

February 2007

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volume 13

# class!

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



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**A gentle soul,  
a generous heart**

**CLASS! is grateful to  
Philanthropist Lee Menard for  
his kind donation in loving  
memory of his wife, Judy.**



# Career-track high schools set students on course for bright futures

by Jennifer Campeau,  
Class! Correspondent



Students at ATTC and SNVTC get hands-on job training in careers from computer networking to cooking to auto repair. Photos by David Phillips, CLASS!



Thanks to an ocean of bookwork and a sea of numbers studied throughout high school, many students graduate with a bounty of information to start their lives and careers with.

**However, few students have the chance to apply that information in the 'real world' and learn for themselves how work works.**

That's where Career and Technical Education takes over. Career and Tech Ed courses offer students the opportunity to learn career skills, shadow professionals on the job and gain firsthand work experience. In some courses, students earn college credits or trade certifications they can use immediately after graduation.

To let more students know about this great opportunity, February celebrates Career and Technical Education Month. Throughout February, schools across the valley focus on career education, including career presentations, job shadow days and other events. The Clark County School District's two career-focused high schools, the Area Technical Trade Center, ATTC, and the Southern Nevada Vocational-Technical Center, Vo-Tech, conducted open houses to inform the public about opportunities for students.

**"Across the nation, teachers and students are celebrating Career and Technical Education Month,"** says Kathleen Frosini, director of Career and Technical Education for the Clark County School District. **"During this month, we showcase all the wonderful opportunities students have to learn real-world skills in technology rich environments."**

These programs, according to Frosini, allow students to pursue rigorous coursework in areas they have an interest in learning. To meet student needs, CCSD offers students more than 255 career and technical courses, and many of those courses also allow students to earn college credit while in high school.

**"Students at ATTC and Vo-Tech have opportunities to participate in internships, clinicals, job shadowing and paid work experience related to their chosen field of study," she adds.**

While Vo-Tech and ATTC both provide students with valuable hands-on career training, they each approach it in unique ways. Vo-Tech is a full-day high school that combines traditional academic learning with focused career training. Classes are open to students in grades 9 through 12, and the school offers athletics and activity programs in addition to classes in careers and trades.

ATTC focuses solely on career training, with students attending their career courses for half of the school day and completing their academic learning at their home high schools during the other half of the day. ATTC's approach allows students to attend high school, participate in sports and clubs with their friends, and still reap the benefits of career training. The program is only open to high school juniors and seniors 📍





## Immersion learning

Whether training in the ATTC kitchen with Chef Michael Pittman or taking blood pressure in SNVTC's Health Occupations class, students are thrilled with opportunities to experience immersion learning in their chosen career fields. This approach allows students to learn, not just by studying, but also by doing.

Joycelin Martinez, a senior at ATTC, thinks that all high schools should offer immersion courses.

***"ATTC gave me the opportunity to job shadow where I got to go to a medical school program and even observe a real surgery,"*** she says.

Immersion-style schools like ATTC and Vo-Tech not only give students opportunities out in the community, but they also provide them with a place to grow and mature personally.

***"I learned to open up,"*** says Joshua Price, a junior nursing assistant student at ATTC. "I used to be timid and now I know how to handle myself in stressful situations, as well as how to take care of others."

Students come out of their shells and become responsible and professional individuals because they are given the chance to do so in career courses.

***"Students that come here start out as diamonds in the rough and are polished before they head out to the real world,"*** says Dennis Johnson, ATTC's Hotel Operations instructor. In fact, ATTC's Hotel Operations program has been so successful in producing career candidates that it has a 90 percent graduation rate and a 30-60 percent hiring rate, right out of high school.

## Training tomorrow's leaders

Because of the hotel and tourism industry in Las Vegas, training opportunities in the field are abundant, such as high school internships at the MGM MIRAGE and Bellagio Hotels. However, ATTC and Vo-Tech offer training in a wide variety of career fields that focus on the personnel demands of Southern Nevada's businesses, increasing a student's chance of being hired after high school.

Nancy Sutter, ATTC's Health Occupations instructor, prepares students to fill the shortage of nurses and health professionals in Nevada.

***"Our state ranks as one of the worst for patient to nurse ratios, meaning we are in great need of nurses,"*** she says. ***"One of my students was faced in an emergency situation and needed to resuscitate a man, and because of her training here at ATTC she was able to do that when no one else was able to."***

Culinary programs are also in high demand, and ATTC provides a perfect place for young culinary masters to immerse. Chef Michael Pittman actually began at ATTC as a student. He graduated from the culinary program and loved it so much that he decided he wanted to teach.

***"This is the best approach because it prepares students for real life and gives them good habits and ethics to use later in life,"*** he says. "Students from all over the valley learn how to unite and work as a team."

He describes ATTC as a "playground," saying that it is okay to make mistakes there because it is not as intense as in a real job, though students get the same experience.

## Students make the difference

Career-focused high schools in Clark County have been around for a long time, though many students don't know about them. In fact, Vo-Tech will celebrate its 40th anniversary in March.

Throughout its years of service, Vo-Tech has offered students the chance to discover themselves and their dreams.

For example, Adrian Castaneda, a senior at Vo-Tech, fell in love with his major in air conditioning by accident when the welding class he wanted to take was full.

***"This program saved my life because it put me on track and gave me experience to have a competitive edge in the workforce,"*** Castaneda says. ***"SNVTC is a place where opportunity is given to you."***

Auto Body and Collision Repair is another major offered at this school that has students actually wanting to attend class everyday.

***"I love cars and this school not only teaches me how to repair them, but also helps set up interviews with future employers and provides training with some of the best professionals in my field,"*** says Devin Manusco, a senior at Vo-Tech.

John Pauli, a government instructor at SNVTC, is passionate about how effective and crucial career schools are.

***"We need more schools like this because it doesn't hurt to show students what's out there,"*** he says.

Pauli describes Vo-Tech as a "stable, peaceful environment" where students can concentrate and truly learn. He says he drives 26 miles to work each day because he wouldn't teach anywhere else.

***"The students are the difference. They want to be here because it's interesting to them,"*** he says. ***"If you challenge the students, they always rise to the occasion."***

To find out more about Career and Technical Education programs offered through the school district, call 799-8462, or visit the CTE website at <http://ccsd.net/cpd/cte/cte.html>

Each year, the Sun Youth Forum brings together hundreds of local teens with business, political and community leaders to debate important topics in current events. After the event, student representatives are chosen to report on the results of these debates by broadcast and in print. CLASS! is proud to present these student reports, and applauds the Las Vegas Sun and the Clark County School District for continuing to support our common mission of giving teens a voice in our community. Photos courtesy of Las Vegas Sun.

# The art of argument is not dead

by Noah McKay, Spring Valley HS

**In this generation of the “Dot Nets,” society has already determined what a teenager is and how a teenager acts. And that it is all the fault of MySpace.**



Perhaps they're right. Perhaps not. In November 2006 I was able to attend the Sun Youth Forum, an event that is dedicated to exposing teens to a world of politics and controversial events that require resolution. Instead of just simply complaining about issues affecting our day-to-day lives, a select group of students is asked to come up with the “right” solutions through discussion and debate.

Going into this, I expected the majority of students to just ramble on about how their parents say what the “right” thing to do really is. Thankfully, I was pleasantly surprised. For the duration of the day, discussions were provoked by thoughtful and cogent questions that promoted an exchange of ideas rather than an exchange of fists. Because of this experience I feel that all those present became more aware of the world around them and the different beliefs this world has to offer.

My forum first started with the issue of capital punishment. From discussions in class to talks with my parents, I understood this to be a subject that most people would not yield any ground on. It is just one of those issues that people find themselves either pro or con, affirmative or negative, black or white. There is no middle ground.

As the conversation started its drudging process of dialogue, many of the old repetitive ideas came about that we had all heard before. But then, all of a sudden, instead of one hand raised at a time there were ten. Ideas galore came about bringing forth issues that were of utmost importance.

When people started asking, *“Who has the right to grant life and death?”* *“Where is the line to be drawn?”* *“How do you know they're innocent?”* *“How did you develop such an opinion?”* etc, we realized that all these questions are things people have already been trying to answer for years. But it was the latter of those questions that we as a group were able to address and really delve into without having to rely on another's word and/or research.

At this time we discovered that some of the students had intimate knowledge on the subject and could bring the debate back to people – real people. Far too often people find themselves (as we originally did) just talking about issues and not bothering to understand the stories behind them. Hypotheticals and statistics no longer became people's main arguments as they considered the idea: would you want this done to you or someone you love?

Eventually we moved on to lesser crimes that warrant imprisonment other than murder: assault, battery, robbery and things of that nature. For the most part we were not the least bit liberal on the retribution and punishment adults must face after committing crimes repeatedly. As a group we pretty much came to the conclusion that recidivism rates were unreasonably high and that the three strikes rule – although harsh to some – was in an acceptable justified policy.

But then, returning to the big question on the use of capital punishment, we started questioning the use of the death penalty on minors. Some students argued that since the average brain of an individual is not fully developed until the age of 23, you cannot expect all people to be able to make rational decisions and consider the consequences of their actions.

The portion of the brain called the prefrontal lobe is used to analyze actions and determine the consequences of those actions because of the rapid growth that it undergoes during puberty; teenagers appear to make poor decisions intentionally when in fact science is part of the explanation. The only problem was that many individuals felt that it matters not the comprehension of the consequence but the intention of the action: the understanding of right and wrong.

The discussion ultimately came down to the original factors the court looks at: “mens rea” (guilty act) and “actus reus” (guilty mind). The court uses these tools to decide whether the defendant is responsible for those actions they committed, and if they understood them. We agreed that the courts would have to determine this in the criminal justice system – what we considered to be the only effective way for the decision to be properly made.

By stating that juveniles should be tried in the adult system, we began to discuss the overall merits of the juvenile system. Because the only goal in juvenile courts is to rehabilitate the perpetrators of crimes and release them into society with clean records, we as a group felt that such policies were detrimental to the public. Juvenile sentencing should take rehabilitation into account as the adult courts try to do, but justice and retribution must be their top priority to maintain order.

We wrapped up the forum on the legalization of marijuana. For the most part just about everyone believed it was a good idea. They argued that crime rates would go down, tax revenues would go up and the market was just right for the legalization. If I hadn't been so set in my ways before entering the room, I might have come to agree with them. But the sad fact of the matter is that I feel the legalization of marijuana would degrade our society by sending the wrong message.

Laws are only reflections of the values a country has, and it is my personal belief that the act of getting high (an act that could cause someone else's death, if not the death of the user) is a value that should not be cherished.

This prestigious forum event made many students more aware of their values and beliefs. For me it really only strengthened my original convictions. Either way all students who attended the Sun Youth Forum gained something from it that cannot be received anywhere else 📍



# Students take charge

by Rachelle Taylor, Palo Verde HS



**The American educational system is one of the most important systems in the United States. However the educational system is often overlooked.**

Very few people are aware that the system needs to be continually monitored and improved, essentially because the future leaders of America are products of the current system.

Perhaps this need for improvement is exactly why the Sun Youth Forum exists. The organization has come to this conclusion: who better to improve the school system than its current students? These students are experiencing the educational realm everyday and are familiar with their individual state's tests, regulations and school laws. The Sun Youth Forum has allowed students to let their voices be heard since 1956.

At the Sun Youth Forum, controversial issues that are significant in today's world are debated and discussed amongst the students and mediated by prominent community leaders. Throughout the forum, many students voice contradicting opinions on topics that they feel are of paramount importance. The majority of the students come with minds open to new ideas and eager to discuss their own. However, the students do not only address serious issues – they also come together to create solutions to problems.

## Is it really working?

The first issue that was brought to the attention of those youth attending the forum was the question: is the educational system working effectively?

Some believed that the core issue was the lack of teachers and, more specifically, insufficient salaries. After extensive debate, the group agreed that better and more effective teachers would exist in a system that provided larger salaries, thereby generating increased motivation among educators.

However, some argued that problems in education might also be due to declining parental influence and discipline in students' lives. Everyone agreed that

there exists an alarming decrease in parental support and concern for children's education. This results in a less motivated and so-called lazy generation.

Although moral values and teacher conflicts are factors in this issue, the entire group agreed that the educational systems needs to be more competitive to prepare students for a college education. Also, states should submit to similar curriculums and testing procedures. Without these important equalizers, students in some areas do not receive as effective an educational experience as students in other areas receive.

## Proficiency testing

When the issue of proficiency testing came up for debate, the opinions of the students were split. For the most part, they all agreed to disagree. Many believed that there were both benefits and drawbacks pertaining to proficiency testing. Some argued why proficiency testing might be a good thing, beginning with the optimism of the students that are better test takers. Consequently, having proficiency tests would give those kinds of students a better opportunity to succeed in a school of higher learning.

Several students also argued that if a student could not pass a simple, required high school test, he or she would never be able to succeed in a school of higher learning. Along with trivial reasons, the proficiency testing allows the "No Child Left Behind Act" to actually take a role in our educational systems – disregarding whether this act is beneficial or not.

The students that opposed proficiency testing found that it had the ability to detract from a student's actual learning. Many agreed that schools are becoming more concerned with passing rates than the actual learning and graduation rates of their students. They also mentioned the idea that students are robbed of the chance to graduate, simply because of

an inability to pass one required test. Proficiency tests have taken such an interesting role in the school system that there are now entire classes devoted to the tests and to aiding students in passing. This is one topic that is sure to resurface among students and teachers alike in the future.

## Open campuses

Another discussion was introduced concerning on-campus lunches. At the onset of this discussion, there was an immediate dichotomy of opinions. Some believed that the high schools should have open campuses based on statistics and the fact that many students take the liberty to have personal open campus lunches whether they are allowed by the school or not.

However, many of the other students disagreed, stating that the students would not be allowed enough time to leave and then return to school before their next period.

It was argued that there would be a disruption of learning if food was eaten in class, and the school district would be excessively liable for the students' lives should anything happen to them while off campus.

As ideas and solutions to this subject were debated, everyone agreed that the best solution for all parties would be to start the school day, allow snacks to be eaten at certain times and to hold the lunch period at the end of the day. This idea was essentially constructed using Eldorado High School's schedule. With their scheduling techniques, the students at Eldorado High School are released at 12:45 p.m., thus allowing students to take their lunch period and socialize, or else have their "open campus" lunch when the school day is technically over.

## Block scheduling vs. traditional scheduling

The options for open campus lunches lead to a discussion about the scheduling of the school day. There were many obvious disadvantages and advantages of both block scheduling and the traditional six-class schedule. The group compromised on a solution that wasn't flawless, yet solved the main concerns regarding the issue. They agreed that core classes should have more class time allotted to them and that students benefit by reviewing their material daily.

Therefore, they agreed that it would be most effective to hold six classes a day. Four of these classes would be the core studies, which would be held everyday for the length of a block schedule class (an hour and 15 minutes), while the other two classes would be electives chosen by the students. These electives would only be held a few days a week for a much shorter length of time than the core classes. With this system, most of the issues concerning both block scheduling and traditional scheduling could be solved.

The Sun Youth Forum has successfully opened the minds of many students and allowed them the opportunity to dissect and evaluate many issues concerning their own communities. This program has not only allowed students to evaluate these issues, but also to formulate possible solutions to the problems. This type of solution-oriented thinking is a skill rarely utilized by the common American citizen, yet it is necessary for survival in our world.

The ideas and solutions produced at the Sun Youth Forum will eventually influence many important decisions that will be made regarding the educational system for future generations. The Sun Youth Forum has proven itself through the program's longevity and by helping to create an open-minded, passionate and committed generation of future leaders. 📌

# The world through the eyes of teenagers

by Nick Macrae, Palo Verde HS



To start off this article, I would like to say how wonderful it was to see so many people around my own age with so much knowledge of the world and what is going on inside it. The amount and variety of schools participating in the Sun Youth Forum was astounding – 33 schools were involved, some of them from outside the Las Vegas Valley, coming from as far as Mojave and Boulder City.

In the room I was in, there were different nationalities as well, including people with backgrounds from Germany, China, India, England (which was me) and of course the U.S. I felt very welcome while there. Even though I have lived in America for six years, it was the first time I didn't hear one of the following sentences as a conversation starter with me: "Have you met the Queen?," "Do you know Prince Charles?" or "Do you know Tony Blair?" My answer to these questions is always a sarcastic, "Yes! Would you like me to call them for you?" But in this experience, I was able to talk with students on deeper issues and not feel like an outsider at all.

I asked my German friend Jan (pronounced "Yan") what he thought of the forum event, and he said he enjoyed it and would definitely go back. The one thing he liked the most, which I can vouch for as well, is that people weren't coming up and saying "Oh you're German/English? Please say something for us."

At the beginning of the forum, we were asked to give a one-word response about what we felt was wrong with the world. The most impressive thing I found was that the word "Iraq" didn't show up once, and the term "nuclear weapons" showed up only with the last person. A resounding majority of our group believed the biggest problem with the world today is actually human rights, which brings me to our first discussion.

Many interesting points were made,

such as the fact that there is currently no uniform standard for human rights. And who would really enforce such a standard if one did exist? The United Nations? The United Nations is good as a concept, but in reality it is an organization of negotiation, which is all well and good – but only for the countries that are willing to negotiate.

For example, although nowadays communism is known as a bad thing, the concept was originally for everyone to be equal with no religion so that there wouldn't be any way someone else could be put down. This idea of communism was Karl Marx's, and he made the concept sound wonderful. But an idea is only as good as the person or people behind it. Communism skydived after Stalin took it and created a dictatorship where people were scared of going outside because of the KGB.

Now former Secretary General Kofi Annan was good at his job, but the United Nations didn't help in Dafur for three years because he wanted to know what the definition of genocide was, which took time. Before you knew it, it was the year 2005 and nothing had been done.

Another reason why human rights is never going to be a universal thing is because of the government. There is a saying from the film, "V for Vendetta" that states, "**People shouldn't be afraid of the government; the government should be afraid of the people.**" I believe that this statement is true, especially in democracy. But fear is a natural emotion. The governments of these countries that don't recognize basic human rights are using fear to their advantage. Thus the human rights activists don't get anywhere, and if one does start breaking through, they get imprisoned or killed for "apparent" treason.

The next topic discussed was inevitably illegal immigration. Many points were brought up, mainly about rights and jobs. Some of the people who spoke

were lucky that only people who hadn't spoken before were allowed to get up, because there were certain comments that I definitely did not agree with.

For example, one person in attendance said that people who fly foreign flags should be deported. I had a tie on with St. George's Cross – the national flag of England – all over it. Does that mean I should be deported? This is like saying that an American in Europe flying a Star Spangled Banner should be arrested and thrown out of the country. After that bit of fun, we moved to a less-sensitive subject.

I found the following question to be very interesting: should China and India be major political and economic parties? I have three words to answer the economic question. "Made In China." Without China many things would be drastically overpriced because no other country is willing to sell those products so cheaply. Imagine if England took on China's economic responsibility. We would only have tea and shatter-resistant rulers.

The political part of this question needs to be looked at through the population perspective. China has 1.3 billion people at least, and India has just about as much and is catching up with China. Just in these two countries alone, there is two-thirds of the world's population, so of course they are going to be a predominant leader in world efforts.

America had 300 million people in October, and England has at least 60 million people, if not more. Imagine if China and India didn't exist and America and England took the brink of the population. England should have a sign saying maximum capacity: 30 million. If England or even America had a billion people in each country, they would be overflowing.

This being said, I will take a minute to thank India and China for saving the overpopulation problem, and to thank India for the best mattresses, pillows,

sheets, etc. in the world. Without these two countries the world would go into economic depression. England only has a few car companies that are actually owned by English companies – one being Aston Martin, because they have a limited supply of cars and are also so wealthy that the Sultan of Brunei and Bill Gates would almost have to join forces to buy out the company. America owns Ford (but those have German engines), Chevrolet, (they have Japanese Chassis for the exterior), and GMC, (which is funded by a Korean car company).

These facts sort of show how important China and the rest of southwestern Asia is in helping the car company business. Imagine a world without all the wonderful products China makes. Well, you don't actually need to imagine it – just look at France before Napoleon came along. They didn't import or export, except for bread. But how many Asians do you see eating a loaf of French bread, honestly? Though I have nothing against French bread (it's much better than sourdough).

After the topics were all debated from every plausible aspect – and some people nearly had to be separated, especially during the global warming bit – we were asked what made us happy about the forum. Many people named the discussion itself or the fact that they were able to meet new people. My opinion, however, had three parts.

One, I didn't have to go to Algebra. Two, I had the chance to discuss major issues with intelligent people. And my third and final point was that unlike my history class (where most of my other discussions about the world take place), this forum wasn't filled with people who were hyper, sleeping or not smart or informed enough to take part. I would definitely attend the Sun Youth Forum next year and I encourage others who like to discuss world events to go as well! ●



# The state of the youth

by Jonathan Wozniak, Coronado HS



Teenagers are, more often than not, looked down upon by society, quite possibly because these are the years that young adults learn they have to stand up for what they believe in. If they do not comprehend this, then they become cowards.

