

November 2004



CLASS!

By, for and about Clark County
high school students

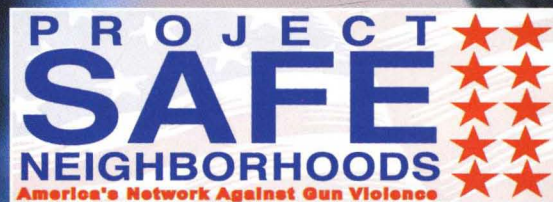


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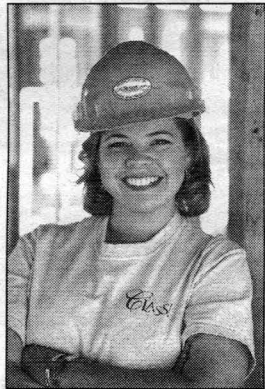
FROM THE EDITOR

Last month the staff and interns of CLASS! did a pretty cool thing. We had heard about a backpack drive in our community. As a group, we were able to provide six new backpacks full of snacks, bottled water, toiletry items, a flashlight and food coupons to be used by homeless teens in the Las Vegas area. It was fun to do, almost like a scavenger hunt as we all decided who would provide what for the packs. More importantly, it felt good knowing that there was a teen out there who wouldn't be going hungry or thirsty that night, and he or she would know that someone cared about him or her.

As this was discussed in the office, some of the students started talking about the community service they're involved in. Stephanie Hartman knew plenty of teens who were involved in hands-on activities in the Las Vegas area that helped those in need ("Creative service projects make giving back fun, personal," page 9). Sarah Overly volunteers with her family to serve Thanksgiving dinner to those who would otherwise not receive a warm meal on the family holiday ("Connecting with your family through volunteering," page 10). Others were planning on going to the Punk Rock Prom where they could have a blast and provide funding to two worthwhile causes ("Punk Rock Prom: Rock out and raise funds for charity," by Heidi Lothringer, page 12). With all of these awesome opportunities available during the month of November, we all decided we had to do an issue focused on giving back to our community!

There's no better time than this month to get involved. The weather's getting colder and both people and animals will be in need of blankets. The less fortunate are in need of food. The elderly in nursing homes can get lonely and would love to have someone stop by to say hello to them, especially with the holidays coming up. There's no end to the list of activities you can do to help someone else.

What will you do this month to make someone else's life a little better?



Allie Smith

Allie Smith
Editor/Executive Director

IT'S OFFICIAL: CLASS! IS 10 YEARS OLD!

The first issue ever was the November 1994 issue. It was half the size of our current issues, and the school district was half the size it is now. Over the past decade, we've included the writings and opinions of thousands of teens. Like it said in the first letter from the editor, "Stay tuned ... the best is yet to come!"

**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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news

Local student writers and editors attend the CLASS! 10th Annual Journalism Workshop; plus, why the school district's lunch program may spark a rebellion. **4**



letters

We've got mail! **7**

cover story

Volunteering isn't for everyone, but for those who have the time, energy and spirit, the connection is where it's at. **8**

opinion

From the serious to the light-hearted, students express their views on today's world. **13**

education

Are AP classes worth it? **18**



diganos

Tenemos fotos del Festival Internacional de la Hispanidad. Además, las reacciones de la carta al editor del mes pasado y una fiesta al estilo mariachi. **19**

body vibe

The truth: Sexual abuse in teens is prevalent. The reality: No one wants to talk about it. **24**

between us

Savvy teens explore the dynamics of cliques, the terror of relationship abuse and the challenge of dating on a budget. **26**

time out

There's more to after-school life than Harold and Kumar, The Killers, tattoo conventions, animé, reality TV, and computer games ... isn't there? **28**



the look

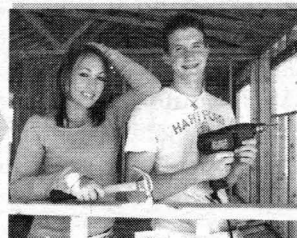
What's on the fall fashion front? **35**

calendar

This month's cool-weather calendar is chock full o' sports: The Runnin' Rebels are back, plus volleyball, gymnastics and football. For the musically starved, check out the myriad of music concerts. **36**

scholarships

Don't miss out on your chance for a well-deserved scholarship. We've got the listings and the tips to keep you on top of your application game. **38**



on our cover ...

Western HS sophomores Colleen Montes and Jonathan Sprik relax during our November cover shoot at a local Habitat for Humanity house, currently under construction.

WHAT'S INSIDE

CLASS!

Vol. 11, Issue 3

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

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CLASS! Workshop celebrates 10 years of high school journalism education

Nearly 200 high school journalism students and teachers crowded the Cox Pavilion meeting rooms at UNLV on Oct. 7 for the 10th Annual CLASS! High School Journalism Workshop. Students learned first-hand about the field of journalism from local professionals such as “Face to Face” political commentator Jon Ralston and KLAS TV-8 investigative reporter George Knapp.

“Speaking at an event like this is very rewarding,” Knapp said. “You never know if you can be an inspiration for someone just starting out and if you might make a difference in a young person’s life.”

Knapp’s presentation was one of the day’s many highlights, as he reviewed his colorful career tracking down stories on everything from serial killers to aliens and offered expert tips on tackling tough stories.

Other seminars featured leadership training for editors with UNLV’s Leadership Program; in-depth practice in newspaper writing and interviewing with Jean Norman and Susan Snyder from the Las Vegas Sun; developing a community presence for a school’s newspaper through marketing and advertising with Ron Kirsch from Ron Kirsch Media; and breaking into the competitive world of entertainment review writing with City Life’s Mike Zigler and Jarrett Keene.

In his seminar on politics and the media’s influence, Ralston urged student journalists to take their journalism training seriously, to think critically and to challenge authority.

“The media today are not doing their jobs,” he said. “We need a new generation of young people who will come in and do the kinds of things that journalists now aren’t doing.”

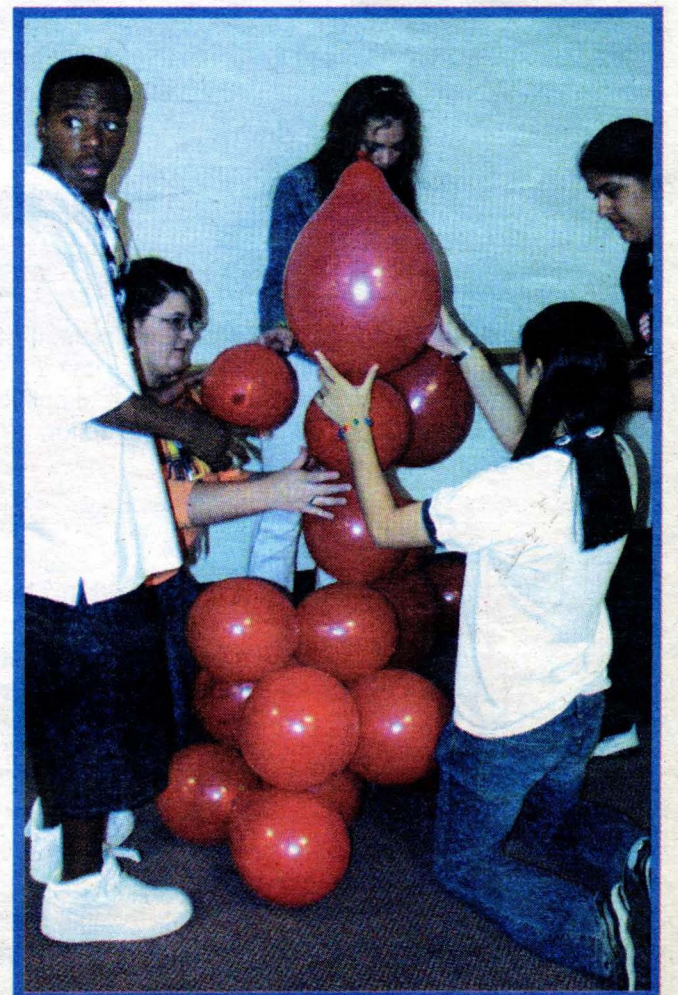
Workshop attendee Mojave High School senior Jamie DeSoto took part in a panel discussion among all participants. Asked about why she became a student journalist, DeSoto said, “This has been the most incredible opportunity. I learn something new all the time and I have the chance to express myself and be involved in my school and my community.”

The daylong workshop was sponsored by the Clark County Public Education Foundation, CCSD Career and Technical Education, UNLV’s Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies and the Las Vegas Sun.

CLASS! would like to thank all of the presenters, students and teachers who participated in this year’s event, and extend our gratitude to our generous supporters who made it possible.



Above, KLAS TV-8 investigative reporter George Knapp fields questions from student journalists. Below, students use teamwork to build a balloon tower in a leadership training seminar.



Huntridge Theater closes for remodeling



Addition of bars and gaming no threat to all-ages concert venue

By Marco Medellin,
Bishop Gorman HS

Five decades after it first opened its doors in October 1944, the Huntridge Theater has closed to undergo remodeling, shutting down one of the few all-ages concert venues in Las Vegas that still welcomed teens.

However, when the theater reopens in 2005, its guests will be able to enjoy increased capacity, new interior design, new dressing rooms, improved sound and lighting technology and a new stage as well as three different size showrooms, a restaurant, a lounge, three full bars, gaming and retail stores.

While some of the Huntridge's underage patrons might be concerned about how the addition of bars and gaming will affect the venue's ability to serve the under-21 crowd, Huntridge owner Eli Mizrachi says that the Huntridge will stay the same, except for a "face lift."

"Yes, we will have gaming,

but it will be the bar-top type of machines," says Mizrachi. "This will be in an area that is attached to the Huntridge ... where kids will not be able to go in. We will still have all-ages shows similar to the House of Blues and the Joint."

Originally designed by architect Charles Lee and owned by Hollywood film icons Loretta Young and Irene Dunn, the Huntridge Theater, at different times in its history, has brought the Las Vegas community the glamour of an international events center as well as the comfort of a hometown movie house.

It may surprise local teens to find out that the Huntridge, most recently a cool concert venue, once premiered first-run movies. In fact, in 1954, Frank Sinatra sold tickets in the Huntridge box office to promote his movie, "Suddenly." It was this same theater that hosted comedians Jerry Lewis and Abbot and Costello, and Hollywood stars Marlene Dietrich and Vincent Prince.

Over time, however, the Huntridge has evolved into a hot place to hear music for Las Vegas youth, especially for teens who attend Bishop Gorman High School. Only a decade old when Gorman came to be in 1954, the theater has, for the most part, grown with the school. Its location, less

than a mile away from the school, makes it one of Gorman's most popular hangouts.

"I like the Huntridge because it's a fun place to play and an even better place to see concerts," says Gorman student Mike Laughlin. "I like how most shows there are cheap and you have a good time ... people don't feel so constricted."

The Huntridge assisted the careers of bands such as Korn, 311, Green Day, The Foo Fighters, The Offspring, Bad Religion, Smashing Pumpkins, Sonic Youth, Weezer, Reverend Horton Heat, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Fugazi, NIN, Deftones, Incubus, AFI and the MTV 2 "\$2 Bill Series" with the Beastie Boys. It's done the same for Gorman's own musical prodigy, Arcade.

"The Huntridge helped us out a lot," says Laughlin, a member of Arcade. "More people are likely to go to a bigger, more organized concert [like the Huntridge provides], instead of some coffee shop or something."

"We gained a lot of fans and are getting more popular all the time," Laughlin adds, on the theater's contribution to the band's success.

Although the Huntridge's appearance is changing, its place as the heart and soul of Las Vegas remains constant.

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New food program leaves many students unsatisfied

By Rickey Lofton,
Sierra Vista HS

The rising childhood obesity rate in Las Vegas has prompted the Clark County School District to take drastic action through a new school food mandate. Following in the steps of California, Texas and Florida schools, Nevada is hoping to achieve the same positive student health results these states have gained by changing the food and drink offered in schools.

To meet the criteria of the new mandate, food items cannot exceed a maximum of 30 percent total calories from fat or a maximum of 600 milligrams of sodium. Food items that were popular with students last year will be prepared and cooked in a healthier manner in order to meet the guidelines. These foods include pizza, chips and chicken.

However, some foods have been excluded because they meet the requirements of the to-

tal fat percentage, but still exceed the recommended amount of sodium. For example, all flavors of Pop-Tarts are sold except blueberry because of its high amount of sodium.

"I feel that students at this age are old enough to make decisions that affect their health," says Sierra Vista High School senior Krysten Hughes. "The school has taken too many drastic steps at once, and I think eventually students will start to rebel in some form or another."

It's hard to determine the results of the healthy food changes in other states because there's no actual proof whether or not the results are in direct relation to the new food mandate. However, test scores have risen 4 percent in California since the state's intervention and the obesity rates have dropped.

The University of Michigan released research linking obesity and eating habits with adolescent behavior. The state



Sierra Vista HS freshman Alex Osborne looks over the cafeteria's new healthy food offerings. Many students are opting to bring their own lunches to school rather than partake in the school's food.

of California is also connecting student behavior with its new food program, in spite of inconclusive results. The Clark County School District has yet to obtain the results of its nutritional changes, but it will be difficult to do if the students aren't interested in eating the food to begin with.

"I think it will make it easier for students who are overweight to control their weight," says Sierra Vista junior Samuel Stubbs. "But I do feel it is a public school, and if students want to overeat, then they will do so at home, and punishing other students at

school just isn't fair."

The reduced number of students actually eating lunch at school reflects the students' dissatisfaction with the new food program. Students with shortened schedules either eat fast food or eat at home. Many of the underclassmen have been bringing their own lunches because of the limited selection, and some students are not eating at all throughout the day.

Many students have complained that if going without food was part of the school district's plan for getting the students to lose weight, it's working.

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OPEN MIC

Darkness

By James Cox, Cheyenne HS

Every day I awake
To the same old life,
Thinking I know
What is gonna be,
Like today and tomorrow,
'Cause it seems that
Nothing ever changes,
That everything and one
Are the same.
So I just go on
With the flow
That I know
'Cause to me,
Nothing will ever change,
But when I am walking,
It seems like I was wrong
About today and maybe tomorrow,
But then there's something
Different, new and better.
So I guess I really don't know.

Free speech

To the editor:

In the October issue, I read the letter, "One nation, one language." I was concerned and a bit surprised, to say the least, that it would bother anyone that there would be a separate section in CLASS! dedicated to people who speak another language. The United States is remarkable in its multifaceted cultures, in particular Las Vegas and other big cities that have accumulated people of diverse races and cultures. The United States is supposed to be a haven where people's rights are respected and where equality is realized. Free speech and a free press are among those rights, and to say that it's "non-sense" for a different race with a different language to write in a magazine or newspaper infuriates me. I think that as long as someone, anyone, has something to say, he or she should be heard. We do, after all, live in the country where freedom rings.

*Bernadette Angat
Las Vegas HS*

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the letter regarding DÍGANOS in your October issue. We live in a country with a great deal of diversity and many cultures, and just because I speak and read Spanish, it doesn't mean I'm necessarily from Mexico. Just because Latino people or their families are immigrants, it doesn't mean we have to give up our language and our culture and adopt what the writer calls the "native" language here. I am an American citizen also. I speak both English and Spanish, and I am glad that DÍGANOS exists because it makes me feel connected to my race and to who I am. Latinos and other immigrants shouldn't be treated as second-class citizens and should be allowed to read and write in their native language if they want to because we have freedom of speech in this country. This is ONE country for all of us with MANY cultures and languages.

*Ana Molina
Las Vegas HS*

To the editor:

I love your magazine! I was reading October's issue and read a letter that I totally disagree with, titled "One nation, one language." This country is a country of immigrants, and everybody here is an im-

migrant except the Native Americans. English is not the native language of America. English is from England. The native language of America is spoken by Native American tribes. I do wish one language was spoken in America — my language — because I'm Indian and Mexican. But this country is diverse, so who cares about "one language?" Isn't this a free country?

*Maria Navarro
Rancho HS*

To the editor:

I would like to respond to the letter "One nation, one language" from a Sierra Vista High School student in the October issue. DÍGANOS in CLASS! magazine is for the Hispanic students who feel more comfortable reading in their native language rather than in English. As a matter of fact, many high schools in Clark County teach foreign languages, including Spanish, and could use DÍGANOS as a teaching tool in Spanish classes. When I read CLASS!, I don't skip any pages because I understand both languages. Having to skip five pages just because you don't understand the language doesn't mean that everything in Spanish is wrong. It never hurts to learn a new language. As people come to this country they learn English, but by keeping their native language, they count as two people instead of one because they can communicate to two people instead of just one. Take it from a Mexican American: Two heads, and two languages, are better than one. Gracias.

*Adrian Mireles
Mojave HS*

Testing, testing

To the editor:

I like the story, "Progress of No Child Left Behind Act overrated" [October 2004]. I agree with Jamie Hawkins' quote, that most of the students haven't really fluctuated much academically. I think the law should have been called "No Child Left Untested," because all we do is take test after test. Yet, the percent of good grades didn't raise that much.

Also, the different language section in the magazine is degrading ["One nation, one language" October 2004]. Not being racist, but people who choose to move to America need to learn our language, English, because it's unfair to have to learn

theirs when we're American citizens.

*Name withheld
Foothill HS*

Hope for depression

To the editor:

Normally, things like CLASS! don't appeal to me at all. However, I was glancing through this one and couldn't help but notice that two articles stuck in my mind.

"Suffering in silence," by Farah Minwalla [October 2004], struck so close to home with me, I nearly cried. Being a teenager is one of the hardest times in anyone's life. I myself was (and probably still am) on the depressed side. I've tried to commit suicide twice. After the second time, I got professional help. Today, I'm still in therapy and am much better off.

"Rape victims need protection, not persecution" [October 2004] was another article that made me hurt. Several people I know have been sexually assaulted or raped. Rape is the crime that's least reported because people think rape victims intentionally let this happen. This story is very true and very painful to those who have been in this situation.

*Name withheld
Foothill HS*

To the editor:

I was very glad when I read the October issue of CLASS!. I found a story for which I was overcome with emotion, "Suffering in Silence," by Farah Minwalla [October 2004].

Reading the article, I found myself thinking about how true the story was. I have many friends who have bad days, but I know that some of them actually have a depression problem that they themselves don't realize. I myself have had problems with depression, and am still having problems with it. I understand how some people feel like they can't talk to anyone about it, and suffer in silence. I've suffered in silence myself, but I have started to open up to some people, so I encourage others with the same problems to do so. It will help them greatly.

I really appreciate Farah for writing her story. It was filled with so much truth that I tried to get everyone I know to read it. I hope she continues to write great stories like this. I just hope that others with this problem found the truth in the story, and are trying to help themselves. I hope that someone with a friend who has a problem with depression tries to help him or her out. I thank you and the writer very much for publishing that story.

*Sandra Molski
Foothill HS*

Price of freedom

To the editor:

Where's the pride? In a recent issue of CLASS!, there was an article opposing reinstatement of a military draft in the United States from Valley High School student Alex Boschen [October 2004]. I was appalled by what he had to say.

It is an honor to be a part of any one of our military branches, not an "abrogation of rights." People think that freedom comes free. I'm here to say that it doesn't. Freedom comes at a price, a price that we should all be willing to pay.

British World War II veteran Wally Parr once said, "Young men of your country, not much more than boys, gave up all their tomorrows for your today." We should have more young men who are willing to fight for America's freedom like our grandfathers did.

Boschen makes it sound as if being drafted is the worst thing that can happen to a young man. I have two things to say to that. First, when our country needs help, all young men and women, but especially men, should be willing to serve and fight for their country, not fighting against their country to keep from doing their duty. Second, we shouldn't need to institute a draft. To fight for our military is an honor, not an obligation. I urge our young men to stop being selfish and to find their honor, pride and dignity to be ready to fight for our nation when it calls for their help.

*Dane Byers
Virgin Valley HS*

Election fallout

To the editor:

I completely disagree with the article "Vote Kerry, boot the cowboy out of office" because the only thing the writer does in the article is bash President Bush. Only once does the author say, "Vote for Kerry," and even that is at the end of the article. The author also did not state the facts, like when Sept. 11 happened, it damaged an already declining economy, and now the economy is improving, not getting worse. Another untruth is that the war in Iraq was needed! Bush went to war to help two countries. He took out a band of terrorists, got rid of an oppressive dictator and gave a country hope of having a stable government. I do not support Kerry mostly because I have yet to learn his "plan" if he becomes president.

