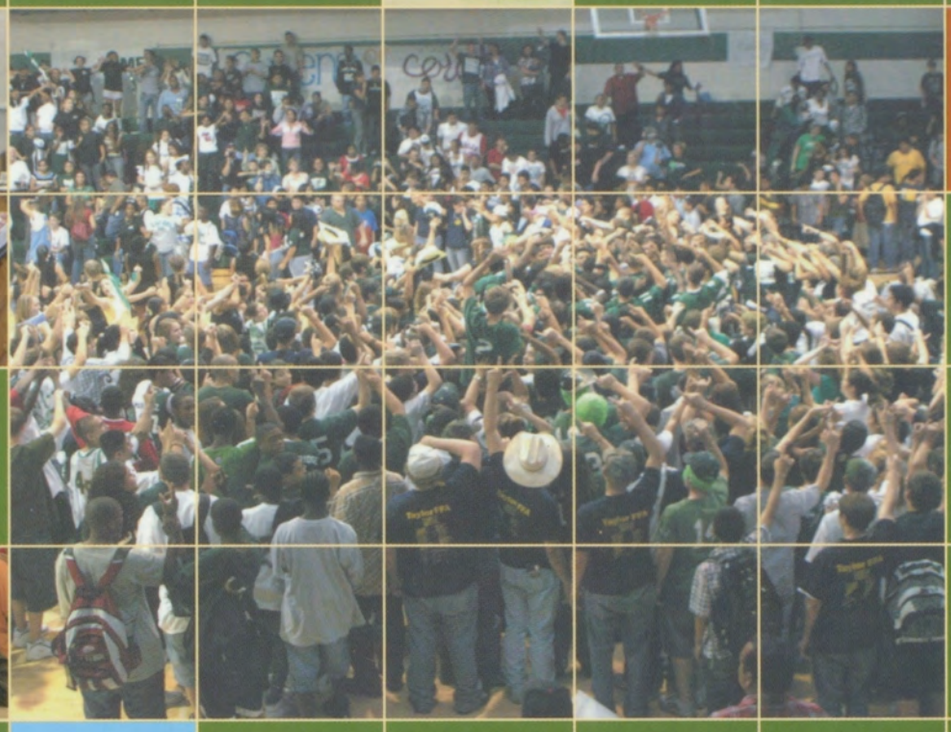


Once A Duck Always A Duck!

















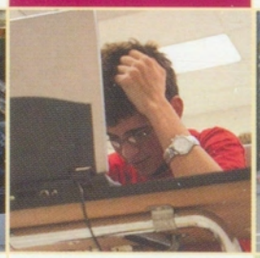
Taking SHAPE



academics

lifestyles







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taking shape

Mallard

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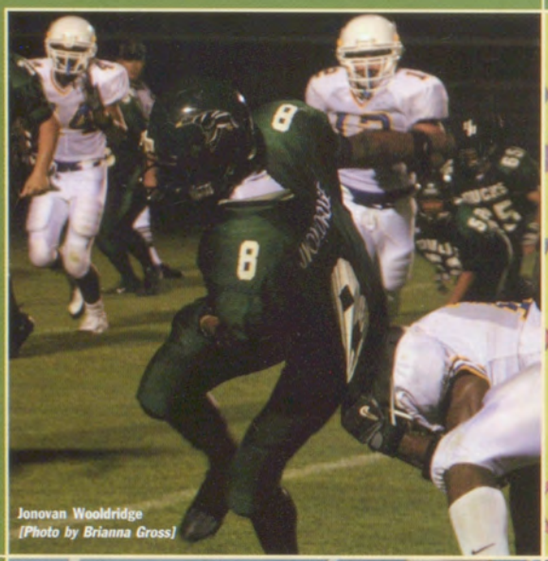


Jonovan Wooldridge
[Photo by Brianna Gross]



Art by Christian Castillo
[Photo by Ireida Fernandez]



Michael Saverse
[Photo by Kara Kerlin]



Paula Naizer and Melissa Dechiara
[Photo by Brianna Gross]

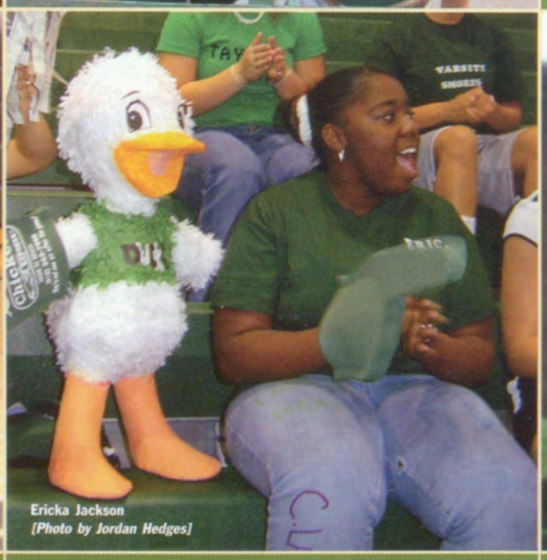


Tyler Graef and Travis Teggeman
[Photo by Kara Kerlin]

Taking Shape



Duvelsa Mungia
[Photo by Devyn Rucker]



Ericka Jackson
[Photo by Jordan Hedges]



Nikki Block
[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]

Taking Shape

At Taylor High School, life always seems to be about tomorrow. Tomorrow the big newspaper project is due in Mrs. Bennett's World History class. Tomorrow is a day closer to the very much needed weekend. As tomorrow turns into today, memories are made that will forever shape the lives of students in Taylor. We are learning that the choices we make will shape the outcomes of tomorrow. Whether choosing to turn in a homework assignment or making the final huge decision on a college, our choices shape the people we are becoming. Taylor is slowly expanding both as a community and as a school. Everything around us seems to be growing, and now it is time for us to grow as well. This year, as tomorrow turns into today and life seems emphatically large, it becomes all about taking shape.



[Photo by Brianna Gross]

























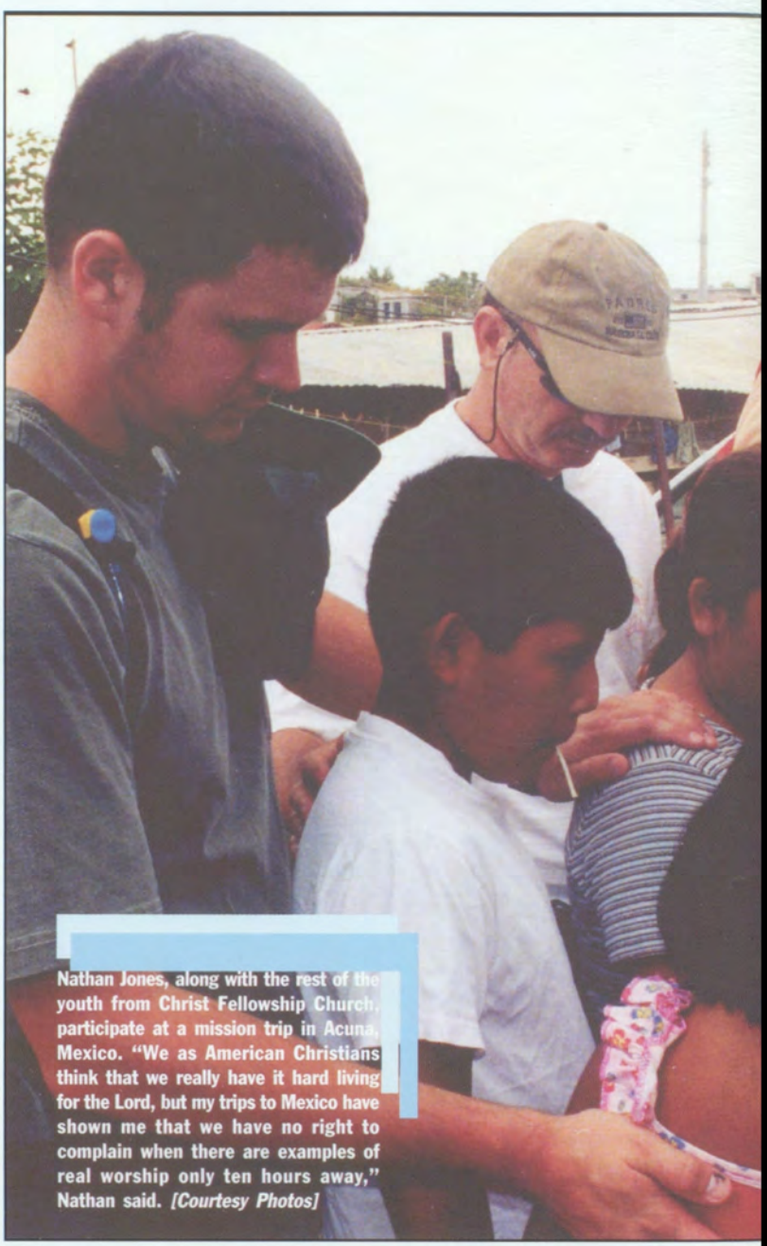
Defining THE Edges

Kaye Bauer and her sister Mallory Hartman took a trip to Cozumel for a week. They went on a tour of the island on four-wheelers, and even went snorkeling and scuba diving. "I got my hair braided - it took three hours!" Kaye said.



Ashton Baran, Megan Kirkwood, Matt Baran, and Erin Tomei spend a week relaxing in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. "Mexico was very unique because we got to see animals that you don't get to see every day," Ashton said.





Nathan Jones, along with the rest of the youth from Christ Fellowship Church, participate at a mission trip in Acuna, Mexico. "We as American Christians think that we really have it hard living for the Lord, but my trips to Mexico have shown me that we have no right to complain when there are examples of real worship only ten hours away," Nathan said. *[Courtesy Photos]*



Mr. Miller escapes the stress of teaching freshmen by vacationing in Mexico. "Scuba diving is a great getaway, but at 110 feet below the surface, no one can hear you scream," Mr. Miller said.



Ashlee Vrana and Jessica Seggern participated in a softball competition in Belgium, Germany. "It was my first time to Europe. I had a lot of fun and I wish I could go back," Ashlee said.



on a mission

by rebecca ray & sarah johnson

For many students, summer is a time to escape the hassle of everyday life, school work, and sometimes family, so they pack their things and head on down to the beach. Some of them may even be lucky enough to visit New York or maybe even Cancun. Wherever it may be, most people would never think of giving up their summers to go on a missionary trip.

For Nathan Jones, it was not a sacrifice, but an opportunity to help where help is needed. Every year the youth of Christ Fellowship Church in Taylor, travel to Acuna, Mexico. Their mission: to spread the Gospel and provide life's necessities, mainly clothes and food, to the many children of Acuna. They also get to entertain the children by performing skits and playing games with them. For Nathan, his favorite time was hanging out with the kids, "especially Pepe Loco. Pepe was the bomb!"

Paris Lopez, who also went, said, "I loved just playing with the little kids, and being at the mission."



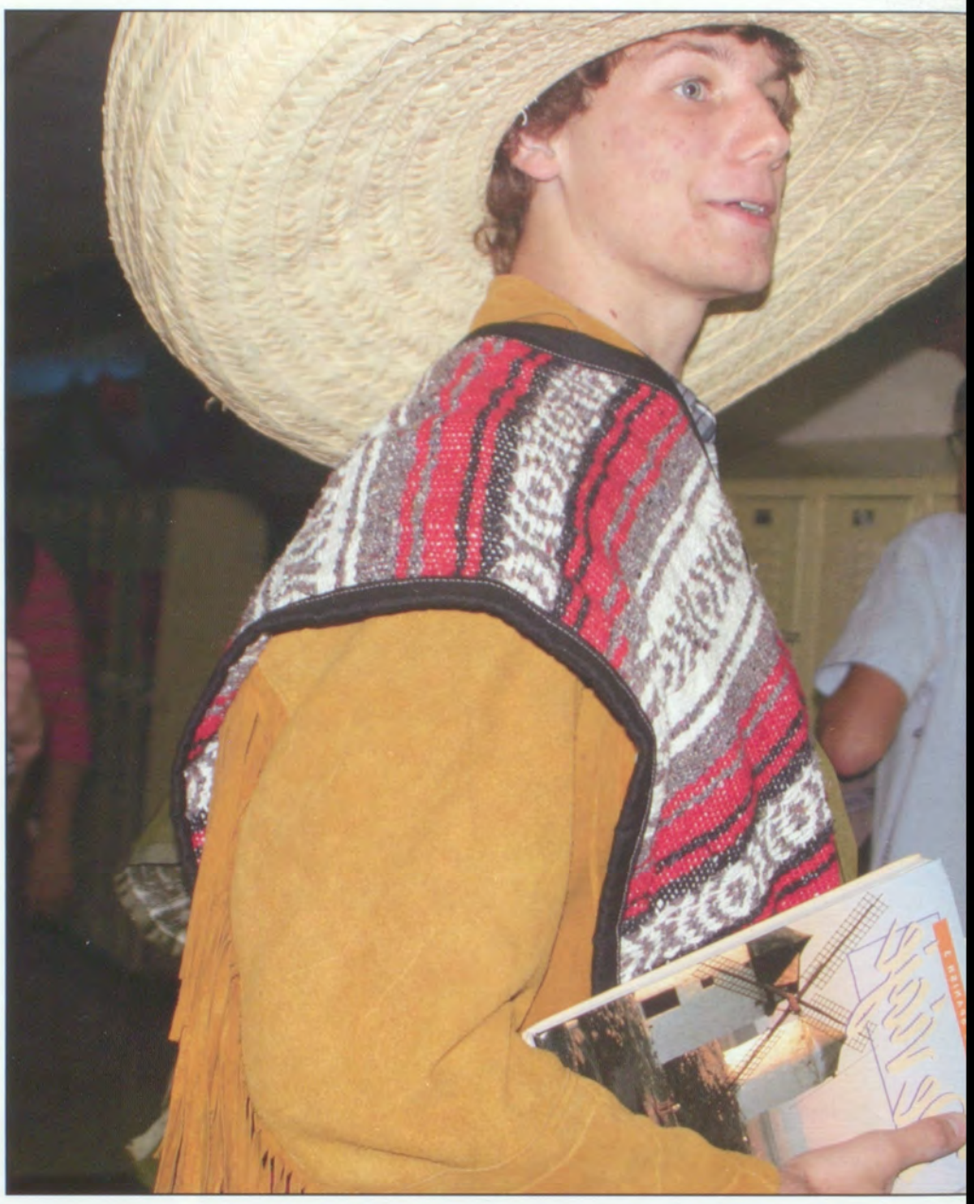
So after five days of a little hard work and a lot of fun, they left Acuna with a sense of accomplishment. To send them on their way in style, the townspeople gave them a going away festival. For the short time they were there, they learned enough to last a lifetime, and made memories they will never forget.



Nathan Jones spends time with three children at a mission trip in Mexico. "Sharing God with the children left a life-changing impression on my heart and soul," Nathan said.

Taylor's American Legion Baseball team represented Texas in the Midwest Regional Tournament in Oklahoma. They came in fourth place out of the eight teams attending.

Matt Drummond yells to his friends on his way to Spanish class. Matt enjoyed cowboy day because he could show his true side. *[All Photos by Emily Quinn]*



Sherrie Stringer tells Sarah Kuntz a joke as they walk to their fifth period class. The two girls made special shirts just for green and white day.





The Taylor American Legion Baseball Team proudly sports their baseball jerseys given to them for winning state this summer. "We all just came up with the idea to wear our jerseys and it sounded like fun," Stiles Parker said.



"I love spirit week. It is a great way to get everyone pumped up and ready for the big homecoming game on Friday. But I still wish we had tacky day!"

Tempe Blackstone

Hear Me Roar



"I want to be the President of the United States,"proclaimed Christopher Baisley. Wearing a suit on dress for success day is the closest he has come to this goal for now.



Seniors always look foward to their one chance to get away with camo in school. Senior, Kim Heeke, said that a group of her friends, "actually went to Academy late Monday night to get camo clothes."



Billie Tomecek enjoys her five minute passing period before going to class. Billie seized the opportunity to dress like a cowgirl on western day.

UT-bound Aaron Vanecek is excited at the chance to join his longhorn classmates on college day. "I live and breathe burnt orange, and I would do anything to help defeat the Sooners. Hook 'em!" Aaron said.







shameless pride

by emily quinn



Every year, students look forward to the one week when wearing a huge sombrero and poncho will get one anything but strange stares. Junior, Matt Drummond was not afraid to show his school spirit.

"It was a great window of opportunity to show my spirit for THS; it was like prancing rabbits and rainbows," Matt laughs.

Each day of the week, students are encouraged to dress in the themed attire for that day. On Monday, college fans supported their favorite teams, and Tuesday's buddy day was, as always, one of the most popular days. Along with buddy day came the long awaited camo day for the seniors.

"Practically no one in the high school was without a twinkie that day," Hailey Mokry recalls. Wednesday's western day brought many twists to the traditional cowboy attire. Matt was only one of these individuals by dressing as a Mexican gaucho. Dressing for success on Thursday turned out to be a hit. Some dressed as what they wish to become, and several even to the extent of a suit or tuxedo, including Matt.

"When I grow up, I would like to become an Indian Medicine Man," Matt said, although his attire did not reflect this career path.

The hallways were like a sea of green, black, and white on Friday as students showed their Duck pride on green and white day. Students always take advantage of this day to the highest measure by wearing mums and garters, covering themselves in green from head to toe, and even painting their faces.

On a rushed morning, it is often a relief to be able to show up to class with a homemade T-shirt and an old cowboy hat to put over your unwashed, tangled hair. As one can see, this week can also be about convience. Whatever one's motive, the most memorable part about Spirit Week will always be witnessing students go beyond one's normal dress and shamelessly stand up for their school.



farmers' float

by devyn rucker

During the Homecoming parade most clubs or organizations just decorate their floats with colorful butcher paper and balloons. FFA decided to take a step futher. Along with the traditional butcher paper and balloons, they wanted to put a calf on board. Ashley Keith had the perfect calf in mind: Cole. Cole belongs to Mr. Bishop's dad, but Ashley takes the credit for raising him.

About 20 members of FFA worked all week to get the float ready for the big day. They also had to created a mane for Cole to wear to look more like a lion, Lockhart's mascot.

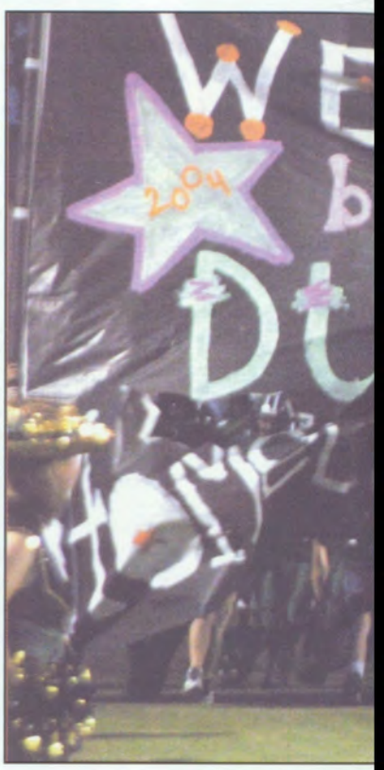
"We used just a costume beard and added some elastic, and then sprayed it down with gold spray paint," Ashley said.

The day of the parade, Mr. Bishop's dad brought Cole up to the school to be loaded onto the trailer.

"Cole was going crazy when he was first put in the trailer, but then he seemed to get tired and he laid his head down on Ashley," Mallory Dykowski said, who was also in the bamboo cage with Ashley Keith and Cole.

This year the parade was a little different from last year, besides the fact of having a animal on a float, trailers were allowed. Student Senate sponsor Vickie Bennett was really excited when she learned that she had permission to allow motor vehicles to take part again.

After the parade, the whole student body crammed into the gym for the pep rally. Mr. Miller announced that the seniors had won the hall decoration contest, and then anounced the parade winners. FFA took first place overall, which seems to be all thanks to Cole.





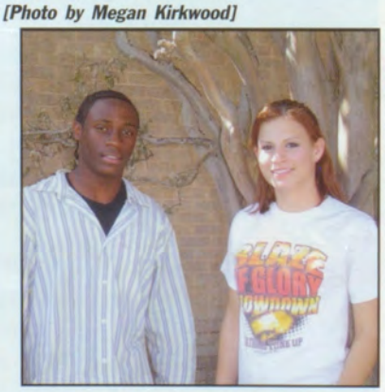
Senior Prince Andrew Tovar, Princess Brooke Schneider, Queen Nikki Block, King Jonavon Wooldridge, Princess Katie Quinn, and Prince Mikey Saverse. ***[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]***



Freshman Princess Stacy Bubinek and Prince Steffon Cook. ***[Courtesy Photo]***



Sophomore Princess Briana Lopez and Prince John Kaspar. ***[Courtsey Photo]***



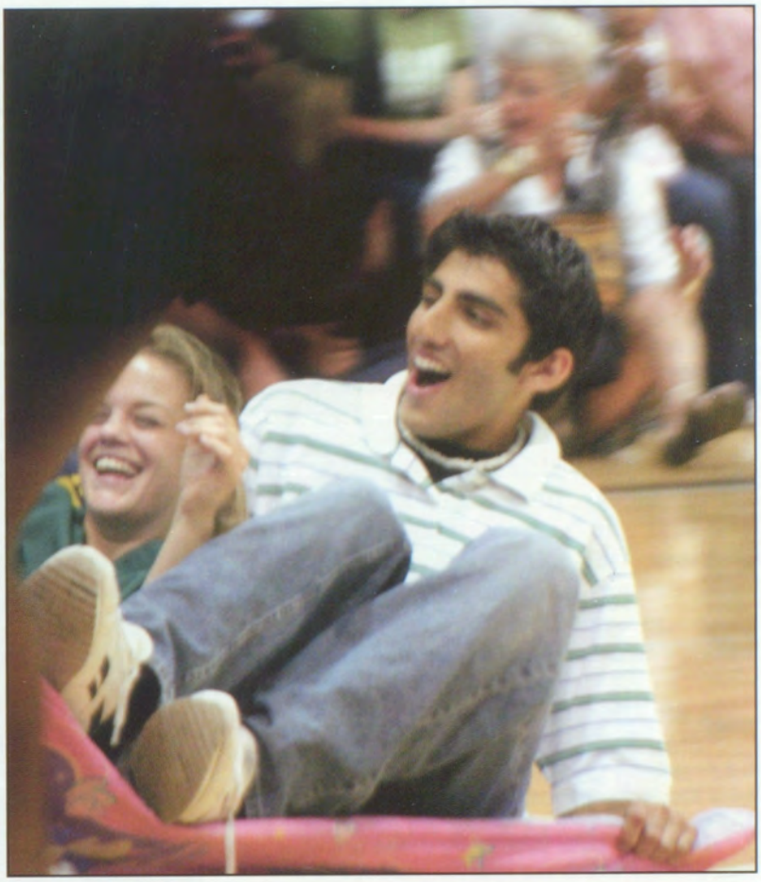
Junior Princess Katelyn Gola and Prince Brandon Davis. ***[Photo by Devyn Rucker]***



The team busts through the sign, ready to play. "Homecoming is always an excting game," Mallory Janak said. *[Photo by Bryan Zak]*



Jenna Thornton and Shivam Gandhi are pulled across the floor on blankets. They participated as a part of class competition. *[Photo by Bryan Zak]*







Ashley Keith and Cole the calf go for a ride down Mallard Lane during the parade. The FFA float took first place overall. *[Photo by Bryan Zak]*

Waddles gets the crowd hyped up during the pep rally. "She really knows how to move," Duvelsa Murgia said. *[Photo by Bryan Zak]*



FFA President Barrett Wygant is a firm believer in wearing what is suitable to his lifestyle. Barrett said an added bonus to his tight jeans is "that the girls dig it."



Jeffrey Jefferson sports his red and black Nike jumpsuit for the camera. "Jeffery is a clean dresser like Jay-Z," according to Mistie Carpenter.



Joanna Schimdt, debates on whether or not to kick the camera on her comfy day. "I do dress cute, I really do," she said.



Christopher "Hurricane" Alderete shows his personality through his fashion. "Everyone knows Chris for his hair," Mrs. Bennett said.



Sharna Mitchell strikes a pose. "It feels good to look pretty," she says. *[Photos by Matti Mott]*





Jaboa Matoska shows off one of her many pairs of converse. "I have so many different pairs of Chuck's, I can't even count them in my head," Jaboa said.

feelings shape fashion

by matti mott

We all have our own ideas about fashion, and some of students could not care less about the subject. That, however, is not the case for Sharna Mitchell. Sharna's motto for fashion is quite simple:

"To look pretty is to feel good," she says.

For most, that is the absolute truth.

"When you feel confident in your appearance, and comfortable with who you are, everything is better," she says.

For Sharna, clothes are more than something she puts on out of necessity. She takes the time to find out which outfit will best fit her mood for the day.

"My clothes are like a warning sign," she says.

For Sharna, there is no certain style group she fits into. She knows that there are many diverse styles and she likes to get ideas from them all.

"I like to be unique in what I wear, so I steal ideas from everyone and put them all together," she says.

Though we all have our own opinions about style, a lot of them correlate to Sharna's ideas about being who you are and staying comfortable in what you wear.

What is fashion to YOU?

"It's just a bandwagon."
-Megan Patschke

"I don't know. Ask my mom, she dresses me."
-Logan Tucker

"Style is like Dr.Pepper: a taste of orginality."
-Christopher Alderete

"It's the way you dress, and it reflects your personality vigorously."
-Barrett Wygant

"I want my clothes to make a good impression because a first impression can take you a long way."
-Jamie Pausewang



Sarah Rohlock thinks hard about what fashion truly means to her. "Clothes should reflect who you are inside," Sarah said.

slushie the miracle drink

by justin bigon

As one puts a hand on a freezing cup and takes the first gulp of a slushie anxiously awaited for all morning, it is apparent lunch has begun.

Slushies are a great substitute for any drink because "they last longer than the other drinks," sophomore John Kaspar says. The flavors consist of strawberry, tropical berry, cherry, and lime.

Students like the savory delight of these slushies so much that they would be willing to go to great lengths and sacrifice to get one. Sophomore Sergio Tovar would "give up my left arm," and sophomore Nick Alexander would even "pay a dollar."



Daniel Siguenza thouroughly enjoys a nice refreshing slushie. He buys them, "everyday. They're magically delicious!"

Slushies are a popoular new addition to the new cafeteria. Almost everyone has this frozen drink in their hand. Underclassmen liken this frosty treat to a miracle of glorious flavor in a cup, and upperclassmen deem it worthy of envy, especially compared to the other food.

The reason John Kaspar prefers slushies to hamburgers is "The cheese is plastic. Hambuger meat is fake; it's mystery meat."

The impact of this icy beverage is immeasurable. Clearly the slushie is here to stay.





Veronica Chaidez thoroughly enjoys her food from Taco Bell. Mexican food added more of a variety to the everyday hamburgers.



Maricela Ortiz, Crystal Bracamontez, and Crystal Gutierrez pull into the Sonic parking lot to enjoy a fast, tasty meal. Sonic offered a quick stop-and-go lunch. *[All Photos by Brianna Gross]*

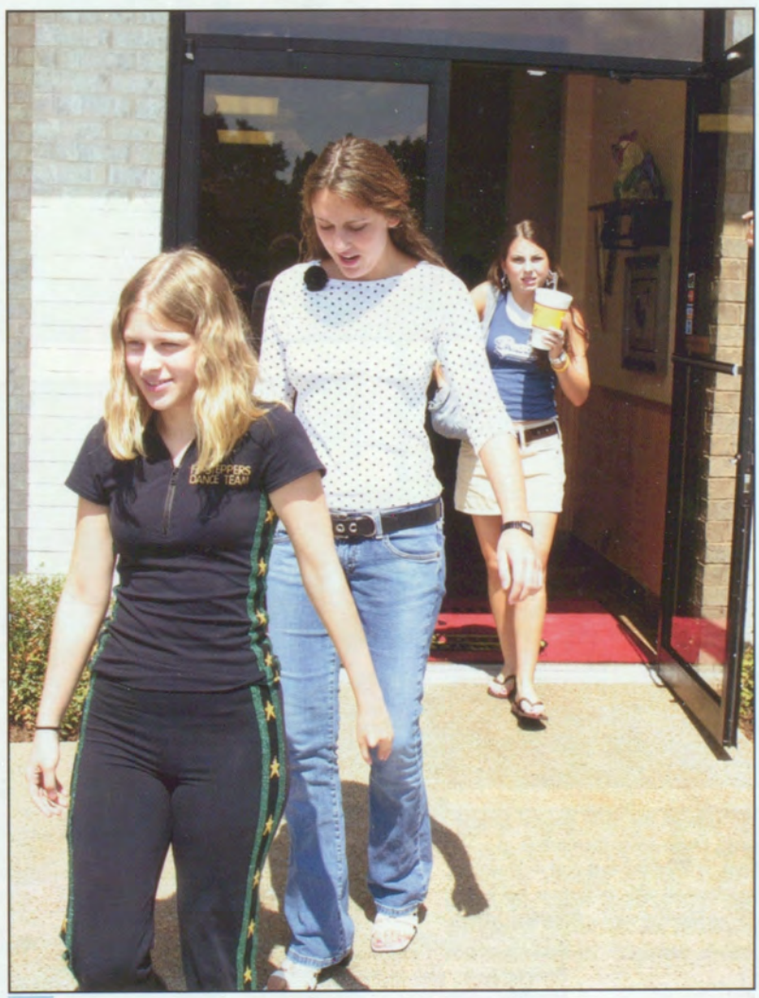
Jose Gonzales and Krystel Stoglin make the great lunch exchange. A few students found themselves working during the lunch period.



Briana Lopez chows down on her french fries. Most underclassmen aprreciated the new snack bar and its variety of food.







Melissa Mokry, Gretchen Richter, and Lindsay Wilson race out of Chicken Express. Even though upperclassmen enjoyed the ability to go off campus, they still had to make it back to school on time.





The girls of the First Baptist Church youth group enjoy themselves at a retreat. "I liked the fact that we could all just open up with each other and talk," Alyssa Guzman said. *[Courtesy photo]*



Joshua Lopez, Cody Eastman, and Nathan Jones play in the Christ Fellowship youth praise and worship band. These guys have been playing together for two years and enjoy praising God through their music. *[Photo by Sarah Johnson]*

Cullen Pick and Kyle Vanecek wrap up their canoeing adventure at Lutherstock, a one-day church retreat. Lutherstock is one example of the many activities offered at Camp Chrysalis. *[Courtesy Photo]*

fellowship and fun

by sarah johnson

Proverbs 27:17 states, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Just as this verse explains, people need friends to confide in and share with. Church youth groups often fulfill students' needs for encouragement, accountability, advice, and fun.

Much of the basis of a youth group is the realtionships one builds with other Christian peers. For many students, it is an encouragement to be around youth who have similar beliefs.

On Sunday, September 19, over 284 students met at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville to fellowship together at a music festival called Lutherstock. 14 of those teenagers were THS students and members of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church youth group.



The St. Paul's youth group spends a day at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville at Lutherstock, a music festival.

The theme of this event was, "All faith, all day," and that is exactly what the participants got. As well as several Christian bands and singers to listen to, there were games and activities to participate in.

Evan Gerran and Travis Teggeman decided to go on a canoe ride at the camp but ended up just getting soaked in the lake.

"We were just messing around and rocking the canoe," Evan said. "It was Travis's fault; he flipped us over!"

You can ask any student who went to Lutherstock and they will tell you it was a great time of fellowship and fun.

"We had a blast; it was so much fun!" Amy Whittaker said, who attended the festival as well.

No matter what one's beliefs are, it is always fun and comforting to spend some time with people who share those same beliefs.

What do you like about Your Youth Group?

"There's no old people there!"
-Taylor Savage
First Baptist Church

"We have a lot of fun doing what most teenagers usually don't - talking about God."
-Reyna Yanez
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

"I like praising God and hanging out with other Christians."
-Edward Stringer
First Baptist Church

"I like being in the Christian environment and enjoy worshipping God through the band's music."
-Katie Brooks
Christ Fellowship Church

"I enjoy being able to hang out and have fun with other youth."
-Leighanne Volek
First Baptist Church



Colin Valerio contributes to Servant Saturday by sweeping off the roof of an elderly member of FBC. Once a month, the youth group at First Baptist Church helped out the community with their service. *[Courtesy photo]*



On Sunday, October 24, Scattered Remains headlined for the first time at a popular club on 6th Street. *[Courtesy Photo]*



Andy Johnson rocks away during his birthday bash at Circleville Hall. "My band [Blood of the Lamb] could have done better, but you can always do better when it comes to music," Andy said. *[Courtesy Photo]*



Krieg Penny, vocalist for Scattered Remains, gets ready for a headlining show at Redrum in downtown Austin. "There's no better feeling than when you're on stage and you see your crowd going completely insane at the sound of the music you've created," Krieg said. *[Courtesy Photo]*



Josh Gonzales jams out on stage at one of Merit's Taylor shows. "When the fans get into your music, your adrenaline really starts to pump, and that's what my energy feeds off of," Josh said. *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]*





Merit bassist Joe Strelsky gets the crowd riled up as the singer belts out her solo. "I've seen Merit play from the beginning, and they just get better and better the harder they work," Chelsea Barcuch said. *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]*

"Merit just has a unique sound. They don't compare to anything I've heard."

- Michael Campos

life in the lights

by aubrey byfield

If you've never done it, you can't understand how much effort it takes to put together a band or to keep one going strong. It takes a certain respect and passion to go far with music. Instead of putting spare time into hangouts, some musicians put their talents to use and pour their spirits into their music.

"I've been playing for three years . . . it's a way to express myself and I just like to do it. It's never easy [but it's fun if] you like what you're doing," Steven Vanboekout said.

There are very few bands in our little town, but there is one well-known band that has broken out of the garage and onto the Austin music scene. Merit has been together for years and has accumulated new musicians over that time. Their love for music and need to move up a step are proof that music is more than a hobby.

"We really work hard to make the best music possible, and hopefully in the long run it'll pay off," lead guitarist Josh Gonzales said.

The fans who love their shows say that Merit has what it takes to make it big.

"Merit just has a unique sound," Michael Campos said. "They don't compare to anything I've heard."

Merit has sent demo recordings to major record labels Epic, Elektra, and Warner Brothers.

"Doing that takes a lot of nerve," fellow musician Mrs. Catuogno said. "You take the risk of being rejected. But if you don't take the risk, you'll never know."

Krieg Penny agrees. "Critisicm comes with the package, and when you get criticized, you just need to find ways to use it to your advantage," Krieg said.



Dedicated Merit fans show their enthusiasm as the band rocks out on stage. "Merit just has a different sound to them and they're one of those bands you know will go far because of how unique they are," Blakesley King said.





Amanda Moss desperately tries to make Ali's cowboy hat stay attached with bobby pins.



Ali is caught off-guard by the camera as she dresses for the sportswear category. "I'm not ready yet!" Ali said.



Always the diva, Ali demands more bobby pins from Elisabeth Garry. The girls had to make sure Ali's hair would stay put while she performed her talent.



Ali is introduced to the crowd for the evening gown portion of the competition. The crowd went wild for her as she stepped into the spotlight.



Ali Michelle waves to her crowd as she takes her walk across the stage after being crowned Miss Lucky Duck. "I felt beautiful as everyone cheered for me," Ali said. *[Photos by Kara Kerlin and Brianna Gross]*



Alan "Tanya" Gonzales squealed in delight when she was pronounced Little Miss Lucky Duck. Although the contest was put together at the last minute, three freshmen came through to compete in Little Miss Lucky Duck.

"The only 'gem' I know is the boy's gym!"

- Corey "Courtney" Graef







crimes of fashion

by kara kerlin

After she was crowned Miss Lucky Duck in December, I had a chance to sit down with the one and only "Ali Michelle" Gonzales.

Q: What was going through your head as you were crowned Miss Lucky Duck?

A: At first, I was really suprised. I never expected to win when I entered the pageant.

Q: How do you plan to use your title for the greater good?

A: I plan on using my title for all the little girls (and boys) around the world. I want to be their role model and let them know that they can make a difference.

Q: Who's your favorite Disney Princess?

A: Ariel from *The Little Mermaid.* I used to sit in front of the television and sing along with all the songs.

Q: Who is your favorite teacher?

A: It would have to be Mr. Brown, because he's so demanding. During warm-ups, he hits his baton repeatedly on his stand.

Q: What's your favorite class?

A: I really like Floral Design. I really like flowers and learning how to arrange them and make them really pretty.

Q: What is your favorite flavor of lip gloss?

A: Vanilla icing.

Q: Care to share some of your diet secrets that keep you in shape?

A: I eat two Quarter Pounders a day with large fries and Dr. Pepper.

Q: Do you have any other advice?

A: If the dress fits...wear it!

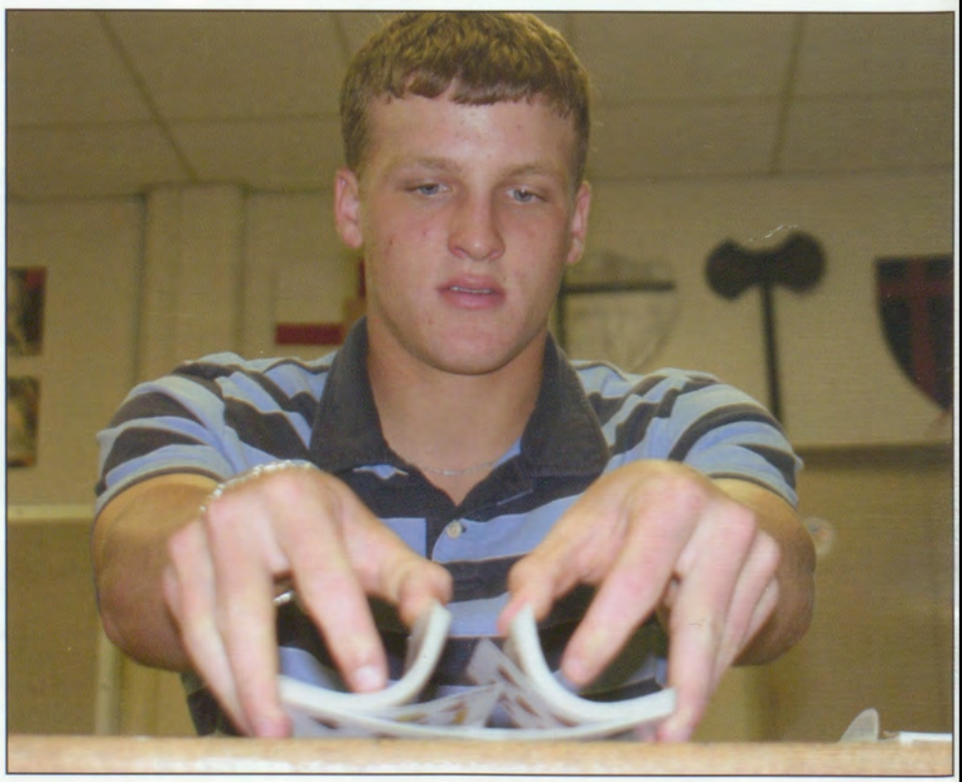


Travis "Luanne" Teggeman ties Jennifer Lindsay's tie for her in an ironic twist of roles.

Kyndal Stanley puts on makeup in the girls' locker room. "Class is for learning; makeup should be put on before school, during lunch, or after school," Mrs. Bennett said. *[Photos by Brent Holman]*



Chewing bubble gum and drinking "sody pop," Heath Hazelwood is distracted from an important learning session. Many students are distracted by others engaging in this same activity.



Stiles Parker shuffles a deck of cards during a lesson in class. "I want to be a professional poker player," Stiles said.

Disturbing disruptions

by brent holman

Distractions. There are so many different things around school that take one's mind off learning and put it some where else. Office aides walking in and out of classrooms, a person getting up to sharpen a pencil, animals and strangers getting into the building and roaming the halls, the tapping of pencils on desks, guys playing with paper footballs, the sound of heels thomping on the floor, and the annoying yearbook staffers popping in to take pictures, just to name a few. But those are nothing compared to the school's most noticed distractions, makeup and Daniel Lepe.



DO NOT LET THIS PICTURE FOOL YOU! Even though he looks harmless here, Daniel Lepe is usually running around the room causing some sort of trouble.

Makeup is a huge distraction to a lot of girls who struggle with managing their time between looks and studies. In nearly every class, one can find some girl sneaking a peek in her compact and touching up her eyes. Some girls wear so much that they "look like a parrot," Jill Boney said.

Other students have mastered the art so well that they "look like a model on the front page of a magazine," Jill said.

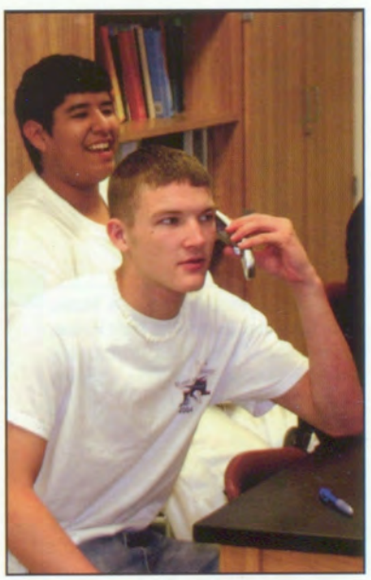
While makeup is a huge distraction for girls, Daniel Lepe is a general distraction for all with whom he shares a classroom. He may not *look* like a tropical bird, but he has been known to sound like one.

"Sometimes he's like a parrot because he says things over and over again," friend and classmate Caleb Mcgee said.

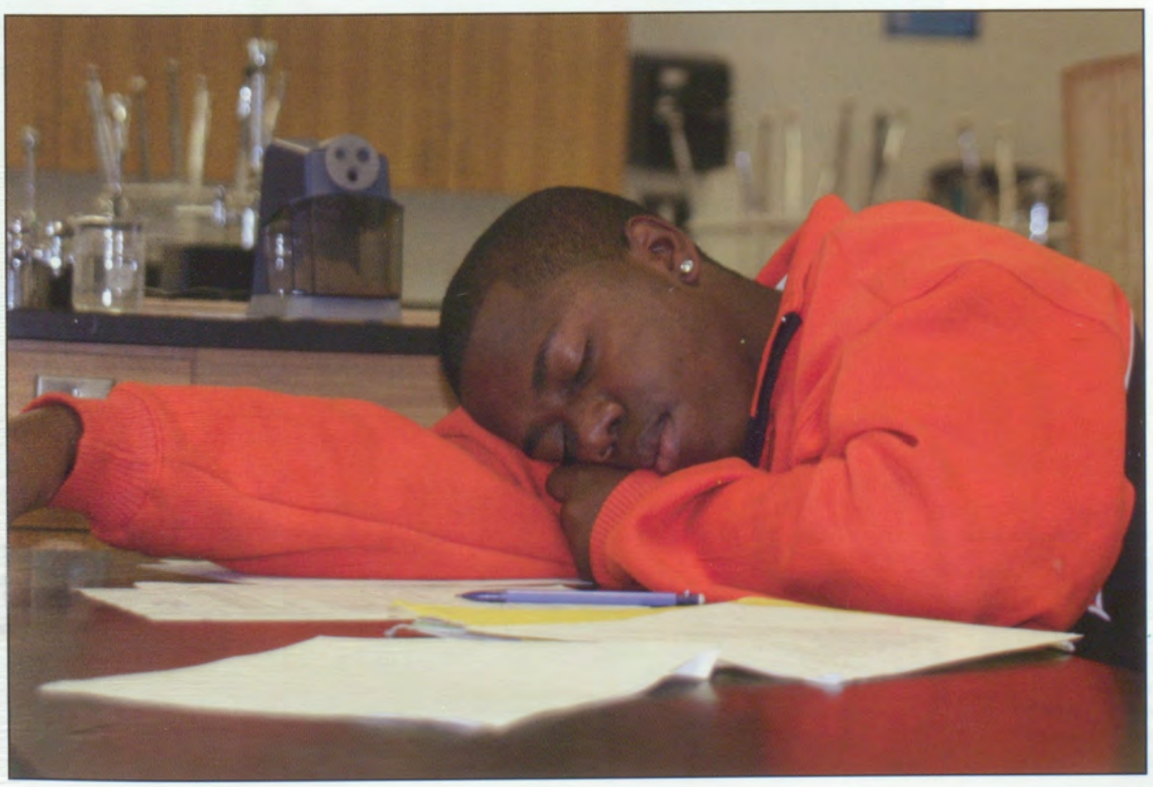
While students see Daniel as an extra laugh to go along with learning, teachers see him as a work in progress.

"It's challenging trying to keep him focused," Mrs. Schuldt, his physics teacher, said. "I fail at it most of the time, I admit, but I'm working on it."

Daniel attempts to give a reason for his disruptive ways. "In short I have no life. We can all agree with that. I observe the social groups of the school. I think how to make fun of them," Daniel said.



Sneakily, Bryan Vrana answers his cell phone during a lesson. "I couldn't help it," Bryan said. "My dad needed to ask me a question."



J.R. Cathey rests his eyes for a moment during class. After working for most of the day, many students get tired during afternoon classes.



Ben and Leah Jirasek take a break from class on his tailgate. "Taking her everywhere isn't that bad because she owes me for it later," Ben said. [*Photo by Katelyn Gola*]



The Savage twins, Sydney and Taylor, pose for a shot in front of their house. "Our mom always tries to find any occasion to take our picture," Sydney said. *[Courtesy photo]*



Barry and Larry Jackson (a.k.a. Twinkie One and Twinkie Two) are identical in their appearance and style. The twins are known for matching from head to toe. *[Photo by Katelyn Gola]*



Luke Kaspar pours Gatorade on his little brother John while he sleeps on the way home from a tennis match at Pflugerville Connally. Luke said, "Some people thought it was a waste of Gatorade, but it was used for a good purpose." [*Photo by Brianna Gross*]





Kiki Lopez tries to help out her little sister Crystal with a cosmetic issue. "She always hates it when I try to do things for her," Kiki said. *[Photo by Katelyn Gola]*

double trouble

by katelyn gola

It's Thursday night and you've been cramming for a dreaded English final, and know that no matter what, you can't pass on your own. You think to yourself, "If only I had a twin to switch with me, my life would be so much easier." For identical twins Jacquelyn and Stephanie Wolf, that's actually a possibility. (Not that they've ever tried it or will admit to trying it.)

For two people who look so much alike, and are constantly confused for one another, Jacquelyn and Stephanie are surprisingly different. The two share practically everything, including their room, clothes, friends, and even their desire to be individuals.

"Sharing everything is hard because we both just want things to ourselves," Stephanie said.

Jacquelyn and Stephanie play volleyball together, and they are both extremely competitive. They each want to be better than the other, and take their rivalry quite seriously.

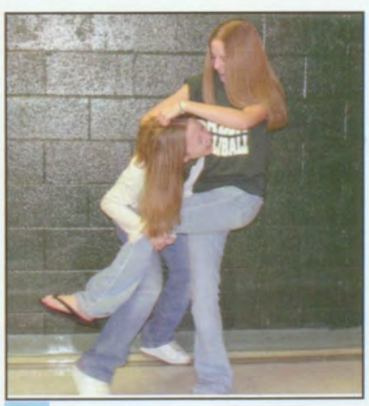
"We compete all the time. Usually it's serious, but sometimes it's fun," Jacquelyn said.

As if being a freshman this year wans't hard enough for them, they had to deal with the constant mixups by teachers and coaches.

"I can't tell them apart!" Coach Cargill said, "They do everything the same. The only way I can tell them apart is by their shoes. Jacquelyn has orange Nikes and Stephanie has baby blue Nikes."

