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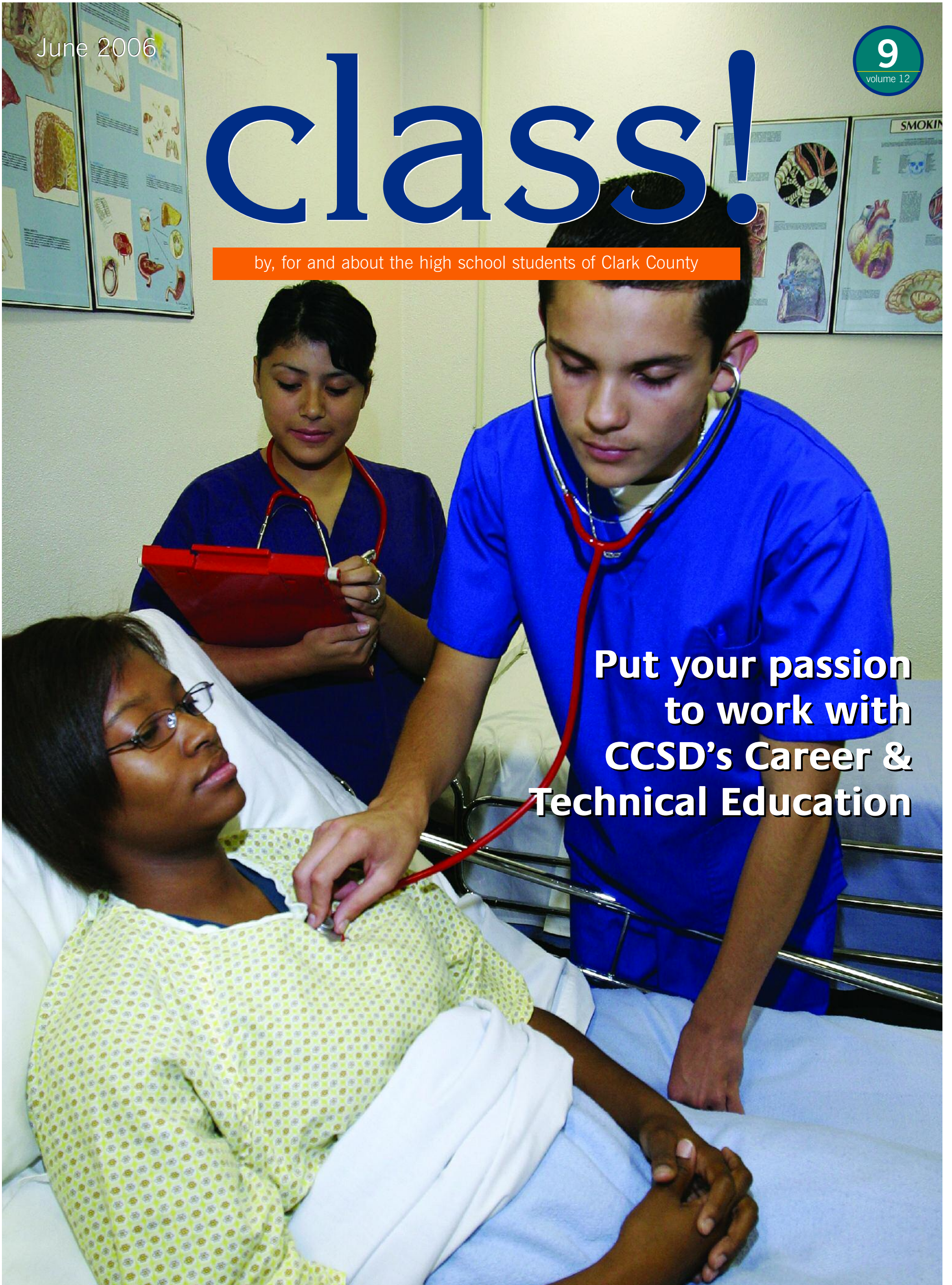
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volume 12

class!

by, for and about the high school students of Clark County

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Kelli Schlueter, Coronado HS

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class! Publications

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

UNLV Box 451025

Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025

Phone: (702) 895-1504

Fax: (702) 895-1505

Campus Services Building, Room 226

classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu

Submissions and Letters E-mail:

class@interact.ccsd.net

Website: www.classmag.com

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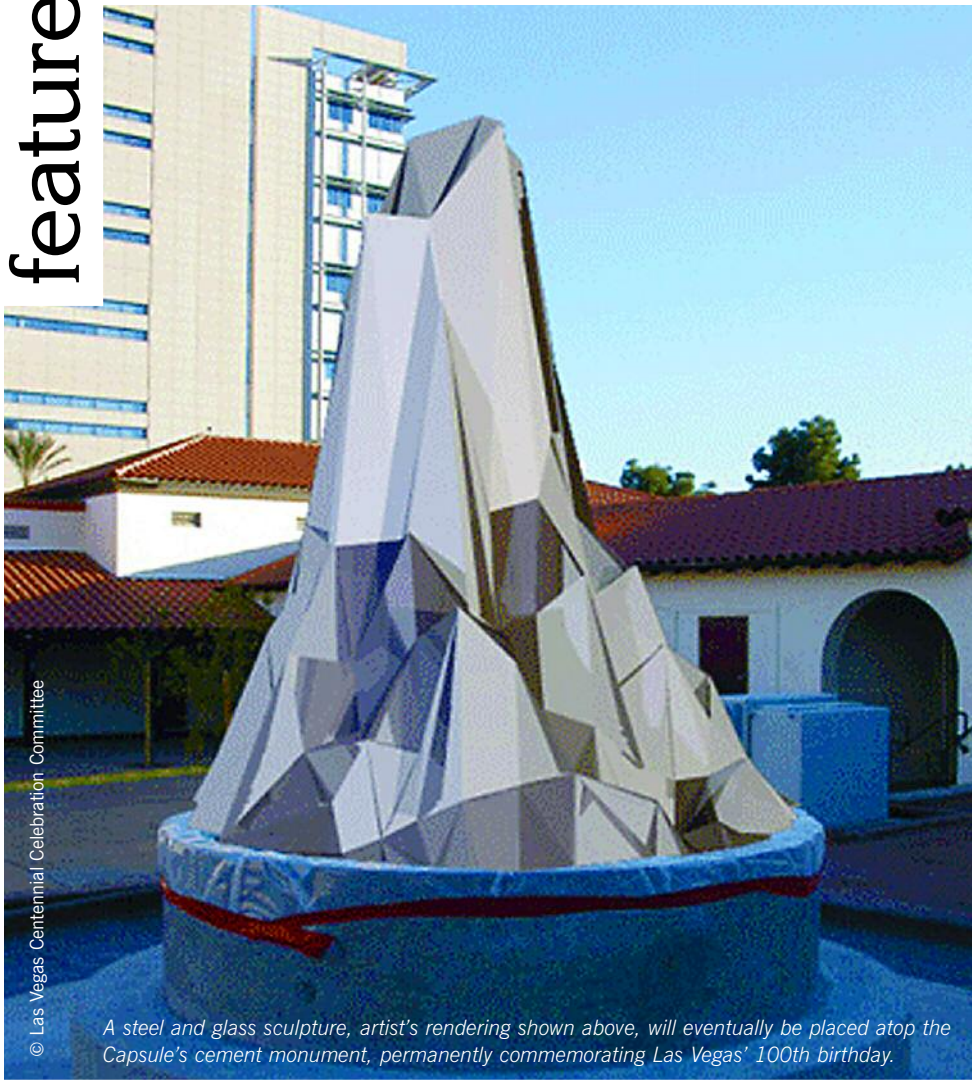
CSNVTC health careers students are among thousands of teens building professional skills in Career and Technical Education programs.



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02 class! Las Vegas Wildcat makes history

feature!



© Las Vegas Centennial Celebration Committee

A steel and glass sculpture, artist's rendering shown above, will eventually be placed atop the Capsule's cement monument, permanently commemorating Las Vegas' 100th birthday.

From centenarians to school children, locals to tourists, everyone in Las Vegas was invited to celebrate the city's centennial birthday in 2005. Whether eating a piece of the biggest birthday cake in the world or contributing an item to the Las Vegas Centennial Time Capsule, everyone could get into the act.

Gregan Wingert, a junior who appropriately attends Las Vegas High School, the oldest high school in Las Vegas, did her part to make history by winning a centennial essay contest sponsored by the Las Vegas Review-Journal. The contest, which received 1,000 entries, required students to write an essay either about the history or the future of Las Vegas, with the winning entry added to the Las Vegas Centennial Time Capsule.

On Dec. 15, Wingert's essay was placed in the Time Capsule with other commemorative items such as Centennial Celebration memorabilia, a Las Vegas Valley Water District water sample, Frank Sinatra recordings, Elvis Presley mementos, historic photos of old Las Vegas, an Oscar Goodman bobblehead doll and a sign that says, **'Now that the party's over, let's hide the evidence'** among many other items (full list can be read at www.lasvegas2005.org/involved/timecapcontents.html).

The Time Capsule, which actually consists of two large crates, was cemented into an above-ground monument at Centennial Plaza, located at the historic site of the former Fifth Street School on Fourth Street near Lewis Avenue. At a later date, the cement monument will be topped with a glass and steel sculpture, representing Las Vegas' natural geography.

Wingert's essay, which will not be seen again until the Time Capsule is opened in 100 years, is reprinted here **!**



© Las Vegas Centennial Celebration Committee

City workers prepare to pour concrete over the twin compartments that make up the Las Vegas Centennial Time Capsule, sealing the Capsule for 100 years.

In the future, the sign that has welcomed billions of people to our city, still stands in all its majesty. The sign is not the only thing in Las Vegas that is still standing.

The entire Strip has grown to massive size. Certain buildings have been built and demolished, but the grandeur of Las Vegas' most famous street has not altered. The Strip, downtown Las Vegas and the city's suburbs are thriving.

The population of Las Vegas is at an all-time high. The main source of economy that has caused this population increase is and will remain to be gambling.

Though the city's system of living has not changed, the way the city advertises itself has. To provide for the increase in population using the age-old but effective idea of gambling, Las Vegas has had to brighten its lights – literally. The buildings are taller and the shows more extravagant.

The hotels and casinos have grown to tremendous sizes and, with every new skyscraper, a new and more original theme is attached to it. Hotel themes cover all the different cultures of the world. People who vacation here are enlightened about the different characteristics of other countries. Other themes, like old time Las Vegas, highlight the different eras in Las Vegas' history. One of the most outrageous hotel themes that have appeared is the one that depicts the space age. This hotel and casino is equipped with the latest gadgets and a staff of robots.

Las Vegas 2020

by Gregan Wingert, Las Vegas HS

There is a point on Earth where an ageless road sign resides. This sign has been a symbol of a great city with unique buildings, people and culture. The sign reads: **'Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Nevada.'**



Everything in this hotel is new, modern and computerized. Robots, however, are what give this particular casino the edge. These animatronic beings are dealing cards and serving customers and that is what is causing all the commotion.

Besides the overall look, hotels have much more to offer than just the feelings they instill in their guests. They also give tourists new dazzling sites and mind-blowing experiences. The shows on the Strip are more fantastic than ever. Fireworks are no longer reserved for New Year's, even though that fiery spectacular gets better with each passing year. Along with the nightly firework displays, water and light shows are at every corner of the Strip.

There is always something to see here in Las Vegas, whether it is outside marvels or inside wonders. The shows that are performed inside on remarkable stages are glamorous and entertaining.

Showgirls have not gone out of style, with their sparkling costumes, and neither have magicians, whose tricks have become even more amazing and mind-boggling.

The city that contains these new, breathtaking sights was once small and its dirt roads were lined with cheap hotels, but over time, it would become a marvelous, exciting and extremely distinguished city.

Las Vegas has tremendous potential and no limit to futuristic possibilities **!**

TEENS XPOZ THEIR TALENT AT DANCE COMPETITION

class! 03

feature!

by Stephanie Espinoza, CLASS! correspondent

WITH POUNDING MUSIC, EXCITED TEENS AND BREAK DANCING IN THE HALLWAYS, IT ALMOST LOOKED LIKE ONE BIG PARTY. IN A WAY IT WAS, BUT THE BREAK DANCING WASN'T JUST FOR FUN. THE DANCERS WERE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PRACTICING THEIR MOVES FOR THE FIRST ROUND OF THE FIRST ANNUAL XPOZ YOUR SKILLZ DANCE COMPETITION, HELD AT UNLV'S MOYER STUDENT UNION ON MAY 19.

