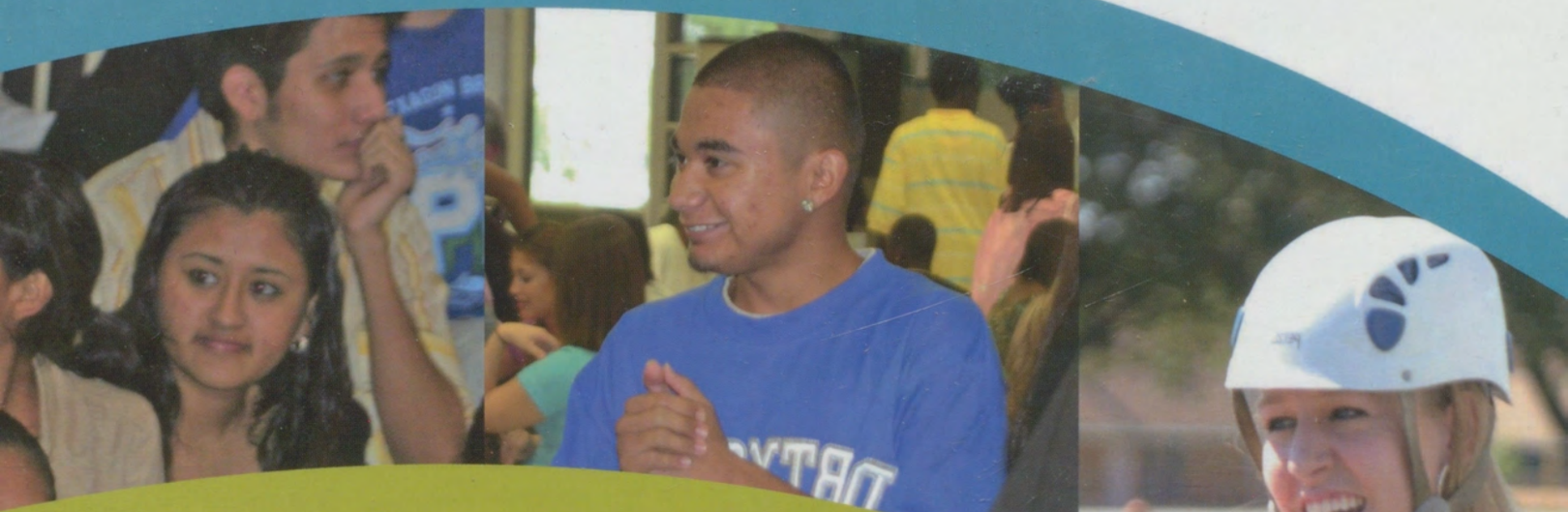
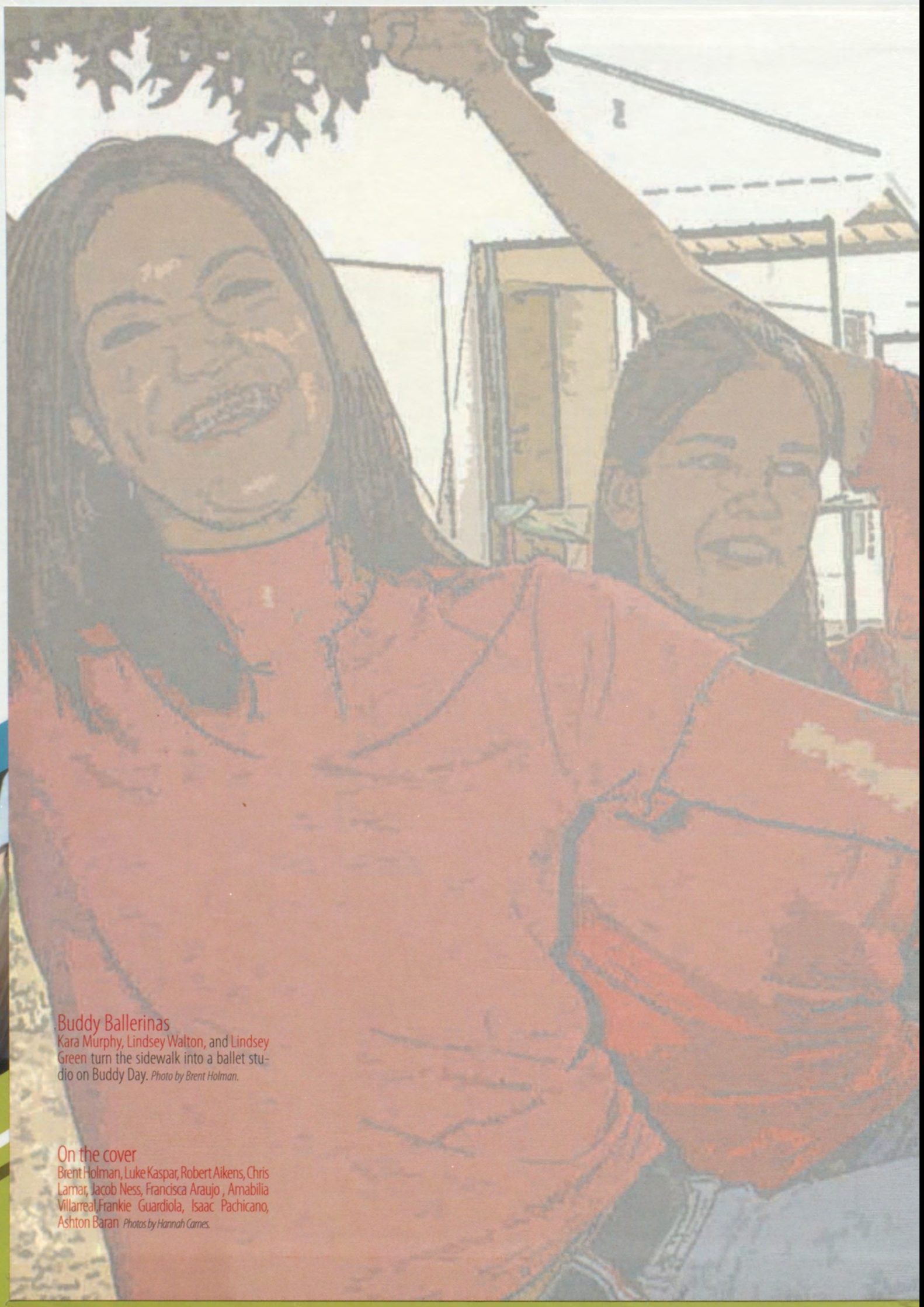
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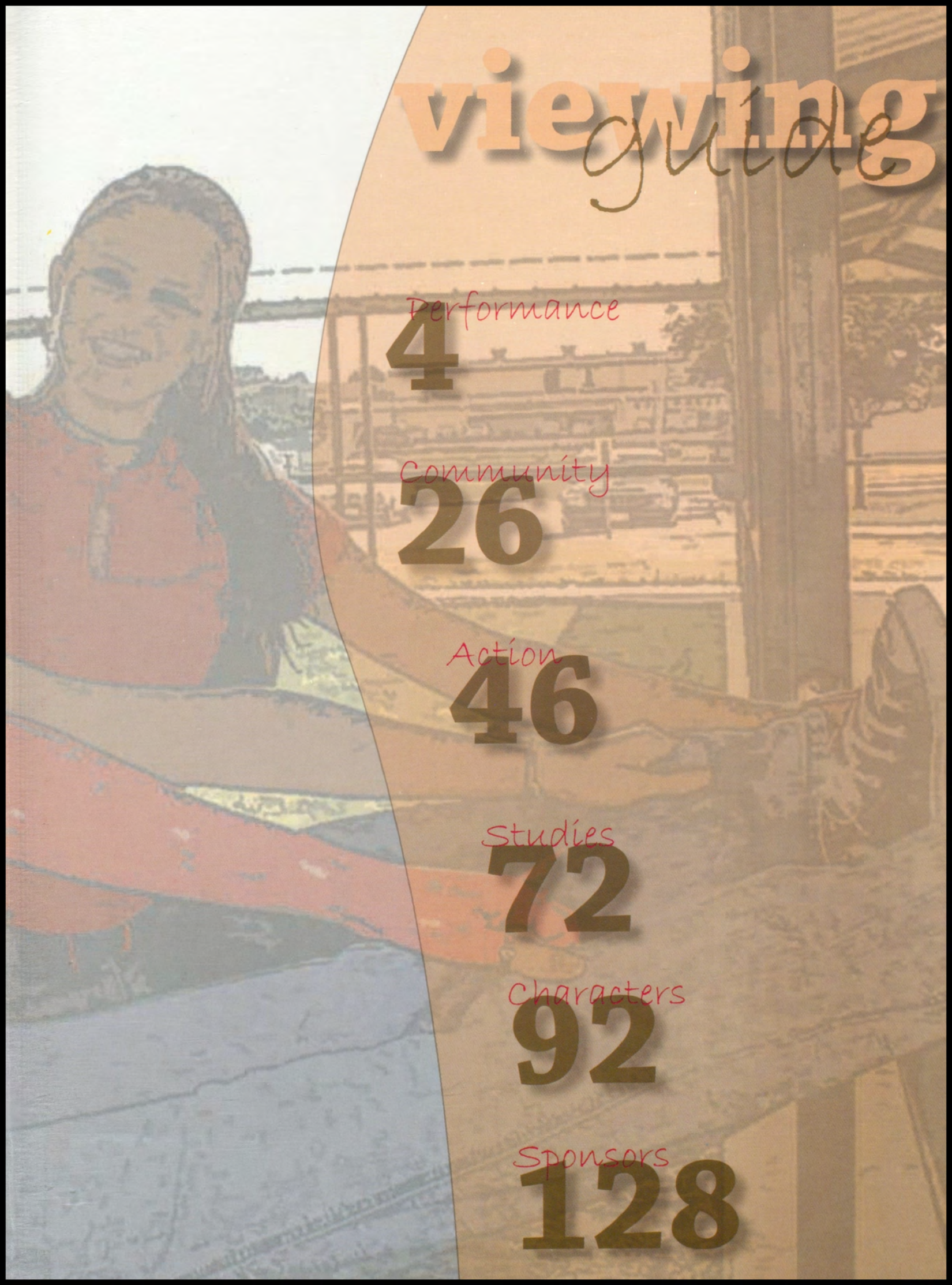


Mallard 2006



Buddy Ballerinas
Kara Murphy, Lindsey Walton, and Lindsey Green turn the sidewalk into a ballet studio on Buddy Day. *Photo by Brent Holman.*

On the cover
Brent Holman, Luke Kaspar, Robert Aikens, Chris Lamar, Jacob Ness, Francisca Araujo , Amabilia Villarreal,Frankie Guardiola, Isaac Pachicano, Ashton Baran *Photos by Hannah Carnes.*



viewing guide

Performance 4

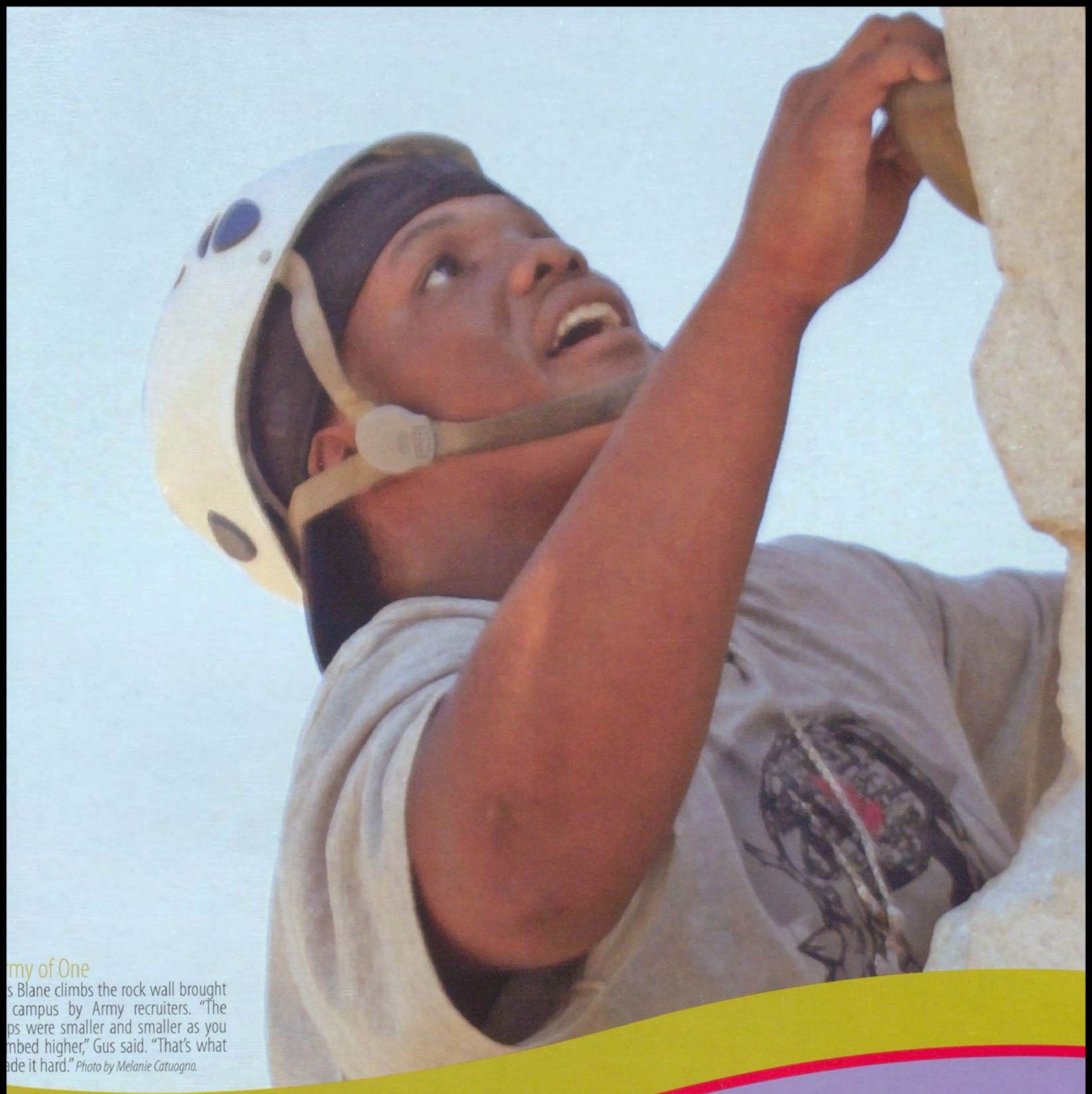
Community 26

Action 46

Studies 72

Characters 92

Sponsors 128



my of One
s Blane climbs the rock wall brought
campus by Army recruiters. "The
ps were smaller and smaller as you
mbed higher," Gus said. "That's what
ade it hard." *Photo by Melanie Catuogno.*

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Mallard

2006

Vol. 60



United for the Last Time

Seniors make sure they are the winners of the spirit stick during the pep rally. Because it was their final football pep rally, the seniors made a point to out-cheer everyone else in the stands. "We're all realizing that it is our last year here so we're enjoying it more," Janice Baker said.

Photo by Emily Quinn.







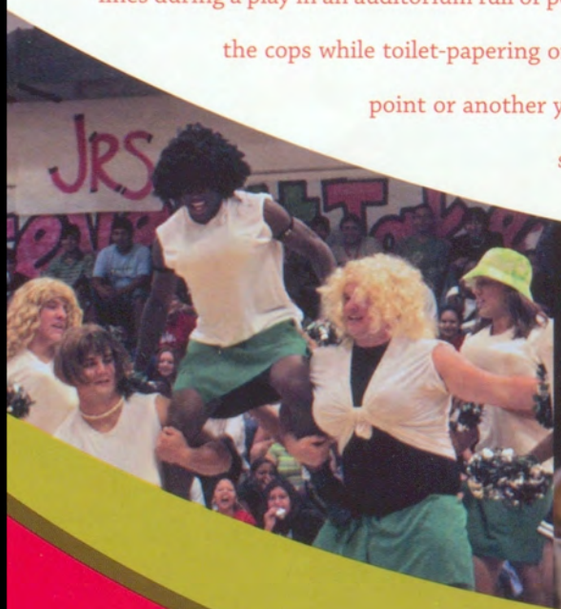


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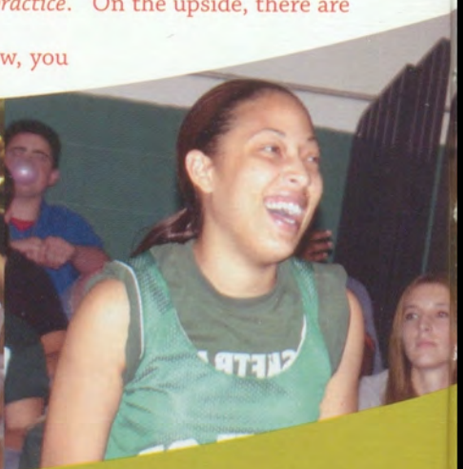
It can't be escaped. The drama which fills the halls of THS seems to be unavoidable in our daily activities. At one point or another, every student has dealt with over-dramatic relationships. *Are we talking or just friends?* For many it is the competition for grades which creates drama, or beating out your best friend for a starting position on the varsity basketball team. The future is unpredictable, from the big issues to the smallest pettiness. None of us has a script to follow. We just show up, play along, and see what happens. *Reality TV has nothing on us, except that (thank goodness) no one is tuning in to watch our every move, mistake, makeover, or makeout.* And that's the fun of life, isn't it? The not knowing. The adventure of each day. We're not just an audience--we have a stake in the outcome. Each of us contributes our individual personality and choices to the daily mix. The interaction of all of us and our variables creates the unscripted reality that is our lives.

Left: Nathan Kirshvink, Jennifer Murphy, Sisto Gonzales & Todd Bryan *photos by Aaron Reeves*, Tim Haskins *photo by Emily Quinn*.

Making mistakes is an important part of shaping your character and coping with trials that come your way. Whether it be messing up during the high-kick routine of the homecoming football game, forgetting your lines during a play in an auditorium full of people, or getting caught by the cops while toilet-papering on Halloween night, at one point or another you are going to find yourself in an embarrassing situation. These events cannot be planned or avoided. There is not anyo to warn you, and the impact of your most humiliating experiences cou never be written on paper or described in words. If your personality w to be depicted in a movie, the actor would probably never come close showing the emotion or drama of a day in high school. Think about It seems you are most likely to mess things up when you are actua performing to a crowd. Your nerves get to you and everyone sees y let your friends down. *All you really want people to know about is the 1 times you did it perfectly at practice.* On the upside, there are the times when after a show, you







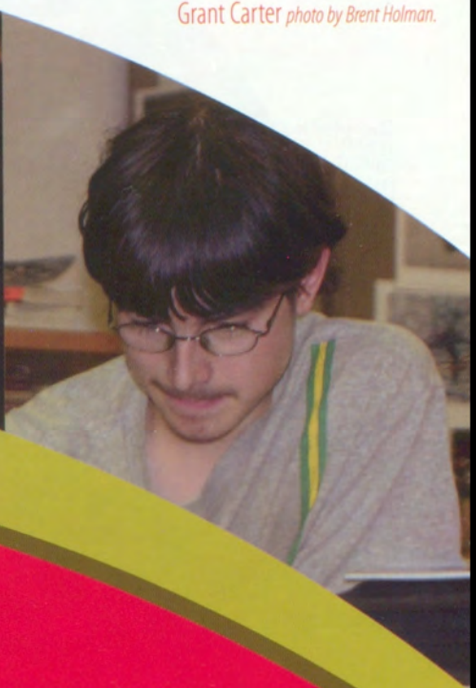
Perfor

are recognized as the best and you walk away bubbling with an emotion to which words could never do justice. Unexpected attention is always welcome and way more exciting than if you were to walk onto the stage at the beginning of the play, knowing that you would receive a standing ovation in just a few hours. There would be no excitement or anticipation in going to the Miss Lucky Duck pageant knowing exactly what everyone will do or say, or even who will be declared the winner. Unlike the characters in your favorite T.V. shows and movies, *you have no idea what to expect* or what comes next in life. Why would you want to know? Getting butterflies in your stomach when you walk on stage because you have no clue what the outcome will be is simply a part of life: the part that keeps it interesting.

Below: Benjamin Jirasek, Brandon Davis & Daniel Filla *photo by Emily Quinn.* Rebecca Almazon & Tyler Volek *photo by Jamie Pausewang.* Amaris Jones *photo by Emily Quinn.* Kyle Young *photo by Emily Quinn.* Vanessa Avalos *photo by Emily Quinn.* Grant Carter *photo by Brent Holman.*







mance

A Really Warped Summer

Rocker girls go wild

by brent holman



Rockin' It Out
Falling into motion Kacey Penny, Jessica Dale, and Jaqueline Wolf rocked out at the Vans Warped Tour in San Antonio. *Photo by Brent Holman.*

Every summer the Vans Warped Tour comes to Texas, bringing with it a barrage of non-stop music, thousands of screaming fans, and $4.00 bottles of water.

Over 5,000 die hard rock fans come to see a full day of their favorite bands playing up to an hour's worth of their best hits.

Three Taylor girls joined the madness in San Antonio, moshing, crowd surfing, and screaming their lungs out.

"It was my first concert ever and I expected it to be crazier," Jacqueline Wolf said. "It was all good but there were some bands that I thought would play that weren't there."

Warped Tour is a day long event starting around 11 in the morning and lasting until late evening. Planning out what bands to watch is very important in getting the most out of the experience.

"Everyone looks to find which bands they want to see and starts scribbling the times down on a piece of paper," Jessica Dale said. "It's almost impossible to see all of your favorite bands play without missing a part of each show."

Making it through the long day is another daunting task that fans have to endure at The Warped Tour. Jacqueline Wolf has first hand experience in that area.

"I just fainted," Jacqueline said. "I was waiting for Matchbox Romance to play and just fell. It was the happiest fainting I have ever had."

As with any rock concert, when the music starts playing, the crowd goes wild and things get a little crazy.

"It's something that most guys do because it's a bunch of pushing and shoving and not many girls would enjoy it," Jessica said of the moshing.

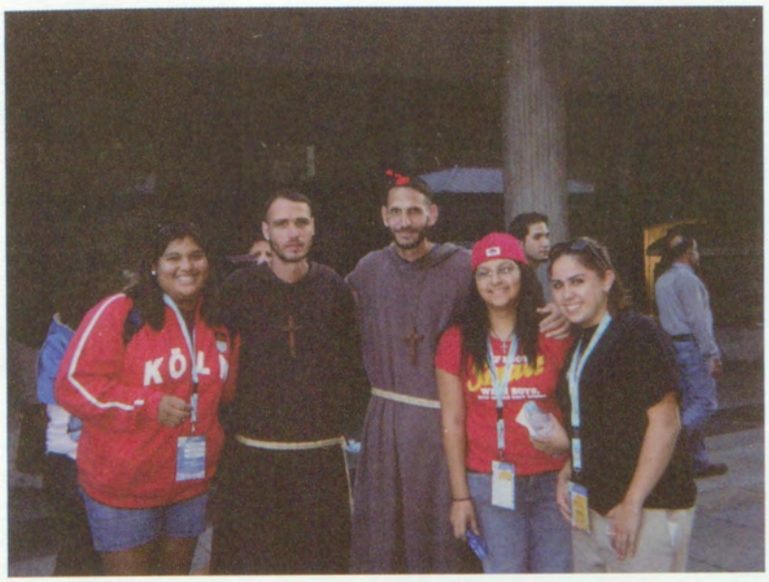
However, Kacey Penny enjoyed the scene so much she decided to crowd surf.

"I body surfed half way to the stage and then I got dropped," Kacey said. "Then I got picked back up again and surfed all the way to the stage where the body guards helped me back to the crowd."



Fans enjoy the show despite the heat. "I'll be going back to Warped Tour until I'm physically unable to do it," Jessica Dale said. *Courtesy photo.*

Dream Vacations



Taylor Savage: I would go to the moon because it's not like any place on Earth.

Jeffrey Castro: For my dream vacation I would go to Paris, France. I hear the girls there are out of this world.

Tiffany Samuelson: I want to go to St. Petersburg, Russia, and visit The Old Palace. It was used before the revolution and then abandoned.



Members of the St. Mary's Church Youth Organization attend the World Youth Day in Germany. Kylie Stanford, Jill Boney, and Charlotte Carillo visited with two monks at a cathedral. "This was the best trip of my life…so far," Charlotte said. *Courtesy photo.*

Rebecca Bauerkemper visits the penguin section in the Omaha Zoo in Nebraska. "Spending time with my cousin Shane and my family was pleasurable, but seeing the penguins was definitely the high point of my trip," said Rebecca. *Courtesy photo.*





Stephen Taylor spends his summer vacation on the beach in Florida meeting random girls. "I thought they were beautiful so I had to get a picture with them," Stephen said. *Courtesy photo.*

Standing in front of the White House, Rebecca Gray and her family visit numerous historical areas in Washington, D.C. "Seeing all of the national monuments was worthwhile. They represent some of America's best architecture and historical values," Rebecca said. *Courtesy photo.*

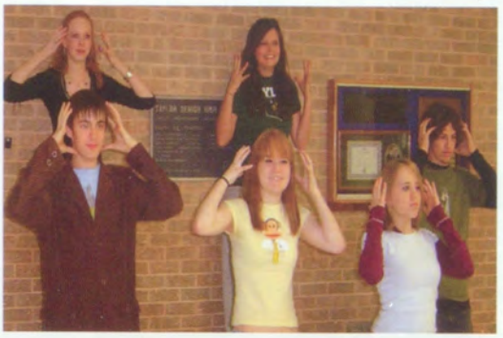
Out With the Old, In With the New

Fresh ideas bring drama to life

by jillian gaswint

When this year's Theatre students signed on to become part of the drama crowd early in the year, they had no idea what was in store for them.

Senior Kathrine Engelke had not participated in theatre since her sophomore year, and a lot was different for her. The department had gone through several teachers since then, so Katie did not know what to expect. "I haven't done it in a few years. But Mrs. Jane Shepherd told me to try out, so I did and I made it."



The students play astronauts in their production, and without their props, they have to practice as if they are actually putting on their helmets.

The new teacher this year, Jonathon Alonzo, brought with him a plethora of new ideas and changes to challenge his students on the stage. Junior Amanda Moss enjoyed the fresh perspectives introduced to the group. "It's kind of hard," she said, "but it's fun. He's young and brings an interesting twist to everything. We are going to be doing *Alice in Wonderland*, and he's changing it up to make it different, crazier."

This year has definitely been different for the students that have been involved in Theatre for a few years. But with a few new students and a whole new attitude towards drama, this will certainly be a year of performances not soon forgotten.



Elisabeth Garry and Mr. Jonathon Alonzo enjoy the company of the rest of the cast while sitting on the stage during rehearsal. They shared a few laughs before getting back to work on their play.



Practicing for their performance of *Kolidascope* by Ray Bradbury, the cast takes a break to look over their scripts. "It's about astronauts, so we have the lights off and use flashlights to look like we are floating in space," Amanda Moss said.

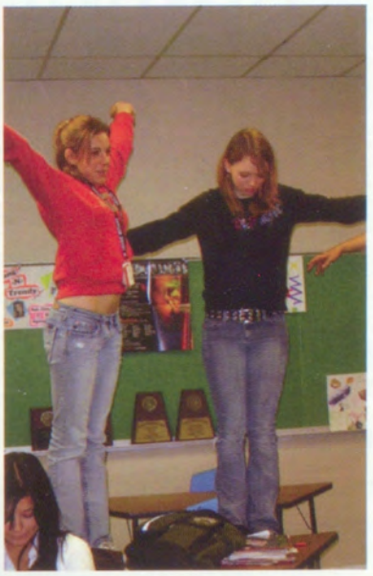
As they take a break from rehearsing their play, the team of performers pile onto one another. "This is when you get to see how crazy these kids are," Mr. Jonathon Alonzo said.

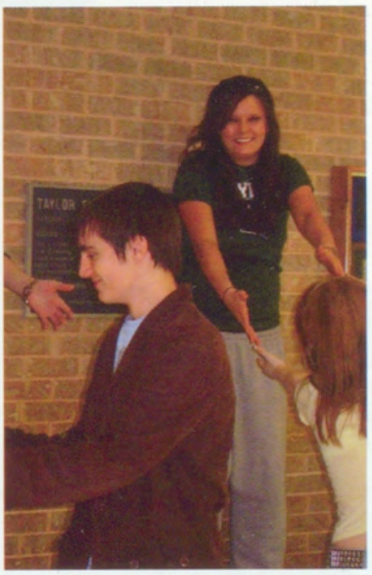


On Top of the World

James Greer gives the thumbs up as he takes part in a class activity in Theatre I. In the lower levels of Theatre, the students learn the basics of drama, acting, and stage presence. *Photos by Jillian Gaswint*

In Mr. Jonathon Alonzo's Theatre I class, Maia Richter and Brooke Gabel stand on their desks to act out a skit. "I'm glad I picked Theatre as an elective. We're always doing something new and fun all the time," Maia said.





The Theatre cast has to practice without their set and pretend they are using their props. "The band was in the auditorium so we couldn't use the stage and our set at our normal practice time," Kathrine Engelke said.



Jonathon Alonzo, Elisabeth Garry, Kari Jahn, Kathrine Engelke, Cory Keith

Trend Setters

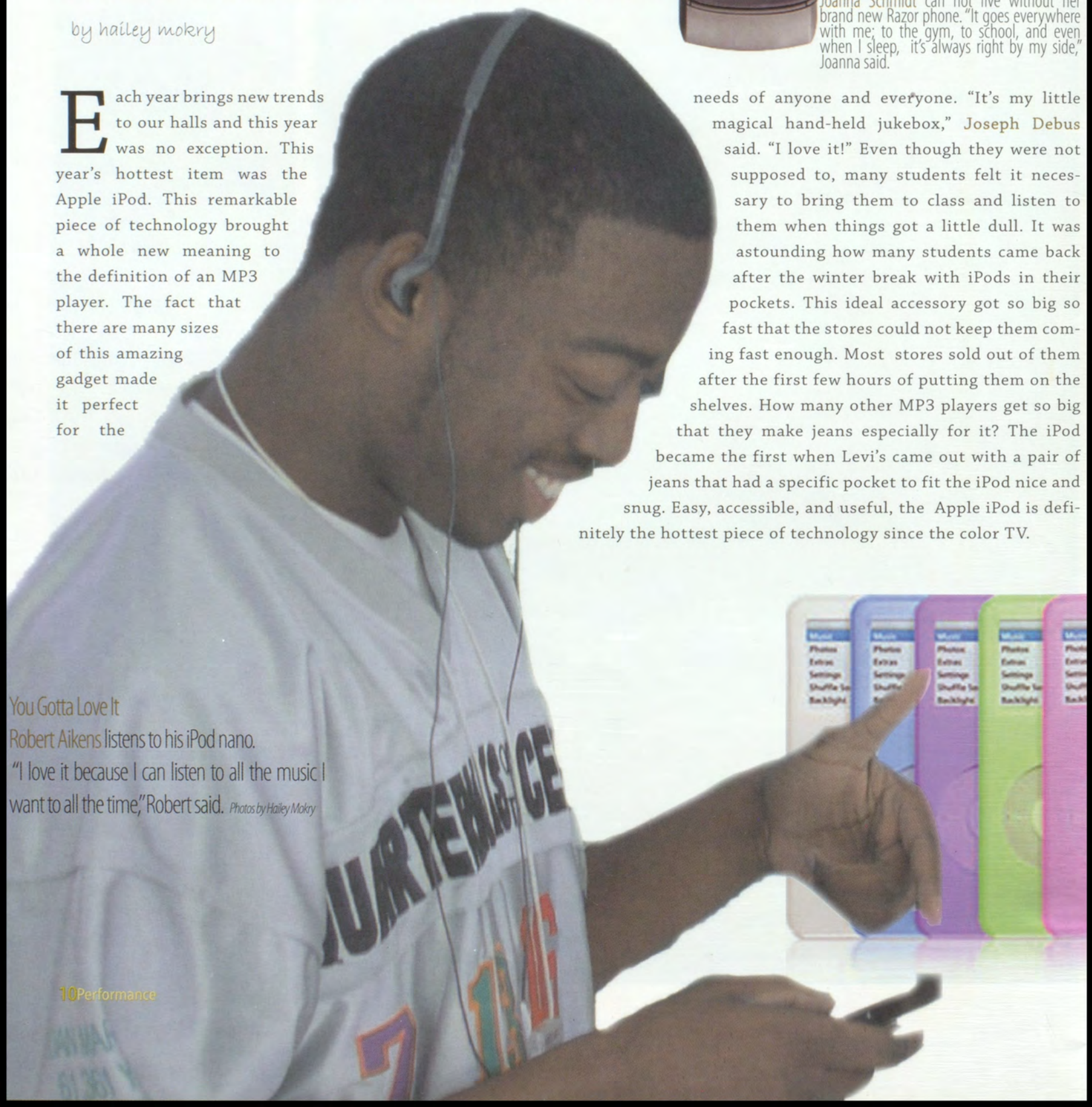
Students stay on top of what's hot in 2005 -2006

by hailey mokry



Joanna Schmidt can not live without her brand new Razor phone. "It goes everywhere with me; to the gym, to school, and even when I sleep, it's always right by my side," Joanna said.

Each year brings new trends to our halls and this year was no exception. This year's hottest item was the Apple iPod. This remarkable piece of technology brought a whole new meaning to the definition of an MP3 player. The fact that there are many sizes of this amazing gadget made it perfect for the needs of anyone and everyone. "It's my little magical hand-held jukebox," Joseph Debus said. "I love it!" Even though they were not supposed to, many students felt it necessary to bring them to class and listen to them when things got a little dull. It was astounding how many students came back after the winter break with iPods in their pockets. This ideal accessory got so big so fast that the stores could not keep them coming fast enough. Most stores sold out of them after the first few hours of putting them on the shelves. How many other MP3 players get so big that they make jeans especially for it? The iPod became the first when Levi's came out with a pair of jeans that had a specific pocket to fit the iPod nice and snug. Easy, accessible, and useful, the Apple iPod is definitely the hottest piece of technology since the color TV.



You Gotta Love It
Robert Aikens listens to his iPod nano. "I love it because I can listen to all the music I want to all the time," Robert said. *Photos by Hailey Mokry*

Rewind

It was a year of many remakes as filmmakers decided to take the movies we all know and love and throw them into the 21st century. One of the most anticipated was a remake of the 1933 hit *King Kong*. "The new movie had more realistic animals and better graphics, while the older King Kong had better acting," Kyle Baran said. Another twist was put on a famous television show from the 1970's known as *The Dukes of Hazzard*. With help from Jessica Simpson, Johnny Knoxville, and Willie Nelson, the movie proved that not all change is bad.









Modern Vintage

This year brought a whole new look to what was hot in the fashion industry. The perfect look was a must for all trend-setters who loved showing off their glamorous taste. The trendy look was best portrayed with the right pair of gauchos and the perfect set of stilettos. If stilettos weren't your style, a cute pair of beaded flats were extremely trendy. The most popular accessories that finished off that perfect look were shimmery purses and long beaded necklaces. It was a year of taking the old and making it hot and new. The trendy sport look this year was kicked off with the right pair of sneakers in the hottest colors. A few popular brands were DC's and Nike Shox. A cute yet comfortable look was definitely a fashionable and universal look this year.









the music of the Heart

Taking steps to achieve a higher measure

by jamie pausewang

While most of Taylor High School's student body is still sleeping in the early morning hours, the devoted members of band have already been up for two to three hours and endured a grueling marching practice. Yet, they still have an additional 50 minutes of rehearsal during first period.