*Jessica Mayes
Foothill HS*

Time, values, motivation influence teen volunteerism



By Shannon Duncan,
Silverado HS

The last school bell rings and instead of going home, approximately 120 high school students file into a crowded

room to attend the first Key Club meeting of the new school year. Students submit applications and various community service events are planned. More than half of those students drop their commitment as the year progresses, but for others, community service is an experience that is not easily given up.

High schools across the country have incorporated community service clubs into their extracurricular activities and encourage student participation. Clubs such as Interact and Make a Wish offer students the opportunity to help less fortunate children and families. National Honor Society requires community involvement for its members. Key Club remains the largest community service organization in high school and offers monthly activities.

For most of these clubs, however, there are more students who join than who complete the year as members. Why do some students drop out and others choose to stay? The amount of schoolwork a student has is largely responsible but more important is a student's dedication.

Most people enjoy being involved in activities and spending time with friends. Community service clubs serve as a way to do both of these, plus help others and the environment. But how important is helping the community to students?

Silverado High School Key Club officer, senior Monika DeLeon says, "[Some students] just join to go to Six Flags in November, and then that's it. By the time March comes, there are probably only 20 members left."

For some students then, these clubs offer fun getaways and retreats that they want to take advantage of. However, other students admit it's just really difficult to find the time to participate.

With college looming in the future and grades a top priority, setting aside time to be in a service club can be stressful. Many clubs meet once a week, planning events constantly, while stating a point requirement that students must meet. For many,



Western High School sophomores Jonathan Sprik and Colleen Montes hang out at one of the houses under construction by Habitat for Humanity.

the desire to help the community is there but not the time to meet the demands of the club.

National organizations such as National Honor Society and Key Club offer induction after these strict requirements are met, and if that possibility is taken away, some students choose not to be in the club at all.

The community should not worry though. There are many students who remain devoted year after year and participate in service events. The inner drive to help another individual is definitely a reason for involvement, but there are also others.

Colleges favor those students who are

involved in extracurricular activities and help the community. Being in an organization that dedicates itself to serving others shows concern and responsibility that highlight a person's character. Rewards are offered by high schools to involved students in the form of pins, letters and cords upon graduation, so students do receive something for their efforts.

But perhaps the greatest reward is in the service act itself. Silverado senior Linda Ghov says, "I like seeing the happy faces of those that I help." That feeling cannot be found in any other situation.

Community service clubs continue to offer that beautiful reward, for anyone who can find the time.

Creative service projects make giving back fun, personal

By Stephanie Hartman, Centennial HS

A pessimist, they say, sees a glass of water as being half empty; an optimist sees the same glass half full. But a giving person sees a glass of water and starts looking for someone who might be thirsty," says G. Donald Gale, editor and public speaker.

Everywhere there are people giving up their time doing things for others.

"Teenagers volunteer 2.4 billion hours annually, a service worth \$3.4 billion to the U.S. economy," says the Independent Sector, a coalition of not-for-profit organizations and foundations. "About 13 million teenagers, ages 12-17, volunteer an average of three and a half hours per week."

"Volunteering makes you feel like a better person because you're helping the community," says Sarah Arata, a sophomore at Centennial High School.

Much of the volunteering done in the United States is religious or educational/youth-service related. While volun-



teering at a hospital or at a church is admirable, there are many creative organizations worth volunteering for.

There is something for everyone when it comes to selecting a place to help out.

If animals are a source of enjoyment for you, try assisting at an animal shelter or local pet store. Many people around the world lack eyeglass wear. Why not collect old, unused glasses for redistribution?

"In NJROTC, I've done a Greek festival where I helped serve food," says Centennial junior Anthony Jacovino. "At Betsy Rhodes Elementary I helped teachers move into and out of classrooms. I've helped out at school openings, the police department and even at the city council."

"It makes me feel better to know that my actions are making someone's life better," says Rachel Hommel, a senior at

Green Valley High School. "I think volunteering is an empathetic way of living."

The Ronald McDonald House for sick children and their families, Child Haven emergency children's shelter, Special Olympics for disabled children and the Make-a-Wish foundation for terminally ill children are just a few foundations where a teenager can contribute and leave a happier person.

"I think it's fun to volunteer. I just can't help it," says Ted Acree, a home-schooled senior who volunteers for his church doing odd jobs such as unloading pumpkins into a pumpkin patch and conducting yard sales.

There are also ways of being active outdoors while helping others, like getting involved in the Race for the Cure event to defeat breast cancer, AIDS walks that raise money and awareness in the fight against AIDS, adopting a highway to keep it litter-free, planting flowers to beautify a park or neighborhood, or walking a dog for an elderly neighbor.

Teenagers can also offer their services for local politicians. Anthony Ribaud, a senior at Clark High School, volunteers for a local campaign office, "because I like politics, and I want to learn more about how government works."

Many people who don't volunteer say it is because they lack the time necessary to get involved. If this is the case, such activities as collecting Race for the Cure yogurt lids and soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House take a minimal time commitment.

Erin Gilbert, a junior at the Meadows School plans on traveling to Puerto Rico this summer to help save sea turtles from poachers.

"I think it would give a different perspective of life to better yourself and your community in the process of enlightening ourselves," Gilbert says when asked why she volunteers.

Whether you spend much of your time volunteering or very little, there are many opportunities available to get involved.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: Silverado HS

When it comes to community service, why are or aren't you involved?

By Shannon Duncan, Silverado HS

The Involved



Linda Ghov, senior, Key Club
"It just makes me feel good to help others."



Sara Nielson, sophomore, National Honor Society
"It's really good to help people, and it looks good on college applications too."



Monika DeLeon, senior, National Honor Society, Key Club, Interact Club and Make a Wish Club
"I like doing community service because I like to give back to the community, and it feels good to give back."



Spencer Driscoll, junior, National Honor Society
"It's in my nature to do good and help others."

The Uninvolved



Nathan Warner, junior
"I'd really like to do community service, but I don't know where to go."



Ryan Morris, junior
"I guess laziness holds me back."



Rachael Zilliott, junior
"It's hard to find time between band and higher-level classes."



Kalissa Cyrkiel, senior
"I'm so busy with my studies and work right now. Maybe when I'm older I can make time."

Connecting with your family through volunteering

By Sarah Overly, Silverado HS



Watching a movie, going to dinner and playing a board game are all activities that, up until three years ago, I would have considered the only way to spend quality time with my family. Never would I have considered that an enjoyable way of hanging out with my family would be to volunteer.

However, over the past three years, my family and I have discovered a way to help those less fortunate and still incorporate spending time with each other. Each year, we volunteer to serve the homeless Thanksgiving dinner at the Hard Rock Café, an annual event on Thanksgiving Day here in Las Vegas. Men,

women and children, including many families, are bused in from several locations such as St. Vincent's, Shade Tree and the Salvation Army, and volunteers wait on them to make their day special.

The number of people attending the event ranges from 700-1,400. They are able to enjoy a delicious dinner served to them in a warm environment with background music and a cozy atmosphere. As volunteers, we try our best to ensure that everyone is having an enjoyable time. Upon leaving, people are given toiletries, which are handed out by Vietnam Veterans waiting outside. The annual event accepts up to 70 volunteers for the event, including employees at the Hard Rock Café. Jean Marie Stouffer organizes the annual event and is always willing to accept new volunteers. If interested in volunteering, contact Stouffer at the Hard Rock Café at 733-7625.

Throughout the day, my family and I are able to socialize with the people from the community whom we are serving and with each other. We laugh at how clumsy we are serving the food and bond over how much fun we have with one another. It is amusing to see my dad nearly break the ice machine in his attempts to have the drinks meet his temperature requirements of "really" cold while my mother is screaming for yet another encore of Mariah Carey's, "All I Want For Christmas." My sister is pointing out all of the cute volunteer boys as I try my best to keep her focused.

Once the day is over, we go out to dinner and connect with each other about the experience we just shared. Granted our Thanksgiving is no longer an average day with loud family members shouting which type of gravy they want and who is annoying whom, but it is just as satisfying. Volunteering at the café is rewarding in several ways.

Stouffer feels that volunteering is a positive way to spend

time as well. "It gives a sense of belonging to the community and a good way of bonding with your family," she says.

I find myself looking forward to attending the event, not only to help others but also to enjoy the experience with my family. It makes me feel a bit selfish because I find that the experience is more gratifying for my family and I than for those in need of the help.

It may sound cliché, but it genuinely puts things into perspective. Seeing the families who are less fortunate and enduring unlimited obstacles makes my family thankful for what we have and, most importantly, the people in our lives. Volunteering over the past three years has enabled me to become a more selfless person and appreciate the time I am able to spend with the ones I love.

No matter what organization or community services you choose to get involved with, include your family because it has been and continues to be one of the most fulfilling things in my life.

Giving thanks still the center of nontraditional Thanksgiving Day



By Jessica Estepa, LV Academy

When you think of Thanksgiving, what do you envision? Is it the

traditional dinner, with family members gathered around the table? Or maybe a volunteer, handing out food to the homeless on the holiday? Maybe you don't have Thanksgiving dinner at all, but Thanksgiving lunch instead.

Times have changed; having everyone gathered around the turkey at dinnertime isn't necessarily what happens on the fourth

Thursday of November these days. With parents who work on Thanksgiving and teens who have other plans for their days off, Thanksgiving is drifting away from traditional views that have been around for years.

Living in Las Vegas, many parents work on Thanksgiving or the day after, leaving teens alone on the holiday and unable to travel. However, many teens make the most out of it despite the obstacles.

Alicia Gey, a senior at Las Vegas Academy, says that though both her parents have worked on Thanksgiving, they still have dinner together.

"I'll cook all day and [my parents]

will call, telling me to put the turkey in for this long," she says.

Other teens have family over, but they don't necessarily all sit around the table together.

Calea DeGonzales, a junior at Cheyenne High School, says, "I guess we don't have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner because we all sit on the couch and watch T.V."

When it comes to dinner, some families don't have what many consider to be the staple of Thanksgiving — a turkey.

Community College High School junior Vanna Nguyen says, "It varies on what we eat each year ... I don't eat turkey. Turkey is not the most essential

thing in my family's [Thanksgiving] dinner."

Despite all of the differences from the "traditional" Thanksgiving feast, each family's unique choices don't differ on the meaning of the holiday.

"We spend Thanksgiving the way everyone else does — with family and food. Does anything else matter?" says DeGonzales.

For most, Thanksgiving is a day where one remembers what he or she is grateful for.

Nguyen says, "The most important thing, for me, is family and praying, and just being thankful for what you have."

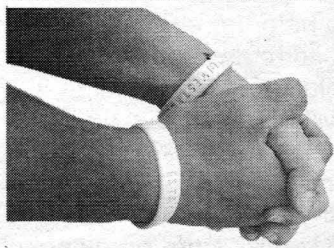
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Armstrong bracelets hit big on school campuses

By Holly Villamagna, Sierra Vista HS

You've probably seen them in the hallways at your school — yellow bracelets inscribed "Livestrong." Not only are these bracelets a huge trend right now, but proceeds from their sales go to the Lance Armstrong Foundation, which educates people about cancer and raises money for research.

The Lance Armstrong Foundation was founded by, you guessed it, champion cyclist Lance Armstrong in 1996, soon after he was diagnosed with cancer. Before the diagnosis, Armstrong, who has been biking since the age of 13, was ranked the number one cyclist in the world.

Doctors soon realized that the cancer had spread to Armstrong's lungs and brain, and he was given less than a 50 percent chance for survival. Determined to beat the disease,

he chose to undergo a type of chemotherapy that allowed him to beat the cancer without diminishing his lung capacity.

Armstrong beat the odds and returned to biking soon after. In 1999, he won his first Tour de France, cycling's biggest race. Last July, he won his sixth Tour in a row, a feat that no other athlete has accomplished.

Armstrong has remained dedicated to his foundation throughout the years. The Lance Armstrong Foundation has become one of today's most successful charities. It educates people about cancer and provides public health programs and research grants.

In May 2004, the Livestrong wristbands debuted. They cost a dollar each, and Armstrong hoped to sell five million of them to benefit his foundation.

The bracelets were a huge hit, and more

than 11 million have been sold to date. During the 2004 Summer Olympics, they could be seen on athletes from countries like France, Jamaica and Morocco. Presidential candidate John Kerry wore one as he campaigned this summer.

This fall, the bracelets have started appearing on high school campuses across the valley. At Sierra Vista High School, cheerleaders wear the bracelets because Donna Besser, varsity cheerleading coach, bought a hundred wristbands with her husband, who coaches baseball at Palo Verde High School. They both gave them to their athletes to help support the foundation's cause.

"The mother of one of the boys on the baseball team has cancer, so that's why we decided to do it," says Besser.

To order a wristband of your own, visit www.lancearmstrong.com.



The GIFT that keeps on GIVING

By Shannon Veasey, Shadow Ridge HS

With the holidays coming up, there are many different things that one can be thankful for, whether it's family, good health or just plain happiness. However, rather than just being thankful for the blessings received, many groups and valley residents are pledging their time to be someone else's miracle through volunteering.

Throughout the valley, thousands of people pledge their time to soup kitchens, elderly homes, animal and homeless shelters and many other forms of volunteering to spread the love of the holiday season all year long. Nearly 25 percent of these volunteer angels are from ages 13 to 20 with many reasons for spending their time so graciously. Some may volunteer to have a community service credit to add to their college applications, while some just feel that their time is better spent helping those who are in need. Whatever the reason, teens are involved and encourage others to help as well.

Many times when thinking about doing volunteer work, it is hard to know where to start and even more difficult to find what would be most fun and interesting. And more often than not, the idea quickly slips the mind, and energy is wasted just vegetating on the couch. If there ever was a time to get involved, there is no better time to start than today.

Some ideas to keep in mind when choosing volunteer work are one's hobbies, ideas, passions and, of course, the amount of time available. A little research on the Internet and a few phone calls will pave the way for teens to use their free time wisely and help the Las Vegas community.

So the next time thoughts of what to do arise, think about helping others who so desperately need a little extra attention. Sometimes a little gesture of kindness changes a life in a tremendous way and is indeed a gift that keeps on giving.

Southern Nevada needs YOU!

If you've got the desire, we've got the place where you can really make a difference. What's your passion? What are you good at? Match up your unique skills and interests with a local charitable organization, and make your world a better place. The sites listed here house databases of volunteer positions for many different organizations doing a wide variety of charitable work. There's something for everyone!

Network for Good

www.networkforgood.org

Supporting nonprofit, charitable organizations, the Network for Good includes a clearinghouse of organizations in need of volunteers. Choose an opportunity by organization or topic, area and interests. This site serves several volunteer organizations such as the president's USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network.

Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada

www.volunteercentersn.org

Promoting local voluntarism, the Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada has a central listing of many volunteer positions with service organizations in Southern Nevada. Many organizations such as the United Way of Southern Nevada refer potential volunteers to this site to find suitable opportunities for giving back to the community.

Volunteer Match

www.volunteermatch.org

Volunteer Match is an online service that matches your interests, location and availability to volunteer opportunities near your home. This site works with many major volunteer organizations, including Youth Service America and Servenet.org.

Sierra Vista student charters African school project

By Rickey Lofton,
Sierra Vista HS

High school students do a great deal of the volunteer work accomplished in America. However, very little recognition is given to adolescents for their donated time. One student deserving of recognition is Brooke Paulsen, a Sierra Vista High School senior. She has started the only Nevada chapter of A's for Africa, a nationwide, student-led organization striving to provide a better education for the people of Africa.

Many community service volunteers are within the age bracket of 13-20. Youth volunteers have a variety of motives for donating their time. Some students volunteer their time so they can add community service participation to their college applications. However, other students are serving their community in ways that are completely selfless.

Paulsen is one of those stu-

dents. She decided to put her energy toward solving the overwhelming problems in Africa through the organization A's for Africa. This organization focuses the dedication of young people toward raising money to build schools in Africa.

Poverty and hunger in Africa exist in part because of a lack of supplies, but the lack of education in Africa seems to have gone under the radar as contributing to the problem. The poverty of Somalia may correlate to the 38 percent literacy rate. Somalia isn't the only nation reporting these statistics either. Countries in poverty stay in poverty because their people aren't educated in ways to help themselves. Add the current AIDS crisis in Africa, and education and schools are often the last priority to ever be addressed.

The members of A's for Africa have opted to raise funds to build schools instead of sending food and supplies. They hope to raise one million dollars nationally in the upcoming year.

"By giving these people food, we are not providing a solution to this ongoing problem. We will only be able to supply them with food for so long," says Paulsen. "By educating them, we can teach them the skills needed to provide a better life for themselves."

The organization hopes to raise enough proceeds to build 15 schools throughout Africa. These schools will not be like schools in the United States because technology-focused American education will not suit the needs of undeveloped African countries. Instead, the schools will teach them specific skills, such as farming, to help them increase their scarce resources. Courses in construction will be

offered to help the students learn how to build more modern and stable buildings. Metalworking classes will be given to help the economy and better Africa's industrialism.

In today's global society, students like Paulsen are breaking down barriers and reaching out to international communities. Because of the growing AIDS epidemic, the lack of education that keeps African people uninformed and at risk may eventually affect us all, and yet only a small number of people do anything about it. Anyone interested in getting involved with A's for Africa can contact Paulsen via email at Blondi4450@aol.com or log on to www.aisforafrica.org.



Punk Rock Prom

Rock out and raise funds for charity

By Heidi Lothringer, Sierra Vista HS

Prom is not usually the first thing that comes to mind in the month of November. Usually, you focus on the fast approaching holiday season. You also may use November as a month to give back to your community. After all, November does include Thanksgiving, a holiday to give back and count your blessings.

This November, why not give back and have a great time while doing it? Balcony Lights Music & Books is hosting its Fifth Annual Punk Rock Prom to benefit the Project 4 Youth and the Rape Crisis Center.

The event is going to be held on Nov. 20. The fun and games begin at 6 p.m. and last until curfew. Punk rock prom is an alternative to your traditional end-of-the-school-year event. Of course, it will feature prom staples such as flowers and pictures, but have you ever played Twister at prom? Punk Rock Prom will host Las Vegas' largest game of Twister as well as local bands and dancing with tunes spun by a local DJ.

Don't have a date? Don't worry! Bring your friends; you may even make new friends while you're there. If you have a significant other, you can enjoy this change from the usual movie-and-dinner date. This is sure to be an event that you will not forget anytime soon.

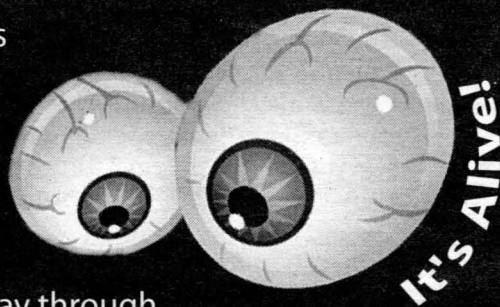
The best part of it all is that by coming to the event, you will not only have a terrific time, but you will also be helping others. The proceeds made at this event will benefit Project 4 Youth, a local mentoring and youth development organization, and the Rape Crisis Center, a support center for victims of sexual violence. It will only cost \$6 per couple to get in (\$4 for individual tickets), plus \$1 for each event. This is pretty thrifty considering the great causes to which you will be contributing.

Balcony Lights Music & Books is located at 4800 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite K. The store is across the street from UNLV, behind Pizza Hut, and easy to locate. Punk Rock Prom is a great way to help out the community, and it will be a blast too!

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XPOZ overcomes recent events

By Stephanie Lim,
A-Tech HS

We've been told over and over again, "Say no to smoking, it's bad for your health." Although this is true, when was the last time you were really interested in the fact? It's been said countless times, and smoking often poses as the "cool" thing to do, since our teachers and parents always try to enforce the no-smoking rules. When we get the "smoking lecture" again, we think, "We already know that smoking is bad, why do you have to keep telling us?"

Ever since I joined the XPOZ Coalition, that's the last thought that enters my mind. You might have heard of XPOZ through the radio, TV commercials, or you might even own some of the stylish gear, but what, or who, is XPOZ?

XPOZ (pronounced "expose") is the local anti-tobacco coalition of almost 3,000 members and growing — run by youth, for youth. While they do reinforce the fact that smoking is bad for you, they don't do it in the tradi-

tional way.