Hosting the event in partnership with the HOT 97.5 radio station was the XPOZ Coalition, Clark County's only youth-led anti-tobacco organization. Targeted at the 12- to 18-year-old age group, XPOZ holds events for teenagers ranging from movies to skate park parties, and now a wide-scale dance competition.

"We do pretty much anything that the kids want to do, and just make it smoke-free," says Malcolm Ahlo, program director for the XPOZ Coalition. The idea to hold a dance contest came directly from the requests of teenagers.



"We have an XPOZ street team made up of 12- to 18-year-olds who tell us what it is teenagers want us to do. They plan our parties and they planned this dance competition," Ahlo says.

One such teen, Palo Verde junior Stori Rivera (pictured above), served as event manager for the dance and has been involved with XPOZ since she was about 15.

"They just invited me to one of their events and I felt comfortable," she says. *"I liked the fact that they were against tobacco."*

Now, as the event manager, Rivera is in charge of helping out at the various events, *"and I help with the younger XPOZ people, tell them what XPOZ is about."*

But what exactly is XPOZ about? Ahlo explains that they try to promote anti-tobacco through social branding, rather than through traditional education. They never give speeches about tobacco and never directly say, *"Don't smoke."*

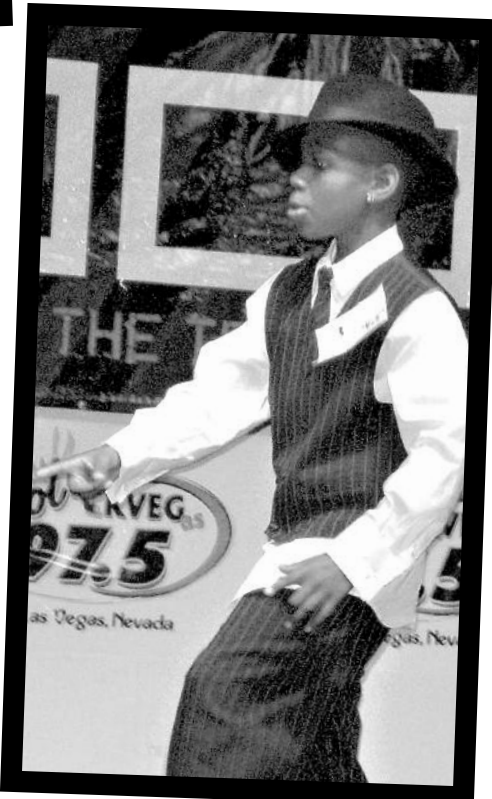
"As soon as you start preaching to the kids, that's the easiest way to make them want to defy you," says Ahlo.

But having a smoke-free environment where kids can hang out and be themselves is a much more comfortable way to promote their cause. Especially when the message is heard, not from lecturing adults, but from teenagers themselves.

That was one aspect of the program that attracted Rivera, along with the fact that there were no requirements for joining XPOZ other than being in the right age range and *"being able to talk with other people. You can't be too shy because you have to spread the word."*

Spreading that message through teenagers seems to be having an effect. According to Ahlo, in the last four years teenage smoking in Las Vegas has gone down from 33 percent to 18 percent.

"We don't want to take all the credit," says Ahlo, *"but we'd like to hope we played a role in that."*



Word of mouth is not only how the Xpoz Coalition exposes the problems with tobacco and the tobacco industry, but also how it helped to advertise the dance competition. In addition to radio ads, flyers and posters in the high schools, MySpace played a major role in attracting teenagers who could tell their friends about the event instantaneously through the online community.

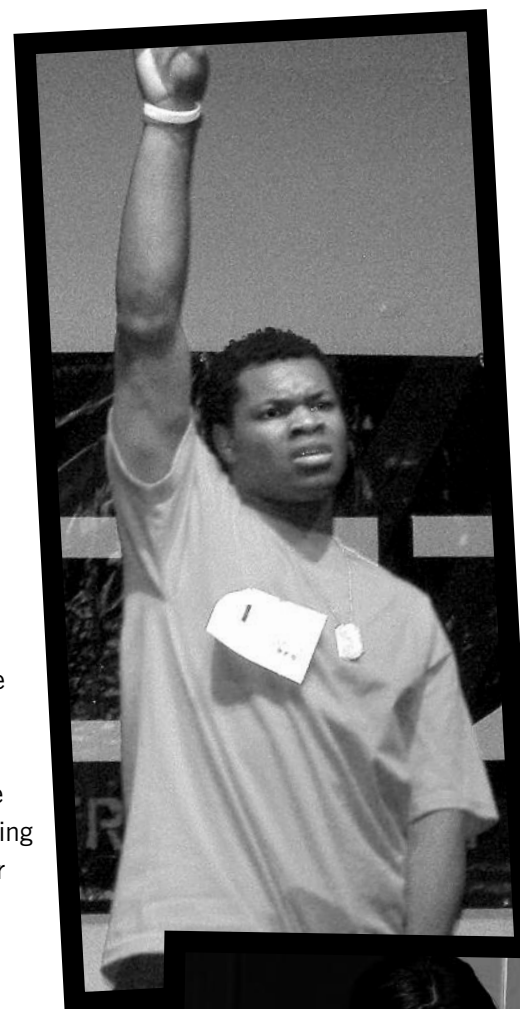
And the contest received an overwhelming response that exceeded even Ahlo's expectations.

"We currently have 68 entrants pre-registered," he says. And that was before the registration closed for the day at 5:00 p.m. *"I didn't think we'd have that much participation, but [the students] seem to be really excited about it."*

Competitors anxiously ran through their routines over and over again in the student union hallways and practice rooms, as they awaited their turn to go on stage. Each had choreographed a dance routine of no more than a minute and 30 seconds to a song of their choosing. They could perform solo or in groups of three to eight, and were judged on the four criteria of Appearance, Style/Creativity, Routine and Entertainment Value.

Rivera took part in the event, not only as a manager, but also as a competitor. She performed a solo on stage as the seventh contestant, giving a fast-paced performance of her own creation that she'd been practicing all week.

"I can make up dances really, really fast in my head," says Rivera, who's been dancing since she was five years old. Music is very important to her, and she tries to choose the songs she dances to with care. *"I just find something I'm comfortable with, even if it's not in style right now,"* she says. *"And I like to pick something where I know the words, where the words have meaning, so my dance can have a meaning behind it."*



Winners of this first round in the Xpoz Your Skillz Competition will move on to compete in the Semi-Finals round on June 2. The Finals will be held June 9 at the Fashion Show Mall for a first prize of \$1,000 cash, a chance to be on a billboard and a chance to dance onstage at the June 17 Heart Throb Tour. But more than just competing for prizes, students have come to the event to show their own talent and just enjoy themselves. Rivera is having a great time dancing and learning from XPOZ.

"I've learned that you don't have to smoke anything to be cool. Peer pressure is not a big deal. Dance, sing, find something else to do," she says. *"You get high off life, basically."*

For more information about the dance competition, other XPOZ events or becoming a member of the Xpoz street team, visit www.xpozcoalition.com

Let boys cry, let girls fight

Teens still trapped by gender stereotypes

by Amairani Hernandez, Western HS

"Chris, you wimp. That's for girls."

We've all heard something similar to this. It's referred to as gender discrimination. Gender discrimination occurs so often that we tend to ignore it. Such name-calling occurs everywhere, but it's a major issue in schools.

Gender discrimination occurs in schools often because of specific gender stereotypes. Many think that gender is simply the synonym for a person's sex. Our reproductive systems determine our sex, whereas gender has to do with the classification of femininity and masculinity.

Some argue that gender is biologically constructed, while others argue that gender is socially derived. Biologists and others who think that gender is biologically constructed argue that our sex determines our gender because of certain hormones the sexes attain.

On the other side, in feminist theory, gender is used to refer to socially constructed differences between female and male behavior.

Whether or not gender is determined biologically or socially, gender discrimination persists in schools. Girls who play sports are considered 'tomboys,' and boys who avoid rough play are considered 'sissies.' A 'tomboy' is a girl who behaves according to the gendered role of a boy. A 'sissy' is a boy who does not behave according to the gendered role of a boy.

*"My peers tend to call me 'gay'.
I don't play sports, and I wear tight pants,
so therefore I'm gay,"*

says Joseph Barragan, a 10th grader who attends Western High School.

*"I thought that the correct definition for gay
was determined by your sexual orientation."*

In schools, girls are encouraged to cheerlead and boys are encouraged to play rough sports. Girls are encouraged to be good writers and boys are encouraged to be good mathematicians. Those are just some of the discrepancies between the sexes.

"Last year, I was on the boys' wrestling team, and the kids called me a 'dyke' for pinning the guys to the mat. People tend to judge girls wrong for wanting to do the things that boys are 'supposed' to do," says Natasha Nunez, ninth grader who attends Western.

*Many students admitted that they often restrain
themselves from doing the things that they want
do to because they know they'll be judged.*

In most high schools, people are not ready for gender differences. People who don't fit the 'appropriate gendered role' will get discriminated against. But, maybe one day things will change, and people won't feel pressured into following specific gender roles that don't represent who they really are 🗣️

Alternative energy may end Vegas' bad air days

by Sabrina Javelona, Vo-Tech HS

As we vociferate, pollution circulating in the air destroys our environment and transforms it into a cemetery of deceased plants and animals. We, as victims of possible lung cancer, must attempt to bring this health hazard to an end.

Not many people are concerned with the issue of pollution, but the poisonous particles floating in the atmosphere can cut our lives short by seconds the more we inhale them. Seconds can soon become minutes, hours and even days if we choose to be careless about our surroundings.

Air pollution can have a dramatic effect on our health, especially for those who have asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease, for those who are older, and for women who are pregnant.

Though pollution can form in many different ways, it is most often emitted by machinery. Industrial plants,

restaurants, construction sites, and even your own homes all produce pollution.

Smog and smoke are released into the air when engines heat up to a certain temperature and discharge the heat and toxic air to keep from overheating and breaking down. Engines are similar to people who get angry and blow off their own steam by crying or taking deep breathes, which still releases their tension into our atmosphere.

Today's engineers and car experts are trying to erect more solar-powered and electrical devices that rely on nature for power rather than the fuel that spreads toxins into our sky.

I agree that solar-powered vehicles are a convenient form of transportation because there is so much sunshine here. Why not put it to a more helpful use? Rather than spending \$20 to \$30 on gas for only a few gallons, we could be using a natural resource like the sun for free, and no longer have to worry about the smog produced by a vehicle 🗣️



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battle of the sexes: who really is the better driver?

girls *Girls make for safer, more responsible drivers*

by Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS

Sixteen has always been a landmark age for teens. It means you are finally able to drive. However, it also gives guys another thing to think they do better than girls.

It's been proven time and time again that women are the stronger sex. I mean, how many guys do you now who would be able to give birth and then deal with taking care of another person for eighteen (or even thirty) years? Not many. So why would things be any different with driving?

Statistically, women are better drivers.

According to safeparents.com (a site for teenage driving statistics), in 2001, teenage boys were involved in 5,766 fatal crashes, while the total for females was 2,371.

Also, according to State Farm Insurance, one of the nation's leaders in car coverage, accidents involving female drivers are significantly less than male drivers. Today females pay on average 40 percent less than males because males pose more of a risk while driving.

As if hard facts weren't enough to prove that women do drive better, a man's ego could. Men are constantly looking for ways to make them seem manlier than their friends. Why? Because that's what guys do. From racing in the streets to four wheeling in their little Asian-made cars, guys will do anything to make them feel manly, especially on the road. They tend to be reckless when driving, and I can say that from personal experience.

Being the passenger in a car where the driver refuses to stop at a stop sign because "that really means slowly tapping on the pedal," is not the safest feeling in the world. Furthermore, who thinks it's a good idea to take a Honda four-wheeling? Only guys would agree to do that.

Boys are also the ones who look to make their cars more powerful than they can handle. Adding in the little illegal "extras" that make it go from zero to some ridiculous speed makes their cars even more dangerous. Do girls need that stuff? Absolutely not!

We're happy with a vehicle that will get us from one place to the other. Is it really necessary to go that fast? Nope. As a wise man once said, "It's not the destination, it's the journey."