All this time, as well as the new disciplinary actions, have been credited to reshaping the band. The "love laps" that Mr. Brown has incorporated this year are used to discipline the band. They are called love laps because "Mr. Brown says he loves us and wants us to be better," junior frontline member Jaboa Matoska said. This discipline has aided to change the overall band mentality, which has become one of confidence. "We feel the potential," added Jaboa. "We've developed an attitude," senior flutist Amy Whittaker said, "which in years past has been negative." Everyone seems to get along better, making the band perform well together and sound like one band, rather than separate sections. The band is committed to each other, and many feel honored being part of such an organization. "I love band. I love music. Music's like my life," said Albert Gutierrez, a junior tuba player. "I don't want to let someone down."

Another eye-catcher of the marching show, besides the new drum major uniforms, are the added visuals. In previous years, the band has not used visuals, but now, the members are able to add their own unique touch to the show "An Imagined World." "A wet right knee shows who is in band," junior horn player Bryce Block said.

After marching season, the band still has much to do, such as concerts, region band, and finally, concert and sight-reading. This last contest will test the band once again, even after they have already proven themselves during marching season by taking second place in overall performance in the class A division, first in percussion and second in Color Guard at the 13th Annual Capital City Marching Band Contest. However, for the first time on the AAAA level, the band earned straight one, superior ratings in the Region 18 UIL Marching Contest, advancing them to Area. The band did not advance to state, but everyone was happy to make it that far.

Even though sophomore tuba player Alan Gonzales said he is "really exhausted" after performing, he would agree with Jaboa when she said, "It is worth your time." Senior drum major and saxophone player Rebecca Gray added, "You have friends around you. You have music. It's a feeling you don't get with many other things out there."

Jazz all that

Band does not always mean marching and playing what some call "classical" music. To hear music ranging from Latin Bossas to blues, one just needs to listen to Taylor's own jazz band. Director Jacques Brown incorporated this music program three years ago, and it has become a hit with the crowd. They have their own performances at the Holiday and spring concerts and have shown off their talents at the "WOW" showcase.

Jazz band includes some of the traditional instruments, such as trombones, trumpets, saxophones, french horns and drums. However, one will not find a flute, but instead, there will be a bass and electric guitar to add to the music making. Just as any band connects, "the instruments [in jazz band] really flow together to get that jazzy vibe," senior guitarist Joshua Gonzalez said. Josh has been playing the guitar for eight years and decided to join the class because he "was always interested... [and] thought [he] would be a good asset." Junior tuba player Anthony Gonzalez said that jazz band "is a lot of fun, and we get to do a lot more... than regular band."

Jazz band allows its members to open up to their "jazzy" side, allowing for more creativity and improvisation.



Anthony Gonzalez warms up for practice by playing scales. "I have been in jazz band since sophomore year," Anthony said. "It's a lot of fun, and we get to play all different scales and sight read."



James Hudlin is one of two drummers in the jazz band. "He has really improved as a drummer; he keeps time well and understands what we're trying to do," Mr. Brown said.



Freshman Theodor Vargas plays the baritone. "I thought it would be interesting to learn something other than regular music - to learn music with different styles," Theodor said.

Playing a Different Beat

Jaboa Matoska concentrates on the music as she gets ready to play the marimba. "There's no *I think* or *I can't*. There's *I can* and *I will*," Jaboa said.

Band Council Front row: drum majors Kelley Portillo and Rebecca Gray. Second row: historian Rebecca Almazan, librarian Cindy Arias, secretary Jessica Stegall. Third row: historian Brianca Alderete, uniform manager Christi Hilscher, president Amy Whittaker. Back row: uniform manager Jonathan Cortinas, librarian Bryce Block, treasurer Nick Abbott. Not pictured: Ashley McFarlin





These four marching horns mentally prepare themselves for the show they are about to perform. This tight-knit group demonstrates the unity that has spread throughout the band.



Vibraphone, baritones, Bryce Block, Amy Whittaker, Rebecca Gray and Kelley Portillo, Larenda Willis.



High Up In The Air
Performing at homecoming, Lauren Connors gets lifted up into a split stunt that goes with the Steppers' kick routine. "All I could think about was, 'I hope they don't drop me!'" Lauren said. *Courtesy photo*

Living your dream *is Harder Than it Seems*

Steppers prepare for upcoming season

by jennifer mcquary

Towards the end of July the Steppers attended H.T.E. Team Training camp. At the camp they learned four field routines, four pep-rally routines, and their competition modern dance.

"Camp was really stressful. Having to learn all those routines in a short amount of time is just crazy," Amanda Eckhardt said.

Line camp was an all day event, beginning from 8:00a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Steppers had many tasks to achieve each day at camp which insisted of learning a pep-rally dance, two field routines, and team training.

"I enjoyed the pep-rally dances, because after being stressed out trying to learn your team routines you need a fun dance to pump you up again," Melissa Mokry said.

But line camp was not all about learning the dances; it was also an important time for team bonding. Bonding is a major part of the team. The Steppers did many bonding activities from games to deep devotional talks.

"I loved the team bonding activity we did with the candles. We had to go around in a circle and say why we tried out for Hi-Steppers, and then the other members told what they admired about you. It really helped me feel more confident in myself, and closer to the girls," Sydney Skaggs said.

At the last day of camp the Steppers had showoffs, which they performed their modern routine they learned that week.

"The modern was very very different than what I was use to, but I had a great time learning it and performing it," Mariah Dempsey said.

Even though H.T.E. was over, the Steppers did not have a break, but instead that following week they had to attend a 2-week day camp, which was led by the officers. This camp consisted strictly of cleaning all the dances, learning stand routines for football games, learning and perfecting the kick to the fight song, mastering technique, and again team bonding.

"This camp was very stressful for all of us. Learning new technique that none of us thought we could do was fun though," Nakevia Miller said.

These camps that the Steppers attend are important for preparing for the upcoming season.

"Some people might think that dance camp is just fun and easy. It is fun, but it is not easy. I would like to think of the three weeks as the worst weeks of my life. Some might describe it as 'hell week,'" Amanda said.



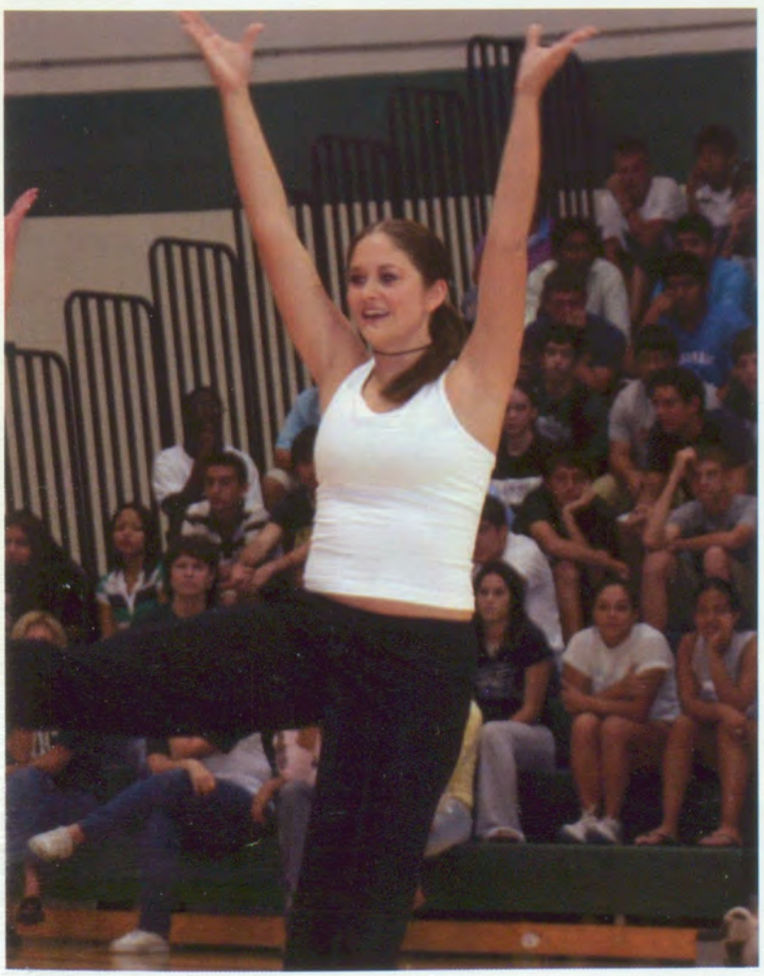
Kara Murphy, Jennifer McQuary & Elizabeth Polasek, Alexandra Bracomontez, Whitney Kahanek, Melissa Mokry



The officers finish off their kick sequence in a side-kick ripple. "We practiced the bend so many times, it' practically impossible for us to mess it up." Melissa Mokry said. *Photo by Jamie Pausewang*



The Steppers join in with the football players for the school song after the game. "Win or lose, we are always proud of the boys for their effort," Jennifer McQuary said. *Photo by Brent Holman*





Front: Sr. Lieutenant Melissa Mokry, Jr. Lieutenant Kara Murphy, Captain Jennifer McQuary, Co-Captain Krystle Luconic, Jr. Lieutenant Lindsey Green Second Row: Secretary Ashley Robbins, Historian Whitney Kahanek, President Lindsey Walton, Nakevia Miller, Vice President Amanda Eckhardt Third Row: Krystle Yanis, Lauren Connors, Kelsey Christensen, Meagan Gibson, Alexandra Bracomontez, Elizabeth Polasek, Director Jennifer Cooper Back Row: Justine Lorentzen, Mariah Dempsey, Jessica Bosley, Paige Kreidel, Haley Hughes, Sydney Savage

Dancing at the pep-rally, Krystle Luconic and the other line officers dance their "Oh" dance for the crowd. "I liked the dance because it was a mixture of hip-hop and jazz," Melissa Mokry said. *Photo by Emily Quinn*

Still Going Strong

Choir raises bar once again

by briana lopez & brittany chavana

The choir this year had one goal in mind: to set traditions to last throughout years to come. Choir is not a class that most students take seriously or see as being hard work. But this year's choir took it upon themselves to show what choir is really about.

This task that is easy for most choirs came as a struggle. For the choir not having as many people as most, they showed that quantity does not matter as much as quality.

"Our choir is exceptionally great in leadership and has a lot of talent," choir instructor Ms. Randi Bolding said.

The choir contained 13 seniors who each contributed a piece of their own personality and creativity to form one strong voice. The seniors were given an opportunity of a lifetime, and that was to start a tradition of success and build the choir program to a respectable status.

"I believe in my heart that this senior class is a special one because they accomplished the greatest feat," Ms. Bolding said.

The choir got to showcase their talent through their Christmas concert. The concert is a program that lets the students go out of the first half of the year with a bang. They demonstrated their hard work and dedication to the production of the program. From singing "The Twelve Days of Christmas" to the big finale "Joy to the World," the concert allowed the student body see what the choir had been working on.

"The concert was a great success. It was fun to plan and exciting to perform in front of the whole school," Freshman Gregory Carter said.

Greg and Chelsea Wright were the two freshmen among the upperclassmen on Varsity. These two, along with the upcoming juniors and seniors, share the responsibility of carrying on the traditions of this year's senior class.

"I enjoyed working with the seniors; they were very helpful in teaching us the importance of leadership," Chelsea said.

"I feel the seniors left the choir with a good name. It's about time that people know how hard it really is and how hard we work," senior Haley Hughes said.



Chelsea Wright, Emilio Gonzales, Haley Hughes, Kyle Nevins, Whitney Kahanek, Arthur Baisley, Krystal Yanis, Christopher Lamar, Ms. Randi Bolding, Cody Eastman, Kristen Mireles, Steffon Cook, Sarah Werchan, Gregory Carter, Jessica Martinez, Jacob Rangel, and Jessica Bosley *Photo by Aaron Revees*



Jessica Bosley, Haley Hughes, Krystal Yanis and Ashunta Robinson say "Yoo-hoo" as they portray four calling birds in the Christmas concert. "The wailing was kind of scary," Jacquelyn Luna said, "but the choir has come a long way since my freshman year."



Taking the spotlight

Michael Wooldridge steals the spotlight at the very first concert of the year. "I was scared; I thought I was going to faint on the stage," Michael said, "but what is funny is I don't have stage fright." *Photo by Brittany Chavana*

Francisca Araujo and Emilio Gonzales gaze out into the audience as they perform a crowd-pleasing performance. "We try to make each concert better than the last," Emilio said. *Photos by Melanie Catuogno*

Jacob Rangel and Chelsea Wright are among the few underclassmen Varsity Choir students. "It's a privilege to work with the upperclassmen. They don't treat us any differently than the older members," Chelsea said.









Amber Rodriguez and Juan Alfaro share the spotlight during the Christmas concert as they act as two turtle doves. "I had to keep from smiling; I had to be serious but it was hard when the audience awed," Amber said.

Steffon Cook and Christopher Lamar hula-hoop to the singing of the Varsity Choir at the Christmas program. "It was hard to pace ourselves to the singing. We had to keep up pretty quickly," Chris said.



Juan Alfaro & Ryan Hill, Kristen Mireles & Kevin Blane, Lamar Rollie & Ashunta Robinson, Ms. Randi Bolding, Krystal Yanis, Amabilia Villarreal & Adrienne Sherman & Melanie McFarlin

Nothing to Argue About

Familiar face takes on new challenge

by jillian gaswint

For most, debating is a skill to master over time. It is not something to jump into, but for first time Debate teacher Mrs. Amy Stewart, there is no choice.

"I'm more of a beginner than my beginner students," Mrs. Stewart said. Although she already has been teaching English for a few years now, it is Mrs. Stewart's first year to teach both debate and speech. She is learning, however, and the students are benefiting from her successful efforts.

"The kids really love it," she said. "They have a lot of fun when we travel. We meet at 5:30 in the morning for competitions, which makes for a long day. But we have fun."

Senior Sarah Pence, who has been in Debate for all four years of her high school career, does not mind waking up early. She believes it pays off in the end. "I love debate; we wake up really early to make other people look like they don't know what they are talking about. They don't realize you've put them in a hole they didn't know was there."

With experienced debaters like Sarah on the team, Mrs. Stewart did not have any problems becoming an expert on the subject herself.

Sophomore Jessica Stegall is a first time debater this year. "I want to be a lawyer," Jessica said. "I figured it would help me once I get to college."





Mrs. Amy Stewart edits one of her debate student's speeches. "I don't have any experience teaching this class," she said, "but I like it because it sharpens thinking skills and makes you more articulate."



Practice Makes Perfect

Preparing for the upcoming tournament, senior Byron Lantzsch presents his case to the class. "Debate is the most mentally exhausting thing I've ever done," he said. "There's so much going on." *Photos by Jillian Gaswint*



John Estrada, Ashle Cochran & Trinia Thompson, Jacquelyn Orozco & Eric Camacho, Sarah Pence & Bryce Block, Priscilla Martinez, Jasmin Estrada & Sergio Iovar

President Leads Students in More Ways Than One

Jacquelyn Luna is the 2005-2006 National Hispanic Institute President and has participated in the program throughout all four years of her high school career.

"I have been with NHI since my freshman year where I participated at the Young Leaders Conference. We debated on Latino health, educational, and cultural issues," she said. "I fell in love with the program."

As a sophomore, Jacquelyn was Head Recruiter for NHI, and participated in the Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative session. The next year she held the position of Vice-President and Head Coach for the Young Leaders Conference.

"When I was Head Coach for the YLC, we practiced for 30 hours a week during the summer. That's almost a full-time job," she said.

Jacquelyn has not only received several awards throughout her involvement with NHI, she has connected with the other students in the program as well.

"The kids asked me for advice not only in their competition but about classes they were planning to take, colleges that they had in mind; we talked like friends. I then realized that I had not only succeeded as a coach but as a leader to my friends."



Jacquelyn Luna, president and fourth year member of NHI, picks out a doll while shopping for Green Santa. "NHI is a program both that challenges high ability youth to alter old strident views that frame Latinos in the past, present, and future," she said. *Photo by Brittany Chavana*

No Experience Necessary

New sponsor has high hopes for success

by jillian gaswint

Among several of the new faces in the hallways is the new Theatre teacher, Mr. Jonathon Alonzo, who also happens to be the new sponsor for the National Hispanic Institute.

"Other than theatre, I've never sponsored an organization before," he said. "But I'm hoping to get the students prepared and work with the president to do well at competition."



Mr. Jonathon Alonzo took on the job of National Hispanic Institute sponsor halfway through the school year. "Other than theatre, I've never sponsored an organization before," he said.

Competition takes place in July for the students involved in NHI, and Mr. Alonzo has high hopes for them to succeed.

"I am here for them so they can have resources, to keep them on task, teach them communication strategies, motivate them, and have good expectations of them," he said. "I mainly want them to have a good time and learn something."



Andrew Delgadillo, Jonathan Ortiz, and Trenton Rojas wait to get their skates. NHI took a trip to the ice skating rink in North Cross Mall for their Christmas party. *Photo by Brittany Chavana*

Hairspray

It takes a lot of to look this good

Fashion fans go to great lengths to express themselves

by jennifer mcquary & john kaspar

"Life would be boring if everyone wore the same thing. It's fun to dress different than everyone. I like being able to pull out old clothes from home and being able to cut them to make a unique outfit," junior Elisabeth Garry said.

Some people like to shop at select stores such as Abercrombie & Fitch, Urban Outfitters, Wet Seal, and Wal-Mart. There are people who like to look good all the time while other people couldn't care less about how they look.

"I dress the way I feel for that day. If I'm in a good mood I'll dress cute, but if I'm in a bad mood I'll dress scrubby," sophomore Kyra Headrick said.

Kyra doesn't care what others think about how she looks. "If my friends think an outfit is ugly, and I think it's cute, I'll still buy it."

Others like Travian James believe that fashion is to wear only one style. To Travian that style is tall tees and tall tees only, everyday.

"It's against my *religion* not to wear a tall tee everyday," Travian said.

But for Blakesley King *different* can describe her style.

"I got tired of trying to follow all the up to date trends, so now I do my own thing. My hair is a big part of my wardrobe. I'm always getting bored with my style so I am constantly looking for a new way to update my appearance," Junior Blakesley said.

As for Holden Schroeder, his ostrich boots alone cost $550.

"I'm not just a country boy, I'm a *high class* country boy," Holden said.

Holden's high dollar outfit also consists of a unique belt buckle. "My belt buckle itself cost $400, but it is actually worth more because I won it."

Does the way one dresses express who they are and who they are friends with?

"I do my own thing, it depends what music I listen to in the morning, and that sets my wardrobe for the day. You can tell who hangs out with who, and the different cliques there are due to fashion," Blakesley said. "I see a lot of people wearing the same thing. Four girls were standing in a group and they all were wearing the same skirt. I'm not saying its a bad thing but it all looks the same to me."

High priced or cheap, all kinds of different styles can be seen all around the school by everyone. Whether one's style is unique or inspired by a celebrity's, everyone dresses differently. Some like to stick out with their fashion while others choose to blend in with the crowd.

Some final fashion advice from Blakesley: "Don't be so self conscious; you're only a teenager once and when you're an adult you can't wear what you do now. It doesn't matter if you're a prep, punk, goth, when deciding your fashion--just make sure you have a good time and express yourself the way you want to."



Senior Josh Gonzalez, displaying his cool rock-and-roll style, is no fashion victim. However, "Diesel jeans are the only jeans I wear, and they cost $200.00 each," Josh said. *Photo by Jennifer McQuary.*



One of a kind
Blakesley King stands out from the crowd in her eye-catching ensemble. "It doesn't matter if you're a prep, punk, goth," Blakesley said. "Express yourself." *Photo by Jennifer McQuary.*

Wearing one of his many tall tees, Travian James stands next to City National Bank flaunting his money. "My outfit isn't cheap," Travian said, "it costs 15g's." *Photo by John Kaspar.*

Sydney Savage, red covergirl lipstick, a shirt from PacSun, cash cash cash, Frankie Bevka.





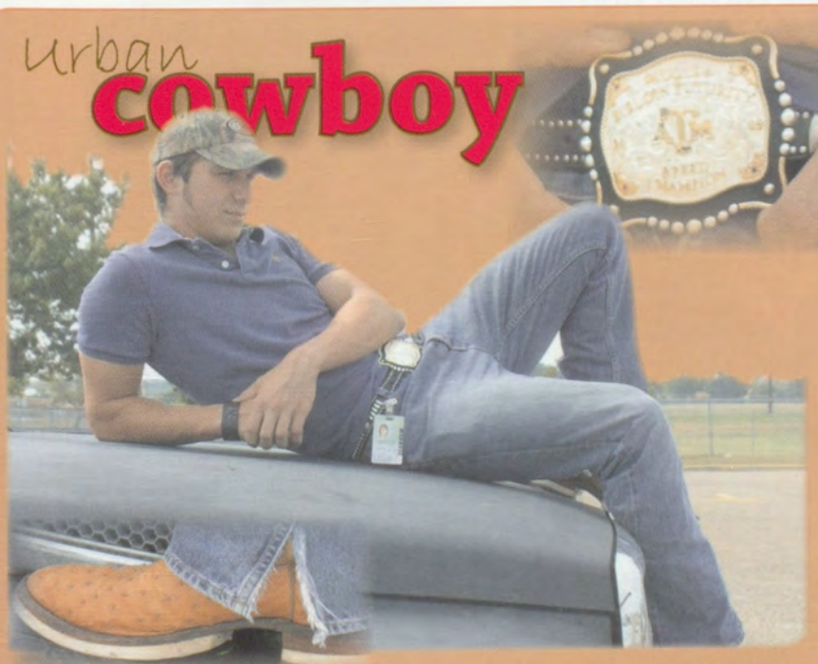




Her own fashion designer, Elisabeth Garry likes to be an individual and stick out in the crowd. "I don't like to follow trends, but to wear what I like." *Photo by Jennifer McQuary.*

Being relaxed is something Kyra Headrick enjoys doing. "It doesn't matter what people say. I wear the clothes I do because I like them." *Photo by John Kaspar.*

urban cowboy



Holden Schroeder relaxes atop his pickup. "The boots are what makes the outfit," Holden said. A close second is his A&M belt buckle, which is "not just a belt buckle, but an award and a remembrance of the show" at which he won it. *Photo by Jennifer McQuary.*

Clueless
the 411 on fashion

"Fashion is a government-run conspiracy."
Mathew Taisler

"Fashion describes a person's character. Don't be afraid to express the real you."
Jessica Martinez

"The only style I have is naked, but with clothes on at the same time"
Cody Mathis

"People should wear what they like, not what is popular. If you like it, buy it."
Valerie Henegar

3 Minutes *Of Fame*

Andrew Stauffer competes in drum off

by jon hernandez & matti mott

Travis Barker, Tommy Lee, Ringo Star and Lars Ulrich. To some, these names may mean absolutely nothing. But to others, these are a few of the greatest drummers the music industry has ever seen. To be considered a good drummer, it takes more than just fast hands and quick feet. It takes a balance of that, plus a naturally good sense of beat and originality. With all the local drummers, it is hard for a drummer to get recognition. One October day, Senior Andrew Stauffer was given a chance to prove his talents on the drums.

Andrew was at Guitar Center in Austin when he saw a poster that read "Drum Off." Immediately Andrew saw his opportunity to showcase his skills. Later that night he got online to get more information and entered the contest hoping for the best. Not only would he be testing his skills but also competing for big prizes like a five piece Tama Superstar Fusion kit. In preparation for the contest, he practiced on his own and with his band, Sweet Addiction, on time changes and tempos to score more points with the judges.

After much practice, the day had finally arrived and practice was over. It was time to put on a show. "I was less nervous than I thought I would be, I just ready to play," Andrew said. There was no reason to be nervous with the support of his parents, his girlfriend Lindsey Walton, and the members of Sweet Addiction at his side. As Andrew waited, he could hear the drumming of other local drummers. After two performances, it was his turn. He took his seat behind the drums and took one last deep breath. "I had planned out a routine that I would do, but once I started playing I just improvised," Andrew said. For three minutes Andrew unleashed his most rapid, intricate beats while maintaining a good rhythm. He used his double peddle action, rudiments, and dynamics to impress the judges. Before he knew it, the three minutes were over and the drumming came to a halt. He grabbed his drumsticks and then headed over to his friends and family. "Andrew was upset because he thought he had done a bad job, but in all actuality he did great," Kristina Gaudin said. Although he didn't advance, Andrew placed fourth out of ten that day and was awarded a ten-percent coupon toward his next purchase at Guitar Center.

More importantly, he walked out of Guitar Center with the confidence he gained from the competition. On the path to success, there will always be failure. If there were not obstacles in the way, then everybody would be successful. What determines a person's success is how they handle defeat. Andrew continues to practice with his band everyday. "I know that drums and music are definitely in my future," Andrew said.





Joseph Strelsky goes crazy as he rocks out at Apache Pass. His band, Untold Tragedy, has played several shows in Austin and plans to continue playing past high school. "I think once we get our name out more, people will like our music," Joseph said. *Photo by Monica Keith*

The members of Sweet Addiction: Joseph Debus, Andrew Stauffer, Marcus Herrera and Byron Lantzsch. The band was formed in early 2005 and ever since has been playing shows all throughout the Central Texas area. *Photo by Jillian Gaswint*





Lightning Hands:
Andrew Stauffer attacks his kit with a vengeance. At the drum off, Andrew was given 3 minutes to impress the judges. "I felt pretty good after I finished playing," Andrew said. *Photo by Jon Hernandez*

Andy Johnson and his band, Blood of the Lamb, perform at Austin's Redrum. Blood of the Lamb has played as far as Corpus Christi and Dallas, and continues to gain attention in Central Texas. *Courtesy Photo botc.com*



Brijhan Harper beats on the lunch table as he flows about whatever comes to mind. Brijhan's graduation song, "06 is the Year," competed well against other class songs but "Wonderwall" was voted class song. *Photo by Matti Mott*

As a class known for its pranks, artistic talents, and weird quirks, it was only appropriate that there be an original song written for the class of 2006. Known for spitting out his flows and offering people free demo cd's while walking down the hallway, it was Brijhan Harper who took on the task of making the first Graduation song to fit the personality for the class of 2006.

Brijhan's song, "'06 Is the Year," was put on the Senior Graduation ballot competing with ten other songs. "'06 Is the Year" made it to the second round of voting, but unfortunately did not win the number one vote. "Even though Brijhan's song isn't our graduation song it was cool to have a song specialized for our class," Aaron Conrardy said.

'06 Is The Year

Chorus

'06 is my year ain't no doubt about/
In da Taylor High School reppin' for the south/
Finna walk across stage and make hataz pout/
Man it's over high school 'cause I'm out.

Chemistry in the newsroom

Dedicated staff makes paper better than ever

by jackie luna & hailey mokry

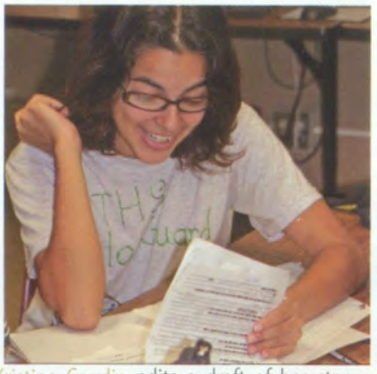
Chemistry is something that one can find in science classes, but Cotton Boll has mixed together to create a paper that brings out their own chemistry. "Different people have different things to offer," said Editor Amy Whittaker. Each Cotton Boll staff member worked together to create a successful year.

The Cotton Boll staff is new and improved and now brings a variety of personality that some feel the paper has previously lacked. The staff grew from a laid-back group of ten to a dedicated group of eighteen when last year's editor graduated and left a great opportunity for Amy Whittaker, the staff's new editor, to take charge.

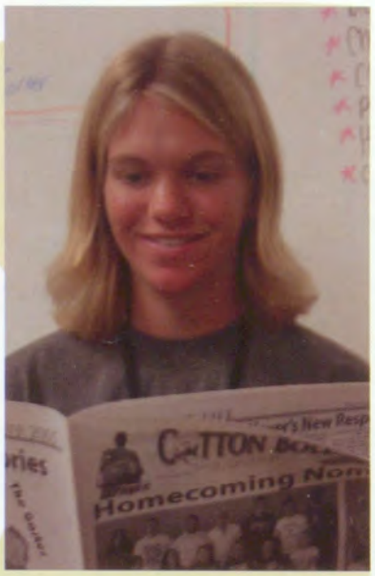
Staffers agree that the paper has improved from years past mainly because of the chemistry the staff created early on in the year. "The staff just clicked better," Assistant Editor Suzanna Hernandez said.

One great thing that keeps the staff close is knowing that they have a number of people they can count on to help them when they need it most. This helps to enforce the fact that the Cotton Boll is a student-produced newspaper. "Amy's leadership has strengthened the talents of each member of the staff," said Cotton Boll sponsor and Journalism teacher Mrs. Dawn Fischer. "I can tell that journalism classes have paid off. The staff got together at the beginning of the year to tell each other what they expected and what their goals were, and I feel that has helped them learn a life lesson about how to be productive without having someone there to coach them," said Mrs. Fischer, reflecting back on the year.

Students are side-by-side helping each other and working together. If "anyone needs help with writing anything, the old members can help [the new staff members] because of our experience," Sports Editor Jacob Ness said.



Kristina Gaudin edits a draft of her story for the Thanksgiving issue. "Each of us has different interests to write about," said Kristina. *Photo by Dawn Fischer.*



Amy Whittaker is a senior editor who is looking forward to having a succesful volume of the High School Paper. "I am really excited," Amy said. "We have come a long way this year and have built a strong staff."

"The staff looks to Amy for guidance but assumes the responsibility when time comes to complete the task," said adviser Dawn Fischer. Amy has poured most of her time into the Cotton Boll and is proud to see it growing to reflect the diversity of the student body.





Cotton Boll Staff: Noah Corn, Brittni Gola, Amber Rodríguez, Business Manager Brittany Behrens, Kelly Martinez, Stacy Bubenik, Sports Editor Jacob Ness, Kristina Gaudin, Rachel Lewis, Lindsay Wilson, Editor Amy Whittaker, Aubrey Medaris, Assistant Editor Suzanna Hernandez, Sydney Savage, Frankie Bevka, Jackie Orozco, Paris Lopez, Elizabeth Polasek *Photo by Dawn Fischer.*

"I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing this year's Cotton Boll staff grow. We have all levels of experience and many interests, and I am proud of the way that the staff looks to each other for direction, despite their differences," said Mrs. Fischer.

Lending a Helping Hand

Senior Jacob Ness advises sophomore Brittni Gola on her article for the upcoming issue. "I like to help the new staff with their work, because I was on the staff last year," said Jacob. *Photos by Hailey Mokry.*

Q & A *with Cotton Boll staff*



Q:

What is your favorite section in the newspaper?

Stacy Bubenik

A:

"I like the sports because it's all about the students and it uses more student names."

Q:

What do you like about being on the Cotton Boll staff?



Noah Corn

A:

"I like getting to inform everyone on important current events."



Q:

What is your favorite newspaper comic?

Brittany Behrens

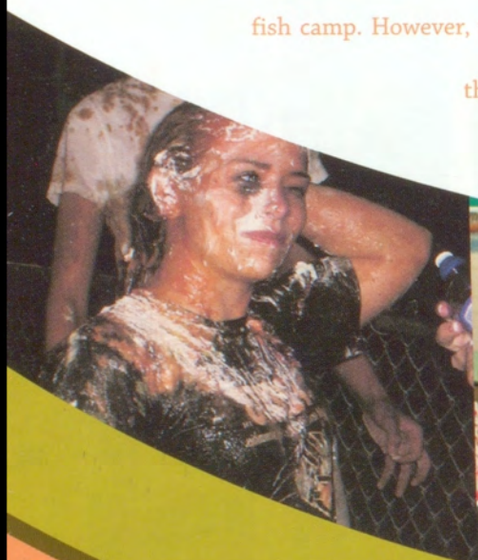
A:

"'B.C.' I like it because it's about the time when people tried to invent things that we use today."



The Cotton Boll paper, mallard duck, camera, mouse, sports page, and cotton bolls.

Choices made outside of the classroom and off the field are left for you to decide everyday. Before even entering high school, most students already know the classes they will sign up for at the end of each year. It is very likely that you've decided what sport you will give up or join before even stepping on campus for fish camp. However, what is probably not finalized is the extra-curricular activities you will be anxious to join once finding out more about them. You find that you are interested in things you may have never realized. Getting your first shot in the working world might be something that you never considered doing while in school, but as the weekend draws near and you find yourself traveling out of town to do almost everything, you begin to wish you were not mooching off your friends for a ride everywhere because you do not own a car or have gas money to go anywhere. Not only do you have to decide what kind of job interests you, but you have to consider the other extra activities in which you are involved. Timing is everything.







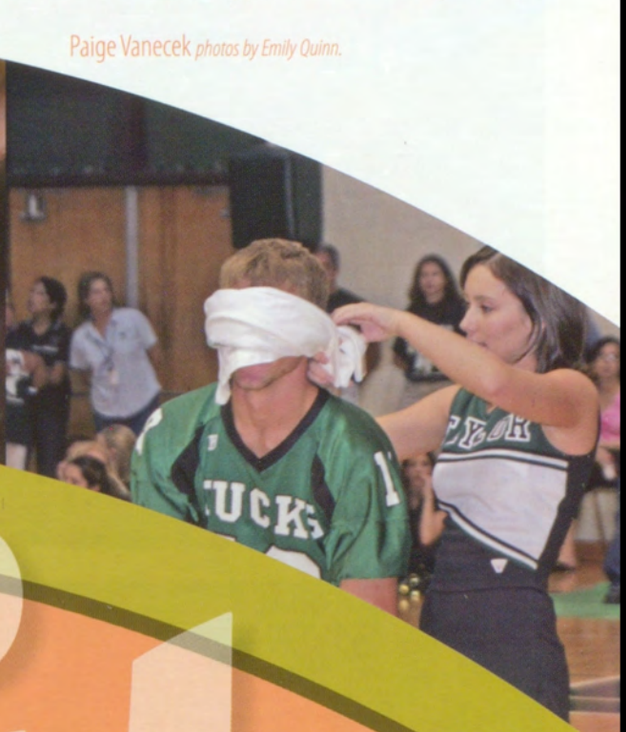
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Giving up things seems to be something that you are forced to deal with each day. Many times they are unexpected or minute, but often you have been anticipating their arrival for months. Student Senate or Interact? Do I sacrifice eating my favorite breakfast tacos to eat lunch with my friends? *You are not woken up each morning and handed a play-by-play* explaining your day, because although your classes may be required, your decisions outside of school are left up to you. You might surprise everyone, even yourself, when picking a club. Should I work half a day, or get a job after school? These choices are made everyday, and who's to say what they will be? *Growing up and deciding things on your own is what makes high school so much fun.* It is your first shot at independence and getting to write your own script as you go along.

Below: Krista Seidel *photo by Mary Kalbaugh.* Gretchen Ritcher & Lindsay Wilson *photo by Aaron Reeves.* Tonya Cargill, Rachel Weison, & Amanda Pepper, Emilio Gonzales, Tyler Talley & Paige Vanecek *photos by Emily Quinn.*







unity

Risky Business

Students learn value of money

by hannah carnes

Through the Co-op program and after school jobs, students are given the opportunity to not only prepare for the real world academically but also with experience. Most working students have quickly discovered making a little cash is not exactly what they expected. Students engage in a variety of jobs from McDonald's to helping at a rehab center, but one thing they all have realized is that no matter what job you have, working has its drawbacks, advantages, and quirks.

"I love lifeguarding, it's just awesome," Lindsay Wilson said. "Except when I had to clean feces off of the boys' bathroom floor at the pool."

While there are definitely disadvantages to having a job, some students have also discovered that there are benefits associated with working as well.

"I honestly hate my job making pizza at Mr. Gatti's," Matthew Drummond said. "But I love pizza and I can get a medium-sized one for only $2.00... which is good since I don't get paid enough to buy one full price."

Students experience the good, the bad, and sometimes the just plain gross parts of having a job.