I attended the Sun Youth Forum to venture outside my “bubble” and learn the outlooks of other teenagers on my subject, “Teen Topics.” Sitting in a circle with some 40-odd teenagers, our moderator brought up one subject after another concerning the topic. He would ask, “How do you feel about...?” and hands would raise in response. After this, we would bounce our opinions off of one another until the subject died and another one was brought up.

During the debate I noticed that even though many in the room came from different backgrounds, there was usually a majority of opinions shared on each topic. Maybe this is because most of the students that go to the Sun Youth Forum are interested in beefing up their college applications, not fighting for what they believe. I don't believe that there is enough representation of the minority groups at this forum. There are more Hispanics than whites in the district, but I estimated that only about 10 percent of the students who attended the forum were of Hispanic background.

## No respect

Because teenagers tend to follow the beat of their own drum, our opinions are as “outside of the box” as possible, and so adults continue to look down upon us. Listening to the argument of a teenager is not the same as listening to a 10-year-old child voice his opinion because children are still full of innocence. Teens often see the worst of things because of the violence, substance abuse, etc. that is related to our generation. But we aren't stubborn like most adults either. It was the belief of our group that teens tend to be more malleable. Teens accept change easier and faster. Evolution is change. It's possible that more advancement could happen in society if teens played a bigger role in the government.

## Free time

The city of Las Vegas is geared toward adults, so it is a common problem for teens to find things to do in their free time. The group I was in agreed that Las Vegas is an impulsive town and sometimes that doesn't set a good example to the people growing up in this setting. Many believed one main reason for teen drug use is because the teenagers simply have nothing else to do.

Supervised hangouts are great places for teens to meet their friends and socialize, but there is a lack of these types of places in Las Vegas. Some schools in the valley

have an annual “Battle of the Bands,” and all agreed that this is a great idea. If there could be more of these kinds of teen activities, teenagers would have less time to get bored and lash out in violence.

## Curfews

Although most agreed that curfews are necessary in Las Vegas, we found that media and entertainment curfews need to be extended. Places like bowling alleys located in casinos ask unsupervised teens to leave at a certain time, hours before curfews are enforced. When they are turned out, teens quickly become bored as well as unsupervised – a common recipe for destructive behavior.

## The power of media

In our generation, the world is almost literally at our fingertips every time we open a Web browser. The chances of teens being exposed to bad influences are greater than ever. Our group found that the best way to avoid falling into these bad influences is to have a strong relationship with a parent or guardian. They drive their morals into us from the time we are born until the time we move out. Parents remain our greatest influence no matter what the media says.

## Interracial dating

Although dating someone from another race isn't exactly a new thing, it is still not completely accepted in society. However, there was no one opposed to interracial dating in the room that I was sitting in. The students that do find a problem with interracial dating are typically receiving pressure from peers or adults to act this way. We agreed that we were the “transition generation” on this topic, meaning that although our parents are more commonly against it than we are, our children probably won't have a problem with dating someone of another race at all.

## Abortions

Although our discussion on this topic was short, it was directly to the point. In a survey, 80 percent of the teens in the room agreed that parents must be notified before a doctor can perform an abortion on a person under 18.

I thank the organizers of the Sun Youth Forum for giving me this opportunity to talk to the students of schools all around the valley. It allowed me to diversify my views on topics, while still allowing me to speak my mind and know that I have finally been heard.

I feel that we learned more about the different views of people on that one day than we would have by attending a sociology class for weeks. Thank you!

# Sun Youth topics effect all students

by Mandy Savage, Arbor View HS

Many things were discussed and questioned at this year's Sun Youth Forum. But one thing will not change, and that is the purpose of the discussion in general: to change the way we all think. To open our minds to the world we live and try to survive in.

One of the many topics that were discussed was the right to vote, which led on to countless deliberations and sincere recognitions that all Americans are responsible for their votes.

Awareness was the key to all the questions; everyone has to do their part to learn about our policies. For such a democratic privilege, we have a very low voter turnout rate. With this right to vote also comes the responsibility to do so. In order to raise a voice and see change happen, work has to be done – basic government principles have to be learned so our capacity to make an impact can expand and reach out to those who don't take the time to vote.

The next issue that was talked about was driven by the media's influence on our understanding of the war in Iraq – in essence, the War on Terror. The media is in place to align our government and keep the public informed of issues that affect our day-to-day life. But how is a civilian supposed to filter the nonsense from the truth? Is the amount of information we receive just the tip of an overwhelming, eventful iceberg?

Obviously the government doesn't give the people all the details on secret missions and covert operations, but the media doesn't necessarily play fair when it come to bias and who to blame when things go wrong. The group ultimately came to a consensus that the media is both helpful in warning us of our own welfare, and also hazardous if read or interpreted incorrectly or spread with that negative intention.

On the topic of immigration, many ideas and proposals were announced. An example that I gave was if a boat is flooding, the first thing to ensure stability is to plug up the hole or fix the leak altogether. The next step would be to determine how to get the water out of the boat so that it can stay afloat. This example can be used to describe our country's issue on immigration. Federal laws are being broken, but with nearly 25 million illegal aliens on American soil, it is unfathomable to consider sending each individual back to Mexico. So is amnesty the only way?

The discussion proceeded, and some in the group explained how their close family was going through the legal system trying to gain citizenship. They spoke of how difficult a process it has become. One thing that many Americans can agree on is that without these illegal immigrants running our work force, our economy would be in serious trouble. Maybe instead of worrying about how to stop workers from trying to sneak across the border, the government should try to clear up our own issues of carelessness and laziness that has corrupted our own people.

One final issue that concerned all teenagers alike was Question #7: should Marijuana be legalized? This is yet another complex issue that lawmakers question and debate on how to handle the situation.

Many ideas were proposed at the youth forum on how to restrict use of the drug – ideas that went as far as making Marijuana completely illegal and prohibiting all use, medical or not. My overall stance is that if one drug is legal, even if we set an age limit similar to the alcohol and tobacco laws, what makes any sane person think that the age will really prohibit the use?

From personal experience I have seen 16 year olds smoking and witnessed a 14 year old drink an alcoholic beverage. So will Marijuana become the next cigarette? I think that's a definite possibility.

Medical use should be regulated, but I believe drive-bys will still occur and drug trafficking will still press forward, regardless of whether the drug is legal or not. By setting the double standard to make all drugs illegal, EXCEPT marijuana, what statement does that send to younger children and adolescents? Not a good one.

Basically, we all agree that drugs are ultimately bad for you, but if the government wants to take a stand and legalize anything, they should consider the hands that those drugs could fall into.

Overall the topics that were discussed and the information that was presented this year were fantastic. As a group I believe we all came to the consensus that these issues really do affect our cities, our state and our country. Taking the time to learn and talk about them together can really open our eyes to the vast world we live in!

# Do you believe in a thing called love this Valentine's Day?

by Farah Minwalla, Palo Verde HS



Photo by Grogan Wingert, Las Vegas HS



*An issue that is not only relevant to teenagers but moreover to young women and men is the issue of romance. What do women want?*

*What makes a guy never call back? How do women ward off men with one or two dates? Members of the both the sexes ponder these same conundrums, especially in high school. Relationships throughout high school are short lived, but once January has come and gone, Valentine's Day is all that single and committed girls can think about.*

As Hallmark emphasizes the 'month of love,' Valentine's Day at CCSD high schools is one of the most interesting days out of the entire school year. With girls walking around campus carrying giant teddy bears and roses in their hands, it is almost a competition of whose boyfriend splurged the most.

Then again, Valentine's Day is one of those hit-and-miss days for many women across the Vegas Valley. You either go out for a hot date at a fancy restaurant or sit at home eating a box of chocolates watching 'The Notebook.'

But here arises the misconception about Valentine's Day: if you don't have a date on this particular night, you are doomed to a life of being single. How untrue is this? These days, the purpose of Valentine's Day is to just be with a significant other. I beg to differ.

In my opinion, Valentine's Day should be spent with the ones you truly love, whether they are friends or family. The time we have on earth is short – too short to forget the little moments in life. And sometimes the people we care about the most are often forgotten on this holiday of sentiment.

*"Since my boyfriend is in Iraq, rather than making Valentine's Day one of those 'lovey-dovey' holidays, I had fun with it by sending him a humorous care package. Our love works because it is not measured by the size of the teddy bear he gives me,"* professes Christina Danai, Centennial High School senior.

Remember when

Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan bobbed their heads to the song "What is Love" in the movie, "A Night at the Roxbury?" Maybe they were asking the question that many try to answer every Valentine's Day.

Or maybe Valentine's Day has become a day for giving and receiving gifts more than anything else. According to the National Retail Federation's (NRF) 2007 Valentine's Day Consumer Intentions and Actions Survey, the average male will expectedly spend \$156.22 on their significant other. The NRF also estimated that the total 2007 Valentine's Day spending is expected to reach \$16.9 billion.

With girls wondering what their boyfriends will give them, it amazes me that people put so much time and effort into just one day. But then again, what is love, really? Flowers and a card? Why not make Valentine's Day every day? But if that were to happen, men would end up homeless with no car – which does create a problem for the ladies who want their first dates to not include the words, "Can my mom pick you up?" And if your boyfriend only treats you with affection one day of the year, then I would consider separating the boy from the friend.

But here is my challenge to you on this Valentine's Day: tell the people you love how much they mean to you. Because sometimes we all feel lonely and the "I love you" in a conversation make all the difference. Remember, a little love goes a long way in the realm of romance. So learn to love more than you know imaginable, and maybe life will reveal itself to be simple. As the old love tale proclaims, love is really all you need!

## Guess what mom? I'm getting married!

*Seventeen years old, involved in activity upon activity in her high school, voted prom queen three years in a row and is currently planning her honeymoon.*



*Marriage has indisputably transpired to be the popular "extracurricular" activity among America's youth today. Believe it or not, kids as young as 15 are proposing and accepting proposals left and right. It has become a phenomenon amongst lovestruck teenagers all across the United States. But most of those teenagers inhabit the notorious epicenter of on-the-go weddings – a place I like to call the "drive-through" of holy matrimony – the humble city of Las Vegas.*

Celebrities have certainly contributed to making hit-and-run marriages acceptable in this generation's culture. They have put Las Vegas on the map as the

cornerstone for extravagant impulsiveness and irrational decisions with their many quick trips down the aisle, implying that this type of behavior has no moral grievance. And with these occurrences happening over and over, young adults – who by the way are easily influenced – jump onto this trend and believe that the first sign of emotional attraction toward their beloved can be considered a valid enough reason for marriage.

Marriage is becoming less sacred, less time consuming and less thought out as time goes by. It has become a thing of impulse. It has boiled down to the result of people who have been in a relationship for a week somehow

convincing themselves that they want to be together for the rest of their lives, despite the fact that one of them may be an ex convict, a serial killer or posted on America's most wanted list. How would they know? They've only been together for a week.

The dangers of teens getting hitched at such a fragile and green age are serious. The marriage will more than likely fall to pieces, thus giving the youngster a frail perception of commitment and love. And after the experience, they may never want to be attached to anything again. This will inevitably cause the teen to fall into a state of oblivion when it comes to knowing where they want to end up when they get out of high school, what

career they want to excel in and what life they want to live. Such a life-changing decision as marriage, when chosen by inexperienced adolescents, is just aching for disaster.

To be committed to someone and allowing yourself to have strong feelings for that special someone is a good thing. I'm not telling teens to ignore their emotions and to avoid young love at all costs. What I am simply requesting of everyone under the age of 21 is to understand that before you trot down that aisle of monogamy, know that marriage is a serious binding contract that will change the course of your life in an extreme way!

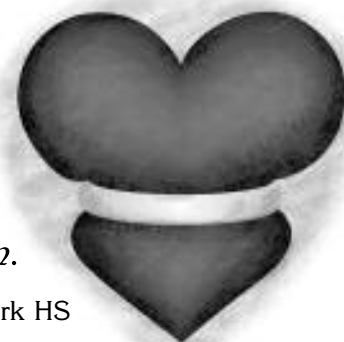




photo: Jill Johnson, MCT Campus

## Hunger wares on Hispanic community

by Alicia Cooper, Clark HS

It is internationally known that the U.S. is always moving with a fast and ambitious pace, and as our culture moves forward we tend to leave essential things behind. What we fail to remember is that our world is starving. An insufficient supply of nutritious food and increased poverty are becoming grave issues among American citizens, as well as among many growing and developing nations around the world. This worldwide problem now threatens to pose health and economic tragedy in one of the United States' largest and fastest-growing minority groups.

According to an article published in "The Washington Post," it was reported that nearly one in five Hispanics lack sufficient access to food, and one in 20 go hungry. Poverty is said to be a main factor in the limited food available to Hispanics. More than 41 percent of Hispanic households were named food insecure with 25.4 percent of adults being food insecure as well. Nearly 30 percent of children from one to six years old suffer from periodic hunger according to a study of low-income Hispanics. About 40 percent of foreign-born Latinos face many obstacles when attempting to enroll in federal hunger programs as well.

Hunger is more commonly related to Third World and developing countries. Because our hunger and poverty issues are not put into a media front, we are unaware of what assistance is needed among the Latin community. We are very ignorant to the extent of how this level of poverty can damage the thousands of Latin Americans living in the inner city and other areas of poverty. Some Hispanics may lack the knowledge they need to help them survive as well. Programs such as affirmative action and federal aid may be unfamiliar to them. Numerous families remain hungry simply because they do not understand or are afraid of the services that are provided for many who are in the same circumstances.

It is a known fact that hunger can't be abolished in a day. But if we push to get the public aware of our starving nation and reach out to those who do not know a way to end their suffering, then we may be able to change and improve upon an issue that has been present for decades. Though we may not know how to end it all together, we should remember that the first step to solving a crisis is to acknowledge that it does exist 🗨️

## training your pet-



## a rewarding challenge

by Kristi Yanke, Arbor View HS

**You sit in the desk, tap your pencil, take notes and work on an assignment. After a busy day, the bell rings and you leave school, somehow managing to get back home. Once you walk in the door, you get attacked by a friend - a friend who jumps on you and licks you until you manage to escape so you can take your second shower of the day.**

That's when you decide it's time for training.

You go online and look around for the perfect pet training class. You look at PetSmart, Petco and at other local places in your town to see what would be the best kind of training for your dog.

At PetSmart, you see there are puppy classes, Dog Beginner, Click-a-Trick, Intermediate, Advanced Education, and then, if you really feel he needs it, you have the option for private lessons. Petco has about the same, but they also have an "AKC Canine Good Citizen Class," which helps your dog walk and act properly in public. Around town you find local obedience trainers, agility trainers and other great classes. The classes will also normally cost anywhere from \$24.99 for private lessons up to about \$69.99 for the highest group classes. It all depends on the class.

All in all, he is not a puppy anymore, so the cute, "Good dog, sit, stay. Oh, good puppy!" thing isn't for him. Click-a-Trick is too fancy for him - he can already chase his tail anyway (but you feel teaching him how to touch or shake would be fun). He is no Intermediate or expert, so there is only one good option left for him: Dog Beginner.

You might fight and struggle to get him into the car, or you might get pushed over while he launches himself into the car. As you drive your way to the training school, Buddy will pant, wag his tail up in your face, bark at passing cars and stumble at every stop you make as he loses his balance, but you WILL make it to the classes! Once you get into the training room, you fight to get hold of his leash so he doesn't jump out of the car so fast that something hits him.

Inside the class, you walk over to the teacher and introduce your dog... as your dog pushes his way in front of you to meet her first. The trainer will laugh kindly at the dog (really saying, "You'll be a good dog in no time"). The class you chose will teach your dog the "basics," like "sit," "stay," "come," and "down." After the long once-a-week, six classes where you've met other dog people who started out with the same "problem dog" as you, your classes are finally finished and the chances of your dog (not you, your dog!) getting a graduation hat or doggie diploma are pretty high. One of the best parts of this whole experience, however, is the fact you (this time I mean you) got to spend time with that close friend who once was your jumpy, wild dog.

**He isn't like that anymore, though. The point of this story is you too can have a great dog. So take the time to look into some classes, and if you think your dog is already too good for the basics, then look into the trickster courses. Remember to have happy and fun training 🗨️**

# *It's because I'm fat*

by Gregan Wingert, Las Vegas HS

## **Being overweight has never held me back in school, nor has it held me back in reaching my occupational goals.**

But socially, being overweight is something I have had to face every day of my life. Every time I glance at a mirror or wiggle into my jeans, I am reminded of how much I weigh. Every time a guy says “no” to a date with me I always wonder, “Is it because I am fat?”

I currently weigh 260 pounds. I am 5 feet 10 inches tall and my weight is distributed evenly, but compared to all the other girls I go to school with I feel huge. I know that being overweight is unhealthy, but believe it or not, salad is one of my favorite foods and no, I do not know Ronald McDonald personally. I barely eat fast food and when I do I am not ordering the largest fries and Coke.

For the most part I have come to terms with my weight, knowing that I eat healthy and am constantly active. I try not to obsess on fitting into the mold of what is considered beautiful, nor do I starve myself to become ultra thin. However, there were times in my life when I felt like the odd girl out and I blamed my weight.

I know I am not the only one out there who has experienced what it is like to live in a society where the commercials on television are about joining the gym, weight loss programs like Weight Watchers or Jenney Craig or the newest miracle weight loss pill that is available.

This is a society that is constantly telling everyone they are not good enough, a society where you are bullied for your weight, not because people care about your health, but because they want to bring you down in some twisted way to make themselves feel superior.

Thurman, a senior in high school who wishes to be referred to only by her last name, weighs 160 pounds and has had issues with her weight ever since she was in elementary school.

Thurman is a former bulimic. When she was 7 years old she witnessed a talk show that explained what bulimia was and how the disorder worked.

Thurman says,

**“I just thought you’d stick your finger down your throat and you’d get skinny.”**

At that time Thurman was not aware that the show was to prevent bulimia by informing viewers of the health risks.

Periodically throughout elementary, middle and high school Thurman would purge after eating. During that time in her life, Thurman had a friend who was also bulimic and that friendship was a support system for Thurman.

Thurman was bulimic off and on until her sophomore year of high school.

**“That’s when I realized I should love myself and this is who I am,”**

says Thurman, who researched her disorder and realized that her health was more important than being thin.

Though Thurman stopped purging, she did become addicted to diet pills in her sophomore year.

**“When I stopped doing the bulimic thing I would do the diet pills,” she says.**

Oftentimes Thurman would find no support from her friends. When her friends tried to take the diet pills from her she would “freak out.” And whenever her friends were mad at her they would call her “fat,” whether or not they actually thought Thurman was fat. She says they made comments about her weight because they knew that those would hurt her the most.

In Thurman’s case, she blames most of her body consciousness on her parents -- especially her mother.

**“I feel as if she is scrutinizing my every bite,”**

says Thurman, who goes on to explain that when she is losing weight her mother seems more proud of her than when she is not.

Though Thurman says her parents had the greatest impact on her outer appearance, she does believe that impressionable girls are affected by what they witness in society.

Thurman says that one of the main reasons why girls have such a desire to be thin is most likely because “[The thin girls are] the girls that you typically see the guys going for in the media.”

But Thurman understands that such perceptions shouldn’t cause any girl or young woman to view herself negatively. She has moved on past her own disorder, is no longer bulimic and currently lives a healthy life.

“I’ve actually read a bunch of self-help books,” she says. Listening to music also helped her. One song that Thurman remembers as special to her is “Tears” by GDB (Goldfish Don’t Bounce) -- a local, underground band.

Thurman realizes that what she has done in her past is not how she wants to live today.

**“Now I actually just try to take care of myself because I am the only one who is going to be there for myself in the end.”**

While Thurman is self rehabilitated and has made a lot of progress, her weight is still something she faces every day. Still body conscious, she admits to wearing sweaters and big shirts even in the summer. And every time she gives in to junk food, she feels guilty the whole day.

**“I still haven’t completely overcome it,” she says.**

Thurman’s case, as dramatic as it may sound, is actually quite common. In fact, eating disorders are the third most common chronic illness among young girls. Though I do not promote living overweight, I believe that people of every shape and size should be accepted for who they are in our society.

Instead of teasing, ridiculing or harassing a fellow teen who is overweight, invite them to be more social. Ask them to join a club or activity that they might not consider because they believe their weight is holding them back. Ignoring someone or making remarks behind their back does nothing but hurt a person’s self-esteem, which makes them less likely to be active.

As for anyone who is overweight, do not let it hold you back. Never let it be your excuse not to join a sports team or club, and never let it prevent you from reaching your goals and dreams.

