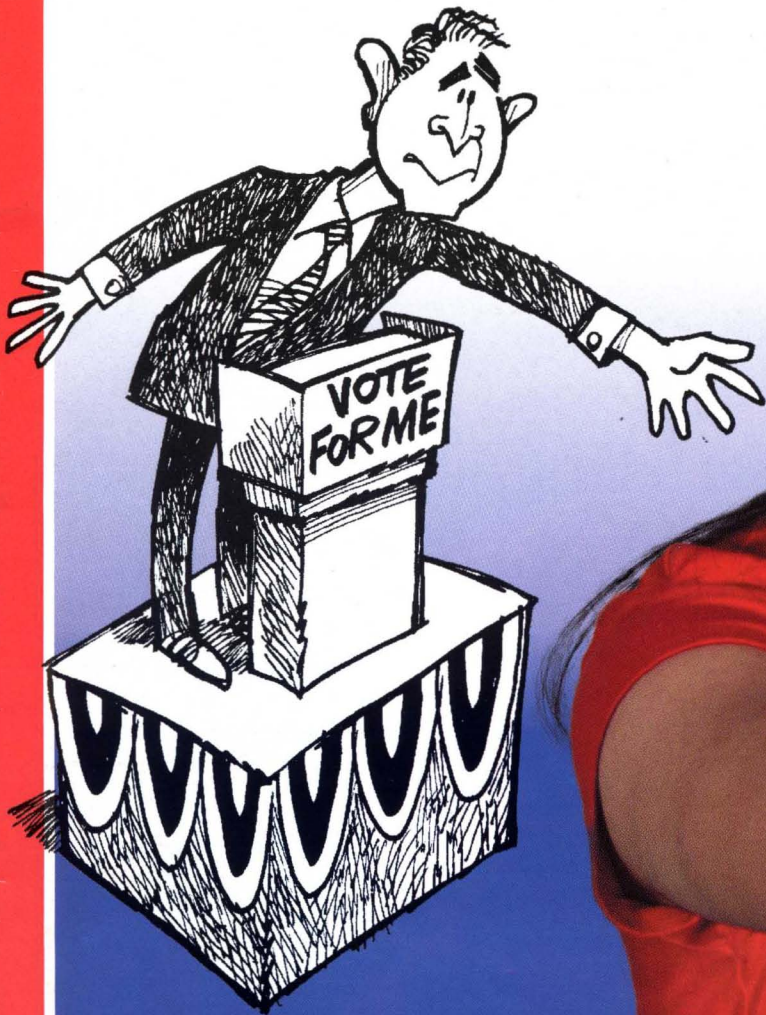


OCTOBER 2004

# CLASS!

By, for and about Clark County  
high school students



VOTE FOR YOU!

# I had a life

before I took somebody else's.

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# FROM THE EDITOR

Some people had their doubts about CLASS! doing an issue with an election theme. Most high school students are not 18 and can't vote; besides, what do teens care about politics? Apparently, quite a bit!

I think I say this every month, but I'm impressed. You will be too when you read this issue. How is it possible that the 18-24-year-old age group is the least represented at the polls when you've got teens like the writers in this issue who are just chomping at the bit to hit that magical age of 18 so they can vote for the first time?

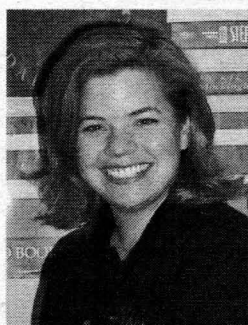
From registering voters to making phone calls for a political party, local teens are finding ways to make their voices heard in this important election. As Linda Nguyen from Sierra Vista High School points out in "Voters or not, teens make impact on 2004 election," (page 8), there is much more happening in politics than the presidential election that is monopolizing our TV sets. She also cites plenty of organizations created to increase the number of youth involved in the political process.

On page 9, you'll find a great Double Talk section: Heather Trujillo from Green Valley High School locks horns with Juan Carillo from Liberty High School on the presidential election and whom they believe is best for the job in "Vote Bush to keep America strong" vs. "Vote Kerry, boot the cowboy out of office."

If you're inspired by what you read, there's still time to do something! If you're 18, you have until Oct. 12 to register to vote at the county's election office. Your favorite politician (local or national) needs your help making phone calls and preparing mailers, so spend some time volunteering! Maybe you're even in a position to make a small financial contribution; it all adds up, you know!

Don't just sit there and let other people decide your fate. You have a voice. Use it!

Allie Smith  
Editor/Executive Director



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

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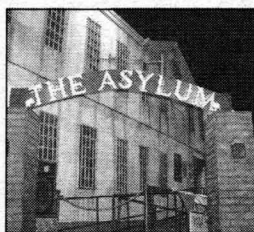
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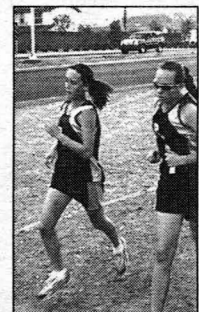
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October is full of concert events, heralding all types of music. If your taste is classical, pop or punk, it's happening in the Las Vegas valley. 40



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Scholarship money is just waiting for you. Check out our list this month. And make sure to apply early! 46

## on our cover ...

Linda Nguyen, a junior at Sierra Vista HS, relays the direct message to think for yourself during this political debate season. Las Vegas Sun's editorial cartoonist Mike Smith imagines the presidential candidates at their podiums.

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# Reid addresses student issues at press conference

By Stephanie Hartman,  
Centennial HS

**E**ight high school students had the opportunity for a one-on-one press conference with Sen. Harry Reid at his office in the Lloyd George Federal Building on Aug. 19, as part of the CLASS! High School Journalism Internship Program. Reid fielded questions from students whose views spanned the political spectrum and spoke on topics from foreign policy to the upcoming election.

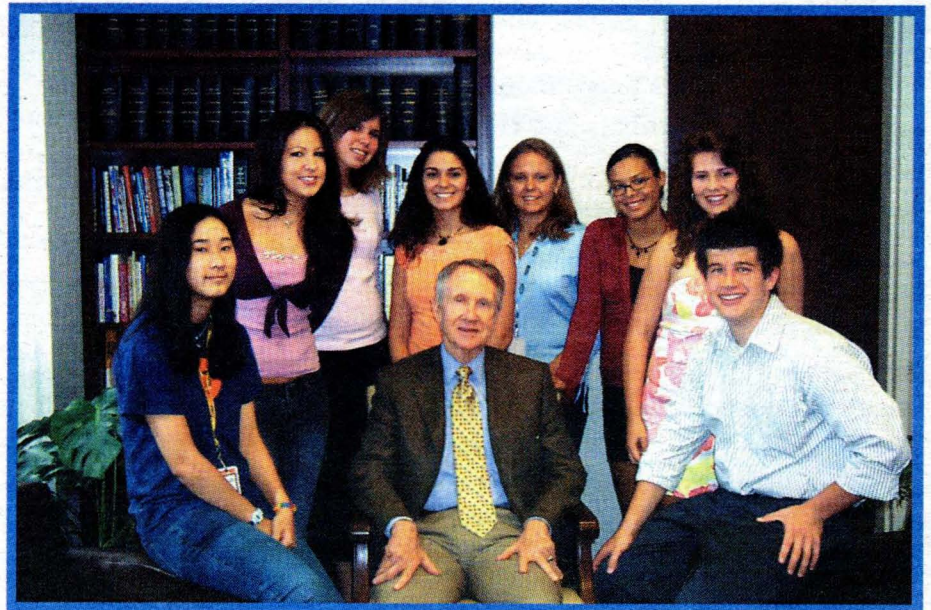
From the moment Sen. Reid initiated conversation with the students, there was no mistaking why even Republicans enjoy working with the Democratic senator. In his responses he maintained a reasoned, balanced approach. Calm and firm, he was respectful and didn't break a sweat when the interns began asking tough political questions pertaining to topics such as foreign policy, suicide prevention and nuclear waste.

### Serving Nevada

Once the student body president of Basic High School and a graduate of George Washington University, Reid is now the second-highest ranking Democrat in the U.S. Senate. Reid serves the Senate as minority whip, which means he organizes party members for votes and assists the Democratic leader, Sen. Tom Daschle. Reid says his involvement in the Democratic Party began while he was still in high school, living in Searchlight.

As a high school student, Reid had called a Republican campaign office and wanted to help. A meeting point and pick-up time were established for the following day. As scheduled, Reid was suited up and ready to be picked up, but he waited to no avail. He realized that no one from the Republican office would be coming to pick him up.

"For that reason, I became a Democrat!" joked Reid, discussing the importance of connecting to young voters and gaining their support early in life.



Students surrounding Sen. Reid are, from left, Linda Nguyen, Sierra Vista HS; Riley Marriage, Coronado HS; Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS; Stephanie Hartman, Centennial HS; Jamie De Soto, Mojave HS; Chanae Alexander, Las Vegas Academy; Brianna Rizzo, Cimarron-Memorial HS; and Alex Anderson, Green Valley HS.

### National issues

One topic on many Nevada voters' minds for this upcoming election was addressed early in the press conference. Yucca Mountain is being developed as a spot to relocate the nation's nuclear waste. Reid, however, recommends leaving waste where it is now, expressing how illogical it would be to centralize more than 100 nuclear waste sites into one.

"Americans wouldn't approve of the transportation of nuclear waste through their cities, by their schools and churches," Reid said.

In addition, Reid pointed out that every load of nuclear waste transported would be a target on open, unprotected highways or railways, and there would be endless amounts of trips needed to transport the waste, leaving open many possibilities for terrorist attacks.

In response to a question about Reid's view of current

U.S. foreign policy, he began with an anecdote about a friend of his who recently traveled from South Africa to Los Angeles. Going through U.S. Customs, the traditional photo of

**"I just had a meeting with the 17 school district superintendents in Nevada, and every one of them said that No Child Left Behind is destroying education in our state," Reid said.**

the U.S. President hanging at the point of entry was disrespected by the foreign passengers who "flipped a bird" at the photo. He tied this into foreign policy, explaining the disrespect from members of other nations that have lost respect for America.

"Not because we went to war, but how — as a big bully," Reid said. "It's an attitude that has hurt our standing in the international community."

### At home

Reid addressed additional topics such as same-sex marriage, teen suicide and the No Child Left Behind Act.

On the topic of same-sex marriage, Reid breaks with traditional liberal views because

he does not support legalization of same-sex marriages and takes a conservative view on other issues as well. Reid says he prides himself on being independent though he considers himself a true Democrat.

"One doesn't have to be in lock step with the party," Reid said. "Just because you don't agree on everything, doesn't mean you can't be of tremendous help."

When asked about what Congress was doing to stop the high rates of teen suicide, Reid responded passionately.

"Suicide doesn't just happen to other people. It happens to all of us. It's a tragedy and it can be prevented," Reid said. "The states with the highest teen suicide rates are in the West, and no one knows why. We need to spend more money to train professionals who can identify kids who need help."

Reid also responded to questions on the No Child Left Behind Act.

"I just had a meeting with the 17 school district superintendents in Nevada, and every one of them said that No Child Left Behind is destroying education in our state," Reid said. "The concept behind the law is good, that teachers should be accountable and students should show progress, but the federal law has to have federal funding. Without money, the schools are done."

### Politically involved

Reid suggests that, as this is an election year, students give of themselves by becoming involved with student government, voter education programs or doing volunteer work for a local political campaign.

"The 18-24 age group has the poorest voting record in America," Reid said. "Go back to your schools and get people registered to vote. Volunteer at a local campaign office. It's important to be active."

Concluding the hour-long interview, Reid gave advice to any young person dreaming of a future in public service and politics.

"It's tough, so you really have to know who you are and what you believe in," he said. "Most importantly, get your life in order and finish your education before you even think about it."

# SAT changes to include essay, grammar, advanced math

## College Board hopes to influence students to raise the bar in studies

By Danielle Clark,  
LV Academy

The SATs will be drastically altered by March 2005 because the College Entrance Examination Board, which owns the test, will design it to influence a change in what students learn in their four years of high school. The first students to be affected by the test are taking this fall's PSAT test. In the spring, both juniors and seniors will take the new SAT as their college entrance exam.

The new test will include an essay question, grammar problems and, for the first time, math problems beyond algebra and geometry. The College Board hopes to produce better writers, show students that grammar is important, and encourage earlier advanced math instruction.

The new SAT could create a new educational curriculum for the nation, something that lawmakers and educators are constantly trying to do. The College Board, however, will not use government laws to achieve this reform. All that is needed is a new version of the test.

Questions on the new test are more like classroom exercises and less like questions designed just for the SAT. Analogies and questions that compare complex math quantities will vanish from the test to make room for the more familiar types of questions.

The three R's (reading, writing and 'rithmetic) will be the new segments of the test, making the possible score a 2,400 instead of the classic 1,600.

For some, the new test will have a positive impact on their scores. Others, however, will not be so lucky.

Girls usually have a higher score than boys on writing exams. Boys usually score higher on the math section, but the newer test version will include less of the types of questions they excelled at. The lack of analogies could widen the SAT score gap between white and

black students since the analogies section often had a smaller gap than the test as a whole.

Students could also experience a slight disadvantage due to their school environment, especially if they are at a failing school, since the new version will be testing what students learn in school.

The College Board is so powerful that schools around the country were already adjusting their curricula to fit the new test two years before it would be used. Many, however, are against the idea of changing a curriculum to match the test.

The SAT has been viewed as an aptitude test for decades. Lately, however, it is becoming more like the ACT, its rival achievement test, as it is testing what is learned in classrooms now as well as the general knowledge it tested before.

One of the problems that the new version is facing is reliability. Normally, there is a standard error range of 30 points for the math section and 30 points for the verbal. In other words, your score may be 520, but because of errors in scoring, it actually falls within a range of 490 to 550.

However, the new writing section will make the overall test score even less reliable. The writing test will be graded by humans, not computers, and will create problems for how accurate the scores really are because grading is based on an individual's judgment, rather than a set standard of answers being correct or incorrect.

In addition, the multiple-choice part of the section will only be about 20 to 30 minutes long compared to 70 minutes for math or reading. The fewer number of questions creates a harder error measurement because there is less room for error. Having one topic on each test is also a dilemma, for one could really love the topic given to them on a second test and score quite a bit higher.

In preparation for this new version of the test, the board recommends doubling the amount of time writing, taking advanced math classes as early as possible and studying grammar.

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# 'PRACTICE' EXERCISE

## CCSD offers free PSAT to sophomores

By Stephanie Hartman,  
Centennial HS

New this year in the Clark County School District, high school sophomores have the chance to take the Preliminary Standardized Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test at no charge to the students. Sophomores across the district will be taking the test on Oct. 13. The test is also available for other students, but only sophomores

are receiving the test for free.

The PSAT measures college entrance skills such as verbal, math and writing abilities. The College Board, developer of the PSAT and SAT as well as other assessment tests, notes that "the test assesses the ability to reason with facts and concepts rather than the ability to recall and recite them."

PSAT test results can indicate how well a student is being prepared to take the SAT college entrance exam. Taking

the test as sophomores allows students to discover their academic areas that need improvement and provides them ample time to work on those areas before taking the actual SAT as juniors. The College Board says that, on average, those who take the practice exam have a higher likelihood of doing well on the SAT.

"The real SATs are extremely important to get into college, and to have the opportunity to take a practice version that will prepare me for the real deal," says Cimarron-Memorial High School sophomore Brianna Rizzo. "I think it will give me a heads up of what I should expect on the real SATs. It will show me what I know and what I don't. Then afterwards, I can begin studying."

While test results can be helpful to sophomores, the College Board warns students to keep in mind that the test is considered a junior-level test. Most sophomore classes have not covered some of the material included on the test. Low scores on the tests then should not be discouraging to students, but should help them understand what types of questions will be asked on the SAT they will take in the future.

"All tests are code names for STRESS!" says Rizzo. "But, if I don't do well, it will just help me out for the real test. It will show me what I need to focus on for the future."

Liberty High School sophomore Whitney James, however, is worried about the test.

"I'm personally very concerned about the SATs because I'm a terrible test taker," says James. "I will be very discouraged if I don't pass the PSAT because I'm a terrible test taker, and if I do poorly now,

then I'll assume I'll do poorly again."

An additional value to taking the PSAT now as sophomores is that it will introduce students to the new, revised SAT that will begin being administered in March 2005. Sophomores this fall taking the new version of the PSAT will be some of the first to experience the new test. Changes in the test include the additions of short reading passages and higher-level math content, while analogies and quantitative comparisons will be eliminated from the test. While the new SAT will now include an essay-writing section, the new PSAT will not, though schools will be offered options to prepare students for the new section on the SAT.

Having the test provided free of charge relieves some of the pressure on the students as well. Many students have skipped taking the PSAT because they didn't want to pay the test fees, for fear of failing the test and wasting the money. The College Board generally charges \$11 per test score sheet, with additional administrative charges added by individual schools. Rather than charging students the usual fees, the school district has covered the costs for every sophomore in the district, allowing more students to benefit from the advance testing.

"I'm taking the PSAT because it will let me know where I stand and how much more work I need for the college that I want to go to," says James. "Honestly, I hate tests, and I would rather not have to take another one, but I'm very glad that the school district does provide not only the PSAT, but all the other SAT prep classes available."



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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.

Las Vegas-Clark County

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## LETTERS

### One nation, one language

To the editor:

Last time I checked, I lived in the United States of America, not Mexico. What is this "Díganos" nonsense in *CLASS!* magazine? We are not encouraging any of the immigrants to learn the native language of our country if everything is in Spanish. I should never feel like a second-class citizen in my own country. However, I did when I read your magazine and had to skip FIVE pages of it because I don't understand the language. This is ridiculous and this entire country needs to stop posting everything in English and Spanish. ONE nation, ONE language, period.

Whitney Andersen, Sierra Vista HS

# How to keep your job:



## Learn your job. Do it.

EMPLOYERS ARE REALLY PRETTY PATIENT. They're willing to hire you to do a job and then pay you to learn how to do it. Employees cause problems for themselves by giving employers some pretty weak reason for not doing their jobs.

Here are some reasons/excuses for not getting the job done. Which ones do you think an employer would accept?

1. No one told me that was part of my job.
2. I ran out of time and couldn't finish.
3. I've only been here a week.
4. I thought Ruth was going to do it.
5. I thought it was finished.
6. Nobody ever told me how to do it.
7. I didn't think it was due until tomorrow.
8. The computers are down.
9. I didn't have the supplies to finish it.
10. I don't guess I understood what you wanted.

© Job Jargon

## This month's featured positions:

### Cashier/Sales

An automotive store is looking for assistants to stock, clean and run parts. Computer usage is also a plus. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have a driver's license, work permit and a car. Workdays vary and hours total between 20 to 25 hours per week. The wage is \$7.50 per hour. Job Number: 8076

### Sales/Stocking

If you are a motivated person with good communication skills, this may be the job for you. Assistants are needed for cash handling, stocking and cleaning. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling to 24 hours per week. The wage is \$7.00 per hour. Job Number: 8075

### Project Associates

Assistants are needed for sorting, folding and stuffing invoices and other mailings. Applicant must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 15 hours per week. Job Number: 8073

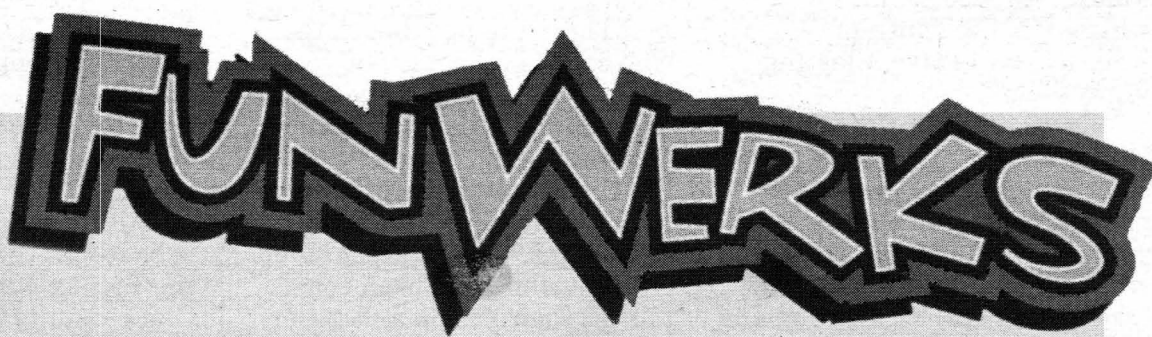
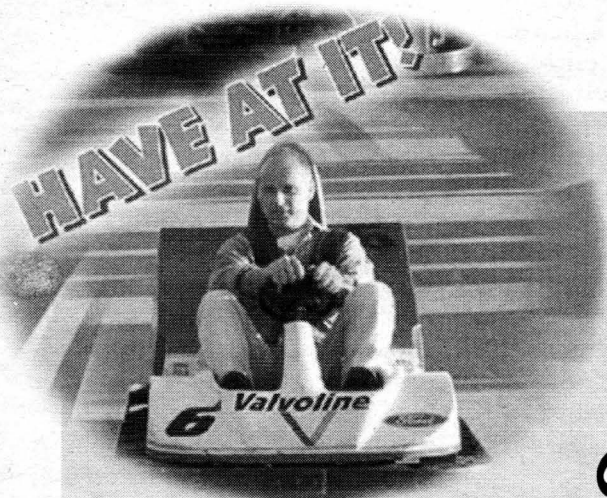
### Recreational Instructor

A motivated and friendly assistant is needed as a ballet, cheerleading or bocce instructor. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have a work permit and sheriff's card. Workdays and hours vary. The wage is \$10.00 per hour. Job Number: 8072

### Support Staff

Assistants are needed for cooking, cleaning, cash handling and food serving. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have a work permit and a health card. The workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 40 hours per week. Job Number: 8071

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.



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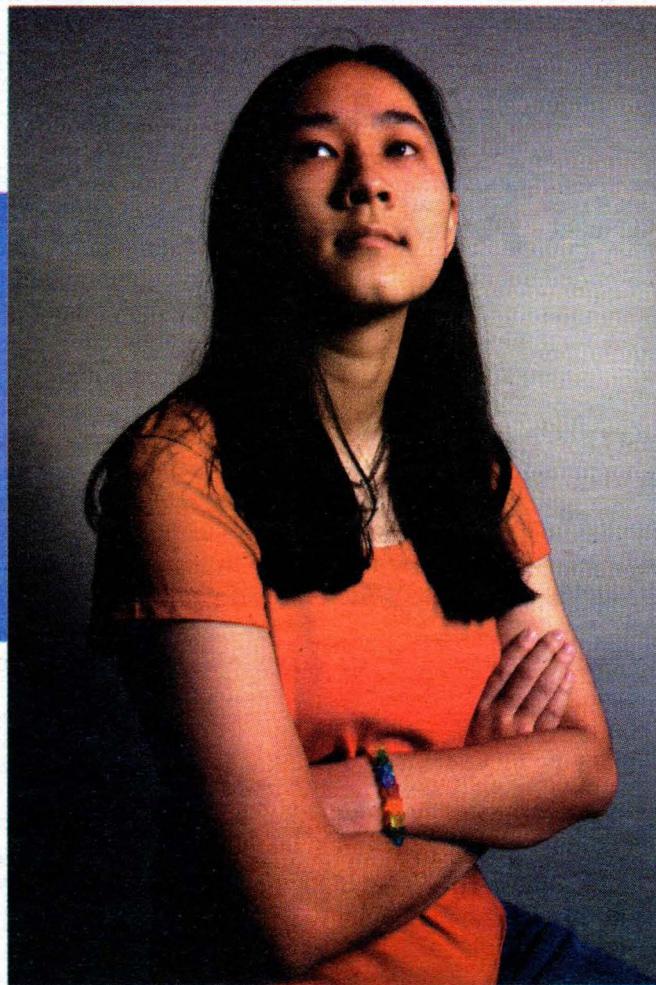
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# Voters or not, teens make impact on 2004 election



“There is a lot at stake here, especially for young people. It is we who will inherit this nation, and we must take a stand on where the country is heading. — LINDA NGUYEN”

By Linda Nguyen, Sierra Vista HS

**E**xciting events that are happening this November: Thanksgiving, my birthday, and oh yeah, Election Day.

Unless you're like my English teacher who refuses to follow the news, you know that this year's election is going to be one of the most important in our lifetime. And it is hoped that it will also be one on which, we, the youth of America, will leave a lasting impression.

There are countless reasons why this year is different, considering all of the events that have happened in the last four years: how the word "electoral" crept into our vocabulary, the tragedy of Sept. 11, our ongoing War on Terrorism, the Patriot Act, the war in Iraq, the No Child Left Behind Act, a ban on certain abortion procedures, same-sex marriages that may or may not be valid in the eyes of the government, etc. And there's also the economy, which is always of concern.

Simply put, there is a lot at stake here, especially for young people. It is we who will inherit this nation, and we must take a stand on where the country is heading. One of the most significant ways to do this is through voting.

