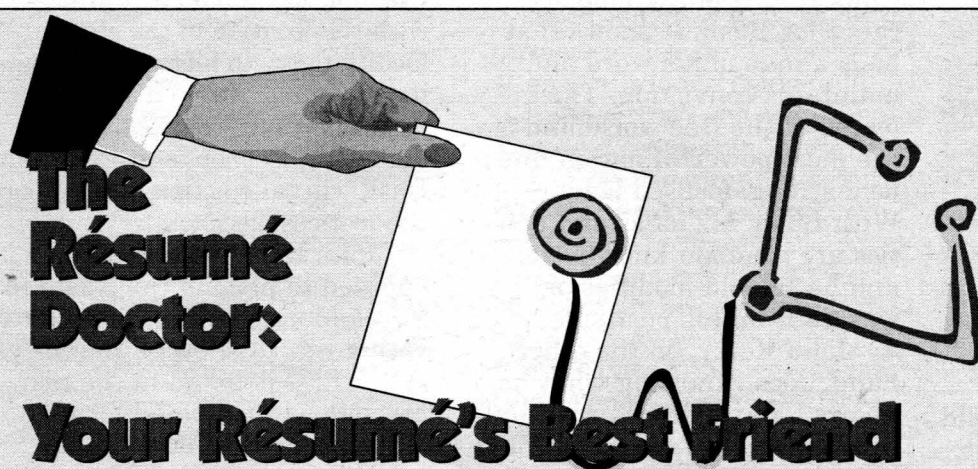
Or, possibly, by making the benefits of being in the armed services far greater than they are now, the volunteers would

**Drafting only men is sexist; and it is very doubtful that women will fight for the dreadful obligation to be drafted.**

register for services without hesitation. In order for citizens to risk their existence, there must be a reward of satisfaction.

Conflict in this world will never cease. Let the people who want to fight go put their lives on the line. Forcing anyone to fight who is unwilling is a slavery of citizenship. America defines patriotism because citizens can think for themselves, with rights such as freedom of speech and of assembly. The military draft is far from patriotic.

"It negates man's fundamental right — the right to life" (Ayn Rand).



SOME JOB HUNTERS BELIEVE that a job interview is the first step in landing a job. But, to even get an interview at a company or organization, they have to like what you include in your résumé and your cover letter. That's right. Your résumé has a friend — a best friend. Every résumé you send should have a cover letter attached. Cover letters do three things: introduce you to the employer, emphasize your qualifications, and ask for an interview.

There are three different types of cover letters:

1. The Application Letter: This is written when you know there is a specific job opening and you are applying for that job.
2. The Letter of Inquiry: This is writ-

ten when you are asking an employer for information about possible job openings in a specific job area.

3. The Letter That Answers An Ad: This is written when you are sending your résumé in response to an ad for a specific job.

After you have decided which type of letter to write, your objective is simple. All you want to do is tell the employer who you are and why you are writing, why you are qualified for the job, and that you would like to schedule an interview. Be sure to include what makes you special. This will make your résumé stand out from the crowd of other résumés the employer receives.

© Job Jargon

## This month's featured positions:

### Associates/Coordinators

A local home goods store is seeking merchandise staff and store detectives. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 40 hours per week. Job Number: 8044

### Sales/Cashier

An assistant is needed for restocking shelves, assisting guests and cashiering. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible. The wage is \$7.15 per hour. Job Number: 8021

### Crew Person

A motivated and friendly assistant is needed for customer service, food service and other restaurant duties. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 26 hours per week. The wage is \$8.25 per hour. Job Number: 7992

### Sales/Stocking

An assistant is needed for stocking, sales and cashiering. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 24 hours per week. The wage is \$7.00 per hour. Job Number: 7990

### Support Staff

If you are a motivated person with good communication skills, this may be the job for you. Assistants needed for cash handling, taking tickets, cleaning the theater and working the concession stand. Workdays and hours are flexible. The wage is \$5.30 per hour. Job Number: 7655

**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.**



# Bush campaign swings through Vegas amid tight security

## Conservative supporters, angry protestors face off at president's speech

By Alex Anderson,  
Green Valley HS

During the second week of August, both presidential candidates made their way to Las Vegas in order to campaign for the upcoming election.

While I was extremely fortunate to land a seat at President Bush's speech, unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Democratic candidate's rally.

Instead of being part of the crowd at Kerry's rally, I attended night school to better my education. The temptation to see the commotion was too great though, so I drove by the Thomas and Mack Center where Kerry's event was being held.

As a conservative, I became overwhelmed with joy upon seeing a handful of people on the sidewalk with signs supporting Bush. They were not obstructing the normal flow of traffic, nor impeding upon anyone's societal liberties. Granted, there were only 10-15 people when I drove by, but the message came across nonetheless.

I have a small suspicion that the majority of the people who would normally have protested just gained access to the event, even without a ticket.

From what I heard, the security was pretty lax and entering the event was fairly simple. A friend I met at Bush's speech had entered Kerry's event through a side door and never encountered any security. Gaining entry to the president's speech was a different story.

Knowing that the security would be tight, I showed up fairly early and took a place in line near the front. I began small talk with the people standing in line near me, and I was pretty impressed with the demographic that showed up. There were a handful of teachers, war veterans, young military men and women, students, athletes and people of different races and religions.

The crowd was limited for security, and coming by a ticket

was no easy task. Each attendee was required to pick up the ticket two days in advance, present a valid form of identification, and fill out personal information such as home address and phone numbers. No mistakes would be made with the president's life at constant risk. After the doors were opened, each person had to pass three checkpoints where all electronics were searched and IDs were checked once again. Then, the wait for the president began.

The auditorium was fairly small, with just enough room for Bush supporters and the press. Keeping the crowd small offered a sense of intimacy for the event, but had it been open to the public, I think the ben-

*The leader of the free world and of the most powerful nation must be a strong, focused leader. With Bush, his ideas and politics are common knowledge, and he seldom modifies or wavers from his positions.*

efits of the campaign stop would have been magnified. However, making this type of event public would not have been feasible. Still, because of the small size, I was seated directly in front of the podium about seven rows from the president.

### A better America

A few people spoke before the president arrived. The head of the Carpenter's Union spoke about the importance of Bush's reelection and various other local political figures spoke as well, but it was very obvious that the crowd was anxious for the president to arrive. When the announcer let the crowd know that the president had entered the building, the crowd erupted with cheers and applause. The sight was electrifying.

I was captivated throughout the duration of the speech. Given that it was a campaign speech, all of the important issues were covered. When President Bush spoke, it was as if he was sitting in front of you at a dinner table, explaining his views and ideas for a better America. I did not get the feeling that he was trying to impress me or persuade me with complex rhetoric. He appeared very relaxed and was cracking jokes. The type of speech the president gave is not the performance I receive when I see John Kerry on television or during interviews.

This election has a lot of talk about two important issues: the war in Iraq and the economy. Bush covered both wonderfully, and touching home to locals, the president spoke about Yucca Mountain.

First, regarding the war, the President stood firm saying that if he knew the information that he knows today, he would have still led the coalition to liberate the Iraqi people. I think that is of extreme significance for Bush. It shows that he is a man of his word and maintains conviction. The leader of the free world and of the most powerful nation must be a strong, focused leader. With Bush, his ideas and politics are common knowledge, and he seldom modifies or wavers from his positions.

John Kerry, on the other hand, does. Knowing what he knows today, John Kerry would have stayed out of Iraq and left the tyrant Saddam Hussein in power, unless more multilateral support for the initiative was available. Prior to the start of the war, Kerry described a very different idea.

Kerry said in an interview on "The O'Reilly Factor" in December 2001, "He is and has acted like a terrorist, and he has engaged in activities that are unacceptable ... I think we ought to put the heat on Saddam Hussein. I've said that for a number of years ... I think we need to put the pressure on, no matter what the evidence is about Sept. 11."

Next in the president's speech, when it came to the economy, Bush was very clear that he still agrees with his de-

cision for tax cuts. Shutting down the strongest market in the world for a few days just after Sept. 11 made our economy dwindle, and it needed some form of stimulant to get it back on its feet. The tax cuts were the answer. Giving people a spare \$300 or \$600, depending on how much money they have already put into the tax system, allows for more spending into the economy. The tax cuts gave the economy the boost that was needed, and the cuts paid high dividends: 10 straight months of economic growth and the creation of 1.4 million new jobs in the past nine months alone.

### Yucca Mountain

Lastly, and most importantly to some Nevadans, the president addressed the issue of storing nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain. Bush has always said that scientific evidence indicates that Yucca Mountain is the best storage facility available. However, rather than using his executive power to push the waste into Nevada, he will wait for those who disagree with the location of the storage facility to try to block the action in the courts. After the trial, the Supreme Court justices will make the decision, and President Bush will take action based upon the justices' decision.

John Kerry now claims he is opposed to placing the waste in Yucca Mountain, but his senate voting record shows differently. When first debated in the Senate, John Kerry voted for placing the waste in Yucca Mountain. The president jokingly said that John Kerry was for Yucca Mountain, now he's against it, "but there are still 82 days left in the campaign."

### Meeting the president

Everyone applauded intermittently during the president's speech, standing ovations took place and sporadic outbursts ranging from "You rock, Mr. President!" to "I love you!" were heard. Needless to say, the people in attendance were enthralled. After the speech, Bush came down to shake hands, sign autographs, and even kissed an elderly woman, after she asked, of course. I was lucky enough to shake the president's hand and let him



know that my biggest regret this year is that I don't even get to vote.

I was ecstatic as I left to the parking lot to drive away. I pulled out and got into the long line of cars, but to my surprise, the line was not moving. Ten minutes of sitting in my car grew old, so I decided to get out and investigate what was going on.

A group of protestors decided to violate the autonomy of others and were blocking the exit of the parking lot. The protestors overpowered the police officers on hand, and the officers needed to call for backup. Twenty minutes later, everything was cleared up. It really peeved me that the protestors were able to get away with obstructing the peace of the public. Rather than having the police on the streets ensuring our safety, they were required to break up a petty protest.

All in all, waiting the 30 minutes to get out of the parking lot was nothing compared to the pure delight that I experienced prior. Now, I can only hope the election in November will go as planned.

## Save our valuable resources

By Kelli Schleuter,  
Coronado HS

The rainforest is one of our most valuable resources. Yet, it is being cut down and is vanishing before our eyes.

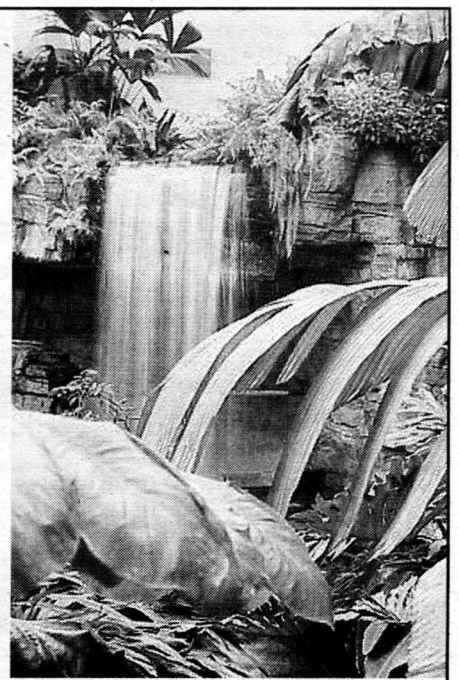
With the increasing population, more houses and buildings must be made, and farmers are chopping down trees for their crops and livestock, but since the ground is not desirable, they abandon it to find better land, leaving the ground that was once covered with trees and filled with animals dry and barren. The logging companies also cut down the trees for wood and paper.

Though rainforests only cover about seven percent of the earth, they contain from 50 to 70 percent of Earth's creatures, some of which have not even been named. When you take away these animals' homes, they have nowhere to live and once forced out of their homes, they die until the species becomes extinct. Not only

is cutting down large amounts of trees causing our rainforests to become a thing of the past, but also the animals within them.

The climate is altered by the rainforest destruction. When the trees have been rained on, the mist rises from their tops and forms new rain clouds. This cycle constantly repeats. Once the trees are gone, the impact will result in a drier climate. Another negative effect with the loss of trees is that there is more carbon dioxide in the air and fewer plants to absorb it. The buildup of carbon dioxide contributes to the greenhouse effect, known as global warming. This leads to the melting of icebergs and icecaps. As a result we will suffer from worldwide flooding.

It is obvious that wood will be needed for homes and supplies, but as it is being discussed, thousands more are being cut down causing the problem to become increasingly dangerous. The solution to this particular problem would be to take a section of land and harvest trees to be used



Rainforest falls in Brazil.

for their wood and leave our current rainforests alone so they can reestablish some of their lost ecosystems. To help stop the problem now, buying and setting aside as much land as possible will help prevent companies from cutting down huge amounts of trees and stop farmers from burning them down for the land.

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## A good thing?

### Quick grammar tips make you feel good about speaking well

By Allie Moriarty,  
Coronado HS

You are striking up a conversation with someone in the hall, and the first words out of her mouth are "I'm doing good." Don't you just want to crawl into a hole?

Dating back over 100 years, the first grammar professionals would argue about whether food tasted "well" or "good." Today, we know that "good" is an adjective and is used to describe a noun or pronoun. It is often used with forms of the verbs be, look, feel, sound or taste. "Well" is usually an adverb. It is used to describe a verb or sometimes an adjective. It is also used if you are describing feelings.

Your friend should have said that she was doing "well." If she really was doing good, she might have been feeding the homeless or helping the poor.

Correct usage of language is a necessity when it comes to talking in public. To ensure brilliant speaking, studying the English textbook will flatten the bump in your intelligence.

More dilemmas have arisen when questions are raised about famous communication slipups throughout history. What about flammable or inflammable and iterate or reiterate? According to The Grammar Lady, both mean the exact same thing. There is no purpose for them wasting space in the dictionary.

Edward Good, author of "A Grammar Book for You and I (Oops, Me)," explains many of the common errors and tells about how he became grammatically correct when spending time in Japan helping several Japanese learn the right way to speak English.

For guaranteed greatness, you can write to any professional and ask about grammar help. Or, if you are so inclined, you can look up your problems on the Internet.

Speaking proficiently helps you sound educated and well rounded in your form of expression, especially when talking to large crowds full of anxious listeners. They will look up to you in respect and know that you care about how you sound.

## Violence drives Straight Edge movement off track

By Thomas Carter,  
Valley HS

A growing question among Las Vegas valley youth is, "Are you Straight Edge or not?" Many interviewed teens are stumped by this, asking themselves. "What exactly is Straight Edge?"

It has been rumored that Jeff Nelson, the drummer from the pioneering band Minor Threat, started the term "Straight Edge." Reports have said that Nelson was drawing up a band poster using a "straight edge" and thought the name catchy. Minor Threat, already preaching "Stay Punk, Stay Clean," applied the term to their motto and became the foundation for today's Straight Edge community.

Straight Edge is not something you join or become. It's something you are, and a common practice of Edge people is the abstinence from alcohol, drugs and casual sex. These people can be found by the "X" they bear on their hands, a practice that was adopted after venues started marking X's on the hands of underage minors to show



Though Straight Edge promotes clean living, some members take it to dangerous extremes.

they can't consume alcohol. The "X" was adopted, and soon after, a majority of Straight Edge people started to bear this symbol.

As of late, the Straight Edge group has slowly begun a change in which they resort to violence to get their ideals across to the public. The victims have been individuals who have beliefs other than those that are found in Straight Edge.

In Salt Lake City, the Mecca of Straight Edge violence, there have

been numerous accounts of destruction, violence and mayhem by the Straight Edge group. These acts weren't as common as when the new millennium came around, but since 2000, there have been accounts of fast food restaurants being bombed and dairy and fur farms being raided. Most of these crimes have been attributed to Straight Edge groups, who protest the exploitation of animals.

In 1997, a Straight Edge group carved an "X" in the back of a man who lit a cigarette at a hardcore show. In 1998, on Halloween night, a man smoking a cigarette was stabbed to death on his street corner. At a Poison the Well show in Reno in 2003, there were several victims in an incident in which a Straight Edge kid was in a "circle pit" stabbing people in the neck and yelling, "Straight Edge!"

These are just a few examples of violent acts by Straight Edge people. Being edge is a perfectly good belief system, but when does a "moral" person persecute someone unlike himself or herself? Any belief system you want to live by is fine, as long as it doesn't come at the expense of others.

## Nevada has no need to legalize marijuana

By Anna Scarpa, Coronado HS

In 2002, some Nevadans attempted to pass a law that legalized the possession and use of up to three ounces of marijuana per adult. The issue was seen on the ballot as Question 9 and voted against, 61 percent to 39 percent. The high percentage of those against the proposal was not satisfying to legalization activists, as they are continuing to fight to pass the law, changing the three ounces to only one. The Marijuana Policy Project has supplied \$150,000 as well as a TV commercial in hopes of legalizing the drug in the upcoming election.

The legalization of marijuana is something that would be taken advantage of by some of the people using the drug for the purpose of getting high and not because of health reasons. The legalization of this drug would make it easier for children and teenagers to get their hands on it. In fact, when mentioned in a high school history class recently, more than half of the students in the class cheered for the issue in hopes of being allowed to "get high legally." On a Las Vegas online message board, an out-of-state teenager said, "Let me know when it's legalized. I'll be the first one out there to get my marijuana. Yeah! Weed party in Vegas!" Many other message posts followed in similar fashion.

More than 3,000 people in the United States, most under the age of 18, use marijuana for the first time every day. This action leads to drug dependencies, long-term physical as well as cognitive

consequences, and social problems. Smoking marijuana leads to changes in the brain similar to those caused by alcohol, cocaine and heroin. Heavy use of the drug impairs young people's ability to retain information in their heavy learning years while the brain is still developing.

Marijuana, while not having strong effects on the body like that of heroin or cocaine, is a drug that leads to the usage of other drugs such as these. More than 60 percent of the adults who used marijuana before the age of 15 have used cocaine, while nine percent used heroin, and 54 percent used non-medical psychotherapeutics. The usage of marijuana, while killing brain cells, also impairs the movement and reflexes of the person who is under the influence of it. This can result in vehicular manslaughter occurring, which is not uncommon in Nevada.

Legalizing marijuana is something that will do more harm than good to the people of Nevada. When the drug is needed for certain diseases, it is granted for recovery, so why legalize it?

Sheriff Bill Young said when asked about the issue, "We've got enough intoxicants out there already. It certainly will put more of our young people at risk. It's just more drugs, more people stoned, and more people driving around under the influence."

The legalization of marijuana is definitely something that will put the lives and health of Nevadans at stake if passed. This is an idea that needs to be done away with.



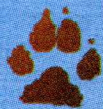
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# Political parties: What's the difference? Where do you fit in?

By Alex Anderson and Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS

The upcoming 2004 presidential election is being circulated with petty catfights, name games and propaganda. Since the controversial election of George W. Bush in 2000, the political scene has become polarized, with most Americans choosing sides. However, many people have flocked to whichever side they think they belong to, without actually evaluating the issues at hand or understanding why they advocate their political parties.

It is extremely important for everyone to become knowledgeable on the issues of politics, especially those who can vote in this year's election. People must understand the importance of this election and the major issues at stake in order to make the correct decisions on Election Day.

The first thing to understand about politics is the reason for political parties, such as Democrats and Republicans. Basically, they all have the same goals, doing what is best for America, only they achieve them in different ways. On the surface, political parties seem pretty confusing, but, in actuality, the ideas behind the parties can be broken down into a few basic sections.

Imagine a segmented line that represents the scope of American political ideas. The gray area in the middle represents moderates and separates the left from the right, or the liberals from the conservatives. A moderate is conservative on some issues and liberal on others.

## Democrat vs. Republican

The Democratic Party mainly represents the liberal point of view, while the Republican Party represents conservatives. There are many other political parties representing variations on liberal/conservative beliefs, but these are the main two parties in the American political system. Moderates represent those whose beliefs combine the principles of both parties.

The main difference between liberals and conservatives lies in how much each believes the government should be involved in the lives of citizens.

Liberals believe in a strong and involved federal government that regulates everyday life. Liberals try to shorten the gap between social classes as much as possible for poor, middle-class and upper-class Americans. This is usually done with government programs and welfare systems funded by higher taxes and with government involvement in the economy.

To the right of the moderate area, conservatives can be found. A conservative believes that a gap between social classes is fine and that the government should not be involved in everyday life unless totally necessary. Conservatives believe in strong, individual state governments and a less powerful federal government. This results in lower taxes, with tax money going to support state governments rather than a large federal government.

## Foreign policy

In the 2004 election, President George W. Bush will be the Republican Party choice for president, representing the conservative viewpoint. Sen. John Kerry has been chosen as the Democratic Party candidate, representing liberal views. With foreign policy, domestic policy and the economy as the main issues in this year's election, both candidates will present their ideas for the betterment of all three issues, so it is important for Americans to learn about their views.

Foreign policy seems to get people on both sides ticking these days. Extreme liberals like Al Sharpton and Michael Moore will lead people to believe that conservatives want to police the world to secure a hegemonic state for the United States. However, when President Bush was campaigning before the 2000 election, he was emphasizing the importance of pulling out of other countries and making the United States less responsible for the world.

But times changed on Sept. 11, 2001, and the power of the United States was put to use.

These days, conservatives believe that the United States has the responsibility to ensure the safety of its people by fighting the War on Terrorism. Conservatives will say that the capability of the United States means that it has a responsibility to take action around the world.