Some people may try the argument that girls do too much while they are driving to be good drivers. If there is one thing I can attribute to females, it's that we have mastered the art of multitasking. It's just something girls do.

So, while guys may think it's unsafe to put makeup on or chat on our cell phones while we're driving, they need to know that we can do many things at the same time and keep it all under control. This is just as bad as their adjusting the ridiculous bass that accompanies their oversized cars. Plus, guys are too busy speeding in and out of lanes when they do tedious tasks in their cars. Girls are driving slower, in general, making it safer.

Teenage girls also have more of a grasp on the responsibility of driving. It can be seen just walking around the halls at school.

Girls are more mature than boys at this age. Driving is a huge responsibility, and responsibility is handled with maturity.

Boys often lack this total development, making them more likely to not fully grasp the total accountability of driving.

Even as we get older, things don't change. Soccer moms have been proving for years that women know how to drive. Older guys and their sports cars, however, seem to still have the mentality of their 17-year-old selves, thinking that it's all right to speed. Women are nurturers, men aren't. If there are passengers in the car, we're going to make sure they are safe. A guy would just make sure they arrived at their destination faster.

If insurance companies think girls are safer drivers, showing so in the much cheaper rates they get, why shouldn't the rest of the population? Girls are more mature and can handle responsibility better. It's just our nature!

guys *Guys dominate the road with their knowledge*

by Jimmy Tran, Green Valley HS

Guys are reckless. Guys like taking risks. Guys are considered less intelligent. Yet for some reason, the age-old myth that men are simply better drivers than women still holds true. Despite many obviously misleading statistics, word-of-mouth will prove that men just pick up driving more easily than women do.

"Are you kidding?" asks female junior Leslie Ventura.

Sure, insurance is higher for males ages 16-25 than it is for females in the same age range. But all other demographics show women with a higher risk for accidents.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety organized information from 1975-2003 to show that female deaths in motor vehicle crashes have increased 14 percent, while men's have severely declined 11 percent. Eventually, and I know it may be shocking, but we boys do mature and become responsible adults.

The difficult thing to see is what exactly determines the skill of a driver. When women throw around statistics, they usually point to the number of accidents. However, it is more carelessness than poor driving ability that contributes to accidents.

There are statistics that make the case for men, though. The chief examiner for British Driving Standards Agency reports that, for the driving test, there is a 46 percent pass rate for men, while it is only 40 percent for women.

Although men do pay higher rates than women, the consensus is unquestionable. One male student, who chooses to remain anonymous due to fear of the entire female population going after him, says, "Women are always doing their makeup and talking on their cell phones and other girly things

Men focus on driving well because they realize the consequences are bad if they get distracted by minor details."

Another senior agreed. "Men are better drivers than women because of distractions. That's it. I mean, I've seen a girl text message while she was driving."

So why do men seem to be more focused on the road? Men have worse attention spans, but oddly it makes us better drivers. When a girl starts to talk on her cell phone, she will become so immersed into the conversation that she will completely forget to focus on the road. Guys tend to think of the fastest way to get somewhere and try to find open lanes. This instinctive behavior forces guys to focus on the road all the time.

"Men don't spend time checking themselves in the mirror or talking on their phones. Men just know more about driving altogether," says senior Ryan Webb.

An anonymous female student actually sides with the argument for men and says, "Guys definitely know more about cars than girls do. They take more pride in their vehicles, so there's a fear of denting or scratching their pride and joy."

For ages, men have had a much superior knowledge of vehicles than women have. Knowledge isn't necessarily everything, though. The argument that men aren't as cautious has been the main point for women throughout the years. While it is a wild generalization, some validity lies within it.

Ventura says, "I've actually heard that men have better depth perception, and that is one of the reasons that men are so-called 'better drivers.'"

In the end, driving is all about reaching your destination efficiently and safely. While safety is somewhat important, my conscience tells me to recognize the time of the trip rather than my well-being once I reach my stop!

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'Sex, not love' revs up Clear Static's new release

by Farah Minwalla, Palo Verde HS

They tour with Duran Duran, they make eyeliner and mascara look sexy, and they have an awesome new record out titled "Make-Up Sex." If you haven't yet heard of Clear Static, this is your warning because these guys will top the charts.

Clear Static has successfully echoed back to the '80s to create a hot, sexy vamped up version of what T. Rex and Depeche Mode would sound like in a duo.

"We are a pop band, which I have no shame in calling ourselves, but we have electric and indie influences,"

says Michael David, lead guitarist for Clear Static.

And that's exactly what makes them different. What other band can call themselves pop, electric and indie, and somehow make it high-fashion music? Not many.

"In a sense, we are different in every way," David says. *"Our new record is timeless and cutting edge at the same time."*

Clear Static's sound is rare in that it can be played in a steamy nightclub and also be liked by the 'rents.

Pretty ironic for a band composed of five guys, all 21 or younger.

Clear Static grew up around the suburbs of Los Angeles and, in David's words, *"entertainment lurked around."*

Throughout most of the band's adolescent years, Clear Static was formed with Tom Pederson for vocals; Danny Kincaid playing guitars; Michael David, also a guitarist; Rich Pederson as the man on bass; and Jacob Shearer on drums.

It would be in the high school years and later that Clear Static would no longer be playing at birthday parties but chilling in the Viper Room. Flash forward to seven months ago when touring with major legends like Duran Duran went from dream to reality.

"Duran Duran is huge, but they are gracious and down to earth. It really was amazing," says David.

As of now, the tricked-out kids are touring with Kill Hannah and Shiny Toy Guns until May 20 with their last show in San Antonio, Texas.

"The tour will lead up until the album and we will be on the road for a long while, probably up 'til June," says David.

Clear Static recently played at the House of Blues Courtyard on May 12.

"Vegas is great," says David.

"We always get into mischief when we come to Las Vegas."

With a style that resembles no other band right now, Clear Static can be defined in two words: sexy and expressive.

"Sex appeal has a lot to do with our image, not to sound pretentious or anything. And expressive because our music is about self-expression," says David.

And 'Make-Up Sex,' the first single from the new album, couldn't represent self-expression more.

"We are young guys, and it's only natural that we were thinking about that, so we thought it would be fun to make a bold statement," says David.

'Sex, not love,' is constantly purred throughout the entire song, probably giving ladies a pretty good idea of what the Clear Static boys are thinking about.

Despite all the influence of sex, T. Rex, David Bowie and other bands also continue to inspire Clear Static's music and style.

"I'm currently listening to a UK band called The Futureheads, IMA ROBOT and Milo," says David.

Ah yes, and who could forget the publicity of a band without the ever-hip MySpace.

"MySpace has helped us in every way you could imagine. It's a new form of media in direct competition with MTV," says David.

Regarding the best advice they could give teens who want to break into this industry, David answers simply,

"Be very determined. Only because bands that can stay together through good and bad times often succeed."

He adds, *"Also, make sure that your guitars are always in tune. Listen to your favorite record and try to be inspired by the song structure and production,"* says David. Wise words from a 21-year-old.

Maybe in the 21st century there had to be that one band that could openly sing about sex (not love), wear makeup as a glamorous pop band and live like the rock stars they were born to be. That band is straight up Clear Static! 📌

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\$20,000 in scholarships awarded at annual CLASS! event

By Stephanie Espinoza, CLASS! correspondent

The competition was fierce, but that didn't stop the Clark County high school journalism students from rooting for their own at the awards ceremony that gave them all an opportunity to shine.

On May 4 at the Clark County Library Theater, the winners selected from nearly 400 judged entries were honored at the CLASS! 8th Annual High School Journalism Awards.

Bill Tobler, journalism advisor of Foothill High School, warmed up the event with jokes, iPod song competitions and free giveaways. Basic High School's advisor, John Gilmour described the act as *"better than Shecky Greene any day."*

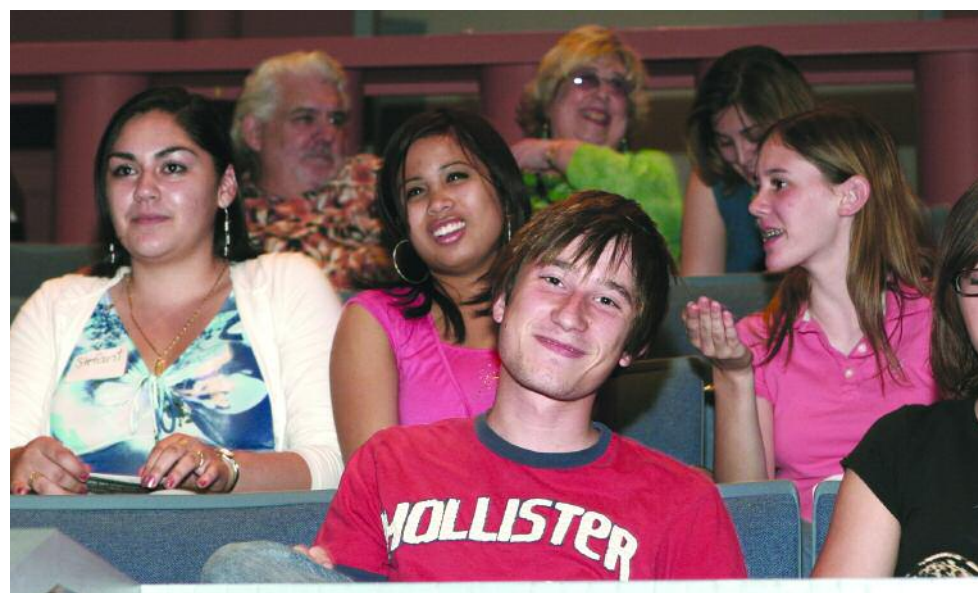
The microphone was then passed over to Master of Ceremonies Tom Warden, president of the CLASS! Board of Directors, who also received the distinguished CLASS! Hero Award later in the program.

Throughout the afternoon, engraved glass plaques were awarded to the winners in 14 categories that recognized excellence in student writing, photography, art and more. Winners also received certificates of recognition from Congresswoman Shelley Berkley in acknowledgement of their efforts.

This year the coveted first place "Issue Layout" award that judges a newspaper's overall visual quality was given to Faith Lutheran's Crusader Chronicle in the Reduced Format category and to Centennial High School's Bark! in Tabloid Format.

CLASS! also presented several separate publishers awards including Adviser of the Year to Faith Lutheran's Jody Rael and Sierra Vista's Alison Gray, and Principal of the Year to Clark High School's Ronnie Smith.

Las Vegas Academy senior Nicole Brown received the CLASS! Intern of the Year Award, while Green Valley High School senior Heather Trujillo, in addition to taking home multiple writing awards, received the honor of Student Journalist of the Year, along with a trophy and the \$500 Marydean Martin Journalism Scholarship.

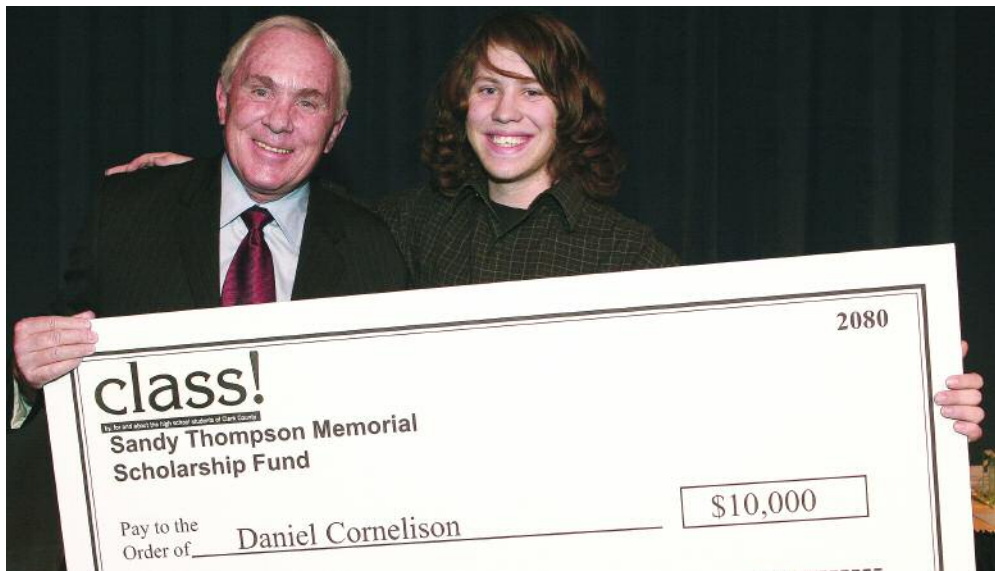


... \$20,000 in scholarships awarded at annual CLASS! event



But Trujillo was not the only student to receive a scholarship during the event. The MGM MIRAGE Voice Foundation funded two Diversity Scholarships of \$5,000, presented during the ceremony by MGM MIRAGE Corporate Philanthropy Director Merlinda Gallegos (pictured above right) to Las Vegas Academy senior Nicole Brown (above left) and Olga Salvidar of Valley High School.