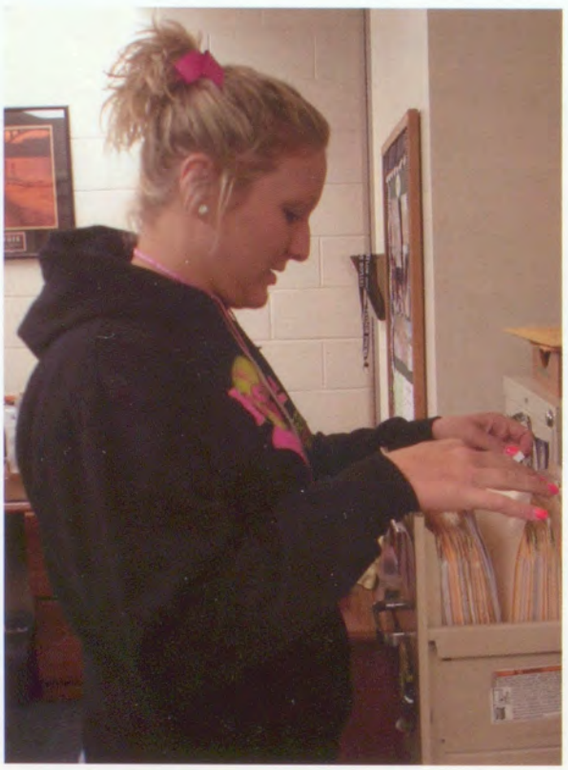
"While working as a dental assistant for Dr. Werner, I have seen some pretty nasty teeth. I leave work and I feel like I have to go straight home and brush," Stiles Parker said.

In the Co-op classes students learn how to have a good interview, the proper ways of handling customers, and the professional ways businesses expect their employees to behave. However, there are some things you just can't be prepared for.

"I work for the YMCA after school program with lots of young kids and they ask me for my number at least twice a week," Ashley Bedsole said. "I wonder if these little seven-year-old boys are even old enough to use the phone!"

Despite all of the learning experience one gains, or all the time a job takes up, students work for one reason only- money.

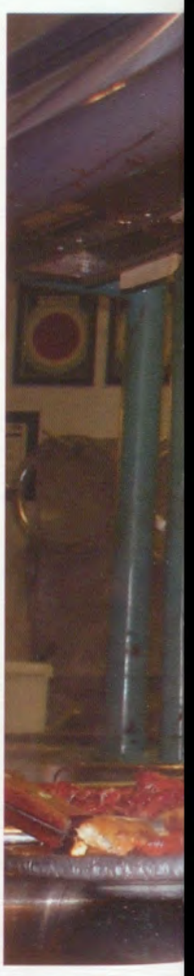
"I am expected to pay for gas, car insurance, and all the extra stuff like going out with friends, and shopping," Gretchen Richter said. "So I NEED to have a job."



Joanna Schmidt keeps busy filing her millionth paper of the morning. "The office is a fun job since it's always busy," Joanna said. "Plus I get to hear everything that's happening around school." *Photos by Hannah Carnes*



Stiles Parker assists Dr. Werner with a cavity filling by keeping the tooth dry. "My job is pretty fun and there's always something to do," Stiles said. "Sometimes I just feel bad for the patients though; root canals are horrible."



All You Can Eat

Matthew Drummond puts another hot pizza onto the buffet at Mr. Gatti's. "My job is pretty safe; I've only burned myself like 79 times," Matt said.



Lindsay Wilson keeps a close eye on all the swimmers in the "baby pool" at the Murphy Park Aquatic Center. "It's the perfect summer job," Lindsay said. "I mean, I get paid to get a tan all summer long."

Jacquelyn Luna handles the register during second lunch in the cafeteria. "It's the only job I could have that allowed me to take all of the classes I wanted and keep up my after-school sports," Jackie said.





That's a Wrap

Pranksters do their thing

by john kaspar, brent holman, & jamie pausewang



On a night of sheer fun, Ryan Green aims and starts the first throw of the night. "It was one of our best jobs ever," Ryan said. *Courtesy photo*

Pranks are a part of high school enjoyment, especially in smaller towns. One prankster, Luke Kaspar, said it is pretty common to "just find couches and mattresses on the side of the road and put them in people's yards." Cars are an easy target, and Evan Gerren's Jeep is no exception. One night, it took Luke and Stiles Parker 30 minutes and 48 rolls of toilet paper to cover Evan's Jeep. "That was amazing right there," Luke said. "It was solid white."

At other times he and his fellow conspirators launch water balloons at cars. Sometimes they are about 100 yards away so the car does not know where the balloons are coming from. At other times, they hide in a ditch and jump up to hit the car.

Another car subject to a little fun was Andrew Stauffer's. One night Andrew's front wheels were jacked up by Joseph Debus who then called Andrew, asking to get a ride home from Wal-Mart. When the time came to start rolling, Andrew's car did not budge. "He didn't even notice the blocks," Joseph said.

In Andrew's defense, though, he said, "Debus thinks he's the prank master... I haven't gotten him back...yet."

Egging and toilet papering houses and yards are the more traditional pranks, but Saran-wrapping cars has become more common. It is not unusual to find a car wrapped up on the side of the road. It is the added extras, however, that give the wrapping its personal appeal. Kelsey Christensen's car was Saran-wrapped and had drained tuna cans taped underneath. After a couple of days in the heat, things began to smell a little fishy. Not only were there tuna cans, but there were also four tree air fresheners locked inside. "We tried to stick the trees in the doors and used the handles for a better grip and found the car was unlocked," Byron Lantzch said.

Though pranks are usually done outside of school, students brought them into the learning environment. Distorting pictures of students, such as the one of Evan Gerren on the next page, were done weekly and could be found scattered on the floors of the school's hallways.

One piece of advice any prankster should take into consideration: "When you see the flashing lights, RUN."



Having a little fun and not getting caught in the act, Lance Janak, John Kaspar, and Braeden Lawhon launch balloons from a safe distance so they will not be seen.



Box of toilet paper, pranksters John Kaspar & Brent Holman, Colin Valerio, Andrea Wilkerson

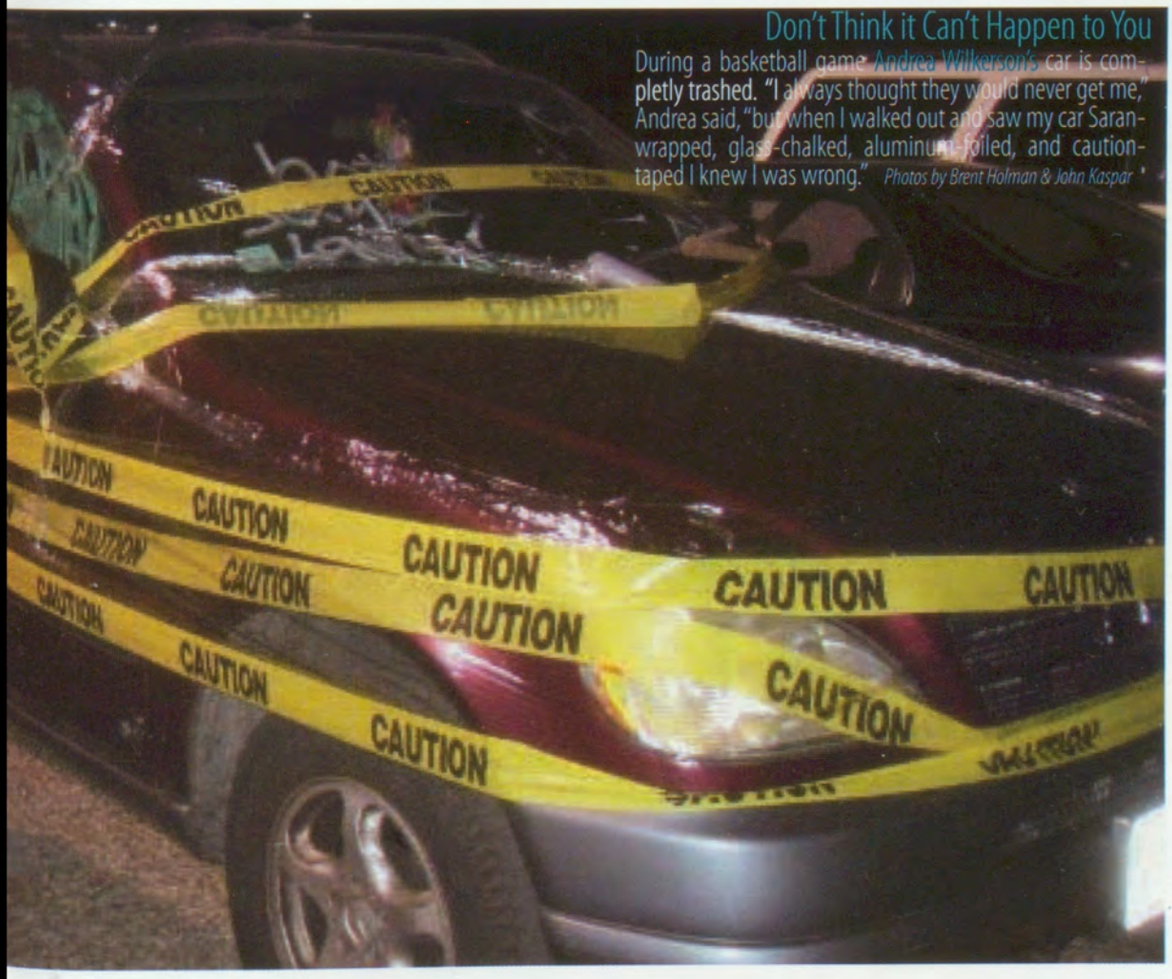


Caught in the act of pulling a prank, Ashley Williams and Brandon Davis trip James Jackson. "Those seniors are so mean... gah," James said.



Toilet paper blows from a tree in Rachel Weison's yard the morning after a night of pranking. "Those kids don't mess around," Rachel said. "They even left the box in the yard."





Don't Think it Can't Happen to You

During a basketball game Andrea Wilkerson's car is completely trashed. "I always thought they would never get me," Andrea said, "but when I walked out and saw my car Saran-wrapped, glass-chalked, aluminum-foiled, and caution-taped I knew I was wrong." *Photos by Brent Holman & John Kaspar*

Why Me?

Stacy Bubenik



"It was funny the first time, then after round four it got old. I really hate cleaning it up."

Evan Gerren



"If it wasn't my house I'd probably prank on it too, because cops never come by here."

Rachel Weison



"I don't know why it happens to me. I still wonder if they do it because they like me or hate me. I thought the toilet paper was pretty the first time but it got old after the second."

Genuine and Unrehearsed

Kids of Christ Fellowship express ways of worship

by brittany chavana & reese hall

While others were fast asleep enjoying the peace and quiet of a normal Sunday morning , the "Supernatural" kids of the Christ Fellowship youth group were busy getting ready to put on a morning service for their parish.

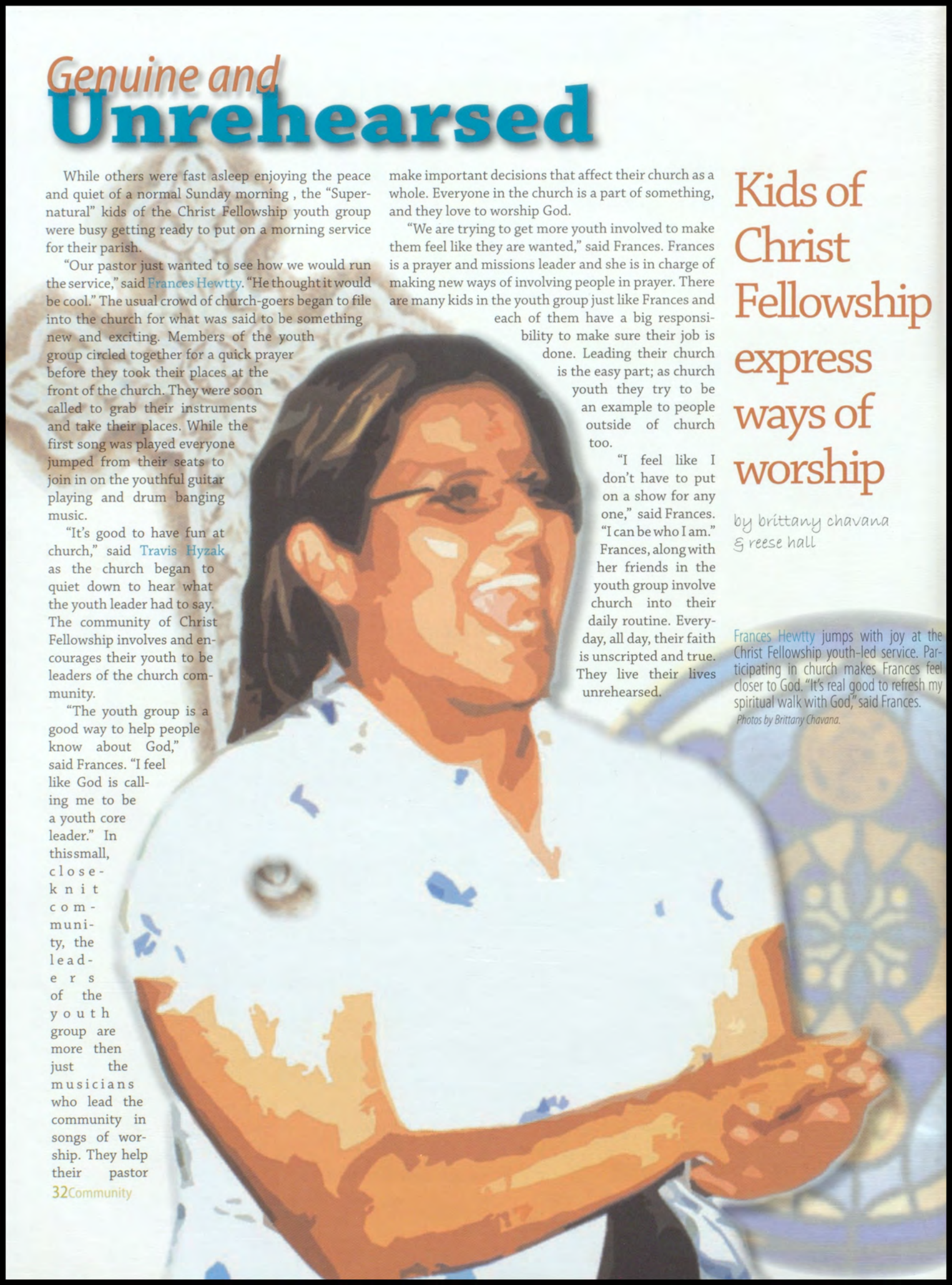
"Our pastor just wanted to see how we would run the service," said Frances Hewtty. "He thought it would be cool." The usual crowd of church-goers began to file into the church for what was said to be something new and exciting. Members of the youth group circled together for a quick prayer before they took their places at the front of the church. They were soon called to grab their instruments and take their places. While the first song was played everyone jumped from their seats to join in on the youthful guitar playing and drum banging music.

"It's good to have fun at church," said Travis Hyzak as the church began to quiet down to hear what the youth leader had to say. The community of Christ Fellowship involves and encourages their youth to be leaders of the church community.

"The youth group is a good way to help people know about God," said Frances. "I feel like God is calling me to be a youth core leader." In thissmall, close-knit community, the leaders of the youth group are more then just the musicians who lead the community in songs of worship. They help their pastor make important decisions that affect their church as a whole. Everyone in the church is a part of something, and they love to worship God.

"We are trying to get more youth involved to make them feel like they are wanted," said Frances. Frances is a prayer and missions leader and she is in charge of making new ways of involving people in prayer. There are many kids in the youth group just like Frances and each of them have a big responsibility to make sure their job is done. Leading their church is the easy part; as church youth they try to be an example to people outside of church too.

"I feel like I don't have to put on a show for any one," said Frances. "I can be who I am." Frances, along with her friends in the youth group involve church into their daily routine. Everyday, all day, their faith is unscripted and true. They live their lives unrehearsed.



Frances Hewtty jumps with joy at the Christ Fellowship youth-led service. Participating in church makes Frances feel closer to God. "It's real good to refresh my spiritual walk with God," said Frances.

Photos by Brittany Chavana.





Words of wisdom

Students share favorite verses

Todd Bryan: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Don't be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

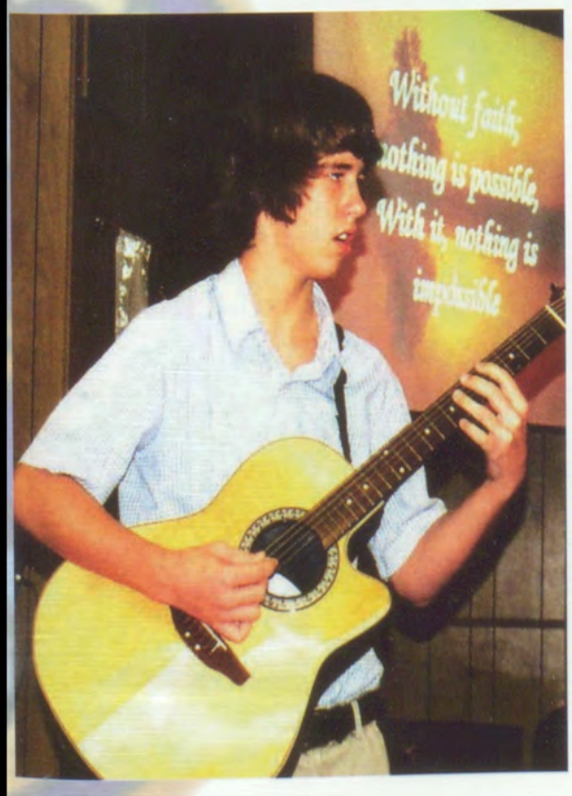
Cody Eastman: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love , in faith and purity." (1 Tim. 4:12)

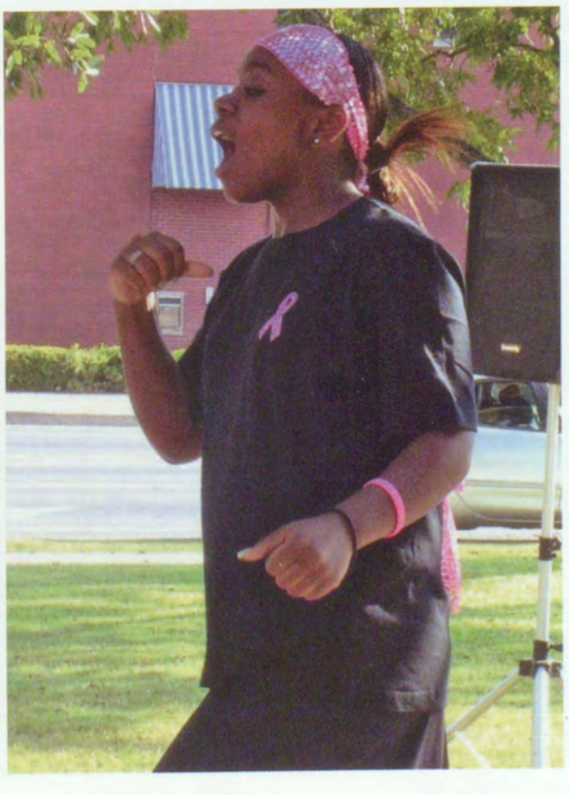
Stephen Taylor: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that who ever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Jarvis Fitzgerald: "You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!" (Psalm 23)

Coach Matt Walker, John Estrada, and Derek Terwilliger join in prayer at the flag pole. Many students came to school early in the morning to sing songs and pray together.

Brianca Alderete and Rebecca Almazon, sing together at See You at the Pole. See You at the Pole comes around every year as a way for kids to express their faith with others who feel the same. "Seeing kids praying was a great thing," said Brianca.





Travis Hyzak prepares to lead the congregation in songs of worship. Travis, along with fellow Christ Fellowship youth, try to invent new ways to make church interesting. "It's good to have fun at church," said Travis.

Ashunta Robinson dances her way into the hearts of dozens at a Breast Cancer Awareness rally. Ashunta and members of her youth group express their faith through their youth group dance team.

Michael Wooldridge laughs as he is strapped to a piece of wood at a leadership camp he attended during the summer. "I had a lot of fun while I was there and next year I am going back as a counselor," Michael said. *Courtesy Photo*

Interact members show off their guns at camp. "It was exciting to meet new people at Interact camp," said Amy Whittaker. The Rotary Club has a camp every year for volunteers who want to become better leaders. *Courtesy Photo*



Q&A

with Mrs. Marilyn Tennill

Q: What is Interact?

A: Interact is a service club, or a kid version of the Rotary Club. We get calls from the Rotary Club, and we do what they said when we are needed. Interact is kids volunteering; it is like doing chores for a good cause.

Q: What has Interact accomplished this year?

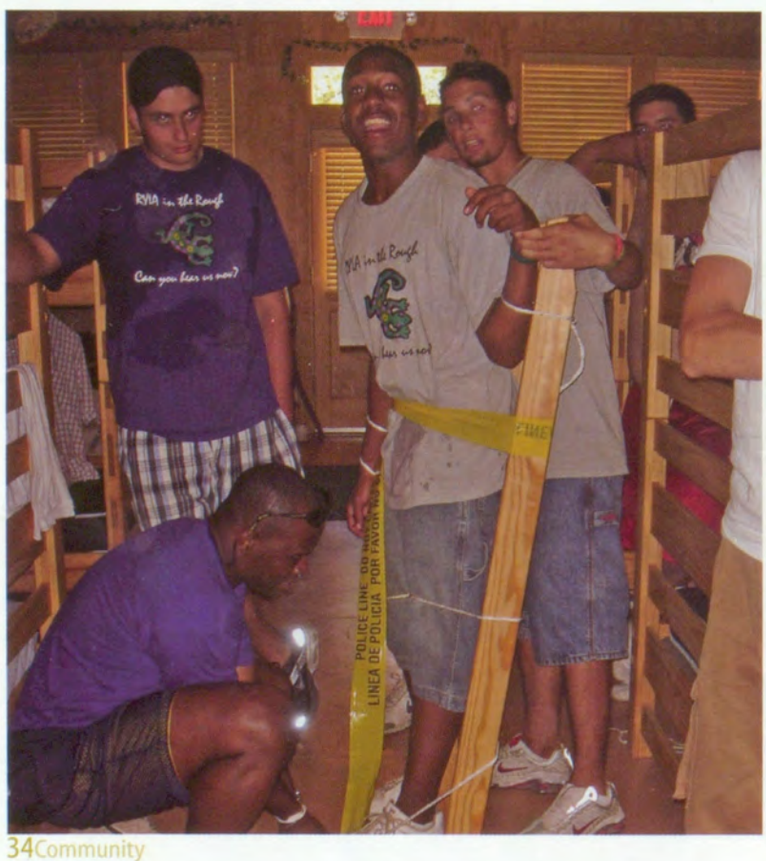
A: We have done things like Relay for Life, Pennies for Polio, and Green Santa. The whole point to Interact is to see kids do something for other people without getting paid. It helps kids learn that helping people can be fun and not a pain.

Q: What makes Interact exciting and fun?

A: Well, first of all there are no dues. The main thing that makes Interact exciting is getting together and doing something nice for other people. At Christmas time, we wrap presents for little kids. The feeling that you get when you do something for someone is one of the greatest feelings in the world.

Q: What is the most interesting thing you have done in Interact?

A: Trying to stay up all night for the Relay for Life was definitely very challenging. Also, when we do the Taylor Trash Off, we have a contest to see who finds the most unusual piece of trash. It is so funny to see some of the weird things kids find.





Dirty Work

What makes the best crud?

Blake Jirasek: "Really nasty stuff!" Matthew Schwettman, Coleman Eiben, Raul Avalos, and Blake all got together to make their crud a month before the war. "We made sour maize and put it in water guns to shoot it at people." Sour maize consists of corn, maize, and water, and when it sits out for a month it becomes sloppy and smells awful. The boys also brought the usual eggs to gross other students out.

Jenna Thornton: "Anything left over in the fridge makes the best crud; my bag had old cake and tuna." Jamie Pausewang, Stiles Parker, and Jenna went to Wal-Mart the night before to get the easy to chunk things such as: mayonnaise, ketchup, eggs, mustard, and lard. Jenna made sure they had enough eggs and dog food to make everyone throw up.

Andrew Delgadillo: "Eggs are the best, we had five boxes of 12 dozen eggs." Jacob Farr, Rudy Mikeska, Cullen Pick, and Andrew made a trip to Wal-Mart to get lard and special ingredients to put in water balloons. The boys put Clorox and vinegar into the balloons but at the last minute decided that it was dangerous to throw Clorox.

What were your intentions with your crud?

Blake Jirasek: "I wanted people to have to smell the sour maize on themselves for a week."

Jenna Thornton: "I made sure to get lard stuck in everyone's hair so they would have to go through the trouble of getting it out like I did last year!"

Andrew Delgadillo: "Well, we meant for the vinegar to blind people and the Clorox to dye their hair, but as I said before, we decided that was too dangerous."

How did you get the crud off your body?

Blake Jirasek: "Well, we all went down to the car wash. As we were walking we threw any crud we had left at each other and the rest we left in the car wash."

Jenna Thornton: "My mom hosed us off." From the baseball field Jenna, Jamie, and Stiles walked to Jenna's house where her mom had them stand outside while she sprayed them down before they were allowed inside.

Andrew Delgadillo: "We walked down to the car wash and took a bath; that was just as much fun as throwing food at each other."

NHS hosts Crud Wars

by matti mott



Ashley Keith pours a glass of tea at the Chamber of Commerce Banquet. Members of National Honor Society were asked to volunteer their time to serve at community banquets. *Photo by Briana Lopez*





Eww, Gross!

A group of students show off how gross they got at Crud Wars. Every year the National Honor Society uses Crud Wars as a fundraiser and often receives a large turn out; this year was no different. *Photo by Mary Kalbaugh*

NHS President, Jenna Thornton, collects money for the Salvation Army. Every month NHS members were required to volunteer an hour of their time. *Photo by Matti Mott*

30 minute Lunch

Chaos served daily

by jon hernandez

The day is halfway through and you're sitting in class staring down the only clock in the room. You sit there patiently waiting, waiting for it and then... RING! Lunch time is now in effect. For many, lunch is a time of relief from the never ending torture experienced during class. It's a time to relax and chow down on some much needed food. However, not everybody's lunch period is relaxing.

Senior Bryan Vrana has learned how to be efficient with his time during lunch. While other students are on their way to lunch, Bryan finds himself frantically changing back into his school clothes. As he hurries to his car, a bead of sweat trickles down his face from the workout he just went through in athletics. After he carefully maneuvers through the congested parking lot, he focuses on trying to get some food. "At this point, I'm just in a big rush to my granny's," Bryan said. "I usually change clothes when I get there because I'm all sweaty and what-not." While Bryan is cramming food into his mouth, students back at school are in a less hectic situation. Although they aren't running around like a chicken without its head, they do have their own complaints about lunch.

Junior Bruce Griffin stays on campus for lunch. "I don't like all the people. There's too many and it makes it crowded." In an effort to make the cafeteria less crowded, the traditional lunch tables were traded out for round tables.

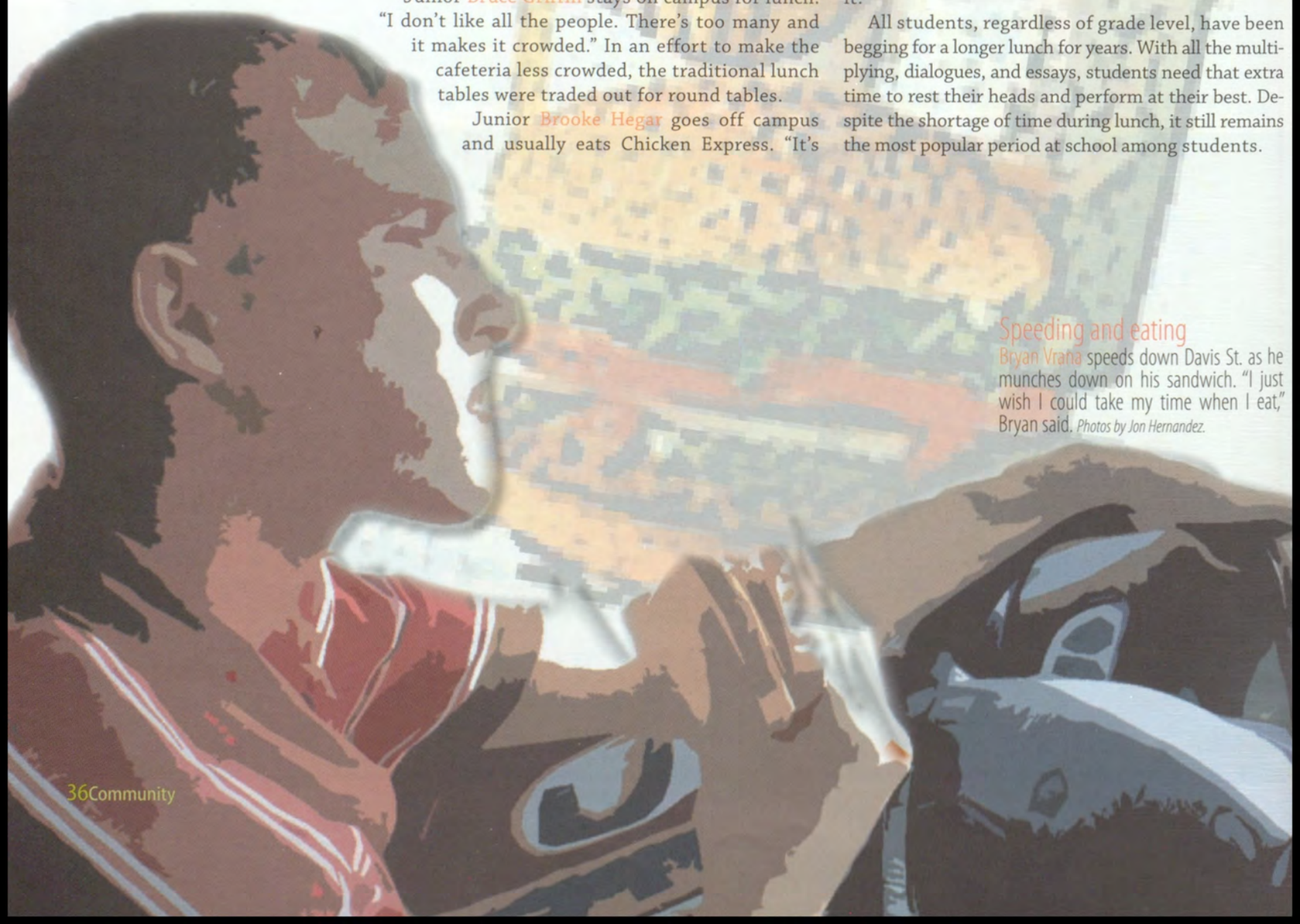
Junior Brooke Hegar goes off campus and usually eats Chicken Express. "It's nice being able to go off campus but it's not cool when I'm rushing to finish my food. This is like the only time for me to just relax and get my mind off of school."



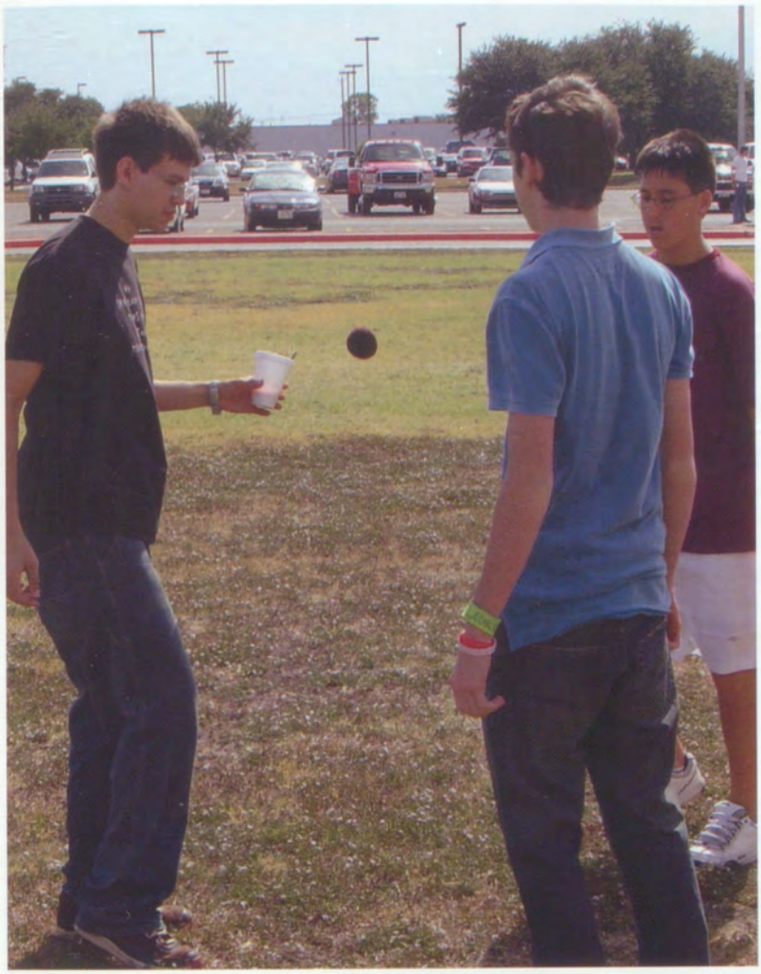
"Gimme your tots. I'm freakin' starving!" Napoleon Dynamite

Meanwhile, just when Bryan takes his last bite of food, he realizes he needs to get back to school on time. He cleans up his mess and scrambles to his car. He jets down alleys and quickly makes his way towards Mallard Lane where he floors it in order to make up for lost time. "20 m.p.h. is way too slow. When I'm in a hurry, there is no speed limit." With seconds to spare, Bryan narrowly escapes the tardy tank, panting as he gets into class. "It happens everyday, so after awhile, I have just learned how to deal with it."

All students, regardless of grade level, have been begging for a longer lunch for years. With all the multiplying, dialogues, and essays, students need that extra time to rest their heads and perform at their best. Despite the shortage of time during lunch, it still remains the most popular period at school among students.



Speeding and eating
Bryan Vrana speeds down Davis St. as he munches down on his sandwich. "I just wish I could take my time when I eat," Bryan said. *Photos by Jon Hernandez.*



Matt Lozano tries to keep the hacky sack game alive by passing it to either Taylor Savage or Chris Bogan. Hacky sack is growing into a popular hobby among students. "The longest we ever went was 76. That took us over four minutes," Matt said.

Justin Gonzales drives past Tommy Longoria and makes his way to the goal. After students finish their lunch, over 60 students pour into the gym to play basketball, volleyball or to just hang out. "With basketball season right around the corner, I practice every chance I get," Justin said.





Junior Josh Butcher plays his Nintendo DS with some leftover time during the lunch period. "I play at lunch because there's nothing else to do," Josh said.

Lunchtime Favorites

Aaron Conrardy: Four H-E-B's from Fajitas on Wheels

Andy Stapp: Jalapeno pepperoni pizza from Pizza Hut

Brandee Carlson: Ham and cheese sandwich from Subway

Aundris Draine: Doublemeat cheeseburgers from McDonald's

Lindsey Green: Snacks, like chips and junkfood

Jasmin Estrada: Chicken tenders with ranch from Sonic

Lindsay Wilson: 6-inch sandwich with parmesian oregano bread, turkey, provolone cheese, mayonnaise, spinach, olives, pickles, salt and pepper from Subway

Tristan Meyer: Doublemeat cheeseburger, large fry and coke from



Chicken Express, Jack in the Box, Dairy Queen, McDonald's

Stepping Out *into the world of business*

Students prepare to dominate at contest

by jennifer mcquary

Interviews, presentations, quizzes, and speeches. Things we all face in our daily lives, but what we all will or already have faced out on our own is going into the great mysterious world of business. Business Professionals of America is an organization that has been in our school for many years. It helps to prepare one for getting jobs, working together, and becoming organized.

"My friend Megan Kirkwood told me about BPA, and that she had so much fun being in it, and that I should join and become active," Junior Ashton Baran said.