Liberals, on the other hand, believe that securing the nation at home is most important. Foreign aid should never result in force. Sending money, food, medical supplies and diplomatic specialists is the best means that should be used for foreign policy, according to liberals.

## On the homefront

When dealing with domestic policy, the political spectrum differs greatly. The main domestic issues are education, welfare and the environment.

For education, the conservatives rely heavily on the No Child Left Behind Act. This act tries to ensure that all students are proficient by testing them with standardized tests. The No Child Left Behind Act leaves the responsibility in the states' hands. Conservatives and liberals both believe all Americans should receive a good education, but liberals look to more federal control of education. That means that the federal government funds and regulates the education system, not the states.

Welfare is a domestic program that helps out people on the bottom of the class system in America. It allows for the poor to get food and money in order to survive. Liberals believe that the rich should be taxed in order to provide the poor with enough resources to have a decent life. A conservative will say that it is important to help the poor, but only enough to get them on their feet. From there, they ought to advance based on their own merit.

When dealing with the environment, conservatives believe that it is only necessary to protect the environment when needed. They believe that for the betterment of people today, trees can be cut down and roads can be paved. Liberals would like to see the environment in its natural state for as long as possible.

The economy most affects everyday life and is always a hot topic for debate in politics.

Liberals believe that the government should be involved in transactions of corporations to make sure that the rich do not get richer while the poor get poorer. A liberal economy tries to level the playing field of competition. In extreme cases, like socialism, the government controls the economy.

A conservative believes that business owners have an inherent right to increase their businesses and to make money. Conservatives feed the drive of capitalism by encouraging competition between companies. Rather than ensure that the rich stay at status quo, the conservatives like to see big corporations grow because then they can employ more people and produce more products to be sold in order for the economy to grow.

Ultimately, these basic differences in ideas and perspectives play a part in all the decisions made by politicians. Once again, it is extremely important to realize that both sides achieve the same thing. They both fulfill the government's obligation to its people, only the parties go about it in different ways. There is no such thing as a wrong political view. As long as the people's rights are being respected, there is only a better system of government based upon opinion.

The realm of politics is never-ending and can lead to some very intense discussions and self-evaluations. Important issues are still to be discussed in this campaign, and in time, specific plans will come out from all candidates. Until then, read, discuss and enlighten yourself about the world of politics to ensure that the best candidate is chosen in this upcoming election.

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

If you will be 18 by Nov. 2, 2004, you are eligible to register to vote. Voters must be registered by Oct. 12, 2004 to vote in the Nov. 2 general election. For more information about voting, political parties, registration and other election information, please log on to the Clark County Election Department Web site at: <http://www.co.clark.nv.us/ELECTION/home.asp>.



## Media images of women distort reality

*“Cosmetic surgery is the fastest growing ‘medical’ specialty ... Throughout the ‘80s, as women gained power, unprecedented numbers of them sought out and submitted to the knife ...”*

— Naomi Wolf, American author and feminist activist

By Ronna Robina,  
Valley HS

**A**m I too skinny? Am I too fat? Do I have what the media call “the perfect body?”

Body image depends on our perception, imagination, emotion and physical expectation of our bodies. There is no one, stable “media body image,” but one that it is ever changing. It is psychological in nature: your image is more influenced by self-esteem than by actual attractiveness as judged by others.

What is seen in music videos, movies and commercials are the not-really-so-typical size zero, 5-foot-9-inch models. The media send society the message that women will be happy, successful and well adjusted if they look like models or have the products they advertise. For example, the makeup company CoverGirl im-

plies that once you put its makeup on, you’ll look good enough to be on the cover of the magazines, looking as flawless and as beautiful as the person in the ad.

What many people don’t realize is that a model’s look is just an illusion. Models have two to three hours of wardrobe and at least four to six hours of makeup and hair preparation before hours of photography sessions to produce a few good images that will be digitally altered before printing. Digital alterations are the biggest factor to a photographer. Many actors and actresses get whatever they don’t like about their bodies altered, such as weight, breast size, nose size and facial alterations, to look like that “perfect image.”

Models are big idols, especially to teenagers trying to be accepted. Even the models themselves don’t physically look like the pictures we see of them. Yet these false impressions of perfect bodies are what society tries to measure up to.

To meet these expectations and enhance their self-esteem, people decide to have radical changes done to their bodies with cosmetic surgery.

Statistics comparing the number of cosmetic surgery



nearly 7.2 million cosmetic procedures in 2003, which is 87 percent of the total number performed. The rate shows a 16 percent increase for women from 2002.

With such focus on physical “perfection,” little or no consideration is given to the

value of personality traits such as spirituality, individuality and self-respect. By altering oneself rather than accepting one’s uniqueness, society leaves little room for developing self-respect.

procedures for the years 2002 and 2003 show an increasing trend (see chart below). Cosmetic surgical procedures saw a 20 percent overall increase from 2002 to 2003.

However, women underwent

Procedure	2003 Surgeries	Rate of Change from 2002
Liposuction	384,626	Up 3 percent
Breast Augmentation	280,401	Up 12 percent
Eyelid surgery	267,627	Up 17 percent
Rhinoplasty (nose jobs)	172,420	Up 10 percent
Breast Reduction	147,173	Up 17 percent

## Teen suicide often linked to previous violence



By Jessica Estepa,  
LV Academy

**W**hy me?” a teenage boy wonders to himself as he staggers home. His face is bruised, his arms ache, his pants are torn and

his right knee is bleeding. “Why me?” Arriving home, he goes to his room and lies down on his bed, staring up at the

ceiling. The events of the day run through his mind. He had gotten to school late; he’d forgotten his homework; he’d received detention. Things just hadn’t gone his way.

To top it all off, he’d gotten into a fight. He had bumped into someone and had apologized, but after being cursed at, he tried to walk away, muttering under his breath.

“My mistake,” he thinks. The other boy had gotten mad and had beaten him up. He couldn’t do anything about it. Tell someone? “Yeah, right. Then I’d be beaten up again.” Fight back? “I can barely get through P.E. I’d lose — badly.”

“What’s the point of living anymore?” he thinks to himself. “It wouldn’t be so bad. No more problems ... no more problems.”

Though this is just an anecdote, the problem within it is true. In recent studies, scientists have found a relationship between

physical violence and teen suicide. Teens are four times more likely to attempt suicide if they have been involved in physical fights.

“One in four suicide victims injured or killed someone else before their suicide,” says one report done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among teens in this country. Researchers believe that to prevent suicide, it should be determined if strategies for preventing youth violence are also effective for preventing youth suicide.

Suicide prevention efforts include research to increase the public’s knowledge of factors related to suicidal behaviors and tracking the problem of self-directed violence.

To help prevent another teen’s suicide, more information and tips are available at Join Together Online ([www.jointogether.org](http://www.jointogether.org)).



## High school basketball goes Big Time

By Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS



Summer is a time to kick back, relax and sit

around in your pajamas all day, right? Wrong, especially if you are one of the young men who participated in the 10th Annual Reebok Big Time Basketball Tournament this summer.

Held at Foothill High School, the Big Time was the highlight of the high school level men's basketball this summer. Not only did these boys play their hearts out, they looked mighty good doing it.

Teams from all over the United States and Canada came to compete in the biggest summer basketball tournament in the country. The Big Time came about in 1995 when event promoter Sonny Vaccaro decided that there should be a tournament that would allow young players to receive exposure to colleges. However, this tournament allowed them to receive exposure to more than just the Division I schools, which the majority of the tournaments at that time were focused on. It allowed for the athletes to be recognized by Division II and III schools as well.

With the high levels of talent that make their way into this tournament every year, it is a great point of exposure for many schools as well.

"These tournaments are for kids to get seen by colleges and to find the best teams around," says Matthew Gonzales, a 6-foot-7-inch senior at Green Valley High School, who played with his traveling team, the Southern Nevada All Stars.

"At the last big tournaments like the Big Time and Main Event, I got to play in front of at least 60 different college coaches each game," he says. "I've even been offered basketball stuff from Barstow, Dixie, Binghamton and some other schools, so who knows how things will go."

Over the past nine years, the tournament has grown from a mere 64 teams to more than 400 teams and 5,000 players. Of all these young, athletic hopefuls, many scholarships have been awarded to the more than 27,000 athletes who have participated in the tournament since its first days.

The Big Time Tournament is broken down into five different divisions: Open, A, B, C, and a newly introduced High School level. While the other groups consist mainly of traveling teams (teams usually made up of most serious, "best of the best" athletes from around the area), the new high school division allowed for high school teams to have their own league without the obvious disadvantages that they would experience in the other groups. The High School division was made up of teams with all players from the same high school or teams with players who were upcoming freshmen and sophomores from a few high schools in their area.

Bright and early on the morning of July 22, 2004, hundreds of young men woke up ready to play their hearts out for their teams, the scouts and the tournament trophies. After four days of grueling competition, the teams were weeded out through a bracket system of competition.

On July 26, the finals of the tournament took place. For the Open bracket it was the Spiece Indy Heat team (IN) vs. Team Breakdown (FL). The Heat, who had a great deal of help from their 7-foot center Odam, was able to make their way into the top spot, beating Team Breakdown, 86-68.

In the A bracket, it came down to Positive Image (PA) and Team Hoop Zone (TX). Positive Image was able to fight off Team Hoop Zone's last minute rallies to win 58-55.

For the B bracket, it came down to the Chico Tarheels (CA) and the Cuttino Mobley (PA). The Chico Tarheels were able to gain the trophy, winning 57-52.

The C bracket came down to

the Basketball Town Pharaohs (CA) and Peoria Illinois CIA (IL). The Pharaohs were able to beat out the CIA at 69-62.

The Arkansas Hawks and the team from Morgan, Utah were the two teams who made it to the first-ever final game of the High School bracket. The Hawks were able to hold off the Utah team to become the first team to win the High School Division with a score of 60-54.

While there were some teams from Nevada, they were unable to make it to any of the finals.

Tournaments like these give

the young athletes of North America a chance to show what they have and help them realize that their dreams of playing college basketball can become a reality.

And if you're not into playing basketball there is always an exciting game going on and eye-candy on the court, so there really is something there for everyone.

"I love being in all these tournaments because there are so many good players and there is such great competition. It makes me feel at home," says Gonzales.

## Sports scholarships: The rules of recruiting

By Jamie DeSoto, Mojave HS

Patently awaiting the mailman's daily delivery, John, a typical high school athlete, wonders when the scholarships from top colleges will start pouring in. His dream of being a star football player in college is on the line. Sure, he's only a sophomore, but this year he's playing varsity; surely a recruiter noticed his talent.

Like many other athletes, John believes that he must wait for a college to contact him and that they can make that contact as soon as they notice his abilities. The truth is, it's the athlete's job to contact schools that interest him or her. Coaches cannot keep track of every high school athlete, which means the athlete needs to let them know of his or her talent.

If you're a high school athlete, you can get off the sidelines and get in the game by knowing the rules of college recruiting.

### Take the first step

First, thoroughly research the schools that interest you. Pay attention not only to their athletic program, but also to each school's location, size, academics and finances. Write to each school requesting a brochure and try to visit the campus. Make sure that you research several schools; you never know where scholarships will come from.

Even after contacting your top colleges, a coach may not be able to offer you a spot on their team. The National Collegiate Athletic Association has strict guidelines concerning contact and recruiting. Coaches cannot contact prospective athletes until after they start their junior year of high school. For some sports, contact is forbidden until after completion of junior year. Telephone calls, meetings, e-mails and interviews are all plagued by rules detailing who, what, when, where and why. Knowing these regulations will help you understand the recruiting process and save you from waiting for offers that can't come.

College recruiting in reality is far from the Hollywood version. While coaches can contact a talented athlete on their own, your chances improve greatly if you contact them yourself.

Keeping your grades up and staying involved is extremely important. Familiarize yourself with the NCAA's rules, and make sure to stay within their guidelines. A future in college athletics is possible, but it's up to you to make it happen.

More information on colleges and athletics can be found at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). The NCAA's rules can be found on their Web site at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org).



# Díganos

COPA AMÉRICA 2004

Por José Montes, Clark HS

La copa América es un torneo de fútbol que día a día se convierte en un evento de gran importancia para todos los habitantes del continente americano. Es por eso que lleva el nombre de "La Copa América." Un evento que sin duda alguna ha crecido y es de los más populares en nuestro continente.

La copa América 2004 se llevó a cabo en Perú y los países que participaron se clasificaron en tres grupos y quedaron de la siguiente manera: Grupo A: Perú, Colombia, Venezuela, y Bolivia. Grupo B: Argentina, Uruguay, México y Ecuador (al cual se le llamó el grupo de la muerte.) Grupo C: Brasil, Paraguay, Costa Rica, y Chile.



Los dos primeros partidos de la copa América se jugaron en Lima el día martes seis de julio en los cuales los rivales fueron Colombia vs. Venezuela y Bolivia vs. Perú. Los resultados fueron 1 a 0 a favor de Colombia en el primer partido y un empate de dos goles para el segundo encuentro.

Al día siguiente en la ciudad de Chiclayo, se dieron los enfrentamientos entre Uruguay vs. México con un resultado de un empate a dos goles y Argentina vs. Ecuador en el cual Argentina goleó a Ecuador con un marcador final de 6 a 1.

El día jueves ocho de julio continuaron los partidos, comenzando con el de Paraguay contra Costa Rica y Brasil contra Chile. Los marcadores fueron: Paraguay 1, Costa Rica 0 y Brasil 1, Chile 0. Estos dos partidos se jugaron en Arequipa.

Los dos siguientes partidos se realizaron el nueve de julio en Lima. Primero Perú le ganó a Venezuela con un marcador de 3 a 1.

*Vea página 27*



¡CELEBRA EL MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA! Nuestra ciudad realizará diferentes eventos. Lee el artículo en la página 24 para más información.



## ¿Están listos?

Por Lina Hernández, Editora de Díganos

Me imagino cuántos sentimientos deben estar paseando por sus cabezas. Para unos energía, un poco de nerviosismo y entusiasmo; para otros, pereza y deseos de que el verano hubiera sido un poco más largo, ¿no es cierto? ¿Más largo? ¡A mí se mi hizo eterno! Ya no veía la hora de volver a trabajar y compartir esta sección con ustedes.

Antes de continuar, quiero darles la bienvenida a un nuevo año escolar. Para los que recién comienzan estos cuatro años de secundaria les aconsejo que tengan mucha paciencia y que disfruten cada momento, porque a opinión de muchos, estos años son unos de los más bonitos en la vida. También imagino que para quienes este año es el último, ya no ven la hora de graduarse. ¡Tengan calma! Tómense el tiempo para agradecerle a cada una de las personas que los han ayudado a lo largo de los años. Muchos de ustedes extrañarán lo que están viviendo ahora cuando ya estén por fuera luchando en el "mundo real."

Este verano de verdad que ha sido tremendo. Las temperaturas suben y suben, mientras nosotros nos quedamos aquí rostizándonos como pollos, pero entrar a estudiar es una ventaja: ¡al menos tenemos aire acondicionado durante la mayor parte del día! La emoción de iniciar este nuevo año me llena de muchas expectativas; así que invito a todos los lectores para que participen con nosotros escribiendo artículos para Díganos durante este año escolar. Quienes estén interesados y quieran obtener más información, pueden comunicarse conmigo por correo electrónico a [classdiganos@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:classdiganos@ccmail.nevada.edu) o si desean llamar lo pueden hacer al 895-1504.

Aquí tienen la oportunidad de publicar sus opiniones de cualquier tema. No es necesario ser un escritor o un periodista, el único requisito es simplemente tener las ganas de escribir y "gritar" lo que a los estudiantes latinos nos gusta y nos molesta. ¡No dejen pasar esta oportunidad! Si tienen chistes, poemas, notas de entretenimiento, artículos serios, informativos, actividades que estén pasando en sus escuelas, no se quedes atrás, ¡publíquenlos! Esperamos sus contribuciones y sus sugerencias. ¿Qué podemos hacer para que Díganos sea aún más popular entre los estudiantes latinos?

Prepárense para estudiar y disfrutar cada segundo de este año escolar ... ¡mucho suerte!



# Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana

Por Natalie Minev,  
Community College HS

Este septiembre, todos los estudiantes tendrán varias oportunidades de celebrar las festividades del Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana. Durante este mes, será fácil encontrar gran cantidad de actividades, exhibiciones y fiestas en honor a nuestra rica y diversa cultura.

En el Centro Comunitario Rafael Rivera se estará llevando a cabo varios eventos, incluyendo la gran fiesta del Día de la Independencia Mexicana el 11 de septiembre. Los eventos que se han creado especialmente para los jóvenes tomarán lugar todos los días en este centro de 3 a 6 PM, donde habrá deportes, juegos y eventos culturales.

"A pesar de que todos somos latinos, muchos de nosotros venimos de diferentes países," dice María Jiménez, trabajadora del Centro Comunitario Rafael Rivera. "Todos podremos conocer acerca de las diferentes culturas hispanas. Por ejemplo, los puertorriqueños aprenderán de la cultura mexicana y viceversa."

El Distrito Bibliotecario del Condado de Clark también

festejará el mes de la herencia hispana del 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre, con una multitud de eventos e invitados especiales, de programas y de exhibiciones para personas de todas las edades y culturas. Karen Bramwell Thomas, directora de relaciones públicas del DBCC, dio a conocer en su último comunicado de prensa que una gran variedad de coloridas actividades serán llevadas a cabo, permitiendo así, que los participantes disfruten la comida, la música, las películas y la literatura hispana. Una gran variedad de presentaciones en vivo se podrán ver en las bibliotecas públicas de nuestra ciudad, incluyendo una demostración del baile típico mexicano, una presentación del guitarrista Ricardo Griego, y una noche en vivo con la música latina de la banda "Latin Breeze."

Adicionalmente, el festival de cine tendrá lugar el dos de octubre en la biblioteca Whitney. Además, el narrador bilingüe Martín Juan Rivera, visitará las bibliotecas de la ciudad durante este mes para compartir la belleza de la literatura hispana.



El distrito bibliotecario realizará un concurso de pintura especialmente para los jóvenes llamado "Día de los Muertos," donde los adolescentes crearán cuadros para La Ofrenda, un rincón sagrado que se le ofrece a las almas que ya no están con nosotros.

Pamela Blair-Sheldon, una de las asistentes de la Biblioteca para Gente Joven al oeste de la ciudad, afirmó que celebrar el Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana es importante "porque los participantes no sólo aprenderán de las demás

culturas sino también de la propia. Esta celebración nos une y nos alimenta."

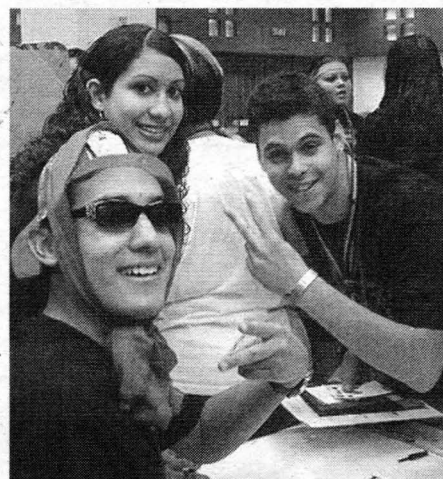
Con el sinnúmero de eventos que se realizarán en honor al mes de la herencia hispana, Blair-Sheldon cree que todos los hispanos del Condado de Clark deben aprovechar esta oportunidad y disfrutar estas festividades. "Estos eventos unen a nuestra comunidad."

## Undécima Conferencia de Liderazgo para la Juventud Latina

Por Anarosa González,  
Western HS

Durante este verano, del 23 al 27 de junio, se llevó a cabo la undécima Conferencia de Liderazgo para la Juventud Latina. Este evento, fue patrocinado por la Cámara de Comercio Latina, el Colegio Comunitario del Sur de Nevada, la Universidad de Nevada, Las Vegas, la Universidad de Nevada, Reno y el Hotel y Casino MGM Mirage.

A pesar de que más de 100 estudiantes de diferentes secundarias del Condado de Clark aplicaron para esta distinguida conferencia, sólo un poco más de sesenta estudiantes tuvimos el éxito de ser seleccionados para ser parte de tan importante evento,



Así disfrutaban los participantes de la conferencia.

el cual dio la oportunidad para que los latinos tomáramos el papel de líderes en la comunidad. Esto no fue una simple conferencia de liderazgo, este acontecimiento tuvo una duración de cinco días.

Durante el primer día, todos los participantes fuimos divididos en "familias" y cada familia tenía dos o tres ex alumnos, representantes de la conferencia. Cada día, pudimos aprender y compartir diferentes temas tales como los valores familiares, el sexo, los problemas juveniles, los estereotipos, etc.

Cada una de las actividades del programa fueron planeadas perfectamente. Gracias a eso, todos nos sentimos muy identificados con cada uno de los argumentos y la timidez que muchos jóvenes sentían, ahora no la tienen. A medida que pasaba el tiempo cada familia se unía más. Nacieron muchos sentimientos admirables e inigualables. Juntos compartimos ideas, historias personales y hasta algunas lágrimas se dejaron ver.

Al final de la conferencia, la despedida fue lo más difícil. Sin darnos cuenta el tiempo se fugó. Gracias a este proyecto que se realizó para capacitar a la juventud latina con una actitud de liderazgo, se lograron impartir valores cívicos

y familiares para motivar a la juventud a obtener una licenciatura. Nos enseñó que podamos ser nosotros quienes representemos a nuestra comunidad en el mundo real.