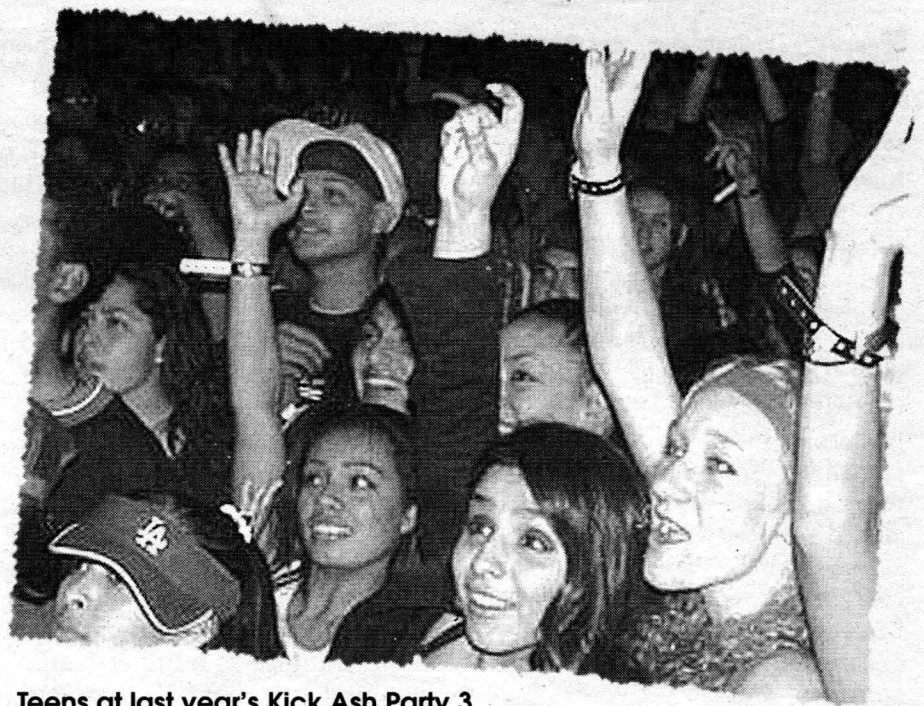
"What else is there to know about not smoking?" you might ask.

Imagine if all the students at Las Vegas Academy, Clark, Eldorado, Palo Verde and Rancho High Schools died today. That would be the same number of people who die each day from smoking — the size of 5 high schools!

Cigarettes also contain some of the deadliest toxins out there, such as cadmium (fuel for batteries), rat poison, formaldehyde (used to embalm dead bodies), ammonia (in nail polish remover and glass cleaner), arsenic (used in pesticides), and hundreds more. Yuck, right?

So, how does XPOZ get this information known without resorting to the same old lecture?

Protesting is one way XPOZ members get their voices heard. The feeling you get when you're speaking your mind to the world is exhilarating! Summits for members are held every so often and are always fun to attend. You learn about the lies the tobacco industry tells us every day



Teens at last year's Kick Ash Party 3 rock out in a safe, fun venue.

to get teens to start smoking. You also learn creative ways to get your message across to other teens, and you meet some of the coolest people in the valley.

Every year for the last four years, XPOZ has held a massive event called the "Kick Ash Party," where some of the hottest DJs out there rock the mic for you.

You may have heard about this year's party on the news or you might have actually been there, among the thousands of teens who attended. I was inside during all the action, and

let me tell you this: it wasn't as crazy as the news made it sound. It seemed like everyone was having fun. People were dancing and enjoying themselves up until the end of the party. A few students received minor injuries when a fire extinguisher was set off after the police closed down the event, but otherwise, everyone was safe.

Though the news made it seem bad, I think the biggest thing everyone should remember is to not believe everything the media says.

Chaos, confusion endanger teens at Kick Ash event

By Anna Scarpa,
Coronado HS



It all began as a normal night with innocent intentions. My friend and I planned to attend an anti-smoking concert, the Kick Ash Party, which was put on by the teen-oriented, anti-tobacco organization XPOZ Coalition. I was told that it was a rap concert, something I am not too crazy about, but I needed service hours for Key Club. We had no idea how the night would end up.

My friend and I arrived at the Las Vegas Events Center on Sunset Road around 7:45 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25. Immediately, we were shocked at the massive turnout. The lines were unbelievably long, packed with what we later found out was 5,500 kids.

It was very noisy as people were screaming for the doors to open. I was surprised to see that many were smoking in the parking lot, something the show was supposed to be against. Because we were wearing XPOZ gear, my friend and I got to skip the line and go right in. The center was only able to hold 2,500 kids; 3,000 were left outside.

Shortly after packing the room, a DJ began playing and a variety of dancing erupted. The place was packed; we could not even hear each other speak. My friend and I ventured out of the crowd to go talk to an XPOZ crewmember that he knew.

All of a sudden the whole crowd began screaming, pushing, and frantically running in a panic to get out of the place. Massive flagpoles inside the center were being knocked over, and kids were being trampled. The thoughts that fled through my mind as to what could possi-

bly be causing this were frightening. I did not know what to think, but I knew that something was definitely wrong.

The officials told us to calm down and stay where we were; my friend and I did this. When the crowd simmered down, we decided to dash to the door. We emerged from the building to see massive numbers of policemen, police cars, ambulances, SWAT team members, fire department personnel and even a vehicle used to haul prisoners off to jail.

Many kids were put in handcuffs. We immediately knew that something major went on, and all we could think of was that we had to get out of there. We found the car and sat in it until there was a clear path out of the parking lot. Suddenly, a mass of kids ran across the street, and we had nowhere to go. We were literally parked in the middle of the street. After about five minutes,

we entered the freeway and faced an extreme traffic jam all the way home.

We never really found out what happened until the next day. Apparently, someone had broken into the fire extinguisher

See related story, page 14

and was spraying it all over the crowd. Fights were breaking out with the 3,000 angry kids left outside, and the police decided to shut down the event.

With 2,500 kids, one would think that the security would be strict. XPOZ claimed to have 30 security guards monitoring the show, well within county requirements, yet police only spotted five guards when they arrived at the scene.

Needless to say, XPOZ is most likely going to have to go through a lot in order to put on the Kick Ash Party next year. I will not be going.

Some senior memories you just don't want

By Riley Marriage,
Coronado HS



I have never been one to photograph well. In every Christmas card picture or family portrait, it seems that I have always been the daughter with the closed eyelids, frizzy hair or strained smile. So it can just be imagined how much anticipation I felt when it was time for me to get my senior portrait taken this summer.

Hardly released from school, within two weeks, flyers were sent to the incoming senior class with a predetermined date and time when each of us was to report to Bernhard & Williams Photography for our "monumen-

tal" portraits. It was only June, a whole year before we would even graduate, and we were already supposed to take our pictures? Evidently so.

For school pictures in years past, students usually just filed down to the gym and got it over within 20 minutes, quick and simple. This time, it took a combination of a couple of freeway exits, overpasses, and side streets to deposit me somewhere out by Clark High School. As an extra bonus for me, I had to make the trek through rush hour, bumper-to-bumper traffic in 116-degree heat. Things could only get better, right?

Not really. By the time I located the studio, I was late and seriously disappointed in my car's air conditioning capabilities. In all that panic, I had forgotten that I was required to

wear the infamous smock like everyone else so that we all appear to be a united whole in the yearbook. The special thing about the smock is that basically it is just a drape with two holes for your arms attached together in the back by a hair claw. Glamorous, huh?

Since the smock has a V-shaped neckline, I had no choice but to take off my T-shirt so it would not look bunched up underneath. The dresser lady clenched the smock together with the claw and, already feeling very uncomfortable, I was sent on my way to the photographer's cubicle within the studio.

The thing I hate the most about photographers is that they always put you in such an unnatural position by placing your hands on your knees and tilting your head to various odd angles that, by the time they are done with you, you seriously look like you are in pain. This photo would be no exception. After trying to follow the photographer's instructions, I finally managed to

get the position right, and was ready for the shot.

However, at the same time the camera went click, so did something else. The measly hair claw that held the back of my smock together snapped! There I was, one moment clothed, the next, not so clothed. I had made it to second base without even realizing it, and I was completely and utterly horrified.

The photographer was really polite about it, but I got out of there as fast as I could. When they called a couple of weeks later to have me come back and look at my proofs, I could not even bring myself to go. Instead, I asked my best friend to go. She assures me the pictures turned out average and that I have nothing to worry about.

But I honestly do not know if I will ever be able to glance down at my own face in this year's yearbook without reliving this horrible moment all over again. I guess it is just my luck, after all, that I have never been one to photograph well!

Questions still linger over cause of Kick Ash shutdown

By Eduardo Choto, A-Tech HS

The events that occurred during the night of the Kick Ash Party, hosted by XPOZ, on Sept. 25 have been unclear to the public. This party was intended to inform teens about the dangers of smoking, but at the same time, create a place to have fun. The party brought more than 2,500 teens to the event and was "tight," as many teens described it. That is, until Metro came and broke it up.

The trouble began when the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department units arrived. Apparently, they thought that the party was too crazy and decided too abruptly to break it up. Once that occurred, on the inside of the building where the party was happening, someone set off a fire extinguisher, not a tear gas bomb as some attendees believed. Some people panicked and tried to leave, but Metro had locked the doors to control the crowd, making it hard for people who were running to get out.

The cause of Metro's appearance at the event is still unknown. For some crazy reason they just happened to have a "somewhat" small army of police officers, horses, firefighters and helicopters ready in that area. Suspicions have since been raised among teens who attended the event that Metro planned to raid the party because XPOZ organizers had not used off-duty police officers as security. Metro officials deny the rumor and say that the event did not have enough security for the crowd inside and outside the event. They say they responded to calls about fights in the parking lot outside the arena.

However, reports like these, as well as many news reports are inaccurate. XPOZ had done nothing wrong. They had all the right licenses as well as more than enough security, according to county regulations.

Regardless of the reason, it was unfortunate that the party was broken up. XPOZ just wants people to know that it wasn't their fault, that they did everything they were supposed to do to keep attendees safe as they have done for the last four years at this event. They hope no one concludes that XPOZ is not a good organization. On the contrary, XPOZ is still up and running and plans to have another event in the future.



What happens in Vegas should not be plastered on a billboard

By Jessica Fryman, Liberty HS

From the flashy Vegas billboards to the cover of a CD, advertisers use sex as bait to hook customers.

Advertisers use guerilla marketing to catch society off guard. Their tactics are effective, but what is the issue? The issue is, marketers are crossing the line. The message marketers send is degrading and inappropriate.

"There's always a temptation to cheat" was the caption to a picture of a naked man and woman surrounded by poker chips and cards on a gaming table. The Las Vegas Weekly was responsible for showing the immoral ad for the Hard Rock Hotel. In the summer of 2003, a billboard for the hotel depicted a naked woman holding only dice to cover herself; "We sell used dice" was the caption.

Fortunately, the ads from the Hard Rock received countless complaints from the Gaming Control Board and Las Vegas residents. Initially, the Hard Rock was ordered to take down the ads and pay a \$300,000 fine. However, in a Gaming Commission hearing at

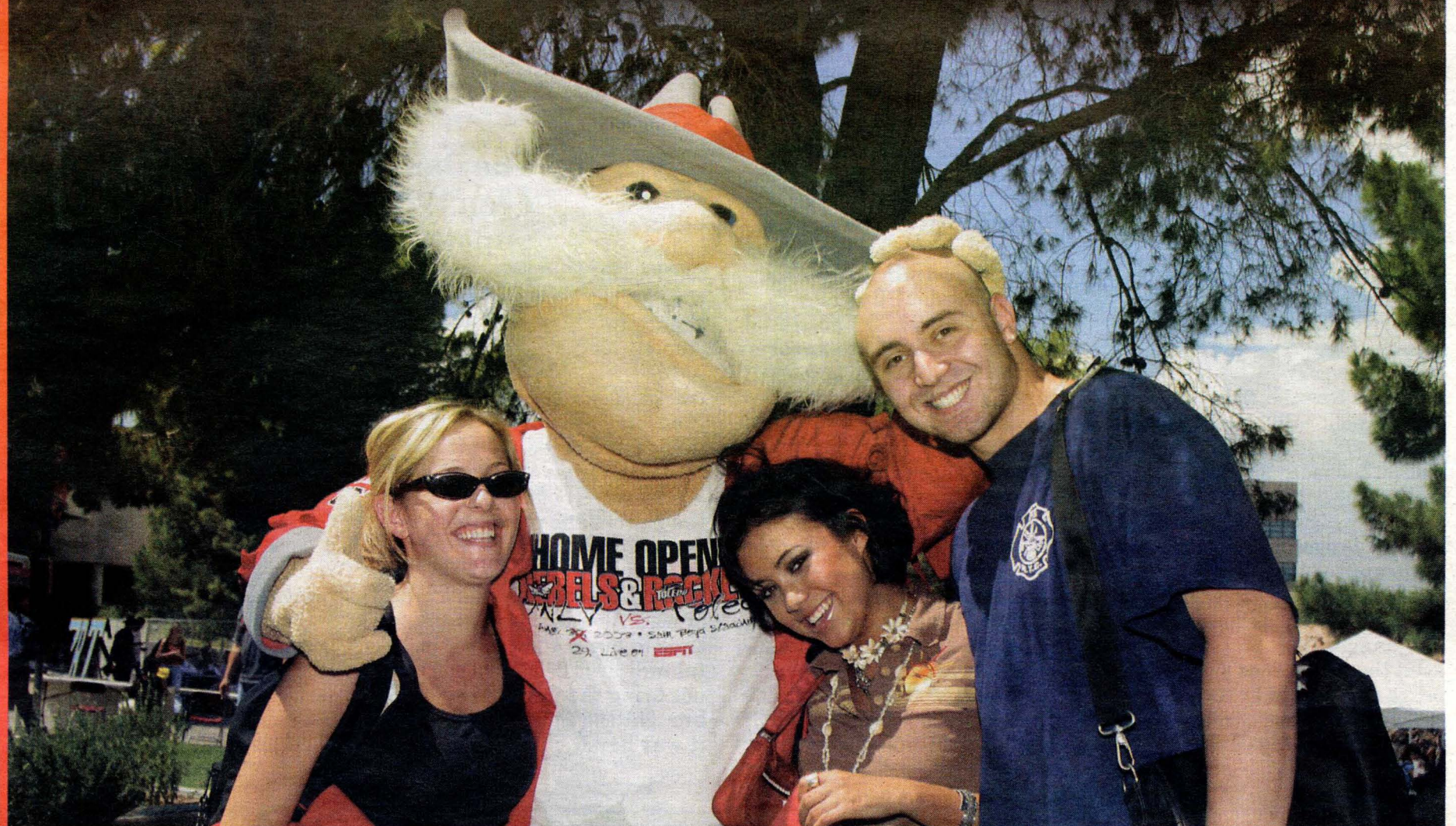
the end of September, two of the three charges against the hotel were overturned due to free speech arguments by the Hard Rock. The third charge will be discussed again at an upcoming Commission meeting in November.

More times than not, racy ads remain in plain view of society, despite the community's objections. Switch on the TV, open a magazine, or drive down our city's streets to realize the media's negative methods of advertising.

Children do not need to be exposed to any of the negative advertising displayed on The Strip or on the television screen. Trying to explain what the racy pictures on a sign are to a 5-year-old should never happen. Sexual advertising can easily be avoided, and it should be. Marketers need to take responsibility for their ads and realize who might see them.

Risque ads are offensive to many members of society. These ads are degrading to women, which is out of line. Society must take control of these advertisements that pervade every form of media. It is completely unacceptable.

MOVE OUT OF THE HOUSE, BUT STAY CLOSE TO HOME



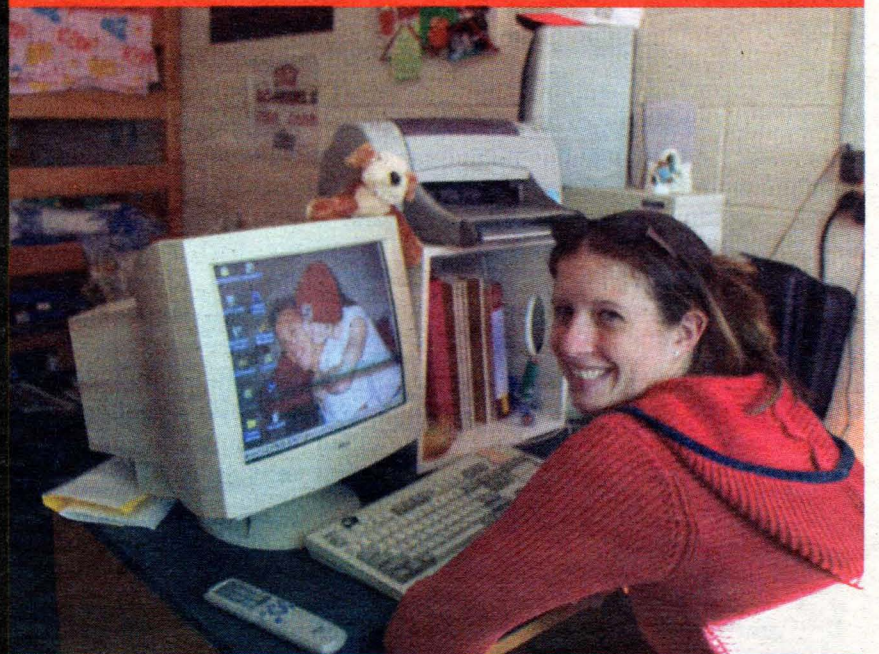
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Death from within: How excessive liberalism may destroy America

By Sigmund Wong,
Faith Lutheran HS

In dangerous times like these, excessively liberal thinking may have devastating repercussions on the economy, the government, society and the safety of the world.

My stand is not that liberalism is evil; I believe that America does need liberalism, but only in moderation. To me, excessive liberals are a much greater threat than excessive conservatives. Why? A far right-winger of conservatism would not survive politically. If one goes far enough to the right, one runs into blatantly absurd ideas like racial discrimination and slavery.

Left-wing ideas of liberals, though dangerous, do have some appeal such as assisting the poor and encouraging peace, whereas far right ideas do not. The danger in liberalism is that even though at first sight it appears to promote good things, these good things can be taken too far, inevitably causing dam-

age. Essentially, these ideas are like a wolf in sheep's clothing.

The war in Iraq is a perfect example. It goes without saying that the current war is undoubtedly one of the most highly argued and disputed topics around. However, no one will argue that the terrorist attacks on America on Sept. 11 weren't devastating. After the attack, President Bush declared war on terror and stated that any country that supports terrorists is an enemy. No liberal spoke out against him then.

Now, years later, much of the initial shock from the attacks has worn off. Nonaggression does not sound as foolish now, and many far left liberals are claiming that the invasion of Iraq was the wrong move for America. However, by not invading the Middle East, President Bush would have sent a clear message to terrorists: You have a chance; you just might get off with killing our men,

women and children.

By pulling out of Iraq now and not seeing it through, we will send the same message to these killers. Is that a message or idea that Americans should put into the heads of terrorists?

This message of nonaggression was also sent to the Nazi Party before World War II. Adolf Hitler, one of the most infamous names in history, violated his contracts and treaties consistently. Europe had a chance to stop Hitler in his tracks. Yet the isolationist, unaggressive attitude (resulting from the trauma of World War I) of America and the Europeans prevented them from retaliating.

No one wanted to fight Hitler because they were afraid of war. As a result, Hitler had time to build and train a powerful military. Because they did not bring the fight to him, he brought the fight to them, and it was harsh.

Personally, I do believe that Saddam Hussein was helping terrorists, but the truth is, I could not care less if Saddam Hussein helped terrorists, had weapons of mass destruction, supplied WMDs or had any link to Osama bin Laden or Al-Qaeda whatsoever. He ran an evil regime, he has ended countless lives, and he has for

The danger in liberalism is that even though at first sight it appears to promote good things, these good things can be taken too far, inevitably causing damage.

far too long now forced his people to helplessly cower under the shadow of his iron fist. On top of that, the fall of his regime sent a strong message to terrorists: We will not let evil prevail.

Peace at any price is a dangerously excessive liberal ideal that would allow tyrants and terrorists to remain unchallenged. America cannot afford such excess.

Friends still grieve on anniversary of Henderson crash

By Ashley Gabriel,
Coronado HS

I had expected Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2003 to be a normal day. A normal day for me usually started with my reading the comics in the newspaper and drinking a mug of hot chocolate. On this morning, though, when I took the newspaper out of its plastic bag, it flopped open and I made a horrible discovery. I stood there, looking at the large, black type: "CRASH KILLS THREE, INJURES TWO."