Going out into the world alone can be terrifying. They teach us stuff at school, but is it enough to live on your own? We are required to take math, reading, social studies classes, but we are not required to take business classes or accounting. BPA is the club that fills in that hole missing in our school studies. You learn how to get a job, prepare, study, present, and most of all you learn how to believe in your work.

"I want to be a business major and this will help me find exactly what I want to do with my life," Junior Kelsey Christensen said.

BPA students train and compete in skills ranging from computer skills to book work. BPA members usually practice during their class periods and after school.

"I'm doing payroll accounting for contest and study many different office books to learn the tasks needed for my event," Kelsey said.

This year for the area contest plans changed. Instead of it being held at Hendrickson, now we get the privilege to hold the competition. BPA members and officers are working hard to prepare everything needed by calling people for judges, making sure everyone knows that the plans have changed, and that the date has changed to January 21,2005.

"If you are interested in the business field, BPA is a good way to get started. I strongly suggest you join," senior Evan Gerran said.



Calling sponsors at other high schools, Kelsey Christensen informs people about the upcoming contest in January. The contest was planned to be at Hendrickson, but had to be changed to Taylor.



Looking over practice tests BPA members have taken to help prepare them for contest, Mrs. Barbara Leschber makes corrections to their papers.

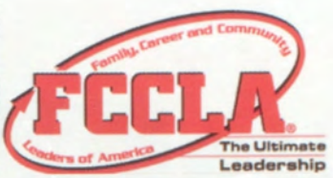
Lindsay Wilson sits and listens to Mrs. Leschber ask her a few questions she might be asked at contest. Interview skills are a major part in getting a job. *Photos by Jennifer McQuary*











BPA banner, pencils, Ashton Baran & Lindsay Wilson, FCCLA logo



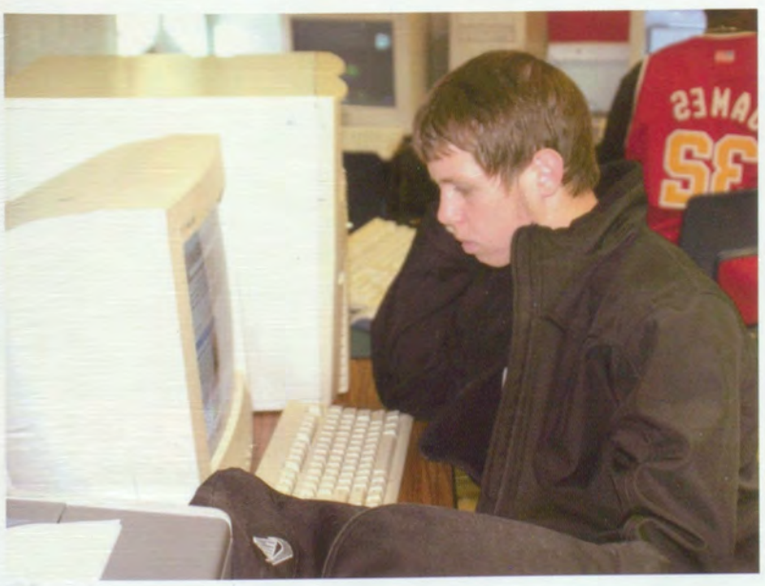
BPA officers: Krystle Luconic, Brooke Johnson, Ashley Robbins, Ashton Baran, Paige Vanecek, Kelsey Christensen, Gretchen Richter, and Jennifer McQuary. Not pictured: Matti Mott *Photo by Jillian Gaswint*



Grabbing her resume hot off the printer, Nakevia Miller cannot believe it is so easy to write. "Contest is going to be a breeze," Nakevia said.

Krystle Yanis and Evan Gerran both practice their contest materials during class. "Contest baby, here I come," Krystle said.





Say it Fight it Cure it

Senior Jenny Walton loved being the Vice President of FCCLA but decided to step down and let somebody else have the authority for a while.

"I had fun and I think the teacher is nice and I liked her for that," Jenny said. "I also loved the fun field trips that we took. My favorite was the one at the end of the year when Mrs. Monica Ramirez took us to Corpus Christi while we stayed in a hotel and played at the beach."

"It was great that we could help out with the people who came from Louisiana who survived the hurricane but had to leave everything behind to save their own lives," Jenny said.

Senior Alexandra Bracamontez is in her first and last year of FCCLA and said that it is a great club to be a part of. "I have had a great year so far with Mrs. Ramirez as our teacher and have had fun during every event and also just being a part of it." Alex said.

"My favorite thing this year is when we helped with the Hurricane Rita survivors and put up flyers and sent out lists for food and clothing to help give some of the things that we might not use anymore and give it to someone who might." Alex thinks it is a very good organization for community service. The members have stepped up and helped with the Breast Cancer Awareness and Hurricane survivors.

by chris bogan

How far is too far?

Students obsess over shoes & more

by briana lopez

Think back to when your were in 5th grade, when the Backstreet Boys, K-Swiss, and Spice Girls were the "must-haves" of our adolescence. But today there are more things that craze our minds. Our objects of the time may have changed but our ability to obsess remains strong.

People today are obsessed with a new variety of commodities. Junior Hailey Ruzicka, for instance, owns over 40 pairs of shoes.

"I like to have the latest shoe and love to have a different shoe for each outfit," Hailey said.

Along with the happiness of buying shoes comes the pain of the price.

"My most expensive pair of shoes is my Nike Shox. They were $140," Hailey said.

Hailey buys her shoes from the internet, department stores, and from the Steve Madden store, which happens to be her favorite place.

"I always try and get the shoes that are on sale. That way I don't spend too much money," Hailey said.

With each outfit comes a different pair of shoes. Each with its own unique style.

"When I dress comfy I almost always wear my pink and black shox. They are comfortable and cute. When I dress up I like to wear my Carlos Santana heels. They go with everything," Hailey said.

Hailey switches up her shoes with every outfit.

"I don't like to wear the same shoe twice with an outfit. I try to switch things up," Hailey said.

With so many to choose from and not near half as much time to try all of them on, Hailey does a good job of picking up the right pair.

"As long as she finds them on sale I don't mind buying them for her. I happen to be a shoe freak my-



So Many Shoes & Only Two Feet

Hailey Ruzicka straps on her favorite pair of dress shoes. "I got these on sale at Dillard's for $50," Hailey said. *Photos by Briana Lopez*

At right, a few of Hailey's many stylish shoes. "I enjoy having a lot of them, then I have more to choose from and never have to worry about not having a pair to wear," Hailey said.

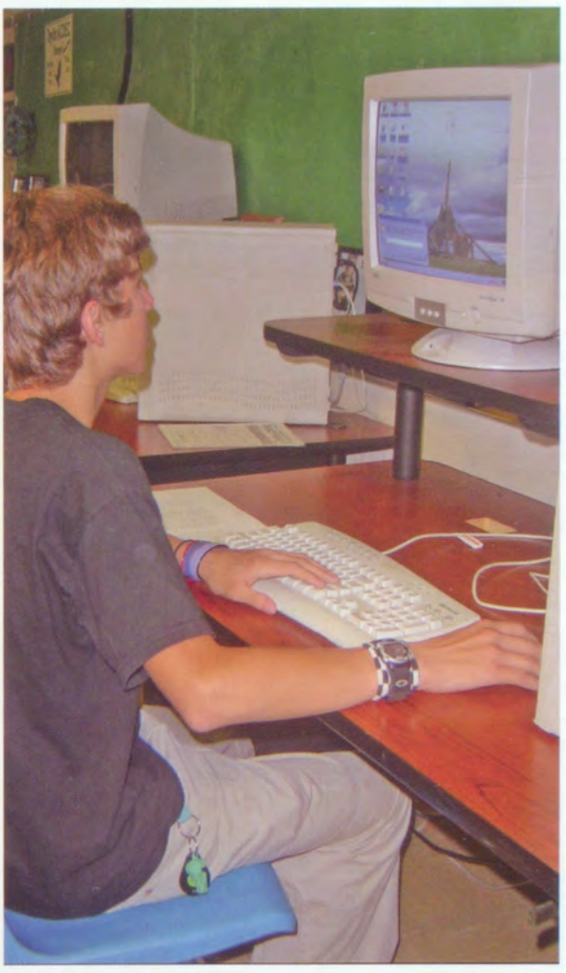


Robin Gonzalez admires her locker that is filled with Christina Aguilera pictures. "I have a wall in my room that is covered with posters and pictures of her," Robin said.

Trying to figure out how it works, Kyle Nevins studies the computer. "I like to take things apart and learn how they work. I enjoyed being in Duck Robotics when we had it," Kyle said.

Daniel Lepe plays his Nintendo Ds after finishing his classwork. "I usually play for about 5 hours a day if it's a new game. If it's a game I already beat then I don't play as long," Daniel said.









Colin Valerio watches as the drama of The O.C unfolds. "I like to watch it because there is always something going on and there are good looking girls," Colin said.

Andrea Wilkerson contemplates which one of her many designer purses to use for the day. These are becoming "must-haves" of the times, and Andrea always makes it a priority to stay on top when it comes to fashion. "I like to buy them because I like to have the latest styles," Andrea said.

This day is Not Over Yet

Students taste college life

by lorna gould & briana lopez

"Are you serious... going to school then to more school... on a Wednesday?" Chris Bogan said. Upward Bound is a curriculum that helps minority students prepare for college life and expectations. Members of Upward Bound travel to Huston Tillison University every Wednesday, getting help on their homework and also getting a view of real college surroundings. Upward Bound is not only a study place for students to go on Wednesdays, it is also a chance to get ahead in credits. Thinking about graduating early? This would be an opportunity you would want to look at.

"I don't want kids to come here and just think that it's a fun time to see cute boys or girls, I want them to be able to grasp this chance and do something positive with their lives" Mrs. Gaye Lang said.

All true, but we are teenagers ...

"It's pretty hard to concentrate when you have a fine girl sitting next to you," Jamar Brown said.

Upward Bound members leave campus at 4:30 and return around 10:00 PM, depending on whether they stop to eat. Most of the members started Upward Bound in 8th grade.

"Upward Bound every year is different, but we'll always have something to do," Victoria Gonzales said.

"During the summer we went to Atlanta, The Underground Mall, and we visited some historical black colleges," Brittany Wyatt said.

Every summer Upward Bound members can stay on the Huston Tillison Campus to receive credits. Receiving these summer credits from Upward Bound makes some of the members qualify to graduate early. Upward Bound seems to be a chance of a lifetime to some, but there is a dark side.

"I have science at 6:45," Nicolette Gault said.

So much for Wednesday early release. For many, UB is a time squeezer.

"Being in Upward Bound, FCCLA, and working at McDonald's I don't have time to do what I want to do," Nakevia Miller said.

"I miss quite a bit of basketball practice because of Upward Bound," Chasity Douglas said.

In exchange for these sacrifices, Upward Bound prepares its members for the ACT and the SAT.

"I'm so happy that these students get a chance to prepare themselves for college because it'll only be a few more years until they are out in the real world," Ms. Dee Sutton said.

"Overall I think that Upward Bound is a chance for the

Peace, Love, and Sports

Managing your time between school and sports can be hard enough as it is, but FCA students know that having faith helps them get throught tought games.

"As an athlete I keep Christ first," FCA president, Senior Kendra Deary said.

FCA meets every Tuesday morning to bring together their athletic members and faith as one.

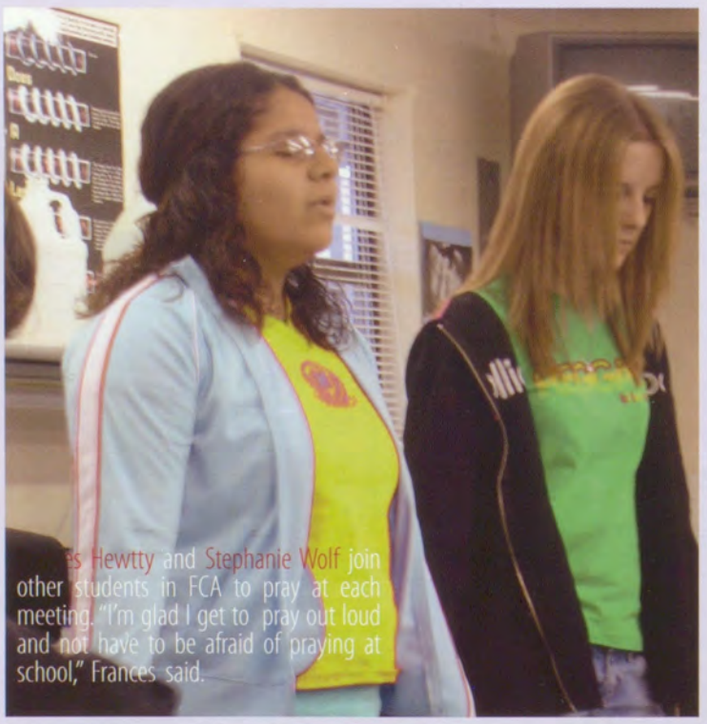
"I bring the lesson and we read it and we play sports," Kendra said.

FCA is an organization for anyone to join.

"If you enjoy sports and Christ then you're more than welcome to come out," FCA sponsor Coach Matt Walker said.

"I've been in it for 3 years and have enjoyed every bit of it. Now I'm the president and can lead others to what I find inspiring," Kendra said.

FCA not only brings students to find Christ in themselves but also to have faith in sports to never



Hewtty and Stephanie Wolf join other students in FCA to pray at each meeting. "I'm glad I get to pray out loud and not have to be afraid of praying at school," Frances said.



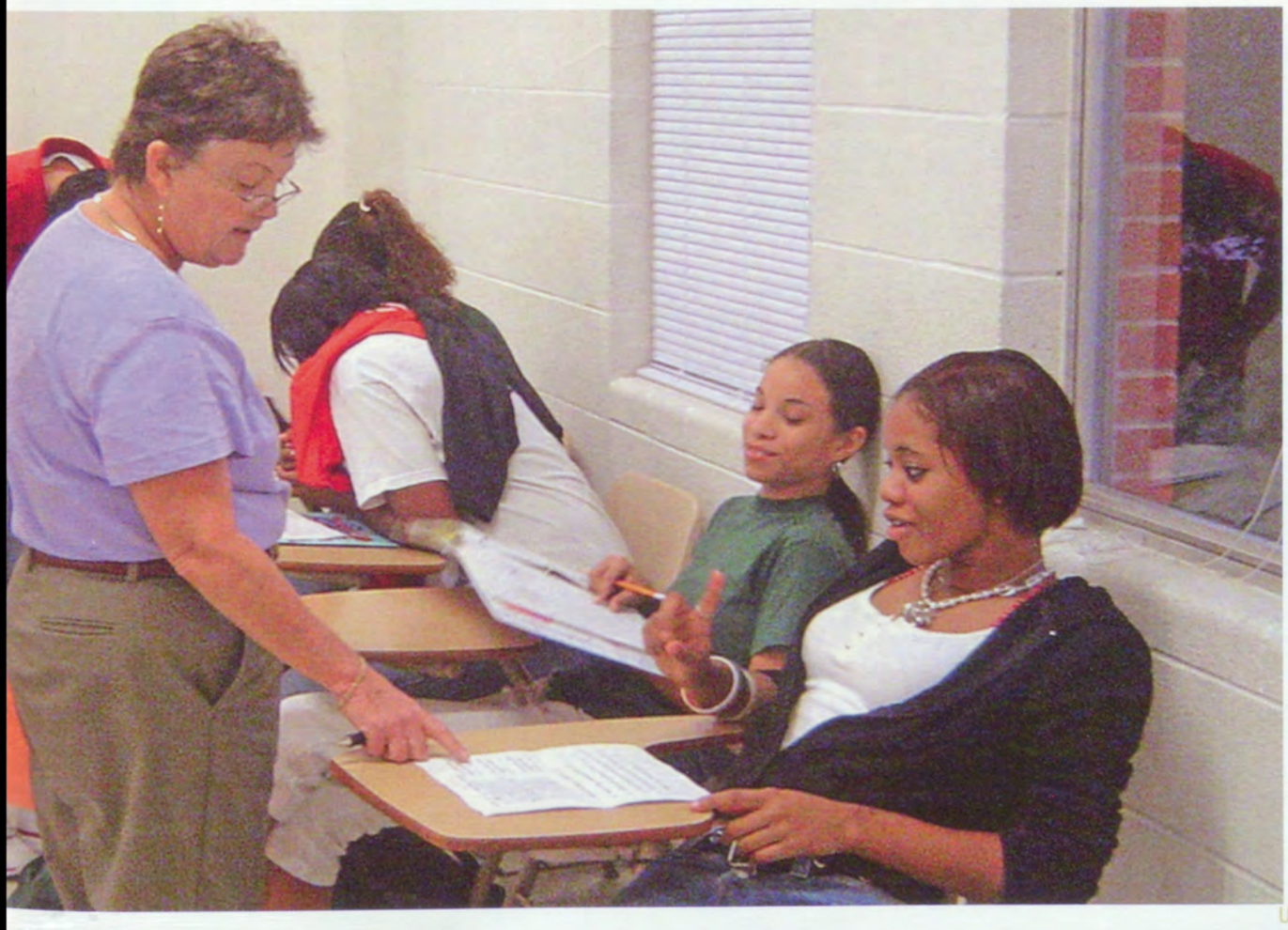
Are you Awake?
Mrs. Henniger assists Charmaine Scott and Ashley Reyes. "We always get a second chance to understand our work at Upward Bound," Chasity Douglas said.

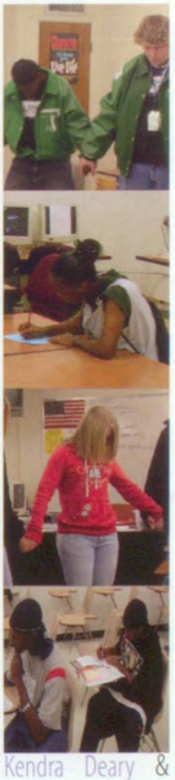


Mrs. Lupinski gives Jalisa Budd strategies to help her on her English homework. "There's never an idle moment," Upward Bound Sponsor Ms. Dee Sutton said. Upward Bound gives practice tests to prepare its students for the TAKS.

Huston Tillison Basketball player La Tonya McVade helps Kaneisha Griffen with her Algebra homework. Huston Tillison Basketball players also help in the Upward Bound curriculum.







Kendra Deary & Cody Eastman, Chelsea Boykins, Krista Siedel, Timothy Haskins & Jamar Brown

Making a Difference

Students build healthy future

by chris bogan

In HOSA, students have the opportunity to help out at nursing homes and hospitals, which at the same time prepares them for their future careers in the medical field.

"It's just training to be a nurse; so basically, we take care of the sick people. But what I like most is that we get to leave school in the morning and go to the nursing home," Brandon Palomo said. When asked if he thought others should join, Brandon said, "It's a great idea, but you have to want to take care of people and also have a tolerable stomach. I joined because I've always wanted to help people and go into the nursing field."

Kara Murphy, another member of HOSA, also said that she has wanted to become a nurse for a while and that it is a great learning experience for anybody who has interests in it. "It's great and all; it's really fun wearing the scrubs," Kara said. "It makes you feel important."

All of the members who were asked said that others should get involved in it, and that you can really do something with your life being a nurse.



Jenna Glover does her daily routine in the ER at the hospital. "This is what I usually do when I come here. It's boring at first, but you start to get used to it after a while," Jenna said.



Time to Practice

Karina Martinez practices her future profession on a real nurse. "It gets boring doing paperwork a lot, so every once in a while we get to practice on patients or other nurses," Karina said. *Photos by Chris Bogan*

Ashley Keith walks around the ring showing her pig at a livestock show. "Showing animals is the best part of FFA," Ashley said.



Barrett Wygant stands with his goat while being judged. "I really enjoy going to stock shows," Barrett said.





Tyler Talley (in yellow) shows his goat amongst his competition. Tyler was rewarded Reserve Breed Champion.

Show me the Money

Leadership is key to success for FFA members

by john kaspar

When it comes to talking about FFA, most people think it's all about agricultural activities. However, according to Ashley Keith, "FFA is a very broad organization." It is an organization that helps better the students in the agricultural as well as the mechanical world, while stressing the key goal of leadership.

FFA stresses leadership in its LDEs. Some of these Leadership Development activities include quiz team, public speaking, creed speaking, impromptu speaking, public relations, and record books.

"I went to state in record books and was first in District and Area and also was top 10 in the state," Ashley said. Most non-FFA members do not see what showing animals is good for. However, when asked why all FFA members quickly say "MONEY." Thousands of dollars are won by many students in the showing of animals.

According to Ashley, "livestock shows and judging teams are the best part." Meat judging, dairy products, land judging, dairy cattle, livestock, wool and mohair, poultry, and horse judging are all activities in which FFA members can compete.

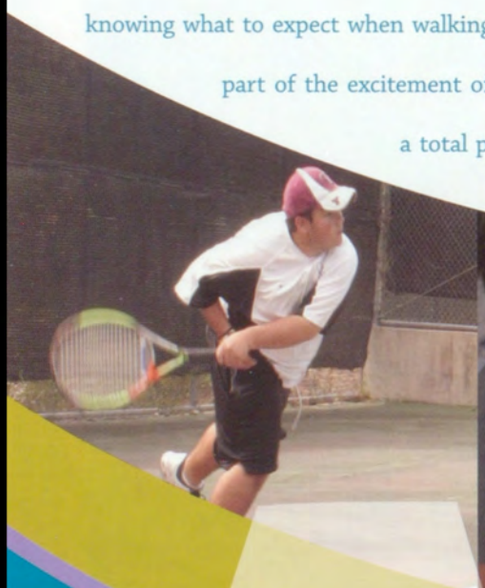
While some like to show animals, Noah Brinkmeyer loves to build. Welding, making deer stands and other woodwork are favored by Noah. He also enjoys missing a week of school to go show his goat and other animals. This year Noah won a third place ribbon along with $1250.

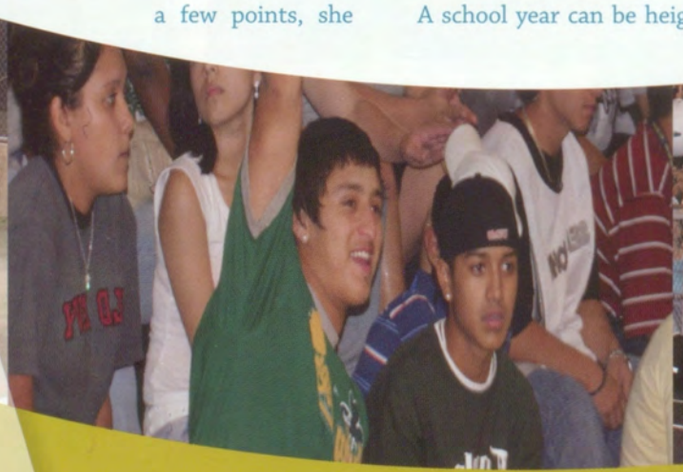
"Many major leaders in the world today were in FFA because of the big leadership role it takes," Ashley said. "Others should join because of the leadership and the opportunities of traveling to meet new people."

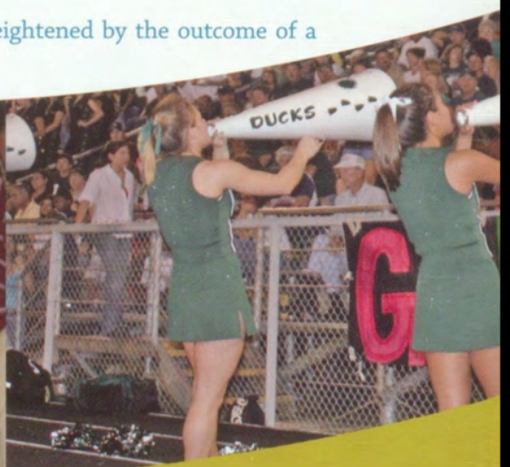


HOSA poster, Ashley Keith, Noah Brinkmeyer

Competition. This one word is for some, the thing they live for more than anything else. Competitiveness can bring out a different side to a person because of the passion and desire to win. The intensity that radiates off a person determined to win can be very intimidating at times for the opponent. Sometimes, it is just that, which makes a person want to have more of a passion. That fear which makes you question your own ability is what people hope to bring out in their rival in order to instantly take a higher position. Never knowing what to expect when walking on the court, field, or track, is part of the excitement of action. Your opponent may be a total pushover and once you've scored a few points, she completely gives up. There is also a chance that you are going to have to push yourself more than ever before to keep the lead. Sometimes a game is easier than practice, but the times when you are not that fortunate are the ones which show your true character. How much are you willing to test your inner as well as outer strength? Can you handle the pressure of a sold out crowd cheering your name? Our lives are always filled with pressure when it comes to sports. Never wanting to let down your teammates, parents, or coaches, can become an obsession on your mind. Constantly taking these people's feelings into consideration can cause you to perform poorly or not enjoy yourself because you are too worried to have fun. A competitive edge in your personality can override these outside pressures, because you are more concerned with winning for yourself. A school year can be heightened by the outcome of a







Act

successful playing season. On the first day of practice, you walk onto the court *not knowing what to expect* or what is to become of this new team, with new coaches, and new plays. Not only do the players feel this anticipation, but also your peers. You find yourself asking your friends and teachers, "So has anyone heard if the volleyball team is going to be good this year?" It is just that, competitiveness is in your character which gives you the desire for your school to go all the way in every sport available. The pride held by students is closely related to how the athletic teams represent the school. Competitiveness is simply a passion, whether you are a fan in the crowd, hoping that your cheering will encourage the team, or a player working hard to honor your school. Imagine the pressure of being the last player playing in a tied 9-9 team tennis match in the 3rd set. The outcome can never be changed. You will never know what it feels like to be in the other person's shoes. *You cannot read about it on the internet, or choose to see an alternate ending.* There is no telling what will happen when you step out on that court. The unpredictability of sports is what makes it so easy to become a competitive person. It's like you just cannot yell too loud or play too hard to claim the title of district champs not only for yourself but also your school.

Below: Joshua Kiewit *photo by John Kaspar.* John Michael Juarez & Justin Gonzales *photo by Emily Quinn.* Hailey Ruzicka, Briana Lopez & Ashton Baran *photo by Jamie Pausewang.* Michael Campos *photo by Mike Sweet.* Cassiddy Stefek *photo by Brent Holman.*









Senior Christopher Lamar and junior Sisto Gonzales try to cool down on the side lines. "After our offensive line does so good, we deserve a little water every now and then," Sisto said. *Photo by Brent Holman*



Junior Adam Janak pushes past the opposing defensive line. "He is really aggressive. He likes to hit," junior Todd Bryan said as he reflected on his teammate.





The Ducks come firing through the run-through sign. "This is one way that we all get all hyped for the game," junior Aundris Draine said. *Photo by Chris Bogan*



Senior Brandon Davis gets stuck at the bottom of the pile. "Getting hit doesn't really hurt until after the game is over. When you are playing your adrenaline is pumping so fast it feels good," Brandon said.

The Taylor Ducks hit the line to start off the play that would lead to a first down. The Ducks' offense lead themselves to a 6-5 season.





Front: Trainers Mallory Dykowski, Jenna Thornton, Mallory Janak, Cassiddy Stefek, Kammi Sims Second: Brandon Davis, Nicholas Pachicano, Brandon Palomo, Jon Hernandez, Lamar Rollie, Johnathan Wooldridge, Michael Campos, Aundris Draine, Martin Aguirre, Mason Crayton, Dwayne Mathis Third: Coaches Joanna Newkirk, Matt Pokorney, Stan Gabel, Ronnie James, Nick Hull, Doug Kuhl, Derek Smith, Rick Tooley, David Guadiano, Larry Safarik, Mike Tennill Fourth: Coaches Armando Talavera, Kelly Kuhl, Ryan Vrabel, Gerald Jones, Rick Cobia, Rusty Rohan, Mark Rogers, Kenny Cmerek, Matt Walker, Kevin Widmer Fifth: Clarence Johnson, Alfredo Romayor, Christopher Lamar, Aubrey Killingsworth, Michael Wooldridge, Noah Brinkmeyer, Ryan Tomei, Trey Milliken, Steffon Cook Sixth: Tyler Talley, Daniel Filla, Adam Janak, Tyler Graef, Benjamin Jirasek, Matthew Drummond, Albert Guiterrez, Robert Aikens, Ronald Gibson Back: Jacob Ness, Andrew Lopez, Sisto Gonzales, Chase Danek, Gus Blane, Kyle Baran, Braeden Lawhon, Todd Bryan



Front: Eric Camacho, Michael Martinez, Tommy Longoria, Stephen Ballard, Andrew Barry Second: Marco Pachicano, Rey Pachicano, Christopher Bogan, Stephen Taylor, Michael Jaurez, Adam Barry, Juan Alfaro Third: Cory Kruse, Ryan Gonzales, Kyle Vanecek, Julian Sanchez, Bobby Sovil, Lawrence Caldwell, Reggie Gipson Fourth: Steffon Cook, De'Quint Hill, Sergio Tovar, Derek Terwilliger, Abraham Hernandez, Cullen Pick Fifth: Nathan Neitsch, Tyler Graef, Patrick Garrett, Jordan Humphreys, Jacob Farr Back: Krishan Gandhi, Matthew Milliken, Nathan Kirschvink, Caleb Owens, Alan Gonzales, Richard Alford



Front: Shermane Caldwell, Travis Tanksley, Christopher Martinez, Jonathan Steele Second: Davey Pepper, Jonathan Ortiz, Lucas Orosco, Adrian Torres, Jesse Shaw, Juan Rangel, Eric Camacho, Dillon Pfluger Third: Trent Rojas, Emilio Pachicano, Jacob Valverde, Amador Yanez, Matthew Hernadez Fourth: Christopher Patterson, Christopher Rodriguez, Tristan Meyer, Jonathan Cervantez, Seth Samuelson, Gregory Carter Back: Raymond Lute, Christopher Hill, Matthew Winchester, Bryan Mundkowsky, Corey Strmiska

Reuniting Fun & Football

Who is this new Athletic Director and Head Football Coach? You may have seen Rick Cobia walking around campus or even on the side line during the football game; his new face in the hallways has everyone talking.

While he attended Sam Houston State University, he got his B.A.T. in Physical Education and Political Science. In 1983 he joined several professional organizations such as Associations of Texas Professional Educators, Greater Houston Coaches Association, and the Texas High School Coaches Association. His career started back in 1983 as an educator, campus coordinator, and coach at Booker T. Washington Junior High. The development of his profession continued to grow when he went to Conroe High School in 1986 where he assisted the varsity football team to becoming district champions. This winning streak was not by chance; he brought to Montgomery High School in 1988 a district champion win. At Cy-Falls High School he coached the football team to become Bi-District Champions in 1996, Regional Semi-Finalist in 1996, Co-District Champions in 1997, and a Regional Semi-finalist in 1997. His first Athletic Director and Head Coach profession took place at Caldwell High School in 1999; that same year he led the team to become District Finalists. In 2003 he took the team to Playoffs and the following year he led the team to develop into Co- District Champs, Division I Regional Finalist, and the #1 Class 3-A Defensive Team in Texas. Along with all his coaching experience in football he also has experience in track, basketball, tennis, and teaching in the classroom environment.

Now Athletic Director Rick Cobia comes to continue a football legacy of greatness. Coach Cobia's attitude toward the game, his fellow coaches, and his team has brought the fighting Taylor Ducks to a vast improvement from last year's record of 4-6 to a playoff worthy record of 6-5. The varsity players have not only accepted the transition from Tim Holt (former Athletic Director) to Rick Cobia, but they established a bond like no other. "Coach Cobia is not just a coach but a mentor... Right from the start he made an effort to develop a relationship with all the guys so that we were all on the same page," senior Michael Campos said.

Go up to any football player and they all say the same thing: "He made the football season fun," senior Benjamin Jirasek said.

"He is a people-person no matter who you are, athlete or not," senior Jacob Ness said.

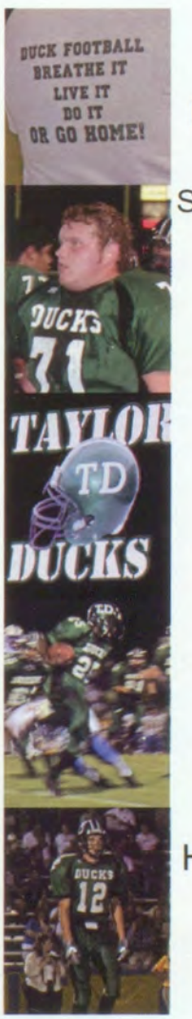
"My number one goal coming to Taylor was to make football fun again. My understanding was that the kids had lost the love of the game and didn't feel a part of it and I wanted to put smiles on their faces, and let them feel welcome to hang out with the coaches in their offices," Coach Cobia said. The connection between coach and player grew to enormous heights for the fact that Coach Cobia "right from the start wanted to develop a relationship with the team so that everyone was together," Michael said.

"I like the change to Taylor High School but the credit goes to the kids. My wife, daughter, and son made friends immediately and I was glad to see that. I was very happy and impressed with our kids and coaches; they made coming to Taylor fun."



Coach Cobia brings back spirit of game

by jacquelyn luna



Burnet	W 26-13
Lake Travis	L 7-36
Schertz Clemens	L 6-44
Rockdale	W 21-9
Ellison	L 18-27
Lockhart	W 41-23
Del Valle	W 26-20
Connally	L 7-56
Elgin	W 48-20
Hendrickson	W 21-19
LBJ	L 14-21

Duck Football T-shirt, Daniel Filla, Helmet Logo, Dwayne Mathis, Chase Danek

First things First

Coach Rick Cobia leads the Ducks in a prayer. It was a tradition to meet on the field and take time to pray the Lord's Prayer. "This is something that we always do before and after the game," senior Jon Hernandez said. *Courtesy Photos*

Pretty *in spandex*

Flashback Day dominates Spirit Week

by hannah carnes & chris bogan

Afros, poodle skirts, zoot suites, side pony tails, and an alarming amount of spandex filled the halls as students took part in the newest spirit day "Flashback Day." It replaced the ever popular Hee-Haw Day but allowed students to get a little more creative.

"Jazzercise...1 and 2, stretch and bend." These instructions were heard all over school as senior Gretchen Richter celebrated Flashback Day as an 80's aerobics instructor. She wore head-to-toe shiny spandex, a sweat band, and bright blue eyeshadow.

"I just figured it's my senior year," Gretchen said, "and my time to embarass myself without worrying about upper classmen making fun of me."

Gretchen found a similar ensemble for her younger sister, freshman Maia Richter. Maia, however, refused to wear the outfit and didn't participate on Flashback Day. "I just couldn't come to school looking that ridiculous," Maia said.

Student Senate made several major changes to the week but felt they were all for the best.

"All of the changes we made this year seemed to be successful," Student Senate president Jamie Pausewang said. "We just wanted to get everyone excited and break away from the same things we have done in the past without losing any spirit."

Whether dressing for success, being buddies, showing college pride, flashing back, or wearing green and white, Spirit Week is never dull.

"I have dressed up for Spirit Week since I was a freshman," senior Cory Beran said, "but I never get tired of making an idiot of myself showing Homecoming pride."

All of the new changes worked well and kept the energy up all week long.

"There's nothing like standing next to a convict, a rapper, and a chef," Kyra Headrick said, "to get your school spirit pumping."