For more information on eating disorders, visit:

<http://www.faqs.org/health/Healthy-Living-V3/Eating-Disorders.html> ●

## our oh so moral nation

by Jake Peck, Las Vegas Academy

America. A land unlike any other. A 'free' country that wears the mask of a democracy while hardly hiding the wretched face of a plutocracy. A country where the people's actions greatly contradict the ideologies spouted by our patriots, our textbooks and our great leaders (i.e. lying politicians). A country whose government says peace is a core objective, yet can rationalize the deaths of innocent men, women and children via the 'spreading of democracy and peace.' It's hard to spread those things with a gun in one's arms.

Our commander-in-chief, George W. Bush, so delicately summed up our nation's contradictory ways, saying, "I just want you to know that, when we talk about war, we're really talking about peace."

So what went wrong? Well, to be honest, things were never really quite right. Our nation was founded on genocide, on the deaths of millions, on the eradication of a people and a way of life. We then realized we acted too fast in killing all the natives. Who were we to use for slaves? Luckily Africa was only a sea away. Liberty and justice for all? I think not.

This country came about in a fashion that directly contradicted the ideologies that many say it was founded on, such as equality and liberty.

*It appears that we are a nation with a serious case of denial.*

A peace-spreading nation that funds and supplies wars around the globe? A nation of liberty and equality where both women and minorities are still the victims of prejudice and where socio-economic injustices are undeniable? Yes my friends, we have entered the twilight zone.

So if our entire nation was founded on hypocrisies, how can one expect the average citizen to live up to these illustrious, 'American' ways when they were hardly ever followed in the first place? Well, one can't expect the average citizen to live up to them, and one is foolish if they do.

The system by which our society works is one of competition, one that stresses the individual. A sense of community is blatantly absent from daily life in this country. Rather, a sense for individual desire reigns supreme.

For the time being, it seems as if a cutthroat form of social Darwinism has prevailed, and as long as this form of thought is at the top, we should expect cheating and lying in the government and every step down from there, all the way to elementary school. Yes, corruption is rampant. Yes, people lie and cheat to get ahead. Yes, the

entire system seemingly works against the ideas that this nation was supposedly founded on. Ever heard of Enron? Maybe Watergate? And these are only the scandals that have been uncovered.

And, like I said, these contradictory ways go all the way down the ladder. How many of you reading this right now have cheated on a test or copied someone's homework?

*How many of you have pirated music or other media off the Internet? And how many of you reading this do those things often?*

Things that can be considered morally questionable to satisfy your own desire? Horatio Alger would be upset. America, the nation that was supposed to reward the hard working, struggling man, instead more commonly rewards the swindler in the end. Funny how paradox prevails.

So what are we to do? Perhaps we will continue telling the world what it is we stand for rather than showing it through our actions, but my hopes stray to the opposite end. Yes, the system is screwed up. Yes, people do messed up things. Hopefully we become aware of it, do what we can as individuals to change it and make an effort to achieve the image so many have hoped for.

Hopefully some will actually place their ego aside for a moment and look at the bigger picture. Hopefully people will begin to practice such simple things as treating others how they would like to be treated, rather than viewing everything as a competition. Hopefully a communal sense will rise above this cutthroat, egocentric ideology that runs rampant in America today.

Hopefully... yet doubtfully. It all comes down to the individuals. So maybe it's time for people, like me, to stop complaining and, as Gandhi said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." 🗣️

## ditching only hurtful in the long run

by Jasmine Pickett, Eldorado HS

***"Jack in the Box sounds so good right now. Forget this class; let's go eat."***

That's what many teenagers do everyday. But being hungry isn't the only reason why students ditch school. The problem goes much deeper.

Some teenagers have major issues at home, whether they're from abuse, poverty or divorce. When teens are going through hard times, they just want to get away and not deal with school. They are unable to concentrate in class,

so they figure why even go when they aren't going to pay attention anyway.

Others ditch because they think they're not as smart as other students, and they don't want to be in a place where they feel dumb. So they just don't show up at all. But the fact that those students don't pick up certain concepts as fast as others doesn't mean that they are not smart. It doesn't mean that they can't learn. But they would rather ditch than be in a place that makes them feel inferior.

The last types of teens who ditch are the ones who like to party. Their attitudes are "have fun now, work later." But bad habits die hard, and they are messing themselves up very early in their lives. Many "party kids" think they can get a job without a high school education. Well they can, but how many good-paying jobs don't require a high school diploma? When high school is over, and everyone else is going to college, those teens who drop out are stuck in life and going nowhere.

Many parents have no idea what their children are doing. But the worst kind of parent is the kind that actually lets his or her kids ditch! It's unbelievable, but true. So sometimes parents are as much to blame as their kids. If parents let their kids ditch, then they are giving

them permission to mess up their lives and make nothing of themselves.

People living in Las Vegas don't know how lucky they are. The casinos offer decent jobs to high school graduates. But in most of the rest of the country, life without a college education is tough. If you're not a college graduate, it's unlikely that you'll find work in anything except fast food or some other job that's not going to be rewarding and not going to be where you want to be.

So the next time you get hungry in school, think about how much hungrier you will be if you're ditching develops into a habit. Because if you mess up now, when it comes time to get a job and pay bills, you will regret what you did when you were younger! 🗣️

# 14 letters!

send your letters to the editor to [classmag4u@yahoo.com](mailto:classmag4u@yahoo.com)

## Paintball recreation



I read the articles in the sports section of CLASS! Magazine — 'Extreme sport of paintball sweeping the nation' and 'Paintball well on its way to the mainstream.'

I myself have been paintballing. It is a very cool sport. It is a really fun game, but at the same time it is good exercise. There are some people who do not like the fact that paintballing is a sport. They think that shooting at each other just for fun, no matter how much fun it is, is not right. I think that those kinds of people need to butt out and leave people alone. If people want to paintball they should do it.

Tanner Edwards, Shadow Ridge HS

## Phishing for answers

Replying to 'MySpace hackers' — I've been a victim of phishing, and because of it I learned more about it and found out how it happened. But what I don't understand is how they really get your personal information? It's just your full name or an e-mail. It's not like your social security number is provided, so tell me what important information can they really get?

Kountess Alexander, Shadow Ridge HS

## Environmentally sound

(In response to the article, 'Saving the earth one piece of paper at a time' by Kerstin Kent, Faith Lutheran HS, published in the October 2006 issue of CLASS! Magazine)

I agree with the fact that people today care little about the earth. Everybody throws away bottles, cans of soda, etc. instead of recycling them. We are wasting energy by doing this.

What we can do to avoid this careless act is to help our community by recycling. If we do this we can save many trees and resources in our environment. Recycling really makes a difference. In addition, we are able to reuse things that would be thrown away. Thank you for your help.

Rosa Serna, Del Sol HS

## A tolerant world

Dear Alicia Cooper,

I am responding to your article in the 'CLASS Magazine' issue of October 2006, volume 13. Your article was on teaching tolerance to teens and to try to give them peace. I really agreed with everything that you said in your article. I really believe that kids/teenagers are motivated to do things very violently towards each other. Especially at my high school, Del Sol. For an example, at the beginning of the school year, we had fights and fights that were reoccurring. Students here seem to me to have a hard time with tolerance and need to get themselves involved in activities other than fighting and all the other nonsense.

That workshop you had mentioned in your article called Bahai Youth Workshop, do teenagers in the Vegas Valley get involved in it? Does this group actually travel and show different nationalities traditions in what they need to do in order to have tolerance?

Well, I would like to know more information about the group of Bahai Youth Workshop so that people at my high school can get involved in that kind of organization. Thanks for your cooperation.

Shonna Flippen, Del Sol HS

## The media and your body

Dear Nancy Nau,

I would like to congratulate you on your article, 'Twisted Image.' I absolutely agree that the percentage of eating disorders has gone up. Part of the problem is the perception the media has on how we should look. If a celebrity or a regular person gains weight, they criticize, and if you're skinny they also criticize. Sometimes there is no way to satisfy other people and sometimes yourself. This is why eating disorders and insecurities develop.

Weight is a big issue for people. We look at magazines and television and all we see are beautiful people with great bodies. Seeing these things sometimes make us think that is how we are supposed to look. Diet follows us our whole lives from when we are little to when we are adults. We also do diet the wrong way, like you mentioned. More women than men choose a weight lower than their ideal weight. For me, a woman who has curves and is at a healthy weight is beautiful. Being so skinny that your bones are showing is not beautiful, nor is it healthy. I think your article did just this, which was show that being skinny is getting out of control. Hopefully with this article people who are going through insecurities and eating disorders will open their eyes and see how being underweight is not healthy. I hope I have expressed my thoughts and likes on your article. Keep up with the wonderful work. Thank you for your time.

Sylvia Rodriguez, Del Sol HS



## Dating dilemma

(In response to the pro/con articles, 'Teenage couples: is casual dating the best, or should teens only date seriously?' published in the October 2006 issue of CLASS! Magazine)

Dear Emma Dewees,

I agree with your stand on teenagers dating. I too think kids in high school should date because dating teaches social skills needed in your life. However, I didn't like the examples you used of guys being like outfits to girls. The reason for why I disagree is because not all girls think of their significant others that way. I say this because I've actually seen teenagers who care and love each other.

What I think should be done to improve this article is change the example to something that won't make the boys who read this mad. The reason for why I say this is because a couple of my friends read it and didn't like it because of the example, so they stopped reading it. Other than that, I agree 100 percent with your viewpoint on teenage dating.

Jose Valderrama, Del Sol HS

Dear Brittany McComb,

You, my friend, are looking at the glass half empty! Love is not something you can read from a book and simply know it. How do you know what's going to happen when you get into a relationship or when you drive to school in the morning? You can't just avoid love, can you? That is why we all take chances and hope for the best.

If you go through life assuming that the outcome of every relationship will end in tears, then you will never really know what love is like. You could have passed up something great. A life lesson even. Coming from someone who has had heartbreaks, I wouldn't have changed it for the world.

Monique Almeida, Del Sol HS



Now that's funny! What's the best comedy on TV today?

## Lead actor makes 'Monk' a hit

by Christina Bazan, Centennial HS

*What's the funniest show on TV? The answer is simple! The television series, 'Monk' is easily one of the best shows being aired on television right now.*

Tony Shalhoub stars as Adrian Monk, an obsessive compulsive but brilliant San Francisco detective. His beloved wife Trudy was murdered in 1997, and he has since suffered from a variety of phobias as well as obsessive-compulsive disorder while trying to find out the murderer of Trudy. Sometimes Monk's fear of disorder may get in the way, but it doesn't prevent him from remaining a local legend.

Natalie Teeger (played by Traylor Howard) is Monk's friend and assistant who helps him out with everything he does. Natalie also lost her husband, which allows her and Monk to share a deep bond. Monk works as a freelance consultant for the police department under the supervision of his former boss, Captain Stottlemeyer (Ted Levine). Stottlemeyer always either admires or respects Monk, or is extremely annoyed with him. Stottlemeyer's second-in-command is Lieutenant Disher (Jason Gray-Stanford).



Only Shalhoub could create such a character as Monk. He is not only perfect for the role, but proves that no one except himself could pull off such a role. In each episode, the viewer is exposed to a wide variety of emotions because of his acting capabilities. He can make you feel sorry for him, and then make you laugh until tears are strolling out of your eyes.

Shalhoub was nominated for the Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series four consecutive times from 2003 to 2006. He won three times - in 2003, 2005 and 2006. He also won a Golden Globe in 2003 and a SAG award in 2004 and 2005. Before he played Monk, Shalhoub was famous for his role in the television series, 'Wings,' as the cab driver, Antonio Scarpacci.

Now that's funny! What's the best comedy on TV today? Part II

## Ensemble cast brings 'The Office' to number one

by Julie Sauer, Centennial HS

*Now into its third season, NBC's award-winning comedy series has proven itself to be the funniest show on television. 'The Office' has not only received three Writers Guild of America nominations, but it also won the Emmy for Best Comedy Series, beating out shows like 'My Name is Earl' and 'Scrubs.'*

'The Office', which airs every Thursday night at 8:30 p.m., is an adaptation of the British program 'The Office,' and was developed for American television by Greg Daniels. The plot is shot like a documentary, showing the daily interactions of the employees of a paper company. Parts of the show are even improvised by the cast. Every character has a very different personality, and they all interact with one another.

Among all the employees, one of the main characters is Steve Carell ('The 40-Year-Old Virgin'), who plays Michael Scott, the idiotic regional manager at the Dunder-Mifflin Paper Company in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In the second season, Scott was 'dating' two women: Jan, an uptight divorcee (and his boss) who tries not to have feelings for him, and his real estate agent, Carol.

Scott thinks of himself as quite a smooth ladies' man. Believing that he is the "world's best boss", he does his best to

run the office as a functioning workplace while maintaining friendly relationships with the people of the office. He's also always trying to grab attention - whether it's getting sympathy over his old boss's untimely death or over his injury sustained from stepping on a George Foreman grill.

*"So I like to wake up to the smell of crackling bacon in the morning. Sue me!"*

Rainn Wilson ('Entourage,' 'My Super Ex-Girlfriend') plays Dwight Schrute, Scott's ever-faithful sidekick and assistant regional manager. Until he decides to "overthrow" Scott in the episode, 'The Coup.' Schrute is secretly dating the rudest woman in the office, a religious woman named Angela. Angela pushed Schrute to tell Jan that he wanted Scott's job.



Jim Halpert (John Krasinski, 'Jarhead') has never been a friend of Schrute, who transferred to the Stamford, Connecticut branch of Dunder-Mifflin. In the first two seasons where they worked together, Halpert constantly played pranks on Schrute, like getting Schrute to hit himself in the head with his own headset, or put his office supplies in Jell-O.

The reason for Halpert's leaving the Scranton office was because after revealing to Pam (Jenna Fischer) that he was in love with her, he was rejected twice. He says it was because of a promotion, but later he told Scott in confidence that the real reason he left was because of Pam. The office just isn't the same without him.

In the end, it's all up to the viewer to decide just what the funniest show on television is. Maybe you should watch both shows yourself and decide!

# Bodies... the exhibition

## an inside look at the inside of the body

by Erin Walsh, class! correspondent

*Lance Burton may take your breath away, the display of Ansel Adams photography at the Bellagio can capture the moment, but the Tropicana's 'Bodies' exhibit is to die for.*

Conceived by Dr. Gunther von Hagens more than 25 years ago, plastination is a method of polymer preservation that keeps the human body from decaying. Since 1995, von Hagens' Body Worlds exhibit has been on tour and stopped at Las Vegas this year. For the first time, the Las Vegas public was able to view what previously only privileged medical researchers and doctors could view: a dissection of a real human body.

Using plastination, a body is first dissected and then dipped in acetone in order to dehydrate it. The specimen is then immersed in silicone and shut in a vacuum chamber where the acetone leaves the body in the form of gas and the polymer (silicone) replaces every tissue and cell. A catalyst is then put onto the cadaver, galvanizing the process and creating a body free from distortion.

The exhibition displays numerous bodies, all of Chinese descent, dissected in a variety of degrees and placed in various poses. One can view the muscles used when shooting a basketball or the intricate details of a man's facial expressions as he conducts an invisible orchestra.

Next to the posed bodies are glass cases with organs, tissues and bones. All of these samples are labeled and have descriptions to explain their functions in every-day life. No textbook or video could show how inextricably linked the lungs and heart are, the heavy arterial supply of the lining of the stomach or the minutiae of the human brain.

There are 60,000 miles of blood vessels in the human body, and this exhibit allows the public to view all of it. Cross-sections portray where the liver is located in connection to the esophagus and spine. The model of the intestines is taller than half the people who view it, accompanied by a description that finally clarifies how peristalsis works. The models of the reproductive system are much more useful than the plastic models P.E. teachers once used in sex education classes. Live models of the

muscles and bones clarify how the body works much more than amorphous diagrams in books or online.

Junior Elizabeth Wiesner suffers from shin splints, a condition found in many long distance runners. By looking at the musculoskeletal specimen, she could clearly see the muscles peeled away from the lower leg bones and was able to pinpoint the source of her pain.

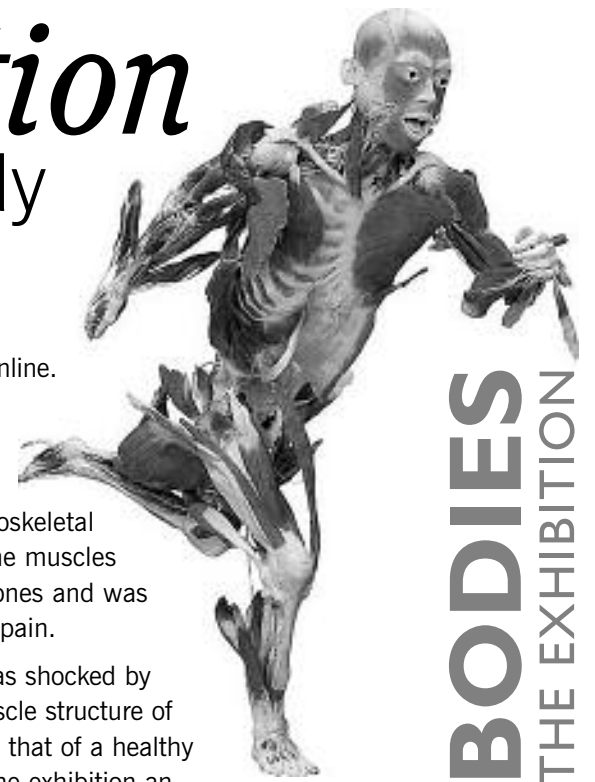
Sixteen-year-old Kelsey Parsons was shocked by the difference in the bone and muscle structure of an overweight person compared to that of a healthy person, and found the models in the exhibition an incentive to stay healthy. She was one of the many visitors whose view on health was impacted by the trenchant models of plastination.

In the Respiratory System Room, many people dropped boxes of cigarettes into a glass crate that was already three-quarters filled with cigarettes. Next to the crate was a glass case. On one side of the case was a pair of healthy lungs; on the other side there was a pair blackened by smoke.

Some people have scorned the idea of using dead bodies in a museum, however. The warning signs of possibly disturbing images surround the entrance of one particular controversial room. It contains models of embryos, the fetus at different stages and babies that are affected by abnormalities such as visceral hernias, anencephal and conjoined twins.

Others embrace von Hagens' goal to create "a museum of man." Most look at the exhibition as an educational opportunity. Many individuals, such as Meadows School instructor Gary Handley, as well as a large handful of employees at Tropicana's exhibition, are considering donating their bodies to polymer preservation in order to provide the same educational opportunity to the curious in the future.

So take the time to drop by the Tropicana. You may discover a thing or two about yourself!



## the new teen scene for rock and roll

by Greg Daluz, Odyssey Charter HS

*The House of Blues at Mandalay Bay has quickly become the home for progressive teen rock bands. Hosting hundreds of concerts a year ranging from hip-hop to rock and roll, and even comedians.*

On March 10, H.O.B. will bring another amazing show demographically marketed toward their highest and most passionate customers, teenagers. Taking Back Sunday, Underoath, and Armor for Sleep will rock the 'blue' house and most likely sell out both the matinee and the night show.

Taking Back Sunday is based out of Long Island, N.Y. As the headlining band, they will be showcasing their third album, Louder Now. I first heard of them in 2004 when they released the album, Where You Want to Be, and I could not get enough of their strong melodies and tag-team style vocals.

*Louder Now was voted 'Album of the Year' by 'Kerrang!' magazine.*

It also earned the band their third cover on 'Alternative Press,' and television appearances on the Nickelodeon show 'Deglassi,' as well as 'The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.' Taking Back Sunday's pounding, thought-provoking, point-counterpoint lyrics will be flowing through your head days after you hear them, and only then will you understand why they are an amazing band.

The band in the two slot is a Christian group by the name of Underoath. Their new album, Define the Great Line, gives out a personal and captivating message that holds nothing back. This band is unique compared to the other two, but is still as talented with just as large a fan-base as Taking Back Sunday. Underoath is in the sub-genre of 'screamo' (scream and emo), and if you question the sound

or popularity of this Christian 'screamo' band, all I can say is, "Give them a shot."

*There is a reason why they are on a tour with such great bands.*

The band that will start the night off is, my personal favorite, Armor for Sleep. They bring originality, passion and a true sense of the feelings of the young adult fans that follow them without question. In early 2005, they released their second album, What To Do When You Are Dead, under producer Machine (Clutch and White Zombies). They perfected their musical process and brought us a lyrically cinematic album that touches on the metaphorical afterlife. This band is good enough to make sure that you do not miss the beginning of the show.

*At 25 bucks a pop, you get the honor of listening to three amazing bands in an essentially safe and fun environment.*



If that does not fit your fancy, then you can go and jump in the mosh pit, which they allow, or make an attempt at crowd surfing and get yourself thrown out — which is also fun, but not as rewarding.

The House of Blues is a rare place that can get household name bands to play in a personal environment for all ages (under 16 require a parent or guardian). Doors open for the matinee show at 2:00 p.m.; the night show opens at 6:00 p.m. If you are a fan of good music and great people, I hope to see you there!