Around 12:30 a.m. that morning, a 1995 Pontiac Grand Am had smashed into a brick wall in a Henderson subdivision, killing three teenaged boys and injuring two. Authorities identified the bodies of the teens who died to be Travis Dunning, Josh Parry and Kyle Poff. The two who had survived were Sean Larimer, the driver, and Cody Fredericks.

Henderson police said that they suspected alcohol was a factor in the accident, but also noted that most of the people in

the car were not wearing seat belts. It was determined later that Larimer had been driving under the influence of alcohol at more than twice the legal blood alcohol content limit allowed for an adult driver.


I had met Kyle Poff at a Coronado High School football game. We had gotten along very well and talked throughout the game. Days after we'd met, I went on thinking about him — how nice he was, how we were able to talk about anything during that one football game. I hoped that we would run into one another again and start up another crazy conversation, just like that night we had met. I didn't know that the football game was the last time I would see him.

The newspaper headline on that tragic day will probably be engraved into my mind for the rest of my life. I know that there was nothing I

could do to save Kyle, so I don't know why I beat myself up about it all the time. I just wish that I possibly could have done something, even though I know that I'm not Superwoman.

The accident is something that should not have happened. Kyle and the other two boys who passed away were only 15, just getting ready to drive. They had really just started their lives, only sophomores in high school. There went all my hopes of bumping into Kyle this year, of having our crazy conversations about anything, with him not missing an opportunity to make someone laugh over the weirdest and stupidest things.

Though Kyle and I were not really close friends, I will never forget him. I will never forget because that kid who could so easily make me laugh is not going to be there when I turn around.



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double talk

Troubled teens: Should courts get tough or try to help?

Community should get tough with teen offenders

By Lauren Davis, Bishop Gorman HS

Court-appointed programs designed to help troubled teens get back on the "right path" are helpful and effective tools for juveniles who commit minor crimes. However, with more serious crimes, severe punishments such as prison sentences are required, regardless of the criminal's age.

With serious crimes or crimes committed repeatedly by a teen, the possibility that he or she can change is unlikely. Many juvenile offenders have grown up in unfit surroundings. Some of them freely choose and understand what path they are on. In cases dealing with offenders such as the "311 Boyz," teen help programs are probably not going to be effective. Teens like that, who freely choose to commit crimes, deserve a prison cell.

Our community is running out of space in our detention centers, which are now going beyond their original purpose by serving as a residence for many youths. We should not keep youths who have committed serious crimes in these detention centers. If they were old enough to commit an adult crime, then they can spend time in an adult prison.

These youth intervention programs cannot help many juveniles simply because those young people do not believe that the choices they are making are wrong. If we do not start getting tough with some of these kids, they will only get worse and commit more serious crimes. Time spent in prison will straighten out teen offenders much more effectively than treating them as little children.

I am not a pessimist who believes that all juvenile offenders are evil. However, there are some teens that make me think the worst of people. These teens deserve a much stricter punishment than the average young person who made one bad decision. If we put a strong front against these juveniles now, we may be able to prevent them from becoming dangerous criminals in the future.



Teens need guidance, not jail time

By Jordan Meraz, Bishop Gorman HS

The Clark County juvenile justice system is in dire need of reformation concerning certification of juvenile offenders as adults. While serious crimes by teens deserve appropriate punishment, different circumstances surround-

ing each incident and offender should be taken into consideration before closing the book on a young life. Intervention and correctional programs should be pursued as an alternative to prison terms for teens on the wrong side of the law.

For instance, female juvenile offenders do not require the same military-style discipline that seems effective for male offenders. Many young women respond well to community-based programs that work to reform them, while young men require a more to-the-point approach. Court programs that consider individual circumstances can be more effective than a prison sentence.

The act of murder by a young adult is a heinous crime; however, the teens that commit crimes of this magnitude usually suffered from some form of trauma during their childhood. For example, many of these young offenders lack a stable parental figure. What these offenders need is not to be sent to prison, but to be put into correctional youth camps and retrained to live successfully in society.

I believe Clark County's family court department is on the right track, making more efforts through social services for the offenders and their families. By lengthening the period of time a youth spends in juvenile correctional facilities, as opposed to prison, the more time they have to be taught to live responsibly as citizens.

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AP classes worth the challenge

Keeping balance and prioritizing keys to success

By Veronica Palmisano, Eldorado HS



the student passes the exam, they receive a college credit for that subject. The credits are very beneficial to in-

coming college freshmen because that means one less class that they have to take.

It is not required that you take an AP class in order to take the exam; however, it is recommended. The exams can be costly and can range in price from about \$80 to \$100. Some schools have programs that can help low-income students pay for the exams.

"Here at Eldorado, the principal has promised to help students pay for AP exams if they truly have no way to pay for

the tests because he realizes just how important they are," says Eldorado student Anna Erickson.

Eldorado, like most Clark County high schools, offers many different AP classes. AP English Literature, AP Calculus, AP Government and AP Biology II are just a few. The work that these classes entail is very time consuming and consists of college-level work.

"In AP English Literature we are given homework that can take hours to finish. We were even given novels to read over the summer, with worksheets, essays and other in-depth assignments," Eldorado student Alicia LePlante says.

AP students often wonder, "How can I get all this work done and still be able to have fun with my friends and play sports?" The answer is simple: prioritize.

"It's all about balancing your responsibilities and free

time," says Eldorado student Adam Reynoso. "Like when you are waiting on the bus on the way home, you could be doing homework from one of your other classes to pass the time. You'll be killing two birds with one stone."

Overall, students should take advantage of such a great opportunity. According to the "CCSD Senior Scholarship Handbook," many college admissions officers look at high school transcripts first, and college-prep classes are important. Even if students don't get straight A's in AP classes, college admissions officers will be looking for proof that they have challenged themselves. A student with all A's in basic classes might be less likely to be admitted than someone who has all B's in Honors and AP classes.

With AP classes, students can live up to their potential by taking advantage of this great opportunity.

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THE WORKING WORLD DEPENDS on people doing things for other people. Without people doing favors for others, no business could survive.

What?

Successful people understand that unless they do favors for others, no one will do favors for them. They also understand the value of a "Thank You" note.

Why?

Whether it's in the working world or just a good friend, anytime anyone does something for you that takes 15 minutes or more, you should send them a "Thank You" note.

When?

If you're going to send a note, you should send it within 48 hours after the event. But later is better than not at all.

Written or Typed?

If it's a family member or close friend, write it. If it's to someone at work, write it. If it's to someone you don't know well, you'll be safe to key it.

© Job Jargon

This month's featured positions:

Office Clerk

Assistants are needed for filing, answering phones, and other general office duties. Applicants must be at least 17 years old and have a work permit. Workdays are Monday-Friday, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The wage is \$7.50 per hour. Job Number: 8137

Sales/Cashier

A motivated and friendly assistant is needed for customer service, cash register operations, product arrangement and light cleanup. Applicants must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 32 hours per week. The wage is \$7.15 per hour. Job Number: 8134

Administrative Assistant

Assistants are needed for filing and answering phones. Computer skills are a plus and applicants must be at least 16 years old with a work permit. Workdays are Monday-Friday with flexible hours, totaling 20 hours per week. The wage is \$8.00 per hour. Job Number: 8124

Crew Member

A fast food restaurant is looking for assistants to cook, answer phones and serve customers. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have a work permit and health card. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 15 hours per week. The wage is \$5.50 per hour. Job Number: 8129

Sales Associates

If you are a motivated person with good communication skills, this may be the job for you. Assistants are needed for cash handling and stocking. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 32 hours per week. Job Number: 8128

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.

Díganos

Se celebra el festival de la Hispanidad en Las Vegas

Por Lina Hernández, editora de Díganos



Como la historia lo dice, el 12 de octubre se conmemora la fecha en que Cristóbal Colón descubrió a América, aunque haya sido por equivocación. Gracias a este descubrimiento se inició el contacto entre dos mundos: Europa y América. Este año, nuestro continente cumplió nada más y nada menos ¡qué 512 años!

Para celebrar tan memorable fecha, la comunidad hispana residente del valle de Las Vegas, se reunió el pasado sábado 9 de octubre en el centro de la ciudad desde las diez de la mañana para disfrutar las diferentes representaciones culturales del Quinto Desfile de la Hispanidad. Este año, bajo su lema "Nuestra Diversidad ... Nuestra Fuerza," se presentaron las carrozas de diferentes países de Latinoamérica, cada una con un tema original, símbolo de su país.

El desfile de la Hispanidad tuvo la participación de las organizaciones de los países latinoamericanos de la ciudad, varios negocios hispanos, establecimientos públicos y privados, estudiantes, padres de familia, la ciudad, el Condado de Clark, la Gobernación, la policía Metropolitana de Las Vegas, la Cámara de



Esta es la representación del Tesoro de Guatavita en la región de Cundinamarca en Colombia, honrando los rituales hechos por sus indios, los chibchas.

Chester Richardson, director de seguridad del hotel y casino Luxor, y Raúl Collazo, periodista del noticiero del Canal 15 Univisión, Las Vegas. Para mi sorpresa, unas horas después se dio a conocer el resultado del jurado en el cual Colombia ocupó el primer lugar. El segundo puesto se lo ganó Ecuador y Puerto Rico ocupó el tercero.

Como no pude ser una espectadora, no tuve la oportunidad de ver todas las carrozas; pero pude apreciar que todas (más de 30 por cierto) hicieron un excelente trabajo en la decoración. Al terminar el desfile, a eso de la una de la tarde, se realizó un gran festival multicultural con música, bailes típicos y con las presentaciones de artistas locales.

En general, el día fue todo un éxito. Todos los espectadores se dieron el lujo de disfrutar de todas las presentaciones y las carrozas. Este desfile se lleva a cabo todos los años y no dudaría en pensar que el próximo año será igual de divertido o mejor. Aquí los dejo con algunas imágenes de la carroza colombiana.

Comercio Latina, noticieros locales, entre otros.

Yo tuve la oportunidad de participar con la carroza de Colombia este año. Nuestra carroza fue la viva representación de Tesoro de El Dorado de la región de Guatavita, donde se encontraba la población de nuestros indios, los chibchas. Se decía que en este lugar abundaban las piedras preciosas y el oro. En la ceremonia ritual del baño sagrado el cacique se bañaba en oro y se paseaba por su comarca en camas también cubiertas de oro. Los indios de aquellos tiempos tiraban el oro, las piedras preciosas y algunos alimentos a las aguas, durante la ceremonia.

Según la leyenda, todo

el tesoro fue arrojado al fondo de aquella laguna. Los españoles querían obtenerlo a toda costa, pero nunca lo encontraron. Tarde se dieron cuenta que aquel tesoro se había esparcido por toda Colombia y que ya no era oro ni piedras preciosas; todo se había convertido en "cultura, tradición, gente, montaña, tierra, dioses, chicha (bebida embriagante de maíz fermentado) y costumbres."

El jurado del desfile fue compuesto

por Eloíza Martínez, presidenta de la Cámara Latina de Comercio, Otto Mérida, director ejecutivo de la CLC, Zulma Muñoz, coordinadora de programas de salud en el hospital Desert Springs,



Natalia Molina, estudiante del CCSN posa junto a uno de los animales más exóticos de Suramérica.

Cartas al editor

Libertad de expresión

Al editor:

En la edición de octubre publicaron una carta al editor con el título "Una nación, un solo idioma." Me sorprendí al darme cuenta que a esta persona le molesta que exista una sección por separado dedicada a personas que hablan otro idioma. Los Estados Unidos es un país único que aporta las diferentes caras de las diferentes culturas.

Las grandes ciudades de este país y Las Vegas en particular, tienen comunidades de diversas razas y culturas. Los Estados Unidos representa "el lugar" donde los derechos de las personas son respetados y donde existe la igualdad. El derecho a la libre expresión mediante a la escritura es uno de ellos.

Decir que es una "tontería" publicar artículos en español para el bien de la comunidad hispana, me enfurece. Pienso que si alguien tiene algo que decir, debe ser escuchado. Vivimos, a pesar de todo, en el país "donde la libertad crece en nuestras tierras."

Bernadette Angat, Las Vegas HS

Una herramienta educativa

Al editor:

Esto es en respuesta a una carta al editor escrita por una estudiante de Sierra Vista HS. La sección de "Díganos" en la revista CLASS! es mayoritariamente para los estudiantes hispanos que se sienten más cómodos leyendo artículos en su idioma nativo. Además, es un hecho que muchas de las escuelas del condado de Clark enseñan idiomas extranjeros incluyendo el español. Probablemente hasta usen la revista como una herramienta educativa para las clases.

Cuando leo la revista, no me salto ninguna página porque afortunadamente entiendo los dos idiomas. Cuando las personas vienen a este país tienen la oportunidad de aprender inglés, pero si pueden hablar los dos, es mucho mejor. Lo dice un mexicano americano: dos cabezas piensan mejor que una. Gracias.

Adrián Mireles, Mojave HS

Una nación, muchos idiomas

Al editor:

Estoy escribiendo esto en respuesta a la carta al editor de Whitney Andersen con respecto a "Díganos." La última vez que yo verifiqué, yo vivía en uno de los países con más diversidad y culturas en el mundo. No tenemos que rechazar nuestro idioma y nuestras raíces por adoptar lo que Andersen llama el idioma "nativo" de este país.

Yo personalmente opino que su reclamo es tonto e ignorante y no tiene ningún sentido. Se me hace muy curioso que para Andersen saltarse cinco páginas de una revista es mucho trabajo, pero si se le hace fácil faltarle al respeto a algo como "Díganos," que representa la cultura hispana en NUESTRA ciudad. Yo soy ciudadana americana al igual que ella, con la diferencia que hablo los dos idiomas. Estoy orgullosa que existe "Díganos" porque me hace sentir conectada con mi comunidad y estoy segura que mucha gente se siente de la misma manera.

Los latinos y otros inmigrantes que viven en este país tampoco deben de ser tratados como ciudadanos de segunda clase. Tenemos el derecho a hablar y escribir nuestro idioma si queremos. No es ridículo que lo usemos porque

es parte de lo que somos y con orgullo lo representamos. Somos bendecidos al saber los dos idiomas. Como escritora de "Díganos," y como hispana, sería un honor para mí responderle a Whitney Andersen en inglés y en español porque escribo, hablo y entiendo los dos idiomas y porque estoy ejercitando el derecho a la libre expresión que me da la primera enmienda como ciudadana estadounidense. Este país es UNA nación con MUCHAS culturas e idiomas, punto.

Ana Molina, Las Vegas HS

El inglés es de Inglaterra

Al editor:

¡Me encanta su revista! Estaba leyendo la edición de octubre, y me llamó la atención una carta al editor escrita por una estudiante de Sierra Vista HS, con la cual estoy en profundo desacuerdo. Me gusta mucho "Díganos." Ella escribió que no estamos tratando de animar a los "hispanos" (porque ésta es la manera correcta de llamarlos) a hablar inglés, pero en mi opinión lo estamos haciendo con la ayuda de esta sección.

Una cosa que debe saber la escritora, es que correctamente

hablando, los inmigrantes somos todos (tú y yo) excluyendo los indígenas. Este país es un país de inmigrantes y está compuesto de muchas culturas y diversos idiomas. Otro punto muy importante que se debe corregir, es que el inglés no es el idioma nativo de los Estados Unidos. El inglés proviene de Inglaterra. El idioma nativo de este país es el que los indígenas hablan.

¿A quién le importa eso de "UN" idioma? ¿No es este un país libre? Podemos hablar o LEER cualquier idioma que queramos. Qué pena señorita Andersen, así le disguste, este es un país muy diverso.

María Navarro, Rancho HS

Se tiene que aprender inglés

Al editor:

La sección en español de esta revista es degradante. No quiero parecer racista, pero las personas que vienen a los Estados Unidos necesitan aprender nuestro idioma, inglés, porque es injusto que nosotros tengamos que aprender el de ellos, cuando nosotros somos ciudadanos.

Nombre retenido, Foothill HS*

*El nombre ha sido retenido para proteger la identidad del escritor.

¿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@ccmail.nevada.edu

o por correo regular a:

Lina Hernández, CLASS!, UNLV Box 451025,
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025

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Protagonista: Gloria Trevi

Chisme: Después de cuatro años en prisión, celebra su libertad con un novio gay

Comentario: La chica del pelo suelto siempre está en la boca del lobo

De la Gloria al infierno... y luego a la libertad

¡Bienvenidos una vez más a la sección del chisme! Yo creo que más de medio mundo se conoce la historia de Gloria Trevi y todo lo que le ha tocado vivir gracias a Sergio Andrade, el hombre que como ella dice, le destrozó la vida. La verdad es que este problema pasó a mayores cuando los capturaron en Brasil, Gloria resultó embarazada en la cárcel, cuando decidieron extraditarla a México y con todas las acusaciones de parte de la ex esposa de Sergio y de Karina Yapor.

El problema parecía no tener final, pero ¡oh! sorpresa cuando me enteré que el pasado 22 de septiembre le quitaron todos los cargos de corrupción de menores y después de cuatro años, ocho meses y ocho días exactos, le dieron esa libertad tan esperada. Me asomé al verla tan cambiada en una foto con un vestido blanco súper escotado al salir del tribunal esa misma tarde. La acompañaban su madre, su hijo y su nuevo novio, Armando Gómez.

Un breve resumen. Todo se desató en 1998 cuando la familia de Yapor denuncia a Sergio Andrade y a Gloria Trevi ante la procuraduría de justicia de Chihuahua por corrupción de menores. Pero no es sino hasta mediados del año 1999 cuando comienza formalmente la persecución. Seis meses después, la policía de Río de Janeiro los detiene en la capital carioca. En octubre del 2001, mientras Gloria se encuentra en prisión, queda embarazada pero se niega a decir quién es el padre. En noviembre admite que fue violada y acusa al comisario de la Policía Federal Brasileña de haberla violado tres veces durante los 19 meses de estadía en la prisión. Para diciembre del 2002, Gloria es extraditada a México para enfrentar a la justicia, y ahora... casi dos años después, ¡está libre!

La tragedia y la bendición. Trevi dijo en una entrevista lo que vivió con Ana Dalai, la hija que tuvo y que según la historia, Sergio Andrade asfixió en un momento de rabia. Trevi cuenta que la venda se le cayó de los ojos (el respeto que sentía por Sergio) cuando se dio cuenta que él había tirado su hija a un río en

una bolsa de basura. (¿Qué clase de ser humano es este señor?) Una madre jamás se recupera de la muerte de un hijo y yo creo que Gloria no será la excepción. Ahora, su bendición y su amor eterno es su pequeño hijo Ángel Gabriel. No se sabe a ciencia cierta si Andrade es el verdadero padre.

El novio gay. Después de tanta controversia con la vida que ha llevado, ahora resulta que las malas lenguas dicen que el novio que tiene es homosexual. Se llama Armando y se apellida Gómez. Su relación era estrictamente laboral, ya que él fue su abogado y su consejero en la pelea del caso; pero Gómez siempre quiso tener una relación sentimental con ella (ya que era su fan número uno). Unos periodistas mexicanos dicen tener pruebas suficientes para probar que Armando mantiene relaciones homosexuales y que no es el hombre que Gloria Trevi necesita. Supuestamente lo encontraron en una fiesta, escondido en un clóset haciendo cosas "indecorosas" con otros hombres. Al parecer el tipo resultó ser toda una "fichita." ¡Tendremos que esperar a ver si resulta ser cierto!

La mejor manera de celebrar el día de acción de gracias



Por AnaRosa González, Western HS

¿Cuál sería la mejor manera de celebrar el día de acción de gracias, para darle a la comunidad todo lo que nos ha dado? Año tras año como una gran tradición cultural, celebramos el día de acción de gracias en América. Platicando con mis amigos no pudimos recordar si este día se celebra en nuestros países hispanos. Quizás en algunos se toma en cuenta, pero en la mayoría pasa desapercibido. Es el año nuevo el que se considera como la fecha perfecta para dar gracias por todo lo que tenemos.

En este país, ésta sería una buena pregunta para los no-hispanos, pues en realidad ellos son los más apropiados para dar las gracias por las contribuciones que la comunidad latina le ha hecho a este país. Este sería un buen día para que se les hiciera sentir, a todos los hispanos, que son una de las comunidades más influyentes en esta tierra. Los latinos somos fundamentales y existen muchas maneras de agradecernos lo que hemos hecho.

Para celebrar, se pueden realizar actividades educativas y culturales para la niñez y la juventud hispana; se pueden diseñar actividades especiales para que le ayuden a la nueva generación a que nunca se les olvide su cultura. También, se podría ofrecer ayuda médica a las personas que más lo necesitan.