Since the legal voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 in 1972, the percentage of voters ages 18-24 has declined, dropping from roughly 50 percent to below 30 percent.

Surveys show several major reasons why youth don't vote. They aren't registered, they feel

inadequately informed, they don't have the time and they don't feel like they make a difference.

"There are people out there who count on people not voting," says Clark County School District U.S. History teacher Mark Sauve.

Youth voters are often ignored in numerous political campaigns, which target older citizens who have been consistent in their voting and generally have much higher turnout rates. This in turn leaves many young people feeling disconnected with an imperative component of our democracy.

Several organizations are working to change this. "Twenty Million Loud" is "a national campaign of organizations mobilizing more than 20 million young adults ages 18 to 30 to vote and be a deciding factor in the 2004 presidential election."

Other organizations like this include "Rock the Vote," MTV's "Choose or Lose," P. Diddy's "Citizen Change: Vote or Die," and World Wrestling Entertainment's "Smackdown Your Vote."

There is also the New Voters Project, a national non-partisan grassroots organization working in six key states, including Nevada, where voter

registration among 18-24-year-olds is below national average.

The Project has been at events where they hope to find young people. They've had volunteers equipped with clipboards at concerts, bowling alleys, Extreme Thing, 4th of July celebrations and graduations.

Although the local chapter is based on the UNLV campus, the Project will be working with Clark County high schools, holding voter registration drives. It is hoped that new and youth voters will help Nevada decide which candidate gets its five electoral votes.

"We're basically split right down the middle," says Kristina Miles, New Voters Project Southern Nevada campus organizer.

It is important to note that even though the office of U.S. president is extremely important, it does not make up the entirety of our government. There are local non-partisan candidates out there who are very important to the youth in Las Vegas. The Board of Regents set policies for Nevada's entire public system of higher education, such as residency requirements and tuition rates. How much it will cost high school students to attend UNLV in the future depends on

which regents are voted into office now.

The last day to register to vote in Nevada is Oct. 12 at the county elections office.

### You can't vote yet?

But what if you aren't eligible to vote yet?

"If I knew how to be active without voting, I would," says Sierra Vista High School junior Harmoni LaHuillier. "But I don't know any options."

While voting is vitally important to the well being of our government system, it is definitely not the end-all of being active in the political process. Even if you are unable to vote, you can still influence how others vote, in a variety of ways.

Although it may not seem like a lot, just asking those around you if they are registered to vote can make a difference. Many people are more inclined to register if a friend reminds them to, as opposed to a distant, albeit well meaning, television commercial.

There are many national organizations that can be of use with helpful information and resources. In addition to all of the aforementioned organizations, Freedom's Answer is a "non-partisan, non-profit voter turnout campaign led by our nation's youth." When you sign



up for the program, you promise to (make the effort to) get 10 people registered to vote, who in turn will repeat the process. Voter registration will spread like wildfire.

"It's kind of like 'Pay It Forward,'" says Sierra Vista junior and Freedom's Answer participant Stephanie Hu.

And while you're already talking to a potential voter, why not discuss issues that are important to you, and reforms you'd like to see happen or not happen. Should you not be totally sure of what the issues are, or where you stand on them, remember that reading or watching the news is always better with a friend or two around.

It is also possible to take it a step further and voice your opinions, beliefs and concerns to a wider audience, through newspapers and newsletters.

"I am not only expressing my opinion, but informing other people of my political views," says Sierra Vista senior Heidi Lothringer, a high school journalist and CLASS! intern.

Another fun thing to do is join clubs centered on politics. One of these clubs is the Junior State of America, a national non-partisan organization with a slogan of "democracy is not a spectator sport." Club members are encouraged to partake in their semiannual debates and conferences, as well as attend their summer school programs at prestigious universities, including Georgetown and Yale.

Sierra Vista senior and JSA member Amber Schirling hopes that JSA will "give more youth the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions."

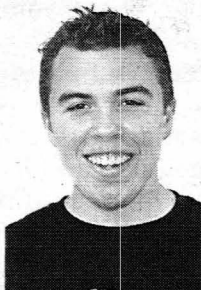
If you are certain where you stand on the issues and prefer to be in the company of like-minded individuals, Teenage Democrats/Republicans and other similar groups may be a better alternative to nonpartisan groups.

Green Valley High School juniors Heather Trujillo and Alex Anderson, and senior David Edelblute are members of Teenage Republicans as well as volunteers for the Nevada State Republican Party, where they assist with phone banking, door-to-door literature distribution, and, of course, voter registration.

"Just because we can't vote doesn't mean we can't make a difference," says Edelblute.

# Your vote counts, but not exactly

By Charles Trujillo,  
Green Valley HS



If you vote, do you feel you have a voice in America's decisions? Though so many organizations like Rock the Vote and Choose or Lose are telling young people to vote in this presidential election because their "votes count," the Electoral College, not individual Americans, has the vote that really counts.

What is the reason for the United States to have a popular vote if it doesn't even count? Overall, the Electoral College system is not the voice of the people, but the voice of politicians who somehow think they know what is best for the people of the United States.

America's founding fathers created the Electoral College in Article II, Section 1.2 of the United States Constitution: "Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in the Congress."

It almost seems pointless to have a popular vote for president if the president is

actually determined by the Electoral College. Why do people get worked up over an election if only a small percentage of a state's population determines which candidate gets their state's votes?

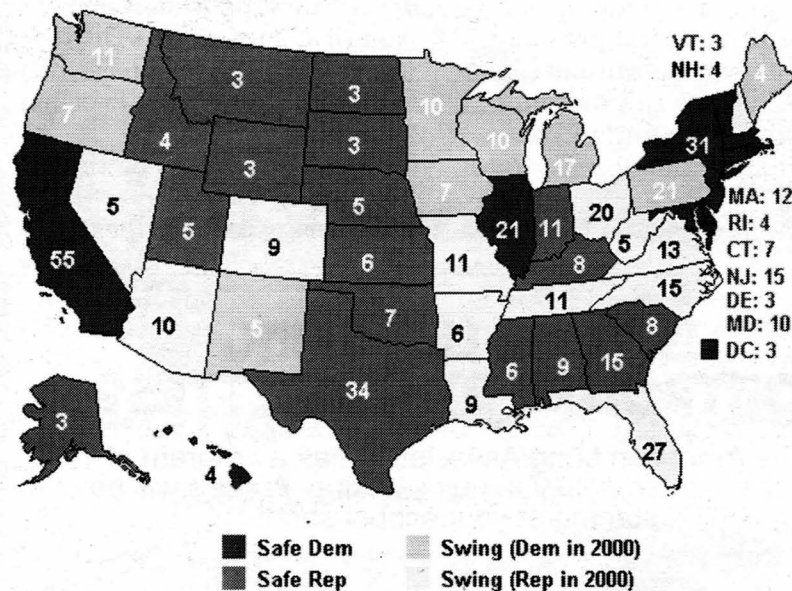
I think that the Electoral College should be replaced by a popular vote for one election to see if it works out. The only bad thing about the popular vote determining the president of the United States is that you would have people who are uneducated about the upcoming election determining who is going to

be the next president. People could be misled by a campaign commercial or rumors and vote a certain way only because they liked one person's commercial better than another's.

In spite of that, I think most people who actually do go out and vote take their vote seriously. I feel that the people should have a say in who becomes president, without depending on the Electoral College. The Electoral College is not the public voice of America — we are.

## How the states might vote

Numbers in each state represent the total of electors in that state. Nevada's 5 electoral votes could swing to either candidate.



Source: USElectionAtlas.org

## Electoral what?

Here's a quick lesson on how the Electoral College system works (your parents probably don't even know this!):

The president and vice president are chosen by electors from each state. Each state gets the same number of electors as it has members of Congress. Nevada has five members of Congress, so it has five electors in the Electoral College.

Electors are chosen from the people of each state to vote for whichever candidate won the state's presidential election. In 2000, the majority of Nevadans voted for George Bush. Therefore, Nevada's electors, prominent members of the winning political party, cast Nevada's five electoral votes for George Bush. Electors cast their ballots sometime in December, following the November general election. Those ballots are then counted in Congress in January, and the president is officially chosen.

Nevada law requires electors to cast their votes for the winner of the state's presidential election, ensuring that the popular vote is represented. However, many other states don't have the same legal requirement for electors in their states. That means that an elector may decide to ignore the decision made by the people of the state and vote for whomever he or she prefers personally.

Historically, 99 percent of electors have voted as they were supposed to, but the fact that it's possible for an elector to upset an election has caused many Americans to doubt the system and call for a change.

In 2004, there are 538 total electoral votes, and a candidate must receive 270 to win.

You can read more about the Electoral College at the U.S. State Department's Web site at: [http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/elections/elect\\_college.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/elections/elect_college.html).

# Kerry's Las Vegas rally asks voters to 'Believe in America'

## Kerry promises Nevada no nuke waste, smaller class sizes, more jobs in upbeat Thomas & Mack speech

By Natalie Minev, Community College HS



At few political events can one experience firsthand the power of American voters, and the "Believe in America" John Kerry rally, held at the Thomas and Mack Center on Aug. 10, represented the strong political fervor present in Las Vegas on a grand scale.

With almost twelve thousand people in attendance to hear the Democratic presidential candidate explain his plans for America, the rally was a perfect and engaging introduction to the election season for me.

When I turn 18 in October,

the first adult right I want to take advantage of is the right to vote, and I've been preparing for Election Day by trying to research the candidates running for president.

As a teenager, it's hard not to be influenced by the political opinions of family and friends, so I made it a goal to try to develop my own unbiased political views in the best possible way: to see the candidate in action, in front of the voters.

I watched the Democratic National Convention and was attracted to John Kerry and John Edwards' vision for America, so Kerry's visit to Vegas was a perfect opportunity for me to solidify my decision for Nov. 2.

On what had to be the hottest day of the summer (it was a blistering 112 degrees), my

brother Mike and I arrived early at the Thomas and Mack. Security was all over the perimeter of the venue, keeping a watchful eye on the throng of Kerry supporters.

Security was an inevitable part of getting in, and clearing each person for entrance took two long, broiling hours; we were all in a line that started in a large, high-ceilinged room indoors and ended 100 feet away from the T&M.

However, despite the heat, I was amazed at how everyone around us relished the chance to engage in political chatter with each other, sharing their personal ideas and hopes for the country. People of all ages and races surrounded us, and though the crowd was so diverse, there was a sense of unity among all of us: a hope for change in America.

We finally made it into the venue, which slowly became packed with thousands of people (later on, John Kerry said that it was an even bigger audience than the one at his nomination in Boston). On the floor was a quintessential Las Vegas doowop band, singing classic songs and glittering in sequined costumes. However, I found myself training my binoculars on an area across from the band, the platform for the press.

Newspaper reporters, TV news anchors, and cameras from both local and national stations worked busily to prepare for Kerry's arrival, and never more did I wish I could be on that platform working for the press!

Before John Kerry came out, many important Nevada political figures, including Congresswoman Shelley Berkley, Mayor Oscar Goodman and Senator Harry Reid, spoke to the excited crowd, praising John Kerry's vision for the country and especially extolling his opinion on Yucca Mountain.

After the speakers were finished with their individual speeches, the crowd started chanting "KERRY! KERRY!" and "No more Bush!" as they waited for his arrival. Finally, after "the wave" went around the arena at least 20 times, John Kerry, his wife Teresa, daughter Vanessa, and his two stepsons Chris and Andre entered onto the stage, setting off an amazing explosion of cheers. Thousands stood up and applauded, holding up signs that

said things like "I Love Teresa" and "Hope is on the Way." I felt like I was at the Democratic National Convention more than a simple rally! The support and response of the crowd toward Kerry was incredible.

After his daughter Vanessa formally introduced him, John Kerry immediately went into his speech that mapped out his plans if he were to be elected president. The best part about his speech was that he addressed many issues particularly important to Nevadans, most notably the decision of whether or not to build a nuclear repository at Yucca Mountain. He made his position on this issue crystal clear: "There's going to be no nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain," he promised the crowd.

He also touched on education, telling the crowd that it is wrong to have classrooms with over 40 students in them (something I could definitely relate to), and he said as president he would also be committed to creating new jobs, joking with the audience, "there's nothing worse than an unemployed flying Elvis!"

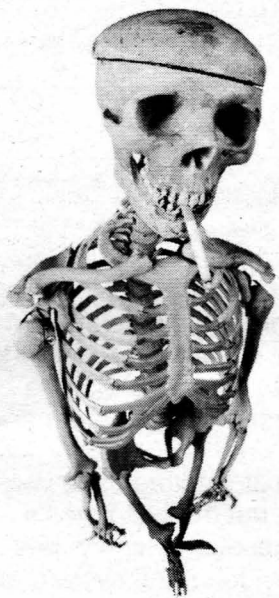
His speech, although fairly short, sent a strong message out to the crowd of supporters, that "America deserves better" and hope is on the way. I was a little disappointed that vice-presidential candidate John Edwards didn't appear at the rally, but I was more than satisfied to hear Senator Kerry. His excellent speech, filled with optimism, humor, intelligence, and most of all, sincerity, reinforced my decision to vote for him in November.

At the end of the night, as the thousands trickled out of the Thomas and Mack exhausted but exhilarated, I felt a new sense of importance and pride in being a citizen of America. Not only did I realize whom I was going to vote for that night, but after seeing the gigantic, cheering crowd that supported this candidate, I realized how much power American voters have in directing the country.

Although I went away that night with a few souvenirs from the rally, including a few Kerry pins and signs, I took away with me something far more important: the desire to become an active and participating citizen of the United States. When I'm 18, and for years to come, I'll do just that.

## IS YOUR LIFE BEING CONTROLLED BY CIGARETTES?

The American Lung Association has a program at your school to help you quit smoking. A class will be starting at your school soon!



**Take Control,  
Kick the HABIT!**

**N-O-T  
NOT ON TOBACCO**

*The smoking cessation program just for teens.*



**Join N-O-T!**

**A free and fun way to help you quit smoking!**

For more information and 100% youth-friendly and confidential help, visit the nurse's office or call Novelette at The American Lung Association at 431-6333.

**AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION**  
of Nevada

Visit us at: <http://www.lungs.org/>

# Rock the Vote uses celebrities, music to reach, register, fire up teens

By Rachel Hommel,  
Green Valley HS

Found everywhere from 7-Elevens to the House of Blues, Rock the Vote has become a staple for generations of youth during election time, and for good reason. The youth-oriented voter registration campaign seeks to register young voters and educate young people about political issues. Rock the Vote's goal this year is to register one million voters in time for the Nov. 2 election.

More than 200 artists are ready and willing to devote their time and energy to this foundation. Rock the Vote artists have included major figures in every genre of entertainment, ranging from models to actors to musicians. Luckily, Rock the Vote also has several well-known sponsors to help them out along the way. Sponsors for 2004 include MTV, BET, Time Warner and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream.

Rock the Vote's 50-stop election tour began in June and will continue throughout the election. Hitting each major city, there will not only be booths set up for voting, but concerts by upcoming artists and education on important issues for the younger generation.



Over the years, Rock the Vote has expanded to include Rap the Vote to reach the hip-hop community. With support from such artists as P.Diddy, it allows the hip-hop generation to feel that voting is more than just a predominately white privilege. Following closely behind comes Chicks Rock, Chicks Vote. Started last summer at the Dixie Chicks concerts, CRCV has since gathered momentum and become a major women's Web site for empowerment and voting.

In just one week, Rock the Vote was able to register nearly 15,000 people online, which seems only fitting for the new age of young voters.

The organization has been responsible for several ongoing campaigns. Whether they were trekking through colleges across the nation or signing up seniors at high schools, they have certainly made their rounds. Since many young adults don't know what their rights are as young voters, Rock the Vote provides an opportunity for young people not only to have fun, but also to be-

come more well-rounded, enlightened individuals.

Rock the Vote was founded in 1990 by members of the recording industry as a nonprofit organization in response to attacks on freedom of speech and artistic expression. It combines the trends of the present youth generation with pop culture to engage young voters in the political process. Although elections only come around every two years, Rock the Vote is always at work with young adults to make sure they get their voices heard in their communities.

Back in 1992, Rock the Vote was able to register 350,000 voters itself and helped get two million young voters to the polls. That year on Election Day, 18-24-year-old

voters broke a 20-year cycle of poor participation with a 20 percent increase in youth turnout.

Throughout the '90s, Rock the Vote won numerous awards for its innovative methods in getting voters, both young and old, to register and to vote through the use of media and technology. Since then, Rock the Vote's street team has expanded to more than 35 cities and is now targeting not only potential minority voters, but also those in the gay community.

In addition to promoting the youth vote, Rock the Vote hosts

summer internships for young people at its offices in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and New York. Also, it sponsors a human relations campaign in Los Angeles, encouraging teens 14-18 to become involved in their communities to fight discrimination, intolerance and hate crimes.

However, the most important aspect of Rock the Vote is its ability to dilute the mumbo jumbo of politics into a clear, step-by-step process to becoming a voter and voting wisely. Listing the major issues of the 2004 election on its Web site, this year the Rock the Vote campaign has focused primarily on health care.

With nearly 13 million young adults without health insurance, Rock the Vote is making sure kids get the hard facts about this important issue before election time.

Although Rock the Vote is a nonprofit organization, it gladly accepts donations ranging from \$10 and up. Unlike many other programs today, Rock the Vote allows us to get involved, whether through donations of money or time and energy.

Before Election Day, check out [www.rockthevote.com](http://www.rockthevote.com) and see for yourself. Getting involved starts with us. We are the new generation.



# Botox and beauty shouldn't matter at the ballot box

By Nicole Brown, LV Academy



Have you ever heard someone say that they weren't going to vote for George Bush because he is ugly or for John Kerry because he had Botox injections? If people care about the issues, then why do they pay attention to such small matters? These little details shouldn't matter, but they do. People take gossip and turn it into truth.

Many people have commented that the outcome of this year's presidential election is unpredictable. Since both candidates support important issues, it's hard enough choosing someone to run the country without petty gossip getting in the way. Whoever wins the election will change Americans' lives. The president's programs will be put into action and affect everyone in America. The election shouldn't be taken lightly, but it is.

Jessica Chen, a sophomore at the Las Vegas Academy says, "People should look deeper when making their decision because if they stop doing that, the election becomes a beauty contest."

Many Web sites have offensive political cartoons, and snide remarks are circling around neighborhoods and schools. Some of the campaign commercials on television are promoting all the wrong things and making the other candidates look bad, instead of focusing on important issues. A candidate shouldn't win by making the other person look bad, but by showing the people that he can keep his promises and that he can

successfully fill the position of president.

"It's going to get dirtier than other elections because they are both desperate to get into the White House," says Cari Dahl, a sophomore at the Las Vegas Academy. "For example, both sides are saying bad things about the other's war record. One side says that Kerry doesn't deserve his Purple Hearts, and the other side complains that Bush didn't even go to Vietnam."

If all of the backstabbing and mudslinging continues, voters will start to lose faith in both candidates and not care whom they vote for or if they vote at all.

If you don't vote, you have no right to complain later. Worse yet, if you vote without knowing the facts, you put yourself in the position of having to adapt to a president instead of agreeing with him.

Superficial voting should be as serious as someone breaking the law. People hold the power to make wise choices and have those choices make a difference. Although they hold this power, some people just don't care and therefore vote for the candidate who is first on the voting roster.

LVA sophomore Salvador Villa says, "It would be unpatriotic to vote superficially because you are voting for someone you are attracted to instead of who's best for the job."

Vote for the right reasons. Don't vote for reasons that don't pertain to getting the job done right. We want to have a president in our country who can protect, defend and listen. Voters have the power to determine who gets into office. Having power is one thing, but using it correctly is a smart thing.

To find out more about the presidential candidates, visit [www.georgewbush.com](http://www.georgewbush.com) or [www.johnkerry.com](http://www.johnkerry.com).

# Volunteering

## The new voting for the under-aged

By Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS

As election time comes nearer, teens have to deal with constant images of politics that they think may not affect them because they are not old enough to vote. However, if you have a political stance and are not old enough to vote, there is so much you can do to help with your candidate's campaign.

I have always been a very opinionated person, and being a conservative has always been part of my views and principals. Because of that, I am hoping for President Bush's re-election. The only problem with all this is that I'm only 16 and can't vote. However, that doesn't mean I can't do my part to help the Bush campaign.

It all started during the first month of summer. I was talking with my friend, Green Valley High School junior Alex Anderson, and he told me about volunteering for President Bush. I ended up going with him a couple of times just to check it out. Now, I volunteer on a regular basis.

Volunteering gives me the chance to voice my opinion and help influence others who can vote. A typical day of volunteering consists of making phone calls or going out and registering people to vote. While I sometimes run into those bleeding heart liberals who don't want to hear anything I say, I also get to talk to some people who were totally indifferent to the election. By having someone calling them or stopping by to register them to vote, they see that your party really does care and wants the best for the country. These types of people are the ones who can make or break an election, and volunteers realize this, which is all the more reason we are out there working.

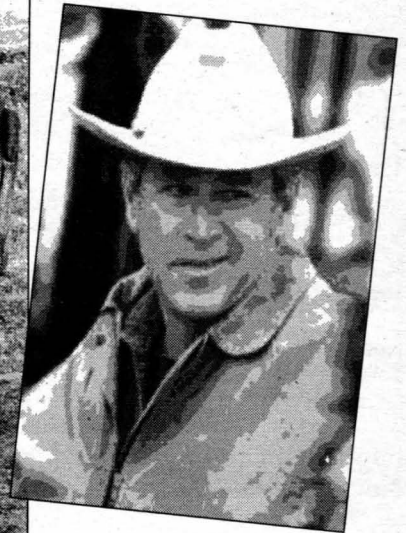
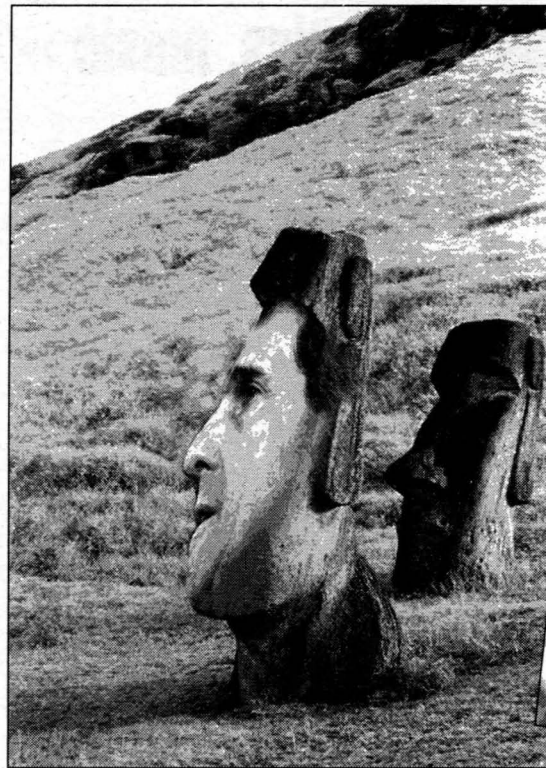
Not only does volunteering for the campaign give me the opportunity to help my candidate, it also helps me make great connections. Having connections is the best way to survive in this competitive world we live in, and having political connections is a big plus. These people can not only write you letters of recommendation for college and such things, but they also know people who can pull a string or two when a favor is needed.

Another important part of volunteering is showing you have an opinion on something. I think it is more important that you have a stance on issues and you work for that cause rather than acting indifferent and simply not caring. It is better to have an opinion than have no opinion at all, and by volunteering for my political party, I am openly working for a cause for which I know I can help make a difference.

Before volunteering, it is best to become educated on the viewpoints and stances for each side. This way when people want to talk and ask questions about your party when you are volunteering, you can hold an intelligent conversation about politics and how you stand on the issues. It also makes your party look good when you know its position on policies and how it affects each person.

Volunteering has been my way of making my voice heard this election year. I may not be able to vote, but I know that my volunteering is making a difference, even if it is a small one, in the campaign for President Bush. The important thing is to have an opinion and have it heard; this way you know you are making a difference.

If you are interested in volunteering, you can call the Nevada Republican Party at 258-9182 or the Nevada State Democratic Party at 737-8683.



Voters must decide between the granite-faced Kerry or the cowboy incumbent.

## Candidates battle past records on road to White House

By Nimmie Bhandal, Coronado HS

Whether Democrat or Republican, we can all agree on one thing that President Bush said a few months back: "Great events will turn on this election. The man who sits in the Oval Office will set the course of the war on terror and the direction of our economy. The security and prosperity of America are at stake."

Each presidential nominee is using everything he's got to woo the American public. We have Bush playing comedian ("Some folks look at me and see a certain swagger, which in Texas is called walking.") and Kerry, the Vietnam War veteran, flaunting his Purple Hearts.

It is not easy for either of them. Kerry is burdened with an uninspiring voting record that he has to constantly defend. This is one of the reasons that senators rarely get elected president: they are saddled with lengthy voting records that are easy to shoot at.