# one-day 'Idol'

Student singer on her way to a professional career

by Jessica Fryman, Liberty HS

At the age of three, Yessika Gamboa danced and sang around her house as ordinary toddlers often do. However, her voice far exceeded ordinary.

With a family in the entertainment industry, they immediately recognized her talent for performing. Gamboa began to participate in pageants, and then switched her talent from dancing to singing.

The first time she competed with her singing talent, she won the Hawaiian Tropics title and the talent competition at the age of four. At 10 years old, Gamboa began working at Harrah's as a singer. She sang different gigs until young performers were no longer allowed due to the new bar in the stage area. Over the years, however, she has earned 43 trophies from various events.

Now a junior at Liberty High School, Gamboa has accomplished more than she ever imagined when she started singing 13 years ago.

**In September, Gamboa was coaxed by family and friends to audition for 'American Idol' in Seattle, Washington.**

She quickly proved that age has no factor in one's talent, and 16-year-old Gamboa received her gold ticket to the next round.

The auditions were held during the span of a few days, and 9,000 people in Seattle alone competed for their chance to be on "American Idol." Contrary to public perception, the contestants didn't sing to television judge personalities Simon, Randy and Paula. The contestants were grouped in fours, and then stepped forward to sing a solo in front of some judges. As the others in her group were asked to leave, Gamboa was told she would advance to the next round. Of the 9,000 people that auditioned, Gamboa was one of 150 contestants that advanced to the second preliminary round.

For the second round, Gamboa and other contestants each sang a solo to Nigel Lythgoe, producer of "American Idol" and "Dancing with the Stars." Lythgoe complimented Gamboa on her voice, but also told her that her "American Idol" journey was over.

"I wasn't there to win. I was just there for the experience," she says. "I wasn't there to compete with anybody. I was just there to compete with myself."

It is Gamboa's perseverance that dominates the progress of her own album. As she writes her own music and lyrics, Gamboa hopes to record between 10 and 17 songs for the CD. So far, her three recorded songs are a love song, a club song and a slow jam.

A major part of Gamboa's culture shines through her music, especially in the two Spanish songs on her demo. She is also working on songs in English and beats in the popular Reggaeton genre.

Aside from her culture, Gamboa's favorite artists Alicia Keys and Lauren Hill also influence her music. But becoming a professional singer takes more than just listening to the music.

**"It takes a lot of time," Gamboa says.**

The countless hours spent on her album have cut Gamboa's social life to shreds. She rarely goes out on weekends and has little time for friends.

"She is constantly singing every single day, whether she's doing her homework or working around the house," says Lisa Valdez, Gamboa's mother.



entertainment!

In an effort to have some fun other than singing, Gamboa makes time for boxing.

"I was always a tough kid and I never let anyone boss me around," she says. "I know how to defend myself."

Although time restraints have kept Gamboa from teaching dance classes at her mother's studio, Smash Dance, she still manages shows and fills in when needed.

Gamboa enjoys both dancing and singing. However her voice is what will likely lead to success in the entertainment business.

"I was born [to sing]," Gamboa says. "From the time I was three years old, when most [were] learning how to talk...I was singing." 1

## Beatles' show a 'lovely' experience

by Lauren Hoenemeyer, Meadows HS

All you need is 'LOVE.' And by that I mean Vegas' new Beatles show, 'LOVE,' which really is all you need. Forget the other Cirque du Soleil shows.

This show takes you on a trip (more like an acid trip) from the Mirage Hotel and Casino to the Beatles era, starting in the 1950s and lasting into their later years. The Beatles tunes are played at high volume as actors perform high-flying acrobatic tricks and the 360-degree rotating stage moves its different pieces like a puzzle — all of which give the show a psychedelic hippie-ness.

The first scene of the show is set in Liverpool during World War II, and quickly progresses into the peace, love and happiness after the war. As 'Drive My Car' plays, crazed 'fans' hop aboard one of the four Volkswagen Beetles used in the performance.

The Beatles are portrayed by four young boys in electric blue and green silhouettes on large screens. One scene is a parody of the cover of Abbey Road with the famous image of the Fab Four on a crosswalk.

Another memorable scene features women dressed in all white flying from the ceiling to the stage and dropping red rose petals from red umbrellas as they glide.

The use of the space between the stage and the ceiling is fully taken advantage of, with almost every act having actors gliding through the air.

This show made me want the Beatles to come back, even though they were way before my time. The show just adds to the timelessness of the legendary Beatles.

The performers are filled with constant energy, depicting Beatles rollerblading on half pipes in the middle of the show to trampoline artists who perform on trampolines disguised as British telephone booths. The creativity literally had people on the edge of their seats, since characters come from every direction and all angles of the room.

The success of the act comes from the interaction with the audience, the never-thought-possible stunts and visuals and the 'LOVE' of the Beatles. An usher at the show told me the show had been sold out for two weeks, which meant my boyfriend and I had to sit an aisle apart. But even though we did not get to sit right next to each other, I still felt the love of the Beatles show. And so did the many people in my section, including the middle-aged woman sitting next to me who cried during a few touching scenes. The fact that I sat next to an older people, and that I am sixteen, shows the wide range of appeal this show has. A sold-out show for weeks to come, it appears that Las Vegas loves the Beatles, too 1

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## Vegan in Vegas

by Cassie Hopster, Foothill HS

When people hear the word “vegan,” they often think of a hippie in a commune chanting about animal rights. But veganism has become much more mainstream over the past few years as more and more teenagers make the decision to follow a lifestyle that avoids all animal products.

Strict vegans tend not to eat or drink any dairy products, or anything else that comes from animals. This includes milk, cheese and eggs in addition to meat and poultry products.

Though it is similar to a vegetarian diet, vegans are stricter in what they will and will not eat. But can cutting out essential proteins and nutrients that human bodies are designed to consume really be that healthy?

*“I have been vegan for two and a half years now,” says senior Joanna Derby. “I have not had one health problem and I enjoy it. I feel much healthier.”*

The decision to become a vegan should still be researched and fully understood before one takes the plunge. If teens are not fully educated about the vegan diet, they may be at a greater risk for eating disorders than their meat-eating peers because of the limits on what they consume.

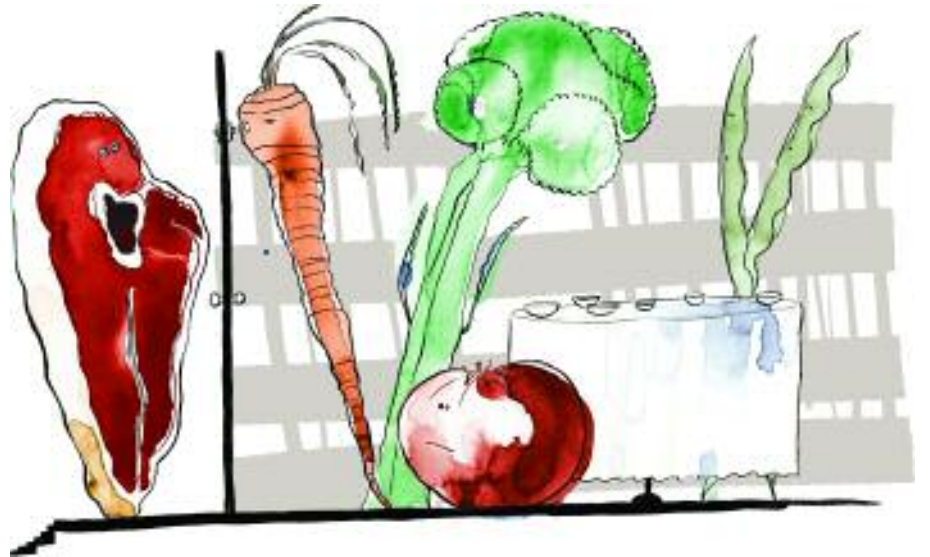
However, Jessica Mills doesn’t view the diet as limiting at all.

*“I am vegan, and I always find something good to eat,” she says.*

Derby also had little trouble transitioning into a vegan diet, which she started as a sophomore.

*“My sister, being a vegan, encouraged me to try it – though it was hard to say no when more than half the food in my house was the stuff she eats when following her diet,” says Derby.*

## In the land of megabuffets, teens take animals off the menu



Derby follows her diet strictly and feels “cleaner” and more comfortable with herself. She also owns two pigs and says it is “disturbing” watching others eat animals.

Vegan Dominique Seinfeld agrees.

*“It just disgusts me that people live by eating dead animals,” she says. “Animals have lives just like us, so why do people hurt and kill them when there are other, non-animal-related foods?”*

It seems that the decision to go vegan is more about one’s personal lifestyle than about just giving up a kind of cuisine. But while it may be “disturbing” for vegans to watch non-vegans eat animal products, meat-eating teens agree that it is still healthy and normal to get what your body needs to survive from meat as well as other foods 🍌

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# That'll be **1,340** calories and **112** grams of fat – please pull up to the next window

by Kerstin Kent, Faith Lutheran HS

McDonalds, Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) and Taco Bell are regular stops for many high school students. Between school, homework, the constant pressure of college, extracurricular activities and work, fast food may seem like the easy way for them to get their meals squeezed in.

Not only is it fast, it's always available. Fast food restaurants are everywhere. According to the American Dietetic Association, there's more than 350,000 of them spread out between California and Maine, which makes it even easier for teens to slip a fast food run into their routines.

*"I'll eat at Baja Fresh once a month, but I'm at Starbucks every other day, ordering a Pomegranate Frappacino,"*

says Khadige Keita of Durango High School.

*"The Number Two with grilled onions at In-N-Out is my favorite. I'm there like once a month,"*

Faith Lutheran student Ali Williams says.

*"The best fast food restaurant? Totally Weinerschnitzal. I only go once a month, but I always get the chili cheeseburger, chili cheese hot dog and chili cheese fries,"*

says Addie Castleman of UNR.

Everyone knows fast food isn't the best option, but every once in a while it's unavoidable. The best thing to do when giving in to the craving is ordering the lower fat and lower calorie options that do exist. It's not as hard as it may seem.

## Taco Bell

Eating at Taco Bell about once a week, Karrington Montgomery of Palo Verde High School usually orders

*"a chicken quesadilla, Mexican pizza with sour cream and a chicken soft taco with sour cream."*

But ordering a Taco Bell item "Fresco Style" instead replaces any sauce or

cheese on the item with the Fiesta Salsa, which is prepared fresh daily and has only five calories per serving and no fat. This is one healthier alternative that fast food restaurants are beginning to offer, and it does make a difference on the amount of fat and calories a teenager consumes.

For example, according to tacobell.com, the Beef Crunchy Taco has 150 calories and 7 grams of fat when ordered "Fresco Style", as opposed to the 10 grams of fat and 170 calories it has originally. Ordering items without sour cream will also cut back on calorie intake.

Good choices at Taco Bell include any taco or a Gordita, which contain less than 300 calories per serving, or a grilled chicken burrito. Not-so-good choices would include the Grilled Stuff Burritos, Zesty Chicken Border Bowl, Nachos BellGrande and the Southwest Steakbowl, which all contain between 680 and 780 calories per serving.

## Snack ideas to keep in your car/purse...

- trail mix
- dried fruit
- peanuts
- raisins/raisins
- whole wheat crackers
- granola bars
- fig bars
- healthy, fiber-rich or grain cereal
- fruit bars
- rice crisps

## Wendy's

At Wendy's, the Big Bacon Classic burger, Chicken Club sandwich, Chicken BLT sandwich, Taco Supreme salad and Great Biggie fries contain between 470 and 670 calories per serving. Also avoid the baked potato with bacon and cheese, according to WebMD's registered dietitian, Kathleen Zelman.

A small Chili (210 calories) or a Grilled Chicken Sandwich without mayonnaise (300 calories) are better choices there. A Grilled Chicken Fillet with no mayonnaise, a Jr. Hamburger or Jr. Cheeseburger don't contain too many calories either.

## Burger King

Keep it simple. At Burger King, order the Whopper Jr. without mayonnaise and come in just under 310 calories. The five-piece chicken tenders with barbeque or sweet and sour sauce fall just short of 300 calories. The Broiler chicken sandwich without mayonnaise is also a healthy choice.

Stay away from the regular and double Whopper sandwiches. A double Whopper with cheese and mayonnaise packs in 1,101 calories and 67 grams of fat. It's best to avoid King fries and shakes as well.

## KFC

KFC has many healthier meal options. An Original Recipe Sandwich without sauce contains 360 calories, the Honey BBQ Sandwich only 310 and Colonels Crispy Strips (3 pieces) only have 300 calories. Mashed potatoes with gravy, macaroni and cheese, corn on the cob and barbeque baked beans all come in under 200 calories each.

To live a healthy lifestyle, avoid fast food whenever possible. Many of the ingredients used in fast food meals still aren't the best for a teenager's health, even with the lower calories and fat grams. But when there is no other option or that fix feels unavoidable, ask for a nutritional pamphlet or check nutrition facts online, go with fewer condiments and just be sensible when choosing portion sizes. These are choices all people can make to help their bodies and satisfy their minds.

## When ordering, remember...

- Go without sour cream and mayonnaise
- Only use half the salad dressing packet, or get fat free
- Order sauce and dressing on the side
- Get a whole wheat roll/bun/bread, if possible
- Order fruit or yogurt for dessert
- Get vegetables with a baked potato instead of cheese, butter and sour cream
- Order the smallest size available – do not super size
- Ask for water, unsweetened tea or low-fat milk instead of soda
- Order food to go
- Don't put extra salt on your foods
- Order your Starbucks drink without whipped cream

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HandHeart by Kerstin Kent, Faith Lutheran HS

## Head over foot cream in L-♥-V-E

by Gregan Wingert, Las Vegas HS

Dear Gregan,

When you asked for stories of romantically challenged gift-givers I could not help but think of my boyfriend Sander. To fully understand my situation and the reason why I received such gifts as an electric bug zapper and a solar power flashlight, I have to start from the beginning.

It was a dark and stormy night. Not really, I just always wanted to say that. No, actually it was the first day of seventh grade. I know, I know, a little young, but what can I say? We were fools and we fell in love. Anyway, he sat behind me and told me that he liked the scent of my perfume. He asked me if it was the new cocoa-mocha-honeycream-candycorn-mint. I remember saying, "How did you know?" and our relationship blossomed from there. You are probably bored out of your mind after hearing all this mush, so let me get to the juicy stuff.

On our first Valentine's Day as a couple, Sander gave me a huge box; he said it was full of gifts and that each one had a special meaning. He also said that to build up "the moment" I would have to wait until I got home to open it. That entire day I carried the big brown box that was big enough for my five-year-old sister to live in (come to think of it, that might not have been such a bad idea). It seemed that all day long everyone had asked me, "Who is that from?" and I was proud and eager to say it was from my boyfriend. My eagerness quickly dissolved when I open the box to discover it full of useless items worthy of a yard sale. I was devastated. Inside were the items listed as follows:

1. A bug zapper
2. A solar power flashlight
3. The book, How to Become Smarter for Dummies
4. A Buff Billy's exercise video
5. Foot fungi cream
6. Facial hair remover
7. Anti-aging cream
8. A pink make-up kit (I hate pink!)
9. A box of Tic-Tacs
10. An inflatable toilet seat

In all my heartache I decided to break up with him, but I did not want to do it over the phone because I wanted to make a scene. So I had to wait until the next day of school. Until then I vented. I tore up every picture of us and destroyed all his e-mails, letters, faxes, cards, grams, postcards, love notes and Post-its that he had ever sent me.

### Near the very end of my tantrum I did the most horrible thing imaginable.

Yes, that is right. I deleted his number from my cell phone. The very last thing I thought to do was trash the presents in the "break-up box." Dun, dun, dun! So I went and fiercely tipped over the box dumping out the remains of our finished relationship.

When I did this, however, I discovered something incredible: a hand-made macaroni card. I opened up the card and read the message inside that said, "Shelly you may be wondering why I gave you all these useless items worthy of a yard sale, but they all have a double meaning. I gave you a bug zapper because I always want to be there to squish anything that is bothering you. The solar power flashlight is because without you I would be in the dark. The book, because you are the smartest blonde I know. The video, because even though you say you are fat, you know you are not. The fungi and hair removers are because you do not need to remove anything from your head to your toes. The anti-aging cream is because, in my eyes, you are forever young. The make-up kit is because you do not need to wear makeup to be beautiful. The Tic Tacs are because you know you need 'em. And I added in the inflatable toilet seat to make you laugh."

That is the end of my story. Sander and I have been dating for five years now, and he still has not forgiven me for erasing his number.

Your avid reader,

*Shelly Waters*



Studying for Exams by Kelsey Anderson, Green Valley HS

## A Funeral of Rain

by Shawn Robert Hoffman, Mojave HS

Silence falls upon the crowd,  
 As the wooden box is rolled in,  
 Darkened by a screaming cloud,  
 The ceremony will now begin.

A name known to all,  
 Not spoken, for its owner not here,  
 In with the box, that name will fall,  
 Along with it, darkened clouds of fear.

Those clouds bring sadness, sorrow, and pain,  
 The heavens open up from above,  
 Pouring down, blistering, unforgiving rain.

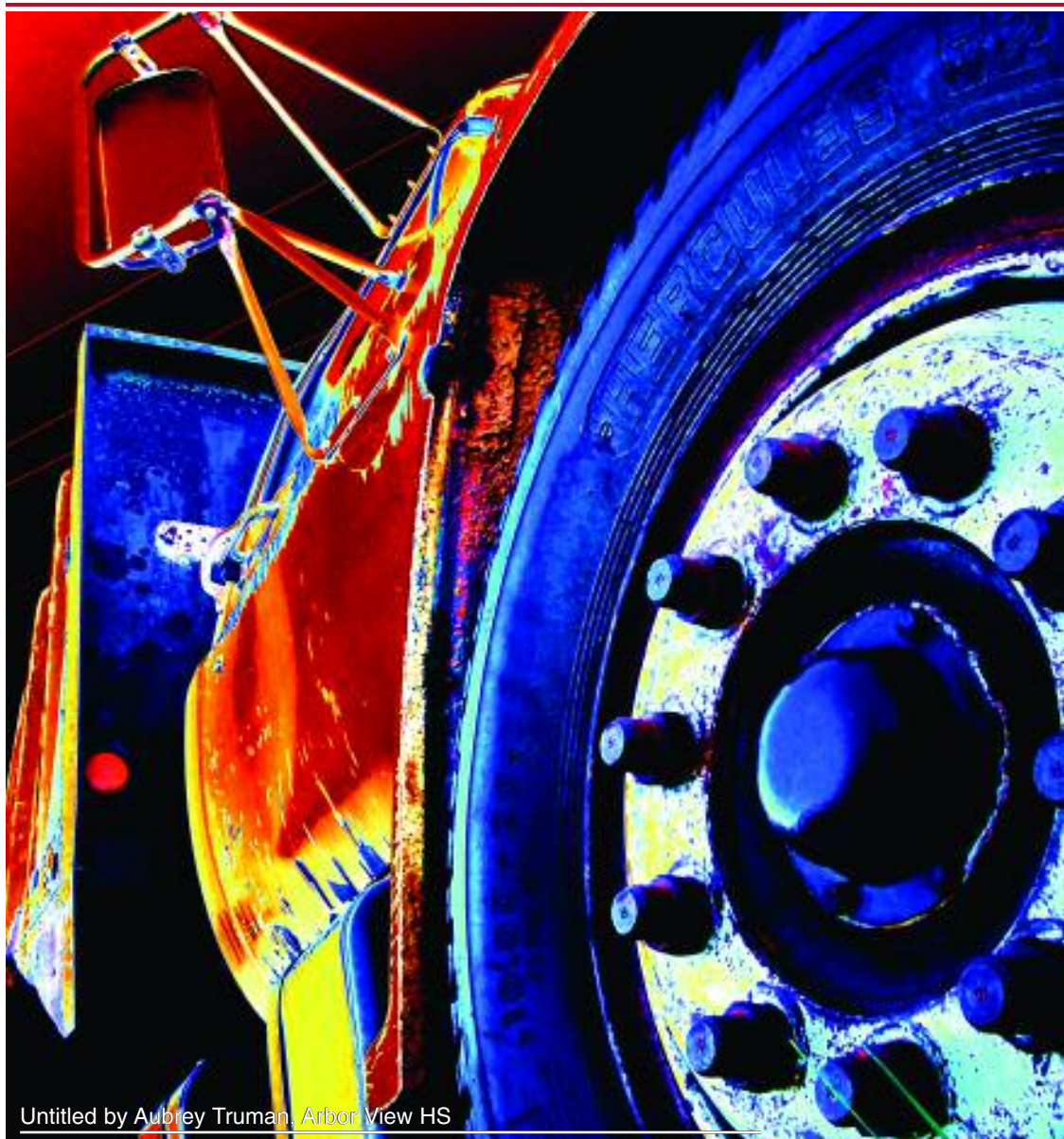
He lost his life, helping them all,  
 People gather, they to feel the rain,  
 Against his coffin, beating their fists they call,  
 Out in rage, shouting, screaming his name.