Como hispanos inteligentes debemos proponer movimientos más productivos y más necesarios para nuestra gente. No sólo se trata de hacer festivales y bailes, música y comida. La realidad es que en estos momentos necesitamos actividades que ayuden a



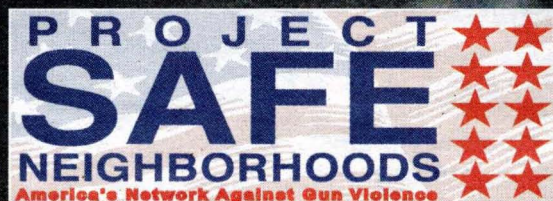
la comunidad a crecer.

Existen muchas maneras de agradecerle a nuestra comunidad. Después de tantas malas opiniones que hemos recibido acerca de nuestro idioma y nuestra cultura, lo mínimo que se debe hacer es que agradezcan a la comunidad latina por todas las contribuciones que ha aportado a los Estados Unidos. Pero lo justo es agradecer a todo el mundo, todos los días, porque el mañana es incierto.

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

Use una pistola, irá a la cárcel.

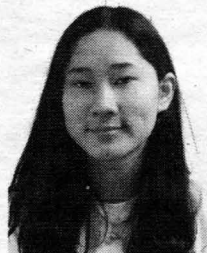
Proteja su vecindario 385-GUNS



Project SAFE Neighborhoods • America's Network Against Gun Violence

Festival Internacional de Mariachi

Todo un éxito en Henderson



Por Linda Nguyen, Sierra Vista HS

El primer Festival Internacional de Mariachi patrocinado por el distrito escolar del Condado de Clark terminó el pasado 11 de septiembre, después de dos días de intensos programas en el pabellón de la ciudad de Henderson. Se vieron presentaciones a cargo del Mariachi Cobre, la Sinfonía del festival de Mariachi, Mariachi Los Arrieros del Valle, al igual que la de los estudiantes participantes de la conferencia.

El concierto se inició con el himno nacional presentado por el Mariachi Cobre. Unos minutos de silencio fueron el tributo que se hizo en memoria a las víctimas del 11 de septiembre. Aproximadamente

Los trajes de charro siempre reflejan vida, amor por la música y buenas costumbres.



300 estudiantes del Programa Educativo de Mariachi en el Condado de Clark, y aquellos visitantes de California y Arizona envueltos en programas similares, se reunieron en los corredores del pabellón y tocaron las canciones que habían estado practicando dos días atrás. Este programa les ha enseñado a alrededor de 1,000 estudiantes de 12 escuelas en el valle de Las Vegas.

La segunda presentación fue del Mariachi Los Arrieros. Este grupo fue formado en 1996 en McAllen, Texas. El conjunto está compuesto de 12 músicos jóvenes, muchos de ellos profesores de mariachi en los distritos escolares en el valle de Río Grande en Texas.

La presentación más esperada fue la del Mariachi Cobre. Este grupo se creó en 1971 en Tucson, Ariz. Fue ahí en 1981 que organizaron la primera conferencia de Mariachis, con la esperanza de exponer su música a más personas. Este grupo es conocido alrededor del mundo por su trabajo y por ser la banda principal del pabellón mexicano en "Disney World" en Orlando, Florida. Algunas de sus canciones presentadas durante el evento contenían sátiras acerca de los recientes huracanes en la Florida.

La noche terminó con Mariachi Cobre y su canción "mariachi sinfónico" dirigido por Richard J. Mitzell. Mitzell es el director musical en "Disney World." Hubo numerosas ovaciones y toda las personas, desde la primer hasta la última fila de asientos, se levantaron para aplaudir las presentaciones de estos grupos tan talentosos.

No entres al círculo vicioso del cigarrillo

Por Stephanie López, Las Vegas HS

¿Qué ocurre hoy en las vidas de los estudiantes? Nada fuera de lo normal: vamos a la escuela, muchos de nosotros tenemos un trabajo y ayudamos con la limpieza del hogar. Pero, ¿qué pasa en los momentos cuando alguien nos ofrece un cigarrillo? ¿Qué decidimos? A muchos adolescentes se les presenta esta situación sin saber que fumar causa enfermedades tales como el cáncer de pulmón y el enfisema. El enfisema ocurre cuando los pulmones se inflaman y el oxígeno no alcanza a llegar. Tres millones de estadounidenses sufren de este

mal y el número incrementa día a día.

Una vez me ofrecieron un cigarrillo cuando tenía 14 años. No lo recibí porque sabía que fumar siempre ha sido perjudicial para la salud. Esa era la única razón que necesitaba. Y es que, ¿quién no quiere vivir saludable? La gente que fuma está jugando con su propia salud porque cada vez que aceptan un cigarrillo, está tirando su vida por la ventana poco a poco. Estudios muestran que la mayoría de los adultos que hoy en día fuman, aceptaron su primer cigarrillo en sus años de adolescencia.

Cada día que pasa, más de seis mil personas menores de 18 años fuman un cigarrillo por primera vez.

Fumar no es solamente un peligro para tu salud, sino también para tu bolsillo. Comprar cigarrillos es muy caro y para muchos menores de edad es ilegal.

El peor daño es el que se le hace el cuerpo. Hoy en día, existen más de 35 millones de personas en los Estados Unidos que sufren de los efectos del cigarrillo. El asma es uno muy común y puede ser terminal si no se controla. Lo único que pueden hacer los doctores es recetar algunos antibióticos y aconsejarle a las personas que dejen de fumar. Pero cuando sufres de esta enfermedad, el sufrimiento es de por vida. Así que piensa en esto cuando alguien te ofrezca un cigarrillo.

Lo que más afecta a la comunidad latina es el cáncer del pulmón. El cáncer pulmonar es el cáncer número uno en muertes entre los latinos. Es tres veces más común en los hombres que en las mujeres. De todos los hombres que sufren de esta enfermedad, un 40 por ciento morirán. Dentro del grupo de las mujeres, el 15 por ciento son afectadas. Eso quiere decir que la mujer hispana es once por ciento menos propensa a fumar que el hombre hispano.

Leyendo esta información debes preguntarte si estás dispuesto (a) a morir tempranamente a causa del cigarrillo. Piénsalo bien. Sólo hay una vida, no la tires a la basura por algo que no vale la pena.

Pressure to Puff

Make sure your friends really are your friends

By Stephanie Lopez, Las Vegas HS



Clark County schools are really cracking down on smoking this year by implementing a new school rule that prohibits smoking by anyone on campus, including teachers and administrators. One reason for this rule is that school personnel are being asked to set a good example for their students by not smoking. Unfortunately, role models like teachers are only one influence that might contribute to whether or not teens become smokers.

Nearly everyone who is asked today about what age they started smoking will say that they started in their teens. In fact, 82 percent of adult smokers say they began smoking before the age of 18, according to the Centers for Disease Control. This means that it is important to make a greater effort to understand and fight against the influences that cause teens to light up in the first place. The new anti-tobacco school policy is a step in the right direction, but other factors should not be ignored.

Living in Las Vegas, teens see cigarette use as a common and accepted activity because of the smoking done in casinos where teens go to movies, arcades and bowling. Casinos are like a haven to smokers because they are one of the few places left where smoking is allowed inside. Every time I enter one, all I smell is the stench of cigarettes. Sometimes, I can even see the smoke. My mom, who is a hotel maid, used to clean the rooms where smoking is allowed. She said that the ashtrays were always filled to the rim. This makes me question why people are so dependent on cigarettes.

Falling into the tobacco trap

Students are no different. Before the new rule was put into effect, I used to see them light up as soon as they were out of the school building. I would often see them walking home from school with a cigarette dangling from their lips.

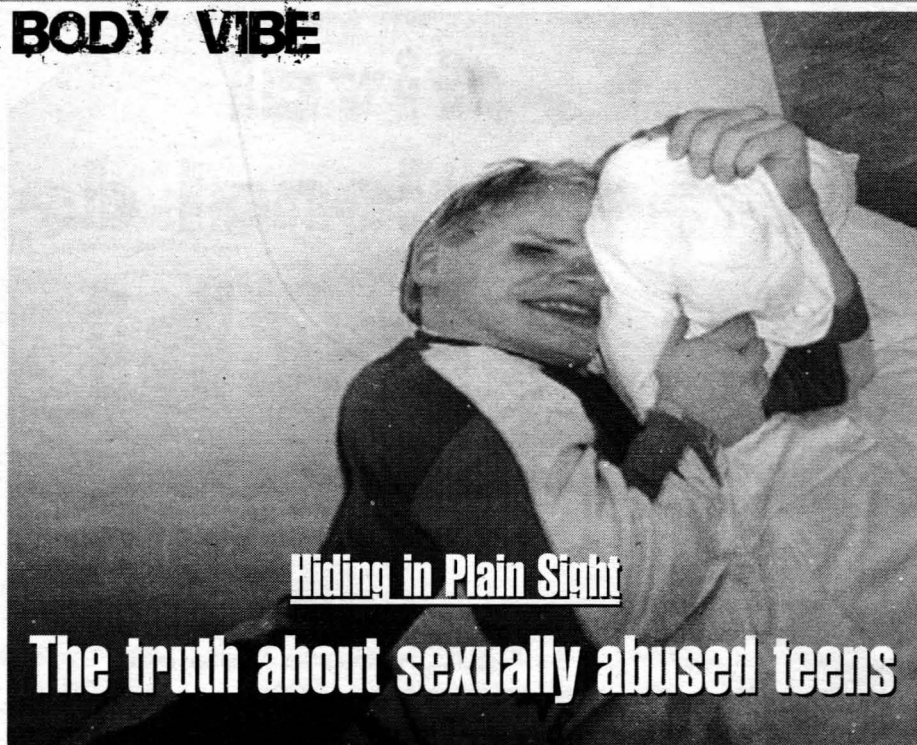
Many teenagers today do not even think about the effects smoking will have on their lives. Even though they have all heard about the dangers of smoking, concerns about lung cancer, emphysema and death never come up. Nonsmokers, when taking a look at all these results of smoking, think that smokers are crazy for even trying tobacco products.

However, those people probably don't remember what it was like to be in high school with friends who smoke all the time, who are endlessly offering you cigarettes, and taunting you for not picking up what nonsmokers call a "cancer stick." Not many teens can withstand that kind of peer pressure. They give in to teasing and pick up a cigarette just to fit in with their friends. Eventually, they regret it, but by then, they can't stop.

America is all about personal freedoms, but teens sacrifice their freedom every day because of peer pressure to try smoking. Yet, teens cannot blame it all on their friends. They may pressure their friend, but they did not stick the cigarette into his or her mouth and tell him or her to inhale. It is rare for a teen to stand up to his or her friends and say no to smoking because most of the time, teens really want to be just like their friends and role models, even if they smoke. However, teenagers rarely think about how long they are going to know that friend. For the rest of their lives? Chances are the answer is no because life changes very fast for students, and the people we see today may be left behind when we meet new people.

Because teen friendships may not stand the test of time, rather than think about how their friends think of them, young people should take a look in the mirror and judge whether they are the kind of people they wanted to be when they were 11 years old, just dreaming about being a teen. If not, then a change for the better is in order.

BODY VIBE



Hiding in Plain Sight

The truth about sexually abused teens

It's not only girls who hide abuse.

By Patricia Ross, Eldorado HS

Sexual abuse — we just don't talk about it. Ever.

"It's very real, and it's very scary," says Nadine Carter, a social worker for Clark County.

The fact is one in four teenage girls are sexually abused or raped, and that's just the cases that are actually reported. For those girls, the world has a completely different look. They may wake up each morning in fear of it happening again, or spend many sleepless nights full of nightmares or crying into their pillows.

So how can something so prevalent be hidden so well? No one wants to talk about it. Many people are scared to know the truth. The general population doesn't want to know how many of their friends have had an unwanted sexual encounter. There is just too much involved emotionally, and many people would just be overwhelmed and not know how to provide help.

Knowing would also make the situation real. People today have enough to fear as it is. Who wants to add another apprehension onto teens? Stress consumes our lives as it is; why complicate things even more by throwing in statistics such as these? But for those people who are victimized, the abuse can destroy the rest of their lives.

We see it in the news all the



time. Take the Michael Jackson story. The whole world looks down on this former pop giant now for the molestation he is alleged to have committed. Think about all of the people out there who have committed the same crime Jackson is accused of. With a one-in-four rate, think about how many criminals that is, and then all of the criminals who are never turned in.

Victims need to know that there are people out there who will help them. People like Nadine Carter live to help people who have been raped or molested.

Carter works at a place called Child Haven, which is a safe haven for children of parents who aren't able to care for them, or minors whose parents put their children in danger.

The caseworkers' number one priority is the child's safety, and no one has to receive visits or phone calls from anyone whom they aren't comfortable talking to.

But it doesn't stop there. Child Haven takes every action possible to get kids into a safe home. The goal isn't to keep them at the facility forever, but to find loving homes where they will be safe.

There is help out there, and no matter how scary it may be to talk about it, you can do something to change your outlook on the world.

So ladies, look at the three girls closest to you. Do you see them in a different light? Are

Continued on page 25

Tobacco use linked to even more diseases, says surgeon general's report

By Sarah Overly,
Silverado HS

More than 12 million Americans have died from smoking since 1964, according to the recent study, "The Health Consequences of Smoking: A Report of the Surgeon General." The study also reports that 25 million Americans who are living today will most likely die from a smoking-related disease.

I am not naive. I have always been aware that tobacco is bad for you. I know it can cause cancer or emphysema and is obviously severely detrimental to your health. However, I didn't know the amount of grief and sadness it could bring to my life.

My grandma smoked since she was a teen. Of course, when she started, it was a time when "they didn't know it was bad for you." Her consistent smoking into her sixties disabled her abilities to live an active lifestyle. I remember as a kid having to constantly stop and wait so my grandma could catch her breath. My sister and I knew that we would have to walk slower with my grandma and make sure we never took long trips anywhere because it would take a toll on her body.

My grandma was someone whom I could talk to about anything. Not only was she loving and warm, but also we could have more fun watching a movie at her house than I ever did at any amusement park. So when she passed away four years ago from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary

Disease, it was the most difficult thing I have ever had to experience in my life. COPD is a chronic shrinking of the airways of the lungs, and it can be caused or worsened by smoking.

Lung cancer, another disease commonly related to smoking, is the number one cancer killer in the United States. The curse of lung cancer has personally affected my own life. A family friend passed away earlier this year from lung cancer. Then, this past summer, my aunt, who was only 49 years old, passed away after a long struggle with lung cancer. I don't smoke, but smoking has certainly hurt me.

Diseases of the lungs are not the only ones caused by tobacco use. The surgeon general's report also links smoking to other illnesses such as acute myeloid leukemia, cancers of the kidney, cervix, stomach, pancreas, abdominal aortic aneurysm, pneumonia, periodontal disease and cataracts, and those are only some of the diseases linked to smoking.

Since I do not smoke and I do not live with anyone who does, it might seem safe to say that I will not reap any harsh repercussions of smoking. Wrong! When I say wrong, I do not just mean the harsh effects of secondhand smoke. I mean the sorrow it has caused in my life. Losing friends and family to tobacco is just as harmful as ingesting the smoke myself. All I know is that I will forever be tobacco free in honor of the loved ones that I lost to the diseases caused by smoking.

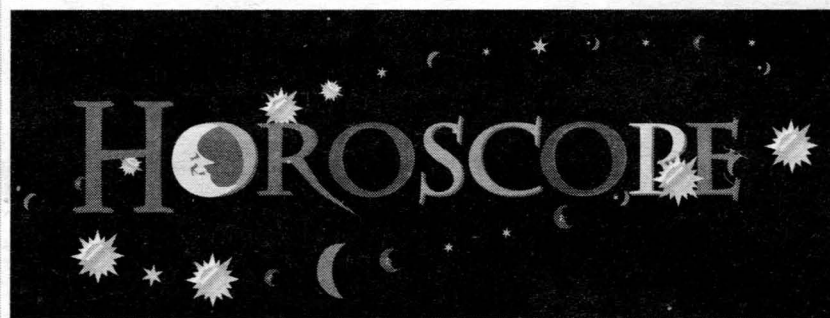
Medical Center. When a victim is not able to get to the hospital on his or her own, the Rape Crisis Center will provide transportation either by bus, taxi or police escort. For help, call the local Rape Crisis hotline for answers to questions and for advice. A Crisis Center representative meets every victim at either hospital location for support and provides information. The hotline is 366-1460, and is available 24 hours a day. Representatives can give guidelines for confidential conversations and give advice and references for many social services.

Abuse

Continued from page 24

you concerned? Or is it you? If so, you can get help. Remember, it can only get better.

Editor's note: Rape victims in the Las Vegas area have only two choices for treatment after a rape has occurred. If a victim is under 12 years old, he or she should be taken to Sunrise Hospital for treatment and a medical exam to collect evidence to be used in prosecuting the attacker later. If a victim is 12 years old or older, he or she should go to the University



NOVEMBER FORECAST

Scorpio (October 24-November 21): There is excitement all around you, and you are lavishing in every bit of it. You're naturally drawn to it, so enjoy. Plan a get-together with some classmates, or stay in with the ones you love. Either way, you're sure to have fun.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): Hmm, maybe you aren't so sure about dating the person you originally thought would be perfect for you. Take a step back and really examine this situation, but as you're stepping back, you may bump into somebody new!

Capricorn (December 22-January 19): Although it is out of your nature, you are taking a risk and allowing yourself to make a mistake. Enjoy this period of your life. You can be reasonable, but you can also be the young person that you are.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18): You're concentrating way too hard on your new project. Every idea you get comes naturally, so stop combing your brain for new things. Be patient, and maybe talk to an old friend. They may be more helpful to you than you think.

Pisces (February 19-March 20): You've been daydreaming about something. Is it your future, school, or maybe you have a new crush in your life? In any situation, daydreaming won't get any of these things in a better position, especially the new crush. Make a move!

Aries (March 21-April 19): The holiday season is quickly approaching; maybe it's time for a change, starting with your wardrobe. Take a weekend or two and pick up some new items at the department stores, even if it's not just clothes. It'll definitely put you in a more festive mood.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): This time around, it's not your attitude that's clouding the situation. One of your closest friends is being a jerk, but don't let it faze you. Karma should be coming back around on this person anytime now, and they'll realize how wrong they were.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): All of your emotions have been tested recently, but you're hanging in there. Optimism is ever-present in your mind, and that will keep you mentally afloat until things balance out for you.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): You've been extremely tired lately, and it's more than just not getting sleep. You're overexerting yourself in every way, and you need to stop. This type of behavior only leads to stress, so stop making menial tasks a priority and relax.

Leo (July 23-August 22): Too many aggressive decisions are being made in your relationship. It's supposed to be give and take, so give a little bit more to your significant other, and stop taking so much. There will be fewer arguments.

Virgo (August 23-September 22): Money problems should be fading pretty soon since you've been such a workaholic. Use these funds to purchase something strictly for you. You probably already know what you want to buy.

Libra (September 23-October 23): Your grades have been steadily improving, and you know exactly why. Focusing on your own goals has given you the determination to go for the grade you know you can get, even if that means spending a little less time with friends. Your companions will understand.



ADD sufferers face criticism, ridicule

By Courtney Caron,
Community College HS

For the last few years, the controversy over Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder has grown. Many people believe that these medical disorders are totally imaginary. Yet, others say that it is a treatable medical condition. Who's right?

Some parents say that many children are medicated for these disorders even though they actually don't have these

illnesses. They claim that doctors are handing out Ritalin prescriptions like candy. People on that side of the issue believe these symptoms are not symptoms at all, but instead are just the way normal kids are supposed to act. Of course, the media add to the assumption by writing stories that say any idiot could get a doctor to write a prescription. They say parents should just let their kids be kids and not try to slow them down by giving them medications.

On the other side of the issue is ... me! I was diagnosed with ADD when I was 16, just one year ago. I had already gone 11 years in the Clark County School District undiagnosed. I was frustrated and spiraling down into depression, all because I couldn't concentrate. I knew that there had to be help for me because all my efforts in school were spent trying to concentrate on the les-

sons and not the work. I knew that it shouldn't be so hard. I should be able to listen to the teacher and take notes without drifting away for most of the class time. After consulting my doctor, I was put on medication and I was amazed by the results. My grades raised 11 to 14 percent higher than usual.