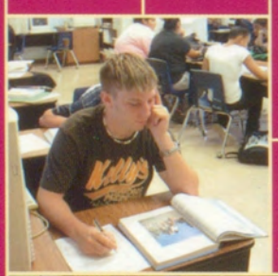
Being known as "the twins" is annoying to both of them. The two have very different personalities and often squabble.

"It gets so frustrating being called "the twins" all of the time; we are different people," Jaquelyn said.



Jacquelyn and Stephanie Wolf try to resolve a problem without a confrontation. "They're always fighting! Jacquelyn is definitely the meaner one," their friend, Jessica Dale said. *[Photo by Katelyn Gola]*

Acad

















emics

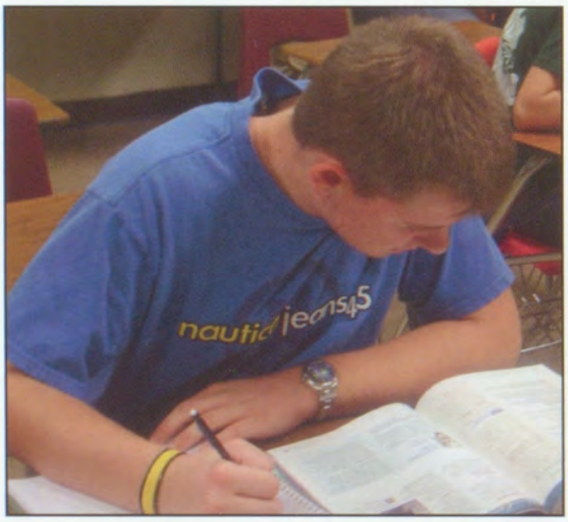
Shaping Futures

Mrs. Rowe smiles as the students enjoy her ice-cream. Since Mrs. Rowe was a Teacher of the Year finalist, Blue Bell Creamery brought free ice-cream for the school. *[Photo by Brianna Gross]*

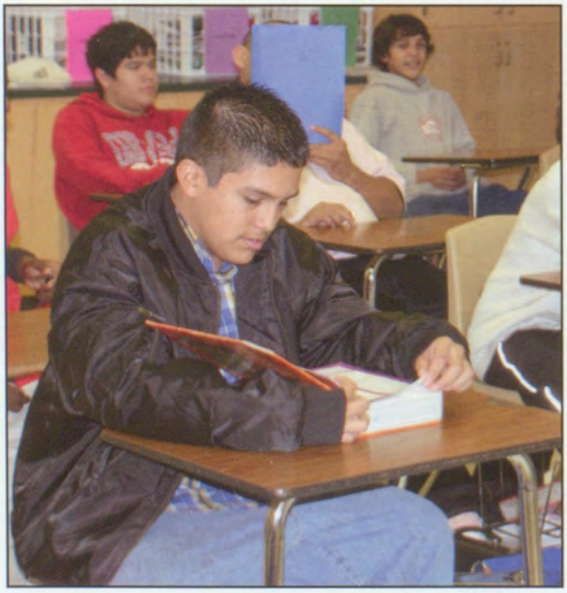


Francisca Araujo works on her research paper in Mrs. Rowe's class. "It was really nice to have the laptops in the room for research," said Francisca. *[Photo by Devyn Rucker]*



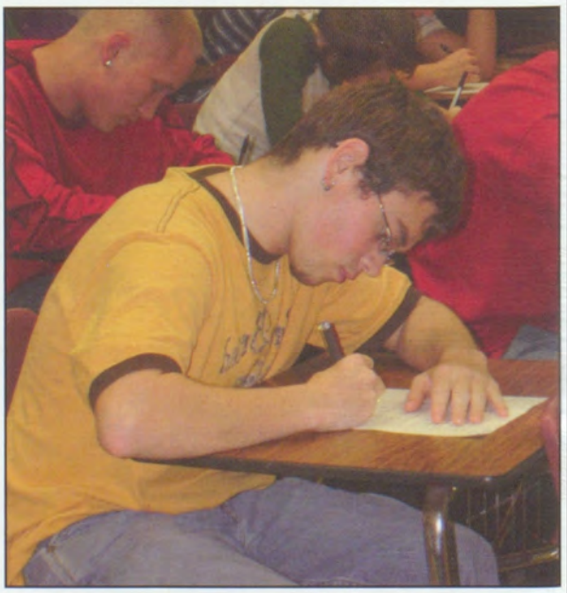


Matthew Milikan dives into his work trying to finish a reading assignment for Mrs. Rowe. The students in her English II classes read many different stories about the Arthurian Legends. *[Photo by Devyn Rucker]*



Victor Ortiz shuffles through the pages of his Literature book in Coach Cobb's freshman English class. "What page, Miss?" was a common question whenever books were passed out. *[Photo by Devyn Rucker]*

Klint Jackson tries to remember Act I of *Macbeth* for a test in Mrs. Foley's class. "I enjoyed reading *Macbeth*, but some of the Theatre students felt that they couldn't say his name," Klint said. *[Photo by Devyn Rucker]*





One of Mrs. Rowe's AP scholars, Joseph Debus, listens attentively about exploring different writers' voices. "I started to tell the students a part of my favorite fairy tale, 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff,' and they kept asking to hear more, so I had no choice but to finish the story," Mrs. Rowe said. *[Photo by Devyn Rucker]*

Mrs. Rowe is cool, funny, and a brilliant teacher!"

- Lorna Gould



Ms. Burklow lectures her English I class about *Antigone*. "Most students say "Anti-gone" but that is not right; it is "An-tig-o-ne," Ms. Burklow said. *[Photo by Devyn Rucker]*



Nakevia Miller and Mrs. Rowe

a different kind of pride

by devyn rucker

It's not uncommon for students to take a sense of pride in their school when the football team or softball team advances to the play-offs; it gives them a feeling of joy because they are part of a school that is doing well. But the students didn't have to wait for football season to experience this feeling of pride. Instead, our very own Mrs. Vicki Rowe gave the school something to be proud of, and this year it wasn't for being on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," but for being recognized on the state level as one of the top three secondary teachers in the state.

Mrs. Rowe has graced our school with her presence for five years and has been teaching for 23 years. Many of her students say she was their favorite teacher. She puts her heart and soul into her teaching and feels a sense of joy when her scholars accomplish tasks in school and in life.

Last spring when Mrs. Rowe was named Secondary Teacher of the Year here at Taylor, she never imagined she would go on to be the Region 13 Teacher of the Year.

"I walked around in a daze that whole day...it did not truly hit me until that night and then I started to cry," Mrs. Rowe said about the day she found out she had won.

After she received this award, Mrs. Rowe went on to the State level as one of six state finalists. She then had to go through a rigorous interview session with the judges. The day before her interview, Mrs. Rowe had all her students write down why they thought she should be Texas Teacher of the Year. Even though they didn't know much about her yet, her scholars had plenty to say. "She's cool, funny, and a brillant teacher. I hope I have her next year," Lorna Gould said.



Jeremy Lopez and Mark Zucknick concentrate in Computer Science as Mr. Rogers looks on. "Computer Science is something that really interests me. By learning how to write programs to solve problems now, I'm getting practice for my future career," Jeremy said. *[Photo by Bryan Zak]*

"Technology isn't the future. It's now!"

-Jeannie Hill



Mr. Saldana checks a very important e-mail from Mr. Sutton. "Without my computer keeping track of referrals and detentions, things would be rough on me," Mr. Saldana said.



Lindsay Walton

shaping minds with technology

by matti mott

With such a great desire for enrollment into Desktop Publishing, a new technology course was added. In Digital Graphics and Animation, students learn to create animations and graphics using Abode Illustrator, Photoshop, and MacroMedia Flash.

The idea of adding Digital Graphics to the school's electives was first introduced by former THS teacher Mr. Powell. He had noticed the growing interest of students in technology courses such as Desktop Publishing. The idea was then presented to the District Technology Committee, which is in charge of taking care of all technology needs in the district. It was a unanimous decision to take the first steps in starting a new course. After placing Digital Graphics on schedule forms for the 2004-2005 school year and having so many students wanting to enroll, it was definite that it would be offered.

Of course with a new class, new software and equipment would be needed.

"For the course, funds were given by *2D Technology*, which is a program provided by the state, and from them we received somewhere between seven and eight thousand dollars. With this money we purchased four new software programs, digital cameras, memory sticks, graphics tablets, and scanners," Jeannie Hill said.

Teachers and students are both very excited about the future of technology and Digital Graphics.

"I like design, building, and computers, and Digital Graphics is a way for me to fulfill those interests," Max Stifflemire said.

Teachers are most excited by the introduction of future jobs that this course can offer students.

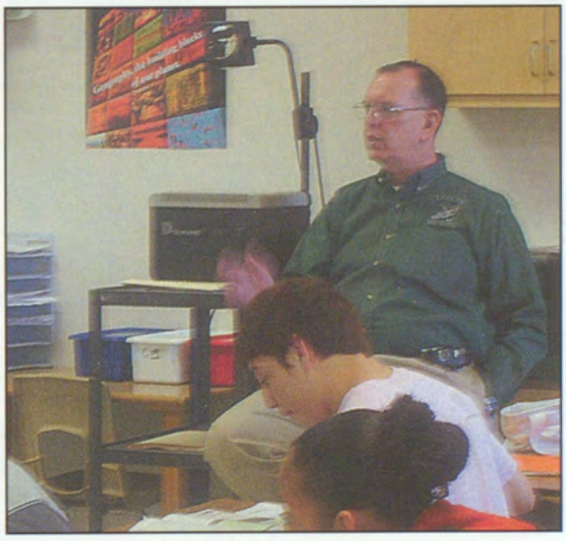
"With a background in Digital Graphics, you could be a Graphic Designer or a Web Master, and art students could even take direction from this course and turn their art into animation," Mrs. Fischer explained.

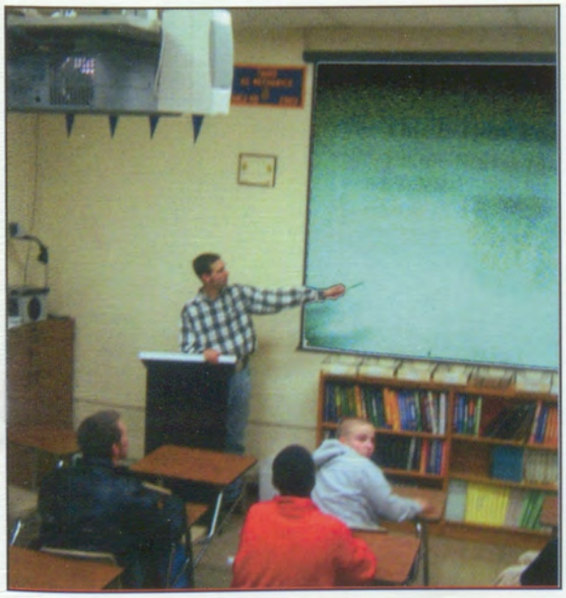


Mallory Dykowski uses her TI-83 for a cell phone. "Mal is always inventing new ways to use technology," Mallory Janak said. *[Photos by Matti Mott]*

Kimberly Flores searches the internet for information on Ancient Rome. According to Mr. Volek, "The use of computers and internet sources enables students to get information from many different sources quickly and efficiently."







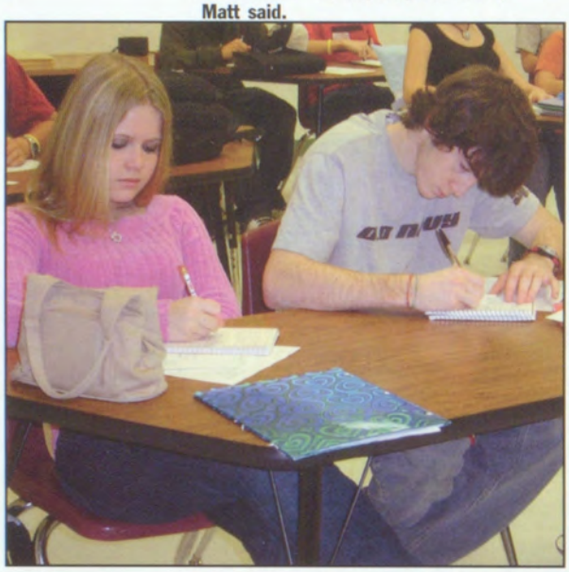


Mr. Miller puts knowledge of World Geography into his students' heads with the help of the overhead. "Mr. Miller is thankful for electricity because when he started teaching we didn't have it," Mrs. Rogers said.

Andrew Brock and Max Stifflemire design a doorbell in Mr. Downey's Alternating Current and Direct Current course. "We connect stuff and put electronic things together," Andrew said.

Mr. Bishop uses a Power Point presentation to go over safety guidelines while welding. "I use Power Point everyday. It's a necessity to my teaching," Mr. Bishop said.

Matt Sterling and Cassidy Stefek take notes in Ms. Kuehl's Algebra II class. "Algebra II is very confusing but easy at the same time. I just study and take the tests and do the homework sometimes. It's a pretty fun class," Matt said.



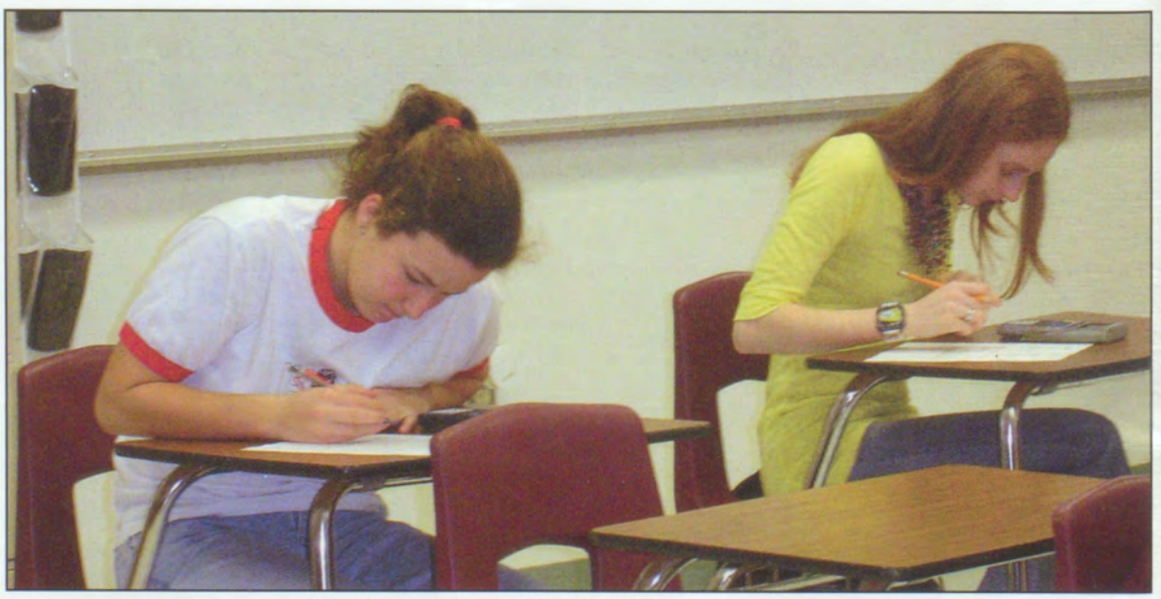


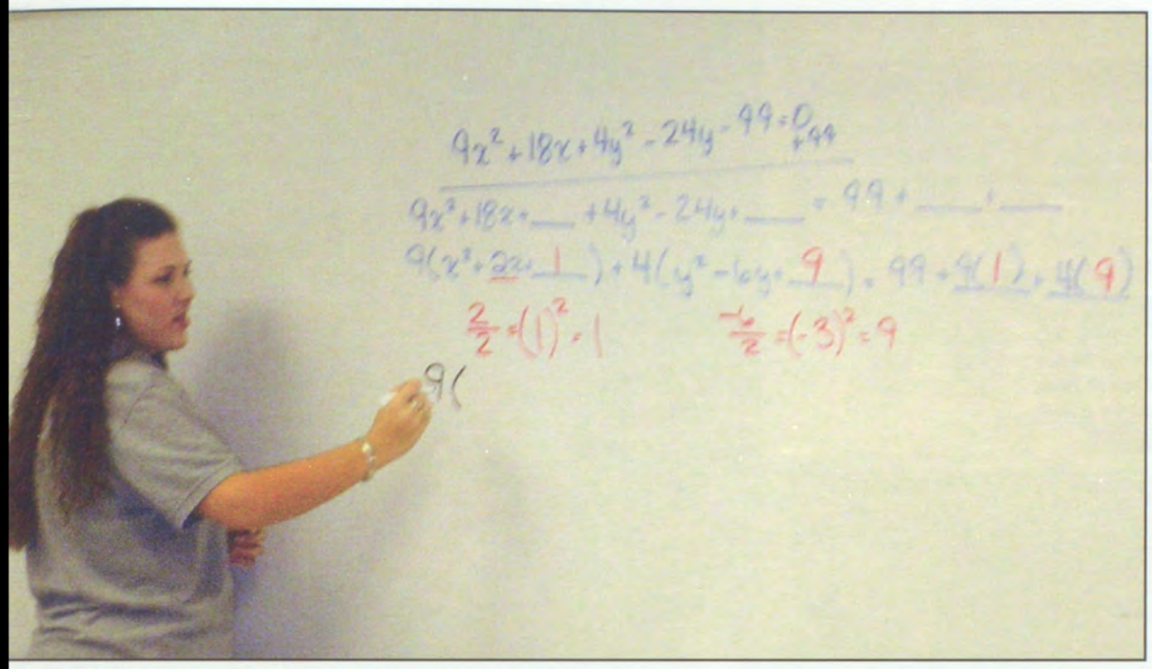


Never one to look too anxious, Andrew Brock relaxes as he takes notes in Calculus. "My daily enthrallment knows no bounds," Andrew said. *[Photos by Kara Kerlin]*

Noah Corn dives into the day's assignment in Mrs. Holt's Pre-AP Geometry class.

Becca Gray and Becca Bauerkemper concentrate on their quiz in Pre-Cal. Though it's meant to prepare students for Calculus, many students say Pre-Cal is actually harder than Calculus.





Ms. Kuehl writes an equation on the board during her second period Pre-AP Algebra II class.



Sherrie` Stringer and Cara Garcia discuss a question in Mr. Rogers's class. "After two weeks, we learned not to let Bryan do examples on the board," Cara said, referencing Bryan Zak's illegible handwriting.

"I'm giving you the stink eye!"
- Mr. Rogers



mr. rogers's neighborhood

by kara kerlin

Math is a tedious subject. Though it's required, let's face it, most students wish it were not. Then again, there are those who excel in mathematics and related studies, but if math isn't your forte, having a great teacher can always make the difference.

Mr. David Rogers is one of those teachers who makes an often hard class seem fun, or at least less frustrating. He likes to make jokes and get sidetracked, but he's also a serious-minded, well-educated man. Because of his desire for new challenges, he will not be returning to Taylor next year. Instead, he will pursue a career involving computer technology.

Although he may not seem threatening at first glance, picture Mr. Rogers as a police officer. He can be quite convincing while saying, "I'm giving you the stink eye!" to a wayward student. So says the man who falls asleep on his cluttered desk with his hand inside a Pop-Tarts box. Apparently, the dedicated educator missed lunch while tutoring various calculus students on the previous night's homework. "Cherry Pop-Tarts are the food of geniuses!" Seth Gipson said.

With his appetite for education and well-balanced methods of teaching, "The Rog" has become an icon and an inspiration for those students who have chosen to further expand their language of numbers and computer science skills. He may be leaving the neighborhood, but his influence remains.

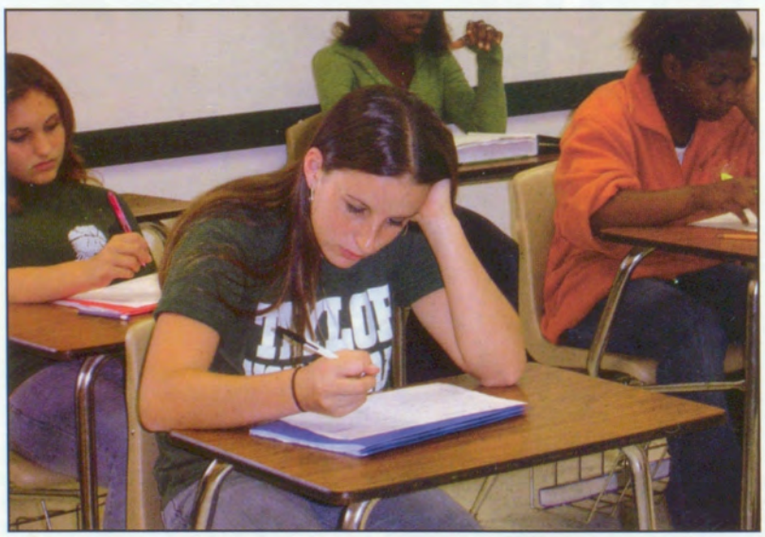
"I'm really glad I was able to work at Taylor these past seven years," Mr. Rogers said. "I've been able to teach some great classes and even better students."

Alfredo Romayor prepares to throw his final washer to try to get it inside the green square. *[Photos by Brent Holman]*

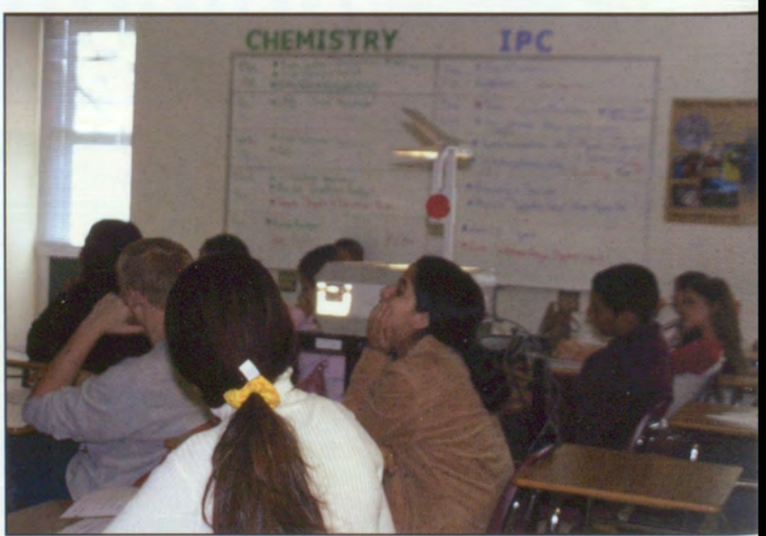


Aundris Draine measures and records how far apart his washers were after he threw them. "This experiment was really cool. I liked that we got to throw stuff," Aundris said.





Brooke Anders tries to decide what to put for her hypothesis before she begins her experiment. "A lot of kids tried to get their hypothesis right, and most did," Mrs. Sutton said.



The IPC class waits patiently as Mrs. Weselowski explains the complicated world of molecular structure. "Confusing, confusing, confusing," Toni Chandler said.





Derek Terwilliger carefully measures the distance between his washers to see if there are any significant differences. These differences determined how good the students' aim toward the green square was.



throwingthings

by jordan hedges

What was the last thing that you threw in class and didn't get in trouble for? Can't remember, can you? Well, the science classes can. In an experiment in Mrs. Weselowski's IPC classes, the students got to throw small metal washers and see how many they could get to land in a small square area.

"The experiment looked really cool and easy because it kind of reminded me of golfing, but the washers always missed the green by just a few inches," Alfredo Romayor said.

First, the students stood about four feet from the green area and carefully threw their washers, trying to hit the target.

After all the washers had been thrown, the students then measured how far their washers were from the center of the green area.

"The farthest washer I had away from the green was seven inches away out, not so hot, but it matched my hypothesis," Norma Arrendondo said.

After all the measurements were recorded, the students had to compare their throws with the other students to get an average of how close or far away the washers had landed.

"This experiment was really good for the students and the thing they liked the most was the fact that they got to throw stuff," Mrs. Weselowski said.

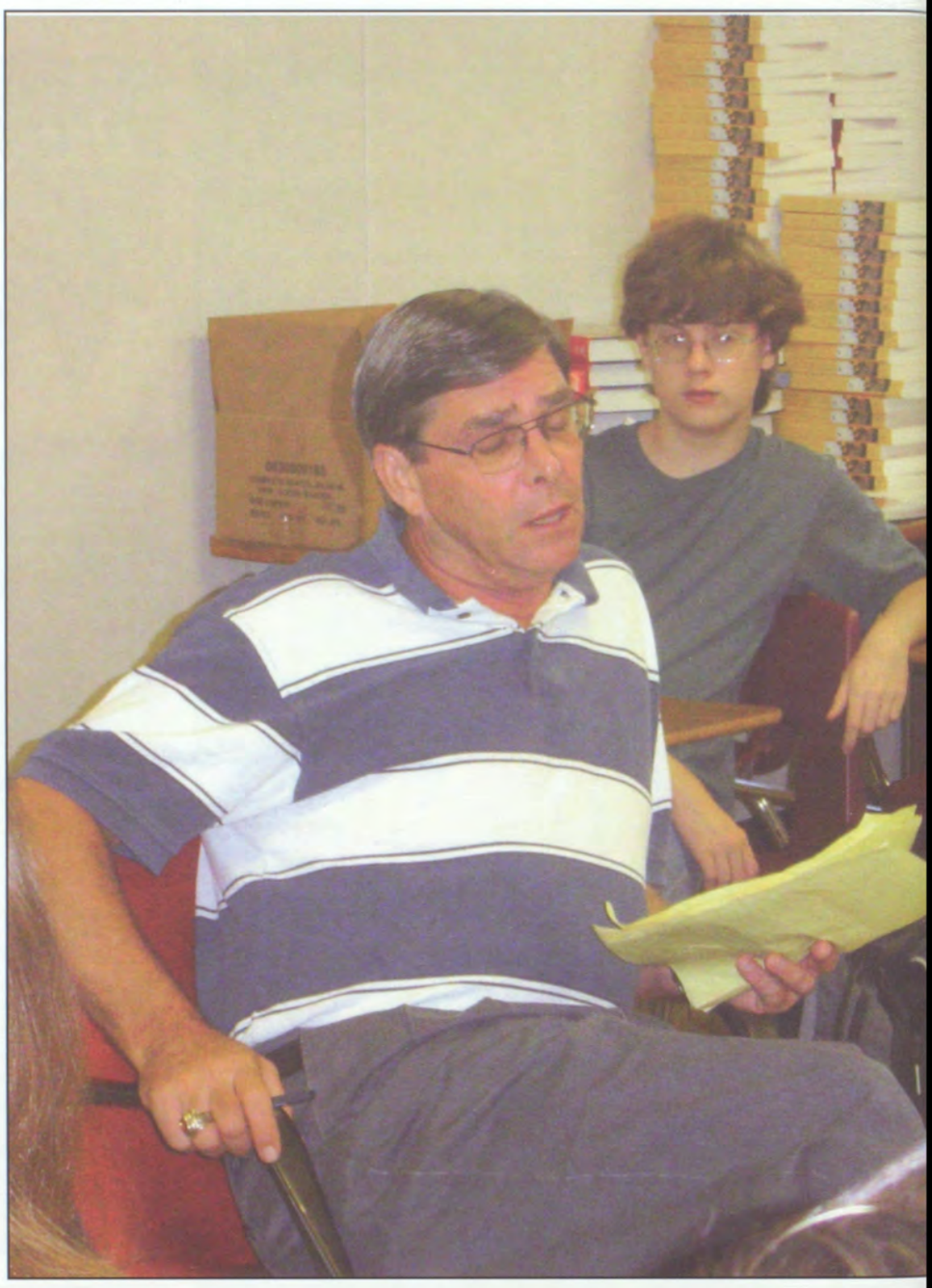
The average for one class was four inches from the center of the base. "The average varied from class to class from really close to really far," Mrs. Weselowski said. One class even managed to get a seven inch average away from the center.

These class activites are the type of experiments that the science classes have been doing over the past year, and the teachers plan on continuing the tradition for every underclassmen.

"Not only are the experiments really fun for the students, they get to learn in the process even though they may think that they are just having fun," Mrs. Sutton said.



Norma Arredondo records her results on her lab report and compares them with her hypothesis. "They were mostly the same," Norma said, "but sometimes they weren't."



U.S. History teacher Paul Quarles concentrates as he pauses in a lecture to his AP class. He gave many lectures throughout the year--that is, when he wasn't giving DBQs. ***[All photos by Rebecca Ray]***

"death by Quarles"

by rebecca ray

DBQ really stands for Document Based Questions, but to the students in Mr. Quarles' AP U.S. History class, they were known only as "Death By Quarles."

DBQs are essay questions that include historical documents. Towards the end of the year students must complete at least two essays in class under the testing conditions. This is to prepare the students for the AP test which is taken during the spring semester. The AP test gives 30% of the score based on the DBQs.

"I think that they are good because they help us get ready for the test, but they take so long that I'd rather just read the chapter and listen in class," Jennifer McQuary said.

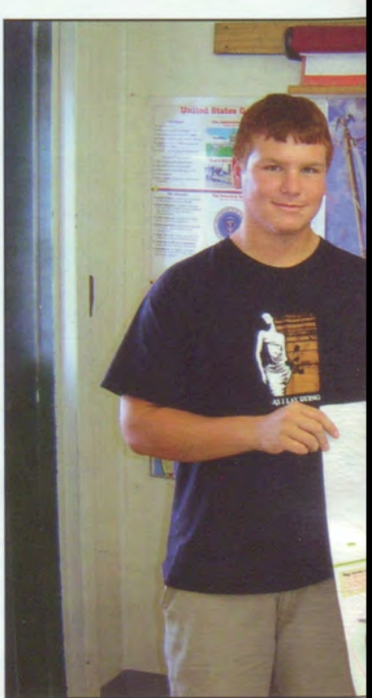
Students have exactly one week to complete each essay and receive about one or two questions a six weeks.

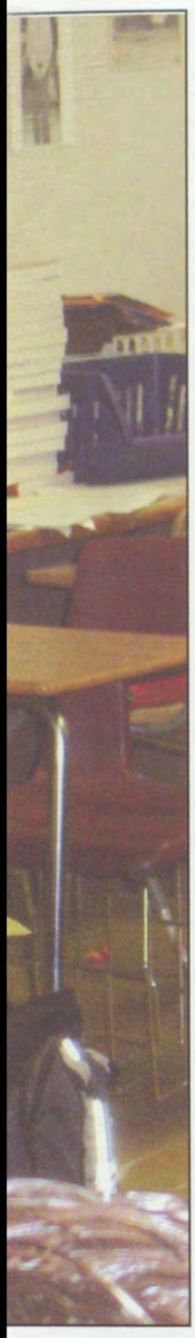
"Most of the kids who are prepared for them generally like them and do well, while those who did not perpare for them usually fear them," Mr. Quarles said.

How do students feel about what some call "Death by Quarles?" Some agree that the questions were important in order to get ready for the AP exam. As for other students, they mostly dreaded hearing the words "DBQ time."

While Mr. Quarles loved to see them squirm, his only advice to those sophomores planning to join his AP class next year is, "simply practice answering essay questions and writing essays. It prepares you for college classes. And besides, the more you write the better off you will be in the long run. So write!" 9.

"I do better on quizzes because of the DBQs, but to those taking his class next year, all I have to say is make sure you listen to his lectures in class because his tests are mostly from those, not from the book. And you may struggle with the 'Death by Quarles,' but use the time you have and you'll get through it," Becca Gray said.

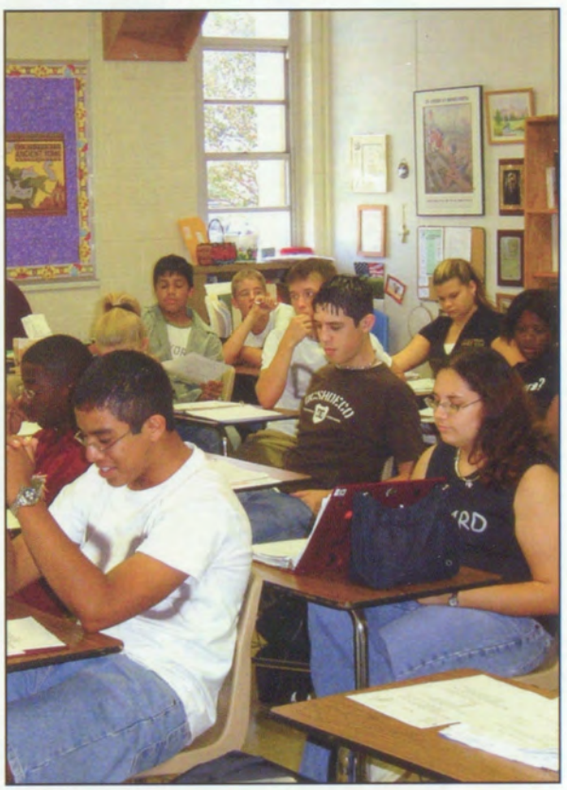


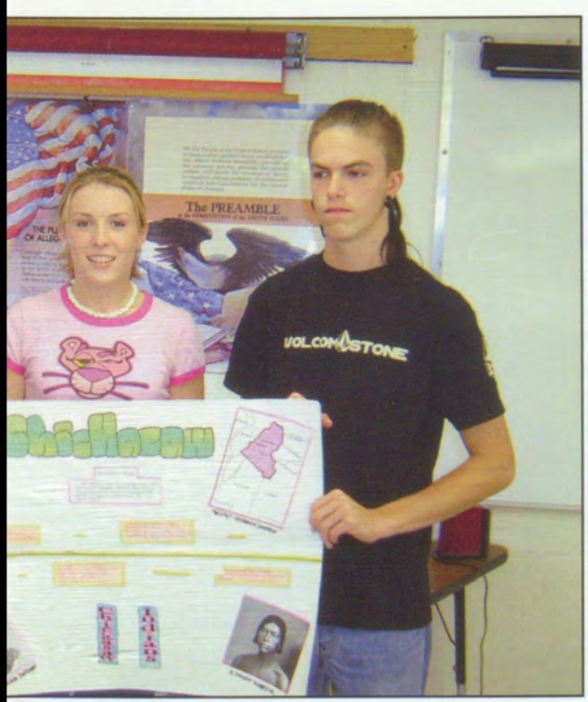


Mr. Miller reviews a quiz given to his freshmen geography class. He was known for giving many quizzes throughout the year. "The quizzes are easy if you do all of your vocabulary homework," Keegan Gross said. *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]*



Mrs. Bennett's sophomore class pays close attention as they go over their personal timelines. Students each had two weeks to complete a timeline of their lives, then two days to present them in class. Projects were then placed on display in the library.







In Coach Vrabel's U.S. History class, Jacob Reyes, Lindsey Wilhelm, and Andy Johnson present a project. "Doing the project is fun, but presenting it is always the hard part," Wilhelm said.

Brooke Anders prepares to take a quiz in Mr. Miller's Geography class. Mr. Miller made sure his students had time to study before their quizzes each week.

Derrick Salazar follows his orders as he cleans up the shop at Custom Trucks on Second Street. "I like trucks," Derrick said.







Homer Espinoza

$how me the money

by aubrey byfield

Just how valuable is co-op? Many people's perception is that co-op is nothing more than a breeding ground for slackers, an easy way for a lazy student to cut his or her schedule down to just four classes a day. Nonetheless, those involved in the co-op program can tell you it's much more valuable than that.

"The first objective of the co-op program is for our students to gain work experience," Mrs. Leschber said. It is that authentic experience that, along with a solid academic background, allows students to choose a field of future employment and be prepared for it.

"The co-op program allows students to get a glimpse of what the work world is all about," Coach Tennill said.

Students who decide to take co-op have to adhere to a strict attendance policy and are also encouraged to do well in all their classes and extra-curricular activities. "Getting up early in the morning and sitting there for an hour isn't what I want to do, but Ireally like being able to have a job," Travis Teggeman said.

And of course, there's the obvious benefit of earning money. "Working in co-op is a good experience. Not only do you occupy three classes, but you also get to make a bit of money," David Stoglin said. Some get a job so they have spending money, but others have to get a job in order to help out with things in the family or even some bills of their own. "Having a job in your teenage years also may help some students be able to assist with expenses being incurred by family," Mrs. Leschber said.

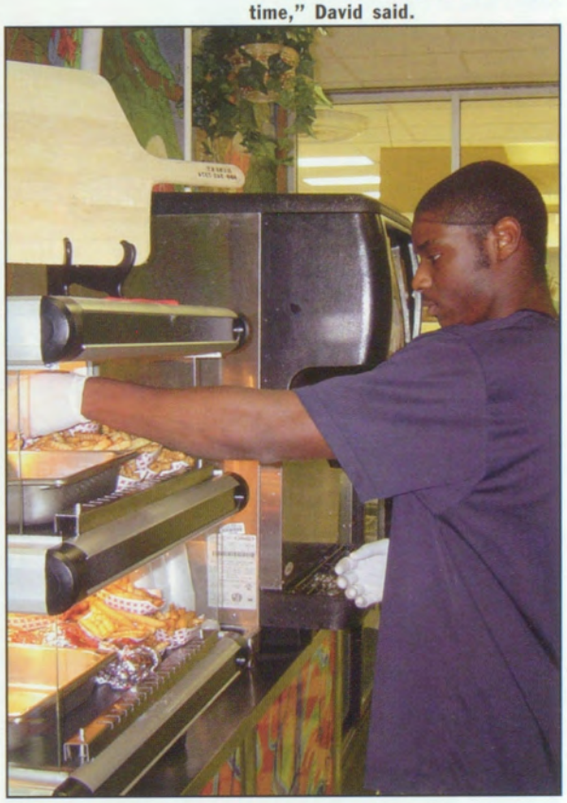
Co-op is a very beneficial program that allows great experience, great lessons for your future and a little extra money. "In many instances, I have seen the students turn their co-op jobs into a career profession and in other cases, I have seen students benefit from finding out early what they do *not* want to do for a living," Coach Tennill said. "Not to mention the money they earn while still attending high school."





Brad Terwilliger greets his customers with a freshly made drink order at Jack in the Box. Brad works long hours every day after school. *[Photos by Aubrey Byfield]*

David Stoglin helps out in the cafeteria while stocking the heating ovens with french fries. "Co-op is fun. You don't have to go to school all day and you get paid at the same time," David said.







Adrian (Ace) Gonzales takes a quick nap on the job at The Water Jug. "My job is really tough...the water makes me sleepy," Ace said.

Kailey Taylor works at Duck University, an after school tutoring program for kids. "I work there because I know I want to work with kids when I get older," Kailey said.

Michael Saverse and Tyler Klotz use tools that send off sparks. In Mr. Bishop's class the guys learned how to use both a welder and a grinder. *[Photos by Brianna Gross]*



Douglas Alexander studies a paper to see how much chemical he needs to develop his film. "I started this as a blow-off class, but now I see things differently; I have learned how to roll film and take pretty good pictures," Douglas said.





Jacob Fox works on a wheel while Colin Valerio gives directions. The guys not only had the opportunity to work on school cars, but also their own.



Erika Wooldridge, Nakevia Miller, and Amanda Eckhardt make flower arrangements. "You can use them pretty much anywhere, just as long as the colors are appropriate," Nakevia said.





Working away with the welder, Logan Tucker melts metal to join two pieces together. It was important for him and anyone observing to wear protective lenses over their eyes. The light that the welding rod produced was so bright that it could have damaged their vision.



Andrea Gutierrez waters aloe vera plants in her landscaping class. "She is very caring; she is always the first one to grab a water hose," Justin Bigon said.

out of the ordinary

by cameron haight

Ever wonder what goes on in those classes you never hear about? For instance Auto-Tech, Floral Design, and Photojournalism. Have you even heard of them? The students in these classes are just as devoted to their work as anybody in any class.

The amateur auto technicians devote themselves to working on Mr. Johnson's projects and their own. Nearly every day in class, they expand their automotive skills, even if it means working on their own cars during class, whether it is oil changes, muffler installments, or tuneups. "I like it more than any other class, because of all of the hands-on work," Jacob Fox said. Occasionally Mr. Johnson gives a lecture or two, but most of the time the students teach themselves by fiddling with tools and parts.

Floral Design, however, involves a lot of listening and learning from Ms. Carpenter along with hands on work. Students learn a world of skills dealing with floral designs. Learning about the different types of flowers is an essential part of their experience.

A lot of class time is spent learning how to make decorative arrangements, such as wreaths, mums, and centerpieces for all sorts of occasions. Some students, like Joshua Lopez, give the mums or decorative designs to students or teachers as gifts.

Photojournalism involves learning all of the fundamentals of the photography business. "If you like to take pictures, then it is the perfect class for you," Francisca Araujo said.

Photojournalists spend most of their time taking photos of what they like, and developing them in the dark room.

"Students need a break from academics throughout the day and electives are the perfect remedies," Cindy Cabrera said.

Comfortably dressed, Jennifer McQuary finishes her last exam of the day. For Jennifer, comfort is important during exams.





exam or exempt?



Christina Gaudin

by matti mott

When the words "Final Exams" are heard, students habitually cringe with nervousness. For most students, exams aren't a big worry. They feel prepared and if they aren't so confident, they know they have an exemption at the tip of their fingers. For others however, an exam grade can be a matter of passing or failing for the semester, and exemptions don't come so easily for these students.

As defined by Webster's Dictionary, to be exempt is "to be made free from obligation." So it's easy to see why an exemption is such a glorious thing to so many high school students. For those who work hard throughout the semester, an exemption is easy to come by, but those who are often absent, spend time in I.S.S., or whose grades aren't so high, these exemptions don't come so simply.

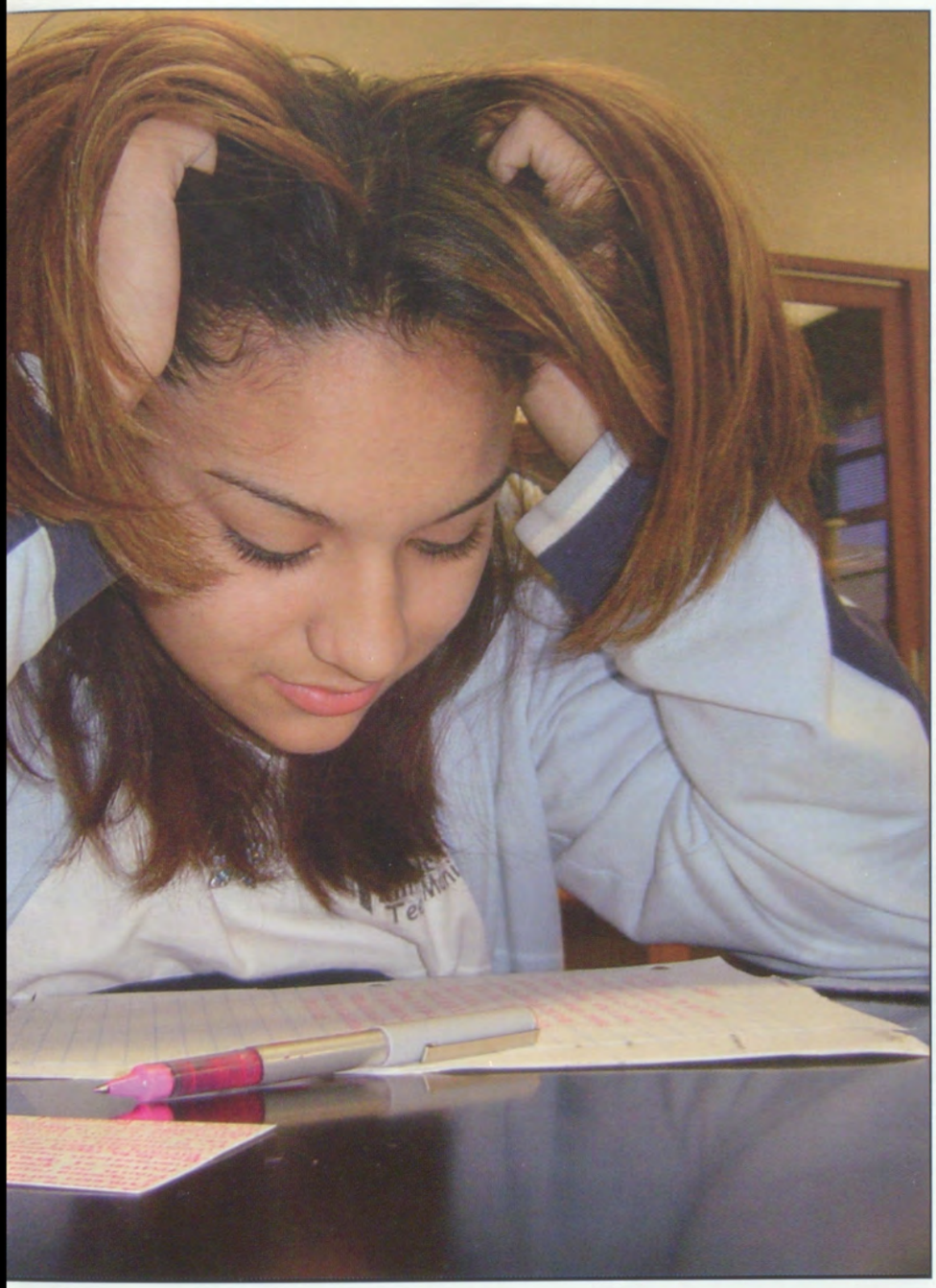
In the case of Travis Stewart, he had missed too many days. "I was only able to exempt one of my exams first semester, but I will be sure that I am able to use all of my remaining exemptions for the last," Travis said.

For a more untroubled senior, Adam Roznovak, he didn't feel so stressed about exams. Adam admits that compared to past years, this year he wasn't so worried about exams.

"After taking exams for three years now and knowing that I always have my exemptions, I feel no need to worry," Adam said. "I do my work, stay out of trouble, and try not to take too many mental health days so I know my exemptions will always be there."

Mr. Saldana, Freshmen principal, offers some clear advice to keep your exemptions at the tip of your fingers: "Just don't be lazy," Mr. Saldana said.



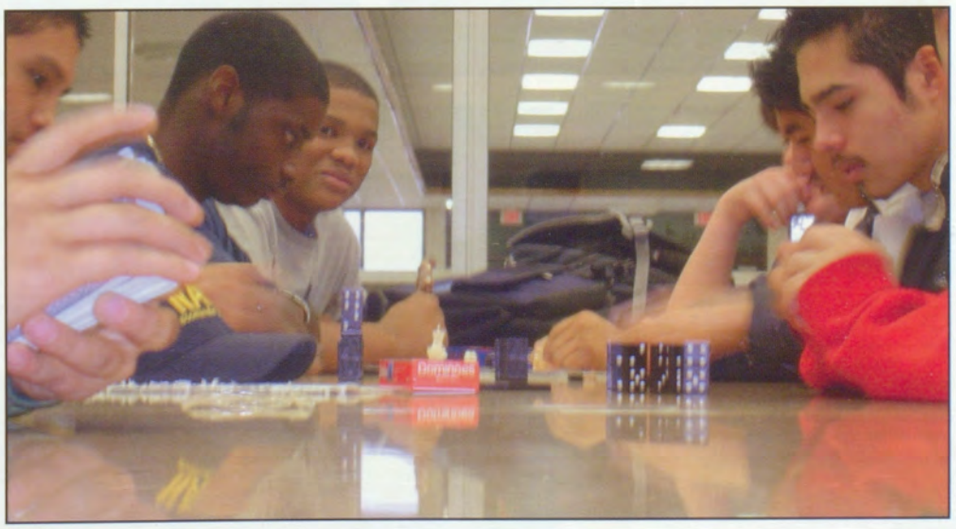


Stressed from exams, Jazzsmen Martinez pulls her hair out. "High school exams are a lot more serious than they were in middle school," Jazzsmen said. *[Photos by Matti Mott]*

Claudia Ramirez is excited to turn in her exemptions. "To know that there is one less test I have to take feels good," Claudia said.