Lowered into the ground, he has now become,  
 Lost to the world, a person so strong,  
 Low ant towards the ground, their heads are hung,  
 In pain they will stay, for so very long.

Done his best, the last words to say,  
 He lay in peace, but now not lost,  
 It is now, the end of the day,  
 Buried now, in a padded box.

The rain goes on throughout the night,  
 The gathered go home, try to carry on,  
 A few stay, and watch in fright,  
 As no one speaks his name, he's gone.

Dedicated to the friends and family of D.K.



Untitled by Aubrey Truman, Arbor View HS



Monkeying Around by Farah Minwalla, Palo Verde HS

## Me

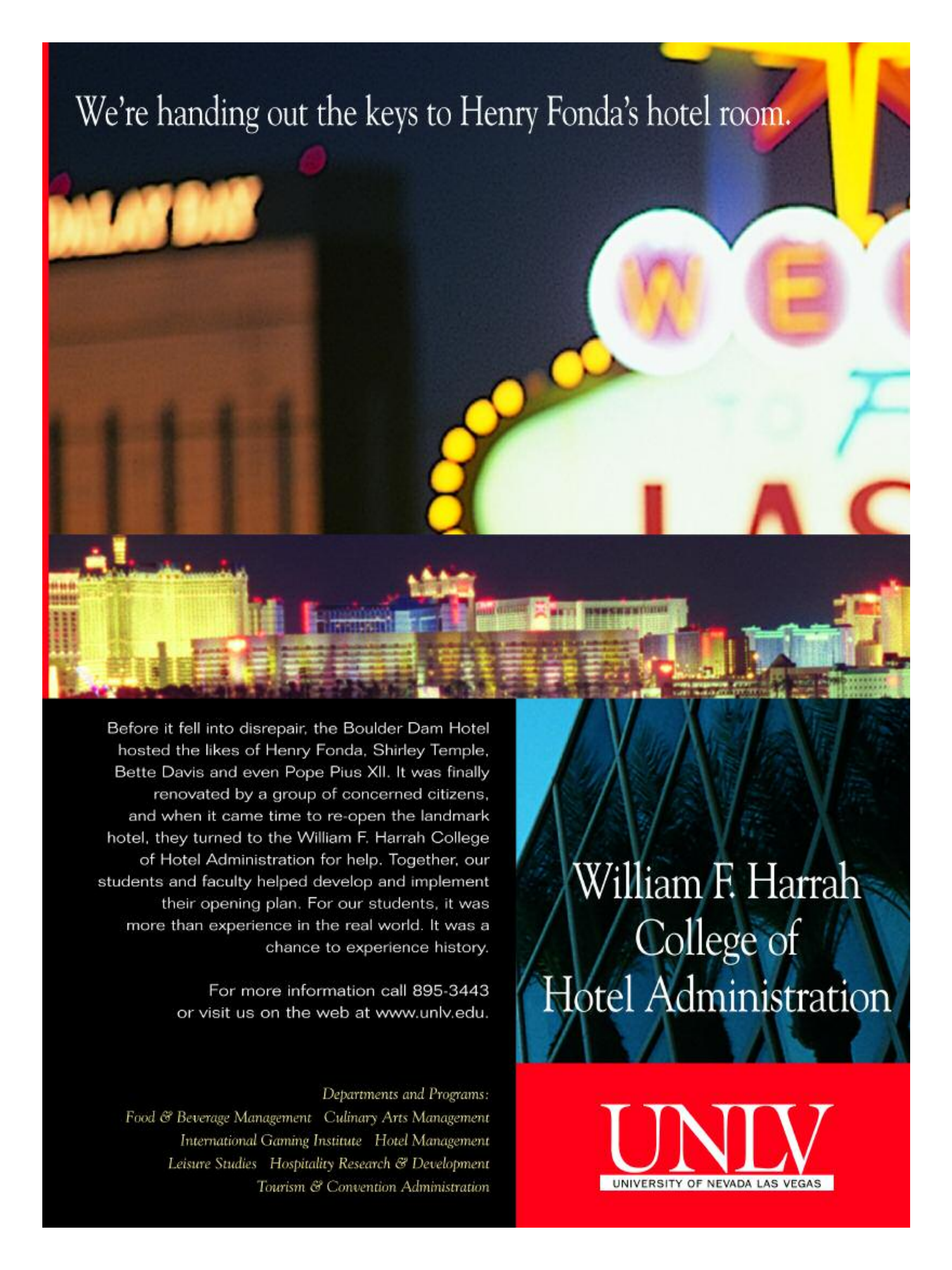
by Mishelle Holzberger, Mojave HS freshman

### Me

My only friend  
 Yet the only one who criticizes me  
 I am just another one of the confused in the crowd  
 Am I noticed?  
 And of those who notice me  
 Do they care?  
 My family  
 The black cloud  
 Which overshadows my every happy thought  
 My friends  
 The quicksand in my jungle of dreams, fantasies, and hopes  
 Pulling and holding me down

### Me

My only friend  
 Yet the only one who criticizes me.



We're handing out the keys to Henry Fonda's hotel room.

Before it fell into disrepair, the Boulder Dam Hotel hosted the likes of Henry Fonda, Shirley Temple, Bette Davis and even Pope Pius XII. It was finally renovated by a group of concerned citizens, and when it came time to re-open the landmark hotel, they turned to the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration for help. Together, our students and faculty helped develop and implement their opening plan. For our students, it was more than experience in the real world. It was a chance to experience history.

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## “Es porque estoy gorda”

por Gregan Wingert, Las Vegas High School

El estar pasada de peso nunca ha perjudicado mis estudios en la escuela ni me ha puesto barreras para alcanzar mis propósitos; pero socialmente, el estar gordita es algo que he tenido que enfrentar toda mi vida. Cada vez que me miro al espejo o que me pongo mis jeans, me acuerdo de cuánto peso. Cada vez que algún chico me dice que “no” me pregunto “será porque estoy gorda?”

Actualmente peso 260 libras. Mido 5 pies y 10 pulgadas y todo está distribuido por igual, pero a comparación con otras jóvenes de mi escuela, me siento gigante. Yo sé que estar pasada de peso es malo para la salud, pero aunque no lo crean, la ensalada es uno de mis platos favoritos. Y no, no conozco a Ronald McDonald en persona. Yo casi no como comida rápida y cuando lo hago, no pido ni las papas más grandes y ni bebida más grande.

Estoy tranquila porque sé que como saludable y soy activa. Trato de no obsesionarme con encajar en el molde de lo que es considerado bello en la sociedad de hoy y no dejo de comer para estar súper delgada; aunque hubo un periodo en mi vida donde me sentía muy mal y le eché la culpa a mi cuerpo.

Yo sé que tampoco soy la única que se ha sentido así ya que todo lo que vemos hoy en día nos recuerda el tamaño de nuestro cuerpo: programas como Weight Watchers o Jenny Craig o cualquier

píldora que se inventan. Nuestra sociedad nos recuerda que no somos suficientemente buenos o bonitos y que debemos hacer algo para que nos sintamos superiores a los demás.

Thurman, estudiante del último año y quien prefiere ser referida solo por su apellido, pesa 160 libras y ha tenido problemas con su peso desde la escuela primaria.

**Thurman sufría de bulimia. Cuando tenía 7 años vio en televisión un programa donde hablaban de esta enfermedad y explicaban sus pasos.**

**Thurman dice, “Pensé que si introducías tu dedo en tu garganta, te volvías delgada.” En ese momento Thurman no sabía que el show era para prevenir a la juventud de las complicaciones de esta enfermedad.**

Durante sus estudios primarios y de escuela media, Thurman se forzaba a ella misma a devolver la comida después de ingerirla. Ella también tenía una amiga que era bulímica y entonces pensó que su amistad era como un apoyo y una aprobación para seguirlo haciendo.

Thurman siguió luchando con la bulimia hasta el segundo año en la preparatoria. “Fue ahí cuando me di cuenta que debía amarme a mí misma tal y cómo soy,” dice ella al enterarse de que su salud era mucho más importante que verse delgada para los demás. Y aunque la bulimia paró, Thurman se volvió adicta a las píldoras para bajar de peso.

En muchas ocasiones Thurman no encontró apoyo en sus amigos. Cuando ellos trataban de ayudarla, todo terminaba en una pelea y ellos, enojados, la llamaban “gorda” independientemente de que pensarán si lo era o no.

Ella dice que ellos lo hacían porque sabían que eso le iba a doler más que cualquiera otra cosa.

En el caso de Thurman, ella le echa la culpa a sus padres, especialmente a su madre. “Siento como si ella examinara cada bocado que me metía a la boca,” dice Thurman explicando cómo su madre se preocupa por su peso más que en ella misma. Y aunque dice que sus padres tienen mucho que ver con su problema, también cree que las niñas con estos problemas son influenciadas por la sociedad.

**“Todas queremos ser delgadas porque son las flacas las que tienen más éxito en nuestra sociedad,” dice Thurman.**

Actualmente Thurman ya no sufre de bulimia pero dice que no ha podido acabar con el problema del todo.

“Estoy leyendo muchos libros de autoayuda, pero de todas maneras cuando como algo por fuera, me siento culpable.” Y aunque ha logrado mucho, se sigue sintiendo grande y por eso se cubre mucho aunque esté haciendo mucho calor.

“En el verano me gustaría vestirme distinto, pero creo que ninguna de esas prendas me servirá entonces no me queda más que ponerme cosas grandes.”

El caso de Thurman suena dramático, pero en es realidad muy común entre las jóvenes de la secundaria. Los desordenes alimenticios son la tercera causa de enfermedades crónicas entre las adolescentes. Yo pienso que todos deberíamos ser tratados de la misma manera independientemente del tamaño de nuestros cuerpos. En vez de traumatizar o burlarse de una persona que está pasada de peso, invitémosla a ser más social. Motivémosla a que hagan parte de un grupo que de apoyo.

Y para aquellos que piensan que no podrán alcanzar sus sueños por esas libritas de más... no dejes que esto te marque tu vida. Alcanza tus metas y demuéstrole a los demás lo importante que eres! 📌

## iGana \$\$\$! iParticipa en el concurso de poesía que CLASS! está patrocinando!

Necesitas dinero... ¿para comprar un regalo? ¿Para pagar una deuda? ¿Para ir de compras con tus amigos?

No hay otra manera más fácil de ganar dinero. Simplemente anímate y escríbenos. No necesariamente tienes que estar enamorado para escribir versos... expresa tus emociones hacia la vida, la guerra, la paz... lo que tu quieras, el tema es libre.

¿Cuáles son las reglas?

- Debes ser un estudiante del noveno al doceavo grado.
- Tienes hasta el **3 de abril** para enviarnos tu poema. (Poemas recibidos después de esta fecha serán eliminados)
  - El poema debe ser escrito en **español y propio** (Poemas no originales serán eliminados)
  - No hay límite de líneas y el tema es libre (Por favor no se limiten a escribir poemas de amor)
  - Máximo de **dos** poemas por persona.

¿Cuáles son los premios?

- Primer puesto: **\$125**  
Segundo puesto: **\$60**  
Tercer puesto: **\$40**

¿Qué tengo que hacer?

Escribe tu nombre, edad, escuela, grado y tu correo electrónico junto con tu poema y envíalo a:

Lina Hernández  
CLASS! Publications  
Box 451025  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025

O envía un correo electrónico a:  
classdiganos@unlv.edu

**Nota:** por favor no te olvides de mandar tus datos personales, sobretodo tu correo electrónico, porque si ganas, queremos tener el gusto de poder comunicártelo. Comentale a todos tus amigos sobre el concurso de poesía y de lo que se pueden ganar. ¡Estando esperando tus poemas!

## San Valentín no es un santo: en cosas del amor todos sufrimos por igual por Lina Hernández, Editora de Díganos

Para celebrar el día de San Valentín siempre hablamos del amor y hacemos cosas que nos alegran el alma, pero jamás hablamos del lado gris de la historia: como por ejemplo lo que se siente cuando terminas con tu novio o novia y por lo que tienes que pasar mientras te recuperas del golpe.

Muchas de las relaciones terminan por engaños, mentiras o por otras de esas cosas que a nadie le gusta recordar. Hay otras en cambio, que terminan porque... bueno, porque sencillamente se tienen que terminar y los dos están de acuerdo con ello. Nosotras las mujeres ya tenemos fama y nos conocen como aquellas que se la pasan horas y horas llorando, viendo fotos, escuchando la canción que nos recuerda a él y un sin fin de cosas más. Pero, ¿cómo hacen los hombres para verse tan fuertes en un momento tan difícil? ¿Será que nunca nos quisieron y por eso no lloran como nosotras?

Entonces, algunas llegan a la conclusión que los hombres de por sí saben controlarse y manejan bien la separación. Pero según un artículo que leí en Internet recientemente, los hombres podrían ser muy parecidos a nosotras en cuanto a eso. A ellos también les duele. Ellos también nos extrañan y muchos también toman los mismos rituales nuestros.

Ahora, después de la separación vienen una serie de errores que cometemos todos, tanto nosotras como ellos. De estas cosas no se salva nadie. Por eso, el autor de este artículo creó unas reglas las cuales deberíamos seguir todos.

La primera regla requiere que no tengamos ningún contacto con nuestros "ex" una vez hayamos terminado con ellos. Esa frase de "seremos solo amigos," puede que funcione... pero solo unos meses después de la ruptura.

Mientras tanto, cero contacto. Nada, cero, nothing. La segunda regla es la siguiente: la mejor manera de predecir el comportamiento futuro es mirar el comportamiento del pasado. Mejor dicho, pregúntate algo. ¿Por qué terminé con esta persona? ¿Cuál fue la causa? Cuando sepas la respuesta piensa que si pasó una vez, puede pasar dos veces y pero aún, puede seguir pasando. Recuerda que las cosas que haces con desespero no terminan bien.

La tercera regla concluye las otras dos ya que te aconseja a terminar las cosas suavemente y en definitiva, a borrar todo aquello que te lleve a recordar, a ver, o a llamar a esa persona. Ya tendrán el tiempo de ser amigos otra vez pero por ahora lloremos lo que tenemos que llorar y déjenlos a ellos también llorar. Borra sus correos electrónicos y su teléfono de tu celular.

Muchos dicen que los hombres tienen una vida fuera de la relación mientras que para nosotras ellos son nuestra vida. Entonces ahí está tu respuesta: en vez de enfocarnos en los pequeños detalles, deberíamos hacer cosas divertidas que nos hagan ser independientes. Así, cuando estemos solas, no se nos caerá el mundo encima y seguiremos haciendo cosas que nos divierten. Abre la puerta y deja que algo bueno entre por ahí. Y recuerda que en cosas del amor, todos sufrimos por igual!



## La nueva tecnología del Nintendo, 'Wii'

Por Conner Graves, Arbor View High School



Este año el Nintendo sacó al mercado lo más nuevo en tecnología y en juegos: el Wii. Este aparato ha estado en las noticias por varios meses. En su paquete encontrarás el control que parece un

control remoto de televisión, juegos que se basan en el movimiento y la sensación, y lo nuevo de Zelda. Y a pesar que este juego ya salió a la venta, los estantes de las tiendas permanecen completamente vacíos. ¡El Wii se vende como pan caliente!

La única posibilidad de que alguien lo tenga en sus manos ahora es que se hayan parado en línea por fuera de la tienda el día que empezaron a venderlos. Por suerte mi hermana fue una de esas personas que alcanzó a comprarlo y ahora yo puedo jugar cuantas veces yo quiera. Lo primero que puedo decir del Wii es que apenas tomes el control, sientes algo extraño que te hace sonreír como nunca antes.

¿Cómo funciona el Wii? Viene con el control y con una barra negra que cabe arriba del televisor. El control y el censor funcionan a la misma vez para saber a que dirección y cuándo el control se está moviendo. Esta función es lo que más me llama la atención y en mi opinión, el mejor elemento a la hora de jugar video-juegos.



***"Me gusta el Wii porque es divertido e innovador. Es jugar video-juegos de una manera que nadie antes había experimentado."***

*Massimo Zaretti, estudiante de UNLV.*

La consola viene con 10 juegos: algunos originales y otros ya existentes en otros sistemas. Algunos de los juegos más interesantes del Wii son los de deporte, ya que los participantes tienen que moverse y jugar como si lo estuviesen haciendo de verdad y al aire libre.

Este será un gran éxito para Nintendo, ya que se demoraron casi 10 años en sacar al mercado un juego tan interesante y tan bueno como este. En los años anteriores habían sacado otras consolas que pasaron a ser infantiles y demasiado predecibles. Pero ahora, el futuro del Wii se ve brillante y despejado.



# ¿Estamos seguros en nuestras escuelas?

por Cassandra Steel, Eldorado High School

¿Sabes si tu escuela es tan segura como lo piensas? En nuestra escuela, Eldorado, se han presentado algunos incidentes violentos últimamente. Los agentes de seguridad de la escuela confiscaron muchas armas de varios estudiantes. ¿Qué hubiese pasado si no se hubieran encontrado esas armas? Posiblemente algo malo... alguien herido o hasta muerto. Y ésta no es la primera vez que pasa algo así.

La violencia en las escuelas es un tema difícil de entender. No existe explicación del por qué los estudiantes son tan violentos. Seguramente están tratando de copiar la violencia que ven en las calles, en los video-juegos o hasta en las películas.

Las burlas son un problema bastante grande en las escuelas. Los estudiantes que se sienten mal porque otros se burlan de ellos tienden a sacar su enojo de una manera violenta, tratando de hacerle daño a alguien o a ellos mismos. ¿Recuerdas la historia de la preparatoria Columbine en Littleton, Colorado? Quince personas resultaron muertas y otras 23 quedaron heridas por dos estudiantes que se sentían mal de que todos se burlaran de ellos.

**¿Será que queremos que esto pase en Las Vegas? ¿En la escuela Eldorado? No lo creo.**

Necesitamos encontrar una manera de parar toda esta violencia. La escuela debe ser un lugar para que los estudiantes nos sintamos seguros. Pero ahora los estudiantes

tienen que pensarlo dos veces antes de asistir. Hay quienes se preocupan de lo que les pueda pasar en las escuelas. De hecho, un reporte reciente dice que el 11 por ciento de los estudiantes varones han portado armas en el último mes.

**El cinco por ciento de estos estudiantes dicen que prefirieron faltar a clase al menos un día porque no se sentían seguros en su escuela.**

Esperemos que los padres y los líderes del distrito escolar se sigan preocupando por lo que pasa en nuestras escuelas en el diario vivir. Los adultos necesitan hablar con los jóvenes y preguntarles lo que pasa. Tal vez así, el distrito escolar del Condado de Clark pueda ser un lugar seguro para todos otra vez!



¡Digamos!

# El hambre amenaza con acabar a los hispanos de bajos recursos

por Alicia Cooper, Clark HS

Nuestro país es internacionalmente conocido como un país que está en constante movimiento para tener siempre lo mejor, pero a medida que pasa el tiempo vamos dejando cosas esenciales en el ayer. Lo que se nos ha olvidado es que nuestro mundo tiene hambre. Y unas provisiones insuficientes de comida nutritiva además de la pobreza, se están volviendo problemas demasiado complicados para nosotros y para los demás países en desarrollo.

Y ahora este problema amenaza con aumentar el déficit de salud y dinero para el grupo con mayor crecimiento en el país: los hispanos.

Según un artículo publicado en "The Washington Post," se reportó que casi uno de cada cinco hispanos no tiene acceso a un buen sistema alimenticio y uno de cada 20 se mueren de hambre.

Ya la pobreza se considera un factor determinante en el límite de comida que se les ofrece a los hispanos. Más de un 40 por ciento de los hogares hispanos fueron catalogados como escasos de alimentos. Casi un 30 por ciento de niños de bajos recursos entre uno y seis años sufren de hambre en algún momento de sus vidas. Y cerca de un 40 por ciento de hispanos nacidos en otros países tienen problemas al tratar de ser parte de algún sistema alimenticio gubernamental.

Se dice que el hambre es más común en países tercermundistas y países en desarrollo. Y como a este problema no se le da suficiente atención en los medios, no



Alimentan los niños subalimentados en un centro privado de la salud para los niños subalimentados

sabemos de lo que se necesita para ayudar a la comunidad latina de nuestro país. Somos inconscientes de que este problema puede acabar con las vidas de muchos.

Inclusive, muchos hispanos no tienen idea de los programas que les puede ayudar y muchos no cumplen con los requisitos para que se les ofrezcan estos beneficios. Además, muchas familias siguen muriéndose de hambre por miedo a que estos servicios no sean más que una trampa para deportarlos a sus países.