In a campaign speech earlier this year, Bush said about Kerry: "He's got two decades in Congress, built up quite a record. In fact, Senator Kerry's been in Washington long enough to take both sides on just about every issue."

Kerry is put in a tough spot;

according to his voting records, he has been a flip-flopper throughout his voting career. For example, he voted for the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993, and then recently backed off support of the treaty during the 2004 primaries, calling for a review on the trade agreement.

Bush, on the other hand, is burdened with the weight of the war on terror. He seems to be buckling under the pressure now. In his recent view about the war on terror he is definitely not as confident as he used to be. Before, he thought we could win this war on terror, hands down, and now his bravado has noticeably diminished as he is coming to terms with reality, and there is nothing he can do about it. Plus, many blame him for the war in Iraq and accuse him of having a reckless foreign policy.

However, there is something Bush has that Kerry can never have in this election: experience as president. Bush is the current president; Americans have seen what he has done for the nation and how he has represented the country to the rest of the world. Kerry needs to convince the nation that he is capable of being America's president and that he can do as well, if not better, than Bush. The rest is up to the voters to decide.

# Bush proposal threatens overtime pay for workers

By Racheal Curtis, Silverado HS



With the 2004 election looming closer and closer, many Las Vegans still cannot make up their minds as to which candidate to vote for. Even with so many campaign issues in the news, such as the Iraq War and the political ads about the candidates' military service, few of these issues directly apply to Las Vegas teens, the new generation of voters. That is except for President George W. Bush's proposal to take overtime pay away from more than six million workers currently earning it, which could mean you, too.

On the surface, the plan looks like it helps low-wage earners like most teens. Under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, employees earning less than \$155 a week and working over 40 hours a week are entitled to one and a half times their regular pay rate for every hour worked over 40 hours. Bush's proposal increases the limit to allow overtime pay to those who make up to \$455 in a week. The president claims this will increase the number of workers entitled to overtime, and so he says that this is proof that he is pro-worker rather than pro-big business.

A study released by the Economic Policy Institute says that the president's claims are based on incorrect assumptions. The study shows that the millions of workers that the president says he will be helping either already receive overtime pay or do not work over 40 hours in a week, like most teens. Though the president is using workers like you to sell his plan, the fact is that few teen workers will benefit from the changes.

Also seemingly against the "rich guys," in Bush's proposal, any person making over \$100,000 a year and people in executive, professional or administrative positions would be exempt from earning overtime pay. Big deal, right? No teen I know makes over \$100,000 a year, so how does it affect us?

Simple. The plan redefines who is considered an executive, professional or administrative employee. The plan stipulates that any person in a managerial position overseeing two people would be ineligible for overtime pay. That means any shift supervisor, or even trainer, at a fast food restaurant, even if he or she spends most of the time cashiering or mopping floors, is considered a manager and is ineligible for overtime pay. Now that does describe a lot of the teens I know. It also describes countless Las Vegans, our parents and siblings, working at jobs in the hotel industry, trying to make ends meet.

In addition to eliminating overtime pay for those listed above, as per his own "Agenda for America," Bush would rather implement "comp-time" for all other workers. "Comp-time" is basically paid time off in place of overtime. Instead of getting paid time and a half, you would receive the number of overtime hours you worked plus half in paid time off at your regular pay rate. Paid time off is always nice, but what about those people who depend on that extra money they receive from working overtime, which studies say amounts to a quarter of America's earnings? I guess on their comp-time, these workers could just get another job.

It is obvious that Bush, like most Republican politicians, is pro-business. On the National Organization for Women's Web site, NOW President Kim Gandy put it best on the day that the Department of Labor accepted Bush's plan to cut overtime, declaring it, "the Bush administration's latest American holiday — 'Wal-Mart Appreciation Day.'" Gandy sees the Bush plan as a measure "to save [his] large, corporate donors millions of dollars by removing troublesome workers from overtime coverage."

I cannot say I disagree. The Bush platform aims to protect big businesses by removing the right of employees to overtime pay, but still allowing those businesses to work their employees over 40 hours a week. The original Fair Labor Standards Act's intent was to encourage businesses to hire more employees rather than pay existing workers more for overtime. With these

**Though the president is using workers like you to sell his plan, the fact is that few teen workers will benefit from the changes.**

changes, why should a business hire more new people, costing the business more money, when it can continue to overwork and underpay its current employees?

Luckily, funding for Bush's proposal to cut overtime, which went into effect on Aug. 23, was voted down in Congress in September. The proposal was part of a \$142.5 billion labor, health and education funding bill. Unluckily, however, Jim Abrams of the Associated Press reports that the president is threatening to veto a "massive spending bill now on the House floor if it contains any language tampering with the

rules that took effect Aug. 23." It appears that not only is Bush anti-labor; he would also halt the allotment of funds for health and education because Congress rejected his proposal.

If President George W. Bush would try to take away workers' rights now before an election, what would stop him from trying again after he was elected? He clearly, strongly, wants to pass this measure. So strongly in fact, that he would threaten to deprive health and education sectors of government funds to ensure the passage of his plan.

So, if Bush does not get his new plan funded, the next time you pick up your paycheck and see all of those hard-earned overtime hours that allow you to live just a little bit more nicely, or just plain allow you to get by, do not thank George W. Bush.

Here is an idea. Since George W. Bush has worked so hard to replace overtime pay with time off, let us give him some time off and vote for someone else this election.

## OPEN MIC

*Life*

By James Cox, Cheyenne HS

**What is life?**

**Life is a gift, not a reward.**

**Your life can be taken away,**

**So save a life, don't destroy a life.**

**People waste their lives away.**

**People know what they want in life,**

**Or do they?**

**You should never fear life,**

**Life is a wonderful thing to have.**

**People do things with their lives.**

**People can give life,**

**But no one should take a life away.**

**God or whomever you believe in should only take lives.**

**You can do great things with your life,**

**You never know what life holds in place for you.**

**Mine and your life are filled with special rewards.**

**Don't waste your life away or someone else's,**

**Because you only get one life to live,**

**So take each good and bad moment and remember it,**

**Because it could be your last day alive today,**

**So live each day as if it was your last day alive.**

# double talk



## Vote Bush to keep America strong

By Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS

On Nov. 2, 2004, millions of Americans will be heading to the polls to cast their vote for the next president of the United States of America. Deciding whom to vote for can be a difficult decision if you are not well informed about what each person can do for our country. If you are informed, you know that you are going to be voting for George W. Bush.

George W. Bush has been the president for the past four years, and Republicans around the country are shouting, "Four more! Four more!" But before we get into the present, we must review the past and our good friend John Kerry's record.

The past four years have been eventful in the United States. We have been attacked on our own soil and have had to deal with what seems like constant threats from terror groups. We have gone to war with two proponents of terror, one a flat out terrorist group, and the other a tyrannical dictator. We have seen a shift in the economy, and we (the conservatives) have had to deal with constant critiquing from groups of liberals who seem to be misinformed on the president's agenda and accomplishments.

This summer we have all been subject to what seems like endless political propaganda. However, when you read a newspaper article that is "pro-Kerry," all you really seem to be getting is "anti-Bush" statements. There seem to be virtually no completely "pro-Kerry" articles. Is this because there is only a limited amount of things one liberal can say that makes Kerry look good?

President Bush has had to deal with many pressing situations in the past few years, the major ones being Sept. 11 and the war on terrorism. After Sept. 11, nationalism hit an all time high as American flags could be seen on everyone's car, home or clothing. We were ready to deal with the lowly humans who would commit such a heinous act on our nation. President Bush, who had the support of the American public, sent American troops into Afghanistan to deal with the suppressive Taliban regime. Within months, we were able to liberate the people of Afghanistan and give them hope for a free society.

The war on terrorism is one that has never been fought nor even seen before. When looking into the terrorist's form of destruction, one will see that this war cannot be fought like any average war. We must take a new approach and try to stop the problems before they start or escalate into global situations. President Bush has recognized that terrorism is a major problem that has to be dealt with, and he has gone about in the right way doing so.

When there is an oppressive dictator (Saddam Hussein) ruling a country (Iraq) and suppressing millions of people, the bigger power (America) has the responsibility to help the people of the country. I believe Spider-man said it best, "With great power comes great responsibility." If we can end millions of people's suffering, why not? Plus, that area is a terrorist hotspot, and the current battle is fighting terrorism.

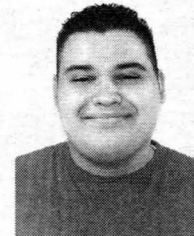
Many people try to criticize the way President Bush has dealt with the economy. Not only is the economy on a steady rise, it is doing so after some of the worst drops in the stock market seen in the past decade.

John Kerry is what we conservatives call a flip-flop. For any-

*Continued on page 15*

## Vote Kerry, boot the cowboy out of office

By Juan Carillo, Liberty HS



The clock is ticking and the presidential election is less than a month away. Current president George W. Bush and his administration are in for the battle of their lives. The future of our country potentially lies in the hands of corrupt, manipulative people who, in pure desperation to win, will go to extremes to destroy the integrity and character of people along the way. Bush and his administration are wrong for our country and our generation. We as teens should make the right choice in booting out the Bush administration because we are the future leaders of this country and we need an effective nation.

George W. Bush has led us into a devastating economic recession, squandering the tremendous money surplus he inherited from the Clinton administration. Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been lost under his leadership, our environment has been polluted, nuclear waste will be placed near our hometown, and of course, the big one, he unleashed a war on Iraq.

This so-called "war on terror" has gained the attention of the world. George W. Bush tells the American people to pray for peace in the world, but how can we ask for universal peace when it doesn't even exist in our own nation? More than 1,000 American soldiers have been killed in combat on foreign soil because of the war in Iraq — a war that should have never begun. Our country has lost many alliances and the support of the United Nations with this war. America is now looked at as an evil band of people and is hated throughout the world.

"Our economy is growing," says Bush. He did not lie when he said that remark to the American public, but what he failed to mention is that our economy is growing into a deeper recession and jobs are being lost every day due to the thousands of jobs being sent overseas by big-shot corporations. He has ultimately destroyed our economy by giving tax cuts to large businesses and corporations. This so-called tax cut has done everything but help the American people. Sure, people don't have as much tax money taken from their paychecks, but at the end of the year when tax season comes around, the people end up owing the government money that they just don't have.

How is it that we call the United States of America the richest, most powerful nation in the world when people are starving and health care is not even offered to every American citizen? Bush promised he would resolve these issues and provide citizens with affordable health benefits before he leaves office, and that could very well be in January. The clock is ticking, Mr. President; get to work!

Yucca Mountain has become the largest controversy in the state of Nevada. George W. Bush promised he would not allow the toxic waste storage facility without a sound scientific basis. Instead, he has ignored the science and pushed for support for the facility. Bush came to Las Vegas trying to save himself by making it known that John Kerry voted for the project to be located in our state. Kerry did vote for it — more than a decade ago — and then after reading new scientific studies on the site, voted against the project. I say Bush should stop trying to persuade people that Kerry supports Yucca, and start living up to his word!

Under President Bush, the No Child Left Behind Act has not been funded and has not been sensitive to the educational system in our nation. The standards placed on students have been placed very high, but students will not be able to be productive in the school environment if

*Continued on page 15*

## Vote Bush

Continued from page 14

one who is confused by the term, it simply means he can't make up his mind. Sixteen years ago, he supported Yucca Mountain as the nuclear waste repository. Today, his story has changed.

He also supported the war in Iraq. On "The O'Reilly Factor" on Dec. 11, 2001, Kerry stated: "He (Saddam Hussein) 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 criticized the Clinton administration for backing off of the inspections, when Ambassador Butler was giving us strong evidence that we needed to continue. I think we need to put the pressure on, no matter what the evidence is about Sept. 11."

This is clearly stating that he agrees with President Bush's decision to invade Iraq. However, as the election rolled around, his story changed, again. All of a sudden, he doesn't agree with the war. Is it because he honestly feels that way or because he is trying to sway the votes of the more naïve American public?

He is now also claiming that he will not raise taxes on the middle class, yet he has voted to do such a thing repeatedly. Do we really want someone who can't make up his mind running our country?

Many people have made their way to the theaters to see "Fahrenheit 9/11," also known as the biggest pro-liberal propaganda of the year. Not only did this movie influence the gullible part of the nation, it made them believe "facts" that were only well-edited images from different time periods. Michael Moore, however, is not the main enemy in this year's election. That man goes by the name John Kerry.

We, the American people, need a president who has his mind made up. He must also have already proved he can make effective, rational decisions in times of need and crisis. When the facts are laid out for you, it can easily be seen that the only intelligent choice for the next president of the United States of America is George W. Bush.

## Vote Kerry

Continued from page 14

they are not challenged adequately to their own needs. I have to disagree with our president; millions of children have been left behind!

John Kerry will fully fund the No Child Left Behind program. The Kerry Administration will change this act to fit the needs of our students and deliver effective strategies to maintain high grades and test scores in our schools. Shortages of teachers have become a great problem in our nation because of the low salaries they are given. Kerry will alleviate this problem and provide a higher salary to educators and truly change the educational system of our country.

At a time when college is more important than ever, many Americans can't afford to go to college, and many of those who go to college aren't finishing.

"College graduates will earn \$900,000 more than high school graduates over the course of a career," Kerry said. "Less than a third of Americans have a four-year college degree and less than a fifth of African-American students will go to college because they simply cannot afford to go."

John Kerry offers a plan to have any American student go to college without the pressure of not being able to afford his or her education. Kerry plans to offer scholarships to students for in-state universities and at the same time lower the national tuition. We will be going to college soon and it is important that we are given adequate opportunities to pursue an affordable education.

I am urging every teen in our community to take action in politics. Vote for John Kerry and put his administration and his plan into office. If you are not old enough to vote, get involved. I ask you to support John Kerry by volunteering your time to Nevada's Democratic Party. It is imperative that you become politically active because those who are not active have no right to complain about the decisions our leaders make. It is your civil duty and right as an American to vote and participate in choosing our country's leaders!

The solution to our nation's problems is to bring John Kerry's administration into office. John Kerry is a man of integrity and I support him. John Kerry has the effective vision for the future of our country and will deliver the American people an incredible eight years!



### New Albums:

- 10/19 - Mos Def "The New Danger" (Geffen)
- 10/26 - R.Kelly & Jay-Z "The Best Of Both Worlds: Unfinished Business" (Roc-a-Fella/Jive)
- 11/02 - N.O.R.E. "Noreminacle" (IDJMG)
- 11/02 - Ying Yang Twins "My Brother & Me" (Koch)
- 11/09 - Britney Spears "Greatest Hits: My Prerogative" (Jive)
- 11/09 - Xzibit "Weapons Of Mass Destruction" (Columbia)
- 11/16 - Chingy "PowerBallin'" (Capitol)
- 11/16 - Destinys Child "Destiny Fulfilled" (Columbia)
- 11/16 - Eminem "Encore" (Interscope)
- 11/23 - Snoop Dogg "R&G (Rhythm & Gangsta): The Masterpiece" (Geffen)



### Check out what high school football games the "World Famous KLUC Party Patrol" are going to be at:

- 10/01 - Sierra Vista v. Clark (Pre Game Party)
- 10/08 - Spring Valley High v. Pahrump Valley
- 10/15 - Western v. Bishop Gorman
- 10/22 - Cheyenne v. Centennial

www.kluc.com



### "Awarding the World, One Artist at a Time" By Rayne / "The All New 98.5 KLUC"

It's hard to see the stars shining over the bright buzzing neon of Las Vegas. It's even more difficult to pick out Orion, Sirius and Ursa Major on some nights. But the lights dimmed and stars filled the Thomas and Mack on September 15th as Las Vegas played host to the 2004 World Music Awards, for the first time in the United States.

Some of the world's biggest superstars in music like Usher, Kanye West, Hilary Duff, Outkast, Hoo-bastank, Avril Lavigne, and Maroon 5 performed and accepted awards in front of a close to sell-out crowd. The World Music Awards have become a long standing tradition in the Principality of Monaco, yet the draw and glamour of Las Vegas reeled in nominees and celebrities alike. Along the Red Carpet, celebrities like Kobe Bryant, Anna Nicole Smith, Brian McKnight, Jennifer Lopez, Michael Clarke Duncan and more waved to die-hard fans trying to withstand the 100 degree heat. In the press row along the Red Carpet, Agent Cody Banks and I tried to squeeze and grab a quick word from the invited guests. It's hard to try and get a comment from Seal as he is making out with model hottie Heidi Klum.

The highlight of the Red Carpet was Courtney Love, who rarely talks to the press while on the Red Carpet. Cody and I were amped to see that we might get to get some answers out of her, but faster than you could try to remember the name of Hole's biggest song; she stomped in the other direction. Actually it was the complete other direction. Not even the designated route that was set up for the Red Carpet. She tried hopping the guard rail. Security quickly guided her in the right direction only to briefly stumble after that. (Courtney's former band Hole, their biggest song was Celebrity Skin.)

During the show, all the nominees gave above-stellar performances. Avril did her latest song, "My Happy Ending", a person favorite in my I-Pod right now. She was a little dolled up in her fancy dress and curly hair, leaps and bounds away from her traditional white tank-tops and army boots. Avril won Best Pop Rock Artist. Maroon 5 taped their performance the previous day and were not live in the Thomas and Mack during the broadcast to accept their Best New Group Award. Usher's performance of "Yeah!" was nothing less than great. Both he and Outkast took home three awards each. The performances of the night came to a tie. Celine Dion, straight from her nightly sell-out show at Caesar's Palace, bussed her entire on-stage ensemble to the T&M and did a great performance and accepted the Diamond Award afterward.

If I could dish out a "Comeback of the Millennium" award, Whitney Houston would be first in line. Out of the spotlight for seven years, Whitney was the special guest of J Records founder Clive Davis, who took the Outstanding Contribution to the Music Industry Award home. Whitney performed "I Believe in You and Me" and "I Will Always Love You", her record-breaking #1 song from 1992's "The Bodyguard" soundtrack. It was later reported that Whitney and Clive will be back in the studio recording another album in early 2005. The night closed with Outkast's Big Boi and Patti LaBelle performing "Ghetto Muzik" from Outkast's "Speakerboxxx / The Love Below" CD. Confetti filled the Mack ending a star studded night of music and entertainment.

It's still hard to pick out Ursa Major. If you squint, and tilt your head to the left, maybe. But I guess that is expected in Las Vegas. Being surrounded by all the fancy lights and action. Taking time to squint and tilt might make you lose your focus. Wait, there goes Hilary Duff. See... you missed it.

## Becoming an adult means not becoming a smoker

### Smoking at 18 shows lack of maturity

By Natalie Minev,  
Community College HS

**W**ith entering into the adult world comes great responsibility and great liberties. So many teenagers can't wait to turn that magic age, 18. Why do so many high school students long to become legal adults? Most of the time, it is for practical and positive reasons, like being able to sign your name without having your parents sign under it. At age 18, you are eligible for a new variety of jobs, to live in your own residence independently, and to vote.

However, many teens can't wait to turn 18 for the wrong reasons, and the right to buy tobacco at 18 becomes a bad incentive for teens to grow up quickly.

An important part of becoming a legal and participating adult in society is the chance to exercise choice. The reason there are age limits categorizing children, teenagers and adults is a matter of maturity, and although many freedoms are suddenly offered to a person at age 18, the smart 18-year-old won't immediately take up smoking as a way to celebrate his or her new adulthood.

The unhealthiest liberty given to 18-year-olds is the right to purchase cigarettes, and this is often the first one of new "adult" exercises. Becoming 18 is an awesome and memorable threshold for all

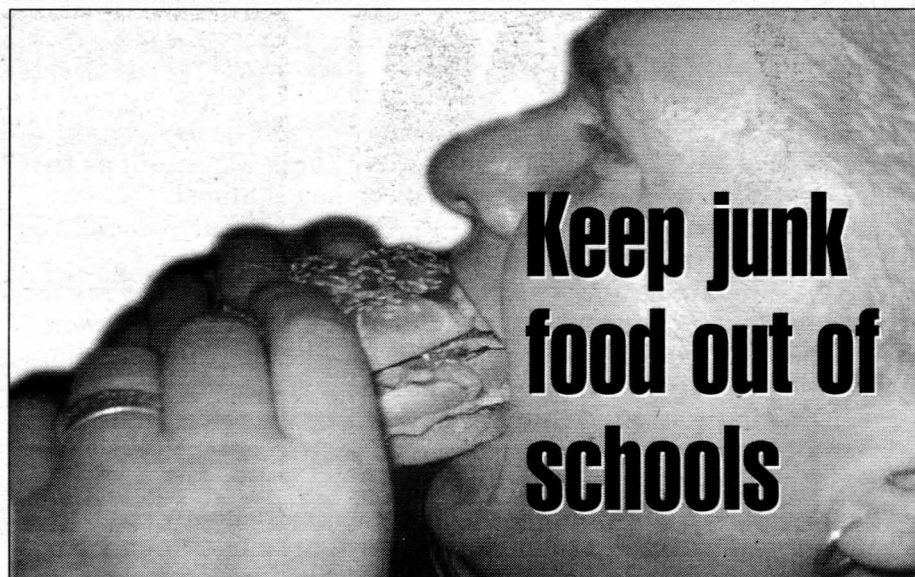
people to experience, but puffing on a smelly and expensive cigarette that is guaranteed to damage your body shouldn't be the first right to exercise as an adult!

When you become 18, you deserve all the rights given to you by the government because after 12 years of schooling, it is assumed that you are a well-informed and responsible human being. So even though you technically can buy cigarettes when you become 18, it is up to you to prove to the world that you're smarter than that.

Think of it as a test. Although you have the liberty to smoke, choosing not to do it shows how much smarter and more mature you are than many other adults who do fall into the nicotine-addiction trap. Being able to say no to smoking when you are an adult is even more admirable than refusing as a teenager because it reflects your responsibility and the care you have for your body as an adult.

Smoking shouldn't be the first right that comes to mind when you turn 18. If as many 18-year-olds rushed to vote as they did to buy cigarettes, the outcome of politics in our country would be completely different!

When you hit the long-awaited age of 18, take advantage of the rights that are given to you. Become independent. Vote for political candidates. Go to college. Apply for that great paying job. You can even join the army or get married. But show the world that you've earned the right to be called an adult, and don't smoke!



## Keep junk food out of schools

By Brianna Rizzo, Cimarron-Memorial HS

**T**he year 2004 has brought many changes to society. The music industry replaced Jessica with her little sister Ashlee, Boston traded Nomar Garciapara to the Cubs and, most important to students, the Clark County School District replaced junk food with health snacks. Although some may beg to differ, life will be better with these adjustments.

CCSD definitely made the right move replacing candy, soda, ice cream and fried potato chips with healthier selections like granola bars, protein bars, water and juice. Nearly half of today's teenagers are overweight, according to the American Obesity Association Web site. Fifteen percent of those teens are not just a tad overweight, but are obese enough to cause heart failure, blood clots and many other problems to their health. CCSD administrators recognize how society has emerged from peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to pizza and chips, but they hope students will start thinking twice about what they eat.

A healthy lunch can include a sandwich, a juice pack or water bottle, fruit and maybe a cookie or two. At school though, teens eat candy bars, chips and soda and later go home starving since they do not receive in these snacks the nutrients needed by the body.

I have been bringing turkey sandwiches to school for nine years. Not once have I been teased or hungry either! I put my lunch in my backpack or locker, and I'm good to go! So why don't more students bring their lunches to school?

Kelsey Voit, a sophomore at Cimarron-Memorial High School, says, "I'm usually rushed in the morning, and I don't have time to make lunch. It's easier just to buy something at school."

Megan Egbert, a Cimarron-Memorial junior, says "I'm skinny and in shape, so what's the big deal if I have fries and soda?"

Metabolism may be on the teenager's side now, but in years to come, it will most likely slow down and not be able to burn calories as quickly, and unburned calories generally turn to fat. Another thing to think about are one's arteries. Fat deposits can build up over time and clog a person's arteries. Just keep in mind that the inside of a person's body may not be as healthy as his or her figure makes it seem.

Schools across the district are losing up to \$60,000 per school since not as many kids want to buy from the vending machines now. In some schools, about \$10,000 of that money funds programs like the student councils. As a member of student council, I would rather see healthy students than perfectly decorated dances.

If you don't want to eat the healthier food offered at school now, eat a larger breakfast, pack a lunch or wait until school ends to eat, but eat something other than junk. CCSD won't allow it in school, and it doesn't look like they will be altering their decision anytime soon.