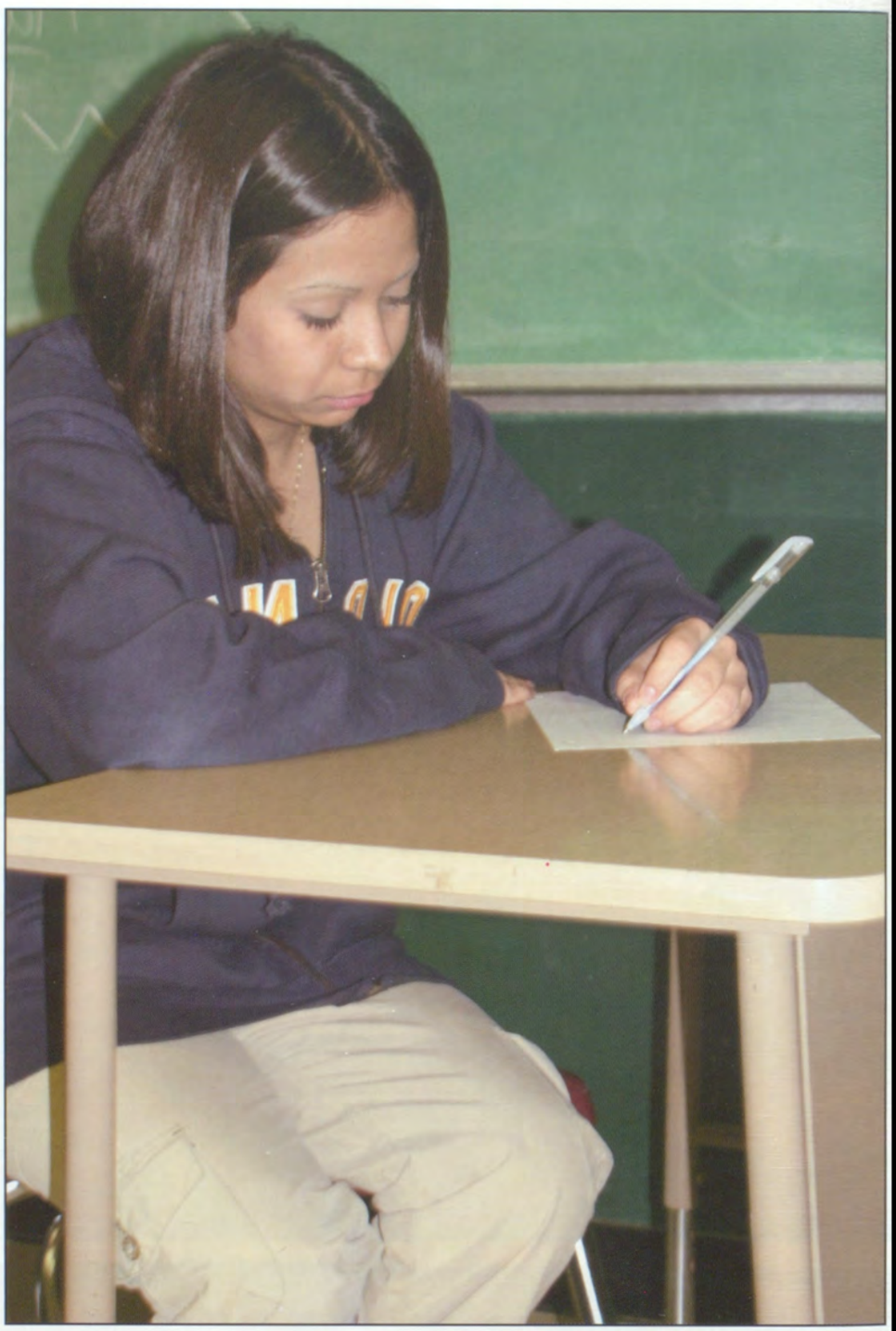




Ian Wooldridge stays focused with lots of caffeine. Caffeine is the stay-alert solution for 90% of Americans. *[Stats from www.00fun.com]*

It's all fun and games for David Stoglin, Gus Blane, and Bryant Cigales, who exempted their exams. With hard work past them in the first semester, they gladly took a break.

Alicia Alayon completes her Latin work despite the distractions from her classmates. It is important for Alicia to do well in her language class, since it will play an important role in her career. *[Photos by Sarah Johnson]*



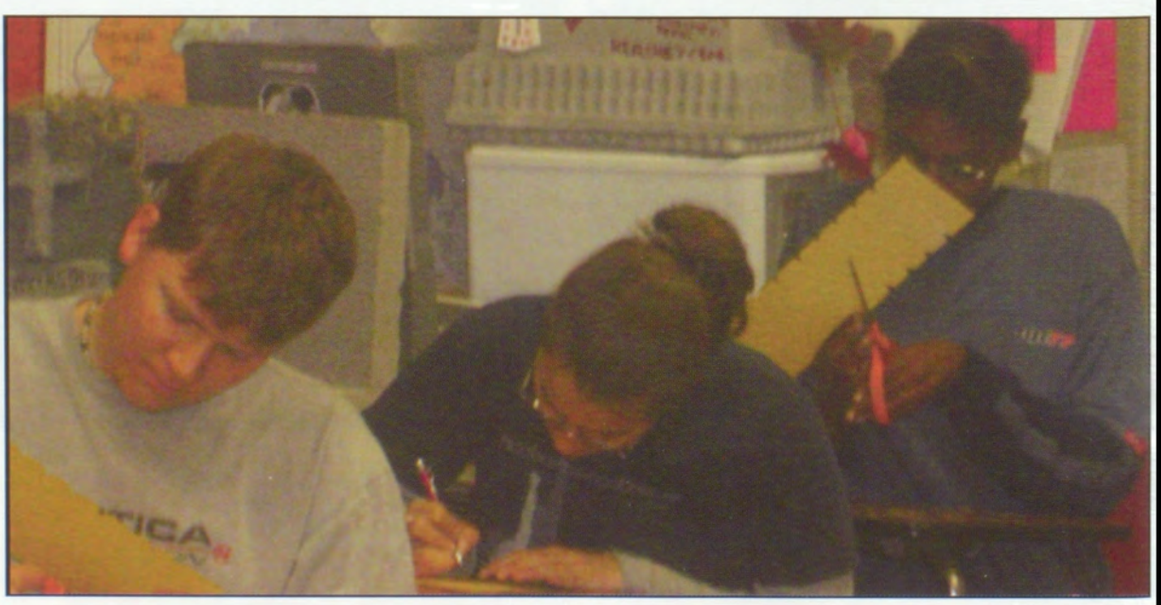
Hailey Ruzicka, Mallory Janak, and Mallory Dykowski model their ancient Roman costumes for Latin Club. Latin Club participates in concession stands, Green Santa, and fundraisers every year.

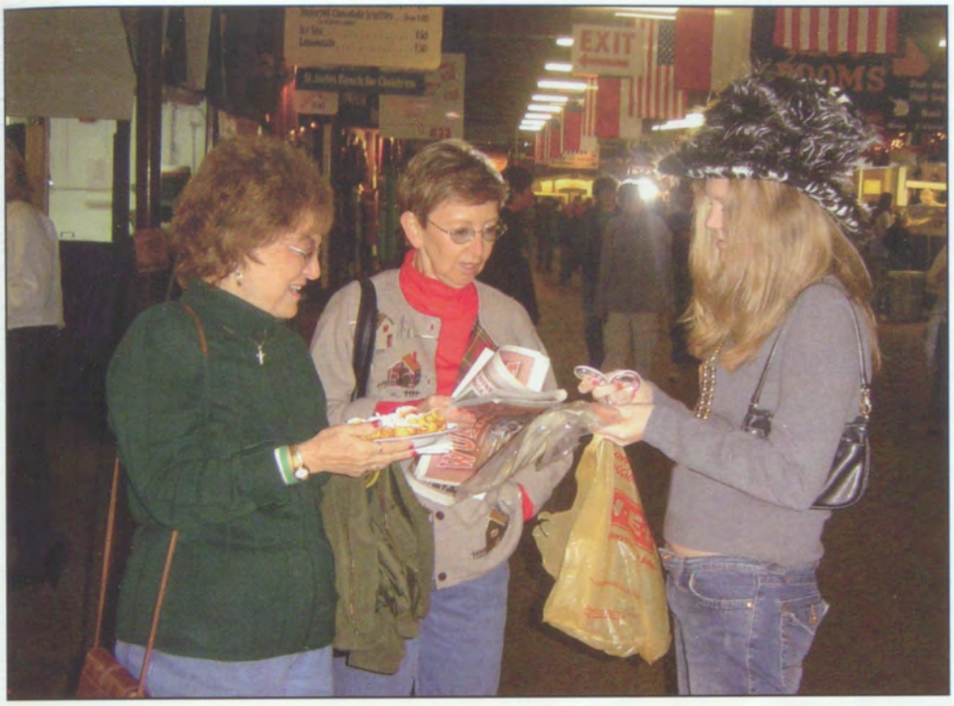




Leighanne Volek diligently studies before a quiz in Spanish. "The only hard thing about Spanish is that you have quizzes practically every day and sometimes you don't even know what is on them!" Leighanne said.

Cory Beran, Adrienne Sherman, and Larenda Willis work on a project in German II. "We play German Bingo and other games sometimes, so it is pretty fun," Cory Beran said.





Mrs. Krueger, Frau Jackson, and Tiffany Clark enjoy the funnel cake and knick-knack of Wurstfest. "German Club is fun; I really enjoy the community service we do," Rita Barrientos said. *[Photo by Kara Kerlin]*

Foreign languages open your mind to a lot of new things."

-Alicia Alayon



Jamar Brown reviews his Spanish I dialogue in Mrs. Rumel's third period class. The Spanish I students did a lot of dialogues in class.



Amber Rodriguez

loving language

by sarah johnson

Although the counselors ask them to choose carefully, most students don't even think twice when filling out their schedule form at the end of each year. They don't consider that these classes may be a vital part in their future careers.

"I just fill the form out and get it over with," O'Brien Frazier said.

Alicia Alayon is not one of those students. She is a senior here and and wants to put her high school education to real use.

She is going into the U.S. Army in July, 2005, and hopes to get a job that will make the most of her knowledge of foreign languages.

"I joined the army and will be going to school at the same time. I want to be a linguist of some type, maybe an ambassador," Alicia said.

Alicia is going to Monterrey, California to be in the army as well as to attend classes, and eventually, will hold a job there.

A large number of students do not even care enough to learn one language adequately, but Alicia is already bilingual and is broadening her knowledge, by choice.

"I know Spanish, I am taking Latin, and am learning French right now," Alicia said.

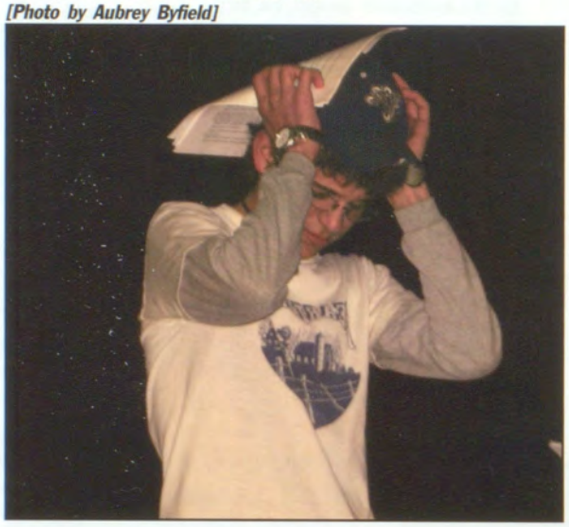
Although students may not realize it now, the classes they take here play a major role in their futures. Not only do these classes teach them important school subjects, they also teach students to stretch themselves, which will matter in their lives after high school.

"The study of foreign languages provides us with an insight to other cultures and the way they view their surroundings and lives," Spanish teacher Rosa Delgado said.

Cassie Floyd and Travis Stewart act out one of their scenes in *The Curious Savage*. "In the beginning it was kind of rough, but it turned out to be a great production," Suzannah Curik said. *[Courtesy Photo]*



Aaron Conrardy stresses over trying to memorize all of his lines for the upcoming play. "This production is a parody of Cinderella," Aaron said. *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]*

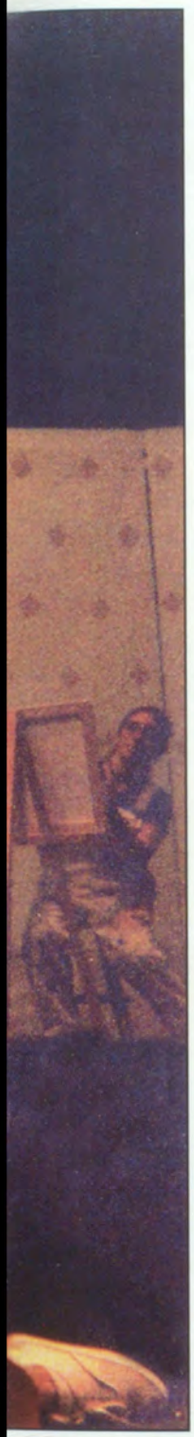




Sarah Roe helps out by painting parts of the set during her theatre class. "I'll admit I'm a horrible actress. However, theatre teaches you things you can't learn in any other class," Sarah said. *[Photo by Brianna Gross]*



Gretchen Richter works diligently on part of the set of *The Curious Savage*. "Building the set took a lot of time, but we worked together to finish it," Justin Bigon said. *[Photo by Brianna Gross]*



a new direction

by aubrey byfield

The transition that the theatre department has made has been a tremendous one. Seeing as how the students worked with Mrs. MacMullen for so long and she got them so far in their theatrical abilities, losing someone of such stature can be tough. But not only does Mrs. White bring a new face to the crowd, but also a sense of youth to the theatre department.

Mrs. White was called in for an interview to be the theatre teacher when she was on her honeymoon. She quickly accepted the offer and made her way home when she and her new husband were done with their traveling in New Mexico. After assisting the theatre teacher at Pflugerville High School, she was more than ready to begin running her own theatre department.

Mrs. White's involvement in theatre began while she attended high school. When she graduated, she attended Southwestern University partly because of their superior study-abroad programs. She originally wanted to major in psychology, but quickly decided she was more interested in stage managing. Taylor gave her the opportunity to open up her mind to not only stage managing, but also directing.

As a first-year teacher, she has had to adjust to many differences from her position in Pflugerville. The small town atmosphere and neighbors helping neighbors made her move a positive one. "Instead of focusing on one specific extra curricular activity [like they do in] Pflugerville, Taylor's students focus on many more, which brings a lot more [range] to the program," Mrs. White said.

Her philosophy of how to teach theatre was something new and refreshing. "Although my friends say I'm lying, I'm a very laid back person," Mrs. White said.

To keep a good program interesting, you have to have the right mind-set to do it. " I think it's very important to have fun, hands-on activities but still maintain discipline at the same time." Mrs. White said. Even though our town is small, good education will always be a critical part that comes into play. " I really like Taylor." Mrs. White said.

Mrs. White helps her class make sets while ripping a piece of gaff tape to hold up a sign. "I really like how Mrs. White has fun and is open to our ideas and input," Kristen Sanders said. ***[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]***



Crystal Martinez sits at her desk while working on her "warm fuzzy" for Valentine's Day. The theatre classes wanted to take a different approach to this romantic day by making something that looked at the positive side of the day rather than the sometimes negative one. ***[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]***





Leighanne Volek runs through her lines with much enthusiasm during one of many after-school practices. "This year has been interesting with the change of directors but it's definetely been fun!"said Leighanne. ***[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]***

But why turn to acting? Life has enough drama in it."

-John Patrick
"The Curious Savage"

Spo





















rts

In Shape

finishing strong

by anna johnson

Football season is not only a time that the student body enjoys, but the community as a whole. Everyone looks forward to this exciting time of the year. Rex Brinkmeyer was no exception, only this time, he saw football in a whole new way--from the sidelines.

Rex dislocated his shoulder in the second district game against Del Valle, and was unable to play for the rest of the season. Sitting on the sidelines definitely made an impression on Rex.

"It makes you depressed because you can't go out there and help your team. It's hard to just stand back instead of getting in on the action," he said.

Even with an injury, the thrill of Friday nights is still inevitable. Who could resist a stadium full of eager spectators?

"The best part about football is just Friday nights, when all the fans come out to cheer you on," Rex said.

This year's team didn't make it to the playoffs, but they never gave up.

"I am proud because the guys stayed in there and never quit," Coach Tim Holt said. "I am disappointed because we could have been better if we [had] gelled earlier."

The team learned a lot this year, and even though Rex and all the rest of the seniors wouldn't be returning, they knew that the underclassmen would step up to be leaders.

Scoreboard record 04-05

Hendrickson [W] **35-21**



Elgin [W] **55-21**



Connally [L] **31-14**



Del Valle [L] **35-21**



Lockhart [L] **24-21**





Ian Wooldridge breaks a couple of tackles to gain good yardage. Ian filled in as the team's quarterback, wide receiver, cornerback, and kicker/punter. "If it don't kill you, you become stronger," Ian said. *[Photos by Bryan Zak]*

Justin Bigon leaps in the air to catch a touchdown pass against Del Valle. He was the team's tailback and defensive end.



Robert Aikens gains offensive yardage. Sophomores like Robert stepped up to play varsity football early in the season.





Ben Jirasek runs towards the end zone. Ben earned critical yardage for the team even though a shoulder injury kept him on the sidelines some of the time.



Varsity

Front: Ian Wooldridge, Brandon Davis, Rex Brinkmeyer, Todd Bryan, Shivam Gandhi, Jonovan Wooldridge, Steven Flores, Braeden Lawhon, Torry Harrison, Tyler Talley **Middle:** William Brown, Robert Aikens, Michael Saverse, Delain Rollie, Justin Bigon, Michael Campos, Chris Carrizales, Daniel Torres, Derek Thompson, Christopher Baisley, Corey Graef, Stephen Popham **Back:** Johnny Gurerro, Jacob Ness, John Hernandez, Tony Metoyer, Chris Lamar, Sisto Gonzalez, Erik Krumm, Ben Jirasek, Adam Janek, Kevin Blaine, David Stoglin *[Courtesy Photo]*



Junior Varsity

Front: Noah Brinkmeyer, Kevin Aleman, Nathan Neitzsch, Ronald "Joe" Gipson, Aubrey Killingsworth, Aundris Draine **Middle:** Kyle Vanecek, Clarence Johnson, Nicholas Pachicano, Michael Wooldridge, Eric Crumley, Kyle Baran, Johnathan Wooldridge **Back:** Stephen Ballard, Matthew Miliken, Alfredo Romayor, Albert Gutierrez, Andrew Lopez *[Courtesy Photo]*



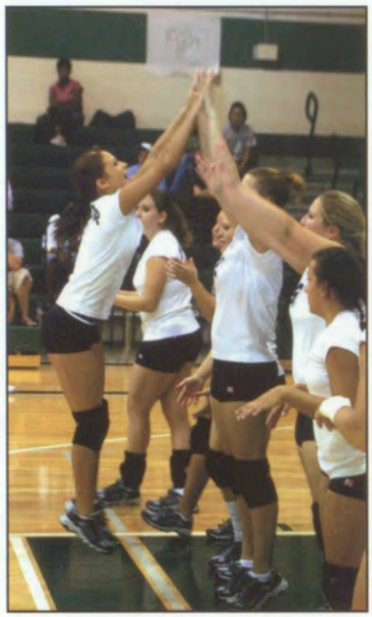
Freshmen

Front: Richard Alford, Travian James, Cullen Pick, Chad David, Daniel Jones, James Crayton, Jacob Farr, Taylor Savage, Britton Byfield **Middle:** Jordan Samuelson, Steffon Cook, Carlos Sanchez, Christopher Bogan, Anselmo Orandary, Cory Kruse, Jamar Brown, Tommy Longoria, Julian Sanchez, Joseph Hewtty **Back:** Manuel Moreno, Stephen Taylor, Patrick Garrett, Tyler Graef, Adam Barry, Robert Sovil, Matt Lopez, Jordan Humphreys, Matt Lozano, Andrew Barry *[Courtesy Photo]*



Freshman Green

Front: Brandie Jackson, Justine Lorentzen **Middle:** Brittany Schneider, Cassie Stabeno, Kyndal Stanley, Brittni Gola, Andrea Wilkerson **Back:** Jackie Orozco, Jacqueline Wolf, Jessica Dale, Cortnee Holt, Coach Tonya Cargill, Brooke Anders, Jasmin Estrada, Kelsey Young, Stephanie Wolf *[Courtesy Photo]*



Kiki Lopez and Kimberly Heeke clap each others hands before the match against Vista Ridge. The girls did this before every game to get pumped up so they would play their best. *[Photo by Jordan Hedges]*



Freshman Cassie Stabeno digs the ball to pass it back up to the setter. Cassie's saves were invaluable to the team and kept the ball in play several times when it would have hit the floor. *[Photo by Jordan Hedges]*

Freshman White

Front: Kayla Marek, Francis Hewtty, Kendal Stanley, Justine Lorentzen, Cassandra Sanchez **Back:** Crystal Lopez, Kammi Sims, Coach Tonya Cargill, Kyra Headrick, Morgan Faught *[Courtesy Photo]*





Junior Varsity

Front: Brittany Chavana, Duvelsa Murguia, Ashunta Robinson **Middle:** Pearlie Gault, Melanie Klotz, Stacy Bubenik, Mallory Janak, Briana Lopez, Tempestt Blakely **Back:** Reese Hall, Devyn Rucker, Amaris Jones, Coach Stacy Conway, Leah Jirasek, Amanda Pepper, Amber Johnson *[Courtesy Photo]*



Devyn Rucker, Reese Hall, and Amaris Jones, along with teammates, hold a prayer session before the start of the game. "Praying was really cool, I am glad that we did it, because it helped us believe that we could win," Amaris Jones said. *[Photo by Blakesley King]*



Varsity

Front: Jenni Walton, Kiki Lopez, Katelyn Gola, Sarah Kolinek **Middle:** Hailey Ruzicka, Kylie Stanford, Ashlee Vrana, Jackie Luna **Back:** Kim Heeke, Hailey Mokry, Coach Hedges, Jamie Pausewang, Joanna Schmidt *[Photo by Jordan Hedges]*

Hailey Ruzicka, Kimberly Heeke, and Ashlee Vrana team up to make sure that if one person misses the ball, another will be there to save it. The team had over fifty saves by several different players. *[Photo by Blakesley King]*

where tradition begins

by jordan hedges

In August the Taylor Volleyball program got a new leader, Coach Lezlie Hedges. Coach Hedges came to Taylor with one thing on her mind: turning the volleyball teams into a well oiled winning machine.

Coach Hedges has worked very hard with the players, even from before school started with two-a-days early in the mornings and in the afternoons. She pushed the girls hard in practice, trying to teach them new plays and drills to get the edge on other teams.

"The extra practice and the hard work paid off this year, I'm glad we finally are winning," varsity player Kim Heeke said. The girls had an outstanding year compared to previous years and won ten games compared to last year's record of zero wins.

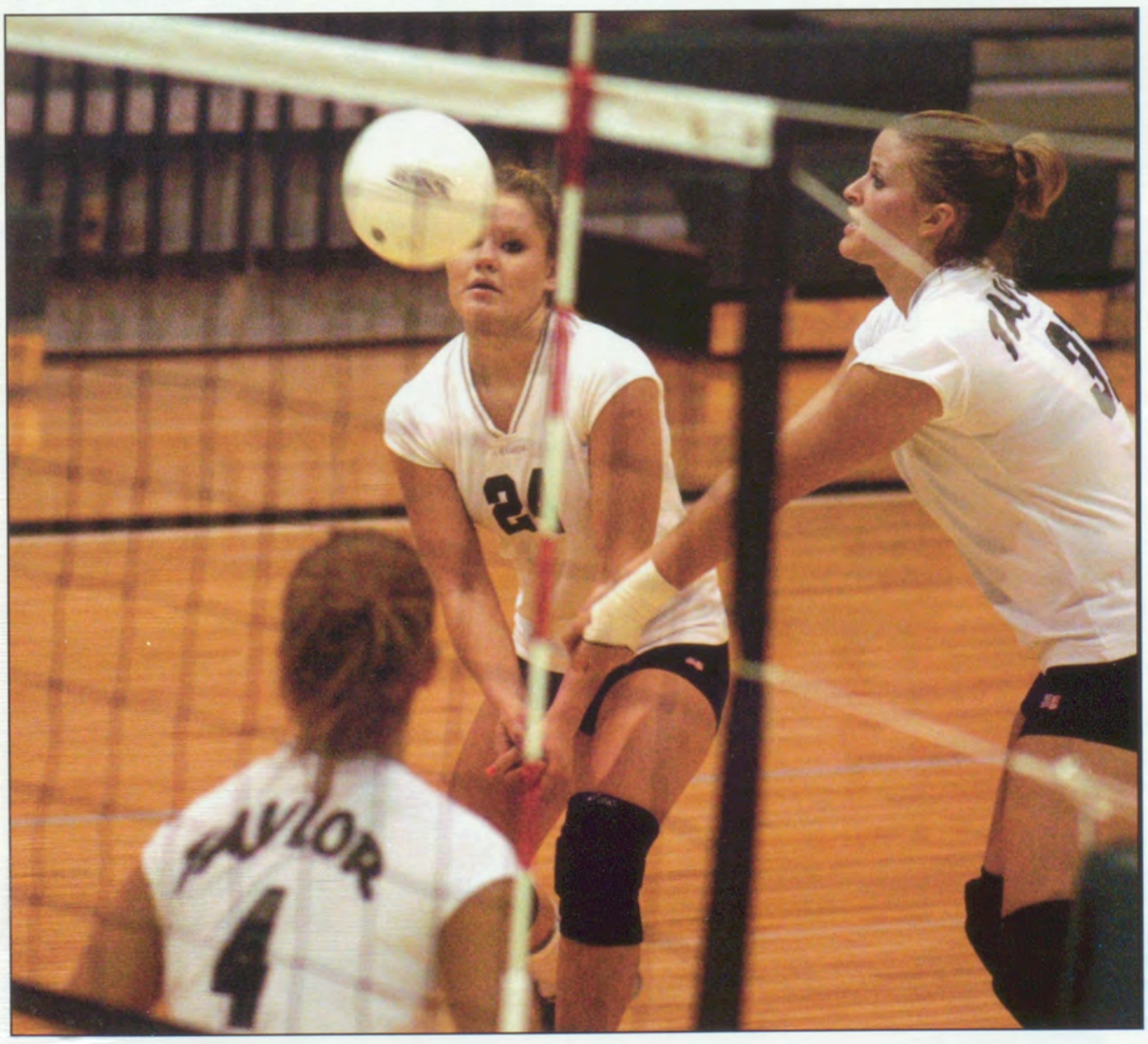
Coach Hedges says that she is glad she could come to Taylor to instill a new dream into the player's hearts. "The only way to the top is to win, and the girls are on their way," Coach Hedges said.

Winning is not the only thing on Coach Hedges's mind though. She wants the girls to know that they are all winners even when they lose a game.

"I am glad the girls are doing well, it halps the program succeed and establish a reputation," Coach Randi Bolding said.

The hard work that the girls put into the game paid off for Kim Heeke, Sarah Kolinek, Ashlee Vrana, Katelyn Gola and Jenni Walton. These three girls were All-District Selections from our district.

Although Coach Hedges helped the girls to win, her help is not the only reason the girls won. The girls poured their hearts into it and worked very hard to win. Hopefully their winning can continue on next year and create a winning tradition that Taylor can enjoy.



Scoreboard record 10-22



Del Valle
[W]25-21 25-19 10-25 26-24
[W]25-21 25-16 25-20



Vista Ridge
[L]15-25 25-17 16-25 25-21 15-5
[L] 18-25 18-25 18-25



Elgin
[L]22-25 21-25 25-23 18-25
[L]15-25 18-25 23-25



Lockhart
[L]12-25 19-25 25-16 25-23 11-15
[L]12-25 15-25 23-25



Hendrickson
[W]25-9 25-21 25-19
[L]11-25 25-22 16-25 23-25



Connally
[L]25-20 13-25 19-25 21-25
[L] 20-25 17-25 23-25

[Photos by Jordan Hedges]

The team takes a break after practice for an ice cream. "Waking up at 7:00 in the morning during summer and running over two miles was worth it because we got ice cream," Jenna Thornton said.



Jenna Thornton, Krystal Stoglin, and Erica Alderete push themselves through the last mile of the race in Lockhart. The varsity team finished 13th out of 24 teams. *[Courtesy Photos]*



The team prepares to run their two and a half mile Bull Run course. The team ran various places, including the high school, Memorial Field track, the hike-and-bike trail, and The Hills at Mustang Creek.





"My favorite thing about this season was getting to know everyone and running with them. I had a lot of fun running cross country and I was very excited to advance to regionals."

Erica Alderete





running to regionals

by katelyn gola

There's nothing like cold dew spraying your ankles. Dark ness surrounds you but you're not alone; you can hear your teammates' heavy breathing behind you. Your chest hurts from the icy chill, but you press on. This is just a typical Wednesday morning practice for the cross country team.

Few people really appreciate the dedication these athletes have for their sport. Waking up every morning at 5:30 to make it to practice on time seems impossible to many of us, but for these devoted runners it's routine.

"Cross country is one of the hardest sports to participate in," Coach Cobb said. "It takes a very dedicated and tough individual to get up and run at 6:00 every morning and race every Saturday morning for three and a half months. There are no time outs, halftimes, or substitutions; it's just all out guts. This team should take pride in knowing that they have achieved so much."

Cross country is an extreme mental challenge. The adrenaline rush of the race comes from the intensity and competitiveness of the athletes. Anything can happen at the starting line. Many runners have suffered bloody noses from thrown elbows, and skinned knees from being tripped, all done for one reason: to edge out the opponent.

While the team suffered a disappointing finish to the season by barely missing advancement, seniors Erica Alderete and Ashley Harmon were among the ten runners from the district who advanced to regional competition. This was Ashley's fourth trip to regionals, but for Erica it was the first.

"I was very relieved and excited about advancing to regionals because I worked very hard all season," Erica said.

Both Ashley and Erica were an inspiration to their younger teammates who aim to improve next year. Brooke Anders, who missed advancing to regionals by only one point, was the varsity team's only freshman. "Ashley taught me to be competitive, and Erica inspired me to push myself," said Brooke.

Cross Country Team

Front: Mariah Dempsey, Jalisa Budd, Jenna Thornton, Nikki Smith
Middle: Aubrey Medaris, Justine Lorentzen, Reyna Yanez, Crystal Sanchez, Erica Alderete
Back: Colt Ging, Jasmin Estrada, Brooke Anders, Ashley Harmon, Sarah Kolinek, Krystal Stoglin, Joan King

build it big

by matti mott

As the days turned cold, sounds of bouncing basket balls could be heard inthe gym. Players were working hard and coaches were being very selective, looking for the right attitude and skill for their teams.

For the first time in many years the Varsity basketball team was made up of more than two or three under classmen.

"All those who came out for the team were a lot of younger boys who didn't have the experience that a junior or senior would have , but they had the work ethic," Coach Guadiano said.

On this year's team there were five sophmores, two juniors, and three seniors. Guadiano felt that these younger boys could contribute in a positive way to the team and help build a successful program for the future.

"In the beginning the younger boys seemed big eyed and scared but as the season went on they became more comfortable making them more confident in their game," reflected Guadiano.

Of course mistakes were made during the season. Upper classmen felt the pressure to do well as if they had to compensate for their youthful teammates and the younger boys felt the pressure too.

"A lot of times we would get frustrated with the youngsters and blame our losses on them, but it wasn't just them, it was all of us," Michael Campos said.

Though the juniors and seniors were sometimes rough on the sophmores, they learned a lot from their elders.

"From the guys I learned that it takes hard work to keep up and you just have to keep with it no matter how rough it gets," Dalain Rollie said.

"We made a lot of young mistakes this year but we got better as a unit and can only improve for the future," Guadiano said. As the saying goes, "Make a new beginning," and for Varsity basketball that's the plan to start young and build it big.

"In time we will put Taylor basketball on the map," Gaudiano said.



Vista Ridge
[W] 66-60
[W] 55-39



Del Valle
[L] 44-66
[L] 43-76



Connally
[L] 45-63
[L] 46-83



Hendrickson
[L] 63-71
[L] 54-58



Lockhart
[W] 59-47
[L] 51-74



Elgin
[L] 47-55
[L] 43-51



Surrounded by the opponent, James Jackson tries for a jump shot. "The most exciting part of basketball is the high scores," James said.



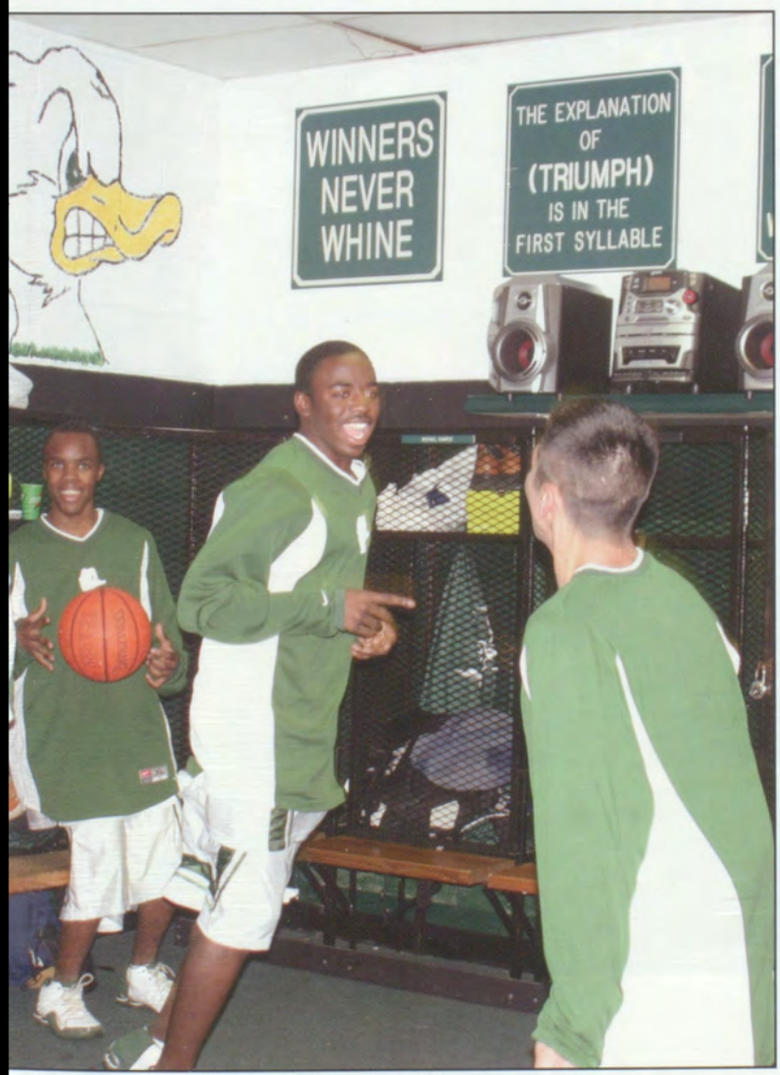
As a pre-game ritual, Dalain Rollie, Julius Collins, Justin Ware, and J.R. Martinez blast the radio to pump up before the game. "The music helps us to get focused and crunk before the game," Rollie says. *[Photo by Matti Mott]*

Jatem Curtis tips the ball to Caleb Owen in Taylor's favor. "Tip off is exciting because if you get the ball first it's an advantage and a good start to the game," Caleb said. *[Photos by Bryan Zak]*



Steffon Cook shoots a free throw after being fouled by the opposing team. "The pressure is really on while shooting a free throw cause that's a free point for my team," Steffon says.







Varsity

Front: Dalain Rollie,Julius Collins, J.R. Martinez, Justin Ware **Back:** Michael Campos, Jack Bond, Caleb Owen, Rex Brinkmeyer, Chip Ivany, Chistopher Basiley *[Photo by Melissa Meaker]*



JV

Front: Dwayne Mathis, Brandon Davis, Michael Martinez, Daniel Lopez, Bill Ruden **Back:** Nathan Nietsch, Aubrey Killingsworth, Robert Akins, Chase Daneck, Gus Blane, Sisto Gonzales *[Photo by Melissa Meaker]*



Freshmen

Front: Shaun Bradshawl Chris Bogan, James Jackson, Charles White, Ryan Gonzales **Back:** Steffon Cook, Jake Farr, Tony Sorrells, Britton Byfield, Tim Haskins, Treyvon James *[Photo by Melissa Meaker]*



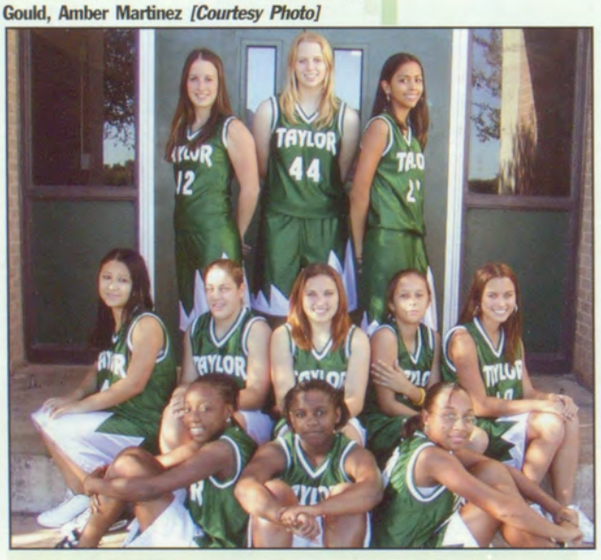
Varsity

Front: Kendra Deary, Nikki Smith, Tracy Collins **Middle:** Ynobe Miller, Crystal Sanchez, Krystal Stoglin, Sarah Kolinek, Kim Heeke **Back:** Katelyn Gola, Ashley Harmon, Brianna Gross, Jamie Pausewang, Jenna Thornton *[Courtesy Photo]*



Junior Varsity

Front: Pearlie Gault, Duvelsa Murguia, Ashunta Robinson **Middle:** Sha'tera Scott, Victoria Gonzales, Mallory Janak **Back:** Alyx Scott, Amaris Jones, Lorna Gould, Amber Martinez *[Courtesy Photo]*



Freshmen

Front: Chelsey Boykins, Brandie Jackson, Jalisa Budd **Middle:** Cassandra Sanchez, Kayla Marek, Morgan Faught, Crystal Lopez, Brittni Gola **Back:** Brooke Anders, Leah Jirasek, Jasmin Estrada *[Courtsey Photo]*



Jamie Pausewang and Sarah Kolinek both go up for the rebound. "The girls really worked hard on defense this season, and it showed," Mr. Saldana said. *[Photos by Devyn Rucker]*



Brooke Anders holds tight in her defensive position as her opponent tries to get around her. The defense had to work extra hard against the talented Hendrickson offense.



we are family

by brianna gross

Five months is a long time to be around the same eleven girls every weekday for at least two hours, but it is exactly the amount of time that was used to build the girls' basketball team into a family.

"If only you could see what brought the eleven girls together, you would know what makes them race, leap, and dive across the court," Crystal Sanchez said.

It was not hard to see that the Varsity girls were an entirely different team. Before this season, a win was rarely seen on the score boards. This year the girls have united as a team.

"I have made some great friends who are practically like my sisters," Jamie Pausewang said. "That's what basketball is all about--individuals coming together."

The team started off their season with a slumber party so the girls could get to know one another. It was a brilliant idea that Coach Jones introduced a year ago.

"It is good for us to interact with one another outside of the gym. The better you know a person, the easier it is to make things work in a game," Brianna Gross said. "*Team* just doesn't say enough for us. It's more like *family*."

Having the family aspect taken care of, the rest of the traits that make up a winning team fall into place.

"More people have noticed the drive and determination that the team has been playing with this year. We're what some call a 'scrappy team,' meaning we get after it, throwing ourselves across the floor to tie up the ball," Jamie said. "Heart is what kept us going, and heart will be what makes us who we are."



The varsity team joins together in a prayer before the game begins. This moment of the Lord's prayer was just one of the pre-game traditions honored by the team.

Scoreboard record 04-05



Vista Ridge
[L] 29-48
[L] 43-48



Del Valle
[L] 35-40
[L] 23-54



Connally
[L] 24-71
[L] 30-53



Hendrickson
[W] 53-42
[W] 57-41



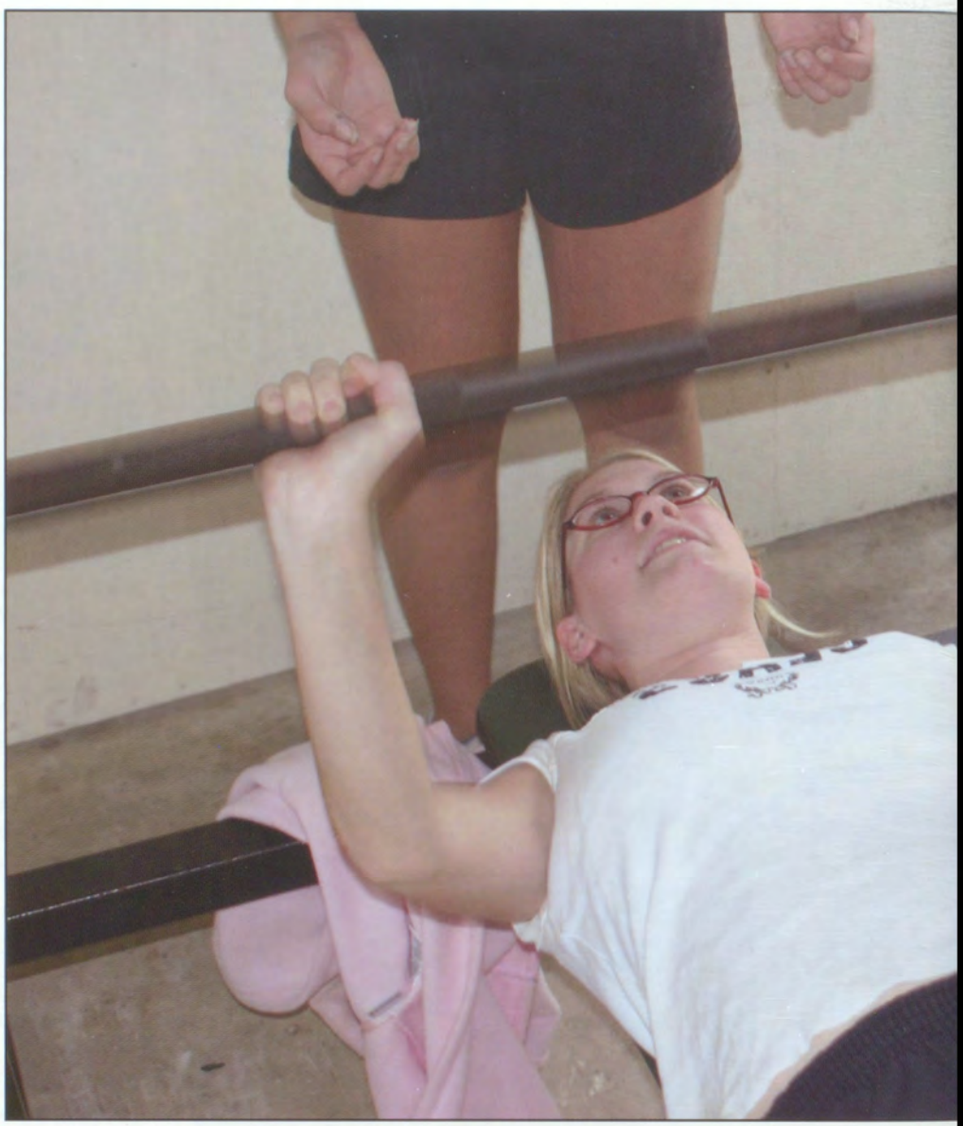
Lockhart
[L] 36-39
[L] 48-52



Elgin
[W] 49-32
[L] 40-43

Joan King strives to finish her last rep on the bench press. All athletes in off-season were given workout cards to help monitor and reach weight lifting goals. *[Photos by Brent Holman]*





Tyler Graef and Steven Taylor take part in a plyrometrics workout during a speed development session with Coach Gabel. "Plyrometrics help provide the extra explosion and quickness for an athlete running or engaged in an activity," Coach Gabel said.

Stephen Ballard and Matthew Milliken engage in a drill using the rope ladders. Athletes who participated in before or after school workouts were able to work on speed development during the period.





joan of athletics

by brent holman

Off-season "weeds out undisciplined aspects of each athlete and works on mental toughness. When in the heat of battle you do what you're supposed to. Instead of giving up, you fight through the fatigue and pressure," Coach Gabel said.

Other than physical fatigue and pressure, some athletes are also forced to endure peer pressure under the assumption that off-season is a blowoff.

Joan King "has determination and hard work. She is working to be the best she can be. She understands she must give one hundred percent at all times," Coach Jones said.

At one point in time, Joan was considering getting out of athletics.

"People would say negative things when I said the right thing. I was being teased and I don't want to end the day being depressed all the time when I could go get into a fun class," Joan said.

While some girls were skipping reps and slacking off, Joan was giving 100% as well as encouraging the others to do so.

Fortunately, "Joan is honest and tries to do the right thing, not letting peer-pressure help make her decisions," Coach Jones said.

Joan ultimately decided to stay in athletics thanks to the positive support of some athletes and her coaches. She also has some changes in mind for athletics.

"I would like to see us be more of a team and not belittle our underclassmen, because we were underclassmen at one point too and we hated it, yet we mistreat them," Joan said.





Amanda Pepper strains to lift the T-bar during an upper body workout. Auxiliary lifts help provide balance between major muscles.

Members of the boys off-season speed group run laps to help produce more endurance. "Only run if you're skinny," Stephen Ballard said.