Let's Stretch it Out Now
Gretchen Richter shows off her aerobic flexiblility on "Flashback Day." "I'm glad I risked looking like an idiot. It was so much fun," Gretchen said. She was even seen wearing her outfit out to lunch at McDonald's. *Photos by Hannah Carnes.*



Cory Keith & Ashley Keith, Brittany Blank & Jennifer Murphy, Holden Schroeder, Tyler Talley

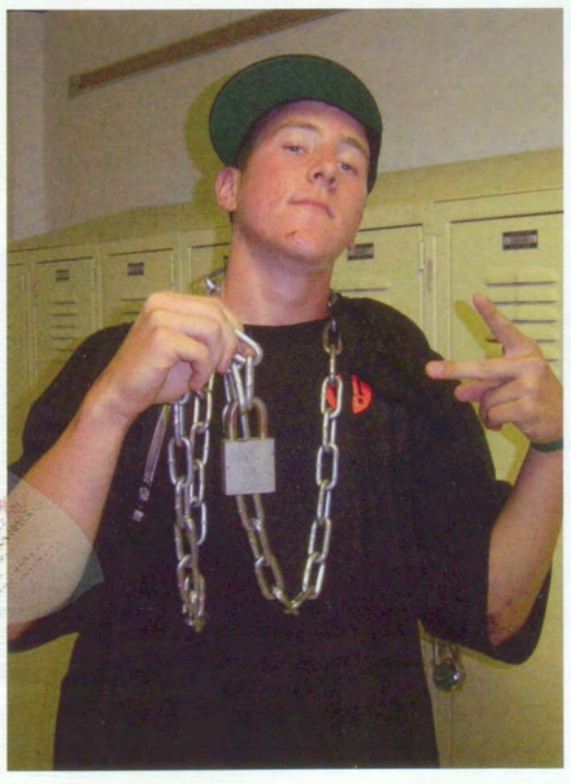


Senior Jon Hernandez plans an ambush as he is camouflaged in the Mallard room ficus. "I knew that if I waited, I would eventually scare someone ," Jon said. On Buddy Day seniors are allowed to all be buddies, break dress code and wear camo. *Photo by Brent Holman.*

The sophomore girls hang around outside on Homecoming Friday. " I thought it was really cool that Wal-Mart had the Taylor pants we wore," Crystal Lopez said. Friday each class was assigned to wear either green, black, white, or gray to show their duck pride.







Stephen Ballard and Sisto Gonzales get into an argument over which team is really number one. College Day let students show spirit for their favorite collegiate teams and as always Longhorns and Aggies ruled the day.

Luke Kaspar shows off his chain as he dreams of becoming a "gangsta" rapper. On Dress for Success Day students dressed up as what they hope to be when they get older.

Court: Freshmen Eric Brooks & Rachel Weison, Sophomores Steffon Cook & Stacy Bubenik, Juniors Alfredo Romayor & Kelley Portillo





Senior Homecoming Court: Prince Aaron Campbell, Princess Krystle Luconic, King Jacob Ness, Queen Jessica Bosley, Prince Michael Wooldridge, Princess Katelyn Gola. *Photo by Mike Sweet.*

Jacob Ness

Q: What does becoming Homecoming King mean to you?
A: "It's a big thing. I feel really good to represent my class as the King."
Q: What was the first thing that ran though your mind when you found out you won?
A: "I was so krunk! I was really ready to play, but I was so mad when we lost."
Q: Who did you think would win?
A: "Michael Wooldridge."

Kelley Portillo

Q: How does it feel to be Homecoming Princess?
A: "It's an honor. I was happy to see some new faces from the class of 2007."
Q: How did you feel when you won?
A: "I couldn't believe it! I didn't want to either."
Q: What's the best part of being Homecoming Princess?
A: "My boyfriend, Alfredo, is prince."

Michael Wooldridge

Q: Why weren't you smiling in the picture?
A: "I was disappointed, because I didn't have the support I think I needed."
Q: Are you happy that you at least made the court?
A: "Honestly it really didn't matter to me. My "boi" Ness won and that's cool with me."
Q: Do you know why they didn't announce your name at the Pep Rally?
A: "Naw, but that was something else that made me upset."

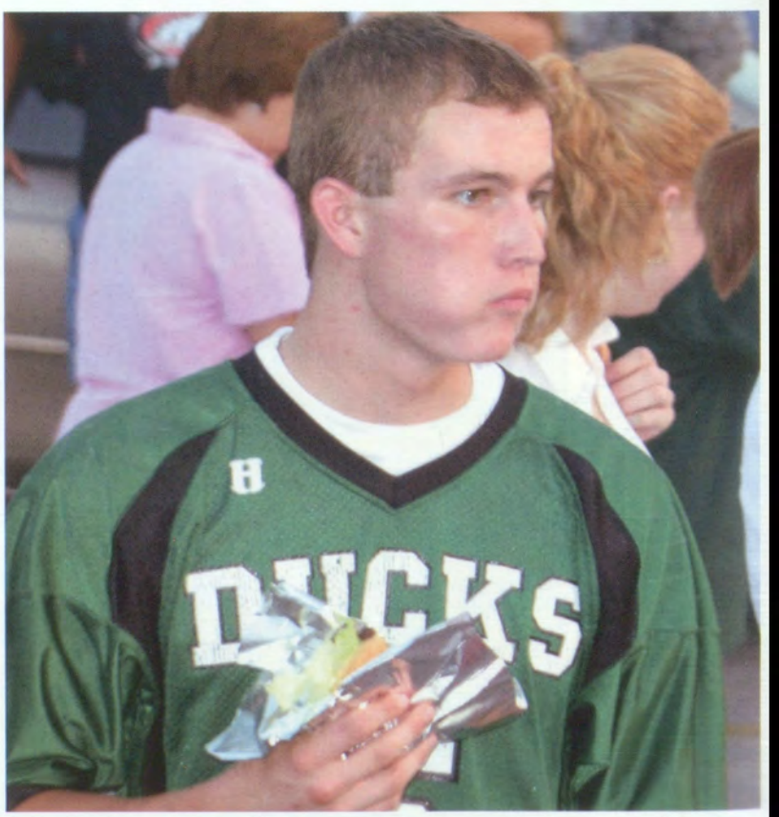
Alfredo Romayor

Q: How does it feel to be Homecoming Prince?
A: "Ummm, it's okay. I feel like my peers really look up to me… Just kidding."
Q: What does becoming Homecoming prince mean to you?
A: "I'm not as much of a nerd as I thought I was!"
Q: Who do you think supported you the most?
A: "The best band in central Texas!"

Jessica Bosley

Q: How did it feel when you heard your name called?
A: "I was shocked. I heard everyone else's name and I was sitting there thinking, it couldn't be me."
Q: Who do you think supported you the most?
A: "The underclassmen."
Q: What's the best part of being Homecoming Queen?
A: "I'm a part of history. Also next year I'll be able to come back and pass it on."
Q: Who do you think would have won if you didn't?
A: "Definitely Katelyn Gola."





Todd Bryan fills his growling stomach with a big juicy burger. "Cory and Brent make awesome burgers," Todd commented after finishing his big bite.





"Taylor" the duck, tailgating sign, Alfredo Romayor, Ariel Lopez

The Pro's Cook 'em Right

Brent Holman and Cory Beran season their meat like the professionals. "I thought the tailgate was fun because people could chill out, talk, and go crazy before the game," Cory said. *Photos by Matti Mott.*

Joan Leone paints the face of Taporsha Tanksley. Face painting was just one of the activities at the tailgate in hopes of bringing in support from the community, along with cheers, hamburgers, and music.



Something old, Something New... & something green

Tailgaters begin new tradition

by matti mott & lorna gould

At the close of every football game, whether it is a big win or a major letdown, the cheerleaders, steppers, and football players line up on the track while every student and alumni joins in singing the school song. With pride we scream "The green and white shall ever fly," making sure that everyone can hear our battle cry. This is a tradition of ours and Friday nights would not be the same with out it.

This Homecoming a new tradition was started. The Student Senate felt that the annual Homecoming parade was just not cutting it anymore. "At last year's parade there weren't many ex's or very many from the community who came," Craig Miller, Student Senate sponsor, said.

It was decided by Student Senate that there would be no Homecoming parade. They had the support of some students. "I wasn't upset that we didn't have the parade because last year the kids from Pasemann couldn't even come," Cory Beran, senior, said.

"We knew that students were upset that there would be no parade so we came up with something we hoped would actually involve the community," Ashley Keith, Student Senate Parliamentarian, said. The idea came from the dedicated tailgaters who had been at every Taylor game showing their spirit. It was decided that a Homecoming Tailgate would be held to replace the parade. It was advertised in the paper and at all Taylor schools hoping to involve the whole community.



Secretary Viola Razo watches with her daughter and granddaughter as members of the community participate in the tailgate party. "The tailgate was good because it was late enough that parents and their kids could come," Mrs. Razo said.

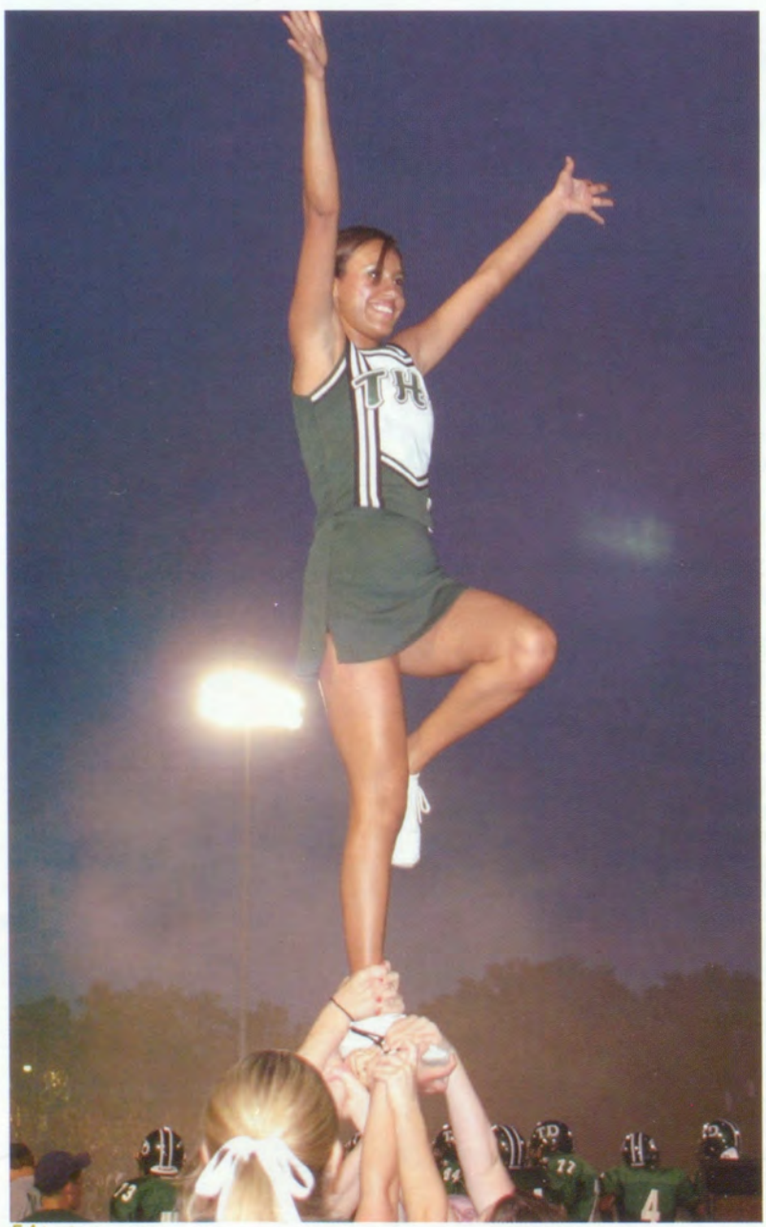
"I thought the tailgate was better than the parade because there was face painting, food, and drinks," Viola Razo, Principals's Secretary, said.

Not only was it a better time for people to participate but it helped to get everyone riled up for the big game the next night. "By clubs making banners for the tailgate and hanging them up at the game along the fence it showed that our whole school was involved in promoting spirit for the game," Cody Eastman, senior, said.

"I thought the tailgate was a big hit and would like to see it continued," Jamie Pausewang, Student Senate President, said. Whether this becomes a tradition or not Cory says, "I will be at every Taylor game going crazy wearing my green hair and throwing on my green robe becoming the pope of football."

The Varsity squad gets excited during kick-off at a home game against Burnet. "Every time we have kick-off the band plays and we join pinkie fingers until the actual kick where we all raise our arms," Ashton Baran said. *Photo by Robyn Rogers*





Briana Lopez flies high in a Liberty stunt after the Ducks score a touchdown. "I've been flying for three years now, so I just do it," Briana said. "I never really get scared; I trust my bases." *Photo by Robyn Rogers*





Back: Stephanie Ponkoney, Ashley Bedsole, Erin Tomei, Hailey Ruzicka, Ashton Baran Front: Jenni Walton, Captain Hannah Carnes, Co-Captain Briana Lopez, Brooke Johnson, Paige Vanecek



Back: Morgan Faught, Harmony Lorentzen, Stacy Bubenik, Captain Andrea Wilkerson, Cassie Stabeno Front: Courtney Svatek, Brittany Palomo, Krista Sidel, Co-Captain Brandee Carlson, Kari Jahn



The Golden Girl
Jenni Walton shows off her award winning jump. The entire squad voted before camp to elect the team's "Golden Girl." "I'm glad that of all the years to be picked I finally got to be Golden Girl as a senior," Jenni said. *Courtesy Photos*

Don't Rain *on their parade*

Captains perform in Big Apple

by matti mott

While most people spent Thanksgiving vacation catching up on sleep, enjoying time with family, and eating way too much turkey, Hannah Carnes and Andrea Wilkerson were busy representing Taylor in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

At cheerleading camp over the summer, the Varsity and JV captains were chosen to participate with 500 other Universal Cheerleaders Association captains in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

"We started trying to raise money in August, and I was so excited! I thought it would never be time to actually go to New York," Andrea said.

The girls spent six days in the city and had the chance to experience some of the most famous attractions in New York.

"We got to see a Broadway play, watch the Rockettes' Christmas Spectacular, shop on Fifth Avenue, Canal Street, and the huge Macy's in Herald Square," Hannah said. "We went to the Empire State Building, saw Ground Zero, watched the ice skaters in Rockefeller Center, and rode the subway; even after all of that it would still take at least another week to see everything I wanted."



Hannah Carnes and Andrea Wilkerson enjoy their first day in New York City's Time Square. Hannah and Andrea were given the chance to go to New York with the Universal Cheerleaders Association.

Andrea and Hannah had to be up by 4:00 in the morning on the day of the parade to take the subway to Herald Square and get lined up for the parade.

"It wasn't quite thirty degrees outside and we were wearing skirts and had nothing covering our ears," Andrea said. "We had to stand in line for almost two hours huddled together trying to keep warm. I have never been so cold in my life, but once we got moving I never even noticed the cold."

The parade was a little over a mile long and the walk took about two hours ending with a big performance to "New York, New York" for NBC on a stage in front of Macy's in Herald Square.

"It was amazing. I have never seen so many people in the streets before and then there were hundreds of people waving out of all the windows above the crowd," Hannah said. "It was completely worth having Thanksgiving dinner at McDonald's!"



T-shirt throw outs, Waddles, Paige Vanecek, Stacy Bubenik, JV Cheerleaders, Ashton Baran

New Faces Shake Up Crowd

Among the cheerleaders, the Hi Steppers, Waddles the Duck and the band, there was a newer tradition at THS that really got the crowd fired up. It was the infamous Propane Gang, also known as The Drakes. This spirited group of sophomores and juniors consisted of only new members this year, so they were learning every step of the way.

The main job of the Gang was to run with the lettered flags that spell "Taylor" when the team made a touchdown, and they also ran with the football players onto the field before the game and after half time. During the game, they shook their painted propane tanks filled with rocks to make a noise not easily ignored. It all added up to bringing spirit and fun to each football game. The Drakes have been livening up the crowd for a few years now, and have been getting great responses. If they keep up the good work it is sure to become a much anticipated tradition for students and the community alike.





The Propane Gang display their flags that spell "Taylor" while they run across the field with the team. This gang consists of Cory Kruse, Bobby Sovil, Michael Martinez, Abraham Hernandez, Ryan Gonzalez, and Richard Alford.



Front: Adriana Romayor, Suzanna Hernadez, Lindsey Teggeman, Krystal Estrada
Back: Ariel Lopez, Abigail Luna, Kristina Gaudin, Savannah Lerma



Sophomores Ryan Gonzalez and Richard Alford shake their propane tanks excitedly while intently watching the game. "We're the second best motivators for the football team - the coach is first," Bobby Sovil said.



With Flying Colors

Lindsey Teggeman and Color Guard Captain Kristina Gaudin strike their poses during the Guard's routine to the marching band's show, "An Imagined World." The Guard received second place at Capital City this year for Most Outstanding Guard. *Photos by Jamie Pausewang.*

The Guard dances for the first time ever at a pep rally. They performed their routine to "Feel Good, Inc," by the Gorillaz. "We have bonded a lot from practice; that's how we are doing so good this year," Suzanna Hernandez said. "We are always together." *Photo by Emily Quinn.*



Color, Imagination: *the perfect combination*

Some bonds can never be broken

by jillian gaswint

Whether on the practice field or on the football field during halftime, the THS Color Guard has really stepped up and shown the community that they are accepting the challenge at hand.

In the past, it has been a tough job for the Guard members to act as "one" when they perform, but this year, things are different. "We just clicked at tryouts," junior lieutenant Suzanna Hernandez said. "We had a fun cake fight. That's how we knew it was going to work."

The captain, senior Kristina Gaudin, is pleased with the performance of the five freshmen that make up over half the Guard. They seem to exert more interest and dedication than in years past. "The fish have really stepped up this year," said Kristina, "but there is still a lot to work on."

By practicing everyday, before and after school and during 1st period, the members of the Guard can't help but form some kind of connection with one another. It is this connection that helped them receive 2nd place for Most Outstanding Guard at the Capital City Marching Contest on October 1, 2005. They also performed at a Marching Fest on October 3 in Bastrop. "The Fest is not competitive, but it's something fun where we go and show other schools what we can do. Plus, it's good practice for UIL," said Kristina.

A lot of extra practice time was put in for the Guard's debut at the pep rally before the first home football game. This made for even more bonding time as they perfected a routine the to song "Feel Good, Inc." by the Gorillaz.

Clubs and organizations in high school are all about being part of something bigger, making friends, and expressing yourself. Color Guard has achieved these goals thanks to the closeness they have acquired during the countless hours spent perfecting their routines. "That's why we felt so good about our performance this year," Suzannah said. "We bonded a lot, because we were always together."



Drakes, Suzanna Hernandez, Kristina Gaudin, Krystal Estrada, Bobby Sovil, Cory Kruse & Abraham Hernandez, Ariel Lopez.



Front: Megan Holman, Kelly Banner. Middle: Jenna Howard, Brianna Yanez, Manayah Miller, Jenna Thornton, Kelly Domingez. Back: Brooke Gabel, Matthew Hernandez, Matthew Solbach, Ryan Jaecks, Kyle Leeper, Brooke Anders. Not pictured: Ynobe Miller





Senior Ynobe Miller pushes herself to finish her race strong. Ynobe finished in the top half of the pack at a Round Rock meet. "Ynobe always pushes to make herself better," teammate Kelly Domingez said.

Kyle Leeper tries to catch up to one of his opponents in a local meet. Kyle, a freshman, showed what it takes to make it at varsity level.



Lockhart	Cedar Park	Austin	Texas State	McNeil	Georgetown	Giddings	Lockhart
8th	11th	8th	11th	14th	10th	9th	3rd



It's More Than Just Physical
Sophomore Brooke Anders tries to catch up to Senior Jenna Thornton in a local meet in Round Rock. Jenna, a four year runner, really pushed the team to give it their all. "I try to keep my mind off running and try to just catch up to Jenna," Brooke said. *Photos by Brittany Chavana*



Freshman Brooke Gabel looks on with fellow teammate Kelly Banner as the girls varsity team runs their course. Brooke and Kelly often stayed after their races to see the varsity in their moment of glory.

It's not Mission Impossible *if you're gaining ground*

Young runners step up mental game

by brittany chavana

After missing spots to regionals in 2004, the returning cross country runners were determined to send the whole team to the big show in 2005.

"My goal this year was to make it to state," Brooke Anders said. After weeks of long practices Brooke was ready to change the past with the motivation of her friend and role model Jenna Thornton.

"Jenna works hard and pushes me to do my best," Brooke said. "She is a good teammate." Jenna sets high standards for the handful of freshman runners who joined the team.

"I push myself to catch the girl in front of me," Jenna said, "and if I'm the first girl I try to widen the gap between me and the girl behind me." Jenna, along with teammate Ynobe Miller, really took charge to make sure once they graduate they left behind a strong dedicated team filled with potential leaders.

"Brooke is willing to work hard and she wants to succeed," Jenna said. "She has the leadership qualities needed to lead the team next year." Brooke, who is just a sophomore, has been on varsity since her ninth grade year and can work through all the ups and downs of being part of the team.

"I just loved this crew," Coach Shelli Cobb said. "They worked hard and had fun." What made this team different from the ones in previous years was the team's heart, laughter, dedication, and commitment to each other.

"This team really came together as a team to qualify for the regional meet," Jenna said. With a team full of young runners it was uncertain what the outcome would be, but at the end of the season making it to regionals was the most memorable experience for most of the team.

"I wanted to go to state but only made it to regionals," Brooke said. "But this season has gotten me ready for next."



Brianna Yanez, Matthew Hernandez, Ryan Jaecks, Varsity Girls, Kelly Banner, Manayah & Ynobe Miller

Going Up for the Block
Hailey Ruzicka and Reese Hall quickly go up for a much needed block against the Lady Wildcats. "Our defense has definitely gotten a lot stronger since the beginning of the season," Head Coach Stacey Rogers said. *Courtesy Photos*



Freshmen
Front: Brianna Yanez, Rachel Weison, Holly Frazier, Brittany Wilkerson, Kelly Dominguez Middle: Brittany Seggern, Cassandra Rozacky, Jillian McQuillen, Ashley Rivera, Glenna Tharp, Krista Seidel Back: Coach Gorzell, Shelby Johnson, Karyn Roznovak, Carla Hoffman, Coach Turnbo, Kelsey Marek, Stephanie Zachary, Brittnay Fail, Coach Rogers



JV
Front: Pearlie Gault, Crystal Lopez, Brittany Schneider, Ashunta Robinson Middle: Brittni Gola, Jacqueline Wolf, Jessica Dale, Amber Johnson, Cassie Stabeno, Jacqueline Orozco Back: Coach Turnbo, Stephanie Wolf, Kelsey Young, Amaris Jones, Coach Gorzell, Leah Jirasek, Jasmin Estrada, Brooke Anders, Coach Rogers



Varsity
Front: Katelyn Gola, Jenni Walton, Jessica Seggern, Jacqueline Luna Middle: Jacie Cobia, Hailey Ruzicka, Kylie Stanford, Ashlee Vrana, Reese Hall Back: Coach Gorzell, Joanna Schmidt, Brittany Behrens, Coach Rogers, Jamie Pausewang, Hailey Mokry, Coach Turnbo



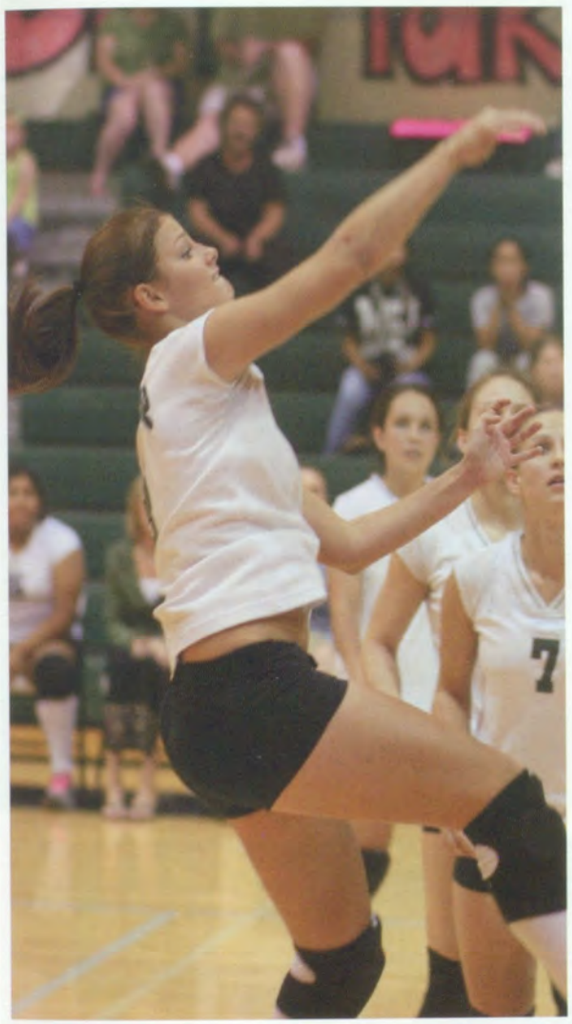


Varsity displays their routine ritual after winning a difficult game against Lockhart. The win was a triumph for Lady Ducks and gave them the motivation to keep up all their hard work.

It was the Best of Times, it was the worst of times

Varsity volleyball falls short of victory

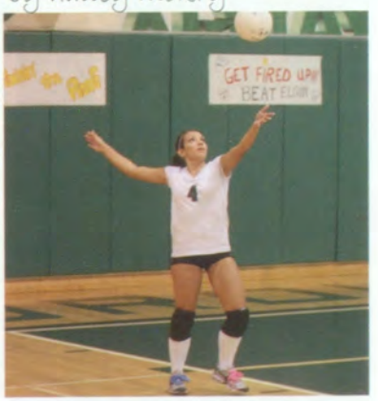
by hailey mokry



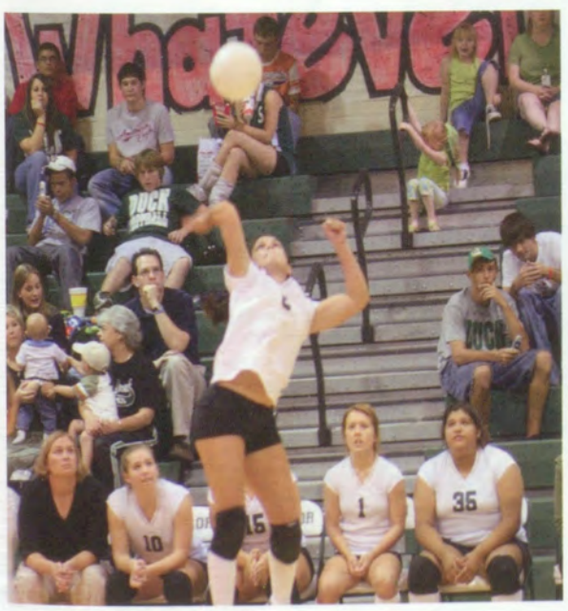
Sophomore Reese Hall goes up for a kill in the last match against the Lady Wildcats. "We worked hard this year to reach our goal and to come so close was really exciting," Reese said.

It was a year of triumph and despair for the varsity volleyball girls. The first half of their season seemed like a breath of fresh air when the team earned a ranking of second and held a record of 5-1 and felt indestructible. Sadly, the last half of district did not go as well. After losing three games the girls' hopes for playoffs started to fade. They tied with Elgin for third place and knew they would have to really work hard in order to keep their dream of playoffs alive. The girls prepped for their intense game against the Lady Wildcats with a pinata and a pep talk. The team moms even got into the spirit and put together a presentation of candy and banners to inspire the ladies to victory. The first two games started the girls off on the right track, and they were almost certain they had it in the bag. When the third game began things seemed to be going the ladies way until the very end when the girls slipped and gave the wildcats a victory. After the disappointing loss the girls were still ahead two games to one and needed only one game to help them reach their goal of proving themselves and advancing to the playoffs for the first time in seventeen years. Unfortunately, the Lady Ducks would take two more agonizing falls to the Lady Wildcats and give up their district title to Elgin. "I've never seen my teammates so emotional before," Jenni Walton said. "We were all in tears."

The feeling of failure and regret swept over the girls as the defeat sank in. "Being a Senior, it was a really hard loss because we were so close to achieving a goal we've had since we were freshman," Ashlee Vrana said.



Senior Jenni Walton serves an ace at her last game. "I'm sad it's over, but it was a lot of fun while it lasted," Jenni said.



Jacie Cobia goes up for a kill in the last game. Jacie was named 1st team all district for all the hard work she displayed throughout the season.



Pumped and ready, the lady ducks anxiously tear through a "Beat Elgin" banner. The girls kept up their adrenaline as they played the first two games against the Wildcats.

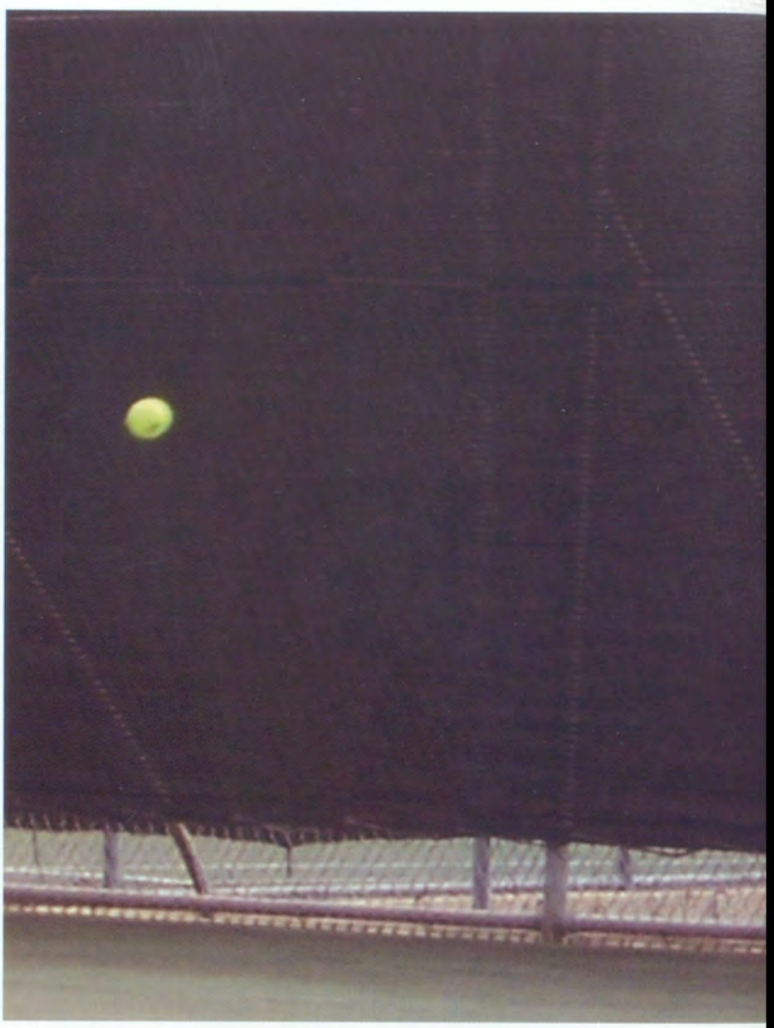


The JV and Freshman girls cheer on their teammates at their game against Elgin. The girls strived all season to inspire Varsity to victory.

W Vista Ridge 0-3,0-3	L Hendrickson 3-2,0-3
L Del Valle 3-0,3-0	W Lockhart 3-0,3-0
W Connally 3-2,0-3	L Elgin 3-0,3-2



Top: Rudy Mikeska, Stiles Parker, Jed Cotner, Britton Byfield, Zachary Wilkins, Luke Kaspar Middle: Joshua Kiewit, Britnni Gola, Devyn Rucker, Heath O'Banon, Emily Quinn, Reese Hall, Keegan Gross Front: Kyra Headrick, Brianna Yanez, Stacy Bubenik Not pictured: John Kaspar *Courtesy photo*





Reese Hall prepares to serve. She was undefeated in district earning her a title of 1st Team All District in singles and doubles. "I'm the best," Reese said, laughing.



Joshua Kiewit swings with his powerful forehand in a singles match. Joshua won all of his district matches.



Freshman Brianna Yanez serves. This was Brianna's first year playing tennis for the high school and did well in making the varsity.

Vista Ridge	DelValle	Connally	Hendrickson	Lockhart	Elgin
W	W	W	W	W	W
17-2	12-7	16-3	19-0	11-0	19-0



The Sweet Stroke

Zachary Wilkins awaits the ball in a match in regionals. Zach was the boys' number one player this year and won the majority of his matches. *Courtesy Photo*

One moment Rudy Mikeska has his racket then the next it is flying out of his hand. "It's strategy," Rudy said,"Who needs a racket?" *Photos by John Kaspar*



The Grand Stage *in San Antonio*

Team enjoys trip to Regionals

by john kaspar

After having a great season the year before, the tennis team had high hopes in making it back to regionals in San Antonio. The Ducks once again qualified for regionals by going undefeated in district play. So off they went to San Antonio one Thursday afternoon where they would stay and play early the next morning. At the hotel "the nights were fun because we got to mess with Ramm [the new assistant coach]," Rudy Mikeska said.

"I liked playing poker and staying up late," Stiles Parker said.

Early Friday morning the Ducks woke up and headed to play their first match against Fox Tech. "I hated waking up really early," Devyn Rucker said, but either way the Ducks pulled off their first victory.

A few hours later the Ducks fell to number one seed Alamo Heights. "It wasn't great playing Alamo Heights," Britton Byfield said, "but I wasn't too mad because we weren't expected to beat them."



Tennis was not the only thing that went on during regionals. Having fun in the hotel and messing with the new coach, Kevin Ramm, was something to do. "He put tape on our doors so we decided to get him back," Stiles Parker said. *photo by Jed Cotner*

After the match the team washed up and then headed to Mi Tierras, a Mexican restaurant. "Even though I got my food last, it was still good," Jessie Hilscher said. The team went back to the hotel for their final night and woke up early again Saturday.

Saturday morning the Ducks faced off against Lake Travis but lost in a close match. However, the Ducks fought back and won their next and final match against McCallum. This victory ended the Ducks' tournament in 7th place. The tennis team once again did well in regionals and plan to do even better next year.

Regionals was over but for most, a trip next year is still possible. "It was my first year to go to regionals and it was fun," Karyn Roznavok said. "I'm glad I'm able to do it again."

The only two seniors not returning for next year are Stiles Parker and Luke Kaspar. When asked if they were glad that they made it to regionals their last year they replied, "SHEA!"



Jed Cotner, Coach Vicki Hall&Coach Kevin Ramm, Rudy Mikeska & Stiles Parker, Zachary Wilkins, Keegan Gross, Britton Byfield, Luke Kaspar, Rudy Mikeska, Brittni Gola

Nicole Johnson tries to do the moves of the new song but says, "Man, it's too hard. I don't like this song." It can be difficult for some dance students to dance when they don't like the music because they are not familiar with the beat.

The girls' dance class practices a new dance they are learning for Spring Show. "I think this class is 'krunk,'" Victoria Gonzales said. "It's also a great place for you to express yourself, meet new friends, and have fun."