The \$10,000 Sandy Thompson Memorial Scholarship, funded by the Greenspun Family Foundation, went to Eldorado High School senior Daniel Cornelison (pictured below right) with presenter Gary Thompson (below left).



Winners of the annual Poesia de Diganos Spanish poetry contest were also announced during the ceremony, with a cash prize of \$125 awarded to first-place winner Dalma Maseda Carillo of Sierra Vista High School.

Liberty High School senior Edna Gonzalez was especially impressed with the event as a whole.

‘The CLASS! awards are a perfect example of the way that teenagers in the Las Vegas valley benefit from learning about journalism and making a positive influence in their community,’ she says.

Various teachers, administrators and community members attended the awards including Gavin Parke, a representative from the office of Senator Harry Reid, proving that journalism students are making an impact on their community and have talents that deserve to be recognized. CLASS! hopes to help in that recognition and congratulates all of its 2006 participants and winners.

CLASS! also wishes to offer a special thank you to Brian Greenspun and the Las Vegas Sun for sponsoring the entire awards event as well as the Sandy Thompson Memorial Scholarship; to the MGM MIRAGE for sponsoring the diversity scholarships, to Marydean Martin for sponsoring the Student Journalist of the Year scholarship, to the Howard Hughes Corporation for its ongoing support, and to all who help make CLASS! possible!

And the winners are...

News Writing

1. Briana Padilla, Sierra Vista HS
 2. Carla Palavecino, Green Valley HS
 3. Jessica Estepa Las Vegas Academy
- HM. Danielle Sloan, Green Valley HS
HM. Leigh Ann Duncan, Las Vegas Academy

Feature Writing

1. Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS
 2. Holly Villamagna, Sierra Vista HS
 3. Jessica Fryman, Liberty HS
- HM. Desiree Montalvo, Green Valley HS
HM. Natasha Westart Green Valley HS

Editorial Writing

1. Monica Snoblen, Coronado HS
 2. Rena Goldstein, Coronado HS
 3. Kathy Van Guilder, Sierra Vista HS
- HM. Zach Loker, Sierra Vista HS
HM. InvestiGator Staff, Green Valley HS

Column Writing

1. Alicia Cooper, Clark HS
 2. Harmoni La Huillier, Sierra Vista HS
 3. Chris Stockett, Liberty HS
- HM. Tia Feeley, Liberty HS
HM. Cecilia Gomez, Western HS

Review Writing

1. Jimmy Tran, Green Valley HS
 2. Alex Weidner, Faith Lutheran HS
 3. Mike Lukowski, Coronado HS
- HM. Stephanie Smith, Green Valley HS
HM. Sean Mazner, Foothill HS

Sports News Writing

1. Anupa Gewali, Green Valley HS
 2. Seria Larry, Green Valley HS
 3. Jessica Fryman, Liberty HS
- HM. Linda Nguyen, Sierra Vista HS
HM. Erik McKay, Foothill HS

Sports Feature Writing

1. Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS
 2. Erik McKay, Foothill HS
 3. Brittney Stipanov, Coronado HS
- HM. Seria Larry & Jimmy Tran, Green Valley HS
HM. Kathy Mai, Green Valley HS

Sports Photography

1. Priscilla De La Vega, Bonanza HS
 2. Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS
 3. Sean Banda, Faith Lutheran HS
- HM. Danielle Sloan, Green Valley HS
HM. Erik McKay, Foothill HS

Non-Sports Photography

1. Emma Dewees, Foothill HS
 2. Monica Snoblen, Coronado HS
 3. Sheila Barnett, Centennial HS
- HM. Rodney Fleming, Foothill HS
HM. Ashley Barnes, Centennial HS

Photo Illustration

1. Ryan Berti, Green Valley HS
 2. Monica Snoblen, Coronado HS
 3. David Lasley, Green Valley HS
- HM. Danielle Sloan, Green Valley HS
HM. Allie Moriarty, Coronado HS

Art and Illustration

1. Jaci Greb, Green Valley HS
 2. Jesus Yopez, Green Valley HS
 3. Omar Vasquez, Green Valley HS
- HM. Yessenia Martinez, Las Vegas HS
HM. Dane Watson, Coronado HS

Editorial Cartooning

1. Harmoni La Huillier, Sierra Vista HS
 2. Chris Stockett, Liberty HS
 3. Jesus Yopez, Green Valley HS
- HM. Kori Amacker, Green Valley HS
HM. Brandon Dong, Faith Lutheran HS

Issue Layout – Reduced Format

1. Crusader Chronicle, Faith Lutheran HS
2. The Pioneer Press, Canyon Springs HS
3. The Prowler, Desert Pines HS

Issue Layout – Tabloid Format

1. Bark!, Centennial HS
 2. Bird's Eye View, Foothill HS
 3. Coronado Roar, Coronado HS and
The InvestiGator, Green Valley HS (tie)
- HM. The Mountain Lion Messenger,
Sierra Vista HS
HM. The Tribune, Liberty HS

Most Valuable Staffer Awards

- Kirsten Scorzynski, Basic HS
Priscilla De La Vega, Bonanza HS
Lyberti Nelson, Canyon Springs HS
Acacia Woodbury, Centennial HS
Gina Cassaro, Community College HS
Kelli Schlueter, Coronado HS
Jess Malik, Desert Pines HS
Sean Banda, Faith Lutheran HS
Emma Dewees, Foothill HS
Jimmy Tran, Green Valley HS
Amber Gatesman, Las Vegas Academy
Linzie Kunkel, Las Vegas HS
Zack Schaeffer, Liberty HS
Linda Nguyen, Sierra Vista HS
Chanelle Baisa, Western HS

CLASS! Intern of the Year

- Nicole Brown, Las Vegas Academy

Journalism Advisers of the Year

- Alison Gray, Sierra Vista HS
Jody Rael, Faith Lutheran HS

Principal of the Year

- Ronnie Smith, Clark HS

Student Journalist of the Year

- Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS

Concurso de Poseia de Diganos

1. Dalma Maseda Carillo, Sierra Vista HS
2. Magdaly Mendez, Cimarron-Memorial HS
3. Laura Valencia, VoTech HS

MGM/MIRAGE Diversity Scholarships

- Nicole Brown, Las Vegas Academy
Olga Saldivar, Valley High School

Sandy Thompson Memorial Scholarship

- Daniel Cornelison, Eldorado HS

CLASS! Hero Award

- Tom Warden, President, CLASS! Board of Directors
and Vice President of Government and Community
Relations for the Howard Hughes Corporation

CCSD summer internships jumpstart students' careers

With tests over, books turned in and lockers cleaned out for the summer, many high school students are asking themselves how they will fill the next few months.

For many, summer jobs will take up the time before college or a new school year starts a new chapter in their lives. New grads hope all the skills and information they learned in school will give them an edge over everyone else competing for jobs, and students on summer break are just hoping to make some spending money.

Now, thanks to a new summer employment program from the Clark County School District, students can put their skills to the test by applying them in a real work environment, gaining real experience and earning serious money for the summer.

CCSD's Summer Internship programs offer paid positions to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who meet certain criteria. These positions include both business and skilled trade fields, so are perfect for students who received career and technical education while in high school.

"A lot of high school students taking career and technical classes come out of high school already with qualifications [the district is] needing, but they don't have enough work experience," says CCSD Director of Recruitment Carol Erbach. *"This internship serves as an avenue for them to gain that work experience and hone their skills to become better professionals."*

With the barely manageable growth Clark County continues to face, finding qualified employees to meet the district's needs becomes more challenging every year. To meet this challenge, district administrators came up with the idea to 'grow our own': instead of seeking employees out of the general population, CCSD created summer internships to take advantage of the well-trained students entering the work force from CCSD high schools.

Through these internships, students have the opportunity to build on the skills they learned in high school, gaining the real-world experience that can put them over

the top against other job applicants, as well as earning them a higher starting wage. In fact, by gaining such experience, these teens may qualify to continue into full-time employment with the district.

Currently, the district has two types of internships available for students: the Business Internship Program and the Skilled Trade Internship Program. Both tracks offer a wage up to \$12.33 per hour and provide individual mentoring and professional development opportunities. Summer internships last for eight to ten weeks and can be part or full time, up to 40 hours per week. Some positions can continue after summer for part time, up to 20 hours per week.

Jacqueline Perez is a senior who is completing a business and technology certification at Vo-Tech. She is planning to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in the fall, and has already applied for CCSD's internship program.

"I've always wanted to go into business. I see myself as a CEO of a company one day," says Perez. *"This [internship] would give me background, which is essential to any business you run. Having the opportunity to learn it at a young age is great!"*

Not only will this program allow students to give back to the school system that prepared them for successful futures, but it benefits the graduates at the same time.

"It's a win-win situation," says Erbach.

For more information about CCSD employment programs, call Erbach or CCSD Recruitment Counselor Sue Phillips at 855-5444.

What you need to know

CCSD Summer Internship Programs offer:

- Paid positions, up to \$12.33 per hour
- On-the-job training with mentors
- Professional development and career guidance
- Opportunities for advancement into full-time careers



Skilled Trades Internship Program

Students interested in careers in a skilled trade field, such as construction, welding, plumbing and refrigeration, would benefit greatly from CCSD's Skilled Trades Internship Program. Here are just some of the details:

Positions Available

Support Staff Assistant: Available for sophomores and juniors over the summer, with juniors able to continue working part time during the school year. Seniors can start right away working during the school year.

Support Staff Intern: Available to high school graduates over the summer and includes professional development classes and individual mentoring. This position prepares interns to become regular district employees in the fall.

Regular Status Skilled Trades

Assistant: Interns make a six-month probationary transition into regular employee status, similar to an apprenticeship, with a 5 percent pay increase upon completion of probationary period. After a year, these employees can transfer to other district positions for which they qualify, allowing for advancement and variety in career prospects.

Qualifications

- Must be an incoming sophomore, junior, senior or graduate to qualify, with placement based on grade level. Eligible age minimum is 16 years old with Clark County work permit;
- Must have been enrolled in a skilled trades program in the current school year;
- Must have a letter of recommendation from a trades teacher.
- Must have a strong interest and some previous experience in skilled trades.

Responsibilities

Skilled trades interns will assist with numerous district projects, focusing primarily on moving, refitting and rewiring classroom portables for use during the upcoming school year.



Business Internship Program

Students with a knack for organization and detail and an interest in learning how businesses run would get the most benefit from CCSD's Business Internship Program. Here are some of the details, requirements and opportunities:

Positions Available

Support Staff Assistant:

Available for sophomores and juniors over the summer, with juniors able to continue working part time during the school year. Seniors can start right away working during the school year.

Support Staff Intern: Available to high school graduates over the summer and includes professional development classes and individual mentoring. This position prepares interns to become regular district employees in the fall.