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## Haunted Houses

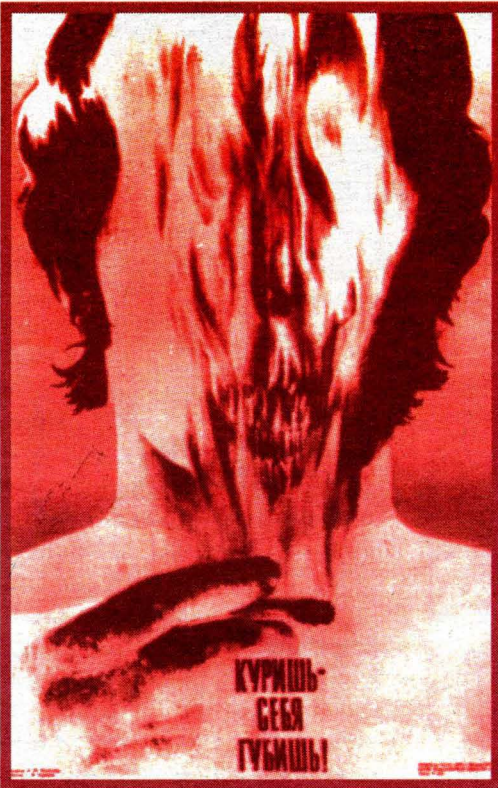
THE ASYLUM / HOTEL FEAR

Jones & 95

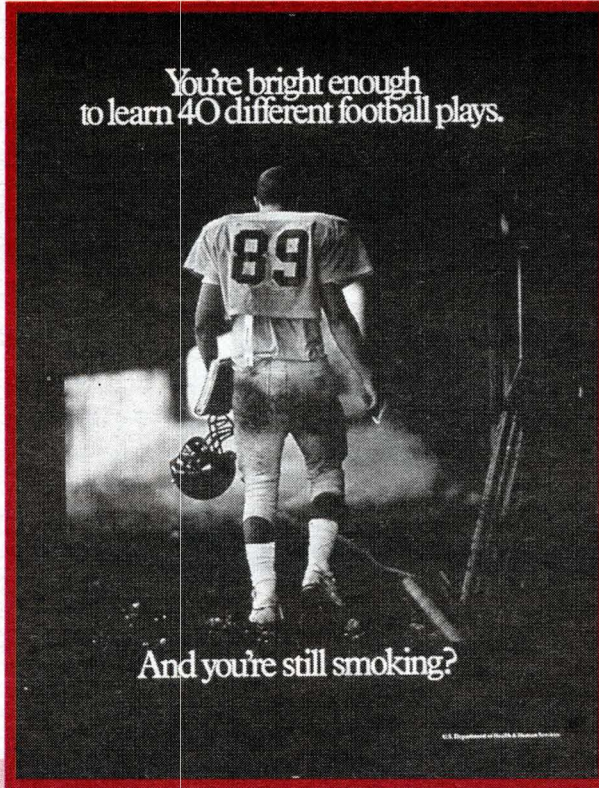
Scandia Fun Center

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





“Smoke and You Destroy Yourself” is the message, translated from Russian, in a World Health Organization anti-smoking poster from the 1980s.



These two ads created by the Center for Disease Control in 1998 focus on deglamorizing cigarettes. The message of the center ad is empowering rather than reprimanding: choosing to smoke doesn't necessarily make you stupid, but if you are smart you will choose not to smoke. “Don't Be A Butthead” suggests smoking is ridiculous and unattractive.



# Smoking puts more than your health at risk

By Jamie DeSoto, Mojave HS



While hanging with a group of friends, you may find yourself surrounded by a cloud of smoke. Looking around, you realize that you are the only one without a cigarette, and not being one to spoil the party, you accept the offer to light up as well. That one cigarette turns into two, then half a pack. Before you know it, you too are addicted to nicotine. Congratulations, you have officially stepped into a world where a three- to four-inch cylinder runs your life.

It is common knowledge that smoking ruins your health. However, many do not realize the full extent to which a nicotine addiction can affect their actions. The surgeon general's warning on the side of a cigarette box only informs individuals of the health risks, ignoring other areas of their lives that will suffer. The truth is, you have much more to worry about than just your health if you are lighting up.

## Your personal well-being

Cigarettes are obviously bad for your health, but just how harmful are they? The Surgeon General's Report for 2004 states, “Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body, causing many diseases and reducing the health of smokers in general.” Asthma, cancer and respiratory diseases are just the beginning of a long list of ailments that can be caused by smoking.

## Your family and friends

When you choose to smoke, you are putting the health of those around you at risk. Secondhand smoke increases one's chances of contracting certain diseases, especially in children. It also kills. The American Lung Association estimates that 3,000 deaths from lung cancer and 35,000 deaths from heart disease are caused annually from simply inhaling secondhand cigarette smoke. Your cigarette will also irritate the eyes, nose, throat and lungs of anyone near the fumes.

## Your wallet

Cigarette smoking is not only a dangerous habit, but also an expensive one. You can spend around \$5 on a single pack of cigarettes, while the price of a carton costs anywhere from \$20 to \$40. At this rate, if you smoked a

pack of cigarettes a day, you would be spending approximately \$1,800 a year on cigarettes alone (don't forget the price of lighters). Plus, you can count on a steady rise in price as the years go on, due to increased taxing.

## Your social life

While yellow teeth, bad breath and a constant cloud of smoke may sound attractive to some, to most teenagers smoking is a major turn-off. Mints and body spray will never completely mask the stench of tobacco no matter how hard you try. Dates will be harder to come by and when you do obtain one, finding a smoke-friendly location can be difficult. Going without a cigarette the whole night is out of the question, as that could make a smoker ill tempered and testy all evening.

## Your hobbies

Forget sports, exercise and the outdoors. Shortness of breath and coughing follow any strenuous activity that smokers attempt. As the surgeon general states, these symptoms are even worse for teens: “Smoking hurts young people's physical fitness in terms of both performance and endurance — even among young people trained in competitive running.” Lung function is forever harmed in smokers, even after they quit, causing difficulty in breathing.

## Your future

Every single day that a person smokes takes more time off his or her lifespan. Smokers die an average of 13 to 14 years earlier than those who passed up cigarettes. Smoking can also harm your reproductive organs and your fertility. For women who plan on having children, remember that smoking during pregnancy can cause severe birth defects.

The true impact that a nicotine addiction will have on your life is astounding. If you have already become addicted to cigarettes, hope is not lost. The sooner you quit, the better. Each day that you continue to light up adds to your chances of suffering in the future.

For those of you lucky enough to have avoided trying this habit so far, there is good news: The surgeon general found that “most people start using tobacco before they finish high school. This means that if you stay smoke-free in school, you will probably never smoke.”

Refuse to let a three-inch cylinder run your life and you will be saving far more than your health.

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# Ahhnold for president?



Would this Austrian-born actor run for president if he could?

By Andrew Reyes,  
Coronado HS

**A**rnold Schwarzenegger, "The Governator," recently gave an outstanding speech at this year's Republican National Convention. The speech, filled with heart-felt compassion and comedy, brought convention attendees

to their feet with funny one-liners such as this one in his opening remarks: "Speaking of acting, one of my movies was called 'True Lies.' It's what the Democrats should have called their convention."

Schwarzenegger, the successful movie actor and body-builder turned governor of California, is slowly following in the

beginning of our nation, citizens born outside our nation's borders cannot be president. This was needed early in our nation's history, as the threat of a foreign leader taking over the country was a real possibility. After 200-plus years of our country's existence, this threat is no longer a reality.

footsteps of Ronald Reagan, also an actor who became governor of California. But Reagan did one thing Arnold can't do; he became president of the United States.

Arnold was born in Austria in 1947. He became a citizen of the United States in 1983. Because of a constitutional provision set by the founding fathers at

No matter how good a politician or leader Schwarzenegger is, he cannot be president. In the 21st century, when we as a nation have become more accepting of everyone from all walks of life, we still discriminate against citizens of foreign birth.

America is the land of the free and home of the brave. Without a doubt, it is the greatest country in the world consisting of millions of people, rich in diversity and culture, who come from all over the globe. The time has come to let longtime, honorable American citizens like Arnold Schwarzenegger run for president if they so choose, no matter where they were born.

Let Americans like Schwarzenegger live the American dream and give them the hope that they can be whatever they want, no matter where they come from.

## Las Vegas banking on 'Sin City' image in effort to relive history

By Amanda Arentsen, Coronado HS

**W**hat happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas — unless it is broadcast on every national television network and all of its affiliates.

Recently, Las Vegas implemented a new \$65-million advertising campaign that sheds the city's family-oriented image and is geared strictly toward adult audiences. Las Vegas has been widely identified as "Sin City," a place to let your hair down in an "anything goes" atmosphere. And, if it does not make money, "anything goes" right down the drain and will be replaced with something that sells.

In a futile attempt to recuperate from its Sept. 11 pitfalls, Las Vegas has shut down its facilities for the family crowd,

such as the MGM Grand Theme Park, Wet 'n Wild water park, and the kid-friendly pirate show at Treasure Island, and has replaced them with centers and shows that can attract a more adult audience.

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority approved of a \$65-million advertising campaign featuring the slogan, "What happens here, stays here," supported by a variety of controversial images ranging from hit-and-run marriages to mysterious limousine rides.

Erika Brandvik, manager of public relations for the LVCVA, told the Las Vegas Review-Journal, "I think it pretty well captures the pervasive feelings people have about Las Vegas. We wanted ads that say you can come to Las Vegas and be a different person than you are back home."

Support for this campaign is roaring in numbers and is encouraged by many age groups ranging from 15-50, according to a USA Today weekly consumer ad track. Yet, some Las Vegas citizens and tourists are disgusted or disappointed at the scandalous campaigns.

Mayor Oscar Goodman's simple response consists of a discerning opinion toward critics. He says, "We like to have the biggest and best of everything. People can leave their cares and woes behind and not have to worry about neighbors sticking their noses in their business."

Will Las Vegas' new makeover be enough to hit the reinvention jackpot with the bluntly stated imagery of a racy town with a free-spirited and carefree atmosphere? Only time will tell, but history does have a tendency to repeat itself.

## Taboo topics censored from school papers keep students in dark

By LaShae Collins,  
Eldorado HS



**I**'m a high school journalist. I can write about sports, but most students don't play. I can write about clubs, but many kids aren't in clubs. What I can't write about is something that might save your life.

That's right; high school newspapers have a list of things that can't be written about.

Like sex, for instance. You'd think that kids should get as much information about that subject as possible. After all,

knowledge about safe and appropriate sexual behavior is a safety issue. Sure, we have health and sex ed, but let's face it, these classes just don't cover everything young people need to know.

As much as teachers like to believe that students all listen, a lot of us don't. That's why I feel that there should be another way of giving teens the facts, and what better place than the school paper? But for reasons unknown to me, sex is

a taboo subject.

"I think it's dumb that issues like these can't be written about," says Eldorado High School junior Tyree Clark. "What's more important: a story on why the orchestra had to cancel a performance or why people get STDs?" Clark adds that a lack of knowledge on this subject can be deadly.

The fact that school newspapers exclude certain topics is a disservice to the very students they are supposed to serve.

# Presidential candidates need to get up out of the gutter

By Mary Bacon, Coronado HS

**T**his is John Kerry, and I approve this message." This is the typical message heard after a commercial or radio advertisement attacking Kerry's opponent, President George W. Bush. Unfortunately, the president of our nation is also actively participating in these types of defaming messages, which become more apparent and popular by the day. These deplorable messages simply show that the candidates lack class. If they wanted to publicize this fact, they could easily spend our donation dollars on 100 percent cotton tees and matching sweat suits that affirm the fact that they are completely and utterly without class.

**It is sickening that this is what elections have come to ... they are simply defaming their opposing candidates.**

For the intellectual that Kerry proclaims to be, he should be able to concoct a more interesting and intelligent plan to defeat Bush in the upcoming election. And President Bush, someone who is qualified to run the United States of America, should certainly be able to devise another strategy of being reelected rather than lowering himself to endorsing the repulsive ads

being placed on television. Although, in his defense, Bush has been taking the rap for the ads more than Kerry, possibly because he is our president, and we do hold him to a higher standard.

It is sickening that this is what elections have come to; the candidates are not selling themselves or their ideals, they are simply defaming their opposing candidates. But honestly, what does slander tell you about a contender?

On the flip side, some of the ads were newsworthy and beneficial. However, a candidate for president of the United States should already have the presidential class to allow a reporter or outside source to unveil these applicable details instead of doing it himself. By allowing another source to reveal these facts, the candidates can run in the election without jeopardizing their integrity, respect, dignity or moral conscience.

don't have enough desks, computers, textbooks, or just about anything else you want to list.

## Eldorado 'overwhelmed with kids'

By Daniel Martinez, Eldorado HS



**I** don't know how it is at other schools, but it seems like my school's population has doubled. I thought it was hard to get to class on time last year, but this year the hallways are even more packed. Is this because of the 800+ new freshmen here, or are there other factors making Eldorado overcrowded?

Just about every class I have is short of desks and space. The entire school is just overwhelmed with kids. We

"I think they should consider rebuilding or enlarging the school," says Eldorado junior Janice Ramirez. "You need to have more room to accommodate all the new students."

The Clark County School District is building a new theater at Eldorado and new hallways were added a few years ago, but the construction is not keeping up with the growth.

"Eldorado is a pretty old school," says Ramirez. "They're rebuilding Rancho, so why didn't they rebuild our school?"

Are there any plans for any future renovations at Eldorado? No. Should there be? Absolutely.

## In politics, image is everything, nothing at the same time

By Graham Haugh, Palo Verde HS

**I**mage is arguably the most important thing in our society's point of view. Mix it with that which controls society and government, and you have the current state of political campaigning.

The most relevant part of a candidate's run for office should, of course, be his or her policies. Yet, as the media grew larger, and it became easier for the public to ingest information at a steady (even rapid) pace, political nominees found themselves running out of things to say that would keep people interested.

The natural thing for the hopefuls to do was sling mud at each other. This was relatively easy if one's opponent was in office before the campaign. However, if there's little political dirt to assassinate an opponent's character with, one must turn to personal information. This includes extramarital affairs and military records (or lack thereof).

The latter has been a favorite of the Republican Party for the past decade; beginning with George Bush Sr.'s run against Bill Clinton. During the Vietnam War, Clinton had avoided the draft. Funny thing is, Bush's son, the one who currently holds the White House, didn't actually serve in Vietnam during that war, as he had joined the Texas Air National Guard. Exactly what was George Jr. up to during Vietnam?

According to the Dems (and the half-blacked out Pentagon records), it doesn't matter because Bush was AWOL and couldn't possibly be there to defend the homeland. During the 1992 election, that wouldn't help the Democrats attack Bush Sr.'s character because it was his son and not himself. However, it has proven a useful defense during this election.

The current Democratic candidate, John Kerry, was slightly ashamed after serving in Vietnam and had supposedly thrown away his medals during a protest against the war. The Republicans did their best to use this against him in their resurrection of McCarthy's theory of un-Americanism. Considering their current man-on-top's Vietnam War record, this was a bad move.

Kerry automatically responded, claiming that he had kept his medals, that is, he faked throwing them away, but had only thrown away his ribbons. He then went on to attack Bush saying, "At least I have a military record." While true, Kerry would've been a bit smarter to play it cool.

Even more recently, there have been ads by an interest group of Vietnam swift boat veterans, claiming Kerry didn't deserve his Purple Hearts. The most cynical people will say Bush helped fund the ads, which seems obvious in his lack of response or outrage over the ads, but honestly, if somebody smeared your opponent, would you be complaining?

These ads are actually rather humorous. The first attack ads made it seem that to get a Purple Heart, you need to survive a gunshot wound to the head. The second attack ad is outraged over Kerry's testimony on American war crimes in Vietnam. Kerry, they claimed, grouped all Vietnam vets as war criminals when he reported that soldiers burned villages and raped women. Not every soldier in Vietnam contributed to the civilian casualties, but many did out of paranoia or because they were "just following orders."

It's rather natural for Kerry to be outraged at these attacks on his war record and activism, but he could show some restraint. The image he's trying to create for himself is a painfully obvious (and slightly pitiful) attempt to capture swing voters and non-voters. Kerry will often bring up his war record to prove how much of a leader he is. But does the war record prove anything? Not at all.

Many of the attacks coming from either party are shallow, meaningless, and often groundless. They are dressed up to look meaningful through consistent mental bombardment by talking heads and by the candidates themselves. To anyone actually paying attention to the social and economic problems that should be brought up, this charade can be hilarious in a self-parodic, if not somewhat frightening, fashion.

## Violence in schools puts everyone at risk

By Michelle Johnson, Eldorado HS

Firearms cause 77 percent of violent deaths in schools. Over the past years, a growing number of teenagers have turned to violence to help deal with their problems.

"Teenagers are finding it easier to acquire firearms these days," says Officer Robert Johnson. "Kids are even starting to steal their parents' guns and use them for gang-related issues. Because of the extensive amount of violence that is surrounding our country these days, teenagers are finding it to be more and more a part of their lives."

Sixteen children are killed by firearms each day in America. Each year, at least 12 of those children are killed in schools.

So what makes a child turn away from his or her normal life? What makes an ordinary teen turn his or her back on making good decisions? Is it the allure of violence? The excitement?

Something leads these kids to destructive paths. Sometimes, it's problems at home, such as a divorce or a death in the family. Yet there are other things that lead teens to violence including heavy peer pressure or overwhelming class loads. Personal problems can leave kids feeling depressed and hopeless.

Some kids turn to gangs, which are at the root of most violence in schools. Other troubled kids turn to drugs and alcohol. Because of the extensive power of peer pressure it is often hard to reach troubled teenagers.

Being in a gang changes a teenager's outlook, and sometimes there's no way of escaping such a destructive lifestyle.

Every day, there is some sort of violence in our high school halls. Most of it is verbal and limited, but when it becomes physical, everyone is put in danger, even innocent bystanders.

## Progress of No Child Left Behind Act overrated

By Jamie Hawkins, Coronado HS

With the presidential election looming on the horizon, many Vegas valley teens are asking themselves, "Why should I care who's president? I'm not even old enough to vote." We should care because, even though we are too young to vote, our voices are still heard.

The most important issue for the younger population should be that of President Bush's nationwide No Child Left Behind Act. The main goal of this policy is to bring students' reading and math comprehension levels up to the standard of their grade levels. But after two and a half years of being in effect, is the law effective?

There are many conflicting opinions on the Act's potency.

Education Secretary Rod Paige said at the recent Republican National Convention, "Support for education under President Bush has gone up 36 percent ... with more funds requested for disadvantaged students than during the entire Clinton administration."

Paige also stated that test

scores are on the rise across the country. One case that proves Paige right is in our own state. Anderson Elementary School in Washoe County became the first poverty area school that was below proficiency before the law was passed to rise up to "high achievement status."

Some students and teachers in the Clark County School District disagree that progress is being made.

"What I don't like about it is Bush keeps throwing money at schools that aren't performing where they are supposed to," says Coronado High School senior Jenna Hergott. "Coronado has been an efficient school since it opened, so we really don't benefit from that law."

M. Young, an English Language Learner teacher at a Clark County elementary school, also disagrees with the education secretary.

"The No Child Left Behind Act was founded on false premises," says Young. "It is based on student achievement and test scores from one high school in Texas. '60 Minutes' researched and found the statistics given out to be radically skewed and false."

When asked about how she felt about the Act itself, Young says, "I strongly feel that it is all about devoting more time on testing students rather than teaching them new and useful things. Under this law, we have to teach to the test."

One of President Bush's original guidelines was advancing limited English proficient students to English fluency. Again, Young sees a flaw in the Act.

"ELL students generally need more time to acquire language to demonstrate adequate yearly progress," she says. "President Bush expects students to become proficient in mere months, while it actually takes five to seven years."

Natalie Emerson, a junior at Centennial High School, says, "I don't really think it's working too much in my school. Centennial was a great school before the law was passed, and it's still a great school now. We haven't really fluctuated much academically."

While the No Child Left Behind Act is practical for some deficient schools, most of the schools that were already at the proficient level when the law started have not benefited at all.

## School district should lighten up on school movie ratings, stop treating teens as tots



By Janice Ramirez, Eldorado HS

Does the Clark County School District see high school students as little children?

It's unbelievable, but teachers can only show G- or

PG-rated movies in classes. Why is that? We can read Shakespeare, full of sex, violence and crude humor, but not watch a PG-13 film.

This rule may be acceptable for elementary schools and middle schools, but not for high schools. In fact, high school students are supposed to have parental consent to even watch a PG-rated movie.

High school students can watch PG-13 movies in theaters, and some students attend R-rated movies, so why can't they watch an

appropriate film in their classes?

"I think at the high school level, everyone should be able to handle at least a PG-13-rated movie," says Daniel Martinez, an Eldorado High School junior. "The current rule is just not right."

Take away PG-13 movies and there are not many movie options to choose from. There are Disney movies, but Disney doesn't want their movies being shown in schools. And how many Disney movies are appropriate for high school kids anyway?

Movies can be so helpful in classes. Many students do better when they watch movies. Schools should give students and teachers more options. High school students are especially capable of watching movies above a PG-rating. The

least that the school district can do is let schools use PG-13-rated movies.

They expect us to do the best we can, so they should let us watch appropriate movies. Students deserve more than the school district allows.

**"I think at the high school level, everyone should be able to handle at least a PG-13-rated movie."**

— Daniel Martinez, Eldorado High School junior.

# Digamos

## Una guerra sin fin

Por Patricia Gutiérrez,  
Vo-Tech HS

Hace unos días me encontraba leyendo una revista cuando me llamó la atención un artículo sobre algunos de los soldados muertos en Irak, escrito por los propios padres. Describían con detalles la manera en la que las cortas vidas de sus hijos habían sido arrebatadas vilmente por el monstruo de la maldad. Me quedé tan impresionada con varios de los testimonios que decidí ponerme al tanto de esta gran injusticia donde se cuenta pérdidas humanas por el simple control del petróleo (oro negro). Al buscar, encontré el lado oculto de la guerra, el lado cruel de ser humano.

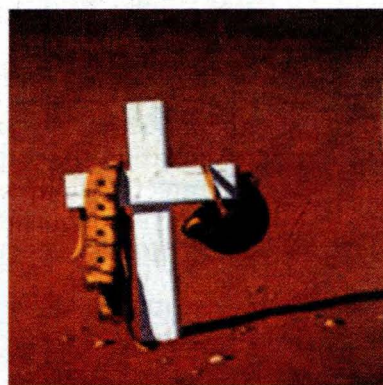
Hasta el 19 de junio del 2004 se han contando las muertes de 69 adolescentes y 21 mujeres entre los 18 hasta 59 años, sin incluir los once mil soldados que han sido médicamente evacuados con heridas muy serias. En total: 859 muertos.

Los Estados Unidos es un país que proclama la fe en Dios, pero se olvidan que el Dios al que aclaman no acepta el

asesinato. Si la guerra significa asesinar a tu prójimo sin piedad, ni remordimiento, sin importar que tal vez el desconocido a quien le quitas la vida es un padre de familia, un amigo o un hijo, ¿esto no debería estar ocurriendo! A todos nos duele cada vez que escuchamos de algún soldado muerto en Irak. Pero, ¿acaso nos ha cruzado por la mente aquellas víctimas inocentes como lo son los niños, los ancianos, y las mujeres que nada tienen que ver con el supuesto propósito de la guerra?

Hay tantos y tantos niños quedando huérfanos y totalmente desamparados, muriendo no sólo de hambre, sino de falta de amor y calor humano. Niños que llevarán por siempre en sus mentes, corazones y cuerpos las crueles marcas del odio entre humanos. Sólo existen aquellas personas que están sufriendo, día a día, llorando la pérdida de un ser amado. Nos enfocamos en salvar ballenas pero menospreciamos el valor de una sonrisa, de salvar a un niño del dolor y la miseria.

¿Por qué somos tan crueles y egoístas?



¿Cuánto petróleo se necesita para tener el mismo valor que una vida? ¿Cuántas vidas no han sido reducidas a ser solo un número más para el gobierno, que sólo cuenta los cuerpos pero no mira los recuerdos, las sonrisas, y los ojos de aquellos que ya no brillarán jamás? ¿Cuántas vidas más se

necesitan para reflexionar que la guerra sólo conduce a la muerte! Les invito a visitar [www.worldmessenger.com](http://www.worldmessenger.com) para información adicional acerca del verdadero daño que está causando esta guerra que jamás tendrá ganadores.

Tenemos que abrir los ojos y darnos cuenta que como jóvenes tenemos que protestar y hacer que se escuche nuestra voz, porque si no lo hacemos entonces, ¿quién lo hará? Amo muchas cosas que la vida me ofrece: mi familia, mis amigos, las risas y todo aquello que en mí se guarda como un recuerdo. Yo no quiero dar mi último suspiro en nombre del odio ... la paz se hace con justicia, no con armas. Infórmate de la verdad y ábrele los ojos a todos aquellos que podrán ser enlistados esta próxima primavera para una guerra sin fin.

## Las celebridades también promueven el voto latino

Por Ana Molina, Las Vegas HS

"Voto Latino," una campaña para promover la votación juvenil en estas elecciones se puso en marcha durante el mes de agosto. Esta es una organización sin ánimo de lucro fundada por la actriz de descendencia puertorriqueña y cubana Rosario Dawson y el activista Phil Colón, para inscribir y movilizar un millón de latinos a que vayan a las urnas.