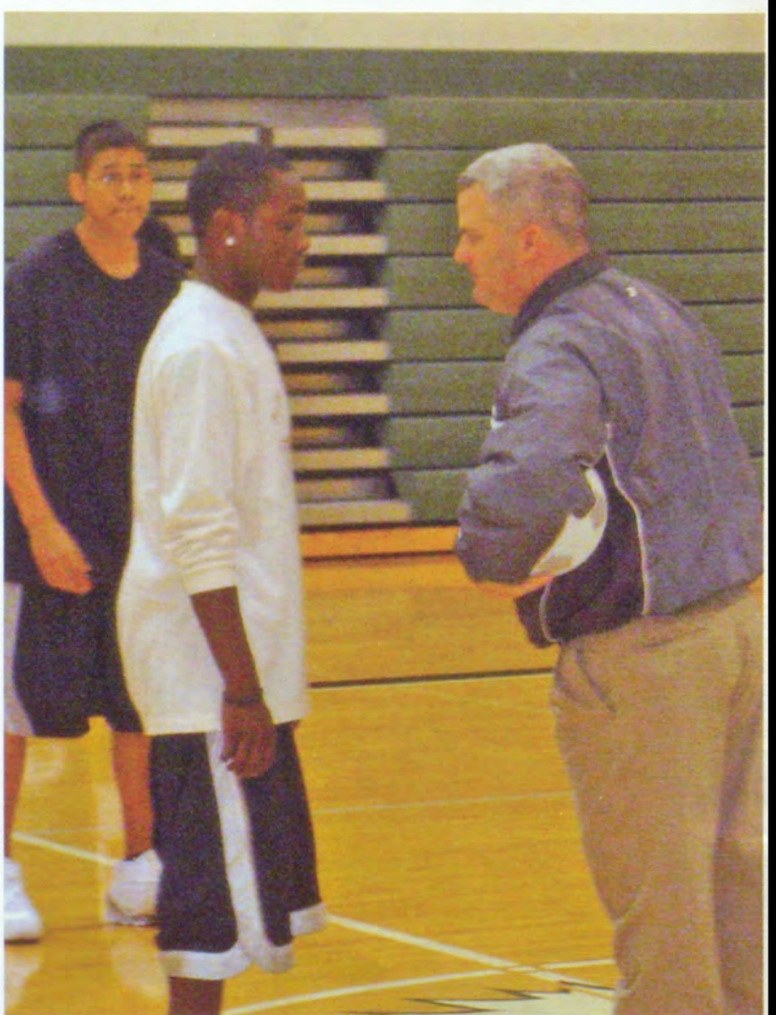
Q & A with Joshah Moors

Q: Why did you choose Dance class?
A: I don't like art and I didn't want to be in band, so I chose dance to get my Fine Art credit.
Q: What is your favorite thing you've learned this year?
A: Probably ballet, because I do pretty good with leaps.
Q: What's it like being the only boy in the entire class?
A: It's usually not a problem except when we do the more girly moves.
Q: Did you have any prior dance experience?
A: No, I had absolutely no dancing practice or ability.
Q: What do you wear when you dance?
A: I just wear running shorts and a T-Shirt--I don't wear leotards.
Q: Do you plan to continue dancing?
A: I plan to dance, but not in a class even though I've really liked it.
Q: Did people give you a hard time for taking dance?
A: My friends joked a lot at first but no one was really mean to me.
Q: Do you think more boys should take the class?
A: I do. I think boys get all of the same benefits of dance that girls do.



Shermetri Dilworth has some trouble with a few of the dance moves being taught in class. "Man, this song is WACK! I don't dance to this one," Shermetri said. "I might like dance, but not that much."

Corneil Fisher gets in trouble with Coach Ryan Vrabel in P.E class. "I ***hate*** getting yelled at by the coach, especially in front of everybody else," Corneil said. "It's just so embarrassing."





No Pain No Gain!

Lanija Thomas works out on bench press and shares jokes with her friends at the same time. "The last time I went down, I didn't know if I could get it back up, but once I stopped laughing it was a whole lot easier," Lanija said. *Photos by Chris Bogan*

Chase Williams hides behind one of his teammates to protect himself from the flying dodgeballs. "I'd rather it be them than me getting hit by those things," Chase said.



1,2, Step & Sweat

Students ease into shape

by lorna gould & christopher bogan

Lifting weights once a week, two minute hip-hop dance routines. "It's a lot easier than athletics," Tiffany Herklotz said. To some the physical education credits would be extremely hard, if it were not for P.E. and Dance.

"Innovative games and comfortable active workouts is the main goal in girls' P.E.," Coach Stacy Rodgers said.

"I like P.E. because I can chill with my friends and work out... but not work out *that* hard," Tamara Simien said.

Boys P.E. with Coach Ryan Vrabel consists of mainstream games such as football and basketball. Overall, P.E. is known as the easy work out.

"We sweat just a little bit, but not too much," Antoinette Bell said.



The girls' P.E. class stretches to get ready for a creative game of Dodge-Basketball. "This is probably one of my favorite games that we play in here," Brittney Jefferson said.

To others that want to express their creative side, there is Dance with Mrs. Jennifer Cooper. The dancers step and groove to Hip-Hop, Rock and many different types of music.

"I started in 8th grade and decided to keep on doing it in high school," Tiffany Jefferson said.

"It's a good place to express yourself," Victoria Gonzales said.

Dance and P.E. seem to be pretty laid back places to be, if you are not an athlete.

"It's real easy; anybody can do it," Charmaine Scott said.



Girls P.E., Jennifer Murphy, Erica Hernandez, Mrs. Jennifer Cooper, Charmaine Scott, Dance class

Veronica Pacheco & Andrea Gutierrez & Marianne Brock, Larry Jackson, Donald Frederick, Cody Gomez, Aaron Jones, Michael Rodriquez, Veronica Pacheco & Heather Hennington













Reaching For Gold
Travis Petty jumps into the long jump pit hoping to pull into first. Travis is one of many Life Skills students who brought in the gold for the team. *Courtesy Photos*

Practice Makes Perfect

Special Olympics brings in gold

by briana lopez

Just like other sports that require dedication, time, and effort, so does the Special Olympics team. Special Olympics is a series of events held for students that are in Life Skills.

Every year about thirty Life Skills students participate in Special Olympics. Special Olympics includes competitions in basketball, bowling, and track and field.

Bocce and MATP are events added so that all students can participate. Bocce is similar to the game of croquet. MATP, which stands for Motor Activities Training Program, is an event that is offered for the immobile students who on the team.

Many of the students participate in every event. Angel Escobar is one of them.

"I compete in almost every event. I have to practice hard to prepare myself for the competitions," Angel said.

The team practiced after school to perfect their skills in each event. They used local courts and traveled for some practices.

Bowling is one event that the team traveled for practice.

"We travel to AMF Lanes in Austin to practice our bowling skills. We usually go on to state in bowling. It is one of our strengths," Head of Delegation Coach Kevin Widmer said.

Another set of events that the team excelled at was the track and field area.

"We have a lot of kids who do well in track and field. We take them to state every year; it's a great experience for them," Coach Liz Delatorre said.

All the hard work that each student brings to the team also brings them a gold medal. Every year the team comes home with medals in at least each event, showing that practice does lead to perfection.



Megan Krueger throws the ball as far as possible in the game of Bocce. Bocce can be played in teams or individually; Megan chose to compete individually in the Olympics.

Veronica Pacheco and Andrea Gutierrez congratulate Marianne Brock on her success in the track and field events. Marrianne also participated in the bowling events.





Front: Aaron Jones, Roland Meyers, Larry Jackson, Andrea Gutierrez, Skylar Crayton Middle: Monique Klepac, Stacy Ramlochan, Crystal Fields, Veronica Pacheco, Angel Escobar, Donald Frederick Back: Heather Hennington, Diana Mendez, Tiffany Medaris, Megan Krueger, Stacy Oranday, Randy Ramirez, Barry Jackson, Travis Petty, Cody Gomez



Barry Jackson pets a rabbit while visiting Our Farm. The Life Skills class took several field trips to Our Farm to pet and feed the animals.



Front: Tracy Collins, Holly Frazier Second: Kendra Deary, Ynobe Miller, Jenna Thornton Back: Carla Hoffman, Jamie Pausewang, Chasity Douglas, Oriell Scott



Front: Pearlie Gault, Brandie Jackson Second: Brooke Anders, Chelsey Boykins, Crystal Lopez, Morgan Faught Back: Amber Johnson, Amaris Jones, Leah Jirasek, Lorna Gould



Front: Kaneisha Griffin, Ceara Sanford Second: Tiffany Salinas, Brittany Jackson, Jillian McQuillen, Miriana Ramirez, Brittany Seggern Back: Shelby Johnson, Arzella Parker, Karyn Roznovak, Kelsey Marek, Stephanie Zachary, Jessie Hilscher





Vista Ridge	Del Valle	Connally	Hendrickson	Lockhart	Elgin
47-42	11-61	99-99	51-45	58-24	63-30
32-44	33-78	43-57	66-50	67-31	67-37

Senior Kendra Deary drives the lane in the post-season game for playoffs against Vista Ridge. "I was very sad and deeply hurt after the game," Kendra said, " but mostly I was angry because I felt I didn't do enough to help my team win the game."



Girls Drive the Lane Head-On

Sophomore Brandie Jackson runs the ball down court. Brandie is one of two point guards on the team. "I just like playing the game," Brandie said.

Freshman Kelsey Marek waits for the rebound at the end of the base line. Kelsey was one of two players to get move up to varsity throughout the season. "I was really excited when she put me in to play," Kelsey said.



The Sky's the Limit

Varsity season comes to an early end

by brittany chavana

As you walked closer to the entrance of the gym, the cheers of the crowd began to grow louder and louder. It seemed that the whole town was behind the varsity girls' effort to find a spot in the playoffs. Almost every seat was full on the Taylor side; students were standing against the wall with faces painted and signs yelling for their peers.

But on the court the only thing that could be heard was the sound of Kenda Deary's voice as she called out the play. The varsity team had not been to playoffs since 1996, and this team seemed like the team to change that.

"We have a well rounded team," Coach Keshia Jones said. "We are not just dependent on one girl; we have a lot of girls who shoot and score." With five returning starters and three freshmen it was a season that had the ability to go far. At the start of the fourth quarter the Ducks were down on the board but coming back and all they needed was a good solid quarter to win it all.



Kendra Deary and Oriell Scott stare at the scoreboard at the end of the game in disbelief. Oriell was hoping to help send her senior friends to playoffs their last year. "I couldn't believe that we lost," Oriell said. "I thought we were coming back."

"If we had one more quarter we would have won," sophomore Pearlie Gault said. "They were getting it together." With plenty of talent and solid coaching the team will be back and stronger next year.

"Coach Jones makes you work hard," Pearlie said. "She makes you work up to your ability that she knows you can do." With that kind of coaching it was heartbreaking to hear that the team did not make it as far as they would have liked.

"If the girls stay focused and keep the intensity up they can go far," said Coach Jones. "The sky is the limit."



Holly Frazier, Chelsey Boykins, Oriell Scott & Chasity Douglas, Jessie Hilscher, Pearlie Gault, Jenna Thornton

Caleb Owens takes his free throw shots in the game against Lampasas. "Free throws are nothing but free points," Coach David Guadiano said.

Daniel Lopez displays the correct formation for a right handed lay-up. During the pre-game warm-up, the boys always practice their lay-ups. "Coach G. be trippin when we miss lay-ups in a game," Dwayne Mathis said.





Motivation 101:

Passion, Integrity, Guts

Varsity uses pre-game customs to get in groove

by hailey mokry & lorna gould

Basketball started out with a bang as the guys found unique methods to prepare themselves for the competition ahead. "The Sound of Revenge by Chamillionaire is one of the CD's we would listen to to get hyped, just to make sure we got off on the right foot," Caleb Owens said.

The traditions varied from activities like listening to loud, exhilarating music to saying a short prayer in the locker room before each game. Everyone had something special they did to make sure they were in their groove.

Some of the more basic ideas came from guys like Brandon Davis and Chase Danek who could not possibly feel pumped without their lucky black socks and Brandon's black ankle braces. "Black on black, cause that's how I do," Brandon said.

But not all of their habits were as simple as socks. Take Eloy Rodriguez for example, who would venture into the Varsity locker room and religiously flush the toilet twice before each home game. "Don't ask me why, but that's just what I did," Eloy said.

Getting inspired was a necessity for the whole team, to the point where they would turn out the lights just a few minutes prior to their game and yell things like, "What's up? They scared!"

"We do that just to get everybody hyped," Jarvis Fitzgerald said.

"All that shouting and screaming is okay as long as they play with that same intensity," Coach David Guadiano said.

Hendickson	Lockhart	Elgin	Vista Ridge	Del Valle
L 51-65	L 53-63	L 46-59	W 70-54	L 61-69



Using the Back Board
Chase Danek practices his lay-ups in the pre-game warm-up. Most of the boys on Varsity have almost developed the skill of dunking to get the crowd hyped before games.



Front: Daniel Lopez, Julius Collins, Brandon Davis Middle: Eloy Rodriguez, Robert Aikens, Dwayne Mathis, Jarvis Fitzgerald, Delain Rollie Back: Caleb Owens, Britton Byfield, Chase Danek



Front: Jordan Samuelson, Travian James, Michael Martinez, Charles White, Edward Stringer Back: Jacob Farr, Tony Sorrells, Alan Gonzales, Nathan Neitsch

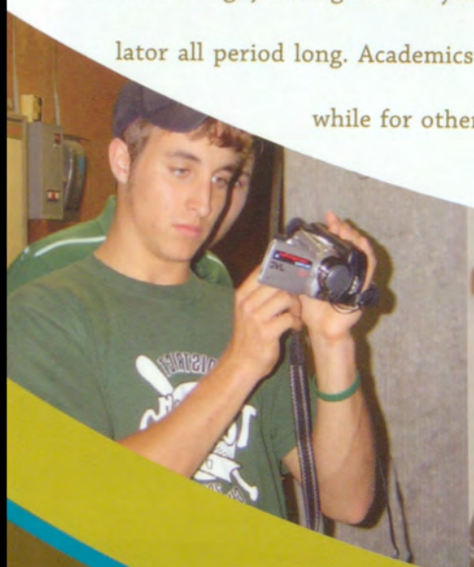


Front: Juan Rangel, Christopher Martinez, Angel Zuniga, Shermane Caldwell, Emilio Pachicano, Heath O'Banon, Christopher Patterson Back: Gregory Carter, Alvaro Alderete, Jonathan Cervantez, Nathan Burow, Ryan Fontenot, Tarlyn Scott

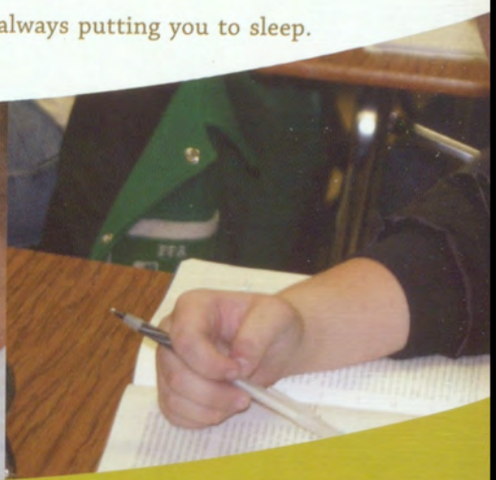


Varsity displays their routine ritual before a difficult game against Lampasas. "We make sure we get everybody on the team krunk," Jarvis Fitzgerald said.

Only in the movies do your favorite characters perpetually get their way. Although there is constantly some competition, you always are able to rest assured that everything will work out perfectly. Unfortunately, your life is far from perfect. Just because you work your tail off in your physics class does not mean that you will do any better than the guy sitting next to you who plays games on his calculator all period long. Academics will always be a joke for some while for others they are the first priority. At times schoolwork and the competition for grades will cause rifts or drama between friends. Grades and teachers can appear unfair which only seems to result in jealousy. It is when these nerves are tested between friends that high school is no longer the picture-perfect scene you thought it would be when you were in elementary school. Although school is torture for some, for others, during class and at school is the only chance they get to see old friends. Whether you are *watching your experiment explode in Chemisty class or getting a cramp in your stomach from laughing so hard* at your best friend's boyfriend make a fool of himself on a video project, the days at school are never dull. Sure some classes seem to have a way of always putting you to sleep.







Stu

But Miss, your voice is just so soothing I can't help but fall asleep, you say as you try to flatter your way out of a detention. More often than not, you find yourself searching for the fun in school, but with *so many different personalities all living completely different lives, trapped under one roof*, you do not ever seem to have too much trouble finding something entertaining. Never knowing when there is going to be something exciting happening in class keeps you coming back each day, other than your parents dragging you out of bed every morning and forcing you to come to school.

You never know when you are going to get the class ranks handed out, because there is always drama tagged on with your competitive peers. All of your classes are filled with unique and very diverse people. It is fun to get to talk to these people that have a totally different background than you. You may never hang out with your total opposite on the weekends but that is what school is great for: bringing people who are also living unscripted, unplanned lives together.

Below: Ryan Green *photo by Melanie Catuogno.* Kevin Aleman *photo by Aaron Reeves.* Whitney Kahanek *photo by Brent Holman.* Stiles Parker *photo by John Kaspar.* Carla Hoffman *photo by Eleanore Avery.*



dies

History in the Making

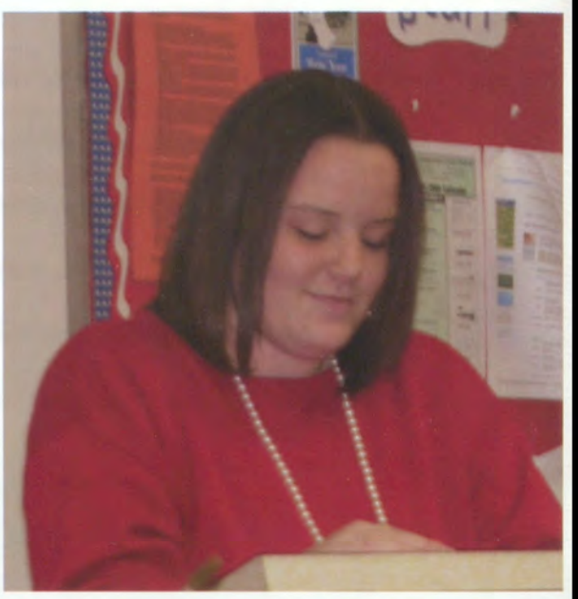
Students simulate election process

by reese hall

The students in Mrs. Maureen Gray's Government classes completed an election project in which they came up with new political parties and pitted them against each other. "It was a fun way to teach them about third party elections," Mrs. Gray said.

In each class different parties went up against each other, and then the class would vote for the party with the best argument. After that process was finished, each winning party went up against other parties from different classes. Josh Gonzales was a part of the Parking Space Party, which dealt with the issue of people taking other people's parking spaces. "I will make all your wildest dreams come true," Josh said. He promised the members of his class that he would make sure their parking spaces were not taken by underclassmen. "Where there's a will there's a way," Josh said.

Other parties included the hazing party, the healthier student party, the pot party, and the fuel party. Each party had to come up with a plausible argument about their topic. Adrienne Sherman, spokesman for the Healthier Student Party, promised that there would be healthier food in the cafeteria and a longer time allowed for lunch. Every party had a purpose and they wanted their views to be seen.



Janice Baker gets the attention of her classmates as she begins her speech. "The whole election was a great experience," Janice said. *Photo by Hannah Carnes*



The Hazing Party consisted of Brandon Palomo, Tyler Talley, Cory Beran, Angel Raya, Trey Milliken, and Justin Castillo. "The election was awesome," Brandon said. *Photo by Matti Mott*



Rebecca Bauerkemper waves the American flag in triumph. "It taught me a lot about the third party", Rebecca said. *Photo by Hannah Carnes*



Retired USAF Major Phil Pierce and Floyd Sanders (Class of 1946) returned home for the dedication of the Roll of Honor plaque. Both had brothers killed in action during World War II. *Photo by Larry Robbins*

Krishan Gandhi assists during the Veterans' Day ceremony, presenting a plaque to honor all former Ducks who have died in battle. *Photo by Eleanore Avery*

God Bless America

On Veterans' Day, Junior Historians, faculty, and visitors gathered at the flag pole for a special ceremony. Making an effort to join in on the dedication of the Roll of Honor were Duck alums Retired USAF Major Phil Pierce (Class of 1946) and classmate Floyd Sanders. Each was on hand to honor his brother's supreme sacrifice on the field of battle. Sidney Pierce was killed at Pearl Harbor, while Virgil Sanders was killed in France.

"I have strong feelings that all of these soldiers should be remembered," said Major Pierce. "I know we don't have all of the names and sadly, in time, I know we will have to add more."

The inscription on the plaque written by Major Pierce reads, *"This plaque is to honor the students from Taylor High School who have fallen on the field of battle while in the armed forces of the United States. Hundreds more have served, many have been wounded, and this is to honor all of those brave students as well. The list below is the names of those killed in action. Freedom is not free!"*

The names on the plaque include W.R. "Bobby" Roddy, C.W. Waugh Jr., Albert Becker Jr., Louis G. Roznovak, Wilburn Glenn, Albert Kaatz, Sidney Pierce, B. Marshall Zidell, Eugene Arning, Vernon Polzin, D. Bland Jones, Reynold Roznovak, Ernest Deaton, Limmie Virgil Sanders and David Swenson.

Since the dedication, Taylor ISD has received the following names: Frank H. Pietzsch Jr., Rufus Ortiz Jr., Daniel Schaunberg, Alton Ray Bell, Euell Claude Booth Jr. and Roy Joe Honeycutt.

by larry robbins

Brianca Alderete plays "Taps" on her trumpet in memory of fallen soldiers. The members of Junior Historians organized a flagpole ceremony and served cake and punch to local veterans. *Photo by Eleanore Avery*



Cultured Competition

German Club travels to Houston

by jon hernandez

Every year, German clubs from all over Central Texas train and practice for the annual Houstonfest. In preparation for the event, German students, such as Senior Cory Beran, begin training in early January.

"The training was unbearable but I knew it had to be done if I wanted to annihilate the competition," Cory said. By 4:00 a.m., Cory, along with the rest of the German group, made their way to Houstonfest. The German students brought their A-game and were ready to show what they were about. Senior Aaron Conrardy went to compete in Pass Auf, which is basically a Jeopardy type game about German life and history. To his dismay, it did not turn out like he wanted it to.

"We got laughed at," Aaron said. Despite their attempt, the Pass Auf group got "blown out" 170-0 to Clements High School. Sophomore Justine Lorentzen didn't even get a chance to compete for the German Vocabulary event.



Logan Tucker finishes a quiz in Mrs. Kaye Schaefer's class before the bell rings. Many foreign language teachers found that giving quizzes periodically was more affective than giving major tests. *Photo by Jon Hernandez*

"I went to the room and it had the right number on it, but after an hour past, I found out that there were two rooms with the same room number and I went to the wrong one," Justine said. Even though there were a few errors, it did not discourage the German club and seemed to have motivated the group into doing even better. Taylor had several students do exceptionally well and advance to state.

"I was extremely pleased with our efforts," said German instructor Betty Jackson. "All of these students are winners in my book and I will be proud to take them to the State competition."

Taylor took 2nd place in the 4A and below Division at the Houstonfest competition that drew 720 students from 18 schools. "We competed against 5A and magnet schools," said Mrs. Jackson, "and I think we did quite well."



Blake Jirasek takes a bite of his "spaghetti ice" (ice cream made to look like spaghetti). Spaghetti ice is a popular treat in Germany. *Photo by Jon Hernandez*



Success at Houstonfest

The German club celebrates their success in attaining 2nd place in Sweepstakes. "It was such a blast," sophomore Tyler Graef said. *Photo by Mrs. Betty Jackson*



Grant Carter serves himself another helping of spaghetti ice. "I thought the party was really fun," Grant said, "and the spaghetti ice was great." All of the German classes were offered spaghetti ice throughout the course of the day. *Photo by Lorna Gould*



Sarah Rohlack reviews her notes in Latin before a test. "Mrs.Schaefer is my favorite teacher because she is so cool!" Brittni Gola said. *Photo by Jon Hernandez*



What language would you want to learn?

"French because it's the second most common language and it helps with the pronunciation of other languages" - Bryce Block





"Italian because I've always wanted to visit Rome some day and it's such a beautiful language" - Amber Johnson

"Chinese Mandarin because I would like to go over to China one day and be able to speak Chinese" - Emilio Pachicano





"Sign Language would be fun. It differs from other languages in that you don't speak it based of your nationality" - Brittany Behrens

Photo by Jon Hernandez

"Ethiopian for sure because it's my life long dream to go there and speak about daily life to the natives" - Luke Kaspar



Photos from www.wave.net/upg/immigration/flags.html

Murder by Numbers

Students use Livewire as tutor

by jennifer mcquary & reese hall

All you have to do is say the word "math" and most of us would run and hide. For those of us whose better subjects do not include math this word would not bring to mind good memories, but others who love math think differently. The Calculus AB class learned to find the area of many different substances. Who would have thought that Livewire, which is only a soda, could help one learn about math?



In Mrs. Crystal Simpson's Calculus AB class, students completed projects that had to do with the change of acceleration over time. Stiles Parker and Luke Kaspar did their project over Livewire. A Livewire can is dropped into a pool of still Livewire. The radius of the leading outermost ripple increases at a constant rate of 9 inches per second. They had to solve the problem of finding the rate of change in the area of the circle when the radius is 30 inches. Sounds complicated, doesn't it?

"Math is hard for some people, but it just comes easy to me," Stiles said. "I need to know it because it will help me in my future of becoming a golf pro."

They did the project before the transition of teachers. The project was made up by Mrs. Simpson, but now Ms. Kimberly Wofford is the teacher.

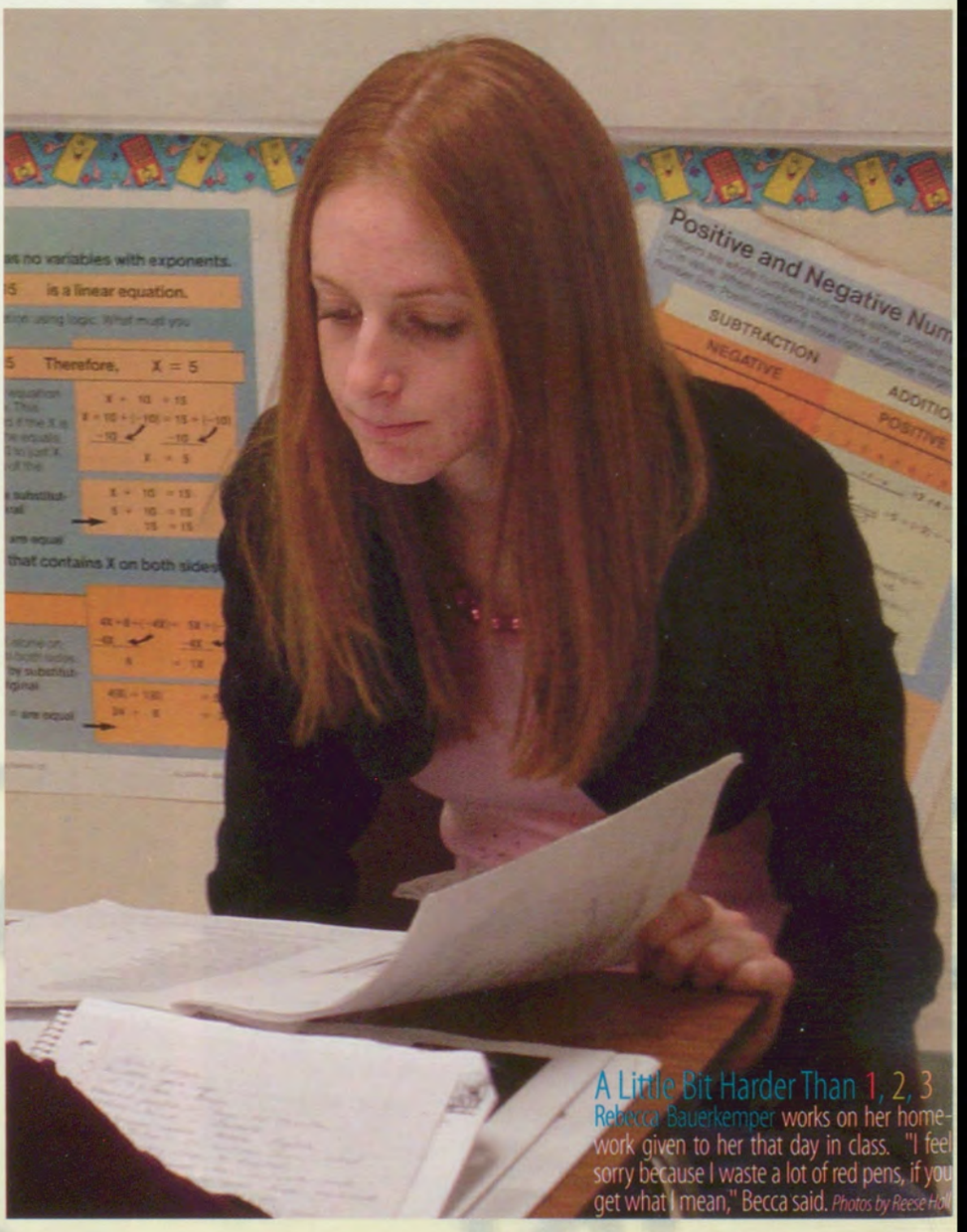
It does not matter what teacher you have or what you are doing in life, math is a necessity.





Benjamin Jirasek watches closely as Ms. Kimberly Wofford draws a graph on the board. "Ms. Wofford is a great teacher," Ben said.

Britney Schneider takes her test over parabolas. "Math is somewhat easy, but hard. Even though it's hard at times, my teacher helps me to relax by making it fun," Britney said.



A Little Bit Harder Than 1, 2, 3
Rebecca Bauerkemper works on her homework given to her that day in class. "I feel sorry because I waste a lot of red pens, if you get what I mean," Becca said. *Photos by Reese Hall*



Jenna Thornton places a sticky note on the sample distribution graph in her AP Statistics class. "I like math because there is always an answer. I will be working with math in the future because I want to be a pharmacist," Jenna said.

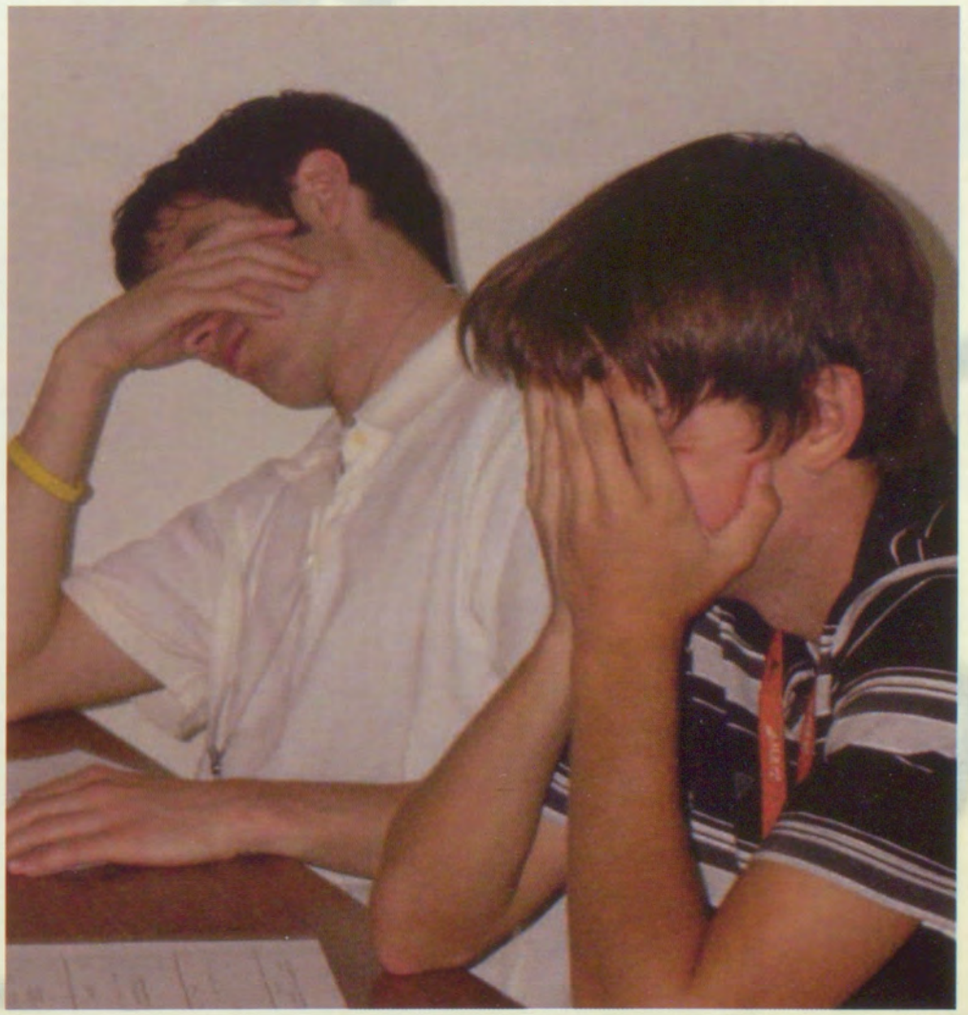
Kristina Gaudin double checks her paper carefully before turning it in. "I'm not a big fan of math because it's just too logical," Kristina said.

Ms. Kimberly Wofford teaches her Calculus BC class. "I love working with students; I like seeing the look on their faces when they get it," Ms. Wofford said. Ms. Wofford assumed the teaching position for the Calculus BC class when school returned from the winter break.

Jed Cotner and Dylan Moerbe fall asleep in class. "Sometimes math is just so boring," Dylan said. After hard nights of studying, students like to catch up on a little sleep during class.









Stiles Parker, Matthew Taisler, Math worksheet, Ashlee Vrana, Justine Lorentzen & Jacqueline Orozco

Sarah Pence, shown here with adviser Vicki Rowe, displays her silver medal in Art. Sarah's was the only medal the team brought home, but all members finished in the top 10 of their categories.



A bored Byron Lantzsch decides to hang on to a support beam in a parking garage at the State competition. "It was so funny, he literally jumped on it and stuck," Mrs. Vicki Rowe said.



Front: Bryce Block, Bruce Griffin, Byron Lantzsch, Tiffany Samuelson Back: Kristina Gaudin, Leighanne Volek, Austin Brogan, Joan Leone, Sarah Pence, Vicki Rowe



Calculating Friendships

Hours of studying unites team

by brent holman

The majority of students in our school view the Academic Decathlon team as a bunch of bookworms who do little else but study. Yes, that assessment would be partially true because ACDEC is a mentally rigorous class that involves many hours of studying during and after school, in a wide array of subjects. Yet, for most of the members of the team, ACDEC is just another activity, high in priority, to the many extracurricular activities he or she participates in. Kristina Gaudin, for example, is the captain of Color Guard, and Sarah Pence is captain of the Debate team.

When ACDEC competition time comes around the team members seem to adopt each other as family members.

"We're all one big 'happy' family," Leighanne Volek said, placing emphasis on the word "happy."

They spend more time studying, eating, and hanging out together for competition than many of them spend with their own families.

"I eat more dinners with the ACDEC team than I do with my own parents," Kristina said.

The time the team spends with each other has resulted in much improved relationships than at the beginning of the year. As the relationships have grown, the opinions and conceptions of each team member have changed as well, adding to the productiveness of the team.

"At the beginning of the year I didn't know anyone on the team very well, but over the year I've found out much about each of their personalities," Kristina said, "Now I would stick up for them any time."

Just because the team members are such good friends now does not mean that they don't take the opportunity to joke about each other when the opportunity comes. Each member of the team has a nickname, and the A team members each come from misspelled words.

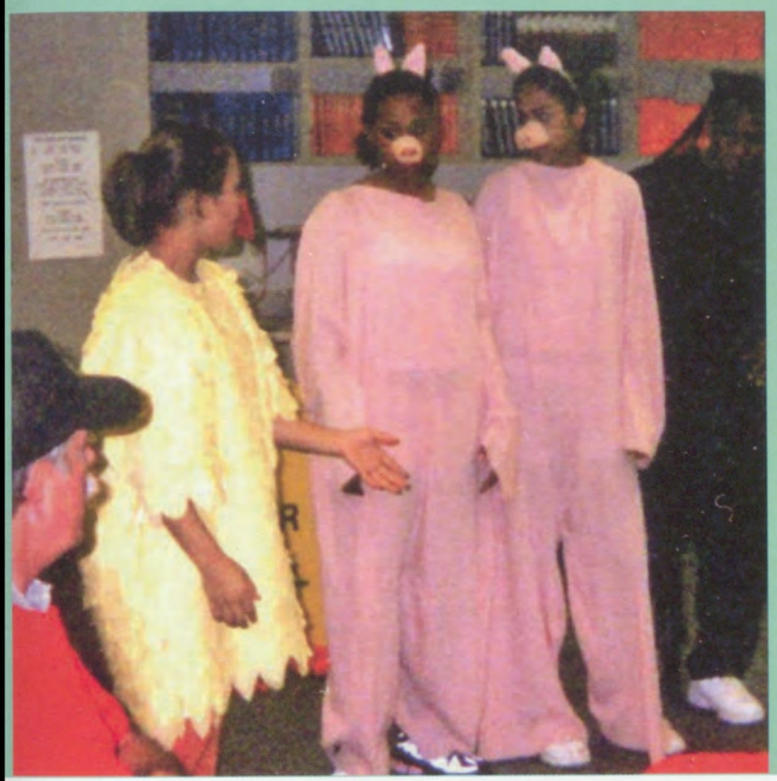
"We call Bryce Block Beethis (Boethis), Tiffany Samuelson Tweets (Treaty), and Leighanne Tristie (Treatise)," Sarah said.