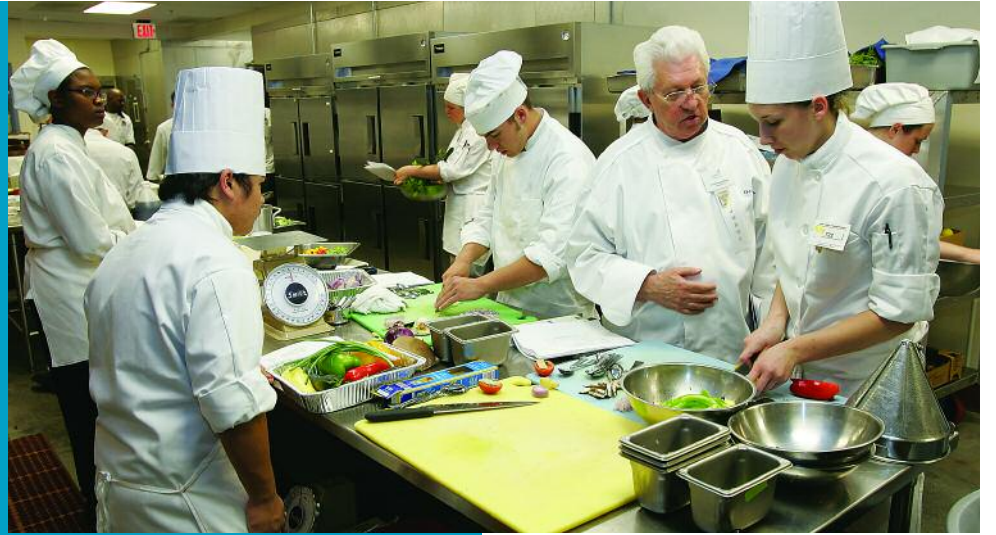
Regular Status Assistant: Upon signing a one-year contract, interns make a six-month probationary transition into regular employee status with a 5 percent pay increase upon completion of probationary period. After a year, these employees can transfer to other district positions for which they qualify, allowing for advancement and variety in career prospects.

Qualifications

- must be an incoming sophomore, junior, senior or graduate to qualify, with placement based on grade level. Eligible age minimum is 16 years old with Clark County work permit;
- must have a timed-typing certificate with a minimum of 40 words per minute certified;
- must have a grade of B or better in algebra, English composition and computer applications classes, and at least one other business-related course;
- must have a letter of recommendation from a business teacher;
- preferred consideration will be given to applicants who have taken at least one year of accounting classes, have good clerical skills and have received Microsoft Office Specialist Certification.

Responsibilities

Business interns will assist with clerical, data entry and office management duties in district offices 1



Career and tech students vie for top honors at SkillsUSA state competition

by Stephanie Espinoza, CLASS! correspondent

Standing on the raised dais with gold, silver and bronze medallions around their necks, the students look like Olympic champions.

Indeed, they had just spent the past two days competing in a variety of challenging events after months of training. Yet, it was not an athletic event taking place, but a competition testing a whole different set of skills.

Teams of students from high schools all over Nevada exhibited top-notch leadership and vocational skills during the annual SkillsUSA Nevada State Conference and Skills Championships, held at the Cashman Field Center, May 3-5.

21st century skills

Established in 1965 as VICA, or Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, SkillsUSA updated its name in 1998 to better represent the broad range of career and technical education programs encompassed by the organization. SkillsUSA includes all aspects of career training from construction and welding to video production and computer technology. These programs are geared toward preparing students to compete in the advanced work force of today's global economy.

"The name better reflects the mission of today," says SkillsUSA State Director Mike Raponi. *"Our mission is to prepare students for the real world of work through leadership and technical skills."*

Students in leadership contests are judged on skills through public-speaking events, job interview tests and quiz

bowls on career knowledge. How students in the vocational events are judged depends on the career field, according to Raponi.

"Say they're in the skills event of carpentry. They actually have to construct a project that demonstrates their carpentry skills," Raponi explains. *"The students' sets of vocational skills are directly related to each contest. In some cases, they've been preparing for over a year."*

The SkillsUSA national organization establishes judging criteria, which students use to prepare for competition. Students are judged not only on the final product of their work, but on the techniques they use to accomplish their work. Safety methods and handling of tools and equipment are also part of the judging.

The gold medal winners from the state conference will be going on to the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Missouri from June 18 to June 24.

Learning and leading

In addition to local officer positions, students also have the opportunity to run for state and even national offices. In fact, Vo-Tech High School senior Roselia Hernandez beat out competitors from all over the country to win the spot as SkillsUSA National High School Secretary during the 2005-2006 school year. Hernandez was among the officers presiding over this year's state competition.

Hernandez says that the state and national competitions are important because not only do the students get to showcase their talents, but "business and industry workers come in to watch them and say, *"These are the students I want to have working for me."*

Hernandez was joined in presiding over this year's event by fellow Vo-Tech senior Jimmy Altman, who serves as the SkillsUSA Nevada state president. Throughout his year as state president, Altman says he has learned so much about what it takes to be a leader and to interact with others.

"At SkillsUSA, what they are teaching is leadership," he says. *"I decided to join [SkillsUSA] because I felt it was a very good opportunity to learn leadership skills and to better my career and technical skills in a competitive environment."*

In addition to the gold, silver and bronze medals, special awards for service, as well as the John Wadsworth/Kelly Whited Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000. Hernandez herself has already received a full scholarship to Johnson and Wells University through the SkillsUSA organization.

Skills for life

Raponi says that while the public doesn't always hear about the success stories of SkillsUSA graduates, they are constantly occurring.

"I think it's important to note what is often overlooked in education – what career and technical education does

for students," he says. *"SkillsUSA is an excellent way to demonstrate the students' leadership and technical skills, but the public often doesn't realize that until it's on display during an event like ours."*

Both Altman and Hernandez recommend that every student try SkillsUSA.

"I played football and did all kinds of extracurricular activities in high school, but what I got out of SkillsUSA was second to none," Altman says.

Hernandez agrees: *"I'd say if you're willing to take the challenge, progress in life, and see things you've never seen before, be part of something positive and join SkillsUSA."*



Roselia Hernandez beat out competitors from all over the country to win the spot as SkillsUSA National High School Secretary during the 2005-2006 school year.



- Earn career certifications • Qualify for scholarships, internships and employment
- Get the edge over career competition

Students interested in joining SkillsUSA can visit its national Web site, www.skillsusa.org to find out more about the organization. For more information about SkillsUSA in Nevada, visit www.nvskillsusa.org or talk to your school's career counselor.

Nevada SkillsUSA Championships 2006 Medalists from Clark County

Leadership Contests

Chapter Display

Gold: Carmen Romero, Dominique Serrano, Wendy Perez, *Vo-Tech HS*

Silver: Fallon McBride, Jessica Cox, *Vo-Tech HS*

Bronze: Stephen Ludt, *Bonanza HS*

Community Service

Gold: Erica Alvarez, Chelsea Craig, Melissa Sura, *Vo-Tech HS*

Silver: Chrissy Ishol, KC Magrabi, Megan Welsh, *Vo-Tech HS*

Extemporaneous Speaking

Gold: Natalie Testa, *Liberty HS*

Bronze: Adriona Smith, *ATTC*

Job Interview

Silver: Breana Givens, *Vo-Tech HS*

Job Skill Demonstration A

Silver: Kendra Flowers, *Vo-Tech HS*

Bronze: Nubia Ponce, *Vo-Tech HS*

Opening and Closing Ceremony

Gold: Vanessa Lopez, Miguel Avalos, Jonathon Godinez, Iliana Trujillo, Erin Mesnard, Christopher Card, Cassandra Tankersley, *Vo-Tech HS*

Prepared Speech

Silver: Johnny Amiri, *Foothill HS*

Bronze: Lauren Easby, *Carson HS*

Promotional Bulletin Board

Silver: Lilia Avalos, Camille Gliosci, Amanda Cox, Desiree Galvan, *Vo-Tech HS*

Bronze: Danny Castro, Yvette Howard, Adriana Cervantes, Nora Zepeda, *Vo-Tech HS*

Health Occupations, Occupational-Related & Trade, Industrial & Technical Contests

3-D Visualization & Animation

Silver: Antonio Montano, Cynthia Black, *Vo-Tech HS*

Bronze: Ariel Espinoza, Steve Colson, *Vo-Tech HS*

Advertising Design

Gold: Oliver McKeag, *Foothill HS*

Silver: Jessica Cox, *Vo-Tech HS*

Architectural Drafting

Bronze: Sam Newman, *Bonanza HS*

Automotive Service

Gold: Bryce Lee, *Vo-Tech HS*

Technology

Silver: James Giberti, *Vo-Tech HS*

Building Maintenance

Gold: Kyle Showers, *Vo-Tech HS*

Silver: Matthew Huffey, *ATTC*

Bronze: Luis Hernandez, *ATTC*

Cabinetmaking

Gold: Steven Jackson, *Green Valley HS*

Bronze: David Amaya, *ATTC*

Carpentry

Silver: Kyle Cresto, *ATTC*

Collision Repair Technology

Gold: Franky Gutierrez, *Vo-Tech HS*

Silver: Mitchell Bledsoe, *Vo-Tech HS*

Bronze: Guillermo Arambula, *Vo-Tech HS*

Commercial Baking

Gold: Evelyn Camacho, *Vo-Tech HS*

Bronze: Alethia Jodzko, *Vo-Tech HS*

Computer Maintenance Technology

Silver: Fidel Correa, *Vo-Tech HS*

Bronze: Jose Bobadilla, *Vo-Tech HS*

Cosmetology

Gold: Tanisha Hardy, *Vo-Tech HS*

Silver: Victoria Sandoval, *Vo-Tech HS*

Bronze: Michelle Sbraccia, *Vo-Tech HS*

Culinary Arts

Gold: Douglas Lemcool, *ATTC*

Silver: Amanda Bacastow, *Vo-Tech HS*

Bronze: Sharilyn Cruz, *Vo-Tech HS*

Customer Service

Gold: Ryan Childers, *Foothill HS*

Silver: Amanda Fowers, *Foothill HS*

Bronze: Jazmin Landeros, *ATTC*

Electronics Technology

Silver: Gladys Fuentes, *ATTC*

First Aid/CPR

Gold: Kelley Martinez, *Vo-Tech HS*

Silver: Aaron Heitz, *Vo-Tech HS*

Food & Beverage Service

Gold: Sara Herrera, *Vo-Tech HS*

Silver: Iliana Trujillo, *Vo-Tech HS*

Graphic Communications

Silver: Jeremy Weiser, *Vo-Tech HS*

Health Knowledge Bowl

Gold: Ephraim Barlow, Maria Valdiviezo, Claudia Gomez, Claudia Gallegos, *Vo-Tech HS*

Silver: Mark Broder, Randall Leavitt, Phylisha Clay, Branden Murphy, *ATTC*

HVAC

Gold: Anthony Denning, *Vo-Tech HS*

Silver: Crystal Schnurr, *Vo-Tech HS*

Bronze: Gilberto Orozco, *Vo-Tech HS*

Internetworking

Gold: Michael Mayer, *ATTC*

Silver: Daniel Mayer, *ATTC*

Bronze: HaoYuan Ren, *ATTC*

Masonry

Bronze: Jamme Ray Logan, *ATTC*

Nail Care

Gold: Gracelyn Baca, *Vo-Tech HS*

Silver: Nancy Arzate, *Vo-Tech HS*

Bronze: Hannah Pessagno, *Vo-Tech HS*

Nurse Assisting

Gold: Sunica Jones, *Vo-Tech HS*

Silver: Yosimar Sanchez, *ATTC*

Bronze: Candace Davis, *ATTC*

Related Technical Math

Gold: Eduardo Banaga, *Vo-Tech High School*

Silver: Kendell Douglas, *Basic HS*

Bronze: Pamela Matsumoto, *Vo-Tech HS*

Residential Wiring

Gold: Sergio Beltran, *ATTC*

Technical Drafting

Gold: Daniel Biggs, *Boulder City HS*

Television (Video) Production

Gold: Nicole Wolf, Brandon Dyer, *Vo-Tech HS*

Silver: Johnny Amiri, Conor Fitzpatrick, *Foothill HS*

Bronze: Cody Smock, Brittany Mallory, *Liberty HS*

TV News Anchor

Gold: Lars Marshall, Chuck Pappas, Kalia Nelson, *Foothill HS*

Silver: Brandon Patti, Monique Van Guilder, Kostan Lathorans, *Foothill HS*

12 class!

photo contest!