No podemos abolir el hambre en un solo día, pero sí podemos trabajamos fuerte para sacar este problema a la luz y para que la gente pueda ayudar a controlar esto que ha venido acabando con nuestra nación y el mundo por décadas. Aunque tal vez jamás podamos acabarlo de raíz, el primer paso para todo problema es aceptar que existe!

**¿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](mailto: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.



# Si no lo sabes... aquí lo tienes: entérate de alguna información interesante e importante.

El 52 por ciento de los estadounidenses piensan que conseguir una buena vida es tener dos carros

*El 29 por ciento de quienes trabajan tiempo completo dicen que trabajan más de 40 horas a la semana.*

El 12 por ciento de estadounidenses dicen que no salen a vacaciones en todo el año.

*El 48 por ciento de estadounidenses dicen que comprarían medicina por correo de otros países solo por ahorrar dinero.*

El 26 por ciento de quienes juegan video-juegos son mujeres mayores de 18 años.

*El 77 por ciento de las mujeres en el mundo dicen que los productos de belleza son una necesidad y no un lujo.*

El 15 por ciento de las mujeres en Estados Unidos dicen que para maquillarse se toman menos de 10 minutos.

*Un poco más de un millón de cirugías se llevan a cabo cada año en las clínicas del país.*

En el año 2001, se hicieron 57 millones de llamadas al 911 desde teléfonos celulares.

*Al menos 1 extinguidor es recomendado por cada 600 pies cuadrados.*

El 78 por ciento de los hogares en este país poseen más de un set de televisión.

*Tres libras de comida come una mujer saludable por día.*

Fuente: Health Magazine, edición de marzo de 2004

## Sin explicación...

Tratando una madre de explicarle a su pequeño hijo qué es un milagro, le dice:

¿Qué sería si te caes de un quinto piso y no te pasa nada?

- Suerte — responde el hijo.

¿Y si caes otra vez y no te vuelve a pasar nada?

- Eso es *buenísima* suerte

¿Y si vuelves a caer una vez más y no te vuelve a pasar nada ¿qué es?

- Práctica

## Más inteligente

El padre le dice a su hijo:

Hijo mío, acuérdate de George Washington. Cuando él tenía tu edad, era el primero de la clase.

- Sí, papi. Y cuando él tenía la tuya, era presidente de los Estados Unidos.

En clase:

Pepito, dime cinco cosas que contengan leche.

- Cinco vacas, señorita.

## Los niños y sus chistes

Dos niños platicaban en la calle mientras los escuchaba una señora. Uno de ellos decía:

- No se dice "yo no sabo" mento. Se dice "iyo no sepo!"

En eso la señora interviene y en tono amable les dice:

- No, así tampoco se dice.

Entonces ¿cómo se dice?

- "Yo no sé"

¡Ah! ¡Entonces para qué se mete señora metiche!

## En el cielo

Después de medio siglo de matrimonio, él muere, y al poco tiempo después ella también. En el cielo, ella encuentra al marido y corre hasta donde él y le dice:

- ¡Queriiiiidooooo! ¡Qué bueno encontrarte!

Y él responde:

- ¡No me vengas cosas! El contrato fue clarito: ¡i hasta que la muerte nos separe!!

# Agenda Comunitaria

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

## Eventos para febrero

### Materiales para el Festival Mundial de Tiro al Arco

El Hotel y Casino Riviera tendrá un show de comercio donde podrá encontrar todo lo que necesita para el festival del tiro al arco en Atlantic City. Todo esto con un descuento especial para los participantes. Llame al 1-800-811-2331 para más información.

### La celebración del mes de la Herencia Afro americana



A finales del mes de febrero, usted podrá disfrutar de comida y entretenimiento en Neonopolis para celebrar el mes de la herencia con la familia Fitzgerald del Hotel y Casino Fitzgerald's. Llame al 1-800-274-LUCK para más información.

### Cuerpos... al natural

Evento: 'Cuerpos... La Exhibición.'

Día(s): abierto todos los días.

Hora: 10 a.m. a 10 p.m. Lugar: 3801 S. Las Vegas Boulevard. En el Hotel y Casino Tropicana. Teléfono: (702) 739-2411. Precios: \$24 admisión general, \$22 personas mayores de 60 años, \$21 para los residentes de Nevada y \$16 para los niños entre los 4 y los 16 años.

### Ciencia atómica en Nevada

Evento: 'Explore la historia local, nacional e internacional de la ciencia atómica en Nevada.'

Día(s): de lunes a sábado. Hora: 9 a.m. a 5 p.m.

Lugar: 755 E. Flamingo Road, En el Museo de Pruebas Atómicas. Teléfono: (702) 794-5161. Precios: \$10 admisión general y gratis para niños menores de 6 años.

### Nuestro valle, nuestra ciudad

Evento: "La vieja y la nueva Las Vegas."

Día(s): abierto de lunes a viernes.

Hora: 9 a.m. a 5 p.m. Lugar: 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy. En el Museo Marjorie Barrick dentro de UNLV. Teléfono: (702) 895-3381.

## Conciertos y Exhibiciones de Arte

### Artista: Ozomatli



Día(s): marzo 11 del 2007

Hora: 7:00 p.m.

Lugar: House of Blues

Precio: \$22

### Artista: Evanescence, Chevelle, Finger Eleven



Día(s): marzo 17 del 2007

Hora: 8:00 p.m.

Lugar: Palms Casino Resort

Precio: \$49.50

### Exhibición:

'La última edición,' por Daryl Depry, Cathryn Reitler and Mickey Sprott.

Lugar: 3130 S. McLeod Drive. En el Centro Cultural Winchester.

Teléfono: (702) 455-8239.

### Exhibición:

'Polvo y sueños,' por Vincent Mangin

Lugar: 6301 W. Charleston Blvd. En la biblioteca del Oeste de Charleston.



## hear today... heard tomorrow!

Today's cell phones are filled with all the latest gadgets and devices

by Kayla-Jo Rosoff, Sierra Vista HS

Americans are addicted to talking. Annually, the number of people paying a cell phone bill rather than a fixed telephone wire bill goes up, and with over 1 billion cell phone subscribers worldwide, it is not hard to see why.

The cell phones of 2007 are unrecognizable when compared to their siblings of just 10 years ago. What was once a device used simply to call someone for a lunch date or get information about a fax has since turned into a device that people can use to entertain themselves for hours on end.

***"There will never be enough gadgets on a cell phone,"*** says Senad Maslesa, a Verizon Wireless employee.

Used to seeing dozens of customers a day who come in looking for a top notch phone, Maslesa knows cell phones like the back of his hand.

***"Right now the Razor is the hot-ticket item. It has a super slim shape, and there are plenty of gadgets on it,"*** he says.

Maslesa, however, doesn't count the Motorola Razor on the top of his own list of favorite cell phones. That spot is reserved for LG's new enV. Boasting a 2.0 megapixel camera, the phone is one Maslesa is sure will be a top seller.

The enV is just one of many new cell phones that companies like Verizon Wireless, T-Mobile and Cingular use to attract their customers. With what seems like a new and much more improved phone on the market everyday, fishing through the sea of cell phones can prove to be quite a challenge.

The launch of the new iPhone from Apple has made that sea even deeper. Cell phones had already begun to offer a wide range of music players as seen in such devices as the Chocolate Phones and the Sidekick. When the iPhone was at last unveiled in January, however, Apple revealed just how ahead of the game they are.

Combining three products – including a widescreen iPod – the phone represents what many believe to be the new generation of cell phones.

Shell Stacey, a senior at Las Vegas Academy, admires what the iPhone and Apple are trying to do, but is a little reluctant to promote the device itself.

***"I really, honestly don't want my MP3 player on my phone. I have [music player] and that is enough. I like it separate,"*** she says.

Stacey, however, is not new to cell phones. As her family is from the Philippines, on most vacations she visits the island nation and gets a new cell phone, often at a cheaper cost. Since the Philippines is close to Japan and China, Stacey's deals on phones cannot even begin to compare with those in American.

***"I always look forward to going there and getting a new phone,"*** says Stacey. "I research beforehand a ton, and never worry about a model I like not being available; they always get it months before the U.S."

Stacey's mom is just as addicted to her daughter's habit of getting a new phone at least twice a year, for she usually receives her daughter's old ones.

***"My mom loves it because my old phone is still new here, even when she gets it,"*** Stacey says.

Though many of Stacey's peers gaze in awe at her latest phone each time she uses it, they do have reasons for wanting such devices besides the fact that they are new.

Like having the latest designer jeans or handbag, the cell phone has become an extension of one's self. Easily personalized with ringtones, cases, key chains and backgrounds, the phone can say more about the person than even he or she does.



illustration: mct

***"I really, honestly don't want my MP3 player on my phone. I have [music player] and that is enough. I like it separate,"***

Personalizing may be the upward trend for millions of users – especially teens who are trying to establish an identity and display it. But all those additional gadgets that people use to personalize their machines often cause more of a hindrance than anything else.

Sierra Vista senior Holly Villamagna loves her pink Motorola Razor phone from T-Mobile, but is beginning to see why all the "extras" the company boasts about on its Web site may be less than necessary.

***"It's great [that] my phone can take a zoomed-in picture, but sometimes I just wish it made calls and nothing else,"*** she says.

Villamagna admits she is used to being stuck in situations where there is little power on her phone, and so she is unable to make an important call. While she cannot exactly trace the amount of features on her phone to this difficulty, she knows they don't help the problem.

***"My brother got a very high tech phone for his last birthday and I just kept thinking, 'What is the reception like?' instead of, 'How much music does it hold?'"*** Villamagna says.

Maslesa is used to hearing such woes from customers like Villamagna, but doesn't see the trend of gadgets and gizmos on cell phones disappearing any time soon.

***"Cell phones are the future of almost anything,"*** he says. "Live streaming TV is next in the horizon, and cell phones will carry it better than a flat screen." ●



## pro/con: should teachers check myspace?

### Checking MySpace is an invasion of privacy

by Desiree Montalvo, Green Valley HS

I walk into first period, 8:01 a.m. on a Monday morning. As I take my seat, I hear a voice behind me say, "Hey, that party on Saturday looked so awesome." I whip around to find my teacher wearing a gigantic smirk that's cascading down on me.

At this point I realize that my teacher has seen pictures from the party on MySpace.

Teachers now are blatantly disrespecting their students and invading their privacy. Our First Amendment rights are at stake. This intrusion upon our lives has reached the point where the line between school and home has been blurred; anything a student does is not only a concern to their parents, but to their school administrators as well.

At a certain point, this idea might prevent a disaster from happening at school. However, when the "concern point" escalates to a teacher snooping around for a student's information, the "intention" has then been taken out of hand.

Senior Derek Bernard was turned in to a teacher last year because of an inappropriate picture of him and his friend on his MySpace.

"I felt that my private life was put out into the open," says Bernard. "Instead of turning us in, the teacher could've just asked us to take the picture down."

Bernard was RPCed for the incident and says he learned that people are constantly watching MySpace.

"You have to be careful nowadays because you'll get in trouble," he says.

It is one thing for a teacher to report an incident that a student brings to their attention, but it is another when the teacher looks for incriminating information themselves.

If an administrator or teacher wants to know something more about a student or an athlete, then what is keeping them from asking the student? If there is any doubt in their mind about what the student is doing outside of school and whether or not their actions are inappropriate, a teacher should be experienced and mature enough to confront that student one-on-one. Nothing useful is accomplished from being sneaky about it.

"Teachers need to know the limits between caring and snooping to find information about students that they have a right to keep to themselves," says Bernard.

However, MySpace is a public domain. Everyone with computer access can look at your personal information. Students make the choice to put it out there. So the question remains: do teachers have the right to see that information?

And if they feel they do, is this only the first step? What is next – a coach hiding a small microphone on you before school Monday morning to find out about your weekend?

Your speech is public. Everyone has a right to hear it without it being considered an "invasion of privacy." However, a teacher has no more of a right to wiretap you than they have to check your MySpace. We can all agree that wiretapping is an invasion of privacy, or at least it is to most people. Wiretapping equals "MySpacetapping."

Until the school district reaches the same conclusion, it is up to the students to defend their rights. If they are doing something wrong, they should want to be confronted, not tricked. If they have personal information on MySpace that a teacher "accidentally" sees, the teacher should keep the information to his or herself, and not use it as incriminating evidence.

It all boils down to trust and maturity. Teachers, trust in us and we'll be mature enough to be honest with you!

### Teachers should check Myspace for safety

by Kimberly Medina, Green Valley HS

*Imagine this:* a group of teenagers create a MySpace page and plot a deadly attack on their school.

This happened several times last year, all over the United States. Adults need to be checking MySpace for this reason and for the students' own safety.

Yes, we complain about our privacy, but you don't hear anyone complaining when a person is planning another Columbine attack.

Earlier this summer, a local boy was planning to attack his Henderson middle school. He plotted his scheme on his MySpace blogs. Authorities became aware of these blogs and took him into custody.

The Web site is open for everyone to view, and a student agrees to this when applying for an account. So students know beforehand the public access they are allowing in the first place.

At Green Valley High School, some students have been punished for their postings on the Web site. According to numerous volleyball players, their coaches have checked their MySpace pages and have talked to them about their behavior.

GVHS students are checked for their own safety and the safety of others on campus.

At Montreal's Dawson College this year, 21-year-old Kimveer Gill, explained his scheme to kill his fellow students on his journal only days before the action occurred.

Gill's blogs were always hateful and once said, "I know you're watching me." But in fact, the police knew nothing of his blogs.

If teachers had been checking their students' MySpaces, then a blog like Gill's would have been found and reported.

Web sites similar to MySpace are key to understanding why these kinds of tragedies occur.

Checking MySpace and other Internet diaries should be done only in searching for illegal activity. A student should be held responsible for those illegal activities and behavioral issues like cyber bullying and academic dishonesty.

Many students argue that what they do on their own time is private, right? *Wrong.*

Whether or not a student cheats at school or at home, it is still cheating. It is still academic dishonesty and should be punished.

According to collegeconfidential.com, admissions advisors have also begun to check MySpace as a part of their acceptance routine. If they find anything distasteful on a student's page, they will not accept them.

Checking online journals is also a way to understand a teenager. It is a way for teachers to see if their students understand the material.

Students who don't want teachers, admissions advisors or anyone else viewing their page for whatever the reason should know that they can simply set their profile to "private," which will only let the users' accepted "friends" to view the contents on the page.

But checking journals such as MySpace is inevitable and could be beneficial. Students shouldn't have a problem with being safe and preventing tragedies.

It is bad judgment on a student's part if they feel the need to show off their wild Saturday night party or just how they managed to get an A on their last test. Teachers and administrators need to stay one step ahead and punish the students who plan and conduct activities that hurt other students!

# wheels!

getting around town in style

## how to fail your driver's test

By Asia Sapp, Liberty HS

**By the age of 15, some teenagers are preparing to get their permit and, later, their license; there are also probably tons who desire to get a ride with their parents or walk to get around town. Those to whom the latter applies will be happy to know that there are a billion ways to not pass your drivers test and prevent you from being behind a wheel for the rest of your life!**

To obtain full driving privileges in the State of Nevada, one must go through a three-step process: **1)** Complete the Drivers Education and Instruction Permit Exam, **2)** Come back six months after passing the Permit test, and **3)** Complete all the required instructions.

For those people who like to keep it "original" and aren't excited to jump on the driving bandwagon, ignoring the instructions and forgetting deadlines are great ways to guarantee that you won't get your license. Other options include: letting your permit expire and slowly seep into oblivion, or – if you do use your permit – getting into accidents, acquiring numerous speeding tickets and repeatedly getting caught driving without someone over 21 years old.

If a teenager has turned 16 and is daring enough to go to the horrible facility called the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to take the drivers license test, he/she should have no problem failing the test! There are dozens of things that will prevent a teen from getting a license!

Angel Goree, age 18, took the drivers test three times before passing.

*"I thought I did well; I guess not,"* says Goree.

Regarding his first time taking the test, Goree says, *"I wasn't nervous at all."* (That might've been part of the problem.)

Goree agrees that the DMVs are harder on teens, but comments that DMVs are easier in Vegas than in California, where he failed on his first two tries.

A hero to those destined to fail, the things he did wrong were: **a)** having bad judgment while trying to make a right turn on a red light, and **b)** putting himself and the instructor in a "dangerous situation," by blindspotting while driving. These are great ways to get the instructor happy enough to say, *"Turn around; you've just failed the driving test."*

And that's how it goes.

Alex Carillo, 16, also failed his test. This was his first time taking the test, and he felt pressured and very nervous.

*"My mom pressured me too much,"* Carillo says. *"She said I wouldn't get a car until I passed."*

After failing the first time due to hitting a cone while parallel parking, he passed with flying colors the next time he took the test.

Carrillo makes a good point in saying, *"People usually remember to put their seatbelt on and fix the mirrors, but a very important thing to remember is not to say 'sorry' or 'my bad.'"*

Repeatedly doing so will definitely just be writing yourself off. The instructors would much rather a student driver not make the mistake at all, but if mistakes are made, it would be best to stay calm and make sure not to make the mistake again.

Continually saying "Oh, sorry" and "Oops, my bad!" will show the instructor that you are **a)** too nervous to focus on the road and **b)** not ready to be alone, behind the wheel.

After learning all the ways to fail the drivers test, one might actually wonder how to pass. Luckily for those who have decided against taking the on-foot route for all eternity, AAA's "Nevada Graduate License" pamphlet recommends the following tips to remember while driving. Though failing the test may be easy, passing that test does not have to be hard!

**Remembering these tips will not only prepare you for the test, but will also lead you into a safe driving experience after passing!**

- 1. Driving Preparations:** Wear the appropriate clothing (proper shoes, sunglasses); adjust the seat and mirrors; use your seat belt; start the engine; check your gas gauge; check for traffic; signal; move when it's safe.
- 2. Basic Maneuvers:** Be confident and skilled at moving forward, steering, turning, stopping and backing up.
- 3. Interacting With Other Vehicles:** use your turn signals; change lanes carefully; check your blind spots; use your mirrors; maintain a safe following distance; monitor traffic in all directions.
- 4. Light Traffic:** look ahead; pay attention to entering and exiting traffic; choosing the proper lane; accept and yield the right-of-way.
- 5. Heavy Traffic:** adjust your speed and position; use the turn lanes; observe left turn yields; don't get nervous.
- 6. Parking and Turning:** be well versed in angle, hill and parallel parking; be able to make u-turns and three point turns.
- 7. Rail Crossings:** obey the lights and crossing gates; cross the tracks safely.
- 8. Freeways:** use on- and off-ramps; merge carefully; choose your lane and control your speed.
- 9. Driving in Darkness:** use your headlights; determine the appropriate speed for the situation.
- 10. Adverse Weather:** adjust your speed for rain, fog, wind, dust and snow; use your headlights.
- 11. Handling Hazards:** avoid obstacles on the road; use flashers; drive with antilock brakes.

*Information from AAA's "Nevada Graduate License."*

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## Dressing for success is not conforming to society

by Katie Cruz, Clark HS

**There are constantly new fashions, music and attitudes forming in our modern society. Some people choose to follow these trends while others do what they can to avoid them. There is a difference between following the crowd and making a good impression to succeed.**

I have a friend who absolutely refuses to wear nice slacks and a button-up shirt. He claims it would take away his "individuality" and change who he is. So I said, **"What happens when you go in for a job interview wearing a T-shirt and jeans? What impression does that give off? What respectable business person will hire you?"**

He responded smugly with, **"Well I'll just apply for a job that allows me to dress that way."**

But out of all the respectable jobs in the world, how many will approve of that attire? How will someone take you seriously in your choice of work when you look as if you came off the street? These were all questions I thought to myself as I listened to this unaware boy talk about his future in a careless manner.

By being encouraged to dress your best, no one is telling you that you cannot be yourself and no one is making you change who you are. There are times when you need to clean up your appearance out of respect. A job interview is one of these times.

I also have a friend who speaks of "judging" a lot. **"Don't judge me!" "Why do you judge me by what I'm doing?" "I hate people who judge."** These are just some of the remarks she's said before. Whether she wants to believe it or not, judging is human nature; it's a part of life. Before we cross the street, we check to see if any cars are coming. If we don't see any, we cross the street knowing it is safe. We had to make a decision based on our observations.

Whether some of us want to admit it or not, we even judge people before making them our friends. I always do it. I choose my friends very carefully because they are the people that I am going to surround myself with, so they should be good influences.

For example, I see a girl walking down the school hallway. She is wearing torn jeans, a black, hooded sweatshirt with the hood over her head and a pair of dirt-covered sneakers. Her hair appears greasy and hangs in front of her face.

This girl is walking with her head down and her hands in her pockets.

Based on that description, she seems careless about her appearance and presentation. She is showing no effort to look nice to other people and she just doesn't seem like she even wants to be there. Of course she probably doesn't want to be there, but just because she doesn't want to, doesn't mean that she has to show it.