Como líderes, todos los participantes salimos comprometidos a nuestra historia, a nuestra herencia, a nuestras voces y nuestros hechos, admitiendo que debemos tener autodeterminación para que nuestra cultura Latina salga adelante. Sin duda, esta conferencia fue excelente y en nombre de todos los participantes que ahora somos los nuevos líderes, queremos darle un millón de gracias a Olga Mendoza, Carlos Ezeta, y a los jóvenes en acción: los ex alumnos (Alumni). Gracias por hacer posible este magnifico evento.

Este fue el mensaje: "Como juventud Latina debemos recordar la importancia de saber quiénes somos y nunca olvidar de dónde venimos."



Jennifer López. Boda. Novio diferente. Estas palabras suenan muy comunes. Salsero. Marc Anthony... pero éstas no. ¡Sí señores! Así como lo oyen: hubo boda entre JLo y Marc Anthony. Definitiva-mente ¡qué energía que tiene esta mujer para casarse! Cambia de novio como cambia de ropa interior. No cabe duda que la palabra matrimonio para ella significa, "se hace para no quedarse solterona." ¡No, querida! Las cosas no son así. ¿Qué ejemplo le das a nuestra juventud?

**Entrando en chisme.** La inesperada boda entre el salsero Marc Anthony y Jennifer López se celebró, al parecer, la primera semana de junio en la mansión de la cantante. A esta ceremonia privada asistieron alrededor de 40 invitados. Esta es la tercera vez que la cantante contrae nupcias, tras su pública ruptura con el actor Ben Affleck el año pasado, con quien estuvo a punto de casarse. Por otro lado, Marc, llevaba solo cinco días de haber firmado su divorcio con la ex Miss Universo Dayanara Torres, madre de sus



**Protagonistas:**  
Jennifer López y Marc Anthony

**Chisme:** Boda

**Comentario:**  
¡Qué locura!

## ¿La tercera es la vencida?

dos hijos. (¿Qué?)

**¡No! Es que eso no es todo.** Se dice... ¡que JLo está embarazada! Es una posibilidad que lo esté, y quizás eso explicaría la rapidez con la que el cantante tramitó su divorcio con Dayanara. Jennifer siempre ha querido tener hijos y esta idea tan apresurada

siempre le había traído problemas con sus antiguas parejas. Claro que esto no se ha podido confirmar. Pero, ¿cómo y cuándo sucedió?

**Y aquí no acaba la bomba.** A la candela le falta carbón, porque según dicen las malas lenguas, ¡Jennifer ya se arrepintió! ¡Pero si

sólo llevan dos meses! Esto ya es el colmo. Según la cantante, su matrimonio fue un "poquito" apresurado y ahora lo piensa más a fondo, todo porque se siente vigilada y atada, algo a lo que ella no estaba acostumbrada. Parece que a Marc le gusta que sus esposas permanezcan escondidas y alejadas de los medios. Además se dice que Jennifer todavía se comunica con su ex prometido Ben, por lo menos unas dos veces a la semana para contarle sus cosas.

Yo pensaba que contraer matrimonio es una de las experiencias más hermosas en la vida de una mujer, sobretodo cuando te casas con el hombre que verdaderamente amas. Pero JLo me demuestra todo lo contrario. Al parecer a esta artista de 33 años le cuesta mucho trabajo decidir qué es lo que quiere en la vida y con quién desea compartirla. Muy pronto la llamaremos "Doña Lola y sus cinco maridos." Esperemos a ver qué pasa, pero seguramente tendremos noticias de esta controversial pareja, porque al fin y al cabo JLo siempre da de qué hablar.

## Penal de muerte para menores de edad

Por Patricia Gutiérrez, Vo-Tech HS

¿Muerte a los 18? ¿Es la pena de muerte para menores de edad justa o injusta?

Muchas personas opinan que es injusta porque los adolescentes suelen cometer errores en sus tiempos de rebeldía y no es justo que pasen los mejores años de su vida tras las rejas. En mi opinión, es justo. Creo en la capacidad de cada ser humano para diferenciar entre el bien y el mal. A pesar de que pasemos por momentos de furia y frustración seguimos siendo conscientes de que quitarle la vida a otro ser humano, es en realidad muy injusto. ¡Nosotros no tenemos el poder ni el derecho de decidir quién vive o no!

No quiero decir que me estoy contradiciendo al aclarar que nadie tiene derecho a decidir la vida de otros. No, sino que los errores se tienen que pagar y el poder público ha impuesto la cárcel. Todas las decisiones tienen consecuencias y acabar con la vida humana de otra persona es una de ellas. Si tan sólo pudiéramos entender lo hermosa que es la vida cuando no se está cautivo. Cada respiro se vuelve una nueva aventura, se aprecian las diferentes sombras de los colores y se vive la vida con más serenidad.

En conclusión, opino que pagar con la propia vida por cometer un crimen es justo. El que verdaderamente se arrepiente, se toma el tiempo para reflexionar, para crecer en espíritu y en calidad humana. Pasando una vida entera tras las rejas no cura ni cierra las heridas de las familias de aquellos que fueron víctimas del desequilibrio mental de estos criminales (menores de edad), con la capacidad y el deseo de matar que es asombrosamente monstruoso. ¡Recuerda antes de decidir y analiza las consecuencias!

## "Escúchame"

Por Patricia Gutiérrez

Escucha sin palabras,  
Lo que aún no puedo hablar.  
Mirame a los ojos,  
Y te darás cuenta que quieren gritar.  
Llora mi alma,  
Encerrada en soledad.  
Solo te pido que me escuches,  
Sin necesidad de hablar.  
Me escondo en mis pensamientos ...  
Alejándome de aquí,  
De este mundo que me enferma,  
No me deja vivir.  
Todos hablan para maldecir o criticar,  
Nadie tiene tiempo de escuchar.  
Me duelen tus reproches,  
Y tu cara no muestra amistad.  
¿Me preguntas de mi rebeldía?  
Ignorando del mundo la maldad.  
No se trata de solo callar,  
Cierra tus ojos y ponte en mi lugar.  
No quieres verme volar;  
Remienda mis alas,  
Espera que las heridas dejen de sangrar.  
Enséñame con amor y paciencia,  
Como cuando con señas me instruías por no saber hablar.  
Ayúdame a encontrar la salida,  
De este mundo oscuro, lleno de crueldad,  
Que solo me inspira no querer despertar.  
Dame tu mano y sujétame fuerte,  
Deja que sea yo quién desencadene mi mente ...  
Y por fin cuando me veas volando,  
Sé tú el viento que me va guiando.



**Sus víctimas no recibieron una segunda oportunidad.  
¿Por qué ÉL?**

**Use una pistola, irá a la cárcel.**

**Proteja su vecindario 385-GUNS**



**Project SAFE Neighborhoods • America's Network Against Gun Violence**



# Es "VIDA"

## Actividad extracurricular se sigue expandiendo

Por AnaRosa González, Western HS

Qué rico es poder compartir con todos ustedes un gran programa que tenemos en mi escuela. Western High School cuenta con el 50 por ciento de estudiantes hispanos. Lamentablemente se tiene que reconocer que "somos una juventud sin despertar," pero aún así, somos la única escuela en Las Vegas con una banda musical alimentada día a día por grandes estrellas; por una juventud que con un solo corazón latino de fuerza y de bandera, representan a "Vida."

Vida es una clase clasificada como "elective" en Western HS. Básicamente, Vida es una clase formada por estudiantes hispanos, (todo el mundo es bienvenido) que se realiza como una actividad después de las clases. La banda Vida es una gran representación para nuestra cultura. Esta banda cuenta con gran profesionalismo e interpreta todo tipo de música, las mejores canciones y con un ritmo latino riquísimo, que hacen de Vida una banda muy competente.

Sus músicos, cantantes y bailarinas, junto con los profesores Mr. West y Mario Trejo, son el cuerpo y cabeza de esta banda. Vida se creó hace nueve años. Por esta banda han pasado cientos de estudiantes ya graduados de Western HS y ex integrantes de Vida. Vida, a parte de

representar nuestra cultura, representa a nuestra escuela en sí, visitando docenas de otras escuelas alrededor del valle demostrando que somos afortunados en tener un programa de música como Vida.

Aquí tenemos la oportunidad de divertirnos, educarnos, mantenernos ocupados en actividades positivas, para no tener la mínima posibilidad de pensar en vicios, drogas o alcohol. Además, estaremos obteniendo créditos para graduarse.

Qué rico es para mí tener la oportunidad de hablar de Vida. Aunque somos una escuela muy ajena a muchas cosas positivas, puedo decir con satisfacción que somos hispanos unidos. Quizás lo que nos hace falta es soñar y creer. Mi nombre es AnaRosa y me encanta soñar y creo que todo se puede lograr, sobre todo si nos unimos y nos ayudamos a subir para representar a nuestras escuelas y a nuestra gente, no sólo como hispanos, sino también como una organización educativa. Soy miembro del club Latino y qué orgullo es para mí poder decirles que ya no somos una escuela tan oscura, que tenemos miles de bendiciones, programas, actividades y organizaciones.

Si algún día escuchan al grupo Vida, recuerden este artículo y sólo ese día y sabrán quiénes somos. Que cómo el nombre lo dice, es Vida, creada por una escuela con una juventud que pronto despertará: Western High School, "Casa de los Guerreros."

# copa américa 2004

Continuación de la página 23

A segunda hora Colombia obtuvo el triunfo por 1 gol a 0 sobre Bolivia.

Siguiendo con los partidos, el sábado diez de julio se llevó a cabo el enfrentamiento entre Uruguay vs. Ecuador, en el cual Uruguay venció a los ecuatorianos 2 goles por 1. En el segundo partido se enfrentaron México contra Argentina en el cual terminó 1 a 0 a favor del "Tri."

Los equipos de Brasil, Costa Rica, Paraguay y Chile se enfrentaron el domingo. Brasil derrotó a Costa Rica 4 goles a 1 y Paraguay y Chile empataron a un gol. El 12 de julio Venezuela y Bolivia se repartieron los puntos al empatar 1 a 1. Ese mismo día, se encontraron en la cancha Perú y Colombia quienes obtuvieron un empate a dos goles.

El día 13 de julio México supo aprovechar el partido, ganándole a Ecuador 2 goles a 1. En el otro partido Argentina derrotó a Uruguay 4 goles a 2.

El miércoles 14 de julio se jugaron los dos últimos partidos para pasar a los cuartos de final se vieron las caras los equipos de Paraguay y Brasil. En este encuentro, el ganador fue Paraguay que anotó 2 goles y Brasil solo 1. El otro partido fue el de Costa Rica vs. Chile y en este encuentro Costa Rica aprovechó la oportunidad ganándole a Chile 2 goles por 1.

Estos fueron los cuartos de final y sus resultados: sábado 17 de julio, Argentina 1 vs. Perú 0; Colombia 2 vs. Costa Rica 0. Domingo 18 de julio, Paraguay 1 vs. Uruguay 3; México 0 vs. Brasil 4. Y éstos fueron las semifinales y sus resultados: martes 20 de julio, Argentina 3 vs. Colombia 0 y miércoles 21 de julio Uruguay 1 (en tiros de penal 4) vs. Brasil 1 (5 en tiros de penal.)

La gran final se la jugaron los grandes de la verde-amarela y los celestes. Brasil se llevó la Copa América al vencer en la tanda de penales a Argentina luego de que durante los 90 minutos quedaran 2 a 2. Uruguay se llevó el premio de consolación y quedó en tercer lugar al vencer 2 a 1 a los cafeteros.

BRASIL, CAMPEON DE "LA COPA AMERICA 2004."

# Fumar NO sólo acaba con tu salud

Por Jaime DeSoto, Mojave HS

Mientras compartes tu tiempo con un grupo de amigos, ves que te encuentras sumergido en una nube de humo. Miras a tu alrededor y te das cuenta que eres la única persona que no está fumando ... y como no quieres dañar la fiesta, aceptas un cigarrillo y empiezas a fumar. Ese cigarrillo se convierte en dos, luego en cinco y luego en media cajetilla. Cuando menos te das cuenta, tú también te vuelves adicto a la nicotina. Felicitaciones, acabas de ingresar oficialmente a un mundo donde un cilindro de tres a cuatro pulgadas controla tu vida por completo.

Todo el mundo sabe que fumar acaba con la salud. Sin embargo, muchos no se dan cuenta de la gravedad del asunto. La advertencia general de la salud pública que se encuentra en la parte lateral de la cajetilla sólo informa a los consumidores de los daños a la salud, ignorando otras áreas de sus vidas que también pueden ser afectadas.

**Tu Bienestar Personal:** Obviamente, los cigarrillos son dañinos para tu salud, pero ¿cuán peligrosos son? El Reporte de la Dirección General de Salud Pública durante los primeros seis meses del 2004 dio a conocer que "fumar acaba con casi todos los órganos del cuerpo, causando innumerables enfermedades y reduciendo la salud

de los fumadores en general." Asma, cáncer y enfermedades respiratorias son sólo el comienzo de una larga lista de dolencias que pueden ser causadas por los cigarrillos.

**Tu Familia y Amigos:** Cuando decides fumar, estás poniendo en riesgo la salud de las personas a tu alrededor. El humo de segunda mano aumenta las posibilidades de muerte y de contraer ciertas enfermedades, especialmente en los niños. La Asociación Americana del Pulmón estima que 38,000 muertes son causadas anualmente por inhalar el humo de cigarrillo. Tu cigarrillo también irritará los ojos, la nariz, la garganta y los pulmones de quién esté cerca de ti.

**Tu Bolsillo:** Fumar cigarrillos no es sólo un hábito muy peligroso, sino también muy caro. Gastas alrededor de \$5 dólares por cajetilla, mientras los precios del cartón están entre \$20 y \$40 dólares. A este nivel, si te fumas una cajetilla al día, te estarías gastando aproximadamente \$1,800 dólares al año en cigarrillos (sin contar los encendedores). Además, ten en cuenta que los precios aumentan continuamente.

**Tu vida social:** Puede que los dientes amarillos, el mal aliento y una constante nube de humo suene atractivo para algunos, pero para la mayoría de jóvenes esto es para morir. Los perfumes, las colonias y las mentas jamás cubrirán el olor a humo que se queda impregnado en ti. Pasar un día entero sin fumar un

cigarrillo puede cambiar drásticamente tu actitud, ya que andarás de mal humor todo el día.

**Tus hobbies:** Olvidate de los deportes, del ejercicio y de las actividades al aire libre. Cuando cualquier fumador intenta realizar cualquiera de estas cosas, la respiración se hace más corta y se empieza a toser de una manera imparable. Según la dirección general de la salud pública, estos síntomas pueden ser más dañinos en los jóvenes: "Fumar acaba con el estado físico de los adolescentes en términos de función y resistencia - inclusive los jóvenes que entrenan a nivel competitivo."

**Tu futuro:** Cada día que fumes, es un día menos en tu período de vida. Los fumadores mueren en un promedio de 13 a 14 años antes que aquellos que no fuman. Los cigarrillos también dañan tus órganos reproductivos y tu fertilidad. Para las mujeres que quieren tener hijos, recuerden que fumar durante el embarazo puede causar defectos severos al bebé.

El impacto que tendrá la adicción a la nicotina será increíble. Si ya eres adicto a los cigarrillos, todavía queda esperanza. Mientras más rápido dejes de fumar, mejor.

Para quienes han evadido este mal hábito hasta ahora, hay buenas noticias: la dirección general de la salud pública encontró que "la mayoría de los jóvenes empiezan a fumar antes de graduarse de la escuela. Esto significa que si no has fumado durante los 4 años de secundaria, ¡probablemente nunca lo harás!"





# Life in a brand new school brings challenges and rewards

By Whitney James,  
Liberty HS

As the fastest-growing school district in America, Clark County has had to try to build schools fast enough to keep up with the increasing population. As a result, new schools open every year, and many students find themselves rezoned to these brand new schools, some barely constructed by the start of the school year. Last year, Liberty High School was one of those schools, and students facing a new school this year might find it helpful to know what to expect.

Liberty had its ups and downs like every first-year school does. We started off down a rough road. It was clear we weren't ready to be open: some kids had no transcripts, computers weren't up and running, and there was a lot of confusion. Many students didn't want to come to Liberty because they didn't understand the "standard campus attire" rule, the first of its kind in a Clark County public high school.

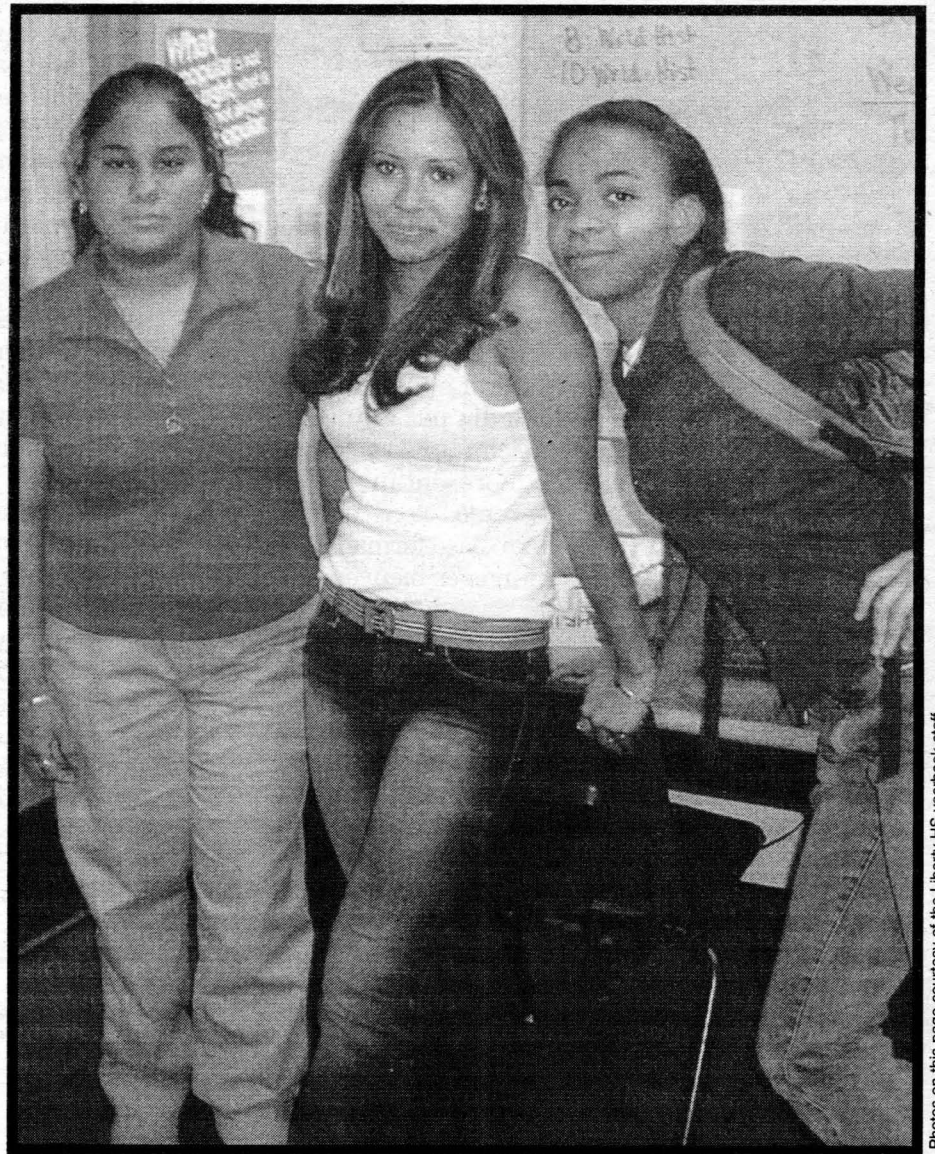
"Truly, it wasn't that bad," says one Liberty student. "The

campus attire didn't stop the kids. They eventually made the uniform fit their styles and personalities."

One good thing about new schools is that they might offer a unique curriculum or experience for students, unlike any school already in existence. For example, Liberty offered the opportunity to take eight classes, which was good for kids who were credit-deficient. Having extra school time made it so much easier on students because we had less homework and more time for sports and activities. However, each class period was longer, lasting an hour and 50 minutes, which was hard on the kids who don't like to sit still that long. The teachers worked with us, though, to get through the long classes.

Classical Studies was the focus of Liberty's curriculum, with Latin being part of every class. Having Latin taught throughout the day made it easier to learn Spanish because of the similarities.

In a new school, things may not always go smoothly, but everyone seems to pitch in to get through it. At Liberty, we had great staff to work with. They



Photos on this page courtesy of the Liberty HS yearbook staff.

got frustrated at trying to get everything together, but they tried so hard to never let it show.

New schools often get some of the best teachers. One of Liberty's best is Ms. Anderson, who teaches Logic and Rhetoric. She's a great teacher and students can always turn to her for any problems they come across. She helped many students last year.

A major challenge new schools face is in their sports programs. Usually, sports teams from new schools don't do well for the first year or so because teams may not yet have all the necessary equipment on hand or teammates are still getting used to each other, some who may have played for rival schools the year before.