2006 CCSD photography contest winners



1/2

"SHADOW BOOTS"

K. BRAGANZA

2/2006

Best of Show

Title: Shadow Boots
Katrina Braganza, Palo Verde HS

2006 CCSD photography contest winners

winners



1st Place
Category 1: Sports

Title: Untitled
Alex Quagge, Eldorado HS



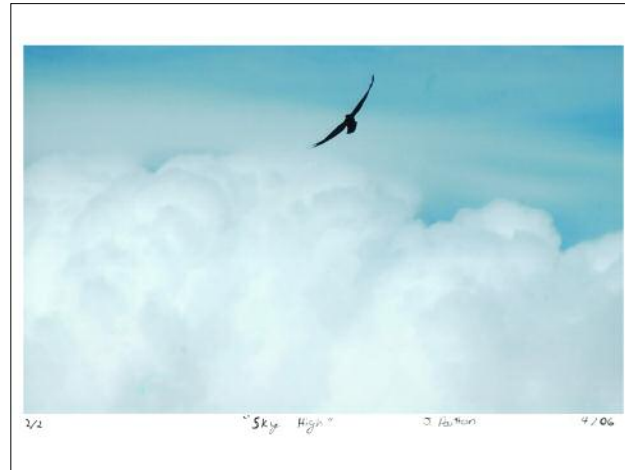
1st Place
Category 3: Architecture

Title: Open the Door
Lisa Coruzzi, Palo Verde HS



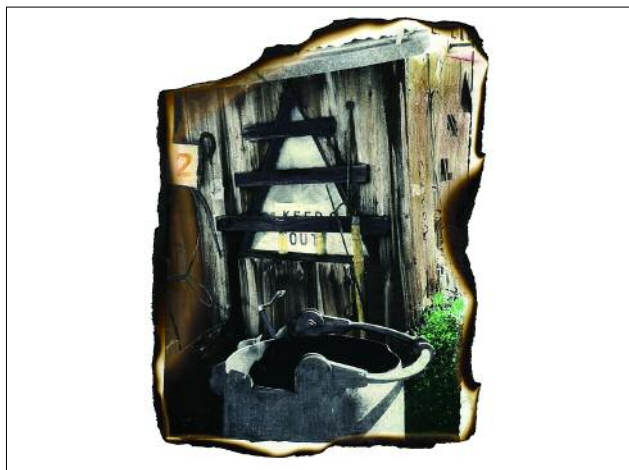
1st Place
Category 6: Experimental

Title: Hole
Melanie Layman, Coronado HS



1st Place
Category 4: Animals

Title: Sky High
Jordan Patton, Palo Verde HS



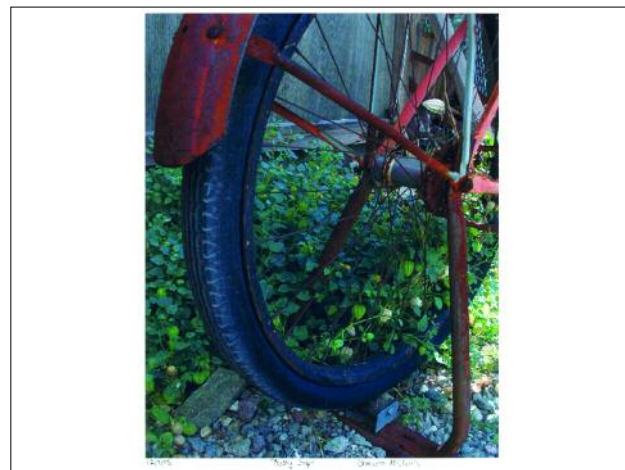
1st Place
Category 2: Landscape

Title: Seclusion
Ashlee Tomasetti, Coronado HS



1st Place
Category 5: People

Title: Nelly
Jason Alba, Silverado HS



1st Place
Category 7: Unclassified

Title: Rusty Stop
Shawna McClintic, Palo Verde HS

14 class!

kick butts day!



main picture: Project 1200 raises awareness by representing the number of people killed by tobacco use every day.

above: Fashion Show Mall shoppers stop by to view Project 1200 display.

photos: Stephanie Espinoza/CLASS!

TOBACCO KILLS MORE PEOPLE THAN AIDS, CAR ACCIDENTS, SUICIDES, MURDERS, ALCOHOL, ILLEGAL DRUGS, AND FIRES COMBINED.

(Center For Disease Control)

KICK BUTTS DAY EVENT ILLUSTRATES TOBACCO DEATH TOLL

by Stephanie Espinoza, CLASS! Correspondent

MORE THAN 1200 PEOPLE DIE EACH DAY FROM TOBACCO USE OR SECONDHAND SMOKE. TO BRING HOME THIS OVERWHELMING CONCEPT, THE SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT DISPLAYED 1200 PAIRS OF EMPTY SHOES AT THE FASHION SHOW MALL FOR KICK BUTTS DAY ON APRIL 5.

Kick Butts Day, now in its 11th year, is a national event intended to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco use. Cities across the country set up similar Project 1200 displays to give a concrete, tangible way for people to understand the vast number of people who die from tobacco every single day. Each pair of shoes represents one person who fell victim to tobacco's deadly poisons.

At the Las Vegas event, the Fashion Show Mall display included a tag on each pair of shoes, providing a personal story, a quote or a fact about tobacco use. In addition, a multimedia presentation accompanied the display, along with a press conference featuring health professionals and teen members of the XPOZ Coalition anti-tobacco organization.

For more information about the Kick Butts Day event, log on to www.gethealthyclarkcounty.org. To join the XPOZ youth coalition's fight against tobacco's attack on young people, go to www.xpozcoalition.org

xpoz your skillz

THE TOP 20 INDIVIDUAL DANCERS AND TOP 20 GROUPS WILL BE CHOSEN TO MOVE ON TO THE SEMI-FINALS

THE SEMI FINALS WILL BE ON **JUNE 2ND** AT 7PM AT THE UNLV BALLROOM

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THE FINALS WILL BE ON **JUNE 9TH** AT THE FASHION SHOW MALL AT 6PM.

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groups
1st: \$1000 in cash, a chance to perform on stage at the Heart Throb Tour (June 17th) with DEM FRANCHISE BOYS, D4L, T-PAIN, NEW RIDAZ, TREY SONGZ, RAY J LIL ROB & more to be announced! and your chance to be on your very own billboard.
2ND: \$500 3RD: \$250

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Buscando una nueva identidad: la homosexualidad no encaja por completo en este mundo moderno

por Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS

Programas de televisión como 'Will and Grace', 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy', y 'The OC' han abierto la mentalidad de muchos con respecto a los personajes homosexuales en la televisión.

La cultura homosexual ha sido expuesta ayudando a que sea más aceptada en la sociedad actual. Sin embargo, muchos jóvenes todavía sienten hacer el ridículo y sienten rechazo en áreas dentro y fuera de su escuela, donde se pensaría que existe más apoyo que en otras partes.

Algunos estudiantes sienten que esta generación debe ser más aceptada mientras muchos otros sienten que la homosexualidad es un problema que no se debe presentar en las escuelas.

"Está mal. No quiero que nadie hable de [la homosexualidad] cerca de mí," dice Randy Gates*, estudiante de Green Valley. "Creo que nadie en mi escuela sabe realmente acerca de esas cosas."

Alexandria Fairchild, estudiante del último año, no está de acuerdo. "Tal vez no sea aceptado completamente, pero ahora existen más organizaciones que apoyan a este grupo y hay muchos que no les importa."

Según la APA, La Asociación Americana de Psicología por sus siglas en inglés, durante el año 2002, aproximadamente el 8 por ciento de los norteamericanos eran homosexuales y solo el 6 por ciento admitía, abiertamente, ser gay.

William Marks, psicólogo de nuestra escuela cree que si la persona no tiene ninguna fuente de apoyo, no será capaz de hablar abiertamente y ni siquiera admitir que está pasando por un cambio de identidad.

"Lo más importante es tener un grupo que te respalde. Si un estudiante siente que no tiene alguien que lo apoye, se puede asustar y decir las cosas en un momento inapropiado," dice Marks.

"El dicho dice que se necesita un pueblo para criar a un niño, pero si ese pueblo no quiere al niño entonces se pueden crear sentimientos de resentimiento y hasta depresión."

El Centro de Control de Enfermedades realizó una encuesta en el 2003 donde se encontró que la razón principal para esconder la homosexualidad no es el estigma del tema, sino un miedo al rechazo de la familia y los amigos.

Por otro lado, tres iglesias locales fueron contactadas para que dieran su opinión sobre el tema. Dos de ellas no quisieron dar ningún comentario. Sin embargo,

Robert Poliszuk, director educativo de la Iglesia Central Cristiana siente que este problema se basa en los niveles de tolerancia de las personas.

"En general, las iglesias han hecho un trabajo de 'papás' cuando hay que hablar acerca de la homosexualidad," dice Poliszuk. "Sí, en la Biblia dice que la homosexualidad no es la opción que debemos tomar en nuestras vidas. Pero al final, la verdad es que Dios nos ama a todos de la misma manera."

A pesar de que la sociedad ha aceptado esta situación con más tolerancia, existen ciertos grupos que todavía ven solo lo negativo. Marks concluye,

"Tenemos que ser más tolerantes en la sociedad a la que pertenecemos. Este sería un mejor mundo para vivir si todos aceptáramos quienes somos y quienes son los demás."

*Los nombres han sido cambiados para proteger la identidad de las personas



KRT Photo: Jim Barcus/Kansas City Star

250 estudiantes participaron en una encuesta para compartir sus pensamientos acerca de la homosexualidad. Estos fueron los resultados:

¿Piensas que la homosexualidad ha sido más aceptada en la sociedad en los últimos años?

El 82 por ciento dijo sí. El 18 por ciento dijo no.

Personalmente, ¿está de acuerdo con la homosexualidad?

El 48 por ciento está de acuerdo; el 51 por ciento no está de acuerdo; y el uno por ciento dijo que las dos.

¿Crees que la homosexualidad se aprende o se nace con ella?

El 49 por ciento dijo que es de nacimiento; el 43 por ciento dijo que eso se aprende; y el 8 por ciento dijo que los dos factores son importantes.

¿Tienes amigos homosexuales?

El 60 por ciento dijo sí. El 40 por ciento dijo no.

¿Pueden los homosexuales tener los mismos derechos?

El 82 por ciento está de acuerdo; el 17 por ciento no está de acuerdo; y el uno por ciento dijo que 'eso depende'



Felicitaciones a Dalma Maseda-Carrillo de Sierra Vista HS por ganarse el primer lugar en nuestro Concurso de Poesía

¿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@unlv.edu o por correo regular a:

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

¡Anímate y publica tus opiniones! Artículos en nuestra posesión pueden ser editados a base de estilo periodístico, gramática o restricciones en el espacio.



Momento de reflexión... el ladrillazo

Un joven y exitoso ejecutivo paseaba a toda velocidad en su auto Jaguar 2006, sin ningún tipo de precaución.

De repente, sintió un estruendoso golpe en la puerta y se detuvo. Al bajarse, vio que un ladrillo le había estropeado la pintura y carrocería de la puerta de su lujoso auto.

Se subió nuevamente, pero esta vez lleno de enojo.

Dio un brusco giro de 180 grados, y regresó a toda velocidad al lugar donde vio salir el ladrillo que acababa de arruinar lo hermoso que lucía su exótico auto.

Salió del auto de un brinco, y agarró por los brazos a un chiquillo, y empujándolo hacia el auto estacionado, le gritó a toda voz:

“¿Qué rayos fue eso? ¿Quién eres tú? ¿Qué crees que haces con mi auto?”

Y enfurecido, casi echando humo, continuó gritándole al chiquillo:

“¡Es un auto nuevo, y ese ladrillo que lanzaste va a costarte muy caro! ¿Por qué hiciste eso?”

“Por favor, señor, por favor... ¡Lo siento mucho! No sé qué hacer,” Suplicó el chiquillo. *“Le lancé el ladrillo porque nadie se detenía.”*

Las lágrimas bajaban por sus mejillas hasta el suelo mientras señalaba hacia el otro lado del auto estacionado.

“¡Es mi hermano!” le dijo.

“Se descarriló su silla de ruedas, y se cayó al suelo... Y no puedo levantarlo”.

Sollozando preguntó al ejecutivo: *“¿Puede usted, por favor, ayudarme a sentarlo en su silla? Está golpeado, y pesa mucho para mí solito... soy muy pequeño.”*

Visiblemente impactado por las palabras del chiquillo, el ejecutivo tragó saliva, y un nudo se formó en su garganta.

Indescriptiblemente emocionado por lo que acababa de pasarle, levantó al joven del suelo, lo sentó nuevamente en su silla, y sacó su pañuelo de seda para limpiar un poco las cortaduras y el sucio de sobre las heridas del hermano de aquel chiquillo tan especial.

Luego de verificar que se encontraba bien, miró al chiquillo, y éste le dio las gracias con una sonrisa que no tiene posibilidad de describir nadie.

“Dios lo bendiga, señor... y muchas gracias” le dijo.

El hombre vio cómo se alejaba el chiquillo empujando trabajosamente la pesada silla de ruedas de su hermano hasta llegar a su humilde casita.