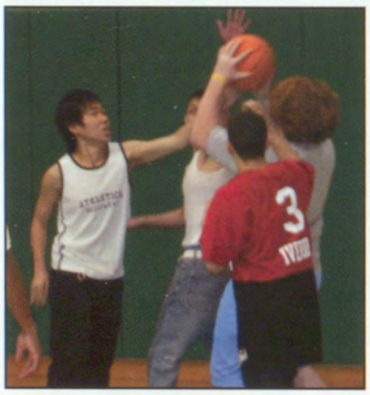




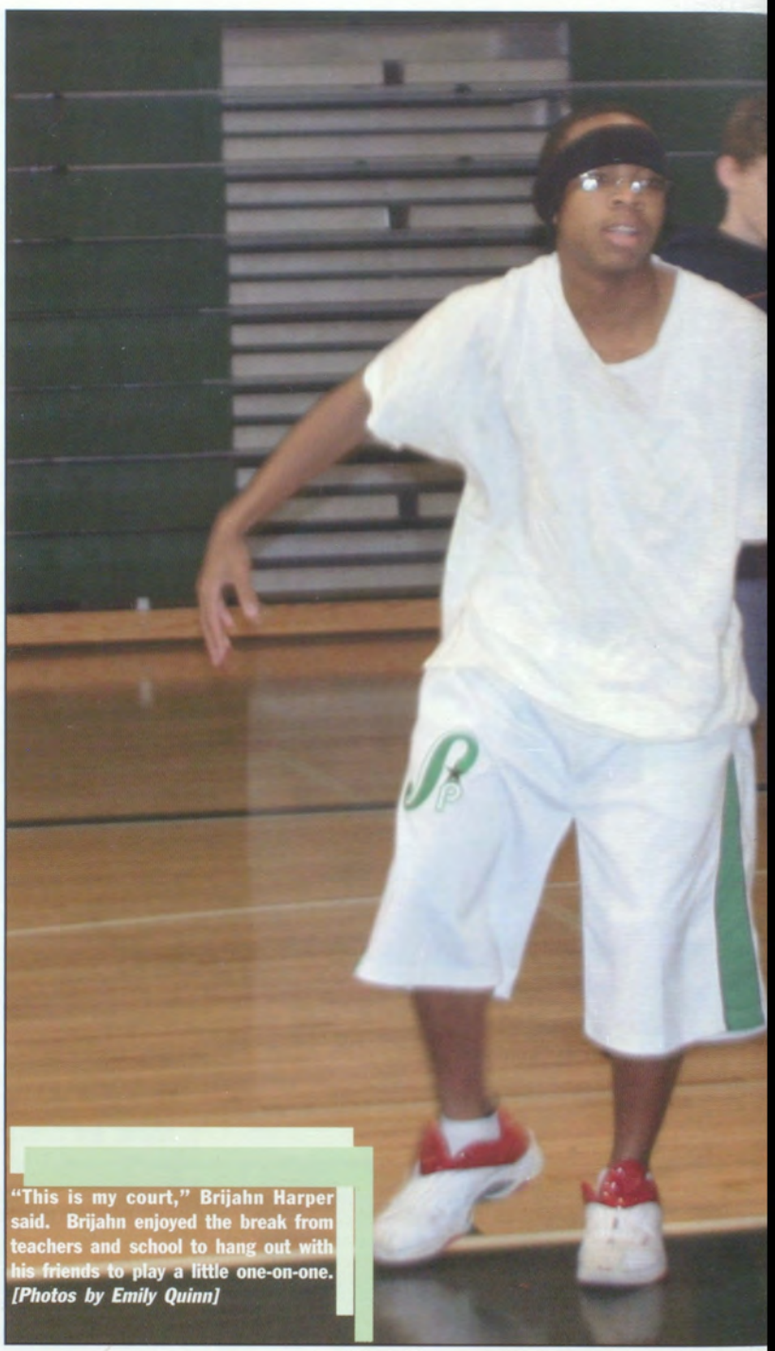
Ignoring the jokes made by her friends, Shelby Dillard accepts the challenge of shooting past the free throw line. "Our free-days on Friday are definitely my favorite!" Shelby Dillard said.

Brittany Jefferson enjoys her laid back day of goofing off with her friends during class. Brittany retrieved a ball after one of her peers served it out of bounds.

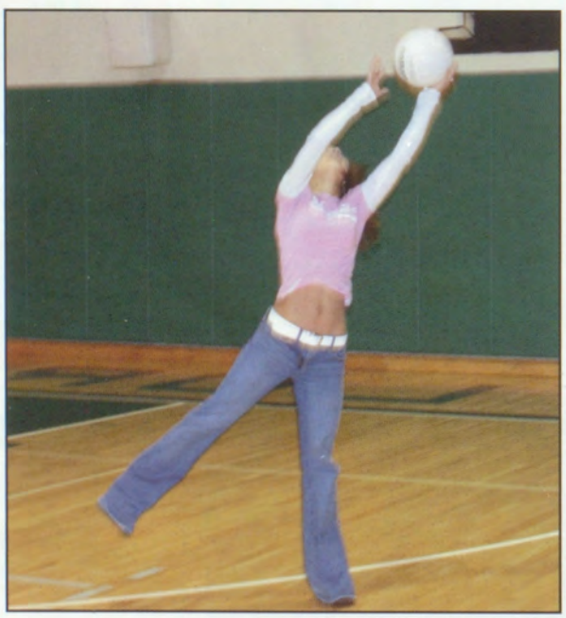
Victor Chang fights to block a ball from his opponents. "Things are very different here, but our sports are pretty much the same," said the foreign exchange student from Hong Kong. *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]*







"This is my court," Brijahn Harper said. Brijahn enjoyed the break from teachers and school to hang out with his friends to play a little one-on-one. *[Photos by Emily Quinn]*





Brittani Polomo stretches to catch a ball flying over her head while she bumps a volleyball with her classmates. Volleyball is a popular choice for many girls to practice during class.

It's harder than you think. Chris Alderete, Andy Flores, and Andrew Portillo struggled through the conditioning runs Coach Clayton prepared.



the chance to do it all

by emily quinn

Athletes often are only actively involved with one particular sport. In Physical Education class, however, students are able to practice whatever sport they wish while still staying in shape.

"P.E. is my favorite class because I get to take off my shoes and run around in my socks!"
--Joshah Moores

"Hockey. What more is there to say?"
--Matthew Sterling

"Yelling at my enemies during a basketball game is the best part ever about that class."
--Angel Ramirez

"Sore legs and sprints don't mix."
-- Nicholas Alexander

"Exercise. P.E. is about the only source of that stuff that I get all day long."
--Pamela Rossel

"Doing nothing but hang out on Fridays--you can't beat it."
--Ashley Lopez

Some might not consider the P.E. students "real" athletes, but after actually observing the class one would find just how athletic these students really are.



Daniel Rodriguez shows his peers how it's done. The students were given a free-day to practice any sport they were interested in during class.



Running is a walk in the park for Chase Williams and Lee Wright. Coach Clayton's P.E. class tackled the challenge of running for 3 minutes and walking for 1 minute repeatedly around the gym.

Toni Chandler stretches with her peers before beginning their workout. "Stretching plays a key role in the development of a good athlete," Coach Hedges said. *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]*





She shoots, she scores! Pamela Rossel brushed up on her basketball skills as she strutted her stuff on the court.

in good company



by emily quinn

Despite the lack of many upper classmen the tennis team has come together and shown hope of a promising future. Because the majority of the team members are freshmen, many people had doubts that they could pull off a successful year, but due to the friendships which grew among the team members, the the players found a new respect for the game. With their stong start in the fall, the team went undefeated in district play which gave them a bid to Regionals in San Antonio.

"Regionals was so much fun, and it was really a great opportunity to get to know each member outside of the tennis courts," Josh Kiewit said.

Thursday, October 28th, the top eight girls and boys tennis players loaded up on a bus and headed down to San Antonio to relax until they would begin play the next morning.

A tough loss Friday morning against Dripping Springs did not put the team in bad spirits as they went on to defeat their next competitors. That evening the team celebrated their victory by treating themselves to a night out.

"Saturday night was my absolute favorite night because we got to hang out with people we normally wouldn't be with and we had a blast together," Katie Quinn said.

The following morning the team beat two teams, including DelValle, which gave them the title of consolation winners.

"It was a great feeling to know that we could pull together as a team," Coach Dillenberger said.

The players believe that the key to such a successful season was "getting along so well and just having fun together," Devyn Rucker said.

Scoreboard record 04-05



Elgin [W] **19-0**



Lockhart [W] **19-0**



Hendrickson [W] **15-0**



Connally [W] **14-5**



Del Valle [W] **15-4**



Lampassas [W] **11-8**



Vista Ridge [W] **14-5**



Stoney Point [W] **17-2**



Stacy Bubinek reacts quickly to her opponet's lob as she trys to get the ball back in play. "I play other sports, but tennis is my favorite because of the cute outfits!" Stacy said.



Jed Cotner does not let a ball go past him as he guards his alley during a doubles game. "I've been playing tennis my whole life so I really love it," Jed said. *[All photos by Emily Quinn]*



Serving up his tricky, left handed serve, Rudy Mikeska scores another ace during practice. "Fall tennis is my favorite because I get to play singles and doubles," Rudy said.

Jumping to slam a ball, Zach Wilkins' overheads are known to cause bruises. Zach took his overhead very seriously during a match; it was his favorite shot.

Luke Kaspar casually returns the ball during the warm-up. "Luke makes tennis look easy when he plays," Brianna Gross said.







Kyra Hedrick celebrates after smoking her opponent at the net during practice. "Kyra is definitely the most social player on the team," teammate Devyn Rucker said.

After another long and tiring mixed-doubles match, John Kaspar is still able to fly through the air to make one of his killer net shots. "I love the jump ropes because they get me ready for bootcamp," John said.







Fall Tennis Team

Kyndel Stanley, Devyn Rucker, John Kaspar, Jed Cotner
Middle: Keegan Gross, Zach Wilkins, Alan Hernendez, Arthur Baisley,Stiles Parker, Rudy Mikeska, Luke Kaspar, Josh Kiewit
Back: Reese Hall, Brianna Gross, Katie Quinn, Emily Quinn *[Courtesy Photo]*



Spring Tennis Team

Front: Emily Quinn, Devyn Rucker, Jessica Dale, Kyra Hedrick, Stacy Bubinek, Brittni Gola, Reese Hall, Reyna Yanez **Back:** Brandon Peschke, Keegan Gross, Rudy Mikeska, Alan Hernandez, Zach Wilkins, Arthur Baisley, Jed Cotner, Josh Kiewit, Justin Felder, **Not pictured:** Britton Byfield *[Courtesy Photo]*

max out

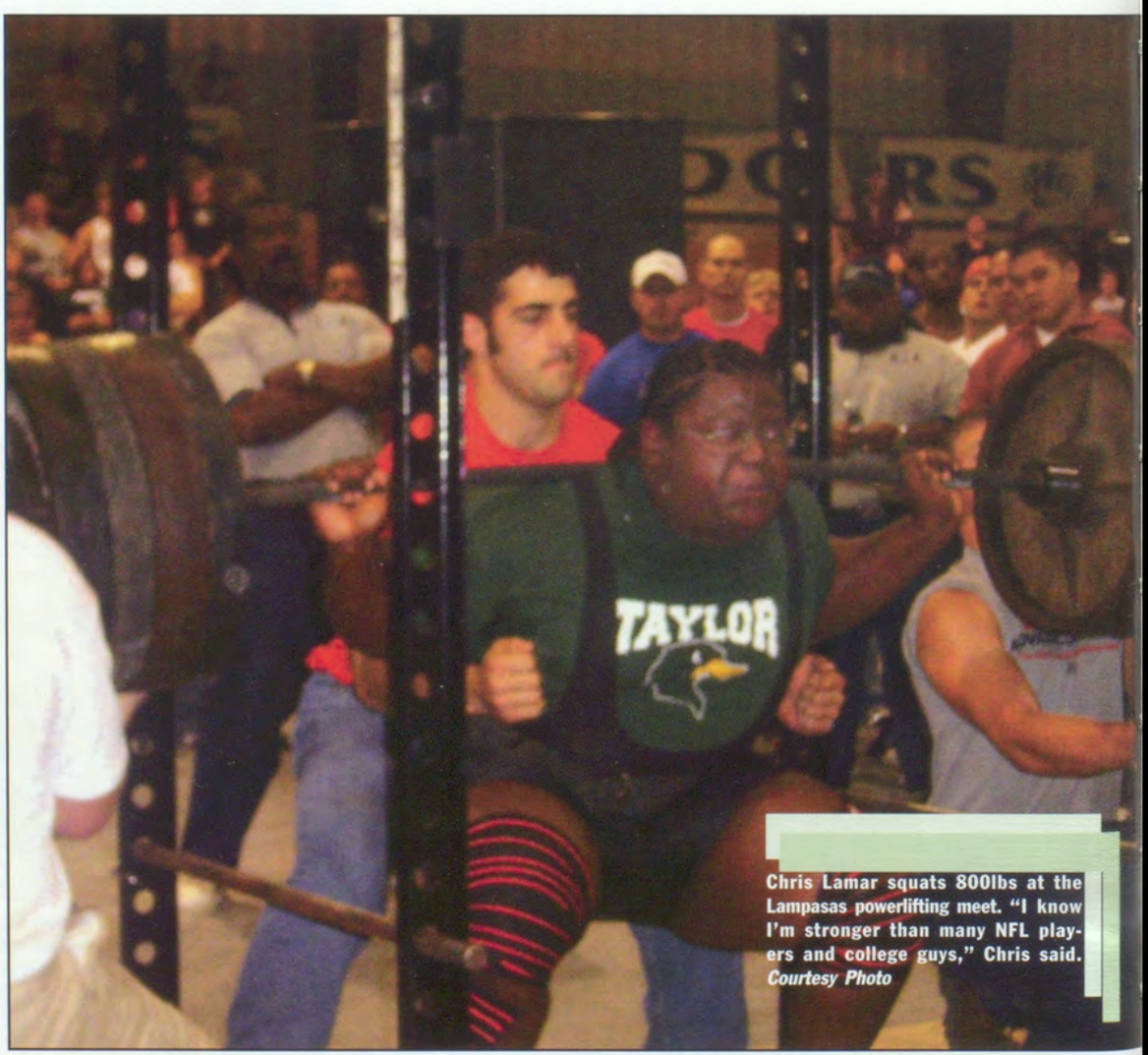
"Chris scared me so bad when he tried to dead lift my car. I knew he wouldnt do it, but it was scary anyway."
-Brianna Gross

by kara kerlin

It takes hard work, energy, strength, determination, drive, and passion to do what the members of the powerlifting team do. One member in particular has an amazing amount of drive. Chris Lamar is ranked second in the state of Texas in squats with an 800 pound lift and first in the region.

During middle school, the coaches suggested that Chris be in powerlifting when he went to high school because he was very strong. They saw potential in him and they were so right. Chris began serious weight training as a freshman in high school and has been breaking records since. He goes up 50-75 pounds per week while training. His max on bench is 485 pounds and 615 pounds on dead lift. That makes his total 1900 pounds, including squats, bench, and dead lift.

"I know I'm stronger than many NFL players and college guys," Chris said. He's not trying to brag, he's merely stating the obvious. By the end of his senior year, Chris hopes to have broken a record of 2000 pounds total, and he doesn't have very far to go. He also has a goal of squatting over 936 pounds which would break the state record, and make him number one in the state of Texas.



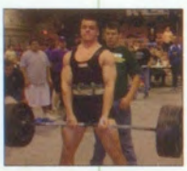
Chris Lamar squats 800lbs at the Lampasas powerlifting meet. "I know I'm stronger than many NFL players and college guys," Chris said. *Courtesy Photo*

Regional Qualifiers 2005


Courtnee Holt


Tony Metoyer


Chris Lamar


Josef Burian


Brandon Davis


Jacob Ness


Nikki Smith


Erik Krumm



Jordan Humphreys has his knees wrapped before his lift to ensure that they don't buckle went he is lifting. This prevents serious injuries. *[Photo by Sarah Johnson]*



Powerlifting

Erik Krumm, Torry Harrison, Chris Lamar, Tony Metoyer, Jacob Ness, Josef Burian *[Courtesy Photo]*



Torry Harrison squats over 250lbs at a powerlifting meet. The person standing behind him, the spotter, is there to keep the lifter steady and help prevent injuries. *[Photo by Sarah Johnson]*



Nick Pachicano squats over 200lbs. The green squat suits help the lifters to lift more weight. *[Photo by Hannah Carnes]*

We really believe in fundamentals and doing things right. If a player is prepared in all situations, it will carry over into the game."

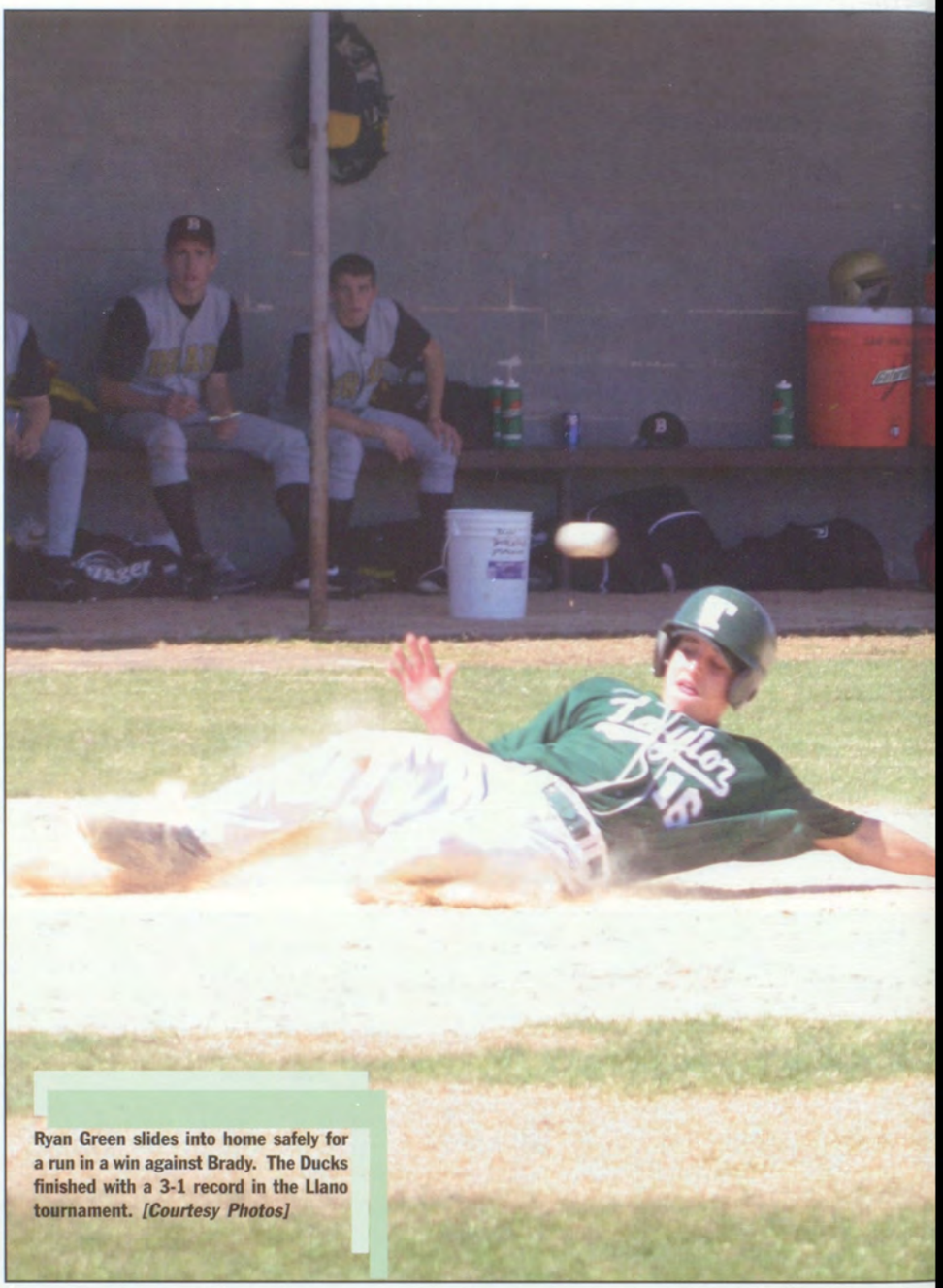
-Coach Kuhl

Green JV

Lance Janak, John David Kaspar, Chase Danek, Edward Stringer, Caleb Owens, Kyle Vanecek, Bill Ruden, Sisto Gonzales, Michael Platz, Matthew Schwettman

White JV

Blake Jirasek, Eric Crumley, Matt Millwen, Daulton Marek, Jake Farr, Chad David, Cullen Pick, Adam Barry, Brandon Peschke, Pat Garrett, Pete Taylor, Andrew Delgadillo, Ryan Gonzalez



Ryan Green slides into home safely for a run in a win against Brady. The Ducks finished with a 3-1 record in the Llano tournament. *[Courtesy Photos]*



Varsity

Front: Trey Milliker, Luke Kaspar, Ryan Green, Johnny Guerrero, Aaron Vanecek, Brent Holman, Chris Baisley **Back:** Rex Brinkmeyer, Stiles Parker, Noah Brinkmeyer, Tyler Talley, Holden Schroeder, Ben Jirasek, Braden Lawhon, Tyler Klotz, Cory Barran, Jack Bond *[Courtesy Photo]*



Rex Brinkmeyer awates the pitch in the Llano tournament. "Like coach Kuhl preaches, 'You cant guess to be a good hitter,'" Rex said.



all for one

by brent holman

When looking at this years varsity baseball squad one may wonder "Where are all the seniors?" Though most high school varsity teams are led by a large group of seniors, the role was placed on Aaron Vanecek, Jack Bond, and Rex Brinkmeyer to lead as well as develop a team dominated with 13 sophomores and juniors.

"We have a small number of seniors but we can still accomplish a leadership role with just a few. With our good leardership we can guide the younger players and develop them into future leaders." Aaron Vanecek said.

While the seniors were learning to model the younger players into varsity players, the others were excited to get the chance to play at the varsity level.

"I'm going to find my part on the team. Anything to play on varsity. This is when it really counts." Noah Brinkmeyer said.

Although there was a big gap between classes, the coach obviously thought they could play well together.

"The difference is instead of playing as one class, they are playing from three classes. The kids have played together for many years and will continue to do well together." Coach Kuhl said.

No matter what the outcome of the season, the experience of growing as an athlete as well as a person was worth much more.



Brent Holman



Johnny Guerrero



Jack Bond



Cory Beran



Edward Stringer



Ben Jirasek



Luke Kaspar



Trey Milliken



Aaron Vanecek attempts to lay down a bunt against Hutto. "I enjoyed this year and playing for coach Kuhl and I would bunt without thinking twice about it. Whatever I can do to win." Aaron said.



JV Green Pitcher Bill Ruden slowly take the mound in a home game against Del Valle. *[Photo by Brent Holman]*

















hardball

by anna johnson

The game of softball is hardly like the name implies, soft. It is a hard, tough game that these girls take seriously. Hailey Ruzicka, the starting pitcher, is one of these girls.

Hailey started playing when she was about seven or eight, "just because my parents asked me," she said.

Even though it is only her second year playing high school softball, she is already the starting pitcher on the varsity team.

"It's exciting. I never thought I'd be doing this," Hailey said.

The varsity team has its ups and downs, but ultimately come together for the better. Teamwork is an important part of any sport, especially softball. The whole game depends on their communication and interaction.

Getting along with other teammates affects the playing a lot because, "Before you can play on the field you have to get along. Things that happen off the field can't be taken on the field," catcher Ashlee Vrana said.

Not only is Hailey a model softball player, and an example for her teammates, the coaches admire her too.

"She's dedicated, she works very hard, and she is a team player," Coach Lezlie Hedges said.

This team has worked extremely hard to dispel the stereotype of softball as an easy game, and have succeeded. They have raised the standard for all girls following in their footsteps in the future.



Brittany Chavana throws it in hard. Her pitches were known to bring the heat to the catcher's glove. ***[Photo by Anna Johnson]***



The team gathers for a pep talk before the game while wearing their gloves on their heads. It was a tradition before all of their games. ***[Photo by Katelyn Gola]***

JV

Jenni Walton, Haily Mokry, Crystal Lopez, Ashley Harmon, Ashunta Davis, Perlie Gault, Brittni Gola, Francis Hewtty, Amanda Pepper, Alyx Scott, Amaris Jones, Justine Lorentzen, Shante Robinson, Kayla Marek

Jenna Thornton turns around to get directions from her coach. Communication between the coaches and the players is an understated but important part of the game. *[Photo by Anna Johnson]*



Catcher Ashlee Vrana looks on as her teammates play ball. The girls cheered for each other during the game to keep their adrenaline going. *[Photo by Anna Johnson]*





Varsity Softball

Back: Brittany Tamez, Ashlee Vrana, Kylie Stanford, Katelyn Gola, Kim Heeke, Joanna Schmidt, Amber Johnson **Front:**Jenna Thornton, Jessica Seggern, Kiki Lopez, Brittany Chavana, Reese Hall, Hailey Ruzicka **Not Pictured:** Jackie Luna *[Courtesy Photo]*





Anxiously awaiting the pitch, Kim Heeke gets ready in the outfield. Her concentration helped her make sure she didn't miss the ball. *[Photo by Anna Johnson]*

for the love of golf

by jordan hedges

The sun is shining and a light breeze is blowing. In the distance you can hear the whoosh of a swinging golf club and that resonating "ping" when the club head strikes the ball, launching it hundreds of feet through the air. It's a great day for golf!

Golf has a special meaning for those involved in the sport. Whether they play to get away from their stressful lives, or just to have a blast, they play for the love of golf.

This innate love of golf is also shared by coaches Danny Potts and George Matthys. They love golf just as much as their students do and endeavor to teach them all their knowledge to help better the team.

"My favorite thing about coaching golf is watching one of the students acheiving something that they have never done before, for example; shooting in the 70's or getting a hole-in-one," Coach Potts said.

"I joined [the golf team] because I love it, plus it's really fun," Jackie Orozco said.



After a smooth follow through, Bryan Zak tracks his putt hoping it disappears into the cup.



Brooke Anders tees up and prepares to launch her drive onto the fairway.



Firing his shot down the fairway, Evan Gerren boldly challenges a golfer's greatest nemesis--the water hazard. *[Courtesy Photos]*

Adam Konarek watches as his golf ball soars through air, hoping for a hole-in-one. "A hole-in-one is pretty hard to get, but it's really cool once you finally get one," Jackie Orozco said. *Inset:* Adam proudly displays his Top Medalist trophy from the San Marcos Golf Tournament.



On his second shot, Luke Cavo pitches up to the green. "It has to be quiet so you can concentrate," teammate Derek Terwilliger said.





Girls' Golf

Morgan Faught, Brooke Anders, Jackie Orozco. *[Courtesy Photo]*



Boys' Golf

Front (JV): Keegan Gross, Derek Terwilliger, Jed Cotner, Evan Gerran, Raul Avalos, Philip Gutierrez, **Back (Varsity):** David Chaidez, Adam Roznovak, Bryan Zak, Luke Cavo, Adam Konarek, Coach Danny Potts. **Not Pictured:** Cole Carnes, Shawn Bradshaw, Jordan Humpries. *[Courtesy Photo]*





Adam Roznovak walks to the next tee during the San Marcos tournament.



Girls' Track

Front: Jallisa Budd, Krystal Stoglin, Kendra Deary, Britney Schneider **Second:** Tracy Collins, Brandi Jackson, Nikki Smith, Erica Wooldridge, Jahnne Beckwith **Third:** Lanika Ross, Lindsay Wilson, Chelsey Boykin, Justine Lorentzen, Sarah Johnson, Erica Alderete, Jazzsmen Martinez, Sarah Kolinek **Back:** Hailey Ruzicka, Shanta Davis, Courtney Holt, Jasmine Estrada.



Boys' Track

First: Julian Sanchez, Sergio Tovar, Dylan Moerbe, Trey Ancria, Michael Martinez, Ian Wooldridge, Shivam Gandhi **Second:** Johnathan Wooldridge, Robert Aikens, Tyler Graef, Matt Lazano, Todd Bryan, Nathan Kirschvink, James Washington **Third:** Julius Collins, Clearence Johnson, Justin Ware, Maximo Sanchez, Martin Augi, Brandon Davis, Michael Wooldridge **Fourth:** Kyle Barab, Aubrey Killingsworth, Justin Bigon, Christopher Baisley, David Stoglin, Matthew Solbach **Fifth:** Krumm, Daniel Filla, Michael Campos, Albert Guitterez, Alfredo Romayor, Jacob Ness



Todd Bryan and Jonovan Wooldridge jump hurdles at a Marble Falls tournament. "Hurdles are fun," said Jonovan, "until you crash for the first time." *[Courtesy Photos].*

Lanika Ross flies over a hurdle at the Marble Falls Tournament. She said "I like to hang out with my friends at the track meets, and i like to compete against other schools."









get a grip

by justin bigon

In Track and Field, you might run long distance or short races, or you might excel in jumping or throwing. For all these categories you have to train hard as an individual. But there is one category were you have to train hard with three *other* individuals--the relay team.

The relay teams start the year missing some of their old team mates due to graduation and other causes. It's a challenge to learn to work with someone different, to once again perfect the steps and the handoff. "There [were] two seniors that would be dearly missed," senior Ashley Harmon said, "but I think we have enough dedicated people to fill the gaps in, the seniors and the underclassmen."

To get ready for the race, the teams have to run a lot of 200's, 100's, 300's, and 400's for conditioning. Then they have to work on running out of the blocks. Finally, the teams have to get together and practice taking handoffs from each other, memorizing the steps to take from the person handing the baton to them.

The teams have to face exhaustion and dehydration, but no danger strikes fear in the hearts of relay runners like the nightmare of dropping the baton. The baton is the key to finishing the race. "If you don't finish with the baton then you don't finish at all," Brandon Davis said.

Senior Sarah Kolinek suggested if you drop the baton that "you just have to pick it back up and try your hardest to catch back up."

Senior Jonovan Wooldridge offered advice on how to hold the baton so as not to drop it in the first place."It depends on which race you're running for your hands," Jonovan said, "but other than that, you should hold it at the bottom but not too far down, and hold it tight but not too tight where it would slip."



















Matthew Lozano keeps his pace in the long distance mile run. He remarks "Running long distance is hard work but it pays off when we finish."



Lindsay Wilson does the triple jump at an out of town tournament. "It's hard work," Lindsay said, "but in the end the track meets are fun." *[Photo by Justin Bigon]*

Joseph Ortiz throws the shot put ball during one competion. Joseph really enjoyed the shot put.





Marianne Brock rolls a ball during one event she took part in. Students who participate in Special Olympics compete in every different activity. *[Courtesy Photos]*

Roland Meyer gives his team a thumbs up before being presented with his medal. Roland ended up with a second place finish at the bowling tournament.



Joseph Ortiz practices the shot put after lunch before a meet. The students practiced almost every day in order to be ready for the next competion.





Heather Hennington shows off one of the gold medals she won. "They get really happy when they know they have won many medals," Mr. Widmer said.



silver & gold

by devyn rucker

Every day for about one hour, the Taylor Comets practice for their various events in the Special Olympics. Their hard work seems to pay off. The Boccee State Competition at Baylor University was the Comets' most successful competition. Taylor brought home twelve gold medals and seven silver medals.

"It was fun to win," Marianne Brock said.

"Basketball is the kids' favorite event because of the competition," Coach Kevin Widmer said.

Basketball and track and field are the two most popular events. Track seems to be a favorite because the students like to see all the other olympians thoughout the state.

"The boys can run fast," Roland Meyer said.

"The students really enjoy being outside and competeing for the big prizes," Kevin Widmer said.



Stacy Lopez gets ready to "light the torch" before the games begin. "Stacy was excited that she was chosen to 'light' it," Yvonne Orandy said.



Front: Dee Sutton, Skylar Crayton, Stacy Lopez, Piana Mendez, Crystal Fields, Angel Escobar, Monique Klepac, Andrea Gutierrez, Marianne Brock, Liz Delatorre, Heather Hennington, Yvonne Orandy **Back:** Roland Meyer, Dennis Gage, Travis Petty, Randy Ramirez, Stacy Ramlociam, Donald Fredrick, Michael Rodriquez, Aaron Jones, Joseph Ortiz, Cody Gomez, Kevin Widmer *[Courtesy Photo]*

Organi













zations

Shaping it Up

Ashley McFarlin accidently falls while trying to step in a box full of leaves. She was attempting to copy the sound of footsteps in the forest. *[Courtesy Photo]*



Sarah Pence begins making the covering of the on air sign. "Building props is probably the funnest part of DINI," Sarah said. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*





Kara Kerlin and Sherrie Stringer laugh at their mistake of covering the on air sign with black paper on the wrong side. "Mistakes are immenent, we all make them, so why not laugh," Kara said. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*



oldtime radio

by cameron haight

Using laws and principles to solve problems may be fun for some. As for the DINI team, they enjoy using their ideas to solve problems. Of course, these aren't your typical math and physics problems, they are situations created where a team must complete several tasks within the situation by performing a skit of some kind.

The Obejejujee DINI team has chosen to present a radio broadcast. The team created Hoostopher, a man who is lost in the jungles of Africa, because he lost his explorer group. He later gets abducted by aliens and has to make his way through an alien war to get back to earth. Nobody said the story had to be realistic.

A major task the team must complete is to create original sounds to create a feel for the story. The team uses items like African drums for background music, leaves in a box to make the sound of a person walking through a forest, and a slinky attatched to a cup to make the sound of a laser being shot for when Hoostopher is abducted by the aliens.

Another requirement is to have a commercial break during the story that advertises a certain product with an outrageous claim. The team product is a "Hover Snare Drum." The product itself is an outrageous claim. It is supposed to carry itself by hovering and will not hurt ones shoulders.

A DINI skit wouldn't be complete without props. As a "side trip," an object or element of the skit that is chosen by the team to be scored, the group built a much larger version of an old time radio with an amplifier in the center of it for all of their sound projections. As another "side trip," background music was played on a drum for an African theme. Each team is only given a one hundred and twenty five dollar budget, so supplies like wood have to be used sparingly. As their last side trip, the team put together mixers to help complete the look of an actual recording studio. "I like using my knowledge to build objects out of cardboard, it gives me practice for building skills," Kristi Flores said.

With all of the sound effects, actions, memorized lines, set up, interrupting commercial break, and the news forecast the skit has to be less than eight minutes long. However, the team hasn't had a single worry. Practicing hours on end perfects their timing and abilities to perform, making them a big threat at competition.

When competing against other teams that may have the same props and sound ideas, its important to perform them better, and make them more detailed. The team has made sure they are different from every other team by building three dimensional objects and creating sounds using their talents. It may be the upper hand that they need to succeed.



Back: Kara Kerlin, Kyle Young, Cameron Haight **Front:** Sherrie Stringer, Ashley McFarlin, Sarah Pence, Kristi Flores. *[Courtesy Photo]*



Kristi Flores adds the dials to the mixers. Since side trips are scored, it is important to add specific detail to them. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*

Lieutenant Leanne Teggeman stands at attention during warm-ups. "We're a lot closer as a group this year," Leanne said. *[Photo by Kara Kerlin]*



Kristina Gaudin performs her solo during "The Passionate Heart". As captain, her skills were the spotlight in the ballad. *[Photo by Bryan Zak]*





Jessica Reyes performs during halftime. The guard worked long, hard hours to get ready for contest. *[Photo by Brianna Gross]*



Crystal Carillo and Susannah Hernandez stretch their muscles before a football game. The girls learned Pilates to help them stretch. *[Photo by Kara Kerlin]*



Suzannah Hernandez goes through the routine before the game. Warm-up was important because it helped them remember the stances for each movement. *[Photo by Kara Kerlin]*

COLOR GUARD APPLES

rhythmcolormotion

by kara kerlin

Every organization is unique in its own way, but most members don't hear things like, "Spin!", "Toss!", or "Figure eights!" when they meet as a group.

The Color Guard hears phrases such as these on a daily basis. The girls of the guard are a close-knit group. They trained hard during the summer, attending a week-long camp in July at Round Rock High School, and had their own practices one day each week before band camp itself started. At guard camp, the girls learned new techniques with different elements, such as rifles. This year is the first year that rifles have been used in a marching show in Taylor.



"Not many guards can do rifles," Leanne Teggeman said, who is serving her second year as a member of the guard. In addition to learning new moves and concepts, the girls learned to respect each other.

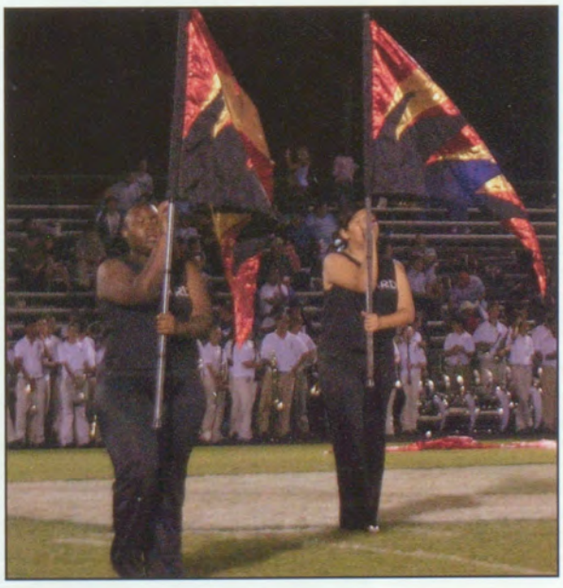
This year, the marching show was entitled "Heart Beat" written by Key Poulan. For each of the three movements of the show, the guard had different flags to symbolize the mood of each song, along with their festively colored tunic uniforms.

Movement one was titled "Adrenaline Rush". The guard chose bright red flags with a darker red center to emphasize the heart pumping as adrenaline rushes through the body. Part two, the ballad, or slow song, "The Passionate Heart," brought peach and iridescent flags to portray a softer, flowing feel. Part three, the accelerated "Heart Attack," showcased the rifles along with shiny black, red, and gold flags that represented death and the dying heart.

The Color Guard provides a visual display of the music that the band plays. All the colors that were used in "Heartbeat" illustrate the heart beating, loving, and dying.



Captain Kristina Gaudin exhibits her rifle skills. The rifles were a spectacle in the marching show. *[Photo by Kara Kerlin]*



Guard members Shauna Owens and Crystal Carillo show off their black flags during "Heart Attack." The black represented death. *[Photo by Bryan Zak]*



The Drumline warms up to march the show "Heart Beat." The drumline spent so many hours together practicing, "it's like a second family," Ashley McFarlin said. *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]*



The woodwinds march to "The Passionate Heart," the second movement of the show. It was during this movement that Rebecca Gray played her sax solo. "Turning the mic off and on and getting back into the marching sets was difficult. I had to practice it a lot," Rebecca said. *[Photo by Devyn Rucker]*



Squad Leaders-Top Row: Nikki Block, Mark Zucknick, Sarah Kuntz, Tiffany Samuelson, Kyle Young, Sherrie' Stringer, Bryce Block. **Bottom Row:** Becca Gray, Amy Whittaker, Jaboa Matoska, Cameron Haight, Alec Gonzales, Kristina Gaudin, Alicia Alayon. **Not Pictured:** Maria Diaz. *[Photo by Kara Kerlin]*







The tubas play "Boyz in the Hood." Senior tuba section leader, Sherrie' Stringer, leads the tubas. *[Photo by Kara Kerlin]*

loss leads to win

by cameron haight

The Band has endured countless hours of frustrating and painful practice in the completion of their marching show "Heart Beat," contests, and UIL events. Finally, a payoff: at the Capital City Marching Festival the band received a trophy for 2nd place.

"I was glad to have something to show for all my years of dedication to band," senior Sherrie Stringer said.

Over the course of three years, the band has gotten rid of some dead weight. In previous years the band had been held back by several students who did almost nothing to help. After losing six or seven problems, the band only had a few to work out, and they weren't people. With nothing and nobody to hold them back, these musicians have something to show for it.

"It was a lot easier to get work done without people constantly interrupting practice," senior Alicia Alayon said.

The dedicated musicians woke up at the crack of dawn, and sometimes earlier, just to make it to practice every morning, totaling nearly eight hours of practice every week.

"I didn't like waking up so early, but it proved to help us a lot," junior Kyle Young said.

The Drumline, the metronome (or heartbeat) of the band, was awarded with the second place trophy for "Best Drumline," a just reward for having endured fourteen hours a week of their section leader and Drumline Instructor lecturing and pushing them to succeed.

The brass section stands at attention during the homecoming parade. The band and other participants marched from Pasemann Elementary all the way down Mallard Lane to the high school. *[Photo by Brianna Gross]*





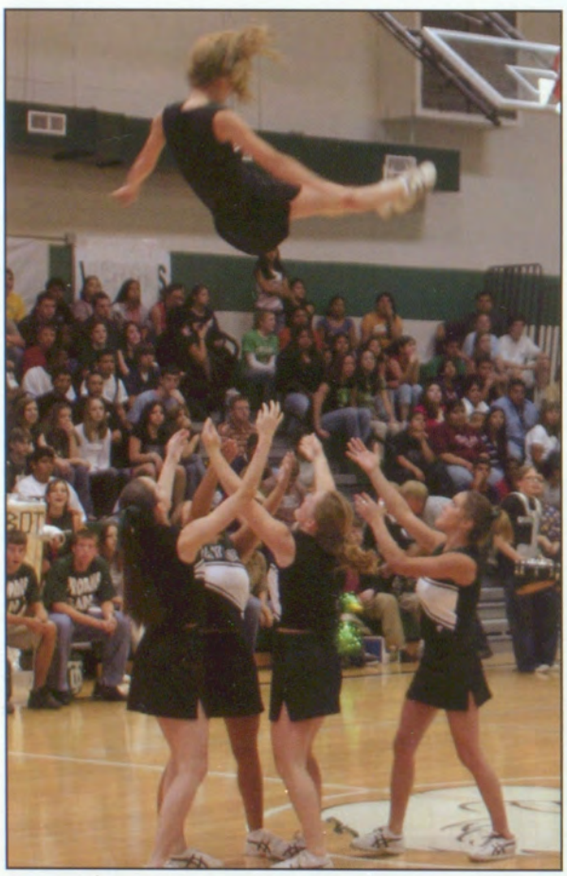
Drum Majors Nikki Block and Sarah Kuntz perform their Drum Major salute before they direct the band. Drum Majors were extremely important because they indicated the changes within the music to the musicians. *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]*

Band Council- Top row: Vice President Becca Gray, Librarian Cindy Arias, Treasurer Alec Gonzales, Equipment Manager Sherrie Stringer, Historian Maria Diaz. **Middle row:** Secretary Amy Whittaker, Color Guard Captain Kristina Gaudin, Color Guard Captain Leanne Teggeman, President Mark Zucknick. **Bottom Row:** Suzanna Hernandez, Head Drum Major Nikki Block, Assistant Drum Major Sarah Kuntz. Not Pictured: Librarian Kara Kerlin, Uniform Manager Ashley McFarlin. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*

Briana Lopez flies in a liberty to end a cheer at the Connally game. "It used to be scary to fly, but now I really trust my bases and I've gotten used to how it feels," Briana said. *[All photos courtesy of Robyn Rogers]*



Ashley Bedsole comes down from a pike out basket toss during the varsity cheer at the first pep-rally of the season. "Basing a basket toss is definately the most painful stunt to catch, the flyer just smashes into you," base Brooke Johnson said.



The varsity squad shows some love for their team with a pow wow before cheering the first game of the season. The girls got things going with some motivation from the captains.



The junior varsity squad hits a "T" motion all together in the middle of a defensive cheer. "It's hard to get all ten girls hitting the same motion at exactly the same time but that's what makes us look sharp," Ashton Baran said.





eatsleepcheer





Front: Brooke Schneider, Ashley Bedsole, Brooke Johnson, Stephanie Ponkoney **Back:**Jenni Walton, Matti Mott, Hannah Carnes (junior captain), Katelyn Gola, Kristen Sanders (senior captain), Joanna Jahn, Brittany Tamez (Waddles)

Matti Mott helps get the run-through sign taped before pre-game starts. "Run-throughs are always fun because they're big and pretty," Matti said.



Front: Courtnee Holt, Ashton Baran, Paige Vanecek **Back:** Stacy Bubenik, Tempestt Blakely, Erin Tomei, Kari Jahn, Briana Lopez (sophomore captain), Hailey Ruzicka, Andrea Wilkerson (freshman captain)

by hannah carnes

"I need all the girls to come back in the gym," Mrs. Rogers announces. "Parents and friends **must** stay in the student center." All the girls go nervously into the gym, sit down, and squeeze the girls sitting next to them. Mrs. Rogers, the cheerleading coach, walks up to the front and after a short speech begins to call out the names of the new cheerleaders. If your name is called you get a shirt and the chance to run excitedly out to the student center and announce to everyone you're a cheerleader. However, if your name isn't called, then you exit the gym with teary eyes and disappointment on your face.

"My name is at the end of the alphabet, so I'm always the last girl called. No spot is ever guaranteed so i'm always really scared I won't make it while I wait to hear Mrs. Rogers call out my name," Andrea Wilkerson said who has been a cheerleader since seventh grade.

The week leading up to tryouts is just as stressful as waiting to hear the results. The girls have three clinic days to learn a dance routine, a complex individual cheer, and two chants that must be perfected by tryouts on the fourth day. On top of learning the material the girls must also work on incorporating jumping and tumbling skills necessary to wow the judges.

On the night of tryouts, the girls are divided into groups of three and perform the dance and the two chants with their group so the judges can watch for timing and see how the girls look in a group. Next, each girl goes in the gym alone and does an entrance and the cheer individually.

"The cheer is the most nerve wracking part since the judges are only watching you so if you mess up there's no way to hide it," Stephanie Ponkoney said. "You also feel pretty stupid jumping around and spiriting by yourself for people you've never even met."

Most of the girls receive stuffed animals, balloons, or cards for good luck from graduated cheerleaders, or family, and sometimes caring boyfriends.

"When you're that nervous, it's nice to feel like the people you love are supporting you. My mom and boyfriend always come because they realize how scary tryouts are and they help me relax...a little," Stacy Bubenik said.

The Propane Gang gets the game started with their flag run around the track. "The crowd seems to really get excited when the boys run their T-A-Y-L-O-R flags," JV cheerleader Hailey Ruzicka said . *[Photo by Brianna Gross]*



The Drakes feel the team's pain as Schertz-Clemens scores another touchdown. The boys had a pretty easy night without many touchdowns requiring them to run the flags. *[Photo courtesy of Robyn Rogers]*





Noah Brinkmeyer takes a break after running the flags during the home game against Rockdale. The Ducks showed Rockdale who was boss and tired out the Propane Gang with touchdawn after touchdown. [Photo courtesy of Robyn Rogers]



Front: Nathan Neitsch, Brent Holman, Caleb Owens **Back:** Chase Danek, Ryan Green, Noah Brinkmeyer [Photo courtesy of Robyn Rogers]

propanegang

by hannah carnes



The guys work hard to finish the system of pipes that holds their flags up during the game. "Putting that thing together is a lot harder than it looks and we're always missing screws or bolts we need," Nathan Neitsch said.





Chase Danek watches the play intently so he knows if he is going need to go get his flag for a touchdown run. "It's nice to have the boys out there because they help us to know exactly what is going on in the game," varsity cheerleader Matti Mott said. [Photo courtesy of Robyn Rogers]

High schools all over the world are filled with original traditions passed down from past alumni. This year our school has started a new spirit-raising tradition of its own.

A group of six boys--Brent Holman, Ryan Green, Caleb Owens, Nathan Neitsch, Noah Brinkmeyer, and Chase Danek--are the first group of guys to be known as the Drakes, also called the Propane Gang.

"The Drakes seems to be what everyone calls us, but we would much rather be the Propane Gang. Nobody even realizes that we're called Drakes because that's the name of a male duck, so half of the people don't even understand that name," Ryan Green said. "Besides, if you ask any guy in school they'll tell you that Propane Gang just seems more manly."

This new organization of rowdy, spirit-crazed guys has huge flags spelling out T-A-Y-L-O-R, and anytime the Ducks score a touchdown they proudly run the flags from scoreboard to scoreboard, which in a high-scoring game can get pretty exhausting.

Almost as notable as their flags are the group's signature hand-painted propane tanks filled with nuts and bolts, guaranteed to demand the crowd's attention when the boys shake them.

"Our propane tanks and flags seem to really impress the crowd, especially when we play at home. Everyone is just more into the game, but away games are the best since we get to ride the bus with the varsity cheerleaders, Nathan Neitsch said. "Who wouldn't wanna do that?"

The guys attend every football game and pep-rally with rally caps and their game faces on.

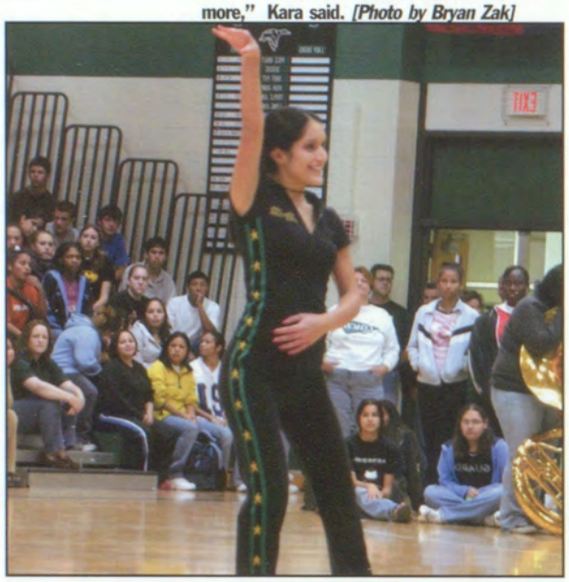
"The Drakes seem to take the games almost more seriously than even some of the football players, and I think they like using the slingshot to shoot goodies to the crowd," cheerleader Andrea Wilkerson said.