Our sports program at Liberty wasn't the best in its first year, although the coaches and players did their best to start the school's sports program off on the right foot. Liberty's track team was one high point for the school, and we had Dayo Igeleke, a sophomore who was undefeated in the 100 meters last year. Also, our boys' varsity basketball team had a good

**Above, students needed to adjust to a new standard campus attire. Right, Corey Shenfield dons a tiara during Crown Day, part of Spirit Week.**

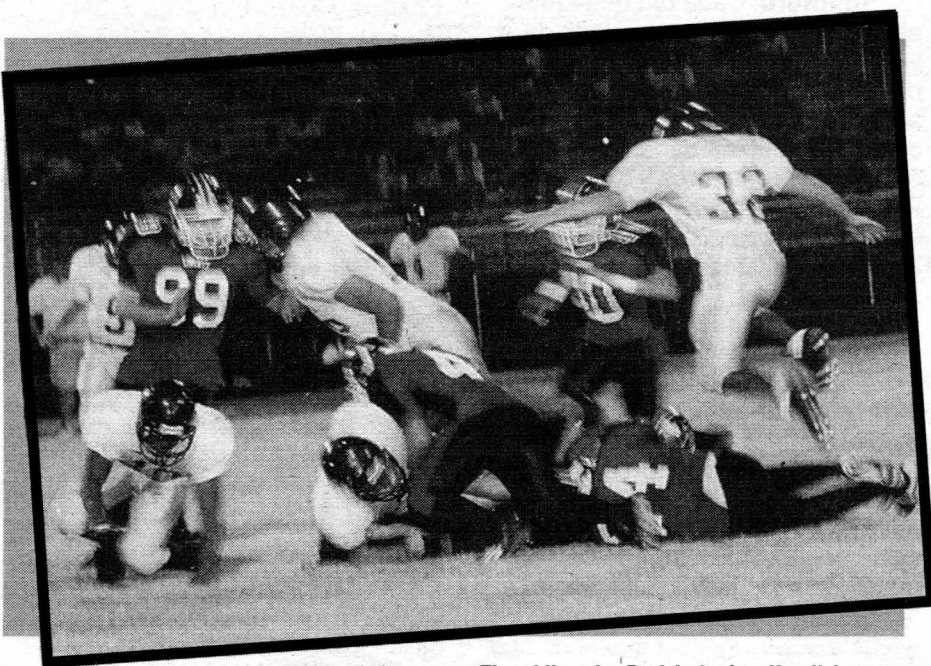


year, and is showing promise for the next season.

"We had tons of practice and have grown a lot since last year," says Liberty basketball player Sha'Ricky Ormond. "The Patriots are ready for our upcoming year!"

Leading our student body through its first year, our student council was great. We had no money, being a first year school, but that didn't stop them. They had all the activities, dances and assemblies looking very nice.

Seeing bigger junior and senior classes this year is something to look forward to, and being able to watch the seniors walk at graduation next spring will be a great moment for all the students who were there at the beginning and who made history opening a brand new school.



The Liberty Patriots football team worked hard in its first season.



# Planning ahead can take the stress out of college prep

By Chiara Velotta,  
Valley HS

## COLLEGE CHECKLIST:

- 1,200 on the SATs —  
✓check!
- College acceptance letter —  
✓check!
- High school diploma —  
✓check!
- Brand new car —  
✓check!

You are all ready for college. But wait! What about where you have to buy your books? What about making friends or finding your classes on campus? This kind of important information is usually skipped when it comes to getting ready for college.

Starting college means starting a new chapter in your life. The transition can be rough, but if you gain the lesser-known information now while you're still in high school, you might be able to relieve a little bit of your stress.

Some of those stressful problems have to do with money. We all need a little bit of that green stuff, but not all of us are able to earn it, manage it, save it or spend it wisely.

"My parents won't permit me to have a job while I'm in high school ... [getting a job] is kind of scary to me," says one Valley High School senior.\*

College-bound students will be happy to know that there are

\*Names withheld

often jobs available on college campuses.

"I work in the video library and check out movies," says Palo Verde High School graduate Elisha DeLaO. DeLaO has worked in the video library at the University of Nevada, Reno for several semesters and enjoys the job.

If you work on campus, the employers will be more understanding of your college schedule, and if you have down time at work, you might be able to catch up on some studying or homework.

Money is not the only stressor for soon-to-be college students.

"I have some anxiety about being in a new environment and not being able to fit in," says one Valley High School senior.\*

The switch to college is exactly like the transition from middle school to high school; you are getting older, you are gaining more responsibility, you are in a new place and you are overreacting.

"I was worried about fitting in," says Faith Lutheran High School graduate Naomi Youmans. "I didn't know anybody and it was such an adjustment. I was worried that I wasn't going to have any fun."

College is supposed to be fun, and if you were able to make buddies in high school, then making them in college should be no problem.

"I just got involved in whatever I could and got to know my

**The switch to college is exactly like the transition from middle school to high school; you are getting older, you are gaining more responsibility, you are in a new place and you are overreacting.**

neighbors," says Youmans, who currently attends Concordia University, Irvine in California.

If you are nervous about getting to know your neighbors, organize a group to go out to dinner. Colleges also usually have some fun things to get involved in. You can get more information about those activities by talking to someone in the student union at your university.

"Realize that everyone else is going through the same thing," says Youmans.

In all of the excitement of moving in, the fact that you are in a new place might have slipped your mind. You have to find all of your classes.

"I used a campus map ... and wandered around campus the Sunday before classes started to find the buildings," says DeLaO.

If you think that you will be the biggest dork if you use a campus map to find your way around, many universities have virtual tours online.

Another thing to remember is your books. Most campuses have a bookstore. You can buy used books or new books, or if you are lucky, borrow them from a friend. If you do not plan

on keeping the book, buy a used book. They are cheaper, and sometimes people leave notes on the subject inside of them.

When you actually move into the dorm, make a list of things you might need so that you do not forget anything. The list should cover everything from personal hygiene products to household items.

Almost ready for college! But before you pack up all of your boxes, there are some college rumors that you should watch out for.

"The biggest myth is that you don't have to go to every class. You do," says DeLaO. "Most classes allow three unexcused absences before your grade starts to go down."

College brings on a lot of responsibility and independence. Mom and Dad are not there to tell you what to do. Don't slack off in your senior year of high school because 'senioritis' has a bad effect when you start college.

"Everyone will be willing to help you. Just don't be shy about it!" says Youmans.

Most importantly, college will be a great experience. You should make the most of it by having fun, but working hard too. Good luck!

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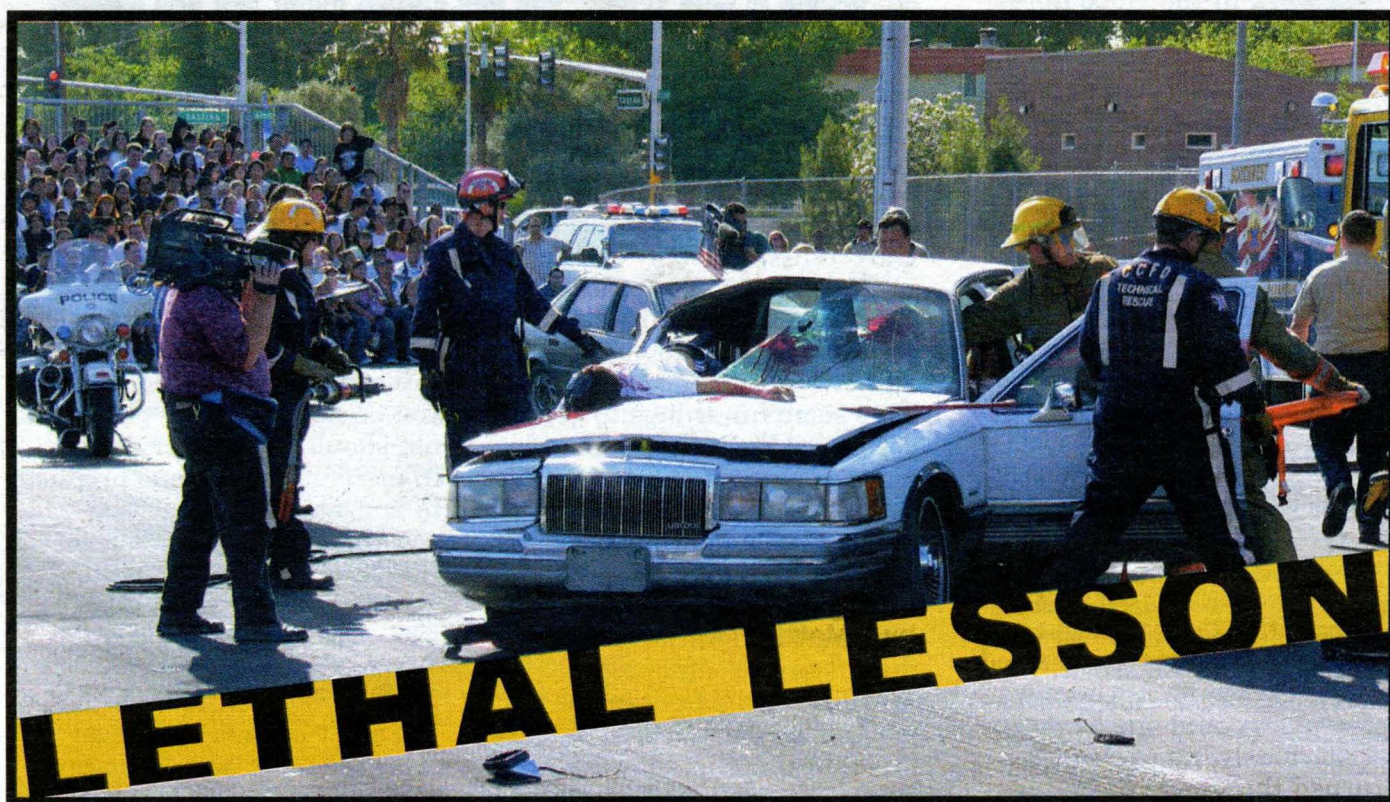
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It only takes a split second to lose control of an automobile and change the lives of the driver, the passengers, their families and their friends forever.

A few were chosen to stand and read their letters to the assembly audience. One of the most memorable was Valley student Michael Pride. As tears flooded his cheeks, Pride read his letter, and the end proved to be extremely inspirational. Almost every face in the crowd was damp, and for the ones that weren't, the struggle to maintain their image was obvious.

In response to the program's impact, Pride says, "I hope [the students] got the message. Although [drinking] may seem like a good time, ending consequences are fatal."

Accompanying the speakers were then-Clark County Chief Deputy District Attorney Gary Booker, who prosecuted drunk drivers for the county, and Bobby Kinsel, a Metro officer who was hit by a speeding motorist driving under the influence.

"I want to educate people ... so they know the situation," says Kinsel. "[Drunk drivers] could kill somebody. It's murder!"

Kinsel's response was a summary of his speech, during which he brought a body bag on stage to show where students would end up if wrong decisions turned fatal.

Booker also took time out of his busy schedule to assist in the drunk-driving awareness effort.

"I hope [the students] listened. It's serious business," says Booker. His speech focused on the consequences of bad decisions, and it was truly a reality check.

"It's very sad to know that it takes all this for us to understand how real and scary it is to drink and drive," says one emotional student.

The "Every 15 Minutes" program is a great way to touch base with students, and it is a great opportunity to try to change at least one person's life. An alcohol-related crash is never an accident.

## 'Every 15 Minutes' gets real with teen drivers, raises awareness

By Alex Boschen and Sheree Henderson, Valley HS

Every year, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department sponsors and hosts a program to raise awareness of the risks of drunk driving. Last school year, Valley High School witnessed the dramatic presentation of a mock, alcohol-related car accident, simulating the deaths of fellow students. A professional makeup crew pitched in a realistic look, while patrol cars, motorcycles, a fire engine and even a helicopter showed up for the action. With a budget around \$10,000-\$20,000, this year's "Every 15 Minutes" program was well worth the effort.

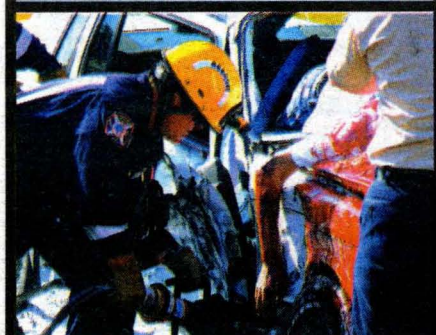
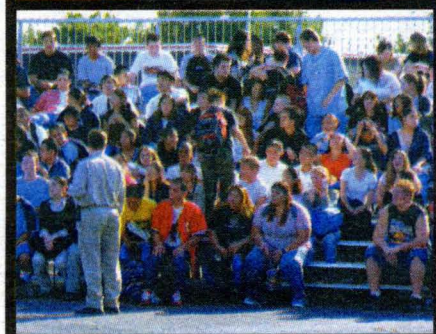
Excitement and anticipation reached a climax at Valley on Wednesday, April 28, 2004 when the "Every 15 Minutes" program was staged at the school. With the school's prom planned for the weekend, along with its fancy tuxedos and limousines, fine dining, and yes, after parties, the "Every 15 Minutes" program served as a timely lesson for students.

Bleachers lined Karen Avenue beside the school and were filled with students observing the shattered glass and twisted metal of the simulated car accident. The obliterated appearances of peers involved in the program proved to have an effect, but a much more emotional response occurred the next morning.

Students filed into the gymnasium on the morning of April 29, remembering what they had just witnessed the day before. The morning began with a video that showed what the students had been unable to see the day before: the drunk driver's jail booking, the trip to the hospital with Mercy Air Flight For Life, and a victim's parents' visit to a mortuary.

There were 15 students selected to be "deceased" for that day, and every 15 minutes, one of them was taken out of his or her class by the "Grim Reaper." Their obituaries were read out loud to their classmates and the circumstances of their deaths were explained. At the same time, uniformed officers informed the parents of these children — at their homes or places of business — that their child had passed.

The "deceased" students were away from home Wednesday night, writing letters to their parents about their experience.



Students at Valley HS witnessed the mock wreck and its aftermath.

Photos courtesy of Samantha Scholl.



# Lives lost: I was the drunk driver that killed your friends

**Editor's note:** *The author participated in the "Every 15 Minutes" drunk-driving prevention program in which high school students play the roles of people involved in realistic drunk driving accidents. Some are victims, either injured or killed, but one student portrays the drunk driver and goes through the entire experience that a drunk driver would actually have to face. The author played that role at her school, and this is the story of her experience.*

By Chiara Velotta,  
Valley HS

I was the drunk driver. I drank more alcohol than I could remember, and even though I was driving by myself in my car, the consequences of my actions were not solitary.

Early that April morning, I crashed into the car holding three of my innocent friends. I killed two of them and injured the third.

Shortly after the accident, police officers, firefighters and coroners arrived at the scene. I failed a sobriety test, and the breath test showed that my blood alcohol level was way over the legal limit. While my friends were being taken away in a helicopter, an ambulance and a body bag, I was handcuffed and stuffed into the backseat of a police car.

During the handcuffed-drive to the Clark County Detention Center, I realized how many things I use my hands for and what a disability it is to have them locked behind your back. The freedom just to scratch your leg or tuck your hair behind your ear is taken away from you.

Upon arrival at the CCDC, I was immediately booked. My blood was drawn by a nurse who took one hand from the cuffs and locked the empty cuff to my back belt loop so that one hand was still behind my back. Pictures were taken of my face and of my profile. I was able to catch a glimpse of the pictures on the computer, and they were pungent and frightening: I had vomit all over my face, I had a bloody nose, and I had a mas-

sive bruise around my left eye and temple. I looked like a criminal. I felt like a criminal. I was a criminal. I was frisked by a female officer, who checked me very thoroughly. I was then given a jail suit and was handcuffed around my waist.

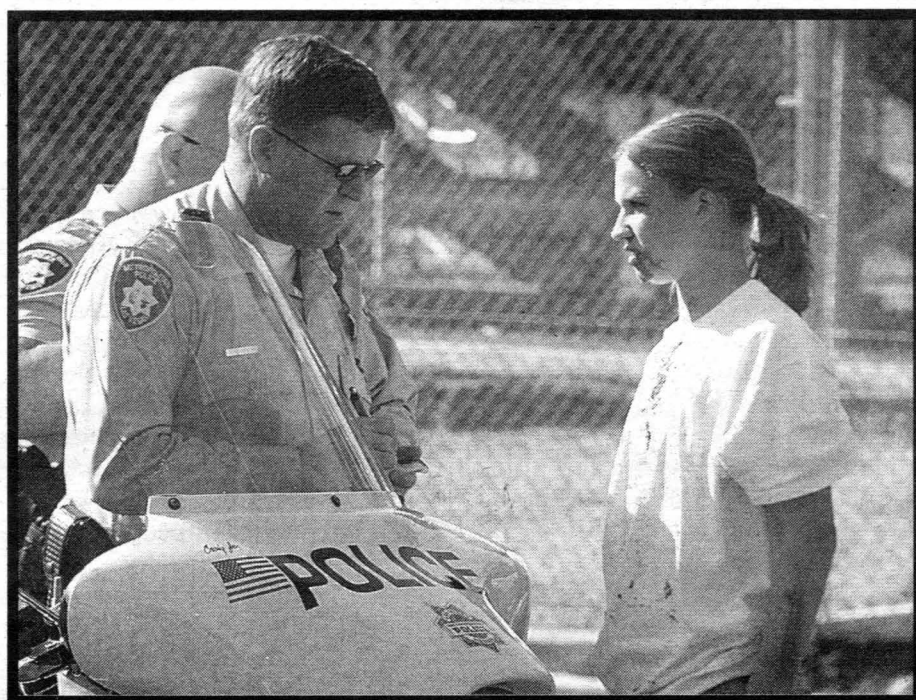
After booking, I was given a navy blue shirt, navy blue pants, orange socks and orange flip-flops, and all were "one size fits all." The shirt was huge, the pants were way too long, and the flip-flops were too small. And, of course, all of the clothes had been previously worn. There were no mirrors on the walls. Although I didn't take a shower, I looked in at the facilities. There were three stalls and one bar of soap — obviously, no privacy. I turned the water on to wash my face, and there was only one temperature: cold.

When I was done changing, the officers put a different kind of handcuffs on me: a chain around the waist, and a cuff hooked to each side, so that each arm could just hang down.

We began walking down the tunnels to court, when I noticed the extreme cold. The entire time that I spent there, I had goose bumps from being so cold. I also noticed that there were no windows. A person is completely secluded from society when he or she is in jail.

Walking down the tunnels, we passed groups of inmates being escorted by police officers. Every man stared at me and several made sexual comments. Occasionally, a woman would do the same. I ignored their remarks, but I was scared and intimidated.

In the courtroom, I did not hear half the things the attorneys and Judge Joseph Bonaventure said. But when the judge read my sentence I heard every word. While he was reading it, I could feel the stares, and it seemed like an eternity for him to finish. As he spoke, I got a lump in my throat and butterflies in my stomach. I was sentenced for 20 years each for three counts of death and injury, and eight



Valley High School junior Chiara Velotta portrays a drunk driver who has caused a fatal car accident in the "Every 15 Minutes" drunk-driving prevention program. Here, Velotta is arrested and questioned by a Metro Police officer.

years for each count before I would be eligible for parole.

As soon as the trial was over, I was escorted to a jail cell, my new home for the next large chunk of my life. At least, though, I had a life. Some of my friends had not been so lucky.

The officer tossed me in and

slammed the door. It really does echo, just like in the movies. Nothing but silence and time. Tick ... tock ... tick ... tock ... every 15 minutes someone in the United States dies as a result of an alcohol-related accident.

Who's next?

## Celebrate Teen Read Week

### October 17-23

You could win free tickets to *Fright Dome II* at *Adventuredome Theme Park* at *Circus Circus Hotel & Casino* or a gift basket filled with icky goodies.

Just read a horror book or watch a horror movie and submit a review on-line starting October 1 at [www.lvccld.org/teens](http://www.lvccld.org/teens) or fill out a review form at your local branch. For each review submitted, earn a frightfully fun reward of a 2 for 1 coupon to *Fright Dome II* good for any Thursday.

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# Project Safe Neighborhoods decreases gun violence

By Natalie Minev, Community College HS



**P**roject Safe Neighborhoods, a nationwide gun crime prevention and reduction program, has become one of the most successful efforts of law enforcement officials to decrease the occurrences of gun violence, both on local and national levels. The program, which makes a goal of uniting federal, state and local officials to collectively combat gun violence, has been a strong law enforcement program in Las Vegas for the past three years.

PSN was put into action by the Bush administration, as the president's main domestic concern was gun violence. Since its start, the program has significantly reduced incidences of gun crimes nationally, and federal firearms prosecutions have

increased by 68 percent, according to a Department of Justice press release Web site. The program has effectively decreased the number of gun crimes and in addition has taken illegal weapons out of people's hands, an equally important achievement.

"Through Project Safe Neighborhoods' unprecedented partnership of state, local and federal leaders, we are turning the tide on gun crime," said Attorney General John Ashcroft in the online press release. "We are taking gun-wielding criminals off our streets. The last three years represent a record of great success, but working together, we can do even more to make our neighborhoods safe."

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a strong law enforcement program in the city of Las Vegas. Clark County District Attorney Victoria Villegas explains the local and national goal of PSN.

"[PSN] is based on keeping our community safe," she says. "A federal grant was given all over the United States to hire prosecutors, investigators, and secretaries to investigate gun cases, armed robbery and homicides."