Siendo la minoría más grande en el país, nuestro voto es esencial. Aproximadamente hay entre 7 y 8 millones de votantes hispanos en los Estados Unidos; eso significa que puede quedar en nuestras manos quién se convierta en el próximo presidente de la nación. Es obvio que los candidatos John Kerry y George W. Bush, están muy conscientes de esto. Conseguir el voto latino puede marcar la diferencia entre la victoria y la pérdida.

Por esta razón vemos que los candidatos se expresan en nuestro idioma: "Mis amigos, necesito su voto, necesito su

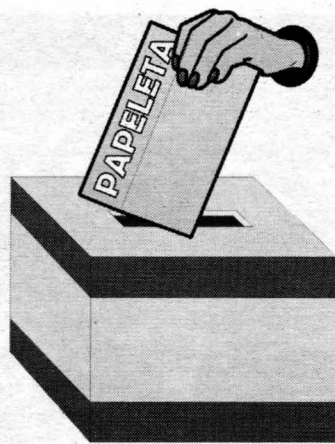


Dawson se une a promover el voto latino.

ayuda. Eso les pido ahora," dijo Kerry el 15 de septi-embre en la cena de gala de la bancada latina en el congreso. Bush dijo: "Estoy orgulloso de llamar a los latinos 'estadounidenses' y orgulloso de ser su presidente." Además, ellos hablan sobre asuntos que tienen un gran efecto en la comunidad latina, tales como "la reforma migratoria" que propone Bush y "el plan migratorio" que dice Kerry que presentará al congreso en los primeros 100 días de su mandato si es electo.

Gracias a tantas campañas para el registro de tu voto y para la ciudadanía, el número de hispanos votantes subió a un millón más este año. Cada día los latinos en los Estados Unidos crecemos más y tenemos más poder en las decisiones. La comunidad latina es mucho más fuerte de lo que muchos piensan y eso se dará a ver en estas elecciones.

## Es importante pensar en nuestro futuro: ¡vota!



Por Stephanie López, Las Vegas HS

Los ves dondequiera: en las revistas, en la tele y en la calle. Están muy de moda los anuncios publicitarios para que todos salgan a votar por George W. Bush o por John Kerry. Pero, ¿qué significa el voto? Los votos para elegir a nuestro presidente y a otros representantes son muy importantes ya que ellos decidirán las leyes que se harán efectivas. Además, con estas leyes, se decide la ayuda que le damos a otros países, el destino de los inmigrantes y hasta el futuro de nuestras propias vidas.

**“...como todos saben, los políticos hacen promesas que casi nunca cumplen.”**

Muchos jóvenes hispanos tienen la edad para votar, pero no lo hacen. Muchas veces es porque no saben o no les gusta los candidatos políticos. Otras veces las revistas en español no publican mucha información sobre las campañas. Pienso que la razón por la que los latinos muchas veces no votan, es porque no hay representantes latinos. La política es muy complicada y la mayoría de la gente no entiende lo que está pasando. Creo que también no saben por quién votar, y esto se debe a que los candidatos no llaman la atención. Bush y Kerry han venido a Las Vegas y han tratado de ganar el voto latino prometiendo que cambiarán las cosas que afectan a los latinos. Pero como todos saben, los políticos hacen promesas que casi nunca cumplen.

Otro problema que se puede presentar, es que para los jóvenes que cumplen 18 años y que califican para votar, la decisión de hacerlo no es importante porque no tienen tiempo sino para preocuparse por su graduación y por conseguir una admisión a una buena universidad. A los 18 años pasan muchas cosas, y es muy importante recordar que a esta edad ya somos adultos y obtenemos el derecho a decidir lo que va a pasar con nuestras vidas. Si todos los latinos votáramos, nuestra voz se escucharía y tendríamos más poder para cambiar las leyes que nos afectan día a día, tales como la asistencia social (welfare), la inmigración y la educación. Si no cambiamos estas leyes, no acabaremos con los estereotipos. Muchos ven a los hispanos como “cholos y cholas,” con el voto, podemos enseñarle al mundo que somos gente decente que trabaja duro.

Si quieres registrarte para votar, puedes obtener la información en las bibliotecas del condado, las oficinas del correo y otros lugares de servicio público. Si no quieres salir de casa, puedes registrarte por Internet. Después de haber hecho esto, recibirás una postal con el lugar y las fechas para votar.

¿Qué esperas? Regístrate y sal a votar. No dejes que los demás decidan por ti. Y no te dejes presionar por cualquiera de los dos candidatos. Vota por ti.

## Un noviembre de elecciones

Por AnaRosa González, Western HS

Este próximo noviembre será la fecha que capturará la decisión final para todos nosotros en este país: eliremos un nuevo presidente. Claro está, será una decisión muy importante que nos marcará a todos y lamentablemente solo los ciudadanos con voz podrán elegir a su candidato ideal.

Estas elecciones son muy importantes ya que serán un preámbulo a lo que pasará en nuestro futuro. Esta vez contamos con dos candidatos completamente diferentes el uno del otro. Son como los colores azul y rojo; no hay duda alguna de que los dos competidores son unos adultos muy inteligentes. Este noviembre la decisión final será mayoritariamente de nuestros hispanos. Tendremos la gran responsabilidad de elegir a nuestro presidente ya que tenemos voz y somos seres humanos competentes. Debemos tomar la mejor decisión para nuestro mundo ideal.

Revisando algunos puntos de vista, me pude dar cuenta de que cada persona es un mundo distinto y cada cabeza piensa diferente. Algunos jóvenes tienen la ilusión de votar, pero al no tener la edad, no podrán hacer su voto válido. Por otra parte, conversando con los que si tienen el derecho, se dijo que estas elecciones son como los colores azul y rojo. Dicen que quizás George W. Bush representa el rojo y John Kerry, el azul. A opinión de muchos, el candidato

republicano Bush nos propone hacer crecer nuestra economía y también sigue tratando como prioridad total el tema del terrorismo, aunque en todos estos años solo haya demostrado que sus acciones quizás fueron personales. Y ahora todo lo que comenzó no puede terminarlo. Para muchos, sigue alimentando el color rojo, alimentando de más sangre esta guerra sin final. Lamentablemente mucha de esa sangre es latina, de nuestra gente y solo con nuestra voz en estas elecciones, podríamos darle una solución inteligente.

Por el otro lado, el candidato demócrata John Kerry, es esperanza para mucha gente. Por su experiencia como militar sabe lo que es una guerra en realidad, ya que vivió la guerra de Vietnam. El tomaría la responsabilidad de lo que comenzó Bush para poder terminarlo. Según Kerry, promete encontrar una solución definitiva a esta situación y ya no seguir arrojando al viento a nuestra gente. Para muchos, su color es esperanza o un mar de agua viva, pues promete literalmente el seguro médico para quienes no lo tienen, y así promover la salud y la vida. Además, propone buscar un trato inteligente para la inmigración.

No hay duda alguna de que contamos con dos candidatos muy competentes. Nosotros como hispanos debemos tomar la mejor elección este noviembre, porque si en realidad nos ponemos las pilas, si podemos hacer la diferencia. Pero se necesita el empuje de todos, no sólo de unos cuantos.

### ¿Tienes algo que decir acerca de alguno de los artículos?

Quizás tienes una historia que comentarnos acerca de algún evento o entidad positiva en nuestra comunidad. Entonces escríbenos a nuestro correo electrónico:

classdiganos@cmail.nevada.edu

o por correo regular a:

Lina Hernández, CLASSI, UNLV Box 451025,

4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025

### ¡Ánimate y publica tus opiniones!

Artículos en nuestra posesión pueden ser editados a base de estilo periodístico, gramática o restricciones en el espacio.

**H**ola queridos chismosos y chismosas! Si leyeron la revista del mes pasado, se habrán dado cuenta que este año tenemos un nuevo suplemento el cual se llama "En La Mira." Cada mes escogeré una o dos celebridades que estén dando de qué hablar en el momento. Este mes les traigo una bomba de chisme, representada por el actor mexicano Mauricio Islas, 31, y Génesis Rodríguez, 17, la hija menor de José Luis Rodríguez "El Puma." Estos dos actores se conocieron en el elenco de "Prisionera," una de las telenovelas en Telemundo.

No es que yo sea muy novelera, ¡no! De vez en cuando me veo uno que otro pedacito de alguna novela. Hace ya casi un mes, sentada en mi casa, me puse a ver "Prisionera." Me quedé con la boca abierta cuando me di cuenta que habían cambiado a Mauricio Islas por otro actor. Me imaginé que había pasado algo grave para que Telemundo lo suspendiera. Semanas después me di cuenta del por qué de su desaparición y del escándalo tan grande que se había armado. Algo había pasado entre él y Génesis Rodríguez, quien



**Protagonistas:** Mauricio Islas y Génesis Rodríguez

**Chisme:** Abuso sexual, alcohol y drogas

**Comentario:** El error más grande de sus vidas

## Las novelas y sus chismes

representa a "Libertad" en la novela.

**El ojo del huracán.** Todo se desató cuando "El Puma" se enteró de que Mauricio Islas había tenido relaciones sexuales con su hija en una fiesta organizada por Telemundo que se realizó el pasado 28 de junio en un hotel de Miami. El Puma denunció a Islas por abuso sexual pero éste se defendió diciendo que no había sido un abuso puesto que "la niña" había accedido al acto sin ningún

problema. Todo pasó después de mucha fiesta, mucho alcohol y según dicen las malas lenguas, un poco de marihuana.

**Problemas y más problemas.** Las cosas no paran ahí. Se dice que fue Génesis quien le contó a su padre lo que había pasado porque piensa que está esperando un bebé de Mauricio. Eso hasta ahora no se ha comprobado pero según dice una fuente anónima, ellos no se cuidaron cuando

decidieron hacer lo que pasó aquella noche. Por otro lado se comenta que fue el actor colombiano Manolo Cardona quien les presto su habitación en el hotel, pero esto es otro chisme que no se ha confirmado. La que sí ha permanecido en silencio ha sido la esposa de Mauricio, quien no ha querido hablar al respecto.

Y estos han sido los resultados: Mauricio tuvo que pagar alrededor de \$8,000 dólares de fianza por salir de la cárcel después de la denuncia del padre de Génesis. Lo suspendieron indefinidamente del elenco de la novela. En los Estados Unidos es ilegal que un hombre mayor de edad tenga relaciones sexuales con una menor de edad, así que tiene que esperar a ver qué pasa con el proceso en la corte y si lo encuentran culpable puede pasar de 10 a 20 años en la cárcel. Lo que yo pienso es que tanto Mauricio como Génesis deben cargar con toda la culpa. El por no pensar en las consecuencias y ella porque ya está muy grandecita para saber lo que hace. Con respecto al embarazo... más adelante sabremos si fue o no fue verdad.

## ¡Un aplauso para el Senador Harry Reid!

Por Lina Hernández,  
editora de  
Díganos



**E**ste pasado 15 de septiembre empezaron las celebraciones en honor al Mes

Nacional de la Herencia Hispana. El Senador de Nevada, Harry Reid, dio un emotivo discurso en el senado celebrando y reconociendo la inmensa labor que la comunidad latina ha hecho durante todo el tiempo que hemos hecho parte de este estado y de este país. Por eso, debo aclarar que es el Señor Reid quien lucha incansablemente por los derechos de nuestro estado, incluyendo los de la comunidad latina. Todavía nos queda alrededor de una semana para disfrutar y celebrar los eventos en honor a nuestra herencia, así que debemos estar orgullosos de quiénes somos y de dónde venimos. Aquí los dejo con una parte de su discurso:

"Señor Presidente, me levanto hoy para conmemorar una ocasión que se hace más importante cada año que pasa. En

1968, el Congreso designó la semana del 15 de septiembre como la Semana de la Herencia Hispana. Esta celebración fue extendida para así celebrarla desde el 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre.

"Se ha escogido el día 15 de septiembre como la apertura del Mes de la Herencia Hispana en honor a las fiestas de la independencia de varios países latinoamericanos como Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y Nicaragua. Las naciones de México y Chile obtuvieron su independencia respectivamente los días 16 y 18 de septiembre.

"Hoy en día, el Mes de la Herencia Hispana no solo reconoce y celebra las importantes contribuciones que la comunidad latina le ha ofrecido a la cultura, la economía y a la política de nuestra nación... también nos recuerda la fuerza que encontramos en la diversidad. Personas del mundo entero han venido a América en busca de libertad y de oportunidades. Esto nos ha hecho una de las naciones más diversas en la tierra... y los latinos son una parte importante de esta diversidad. Los hispanos en los Estados Unidos no son un grupo monolítico ni homogéneo... en realidad, ellos vienen de difer-

entes ambientes étnicos y culturales. Algunos latinos hablan español... y muchos hablan los dos idiomas.

"Hoy, la comunidad latina no es simplemente un pequeño grupo minoritario. Ellos hacen parte de cada decisión para el bien de nuestro país. Muchos ciudadanos americanos son latinos. Los latinos también son activos en cada faceta de los negocios y la economía de nuestro país. Son empresarios de compañías familiares y presidentes de grandes corporaciones. Son banqueros y constructores... fabricantes y mercadotécnicos.

"No se puede crear estereotipos en contra de los latinos... son simplemente muy diversos.

Pero bajo esta diversidad, creo que existen valores fuertes que comparten no solo los americanos con la comunidad hispana, sino también los americanos con otras comunidades. Todos creemos en oportunidades. Cada persona debe tener esa oportunidad para realizar sus sueños. Todos creemos en el trabajo fuerte. Cada individuo merece una oportunidad, pero es la decisión de esa persona si quiere aprovechar lo que se le presenta.

"La importancia de los lati-

nos en Nevada crece continuamente. En 1976 un pequeño grupo de Cubano americanos estableció la Cámara de Comercio Latina en Las Vegas con el objetivo de promover el ascenso económico de la comunidad hispana en el estado de Nevada. Desde entonces, la Cámara de Comercio Latina ha desempeñado un papel importante en la comunidad hispana de Nevada. Sus miembros han recomendado exitosamente la igualdad educativa y las mismas reglas gubernamentales para las ofertas de trabajo.

"Me gustaría también mencionar la cantidad de hispanos que están prestando su servicio en nuestras fuerzas armadas. Este es un tiempo crítico en la historia de nuestra nación y nuestras tropas están desplegadas en todas partes del mundo. Muchos latinos han seguido los llamados a prestar sus servicios, y arriesgan sus vidas cada día defendiendo la libertad de quienes estamos en casa.

"Estoy sinceramente agradecido por aquellos que dejan sus familias por servir su patria."

De parte de la comunidad latina de Nevada: ¡gracias Senador por preocuparse por nosotros!

# ¡Tú la traes!

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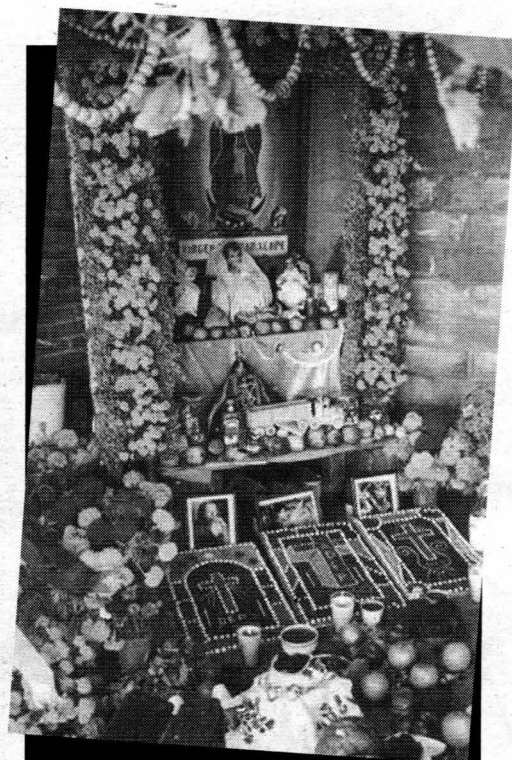


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Es típico durante este festival, crear un altar con muchas flores, en honor a los seres queridos que ya han muerto.



## ¡CELEBRA EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS!

Por Farah Minwalla,  
Palo Verde HS

Durante la víspera del primero de noviembre y el segundo día del mes, un festival muy importante se celebra en varios rincones del mundo. Esta celebración se llama "El día de los muertos" o "El día de todos los santos." Y todo esto ocurre en honor a aquellos que ya han muerto. ¿Te suena extraño? Tal vez sí. Pero no lo es ni para la cultura mexicana ni para otras comunidades que también celebran la muerte. La creencia es que la muerte trae nueva vida y por supuesto vale la pena

celebrar la vida de un ser querido. Esta celebración es para recordar todo lo bonito que se vivió junto a esa persona y para estar agradecidos por las que están vivas.

Desde hace muchos años venían celebrando este festival de la vida y la muerte. En México, los indios aztecas iniciaron este ritual más de 100 años atrás. Ellos invitaban a sus seres queridos (ya muertos) a visitarlos cada otoño. A pesar de que no podían ver los espíritus, ellos decían que podían sentir su presencia. Todo comenzaba prendiendo velas para que los espíritus tuvieran una guía de cómo llegar a casa y dejando comida para que los espíritus la degustaran. La comida es variada, se puede ver desde mole de chocolate hasta pan de muertos, hecho con levadura, azúcar y naranjas.

Otra de las tradiciones de este evento es colocar flores en todos lados. La mayoría de estas flores son caléndulas de color naranja, ya que los aztecas creían que el color naranja era el color sagrado de la tierra de los muertos. Alrededor de esta fecha, los mercados de todas las regiones de México empiezan a vender calaveras. Pero no son aquellas que se utilizan para asustar en el día de las brujas (halloween), a estos

Este es uno de los trajes típicos de la celebración.

ornamentos se les llama "calacas."

El 31 de octubre todos se preparan mucha ansiedad. Los niños se ponen disfraces y van de puerta en puerta pidiendo dulces y frutas. Esto es muy similar a nuestra celebración del día de las brujas, pero en esta ocasión, los niños celebran la muerte de sus seres queridos. El primero de noviembre las mariposas monarcas viajan en dirección sur hacia México. Muchos dicen que esas mariposas son los espíritus de los niños que han muerto y que estos niños se convierten en ángeles cuando mueren. Para recibir a estos espíritus se construye un altar y hacen una "ofrenda."

A la mañana siguiente, las

familias van a la iglesia y luego al cementerio con más flores y más comida y limpian las lapidas donde se encuentran enterrados sus parientes. Permanecen mañana y noche ahí, cantando, comiendo y bailando hasta que llega la hora de regresar a casa. En muchas regiones la celebración es un poco más seria, pero en otros lugares los festejos son llenos de alegría, canto y ruido. Muchas de las personas hasta se ponen disfraces y se pintan la cara de blanco y negro para representar una calavera.

Así que no piensen que esta celebración es algo triste y deprimente. Al contrario, el día de los muertos es un festival muy alegre lleno de orgullo y dedicación.

### Cartas al editor

#### Una nación, un solo idioma

**Nota del editor:** Quiero que lean con atención esta carta que nos llegó en referencia a nuestra sección "Díganos." Después de hacerlo, ustedes mismos sacarán sus propias conclusiones. Por favor no duden en mandarme sus opiniones y sus comentarios a [classdiganos@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:classdiganos@ccmail.nevada.edu) (Esta carta fue originalmente recibida en inglés).

Al editor:

La última vez que verifiqué, yo vivía en los Estados Unidos de América, no en México. ¿Qué

son todas esas tonterías publicadas en "Díganos" en esta revista? Si todo está escrito en español, no le estamos fomentando nuestro lenguaje nativo a ninguno de los inmigrantes. Yo no debería sentirme como una ciudadana de segunda clase en mi propio país. Pero así me sentí cuando leí su revista y tuve que saltarme CINCO páginas porque no entendía nada. Esto es simplemente ridículo y todo el país debe dejar de publicar todo en español y en inglés. UNA nación, UN idioma, punto.

Whitney Andersen,  
Sierra Vista HS

# Homecoming in Las Vegas misses old traditions

## School spirit loses out to commercialism at the fall celebration

By Brianna Rizzo, Cimarron-Memorial HS



pletely in Las Vegas schools. Sadly, the Homecoming dance draws more attention than the game and the graduates who return to school

just for the event. Travel down to the South, though, and you will discover that their world revolves around any football game, but especially the Homecoming one.

Schools play their rivals at this specific game, and both sides of the stands fill up with current students, alumni, parents, teachers and even strangers who just want to watch an exciting game. Then, after the game, the dance takes place.

Does that mean all of the

girls and guys wear their extravagant dresses and tuxedos to a football game? No, they show up in the gym with school-spirited t-shirts on to have a good time with the football team and the rest of their energetic school. Now that is definitely a foreign language!

Some student council advisers plan their Homecomings around the school's football schedule to guarantee a win for that night. At one glance, this sounds unfairly fixed, but at another glance, who wants to watch their home school lose badly on Homecoming night?

The tradition of class Homecoming floats hasn't disappeared entirely, but has drastically changed. Student councils have the responsibility of creating the floats. At most schools in Las Vegas, the floats take a trip around the football field before the game begins and also during halftime. At some lucky schools, their principals still allow a float parade where all of the floats line up and drive through the main streets near the school's location.

These floats, without a doubt, take weeks of planning and building, but students

build the floats differently here than they do in, say, Tennessee. Here, an ideal float consists of a backboard, a slogan, costumes for the people on the float and store-bought decorations, which all center on the Homecoming dance's theme (in the South they don't even have themes). Floats in other school districts base the float's characteristics on beating the other team. Classes do not compete against each other, and the floats just simply provide a way of getting students and others in the audience pumped up about the game.

Traditions vary from place to place, but the original meaning doesn't. Homecoming means simply that: coming home. Old students come home to meet new students and reminisce about the good old days of high school. Since Las Vegas ranks as the Entertainment Capital of the World, this causes students to change the true meaning.

It's wonderful if students are satisfied with how Homecoming works in Las Vegas in 2004, just as long as they know how it all began and what they're missing.

A beautiful long gown, an expensive up-do hairstyle and dinner at a fancy restaurant followed by a show on the Strip define the ideal Las Vegas Homecoming night. To those living in other parts of the country, those words belong to a different language. Homecoming in Las Vegas has evolved from a reunion of high school alumni coming home to watch a rival football game, into a materialistic dance.

The true meaning of Homecoming has disappeared com-



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## Frills, fruity colors highlight 2004 Homecoming fashion styles

By Nicole Brown, LV Academy

**I**t's another long class, and you're daydreaming about your crush asking you to the Homecoming dance. After class, to your surprise, your crush is waiting by the door for you! Before you know it, he's asking you out to the big dance! As he hurries off to his next class, you stand shaken and panicked — what are you going to wear? You're friends aren't really fashion queens, and you know that you want to look "extra hot" for this great event.

Mall of America Trend Specialist Sara Rogers says that the "extra hot" dresses for Homecoming 2004 are anything with floral prints. Strapless dresses look elegant and sweet with a floral pattern. For the girly-girl, an alternative would be dresses that are beaded or have a double-layered hemline.

Girls who are fascinated with the punk fashions should look toward '80s movies for inspiration. Polka dot dresses are coming back

Go sleek and sultry in this halter ruffle gown.

along with black stockings. The '80s hairstyles are a bit extreme — a little too '80s — but the dresses that they wore way back when are coming back and are popular.

The sporty or casual girl, who wouldn't appreciate punk fashions or girly-girl fashions, would be safe with a solid-colored dress with double straps on one side. The off-the-shoulder look is very sexy and classy at the same time.

When searching for colors, think about rainbows and bright tones for the dresses.

Rogers says, "Citrus tones are the big news for 2004. Colors like orange, lime green, lemon yellow and pink grapefruit are the latest must-have shades."

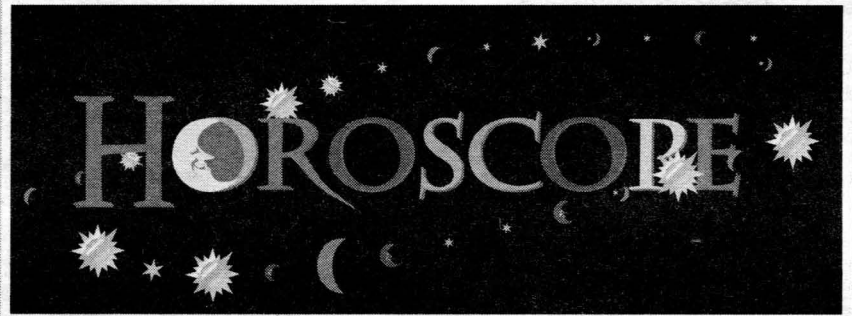
These shades add fun to dresses instead of the classic black or white dress. If these colors are a bit extreme, look for a pastel Hawaiian flower-print dress or stick with a classic red and white paisley.