Due to their immense popularity, it's apparant the Drakes, or as they prefer, the Propane Gang, will continue to spark school spirit for years to come.

Sarah Werchen and Melissa Mokry lead the entire team in a pre-halftime primp session. "We all want to look good, so we wear bright red lipstick to make sure that we show up on the field," Melissa said. *[Courtesy Photo]*



Kara Murphy practices a perfect stepper smile at the pep rally while doing the team routine. "I get a little nervous before every performance, but once the music starts you don't think about it anymore," Kara said. *[Photo by Bryan Zak]*





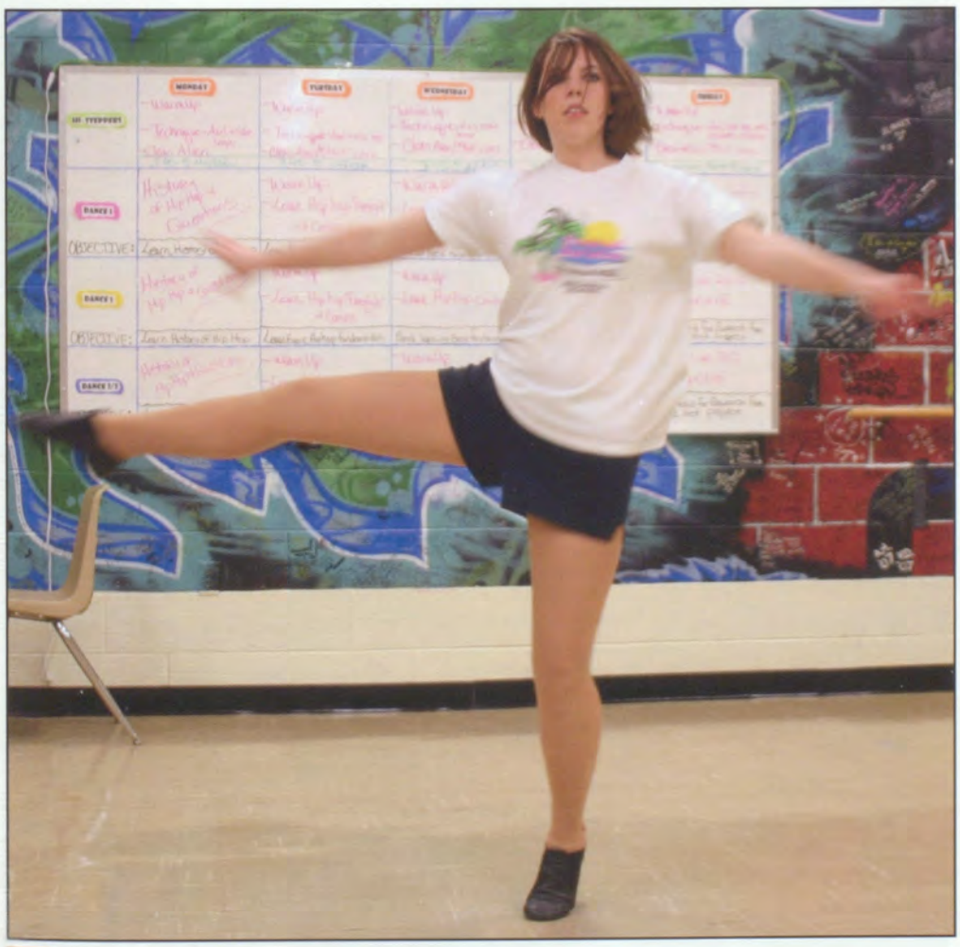
The team gets the crowd pumped with their kick routine at a pep-rally. "Kicks are the crowd's favorite; they always applaud when we start them," Jill Gaswint said. *[Photo by Bryan Zak]*

keeping time



Hi-Steppers

Front: Kaye Bauer, Melissa Mokry, Krystle Luconic, Jennifer McQuary, Sarah Werchen, Amy English **Second Row:** Lindsay Walton, Ashley Robbins, Whitney Kahanek, Araceli Alderete, Kelly Martinez, Lanikka Ross **Third Row:** Ms. Ray (adviser), Amanda Eckhardt, Nakevia Miller, Kara Murphy, Lindsey Green, Jill Gaswint, Samantha English(manager) **Fourth Row:** Suzanna Curik, Kelsey Christianson, Krystal Yanis, Brittany Wolf, Amanda Moss, Alex Bracamontez *[Courtesy Photo]*



Jennifer McQuary practices her *fuete* turns for contest. She performed a solo, self-choreographed, lyrical routine featuring the spins. *[Photo by Hannah Carnes]*

by hannah carnes

Game days can prove to be very long and stressful for a member of the Taylor Hi-Steppers. Captain Jennifer McQuary has verified that with her exhausting game day schedule.

7:00am Begin the zero-hour warm up.

8:00am Start getting ready for school; there's no time to go home, so everyone packs into the dance room. "The hardest part about getting ready for school is not having nearly enough plugs for 24 girls to heat up curling irons, straightners, and blow dryers. It's hard to switch out and still be ready on time," Jennifer said. 8:20am Off to first period for a fun day of class. 12:15pm Lunch Break. "I usually have to grab something fast at home when I drop by to grab the music and fix my uniform," Jennifer said. 2:20pm Since the steppers have a zero hour class, they are allowed a 7th period off, which on game days gave them an hour to run home and pack up their bags for the long bus ride. 4:00pm Load onto the bus and head for the game. 4:30pm Picnic on the bus. "We don't stop for food so we pack our suppers and eat on the way to the game. We don't put on our uniforms first because we get kinda messy," Junior Lieutenant Krystle Luconic said. 6:00pm Start getting dressed on the bus. "Word of advice: don't put your hat on before you do your lipstick, because when you hit a bump it's bright red Cover Girl all over the shiny white hat," said Jennifer. 7:00pm Line up for pre-game. 8:00pm Start stretching for halftime routines. 8:30pm Performance time! "I still get kinda nervous before we go on, but when everyone claps after we're done it's worth it," stepper Alex Bracamontez said. 8:45pm Take third quarter off for some much deserved refreshments and socializing. 10:00pm Everyone's back on the bus and eager to get home. 11:00pm Get back to town and stop by the house for a quick outfit change. 1:30am Arrive back at home after post-game officer socializing.

Even after such a long day, you will not hear a Stepper complain; they seem thrilled to do it and smile through most of it with true dance team poise.

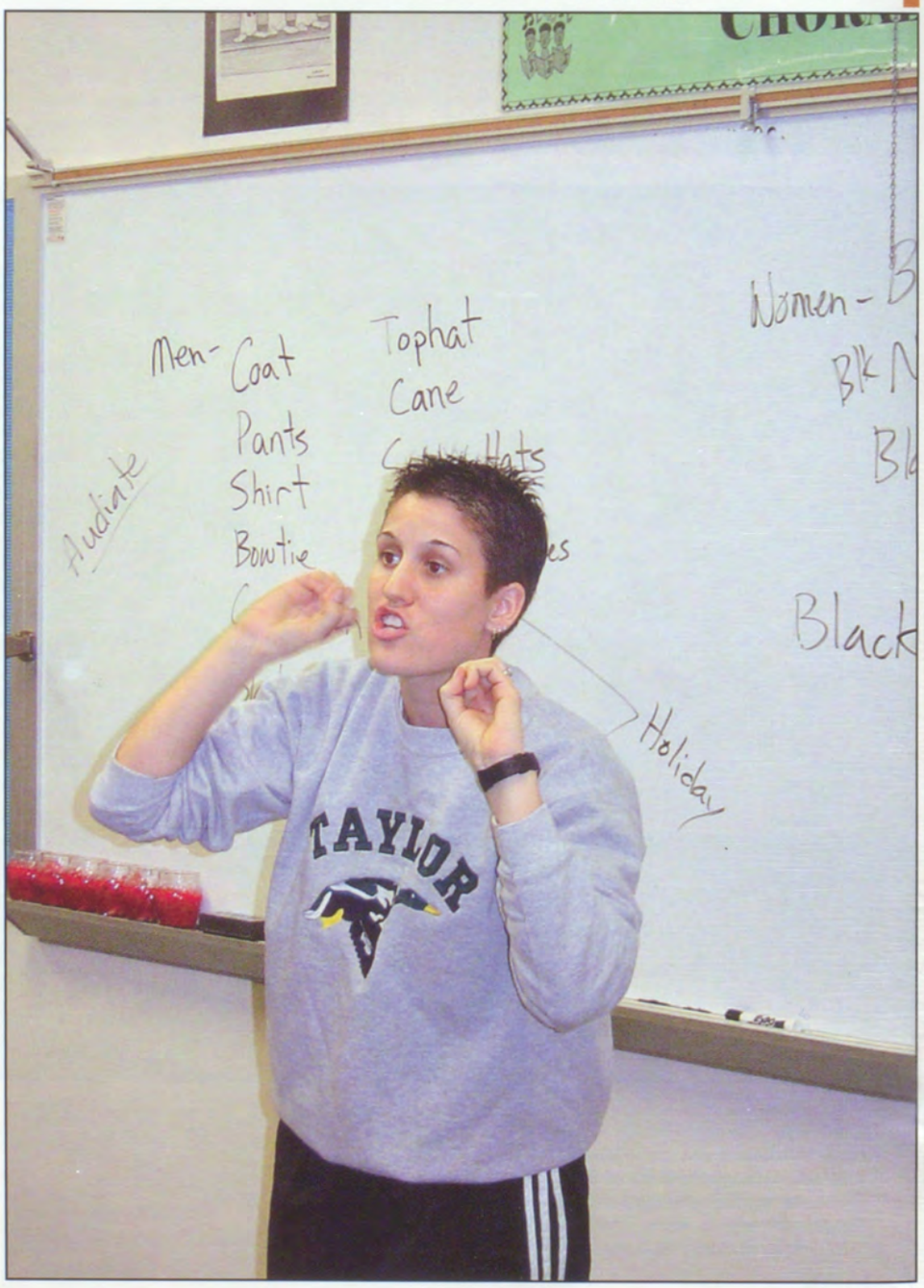
Each day the class learned new ways to make the concert more interesting. This included adding new moves and working to make them right. *[Photo by Becca Ray]*





After hours of hard work the group takes a well deserved break. "It takes a lot of practicing to prepare for a concert, no matter how good you are," said Krystal Yanis. *[Photo by Becca Ray]*

Ms. Bolding shows her choir students how it's really done. "One of the best things about her is that she puts her emotions into everything she does," Cody Eastman said. *[Photo by Becca Ray]*





Haley Hughes hits the right note singing *Santa Baby* during the fall concert. The girls spent days working on the choreography and had fun performing this song. *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]*

"a year like no other"

by becca ray





Cody Eastman, Chris Lamar, and Stephen Gauna singing *Walk Like A Man* during the Christmas concert. "This was my favorite number," Cody Eastman said. *[Photo by Becca Ray]*

To make this concert better, Ms. Bolding decided to do something that has never been done here before. She added for the first time a live orchestra. *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]*

Ms. Bolding and the guys don their suits before the concert. "We loved our tuxes and we were happy to show them off," they said. *[Photo by Becca Ray]*



A year like no other" is how Krystal Yanis described the way it would be in choir this year. And she was right. What makes this year so different is a brand new instructor: Ms. Randi Bolding. Ms. Bolding took over the choir and brought with her many changes.

Ms. Bolding decided to shake things up a bit. When she first arrived she noticed a lot that she could change. One of her main goals was to make choir a learning experience for those students who are true music lovers, not just an escape for students trying to avoid "hard classes." She made it known that choir was not just, as the students would say, " a blow off class," but a serious chance for people to advance their musical talents.

Her second goal was to make this school proud of their choir. So she taught them, drilled them, and shaped them into real singers. After several weeks of planning and practicing, she put together one of the greatest concerts this school has ever seen. The choir spent hours rehearsing and working on choreography. There was an orchestra. The men wore tuxedos and the women wore elegant dresses.

The night of the concert, as the audience piled into the auditorium, the nerves were running high behind the curtain.

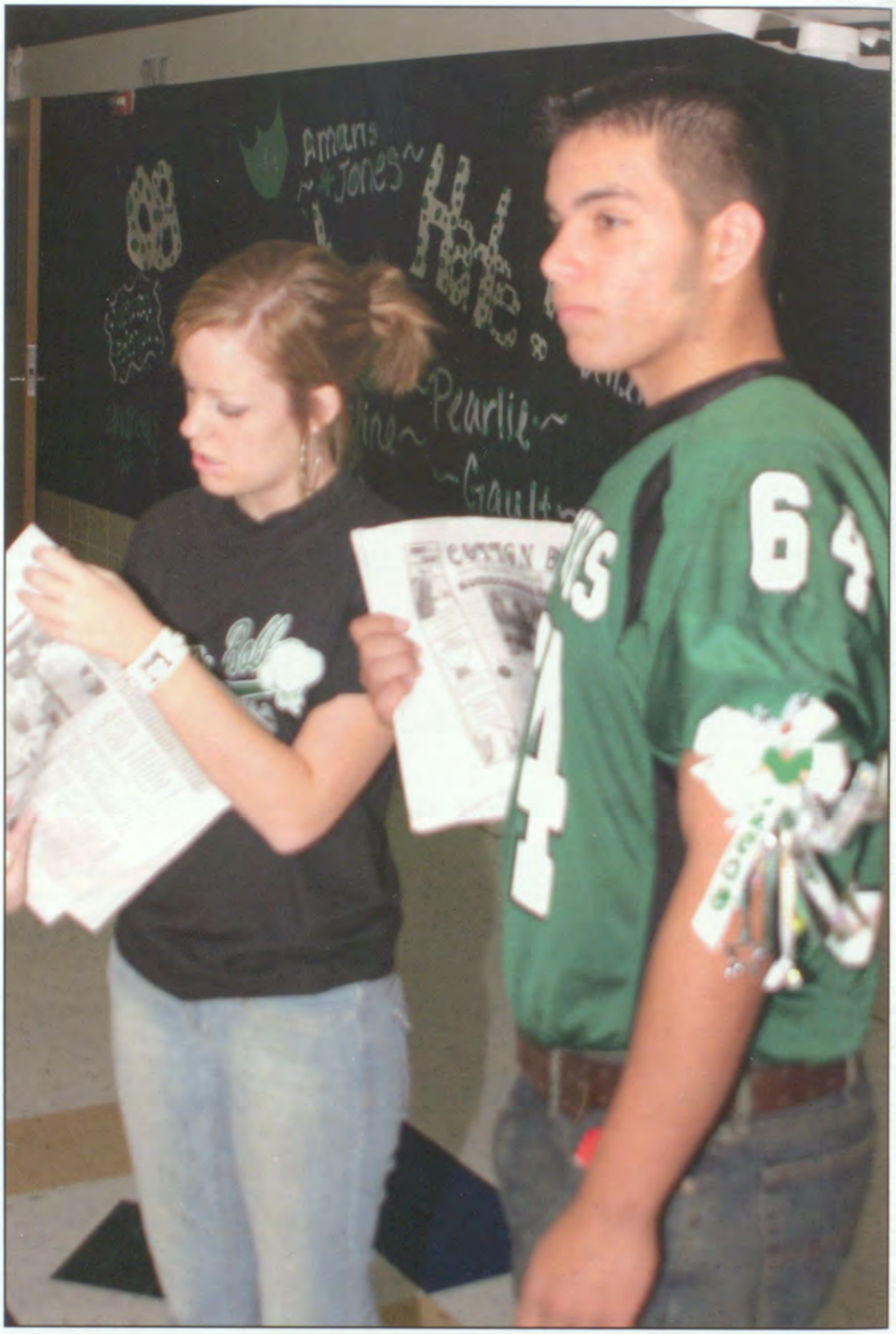
"I was a little nervous when I saw how many people there actually were. But I knew we would do good because Ms. Bolding had taught us well," Savannah Dekneefe said.

All of the hard work they had put themselves through the past few weeks was put to the test that night. The concert was a big hit, and weeks later it was still the talk of the school.

In the fall the choir went to district competition. Of the 18 in the class, three made it to regionals: Cody Eastman, Stephen Gauna, and Anthony Dominguez.

"I think she is a great teacher because she is one of the few who actually makes you feel good about yourself. When you get in trouble she yells at you and lectures you, but you come out of it feeling like a better person and more confident than before," Cody Eastman said. "She puts her emotion into everything she does and she really cares about us. I know I would not have made it to regionals without her. She has made me more confident and I am definitely ready for state next year."

Lindsay Rozacky and Jacob Ness deliver the freshly-printed Homecoming edition to the students. Over 250 papers were delivered each time the newspaper was printed. *[Photos by Jordan Hedges]*



Adviser Dawn Fischer teaches Blakesley King how to use the new camera properly. Blakesley needed these skills to be able to teach everyone else on the staff how to operate the camera.





Paige Wilkerson interviews Justin Latham for a story she is writing for a column in the paper. Paige interviewed Justin about his favorite lunch hangouts.



Front: Editor-in-Chief Katie Quinn, Rosa Hernandez, Paris Lopez, Kelly Martinez, Amy Whittaker, and Suzanna Hernandez **Back:** Blakesley King, Aubrey Medaris, Layout Editor Kreig Penny, Copy Editor Nathan Jones, Sports Writer Jacob Ness, Lindsay Rozacky, and Business Manager Brittany Behrens **Not Pictured:** Paige Wilkerson and Jill Streit



Staff reporter Paris Lopez works on the computer to publish her story while Brittany Behrens supervises. "[Brittany] made me really uncomfortable around deadline time," Paris said. "She was crazy."

"Cotton Boll was really fun, except around deadline time. Then it was crazy!"

- Blakesley King



Katie Quinn reviews Suzanna Hernandez's spreads and corrects her mistakes. Katie had to review over 75 spreads this year. Her skills became invaluable to the paper's staff.

delivering reputation

by jordan hedges

The bad, unruly kids who are always getting into mischief have created an undesirable reputation for "the kids from Taylor." Mrs. Fischer and Katie Quinn have set a mission for themselves to use the Cotton Boll to represent the school as a reputable and respectable institution.

To show these qualities in the paper, Katie and Mrs. Fischer have been printing stories about the good things happening at Taylor High School.

"It's really cool writing about the good things in Taylor...it helps us as students look bettter," Katie said.

To that end, the Cotton Boll staff strives to write in-depth stories about great things happening in Taylor.

Such stories that have been printed include several items about graduates from past year, dress code concerns, and a story about our foreign exchange student, Josef Burian.

"My favorite story was the one about the dress code; it was really interesting," Mrs. Fischer said.

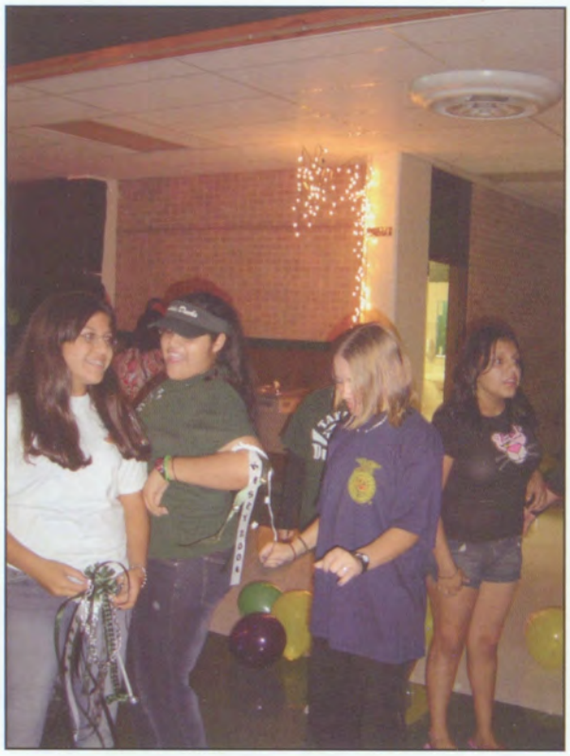
Altough Katie will graduate this year in May, her mission will most likely be carried on by the next editor of the paper. Mrs. Fischer will also continue to publish commanding stories in the paper that will help create a good reputation for the school, not only here in Taylor, but also to the other schools in our area.

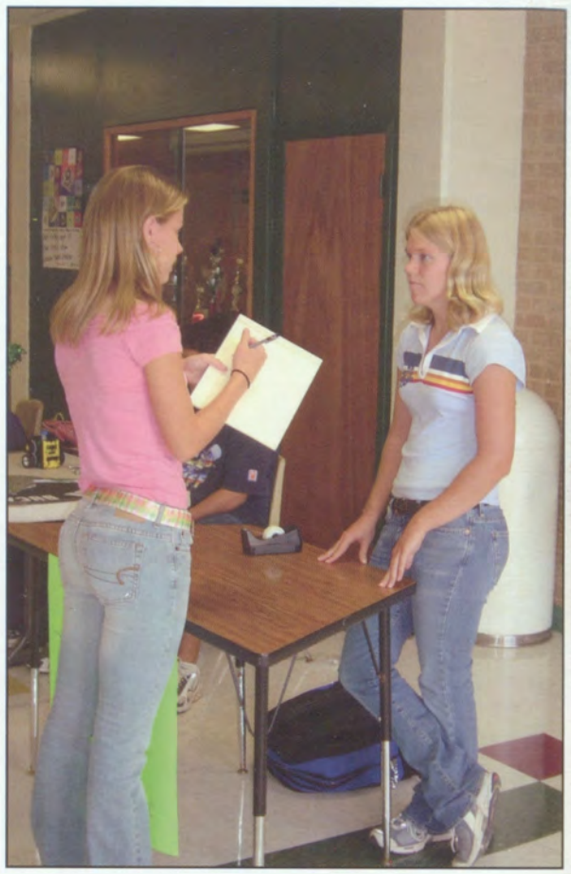
Katie Quinn recruits new member Amy Whittaker, telling her about the duties of Student Senate. "Club rush is a great way for people to get involved," Katie said. *[Photo by Brianna Gross]*

Robin Gonzales, Victoria Gonzales, and Paige Kreidal get their groove on. There were many pop songs played at the homecoming dance. *[Photo by Brent Holman]*

Gretchen Richter and Jeremy Lopez embrace during a slow song. "The dance was fun, but spending time with Jeremy made it even better," Gretchen said. *[Photo by Brent Holman]*









Student senate represenatives Matti Mott and Kristen Sanders participate in the gift exchange with represenatives from Lake Travis. The oak tree given to every opponent symbolized friendship between schools. *[Photo by Bryan Zak]*

shake up



Mrs. Bennett

by brent holman

What better to do on a Friday night than go to a school sponsored dance? Student Senate, along with the Junior Class, helped host Taylor's first dance (other than prom) in over four years.

"The music was great; the school made the place look really great," Brook Anders said.

The ordinary student center was dressed up with icicle lighting, paper-covered walls, and balloons.

"I had fun with all the big and pretty balloons," Katie Engelke said.

A group of high steppers really enjoyed the music because they got to show off their moves not only on the field during the halftime show but also on the dance floor after the game.

"We had fun. We all had our groove on!" Jennifer McQuary said.

Even though this was the first dance in a really long time, it may be the start of a hip new tradition.





Front: Vice President Jamie Pausewang, Reporter Matti Mott, Parliamentarian Nicole Smith **Back:** President Katie Quinn, Treasurer Lindsey Rozacky. **Not pictured:** Secretary Kristen Sanders. *[Photo by Brent Holman]*

Jamie Pausewang prepares a list of homecoming float entries in Mrs. Bennett's classroom. Organizing materials for Student Senate was an ongoing and time-consuming task. *[Photo by Jennifer McQuary]*

Krystal Stoglin and Shaquita Hill shake it like a salt shaker. The music alowed the students to enjoy themselves. *[Photo by Brent Holman]*

Hours worked by student senate during Homecoming week

Members 2-3 hours
Officers 10 hours
Sponsors 30 hours
(as well as 3 hours on Sunday)

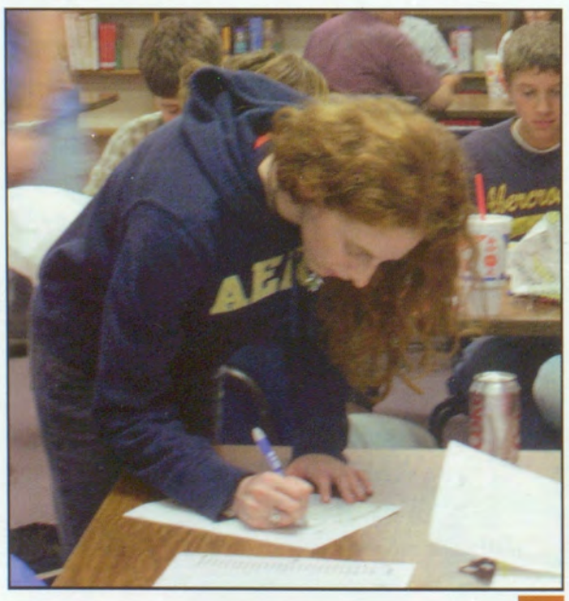




Jenna Glover takes notes during the monthly NHS meeting. In NHS, "The teachers around you are helping you out to excel and do your best," Jenna said. *[Photos by Anna Johnson]*

Looking thoughtfully at his Dairy Queen burger, Kevin Massar chows down. Since meetings took place during lunch, students had to eat fast or brown-bag it.

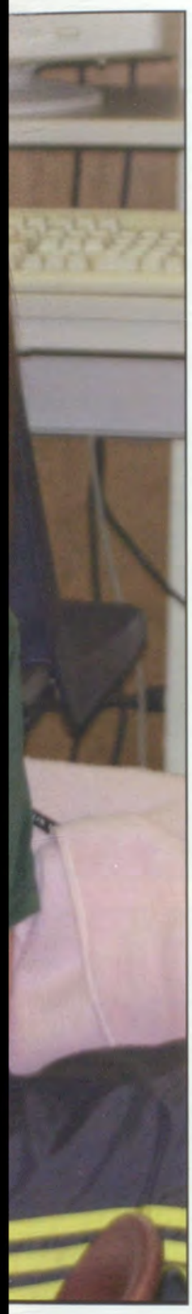




Becca Bauerkemper signs in at a monthly NHS meeting during lunch. NHS members were required to turn in community service hours at each meeting as well.



Emily Turner carefully counts out the green and white bracelets sold by NHS in the fall. Pride bands, as they were called, made a successful fundraiser.



honorandservice



Covered with silly string and much more, Tyler Graef pauses amid the chaos. NHS sponsored Crud Wars after a football game in September. *[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]*



by anna johnson

Each student is encouraged to find a club or organization that interests them and join in. Most groups have a guideline or two, but pretty much accept everyone who pays. There are others, however, that strive for higher standards. The National Honor Society is one of these with many extra guidelines, as well as offering a certain prestige, since it is only open to juniors and seniors.

As a junior and a first-year participant in NHS, Jenna Glover was excited when she was offered admittance at the end of last year.

"It's a great opportunity and it's a knowledge that you've got good grades," Jenna said.

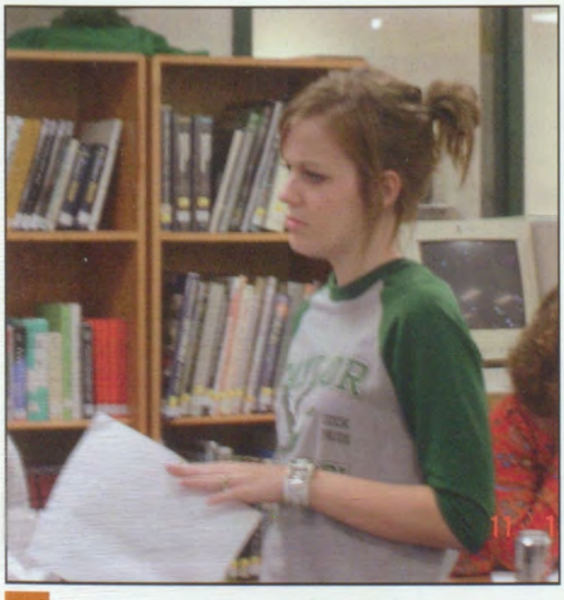
Because Jenna was in NJHS in eighth grade, she already knew NHS was mainly focused on academics and the community, meaning that each six weeks students had to get their report cards checked and also have completed at least one hour of community service. When students go out and help others, "People look at you with a different kind of attitude as a hard worker," Jenna said.

Although a lot of NHS is work, it pays off in the end because many colleges recognize the respectable title of being a member of NHS and give out scholarships; plus, it gives students a chance to work community service, which also looks good on transcripts.

Doing community service, "improves how they look at you because they know I'm not just sitting around doing nothing with what I know," Byron Lantzsch said.

The most important thing about NHS, though, is that the students show respect and honor and live up to the pledge that was made at the induction ceremony.

NHS is honorable "because we have a group of students who realize that there are people in this world who need help and they're willing to go out and help these people. They're willing to give of themselves great time and effort," sponsor Mrs. Mary Kalbaugh said.



Lindsey Rozacky, NHS President, addresses members about upcoming events and deadlines. As President, Lindsey had many extra responsibilities in planning the activities of NHS.



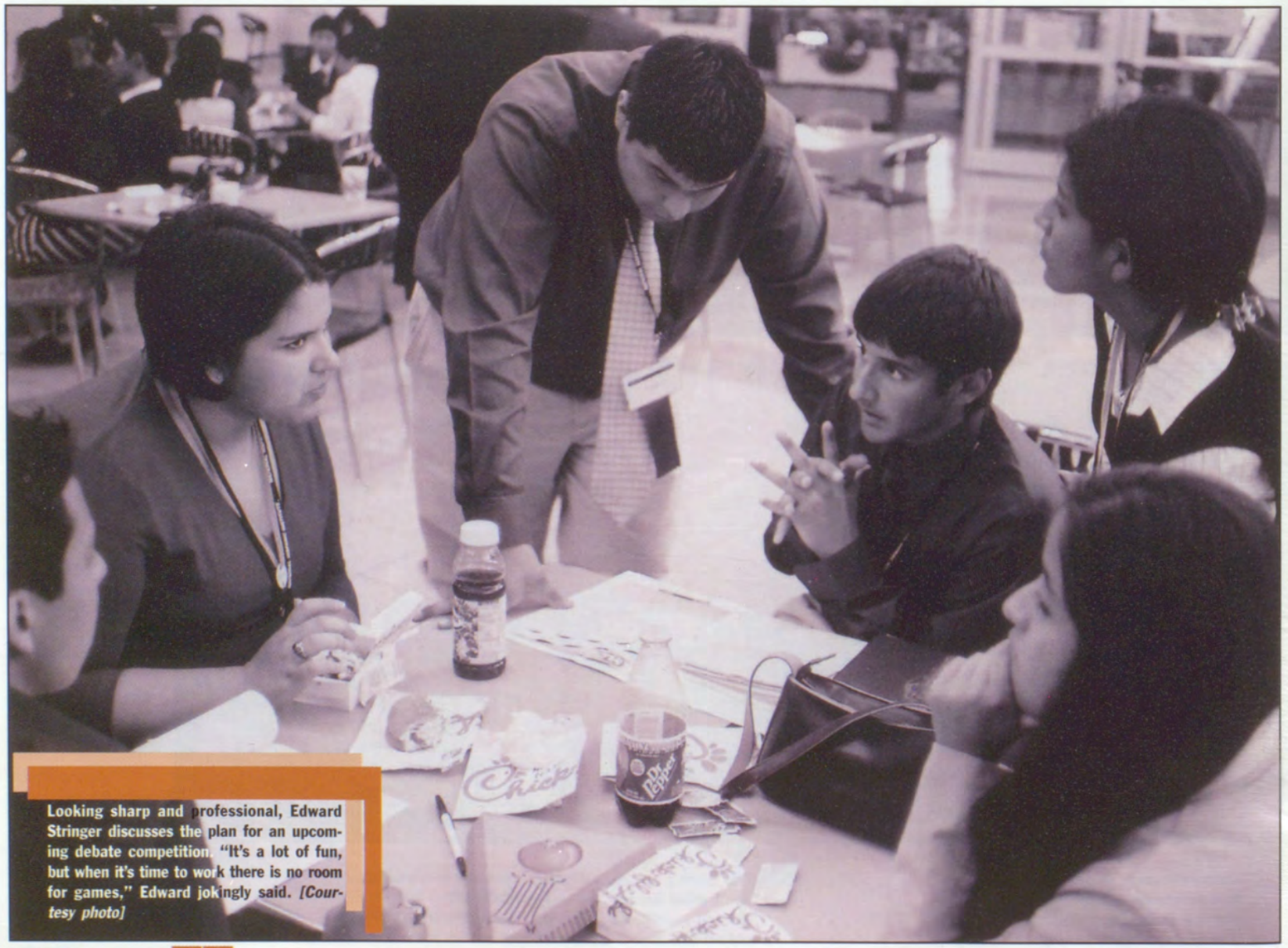
Nikki Smith graciously serves salad at the Chamber Banquet on January 27. NHS and Interact worked together to help out the city of Taylor at this important event. *[Photo by Emily Quinn]*

This studious group sets aside time for an after school meeting before completing other extracurricular activities. Maintaining at least an 88 average in all classes may be a difficult task for most students, but for these members, along with 55 others it is a requirement. *[Photo by Emily Quinn]*



Kylie Stanford addresses her fellow officers during an early morning meeting. "There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work that has to get done which people don't even realize," Kylie said. *[Photo by Emily Quinn]*





Looking sharp and professional, Edward Stringer discusses the plan for an upcoming debate competition. "It's a lot of fun, but when it's time to work there is no room for games," Edward jokingly said. *[Courtesy photo]*

hot tamales





by emily quinn

A delicious tradition grows with success as NHI members resume their annual fall tamale sales for the twenty-fifth consecutive year. The money earned from this ambitious endeavor is used as tuition money for their yearly summer programs. The job may be a challenge, but the reward is sweet for these students who look forward to the June conventions all year long.

Tamale sales have skyrocketed, becoming one of the most successful fundraisers in the school.

"In one year, our sales have actually doubled from the prior, which is great!" president Sherrie Stringer said. Each member sold an average of 30 dozen tamales, making the profit greater than it has ever been.

Many teachers look forward to the sales each year because of the delectable and irresistible hot tamales. Mrs. Rowe said, "Each year I always buy a dozen, but this year it looks like my husband and I will be eating tamales for a long time. He bought two dozen from a student without knowing I had already purchased some for the two of us. I guess it is a good thing we have a freezer that works." She wasn't the only one with tamales on the brain.

Mr. Brush said he always gets the hot pork tamales because he likes the spice.

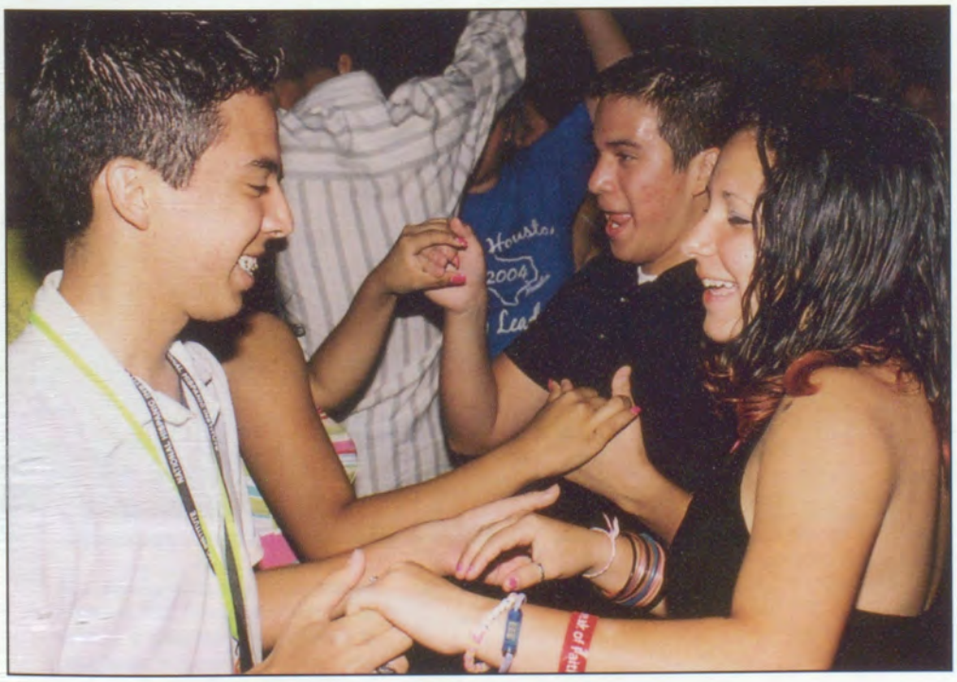
"I am never disappointed with the service or the quality. The money always goes to a good cause. What more could you ask for?" Mr. Brush said.



The sophomore members of NHI participated in a Young Leaders Conference in Corpus Christi. "It's so much fun! I got to meet so many new people," Kelly Banner said. *[Courtesy photo]*

Several students arrive at the NHI officer meetings a little late because of their demanding morning schedules. Jackie Luna did her best to enter on time and soon found herself wrapped up in the agenda. *[Photo by Emily Quinn]*

Alec Gonzalez takes advantage of the chance to dance with Kelly Banner along side of his brother Emilio Gonzalez at a dance in Corpus Christi. "That's one of my favorite nights," Emilio said. *[Courtesy Photo]*



hotlittlenumbers

Tamale Sale Results

Over 1,452 dozen tamales were sold by the students.

The profit from each dozen was $3.00, which means the total earning was over $4,356.

Each student had a goal to sell 30 dozen tamales, which means each student raised at least $90.00 for the club.

All the money raised from the sales went directly to the students' tuition for their summer programs.

Kylie Stanford sold 93 dozen tamales, the record high for this fundraiser.

never judge a book by its cover

by kara kerlin

Did you know that there are over 20,000 books in the Taylor High School library? Many students don't know, or don't take advantage of this information and vast amount of resources.

The Humanities Club was organized for book lovers and those wishing to expand their horizons through literature. Mrs. Rowe, the club's sponsor, assigned everyone a classic novel to read, and when everyone finished, the group met again to discuss the book. The first book assigned was *Farenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. This book is a must for anyone's literary repetoir.

Some students may wonder, why bother reading old books? What's the point? Why not read something new and exciting like the *Harry Potter* series or some other new pop culture type of book?

The answer comes from an essay by Francis Bacon. "Some books are meant to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested; that is some books are to read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention."

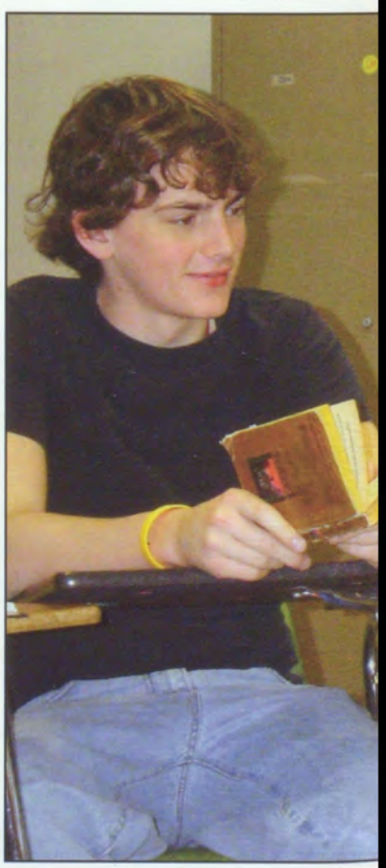


There's a whole club dedicated to reading and critiquing great pieces of literature. As an English teacher, Mrs. Rowe has read many great books; she says that *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde is "one of [her] favorite books", along with several others including *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, and *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

"Reading classic novels helps shape us into what and who we are. Classic novels are relevent to us, because they connect us to our culture, and they are universal," Mr. Brush said.

We still read Shakespeare, and 500 years later, the ideas he wrote still relate to the world we live in today.

Next time you step into a bookstore or a library, pass by the contemporary novels and head over to see what you can find by some famous authors such as Oscar Wilde, Charles Dickens, Henry David Thoreau, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Jane Austen, or Ernest Hemmingway. Their books will open you to a whole new world of literary excitement. Give classic books a chance, even if you don't understand them initially. It's good to find a novel, read it thoroughly, and critique it.



A life-size statue of Dobby, a character from the *Harry Potter* series, stands in the library to encourage students to read.



going up

by kara kerlin

If you were to ask a typical high school student on a random day what his or her plans for college are, many probably couldn't tell you just exactly what they'll be doing after graduation, especially freshman and sophomores. Upward Bound gives minority students the opportunity to succeed in high school so that they can go on to college with an established mindset of what college is like.

Students involved in Upward Bound take weekly trips to Huston-Tillutson College in Austin for classes and tutoring to help them acquire knowledge so that they may go on to higher learning. These students can also obtain scholarships through Upward Bound.



Front: Justin Felder **Middle:** Christina Aguilar, Victoria Gonzales, Jessica Aguilar **Back:** Nicollette Gault, Nakevia Miller, Michael Wooldridge, Sha'tera Scott, Brittney Wyatt, Larenda Willis, Alexia Patterson *[Photos by Kara Kerlin]*

Hear Me Out

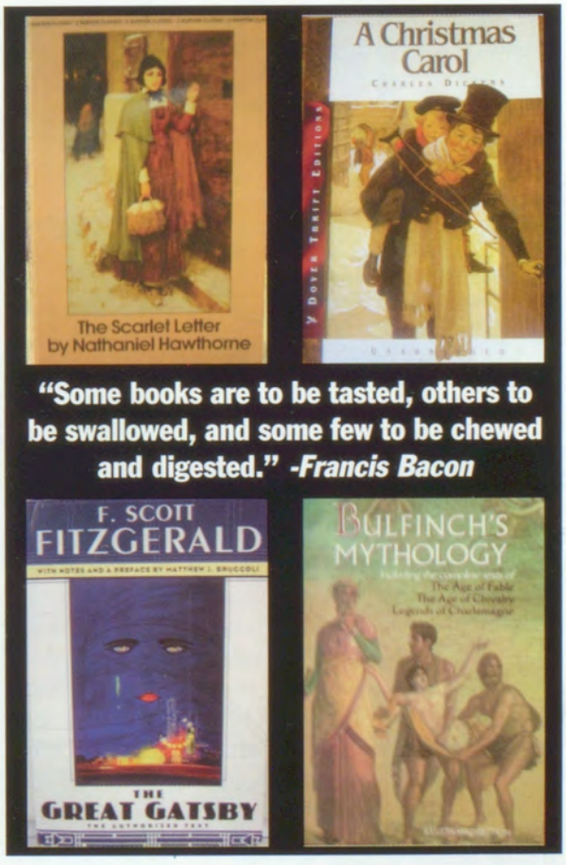


"We get to learn about different colleges and what they have to offer. They are fun."

Justin Felder, Sophomore



Mrs. Rowe and Nathan Jones discuss *Farenheit 451*. "Humanities club is fun because it gives you an opportunity to read books that you wouldn't normally read and discuss them with intelligent people," Anna Johnson said.



"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." *-Francis Bacon*



In Mrs. Ramirez's Interior Design class, Vice President Jenny Walton reviews a few important details with Kylie Stanford. All of Mrs. Ramirez's classes were a part of FCCLA. *[Photo by Rebecca Ray]*

duckuniversity

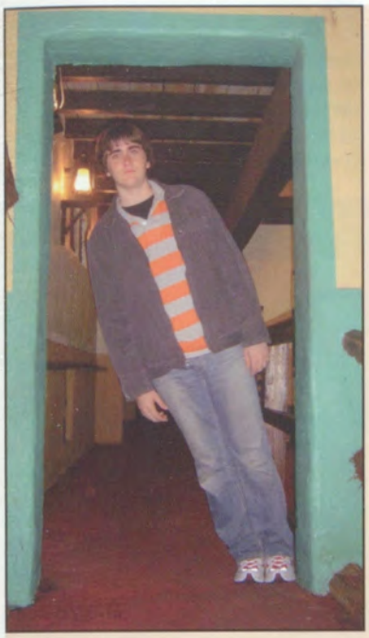
by rebecca ray

How could anyone not want to be a part of FCCLA? Family, Community, and Career Leaders of America is a very unique organizaton. The proof is in this year's numbers of members, with an outstanding 89 students taking part in this organization, making this the largest number to date."It is the only student leadership organization that has family as its main focus. So no matter what, you always have a family," said club sponsor Mrs. David. With an outstanding 89 members this year. Not only does this club teach students to deal with family situations and ways to get through job interviews alive, most of all it teaches students how to be a leader in their communitiy. "We help out at the rest homes, with the Trash Off and with Green Santa," said Mrs. Monica Ramirez, another FCCLA club sponsor. Every January the club takes a trip to Corpus Christi to compete in a statewide contest. This is when these leaders got to put their skills to the test and show off all they have learned throughout the year. The winners from the meet are Crystal Gutierrez, Krystle Luconic, and Rebecca Almazan placing 6th in Chapter Showcase and Jennifer McQuary who placed 5th in Job Interview.

One of the main community service projects FCCLA is taking part of this year is Duck University. Duck University is a project that helps the younger kids at Pauseman and those at the Middle School. The idea of it is to have the older kids from the high school give up a few hours a week of their time to give back to their community by being mentors. Many members of FCCLA took part in Duck University every Tuesday and Thursday. "I enjoyed it because I helped second graders understand work that they couldn't understand before. I had a great time and I really got a lot out of it. I'm glad I got to do this!" said Celeste Vargus.



FCCLA club sponsor, Mrs. Arlene David reviews a few last minute rules with Jennifer McQuary before the regional competition, which was held in Corpus Cristi in January. *[Photo by Rebecca Ray]*





Kacey Bauer leans down to tie her ice skate. After they worked hard all year, the BPA state qualifiers took a well deserved break when they went ice skating at the mall.

While at Six Flags, Jordan Hedges takes a minute to straighten things out. "This year has been great but it was nice to be able to have a day when we could just relax and have fun," he said.

a chance of a lifetime

by rebecca ray

Business Professionals of America is a very benificial organization. It has been around for years. But this past year was Katy Kuhls first to be involved.

BPA, sponsored by Mrs. Barbara Leschber is an organization that allows kids to work and experience the business world before going off to college and choosing a major. It allows then to gain knowledge of what it really takes to make it in "the working world". As for Katy, being in this organization got her the job she had grown to love. She worked at Our Farm everyday after school. Her job was office assistant but she also helped take care of the animals and was able to work with disabled children. "I love working with kids and seeing kids with disabilities improving and having fun," said Katy. Her dream is to go to college and become an equine therapist. BPA and her job at Our Farm has taught her to work with all kinds of different people "It was very beneficial to me in that way" Katy said. "The best part of being in BPA is it really teaches you about the business world and trains you for many experiences we will have in the future, while pusuing a career. For me it was a chance of a lifetime. I would recommend this organization to everyone," Katy said.