My only concern then was that even when I told people I had ADD, they didn't believe me because the disease was overly publicized and criticized. I knew the problems I had overcome, so I didn't care what they thought. Others have suffered the embarrassment of not being believed and having to defend themselves about this disorder.

Unfortunately, damage to the perception of ADD has been done, and it will take true information and public education for ADD and ADHD to become illnesses that are recognized as being legitimate.

Relationship abuse attacks the victim's mind and body

By Ana Molina,
Las Vegas HS

Dating violence is a major issue occurring with teens today. About 18 percent of females in high school are being physically hurt by someone they are dating, and more than 70 percent of pregnant teens are beaten by their current boyfriends, according to the report "Dating Violence, Adolescents and the Law."



Dating violence can be anything from physical, sexual, verbal and even mental and psychological harm done to someone by the person he or she is dating. Abuse like that can exist in all kinds of relationships, whether serious, committed relationships or casual, dating relationships. It also exists in both heterosexual relationships as well as with same-sex couples.

However, women seem to suffer the most from this problem. Statistics show that one out of every four women in society will be abused in their lifetimes by their partners or spouses. This is especially true among teens because many of them are inexperienced with relationships, and it's hard for them to tell the difference between right and wrong. Many of them often think certain types of harassment are a sign of love, like having their boyfriends call every few minutes making sure of where they are at all times and of whom they are with.

What it really turns out to be is an invasion of personal space and a great annoy-

ance and discomfort and a form of abuse. We all deserve the freedom to spend time with other people we care about like friends and family.

Some teens suffering abuse even blame themselves for what happens at times. It is important for victims to know that being abused isn't their fault, but is the fault of the abuser. People make their own choices and some of them choose to be abusive.

Being in an abusive relationship also causes teens to do more dangerous things like attempting suicide, losing weight in an unsafe manner, and becoming addicted to drugs and alcohol. Such things can happen even after the abuse or the relationship has ended. Heavy drinking among teens who have experienced unwanted sexual contact increases by 25 percent. Suicide attempts among teens who have experienced sexual abuse are four times more likely compared to teens who have not. Eating disorders are also very common among teens who are in abusive relationships.

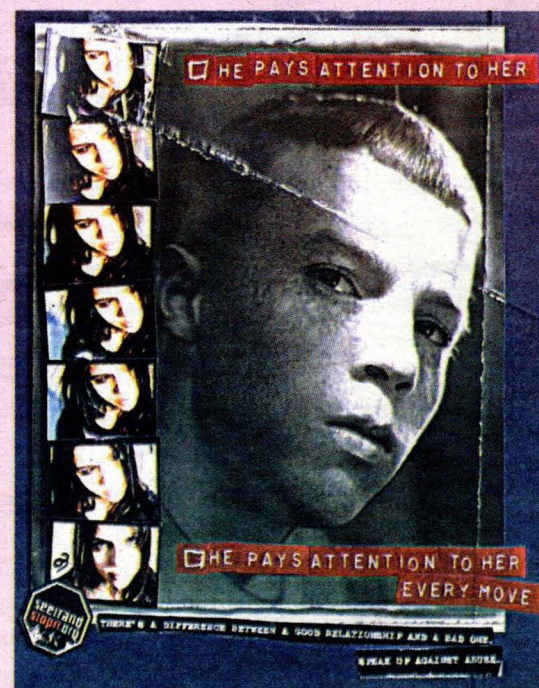
Abusive relationships are common, and it is likely that someone you know and care about is in one. If you or someone you know is in or recovering from an abusive relationship, it is important to talk to someone about it immediately. Violent relationships can get dangerous and even lives can be at risk. Some of the best people to talk to are school counselors or other trusted adults. In the end, talking to someone and reporting the crime will serve the victim better than not speaking out about it.

If you are witnessing abuse, realize that the victim is not only being affected physically but also psychologically, and the right

thing to do is to talk to him or her or to the family about it. The victim might not be able to ask for help because fear and intimidation play a great role when it comes to all kinds of abuse.

You can also minimize your risks of ending up in an abusive relationship early on by getting to know the person you decide to be with. Also, look for unusual signs in your partner's personality such as if he or she is being too overly jealous and possessive.

There is a huge difference between true love and an unhealthy obsession.



Teens in Massachusetts created the Web site seeitandstopit.org in response to relationship violence. This is one of their public service ads.

Real high school cliques don't fit movie stereotypes



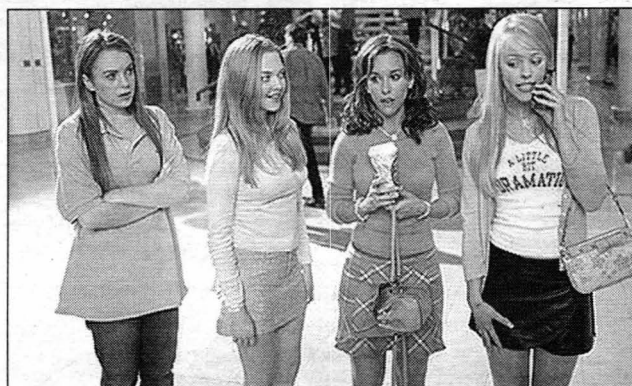
By Janice Ramirez,
Eldorado HS

Like, oh my gosh, you cannot be friends with the nerds!

Jocks, punks, preppies and nerds — these are the typical cliques in stereotyped teen movies.

Cliques form in every middle school and high school, and sometimes in the adult world. They are a group of friends who have similar interests. The basis of a clique can vary from a similar interest in sports to a similar taste in music. Being in a clique makes people feel comfortable, and it is in our nature to fall into one.

Movies have always portrayed the predictable cliques. From "The Breakfast Club" and "Heathers," high school cliques are stereotyped. "Mean Girls" showed a great example of what people think of high school cliques. The movie had the "popular" girls, the smart Asians, the cool Asians and the "burnouts." None of these



The A-list girl clique from the movie "Mean Girls" are called The Plastics, a name telling in itself.

every day. Sure, people still label certain groups

groups interacted much, except in negative ways. The characters belonged to one certain group and stayed there.

But do these movies truthfully show what high schools are like? Look around you. Does your school look like any high school depicted in movies? Probably not.

"There will always be certain groups in schools, but I think everyone gets along with everyone else," says Eldorado High School student Sarah Urich. "I'm friends with people who would be considered preppy."

In real life, cliques interact with each other. The jocks talk to the punks, and the nerds talk to preppies. You can see it

and refer to them as that group, but they get along with one another. Often, there is a respect on campus between the cliques that is never depicted in movies.

I was actually scared to come to high school. I thought that there would be so many cliques, and that I would fall into the dumbest one. Then I came to realize that high school was not like that at all. I have many friends who are very diverse and I like it that way.

Real high schools are not like "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" or "Ten Things I Hate About You." Cliques are just groups, and the groups in real high schools are not at all like the ones in the movies.

Revealing a friend's secret is just not worth it

By Ronna Robina, Valley HS

"Three can keep a secret when two are dead."

— Benjamin Franklin

Whether to keep or tell a secret has been a dilemma as long as society has existed.

Shayna tells Wendy a secret. Wendy is the best friend of Mia, so she tells Mia and then asks Mia "not to tell." Mia keeps the secret away from her friends, but she trusts her big sister, Danielle, so she tells it to her. Danielle doesn't know the person the secret is about, so she tells her friend Lorraine in a completely unrelated conversation, since she doesn't think Lorraine would know whom the secret is about. Lorraine, not even realizing that the comment is a secret, passes the information on to a friend of hers, and so on, until the secret is common knowledge.

"Telling and keeping of secrets is one of the basic human traits," says Temple University Clinical psychologist Herb Rapport on the Keepyoursecrets.com Web site. "In fact, the recognition that you have portions of your life that you want to keep private and secret from others is a psychological development."

If you want to keep your secrets secret, keep them to yourself because some people tell others

secrets just to get attention. When secrets and gossip get around, and one person knows the story, the focus is on the "knower" of the gossip. Therefore, when people feel the need for attention, they blab the news. Insecure people want others "around" and "on their side." What better way to attract others than to give out secrets?

Secrets range from the casual, gossipy variety to the heart-rending, life-altering kind of secrets. Unfortunately, though, there really are no rules about keeping secrets, so it can be confusing. Things get even more confusing in high school.

"Social pressure to share your personal secrets blends with social pressure to reveal secrets you know about others," says Will Hoerl, owner of the Keepyoursecrets.com Web site.

To keep you from heartache because of a secret, here are a few things to keep in mind before opening your mouth:

- People may abuse or misuse the information if they had it.
- People might not understand the information contained in the secret, and it would cause more problems than keeping the secret could cause.
- People broadly sharing the information can hurt you or someone else.

Just keep in mind, that your business is your business. Others don't have to know unless you want them to.



Fun dating doesn't have to break the bank

By Hanna Myers,
Faith Lutheran HS

Spending a lot of money on dates doesn't have to happen for a date to be fun. Here are some fun and cheap dates both girls and guys may enjoy!

Go cruisin': It's great to just drive around and talk, especially on first dates.

Take a hike: If your date is into sports, try Red Rock Canyon for a great adventure!

Ride a bicycle built for two: Rent a double-seated bicycle for the day and ride into the sunset!

Enjoy a retro dinner at In-N-Out Burger: In-N-Out has great burgers, and after dinner, try a milkshake with two straws.

Have fun at Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix: Go for a couple of trips around the track and see who's the better driver.

Go to a school football game: Show some school spirit and have a good time with your date at school functions.

Dive into sandpit volleyball: Double date, girls vs. guys! Who will reign supreme?

Pack a picnic: Pack a lunch and some blankets and then head to the park for a lovely picnic.

Go to the arcade: The best arcade is at the New York, New York Hotel. Try your luck and win a prize for your date — perhaps a giant teddy bear? There's even a rollercoaster for some thrills.

Go to a movie: A dating classic! There is nothing like watching a scary movie with that special someone nearby.

TIME OUT



Should "Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle" rank at the top?

GET THE BUZZ ON RINGTONES FOR PHONES



By Kelli Schlueter, Coronado HS



From clothes to cars to music, everyone likes to show off his or her own personal style. Cell phones are no exception. Though there are countless ways to jazz up that mobile phone, only one thing outdoes all of the covers, buttons and lights. When it comes to cell phones, it's all about the ring.

Even when your phone is tucked away in a purse or pocket and its flashy accessories are unable to be seen, that "Mission Impossible" theme song that plays when your mom calls, or Queen's "We Will Rock You," signaling one of your friends, can always be heard. If rock, punk, rap, classical or TV theme songs are what you prefer, then you can make your phone express it. With not only the variety but also the quantity of choices, your phone is sure to have a one-of-a-kind repertoire.

How to get these off-the-hook tones is no mystery. Most phones come with a list of rings already built into the phones that are ready and waiting to be used. If those do not appeal to you, with Web sites that have over 25,000 tunes to choose from, they are not hard to track down.

Phones that can access the Internet make the process even easier, since their ring can be changed with the touch of a button. Some phones also have the ability to record your friend singing, making that their distinguishing tone.

The cell phone ring has created quite a boom, and with numerous distinctive rings out there, you are sure to find one that is unique enough for you.

Rank movies that rocked your summer

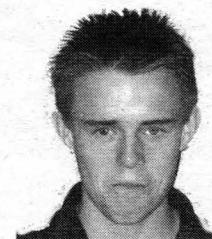
By Jon Fortenbury, Foothill HS

November is one of the slowest-moving months in the school calendar. Memories of summer have finally faded, and students are back to seriously hitting the books, or at least awaiting the upcoming holiday break. Before you close the book on summer though, Foothill High School recently conducted a survey of 100 students, asking them to rank the top movies of summer 2004. How do your ratings match up?

It was no surprise that 21 percent of students surveyed chose "Spider-man 2" because it was a well-done movie. I still prefer the first one, but this one also had good, action-packed scenes. The acting proved to be a strong point for the movie, so if you were into the first one, there's no reason not to see the second one.

Coming in second, with 19 percent of the votes, was "Napoleon Dynamite." With hardly any advertising, it surprised me that this movie placed second in the vote. It's finally good to see a movie that's clean in content and at the same time hilarious. The story line was a little weak, but in this movie's case, it doesn't matter. It did what it was intended to do: make people laugh.

In third place, which I think should have been first, with 17 percent of the vote was "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle." This had to be one of the funniest movies ever. Think of it as a



"Dude, Where's My Car?" adventure with extremely funny side journeys. The script was excellent and funny, and the acting was well done.

Capturing fourth place was "Bourne Supremacy." I enjoyed this movie because every aspect of the film was excellent. If you haven't seen it, see it ASAP. It's just as good as the first one. Matt Damon won't let you down.

Six percent voted for "The Notebook." I'd be lying to you if I told you this wasn't a good movie. It followed the novel very well and was a touching, romance movie. I recommend it to people into the Nicholas Sparks books or romance flicks.

What surprised me was that "Anchorman" only got 4 percent of the vote. Since when has Will Farrell not been funny? Honestly people! It was a funny movie! It was not the funniest of Farrell's, but still a good movie.

"The Village" only captured 4 percent of students' votes. I don't blame them either. It was a good idea done wrong. It was extremely boring, and I found myself waiting for something good to happen through the whole movie. The ending was one of the worst I've ever seen. The only good part of it was the acting. Pass on this one.

People might argue with me when I say I actually agree with the 3 percent of votes that "Without a Paddle" got. I hardly laughed at this average movie. Was it terrible? No, just nothing close to special.

Another surprise was "Dodgeball" getting only 2 percent of the votes. It was hilarious, even better than "Anchorman"! Don't listen to the poll; go rent it when it comes out if you haven't seen it.

Other movies that got low votes were "Manchurian Candidate" with 2 percent; "Exorcist: A New Beginning" with 2 percent; and each with 1 percent: "Open Water," "Alien vs. Predator," "A Cinderella Story," and "Little Black Book."

Of course, there were other movies that graced the theatres this summer, but none of them got any votes. It was still, however, a great summer of movies that you can enjoy again on DVD.



Spider-man 2 was better than the first, some think.

Coming to a theater new you — R-cards

R-cards offer ticket to teen freedom or copout for irresponsible parents

By Rachel Hommel, Green Valley HS



Ah yes, the joys of sneaking into an R-rated movie at the tender age of 15. Soon, however, this “rite of passage” may quickly become a right that many young teenagers are allowed to have.

Recently GKC, a Midwestern theater chain, has been offering adults the chance to purchase “R-cards” for their children. R-cards will give underage children the access to any R-rated movie, sans mom or dad.

GKC is a 22-city theater chain out of Springfield, Ill., with other locations in the midwest states. This company has already issued more than 700 R-cards and are slated to sell hundreds more by the end of this year. However, the de-

bate over R-cards is still up in the air. Are these cards really appropriate for some teens or do they come out of pure laziness on the adults’ behalf?

“From what I can tell, the people who have them like them, and the parents are trying to use them responsibly,” says James Whitman, GKC’s director of operations and marketing, in a company press release. “We’re not being inundated with kids whose parents are giving them access to everything that comes on the screen.”

As GKC is the 15th largest theater chain in America, these cards may not seem like much of a problem. However, critics believe that these cards are in direct violation of the Motion Picture Association of America’s rating system. Started more than 30 years ago, this rating system has

been able to advise parents on what is and what is not suitable for young children.

“All R-rated films are not alike. It is the parents’ responsibility to make specific judgments about R-rated films — and wrong to give a blanket endorsement to all,” says Jack Valenti, president and CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America, in a statement posted on the MPAA’s Web site.

In addition, the government is now threatening to take action. But is it really the government’s priority to teach parents how to be parents? It is hoped that parents will take enough caution before allowing their sons or daughters of ages 12 or 13 to view material that may not be suitable for that age group. Undoubtedly, at the age of 15 or 16, teenagers are not blind to the violence, profanity, and sexual sleaze that is American media.

Currently, there are no age restrictions on these R-cards. With the way the world is today, many parents would eagerly sign a document allowing

them to bail out of an hour or two with their own child.

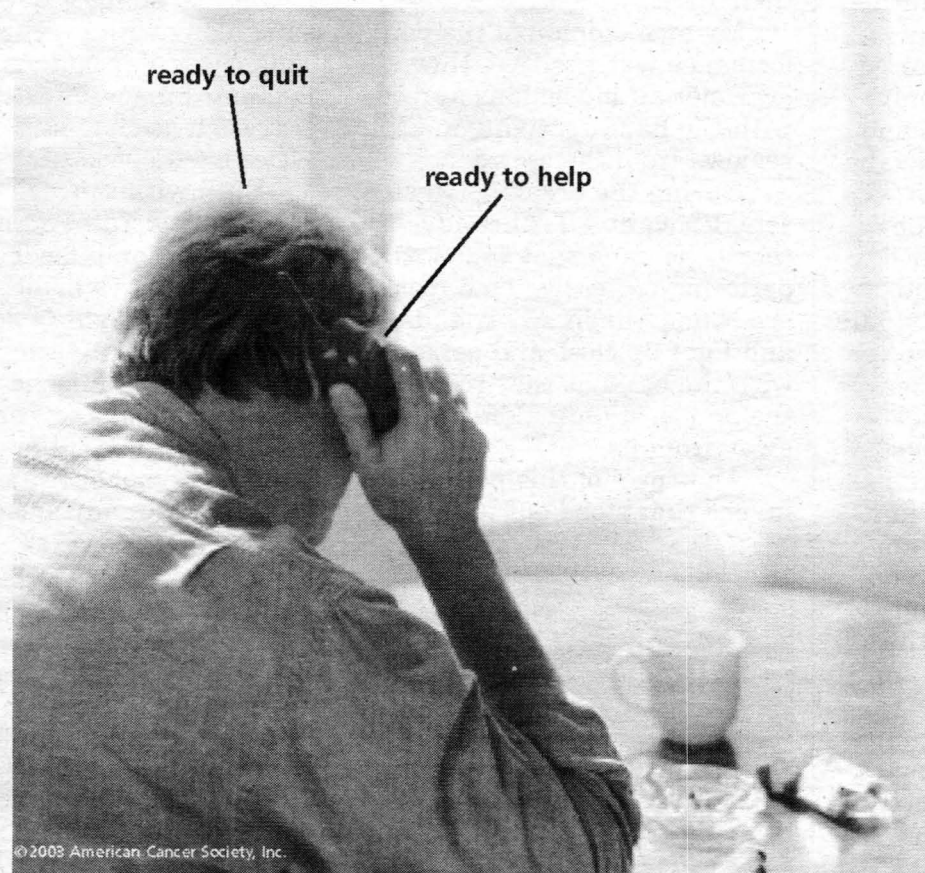
“Some kids are mature enough to see R-rated movies; however, I really don’t see why it’s necessary. Why change the system?” says Green Valley High School senior Shilpa Modi.

Children of all ages have experienced some form of what they view on the screen; whether it is at school or around town. Parents, on the other hand, need to know what is appropriate for their child.

“I think it’s a good idea, assuming the parents who are signing the R-cards aren’t just doing it to get their kids out of their hair. If the parent is all right with it, then the kid should be allowed to do it,” says Green Valley High sophomore Melanie Jupp.

So who are these cards really for? That all depends on the parent, the maturity of the minor and both the moral and political beliefs of the family.

In this issue, there is really no right or wrong. The only faux pas is uncaring parents.



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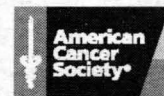
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Great American Smokeout



Can you handle the demons?

More complex levels and truly evil baddies mark latest 'Doom' sequel

By Bryan Manalang,
Foothill HS

No one has created a better remake of an old classic. Yes, there were sequels of "Tomb Raider," "Sonic the Hedgehog," "Pac-Man" and "Mario," but none of them compare to the magnificent job id Software has done with "Doom III."

"Doom III" is the classic remake of "Doom," a game where a portal transports players to the abyssal plain of Mars to combat zombies, hell spawns and demons who attack a lonely outpost of human researchers and soldiers. The player assumes the role of a space marine caught in the middle of the chaos. Their task: to kill those monsters and avoid a gruesome, painful death.

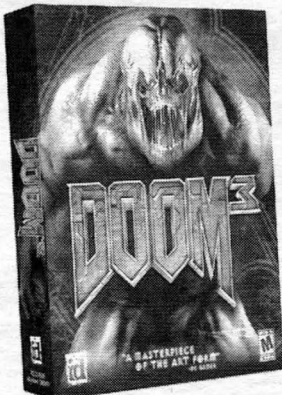
The entire game has been dramatically improved by id Software. The interface is easier to use. Players can easily switch from a chain gun to a plasma gun or open a door or

elevator and confront whatever is on the other side. The game evolved so much that the player must complete many objectives while blasting away at demons.