Whatever you choose, make sure that you are comfortable with it, because if you're not, you will be adjusting your dress the whole time instead of having fun with your date.

A Web site that sells classic dresses with fun colors and prints is [www.loriann.com](http://www.loriann.com). If you aren't satisfied with this selection, there is also [www.prom-fashions.com](http://www.prom-fashions.com) and [www.promgirl.com](http://www.promgirl.com). Some sites will have a separate section for Homecoming and some will provide various prom dresses that you can choose from.

No dress is complete without those classy high heels. A popular shoe for homecoming or prom this year is the stiletto heel. The stiletto heel is a skinny heel that is about 4" tall. The stiletto heels

*Continued on page 28*



**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't shy away from your troubles. You are a natural leader, so take on the situation directly and don't let anyone make you feel like you can't handle it. Step up and forget your fear.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Although you love rewards for your help, you may have to put that desire aside for a while. Your significant other may need your assistance, but you can't expect to get back a huge favor in return. Forget about yourself and lend a hand.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21):** Your mood can change very quickly, but don't let one event's outcome affect your excitement for another. Try and keep your feelings steady if you hope to make it through the rest of the month.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22):** You love to take care of others, but you may be the one that needs to be taken care of right now. Most likely, you'll turn to your family for reassurance, and they'll be there to listen.

**LEO (July 23-August 22):** Do not allow your ambitious nature to wane. When you want something, you go for it and you don't let anyone else tell you otherwise. Use your instincts and go from there if you really want this new goal you have set.

**VIRGO (August 23-September 22):** Your modesty is applauded, but your efficiency at tasks at home and in the workplace has been excellent. Expect to hear great things very soon, and maybe even a bit of surprise is there as well.

**LIBRA (September 23-October 23):** Walking solo may be hard for you, but your friends can't be around all the time. You can figure out everything that you need to accomplish on your own by focusing on yourself for once, and not just others.

**SCORPIO (October 24-November 21):** Your curiosity to probe may have revealed much more about your family than you originally expected to find. Everything is on the table now, so what will your reaction be?

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21):** Although you are normally a clear thinker, a possible future relationship has your thoughts all off course. Maybe if you consider the possibilities of it working out, you'll be able to concentrate a bit better. Give it a chance.

**CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19):** Being realistic is your motto, so why are you putting impractical rules on yourself? Don't try to be perfect, just try to be you. The person that you know you are would not let a few setbacks dominate the remainder of their life.

**AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18):** You have many inventive goals, so go for them very soon. Don't keep all of your ideas to yourself. The only way society can change is if visionaries like you start the trend.

**PISCES (February 19-March 20):** Feeling charitable? Maybe you should volunteer at a local recreation or community center. You've always liked to give back to others, so this would be a good opportunity to do just that.

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Continued from page 27

that are popular are the ones with the ribbons that tie up your leg. You may recall that the ribbons were popular with sandals in the years 2002-2003. The look made a turn-around and is now used for formal wear instead of casual.

If the stiletto heels are too high, try a thick, two-inch heel. Shoe styles that have the two-inch heels are very popular at [www.promgirl.com](http://www.promgirl.com). They have straps that circle the foot and tie at the ankle. The site also offers shoes that can be dyed to match the color of your dress! The dying process is \$10 extra, but well worth it if you can't find the right shade of shoe to match your dress.

These Web sites offer hip fashions for the girl who doesn't shop much and new ideas for the fashion bee. Rogers' Web site, [www.promfashions.com](http://www.promfashions.com), offers plus sizes for all of her dress designs. The sites are user-friendly and serve as a solution to potential prom or homecoming disasters.

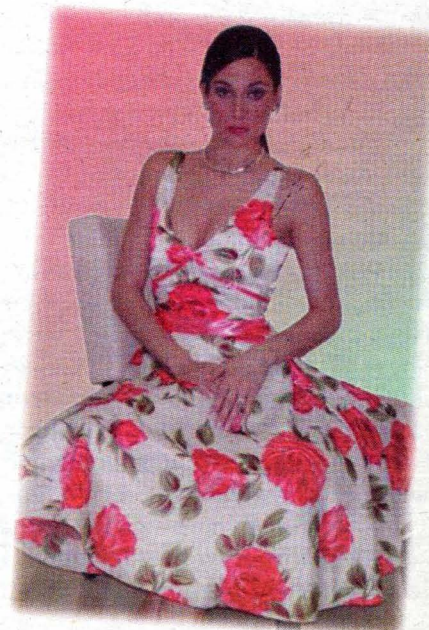
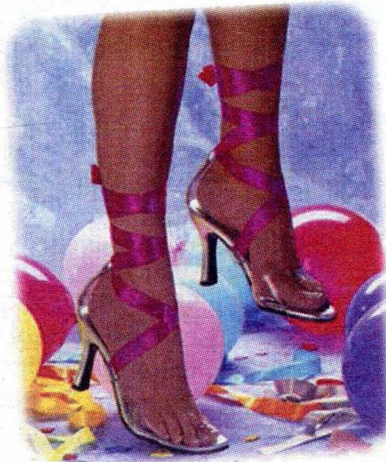
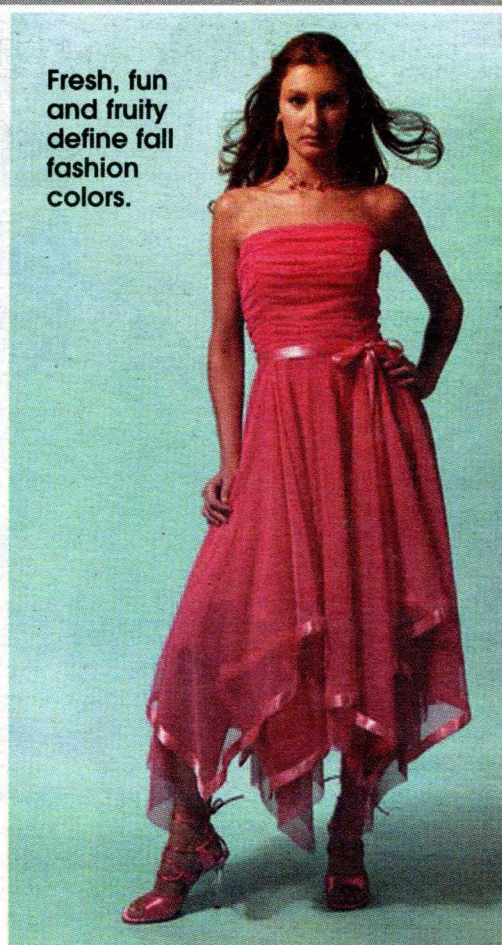
Okay, now that you look great, it's time to work on your guy. Young men usually don't like to dress up in the 'penguin suit' for prom or homecoming because it takes away their identity and it makes them look like every other guy at the dance.

Men's homecoming fashions for the year 2004 include a t-shirt with a tuxedo jacket and slacks with tennis shoes. This look may sound weird, but when put together it will have a formal/casual twist that will look personalized and handsome. Best of all, the formal/casual twist will make everyone happy. The guy is happy because he doesn't have to wear a hot and itchy tux, and his date is happy because he's not wearing jeans to Homecoming.

Some guys like to wear tuxes, and they are always safe to wear to dances. They always look classy and make a guy look extra handsome.

Homecoming fashion is all about being creative and having fun with colors and designs. Homecoming is the one night that you can truly feel like a princess. Your dress might only be worn for one evening, but the memories will last a lifetime.

Fresh, fun and fruity define fall fashion colors.



Switch out colored ribbons on these heels, above, and you're ready to step out in any style gown, especially with a pretty pattern, like the one at right. Floral frills are in for this year's formals.

# Take a look behind the scenes at Homecoming

By Edna Gonzalez, Liberty HS



Do you remember last year's Homecoming? Or maybe the one you went to with a friend or cousin? I guess all of us can at least name one Homecoming and maybe even remember slight details of it, maybe the balloons that decorated tables or the music that played. But do we remember the people that planned the dance? Or the time it consumed to plan out a huge event like that?

Most can say no, or that they just remember people mentioning staying after school and being at school on weekends to make and set up things. Usually, the student body of a school doesn't know the dirty little secrets of planning an event as big as Homecoming. But to tell you the truth, sometimes we're not even sure things will go as planned.

From a student council member's point of view, it's chaotic, wonderful, stressful and rewarding when it's finally over. As student body chief justice and Homecoming planner for this year's Liberty High School Homecoming dance, I know that Homecoming planners put in a lot of effort and continue to work on things to get the big day to be a success. Having committees also comes into play. Without people willing to put in time, there would be no Homecoming.

Most students don't ask what happens behind closed doors during the planning of Homecoming events. When a big celebration at your school happens every year, no one asks, "How many phone calls did you have to make before making sure the decorations were bought and being delivered on time?" No one thinks about the stress that goes along with knowing the big day is on its way, and you must have everything done by its due date. Though many student councils try to keep under wraps what they're planning, it's important to remember the effort they put into making the school's events special.

One of the biggest nightmares while planning a Homecoming has to be the fear of "maybe" having to change everything at the last minute. Learning to be flexible is just one of the major steps event planners must learn. Learning to keep your temper under control is a necessity as well. The stress levels become horrible almost to the last days of planning, especially if things go wrong. Having to make adjustments at the last minute scares all student councils preparing for big events like Homecoming. Truthfully, we plan and plan, and then just hope that everything works out in the end because we're never sure what "can" happen.

An example of the stress and pressure on a student council during Homecoming can be seen in the experience we had at Liberty's inaugural Homecoming dance last year. The insecurities of being a new school intimidated a lot of people. No one knew what the outcome of all our planning would be. We all just hoped it would work out, and thankfully it did. No one ever knew the doubts we had.

One of the most stressed out people can be a student council adviser. Sometimes, with stress in the air, people can get overwhelmed and become panicky or bad-tempered. Every year, a student council will feel obligated and want to make an even better dance or event than the year before. Whether you're at an older high school or a new one, the student body will always expect something great from its student council, and council members all feel pressured to give the students their best effort. Not only do the students deserve that, but getting school morale up is just one of the many jobs of student council. The council adviser has to stay on top of all these things and know what to do at all times.

Cimarron-Memorial High School Sophomore Class President Brianna Rizzo says that Homecoming planning can be very difficult, especially when traditions are lost with the stereotypical images everyone has of Homecoming nowadays. She believes that old traditions

should be brought back and mixed with newer ideas, while some new traditions should be lost.

"Homecoming should be about having your alumni come back and celebrate at the football game," Rizzo says. "Now, most alumni don't even return, and few students care about the traditions."

Another huge stressor has to be the lack of money in Las Vegas high schools. Administration does not give most student councils enough money to buy what they need for events. That's when fundraisers are planned during the school year to get help from the student body to pay for decorations, security or music at an event.

A school's administration can make it a hassle to get activities planned during Homecoming or spirit weeks. If you ever wonder why you might not have "cool" activities happening at your school, don't automatically blame student council. It may be that they have to deal with a strict administration or a lack of funding. The student council may have started off with great plans, but with a lack of support or funding, those plans can be gone and wasted.

One strong chance of being able to pull off a Homecoming without being cornered into a stressful financial situation like this can be writing donation letters to different companies and stores. Getting them to reply can be a challenge, and going through rejection after rejection sometimes only makes things worse, but it can be worth it.

Mojave High School senior Jillian Crawford has been lucky to have a successful Homecoming for the past three years.

"Most things are planned during the summer, and we've been lucky to have a very flexible administration," says Crawford. "We just hope more people will participate in activities, but overall we've had much success and hopefully will again."

Maybe next time you attend a Homecoming event, you can look past the decorations and music, and really see that it was all planned for you with hard work. Whether it's luck or great planning or a little of both that makes Homecoming a great success, students should take time to thank the volunteers, student council members, teachers and staff for their big imaginations and their tremendous dedication to their schools.

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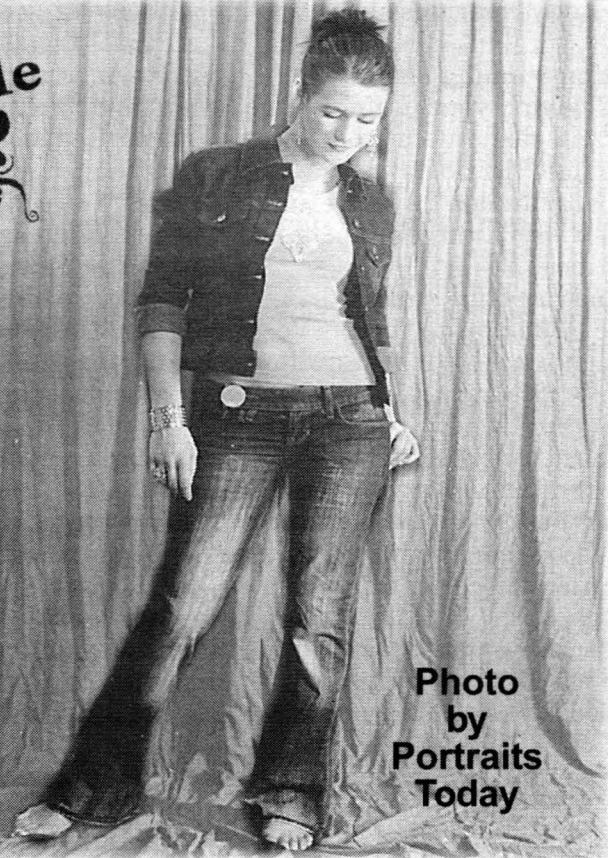


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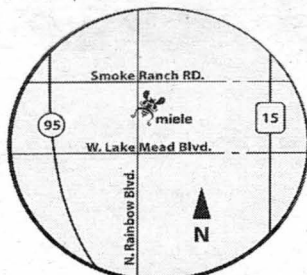
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## Homecoming has new reputation as stay-at-home dance for seniors

High cost, low interest  
inspire alternative fun

By Shannon  
Duncan,  
Silverado HS



Remember back in middle school, when your biggest dream was to have your heartthrob ask you to the eighth-grade dance? Getting to go to a school dance was a special treat. It meant not having to be at home and getting to hang out with friends for five bucks. But now that high school is here, going to a school dance has lost its initial appeal.

Being asked to a dance for the first time in high school of course is great. When battling acne, peer pressure and falling grades, finding out that someone finds you attractive is a boost to one's self-esteem. Dressing up for Homecoming, the first dance of the year, is fun and exciting the first time. Finding just the right dress or fixing your hair perfectly is a challenge that results in glamour. Feeling like royalty for the first time, though still butting heads with protective parents, you experience Homecoming as an extravagant escape from normal life.

Factor in the ticket prices, however, and the rest of the school has forgotten about the freshman excitement of going to one's first high school Homecoming.

Depending on which school you attend, a single ticket can cost \$25. That can be bad news for guys since it's common for them to have to pay for both his

own and his date's tickets. Add in the price of formal attire, dinner, pictures, corsages and boutonnieres, and a fun school dance has quickly become a not-so-exciting hole in the wallet.

Parents of freshmen often enjoy the first dance just as much as their kids. Seeing their little boy or girl off with a date, all dressed up, creates such a thrill that many parents are willing to pay for the evening. Upperclassmen, however, start having jobs and responsibility, so parents aren't willing to dish out a penny for dances.

All those dollars collected by the school for the dances don't seem to make any change in the quality of the dance either. In fact, the end-of-the-year, eighth-grade hang out seemed to be decorated better. Sure, student council manages to cut out cute stars and throw confetti around, but the bad DJ and simple Hawaiian Punch doesn't seem to match the enormous amount of cash paid by dancegoers.

Silverado High School junior Keith Nathan says, "Why would I go to the dances? It's boring and costs way too much."

More and more students opt for an even more fun night with a smaller chunk out of the wallet. Many even forget formal attire completely and hang out in comfy PJs. Renting movies and eating popcorn for way less money than the school dance requires, seems to be a more popular choice. Friends can choose what music they want to hear and maybe even splurge on a good dinner.

Unless the school lowers ticket prices or ups the quality, Homecoming will continue to be the freshman dance.

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# Spend Halloween at The Asylum ... if you dare



By Whitney James,  
Liberty HS



**A**s Halloween creeps up on us, you may start seeing haunted house attractions all over Las Vegas. All of them do their best to scare and entertain visitors, but one haunted house offers a little something extra for Clark County high school students.

R&J Productions, presenters of The Asylum haunted house attraction, offers high school clubs and teams the opportunity to raise funds and scare the living daylights out of friends and family at the same time.

According to owner Rich Strelak, R&J Productions has two ways students can scare up extra funds for their extracurricular activities.

"With our pre-sold ticket fundraiser, your group buys 50 tickets at a discount price and sells them to friends and family

and makes \$200," says Strelak.

Pre-sold tickets are good for any night the attraction is open, but groups can only pre-purchase tickets until Oct. 13.

"We also have an actors fundraiser in which a group will commit a minimum of 12 members to work as actors in the haunted house, and in exchange, we make a cash donation to your group," says Strelak.

Actors are required to work from 4 p.m. until closing, one weekend in October, Thursday through Sunday, in order to qualify for the donation. Actors are only required to wear dark clothing, and the production company provides costumes and makeup as well as training on how to scare the wits out of visitors. It's a great way for school clubs to raise money and have a blast!

R&J Productions has presented haunted attractions in Las Vegas since 1999 and has worked with high schools since its first year. This Halloween

season, they will be operating two haunted houses. The Asylum will be located at the old Smith's supermarket parking lot near Jones Boulevard and U.S. Highway 95. Their newest attraction, Hotel Fear, will operate at the Scandia Family Fun Center at 2900 Sirius Ave., near Sahara Avenue and Interstate Highway 15.

Both locations will offer fun for the whole family. The Asylum location will share space with a fall Harvest Festival featuring a pumpkin patch, arts and crafts, food vendors and music. The Hotel Fear location has all the usual Scandia attractions such as miniature golf, batting cages, arcade, go-carts, and concession stands, plus it will also host a Halloween Safe Street trick or treating event.

There's even something for the true scaredy-cats out there. On Oct. 30, Hotel Fear will have a special Lights On Tour in which participants walk through the attraction with all the lights on and learn how haunted house

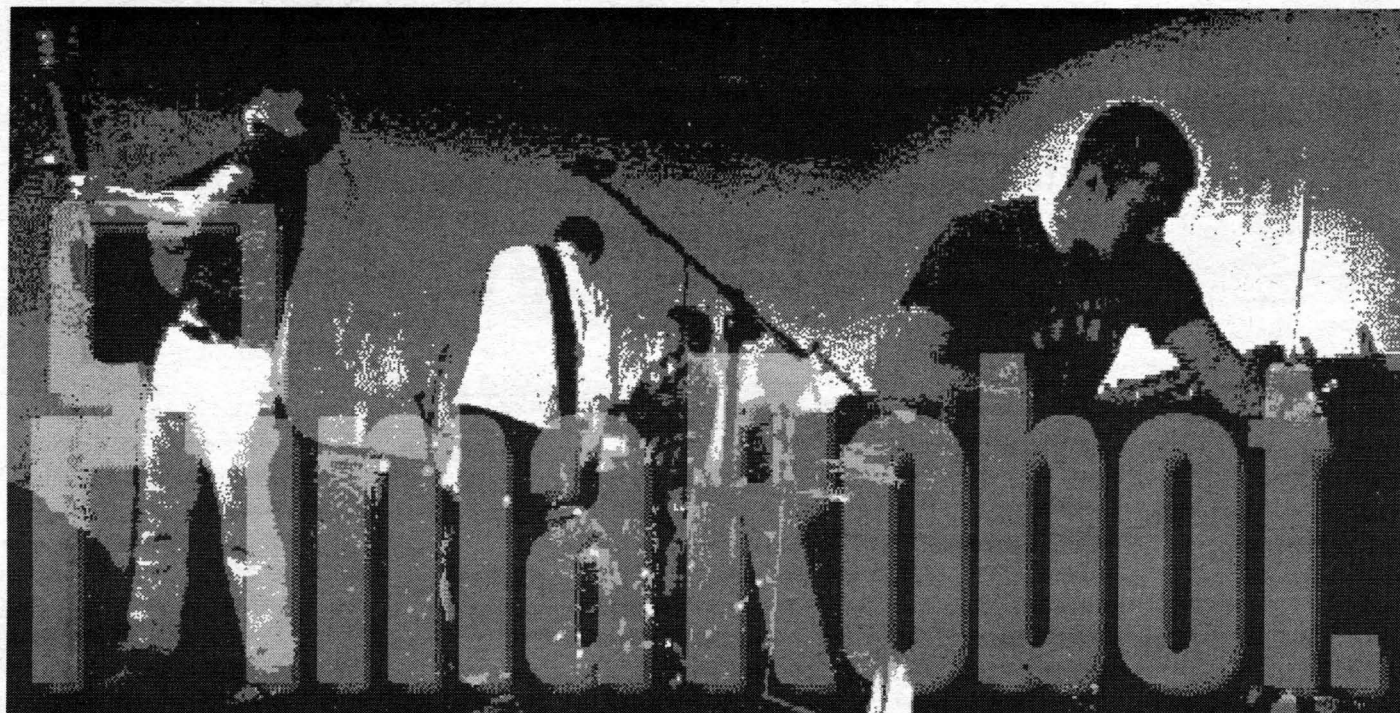
productions are done.

However, if you want to have a frighteningly fun time, these attractions use a theatrical setting built around a theme to draw you into their scary world.

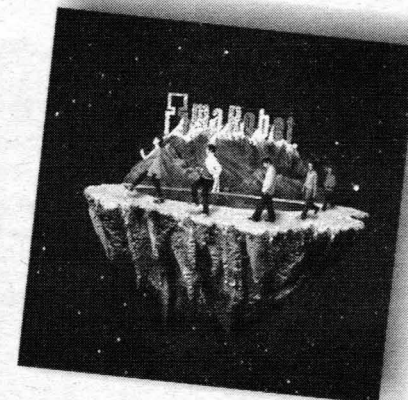
"It all depends on what really scares you," says Strelak. "We don't do a lot of blood and guts or any satanic scenes. We prefer the psychological and startle scares. We try to immerse you into our environment."

Since The Asylum has been considered one of the top Halloween attractions for the last four years, they must be doing something right.

Operating hours for The Asylum and Hotel Fear are Thursdays through Sundays from Oct. 1-24 and Tuesday-Sunday, Oct. 26-31, from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on weeknights and 6:30 p.m. to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. Thursdays are 2-for-1 ticket nights, except on Oct. 28. For more information, call 631-6682.



Check out the band's Web site, [imarobot.com](http://imarobot.com), or their message board site, [imarobot.net](http://imarobot.net). Their latest CD, below, is self-titled.



# Palm trees, power vocals and pomade

Veteran studio rockers go weird with Ima Robot synth-pop garage band

By Rachel Hommel,  
Green Valley HS

*On our country's birthday this year, I discussed the politics of the music business with bassist Justin Meldal-Johnsen and guitarist Timmy the Terror — double my age and with a lot to say.*

**P**alm trees, power vocals and pomade make up the quirkiest band out of Los Angeles — meet Ima Robot.

As if coming straight out of a movie, it's easy to classify these Los Angeles fashion geeks as nothing more than postmodern goons. However, with band members experienced as studio musicians backing some of the top names in rock, the band Ima Robot is a force to be reckoned with. The trendiest name to hit scenes since "emo," Ima Robot is a sure sign of a new revolution of music.

**RH: Why did it take so long to be signed considering all the popularity the band had received in L.A.?**

**Tim:** We were somewhat un-signable. We weren't that concerned with getting signed. We didn't understand the business and politics of the music business. We were just a band partying and having fun in L.A. and just developing a sound — just kids hanging out. It was more of an essence, a passion. It was like, "We are doing this, we are Ima Robot, we are dope." It was like kids on a rampage, really clueless, but we just wanted to take over the world.

**Justin:** When I joined the band in 2002, I heard guys that had all this genius talent stacked up, but that were a little ... schizophrenic. They had a sound, but the sound itself was schizophrenic. Coincidentally, at the time I joined the band, it got focused and things happened really fast. When the band finally got its identity, it was quick.

**Tim:** We had some pretty serious interest. Instead of taking some offers that were pretty bad, we decided to go into the studio and do demos with a producer. What came out of about nine months of [creating demos was that] we found ourselves in that process. We were with a semi-professional producer, and we started to figure out there was a clock and we needed to

get on it. It happened in a very natural way.

**RH: Was the band a long time in the making? Explain the process.**

**Tim:** Alex, me and Olly started hanging out around 1998. We had just been put together by a couple of friends who wanted a project to manage. We just started doing stuff out of the gate; every day, all day, every night. We started performing a month after we met. It developed our style, which was just GO. No holds barred, just go with what we are feeling. We never let any outside influence in for those years before things started coming along. It was cool as development because we were just writing songs. I think it's a cool way to develop because we were just raw.