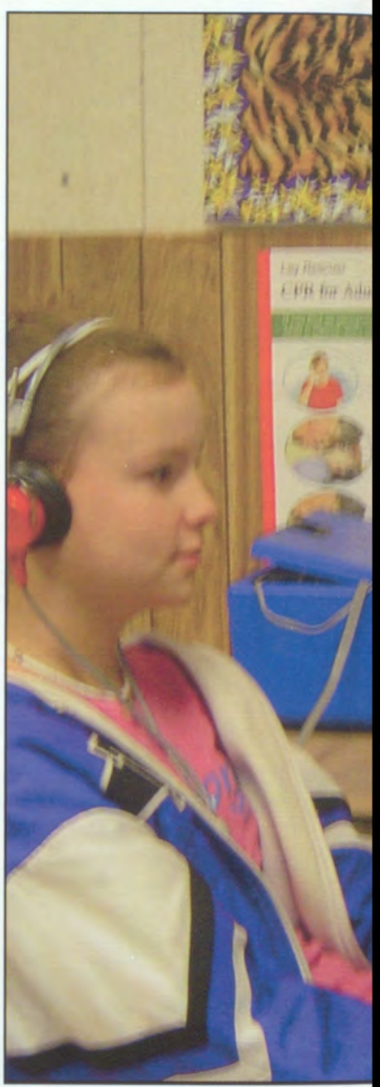




BPA state qualifiers along with their sponsor, Barbara Leschber, gather together before the competition to wish each other luck. Mrs. Leschber has been involved with BPA for 36 years.

Aubrey Byfield and Megan Kirkwood enjoy thier day at Six Flags by taking a ride on the famous Texas Giant. BPA state qualifiers went to Arlington to compete where they also spent a day at Six Flags Over Texas. *[Courtesy Photos]*

Halley Gay administers a hearing test to a Thrall student. "It's a lot of fun taking care of people, I know I will never get tired of it," Halley said. *[Courtesy photo]*



Andrew Tovar labels IVs for patients in the hospital. As in any profession, students must learn a number of basic techniques before they move on to more complex concepts. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*



Sarah Pence sorts medicine for the hospital patients. "Helping patients is something I know I want to do for the rest of my life," Sarah said. [Photo by Cameron Haight]





Amanda Herrera applies a Band-Aid to a Pasemann student. One of Amanda's duties as an assistant to the school nurse is to provide comfort to the district's youngest students. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*



Karina Gonzales and Geneva Arredondo assist Jeremy Moldenhour in neutering a dog. Getting used to blood is something anyone in a medical field has to do. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*



Ashley Harmon brings water to her patients. It is important for patients to stay well hydrated, especially while recovering from an illness. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*



Samantha English

getting ahead

by anna johnson



HOSA students not only have the chance to make a difference in their high school, but a chance to change the lives of fellow citizens with their admirable work efforts. By participating in this club, students are able to practice for their future careers at places such as the ER, veterinary clinics, pharmacies, and other medical workplaces. Leanne Teggeman is in her third year of HOSA, and has decided that her favorite place to work is in the ER.

"You can always do something or learn something while you're there," she said. "If someone comes in with a minor injury, like a cut or something, we can clean and bandage it. The nurses just stand back and supervise."

Each successive year, HOSA students are allowed to participate in different activities depending on their level of experience.

"Second year is a lot different than the first. You get to go on rotations instead of just sitting and doing work," Meagan Gibson said.

Meagan does rotations at a local veterinary clinic and works with the animals by giving shots, helping deliver their babies, and trimming horns. One particularly harrowing day, Dr. Graef trimmed the horns of some goats so they would not hurt each other. Dr. Graef numbed the goats' heads first, then removed the horns; although the goats may not have felt any pain, it was a bloody sight, and Meagan was not so sure of the goats' comfort. "I swear they were saying 'help me'," she said.

A couple of senior HOSA students are well on their way to becoming professionals in health related careers. Many already have their Certified Nurses Assistant degree although they have not yet attended college. Halley Gay has her CNA and works in the Thrall school district as a school nurse.

"Being a nurse is a lot more fun and interesting than I ever thought it could be. I don't think I could see myself doing anything else," Halley said.



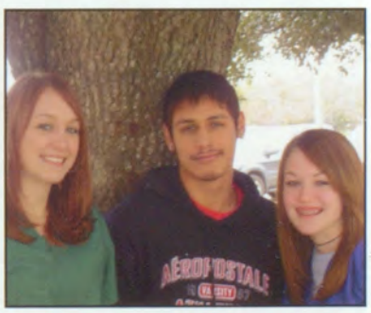
Dinora Ramirez works as Dr. Graef's secretary in his veterinary office. Part of all rotations is doing paperwork. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*



Dr. Graef injects numbing fluid before removing a goat's horns. "I swear the goats were saying 'Help me!" Megan Gibson said. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*



Kyle Young gets wheeled out of the hospital for the disaster drill. Disaster drillls are important, because they keep the faculty prepared for any kind of disaster that may occur. *[Photo by Kara Kerlin]*



HOSA Officers

President Halley Gay, Treasurer Andrew Tovar, Vice President Katie Brooks. Not Pictured: Representatives Amy Parker & Ashley Harmon, Parliamentarian Emily Turner, Secretary Heather Hosking *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*

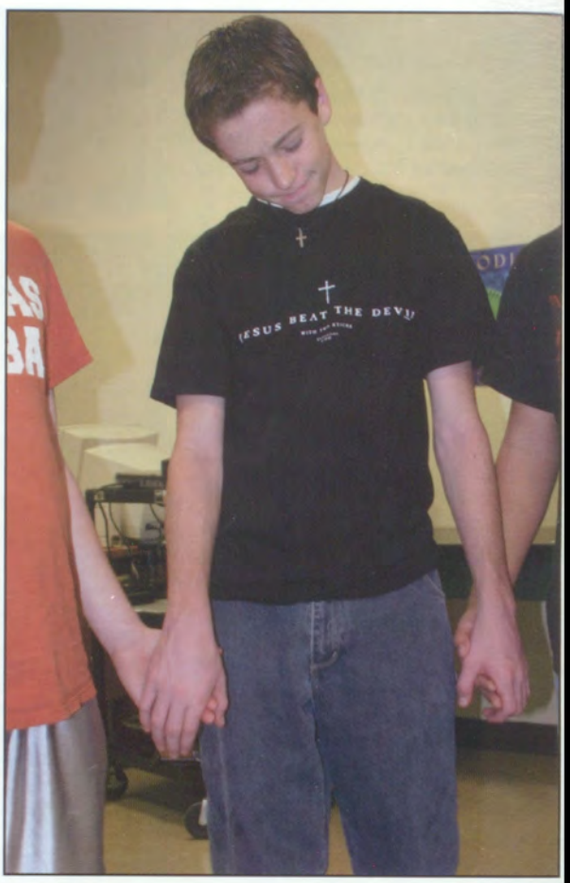
From top: Nikki Smith, Katie Englke, Crystal Sanchez, Coach Walker, Brianna Gross, Daniel Jones, Travis Hyzak, Cullen Pick, Nathan Jones, Sydney Savage, Cody Eastman, Jamie Pausewang, Paris Lopez, Ray Rojas, Amber Johnson, Kendra Deary, Taylor Savage, Amy Whittaker, and Sarah Roe. *[Photo by Dallas Cummings]*

Taylor Savage turns to God in prayer. "We pray because we can," Taylor said. *[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]*

Joshua Lopez prays for the school at the annual See You At The Pole rally. "Prayer is just talking to God. When I pray I know exactly Who I'm talking to and exactly Who is listening to me; that's God. To have that sort of relationship is awesome!" Joshua said. *[Photo by Bryan Zak]*









A small group attempts to untangle the "human knot." At this meeting the group talked about how God can help with the tough "knots" in one's life. *[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]*

a new light



See You At The Pole

by brianna gross

Fellowship of Christian Athletes is an organization that strives to glorify God in everything. It is the only Christian organization on campus, and is perfectly legal, due to the fact that it is student led. The membership has skyrocketed under the bold new leadership of Coach Walker and now, more than ever, students are on fire for Christ. FCA's focus is to unite all Christians on campus as a team that consists of not only athletes, but anyone who has a heart for God.

"I never joined before because I always thought FCA was a bunch of jocks, [but] it's really not," Nathan Jones said. "Everyone there is committed to God. It's also nice to be able to meet with other Christians and spend time in the Word with them."

During the early Tuesday morning meetings the team not only dove into the Bible with a short lesson, but also spent time talking to God in prayer. They strived to build a relationship with a God that is real.

"He is there for me. He is my Foundation and my Rock," Kendra Deary said.

Living for Christ gives students a purpose in their lives. Their relationship with Him is also accompanied by a peace that so many students are searching for.

"[God] is a reason to wake up in the morning. It's not all about me. If I were to stare down the barrell of a gun, I wouldn't be afraid because I know I'm watched over and loved, and I can be at peace," Nathan said.

In a world that is so temporary, it is crucial for students to have a lasting sense of comfort and peace that is offered in Christ and FCA.

"It's really important to have God in school," Joshua Lopez said.

FCA has definitely taken on a new spin. The morning meetings are filled with students who are striving to live out their lives for the sake of Something far greater than could possibly be imagined.

"My goal is for people to look at me and see Jesus through my actions: what I do and what I say, and the example I try to set," Joshua said.

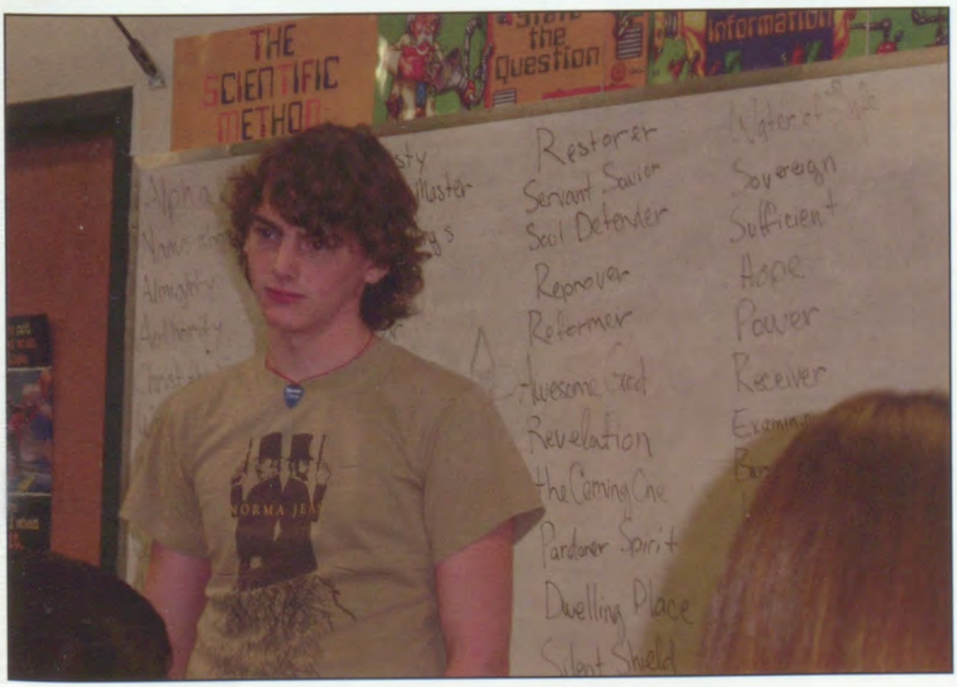




Heather Hosking, Katie Brooks and Paris Lopez pray for the students during the day. "I'm thankful for every day that I can wake up and breathe because I am blessed," Katie said. ***[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]***

Officers: Representative Paris Lopez, Co-Captain Nathan Jones, Captain Brianna Gross, Representative Amy Whittaker, Co-Captain Kendra Deary, Co-Captain Katie Brooks, and Representative Adam Barry. Not Pictured: Representative Taylor Savage ***[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]***

At an early Tuesday morning meeting, Nathan Jones talks about what God means to him. He is "my reason to live a good life," Nathan said. ***[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]***



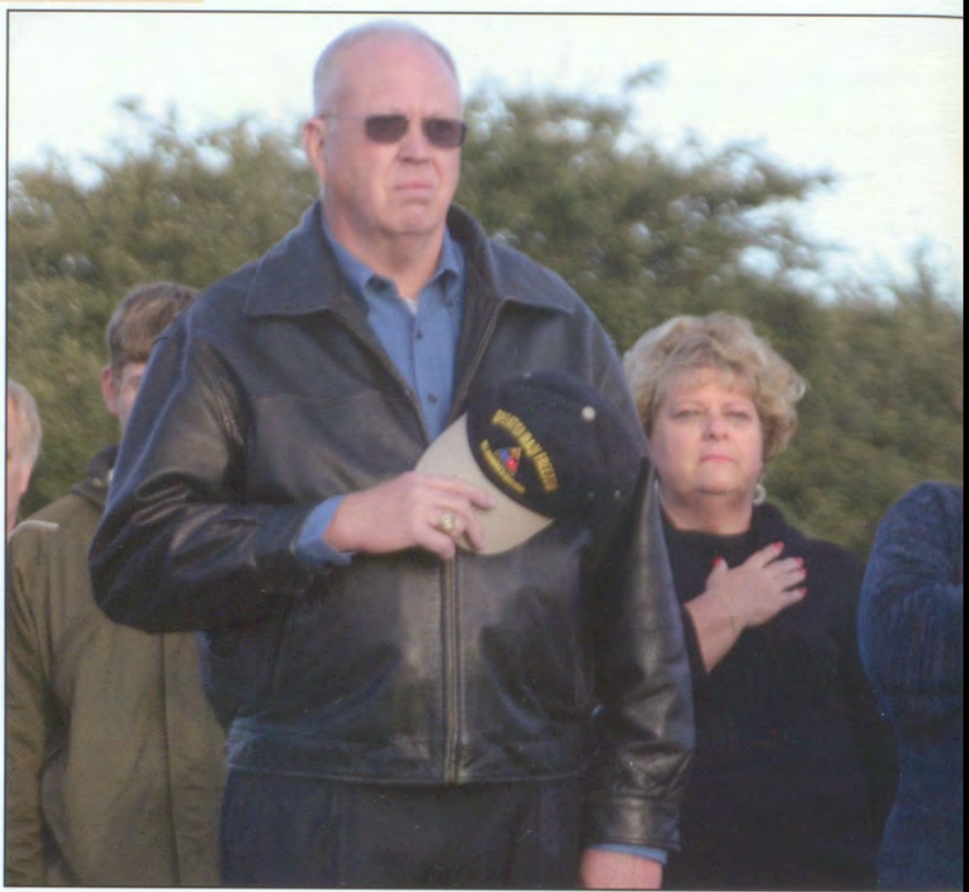
to melt the heart

by megan kirkwood

Starting the year out with a bang, the Junior Historians continued their tradition of honoring the veterans with a Veterans' Day celebration. Many active students contributed to this community service project to show the veterans how important they really are to our school and our country. They had the pleasure of serving our veterans cake and ice cream as part of the celebration along with a touching ceremony, including a speech and "Taps". It is an honor to have faculty and staff members who are veterans and many students with the miliary in their future plans.

"I am thankful that there are individuals who were willing to serve in our country in the past and who are willing to serve in the future. It is extremely important to have people who are willing to put their lives on the line for our freedom and safety," Principal Larry Sutton said. "I am proud of our students who are choosing the military because not only will the country benefit from their service, but they will gain a great deal from the experience personally."

The current veterans in the school are Mr. Sutton, Ed Johnson, Craig Miller, Freddie Terrazas, and Roberto Sanchez.



Hear Me OUT

Joan King (1st place):
"This is what writing cases over and over gets you."

Seth Gipson (3rd place):
"Practice makes perfect."



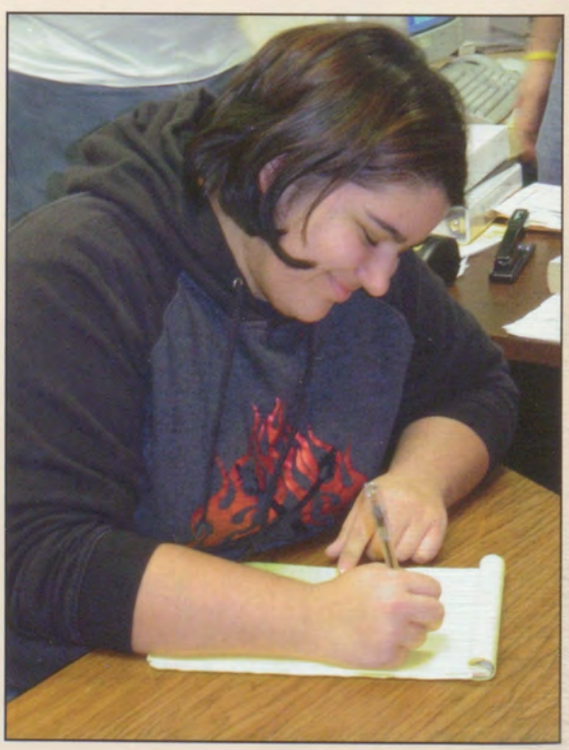
Seth & Joan brought home trophies for Lincoln-Douglas debate at a tournament in Georgetown on January 22.

[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]



Preparing for her speech, Misty Carpenter looks for an 'okay' from Mr. Brush to start. It took a lot of practice to get the speech down-pat. ***[Photo by Anna Johnson]***

Sherrie Stringer uses extreme concentration to take hard core research notes. She must be prepared for UIL. ***[Photo by Anna Johnson]***



Sarah Pence prepares for an upcoming debate. The research is the most important prop to have. ***[Courtesy Photo]***



Holding their hands over their hearts, Mr. Sutton, Mrs. Schuldt, and Mrs. Gray honor the Veterans. It was a serious moment dedicated to remember the lives of all of those who have fought for our country. *[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]*



Preparing for the Veterans' Day celebration, Emily Quinn steadily pours the punch. "Veterans' Day was a great opportunity to help try and give back to the community," Emily said. *[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]*

At the Veterans' Day celebration, Mark Zucknick proudly plays "Taps". It has been Mark's honor to play "Taps" at this ceremony for the past 3 years. *[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]*



the shape of debate



by megan kirkwood

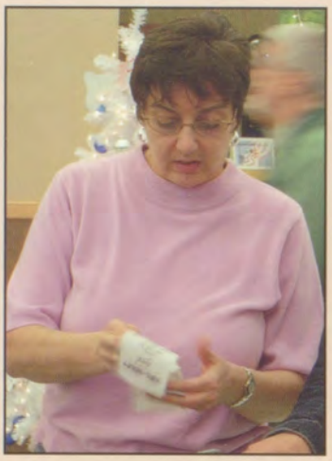
The debate team prepared all year long for their one time to shine at UIL. The students often did "rounds, practices, and tournaments" to prepare for their UIL meet, Sherrie Stringer said.

The students were given their topic at the beginning of the year by their instructor, Mr. James Brush. They had from the start of school until the day of contest to practice and prepare their cases.

The best topic he has ever argued at UIL was "whether the spirit of the law should supercede the letter of the law," Seth Gipson said.

Debates between the classmates affected them personally in different ways. "They make me a better public speaker and make me very passionate about what's going on in the world," Sherrie said.

"They help with how confidently I speak. The debates improve my speaking, my ability to think on my feet, and how I argue," Seth said.



Mrs. Sutton checks the receipt to budget for Science Club funds. "When we brought the things for the Green Santa family, she [the mother] cried and cried, and cried," Mrs. Sutton said. *[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]*



Tommy Ross smells a sample of a fundraiser in which the Science Club participated. They sold candles in order to take the end of the year trip to the McDonald Observatory. *[Photo by Justin Bigon]*

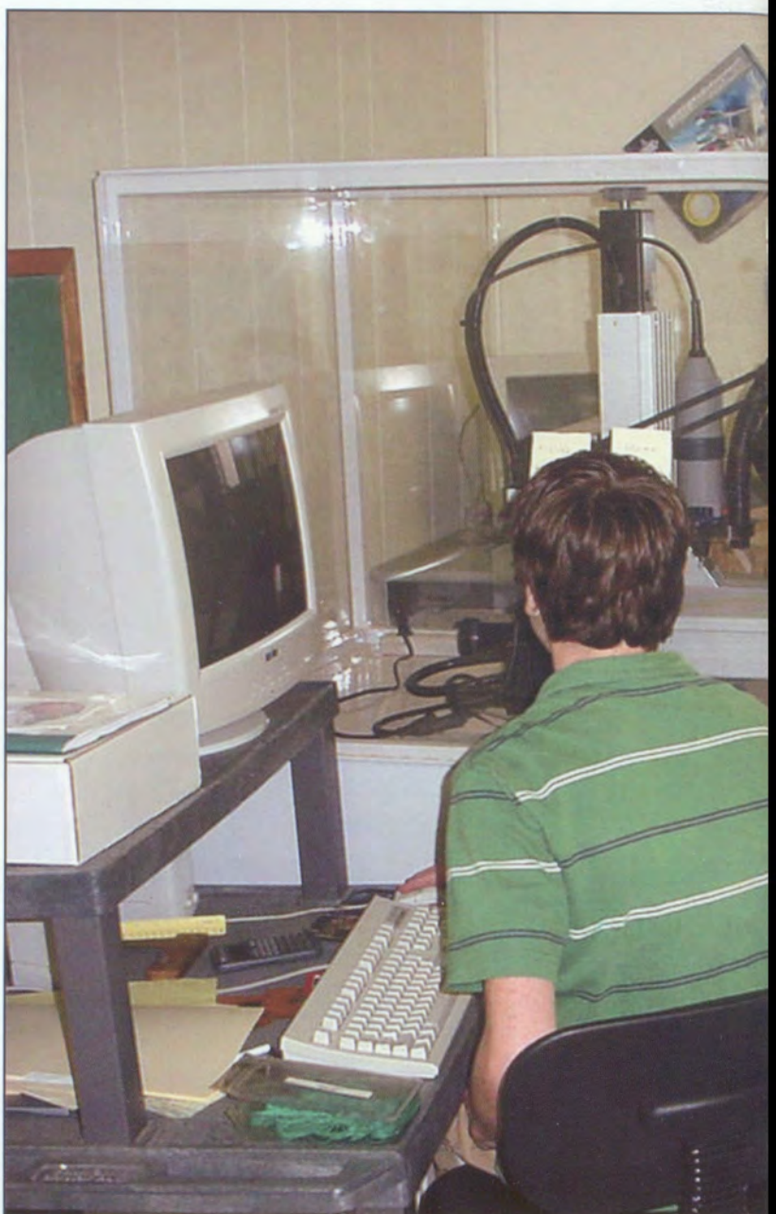
Jordan Hedges and Brittany Behrens shop for their Green Santa family. Most of the clubs had a Green Santa family to support. *[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]*





Science Club Members

Mark Zucknick, Tiffany Samuelson, Megan Kirkwood, Devyn Rucker, Emily Quinn, Sarah Johnson, Susan Gary, Stephanie Ponkoney, Aaron Reeves, Kelly Banner, Ashley Vrana, Jacquelyn Luna, Brittany Behrens, Katie Engelke, Jenna Glover, Jacob Ness. *[Photo by Justin Bigon]*





Duckbotics Club Members

Back: Grant Carter, Matthew Solbach, Joan King, Spencer Jackson, Tiffany Clark, Ryan Haverland, Larry Pachicano, Bryce LaChance, Max Stifflemire **Front:** Kyle Nevins, John Estrada, Taylor Savage *[Courtesy Photo]*





do the robot

by justin bigon

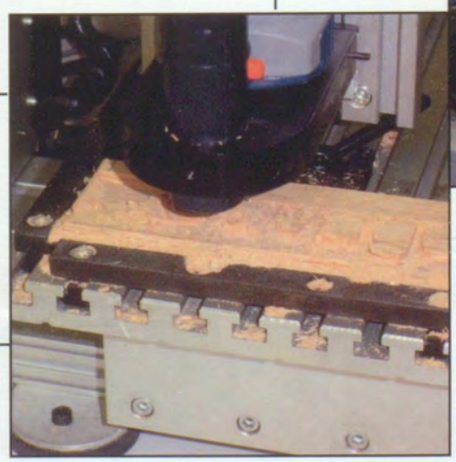
It's 2:50 on a Friday as the bell rings. Every person on campus walks straight to the gym for a pep rally. As the band plays their tune and the cheerleaders yell their cheer, a small moving mechanical device catches everyone's eyes. It's the robotic duck!

For a couple of years the Duckbotics club has had the amazing robot "Shaggy." The shiny, green, rolling duck has appeared at school functions. It was displayed at the W.O.W. showcase, and was often spotted roaming the gym and checking out the cheerleaders during the pep rallies. Varsity cheerleader Joanna Jahn said, "Having the robotics team with their sparkly duck helps raise school spirit--especially by beating the other team's mascot."

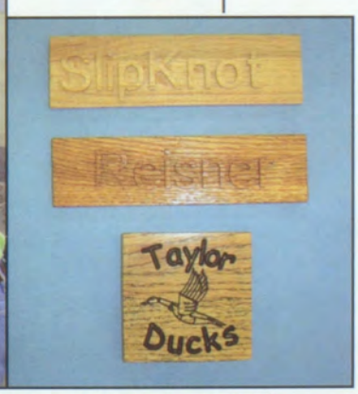
The club members use their minds every day to think of the machines. Mr. Downey, the club's sponsor, sees it as an important part of his job to get "the youth ready . . . to be marketable for the future nano technology."

"The nano," Mr. Downey explained, "means microscopic robots that go in the body system to take samples of the blood stream." That's a far cry from a two-foot duck, but the Duckbotics club students are closer than many to reaching that goal.

Taylor Savage and Ryan Haverland test out the Duckbotics Club's new wood block cutting machine. "These students are the first students who can actually use this machine, and use it correctly," Mr. Downey said. ***[Photos by Jordan Hedges]***







1. The woodcutter carves out a name plate. "The woodcutter is better than the hand saw, better than the hand drill, in fact it's better than all the tools in the world," Grant Carter said.

2. Mr. Downey carefully removes the plate. "Robotics uses a CNC (Computer Numerical Control) with Master-Cam and Auto-Cad software. We fabricate tools and parts just like a custom tool shop would do," Mr. Downey said.

3. A very professional finished product is the outcome of a lot of sawdust. "They did a wonderful job and it turned out beautifully," said Mrs. Reisner, whose name appears on one of the signs.

Gabriel Hernandez hands Mrs. Cathy Johnson a dollar to get out of class five minutes early. Interact and Student Senate sponsored this fundraiser to help the tsunami victims overseas. *[Photo by Sarah Johnson]*



Aaron Vanecek, Mark Zucknick, Caleb McGee, and Alec Gonzales bag trash. "It was really hard to get up that early knowing you were just going to pick up trash, but it wasn't that bad," Alec said. *[Courtesy Photo]*



Erica Gutierrez brings a plate of food out to a guest at the Chamber of Commerce banquet in January. Both Interact and NHS volunteered to help out by setting up, serving, and cleaning up at the dinner. *[Photo by Emily Quinn]*





Gretchen Richter, Lindsay Wilson, and Melissa Mokry work at the Trash Off to clean the high school campus. "It was nice to know that we were helping out our school and community," Lindsay said. *[Courtesy photo]*

taking out the trash



Back: Amy Whittaker, Anna Johnson, Paige Vanecek, Shivam Gandhi, Mark Zucknick, Jenna Glover, Jasmin Estrada, **Front:** Sarah Roe, Tiffany Clark, Megan Kirkwood, Larenda Willis, Jaboa Matoska, Reyna Yanez, Danny Kirkwood, Erica Gutierrez *[Photo by Sarah Johnson]*



Members of Interact listen as Mrs. Tennill informs the club of upcoming events at a meeting. Interact ususally met at least once a month during the school year. *[Photo by Sarah Johnson]*



Members of Interact take a break from shopping to pose for a picture on Santa's lap. Interact participated in Green Santa, where they helped a needy young girl by buying Christmas presents for her. *[Courtesy photo]*

by sarah johnson

If someone were to take a poll, they probably would not find a very large percentage of students who are willing to give up their own Saturday to help clean up Taylor.

The members of Interact are some of the few students who are willing to sacrifice their time for the benefit of the whole town.

On a Saturday in October 2004, around 8:00 in the morning, almost 20 members of Interact met at the high school to do what not many people would want to do.

"It was really, really early and I was so tired!" Gretchen Richter said.

They even made some unexpected discoveries--for example, a stray cat in a skunk trap.

"We saw this cat in a trap but were all too scared to touch it. We ended up calling Mr. Jirasek to come get it. It was crazy!" Amy Whittaker said.

It is not very glamorous or exciting to spend a Saturday cleaning up trash at the high school, but it was definitely a generous thing to do.

"Picking up the trash itself wasn't fun, but I did it anyway and it ended up being good," Melissa Mokry said.

Even though it was just one day, the members who participated felt a sense of accomplishment. Despite the fact that they received no praise or honor for their good deed, they knew they had done something important for the community.

trash talk

"Being a senior, Interact is good for community service- so I can get a scholarship!" *--Aubrey Byfield*

"Interact is a cool club because you can serve the community and help out other people." *--Brittany Chavana*

"Interact is cool because it is different from other clubs; it is focused on serving and helping others." *--Jaboa Matoska*

"I enjoyed Green Santa the most because I love helping younger kids." *--Larenda Willis*

"I like serving others through Interact because I always feel good about what I have done." *--Reyna Yanez*

gooddifferences

by sarah johnson

One might think that the ACDEC team is just composed of 9 intellectuals who spend all their time studying. But look a little closer and you'll see how interesting and quirky they all can be.

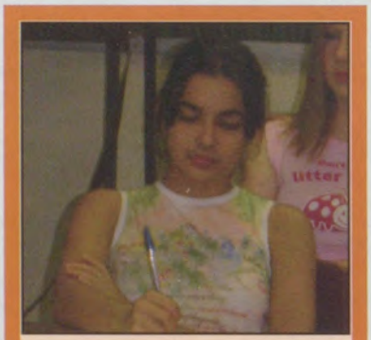


Byron Lantzsch: **too smart for his own good, had the highest score on the super-quiz, a quirky thinker**





Joan King: **has an incredible vocabulary, can speed read amazingly fast**

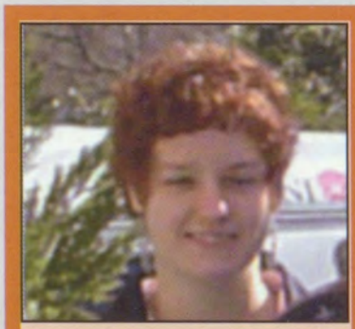


Kristina Gaudin: **brings a sense of normalcy to the team, an awesome speaker**

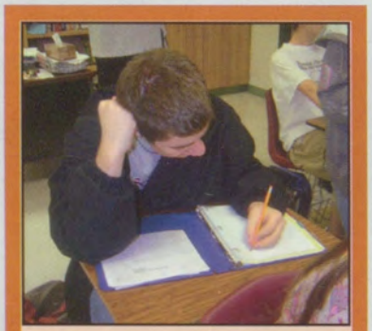


Nathan Jones: **best contributor to late night discussions, hardly ever shows up to practice**





Jahnne Beckwith: **the art guru, waits until the last minute to memorize her speeches**



Bryce Block: **provides the comic relief, the "mother figure" of the team**



Tiffany Samuelson: **the one who drives everyone, quiet, shy, a strong part of the team**





Cameron Haight: **is constantly moving, thinks things are funny and laughs for hours**



Cara Garcia: **the math tutor, super-quiz genius, always writes her speech the day before the event**

These members all have to spend a lot of time together, and they are all definitely different. But these differences don't neccessarily put them at odds; in fact, they help the team be as successful as possible. With each member bringing a different talent or specialty to the table, they can accomplish a lot more. Sometimes these quirky personalities and characterisitcs not only help the team out academically, but they also make it more fun at long competitions and practices.

Joshua Lopez does some research in the library for his ACDEC class. "The class is fun even if you aren't on the team," Joshua said. *[Photo by Sarah Johnson]*

Some of the ACDEC members present a gift to Mrs. Rowe for being their sponsor. "Mrs. Rowe is the greatest teacher ever and almost my second mom," Jahnne Beckwith said. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*



Byron Lantzch enjoys his dinner the night before their competition. All the ACDEC members got to go out to eat together while they were competing. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*



A few of the ACDEC students take advantage of some spare time to prepare for the super-quiz. Even the students who were not on the team participated in practicing during class. *[Photo by Sarah Johnson]*







Members of the ACDEC team play Game Cube as they take a break from studying for competition. "We taught Mrs. Rowe how to play Game Cube on the trip and she ended up getting 2nd place in our tournament!" Bryce Block said. *[Photo by Cameron Haight]*

Back: Tiffany Samuelson, Nathan Jones, Byron Lantzch, Bryce Block, Joan King **Front:** Kristina Gaudin, Cameron Haight, Cara Garcia, Jahnne Beckwith *[Photo by Sarah Johnson]*

Members of FFA celebrate after completing their float for the Homecoming parade in October. Their float was voted Best Float in the parade.



Freshman Kammi Simms shows off her prize winning goat at the Williamson County Livestock Show. She has been showing animals for most of her life and plans to do so throughout high school.





FFA member Tyler Talley shows his goat at the Willimson County Livestock Show. Tyler has been in FFA since he was eight years old. "It's really fun. More people should get involved," Tyler said. *[Courtesy Photos]*

more than meets the eye

by becca ray

Tyler Klotz, Barret Wygant, Holden Schroeder, Tyler Talley, and Chris Ray hang out together after a hard day of working with their animals.





Future Farmers of America is much more than just kids learning to farm and ranch. It is "a nation-wide organi zation devoted to develop ing the leaders of tomorrow" Ms. Amanda Carpenter said. She is a new club sponsor. working along side Mr. Bishop this year.

This is her first year as a full time teacher. After going to school at the college of the Americas in Mexico, where she majored in general agriculture, Ms. Carpenter became a substitute teacher at Calallan High School in Corpus Christi. Coming to Taylor has been a big change for her. "Calallan was a big city school and now I've come to Taylor which is a little more country. I've never been to a school that raised this many goats," Ms. Carpenter said.

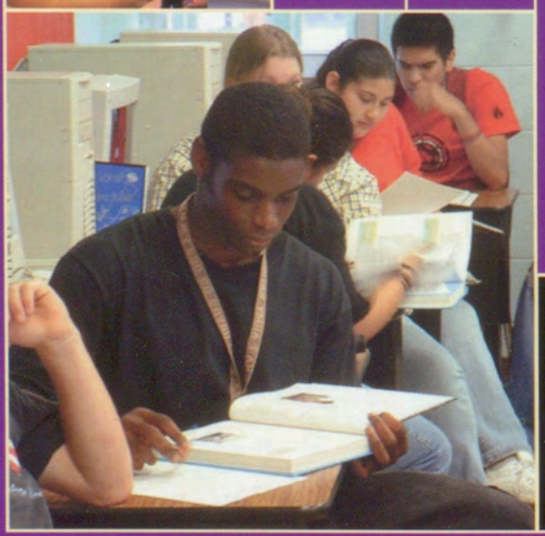
Besides being a sponsor for FFA she also teaches Intro to Ag, Horticulture, Floral Design, Applied Ag, and Animal Science. She has been involved with FFA since her freshman year in high school. "It's great because it really focuses on developing leadership skills. "It also helps students prepare for careers in agriculture." Along with learning leadership skills there are also many opportunities for students to win scholarships and learn responsibility. "FFA is fun and it helps me to meet new people and I get the chance to travel all over the state and participate in interesting events," Tyler Talley said, fourth place winner of the Fort Worth Stock Show. "Another reason that FFA is so fun is because Mr. Bishop and Mrs. Carpenter. They are both awesome and they really care about the students. They work with us and make every day an exciting one," Mallory Dykowski said.

"FFA also demonstrates that there is more to our program than farming and ranching. Future Farmers of America is for anyone interested in learning about agriculture," Ms. Carpenter said, "Anyone and everyone!"

During the Williamson County Livestock Show, Tyler Graef focuses on all he's practiced over the past few months.

People














All Four Sides






Young

by kenny chesney

Looking back now, well it makes me laugh
We were growin' our hair, we were cuttin' class
Knew it all already, there was nothing to learn
We were strikin' matches just to watch 'em burn

Listen to our music just a little too loud
We were hangin' in there with the outcast crowd
Headin' to the rapids with some discount
It was a long train tussle but we had no fear

Man I don't know, where the time goes
But it sure goes fast, just like that
We were wanna be rebels who didn't have a clue
With our Rock n' roll T-shirts, and our typically bad attitudes
Had no excuses for the things that we done
We were brave, we were crazy we were mostly Young

Talked a good game when we were out with the guys
But in the back seat we were awkward and shy
Girls were a mystery that we couldn't explain
And I guess there are some things that are never gonna change

Man I don't know, where the time goes
But it sure goes fast, just like that
We were wanna be rebels who didn't have a clue
With our Rock n' roll T-shirts, and our typically bad attitudes
Had no excuses for the things that we done
We were brave, we were crazy we were mostly Young
Young, Young, Yeah Wishin' we were older
Young, Hey I wish it wasn't over

Class Song


Esperansa Aguilar


Alicia Alayon


Araceli Alderete


Erica Alderete


Douglas Alexander


Geneva Arredondo


Paulo Arredondo


Christopher Baisley


Chelsea Barcuch


Ella Barefoot


Corey Barnett


Rita Barrientos


Anthony Basquez


Kacey Bauer


Jahnne Beckwith



James Bennett



Dietrick Benson



Justin Bigon



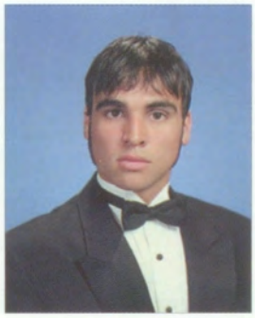
Kevin Blane



Nicole Block



Jennifer Bogan



Jack Bond



Justin Bosley



Ken Boswell



Crystal Bracamontez



Rasheika Brandyburg



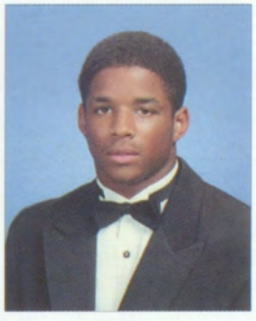
Rex Brinkmeyer



Andrew Brock



Katelyn Brooks



William Brown



Aubrey Byfield



Heather Callaway



Keshia Camacho



Vanessa Campos



Eric Carpenter



Christopher Carrizales



Alfred Castillo



Denisse Castillo



Veronica Chaidez



Miguel Cigales



Tiffany Clark



Tasha Copple



Delbert Cordell



Berta Cosme



Bryant Crayton



Luis Cruz



Dallas Cummings



Suzannah Curik



Jatem Curtis



Cesar De Hoyos



Gabriel Deanda



Christian Deary



Melissa Dechiara



Alfonso Delgado



Kari Dennis



Maria Diaz



Shelly Dlouhy



Louis Drews



Trey Dunn



Homer Espinoza



Crystal Fields



Arturo Flores



Stephen Flores



Cassie Floyd



Jacob Fox



O'Brien Frazier



Shivam Gandhi



Cara Garcia



Karina Garcia



Stephen Gauna



Halley Gay



Sarah Gibbs



Seth Gipson



Adrian Gonzales



Alec Gonzales



Ceasar Gonzales



Corey Graef



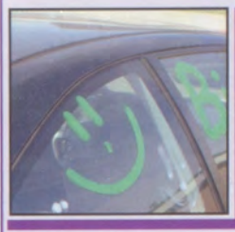
Brianna Gross



Crystal Gutierrez



Cameron Haight







Tag...You're It!

The unofficial tradition of car tagging at T.H.S

by kristen sanders

Let's face it. This school is old. But with age comes privilage and we are blessed with many traditions at T.H.S. We have wonderful things such as the playing of the school song after every game, no matter the outcome and the sea of green that floods Memorial stadium during homecoming. But there is an unofficial tradition that seems like a rite of passage. Without this initiation, one's high school experience is not complete.

Car tagging is the great equalizer in the high school community. It doesn't matter who you are. If you park your car in the student parking lot, on any given day, there is a chance that you will be tagged. It can happen on a special occassion, such as a birthday or for no particular reason at all. It get s done to the s.u.v's and the hoopteys . The actual act of tagging can be achieved by one person or a group of friensds.

All of this taken into consideration, it's not the method that matters. Tagginig ,at T.H.S., has been around as long as people have been driving to school. It may obstruct your view when driving home. But it should also instill a sense of pride. By being tagged you have become part of a society that will forever link you to your Taylorite brothers and sisters. Everyone can remember the first time that they were tagged.







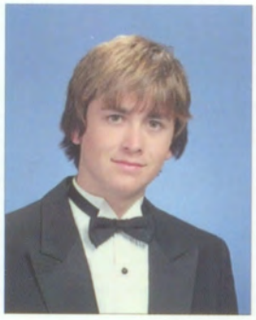
[Photos by Justin Bigon]



Ashley Harmon



Torry Harrison



Jordan Hedges



Kimberly Heeke



Daniella Hernandez



Rosa Hernandez



Amanda Herrera



Chiquieta Hill



Nathan Holden



Heather Hosking



Klint Jackson



Spencer Jackson



Joanna Jahn



Reyes Jimenez



Anna Johnson



Breahana Johnson



Cody Jones



Destiny Jones



Nathan Jones



Kara Kerlin



Megan Kirkwood



Sarah Kolinek



Adam Konarek



Erik Krumm



Cherrie Kruse



Sarah Kuntz



Jillian Leslie



Jennifer Lindsay



Christy Lopez



Cristine Lopez



Diana Lopez



Hilda Lopez



Jeremy Lopez



Joshua Lopez



Raymond Lopez



Nancy Lozano



Marcus Lucio



Brady Marshall



Amy Martinez



Crystal Martinez



Krystal Martinez



Melanie Martinez



Norberto Martinez



Kevin Massar

Class Flower

The Rose



Geanna McCallie



Sarah McCormick



Keith Medina



Tony Metoyer



Melissa Miravete



Paula Naizer



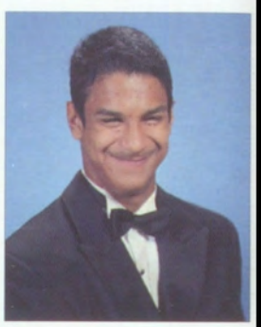
Lindsay Nevins



Jackie Ochoa



Raul Ochoa



Joseph Ortiz



Maricela Ortiz



Stephanie Ortiz



Veronica Pacheco



Yvonne Pachicano



Amy Parker



Krieg Penny



Virginia Polasek



Andrew Portillo



Katherine Quinn



Catrina Quinonez



Bradley Raesz



Crystal Ramirez



Christopher Ray



Rebecca Ray



Devin Remmert



Carlos Reyes



Jose Rios



Sarah Roe



Tommy Ross



Lindsey Rozacky



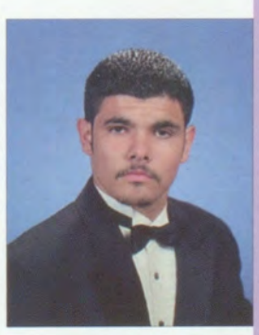
Adam Roznovak



Kimberly Ruden



Derrick Salazar



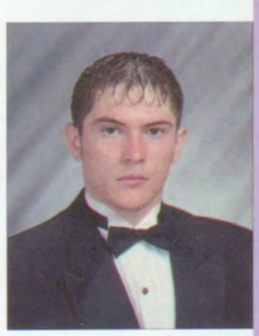
Andrew Sanchez



Crystal Sanchez



Kristen Sanders



Michael Saverse



Brooke Schneider



Nicole Smith



Tawanna Starks

Class Officers



2005 Class Officers

Representative Aaron Vanecek, Secretary Brianna Gross, President Seth Gipson, Vice President Anna Johnson, Treasurer Katie Quinn **Not Pictured:** Representative Brooke Schneider *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]*

Class Colors

Green & Black



Derek Steffek



Chase Stiles



David Stoglin



Krystal Stoglin



Jill Streit



Sherrié Stringer



Larry Sunvison



Brittany Tamez



Kailey Taylor



Leanne Teggeman



Travis Teggeman



Bradley Terwilliger



Derek Thompson



Rachel Thompson



Cory Tillis



Daniel Torres



Andrew Tovar



Emily Turner



Ursula Valverde



Steven Vanboekhout



Aaron Vanecek



Kristy Vargas



Gilbert Vela



James Washington



Nathaniel White



Lindsey Wilhelm



Kendal Wilkerson



Ian Wooldridge



Jonovan Wooldridge



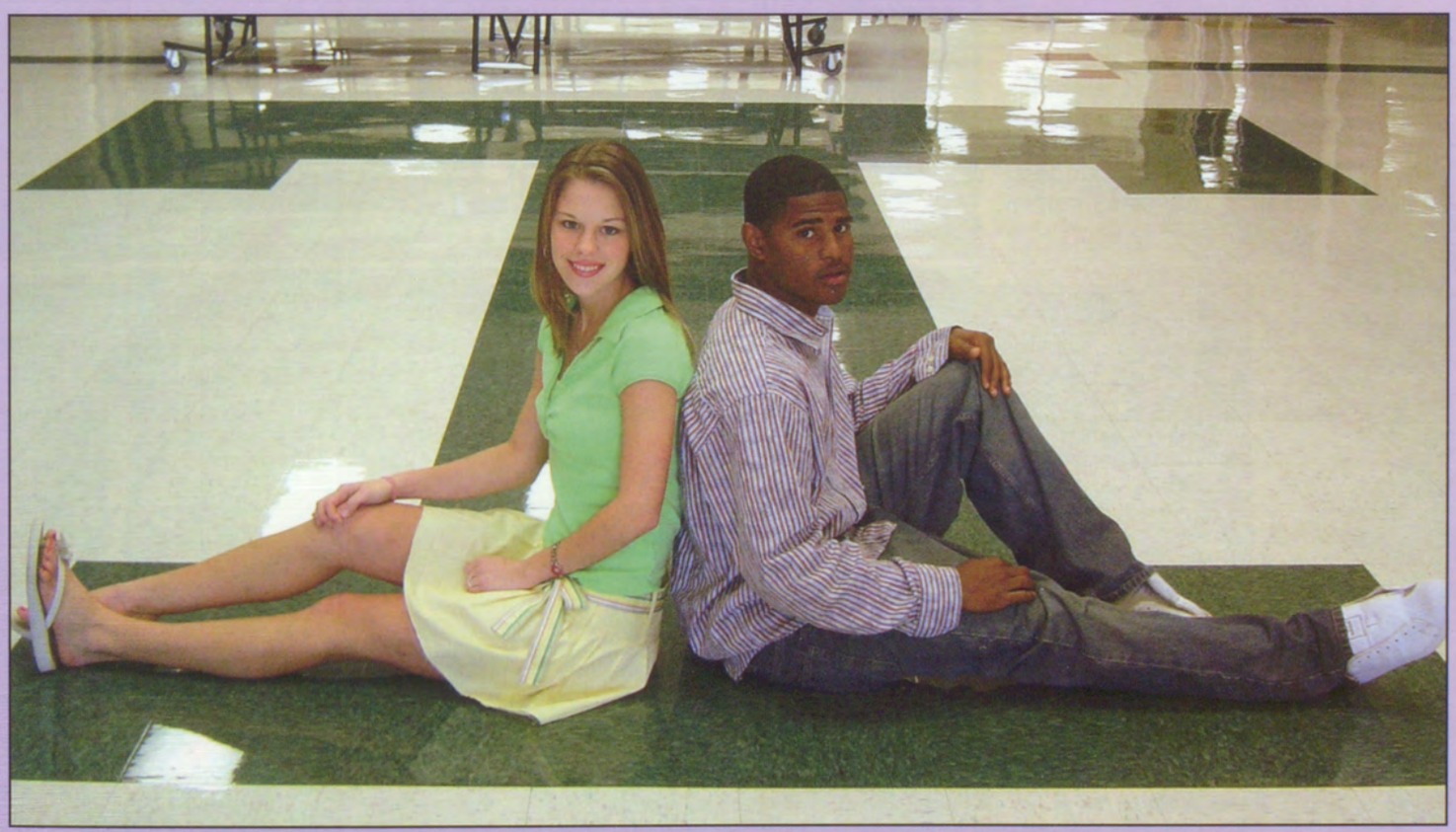
Bryan Zak



Mark Zucknick

Class Motto

To achieve all that is possible,
We must attempt the impossible.
To be as much as we can,
We must dream of being more.