So if I were looking for a new friend, why would I choose a girl who doesn't care what people think of her? Sure, she probably has very independent thoughts, but she probably doesn't want to change or improve for anyone. Which, in some cases might be a good idea, but the way she shows herself to the outside world is something she ought to change if she wants to succeed in making a good impression on the outside world. She should care about herself and people around her. Why would someone want a friend who doesn't care?

Some people don't notice that they do judge people. They judge people on their attitudes and appearance. It tells them about the other person and that person's personality.

As well as judging other people, some people aren't aware that they set themselves up for other people to judge them. I personally do this every morning, and so do plenty of girls at my school; we put makeup on and do our hair nice for school. A lot of these girls don't notice that what they're doing is making people view them in a certain way.

The guys wear their band T-shirts and jeans – there is a reason why they put those clothes on everyday besides the fact that they can't come to school naked; they dress themselves the way they want other people to see them.

It may seem like I am categorizing these teenagers a certain way, but it's the truth. There are those kids at schools, and there are different kids as well who dress a certain way other than the ways mentioned; they dress that way to show people who they are.

When they get dressed in the morning, some don't realize the reason that they do that is to judge and be judged. In a way it's ironic. Some of those people who are "against judging" are actually the ones judging and encouraging others to judge them by their effort to look the way they do.

So in a job interview, one should dress and act the way that they want people to view them, not just because they want to impress the person giving the interview, but out of respect for the other person and to be taken seriously. That doesn't mean that they have to give up their individuality. Sometimes people have to act a certain way that they don't want to, to impress a certain person for something that they want. It really isn't all that complicated.

**I'm not telling you that you have to change who you are to impress people.**

I'm telling you that it is perfectly fine to dress the way you want to dress, but there are times you need to look professional and there are times that you can be careless. It's about respect. You dress your best out of respect for whom you are seeing.

This has nothing to do with conforming to different fads. This has to do with you: your attitude, your appearance,



photo: mctcampus.com

your future and how it is that you want to accomplish things. You can either hope that people will automatically see who you really are by taking a glance at you, or else you can show people who you are by the way you present yourself!

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## pass or die trying

### School testing turns students into bee-like drones

by Courtney Stachler, Green Valley HS



**It is 3:00 a.m. and books are scattered around my desk. I have been studying for eight hours, with three cups of coffee, for the five tests I have tomorrow.**

This is the typical lifestyle of many Green Valley High School students.

In one week I have to take, on average, 10 tests or quizzes. That means, within nine weeks, I will take 90 tests per quarter. Combine that with three more quarters and I will probably take about 360 tests this year.

Those tests are just for my individual high school classes. Don't forget, all of us also have to take the proficiency tests. Some also take the Terra-Nova tests, which are meaningless, and the ASMA math tests to name a few more. Not to mention the SAT and ACT tests, which many students take multiple times, combined with the many IB and AP tests students will be taking in May.

My point is, when somebody has that many tests to study for, they are going to learn (I mean, memorize) just enough to get the grade that they need to pass the test. Thirty seconds after the test, the information is virtually lost. Most of us haven't learned anything more than we knew already.

School has become a place where students memorize words, definitions and answers for a week.

"You learn how to adapt just to pass the test," says senior Erik Peterson. "You just learn what the teacher wants you to know."

High school has been nothing but tests like a manufacturing company. The next logical step is to arrange school so that students won't even have to step foot on campus. They will just need to stop by to pick up a study guide or find out what material they need to memorize and be on their way.

Picture this assembly line: three hundred students crammed into one little office, picking up their study guides. Immediately afterward, they move on to the grade production line, where their grades are stamped without their control.

This is what testing has become for the high school student. If teachers don't keep the tests coming, the production line will get backed up. Then the school is put on the "Needs Improvement" list.

As if the number of tests isn't enough, the emphasis teachers put on these tests is ridiculous.

An example of this is in my math class. Tests are weighed 80 percent while everything else in the class is 20 percent. That means that if I do NO homework – that's "zero" homework in math terms – and score an A on every test, I will earn an A in the class.

My teacher obviously feels that tests are a whole 60 percent more important.

"There is too much emphasis on testing these days and less emphasis on actual teaching," says English teacher Christa Fialkiewicz. "We are finding we are teaching to the test in order to meet a certain standard."

Then there's the proficiency test. The stress put on this test is your high school diploma. If you don't pass, you don't graduate.

*"If you go through all of high school, one test shouldn't stop you from getting your diploma,"* says senior Kasidy Seegmiller.

Just ask GVHS Principal Jeff Horn about the stress and emphasis put on testing. According to the No Child Left Behind Act passed in 2002, if a school doesn't meet "adequate yearly progress" two years in a row, the principal could lose his job.

This is the extreme of testing these days. Students are lead to believe that low SAT scores can decide the rest of their lives.

Also, in some classes, students have no way to earn good grades other than passing their tests. Forget participation, homework and effort. Think regurgitation.

The bottom line is that teachers aren't teaching anymore. They're just handing out tests.

It makes me wonder – when they apply for their jobs, what do they put on their application: teacher or proctor?

This mode of teaching isn't going to benefit any students in the long run.

We're not learning what we need.

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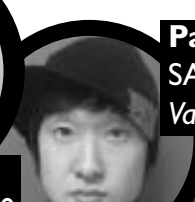
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# Block scheduling examined for Basic; mentoring classes well underway

by Clayton Fitch, Basic HS

Eight classes, four per day, at 80 minutes or more each. What's going on?! It's called block scheduling. And although many students are just hearing about it, the school district and a group of teachers and administrators at Basic High School have been looking into such an alternative schedule for many months.

As recently as Dec. 6, the Basic faculty met with professor Michael D. Rettig, who teaches at James Madison University in Virginia and who is an expert on block scheduling in American high schools. Teachers and staff learned the history of block scheduling from professor Rettig, as well as the potential positives and negatives of a block schedule. Some see block scheduling as a way to offer more electives to students, since they would be taking up to eight classes – four on alternating days. Others feel that because of the reduced amount of time students would spend in each class there could be problems, such as difficulty passing state proficiency exams.

***But the biggest questions remain: will it work and is it a sure thing for next year?***

"No, it won't; it's just not a good system," says science teacher David Bennion. A long-time teacher at Basic, Bennion recently attended a conference on block scheduling and was dissatisfied with the system.

Regarding the negative effects the system might have, Bennion says, "There is a list of negative effects and, like I said before, it's just not a good system. The students and teachers lose up to 27 or more full days than [they would have in] the current schedule."

Bennion adds, "Then there's the money. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for innovation, but this is just not the way to do it."

Band teacher Mark McArthur feels differently.

***"I like block. More students can take electives. This plan will also help us to implement the SLC [Student Learning Center] program effectively," McArthur says.***

Senior Joe Hicks, who attended a school in California that had block scheduling, says, "I thought it was a lot easier. You didn't get as much homework, you had more time and overall, [you] got more out of your classes."

Senior Bernadette Lagac, who attended a magnet school in Florida with a block schedule, says, "I didn't really care. I had more time to sleep, but your butt would hurt from sitting down so long!"

***They both agreed that the block scheduling had little or no effect on sports and after-school activities.***

It's obvious that the opinions are slip. What's going to matter is whether or not this system achieves what all experts say it can. Block scheduling is not a certainty for next year at Basic, but the ball is rolling and the idea is a definite possibility. Students and teachers will be hearing much more about it in the coming months -- that much is certain!

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# Students of the Month February 2007

Centennial High School

## Doug Maxfield

Doug Maxfield represents one of Centennial High School's finest juniors. With a 3.7 GPA and a course load of Honors History, Physics and American Literature classes, Maxfield proves to be a dedicated student. He is also an active member of the community.

"Once a month I do service projects for the community through my church," Maxfield says. As part of his LDS church group, Maxfield keeps busy while helping others around him. He is also an Eagle Scout.

Maxfield is especially interested in sports, having been involved in football, basketball and volleyball during his freshman year, and volleyball during his sophomore year as well.

Though there is much in Maxfield's life at the present, he still finds time to think about his future.

"I plan on being a civil engineer," he says.

## Janay Adams

Senior Janay Adams believes, "Calculus AP BC is the hardest math class you can take."

And Adams would know. As one of Centennial High School's top students, she constantly challenges herself with AP classes and extracurricular activities including being a member of both the Student Council of the State Board of Nevada and the National Honor Society.

Throughout Adams' four years at Centennial, she has achieved many leadership positions in Student Council, including Freshman Historian, Sophomore Class President, Junior Vice President and Senior Class President. She volunteers, not only for Student Council, but also for her LDS Church group.

While maintaining a 4.6 GPA and balancing outside activities may seem a difficult feat, Adams does it all, while still making time for her hobbies: snowboarding, wakeboarding and spending time with her friends and family. She plans on attending BYU after graduation.



Doug



Janay



Nevada Power.

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**Applications for the 2007-2008 school year are now being accepted. Call or visit our web site for more information and open house dates.**

E D U C A T I O N F O R L I F E

# pressure point

by Erin Walsh, class! correspondent

Parents may be putting too much strain on their children to succeed

Parents have always wanted the best for their children, but today that is not enough. Parents now need their children to be the best. It is typical for a parent to hope their child will turn into an NFL quarterback, a Wall Street titan or the future President of the United States. Eventually many parents allow their idyllic dreams to take a backseat to reality, but not all of them.

These are the parents who pile on the pressure at an early age. They will fight for a scholarship at a private school, crusade for the spot in the public school GATE program (Gifted and Talented Education) or ship their children back east to a boarding school. Then, for the next 13 years of their lives, they make sure that their children are utilizing every 'opportunity' they have bestowed upon them.

Kindergarten used to consist of finger painting and fairy tales. Now naps and nursery rhymes are a waste of time. Loads of reading, times tables and foreign languages are essential parts of the curriculum taught to even the youngest of elementary students so that they can receive that early advantage. Parents enroll their children in Little League, gymnastics, chess, theatre, karate, art and piano lessons in hopes that the children will master the skills, earn that black belt and become champion athletes once they reach high school – just in time to proclaim themselves as Renaissance men or women for their college résumés.

With six AP classes, leading roles in the Nutcracker and being a leader in a religious youth group, Carmel Moazez seems like the unbeatable college competitor. The reason she's taken on so much is linked directly to her parents.

"I'm glad my mom pushed me in the beginning because I've learned to love all of it," says Moazez. "And now, I do it by choice because I know it will pay off in the end."

The committed student and dedicated daughter also admits, however, that she's given up part of her social life and forfeited sleep to study hours on end for a national chemistry exam coming up in June. Choosing that latter route over the former two was a decision she has been taught to choose.

It's people like Moazez who have begun to kill the slacker stereotype of teenagers. Many teens today give up their time hanging out with friends and their lazy weekend mornings to jump ahead on homework assignments or work to save the rainforests. Yet, how much of this change was a conscious choice made by our generation? Oftentimes, it is the parents who incessantly nag their daughters or sons about the importance of ultimately unimportant things. Many students cavil about being grounded because of a B+ on their report card or for being ordered to skip a dance because of upcoming tests. One anonymous high school student is forced to wear her hair in a ponytail if she receives anything below an A- as a quarter grade. Her mother hopes this will help her learn to concentrate less on her appearances and more on her academics.

Some may argue that having parents offer assistance in their kids' futures can only produce positive results. After all, cutting out those parties and working to get that A will force the students to live better, more disciplined lives, right? But some parents, however, want to help their children so much that they resort to unfair methods in order for their child to receive recognition. One can presume that the speechless elementary school student at the science fair cannot explain his intricate model of quantum mechanics because he received some outside help.

The support parents provide does not end in the fifth grade. Some parents save old siblings' binders that are equipped with notes, outlines, handouts and tests. One parent who held an esteemed position at a Clark County high school hunted through the lost and found box at the beginning of summer to steal students' binders of her son's upcoming fall classes. Other parents spend hours reading tedious chapters of their children's textbooks in order to help out. Or, if their child is not as eager to put in the same amount of effort, they may simply do it for them.



Bob Pepping/mctcampus.com

Sometimes the student's material becomes too advanced for both the student and his or her parent. So, in desperation, the two will call a tutor or private teacher who makes much more money teaching one inattentive pupil than most teachers in the city make teaching hundreds. Tutors are not the only way to get an extra boost. Some parents wage war against the public school teachers with incessant phone calls, letters and daily visits to complain and have their geniuses moved into the advanced class – often when the 'genius' himself admits he doesn't feel advanced.

Some adolescents convince their doctor to diagnose them with ADD (Attention-Deficit Disorder) or other focus disorders. This results in the common prescriptions of Ritalin, Aderall and other performance-enhancing drugs. Along with this treatment comes the infamous note that entitles such students to receive extra time to complete any test from a pop quiz in math to the SAT.

**Parents' pushing their children has elevated competition among students to a whole new level.**

Because teenagers feel inadequate in comparison to their peers, they too become willing to dent their wallets for a more 'learned' tutor, commit to more clubs and extracurricular activities or even resort to cheating to raise their tests results or make it through college admissions.

Parents need to consider the consequences of putting so much pressure on a student who is already trying to ace Precalculus, win the local debate tournament and fit in with a normal group of friends. It is no wonder teenagers suffer from so many stress-related disorders. Depression, suicides, mental breakdowns, weight disorders, panic attacks, anxiety, turning to drugs, drinking, and cheating are all side effects of trying to become perfect.

Are parents teaching their kids to become productive, or helping them to become as powerful as the former executives of Enron? ❗

# career center!

resumés · career advice · tips and techniques for landing that dream job

## into heavy metal: women in the world of welding



by Rikki Mitchell, Faith Lutheran HS

In a male-dominated profession such as welding, it's difficult for a minority group to make any sort of progress in the field. However, women are becoming more and more involved in the career, and it's making a difference.

Less than 3 percent of all welders are women, but the small amount of women taking part in this career further supports women's rights in many aspects.

In 1903, the National Women's Trade Union League (WTUL) was established to advocate improved wages and working conditions for women. The establishment of this league made it possible for women to join the workforce and equally receive the same pay and working conditions as their male co-workers.

In 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act barred discrimination in employment based on race and sex. At the same time, it established the Equal Employment

Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to investigate complaints and impose penalties. All these moments in history have helped women today to venture out into such professions where men try to take control.

Mary Mitchell, a part time professor at the Community College of Southern Nevada, teaches an all-girl welding class. She believes that women are catching on to the world of welding.

Of course, there is the possibility of some men believing they are superior in a career such as welding, but Mitchell believes that the men in her class will listen to her.

"Obviously I have to know my stuff to be here. I had to get my degree, and I work

for the school district. Once they know that, I have their attention."

Many of the girls in the class are there to further their career by becoming certified as welders. Zelene Calderon and Jeanne Mouchou however, see the more artistic side to the class.

"I've always been interested in all types of art, especially stained glass. And eventually it just led me to welding," says Mouchou. "I enjoy the class because it's different and I definitely like the more artistic side of it."

"I saw people welding in high school and it looked like fun, so I tried one day and I loved it," says Calderon. "We get to cut metal and watch it melt, and I love to make stuff in the class!"

Although these women are extremely passionate about what they do, it is still a very male-dominating profession.



Mary Mitchell (right) showing student Zelene Calderon how to use a cutting torch. photo: Rikki Mitchell

"It's almost as if you have to be twice as good to be good enough," says Mouchou.

"The key to being a woman in this field is to show no fear and know what you're doing. Then you get respect," says Mintun.

Many careers are beginning to drop their prejudices against women, and welding is one career that women are quickly taking part in!



## Money Matters



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Silver State Schools Credit Union

This is the first in a series of articles on 'Money Matters' from Silver State Schools Credit Union. SSSCU is the largest credit union in Nevada and has been serving its members since 1951.

You'll soon experience an important part of personal finance—opening a checking account (if you haven't already). Your success depends on your mastery of several new responsibilities, including properly writing a check.

So, here are the things to watch for when you write a check...

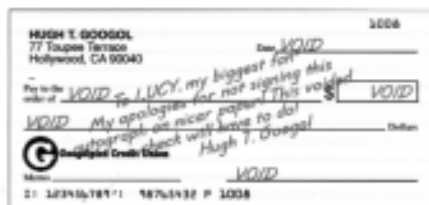
**Rule #1...** Your checks must be legible. If the handwriting is too sloppy, they are not acceptable.

**Rule #2...** No matter how much you trust the payee (the person you're writing the check to) leaving a check blank is a bad idea. If a blank check is lost or stolen someone else can fill in any amount, and your signature allows that fraudulent transaction to clear.

**Rule #3...** Never write a check in pencil! It's too easy for people to erase pencil-written names and numbers and replace them with whatever they want.

**Rule #4...** Don't write post-dated checks... checks that are written with a date in the future. Most financial institutions won't accept post-dated checks. And if you don't intend to pay someone until later, consider waiting until later to write the check!

**Rule #5...** If you make a mistake when writing out a check, it's not the end of the world, and not the end of the check. Just jot your initials alongside the corrections. That indicates you know about the error and authorize the change.



**Rule #6...** The only authorized signer of a check is the one who's named at the top of the check.

**Rule #7...** Always destroy a voided check. Even a voided check can be dangerous if it falls into the wrong hands—those numbers along the bottom for instance contain your account number, among other things!

**Rule #8...** What happens when the dollar amounts on a check don't add up? Regardless of the payer's intention, the amount on the spelled-out line—it's called the 'legal' line—supersedes the amount in the small numeric box.

**ALWAYS  
DESTROY  
A VOIDED  
CHECK!**

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Or visit us online at [www.silverstatecu.com](http://www.silverstatecu.com)!

# Summer Business Institute helps teens explore jobs

by Kaice Scarborough, Centennial HS

Once again that time of year is approaching when we need to start looking for a summer job. Of course they're many opportunities out there for teens. But you can't always find one that you qualify for or one that really makes you feel worthwhile. How about looking for a job that will really count? You could join the Clark County Summer Business Institute. It is a chance for you to make a difference in your life now and in the future.

This coming summer, Clark County will have about 100 jobs available for qualifying Las Vegas high school juniors, seniors and students who will be college freshmen in the fall. The program is a partnership with more than 80 businesses and also offers disadvantaged inner-city youth employment in many different fields. You can be a part of law, medicine, architecture, education and communications.

In their 12th year of the program, the Summer Business Institute's goal is to expose youth to careers fields that are not always accessible to them. This program helps teens to prepare for college and teaches money management skills and community service along the way — all of which provide valuable lessons that will help you throughout your life.

## One of the best parts of the program is that it pairs you with professionals in your field of choice.

That means that not only will you be learning from high-qualified professionals, you will be a part of something you are truly interested in.

The program lasts eight weeks during the summer, and this year will be held mid-June through mid-August. Since only a limited number of jobs are available, interested teens have to meet the required criteria including GPA, volunteerism and financial need.

For those who do meet the criteria, there are added benefits to look forward to as well. At the end of the program, all the participants will be eligible for scholarships to college. This can be a great opportunity for teens that need a job and are stressed about the idea of college and scholarships.

On Clark County's official Web site, [accessclarkcounty.com](http://accessclarkcounty.com), Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates says, "The institute is a multi-faceted program that services an incredible need in our community by giving youth from all backgrounds the opportunity to gain experience through exposure to careers not traditionally pursued by minority children."

She is also quoted as saying, "I am especially pleased by the growing support this program has received from the business community and consider it a testament to what can be achieved when the private and public sectors work cohesively."

If you are interested in joining the Summer Business Institute program, you can pick up an application at the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, fifth floor. You can also pick one up at KCEP radio station (330 W. Washington Ave.) or through your high school job bank.

**Applications are due Friday, March 2. For more information, contact Clark County Community Resources Management Division at 455-2426 or 455-3096.**



David Phillips

## an evening with class! — a big, big thank you

Thanks to everyone involved in this year's 'An Evening with CLASS!' fundraising banquet on Jan. 13 at the Wynn Las Vegas, we raised enough funds to support exciting new programs and improvements that you'll be hearing about throughout the coming year.

Special thanks go to our honorees Senator Harry Reid (pictured left) and Landra Reid and the Clark County School District and Superintendent Walt Rulffes, Event Chairperson Congresswoman Shelley Berkley, and Event Sponsor Elaine Wynn. Their continuing support and stewardship helps us bring this publication to students and to the community every month. We would also like to thank our distinguished donors listed below. Watch for a full report on 'An Evening with CLASS!' in the March issue!