**RH: I think you still are.**

**Tim:** Ha ... but at that point, raw and unlistenable ... but still.

**Justin:** Virgin [Music] was the most ideal label of the labels. The sound was there. The identity was formed.

**RH: Any influences? It's hard to pinpoint.**

**Justin:** Certain people in the band bring a hip-hop influence, and also the same people bring a punk influence into the band. There's a litany of bands that we come together on, from Sparxx to Devo to Joy Division to New Order. But the thing about Ima Robot is that it really does consist of five guys that are all producers. All of us do other projects and have a history of our own.

**RH: I love the wardrobe. Please let me in on your secret.**

**Justin:** We shop a little bit on the road. I mean in L.A., there's plenty of hot spots to shop. We buy new, we buy used, whatever. Most of us are really cheap and we don't like spending a lot of money on clothes. Crossroads is a really hot spot that you can get dope, old-fashioned crap that's dirt cheap. Our singer, Alex, tends to make his own clothes out of garbage-like found objects, very random and very carefree.

**Tim:** We all have an inherent style fascina-



tion. I'm totally fascinated by fashion and style. My girlfriend is a designer, so we all fall under this umbrella of fashion ability. There's not a lot of effort. This shirt I'm wearing is the traditional garb of the Venetian waterway paddlers and when I was a tourist, I wanted to look like one of them.

**Justin:** Yes ... it's really hot with your stained press pants and Louis Vuitton slip-ons. So fresh.

**RH: Did the lead singer have any voice training or was he born with those lungs?**

**Justin:** No, it's raw, really raw. So raw that sometimes he blows it out because sometimes he doesn't know how far he can go.

**RH: What is a normal first reaction to Ima Robot?**

**Tim:** It's always kind of jaw dropping. When we play somewhere where we don't have a fan base, it's funny to watch. It starts out with utter confusion, and then gets to whispering of, "Okay, what is this?" Then in the end we usually win over everyone we play for. Unless there's haters.

**Justin:** We like performing. We like putting things on. We like putting it on.

**RH: I still don't understand the name.**

**Tim:** Yeah, it's not easy to understand. The name is an inside thing. It came from the delirium of guys hanging out together for hours and days and weeks. It used to be Ima Robot with a question mark. It was a really stupid reference to a dumb idea.

**Justin:** It turned out to be this commercially subversive thing where people put on these Ima Robot t-shirts and it's kind of a comment. It's kind of intriguing.

**RH: Right, like how everyone nowadays is so standardized. Correct or not?**

**Justin:** Yep. That is generally the comment. That's one of the levels of the name for this. However, maybe someone who's wearing the Ima Robot t-shirt is so self-aware that they are wearing it that they realize, "Ah yes. Everyone else around me is a robot and I'm counter culture, and I'm weird." It's way cool.

**Tim:** The music defines the name. It's so definitive and you refer the music to it, then it makes sense.

**Justin:** Senseless names become complete icons.

**RH: The song "Ex-Gfs, Black Jettas." True story?**

**Justin:** Oh, yeah, all the songs are all really personal, like straight up personal. Here's the deal. I came up with the track at my house. Alex had this concept about something going on. Every time he'd see a black Jetta driving down the street, he'd be like, "Oh, my God, it's my ex! There she is! Oh no, it's not, oh okay, good, keep driving." This complete nutty paranoia that overtook him. The ironic thing is that Tim and Olly also have girlfriends that have Black Jettas.

**Tim:** And their friends drive them. It's so weird.

**Justin:** Isn't that funny? That song is straight up autobiography. No kidding. It's a favorite for most fans too. We wrote it on a lark. It was just some truism that Alex was going through. We liked it so much it ended up on our record and become a fan favorite. I don't know ... it's cool.

**RH: What's it like to go back to L.A.? How's the fan base?**

**Justin:** It's great. This is not intended to be immodest, but it's turned out that we are one of the biggest bands from L.A. that still performs in L.A. Like maybe how Jane's Addiction was 10 years ago. That's a really exciting thing for a bunch of guys who were born and raised there.

**Tim:** We love the kids. They keep coming back. They don't stop. There's no leaning away. We see them, we recognize them, and we hang out with them. It's a blast.

**Justin:** We owe them a lot. It's a big deal to us. We know we need to be there for them.

**RH: If music did stop for you guys, where would your lives be?**

**Tim:** Everyone has so much musicality in their lives. Justin has so much stuff going on in L.A. and everywhere. The rest of us are just planting seeds for the careers in other things. Luckily, all being from L.A. and being connected, we could all spread our wings and do whatever we wanted to probably. This just happens to be what we really want to do now.

## When it's show time, don't be left standing in the wings

By Lisa Swan,  
Eldorado HS



The lights go up, and you're in the spotlight — all eyes are on you. Suddenly, you start sweating; you panic, and then to top it off, you forget your lines. You run off stage and every one is laughing at you.

Being in theater can be scary and intimidating, which may be why it doesn't appeal to very many high school students. You might say it's not for you or that you don't think you're any good at it. Maybe you're the one who has stage fright, or you're afraid people will make fun of you. Don't let that stop you from getting into theater!

My first part in a play was in "Romeo and Juliet." It was so

much fun, but I was so afraid. When the play finally started, I loved being out on the stage. Next, I did a musical, "South Pacific," and this year I'm preparing to do "Macbeth," and already it has been an experience. We have had dropouts and fill-ins and made wonderful friends along the way.

If you don't like theater because you don't think you can remember your lines or because you hate being in front of people, remember that theater has something for everybody, from technicians to directors. You don't have to be on stage to be in theater.

If fear is the only thing holding you back, forgetting lines and being scared happens even to the best of us. However, you have your fellow actors to get you through those times.

Overall, the amazing friends you make in theater are what make it such an incredible experience.

## Simpson's 'Autobiography' worth a listen

By Heidi Lothringer,  
Sierra Vista HS



It's rare for a debut CD to be considered highly anticipated, but if you have a popular MTV show to promote your newfound musical career, then it is to be expected, and that is exactly what happened to Ashlee Simpson.

Since this is a rock-pop CD, it will without doubt get the dreaded comparison to Avril Lavigne. It will also receive the completely unnecessary comparison to Jessica Simpson, Ashlee's older sister. Neither comparison is accurate; if this were to be compared to something else, it would be more fair to compare it to mainstream Liz Phair with a lick of mild, post-Hole Courtney Love.

Every song on "Autobiogra-

phy" was written by Simpson, including the first single, "Pieces of Me." Samplers of "Autobiography" were given away at Warehouse music stores, not only to promote the CD, but also the show.

It's easy to see that Simpson takes her music seriously. The songs "LaLa" and "Surrender" are good enough to be follow-up singles. "Autobiography" is enjoyable enough to listen to all the way through; it's really great for singing along in the car.

Every song has a different feel to it. "Shadow" shows how difficult it can be to be the sister of a star. "Nothing New" deals with having a boyfriend who doesn't think you're good enough.

"Autobiography" is more pop than rock, but at least it's not mindless, sugarcoated shallowness. Ashlee Simpson may only be known as Jessica's little sister now, but that won't last long.

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## Nothing to do? Think again!

By Ronna Robina,  
Valley HS

Every year the beginning of school marks the end of our summer, but just because our favorite season of the year is over, doesn't mean the summer fun has to end.

Check out what's happening in your community center. From dances to sports, it's the place to be! Many community centers have schedules you can pick up ahead of time, telling you all about the events planned for that month. Sign up for classes early, as they often get filled up.

✓ Plan a crafts day. Drag out the paint, glue and glitter and get as messy as you want. Make picture frames, jewelry or anything your heart desires. Save money at Christmas by making unique gifts for friends and family now.

✓ Catch one of the latest flicks with your friends, or if you don't want to spend the big bucks, rent a movie and have a kickback.

✓ Invite your friends over for a game tournament. It can include anything from video games

to dominoes. Have fun and have prizes for winners.

✓ Have a girl's day at the mall. Try on tons of clothes and check out new beauty products. You don't even need to buy a thing!

✓ Have a PJ party. Get the party started by bringing out the microwaveable popcorn, videos and pillow fights, but don't forget about the gossip. We ALL love that!

✓ Go to a public swimming pool before they are all closed, and show off that trim figure and hot bathing suit one last time.

✓ Spend a day with your family. They'll cherish one day of company since they are so busy with work, and you'll soon be too busy with everything at school.

✓ Go camping with your friends. Tell secrets, play board games, and don't forget to play the best game of all, Spin The Bottle (but don't get in trouble).

✓ MAKEOVER! Impress your crush with a new makeover. Cut your hair, buy some new clothes, and you'll be on your way to your crush's arms.

School may be back in swing, but a little creativity keeps the fun going on and on.

# NEVADA POWER

## Students of the Month

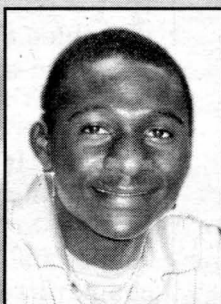


**Jessica Roadhouse, Junior**  
Indian Springs HS

"Jessica is a very involved, very concerned student. She is not afraid to speak her mind and she is a student whom I am very proud of. She takes her school experience and grades very seriously here and has set high goals for herself," says Indian Springs High School Principal Katherine Christensen.

Jessica Roadhouse is a very focused young lady. She is vice-president of the student council, which she has been a part of since she was a freshman in high school. She also runs on her school's cross country and track teams, another activity she has been involved in since her freshman year. In addition, she is also a member of the Spanish Club, which plans to go to Spain in the spring of next year.

While Roadhouse is busy keeping up with all her extracurricular activities, she also has been a contributing writer for CLASS! for more than a year. After she graduates, she plans on majoring in journalism at Pepperdine University.



**Simon Adagwuni, Junior**  
Spring Valley HS

"Simon really does an outstanding job in all facets of high school. He excels inside and outside the classroom," says Spring Valley High School Assistant Principal Shawn Boyle.

Simon Adagwuni is an excellent example of strength of mind. He is a high honors student and has been since he started high school. He also plays on the varsity soccer team, a sport that he really enjoys and excels at. He has received many awards in math as well, and when he's not busy, he loves to read novels.

Adagwuni maintains a 3.4 GPA, and after he graduates from high school, he plans on majoring in accounting.

  
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# Teens jumpstart careers at Summer Business Institute

By Andrew Makarian,  
Faith Lutheran HS

Summer usually means vacation for the average student, but this summer was so much more for me because of the Summer Business Institute.

This fall, like many of my peers, I entered my junior year of high school. However, unlike my peers, I have learned new skills and lessons that will help me in my future. Not only does the Summer Business Institute program offer a real-life working experience, it also offers workshops that teach us new skills we might not otherwise have learned.

I learned about the Summer Business Institute program when it was mentioned in our school announcements last February. Out of the 600 applicants, only 200 were selected for interview. Out of those interviewed, only about 100 were selected. The competitive nature of this program just shows how valuable it is to the aspiring student. Participants work Monday through Thursday throughout this eight-week program. On Fridays, we attended workshops, which taught life skills and financial management.

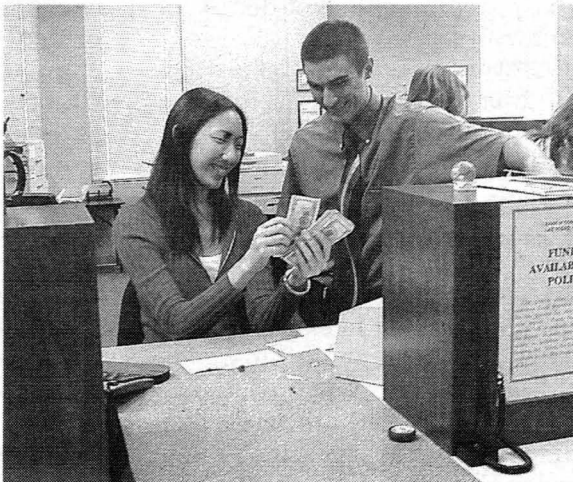
My employer for the summer, Bank of Commerce on West Sahara, gave me a new perspective on the economy. I learned that without banks, there would be no economy. This experience furthered my interest in business and money. The bank combines both these aspects into one, so I gained knowledge in both.

This school year, I hope to use my gained knowledge to further myself in the classroom. Not only do I have more knowledge, but I also have experience that my fellow peers have not had. Now that I better under-

stand the economy, I look forward to my economics classes.

Through this program, I gained more than just knowledge and experience — I gained a friend who I'll never forget, and I hope I can join the great staff at Bank of Commerce on West Sahara once again next summer.

The things we accomplish are only held back by not hav-



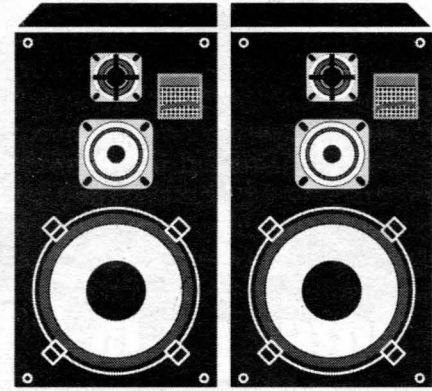
**Christopher Appuglise, right, learns the ropes from a teller during his participation in the SBI's program.**

ing enough goals. I was taught to have as many goals as I could, and that's just what I have done. I hope to accomplish a lot in my life, from getting good grades to being a self-sufficient businessman. In my near future, I hope to attend the best medical school possible and graduate in the top of my class. My goal for a future vocation is to be a plastic surgeon. I've always loved science, and I hope to use my passion to help people.

A child with no experiences will never grow up, and the Summer Business Institute provides safe jobs to gain work experience and fair pay. Because of this program, I have grown a lot, not only physically, but also mentally and emotionally. What more can a high school student ask for?

This program definitely helped me focus my views. I only hope more students take advantage of this great program.

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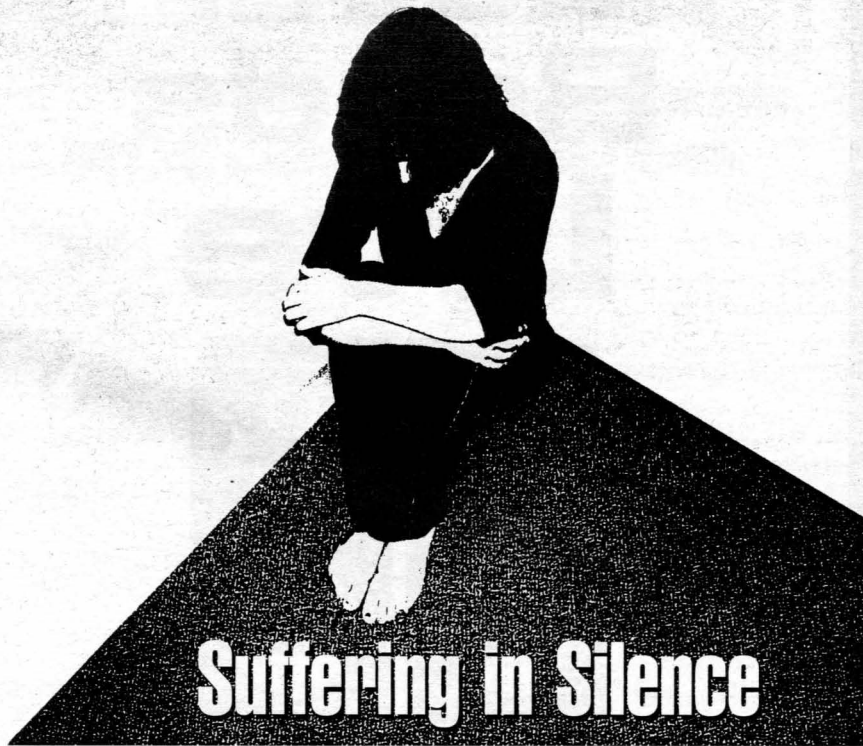
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## Suffering in Silence

### Millions of teens are stricken with sadness, hopelessness

By Farah Minwalla, Palo Verde HS



**W**e all have days when we feel like we can't go on any longer, as if we are all alone. While no one is happy all of the time, some people feel as if they'll never be happy. Anyone who can relate to that feeling on a day-to-day basis for more than three weeks could be

suffering from clinical depression.

Yes, everybody has his or her fair share of good and bad days, but that doesn't imply that every single bad day could possibly mean an individual is depressed. Being depressed is something far deeper than being upset about the geometry test you failed.

Clinical depression is a disease that 18.8 million American adults suffer from. That is nearly 10 percent of the adult population. Taken as a whole,

women experience depression at approximately twice the rate of men.

Clinical depression is even common in children. Studies listed on the About-teen-depression.com Web site indicate that "one in five children have some sort of mental, behavioral or emotional problem, and that one in ten may have a serious emotional problem."

These studies also show that one in eight adolescents may suffer from depression. Only 30 percent of those young people are treated, and the rest carry their depression into adulthood. As a result of not receiving treatment, depression can lead to criminal behavior and suicide. In fact, suicide is the third leading cause of death for teens ages 15 to 24, and the sixth leading cause of death for children ages 5-14.

Brown University reported in 2003 that many parents simply do not recognize the symptoms of depression in their adolescent children. Even parents who communicate well with their children may not recognize it when their child is clinically depressed because they don't know the symptoms.

According to Sutter Davis Hospital researchers in California, "Depression is a mood disorder that causes symptoms such as low energy, prolonged sadness or irritability, and lack of interest in daily activities."

Causes of depression can be both internal and external, such as a chemical imbalance or stressful, emotional situations.

Part of the reason why so

few people seek treatment for depression is that the illness is perceived as some kind of character flaw or weakness, rather than a medical condition. However, depression goes beyond the normal, temporary feelings of sadness associated with difficult life events. While the actual medical cause of depression is still not totally clear, doctors believe that an imbalance of certain brain chemicals may cause these deeper, more long-lasting responses of sadness and hopelessness. What is known is that anyone can develop depression, regardless of age, race or social status, so knowing the symptoms will help people recognize whether they are suffering from depression.

Symptoms include problems concentrating, poor memory, difficulty making decisions, changes in eating habits, changes in sleeping habits, a sudden loss of interest in things you once loved, sleeping too much, weight gain or loss, frequently thinking about negative thoughts, preoccupation with thoughts of death or suicide and feelings of guilt and hopelessness.

Depression is frequently treated successfully with counseling and medications such as antidepressants. Once diagnosed with clinical depression, the patient and his or her health professional can decide how to best treat the depression. The earlier a person is treated, the more quickly he or she will recover. No one has to suffer from depression; there is hope.

## Rape victims need protection, not persecution

By Sheree Henderson, Valley HS

**I**t's not the victim's fault. No one asks to be raped. It doesn't matter who, what, when, where or how. No one has the right to impose him or herself on another person.

As defined by Nevada law (NRS 200.364), "a person who subjects another person to sexual penetration, or who forces another person to make a sexual

penetration on himself or another, against the victim's will or under conditions in which the perpetrator knows or should know that the victim is mentally or physically incapable of resisting or understanding the nature of his conduct, is guilty of sexual assault."

Sexual penetration includes sexual intercourse, oral sex and digital penetration. Date rape, acquaintance rape and sexual assault are all terms used to describe rape, attempted rape or any unwanted, forced sexual contact.

Why is it that when a person is involved in date rape, the first thing some people look at is the victim? They want to know how many sex partners the victim has had in the past, or if the victim has a history of drug use. It shouldn't matter.

The one accused of doing the raping should have to have his or her life investigated. For instance, in the Kobe Bryant case,

the defense team demoralized the victim, investigating her past and attempting to use that against her. The defense did all that to impeach her credibility, to paint the picture of a less virtuous girl who would have asked for it.

Keep in mind that rape isn't something that you just hear about on the news either. According to the 2003 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 11 percent of Nevada students surveyed had been forced to have sex against their will. Look around your class. That's more than one out every 10 students, both boys and girls. In fact, teens ages 16-19 are three times more likely to be victims of sexual assault than the general population, as reported in the 2001 National Crime Victimization Survey.

With so many young people being victimized, attitudes about rape and the way rape victims are treated need to change.

# Cross Country Crazy

## Our sport is your punishment

By Riley Marriage,  
Coronado HS



**J**ust about every athlete hates running. Tennis players squirm. Football players, as large as 250 pounds and hardheaded as

they come, cry at the mention of it. An athlete will pull out any excuse to avoid running. They'll become limp after the first lap. They'll trip and fall so their coach will take pity on them. They'll blame the heat and get sick. For many people, both athletes and non-athletes, running is the ultimate punishment.

But not everyone thinks so. For a team of cross-country runners, running is easily viewed as the second most natural thing to do besides walking. Suicide sprints? Bring 'em on. Tempo runs? Bring 'em on! Marathons, 10Ks, 5Ks, bring it all on.

Like our fellow athletes on various other sporting teams, we runners are challenged with the same difficulty every athlete endures. Every day, we practice to better our craft and set goals in order to peak our performance.

But unlike our peers, no scoreboard illuminates our progress for spectators to enjoy, and there are no stadium lights to glow overhead. In fact, we do not even have a designated place of competition. It is just us and a finish line somewhere among the dirt, hills and desert.

When it comes to running as a sport, the biggest difference cross-country holds from the other sports is that it is based on the athlete's mentality. There are days when going on a good run is the last thing on our minds. The air is hot and provides no moisture; the ground is

hard with a heavy impact. There are runs when we get so tired that the easiest solution would be to just stop. However, it is at that moment when finishing a run becomes so much more important than giving up. It becomes the most valued lesson of all.

There is the most satisfying feeling in the closing mileage of each practice and race. It is when we realize that all of those endless miles of training, the aching joints and muscles, the scorched, sunburned skin, are all worth that one second of complete accomplishment as we cross the finish line.

When our bodies are hurting

and we feel we do not have it in us to finish a race, it is the anticipation of that one second of complete accomplishment that gets us through. It is what makes us appreciate cross-country. It is just too difficult of a sport to succeed in if we did not come to cherish running.

Running probably will always be known as a dirty word. There is always going to be a fear associated with running just as long as there are punishment laps and running suicides. But for the select few cross-country runners, running is anything but a punishment or the end of the world. It is just the beginning, and that is just how we like it.



Coronado Cougars cross-country runners prep for competition.

## Player lockout spells doom for NHL

By Roy Erickson III, Coronado HS

**T**icket sales are dropping, game attendance has decreased and viewer numbers have plunged. What is next for the National Hockey League? Many teams have gone bankrupt in the past and several are in debt today, hanging on by a thread.

The looming threat of a player lockout has been a constant thought on the minds of anyone associated with the NHL, and it became a reality on Sept. 15. In a player lockout, a contractual dispute between players and team owners causes the owners to cancel games, effectively "locking out" players from playing hockey. The purpose is to try to force players to submit to owner demands. The lockout that will be effective during at least the beginning of the 2004-2005 season, which is slated to start Oct. 15, could even cancel the entire season. Lockouts have occurred without much effect in

many other sports, but this lockout could be the proverbial last straw for the NHL.

Hockey players are receiving too much money. The average hockey player earns about \$1.5 million a year, and owners cannot afford this. About 60 percent of money earned throughout a season is given to the players. Owners have to worry about running and maintaining a stadium and overhead, which is a costly task that becomes more and more difficult. The athletes have not made things easy and demand their money. The NHL commissioner proposed a salary cap, and a new average salary of about \$1.3 million, but players have refused to accept a cap.

This salary cap would equalize the salaries given to players of different teams. Many of the less fortunate teams cannot even begin to compete with wealthier teams. For example, the New York Rangers are a very economically successful franchise, mainly because of their geographic position and their steady number of fans always in attendance at any game of the season. The Rangers have been able to sign very good players because of their wealth. They can pay their players nearly as much as they want. Since most players in the NHL are fixated

on earning more money, as is with all sports, playing for the Rangers would be an obvious choice.

However, what about less fortunate teams such as the Ottawa Senators or the Buffalo Sabers? They cannot compete with the Rangers' salary offers, and thus fewer players will want to be part of those franchises. This will eventually lead to the bankruptcy of these clubs, which seems to be a likely event.

"I am amazed anybody is coming," said the monetarily challenged Washington Capitals' owner Ted Leonsis on the attendance rate. "We have a core base of 12,000-15,000 people who are with you thick and thin, and when you're playing well and have excitement, you can cross that boundary and get to 18,000."

Most people are more interested in watching the playoffs rather than the regular season. This could cause an eventual shortening of the regular season or a lengthening of the post-season, and could possibly impact how new players achieve records in comparison to those in the past who have had more games in order to do so. When the NHL finally comes to this, it is a sign that the end is not far off.

# NASCAR 2004: The Chase for the Championship begins

By Bryan Manalang,  
Foothill HS

As NASCAR auto racing drives into the American mainstream, the growing sport continues to see new changes, including the most tremendous change the sport has seen in its 57-year history: the 10-race Chase for the Championship.

In racing, an elite few have been fortunate enough to celebrate victory, and even fewer have been chosen NASCAR champion, the "best" driver at the end of the racing season. While some champions have been crowned as the result of their pure dominance of the sport, others received the championship under tremendous controversy.