The program is constantly working toward the prosecution and prevention of firearms crimes.

"Once a week, my office; the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department; the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Department; members of the Henderson Police Department; the Gang Unit; and the Firearms Unit discuss gun cases," Villegas says. "We make sure violent offenders are prosecuted and incarcerated for a long time."

Villegas stressed that the focus of PSN is not limited to adults; in fact, it focuses very much on teenagers as well.

"We focus on teens because of gang violence," she says. Informative billboards around the city that warn the dangers of gun violence are "not only for adults, but they also target teenagers."

The district attorney ex-

plained that there are many gun crimes involving young people.

"For example, we had a 17-year-old boy who was in a gang and went to a party," Villegas explains. "He got mad because he didn't like how someone was talking to him. He pulled a gun, fired one shot, and hit two guys. He is now sentenced to a minimum of 18 years and a maximum of 64."

Las Vegas has seen a positive impact from Project Safe Neighborhoods, and since the start of the program, Villegas says, "We've seen dramatic decreases in armed robberies." However, the overall success of PSN cannot accurately be shown because of the people coming into the city every day, Villegas explained.

Villegas has a strong message for teenagers about gun violence. "If you're using [a gun] for unlawful reasons, don't. The consequences will be dramatic."

"Teenagers aren't even supposed to have guns," she continues. "If you're eighteen and you want to own a gun, take a class. Learn how to use it for the right reason: protection."

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# Leadership program sheds light on career opportunities

By Lindsay Gilmour, Basic HS

When the principal casually stated that this Leadership Las Vegas program would be a little fun to help soothe the thinly stretched sanity of the average A.P. or honors valedictorian, or president of the student body, anyone could have smelled deceit. Something school-related lessening stress? Ha. Good one.

Of course, it's common knowledge that no student could refuse another work load when it happened to be one that would undoubtedly set a perfect student apart from the next in the eyes of the college board. Perhaps the Leadership Las Vegas personnel used this to their advantage, knowing it was a foolproof method of finding the stressed of the stressed amidst the sea of high-strung overachievers. It did.

As each participant took a seat in the quickly crowding second floor conference room of the Nevada Power Company building, a feeling of unease set in. I was nervous. It was leadership school, said 2004 youth graduate Robin Bigda, a Basic High School senior. At the induction ceremony a week before, graduates of both the adult and youth divisions of the program made clear that the eight days of instruction required by Leadership Las Vegas were meant to give one's life some direction. Now, disbelief at those initial speeches was becoming a reality. Eight nine-hour days discussing leadership tactics with a group of strangers. Real enlightening.

One thing was for sure: the makeup work would be brutal.

Once all 44 students were accounted for and a quick, uncomfortably silent continental breakfast was consumed, the games began. Of course, these games were only the common icebreakers and team cooperation activities known to any and all students outside grade school. However, at the end of the day, those 44 strangers, brought together by only an interview and matching polo shirts, had made goals, met them together, and left the session as a close-knit organization. Perhaps jumping headfirst into this program would turn out to be a positive decision. If not, perhaps it would at least be a worthwhile lesson learned. As Helen Keller bravely stated, "Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing at all." Here goes.

Session two took an interesting twist. It moved the focus from leadership in one's self to what leadership has done for a young and struggling Las Vegas. In each presentation lay the hidden statement that being the cream of the high school junior crop made it an obligation to lead ever-growing Vegas to fame and fortune. What was this? Recruiting? The motives of this program were a mystery to be untangled; however, at 7:30 a.m., the knots refused to be untied.

The mystery remained unsolved through session three, as the exhausted students were force-fed facts of the economy, the free-trade industry and the standard of living. It turns out that the MGM/MIRAGE ac-

counts for 8.5 percent of Las Vegas gaming. Great. The economy is tourism-based. Wonderful. While pride for the growing hometown was on the rise, there seemed to be no connection to these facts and the benefit this program was renowned for gifting its graduates with.

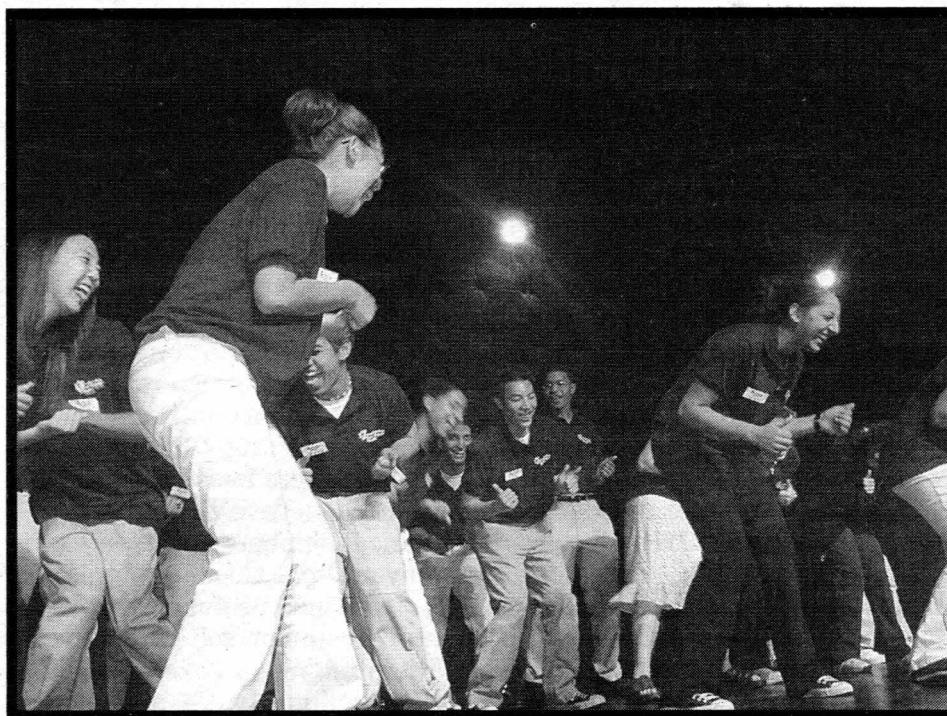
A yacht tour of the beautiful Lake Las Vegas permitted a few moments to speculate. The future is in the hands of the youth and knowledge is power came to mind. The guided tours of the Ritz Carlton in Henderson and the multimillion-dollar Turnberry Towers just south of Sahara Avenue may prove to hold an important lesson in growth, leadership or even determination and persistence. The long hours had not been wasted after all!

All was silent the morning of the fourth session as the

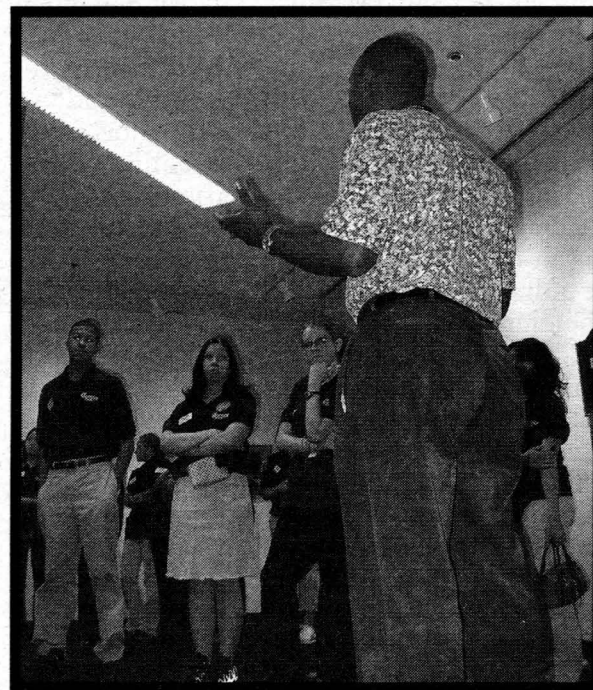
good reputation of the Leadership Las Vegas organization was proven. Sheriff Bill Young, Commissioner Chip Maxfield, County Assessor Mark Schofield, Councilwoman Amanda Cyphers, Mayor Oscar Goodman and other esteemed Sin City officials, all graduates of the Leadership Las Vegas adult division, filed into the conference room of the Clark County Government Center. Who would have guessed that the program was so widely known across the Vegas valley?

The officials each gave speeches on the skills and desires required to reach the top of the governmental food chain, and Leadership Las Vegas graduate Donald Shalmy stressed the importance of keeping to the Code of the West: Ask no more and give no less than honor, courage, loy-

*Continued on page 34*



The Leadership Las Vegas students stick out their tongues and threw out their shame to perform the infamous "Tootie-tah" dance. The dance was designed to break the ice between individuals in large groups.



Brandon Campbell from Valley HS, Victoria Starrett from the Advanced Technologies Academy, and Ariel Shalin from Silverado HS listen intently to a speech on the history of the Las Vegas Library. Though the students spent nearly nine hours there that day, they didn't have time to open one book.





# Hanging at the House of Blues: Not your average summer job

By Michael  
Gobaud,  
LV Academy



Before my internship with the Clark County Summer Business Institute, I had never heard of the International House of Blues Foundation. I had a feeling that it was in some way related to the "super-cool" House of Blues at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino. That assumption proved correct, but there was much more to it as well.

Unlike some of my peers who held summer jobs serving fries and bagging groceries, I spent my days this summer working in the House of Blues for the International House of Blues Foundation. The IHOBFF charitable organization promotes cultural understanding and creative expres-

sion through music and art, highlighting African-American cultural contributions, and brings art and music to schools and communities. This organization was a perfect fit for me as I am both an art major at the Las Vegas Academy and a percussionist.

One of my favorite parts of working with the IHOBFF this summer was being responsible for setting up and breaking down for the Blues SchoolHouse shows. The Blues SchoolHouse is a program put on by the IHOBFF for middle school and high school students. It consists of a musical performance in the House of Blues Music Hall by the Blues SchoolHouse band, followed by a tour of the House of Blues art collection, the largest permanent collection of folk art in the world.

No matter how many times I saw the show, I still enjoyed it,

especially guitarist Al Ek's cover of Robert Johnson's "Crossroad Blues." As for the art tour, I discovered and was inspired by the many artists represented in the expansive collection. I still cannot believe that artist Archie Byron used a mixture of sawdust and glue to create his beautiful 3-D images on display in the collection.

I learned several invaluable skills during my time with the IHOBFF, such as databasing, broadcast faxing, filing, and preparing letters for mass mailing, including letters to local city council members and even to Mayor Oscar Goodman himself.

I learned useful new ways to utilize common software such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. My day-to-day duties included answering the phone and taking messages in a professional manner. In addition to learning these skills, I also experienced things that most people do not witness until they are executives in a business.

For example, I attended several executive meetings alongside my employer/mentor, Program Di-

rector Kim Russell. One such meeting was in the Clark County School District Curriculum & Professional Development Center with Dr. Linda Young and Sharon Blackmon of Equity and Diversity Education to arrange bringing 800 teachers to The House of Blues to attend a workshop. Immediately following that meeting we ran upstairs to meet with CCSD Coordinator Sara Gardner to discuss giving teachers credit for attending the IHOBFF's workshop.

By attending these meetings, I learned many things that I otherwise would have never known. I learned that teachers, like students, have to earn credits every year by attending classes and learning new things. This knowledge has given me newfound insight into the life of a teacher.

I was very lucky to have Ms. Russell as my employer/mentor. She worked with me personally on a daily basis to help me problem-solve issues in my life. She encouraged me to make a list of things that I needed to accomplish this summer. By doing this, I was able to accomplish many goals that I would have otherwise never completed.

She taught me how to investigate the possibility of being a victim of identity theft. She assisted me in completing applications for jobs I can begin once my internship is over. She taught me about credit and showed me how to order my own credit report online. She has even mentored me on selecting the college that I will attend once I graduate high school.

Looking back on my experience with the Summer Business Institute and the International House of Blues Foundation, I learned and grew more during these two months than I have in my entire life. The things I learned during my internship will continue to help me achieve my future goals and endeavors, whether in being accepted to a superb college, receiving a generous scholarship, or landing that dream job I have been working toward my whole life.

I am hoping to be able to participate in the Summer Business Institute again next summer, before I go away to college. I would encourage any high school student who is interested in spending next summer vacation in a paid internship such as this to talk to his or her counselor as soon as possible about participating in the Clark County Summer Business Institute. It is truly an extraordinary opportunity.

## Leadership program

*Continued from page 31*

alty, generosity and fairness. Leadership Las Vegas had helped a lot of people who were now in turn helping their beloved community. Leadership Las Vegas was no longer an assignment, but an opportunity.

Once the advantage of this class was realized as being more than an addition to a college application, everything was viewed with a brighter outlook. Each hotel visit was a career opportunity, each speaker was a future co-worker.

The fifth session included a brief question and answer period with an inmate of the Clark County Detention Center; the sixth, a discussion on rape and abuse at the Las Vegas Library; the seventh, a debate on the monetary problems facing the Clark County School District, at the Ed Shed no less. Not exactly the picture of happiness.

However, these were real problems, problems facing the community, and so ultimately, the students, the future of Vegas. And now, with a heads up, the problems would be remem-

bered, revisited and conquered.

The always-cheerful Mayor Oscar Goodman once said, "There's not a moment goes by that I'm not delighted to serve the city of Las Vegas." Now, there's a chance that that exact statement will be repeated by 44 young men and women in the near future.

The last session brought beautiful weather for the old desert: blaring sunlight and 15-mile-an-hour winds. Great conditions to participate at a ropes course in infamous Pahrump, Nevada. Survival at this Navy Seals training facility depended on extreme closeness between peers both physically and mentally. As Walt Disney would say, there is great comfort and inspiration in the feeling of close human relations. Crossing swinging rope bridges and rope-supported wooden planks, and zip-lining down a 150-foot canyon in a rope harness in high winds and high heat? Comfortable isn't the most fitting of adjectives. Perhaps terrifying, mind numbing, or life altering would be more suitable. Each and every student experienced a close encounter with hyper-ventilation.

Amazingly, though, each and every student overcame

those fears with the encouragement of another. And each and every student gave encouragement in return.

On the bus ride home 12 hours later, each and every sweat-matted, sunburned student smelled awful, but looked like a different person. No longer just a leader, now they had become the leaders. Together they'll take their community to a higher level, to the level that they had reached through Leadership Las Vegas.

In the beginning, it didn't seem very promising. Eight long days spent learning about a city that would soon be left behind in light of college and careers, love and marriage. Eight long days missing important A.P. classes, intense swim practice, or the chance at a cram study session before the calculus final. Eight long days of waking early to study things not required by law. It was worth it.

"Most people living in Vegas don't know what goes on around them," a Leadership Las Vegas Youth 2004 graduate and Valley High School senior Brandon Campbell, said. But now there are 44 more people who do. And with luck, there are thousands more to come.



# Employers, students join forces at Summer Business Institute

By Danny Gobaud,  
LV Academy

Since 1996, the Summer Business Institute has been providing Clark County high school students with an opportunity to gain valuable work experience through an eight-week, paid summer internship with local businesses.

The program attempts to give students an internship in their fields of interest to help them achieve their future career goals. Each student is also assigned a mentor to guide them through their internship and to give them advice for their future.

The SBI helps students achieve their goals because they "can use contacts and info learned not just on their résumés, but also to gain a bigger view of life and become more focused on their goals," says Debbie Conway, manager of Business Development in Clark County and co-creator of the program.

The Summer Business Institute was developed in 1996 by Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates and Conway. In its first year, the SBI had less than a dozen students. This year, it has grown to more than 100 students, with over 600 applications for the limited positions with businesses all over Clark County, including Bank of America, Power 88-KCEP FM, Texas Station Gambling Hall and Hotel, Summerlin Hospital Medical Center, the International House of Blues Foundation and UNLV, just to name a few.

The program is open to all Clark County high school students in grades 10-12. Applications are accepted beginning in January and are available in your high school counseling office. The application includes an essay on why each student wants to participate in the SBI program and requires two letters of recommendation and a high school transcript. Although good grades are encouraged, it is not a requirement. In fact, the minimum

GPA is 2.0. What is stressed most is community service.

For those who pass the initial application screening, a group interview with about 20 other applicants is the next step. The final students are chosen based on these interviews and are notified by mail in May. Orientation occurs early in June at the Clark County Government Center, where students get a chance to meet each other and the SBI staff for the first time. One week after orientation, students attend an opening event reception where they meet their employers and mentors for the first time. After the reception on Friday, students are ready to begin work the following Monday.

Students work eight hours a day, Monday through Thursday for eight weeks, and on every Friday, they attend Financial Planning/Life Skills workshops at the Community College of Southern Nevada. The financial planning workshops teach students about credit and investments, and things like setting realistic goals, managing money and obtaining scholarships.

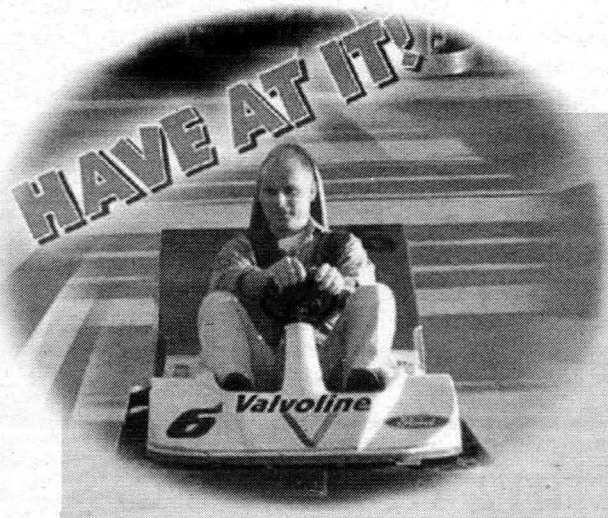
"I try to give young men and women an edge in the workplace," says Dr. Brad Donahue, instructor of the Life Skills Workshops. In

these workshops, students learn things like positive interaction in the workplace, responding positively to negative interaction in the workplace, and how to prepare for future job interviews.

After eight weeks of hard work, students are ready to graduate. Graduation for the 2004 Summer Business Institute students took place in the Dallas Ballroom at the Texas Station, where graduates and family members were treated to dinner and listened to speeches by fellow graduates and guest speakers.

During the ceremony, two checks of more than \$2,000 apiece, which were raised by selling raffle tickets as part of the students' community service project, were presented to the Salvation Army and the Boys and Girls Club. At the end of the ceremony, students received their yearbooks, and scholarships were awarded to selected students.

As a first time graduate of the Summer Business Institute in 2004, I can say that this program was an amazing opportunity for me, and I recommend it to all high school students who would like to have such an educational experience.



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# Trim Spa pills tempts teens to trim down, but is it safe?



By Farah Minwalla, Palo Verde HS

**A**dmit it. We are all still searching for the quick, painless, easy way to lose those extra pounds that will not go away. We all secretly want a body that is toned and firm, without an ounce of fat on it.

Now, let's come back to reality and realize that a so-called figure like that would be nearly impossible to have. In today's society, it's a struggle to be fit when you have about a million other things going on in your life. Working out at a gym is pricey and time-consuming. Going on a diet seems virtually impossible with the amount of unhealthy food surrounding a teenager's life.

So what other option is there for teenagers when they want to drop excess weight fast? In a teenager's mind, diet pills seem like the perfect quick fix. Thanks to striking new commercials featuring slimmed-down model Anna Nicole Smith, the hot, new diet drug is Trim Spa. In the Trim Spa commercials, a for-

merly overweight Smith, now slim and trim, frolics around a beach with a man and struts down a fashion show runway in a tight pink dress. The message is that if Smith can do it, anyone can, thanks to Trim Spa.

Trim Spa's slogan is "Be envied," and who wouldn't want to be? However, teens looking to trim down should think, "be careful" before taking any drug promising miracles.

The questions on everyone's mind about this pill are does it really work and how does it work. Like all other diet pills, Trim Spa marketers claim that whether or not Trim Spa works depends on the user. No conclusive studies show whether or not Trim Spa really affects weight loss. However, looking at the ingredients in the Trim Spa weight-loss program shows that it is compromised of three commonly used, natural dietary supplements: the Appetite Control blend, the Lipotropic blend and the Thermogenic Herbal blend. In other words, appetite control, fat-absorption blockers and fat burners.

The Appetite Control Blend contains peppermint leaves and fennel seeds, which suppress one's appetite, increase energy



and fight indigestion. The Lipotropic Blend uses lecithin to prevent too much fat buildup in the liver and to lower blood cholesterol. The Thermogenic Herbal Blend is made up of white willow bark, lemon, bitter orange, cayenne pepper, kola nut seed, ephedrine and guarana. The white willow bark, kola nut seed and guarana provide the herbal equivalents of aspirin and caffeine. When added to ephedrine, these herbs create a powerful metabolism-boosting compound that burns fat. However, continuous dosages of ephedrine can cause many severe health problems, including high blood pressure, stroke, insomnia and even death.

There are side effects with any fat-burning substance, and Trim Spa is no different. Side effects can include an increase of energy, lowered appetite, high blood pressure, feelings of anxiety, shaking, heightened sweating, feeling faint, rapid heart beat and restlessness. A major cause of these side effects is ephedrine, which is the product's

Model Anna Nicole Smith became notorious for flaunting herself on TV. She attributes her recent weight loss to Trim Spa.

most controversial ingredient. With ephedrine being such a risky substance, Trim Spa comes in three versions: original Trim Spa with ephedra, Trim Spa without ephedra and a Trim Spa formula for diabetics. Again, no evidence proves that Trim Spa works, and without the dangerous, fat-burning ephedra, it may be even less effective.