**class! magazine would like to thank our distinguished donors** Agave Mexican Restaurant • Allegiant Air • Altadis USA • Altria Corporate Services, Inc. • American Medical Response • Amy Ayoub • Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation • Angie Cochran • Ann Lynch, Sunrise Hospital • Anna Wilson-Perez • AT&T • B&E Auto Auction • Bank of America • Bank of Nevada • Barrick Gold of North America • Betsy Rhodes • Bloomingdale's • Body in Mind Pilates Studio • Boyd Gaming Corporation • Brenden Theaters Corp. • Bunny Hoest • Charles Silvestri • Citibank (Nevada), N.A. • Clark County Commission • Clark County Public Education Foundation • Clark County School District • Claudine Williams • Club Sport • Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf • Commissioner Rory Reid • Community College of Southern Nevada • Congresswoman Shelley Berkley • Cox Communications • Culinary Workers Union, Local 226 • Curves • CW Catering By Chef Cary • David Phillips Photographers • DeLuca Liquor & Wine, Ltd./Nevada Wine Agents • Dillard's • District Attorney David Roger • Doggie Oasis • Dr. Carrol Steedman • Dr. Paul Aizley & Sari Aizley • Edward Doumani • Elaine & Steve Wynn • Embarq • Faiss Foley Warren • Fertitta Enterprises • Fitzgeralds • Fleming's Steak and Wine Bar • Flora Mason • Gaudin Automotive Group • GC Wallace, Inc. • Gilbert and Edythe Katz Yarchever • Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors • Greenspun Family Foundation • Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. • Harrie's Bagelmania • Harvey & Annette Whittemore • House of Blues • Howard Hughes Corporation/General Growth Properties • HSBC Bank Nevada, N.A. • IBEW Local 357 • IGT • Irwin Kishner, Estwin Corporation • Jill Meredith • Jim Severson • Joyce Mack • Judi Steele • Judy Bart • Justice Michael Cherry • Kitty Rodman • Kolesar & Leatham, CHTD • Krispy Kreme • KVBC Channel 3 • Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department • Las Vegas Sun • Lionel Sawyer & Collins • Little Buddha Restaurant Sushi Bar & Lounge • Luxor Hotel/Casino • Marie Callender's Restaurant • Marilyn and Mel Larson • Mark and Gloria Fine • Mark L. Fine Associates • Mary Bartsas, Bartsas Realty • Mary Kay • Marydean Martin • Mayor Oscar Goodman • McMullan's Irish Pub • MGM MIRAGE • Michele Johnson • Mon Ami Gabi • Myrna Williams • N9NE Group • Neiman Marcus • Nevada Arts Council • Nevada Assembly Speaker Barbara Buckley • Nevada Association of Realtors • Nevada Ballet Theatre • Nevada Department of Education • Nevada Mining Association • Nevada Power • Nevada State Bank • Nevada State College • Nevada Subcontractors Association • Nevada System of Higher Education • Nobu • Palms Casino Resort • Paperdoll Boutique Stationery • Peckman Media • Preferred Public Relations • Pulte Homes/Del Webb • R&R Partners • Regent Thalia Dondero • Rhodes Homes • Rhonda Glyman • Richard and Patricia Wright • Robin Leach • Roy Purcell • Saks 5th Avenue • Sam's Club • Sen. Harry and Landra Reid • Sheila Moulton • Sierra Health Services • Sonja and Michael Saltman • Southwest Gas Corp. • Southwest Printers • Spa at Lakeside • St. Rose Dominican Hospital • Station Casinos • Susan Houston • Susan Sawyer • Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada • Teamsters Local Union No. 14 • The Gallery at Summerlin • Tishman Construction Corporation • Tony and Maria Alamo • Tournament Players Club At The Canyons • University of Nevada, Las Vegas • University of Nevada, Las Vegas Athletics Dept. • University of Nevada, Reno • UNLV Performing Arts Center • Venetian Foundation • Vera Turner • Vintner Grill • Wells Fargo • Wynn Resorts

## Horoscopes — Feb 2007

### Pisces

(February 19 – March 20)  
(Famous Pisces: Drew Barrymore)  
Lucky Numbers: 5, 12, 38, 42



Happy birthday Pisces – you're another year older and wiser! Though last year may have been filled with one too many embarrassing and difficult situations, this year's going to be different. You now know how to deal with those situations and stand up for yourself. Love is in the air this month, especially around the 16th, where you may find a new love or reconnect with an old flame. Relax and enjoy your b-day this month!

### Virgo

(August 23-September 22)  
Normally you love Valentine's Day, but this year you would rather avoid the hype and watch a movie in your room. But Valentine's isn't just about romance. It's also about friends and family, so hang out with them for a change. Tell your family how much you love them, because they are the ones that have to put up with you.

### Aries

(March 21-April 19)  
Don't worry so much about taking other people's love advice this month. There's no rush to make a decision, so sit on your choices and make a move later. Things will work themselves out around the 25th, and you can count on friends being there for you.

### Libra

September 23-October 22  
This month you'll find yourself playing it cool with your new crush. They won't want to leave your side, but be careful – this cutie may turn clingy on the 29th. Keep a safe distance and keep it fun.

### Taurus

(April 20-May 20)  
Break out of your routine this month and take a look around. Give someone new a chance; they may surprise you. Open yourself up to meeting someone and getting to know who they are before you dismiss them. Remember to keep your eyes open!

### Scorpio

(October 23 - November 21)  
You haven't been sticking to your 2007 resolutions – but it's never too late to start! Maybe you and your closest friends can come up with a resolution together so that you'll support and encourage each other to follow through with your goals.

### Gemini

(May 21-June 21)  
If your standards for a boyfriend or girlfriend are too high, you may let a great person slip by. Branching out and going against your usual type could land you a surprisingly stellar sweetie just in time for Valentine's.

### Sagittarius

(November 22-December 21)  
One minute your love interest wants to hang out 24/7 – the next, he/she tells you he/she needs space. Don't wait around for this dud to decide what he/she wants because it will just ruin your Valentine's. Move on, because someone else is waiting for you to come around.

### Cancer

(June 22-July 22)  
Your boyfriend or girlfriend bores you – yawn! – but you don't have the heart to end it. Don't let it drag on any longer. Be honest and tell them how you feel. It is better to be their friend than their honey, so stay true and you may make a new friend. As for love, don't worry; a new eye will be locking in with yours around the 20th.

### Capricorn

(December 22-January 19)  
A romance that you thought was over will flare up again this month. Whether you decide to give the relationship another go or just walk away is up to you, not your friend. So follow your heart, trust your instincts and listen to that voice inside your head – it's usually right!

### Leo

(July 23-August 22)  
You can't wait to go out on a romantic Valentine's Day date with your one and only, but you want to stay away from traditional gifts like flowers and chocolates. Here's a tip – give a gift that comes from the heart, like a poem or knitted scarf. Personal gifts are sweeter than chocolate and more beautiful than flowers.

### Aquarius

(January 20-February 18)  
This month will bring you many things – possibly a new love or possibly a rekindling with an old flame. It's time to hang out with someone who's just as creative, daring and ambitious as you are. Find someone that can keep up with you and push you beyond the normal boundaries in your life.

## word search!

**Build Your Vocabulary!** With SATs coming sooner than you think, why not try to boost your vocab skills? Don't know what the word you're searching for means? Be sure to look it up!

X	O	N	J	L	I	P	G	N	A	D	O	W	T	X	R	N	P	D	Z	Y	S	B	P	S
B	S	Y	K	L	D	B	D	L	B	M	E	D	B	N	I	O	V	M	Z	F	K	M	N	U
Y	D	N	K	W	N	W	L	N	P	M	L	A	A	E	I	H	O	H	X	L	V	E	O	
F	V	T	U	E	V	Z	S	I	W	O	Q	O	U	I	D	L	I	N	K	E	W	H	C	I
I	Z	A	Y	P	X	E	P	E	L	I	U	G	B	G	R	Q	O	A	G	P	N	Y	E	C
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A	T	L	G	B	H	E	I	L	N	U	A	M	V	N	W	X	N	J	H	B	U	K	J	L
C	L	O	I	I	K	B	X	L	R	V	T	U	I	G	W	I	E	A	N	E	H	T	W	B
K	K	F	A	C	T	U	A	R	Y	L	C	I	Q	N	L	G	H	E	L	C	Y	N	U	V
Y	T	B	M	U	E	H	M	B	S	X	E	J	O	R	Q	Z	W	A	K	S	B	C	Q	G
Y	O	L	H	K	A	X	E	X	U	V	Y	H	A	N	E	U	V	Y	U	X	R	G	X	U
R	V	D	J	A	Y	T	G	R	I	Q	N	E	I	I	K	U	I	O	A	Y	I	J	S	N
G	R	D	O	I	S	O	Z	H	L	T	Y	S	T	Q	Y	R	L	S	V	B	D	U	D	I
X	M	S	X	U	G	G	C	I	U	T	T	G	I	E	I	U	T	E	I	K	V	B	C	S
K	X	Z	E	S	N	X	L	D	R	B	E	C	Y	K	C	W	C	W	V	T	C	D	W	O
T	R	N	T	J	M	P	F	A	O	I	J	D	S	I	L	G	C	G	V	E	I	C	E	N
O	Y	Q	P	M	R	X	L	F	S	X	J	X	T	L	J	M	D	D	N	U	F	V	I	A
B	B	G	W	Q	X	B	U	T	F	M	Q	E	I	C	P	F	A	S	V	N	E	H	E	N
G	D	J	C	X	D	M	Q	D	H	S	M	W	A	N	T	O	N	N	E	S	S	F	R	T

ACTUARY	FALLACIOUS	KILN	PANDEMIC	UNISONANT
BENEVOLENT	GUILE	LAX	QUANDARY	VALE
CORROBORATE	HYBRID	METICULOUS	REDOUBTABLE	WANTONNESS
DELUGE	INQUISITIVE	NECESSITATE	STULTIFY	YEARLING
ELOCUTION	JOCOSE	OMNIPOTENCE	TRIAD	ZEITGEIST

**optical illusion** A beautiful scene of a couple standing on the shore of a lake, but can you see the baby?



### conundrums

Can you solve the word riddles below? Each one is a popular phrase or saying.

MILLION	uPLATm
KNEE light light	settle

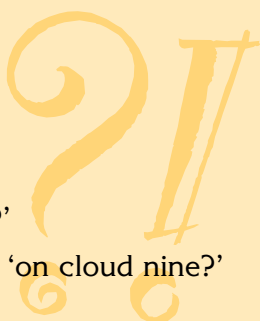
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 through 9

		4	9	1	7	
6			3	5		9
		1				
	8		3	9	1	
	1			7		
6	4		9	3		
				8		
2		7		6		1
	3	4		1	9	

## ponder this!

Do you know why...

- ...they call the notes taken at a meeting 'minutes?'
- ...someone feeling completely happy is said to be 'on cloud nine?'
- ...boats and ships are referred to as female?



# february calendar

UNLV Rebel Women's Basketball

what's going on in and around the Valley this month

## February 17

COLABO presents the punk rock musical:  
**Hedwig and the Angry Inch**  
The Aruba Hotel and Spa (1215 Las Vegas Blvd)  
9:00 p.m.  
Tickets: \$24 (1/2 price for students 20 and under)  
For more information call (702) 366-1208 or visit  
www.COLABO.BIZ.

## February 20

**UNLV Rebels Men's Basketball vs  
Air Force Academy Falcons Men's Basketball**  
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Thomas & Mack Center

## February 21

**UNLV Rebels Women's Basketball vs  
BYU Cougars Women's Basketball**  
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Thomas & Mack Center  
**From A Second Story Window, Heavy Heavy Low  
Low, Cancer Bats, She Turned Us Into Trees!**  
University Theater (4737 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas,  
NV 89119)  
Admission: \$10

## February 22

**Monthly DIY Craft, Malcolm Library**  
Locker Magnets  
4:00 p.m.  
Personalize your locker or fridge with one-of-a-kind  
magnets. A great gift to keep or give to friends!  
**The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus with Emery, Scary  
Kids Scaring Kids, A Static Lullaby and Kaddisfly**  
House of Blues  
Admission: \$17  
Doors open: 5:00 p.m. Show starts: 5:30 p.m.

## February 23

**'The Astronaut Farmer'**  
Released to theaters  
*Movie event:* An astronaut is forced to leave NASA to save  
his family farm, but he continues to dream of space travel  
and sets out to build a rocket inside his barn.  
<http://movies.yahoo.com/feature/comingsoon.html>  
**Cartel (special guests Cobra Starship, Boys Like  
Girls, and Quiet Drive)**  
House of Blues  
Doors open: 5:00 p.m. Show starts: 5:30 p.m.  
**Storm Stories: True Dramas of Hurricane Katrina**  
Clark County Library Main Theater, 7:00 p.m.  
An original work by playwright Judi Ann Mason, is a  
presentation of collected monologues and compiled  
scenes based on the true stories of Hurricane Katrina.

## February 24

**The Cab, Camden, Goodbye Tomorrow, Pierce the  
Veil, This Calendar Year**  
University Theater (4737 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas,  
NV 89119)  
Admission: \$10  
**Flogging Molly with Street Dogs  
and Twopointeight**  
House of Blues, \$18  
Doors open: 5:00 p.m.  
Show starts: 6:00 p.m.  
**Storm Stories: True Dramas of Hurricane Katrina**  
Clark County Library Main Theater  
2:00 p.m.  
An original work by playwright Judi Ann Mason, is a  
presentation of collected monologues and compiled  
scenes based on the true stories of Hurricane Katrina.

## February 26

**Army of Anyone, Hurt, Dropping Daylight and  
Neurosonic**  
House of Blues  
Admission: \$15  
Doors open: 5:00 p.m.  
Show starts: 6:00 p.m.

## Hot Reads, Cool Crafts

Age 10+  
'Bud, Not Buddy'  
Paseo Verde Library  
Registration required.  
Create your own crafts while listening to great stories.  
**Tennis Channel Open**  
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Darling Memorial Tennis Center

## February 27

**Tennis Channel Open**  
10:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.  
Darling Memorial Tennis Center  
**'Funny Girl'**  
Clark County Library, Main Theater  
1:00 p.m.  
*Movie event:* Barbara Streisand stars as singer-comedian  
Fanny Brice in this classic musical comedy.  
**'Crash'**  
Clark County Library, Main Theater  
7:00 p.m.  
*Movie event:* Paul Haggis parlays the success of his  
"Million Dollar Baby" screenplay into this ambitious  
directorial debut: a star-studded film that deals frankly  
with issues of class difference, racial tension and social  
injustice. Winner of three Oscars including Best Picture.  
Rated R.

## funzone answers to Funzone on page 38

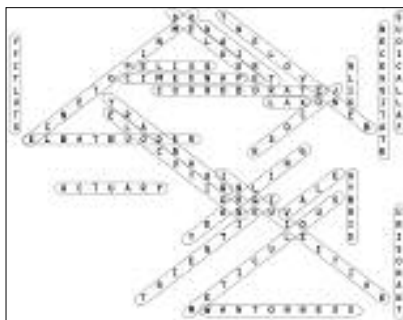
### ponder this! Answers from the book, 'Ever Wonder Why?' by Douglas B. Smith.

...why do they call the notes taken at a meeting 'minutes'?  
Notes at meetings used to be taken using very small handwriting, and later transcribed to a larger hand. The word 'minute,' when pronounced with accent on the second syllable, means 'very small.' Long ago the word minute was pronounced the same as minute, and thus the small notes have since been called minutes.

...why is someone feeling completely happy said to be 'on cloud nine'?  
Types of clouds are actually numbered, based upon what altitudes they reach.

Because nine is the number for the highest cloud, someone 'on cloud nine' is as happy and without care as if they were floating high in the sky, away from the worries back on earth.

...why are boats and ships referred to as female?  
New sailing ships were once dedicated to a particular goddess who was said to protect the ship during its voyage. The goddess' image was usually carved on the ship's bow (the front of the boat). This led to the ship being referred to as a 'she'.



### conundrums

MILLION  
One in a million

uPLATm  
Platinum

KNEE  
light light  
neon lights

settle  
settle down



8	5	3	4	9	6	1	7	2
1	6	2	8	3	7	5	4	9
4	7	9	1	2	5	8	6	3
7	2	8	5	4	3	6	9	1
3	9	1	6	8	2	7	5	4
6	4	5	9	7	1	3	2	8
9	1	6	2	5	8	4	3	7
2	8	7	3	6	4	9	1	5
5	3	4	7	1	9	2	8	6

# SCHOLARSHIPS!

make the most of your college future

## FEBRUARY SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTORY

### ELDER & LEEMAUR PUBLISHERS "VOICE OF THE FUTURE" SCHOLARSHIP

Contact: <http://www.elpublishers.com/content/scholarship-voiceofthefuture.php>

Amount: \$500 – \$10,000 Deadline: March 1

Requirements: Available to high school juniors and seniors and undergraduate students. You must submit an essay of 500 words or less addressing one of the topics on the sponsor's site.

### DOROTHY VANDERCOOK PEACE SCHOLARSHIP

Contact: <http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org/scholarships/>

Amount: \$250 – \$500 Deadline: March 1

Requirements: Open to high school seniors and college freshmen. You must write a brief biography of your activities related to nuclear disarmament, conflict resolution or community service. You must also describe your plans for contributing to a healthy planet, and provide information on your school and community activities. Two letters of recommendation are required.

### KOHL'S KIDS WHO CARE AWARD

Contact: <http://www.kohlscorporation.com/CommunityRelations/Community02.htm>

Amount: \$50 – \$5,000 Deadline: March 15

Requirements: Available to students between the ages of 6 and 18 who have not yet graduated from high school and who make a difference in their community. Your volunteer efforts must have resulted in a positive community outcome and must have occurred within the last 12 months to be eligible. You must be nominated for this award by an individual over the age of 21.

### ANTHEM ESSAY CONTEST

Contact: [http://www.aynrand.org/site/PageServer?pagename=education\\_contests\\_anthem](http://www.aynrand.org/site/PageServer?pagename=education_contests_anthem)

Amount: \$30 – \$2,000 Deadline: March 20

Requirements: Open to freshmen and sophomore high school students. You must write an essay between 600 and 1,200 words on the book "Anthem," by Ayn Rand. The themes for this year's contest can be found on the Web site provided.

### ALVIN J. COX MEMORIAL FUND

Contact: <http://www.alvincoxmemorial.com/>

Amount: \$600 Deadline: March 23

Requirements: Available to college students in need of financial assistance. You must submit an essay on any topic of your choosing as long it includes your reason for deciding to attend college, your reason as to why you believe you deserve the scholarship and a description of any community service you have completed or charitable organizations you have been involved with.

### NATIONAL D-DAY MUSEUM ONLINE ESSAY CONTEST

Contact: <http://www.ddaymuseum.org/education/studentessays.html>

Amount: \$100 – \$500 Deadline: March 30

Requirements: Available to high school students in the United States and United States Territories. You must submit an essay of 1,000 words or less and discuss what lessons we can learn from World War II to overcome today's challenges.

Now's the time to start thinking about college! Here are a few things you can do for the month of February:

If you are a JUNIOR:

- If you haven't, register and prepare for the ACT/SAT practice tests on Nelnet College Planning.

If you are a SENIOR:

- Respond promptly to any request for additional information from colleges.
- Continue researching and applying to scholarships (note their deadlines).

Information provided by [www.nelnet.net/collegeplanning](http://www.nelnet.net/collegeplanning)

For more information on how to plan for your future, how to choose a college and how to get financial aid, log onto the Clark County School District's Guidance Counseling website at [http://ccsd.net/cpd/guidance\\_counseling](http://ccsd.net/cpd/guidance_counseling).

**SUU IS HOME TO UTAH'S ONLY**  
**Hispanic Center for Academic Excellence**  
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# “The Best Kept Secret in Education!”

**Apply NOW for Fall 2007!**

**Nevada State High School** is an Early College High School where 11th and 12th grade students enroll as college freshman and earn high school credit for their coursework.

**Nevada State High School** is a leader in transitioning students to college; nearly 100% of all students continue to a college of their choice needing no remediation.

**Nevada State High School** is a small school with a projected enrollment of 200 students. Students are placed into a college environment with help and support in a small school setting to help them make a successful transition from high school to college.

**Nevada State High School** covers all college tuition and textbook expenses.

**Nevada State High School** offers college courses from Nevada State College and Community College of Southern Nevada (Henderson, Cheyenne, and Charleston Campuses).

**Nevada State High School** requires that all students have a high school GPA of 2.0 or higher and have enough high school credits to be in 11th or 12th grade.

**Nevada State High School** is sponsored by the Nevada Department of Education and has been recognized as a school with **HIGH ACHIEVING STATUS**.



**Nevada State High School** appeals to students who are motivated to be in school and go to college. This is where practical meets education; students finish their high school graduation requirements while getting started on **FREE college education**.

Call **702-992-2017** or visit [www.earlycollegeNV.com](http://www.earlycollegeNV.com) for more information.

Attend one of our information meetings on the Campus of Nevada State High School:  
303 South Water Street, Suite 120 // Henderson, NV 89015

Friday, February 2 at 6pm • Saturday, March 10 at 10am • Thursday, April 19 at 6pm  
Saturday, May 5 at 10am • Saturday, June 16 at 10am.



**Reserve your spot. Pre-register NOW for the Fall 2007 semester online!**