Though the team members love seeing each other and Mrs. Vicki Rowe, they are each secretly looking forward to the much-needed drop in stress levels and study hours that comes at the end of competition.

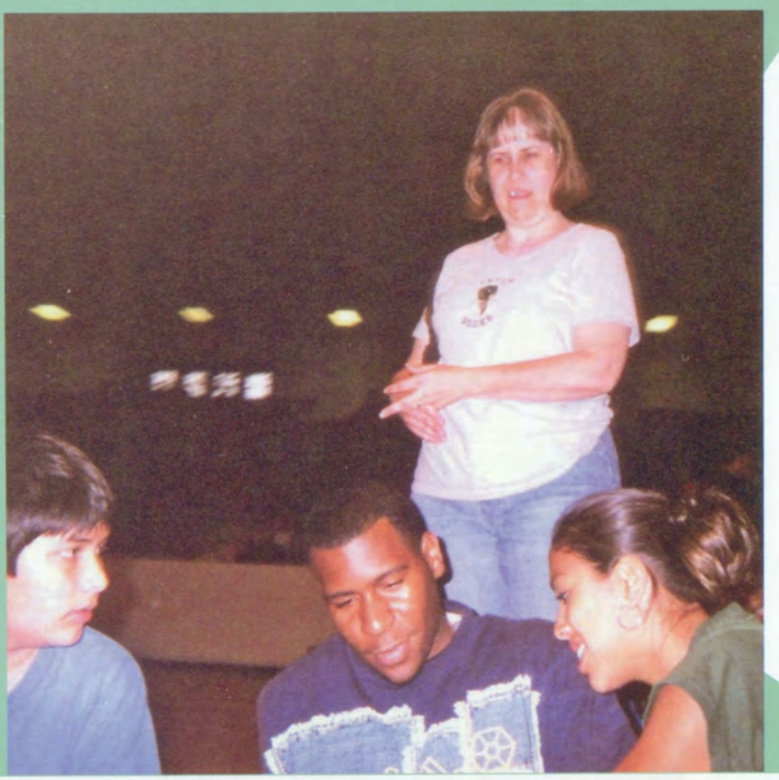
"When ACDEC is over we free up 43 hours a week," Tiffany said. "I have the calculations to prove it."

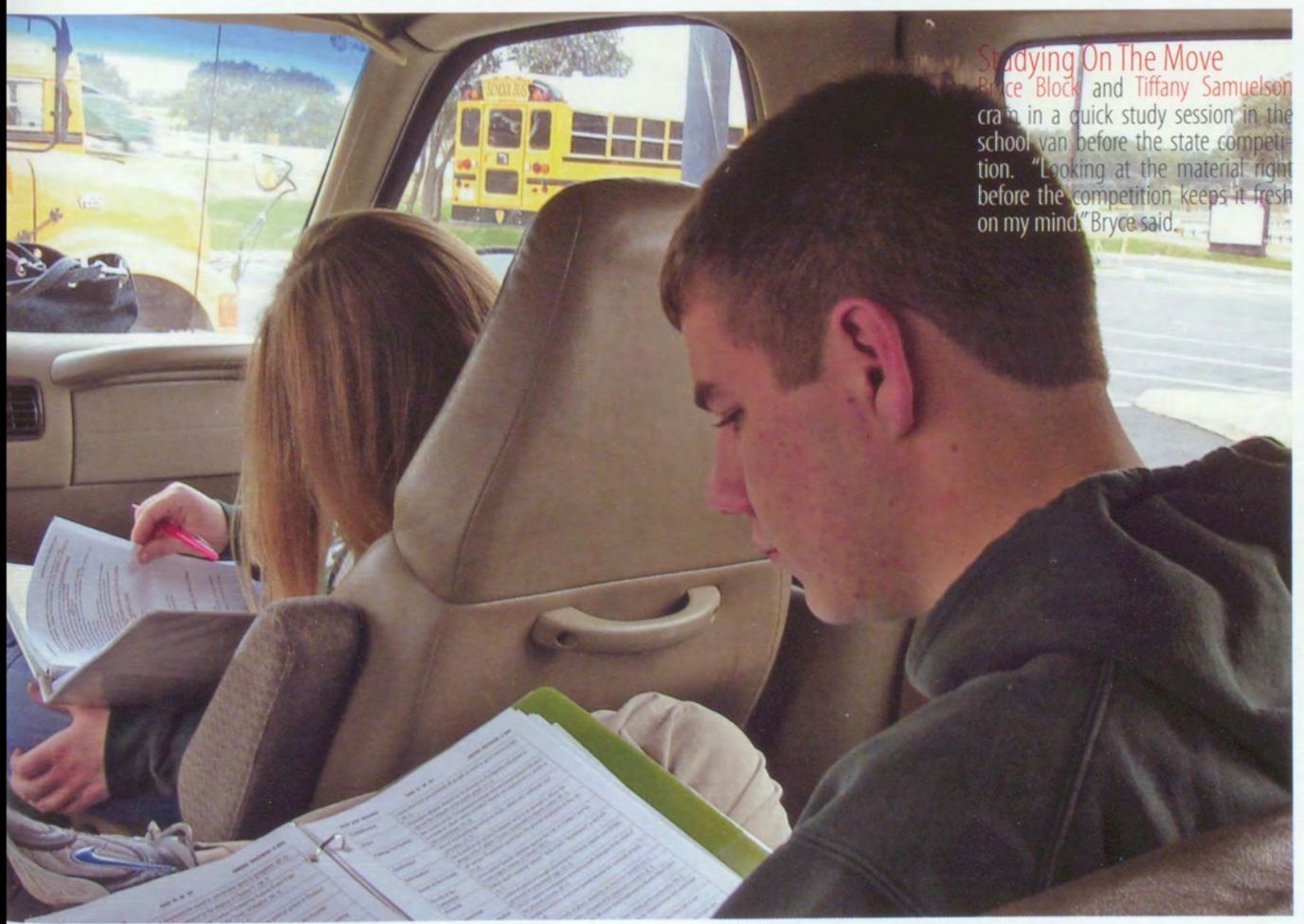


The DINI team performs a skit on farm animals looking for something else to eat besides hay on a farm. The performance had to be made of Balsa wood, glue, and hold a certain weight. The team received third place at the competition.



Coach Bonnie Estrada helps John Estrada, Shawn Bradshaw, and Jasmin Estrada go over the script before competition in Houston. The team had to incorporate songs and costumes in order to perform.





Studying On The Move

Bryce Block and Tiffany Samuelson cram in a quick study session in the school van before the state competition. "Looking at the material right before the competition keeps it fresh on my mind," Bryce said.



John Estrada & Taylor Savage, Tiffany Samuelson caricature, Byron Lantzsch, ACDEC members

Weird Science

AP Chemistry goes to Saturday School

by hannah carnes & jackie luna

It is Saturday morning at 7:55 and while most of us are tucked into our warm beds sleeping off another tiring week of school, Mrs. Gloria Schuldt's six AP Chemistry students are just arriving in the Science wing for yet another Chemistry lab. That's right- voluntary Saturday school.

"The labs we get to do on Saturday are the most fun, but it seriously gets in the way of my weekend plan to never wake up before lunch," senior Katelyn Gola said. "If McDonald's is still serving breakfast then I should still be in bed."

The class has to have a few of their labs on Saturdays because the AP labs they are required to complete take too long to do in just one class period. The class is college level Chemistry and all six students are seniors looking to get some early college course credit.

"We have the Saturday labs because I actually teach them to Mrs. Schuldt and the rest of the class," Luke Kaspar joked. "I've seriously learned a lot in this class though."

The class has made their own mirrors in a test tube, used a combination of chemicals, created crystals, and even made aspirin.

"The labs on Saturday are actually really cool because then we have enough time to finish all of the other labs that we turn in at the end of the six weeks," Leighanne Volek said. "It's great cram time."

The class is only for those who are very interested in Chemistry, are looking for college credit, and are prepared for a little extra time in a lab apron and goofy goggles.



"Chemistry is the best. I mean, in what other class do you have a periodic element named for you?" Senior Leighanne Volek explains as she drinks "hydric acid to warm up" her brain.

Science is ...



Erika Wooldridge

"Fun when we have labs. For example, we did a lab called the roller-coaster lab which was probably our best lab because it was easier and more fun than all the rest."



Luke Kaspar

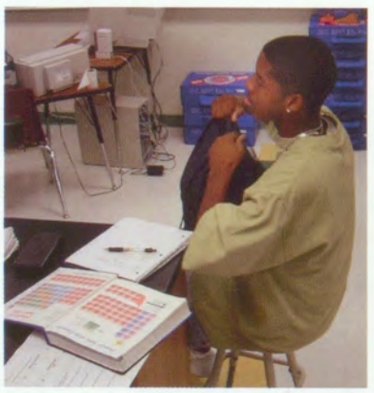
"Cool because in Chemistry we have Mrs. Schuldt so we get to do cool things like juggle and blow stuff up...we even made mirrors in a test tube."



Byron Lantzsch

"Too complicated. Chemistry has too many rules to remember. I don't like the rules and all of the ones that have exceptions to them."

Steffon Cook listens with great interest as he learns about the latest project. Mr. Chad Springer's chemistry classes were simulating their own CSI. The classes investigated a plane crash and tried to identify the victims.



Members of Science Club delivers 2,015 cans to the Good Shepherd Food Pantry. Students and science club were able to have a successful food drive and helped families in the community during a time of giving. *Courtesy Photo.*





Ashley Keith lays flat on the ground after a science experiment goes wrong. The experiment took a team effort to find a way to produce the greatest force from a stationary position. *Photo by Gloria Schuldt.*





mortar & pestle with goggles, skull, molecules, Misty Carpenter, Aaron Reeves & Matt Milliken





Too early for a Saturday

Seniors Tiffany Samuelson and Sarah Pence, along with four other AP Chemistry students, come to work on their lab Saturday morning. "Yeah, I should be sleeping but I guess I will give it up for the sake of knowledge," Tiffany said. *Photos by Jackie Luna*

Mrs. Jennifer Wesoloski and Jackie Luna help load trucks full of canned foods to deliver to a local food bank. Early Saturday morning Science Club prepared to deliver the food collected during a food drive which was a huge success thanks to the students. *Photo by Chad Springer*

Jaboa Matoska pushes with all her might to out beat her opponents. "We should have won, but the force was not with us," Jaboa said jokingly as she reminisced about the science competition that displayed elastic and inelastic forces. *Photo by Gloria Schuldt*

Lights, Camera, Action!

New video class has cameras rolling

by jillian gaswint

Times are changing, and there is no doubt about it, but with the edition of another new technology class, students are not left in the dark. Video Technology teaches students how to creatively work with effects, transitions, titles, and music, as well as giving them the knowledge and skills to produce good quality films.

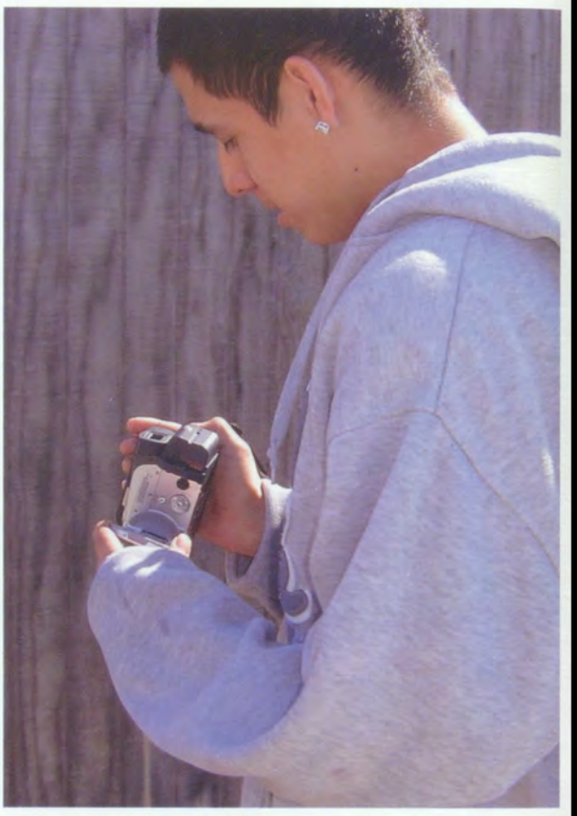
"They are learning how to film properly, and, just as important, how to edit using Adobe Premier Elements," Mrs. Melanie Catuogno, Video Technology and Desktop Publishing teacher, said.

"We make entertainment," junior, Lindsey Walton said. "I love this class. It's really fun to edit with the software."

Another new addition to the schedule of the high school is the Channel One News, played every morning during the advisory period at 9:55 a.m. on screens that were installed into each classroom.

"It is broadcasted every morning at 4 a.m., so schools can record it and play it whenever," school librarian Mrs. Diane Fox said. "Also, there are some benefits of getting the Channel One. We are eligible for free Time Warner Cable. Some channels will be blocked, but we will be able to get . . . the History Channel and the Discovery Channel [in] each classroom."

In addition to available programming, Mrs. Catuogno hopes to broadcast student films and, eventually, a student-produced news show.



Matthew Alderete checks the footage he has just recorded on one of the cameras provided for the Video Technology class. "I love filming different shots and editing them on the computer," Matthew said.

Quiet on the Set
Patrick Garrett, Joshah Moors, and Bryce Block set up a scene for the movie "Test Case" that they are shooting in Video Tech. Inset: a frame from the finished video shows Joshah being transformed by mad scientist Bryce.



Technology we can't live without

Pearlie Gault:
my cell phone for text messaging

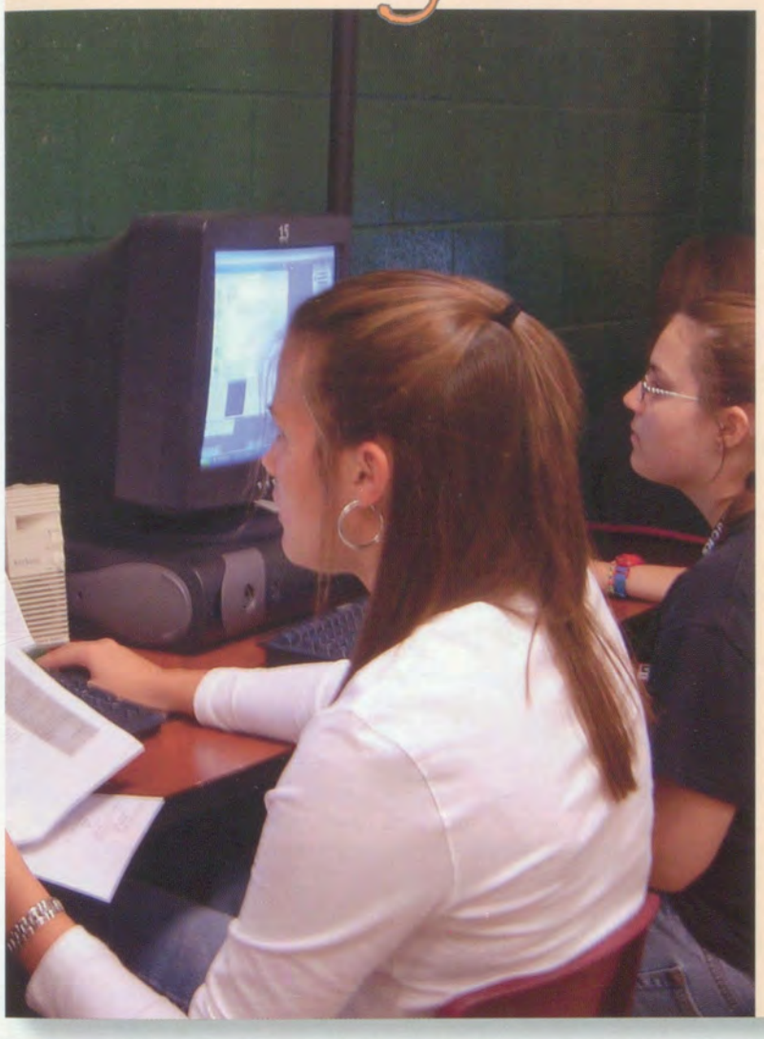
Amaris Jones:
a computer because I like to chat & when I can't talk on the phone it's my only other source

Emilio Pachicano:
my cell phone; it's like my brother

Travis Tanksley:
my Playstation Two because I'm childish and I need something to play with

Stephanie Wolf:
a computer to chat online and listen to music

Art goes digital

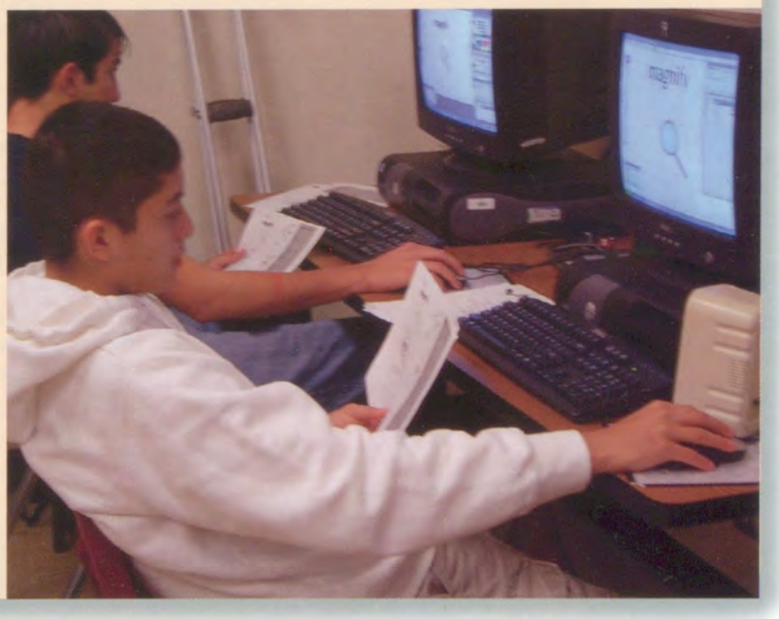


Karyn Roznovak and Adrienne Sherman read about how to create clipping masks in Digital Graphics & Animation. "We make graphics," Adrienne said. "The packets instruct us how to us Illustrator."

Daniel Lopez works at his computer on a lesson that explains how to create graphics in Adobe Illustrator. "We've been working with points and lines so far," Daniel said. "And a little bit of graphics."

Another popular class that is being offered again after its debut last year is Digital Graphics and Animation. "The students will learn to design aesthetically appealing graphics and gain a working knowledge of some current software," Mrs. Dawn Fischer said, who is teaching the class for a second year.

"It's interesting," senior Adrienne Sherman said, who is enrolled in the technology course. "You learn how to do stuff on the computer that you normally wouldn't know."







Ryan Haverland waits for his cue in the movie he and his group are making. "I played Nurse Yeti," Ryan said. The students used props and costumes to add effect to their videos.

Matthew Taisler records Chris Alderete riding on his scooter as Heath Hazelwood watches from behind. "Our video ["Back to School"] shows a guy having a dream about going to school and being chased by bullies," Chris said.

She had a Dream

Students go medieval on English projects

by brent holman

The days of doing grammar and sentence structure are over. Combine a camera, medieval speech (*Ye speeketh like this*), and a group of Mrs. Vicki Rowe's senior AP English IV students and you get the potential for an exciting, action-packed medieval movie.

The inspiration for the project came at an imaginative time for Mrs. Rowe.

"I had a dream that I gave the assignment to make a movie, and I woke up the next morning and thought 'that's what we can do'," Mrs. Rowe said.

First thing that morning she came up to school and typed it into her lesson plan. The very same day she had students draw characters out of a hat for the project.

"I realized that in a strange way all the characters in Canturbury Tales come from all walks of life, and by having students draw random characters out of a hat, students were also forced to bring characters together like Chaucer did," Mrs. Rowe said.

The movies were a great success, embracing medieval culture and events. Not just the English IV students were in all of the movies. Friends and family members were brought into several as extras. Even digital graphics were placed into the movies to add special effects.

Several students edited and finalized their movies in Mrs. Melanie Catuogno's video technology class.

Joseph Debus also took a video technology class where he learns to edit and add special effects to movies. The benefit of this could be seen in almost every angle of the movie.

"It was an excellent movie, we had lightning coming out of Matt Drummond's hands, and great acting," Joseph said.

"I'm pleased to see the level of technology, and I appreciate several actors' attempts of having a British accent. I think another aspect is other people have gotten involved. Jamie Pauswang's dad, for instance, played several roles in her group's movie. Even English III students have had contributing roles," Mrs. Rowe said.

Some students saw the movie as an opportunity to showcase other skills. Aaron Conrardy and Joseph have been in theatre arts for years learning acting skills.

"I had a good time doing this movie. We finally got to show our talent through our own script," Aaron said.

Adding in a little editing here and there, and clearing up what the characters are saying makes a big importance in the final product. Incidentally, the movies also satisfied the 15 to 20 minute play or production requirement set by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for senior English students in the Texas school system.

"I don't think anyone could say it wasn't fun," Mrs. Rowe said.



Shooteth thy arrow
Ben Jirasek takes aim as he closes in on the beast. Ben's group made a medieval movie, along with the rest of AP English IV classes. "The movies took longer than we thought, but it was fun and worth my time," Jon Hernandez said. *Courtesy Photo*





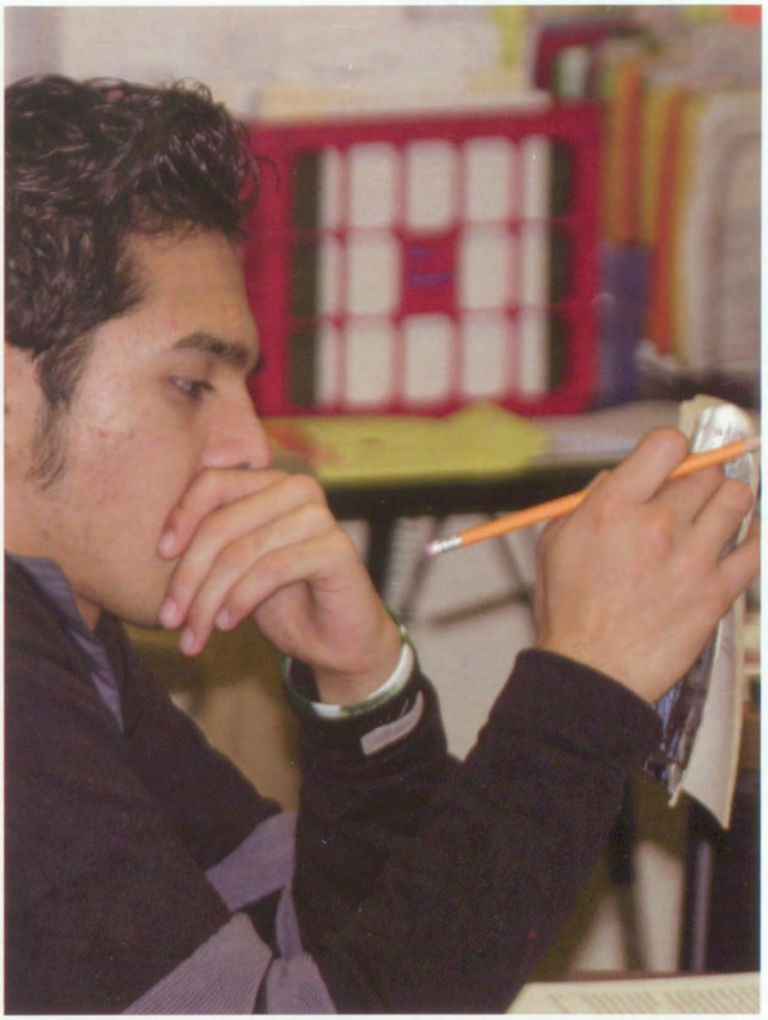


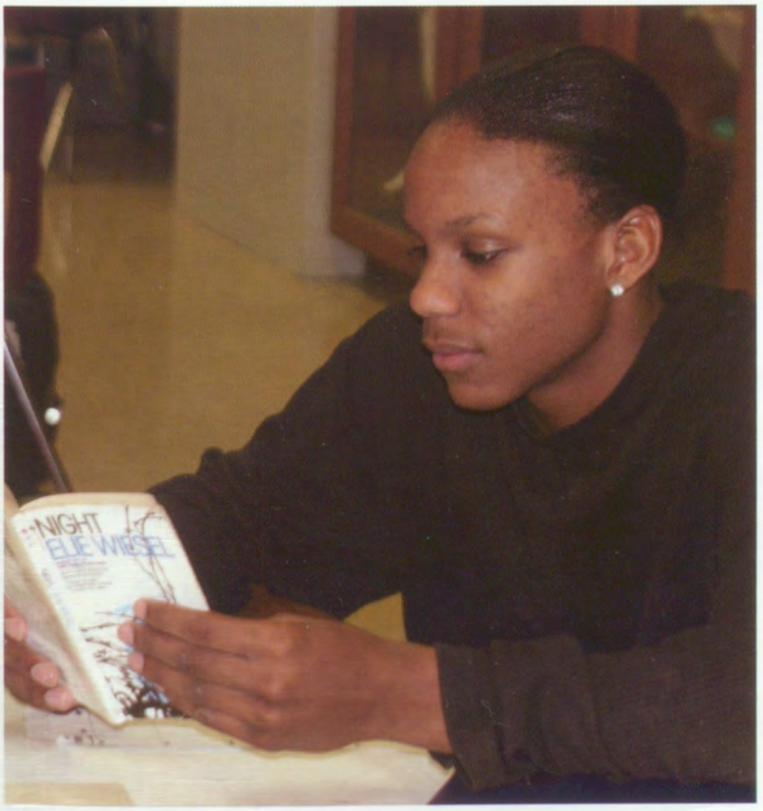
Joseph Debus & Benjamin Jirasek, Canturbury Tales caricature, Jerid Elms, Canterbury Tales caricature, Stephen Taylor



Mrs. Rachel Burklow's English IV classes created pumpkin caricatures, each representing a character in Chaucer's Canturbury Tales. "Chaucer paid very close attention to detail, and the students were able to make each pumpkin much like the ones in the novel," Mrs. Burklow said. *Courtesy Photo*

Bryant Cigales searches through his book in Ms. Melissa Wagonner's class, trying to find symbols for his tapestry. "The students had to find words representing Jews and Nazis in the book, then draw their interpretation of them on the tapestries," Ms. Wagonner said. *Photo by Brent Holman*









Jonathon Scott follows along as Ms. Melissa Wagonner reads *Night*, a book about the concentration camps of WWII, to the class. "It's a pretty good book. They went through some really hard stuff," Jonathon said. *Photo by Brent Holman*

Matt Drummond, who played the part of a medieval king in *The Journeying Journeyman*, shoots lightning out of his hands. It was one of the many effects added to the movie. *Courtesy Photo*

A Creation of Inspiration

Teachers show students options

by jon hernandez

Growing up in a small town with a population no larger than 14,000, there are not many jobs around that offer actual careers. An hour's worth of work at McDonald's or H-E-B won't get you much more than minimum wage and a career as a hamburger flipper does not pay too generously either. Students are hardly ever given a chance to see the promising careers that the world has to offer considering the abundance of fast food restaurants in this town.

Mrs. Jennifer Cooper and Mrs. Monica Ramirez saw how students were not seeing the best careers because of the surroundings they are in. It was becoming apparent to them that the students were not seeing real world careers. Killing two birds with one stone, the two came up with a way to make one hallway more exciting and a way to inspire students to pursue promising careers.

"After the lockers were removed, the hallway looked plain and I wanted to make it livelier," Mrs. Ramirez said.

"I wanted to inspire students to think beyond McDonald's," Mrs. Cooper said. After a bit of brainstorming, the two decided to make a mural on the bland wall with a variety of different careers. The project got underway on the last Monday before the winter break. They knew it was going to take a group effort in order to accomplish their big project, so they asked their Food Science, Personal Family Development, Dance, and High Steppers classes to help.



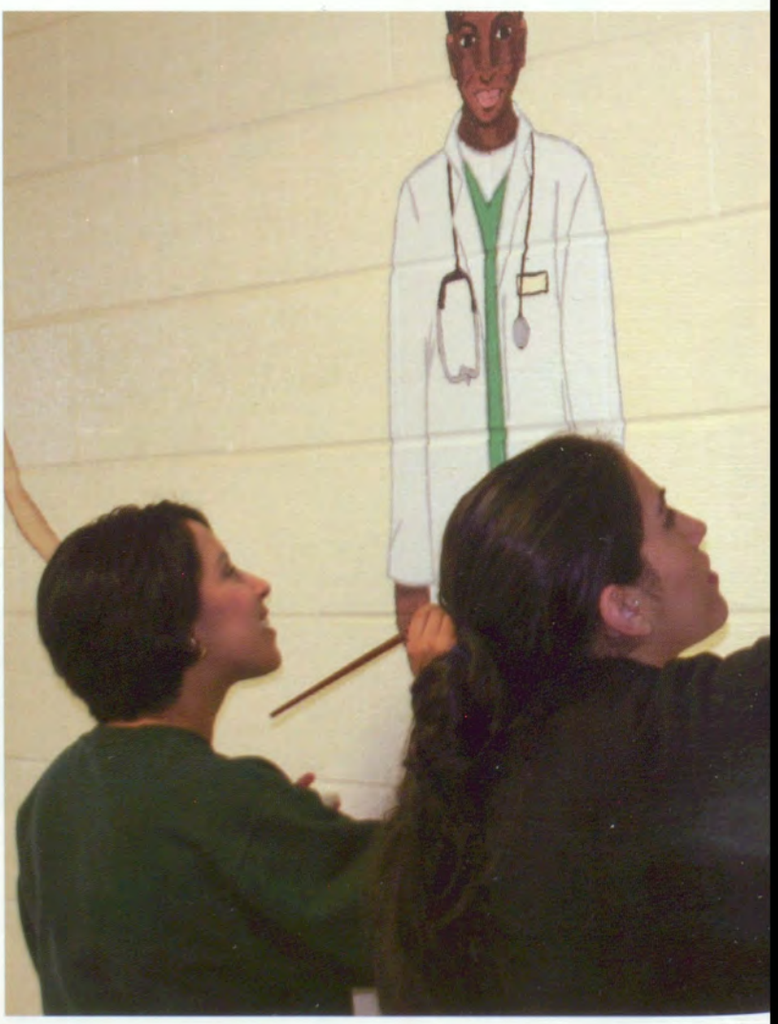
Alberto Seda draws on the bathroom wall during 5th period. For several weeks, Alberto and many other art students decorated the bathroom with various cultures throughout the world.

"I really enjoyed helping with the mural," Kara Murphy said. "I think it'll look awesome when it's finally done." The whole week of finals and the two weeks after the winter break, the two determined teachers and their students worked rigorously on the project. Finally, after three weeks, the mural was complete. It consisted of careers that range from automobile mechanics to veterinarians.

Afterwards, Mrs. Ramirez and Mrs. Cooper felt better in knowing that they helped to show students what their future possibly could be if they wanted to pursue it. Thanks to the two, when a student walks out of the school down the dance hall they can take a few seconds to think about the possibilities of their future.



Beronica Ortiz sketches the outline of the projected picture from an overhead. The wall project took over three weeks to complete. "I feel glad that I was a part of something that will always be around," Beronica said.

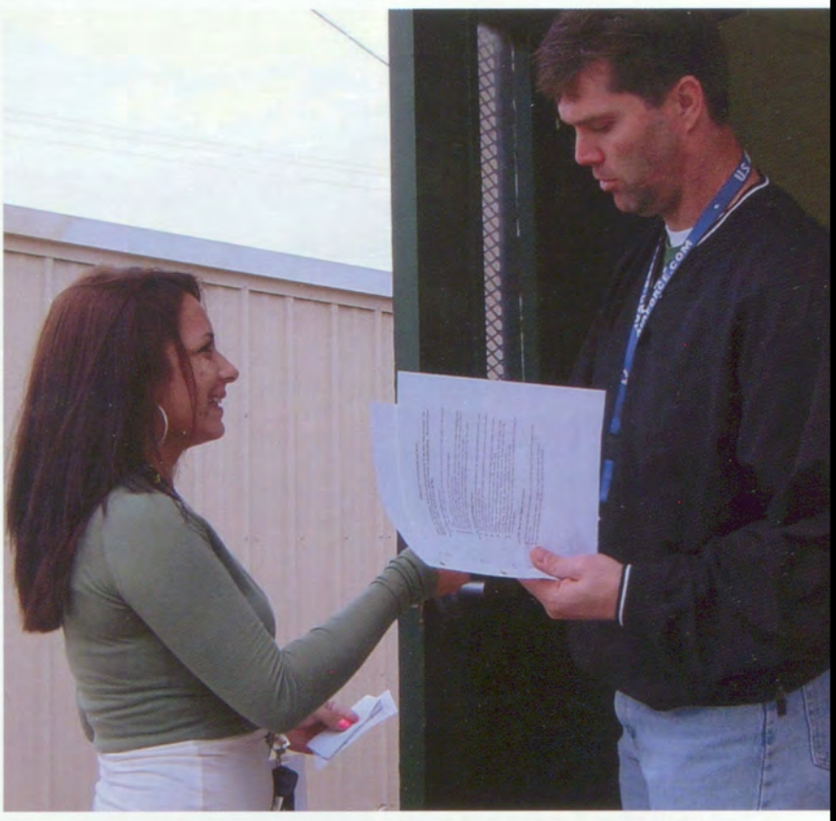


Painting Away
Mrs. Monica Ramirez and Mrs. Jennifer Cooper touch up the final product of the wall mural. "I wanted to inspire students to think beyond McDonald's," Mrs. Cooper said. *Photos by Jon Hernandez*

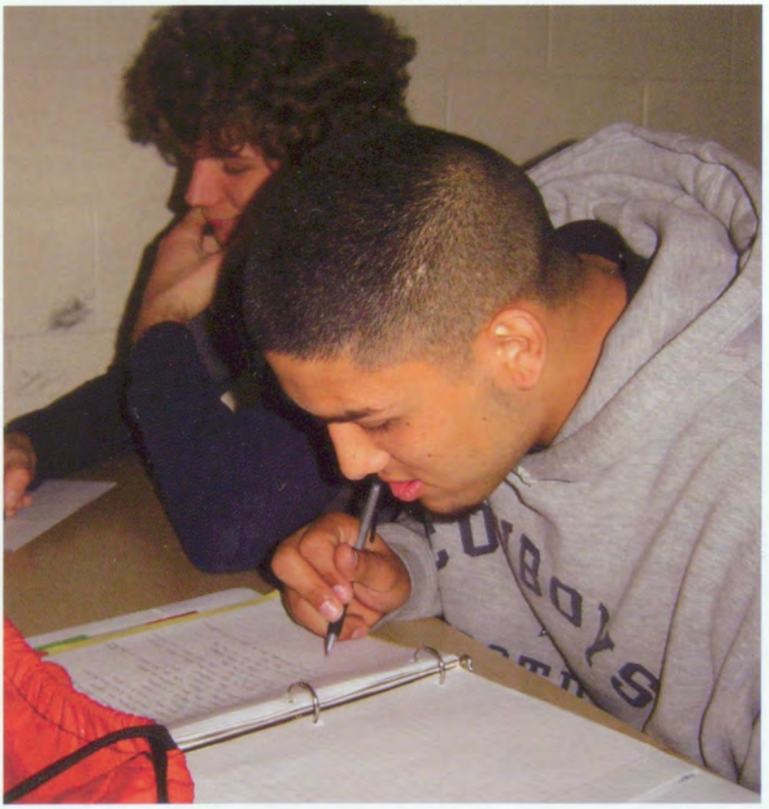


Lauren Lopez and Ashley Heaton look through magazines for cutouts for their collage. "I like Art class because I don't have to do math equations and stuff," Lauren said. "Art is relaxing for me."