Jonovan Wooldridge & Katie Quinn

Mr. & Miss THS

Daniel Alaniz
Christopher Alderete
Cindy Arias
Glen Arnold
Audry Arredondo



Crystal Arredondo
Janice Baker
Kyle Baran
Wade Barbiaux
Stephanie Basquez



Rebecca Bauerkemper
Ashley Bedsole
Cory Beran
Gus Blane
Jessica Bosley



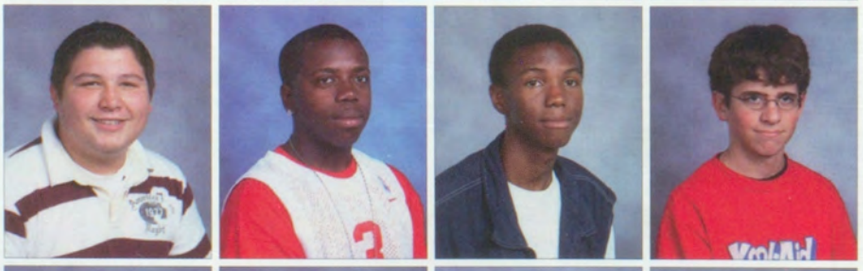
Alexandra Bracamontez
Drake Brogan
Byron Caldwell
Aaron Campbell
Michael Campos



Amanda Canada
Regina Cantu
Hannah Carnes
Maria Castillo



Jeff Castro
Johnny Cathey
Donnell Chavis
Aaron Conrardy



James Contreras
Brandi Covey
Brandon Davis
Shanta Davis







Josue De Hoyos
Kendra Deary
Joseph Debus
Novella Dilworth
Anthony Dominguez



Matthew Drummond
Cody Eastman
Kathrine Engelke
Amy English
Jeff Farr



Crystal Fields
Daniel Filla
Joe Fitzgerald
David Flores
Devin Fontenot



Donald Fredrick
Jillian Gaswint
Kristina Gaudin
Evan Gerren
Brittany Getlack





Despite the obstacle of a torn ACL, Katie Engelke goes on with her day as usual. "I guess I just got used to it after a while; but at the beginning it was annoying," Katie said. *[Photo by Kristen Sanders]*

Junior class officers

Front: Historian Hannah Carnes, President Michael Wooldridge, Secretary Amy English **Back:** Treasurer Jacob Ness, Representative Brent Holman, Vice President Brandon Davis, Representative Katelyn Gola. *[Staff Photo]*

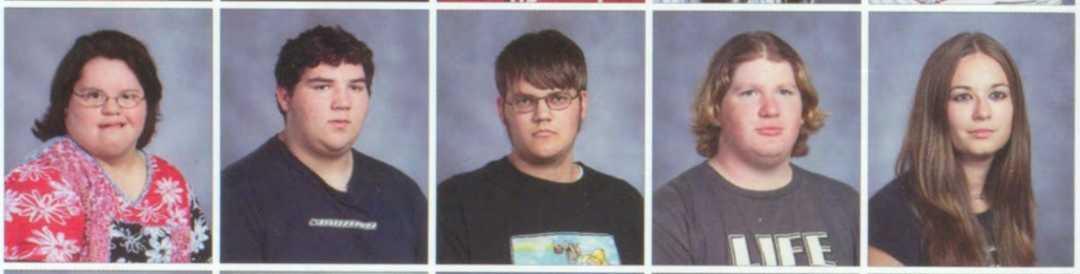
Meagan Gibson
Jenna Glover
Katelyn Gola
Cody Gomez
Mitchell Gonzales



Jose Gonzalez
Rebecca Gray
Ryan Green
Danielle Guerrero
John Guerrero



Andrea Gutierrez
Benjamin Harrell
Ryan Haverland
Heath Hazelwood
Nicole Henegar



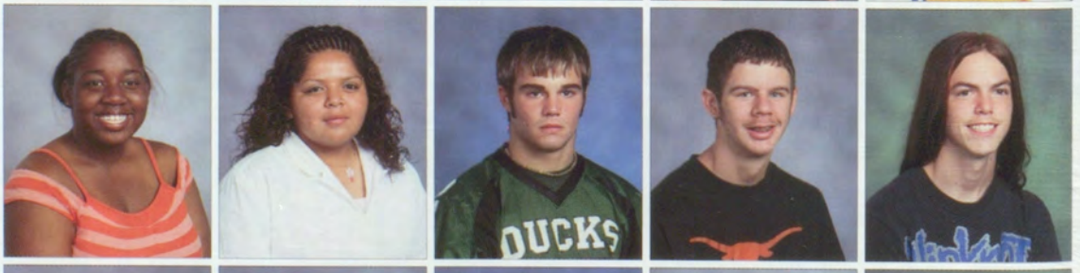
Valerie Henegar
Heather Hennington
Jon Hernandez
Juan Hernandez
Luz Hernandez



Manuel Hernandez
Marcus Herrera
Brent Holman
Haley Hughes
Chip Ivany



Ericka Jackson
Maricruz Jimenez
Benjamin Jirasek
Mark Johle
Andrew Johnson

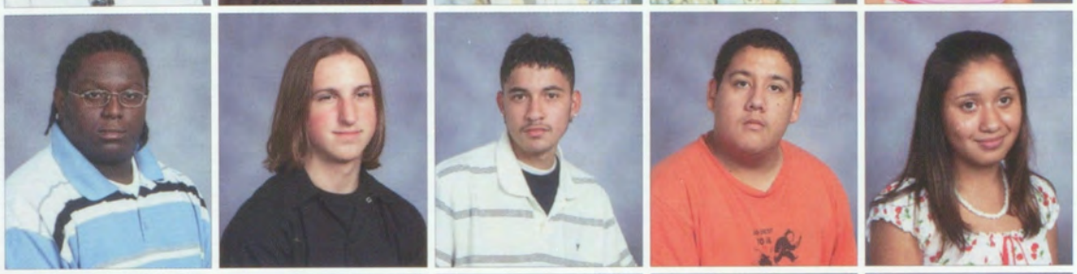


Brooke Johnson
Aaron Jones
Clinton Jones
Kelly Jones
Luke Kaspar





Aubrey Killingsworth
Joan King
Tyler Klotz
Megan Kruger
Katy Kuhl



Christopher Lamar
Byron Lantzsch
Johnny Leal
Daniel Lepe
Casandra Leyendecker



Benito Lopez
Lauren Lopez
Luis Lopez
Krystle Luconic
Jacquelyn Luna



Miriam Macedo
Ashley Maddox
Latyvia Maddox
Jessica Martinez
Cody Mathis



Howard McCallie
Caleb McGee
Jennifer McQuary
Victor Medina
Hector Mesta



Ynobe Miller
Trey Milliken
Sharnezia Mitchell
Melissa Mokry
Jose Morales



Melisa Moreno
Ciera Morgan
Matti Mott
Jacob Ness
Cecily Ornelas

Beronica Ortiz
Dora Ortiz
Veronica Pacheco
Claussie Paloma
Brandon Palomo



Stiles Parker
Megan Patschke
Jamie Pausewang
Sarah Pence
Amanda Pepper



Stephen Perez
Victoria Pickerill
Stephanie Ponkoney
Claudia Ramirez
Randy Ramirez



Stacy Ramlochan
Angel Raya
Jacob Reyes
Gretchen Richter
Rebecca Rinehart



Jose Rios
Ashley Robbins
Amber Rodriguez
Eloy Rodriguez
Micheal Rodriguez



Sarah Rohlack
Lanika Ross
Angelica Salazar
Eduardo Salazar
Tiffany Samuelson



Maximo Sanchez
Denson Satterfield
Joanna Schmidt
Holden Schroeder
Alberto Seda





Jessica Seggern
Adrienne Sherman
Paris Shirley
Colette Shurtz
Kylie Stanford



Andrew Stauffer
Travis Stewart
Terry Stoglin
Joseph Strelsky
Tyler Sutherland



Mathew Taisler
Tyler Talley
Anthony Tanksley
Heston Taylor
Roxanne Thompson



Jenna Thorton
Ryan Tomei
Logan Tucker
Celeste Vargas
Steven Vasquez



Estrellita Villanueva
Leighanne Volek
Chris VonGerichten
Ashlee Vrana
Bryan Vrana



Jennifer Walton
Daniel Welton
Sarah Werchan
Amy Whittaker
Larenda Willis



Lindsay Wilson
Michael Wooldridge
Barrett Wygant
Krystal Yanis
Kyle Young

Jessica Aguilar
Jose Aguirre
Martin Aguirre
Salomon Aguirre
Robert Aikens
Aaron Alderete



Brianca Alderete
Erica Alderete
Matthew Alderete
Sandra Alderete
Kevin Aleman
Nicholas Alexander



Juan Alfaro
Victor Amaro
Francisca Araujo
Norma Arredondo
Victor Arredondo
Raul Avalos



Arthur Baisley
Stephen Ballard
Kelly Banner
Ashton Baran
Daniel Beals
Brittany Behrens



William "Billy" Bellemare
Frankie Bevka
Amber Biggs
Tempestt Blakely
Bryce Block
Jillian Boney



Robert Brandyburg
Noah Brinkmeyer
Marianne Brock
Todd Bryan
Joshua Butcher
Eric Camacho



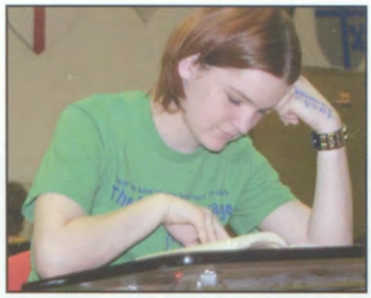
Charlotte Carrillo
Grant Carter
Christian Castillo
Luke Cavo
David Chaidez
Toni Chandler



Brittany Chavana
Kelsey Christensen
Julius Collins
Eric Crumley
Chase Danek
Aaron Davis



Instead of spending her lunch break eating in the cafeteria, Elisabeth Garry dives deep into one of her favorite books. "I just love reading, and lunch is my one chance to get to do that without being interrupted," Elisabeth said. *[Photo by Emily Quinn]*





Brianca Alderete laughs at a joke her friend makes outside the cafeteria. "The best part about school is getting to hang out with your friends," Brianca said. *[Photo by Devyn Rucker]*



Sophomore Class Officers

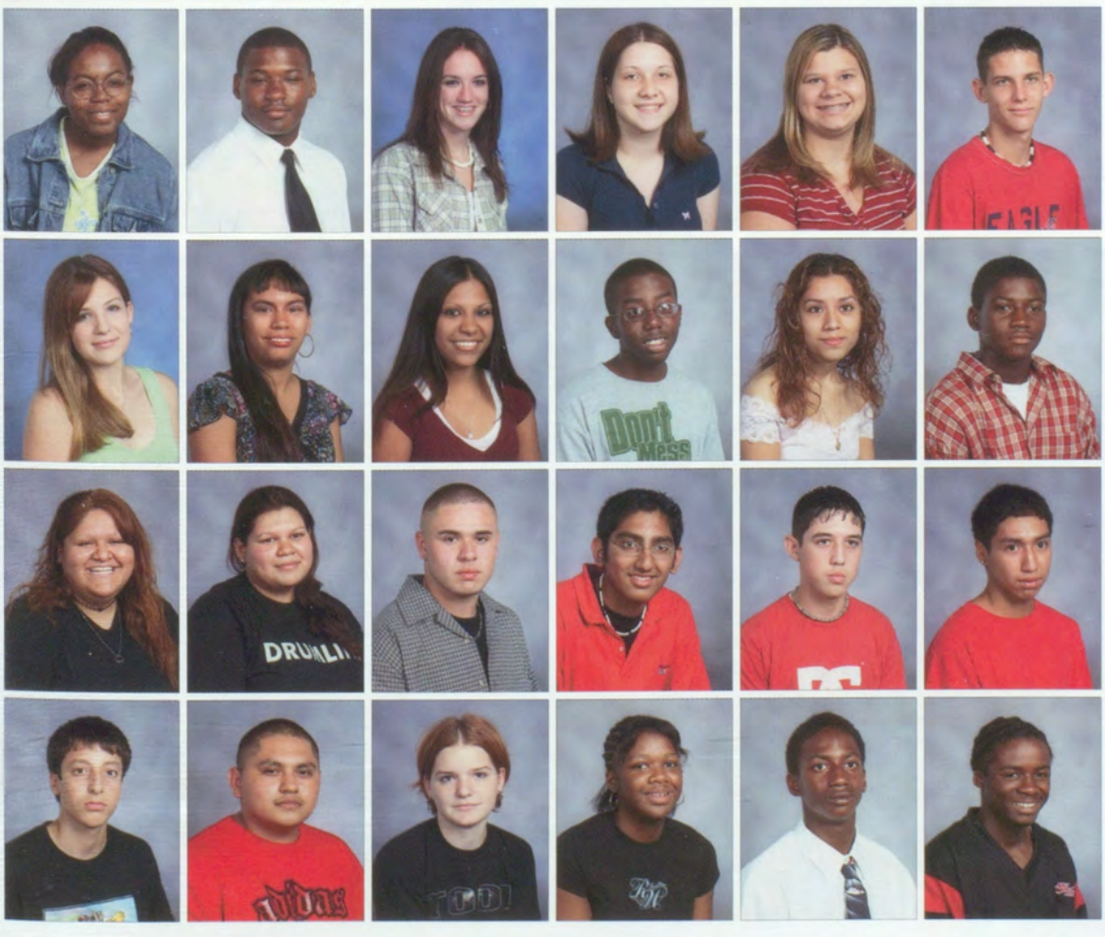
Front: Treasurer Alfredo Romayor, Representative Angel Ramirez **Back:** Reporter Suzanna Hernandez, Vice President Sergio Tovar, Parliamentarian Albert Gutierrez, President Edward Stringer, Represenative Kyle Vanecek, Representative Briana Lopez *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield]*





Suzanna Hernandez takes advantage of her lunch period to relax. "After going non-stop all morning, it's good to have a break," Suzanna said. *[Photo by Emily Quinn]*

Kelley Portillo gets excited while telling a story to her friends. Lunch was the perfect opportunity to share jokes and embarassing moments. *[Photo by Devyn Rucker]*



Danielle Deary
Aundris Draine
Mallory Dykowski
Breana Earley
Amanda Eckhardt
Coleman Eiben

Samantha English
Angel Escobar
Annette Escobar
Justin Felder
Irelda Fernandez
Jarvis Fitzgerald

Angelica Flores
Kristi Flores
Arturo Gamez
Krishan Gandhi
Erik Garcia
Louis Garcia

Michael Garcia
Michael Garcia
Elisabeth Garry
Nicolette Gault
Ronald Gibson
Reginald Gipson

Anthony Gonzales
Christopher Gonzales
Deveina Gonzales
Emilliano Gonzales
Javier Gonzales
Lee Gonzales



Sisto Gonzales
Victoria Gonzales
Robin Gonzalez
Lorna Gould
Lindsey Green
Bruce Griffin



Laura Gros
Francisco Guardiola
Araceli Gutierrez
Albert Guttierrez
Alejandro Guzman
Alyssa Guzman



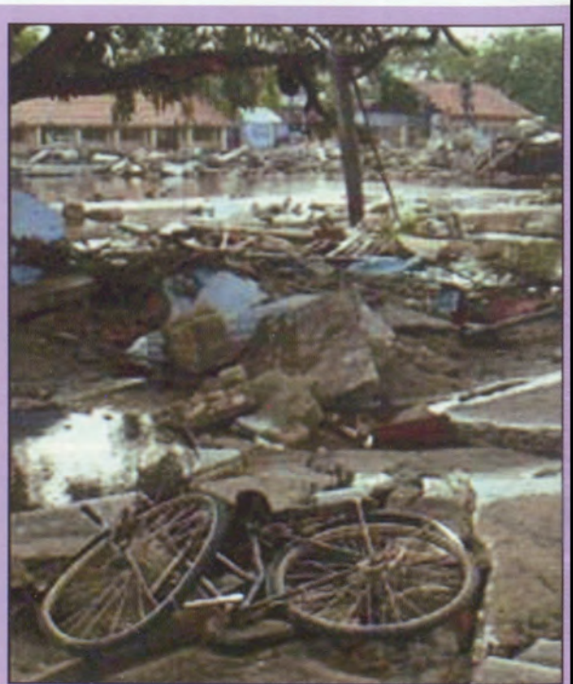
Ashley Heaton
Brooke Hegar
Gabriel Hernandez
Lisa Hernandez
Suzanna Hernandez
Andrew Herrera



Jesusa Herrera
Christina Hilscher
Lance Janak
Mallory Janak
Jeffrey Jefferson
Francisco Jimenez







[Photos from defenselink.mil/photos]



Blake Jirasek
Amber Johnson
Clarence Johnson
Nicole Johnson
Sarah Johnson
Michael Jones



Whitney Kahanek
John Kaspar
Ashley Keith
Clarissa Kelley
Maegan Kidwell
Joshua Kiewit



Blakesley King
Monique Klepac
Melanie Klotz
Juan Leija
Alfredo Lopez
Andrew Lopez



Ashley Lopez
Briana Lopez
Daniel Lopez
Katherine Lopez
Paris Lopez
Amber Luna



Perla Maciel
Amber Martinez
Angelica Martinez
Karina Martinez
Kelly Martinez
Michael Martinez



by brianna gross

One tablespoon of water is all it takes to drown a person. The devastation that flooded south Asia on December 26, 2004 was devastating.

A tsunami is a series of waves caused by underwater earthquakes. This tsunami was created by a 9.0 earthquake that sent thirty foot swells crashing into anything in its path. It was a quake so extreme that it rocked the planet on its axis, causing it to tilt by an extra 2.5 centimeters.

The tsunami not only affected our planet, but also the people living on it. There was a massive loss of lives due to drowning under the crashing waves; however, many survived and now it is all about shaping things up and starting over.

Taylor's Student Senate and Interact did a unique fundraiser. Students could leave five minutes early for lunch if they paid a dollar to their teacher. The money that was raised was sent overseas to help the tsunami victims.

"It was really cool that even though we're a small school we were able to make a difference," Kristen Sanders said.

Sophie Martinez
Jaboa Matoska
Ashley McFarlin
Aubrey Medaris






Carric Mercer
Nakevia Miller
Matthew Milliken





Hailey Mokry
Joshah Moors
Amanda Moss





Shakira Muhammad
Duvelsa Murguia
Kara-Jayne Murphy





Nathan Neitsch
Kyle Nevins
Pedro Ochoa





Meagan Oviedo
Caleb Owens
Shauna Owens





Karina Pacheco
Reynoldo Pachicano
Chrisilda Palacios



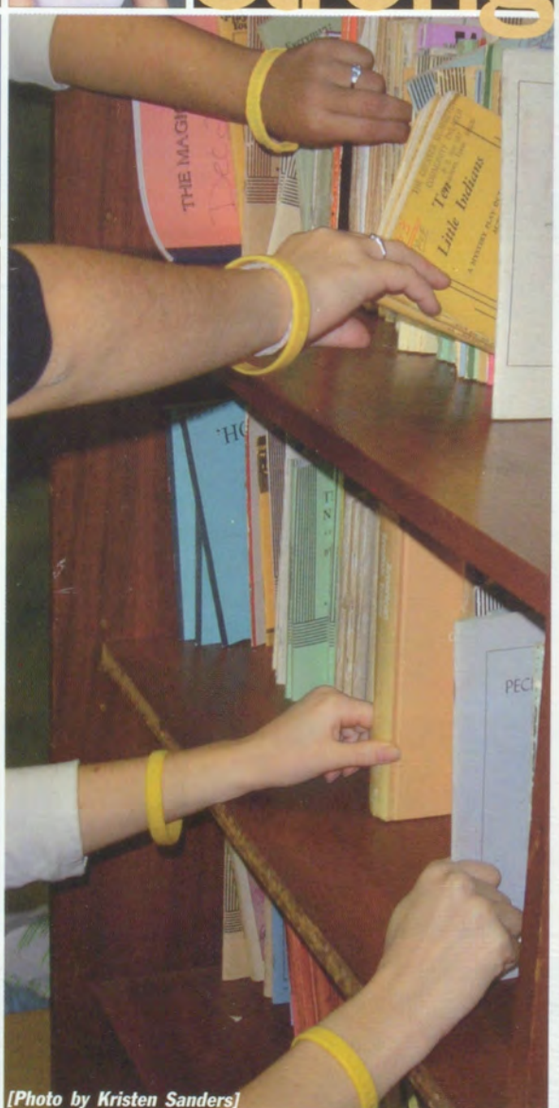


Scott Palomo
Alexia Patterson
Craig Peschel





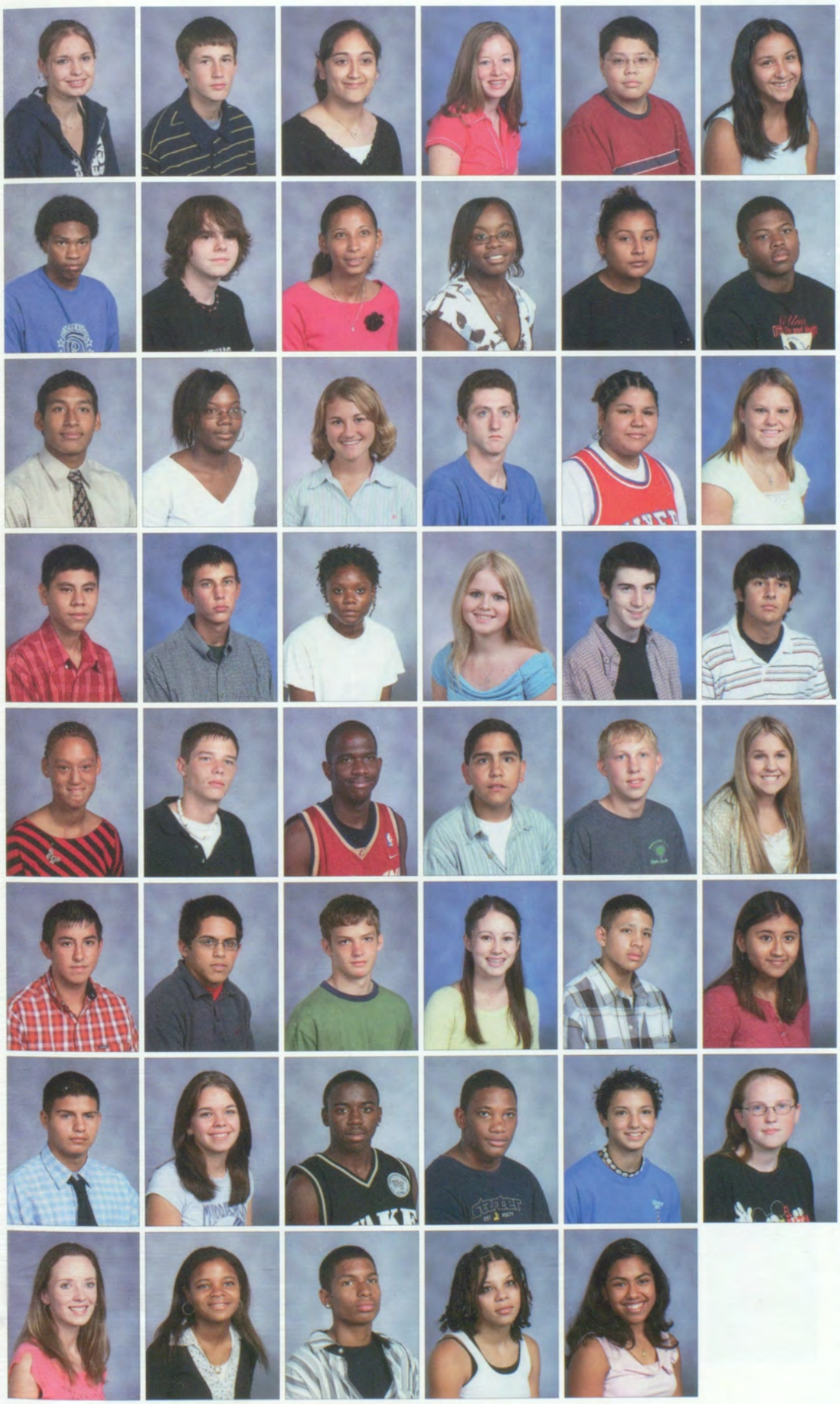
live strong



[Photo by Kristen Sanders]

by brianna gross

What began as a friendship between two competing bikers soon swept the world in yellow Livestrong bracelets. Cancer can affect anyone regardless of their background. Living stong means teaming up in the fight against cancer. Livestrong bracelets first appeared here around August when Mrs. Rowe started selling them. She has a family member who is affected by cancer and adores the idea that one hundred percent of the money goes to the Lance Armstrong Foundation. "It is so great to see students raise their hands in class and see all those yellow bracelets," she said. Little yellow bands can be seen on wrists from the United States to France. Taylor is just one place, but it is a school that is filled with students who are making a difference one band at a time.



Khristina Peterson
Michael Platz
Kelley Portillo
Emily Quinn
Casimiro Ramirez
Leticia Ramirez

Enrique Recendis
Aaron Reeves
Jessica Reyes
Ashunta Robinson
Anitarita Robles
Delain Rollie

Alfredo Romayor
Pamela Rossel
Devyn Rucker
William Ruden
Stephanie Ruiz
Hailey Ruzicka

Dagoberto Sanchez
Matthew Schwettman
Sha'tera Scott
Cassiddy Stefek
Matthew Sterling
Edward Stringer

Taporsha Tanksley
Peter Taylor
Kelly Tealer
Gonzalo Tellez
Derek Terwilliger
Erin Tomei

Sergio Tovar
Colin Valerio
Kyle Vanecek
Paige Vanecek
Rodolfo Vasquez
Amabilia Villarreal

Ricardo Villarreal
Lindsey Walton
Justin Ware
Tristan Whitfield
Ashley Williams
Elizabeth Winters

Brittany Wolf
Erika Wooldridge
Johnathan Wooldridge
Brittany Wyatt
Reyna Yanez

Nickolas Abbott
Marcie Aguilar
Kelli Aiello
Jeremiah Aldama
Ana Lisa Alderete
Richard Alford
Rebecca Almazan

Kimberly Amado
Jesse Trey Ancira
Brooke Anders
Joshua Anderson
Casey Balduff
Nathan Balusek
Adam Barry

Andrew Barry
Noe Becerra
Bradley Bogan
Christopher Bogan
Chelsey Boykins
Shawntrale Bradshaw
Jamar Brown

Lane Bruckner
Stacy Bubenik
Jalisa Budd
Shane Butcher
Britton Byfield
Lawerence Caldwell
Ricky Calhoun

Daniel Campbell
Christopher Campos
Cole Carnes
Mistie Carpenter
Crystal Carrillo
Lidia Cavazos
Lori Cervenka

Ana Karen Chaires
Bryant Cigales
Dulce Cisneros
Briona Clark
Lauren Connors
Justin Contreras
Steffon Cook

Noah Corn
Jonathan Cortinas
Jerry Cotner
Constance Crayton
James Crayton
Jessica Dale
Chad David

Sinead Davis
Carlos De La Cerda
Aldo De La Torre
Andrew Delgadillo
Mariah Dempsey
Shelby Dillard
Shermetria Dilworth

Alfred Dominiguez
Jerid Elms
Preston Eschberger
Jasmin Estrada
John Estrada
Jacob Farr
Morgan Faught





Freshman Class President Rosa Gonzales



Freshman Class Officers

Front: Secretary Morgan Faught, Historian Sydney Savage, Representative Brittni Gola **Back:** Vice President Rudy Mikeska, Treasurer Cullen Pick, Representative Jake Farr *[Photo by Aubrey Byfield].*

Brandy Jackson and Pearlie Gault duck and cover in the hallway during a tornado warning. "It didn't really seem like it was real, since I had never had to do that before," Pearlie said. *[Photo by Brianna Gross]*





"The class of 2008 is great! Not only are they the largest class on campus, they are also some of the nicest kids around. The fish rule this school "
- Mr. Saldana

Freshman Principal

[Photo by Jordan Hedges]

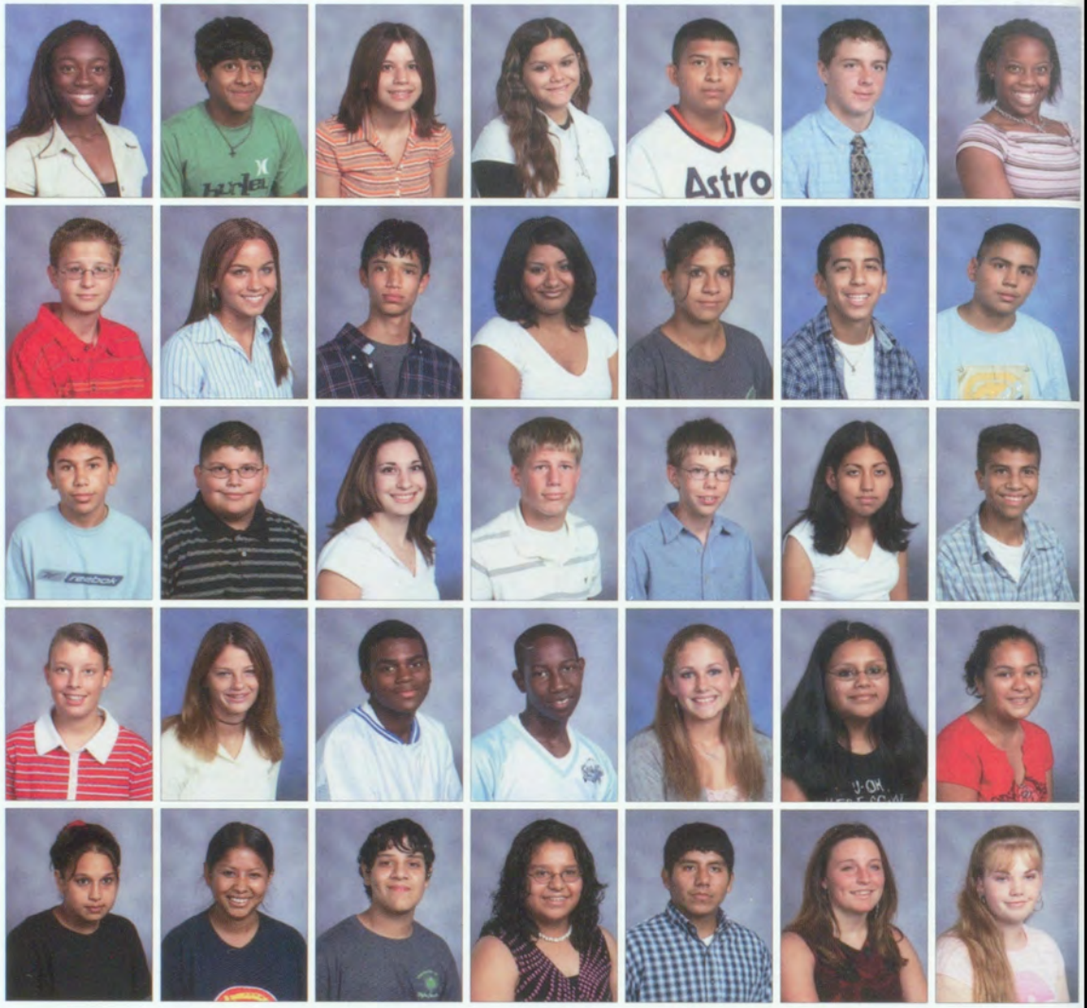
Deloris Fields
Andrew Flores
Julia Flores
Kimberly Flores
Eduardo Garcia
Patrick Garrett
Pearlie Gault

Colt Ging
Brittni Gola
Alan Gonzales
Anna Gonzales
Rosa Gonzales
Ryan Gonzales
Jose Gonzalez

Martin Gonzalez
Santiago Gonzalez
Miranda Gotte
Tyler Graef
Keegan Gross
Erica Gutierrez
Phillip Gutierrez

Jennifer Haley
Reese Hall
Kevin Harris
Tim Haskins
Kyra Headrick
Danielle Hernandez
Elvira Hernandez

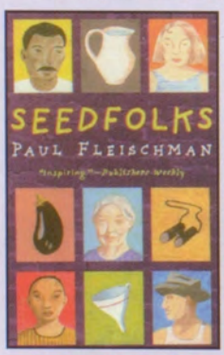
Shirley Hernandez
Ann Herrera
Joshua Herrera
Frances Hewtty
Joseph Hewtty
Cortnee Holt
Candace Hopson



the seed

by kristen sanders

Every morning, after reciting the pledges, a moment of silence, and announcements, every student in the school cracked open a copy of *Seedfolks* and began to read a short story about the lives thirteen very different people (old, young, Haitian, Hispanic, tough, and hopeful). The characters told one amazing story about a vacant trash lot that they converted into a piece of heaven on earth- a garden.



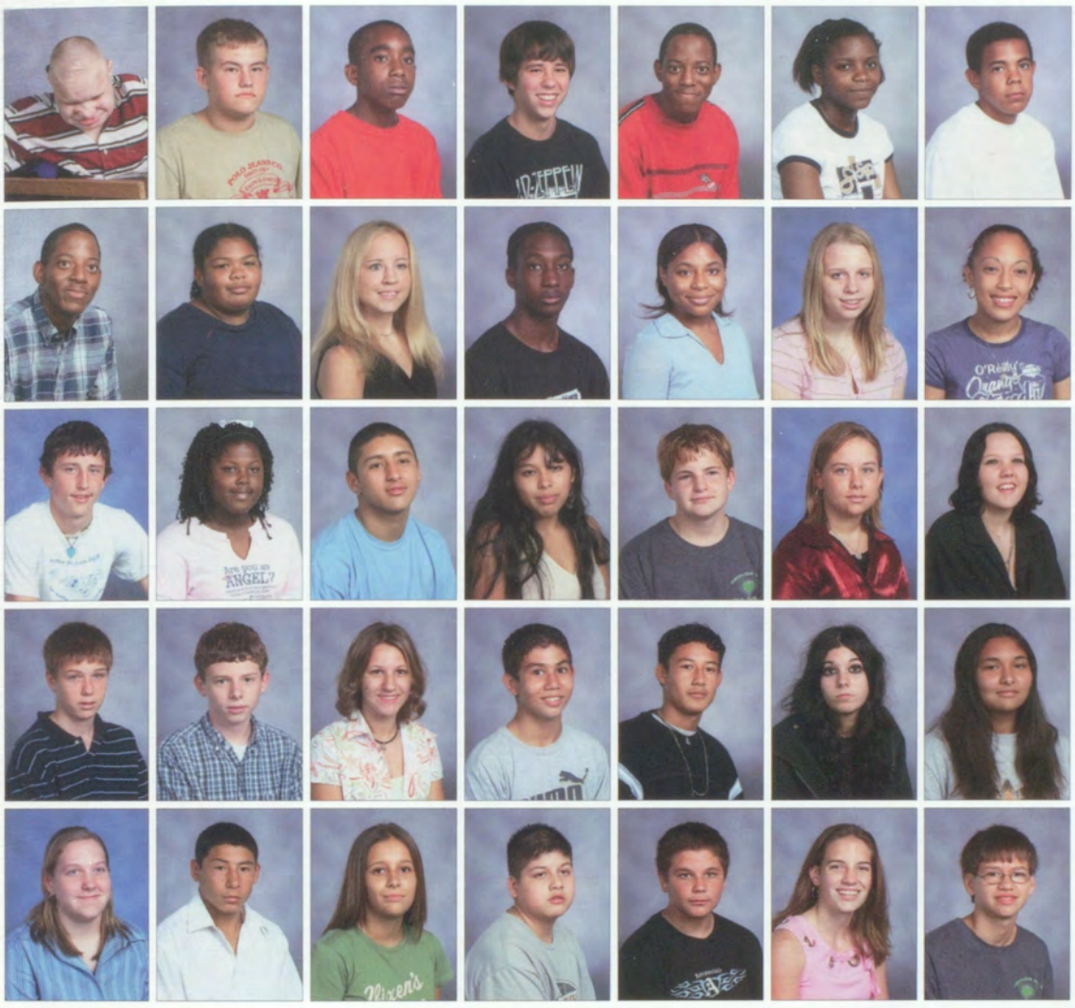
"The goal of the All Read was to help students feel united and the point of reading *Seedfolks* was to teach students the beauty of diversity," librarian Diann Fox said.

Through *Seedfolks* we learned not to judge a book by its cover. Some of us even rediscovered our "lost" passion for reading.

Our eyes were opened to different lifestyles and points of view that we often don't hear about. We felt sadness for this community's losses and felt joy in their triumphs. We really did *all read.*



Chris Bogan reads *Seedfolks* during second period advisory. "The book is all right. I like how one little girl could start a whole garden," Chris said. ***[Photo by Brianna Gross]***



Nathan Huf
Jordan Humphreys
Jaquane Huricks
Travis Hyzak
Barry Jackson
Brandie Jackson
James Jackson

Larry Jackson
Latosha Jackson
Kari Jahn
Travian James
Brittney Jefferson
Leah Jirasek
Amaris Jones

Daniel Jones
Lisa Jones
John Juarez
Jasmyne Kernell
Daniel Kirkwood
Paige Kreidel
Kristi Krumm

Cory Kruse
Bryce Lachance
Ashley Lantzsch
Justin Latham
Alex Lazaro
Mercedes Lerma
Savannah Lerma

Rachel Lewis
Tommy Longoria
Crystal Lopez
Ivan Lopez
Matthew Lopez
Justine Lorentzen
Matthew Lozano



Travis Hyzak



Kelli Aiello



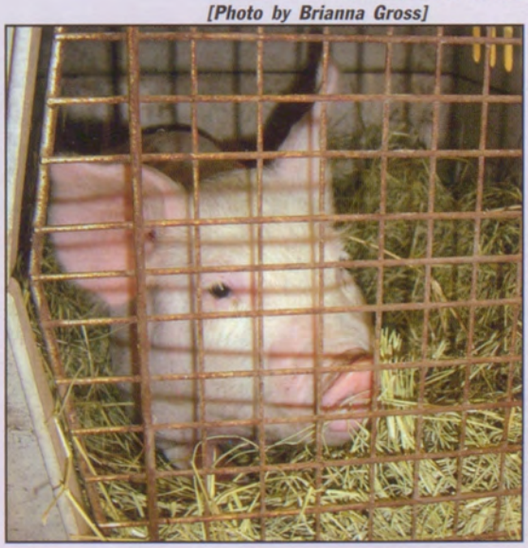
Cassandra Leyendecker & Sylvia Olivarez

[Photos by Matti Mott]

At the *Seedfolks* celebration, O'Brien Frazier chows down on some corn. The corn-on-the-cob eating contest was one of the many festivities that students were able to enjoy. *[Photo by Kristen Sanders]*

This friendly piggy was the lucky recipient of kisses from both Mr. and Mrs. Sutton, who "won" the opportunity by garnering donations from students to be used for Green Santa. *[Photo by Brianna Gross]*





Dalton Marek
Kayla Marek
Francisco Martinez
Jazzsmen Martinez
Jesus Martinez
Jonathan Martinez
Maria Martinez

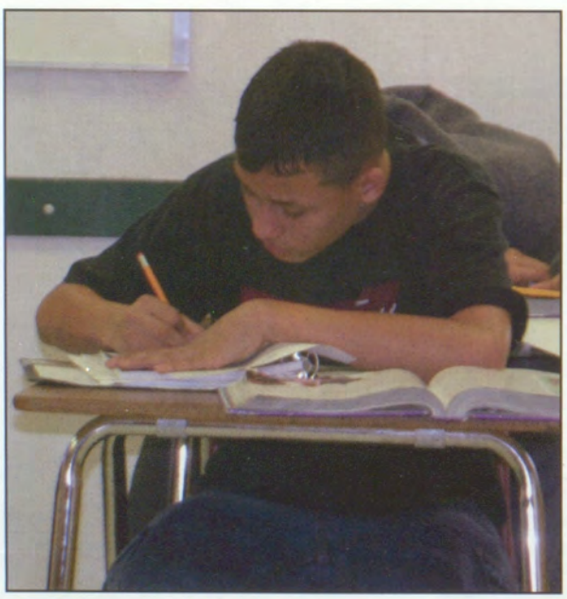
Damian Mayberry
Diana Mendez
Rudy Mikeska
Irving Miravete
Dylan Moerbe
Andreina Moncada
Roberto Morales

Jose Moreno
Manuel Moreno
Cory Morgan
Amanda Nardecchia
David Olivarez
Anselmo Oranday
Jacqueline Orozco

Victor Ortiz
Larry Pachicano
Marco Pachicano
Brittany Palomo
Rachel Parker
Ashley Patterson
Kasey Penny

Brandon Peschke
Travis Petty
Cullen Pick
Elizabeth Polasek
Dustin Popham
Lourdes Ramirez
Jacob Rangel





Trey Ancira works on a paper for Mrs. Burklow's English I class. "I get excited when students realize that what they are doing is important and can be fun! This may be in literature, composition, language, or the infamous vocabulary!" Ms. Burklow said. *[Photo by Kristen Sanders]*



David Vasquez and Jeremiah Aldama find the time to have some fun during their Biology lesson in Coach Walker's class. "I enjoyed the project where we got to do research on genetics," Jeremiah Aldama said. *[Photo by Emily Quinn]*



Aaron Reyes
Anica Reyes
Laura Reyna
Brittany Rios
Kwinicia Robinson
Danny Rodriguez
Ray Rojas

Johnny Roman
Maria Romero
Franchaska Ross
Jose Salazar
Jordan Samuelson
Carlos Sanchez
Cassandra Sanchez

Julian Sanchez
Rachael Sanderson
Sydney Savage
Taylor Savage
Britney Schneider
Alyx Scott
Rhonda Scott

Jessica Serna
Daniel Siguenza
Tamara Simien
Kammi Sims
Orlando Smith
Matthew Solbach
Tony Sorrells

Bobby Sovil
Cassie Stabeno
Kyndal Stanley
Andy Stapp
Jessica Stegall
Aubrie Stewart
Max Stifflemire

William Stroud
Ula Tatum
Stephen Taylor
Lanija Thomas
Jeff Thompson
Billie Tomecek
Adelmo Torres

Ashley Torres
Stephen Torres
Amber Tucker
Mallory Urias
Arabela Valladares
Josh Vargas
David Vasquez

Diana Violante
Aaron Wallace
Tiara Ward
Brene' Washington
Charles White
Andrea Wilkerson
Zachary Wilkins

Chase Williams
Jacqueline Wolf
Stephanie Wolf
Lee Wright
Kelsey Young



Richard Andis
Math



Sonia Baker
Diagnostician



Vicky Bennett
Social Studies Chair



Scott Bishop
Agriculture



Eliza Boyd
Aide



Arlene Boyer
Lifeskills



Lori Brock
English



Ruth Brockman
English



Herlinda Brown
Diagnostician



James Brush
English



Rachel Burklow
English



Tonya Cargill
Athletics



Melanie Catuogno
Desktop Publishing



Shelli Cobb
English, Athletics



Donna Curtis
English



Liz Delatore
Aide



Rosa Delgado
Spanish



Steven Downey
Electronics, Lifeskills



Dawn Fischer
Digital Graphics, Journalism



Diann Fox
Librarian



Maureen Gray
Social Studies



Gracie Guerrero
Attendance Clerk



Juana Gutierrez



Pam Harper
Aide



Lezlie Hedges
Athletics



Carolyn Hendriex
Art



Gwen Holt
Math



Tim Holt
Athletic Director



Betty Jackson
German



Barbara Johle
Receptionist, Secretary



Kisha Jones
Athletics



Mary Kalbaugh
Math Chair



Darlene Khosrowpour
Math



Alicia Kuehl
Math



Doug Kuhl
Science, Athletics



Barbara Leschber
Career & Technology Chair



Rachel Mackey
Assistant Principal



Cheryl Mankin
Transition



George Matthys
Math



Traci Mayo
Math

Craig Miller
Social Studies Chair

Connie Moehnke
Nurse



Carolyn Mohel
Library Aide



Belinda Nira-Munoz
Secretary



Yvonne Oranday
Aide



Pam Pekar
Registrar



Paul Quarles
Social Studies



Monica Ramirez
Home Economics



Jennifer Ray
Dance



Patricia Reichenbach
English



Debra Rinderknecht
Aide



David Rogers
Math



Robyn Rogers
Social Studies



Vicki Rowe
English



David Rucker
Assistant Principal



Patti Ruemke
Aide



Prissy Rumel
Spanish



Victor Saldana
Assistant Principal



Roberto Sanchez
Aide



Kaye Schaefer
Latin, Electives Chair



Carin Shaughnessy
Content Mastery



Crystal Simpson
Math



Deborah Skrhak
Cafeteria



Nisa Stevens
English, Math



Amy Stewart
English



Carol Sutton
Science



Dee Sutton
Aide



Larry Sutton
Principal



Darleen Tucker
Aide



Dan Volek
Counselor



Matt Walker
Science



Cindy Wehling
On Track



Jennifer Wesolowski
Science



Christina White
Theater



Kevin Widmer
Lifeskills

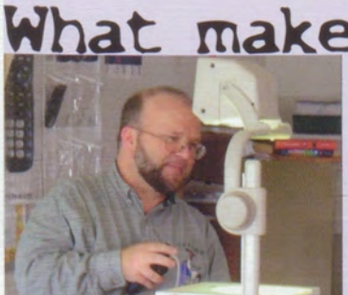


Faith Zajicek
Art



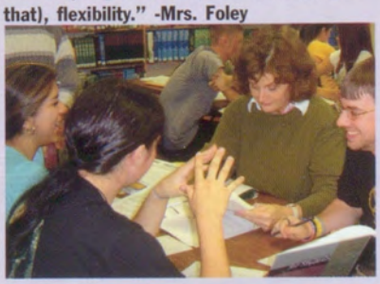
Magdalena Zavala
Photojournalism, ESL

What makes a good teacher?