Celebrity nutritionist Joy Bauer says on her Web site, "No diet pill in the world works unless you restrict your calories."

Bauer is absolutely correct. When it comes down to losing weight, the only proven method is to decrease calorie intake and increase calorie burning — eat less and exercise more.

Teenagers should not be taking Trim Spa or any other chemical diet supplements not prescribed by a doctor. Teens are still growing and should definitely not be putting caffeine, aspirin and ephedrine into their bodies. Who knows what the damages later on in their lives will be? If teens still want to lose weight, they should talk to their doctors before they take action.

In today's society, teenagers think that in order to look good, they have to be skinny. This is a common misconception put out by the media. Being beautiful comes in all different shapes and sizes. Beauty is not skin-deep alone; it is being beautiful inside as well.

# Secondhand smoke silently kills unsuspecting nonsmokers

By Brianna Rizzo, Cimarron-Memorial HS



**T**o smokers, the estimated 40 substances of harmful chemicals and toxins contained in cigarette smoke seem to smell and taste wonderful. As for the rest of the population who prefer smelling fresh flowers to noxious fumes, cigarette smoke smells awful and pollutes the atmosphere as well as one's lungs and heart. Selfishly, some people still insist on smoking near nonsmokers, poisoning them with secondhand smoke.

Fifty-three thousand nonsmokers die every year in the United States from smok-

ing-related illnesses. Restaurants, malls and other public facilities try to separate smokers from nonsmokers by allowing smoking only in designated areas. It is simple to divide people, but not air. As the air conditioner cools down a restaurant, the air from the smoking sections drifts into nonsmokers' lungs. Customers only sit in restaurants for a few hours; imagine the damage done to waiters, waitresses, bus boys and hostesses. They are exposed to levels of secondhand smoke two times higher than people who work in offices. Casino workers suffer from levels 2.4 to 18.5 times higher.

Children whose parents smoke endure levels much higher than anyone else though. These kids rarely escape from smoke. As they leave for school, their hair

and clothes haunt them with the disgusting scent. When they return home, they relax in a cloud of damaging chemical compounds. Even if their parents aren't home, smoke doesn't just suddenly disappear. It becomes trapped in furniture, hides in carpet and contaminates walls.

"I lock myself in my bedroom when my mom smokes," says Sammi Davis, a Palo Verde High School junior. Davis' mother has been smoking for 32 years. "I've asked her to quit but she tells me it's a hard habit to break, especially when she doesn't want to."

Davis' mother speaks the truth though. Seventy percent of smokers try to quit, but only 5 percent actually succeed. Eventually cigarettes will kill a third of the people who use them and will continue to silently kill those who don't.



# You are your own best defense to rape

By Courtney Caron,  
Community College HS

Every two minutes, a woman in America is raped. That is 720 women per day, every day. Every single one of those women was someone's sister or mother or daughter. Every woman has a different story, but the pain is very much the same, like the ache that she can't seem to get rid of. When she thinks about it, she has a reminder that sends her right back to the most horrifying event in her life.

Can you imagine living with that every day? You may never suffer this horrible experience, but reading this article can help you understand what a person goes through who has been raped, what to do if you or a friend is raped, and how to protect yourself against potential predators.

Though rape victims suffer the same crime, all rape victims respond differently.

In a recent study by the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, researchers found that "the psychological trauma caused by a sexual assault can be severe and long-lasting. Because people react in very different ways to stress, it is not possible to predict exactly how you will feel."

However, many sexual assault victims report similar responses. These are the most common:

• **Shock and disbelief:** At first, you may feel numb, dazed, withdrawn and distant from other people. Wanting to forget about what happened is very common, and avoiding anyone or any situation that reminds you of the assault becomes important.

• **Remembering the assault:** Preoccupation with analyzing your thoughts and feelings about the rape may also occur. You may also have unwanted flashbacks and nightmares of the assault. Whether choosing to remember or having a flashback, you may re-experience some of the sensations and feelings you had during the assault, such as fear and powerlessness.

• **Intense emotions:** Many rape victims feel intense emotions after a sexual assault. Anger, anxiousness, fear and de-

pression are all common emotions suffered by victims.

• **Physical symptoms:** Some victims have physical reactions to sexual assault, including sleep disturbances, headaches and stomachaches. It may be difficult to concentrate on routine activities as well. In addition, you may also feel a loss of interest in sex or a need to avoid sexual situations.

• **Fear:** Being afraid for your personal safety is an almost universal response to a sexual assault. Fear of situations and places where you were never frightened before may arise. During a sexual assault, the victim feels powerless and terrified of being killed or seriously harmed, and may continue to feel the same fear for a while after the assault.

• **Self-blame and shame:** Because of misconceptions about rape, victims may blame themselves, doubt their own judgment, or wonder if they were in some way responsible for the assault. The way others react may reinforce that self-blame in the victim. Rape survivors also feel ashamed. Some describe feeling dirty, devalued and humiliated as a result of a sexual assault. A victim may feel shame in reaction to being forced to participate in the crime.

If you are between the ages of 16 and 19, you are four times more likely to be raped than any other age group, and one in four college women have been

raped. Look at a group of four of your friends. Chances are that one of you will be raped before graduating from college. By being alert and informed, and following these guidelines, you can lessen the chances that it will be you:

• **Be ready:** When walking to your car, place a key from your key ring, sharp side out, between each finger. This defense will help if you are surprised by an attack because hitting someone with your keys like this is going to hurt much more than a normal punch.

• **Be alert:** Be aware of your surroundings and look for a way out before you need it.

• **Be sensitive:** Trust your instincts. If a situation doesn't feel right, then get out of it as soon as possible.

• **Be together:** Don't go places alone. Don't allow yourself to be isolated with someone you don't know and trust. Rapists target women who are by themselves.

• **Be smart:** Make your own drink, and then never let it out of your hand. Many date rapes occur after the victim was drugged and unable to defend herself.

Next time you decide to go out, please remember to be careful. If you remember only one thing from this article, let it be that there is no better judge than your gut instinct. If you have a bad feeling, get out of the situation as soon as possible.

## If rape happens to you

Sadly, rapes still happen, even if a person is aware and cautious. If you are a victim of a sexual assault, whether by a stranger or someone you know, here are some steps you can take to get help:

- **Go to a safe place.**
- **Call the police immediately.**
- **Preserve all physical evidence.**
- **Go to a hospital emergency room.**
- **Call a friend or a trusted person to help you.**
- **Write down exactly what happened and be extremely detailed.**

Unfortunately, most rape victims don't report the crime. For every rape that is reported, ten go unreported. If you are raped, it is very important that you do report it because the average number of assault victims per predator is seven. You don't want another person to go through what you went through. One way to fight back and lessen that feeling of powerlessness is to aid police in arresting and punishing the assailant.

## Smoking gets in the way of living

By Heidi Lothringer,  
Chaparral HS



It's time for the first football practice of the

year. You have been anticipating this all year. Your fellow teammates are pumped, determined to go to State this year. However, you've only been at practice 20 minutes, and already you are huffing and puffing. Why? Because you smoke.

You're not alone. Many Southern Nevada students light up a cigarette every day. Maybe they missed the television commercials or they flipped right past that magazine ad about the dangers of smoking. Whatever the case may be, some teens didn't get the memo. Smoking isn't cool, and it won't improve your life. It won't do anything but throw your life and money away.

Smoking will interfere with almost anything that you want to do, whether its football or getting a date. How can you run back and forth on the field when you have a shortness of breath? How can you expect to get a good night kiss when you smell and taste like an ash-tray? Smoking makes you ugly, and in a world where beauty rules, why would you want to risk that? You're only young once, so preserve it while you can.

Think ahead 15 years. You have a child that you would walk on water for. Do you really want to die before you see your child graduate or get married or even have a child of his or her own? By smoking, you're putting your future in jeopardy. And the silly thing is that death from smoking can be prevented by not smoking.

Of course there is an upside. If you can make it to 18 without ever smoking a cigarette, you probably never will. Think of all the years and money that you'll have ahead of you. Smoking is a huge waste of time and a waste of your life.





**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): The upcoming months in school have you a bit anxious. There is nothing to be worried over, just take each day as it comes. Keeping a positive outlook on life will keep you relaxed and ready for anything.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): The summer has treated you very well, but just because it's over doesn't mean the school year can't be just as fun. Kick off the next month with a small party at your place. Get a couple more friends to help you plan it, and you'll already have another memorable experience in the works.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21): You've been waiting for answers to some very serious questions. Focus your energy on a different hobby for a couple of days because when you come back to this situation, you're sure to find what you've been waiting for.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22): Heed this warning: The person you are interested in has a history of rocky relationships. Proceed with caution when dating this person.

**LEO** (July 23-August 22): You may not be making bank in your current job, but stick to your goals and your passion. The payoff in doing so will bring you more than just wealth in the future.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 22): A new acquaintance is proving to be a waste of time. Break the ties before you get yourself too emotionally attached.

**LIBRA** (September 23-October 23): Drop the emotional baggage for a while and hang with a couple of other friends of yours. The drama between your closest peers is a bit more straining than you should have to deal with right now.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 21): Now that the break is over, it's time to get focused again for classes. Don't be sad; there are some more exciting events coming up for you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22-December 21): Do some introspective searching and figure out if what you are involved in lately reflects the type of person you want to become. A second glance may reveal more than you think.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 19): Your overgenerous attitude is turning you into a doormat. You can be helpful without being taken advantage of, just be a bit more assertive.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20-February 18): Your newfound popularity among other cliques has your best friends jealous. They now realize how much they took your friendship for granted. Give them a chance to make it right with you.

**PISCES** (February 19-March 20): Dedication to a goal of yours during the summer has brought unexpected attention on you. This is just the type of thing you need to get your plan for this endeavor on the right track.

## Combining yoga and good nutrition heals the mind, body and spirit

By Nicole Brown,  
LV Academy

Being overwhelmed with impossible deadlines and having your friends' problems on your shoulders can be really tough. A way to relieve all of this stress would be the practice of yoga.

However, nobody ever said that yoga was easy. It is quite difficult, but of course, along with everything else, practice makes perfect. Believe it or not, yoga begins with proper nutrition to nourish the body.

Nutrition has become a big issue in the Clark County School District, and as you know, the school cafeterias will be offering healthier foods in the coming school year. This turn of events can open up a door to a whole new exercise program, incorporating yoga into our everyday lives.

To begin a healthy yoga nourishment program, the web site [www.focalpointyoga.com](http://www.focalpointyoga.com) suggests that beginners should start with eight to 12 servings of vegetables and fruits a day. In addition to this, if you are a meat eater, it is suggested that you only eat three ounces of meat a day.

Thirdly, you should never eat a meal that is high in fat and protein. Separately, these foods are okay to enjoy, but digesting a meal that is high in both fats and proteins can cause stomach discomforts. Different enzymes that are used when digesting certain foods produce these stomach discomforts.

When choosing foods, it is important to realize that fat-free foods are often high in calories.

"Often, the manufacturer has added a lot of sugars, salts, refined, processed products and chemicals to enhance flavor," states the same Web site.

Basically the added ingredients negate the purpose of a fat-free food since the body turns sugars into fat.

After you have established your own nourishment program, you can move forward into doing the actual practice of yoga. Yoga is an exercise movement that tones the body and muscles. It is famous for stress relief and for helping people get in touch with their inner selves. The exercise can be anything from basic stretches to a vigorous workout routine.

For beginners, yoga would be a

series of stretches that loosens the muscles. Breathing techniques are important to establish in yoga. It is important to take deep breaths that start from your diaphragm. It is the same concept used in singing. You literally have to take deep breaths from your stomach.

Breathing techniques help you relax and lower blood pressure, increase cardiovascular health, increase lung capacity, release tension and stress, and help you learn to relax and enjoy life.

Yoga can also help in extreme cases of depression. The yoga practice helps you become more in tune with your senses. It teaches you to love your body and that your body is a temple that you should keep healthy and fit.

Intermediate yoga participants do a series of stretches, breathing exercises and fat burning workouts. Yoga is one of the true exercise regimens out there that deliver results, and it is ultimately one of the healthiest things that you could do for your body. Yoga can improve your personal being and the views that you have about yourself.

With every exercise routine, it is important to stick to it, and of course, if you are truly faithful to the routine, you will see results quicker than the person who would just follow the program off and on.

If you are interested, and need to know where to start, you should purchase a yoga starter's kit. There is a nifty kit that Danskin offers for beginners. In this kit, there is a yoga mat, two yoga blocks, an adjustable strap, a yoga poster and a yoga video. The video will show you step-by-step instructions to certain stretches and various poses.

Some kits will include a yoga ball, which can help you do various toning exercises. One of the toning exercises is the inner thigh squeeze, in which you lay on the floor in a position of doing sit-ups and put the yoga ball between your legs where your kneecaps meet. Then you squeeze your kneecaps together to tone the leg muscles.

Many introductory kits can help you get started on your yoga adventure to a better mind, balance, and self-appreciation.

If you are interested in more information about yoga and its practice, visit the web site [www.focalpointyoga.com](http://www.focalpointyoga.com).



# Ashlee Simpson steps out of the shadows

By Riley Marriage, Coronado HS



Ashlee Simpson grew up in her older sister Jessica's shadow, but earlier this summer, the younger Simpson sibling became a star in her own right. With her platinum blonde locks dyed bottled brunette, punk-chick look, and self-imposed portrayal as the "rock sister," Ashlee Simpson is making it known that she is the anti-Jessica.

The constant comparison, however, is something perhaps Ashlee will not be able to avoid. After all, when your older sister is America's real-life version of Barbie, it is a hard recognition to distinguish yourself from.

Jessica, the elder Simpson by four years, broke into the music scene in 1999 with a four-octave range that allowed her to belt out powerhouse ballads. In 2002 Jessica married fellow pop star Nick Lachey of the band 98 Degrees. It was the union of their marriage that produced the hit MTV reality show, "The Newlyweds," which more famously showcased Jessica's ditzy confusion in defining the difference between tuna and chicken. It is Jessica's fame that is attributed with scoring Ashlee both her Geffen Records deal and her own MTV show, with the original title of "The Ashlee Simpson Show."

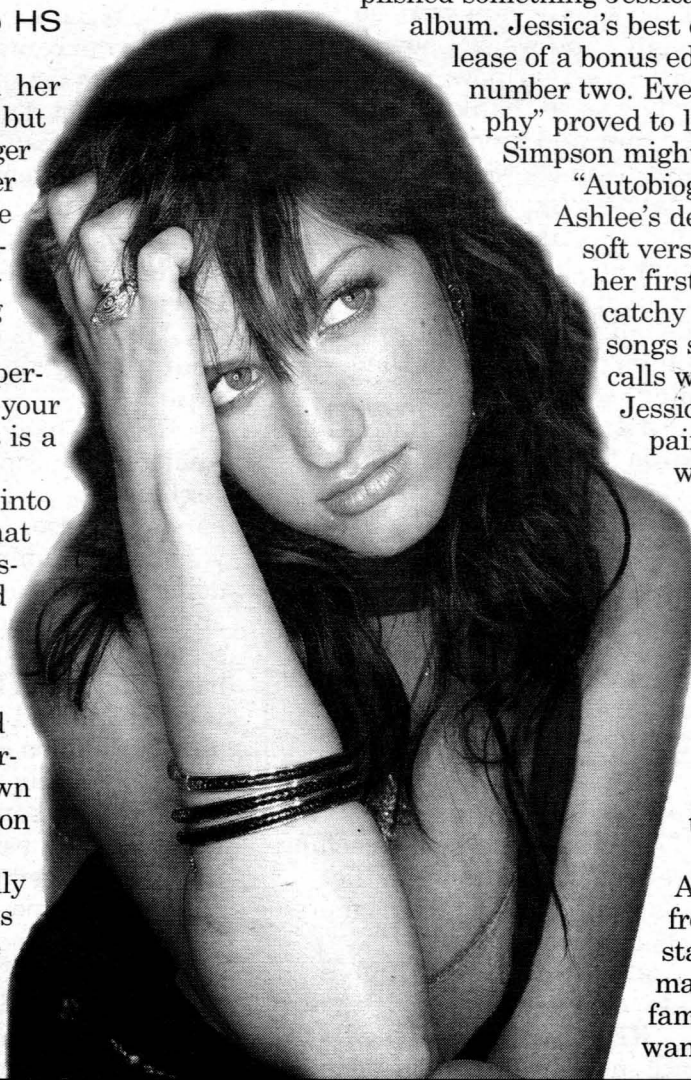
Though it can be said that Ashlee was practically asking people to compare her to her already famous sister by following such a similar career path, she quickly proved that she had some industry standards to break herself. Her television series was cable's highest-rated program among 18-to-34-year-olds, with an

average of 1.75 million viewers, beating "The Newlyweds" in the rating wars. However, Ashlee's most powerful degree of separation took place on July 29 when her debut album, "Autobiography," entered the Billboard music charts at number one.

Ashlee, who co-wrote all 12 songs on the album, then accomplished something Jessica had yet to do: release a number one album. Jessica's best chart performance came with the release of a bonus edition of her album, "In This Skin," at number two. Even more importantly, "Autobiography" proved to listeners and critics alike that this Simpson might actually have something to say.

"Autobiography" does its best to cater to Ashlee's deeper and raspier voice by mixing soft verses with rock-toned choruses, as in her first single "Pieces of Me" and in the catchy "Surrender." She gets personal on songs such as "Shadow," in which she recalls what it was like growing up in Jessica's shadow through translating the pain she felt as the younger sister watching her older sister get all the attention and fame. "I was stuck inside someone else's life and always second-best ..." sings Ashlee. And, in much contrast to Jessica's proclamation to abstinence, Ashlee pushes the provocative envelope on the rock track "Lala": "You make me wanna lala in the kitchen, on the floor/ I'll be a French maid when I meet you at the door," she proposes to the listener.

While it may be that only in time Ashlee can truly distinguish herself from Jessica, she has made a good start in admitting that her older sis may be the main star in the Simpson family, but that she in her own right wants to be the artist.



## Matchbook Romance bassist spills his guts

By Jessica Roadhouse, Indian Springs HS



During a summer stop in Las Vegas, Ryan Kienle, bassist for the band Matchbook Romance, sat down for an interview with me on the joys of touring and what's next.

**JR: What will you be doing at the end of this tour?**

**RK:** After this tour, luckily, we actually get to take a couple of weeks off. We have like five-and-a-half weeks to just kind of lounge out. Judas (DePaolo, guitarist) is gonna go down to his mom's house for vacation in Florida. We're all going to differ-

ent places. It's gonna be the first solid break we've had since last May. Then it's Warped Tour and overseas for the rest of the year.

**JR: Do you have any guilty pleasures?**

**RK:** I have a lot of guilty pleasures. Let's see ... what's a really good guilty pleasure? I like Journey, and I like the band Extreme, and I actually love the band Oasis. I think those are three really good, guilty pleasures. And I love Huey Lewis and the News. That's a pretty good guilty pleasure. Let's see, what's another really good guilty pleasure? Oh my God, I like to eat a whole bag of Chips Ahoy and a gallon of milk at once. Ask my mom, every day when I get home from tour, first day, whole bag goes down.

**JR: What or whom do you miss most when touring?**

**RK:** I miss what I like to call my family. It's my parents, my brothers, my brother's fiancée, my two best friends in the world, Mike and Jess, and Lee, our third roommate. The three of them are like the people I really miss. They're my best friends. We see eye to eye on everything. And my dog. It's really hard not having your pets when you're on tour. You have a bad day and you just want to curl up with your dog. I have a boxer. It's awesome. She's so gnarly. She's like 11 years old now and she's a purebred.

**JR: What were the best and worst shows you've ever played?**

**RK:** One of the worst shows I ever played was Valentine's Day 2002 at Chain Reaction in California. No, that's officially the

worst show we've ever played. We were flying out to meet with Drive-Thru Records, and we were like, "All right, awesome, we'll show 'em our new EP we just finished, we'll play a show." And they put us on an Rx Bandits show at Chain Reaction on Valentine's Day. This band Dumbstruck at the time, was like, "Dude we'll bring all our gear for you so you don't have to fly your crap to California from New York." And their guitar player hooked up their bass amp, and I played like one note through it, and the thing blew up. And the Drive-Thru Records owners were like 20 minutes late, and they had our guitars in their cars so we had to borrow guitars from the other band. And I had to borrow Rx Bandit's bass rig, and it just went downhill from there. The best show would

*Continued on page 40*



## Matchbox Romance

Continued from page 39

have to still be Salt Lake City Warped Tour last summer. It was ridiculous. The security guards got pushed away and it was just nuts. It was the first ridiculously huge crowd we ever played in front of.

**JR: What is your favorite part about touring?**

**RK:** Getting to see the world, and getting to do all these things while I'm young and have the energy to do it. You know, a lot of people work their whole lives, go to college and then "earn" a vacation to Europe for two weeks. You know, I've gone to Europe for two or three weeks at a time twice now, and I've just gotten to see so much of the world and take in a lot of other cultures. Like American life is so different, and we don't

even realize it sometimes until we go overseas. It's just different, and I love seeing the world.

**JR: Of all the bands you've played**

**with, who was your favorite?**

**RK:** We've played with so many bands. Right now, I'm gonna say The Matches. It always changes. The Matches, we had their CD, 'cause we're label mates, and the first day of the tour they were so energetic, and they just impressed me so much. I can't stop listening to that band right now.