Instead of running through the level, the player must continually check the in-game PDA, a useful tool that helps locate items, open vaults for weapons and open locked doors and levels. To safely advance through each level, players have to collect PDAs scattered about the floor. There is only one problem: Those PDAs and other key items are guarded by many ravenous monsters.

The monsters have been recreated in high detail. Instead of the pixelated, seemingly cute, harmless and cuddly creatures that the first two versions showed, "Doom III" features monsters that are demonic, intimidating and just plain evil. The levels make players feel as if they are in a space battlefield. The creators of the game have extensively researched the lighting and graphic detail to provide the player with a frightening and violent experience.

First-person shooter games have been making a comeback in the video gaming industry recently with such titles as "Half-Life," "Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six," and "Call of Duty." Any first-person shooter fans can hope that with the release of "Doom III," the genre will be prolonged for sure.



The object is simple: kill the monsters.

Punk, emo, pop bands rock Jillian's, despite feedback noise

By Alex Weidner,
Faith Lutheran HS

Four bands from across the country came together to play a rock show at Jillian's entertainment center on Aug. 29. The lineup of performers included three newcomers and one group of veterans to the music industry.

First to play was Adelphi, one of Drive-Thru Records's most recent additions to their roster of quality rock bands. The group's fast pop rock got the small crowd ready for the remainder of the show.

"They were all right," says fellow concertgoer Jeff Farnham.

Next on the card for the night was another newborn band by the name of Denver Harbor. Many music fans would recognize the lead singer as Will Salazar, former front man of the now defunct pop punk group Fenix TX. Salazar's reasons for departing his former mainstream band were obvious as Denver Harbor displayed a more melodic emo rock stance on both their music and their lyrics.

My own opinion of the performance was positive. However, not all music fans agreed, with the band receiving mixed reviews from the crowd.

During the break between sets, I bought a T-shirt advertising the band that was next to perform, aggressive emo rockers Name Taken. My friends and I got up close and personal with the band as they rocked the house, standing only inches away from us.

An aspect of this performance that stood out in my

mind was drummer Juan Pereda's performance. Pereda kept the beat going with impressive fills and drum solos. Lead singer Chad Atkinson performed impressively, strumming the bass guitar, singing and occasionally screaming into the microphone.

Feedback from the band's amps posed a significant drawback as the heavier guitar riffs of certain songs sounded more like noise than any kind of music.

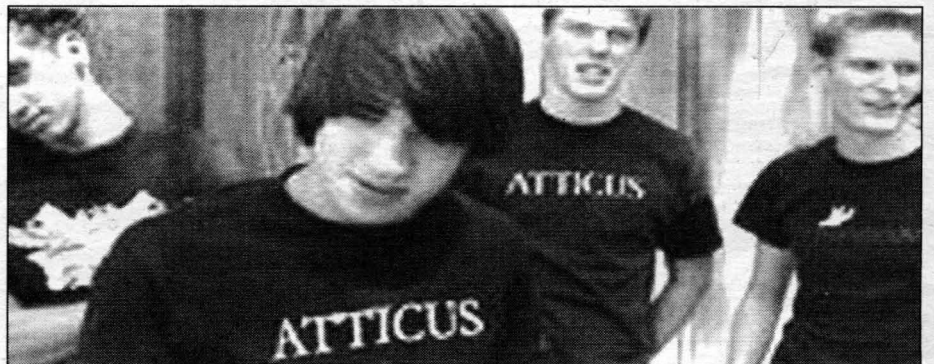
By the time Name Taken had finished their set, the crowd at the intimate venue began filling out impressively, all in anticipation of the headliner of the show, California-based, pop punk group Homegrown.

At this point in the event, about 12 heavysset security guards had entered the crowd to suppress rowdy fans or any attempts at creating a mosh pit. The overbearing presence of the security staff lessened the entertainment level for most of the concert attendants, including me. I just wanted to get into it.

Homegrown played an enjoyable set as most of the crowd sang along with every song. This particular band is known for their humorous onstage antics, such as changing certain lyrics for fun.

Even with the strictness of the security staff and moments of excessive amp feedback, the show at Jillian's made for an entertaining night of good music in an intimate atmosphere.

I would recommend a show at Jillian's to any concertgoer. The up-close encounters with the performers make for a memorable night for any music fan.



Aggressive emo rockers, Name Taken, were only one of many great bands to play at Jillian's on Aug. 29. Others in the lineup included Adelphi, Denver Harbor and Homegrown.

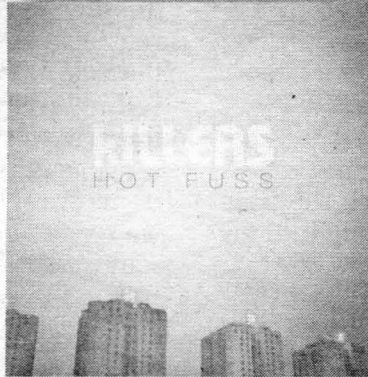
Hometown rockers The Killers hit the jackpot with first CD

By Farah Minwalla, Palo Verde HS



“Believe Me Natalie,” “Midnight Show” and the Killers’ first single, “Somebody Told Me,” were all written in 120-degree heat in a garage that became the band’s rehearsal room. If the garage wasn’t available, the four band members would sneak into UNLV to rehearse a couple of songs. It was during these sessions that they wrote the majority of the songs that comprise their debut album, the fittingly titled “Hot Fuss.”

Drummer Ronnie Vannucci told ModernRock.com about the band’s unauthorized use of UNLV facilities where Vannucci was a music student: “I’d like to make clear that no instruments were mistreated during this time, as we are, and continue to be, respectful, professional and, last but not least, resourceful musicians.”



The Killers was born in Las Vegas and include vocalist/keyboardist Brandon Flowers, guitarist David Keuning, bassist Mark Stoermer and drummer Ronnie Vannucci. It all started in 2002 when Flowers was in Los Angeles; he was inspired by an Oasis concert and thought that more guitars should become a part of his life. This led to the creation of the early core of the band, but they needed a name. While watching New Order’s music video for the song “Crystal,” the guys became motivated. The video features New Order playing in a fictitious band called “The Killers.”

“It gave me the ambition that our actual band should be as perfect as their fictional band,” says Flowers on the Music.ca Web Site.

It was just a matter of time until the band broke away from the glitz and glamour of Sin

City to start a new journey on their way to success.

The Killers wrote about songs of jealousy and paranoia, and of desire and the yearning to rise over the everyday. Word among music fans began to spread about The Killers and the band came to the attention of London-based independent recording label Lizard King. As a result, The Killers packed their bags and went to the United Kingdom to play their first ever gigs outside of Las Vegas, as well as producing a limited edition release of “Mr. Brightside” in September 2003.

The group then performed at a New York industry festival in October 2003 and a recording deal was sparked with Island Records that night. After signing with Island Records, The

Killers toured the UK with two other bands, British Sea Power and Stellastar.

The Killers struck gold with this tour and sold out their own headline shows. At the same time, they were self-pro-

ducing their record, with final mixing skill bestowed by the legendary Alan Moulder (U2, Smashing Pumpkins) and Mark Needham (Fleetwood Mac).

Though it seems like The Killers are just plain lucky, bizarre obstacles threatened the completion of the band’s recording of their first album. During the recording of “Believe Me, Natalie,” the studio was hit by an earthquake that threw Vannucci from his drum stool. On another occasion the band barely made it to the studio to record “Change Your Mind” because of forest fires in Simi Valley, Calif. The worst incident occurred on a trip to the UK when their plane hit an air pocket and started freefalling.

Whether it was luck or destiny, The Killers triumphed over it all to produce their critically acclaimed first album, “Hot Fuss,” and are on their way to the top. In Vegas terms, The Killers have hit the jackpot.

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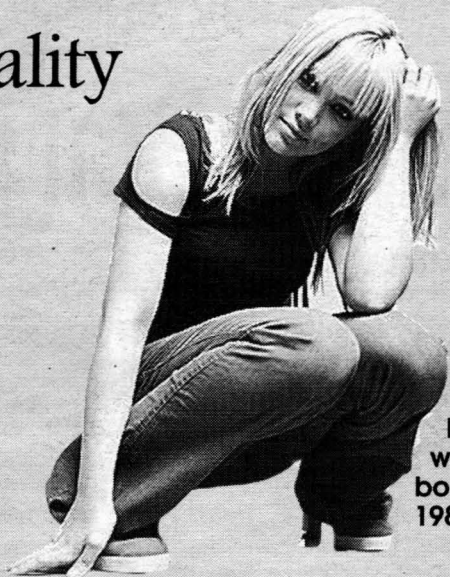
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Forget 'reality TV,' what you see is not what you get



Hilary Duff was born in 1987.



By Lashae Collins, Eldorado HS

"I'm 23, but I pretend to be 17."

That's what we find out about our favorite celebrities in teen magazines. Does it really make sense to have someone who's 24 years old play a senior in high school?

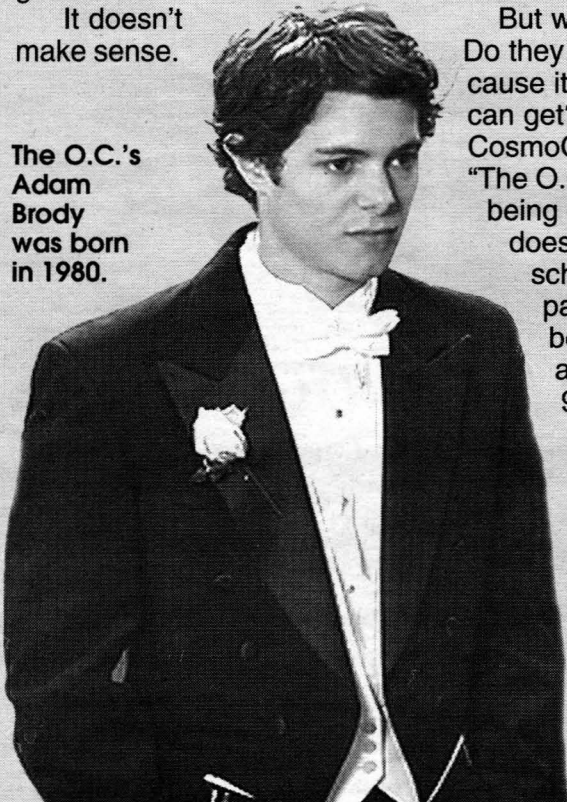
Take for example all those people on FOX's "The O.C." They've been out of high school for a while, and here they are pretending to be in Spanish Club or on the football team. Let's get real!

This makes me think.

What do the people our age play, middle school kids? Absolutely! Hilary Duff is 17 or 18 years old now, and on her show, she's still in the eighth grade!

It doesn't make sense.

The O.C.'s Adam Brody was born in 1980.



I thought "reality TV" is all the rage now. If that's so, then why do the networks make their shows with "unrealistic" actors? Why can't actors our age play kids our age?

Maybe they've been using them as eighth graders so long that it just wouldn't look right, but I say let's give it a try.

It seems like almost everyone in my generation is trying to act older than they really are, and who can blame us? All there ever is on television are adults playing teenagers doing a lot more stuff than we could even think about doing.

So what should we "real" teenagers in the "real" world do? Start thinking for ourselves!

We shouldn't try to act like the twenty-something teenagers on TV. The networks apparently have no clue about what being a teenager today really is. Let's face it: All these show are ridiculously fake!

But what about the actors? Do they play teenagers because it's the only role they can get? In a recent issue of CosmoGirl, Adam Brody of the "The O.C." said that he loves being on the show, but he doesn't want to be in high school forever. Good luck, pal. I hope he remembers "Saved by the Bell" and "Beverly Hills 90210."

So maybe we should just stop watching all of these ridiculous teenage shows and find a hobby. Heck, who am I kidding? I'm addicted to the phony worlds portrayed on TV, and so are all my friends.

Animé fans descend on unsuspecting Atlanta for wild weekend

By Nikie Little, Community College HS

I began my Friday morning, 9 a.m., caught in a duel between Cloud from the "Final Fantasy VII" video game and Vash from "Trigun," the Japanese animé. After extricating myself from the battle, I tripped over a couple of Heartless, dark creatures from the "Kingdom Hearts" video game, heading toward the Chinese restaurant. Crazy, huh? Not if you were one of the participants in the east coast's Animé Weekend in Atlanta on Sept. 24-26.

I came upon all of this while strolling through the Renaissance Waverly Hotel's main atrium, on my way to the registration line. After sharing stories of groggy driving and long flights with others standing in the convention pre-registration line, I headed upstairs to my room. En route to my room on the ninth floor, I got caught up in a game of elevator Twister, which, I must say, definitely brings you closer to everyone around you. Finally getting through the transit madness and settling into my room, with a lovely view of a parking deck, I was ready to attend the convention.

Along with my fellow Cosplayers — costumed, role-playing animé fans — I hit the convention floor with enthusiasm. Our costumes, all based on "Final Fantasy" game characters, were a hit. Dressed as Yuna from "Final Fantasy X-2," I was swamped with picture requests. In fact, moments after walking into the convention, anyone in a costume was hit with a barrage of photo requests. Flashes and poses occurred every few feet. Just inside the convention halls, they had set up the Artist's Alley, which was more like a warehouse of animé artists. Everyone in attendance perused the various artists, snapping photos left and right.

Once my group had pushed through the costumed masses, we made our way to the dealer's room. Housed in yet another of the convention rooms were four rows of back-to-back merchandise areas, selling everything from rare imports to Pokemon cards. After liberating several "needed" items from the various sellers, we trekked on to the screening rooms. Catching animés "Ninja Scroll TV" and the "Naruto"

Continued on page 33

Metal Mayhem at Las Vegas Tattoo Convention

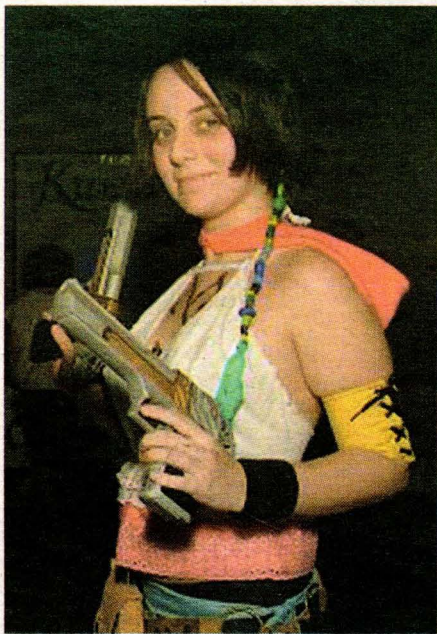
By Nikki Boucher and David Barrientos, Desert Pines HS

It was all ink, art and good music at this year's Las Vegas Tattoo Convention, held at the Cox Pavilion on Sept. 17-19. For those familiar with the Las Vegas metal underground scene here in Las Vegas, the sight of Drainage X and Avenger of Blood on the same stage would make your day. For those who wouldn't ordinarily be at such occasions, let me tell you what you missed.

First on stage at the Cox Pavilion was Drainage X. They put on an awesome show with an overall hair-raising mix of scary theatrics and heavy metal, complete with capes, corpse paint and killer sounds. Drainage X is a local band that you should definitely check out!

Avenger of Blood, who describes itself as "Germanic thrash metal," had its performance down to a T, as has come to be expected by the local fans who attend Avenger shows. Many shirts were worn bearing the band's name and the words "Till Death Do Us Thrash" throughout the crowd.

Their music, although influenced by other great acts such as Kreator and Sodom, is in itself a work of musical genius. Combined with Shannon's intense mastery of drums and Eric's brutal lyrics, AOB is a force to be reckoned with in the metal underground.



CCHS' Nikie Little as Yuna from "Final Fantasy X-2."



"Final Fantasy II" lookalikes won first place in Group Cosplay.

Continued from page 32
marathon, we had most of the first day done.

Saturday morning brought with it the Costume Contest. Everyone and his or her dog were in costume and waiting to be judged. The lines were filled with "Narutards" and "Final Fantasy Fiends." Wandering around the hotel, my group found the convention's Dance Dance Revolution Competition. What was

possibly the smallest room in the entire hotel housed four of these enormous game machines, running simultaneously. The industrial-sized fans and air fresheners were working for all they were worth, as tons of sweaty boys jumped and danced their butts off to techno pouring out of the machines.

Escaping from the sweat-bathed gaming room, we decided to explore the surrounding At-

lanta area, meaning the Cumberland Mall, a nearby shopping mall. The Cumberland Mall, however, does not enjoy the animé convention goers. After being chased from the mall on account of dress code, we moseyed back to the hotel in time to see the winners of the costume contest and to attend the late night Cyberia dance event.

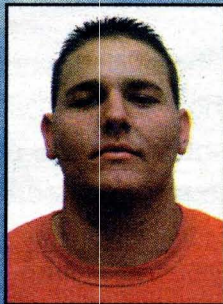
When Sunday morning rolled around, Atlanta could breathe a

sigh of relief as the convention began to close up. Costumes were shed, booths were closed, and finally, thank the powers that be, showers were taken. I finally scrubbed the "Final Fantasy" Zanarkand Summoner's Symbol off of my chest and donned the normal jeans and t-shirt for the drive home. The convention ended, we all went back home all the more broke, and I had the best 18th birthday ever.

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Cameron Busby, Senior
Las Vegas HS

"Cameron is an extraordinary student," says Las Vegas High School Principal Patrice Johnson. "He excels not only in academics, but athletics as well. He is a positive role model for all students."

Cameron Busby has a very determined character. He is on the varsity football team, which has brought him great memories and experiences, such as "The Bone Game," which is the rivalry game between Las Vegas HS and Rancho HS. He is also a nominee for the Wendy's High School Heisman, and was an Honorable Mention All-State Player for football in his junior year.

Busby has also been a part of the student council, and when he's not on the field, he's studying for his honors and AP courses. He was also a National Merit Qualifier with his SAT scores. He maintains a 4.5 GPA, and is thinking about attending BYU and studying sports medicine.



Yolanda Garcia, Senior
Clark HS

"Yolanda really kicks it up a notch," says Clark High School Assistant Principal Wilfredo Rivera. "She's focused on the next level and going to college. She's an excellent student."

Yolanda Garcia is an exceptional scholar. She is student body president, and has been on the student council all four years of high school. She has played on the varsity softball team for all four years, and participated in DECA for two years. In student council, she has volunteered at the Boys and Girls' Club, where she plays sports and makes crafts with the kids. She has also helped raise funds for a park in Mexico, and gone down to Mexico for the San Jose Festival, where she and many others sold beads and other items to pay for the entertainment for the event.

After high school, Garcia plans on attending Northwood University in Texas and majoring in marketing and business administration.



Cirque du Soleil puts the 'O' in original



By Kaity Mohler, Coronado HS

It has a center ring, several trapeze acts and even clowns, but this is not your average circus; it is "O," a production by Cirque Du Soleil.

Utilizing one of the most essential and basic elements of life, water, writer/director Franco Dragone takes this seemingly boring component and creates art.

The crowd settles into their seats and an echoing "drip, drip, drip" initiates the interactive portion of the show. Clowns saunter through the audience, entertaining with comical umbrella antics, before disappearing behind the curtain. The dripping fades and the plain red curtain swims away from sight, revealing the momentarily lifeless center ring. A host of characters pour onto the set, bringing "O" to life. Synchronized swimmers move fluently into view choreographed perfectly with the music, while trapeze artists do gravity-defying stunts.

The cast of "O" is as internationally diverse as the production itself, bringing its members from more than 18 different countries. The international vibe is felt throughout the performance by way of music or the acts themselves. A prime example is the Russian swings, an act depicting a wedding party complete with a bride and groom propelled into aerobatics by a swinging force.

Act after act, they jump, swim, fly, dive and tumble across the waterlogged platform, giving new meaning to the words aerobatics, gymnastics and stamina. Members of the trapeze routine effortlessly swing, climb and flip while contortionists bend into incomprehensible shapes and synchronized swimmers glide through the water like fish. That, united with the overwhelming array of intricate costumes, props, lights, and music consisting of a nine-person, on-set ensemble, makes it impossible to turn away.

"O" challenges the imagination with its raw artistic display of life, love and death. This entertaining visual spectacle, although pricey at \$100-\$150 a ticket, is an outstanding choice for celebrating any occasion from a first date to a 50th wedding anniversary.