Since 1975, a points system has rewarded drivers on the basis of consistency. Drivers who performed well throughout the racing season, leading the most laps and finishing high in races, though not necessarily winning, earned points toward the championship trophy. In addition, the top four drivers won \$1 million from NASCAR. For many fans and drivers, it seemed that the points system was a dream come true.

However, in recent years, fans had begun to feel that the system cheated them of seeing a close points battle and an ex-

citing season finale, referring to the case of 2003 defending champion Matt Kenseth, who had only one victory during the season, but earned the championship title based on points. Kenseth had a very consistent showing throughout the year, with 11 top-five finishes and 25 top-10 finishes, as compared to the championship's second-place finisher Jimmie Johnson with three wins, 14 top fives and 20 top 10s. Kenseth won by 90 points over Johnson and 207 points over third-place finisher Dale Earnhardt Jr.

This season, NASCAR has implemented the new Championship points system, which they hope will increase competitiveness among the drivers and further the race-day resolve to have absolutely no mistakes. In addition, the new system is supposed to open up winning possibilities for more drivers, making the season's finish more exciting for fans.

Here's how it works: After 26 races in the 36-race NASCAR NEXTEL Cup season, the top 10 drivers in points and any others within 400 points of the first-place driver will earn berths in a 10-race NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Chase for the Championship, with the final race on Nov. 21 in the Ford 400. The first-place driver will begin the final 10 races with 5,050 points, the second driver 5,045

and so on, with incremental drops of five points for all those involved in the championship showdown. The drivers not involved in the championship will keep the points they have earned for the season. In other words, the drivers who are not within the top 10 or at least 400 points of the current leader will not have a shot to win the championship.

Also, race winners will now receive 180 points as compared to the 175 they would have earned under the old system. Leading a lap would ensure a bonus of five extra points and leading the most laps in a race would ensure 10 extra points, which would add up to 190 points a team could take home on any given race day.

Of course, this new points system has generated mixed reactions among the fans and drivers; however, NASCAR officials hope that this new system will increase the spirit of competition and give the fans their money's worth.

How will this affect the competition? Under the previous points system, there were teams who made it into the top 15 or top 20 in points, only to have no realistic shot at winning the championship. This new points system gives those drivers and teams a newfound sense of hope. Those teams that previously had no shot at the championship will no longer be out there just racing for an average finishing spot. They will now be racing to see who gets into the Chase for the Championship before the cut-off point

during the 26th race of the season. The racing will be made even more exciting because of this and it will add to the unpredictability and drama of NASCAR.

Also, unlike the previous points system, no team will be able to take a huge points lead and basically high step their way to the championship. With the lead being reduced, it will be as if the teams in the chase had just finished the first race of the season and thus anything can happen. With everything so close, the drivers know that they will have to get the most out of their cars, utilize as many practice and qualifying sessions as possible, drive harder than they ever have before, and ensure that absolutely nothing goes wrong on race day, such as mechanical failures and bad pit stops.

With the competition being put on an even playing field, it will be impossible to predict a champion, even during the final race of the season. The drivers that fans will be keeping their eyes on are Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson and Dale Earnhardt Jr., currently sitting atop the points standings and having been in victory lane many times this season.

With the unpredictability and the excitement that surrounds each and every NASCAR race, especially during the final 10 races currently ongoing, all the fans can do is sit back and watch as America's greatest drivers duel for the chance to raise the championship trophy and be called number one.

## Valley High football teams test new turf for district

**Artificial turf program promises improved safety, water conservation**

By Alex Boschen,  
Valley HS

Around the nation, high school football is a passion and it can be the basis for a school's pride. Whether a team is undefeated, or below a 50-percent winning average, high school football games define excitement. With hot dogs at the concession stands, and fans swarming the bleachers, game

night is always the highlight of an eager spectator's week. And now Valley High School has something to offer its football players and fans that no other Clark County school can offer — artificial turf on the playing fields.

With numerous brand new schools being constructed all over the Las Vegas valley, and Valley High School an older school in the district, why did the Clark County School District decide to install the turf here?

"Location," says Ron Montoya, Valley High School's principal. "Valley is basically in

the middle of the district. We're a great site for post-season play and championship games."

According to Montoya, water conservation was also an issue in deciding to pilot the artificial turf. A school's football field uses 90,000 gallons of water per year for maintenance. For our water-deprived valley, conserving as much water as we can is a necessity. Artificial turf turns out to be a great, resourceful investment.

"You will find turf maintenance [of the artificial turf] to be minimal," says Charles De



Clerq, Valley's assistant principal. "It is also an opportunity to give some of the older schools, such as Valley, a magnificent upgrade."

Besides the conservation and maintenance

benefits, artificial turf is a lot more player-friendly: no more sprains from running into holes and no more huge puddles of slippery mud. Moreover, this field has an absolutely stunning appearance. It looks like a pull-out poster from ESPN magazine. Going to Valley High's home games will now seem like

*Continued on page 39*

# Coming out on top, Down Under

## Coronado track star wins international gold medal

By Renee Kashka,  
Coronado HS

**H**ave you ever done something in your life that was so amazing you had to take a step back and think, "Is this really happening?"

I don't mean getting-straight-A's-on-your-report-card amazing. I mean the kind of amazing that comes from having put a year into training and planning to get to a certain point. Something you have only dreamed of in your wildest dreams. Something like competing in the pole-vaulting event of your life in, let's say, Brisbane, Australia!

I received a letter in August of 2003 from an organization called the International Sports Specialists Incorporated. The letter asked me if I was interested in being considered for a spot on the track team for the 2004 Down Under International Games in Brisbane, Australia.

As any teenager would do, I instantly filled out the application and sent it back to the organization within 15 minutes of receiving it. Now here came the worst part. I had to wait three months to hear back from the ISSI, and three months is a long time when you are waiting.

Finally, I received the letter of acceptance. The easiest part was over. Now raising the

\$3,500 to go was my main obstacle. Considering the fact that this included everything in a two-week vacation, with the exception of lunches and souvenirs, it was a very good deal.

From selling raffle tickets to going from business to business asking for donations, no matter what I tried, I had little to no success in raising the funds. However, after much work, I was able to raise half of the money, and my wonderful parents paid the other half. All that was left was to wait for that lucky day to come and to practice my heart out.

At last July 3 came, the day I was to leave for Australia. This was a special day for me because in addition to going to Australia, it was also my first time traveling alone. Not only did I have to fly from Las Vegas to Los Angeles, but then I also had to find my way through LAX, one of the biggest airports in the world, to the international terminal and then find my gate and my team for the first time. Before I knew it, I was on a 17-hour plane ride to Australia with a quick stop in New Zealand to pick up more passengers.

Once in Australia, I got to experience things in my life that I never dreamed of. I practiced every morning at Griffith University in Brisbane and then went on to the fun after-



**Kashka at a track meet last year.**

noon activities. I went to Steve Erwin's crocodile park, learned to throw a boomerang, saw native Australian ceremonies, jet-skied along the Great Barrier Reef, attended Dream World (the Australian equivalent of Disneyland) and I even had the chance to step foot into the Sydney Opera House.

It was finally the day of competition. I stood at the end of the vaulting runway. Eighty-six feet was all that was between me and my first vault at the international level. I was competing against Australia, New Zealand and other USA teammates. I lifted the 13-foot

fiberglass pole and began to run down the runway, counting every left stride I took — 6 ... 5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... there was no turning back now.

I jumped into the air. That same fiberglass pole was all that held me in the air as I rocked upside down 10 and a half feet into the air. As the pole started to catapult me up into the air, I turned my body and cleared the bar. I began my free fall onto the large foam pit beneath me, and I thought to myself, "What more could I ever ask for?"

My question was answered at the close of the competition. I can now say that I am the official 2004 Down Under International Games gold medalist.

People always ask me what's next. You are an international gold medalist your first time out; what more can you want? That's an easy question to answer. It's what every girl wants, the state title and another gold medal — in the 2012 Olympic Games, that is.

## Football turf

*Continued from page 38*

sitting in a professional stadium without having to spend \$40 for admission!

This professional-quality field could soon become a trend across the district. Based on a two-year study of the turf's actual benefits, the CCSD will decide if it wants to replace fields across the county. With the enormous cutback on the use of water, plus the hassle-free maintenance an artificial turf brings, football on this kind of field in the Las Vegas valley could become as popular as a boxing event at the MGM Grand!

"More fans? We have one of

our best football teams, and when you include a new field, of course there will be more fans," says Montoya.

"Everybody's already talking about it," agree Valley linebackers Marcus Cotton and John Howard.

Schools across the district can hardly wait to play on Valley's upgraded gridiron. The turf is smooth, unlike demolished grass fields, but for Valley opponents, the ride will be rough. Just ask Cotton and Howard — they will tell you, "It's crackin' this year!"

To some, football is just a game, and to others, it is life. Whatever the case, the new artificial turf at Valley is sure to be a crowd-pleaser.



**"I'm a dog, what's your excuse?"**

**Why the Y?**

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

# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

### Oct. 7

Las Vegas Youth Orchestras. The Ensemble, Sinfonia, Symphony and Youth Philharmonic all perform in the season's first concert. Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza in Lorenzi Park, Twin Lakes Drive off W. Washington. 6 p.m. Tickets \$6 adults, \$3 students and seniors. 229-6211.

### Oct. 13

Samuel Ramey: A Date with the Devil. UNLV Symphony Orchestra. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV. 8 p.m. Tickets \$45-90. 739-FANS.

### Oct. 15

2nd Annual United Today and Always/Unidos Hoy y Siempre. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage month with music, dance, poetry and arts and crafts displays from a variety of Latin cultures. East Las Vegas Community/Senior Center, 250 N. Eastern Ave. 7 p.m. Free admission. 229-1515.

UNLV Rebel Volleyball vs. Air Force. Cox Pavilion, UNLV. 7 p.m. Tickets \$7. 739-FANS.

Movie in the Park. Bring lawn chairs and/or blankets to enjoy PG-rated "E.T., the Extra-Terrestrial." Concessions and Halloween effects will be available for purchase. Cimarron Rose Community Center,



Jimmy Eat World plays the House of Blues in concert Oct. 26 with Recover and Emanuel. Tickets for the event are now on sale for \$17. For more information, call 632-7600.

5591 N. Cimarron Rd. 7 p.m. Free admission. 229-1607.

The Poets' Corner. Keith Brantley and Pendelita Toney host a forum for established poets and open mic participants. West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 7:30 p.m. Free admission. 229-4800.

### Oct. 16

Angie Stone and Anthony Hamilton in concert — The Silk and Sandpaper Tour. House of Blues, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd.

8 p.m. Tickets \$30-\$35. All ages. 632-7600.

Rainbow Company Youth Theatre Auditions. Roles are available for ages 10-adult for the December production of "Seussical," a musical based on the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss' books. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 1 p.m. Free admission. 229-6553.

UNLV Rebel Football vs. New Mexico. Sam Boyd Stadium, UNLV. 7 p.m. 739-FANS.

### Oct. 17

Young Artists Recital Series. Young, musically talented young adults, ages 16-21, perform classical music solo recitals. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 3 p.m. Free admission. 229-6211.

### Oct. 18

Fighting for Air: How Big Media Drowns Out Local Voices. Barrick Museum Auditorium, UNLV. 7:30 p.m. Free admission. 895-3401.

### Oct. 22

UNLV Dance Department "Kinetic Metaphors." Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV. 8 p.m. Also showing on Oct. 23 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets \$15, \$5. 739-FANS.

### Oct. 23

Annual O.N.E. Festival. Come and enjoy a neighborhood unity festival with haunted house, refreshments, games, entertain-

ment and information booths. Clark Community School, 3074 Arville Street. 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free admission. 365-9272.

Knott's Scary Farm Trip. Enjoy spooky rides, terrifying haunted houses and other Halloween sights and sounds in California. Leaving from Molasky Community School, 7801 W. Gilmore. Tickets \$75, includes transportation and park admission. 229-5345.

### Oct. 24

NBA Pre-Season Game. LA Lakers vs. Phoenix Suns. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$14-90. 739-FANS.

### Oct. 26

Jimmy Eat World in concert with Recover and Emanuel. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 7:15 p.m. Tickets \$17. All ages. 632-7600.

### Oct. 27

Marilyn Manson in concert. House of Blues, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 8 p.m. Tickets \$40-\$50. All ages. 632-7600.



### Oct. 31

UNLV Orchestra Halloween Concert. Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, UNLV. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$3, \$1 if dressed in costume. 739-FANS.

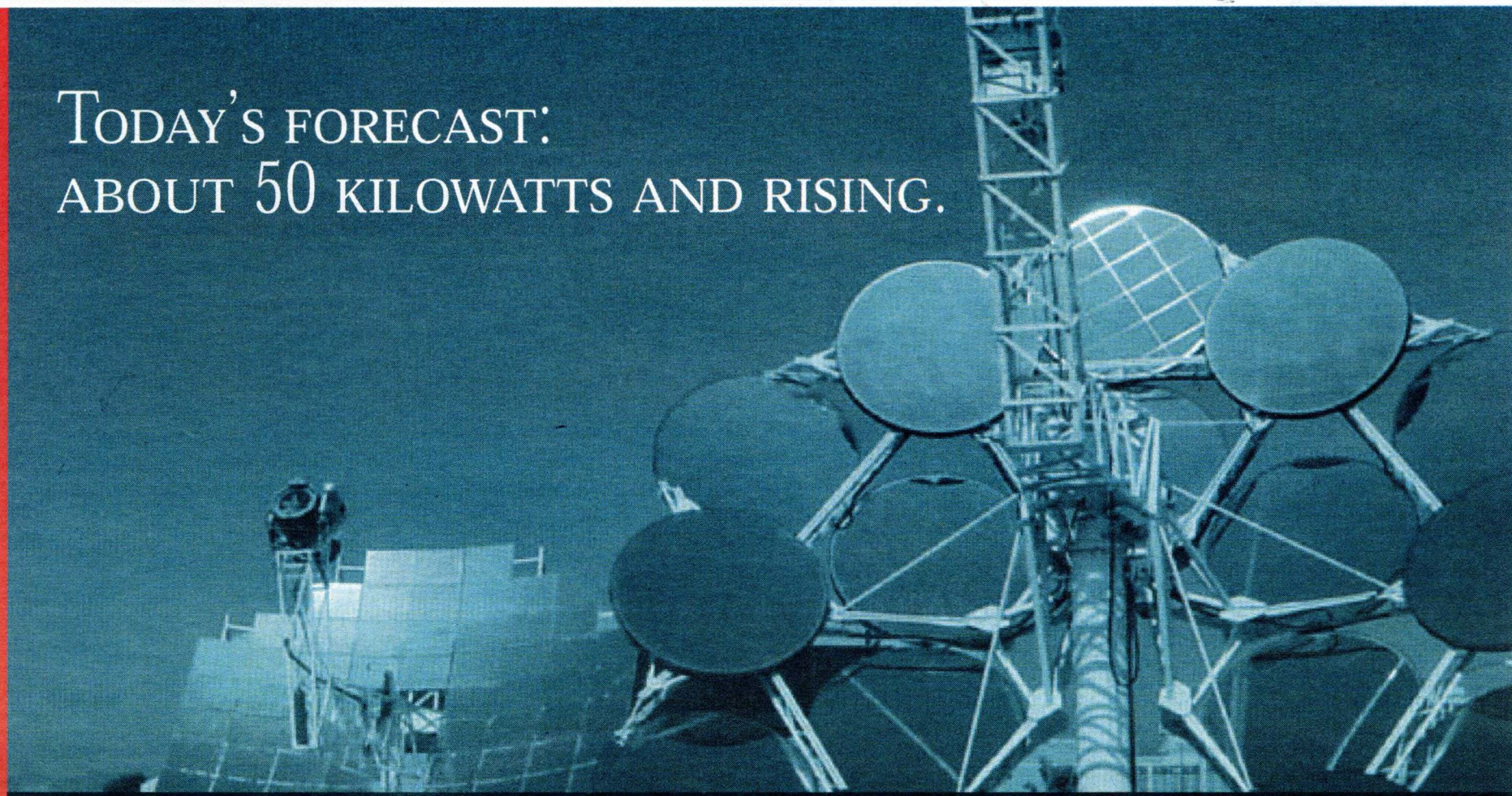


### It's 2004: Should 'E.T., e-mail home?'

Looking for an inexpensive place to take a date on Oct. 15? Drop in on "E.T., The Extraterrestrial," at the Cimarron Rose Community Center, 5591 N. Cimarron Rd. at 7 p.m. Admission to the movie in the park is free. For more information, call 229-1607.



TODAY'S FORECAST:  
ABOUT 50 KILOWATTS AND RISING.



In Southern Nevada, few things are more plentiful than sunny days. And now, UNLV is making sure we have plenty of bright nights. Our Center for Energy Research is part of a federally-funded project designed to determine the viability of a large solar power generating system in Southern Nevada. In fact, the systems our scientists and students are operating on campus are already supplying electricity to the Nevada Power grid. It's bringing us closer to our ultimate objective: less pollution, more affordable power. And that means a brighter future for all of us.

For more information, call 702-895-3699  
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UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Sci-fi fun

The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District is asking teens to read for the fun of it to celebrate Teen Read Week, October 17-23. The Library District and Fright Dome II have also teamed up to present, "It's Alive @ Your Library." From Oct. 1-24, teens at the urban branches will be eligible to earn a chance to win a pair of free tickets to the Fright Dome II at the Adventuredome Theme Park. One winner at each outlying branch will be eligible to win a Halloween gift basket filled with goodies. Also, if you read a horror book or watch a

horror movie, submit a review on-line at [www.lvccld.org/teens](http://www.lvccld.org/teens) and earn a 2-for-1 coupon to Fright Dome II. For more information, call 734-READ or visit [www.lvccld.org](http://www.lvccld.org).

## By the Light of the Moon

Bring your blankets or lawn chairs, relax on the grass and enjoy entertaining stories and music. The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District will host the Storytelling Festival, "By the Light of the Moon," on Saturday, Oct. 9, in the amphitheatre at the Rainbow Library, 3150 N. Buffalo Drive. Performances are at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Admission is

free. Call 507-3711 or visit [www.lvccld.org](http://www.lvccld.org) for more information.

## Age of Chivalry

Clark County Parks and Community Services and the Excalibur Hotel and Casino present the 11th annual "Age of Chivalry" Renaissance Festival at Sunset Park, 2601 E. Sunset Rd. Featured this year will be live music, historical re-enactments, jousting tournaments, stage and strolling performers, medieval pageantry, handmade craft demonstrations and sales, and food and beverage vendors. Festival times are Thursday, Oct. 7 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Oct. 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 per day. Children age

5-12 and seniors age 55 and over are \$5. Also, four-day passes are available for \$25 for adults and \$15 for all others. Call 455-8200 or go to [www.lvrenfair.com](http://www.lvrenfair.com) for more information.

## Lost City

Artists from the Moapa Valley Art Guild will display their work at the Lost City Museum through the month of October. The Lost City Museum is open daily, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults age 18 to 64; \$2 for age 65 and above; and children and members enter free. The museum is located in Overton on State Route 169 off I-15, exit #93 or via Lake Mead or the Valley of Fire. For more information, call the museum at 702-397-2193, or go to [www.nevadaculture.org](http://www.nevadaculture.org).

# Scholarships

## Dale E. Fridell Memorial Scholarship

Contact: [www.straightforwardmedia.com/fridell/](http://www.straightforwardmedia.com/fridell/)

Amount: \$500

Deadline: Oct. 15

Requirements: Available to all students planning to attend a two- or four-year college, trade school, technical institute, or other postsecondary education program. Must submit an essay answering the question, "Why is the completion of a postsecondary program important to you, and what do you hope to achieve once you get a degree?"

## American Harlequin Dance Scholarship

Contact: <http://www.harlequinfloors.com/americanenglish/index.asp?section=67>

Amount: \$500-\$5,000

Deadline: Nov. 1

Requirements: You must be a 15-to-21-year-old U.S. or Canadian citizen and enrolled in a public or private dance school program at the time of your application to be eligible for this award. The application must be filled out by your current dance instructor.

## Target All-Around Scholarships

Contact: [http://target.com/target\\_group/community\\_giving/scholarships.jhtml](http://target.com/target_group/community_giving/scholarships.jhtml)

Amount: \$25,000

Deadline: Nov. 1

Requirements: High school seniors intending to enter a U.S. university or college in the 2005-2006 school year may apply for this scholarship. Awards are based on number of community service hours, leadership awards and honors, letters of recommendation, and an essay on volunteer service.

## American Fire Sprinkler Association Scholarship

Contact: [www.afsascholarship.org](http://www.afsascholarship.org)

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: Nov. 6

Requirements: High school seniors may apply for this scholarship by submitting a 1,000-word essay on current fire-sprinkler legislation. Only the first 1,000 essays received between Oct. 6 and Jan. 5 will be considered for awards.

## Excellence in 3D Animation Award

Contact: [www.troystudios.com/award.html#award](http://www.troystudios.com/award.html#award)

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: Nov. 30

Requirements: The students should download free software from the animoids.com Web site and then use the software to create animated characters, props, sets or movie scenes. The same software allows students to upload their completed works for entry into the contest.

## The "Humanist" Essay Contest Scholarship

Contact: [www.thehumanist.org/essaycontest.html](http://www.thehumanist.org/essaycontest.html)

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: Dec. 1

Requirements: Students between the ages of 13 and 20 are eligible to enter this contest. Essays should consist of no more than 2,500 words and should address a topic based on humanist philosophy.

### Here are a few reminders of things to keep up with for the month of October:

- Update your résumé.
- Attend college and career presentations on campus.
- Search for scholarships. There are so many to choose from, all you have to do is take the time to look through them.
- Finish your research, compare colleges, and reduce your list to five or 10 schools. Meet with your counselor to review your college list.
- Consider sending in "early decision" and "early action" college applications.
- Attend School/Community Culturally Diverse Scholarship and Financial Aid Workshops.
- Keep track of all deadlines for scholarships, transcripts, recommendations, etc., and make sure not to be late!
- Apply for private, local, state, national and university-based scholarships. The more money you have for college, the better off you'll be.



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**After high school...it can be difficult to know what to do next.**



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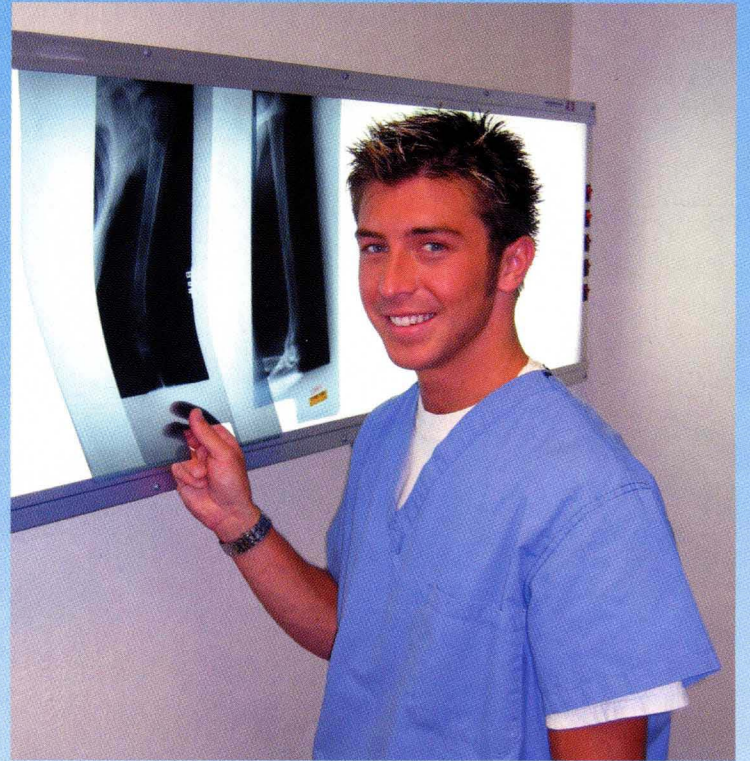


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### **Noah – Rad Tech**

*"I love what I do. I'm working in Radiology now in level one trauma center. My friends look to me and say, 'Wow. You've done a lot so far and you're young.' And so I've actually sort of influenced them a little bit I think towards medicine."*

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**Veterinary Assistant** - Just 31 weeks to a career filled with fur and fun. Love your patients and your job as you nurture the health and well-being of animals.

**Medical Assistant** - One of the hottest entry-level healthcare careers today, spend just 35 weeks to get a great start in the prestigious medical field.

**Medical Admin Assistant** - A shorter path to entry-level healthcare, in just 20 weeks you learn the front office skills that put you in the center of the medical team.

**Dental Assistant** - Get a career that helps brighten people's smiles. In only 30 weeks you can get the training to assist the Dentist in many chairside functions.

**Radiography** - This career is in demand. Take x-rays and administer contrast medias for diagnostic purposes. Train in less than two years for this degree.



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