"Umm . . . that's a good question. Can you come back tomorrow?" -Mr. Rowe ***[Photos by Brianna Gross]***

"Enthusiasim for the subject, love of children, organization (haha me saying that), flexibility." -Mrs. Foley





"Somebody that is fun, smart, has a good sense of humor, and likes to interact with us." -Amaris Jones

"Somebody that is willing to take time to get to know students and truly cares about the students' success." -Mr. Rucker ***[Photo by O'Brien Frazier]***



"The thing that I enjoy most about my job is that I get to interact with young people all the time."
--Larry Sutton
Principal



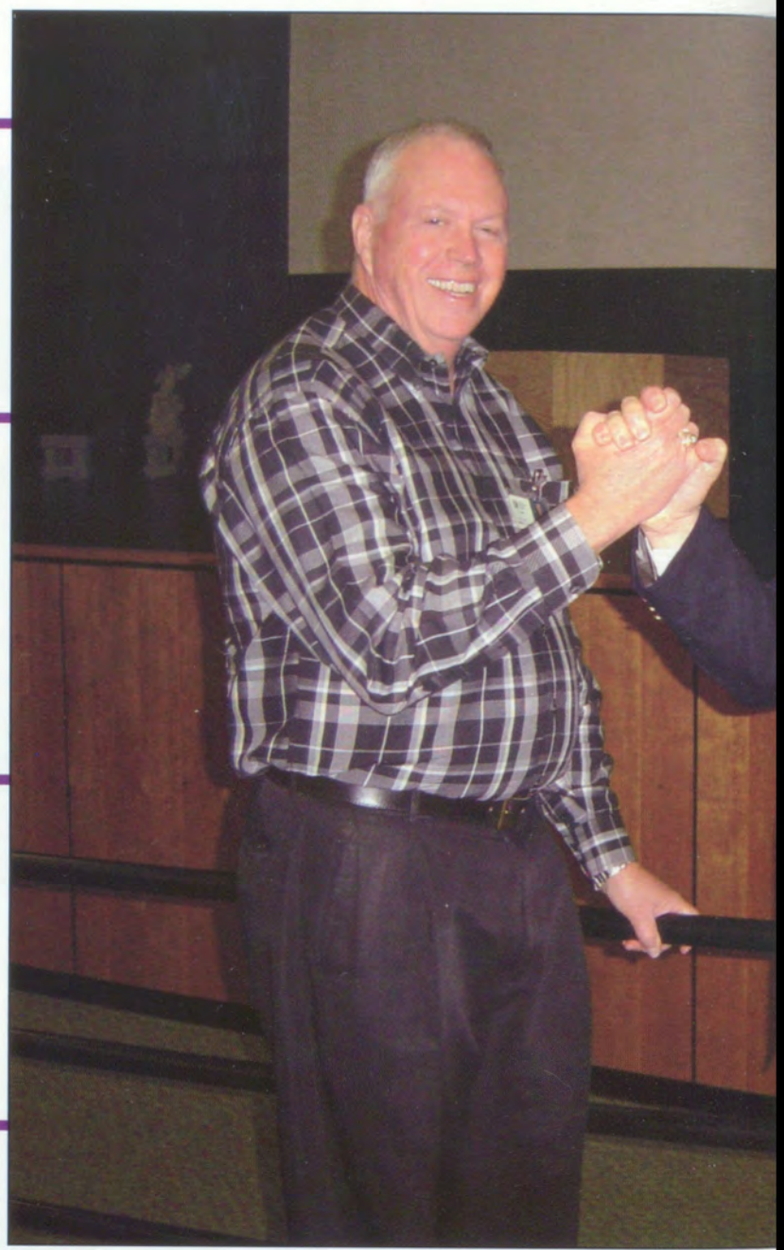
"Dr. Scott is a positive influence and he helps our district go a step forward in our achievements."
--David Rucker
Assistant Principal



"I love helping students learn what they need to be successful adults--from academics to respect. Nothing is more important to me than seeing the success of our students...and making fun of Mr. Saldana."
--Rachel Mackey
Assistant Principal



"Dr. Scott has great ideas and anything that increases student achievement is great."
--Victor Saldana,
Assistant Principal



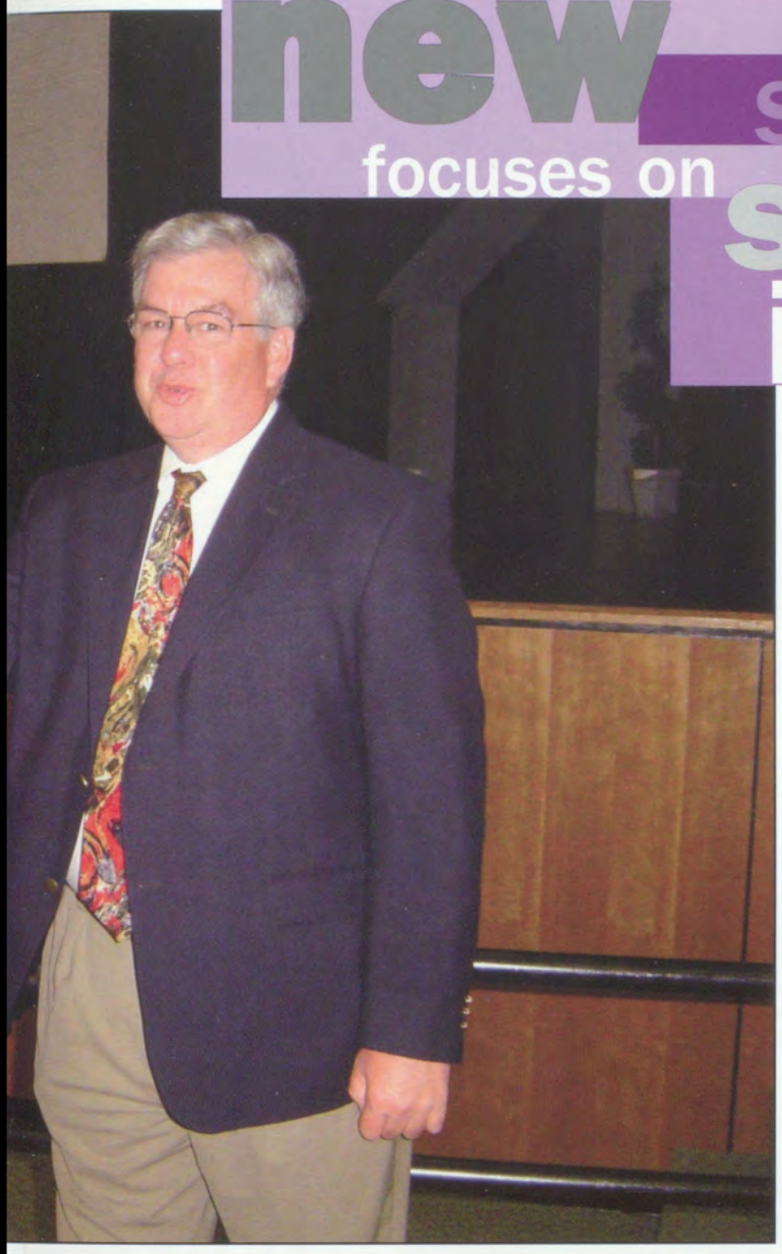


Counselors' secretary Viola Razo, Registrar Pam Pekar, Counselors Marilyn Tennill and Dan Volek. *[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]*



Back: Eddie Tealer, Dr. Ron Werner, Johnny Sanford, Cathy Cotner **Front:** Lupe Torres, Jessie Ancira, James "Bo" Stiles *[Photo by Brianna Gross]*

new superintendent focuses on student interaction



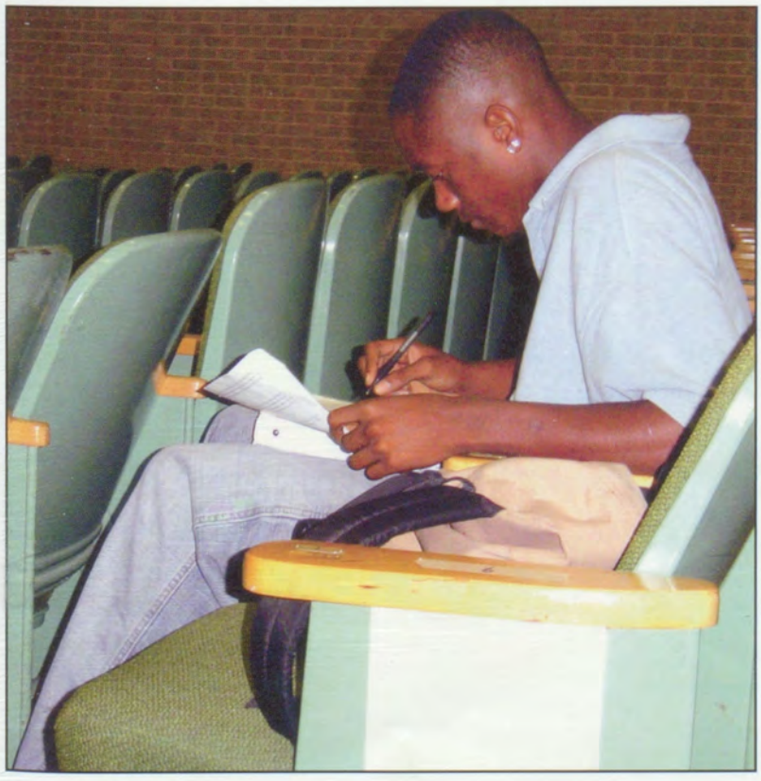
by katie quinn

Superintendent may be a word that is foreign to some students. Others know that it is the person who runs the school, but that is about the extent of their knowl edge on the subject. Many students might think that this is no big deal, or that this does not apply to them. Dr. Scott seems determined to break the stigma attached to his office and looks forward not only to dealing with schol board members and administrators, but also with individual students.

"I have had success in various realms, but the ones that stand out most deal with individual students. When I see individual students grow and maximize their talents, I am fufilled," Dr. Scott said.

Dr. Scott feels that the superindendent's job is to lead, not just in the schools, but in the community as a whole, to ensure that quality edication is given to all students, and to see that resources of the community are spent wisely.

"The superintendent must unite the voices of all the parties who have a role in educating the youth of Taylor," Dr. Scott said.



On March 22, the new tardy lock-out policy went into effect. Students like Anthony Tanksley, who found himself still in the hall after the tardy bell rang, were swept to the auditorium to sit in silence and complete a no-fun tardy packet. Anthony was surprised "how they got this going so quick," and said he'd "rather be in keyboarding." *[Photo by Melanie Catuogno]*



Keegan Gross shows David Chaidez how to work a video camera at the WOW showcase. "On the TV we were showing them Spanish projects that Mrs. Rummel filmed about our family and friends," Keegan said. The WOW showcase is a chance for Taylor schools to show the community some of the great things that happen in the classroom. *[Photo by Megan Kirkwood]*

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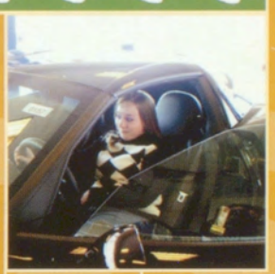

cements

Making Ends Meet

Adam Lee Roznovak















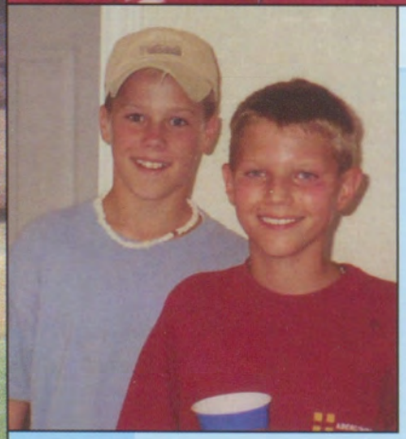

Congratulations, Adam!
We are very proud of you!
Thank you for all the
wonderful
memories.
May all your dreams
come true.
God bless you.

Love,
Mom & Dad

In Loving Memory of

Bob Smith

1919 - 2003



Once a Duck, Always a Duck!

Klint Jackson

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26



You have been a blessing as a son to me. As you go out into the world, I know you will bless many others.

I love you!
Always, Mom

Justin Bigon

Congratulations Justin!

We are very proud of you. You have given us many wonderful memories. May all your hopes and dreams come true.







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Your beautiful smile and your witty sense of humor brighten everyone's day. You are definitely your own unique person. We are very proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, & Ryan

Jeremy Lopez



Sherrie Stringer















It has been a pleasure and fun being able to see aunt and nephew grow up together. We are so proud of both of you. Congratulations and may all your dreams come true.

All our love always,
Mom, Grandma, Edward, Jaime, Dad, Tonia, & Matt

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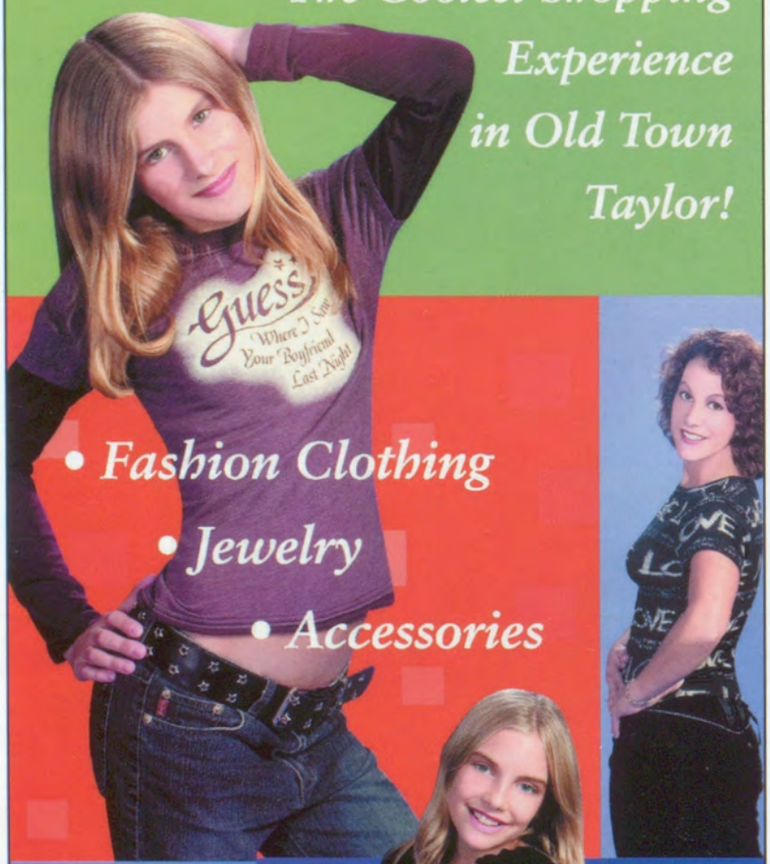

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VanBoekhout

Steven







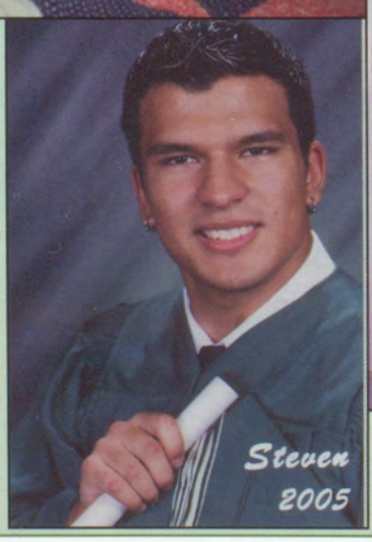








Take pride in all that you do and remember that no one can take away your dignity unless you let them. I promise that the hopes and dreams I pass into your hands are supported with my unconditional love, so if I hold you a little tighter don't think it strange. I'm just trying to steal a few more moments while I can. Congratulations, Son.



Love,
Mom & Dad

Zucknick

Mark Elliott

















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He always sees things through.
Congratulations on your success,
And we wish you the very best!

Mom, Dad, & Paul

Sarah Cathryn Kuntz















The day you were born, we knew that we had been blessed with a precious gift. We have watched you grow into a beautiful young lady. You have brought such joy to our families and no parent could be more proud. As you begin your adult life, know that you are watched over from above and loved beyond measure.

Love, Mom and Dad

Shelly Deon Dlouhy Emily Renee Turner










Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget. Here's to 18 years of wonderful memories together and many more to come.

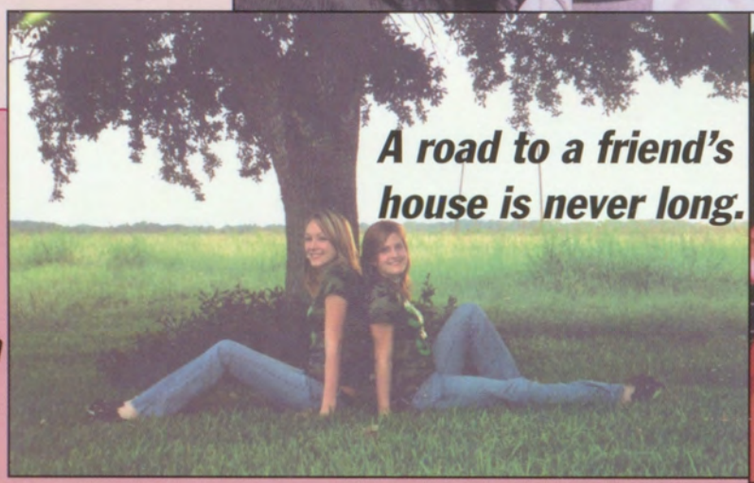




Halley Gay & Cassie Floyd









A best friend is someone who thinks you're a good dancer!





Seth Gipson



You've grown from a curious child to an ambitious young man. We are so proud of you! We wish you the best of luck as you begin this new stage in your life.
Congratulations!
Love Dad, Mom, & Kelsey

Aaron Vanecek













Aaron,
Always remember that we are very proud of you and love you very much. Follow your heart and your dreams.
We know God has great things planned for you.

Be strong, be courageous, do not be terrified or discouraged, for the Lord, your God, will be with you wherever you go.

(Joshua 1:9)







Chase Stiles





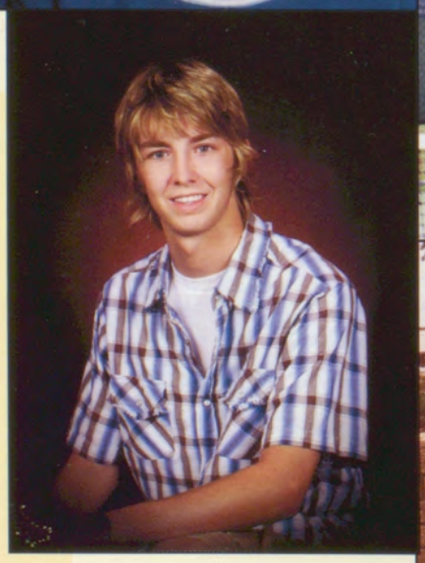
Congratulations Chase! We are very proud of you.

With all our love, Mom, Dad, Tommy, and Shane















Sarah Kolinek
Ashley Harmon
& Kim Heeke

















To our three very special daughters, Kim, Sarah, & Ashley:

May you realize the gifts with which you each have been so richly blessed- loving & supportive families, great friends, good health, athletic ability, & so much more!

We are so proud of you & your accomplishments! We are truly blessed to have you in our lives. We ask that God continue to bless & protect you. Follow your dreams & reach for the stars!

Love, Your Families

Sarah Roe











Congratulations, Sarah!
We are proud of you.

With love and blessings,
Mom, Dad, Taylor, & Katie

Katie Brooks

Cassie Floyd

















I go out all the time with so many people, but when I need someone to understand me, it is not these aquaintances to whom I turn. It is always you, my true friend.

Here's to the wonderful years of laughing hard, cheering loud, and smiling big!

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Cassie Anne Floyd

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined!
-Henry David Thoreau

Congratulations!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Traci,
Jack, Gram & Papa





















Katie Quinn & Lindsey Rozacky



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11









We are proud of you Lindsey and Katie.



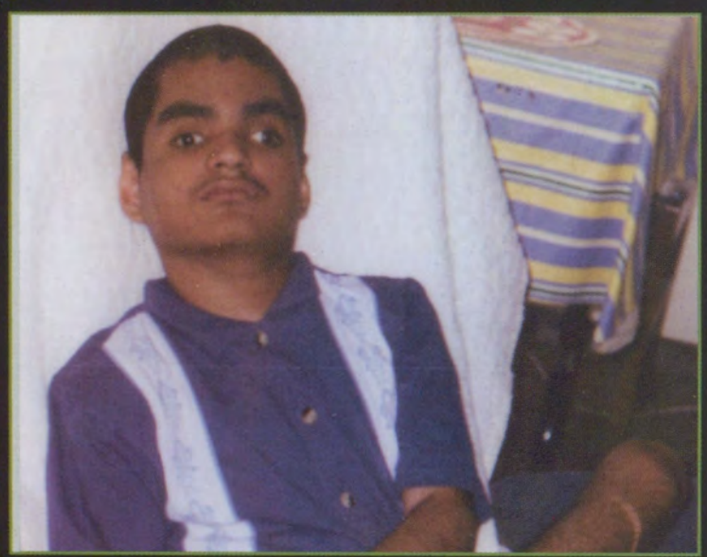


We love you, Your Families

In Loving Memory of

Luciano Camacho, Jr.

1986-2004



Chris Baisley



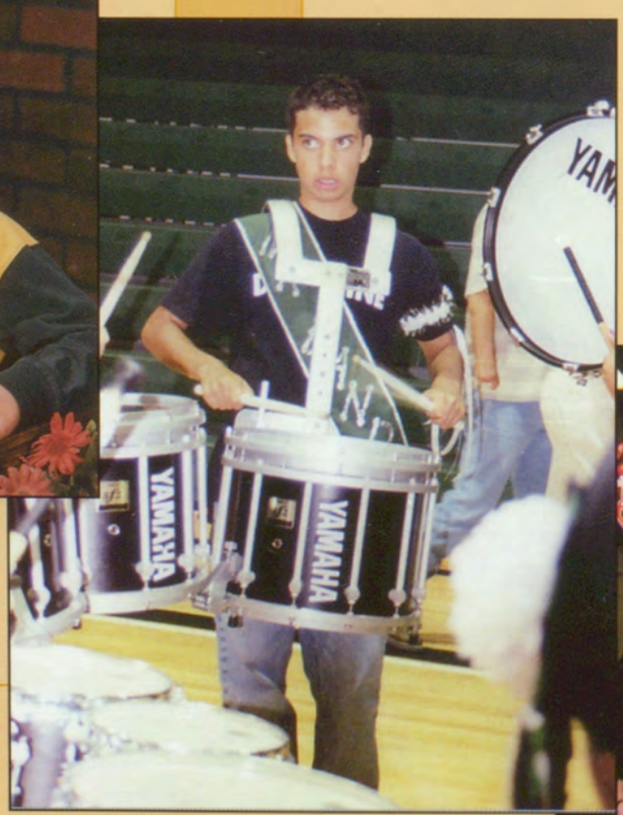




Good Luck Chrisb!
We wish you well in all you do.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Jess, Jr. and Vincent

Alec Gonzales





Congratulations,
Alec!
We are proud of you.
Love, Mom, Dad,
Emilio, and Mireya.



Anna Johnson















Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.
-Proverbs 3:5-6

We love you, Anna!
Mama, Daddy, Emily, Jennifer, and Sarah

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth.
-3 John 4



Tasha Copple





Just Be Yourself

by Donna Newman

To be whom you are
is to be enough
To share who you are
is to share enough
To do what you love
is to do enough

There is no race to win
and nothing to be
proven
Only dreams to be
nurtured
A self to be expressed
and love to be shared





Never doubt your worth
and always know
without any doubt
that you are truly
valued







Brianna Gross





Dearest Brianna,

From the day you were born too early, you were a fighter. Even the doctors agreed as they nicknamed you "Fiesty." From breathing machines to swimming to karate to school to drums to teaching Sunday School to basketball to tennis to ankle surgery, you were always ready for the challenge. No matter what life sends you, you greet it with a smile and determination, lots of perserverance and whatever amount of work is necessary to get the job done. It constantly amazes people around you, even us, that you face all challenges with such optimism, always full of joy. But then we know where your joy comes from. "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). Continue living with joy. Go out and keep spreading that joy in everything you do, helping anyone who needs it, taking those fun, beautiful pictures, and serving God. God bless you at Texas State! WE ARE GOING TO MISS YOU!
Love Daddy-O, Mama, Keegan, and Braden













Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for other believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift... Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. (I Timothy 4:12-15)

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Chris Lamar,

YO

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2005 Mallard Policies

statement of purpose

By virtue of the fact that the yearbook is a student conceived, planned, and produced publication, as well as a product of an academic program, there are certain legal and ethical guidelines which the staff follows. The 2005 *Mallard* and its staff are protected by and bound to the principles of the First Amendment and other protections and limitations afforded by the Constitution and the various court decisions implementing those principles. By not interfering with the publication content, school officials are therefore not liable or responsible for the content.

Journalistic in nature, the yearbook informs and entertains its audience in a broad, fair, and accurate manner on all subjects that affect readers in the areas of academics, community, groups, sports, and student life. The entire student body of 1000 prospective readers constitutes the book's target audience. Secondary audiences include school personnel, community members, and scholastic journalism groups.

Since this policy is revised and updated each year, all parts of the policy apply only to the 2005 Mallard, Volume 59 of the Taylor High School Yearbook.

coverage

Content focuses on coverage which will meet the wants and needs of the majority of the student body, so long as those wants and needs are not contradictory to the principles of scholastic journalism.

The staff encourages constructive criticism of any part of the book, both before and after publication. However, final authority for the content of the yearbook rests solely in the hands of the yearbook students under the guidance of their adviser.

No material which is libelous, irresponsible, and/or an advocate of illegal activity will be published. No material which the editor and/or adviser deems in poor taste will be printed.

The content coverage period lasts from the summer before school starts to early March, when the yearbook is completed. Events occurring past this date are included in a summer supplement which is mailed to all purchasers of the book and which attaches to the book in a seamless and professional manner.

The yearbook staff strives to include *Mallard* staff members no more than any other student would be covered; that is, only through class portraits, group photos, and in pages specifically about the yearbook staff. The staff strives to include every student in the yearbook at least once; it is not always possible to do so.

While the yearbook staff strives to include all official school sports and organizations as equitably as possible, the ultimate decision for page allocation is decided by the editor and adviser. All faculty, coaches, and staff are notified of publication deadlines and the yearbook staff makes its best effort to work with all groups to maximize coverage.

portrait photography

All students and school personnel must have their portraits taken by the official school photorapher, Bryn-Alan, to be included in the yearbook. All students and school personnel are afforded at least two opportunities to have their portraits taken or retaken. Seniors who do not have their portraits taken on or before the announced deadline in January will not have their portrait included in the yearbook. Seniors are given the opportunity to select their yearbook pose from among their proofs. If no pose is selected, the studio selects one. The yearbook staff does not have the ability to change this selection. Occasional errors may occur at the photography studio that are not the responsiblity of the yearbook staff.

sensitive issues

Should a student or school personnel die during the current coverage period, the staff will treat the death in a professional, tasteful, and respectful manner. A 1/4 page ad space will be allocated to a memoriam. Family and friends may also purchase advertising space for additional tributes.

advertising

All advertising accepted by the staff must meet the same guidelines as editorial content. Acceptance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement by the Mallard staff or adviser, Taylor High School's administration, faculty, staff, or students, or the Taylor Independent School District.

Senior advertisements are sold from the beginning of the school year until February, with prices increasing as our printing deadline approaches. The *Mallard* staff discourages advertisements which include boyfriends/girlfriends because advertisements cannot be removed or changed after submission. Advertisements will be designed by the yearbook staff. Collages will not be accepted. Photos and content may be provided in print or digital format. The quality of photo reproduction in the advertisement will depend upon the quality of the photos provided. The yearbook staff does not guarantee the safe return of photos submitted for advertisements.

client satisfaction

Because the yearbook is a student production, complete satisfaction is not guaranteed to the purchaser. Refunds will not be given for minor errors such as porr portrait quality, misspelled names, etc. Occasional printing errors may occur at the publishing house that are not the responsibility of the yearbook staff. Books returned for refund must be free of damage or writing. Once returned, the book becomes property of the staff and can be resold at the current price.

Exchanges can be made for books with flaws if no writing appears in the book. If a book has been written in, then no exchange can be made unless the adviser determines the flaw in the book is of major proportion, i.e., page missing or upside down. All refunds and exchanges are made a the discretion of the adviser.

It is the responsibility of the buyer to provide proof of purchase if the yearbook staff has no record of a sale. Valid proof of purchase includes a valid receipt, cancelled check, or credit card statement. The staff cannot hand out any yearbook without proof of purchase. Yearbooks will not be mailed unless the postage is paid by the purchaser.

Buyers may be asked to provide photo identification when picking up a yearbook.

pricing

Students who do not purchase a book prior to May 1 will not be guaranteed to receive a book. A limited number of books are sold upon delivery for $70 on a first-come, first-served basis. A letter including details of yearbook pricing, advertisement, and deadlines is included in the first-day packets given to each student. This information is also available from the yearbook office at any time.

photo manipulation

Photographs will only be altered or manipulated by the staff to improve the quality of the photo or achieve a specific artistic effect; i.e., desaturating the background of a photo to black and white, feathering the edges. No photos will be manipulated in a manner that changes the meaning of their content.


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Araceli Alderete

From the first day of Pre-K, we knew that this day would come. You have filled our lives with pride and joy through the years. Congratulations, Araceli, on reaching this GREAT milestone in your life. We are SUPER proud of you!

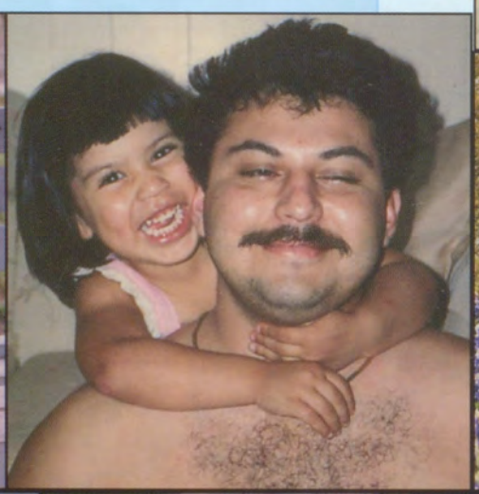
Con Carino,
Tata, Mama & Alvaro

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart exalts, and with my song I shall thank Him.

Psalm 28:7

















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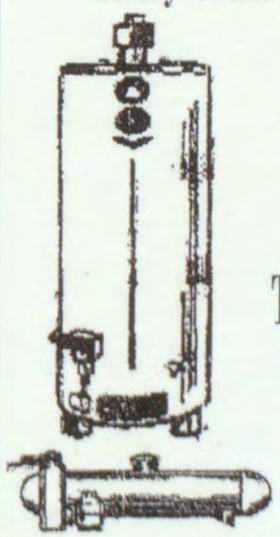

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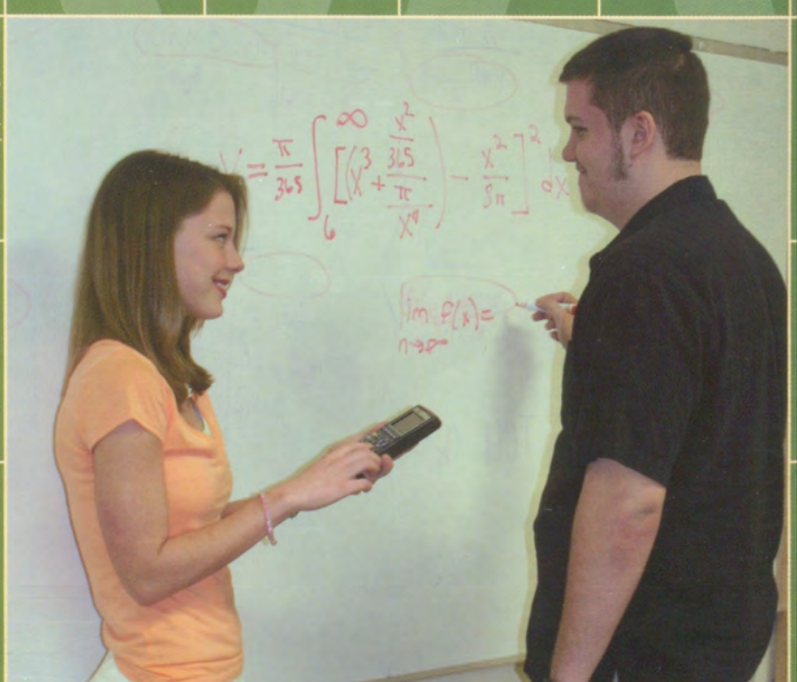

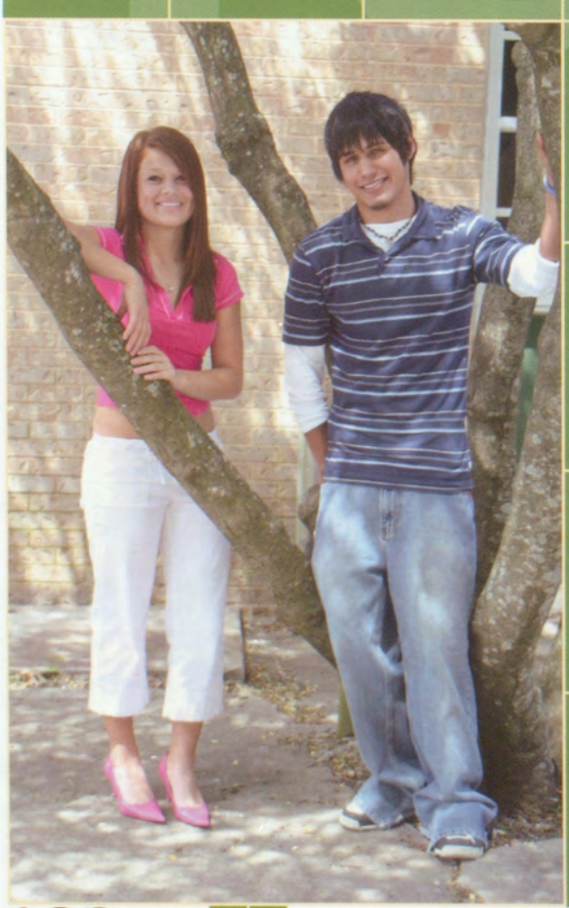

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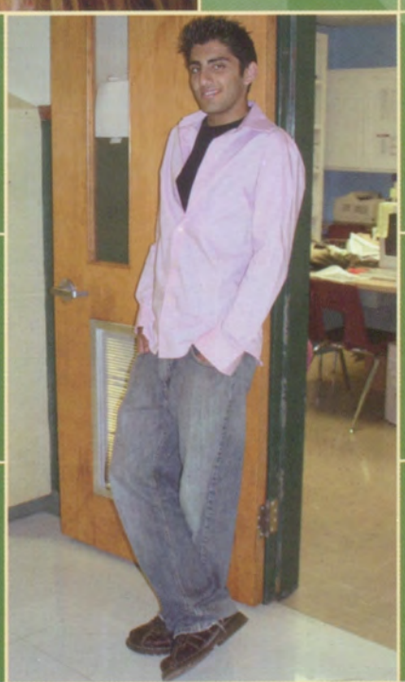
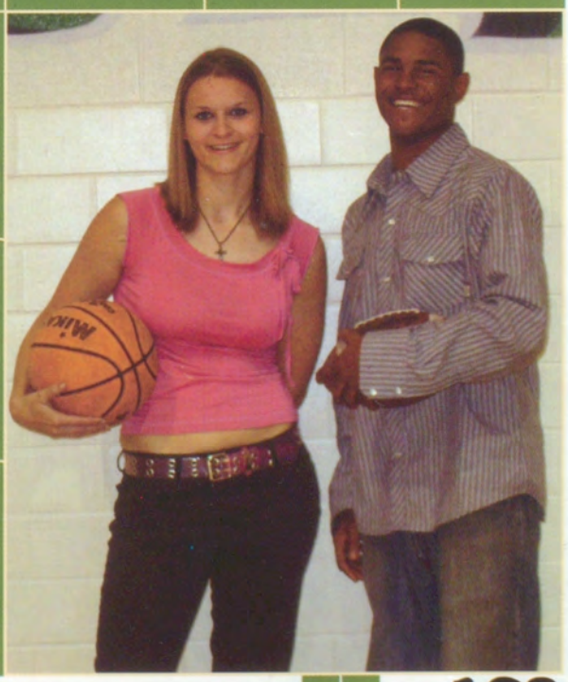
Best Dressed

brooke schneider & shivam gandhi





Most Athletic

kimberly heeke & jonovan wooldridge



most original

katie brooks & andrew brock

class clowns

cassie floyd





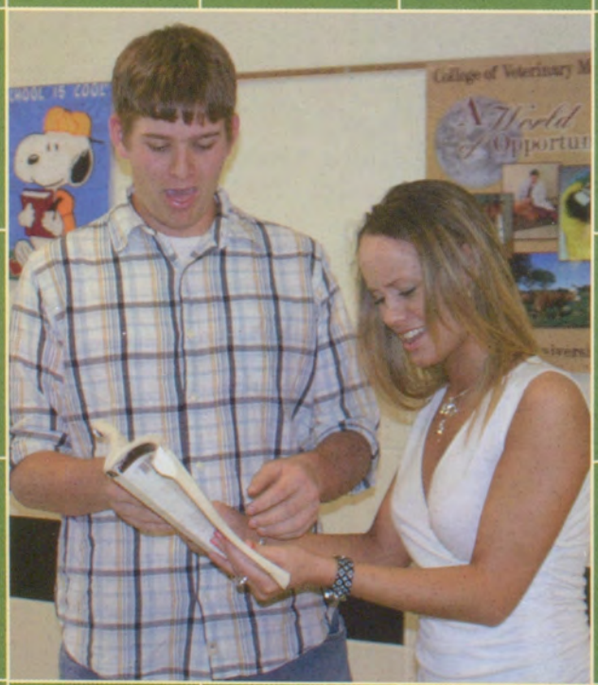
brady marshall

best car



aubrey byfield & derek thompson

most confused



heather hosking & bryan zak

most likely to be a taylor cop

kevin massar





most likely to become manager of HEB

derek steffek

best smile



anna johnson & tony montoyer



most likely to be a professional sign roper

travis teggeman



most likely to forget what they were most likely to do

devin remmert





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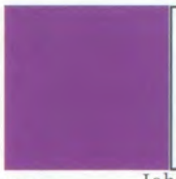

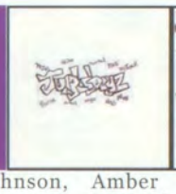



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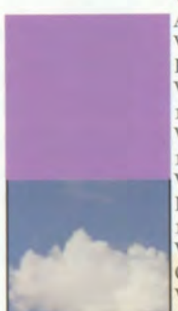

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editor's note

To My Dearest Readers--Thank you so very much for all of the fond memories from 2005. Y'all have made this year the greatest! A lot of people say that Taylor is all about the football team, or the band, or even our mascot, the ducks, but I think that Taylor is all about the people. It is the students of Taylor High School whose pictures flood every single page of this book. It is the memories that we, as a student body, have made that will continue to be remembered throughout the history of this quickly growing town.

To my most dedicated staff-- thanks a million! You guys are the best ever! This year has been crazy, and deadlines were not always fun; however, y'all always worked hard and did not buckle under any pressure, regardless of the situation. I do not think that anyone even cried this year, so that is always a plus. When thinking about yearbook, try not to remember the craziness of deadlines. Think about the awesome parties after all the stress was over with. Remember the silly pictures that were taken practically every day in class. Keep in mind those lunches we all stayed on campus to have pizza. Recollect the girls giggling on the couch while Brent and Justin were singing "Turn Around Bright Eyes!" Keep up the hard work and never settle for complacency. Y'all have produced a beautiful book that people will be proud of for years and years to come. Thanks for all the laughs and good times!

Mrs. C-- you are something else! After all this, I think we could be almost family. From the short lunches to the long weekends in the *Mallard* office, thanks for always being there to back me up. You are one of my role models! I think the most I have learned this year from you is to be professional under all circumstances and how to design better headlines. Thank you for not only being my teacher, but also my friend.

I would like to thank my family and boyfriend for being patient with me when I came home with those glorious headaches from sitting in front of a computer screen for seven hours straight. Y'all are indescribable when it comes to family. I am so very blessed to have y'all. Thanks for the support in everything I do. I love y'all!

Hallway monitors-- I am so sorry for always bothering y'all. The *Mallard* passes are definitely a good thing! Thanks for not yelling at us too much when we forgot them. Because of your tolerance, we were allowed to take amazing photos!

This could not possibly be a "thank you" letter without mentioning my number one hero, Jesus Christ. He is my all-in-all and my reason to exist. The book was very carefully constructed and edited this year, to make sure that the pages glorify Him. For without Him, I am *nothing*. Mrs. C always asks me how I do it... it is all God. Thank you so much for everything, Father, and it is my prayer that this work would glorify you!

Never pass up an opportunity to smile and enjoy the sunshine! Take care everyone and God bless!

"For without Him, I am *nothing* . . . it is all God."

Brianna Rene Gross
Editor-in-Chief

thanks

The Mallard Staff wishes to express sincere gratitude to the following individuals who helped in one way or another with the production of this book.

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colophon

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2005 Mallard Staff



Editor
Brianna Gross
"Second star to the right and straight on till morning. Laugh lots and live life out loud!"



Copy Editor
Anna Johnson
"What would Jesus do?...What wouldn't Jesus do, more like!"



Photo Editor
Megan Kirkwood
"Enjoy life--it's not permanent."



Business Manager
Hannah Carnes
"If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?"

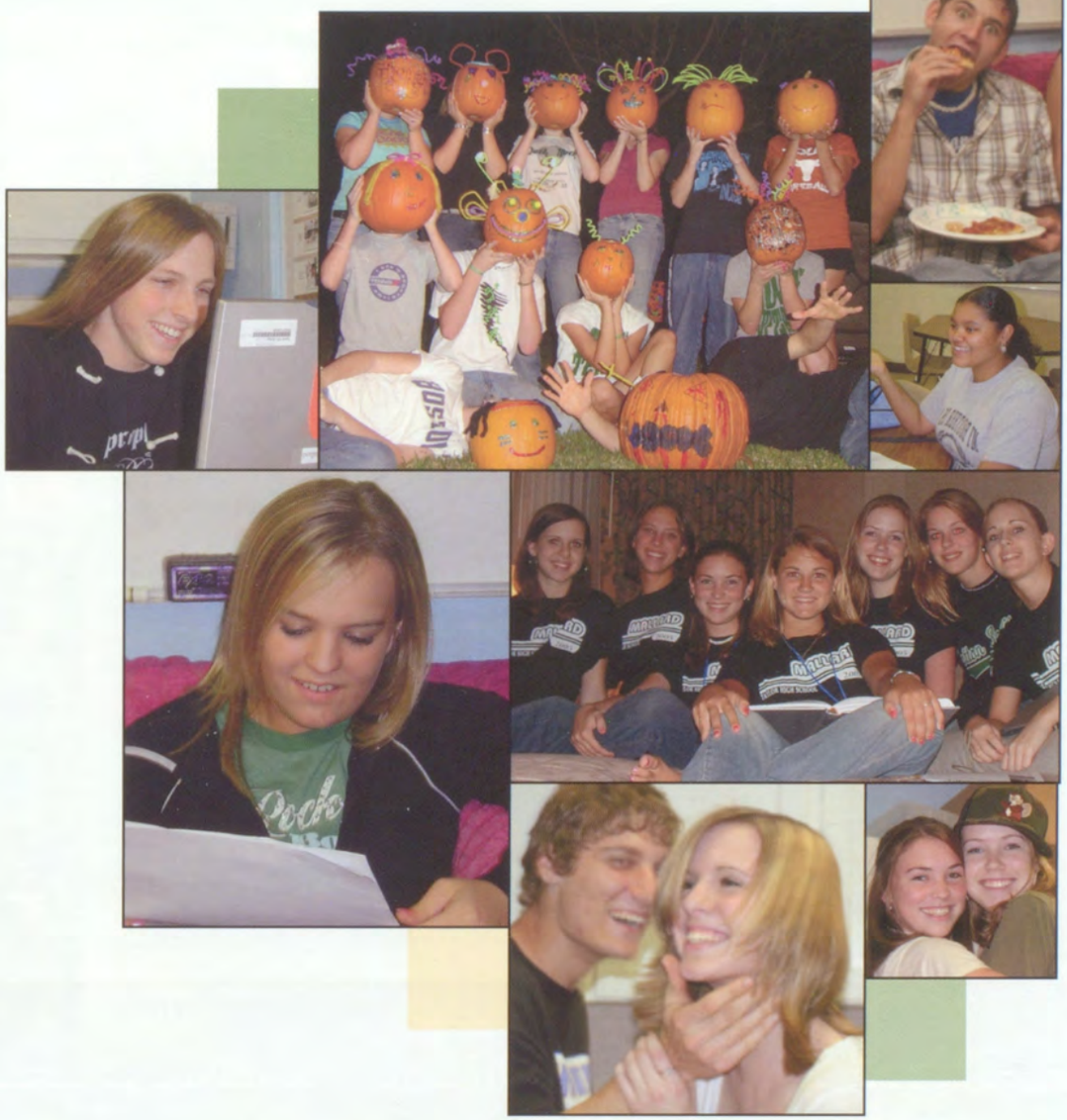


Senior Ads Designer
Aubrey Byfield
"Mamas, let your babies grow up to be cowboys!"



Business Ads Designer
Dallas Cummings
"How do you like them apples?"





Staff

Justin Bigon
"An onion makes me cry, but there is no vegetable to make me laugh."



Cameron Haight
"Life's tough. Get a helmet."



Jordan Hedges
"Stick with your friends and don't get swept."



Brent Holman
"Everyone makes mistakes. The trick is to make mistakes when no one is looking."



Sarah Johnson
"We better start flippin' pages or I'm gonna start flippin' out."



Kara Kerlin
"Why can't the lemons and pancakes just get along?"



Matti Mott
"When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane."



Emily Quinn
"Good friends will help you up when you fall, best friends will laugh and trip you again."



Rebecca Ray
"Don't worry about what others might think or do, just live your life!"



Devyn Rucker
"007? You wish you were 007. You can just spy your way into detention."

Adviser
Melanie Catuogno
"This staff leaves behind a legacy of quality: they have raised the standards of leadership, teamwork, design, and writing for all future Mallard students."

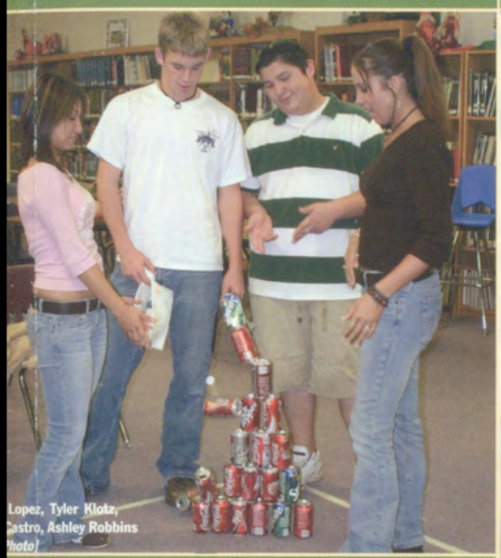


changing shapes

And so ends another year of high school. In a flurry of final exams, graduation announcements, parties, prom dresses, and breakups, summer arrives and we move on to the next phase of our lives. The 2004-2005 school year recedes into the giant tapestry of our past, but not without making its mark on each of us. Every daily occurrence has shaped us in some way, somehow contributed to the people we are becoming. Memories will fade, and we may forget what we learned, forget the people we knew, forget the words to our favorite song. But the impact of those things will stay with us, affecting our personalities, our relationships, and our successes throughout our lives. They say, "Once a duck, always a duck," and perhaps this is what they mean: we have been shaped, inexorably, by our time at Taylor High School.



Cole Carnes
[Photo by Brent Holman]



Lopez, Tyler Klotz,
Castro, Ashley Robbins
Photo]

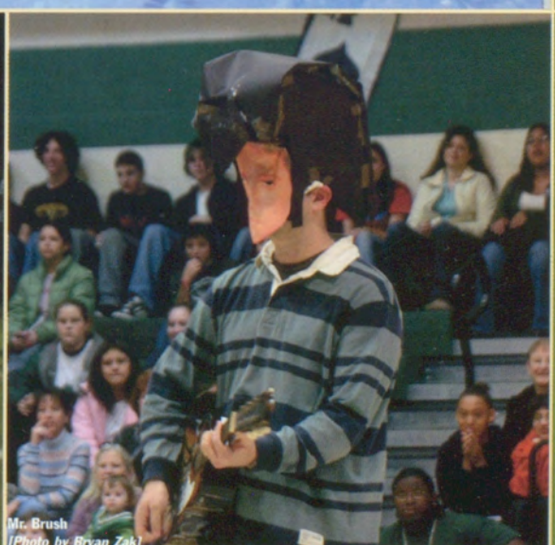
Changing shapes



Cindy Arias
[Photo by Melanie Catuogno]



y Brianna Gross]



Mr. Brush
[Photo by Bryan Zak]

Autographs

Watch your mailbox for the summer supplement, featuring coverage of prom, spring show, and graduation.

























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