From top to toe, get the look for fall

By Hayley Croop, Faith Lutheran HS

Fall is here, ladies! This is the season for chilly weather, pumpkin patches and playing in piles of leaves. With the chilly season also comes changing fashion trends. This season is all about quirky, random fashion statements with bright colors, interesting fabrics and lots of layers. So check out what's in style this autumn, so you won't "fall" behind!

Bangs, bangs, bangs: It's all about the bangs this season, whether they're slighting grazing the eyebrows, off to one side or totally in the eyes. This is a must-have hairdo this fall.

Warm up your tresses: Hair color is also a big thing this part of the year. It seems that with cooler weather comes warmer hair color. Try some auburn streaks or warm honey blonde highlights. Or maybe even opt for a whole new hair color. Dying light hair to a darker shade seems to be the "in" thing to do this month.

Layers upon layers: Can't decide which necklace to wear today? Why not just wear them all? Layering necklaces adds a quirky twist on a style classic.

Accessorize! All those trips to Claire's had to have paid off by now. Try some crazy earrings or hairpins. Lots and lots of rings are also cute.

Go classic: If the cluttered look doesn't appeal to you, then how about a simple string of pearls? Pearls are always classic, always good for almost any occasion.



Get the lowdown on flats for fall.

Look down: As far as shoes go, flats are everywhere this season. From normal canvas to beaded or crazy-colored, flats are one of the most popular items to sport.

Get messy! Vintage, messy style is really hot. Try mixing and matching fabrics. A tweed blazer with a silky camisole top, newsboy cap, some tattered jeans and really offbeat shoes is a really cool look.

Most importantly, what's really in is just not following these trends at all. Remember, these are just opinions and options. Trends come and go all the time. So please, by all means, if these aren't appealing, then wear what you like. What kind of clothes people wear shows what kind of people they are, so let a little personality shine through. That's always in style.

I will cry a tear for you

By Erica Zaldivar, Community College HS

At the end of the day before I go to sleep at night, right after I shut off the light,

I will cry a tear for the boy or girl who is made fun of every day. They are lost, yet nobody will help them find their way.

I will cry a tear for the homeless people who have nowhere to sleep besides a bench.

I will cry a tear for the elderly people who have no one to tell them that they love them.

I will cry a tear for the children who don't

have a dad or mom, filled with pain and anger, an inactivated bomb.

I will cry a tear for the single mother who has no help. Nobody could understand the hurt she's felt.

I will cry a tear for the lonely people in this world.

I will cry a tear for the people who are shallow because their hearts are hollow.

I will cry a tear for the person who has not one true friend, sinking in water because it seems that the ocean doesn't end.

I will cry a tear for the person in love but

the other doesn't love them back. You're being thrown aside, so your one-track mind only sees the color black.

I will cry a tear for the soldiers away from their loved ones. Your heart is weighed down by 50 million tons.

I will cry a tear for the person who falls down and needs help in the street, and cry a tear for the people who won't help them back on their feet.

I will cry a tear for all of the pain in this world and cry because there's not much I can do, but if you're in pain, I will cry a tear for you.

GALLERY

"Freedom?," Jeremiah Haynes, Desert Pines HS



Question. Freedom?

Questions of Beauty

By Maria Elena Millard, Chaparral HS

Beauty, what does it mean? Does it mean you have to be lean? Or cover your face in makeup so it looks more dirty than clean? Can beauty really be seen? Is it the color of the hair or the eyes? The shape of the nose or the size? The color of a person's skin? Or is it simply just something elegantly held within? Are there any words to describe it, help to understand? Is it the legs, the arms or the hands? Or is it simply just something elegantly held within?

November

Nov. 2

General Election Day. Don't forget to vote! Remind your parents, teachers and employers to vote, also. To find your voting location, check out the election department Web site at www.co.clark.nv.us/election/home.asp. Voting takes place from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Nov. 3

Las Vegas Youth Orchestras Soloist Recital. Local high school musicians play classical arrangements. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 7 p.m. Free admission. 229-6211.

Nov. 4

Bide in concert with Rock Kills Kid, Heartfeld and Arcade Hero. GameWorks, 3785 S. Las Vegas Blvd. Suite 10. Tickets \$5. 7 p.m. 432-4263.

Nov. 5

UNLV Rebel Volleyball vs. BYU. Cox Pavilion, UNLV. 7 p.m. Tickets \$1. 739-FANS.

UNLV Runnin' Rebels vs. L.A. Stars. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 5 p.m. Tickets \$7. 739-FANS.

Nov. 6

Native American Festival. Celebrate Native American Heritage Month at



Avril Lavigne in concert

Canadian pop sensation Avril Lavigne is back in Las Vegas at the Thomas and Mack Center, Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be yours for \$36.75 by calling 739-FANS.

this annual event, featuring dance and artisan demonstrations, films, food and a craft market with jewelry, pottery, carvings and more. Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. 507-3400.

UNLV Rebel Football vs. Wyoming. Sam Boyd Stadium. Time TBD. Tickets \$15-28. 739-FANS.

Nov. 11

Jr. Anti Sex League in concert with GDB, Zerofingers, MC Randumb and Jewish Dave (from The Polar Bear MCs). GameWorks, 3785 S. Las Vegas Blvd. Suite 10. Tickets \$5. 7 p.m. 432-4263.

Nov. 12

The Book Pirates Club. Balcony Lights Music and Books, 4800 S. Maryland Pkwy., Ste. K. 7 p.m. Free. 228-2763.

Nov. 13

TJ Maxx 2004 Tour of Gymnastics Champions. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 7 p.m. Tickets \$29.25-81.75. 739-FANS.

Chase the Day in concert with Cowards Courage and Glorified Machine. GameWorks, 3785 S. Las Vegas Blvd. Suite 10. Tickets \$5. 7 p.m. 432-4263.

Nov. 15

Poetry Night. Balcony Lights Music and Books, 4800 S. Maryland Pkwy, Ste. K. 7 p.m. Free. 228-2763.

Nov. 16

Avril Lavigne in concert. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$36.75. 739-FANS.

Nov. 17

"Moccasin Flats." Come watch this film of a Native youth, caught be-

tween his chance at a college education and his conflict with the "home boys." West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 7 p.m. Free admission. 507-3980.

Nov. 18

Holiday Havoc featuring Korn, The Used, My Chemical Romance, and Magna-Fi. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. Tickets \$31 in advance, \$35 day of concert. 739-FANS.

Another Day Starts in concert with Please Mr. Gravedigger, Gasoline Please and Divided They Fall. GameWorks, 3785 S. Las Vegas Blvd. Suite 10. Tickets \$5. 7 p.m. 432-4263.

Nov. 19

Poet's 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 p.m. Free admission. 229-4800.

Nov. 20

Las Vegas All Star High School Jazz Band. Southern Nevada high school musicians play traditional and contemporary arrangements, under the direction of Alan Lawson. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 2 p.m. Free admission. 229-6211.

Nov. 27

R. Kelly and Jay-Z in concert. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$38-103. 739-FANS.

Nov. 29

The Great Contributions of Physics to Humanity. Come join this talk that explores how basic physics research has led to countless technological innovations. Barrick Museum Auditorium, UNLV. 7:30 p.m. Free admission. 895-3401.

Your spare time could mean the world

Volunteers, age 16 and over, are needed at Creekside Hospice to visit with terminally ill patients, work in the office and help with special events. Volunteers must attend a free training class (which includes getting a TB test) and obtain parental permission. The office is located at 3626 Pecos McLeod, Suite 15. For more information, call Jacque McPherson, Volunteer Coordinator, at 650-7669.

History in the making

The Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City is offering historic train rides on a weekly basis through mid-December. The Nevada State Railroad Museum, 600 Yucca Street, will operate its refurbished 1911-era Pullman Coaches along the historic Boulder Branch Line every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 12. Fares are \$7 for adults (12 and older), \$6 for seniors (65 and older), and \$4 for children ages 11 and under. Call 486-5933 for more information.

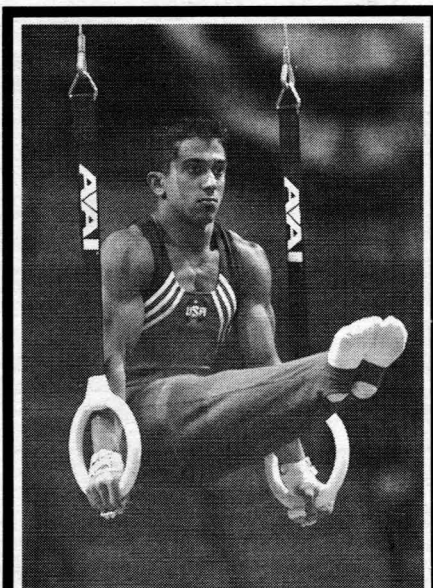
Hang with the bats

Facts about bats are as fascinating as the myths, and both are explored in a new exhibit at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas. Bats from Nevada and throughout the world are displayed, while myths, truths and other interesting facts about this unusual mammal are explored. The exhibit is open from Oct. 30 through Dec. 2006. There will also be a grand opening "Carnival of Fun" with games and activities on Nov. 6 from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 486-5205 ext. 120.

Picture this

Photograms are the most direct form of photography, using no lenses or film, only light and photographic paper. Artist Haya Gil-Lubin presents a form of colorful photograms, called "Hayagrams," beginning on Fri-

Continued on page 38



Hung up

See members of the men's and women's 2004 Olympic Teams and 2003 World Championships Team show off their skills at the 2004 Tour of Gymnastic Champions Saturday night, Nov. 13 at the Thomas and Mack Center. Call 739-FANS for tickets.



World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 will be a day to commemorate the millions of lives lost to AIDS, as well as to spread awareness, education and prevention about the disease. Red ribbons and HIV/AIDS posters will remind people everywhere that, although World AIDS Day comes only once a year, the growing pandemic should be everyone's concern 365 days a year.

A safe place to get help

One program in Southern Nevada that is helping those impacted by HIV and AIDS is the St. Therese Center, an HIV/AIDS outreach facility in Henderson. The Center helps children, teens and adults regardless of age, race, religion or financial status. Services provided address the emotional, physical, social and spiritual needs of those who have been affected by HIV/AIDS, whether directly through the disease itself or indirectly through the suffering of a friend or family member. The Center also offers a youth program to assist teens with everything from getting medical care to talking with parents.

"We want to give people hope and comfort, whether they have the virus or care for someone who does," says Father Joseph O'Brien, executive director of the St. Therese Center. "I want people to know we're here. You can come and talk to us, and it's a safe place."

Teens who need help can call the Center and ask for O'Brien, or "Joe," as he is called by the young people in the program. O'Brien says, "The main thing we're concerned with is protecting the people that come to us, and when someone calls, there are no questions asked and no judgments made on our part."

From Nov. 15 to Dec. 10, the Center will be working with local high schools and other organizations, collecting toys and canned food items as well as doing other community service projects. School groups and individuals are encouraged to call the Center to find out about numerous volunteering opportunities or ways to help with the Center's programs. Currently, the Center serves 2,200 Southern Nevadans, from adults to newborn babies, who have been impacted by HIV/AIDS, and need all the help they can get from the community.

To get help, to volunteer to help or just to get more information, call St. Therese's Center at 564-4224.

Red ribbon reminder

World AIDS Day 2004 focuses on HIV dangers for girls



By Natalie Minev, Community College HS

For decades women have protested against sex discrimination and have won tremendous protections for everyone's civil rights. However, the fight goes slowly on in the area of medical treatment in which women across

the globe still do not receive equal attention and care as men. Nowhere is this disparity more clear than in the fight against HIV/AIDS. To combat this growing concern, the United Nations has dedicated this year's World AIDS Day events on Dec. 1 to women and girls.

HIV/AIDS is a worldwide pandemic today, causing millions of deaths and infecting millions more every day. The immuno-destructive syndrome has plagued people of all races, ages and genders globally, breaking down the human body's ability to fight off illnesses. Every six seconds another person is infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that leads to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Currently, female populations worldwide are becoming infected with AIDS at a rate higher than men. Nearly half of new AIDS infections occur in those under age 24, and two-thirds of those cases are girls.

AIDS has taken a deadly toll on the whole world, and Las Vegas is no exception. The Clark County Health District reported 4,306 AIDS cases and 2,815 HIV cases in Clark County as of July 2004.

Have you heard me today?

Awareness and education about this rapidly spreading disease is crucial, and this year's 17th Annual World AIDS Day once again will encourage the masses to learn about the disease as well as to try

to prevent it. The theme of the campaign, "Have you heard me today?" explores specifically how gender plays a role in the increased rate of infection for women and girls worldwide.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan addressed the 15th Annual International AIDS Conference in Bangkok in July and focused his comments specifically on the threat to women and girls.

"Why are women more vulnerable to infection?" Annan asked conference members. "Why is that so, even where they are not the ones with the most sexual partners outside marriage, nor more likely than men to be injecting drug users? Usually, because society's inequalities put them at risk — unjust, unconscionable risk."

Annan called for nations to step up the accessibility and resources for educating girls in both developed and underdeveloped countries around the world.

"All over the world, women do not enjoy the same rights and access to employment, property and education as men," Annan said. "Women and girls are also more likely to face sexual violence. This makes them more vulnerable to HIV and, as the primary care givers, to the impact of AIDS."

He added, "Only when societies recognize that educating girls is not an option, but a necessity, will girls and young women be able to build the knowledge, the self-confidence and the independence they need to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS."

Pressing the global community to "Wear the Red Ribbon," a symbol of HIV and AIDS awareness, AIDS organizations are reminding people worldwide that the disease still has no cure, that the infection rate is increasing, and that in 10 years, an estimated 40 million children will lose their parents to the deadly disease. Any activity of awareness or support is encouraged on World AIDS Day, whether it is volunteering at or donating money to a local HIV organization.

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Scholarships

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

- Be aware that this may be your last chance to register for ACT/SAT to be considered for most scholarships.
- Request your ACT/SAT scores be sent to the colleges where you have applied.
- Remind your parents to gather financial records and get financial counseling, if needed.
- Attend UNLV/CCSD-sponsored FAFSA Workshops.
- Update your résumé.
- Continue to search out and apply for scholarships. Watch deadlines!

National Society of Professional Engineers Scholarship

Contact: www.nspe.org/scholarships/sc-home.asp
Amount: \$1,000
Deadline: Dec. 2
Requirements: Female high school seniors planning to pursue study in engineering, who

are also U.S. citizens, are eligible to apply for this award. Application includes a 500-word essay on the applicant's plans for the future.

AXA Foundation Scholarship

Contact: www.axaonline.com/axafoundation
Amount: \$10,000
Deadline: Dec. 15
Requirements: Applicants must be high school seniors and U.S. citizens or legal residents. They must also plan to attend an accredited two-year or four-year college or university in the United States by fall 2005. Applicants must demonstrate ambition and self-drive as evidenced by outstanding achievement in an activity in school, the community or the workplace. In addition, applications must include recommendations and transcripts.

Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarships

Contact: www.discoverfinancial.com/data/philanthropy/tribute.shtml
Amount: \$2,500
Deadline: Jan. 7
Requirements: High school students in their junior years as of Sept. 2004 who have at least a 2.75

GPA for the 9th and 10th grades may apply for this award. Applicants should be able to demonstrate achievement in special talents, leadership and community service and should be able to show how he or she has faced a significant roadblock or challenge.

John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest Scholarship

Contact: www.jfkcontest.org
Amount: \$3,000
Deadline: Jan. 8
Requirements: U.S. high school students, home-schooled students or students under 20 who are enrolled in a high school correspondence/GED program are eligible to enter the contest. Essays must be less than 1,000 words and describe either a current or past elected official since 1956 who has acted courageously to address a local, state, national or international political issue.

Ron Brown Scholar Program

Contact: www.ronbrown.org
Amount: \$10,000
Deadline: Jan. 9
Requirements: African American seniors who demonstrate traits of excellence, leadership, commitment to public service and a desire to make a difference are asked to apply for this award. Applicants must

also submit two letters of recommendation, transcripts and essays.

The Gates Millennium Scholars Scholarship

Contact: www.gmsp.org
Amount: Varies based on need
Deadline: Jan. 14
Requirements: Applicants must be high school seniors of African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American descent to be eligible to receive this scholarship. Applicants must also be citizens or legal permanent residents of the United States and be entering a U.S.-accredited college or university as a full-time, degree-seeking freshman in the fall of 2005. In addition, students must have at least a 3.3 GPA.

American Radio Relay League Foundation Scholarships

Contact: www.arrl.org/arrlf/scholgen.html
Amount: \$1,000
Deadline: Feb. 1
Requirements: High school students who have current amateur radio operator licenses are eligible to apply. Various scholarships with different requirements are available.

Announcements

Continued from page 36
day, Nov. 12 at the Winchester Cultural Center, 3130 S. McLeod Dr. Call 455-7340 for more information.

An artful celebration

The Contemporary Arts Collective and the Las Vegas Jazz Society are hosting their CAC Art Auction and exhibit, which will showcase the work to be auctioned on Dec. 4. The exhibit will run from Nov. 12-Dec. 3 at the Arts Factory, 101 E. Charleston Blvd., Suite 104. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 382-3886.

Yoga for Teens

Yoga can provide teens with

a way to connect with themselves and with the beauty within and around them. It is a wonderful and fun way of cultivating discipline for any teenager, so come and join. Classes will be on Wednesdays, beginning Dec. 1 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at The Barbara Greenspun WomensCare Center, 100 N. Green Valley Parkway, Suite 330 in Henderson. The fee is \$7. For more information, call 616-4900.

Volunteer opportunities

Are you a teenager 14-18? Are you interested in making a difference in your community by volunteering with other youth? Las Vegas Youth Volunteers meets every Tuesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. to determine how

young people can help make a difference. Meetings are held at the Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada, 3075 E. Flamingo, Suite 100A, please RSVP. For more information, contact Kim Geary at 353-6108 or Laura Baca at 892-2321.

N.O.T. (Not On Tobacco)

Take control! Join the American Lung Association for this 10-week smoking cessation program just for teens. N.O.T. can help teens quit smoking or cut back to smoking much less. The program has all the information you need and has a really good plan to help you. Meetings will be held from 3 p.m.-4 p.m. on Thursdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, and Feb. 3. The location is at

The Barbara Greenspun WomensCare Center, 100 N. Green Valley Parkway, Suite 330 in Henderson. There is no fee. Call 616-4900 for more information.

Great American Smokeout

It's time to kick the habit — the nicotine habit, that is — and the American Cancer Society is just the one to help you! Nov. 18 marks the American Cancer Society's 28th Annual Great American Smokeout, and the organization is calling on smokers to go smoke-free for the day and to consider giving up for good. For more information about the American Cancer Society, or to get involved, call 1-800-ACS-2345. 798-6877

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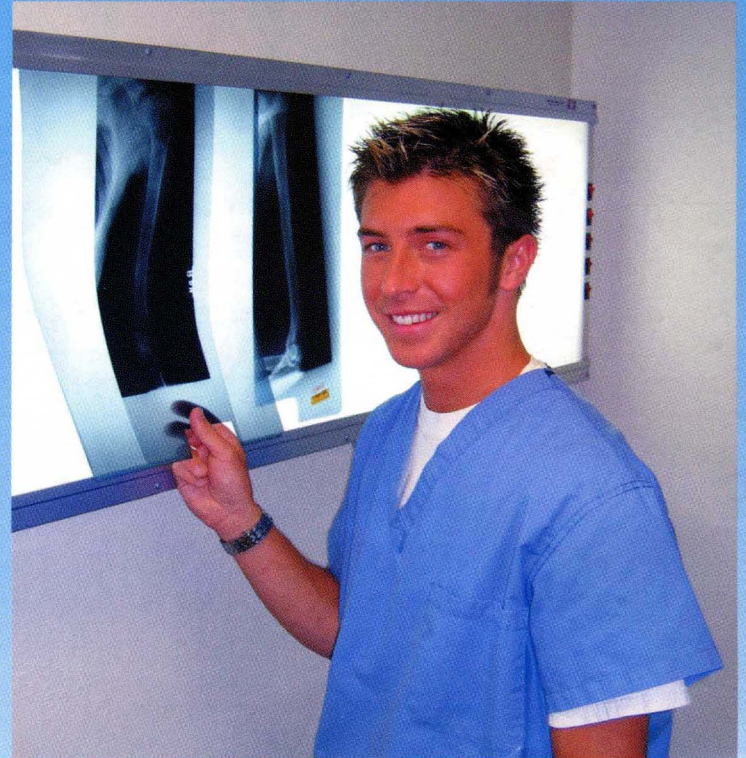
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