**JR: What is your favorite part about being in a band?**

**RK:** It's just us. It's like the four of us, and we get to do whatever we want to. And we get to make our music sound however we want, regardless of what other people think about it. We can do anything, and there's no one there to say [different], it's just the four of us and wherever we want to take our music, we can. It's just amazing because we're put in a position with a record label now where we can do that. We can just go and do this full time and not have to worry about, "Oh my god how am I gonna make rent?" It's more like, "How am I gonna get enough money later for pizza delivery to the hotel?" It hasn't changed much. The situations are just different. I love being in a band so much. Me and my absolute best friends seeing the world together, and the band is paying for it.

**JR: What is your favorite memory from this tour so far?**

**RK:** You know, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, we sold the show out. It was the fifth or sixth show and we sold it out in the middle of the desert, and we thought, "This is amazing." And everybody was having such a good time, all the guys from Bleed The Dream were so happy. And we've known them for like a year now, and everybody was so thankful to be on the tour and having such a good time. And we were so, so happy. That was like the best moment. That was like the happiest moment on the tour, when we were all together and we sold the out the show, and we couldn't believe it, in the middle of the desert.

**JR: If the band hadn't come this far, what would**

**you be doing?**

**RK:** I'd probably be teaching pre-school still. And yes, that was a still (laughs). I was a pre-school teacher.

**JR: Name one thing you take on every tour with you.**

**RK:** My two favorite CDs to rock in the van. Radiohead and The Beatles. The "White Album" and my Radiohead "Okay Computer." Two things that have to come. They're like one together, my little personal CD collection.

**JR: Do you collect any music memorabilia?**

**RK:** I collect vinyl and tour posters. I have every poster we've ever been on plus like 95 or 100 from the past year, and I've got about 900 vinyl between my parents, my brother's collection and mine, that they've all just given to me because I love vinyl so much.

**JR: How do you feel about downloading music for free?**

**RK:** It's hard to pinpoint an exact standpoint. If it wasn't for music downloading, we would have never been signed. That's how Epitaph Records found out about us. They downloaded our music online for free. So for me to be like, "You can't download our songs!" — that would go against everything we've ever

done and how we got here. I mean, I'm all for downloading music and ... we got to where we are because of it, and if you really love a band, I feel you should go out and buy the CD, or at least come to the shows, buy some merch, show your support any way you can. Downloading music, it's a good thing and a bad thing. It can work both ways.

**JR: What bands or artists are you currently listening to?**

**RK:** I'm listening to The Matches a lot. I'm listening to Bleed The Dream's EP a lot, too, 'cause I love them. Lots of Radiohead. Granddaddy is an amazing band. Lots of Thrive. The Beatles. Lots of Don't Look Down.

**JR: What is the best thing about being signed to Epitaph?**

**RK:** We have a lot of backing from a lot of people. Epitaph is a very big label. There's forty-plus bands on there. And they're diversified. And Mr. Brett has been doing it since the '80s, like 1981, and if anyone knows the music scene, and how to do right for a band, and break bands, not just take a band and put 'em on tour on a bus and be a bunch of pansies about it. He taught us what it was to be a band on Epitaph Records. It's a very prestigious thing. We're very lucky. It's the poor man's major label. It's the biggest indie label in the world. And it's got bands in every continent in the world. We don't have to worry about anything for a long time because of it. It's security basically. There's so much security behind that label, and we know they'll back us no matter what, whatever we wanna do.

**JR: Any closing statements?**

**RK:** I'd like to thank everybody who's been coming to the headlining shows because it's the first time we've ever gone out and done this on our own, and to see kids come out and support us, and be here for us, not because we're on a Yellowcard tour, or not because we're on another tour. They're here specifically because we brought them here. It means a lot to know the fans are still into it and still coming. Also, if you can, please go to Bleed The Dream's Web site and donate some money to Scott, his cause. (Scott Gottlieb, drummer for tour mate Bleed the Dream, had been diagnosed with leukemia.) He has no health insurance, so help any way you can. And that's about it.

## Women artists bring heart, soul to R&B

By Felicia Knight, Valley HS

"I'm every woman ... it's all in me/ Anything you want now baby, it comes naturally..." is a popular lyric from a Whitney Houston song, and she is a powerful woman in the world of R&B music.

Houston has overcome many obstacles like reported drug use, marital problems with husband Bobby Brown, and a crazy fan stalking her. And like the song says, she truly is every woman.

Some artists look up to Houston and she was an inspiration to a lot of people, like super-sensation Brandy.

Brandy hit the music world in the mid '90s. She is someone who has come a long way from being the little girl in the church to being the girl at the top of the R&B charts.

One singer who followed Brandy on the rise to R&B fame is Mary J. Blige. Blige is very powerful in her music and she helps people get out of their drama. She even came out with the song "No More Drama," which went to the top of the R&B list in 2002.

In this song, she tells people about her problems with her drug use and how she had a violent relationship with singer KC of the group KC and JoJo. Another song that she allows fans into her life on was in her song "Rainy Days."

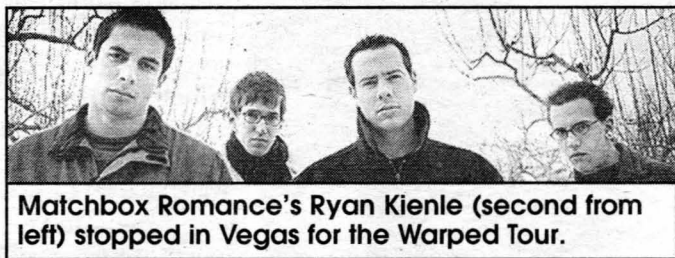
Blige is someone who is strong and powerful in her voice. She was inspired by none other than Patti LaBelle. LaBelle was a great pioneer for female singers and songwriters and so was the hit girl group "The Supremes." This group paved the way for female groups such as TLC, Salt-N-Pepa, Enough and Sisters With Voices.

Each of these artists is a woman to look up to, no matter what age group. They eventually made a big impact on R&B music, so this music has come a long way.

No matter how people change or how music changes, R&B will always have a special way of helping people through rough times. That inspiration influences people to go for their dreams and lets them know that they can do it.

"Listening to R&B music and songs helps me get through my depressing times," says one Valley High School student.

R&B music has made its changes and so have the people who perform it, but it will always be one of the most influential types of music ever.



Matchbox Romance's Ryan Kienle (second from left) stopped in Vegas for the Warped Tour.





# Get into The groove with Fall Fashion

By Farah Minwalla,  
Palo Verde HS

This season, grandma's closet has never been so chic. From old vintage brooches to delicate tweed jackets, this season's fashion trend is all about making your look one of a kind.

Fall 2004 promises big splashes of color, fantastic makeup shades that complement anybody's skin tone, sleek hairstyles, clogs taken to a whole new level — and all of this touched with a speck of class.

Fall this year will showcase fashion that hasn't been popular since your grandma was a teenager. Pencil skirts and round pumps replace flirty minis and flip-flops. Furthermore, cords are one of fall's coziest must-haves that have made a full-blown comeback in everything from bright pants to earthy jackets. Don't be afraid to wear cords in an array of different colors. The more color, the better.

Toss out your chandelier earrings because turquoise is back and ready to be worn with everything! This season is all about being part librarian, but all rock star. Sound a little confusing? To achieve the librarian/rock star look, wear a tweed jacket with skinny jeans, and then play it up with leather boots and a studded belt.

One style this season that everybody must wear is the poncho. The poncho flatters everybody with its many different designs that include bold stripes, plaid, satin, knit and cotton that makes anybody look like she walked right off the runway. With a poncho, jeans are the best option paired with a playful pair of flats. This then

makes a foolproof outfit with a touch of glam.

Another fashion that is storming the runways of many high name designers is cheetah. It can be worn in darling ballet slippers, bracelets, purses and belts. Cheetah can make any outfit look a little "Catwoman."

Another fashion that has people glowing is the return of metallic clogs. Clogs might remind you of yodelers or Pippi Longstocking, but the clog has transformed itself into the hippest slip-ons of fall 2004. Try clogs with faded jeans and a vintage tee; it will add its own layer of spice to any outfit.

Ever think that your cell phone could be fashionable? This season your cell phone will make a statement. Pink cell phones with diamonds in them are all the rage!

A girl needs a place to store her cell phone, so let's talk about purses. One purse that is no longer in style is any type of Dooney and Bourke. Let's repeat: No more Dooney and Bourke. It doesn't look good, ladies. Get rid of it. Shove it in the back of your closet. Let it gather dust. There are so many cute bags out there waiting to be worn.

For a casual fall look, pair a worn-in leather bag with bright cords and a printed tee. A



Try a pleated metallic leather bag.

bright yellow leather bag or a silver leather pouch is the way to go. Experiment with suede, satin, snakeskin, velvet and zebra print.

Once you have a bag that you abso-

lutely love, add charms to it. Charms of any kind, hearts, initials, horses, robots, shoes, anything goes! Charms are your symbol; they make you stand out from the crowd. They're this season's quickest fashion fix that makes any outfit look retro. Now, don't stop with accessorizing your purses with charms; move on to key chains and bracelets.

Jewelry this season is a major factor in making any outfit look gorgeous. Turquoise, wood and feathers are a stellar way

to add spunk and class to your wardrobe. Turquoise should always be worn in big chunks to make a statement. Wood is elegant and complements fall's earthy color palette. Wood should mostly be worn as cuffs. Feathers should be worn as earring in any color!

Major color is popping up everywhere including hats. Fedoras are gaining popularity and are being worn in a bunch of different bright colors and are also made with ribbon trim

*Continued on page 42*



## WHAT WE LIKE ABOUT THIS OUTFIT:

- ❁ camisole top
- ❁ belt with pearls
- ❁ studded purse
- ❁ tweed jacket
- ❁ jeans with cuffs

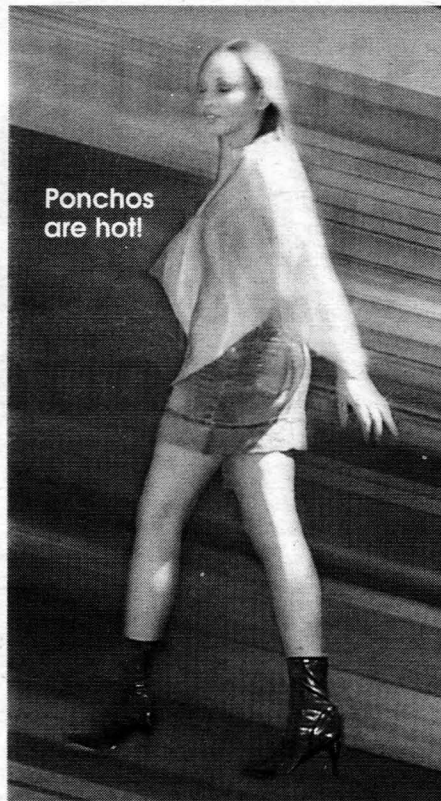


to add class to the already trendy hat.

One major trend of summer was the mini skirt. Everybody has one and now it is time to invest in another type of skirt. I am talking about the pencil skirt that makes anybody look five pounds slimmer. The pencil skirt comes in pinstripes, solid colors and tweed. These skirts are ladylike, but with a kick. Another skirt that is being worn a lot is the plaid, pleated mini. It gives a type of schoolgirl look with a hint of sass.

This season jeans are becoming more and more stylish, as always. The best ways to wear your jeans this season are sleek, ankle slimming and tight. Dark denim is always good for fall, as well as the cropped jean look.

T-shirts this fall have taken on a whole new meaning. Cartoon tees will animate your wardrobe with colorful characters. Then there are street-inspired tees that are urban with campy logos that give a ladylike piece an edge. One thing to remember about vintage tees is to strike a balance between feminine and tough. Combine a graphic tee with a denim skirt, vibrant pumps and a western-inspired belt to complete the look of retro and flirty.



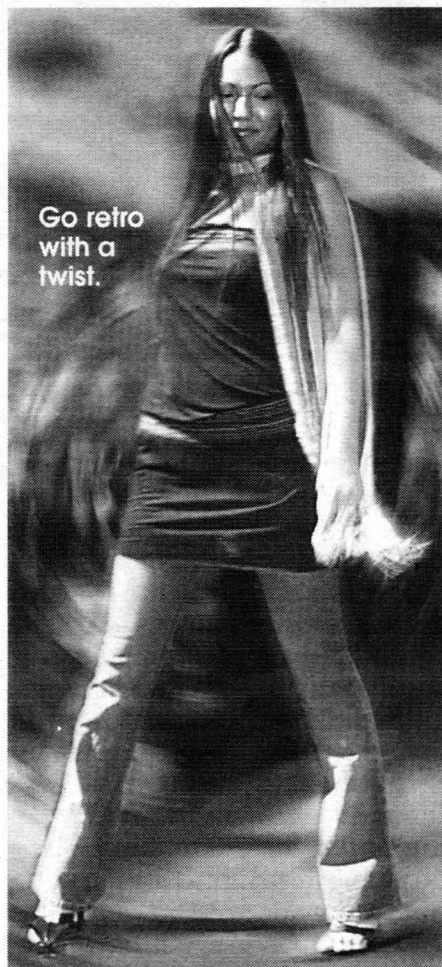
Ponchos are hot!

In the Sept. issue of "Lucky," actress Milla Jovovich says, "A vintage top defines the outfit and makes it fun and cool."

The best thing to pair vintage tees with is a killer belt. Belts are the saving grace of any outfit. Bow belts are perfectly pretty, while a studded belt can be amazingly punk. Bright leather belts can be worn with a plain tee and a pair of skinny jeans and flats. Pearls are now being incorporated into belts and look breathtaking with jeans and a tweed jacket with pumps. Pearls in belts are now being tied up with ribbon, which gives any outfit a burst of femininity. One trend that is still going strong is pearls. Don't stop wearing them. They look brilliant tied up with ribbon.

Fall fashion of 2004 would not be complete without talking about the legendary tweed jacket. This is the number one item of the year! Everybody should own a tweed jacket because it looks glamorous on everybody. Tweed can be worn with almost everything. Pair a tweed jacket with jeans, and you're ready for a night out on the town. The latest tweed jackets, skirts and even pumps flaunt fresh accents of effervescent gold and silver. By day the shimmering fabric adds a hint of chic, and by night it really shines.

To add an extra layer of glam to tweed, a brooch should be added. Brooches look best when paired with something simple and elegant. Wear a few brooches



Go retro with a twist.

# Smash Magazine event bombs; local band saves day

By Racheal Curtis, Silverado HS

Recently, I had the misfortune to attend the Smash Magazine Reader Appreciation party. This event broke my day down into two parts; the part where I wasted about eight hours going to the event, and the second half where I had the pleasure to meet the about-to-break-out local band Over the Line. The first half of my day was horrible, but the second part more than made up for it.

When one thinks of a local punk show, they have a certain expectation. Here's what I expected: a medium-sized crowd of socially-repressed punk kids in all of their studded glory; local ska-bands with that trumpet-blaring, come together vibe; local punk bands screaming their hearts out about corrupt government and social equality; and a fairly decent mosh/"skank" pit.

Here is what I got: a groupie-sized crowd made up almost entirely of the other bands that had not gone on yet; ska bands from California with that we're-16-here's-a-song-about-pirates vibe; local punk bands with members so old that screaming about anything (except the occasional lewd comment) was too much of an effort and also would have blown the already shabby P.A.; and five kids safety-dancing in circles. That's the last time I expect anything.

This event was also completely unorganized. When asked at the Smash Magazine information booth, "Who is hosting the show?" The attendants replied, "Oh, I don't know, isn't Jillian's?" For anyone who is unaware, Smash Magazine held the event.

Thankfully though (and this is where the second half of my day comes in), after my suffering was over at this local-band gig, I had the chance to meet Over the Line. This was the saving grace of my evening. Without this meeting my night would have been a total waste, and I probably would have never gone back to Jillian's again.

Once again, the name of that band was Over the Line. Luckily for me, I was invited to attend one of their rehearsals later that same evening. Before that night, I had never even heard of this Vegas-native band, but now I have become a huge fan.

Musically, Over the Line is reminiscent of MxPx, but with a ska tinge on their bass lines and guitar riffs. Their drummer is an oddity, a petite young woman that beats it harder than any guy I've ever seen. Over the Line's songs are catchy and upbeat without being poppy or over-produced. The band is close to breaking out of the local scene, with a song on the soundtrack to the new Bratz Dolls' movie soundtrack.

My horrible concert experience turned into a great opportunity hearing this band play in a practice setting. Now, I've been waiting what seems an eternity to see them live on stage, but show dates are on the way. I have a feeling they'll blow the roof off the place. For more information about Over the Line, check out [www.overthelinesucks.com](http://www.overthelinesucks.com).

together to add a heavy dose of sparkle to a blazer. Wear brooches with just about everything from cord jackets, denim jackets, tweeds and vintage tees.

The current trend is oversized, modern sunglasses with a speck of retro groovy-ness. Scarves have made a major comeback in the fashion world. Scarves come in colorful stripes, one bold color and skinny knits.

Make-up this fall is meant to bring out women's natural features and accentuate them, not cover them up. The most popular shade this season is brown. Brown looks wonderful on

everybody's skin tone and it complements this season's romantic clothing. Defined lips are all about making lips look fuller while keeping all other makeup low-key. Sleek hair has made a bold return to the fashion world, and all of the attention is drawn to the face.

Overall, the changing of the seasons always brings a shift in style. This fall is no exception, with the focus now on the unexpected and on individuality. Accessories play a major role in defining your signature look. Just remember, fall fashion is all about your own personal look, not anybody else's.



# 'Awake' or 'Asleep,' the Dream set for real success

By Lauren Napier,  
Cimarron-Memorial HS

**B**leed the Dream, a rock/scremo band from Los Angeles, consists of Dave Aguilera who plays guitar, Keith Thompson who plays bass and vocals, Brandon Thomas on vocals, and (temporarily) Arron Stern who plays drums. Stern is filling in for Scott Gottlieb, who has recently been diagnosed with leukemia. They have produced two EPs. The first one is "Awake," which is an electric mix of lyrics, portraying brutal honesty and rock melodies. The newest one is "Asleep," an acoustic/unplugged recording.

I was lucky enough to interview all four band members while bowling at Jillian's when they came into town in July before joining up with the Warped Tour.

**LN: Who are your major influences?**

**Keith:** We're pretty spread out. We're really different as individuals. We don't really have any influences that make our music besides our own influence on each other. But, personally, I grew up metal-style with some electronic stuff and punk. I like everything. It's good to be eclectic and respect all genres.

**Brandon:** My major influences are Faith No More, Mike Patton, Dave Gahan from Depeche Mode. I guess as far as rock goes Mike Patton is my major influence, but The Cure, anything with just lots of melody and '80s stuff. As far as modern stuff, I like Deftones and stuff like that.

**Dave:** I like all the '80s like the early Cure, and as far as guitar playing goes, probably Jimmy Page of Zeppelin. As far as songwriting goes, the Eagles, for sure.

**Arron:** My main influences musically are Danny Carey from Tool, Neil Peart from Rush, and any band that just rocks: Further Seems Forever, The Used, all kinds of stuff.

**LN: What are your favorite songs from your two EPs and why?**

**Keith:** On "Awake," I like the first track, "Villain," because it showcases all aspects of the band. It's melodic and

heavy. On "Asleep," my favorite track is "Streets of Baltimore" because that's where we're from, and it's really cool for us to write a song about our hometown.

**Dave:** Off "Awake," it would be "Pop Song" because it's so out there, and it's kinda funny that we put it on there. On "Asleep," it would be "Shattered Memories" because it shows the progression of the band and how we're not just another scremo band. It shows progression as far as the songwriting goes.

**Brandon:** Favorite track on "Awake" is definitely "Solace" because it's just got a lot of energy. It's the meat and potatoes. On "Asleep," it's "Broken Wings" because it has a lot of meaning behind it.

**Arron:** My favorite track on "Awake" would definitely be "Sarcastic Farewell" because it's more inspirational for me. On "Asleep," it would be "Broken Wings" because it hits the heart.

**LN: What is your favorite part about being on tour and your least favorite?**

**Brandon:** My favorite part about being on tour is that you wake up in a different place every day and get to see things that you don't see every day and meeting new people. Worst thing about being on tour is ... nothing. I love being on tour; I hate being at home. I miss my girlfriend, that's about it. Being on tour is way better than sitting at home scratching your butt.

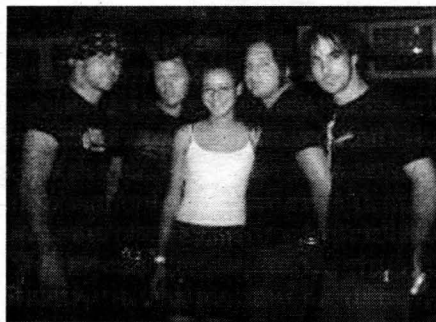
**Dave:** I love everything about being on tour. I grew up and lived in Southern California, and we have the best weather in the world, so when we tour in the winter, I'm a crybaby and I freeze my butt off. The worst thing is probably not being able to see your family.

**Arron:** My least favorite thing is Keith's snoring. Especially since he's sick, he's saw-

ing some serious logs. It's painful to try and sleep around him. The best thing about being on tour is seeing the country. The desert — I had never seen the desert before yesterday — it's pretty amazing.