Cuentan que el ejecutivo aún no ha reparado la puerta del auto manteniendo la hendidura que le hizo el ladrillazo... para recordarle el no ir por la vida tan distraído y tan de prisa que alguien tenga que lanzarle un ladrillo para que preste atención.

Dios normalmente nos susurra en el alma y en el corazón, pero hay veces que tiene que lanzarnos un ladrillo a ver si le prestamos atención. Tú escoges:

Escuchar el susurro o sentir el ladrillazo ❶

¡La RISA es SALUD!

Más frases célebres

“Me molesta la gente que no da la cara” *Anónimo*
 “Nunca pude estudiar derecho” *El Jorobado de Notre Dam*
 “Tengo todos mis hijos de apellido distinto” *Carlos Distinto*
 “No al paro” *Un cardíaco*

Herencia...

Jacinto llega a la notaría para recibir la herencia de su tío, recientemente fallecido. El notario le hace esperar diez minutos, ya al fin le recibe:

¿Viene usted por la herencia de su tío?
Sí, señor.

¿Llevaba mucho tiempo esperando?
Más de veinte años.

Verdades absolutas...

- El que es capaz de sonreír cuando todo le está saliendo mal, es porque ya tiene pensado a quien echarle la culpa.
- La psicología es el único negocio donde el cliente nunca tiene la razón.

En la ferretería...

En Sevilla, un turista decide ir a una ferretería. Cuando entra, le pregunta al dependiente: -Hola, buenas tardes, ¿tiene usted martillos?

Pues lo siento mucho, pero no nos quedó ninguno.
Y ¿sierras?

A las ocho y media.

Anuncios:

- Divorcios en 24 horas o le devolvemos al cónyuge.
- Ce dan klaces de hortografía
- Chico tímido busca... eeehh... nada... no importa.
- Cambio motocicleta chocada por silla de ruedas.
- Se vende casa doble, con dos baños, dos estudios, dos alcobas, dos comedores y dos cocinas. Para más información, llamar al bizco.
- Cambio perro Pitbull por mano ortopédica.

Agenda Comunitaria

Para recordar al rey Elvis

Evento: ‘Museo Elvis-a-rama’
 Día(s): abierto de lunes a sábado.
 Hora: 10 a.m. a 6 p.m.
 Lugar: 3401 Industrial Road.
 Teléfono: (702) 309-7200.
 Precios: \$9.95.

Arte del siglo XVII

Evento: ‘Rubens y su Edad: historia de Peter Paul Rubens.’
 Día(s): abierto todos los días hasta el 31 de julio.
 Hora: 9:30 a.m. a 8:30 p.m.
 Lugar: 3355 Las Vegas Blvd., en el Museo Guggenheim-Hermitage dentro del hotel y casino The Venetian.
 Teléfono: (702) 414-2440.
 Precios: \$19.50 admisión general, \$14.50 para estudiantes y para los niños entre 6 y 12 años.

Lo mejor de los pianistas

Evento: ‘Colección de Pianistas: Lo Más Reciente.’
 Día(s): abierto de lunes a sábado.
 Hora: 10 a.m. a 5 p.m.
 Lugar: 1775 E. Tropicana Avenue. En el Museo Liberace.
 Teléfono: (702) 798-5595.

Precio: \$12.50 admisión general, \$8.50 para estudiantes y gratis para los niños menores de 10 años.

A celebrar la fiesta Mexicana

Summer Jam
 La Estación de Radio KLUC 98.5 organiza el mejor espectáculo de música en vivo en el Estadio Sam Boyd a mediados de mayo. Llame al (888) 464-2468 para más información.

No te quedes sentado en tu casa sin hacer nada y aprovecha los eventos que nuestra ciudad tiene programados para tí.

Conciertos y Exhibiciones de Arte

Shakira

Día(s): Agosto 12 del 2006
 Hora: 7:00 p.m.
 Lugar de encuentro: Centro de Eventos del Mandalay Bay
 Precio: \$55 - \$100



Exhibición: Hot Glass Works
 - objetos hechos con vidrio soplado por Scott Dyer, Jim Samarco y otros artistas locales.

Lugar: 5115 S. Industrial Road, No. 401.
 De lunes a sábado de 10 a.m. a 6 p.m.
 Teléfono: (702) 739-9955

Exhibición: ‘Conservadores de las Llamas por Dayo Adelaja, Adolfo González, William Pajaud, entre otros.

Lugar: 947 W. Lake Mead Boulevard. En el Centro de Arte del Oeste de Las Vegas.
 Teléfono: (702) 229-4800

Exhibición: ‘Extravagancia Negra Parte Uno – Los Primeros Años’
 Lugar: 1771 Inner Circle Drive. En la Biblioteca Summerlin.
 Teléfono: (702) 507-3860

Entrega de Becas Estudiantiles 2006

MGM MIRAGE SCHOLARS 2006

Austin Arseo	Advanced Technologies Academy
Alexander Campos	Advanced Technologies Academy
Gabriela Ruiz	Desert Pines High School
Alba M. Meléndez	SNVTC
Carmen Romero	SNVTC

3rd Year Scholarships

Jennifer Mehner	Community College of Southern Nevada
Lori Pacheco	West Eldorado High School
Salimar Serrano	Silverado High School
Stephanie Lopez	SNVTC
Esmeralda Veloz	SNVTC
Roxana Sanchez	Valley High School

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Sgt. Henry Prendes Memorial Scholarship

Roxanna Vera	Advanced Technologies Academy
Eduardo Gutierrez	Rancho High School

KLAS TV Channel 8

Polly Gonzalez Memorial Scholarship

Josue Bustillos	SNVTC
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Community College of Southern Nevada

Academy Individualized Study

Britney P. Hernandez

Advanced Technologies Academy

Ravaye Marie Harris

ATTC – Mojave High School

Elizabeth Sanchez

ATTC – Rancho High School

Maribel Vallejo

Bonanza High School

Claudia Hidalgo	Yarleny Roa
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Canyon Springs High School

Yaneth Diaz Amaro

CCSN High School

Marisol Hernandez, East	Cindy E. Ariga, South
Gabriela Núñez-Ríos, South	

Centennial High School

Elora Ramos

Chaparral High School

Yamila Cardona	Claudia Díaz
Neleida Peláez	Clara Sandoval
Jandery Vargas	

Cheyenne High School

Jeanette Rosiles

Clark High School

Altaira Maritza Espinosa	Antonio Santiago
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Coronado High School

Sophia Jacas

Del Sol High School

Marcos Francisco Pacheco

Desert Pines High School

Cintia Abrego	Jesús Guzmán
Joanna Maglaya	Marie Maglaya

Desert Rose Adult High School

Carla Evelyn Izaguirre	Moisés Pedraza
Eliás Santoyo	

Durango High School

Ana Sanchez

Eldorado High School

Verónica Arellano Ana López

Foothill High School

Violeta Ramirez

Green Valley High School

Sarah Foust

Las Vegas High School

David Landeros	Jesus Ontiveros
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Laughlin High School

Joshua Alexander Fajardo

Liberty High School

Priscilla Lopez

Moapa Valley High School

Paloma Aurora Hernandez

Mojave High School

Jeanette Rosales

Morris Horizon Global Community

Maria Rodríguez

Palo Verde High School

William Jacks

Rancho High School

Francisco Loyda	Alejandra Ulloa
-----------------	-----------------

Silverado High School

Tanya Kristy Solares

SNVTC

Erika Araiza	Dara Badillo
Susana Ferreyra	Eder García
Marcella Reyes	

Valley High School

Shannon González	Luis D. Lázaro
Lisa Lopez	

Nevada State College

ATTC – Las Vegas High School

Denise L. Velasquez

Boulder City High School

Lizet Granados	Teddi Candance Paiz-Hughes
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Desert Pines High School

Mabel Anaya	Francisco Arambula
Syndia Verdeja	

Rancho High School

Morena S. Abrego	Juan Benítez
Kenia Gutiérrez	Alexia Latimore
Alexsandra R. Latimore	Carolina Ortega

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Advanced Technologies Academy

Ana Zuñiga

Basic High School

Sandra Martínez	Silvia Alejandra Mijares
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Bonanza High School

Sebrina Sedillo

CCSN High School

Brianna Nila, East	Jairo Castellanos, West
Joanna Nunez, West	

Chaparral High School

Jennifer Alvarado

Cheyenne High School

David Fanter	Jesus Nieto
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Desert Pines High School

Sergio Contreras	Bertha L. Paz-Méndez
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Durango High School

Geraldine Melgar	Karla D. Torres
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Eldorado High School

Marco Antonio Mora Huizar

Foothill High School

Zacarias T. Espejo	Brittiany Narvaez
Edward Saiz Jr.	

Green Valley High School

Sandra Avelar	Bibiana Flores
José Guzmán	Jesús Yépez

Las Vegas High School

Paula Castro	Alfonso Monterrosa
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Liberty High School

Enrique Huerta	Michelle Vargas
Alberto Zuñiga	Ilse Zuñiga

Palo Verde High School

Georgia Elizarraras

Rancho High School

Anahi Molina	Dolores Zavala
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SNVTC

Eduardo Bañaga	Jorge A. Carrasco
Isaac Guzmán	Alejandro Montoya-Acosta

Spring Valley High School

Johanna J. Portillo

Valley High School

Eyerim López	Ivana Rosas
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University of Nevada, Reno

Basic High School

Carrie Janay Bass

CCSN High School

Delfina Luna, East	Giselle Cigarroa, West
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Coronado High School

Christina Marie Hernandez

Desert Pines High School

Maria Liset Chairez	Mayra J. Franco
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Las Vegas High School

Luis Sian

Liberty High School

Edna M. González-Serrano

Moapa Valley High School

Klaryne Quirarte

Rancho High School

Josefina Martínez	Melva B. Treviño
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Sierra Vista High School

Nayan G. Ramírez

SNVTC

Maria del Carmen Valdiviezo

Schoolzone!

My American Adventure
Nevada Power Students of the Month
Keeping tabs on dangerous teen drivers

what's happening on campuses around the valley

nine thousand miles from home: My American Adventure

by Sakawtree Prajamwong,
Sierra Vista HS

I'm Sakawtree Prajamwong. I'm a junior at Sierra Vista High School, and an exchange student from Thailand. I have been here for 10 months, so I have a lot of experiences to tell other students about.

As soon as I got here to Las Vegas, I was so excited because this was the first long flight that I went on by myself. My trip was so long with three plane transfers for flights lasting 20 hours. I went from Thailand to Hong Kong to Los Angeles and finally to Las Vegas.

I was so tired when I finally met my host family at the airport. Before I could even get my bags, my host mom told me that I needed to get a shot to attend school. We immediately went to a clinic in the airport and got the shot – welcome to America!

I still remember the first day of school. I was so nervous because my English wasn't good enough, and I was scared that nobody would help me. As soon as the teachers found out that I was an exchange student, they were willing to help me.

Anatomy and accounting are my hardest classes out of the eight classes that I have. At first, I have to ask the teacher to speak slower and explain to me word by word. Now, my English skills are better than they used to be.

School in Las Vegas is totally different from Thailand. Education here is easier than there, plus here we have to change classrooms, but in Thailand we have one classroom, and the teachers have to walk to us. In Thailand, we also wear uniforms to school.

For anybody who doesn't know much about Thailand, let me tell you a little bit about it. Thailand is located in Southeast Asia. Its map looks like 'a gold axe.' We speak Thai and the currency is called 'baht.'

Many people asked me, "What does your country look like?" and I answered, "In Thailand, we have a lot of beautiful temples, Thai silk and elephants. Sometimes, you can see elephants walk on the side of the street."

They all were amazed. "Oh, my goodness! Why do they walk on the street? That is so cool," they asked.

I answered, "Because someone who sits on the top of the elephant asks the people that walk by to give food to them. That is not illegal. It is another job."

I have done a lot of things since I came here during the exchange program's 10 months. In September, my host family and I went to the temple in Salt Lake City, Utah. In October, I went with my friends to Disneyland.

In November, my host family took me to a Thai restaurant and an amusement park for my birthday, and we went to

California for Thanksgiving. In December, I got a lot of presents from my host family and I celebrated Christmas and New Year's with them.

In March, we went to ski at Park City, Utah, and that was my first time skiing. In April, I had a chance to show Thai dance to my host family. In May, I have a dance concert with my friends at school because I am taking dance class, and June is the month that I have to go back home.