**LN: What is your biggest regret?**

**Brandon:** (pauses) I have no regrets. Every bad thing I've ever done has made me who I am and every good thing I've ever done has made me who I am, so I don't really regret anything I've done. I've made bad decisions, but I always end up working things out in the end.



Lauren Napier, center, interviewed the band in July.

**Dave:** I have no regrets to life. The good things you do and the bad things you do make you a better person. You learn from it.

**Keith:** Aw, man ... my biggest regret ... I don't have any regrets. None. Zero.

**Arron:** My biggest regret is not following my dream early enough, and choosing a life that's set out for you before you decide to choose one for yourself.

**LN: What political issues most concern you?**

**Arron:** I try to just keep to myself. There's so much going on in the world, you can hardly comment on one particular thing. The whole world is screwed up from every single angle. Nothing is right anywhere.

**Brandon:** We're not a really political band, and I'm not a very political person myself. But there's always, no matter what politician we have in the office, there's gonna be a lot of shiesty things goin' on. But I think that we're fighting a war that we don't need to be fight-

ing right now. I mean, Bush just recalled like 30,000 reserves and it's ridiculous. Everyone else in my generation, in our genre of music, it seems pretty senseless that we're over there fighting a war for nothing. I don't seem to be a genius in politics and I don't vote either, so I don't really have much room to complain.

**Dave:** Too many things concern me. I'm not really a political person. Quite honestly, it's not something I've really dived into. The past few years, I've started talking more about it and becoming more aware of the issues. I'm not for this war that's happening right now, but at the same time I am pro-American. I just don't think that the reason we're at war right now is a good enough reason for all the lives that have died.

**Keith:** Our horrible president, he definitely needs to get out of office. He's ruining our country. I think it's been the scariest four years in American history. I'm not huge on who's running against him, but anybody but that guy, dude. He's just so awful for our country. I hope the nation wakes up and gets him out of office.

**LN: What occupies your time besides music?**

**Keith:** I write. I have other side projects. Music pretty much saturates every day of my life.

**Brandon:** Other bands. I listen to a lot of music period. When I'm home, my girlfriend, just going to dinner and hanging out on the beach. Skateboarding, just loser stuff, the things high school dropouts do.

**Dave:** Not much, because when you're in a band at the level we're at right now, it consumes your life 110 percent. But, when I'm home, I look forward to just going and surfing every day and skateboarding probably. Just hanging out with my girlfriend and watching lots of DVDs.

**Arron:** My girlfriend occupies a lot of my time. The thing is, with me and this band, it's a temporary gig for me. Poor Scott's very sick, so aside from this, I actually have a job. Regular everyday life: work, girlfriend, food shopping. It's not very rock and roll, but I'd like to make it full time, but we'll see if we can jump for that. If I could have followed my dream a lot earlier, it would be a lot easier for me now.

## Rock on

For more information on Bleed the Dream, check out their Web site at [www.bleedthedream.com](http://www.bleedthedream.com). Also on their Web site, you can find out how to make a donation for Gottlieb, who has tragically been diagnosed with leukemia and has NO insurance. Every cent will help.



**SEPTEMBER**

**Sept. 7**  
Primary Election. Registered voters choose candidates for general election. Go to the web site [www.accessclarkcounty.com/election/home.asp](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/election/home.asp) to find your polling place.

**Sept. 10-26**  
Driving Miss Daisy. A touching and funny story spanning 40 years in the lives of an elderly Southern woman and a proud, quiet black man, and the unlikely relationship that they form. Las Vegas Little Theatre, 3844 Schiff Dr. Tickets \$12 for students, \$18 for adults. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday plays at 8 p.m. Sunday plays at 2 p.m. 362-7996.

**Sept. 10**  
Friday Night Movies. Come watch "Pirates of the Caribbean" in the park. Hills Park near Becker Community School, 9110 Hillpointe Rd. 8 p.m. Free admission. 229-2482.

**Sept. 11**  
MexFest. Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with music, dance and games. Baker Park Community School, 1020 E. St. Louis Ave. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free admission. 229-1527.

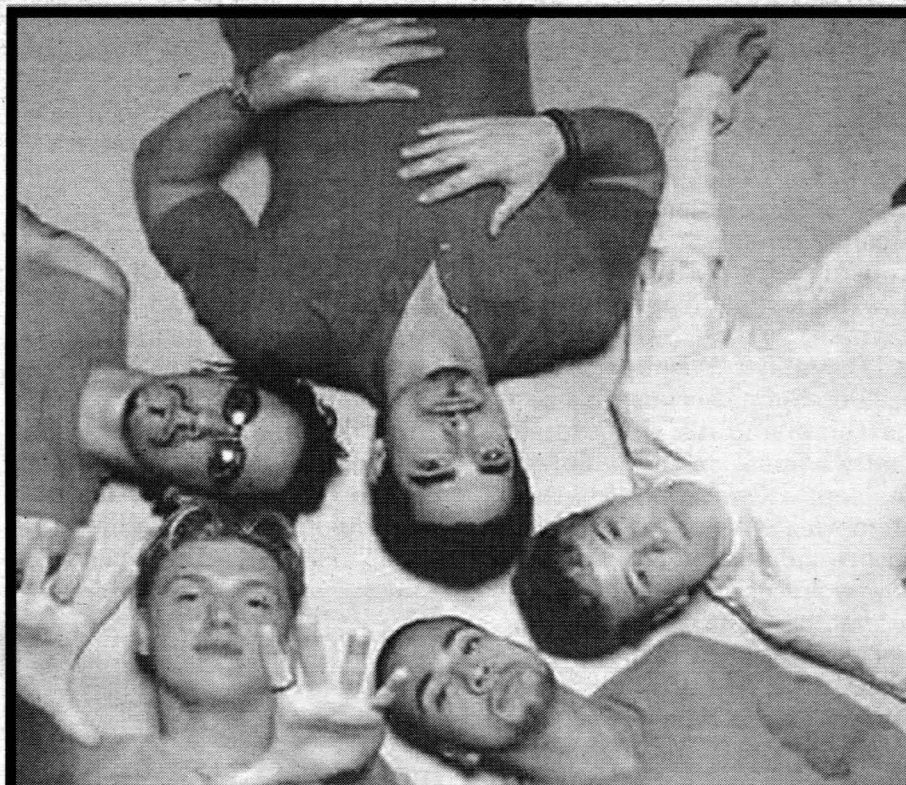
**Sept. 14**  
Backstreet Boys in concert. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 8 p.m. Tickets \$40-\$50. All ages. 632-7600.

**Sept. 18**  
UNLV Rebel Football vs. Air Force. Sam Boyd Stadium, UNLV. Tickets \$28, \$15. 739-FANS.

Choose to Move Festival. Try new activities including climbing a wall, Frisbee golf, boxaerobics, yoga, horseshoes, bocce and martial arts. Doolittle Community Center, 1950 N. J Street. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. 229-6374.

**Sept. 19**  
Latin guitarist Ricardo Griego will perform music that combines the flavor of the Spanish guitar with rhythms of Latin America. Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd. 2 p.m. Free admission. 507-3400.

XBox Presents The Killers with The Walkmen in concert. House of



**THE BOYS ARE BACK.**

The "boy-band" Backstreet Boys will appear Tuesday, Sept. 14 in concert at House of Blues at Mandalay Bay. Tickets are on sale now for the 8 p.m. show and are \$40-\$50. Call 632-7600 for more information.

Blues, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. Tickets \$15. All ages. 632-7600.

**Sept. 20**  
Clinic on Wheels. Free medical screenings, immunizations, treatment for minor illnesses, sports and camp physicals for at-risk children. Clark Community School, 3074 Arville Street. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Free admission. Call 870-7201 for availability.

Poetry Night. Balcony Lights Music and Books, 4800 S. Maryland Pkwy, Ste. K. 7 p.m. Free. 228-2763.

**Sept. 21**  
Meet the Candidates Night. Come out and get to know your local candidates running for the Nevada Legislature. Lobby of the Grant Sawyer Bldg., 555 E. Washington Blvd. (across from Cashman Field). 6 p.m.-8 p.m. 464-7887.

**Sept. 24**  
UNLV Rebel Volleyball vs. Utah Valley State. Cox Pavilion, UNLV. 7 p.m. Tickets \$7. 739-FANS.

Latin Breeze. Enjoy an outdoor event of original and refreshing music ranging from salsa to Top 40. Rainbow Library, 3150 N. Buffalo Dr. 7 p.m. Free admission. 507-3710.

**Sept. 25**  
UNLV Rebel Football vs. Utah. Sam

Boyd Stadium, UNLV. Tickets \$28, \$15. 739-FANS.

**Sept. 26**  
Nintendo Fusion Tour featuring Story of the Year with Lost Prophets, My Chemical Romance, and Letter Kills in concert. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$17.50-\$20. All ages. 632-7600.

**Sept. 27-29**  
The University of Nevada Coopera-

tive Extension, along with the City of Las Vegas Parks and Leisure Services will be offering a Babysitting Certification Workshop for youth ages 12-18. Doolittle Community Center, 1950 N. J Street. 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Free admission. 257-5568.

**Sept. 29**  
After School Special at Balcony Lights. Everything will be up to 50% off! Bring your favorite 7" vinyl and sign up list for the Listening Party. Local musical guests will be present. Balcony Lights Music and Books, 4800 S. Maryland Pkwy, Ste. K. 3-9 p.m. 228-2763.

**Sept. 30**  
UNLV Rebel Volleyball vs. Colorado State. Cox Pavilion, UNLV. 7 p.m. Tickets \$7. 739-FANS.

**Oct. 2**  
Movie Fest. Come and out and enjoy movies such as "El Mariachi," "Desperado" and "Once Upon a Time in Mexico." Whitney Library, 5175 E. Tropicana Ave. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. 507-4010.

UNLV Rebel Football vs. Reno. Sam Boyd Stadium, UNLV. 739-FANS.

Run with the Scouts. Third Annual Character Counts 5K and 1-mile fun run/walk to support the Boy Scouts of America Boulder Dam Area Council, serving Southern Nevada. 7220 S. Paradise Rd. 968-8136.



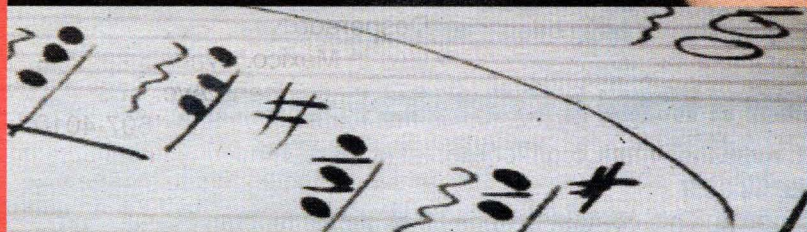
**EDITOR'S PICK:**

Come watch "Pirates of the Caribbean," with Johnny Depp on Friday, Sept. 10 at 8 p.m. outside in Hills Park in Summerlin. Admission is free. Call 229-2482 for more information.





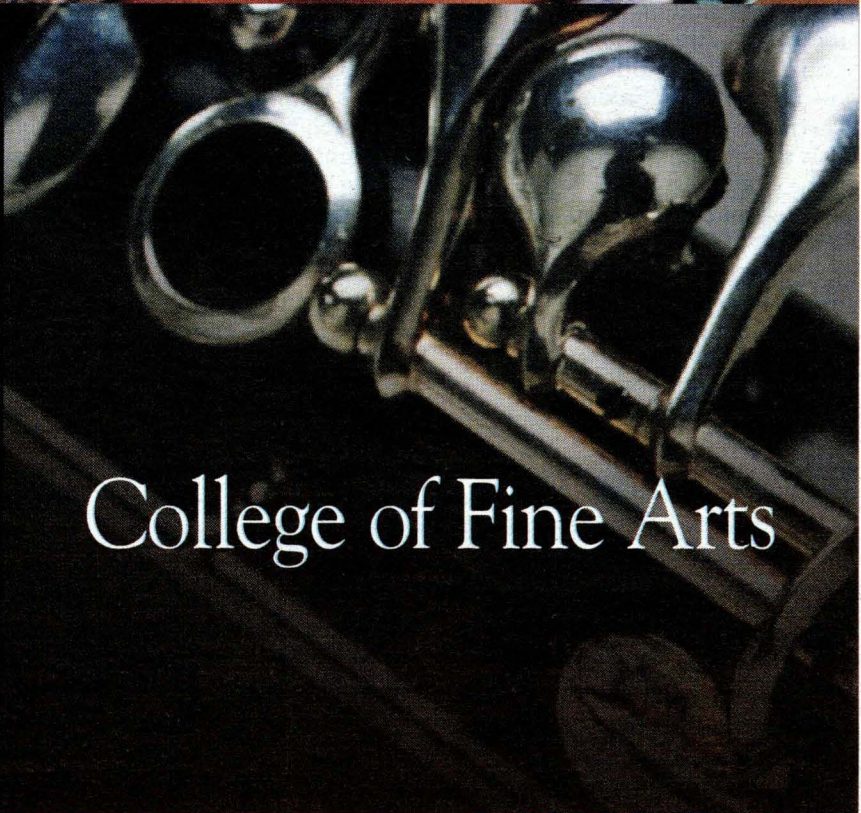
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**Put some fun in your fundraising**

If your school club, team or organization is looking for a way to put some "fun" in your fundraising, this can be it! R&J Productions will once again offer high school student organizations the opportunity to earn money by volunteering at one of our Halloween Attractions. "The Asylum" is at Jones and 95 for you in the northwest and "Hotel Fear" is at Scandia Fun Center. You can be a scary "inmate" or maybe just a friendly ticket taker! It's like being on "Scare Tactics" every night! There are plenty of opportunities for everyone in your club to participate. In doing so, your group can earn money for its next trip or project. Groups will be considered on a first come basis. We also have a fundraiser available if your group wishes to pre-sell tickets! For information, call Jamie at R&J Productions at 631-6682.

**Unity Through Knowledge**

Join the 32nd Street Theater for its 10th Annual "Unity Through Knowledge" Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour, which will visit colleges such as Barber-Scotia, Bennett, Fayetteville State, Johnson C. Smith, North Carolina A&T University, Shaw, St. Augustine and Winston-Salem State in North Carolina. The tour will also visit the college campuses of the Duke Blue Devils and North Carolina Tarheels. It will take place March 21-25 during the Clark County School District's 2005 Easter break. Registration will begin Sept. 1 and end on Oct. 30, and is \$100 to reserve a seat. For more information, contact Rev. Kelcey West at 656-9133 or visit [www.32ndst.us](http://www.32ndst.us).

**Back to School Jam**

Culture Shock Las Vegas, a non-profit hip-hop dance company and youth outreach program, will hold its annual "Back to School Jam," on Saturday, Sept. 18, from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Home Courts, 7485 Commercial Way. Cost to participate is \$5. Call Vangie Bisquera at 281-7588 or visit the web site [www.cultureshockdance.org](http://www.cultureshockdance.org) for more information.

**Be a star**

Clark County Parks and Community Services is offering a 12-week-long drama class for youth ages 10-16. The ensemble will meet on Monday afternoons from Sept. 20-Dec. 6 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Stu-

dents will prepare and perform a series of scenes to be presented to the public Dec. 13. Registration is \$45 per person and will take place at the Winchester Community Center, 3130 S. McLeod Dr., from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday through Sept. 13. Call 455-7340 for more information.

**Make your move**

Open auditions for the Hottest Youth Hip Hop Dance Troupe, Future Shock will be on Sept. 25 from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Las Vegas Athletic Club, 5200 W. Sahara. The audition is free and open to all youth ages 10-17. For more information about Future Shock, call 223-3038 or visit the web site [www.cultureshockdance.org](http://www.cultureshockdance.org).

**Stepping out**

If you want to participate in a spirited, non-competitive walk to save lives, consider participating in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. Registration will be on Oct. 2 at the JW Marriott Las Vegas, from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. For more information, call 798-6877 ext. 33.

**Dia de los Muertos Ofrenda**

The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District invites teens to enter the Ofrendas Art Competition, in which teens are asked to build, paint, sculpt, photograph or assemble art pieces for the Ofrenda, a decorated area that displays offerings to deceased souls for Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Deadline for the artwork is Oct. 5. An awards reception will take place Oct. 15 at 6 p.m., and the winners' artwork will be displayed from Oct. 15-Dec. 15 at the Las Vegas Library. Go to [www.lvccld.org](http://www.lvccld.org) for more information.

**Hit the road**

One of the most entertaining rides in Las Vegas happens on two wheels this October 16, when the Las Vegas Century Bicycle Ride and RTC Bikefest roll onto the valley's streets. This 3rd annual event benefits the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Las Vegas and will take place at the RTC building at 600 S. Grand Central Pkwy., near the Clark County Government Center. Registration for the century ride costs from \$25 to \$45 per person, depending on the distance. The RTC Bikefest is a free family event, which will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 676-1606.

**Scholarships**

**Monster Olympic Spirit Scholarship**

**Contact:** <http://scholars.monster.com>  
**Amount:** \$5,000  
**Deadline:** Sept. 15

**Requirements:** Applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited vocational or undergraduate program. An essay must be submitted of 250 to 500 words on how you have demonstrated the Olympic spirit in your life. The application is judged on academics, school and community involvement, work experience, essay and Olympics trivia questions.

**Young Writer's Contest**

**Contact:** [www.fieldandstream.com](http://www.fieldandstream.com)  
**Amount:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** Sept. 15

**Requirements:** This scholarship is available to students ages 13-22. Applicants must submit an essay of 750 to 1,000 words about their most thrilling day hunting or fishing.

**Illustrators of the Future Contest**

**Contact:** [www.writersofthefuture.com](http://www.writersofthefuture.com)  
**Amount:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** Sept. 30

**Requirements:** Artists are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. 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. Entry may not have been previously published.

**Association of Women in Mathematics Essay Contest**

**Contact:** [www.awn-math.org/biographies/contest.html](http://www.awn-math.org/biographies/contest.html)  
**Deadline:** Oct. 29

**Requirements:** This contest is open to all students, both female and male. You must write an essay primarily based on an interview with a woman currently working in a mathematical career. The essay must be approximately 500 to 1,000 words in length.

**Seventh Annual National High School Poetry Contest Scholarship**

**Contact:** [www.geocities.com/diet-lps/contestrules](http://www.geocities.com/diet-lps/contestrules)  
**Amount:** \$1,500  
**Deadline:** Oct. 31

**Requirements:** All U.S. high school students are eligible to enter by submitting one poem of no more than 20 lines. Entries will be judged on creativity, originality, imagery, artistic quality and mastery of poetic expression. State and regional winners will compete for a national award.

**Coca-Cola Scholars Program**

**Contact:** [www.coca-colascholars.org](http://www.coca-colascholars.org)  
**Amount:** \$5,000  
**Deadline:** Oct. 31

**Requirements:** High school seniors who had a 3.00 GPA at the end of their junior year are eligible to apply. Awards are merit-based, and students must be able to demonstrate service to both their schools and communities.

**Intel Science Talent Search Scholarship**

**Contact:** [www.sciserv.org](http://www.sciserv.org)  
**Amount:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** Nov. 17

**Requirements:** All U.S. high school students are eligible to enter a science project for consideration for one of many awards at different levels of competition. Judges also consider the applicant's high school transcript, standardized test scores and letters of recommendation.





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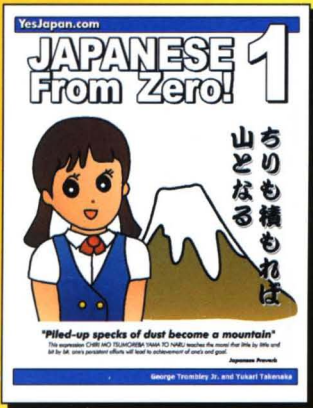
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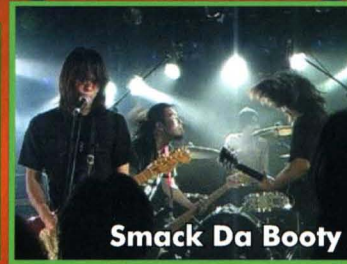
Guitar Vader



Samurai Delicatessen



Limited Express



Smack Da Booty



四分の音 Yonbunnoichi

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Samurai Delicatessen (blues)

Yonbunnoichi (punk)

Smack Da Booty (rock)

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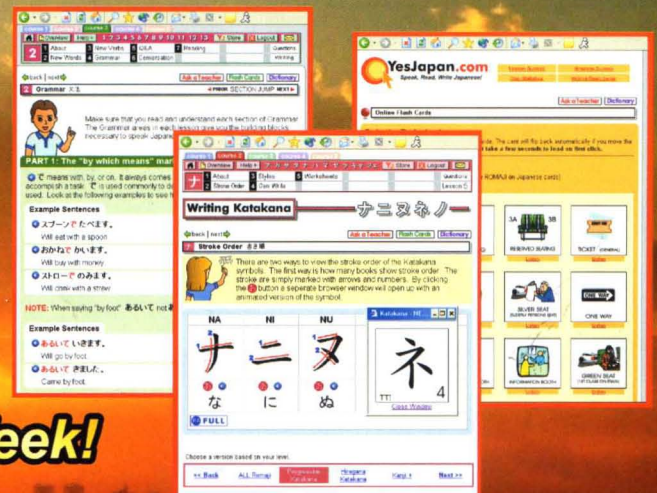
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