I feel homesick a lot and I can't wait to go home, so I called my parents in Thailand. They said, "You have to be more patient. June is coming up." I cried a lot because I miss my parents, but the show must go on.

Finally, time has gone by fast. Ten months seem very long, but actually it is not. I am glad that I've met a lot of new people here. My host family, my friends and my teachers are great!



Students of the Month

June 2006

Del Sol High School



Alex



Kayla

Alex Turner, senior

Since Alex Turner stepped foot on the campus of Del Sol High School, he's left a mark that will never be forgotten!

In the two years since the school opened, he's been involved in bowling, cross country, tennis, track and field, band, was Del Sol's first prom king, and has served on the student council. This year, he is the student body president and has tried just about everything to get students involved. His well-balanced approach to life and his fun personality are what help people find him to be so approachable.

He plans on attending college in the fall, and although he's not exactly sure what he will study, those that know him are sure that he will continue to be a great success.

Kayla Hilton, senior

In June of this year, Kayla Hilton will be named as one of Del Sol High School's very first valedictorians.

Since she officially became a Del Sol Dragon in the fall of 2004, she has not only worked hard to maintain her high academic goals, she has also been involved in volleyball, swimming, National Honors Society, and has been elected as a student body officer both years. This year, she has worked especially hard to prepare assemblies and activities that involve all kinds of students and increase school spirit, and all of her hard work has really paid off!

Kayla will attend Brigham Young University this fall where she was awarded a full-tuition scholarship, and Del Sol wishes her the very best.



Keeping tabs on **dangerous** teen drivers

By Jay Basile, Basic HS

It's raining outside, the roads are wet, and you're probably driving faster than you should be. Suddenly the light turns red. You put your foot on the brakes, but they lock up and the car spins out of control. WHAM! Your car crashes into oncoming traffic and you find yourself paralyzed from the waist down.

This tragic scenario may seem like an unlikely situation, but more and more teen drivers are causing accidents due to reckless driving.

This raises the question, are teen drivers becoming too dangerous?

In 2002 alone more than 5,000 teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19 died of injuries due to motor vehicle crashes. But why is it that teen drivers are so dangerous?

School district police officer Vic Jones says that, "Teen drivers are too dangerous because either their radio is turned up too much or they have too many passengers and as a result they pay less attention to the road."

Basic High School teacher Laura Bowers seems to think that teen drivers are just inexperienced and need to spend more time practicing. "Continue to require driving with parents and have more classes for teens," she says.

Basic senior driver Shelby Soto says,

"They should just continue to enforce the curfew. Maybe this will help."

Nextel and other companies have teamed up to start a new safety program called Teen Arrive Alive. This program is designed to help keep teen drivers safe by providing bumper stickers that read, "Am I driving safely?" On these stickers is a toll-free number that people can call if they see a teen driving unsafely.

The number connects them to an operator, who then calls and informs their parents of the teen's driving shenanigans.

The biggest reason for this program's success is the GPS (global positioning system) chip that is installed in cell phones that not only can tell parents where their kids are going, but can also tell them how fast their car is traveling. The program only costs \$19.99 a month, a small price to pay for keeping you alive.

For more information go to www.teenarrivealive.com or call this toll free number 877-841-2011. Just remember to buckle up, check your mirrors, and please drive safely!

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 metalstargraphics@hotmail.com

CCSD Job Bank Career Tip of the Month

Interviewing hints and tips

Q: Are visible body piercings okay for a job interview?

A: One or two in the ears if you want the job.

Nose rings. Grunge clothes. Tattoos. Shaved heads. Will they work in a job interview? That all depends on whether you want the job or not.

According to USA Today, even though it's difficult for employers to find employees, most employers won't accept these fashion trends.

The Burger King Company bans styles such as platform shoes, nose rings and beards on the job. Target enforces a simple dress code: red polo shirts, khaki pants, and neat, neat, neat.

When it comes to tattoos that employers can't see, that's your business. When they can see them, it's their business. And, as a general rule, they don't like them.

If you're thinking this sounds like discrimination, read on. The legal community says that as long as an employer is consistent and can relate personal appearance to job performance, body piercings, facial hair, tattoos, and grunge clothes can cost you a job.

WANTED!

Talk to your school's career counselor to find out how the **CCSD Job Bank** can help you get to work. Here's a sample of the kinds of jobs you'll find each month at the Bank:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Job number: 8839
 Local company seeking mature and dependable student to train for help in the office performing general office duties. Applicants must be at least 16 years of old and possess a work permit. A total of 20 hours must be worked per week from Monday through Friday. Wage is \$8.00 ph.

OFFICE ASSISTANT/ RECEPTIONIST

Job number: 8830
 Local corporation seeking friendly student to work part time performing general office duties. Strong phone and computer skills required. Experience working with Excel, Word, and other computer tasks is beneficial, though students will be trained. A great attitude is a must. Bilingual skills will help, but are not necessary. Possible full time employment opportunity may be available in the summer. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and possess a work permit. Students will work a total of 20 hours per week, though work hours are flexible. Wage is \$8.00 per hour.

CHILD CARE ATTENDANT

Job number: 8827
 Local company seeking students to attend to and work with children ages one to five years old making sure they play safely. Cleanup, startup, and closing will also be required. Employees can earn between \$10.00 and \$12.00 an hour with tips, though wage is \$6.00 per hour. Applicants must be at least 15 years old and possess both a health card and a work permit. Work hours are flexible, between 15 and 20 hours a week. Applicants must like and be able to work with children and have patience with them.

GYMNASTICS INSTRUCTOR

Job number: 8829
 Local community center seeking instructor to teach basic gymnastics skills to children ages three to 12. Fingerprinting required to instruct children. Student must have gymnastics experience. Classes begin the first week in March. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and possess a work permit. Work days will be on Wednesdays, four to seven hours. Wage is \$12.00 ph.

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.

career center!

From crops to corporations,
see what's growing in FFA

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From crops to corporations, see what's growing in FFA



by Stephanie Espinoza, CLASS! correspondent

Where can you go to learn about running both an urban business and a rural farm? Not many organizations can give students the opportunity to practice parliamentary procedures or livestock judging, but FFA does both and a lot more.

Future Farmers of America is a unique student organization dedicated to making a difference in student lives by 'developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education,' according to the FFA website at www.ffa.org.

Organized into chapters that make up local, state and national levels of the organization, FFA is still often known as the Future Farmers of America, though the name was changed in 1988 to better reflect the breadth of what the organization covers.

Jim Barbee, Department of Education Agricultural Consultant and FFA State Advisor, says *"Farming was seen as such a narrow thing, as being a farmer even excludes ranching. I was in the program when the name changed, and it just wasn't reflective of the organization. But the letters FFA were still kept as a reflection of our history, since it started back in 1928."*

Those who have seen the teen movie 'Napoleon Dynamite' might remember that even Napoleon is a member of the FFA. But there's much more involved in the organization than what is portrayed in the movie.

"If you go into agriculture at UNR, you can take everything from biotechnology classes and bioengineering classes to simple beef production," says Barbee. *"It's very wide and very diverse in terms of career opportunities. Even mining falls under agriculture."*

At Moapa Valley High School, FFA Chapter Historian and senior Anna King discusses what's involved in being a member of FFA: "We have agriculture classes and they meet every other school day. We have chapter meetings once a month, and us officers are pretty good friends, so we hang out and have fun together, even outside of school."

FFA also does service projects and has state conventions where competitions are held.

"We compete with other chapters from across the state," says King. *"I've done horse judging, parliamentary procedure, floral culture, dairy judging, and soils at the chapter level. Horse judging's one of my favorites because I'm really into horses."*

King's chapter has also hosted events connected with her school, such as Farm Day, where elementary school students are brought to Moapa Valley to learn about agriculture. Junior Krystal Diamond is the Moapa Valley FFA Chapter Reporter, and got the chance to work with the kids for the day.

"We had a petting zoo and all sorts of stuff out there. I helped some of the kids plant gardens, and they learned about what takes place at our farms," says Diamond.

Once Diamond joined FFA, she realized that there is more to the organization than she realized. "People don't understand what it really is. You learn a lot about leadership and responsibility."

Diamond says. *"I learned a lot from leadership, met new people, and really*

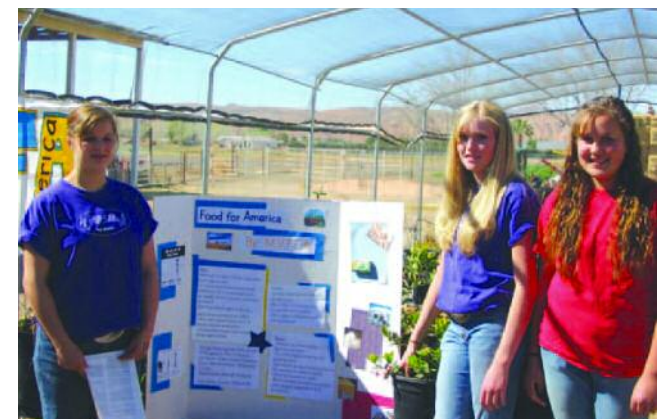
grew as a person. In middle school I was the shy little girl, but now I've come out of my shell and I'm in contact with people from all over the state."

Diamond most enjoys the leadership aspects of the organization. She has already gone to several leadership conferences, and may have the opportunity to attend another in Washington, DC.

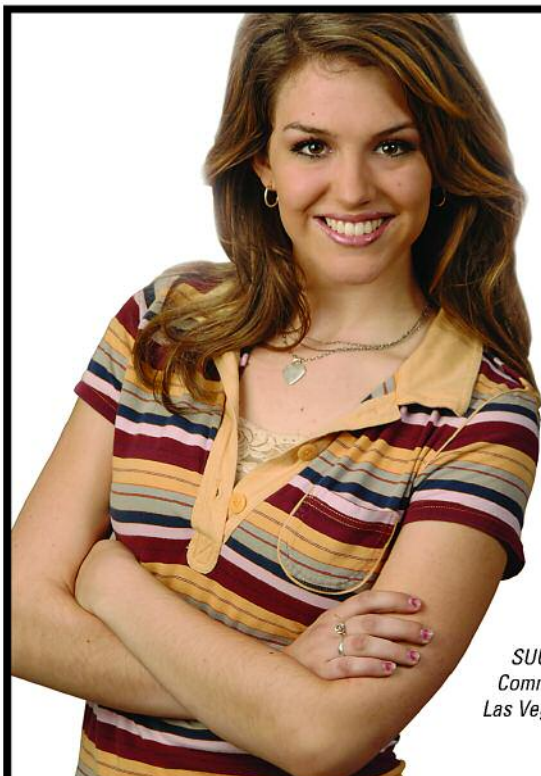
FFA isn't just about agriculture. The skills learned can be applied to all walks of life, including business and politics.

"It's something I can take with me for the rest of my life," Diamond says. She adds that, *"the best thing about FFA is probably the people I've met, the places I've gone, and the things that I've learned. It's just a lot of fun."*

For more information on FFA in Nevada, visit www.nvaged.org !



FFA members pictured l. to r.; Jennifer Jack, Krystal Diamond and Ashlee Diamond



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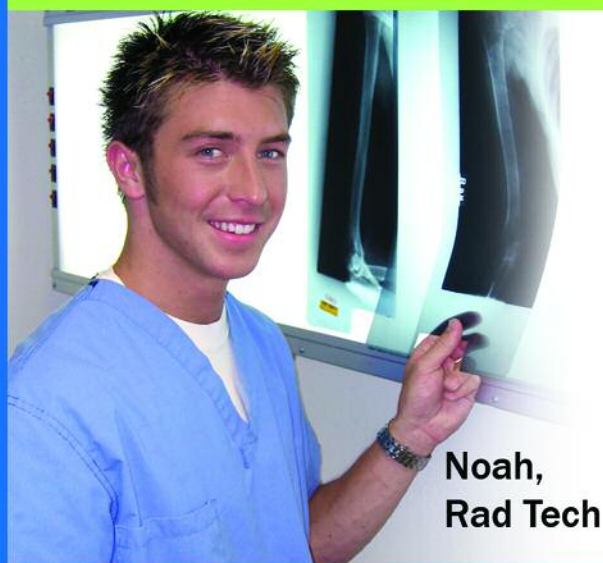
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