Kelly Banner hands an office note to Coach Derek Smith. Office aids were constantly roaming throughout the hallways delivering notes from the office. "I like Office Aid because I get to walk around," Kelly said.







Michael Campos works on notes while Matthew Drummond is stumped on a question. Floral design has become a more popular course among students. "I never knew flowers could be so much fun," Michael said.

Surviving Katrina

Evacuees come to Taylor

by matti mott

Hurricane Katrina had considerably weakened from a category 5 hurricane to a category 3 when it made its second landfall in Louisiana. Katrina's eye hit early in the morning on August 29th. By noon several sections of the levee system protecting New Orleans from Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River had collapsed. By early September those who had not abandoned Louisiana before Katrina hit were forced to evacuate into neighboring states.

Erica Triche and her family were just one of the many evacuated from the destruction in New Orleans. When Erica first heard about Hurricane Katrina she did not feel it would be a major concern considering she had already been through four other hurricanes. "Not until after Katrina had passed did I realize that it was a big deal," she said.

Erica, her father, mother, four siblings, and grandparents did not evacuate before Katrina made landfall. They stayed in one of four convention centers in Louisiana that were filled with people seeking shelter. "After we left Louisiana we were sent to a military base in Arkansas until our family from Texas was able to find and rescue us," Erica said. She and her family have settled in Taylor for the time being.

When Erica and her family found out their home had been demolished she was devastated. "I miss my pictures the most; my memories like when I was brought home from the hospital," she said. "Taylor has been good but I will eventually go back to New Orleans," she said with determination.

Erica Triche and her little sister start new memories in Taylor. After losing everything to Hurricane Katrina, Erica is starting to take new pictures to replace the ruined ones. *Courtesy Photo*

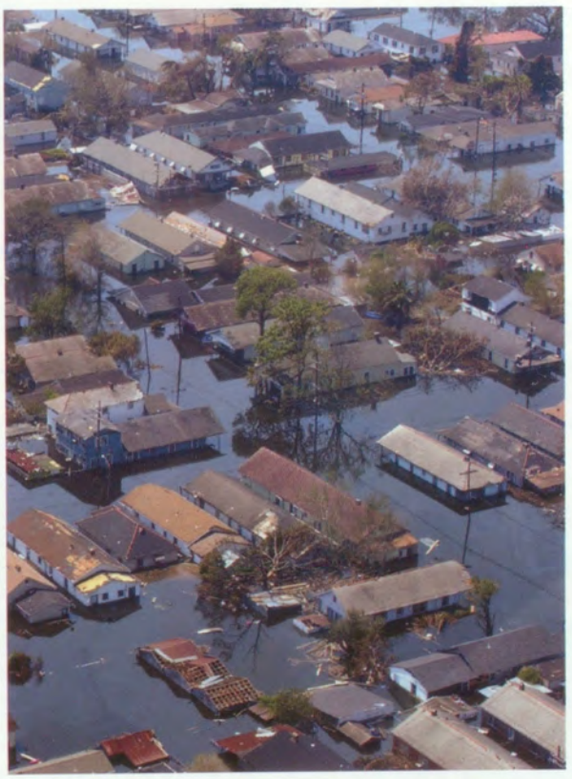


Standing Strong
An American flag flies in front of a damaged home in Chalmette, LA. The home was damaged by flooding during Hurricane Katrina. *Photo by Jocelyn Augustino*
Photos from www.fema.gov



Hurricane Katrina survivors arrived at the Houston Astrodome Red Cross Shelter after being evacuated from New Orleans. Thousands of survivors were at the Astrodome after the Superdome became unsafe. *Photo by Andrea Booher*





Local residents are rescued from their homes. New Orleans was evacuated due to flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina. *Photo by Jocelyn Augustino*

Hundreds of homes in New Orleans are flooded by Hurricane Katrina. Due to the failure of the Levee systems much of New Orleans was flooded. *Photo by Joycelyn Augustino*

A number of students and faculty were affected by Hurricane Katrina, whether they had family or friends in the eye of the storm or staying with them through the devastation. Though some may have not been directly involved with the storm everyone took a part in helping with the relief fund.

"There were fourteen people staying at my house! My sister and her two boys, her neighbor and their children, along with a cousin, his wife, children, and their neighbors as well. Everyone was very gracious, and we were happy to provide shelter."

-Mrs. Dawn Fischer

"Hurricane Katrina was awful; to help out, the foreign language club collected supplies for the victims."

-Paige Vanecek

"I had my grandpa, two uncles, two aunts, and five cousins staying with me. I was glad that they were here and safe."

-Eric Uriegas

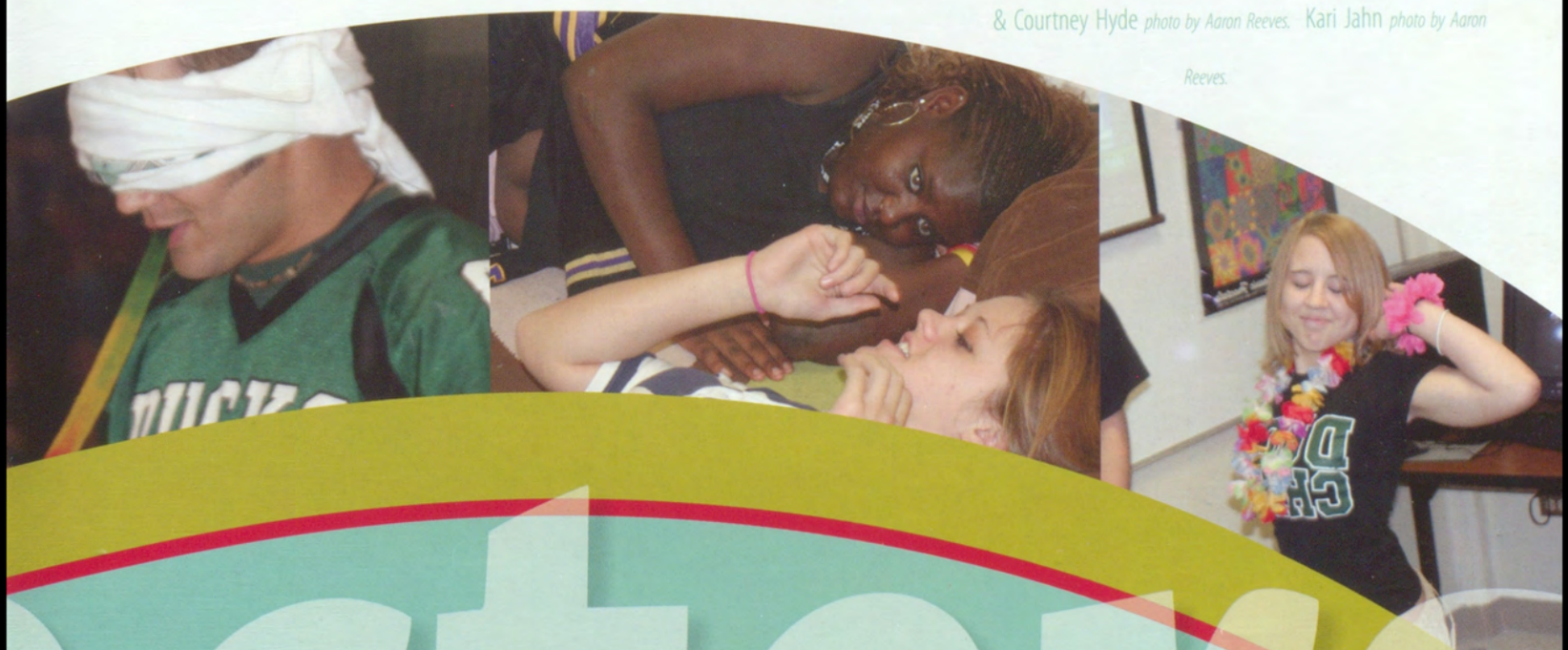
Someone is not always sitting by your side telling you what to say and do. There is not a manuscript to follow guiding you to a successful life. Your personality is decided by you, and affected by the people with whom you associate. The strangeness of your best friend or the unbelievable way your girlfriend seems to know everything about everyone even when no one else cares changes you. But not only do these people change who you are--can you imagine life without them? Where would you be if everyone did the exact same thing or knew what you were going do at all times? Unpredictability--that's what makes life great. Living spontaneously is the most exciting thing about high school. There are only so many ways that your Chemistry teacher can try to make learning about moles interesting. The 4:00 bell is heaven to most students because it signals the beginning of your own time--when you have to try to make life as fun as possible. For some the end of school is simply the start of band practice, a boring job, or tryouts for the Color Guard. What will happen there is a mystery. Often you will find yourself going places and doing things that you normally would not care about taking part in just because you don't want to miss out on something great. *If only you had a list of the things which would turn out to be*



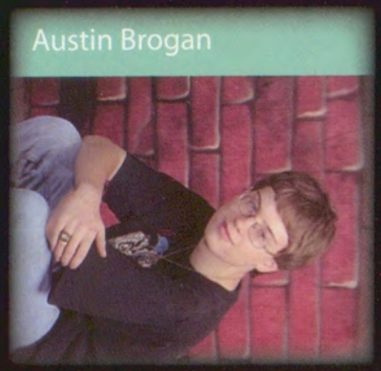
Chara

fun before you attend all the boring ones. We are not like the actors on T.V. who somehow always go to the exciting parties and events at which some huge incident happens, ensuring there is never a dull moment. Although your life would be filled with entertainment, it would also be very predictable, and who wants to live a life in which everyone can guess what is going to happen next? Your life is not laid out before you. Every consequence and decision made is not always explained perfectly to you. Figuring out and coping with things that come your way is just another obstacle to overcome. Getting caught off guard and living in the moment can be one of best things about being a teenager. Before settling on a career, or taking killer classes in college, you have time to play, to just get carried away in the moment without having to deal with a thousand obligations. The freedom and spontaneity every student has in them is just one of the many joys of living without a playbook.

Below: Andrew Barry *photo by Aaron Reeves.* Britney Schneider & Cullen Pick *photo by Lorna Gould.* Kyle Leeper *photo by Aaron Reeves.* Benjamin Jirasek *photo by Emily Quinn.* Fantasia Miller & Courtney Hyde *photo by Aaron Reeves.* Kari Jahn *photo by Aaron Reeves.*

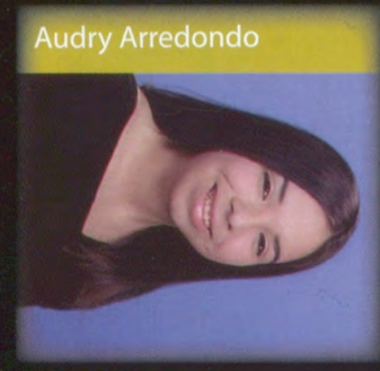


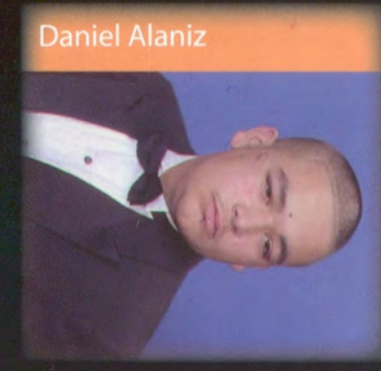
acters


Austin Brogan


Gus Blane


Kyle Baran


Audry Arredondo

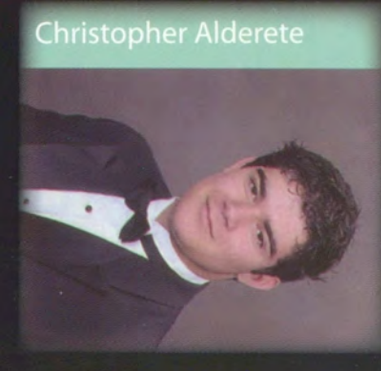

Daniel Alaniz

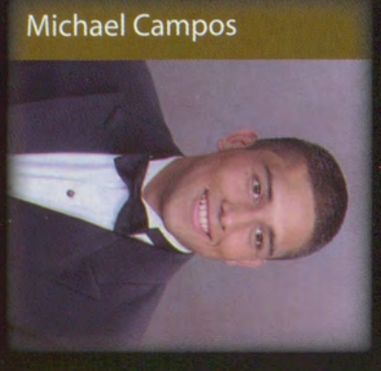

Aaron Campbell


Jessica Bosley


Rebecca Bauerkemper

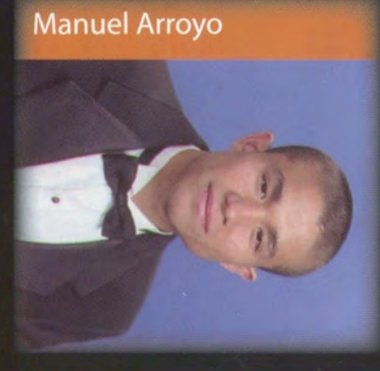

Crystal Arredondo


Christopher Alderete


Michael Campos


Alexandra Bracamontez

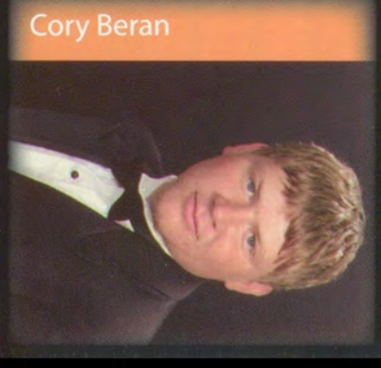

Ashley Bedsole


Manuel Arroyo

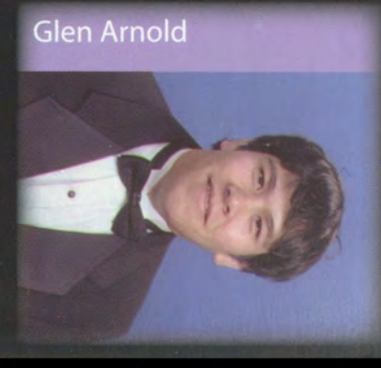

Sandra Alderete


Amanda Canada


Cassandra Brandt


Cory Beran


Janice Baker


Glen Arnold

AnimalHouse

It's graduation day; due to the heat, everyone is peeling their green nylon gowns off their bodies, moving the annoying tassel out of their eyes, and thinking about every memory from senior year as they listen to the class song. High school leaves students with many memories: prom, homecoming, game-winning spikes, home run hits, wrecks in the parking lot, and a favorite of everyone- student assemblies. For this year's graduating class, however, there was one particular teacher and her class in which many memories were made.

Freshman year was when the majority of the seniors met Ms. Rachel Burklow. She was instantly renamed "Burk" by the infamous Michael Campos and Jacob Ness. All of her freshmen English classes found right away that she was willing to joke around with them when they were informed that she had killed her husband and buried him in the backyard. Ms. Burklow's class was not a place of all business all the time. Once her eighth period even started the wave. "She even did it with us sometimes," Jon Hernandez said.

"Ms. Burklow was just goofy," Ashlee Vrana said. "I will never forget the time we watched Romeo and Juliet and some [brief nudity] had come on and she ran to the TV covering it with her hands and blushing."

Other times the Burk was innocent to what was really going on. "We would unscrew the desk legs so they would randomly fall off during class but the Burk didn't know why. One day she finally had us take them to the janitor to get fixed," Benjamin Jirasek said.

Ms. Burklow was also known as a disciplinarian. "One day in class Josh had found a tampon lying on the floor and he poured Dr. Pepper on it and threw it under Stiles' desk. She blamed it on Stiles and gave him a referral," Matthew Drummond said.

The senior class was also notorious for leaving drawings and messages in the books. There are ever lasting reminders of who dated who and many anatomically correct stick figures left in the books to make sure that all future classes would have a good laugh. "Everyday we continued with Romeo and Juliet there was something new written in those books," said Jamie Pausewang.

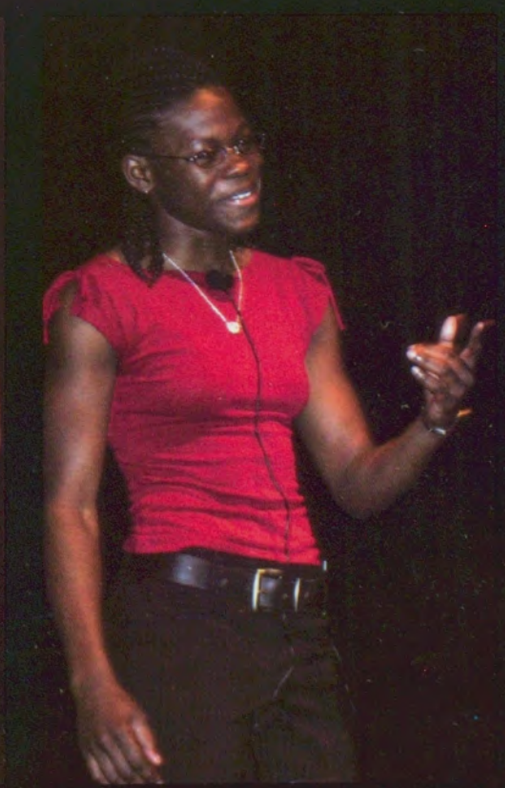
Thanks to the wave and stupid pranks, Ms. Burklow's freshman English class is a favorite fond memory of the senior class. "These are memories that will stick in our heads past graduation," said Jennifer McQuary.

by matti mott



Michael Campos attempts to pull a prank by unscrewing the table legs in front of Ms. Rachel Burklow. The table would then collapse, leaving Ms. Burklow puzzled. *Photo by Matti Mott*

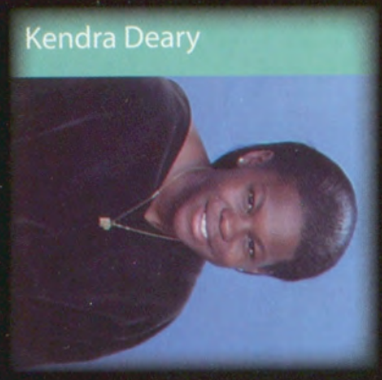




Brandon Davis performs at the Black History Month Celebration. "I was a little nervous about the dance, but after seeing the girls, I got crunk," Brandon said. *Photos by Jamie Pausewang*

Kendra Deary recites the poem "I Will Rise" by Maya Angelo. "The poem represented who we are as a people and where we came from," Kendra said.


Jennifer Donahue

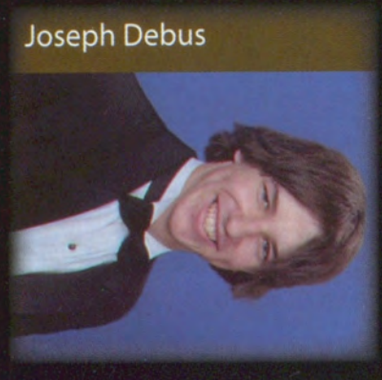

Kendra Deary


Mason Crayton


Donnell Chavis


Regina Cantu


Cody Eastman

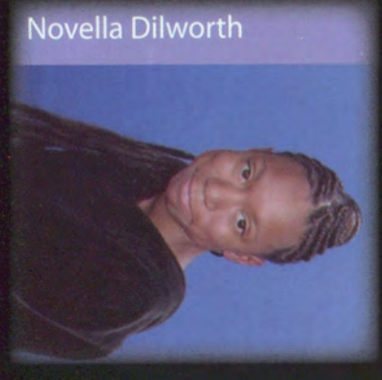

Joseph Debus


Brandon Davis

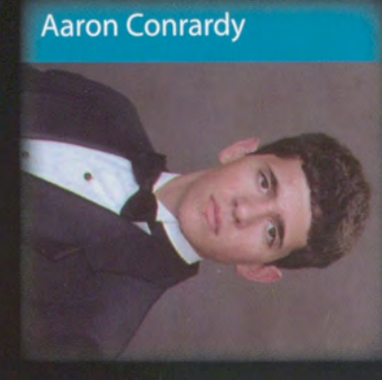

Jacie Cobia

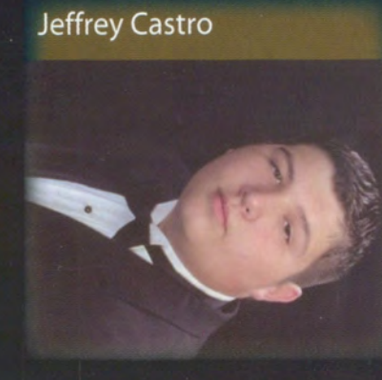

Hannah Carnes


Kathrine Engelke

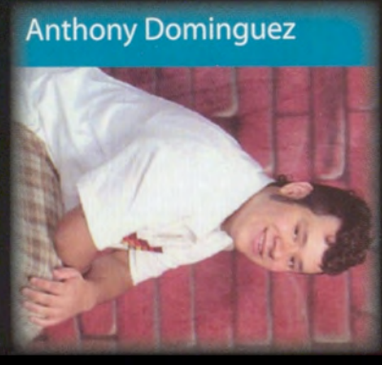

Novella Dilworth

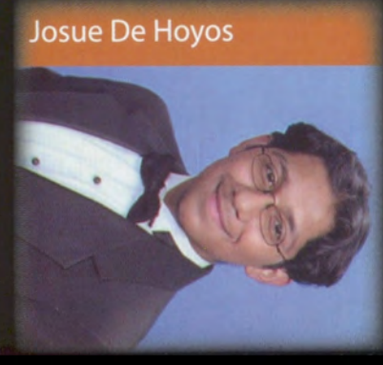

Shanta Davis

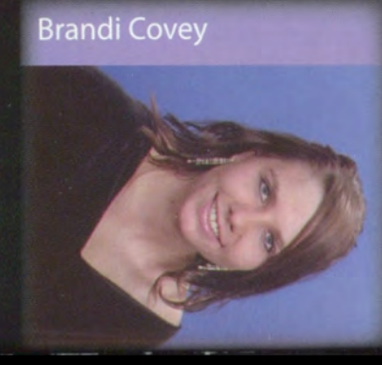

Aaron Conrardy

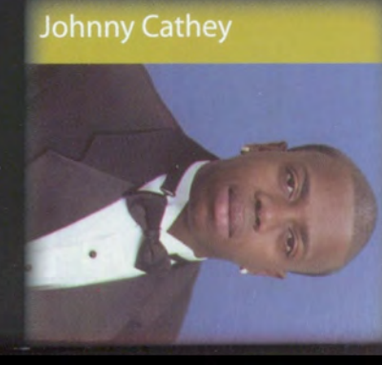

Jeffrey Castro


Jeffrey Farr


Anthony Dominguez


Josue De Hoyos


Brandi Covey

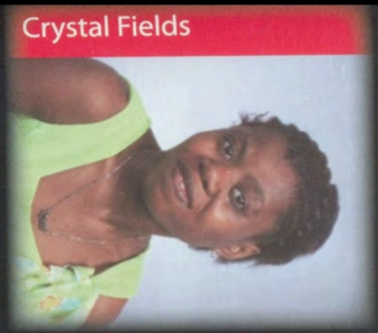

Johnny Cathey


Jenna Glover


Evan Gerren


Doug Gaskin


Devin Fontenot


Crystal Fields


Katelyn Gola


Brittany Getlak


Jillian Gaswint


Krista Foster


Daniel Filla

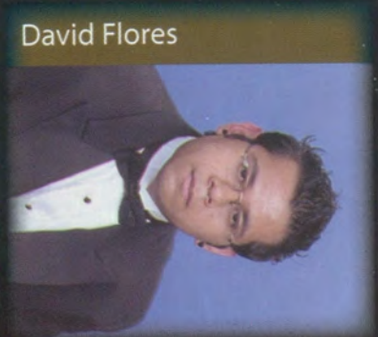

Cody Gomez


Meagan Gibson


Kristina Gaudin



Donald Frederick


David Flores

Seniors

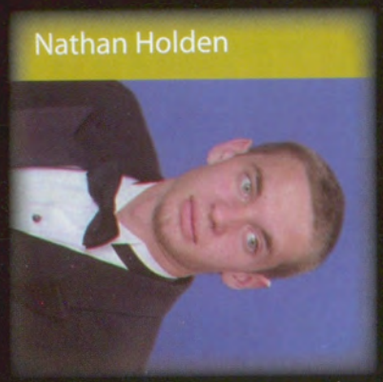

Marcus Herrera

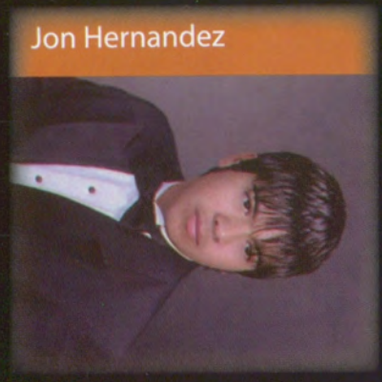

Heather Hennington


Ryan Haverland


Ryan Green

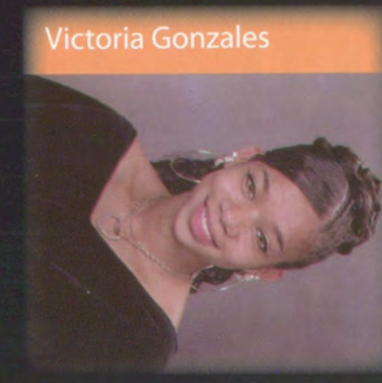

Joshua Gonzales


Nathan Holden


Jon Hernandez


Heath Hazelwood


John Guerrero


Victoria Gonzales

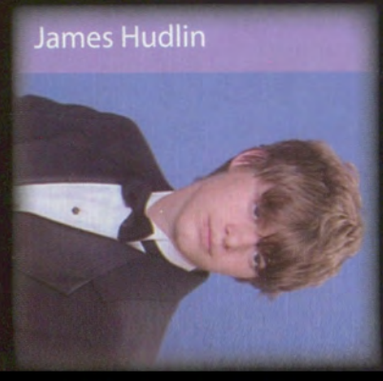

Brent Holman

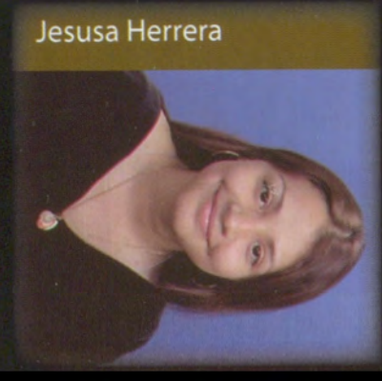

Sabrina Hernandez

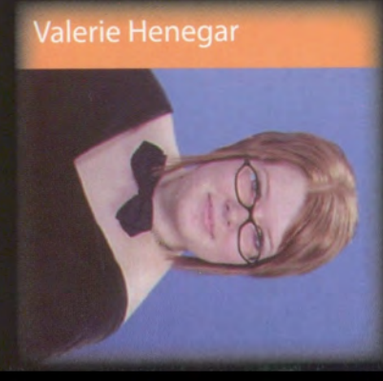

Nicole Henegar


Brijhan Harper

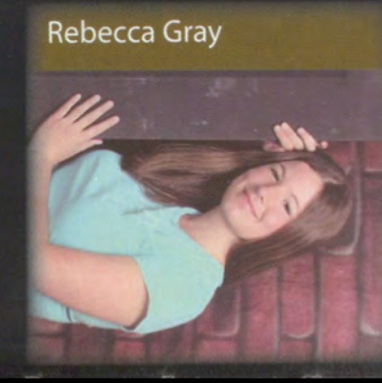

Jose Gonzalez


James Hudlin

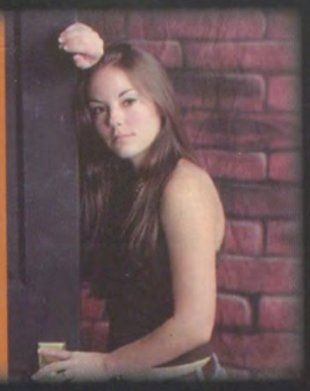

Jesusa Herrera


Valerie Henegar

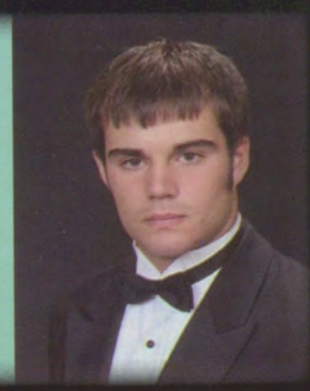

Benjamin Harrell


Rebecca Gray

Seniors


Haley Hughes

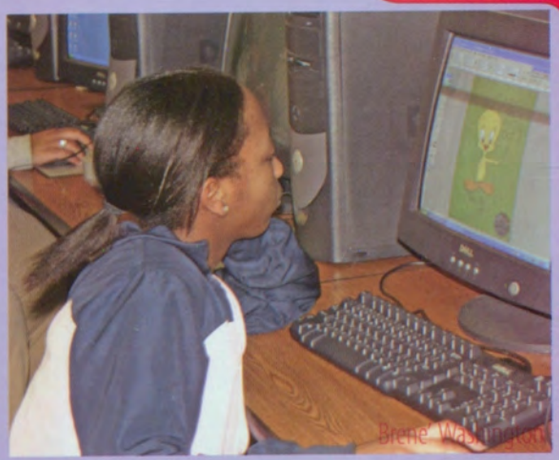

Maricuz Jimenez

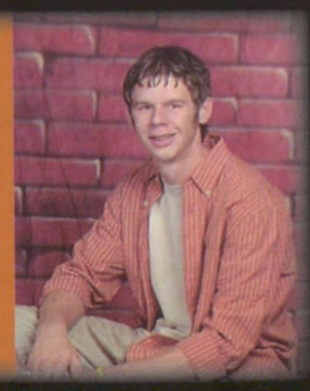

Benjamin Jirasek

WhatCan'tYouLiveWithout?

Music 22%	Family 13%
Opposite Sex 16%	Sports 5%
Cell Phone 15%	Computer 5%
Food 15%	Car 5%


Andy


Brene' Washington


Mark Johle


Andrew Johnson


Brooke Johnson


Aaron Jones


Clinton Jones


Luke Kaspar


Tyler Klotz


Megan Krueger

NothingButTrouble

Joe Fitzgerald



Situation: "I went to a club after I was told not to, and when I was there one of my parents' friend was there too and saw me. They ended up asking my mom later if I was even old enough to get in... I got in trouble. I got whooped for what felt like a whole hour."
Would you do it again? Why or why not?: "Yeah, because I learned how to stuff my pants with toilet paper in my boxers so getting spanked wouldn't hurt so bad."

Sabrina Hernandez



Situation: "I got mad at my mom so I left to a friends house for two days. Nobody knew where I was at. When I got back home I was grounded for a good while and I am still trying to gain their trust back."
Would you do it again? Why or why not?: "No, because I want her to trust me."

Amanda Canada



Situation: "I wasn't supposed to call anyone at all and I got caught calling out three or four times and got in big trouble. My phone ended up getting taken away from me for a month."
Would you do it again? Why or why not?: "No, I love my phone."

by jacquelyn luna


Katy Kuhl


Christopher Lamar


Byron Lantzsch


Joan Leone


Daniel Lepe


Benito Lopez


Lauren Lopez


Laci Leschber


Krystle Luconic


Jacquelyn Luna


Miriam Macedo


Ashley Maddox

Seniors

Latyvia Maddox

Jessica Martinez

Karina Martinez

Sophie Martinez

Cody Mathis

Dwayne Mathis

Howard McCallie

Caleb McGee

Jennifer McQuary

Tiffany Medearis

Hector Mesta

Ynobe Miller

Trey Milliken

Kristen Mireles

Melissa Mokry

Victoria Pickerill



Jamie Pausewang



Brandon Palomo



Cecily Ornelas



Jose Morales



Stephanie Ponkoney



Sarah Pence



Isaac Palomo



Beronica Ortiz



Melisa Moreno



Dinora Ramirez



Amanda Pepper



Stiles Parker



Blanca Pacheco



Matti Mott



Jonathan Ramirez



Stephen Perez



Megan Patschke



Claussie Paloma



Jacob Ness




Randy Ramirez


Stacy Ramlochany


Angel Raya

NationalTreasure

One of the biggest problems facing high school seniors and their families today is finding ways to pay for college. This is an even bigger issue for Joan Leone who is completely independent and living on her own. However, thanks to her leadership and her ability to overcome even the most looming obstacles, Joan has received $10,000 to help her pursue her dreams.

"I received the Horatio Alder National Scholarship, which will give me $2,000 for up to five years while I am in college," Joan said. "I am planning to attend Sul Ross University in Alpine, Texas in the fall."

Joan's essay described what it was like to never really have a stable family life. When her family left for Houston at the end of her sophomore year, Joan realized she could not live happily there with them and chose to return to Taylor and start her junior year.

"I lived with a wonderful couple from my church, but no matter how nice and helpful you are it's difficult to impose yourself on another family," Joan said. "I felt like I was taking advantage of their generosity, and so when I turned 18 I moved out on my own."

After reading the novel, "The Giver," Joan began to think of what career she was most "fit" to have and thanks to a little inspiration from Joan's favorite ACDEC and AP English teacher, Mrs. Vicki Rowe, Joan felt that her calling in life was to be a teacher.

"Whether I am teaching Sunday School, or just baby-sitting I realized that I love children and that I strive to fill my time with teaching others," Joan said. "It just makes sense to turn it into a profession."

Along with the scholarship money, Joan will also be attending a conference in Washington, D.C. in honor of herself and the other nation wide recipients. The PBS television network will also be filming individual profiles of the winners to be aired on TV

"It's so exciting. I have never been to Washington and now I get to be on TV for it too," Joan said. "This scholarship is such a blessing, but I hope to receive more of them because it will not pay all of my college expenses." by Larry Robbins



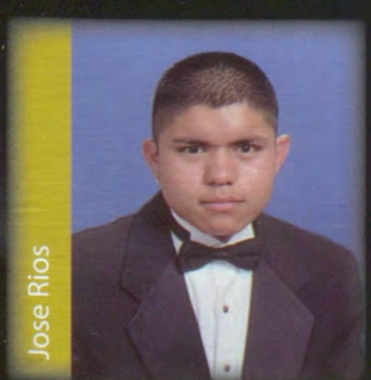
Joan Leone, shown here with Principal Kimberly Mason, received the $10,000 Horatio Alder National Scholarship. *Courtesy Photo*


Amanda Reyes


Jacob Reyes


Gretchen Richter


Rebecca Rinehart


Jose Rios


Ashley Robbins


Justin Roberson


Amber Rodriguez



Jacob Ness's car is stripped almost completely on the inside. All that remained were broken pieces of the dash and scattered scraps of paper. *Photos by Brent Holman*



Jacob Ness's car is on its way to its original state before the theft. Jacob purchased a new set of 20 in. rims. "These rims are the first step to fixing up my car again," Jacob said.

























GoneIn60Seconds

Two weeks after fixing up his 1985 Pontiac, Jacob Ness decided to take a trip to Tinseltown with his friends Brandon Davis and Mason Crayton.

"On the way to Pflugerville I spilled gas on my arms. That was the first bad thing that happened," Jacob said.

While at the movies they watched Stealth but no one seemed to be very interested in it.

"It was horrible," Jacob said. "Everyone wanted to leave but I was sleepy from the gas fumes. That was God telling us to leave but I didn't listen."

When the three left the movie Brandon and Mason joked that the car was stolen.

"I was just joking with him," Brandon said. "I told him someone 'jacked' his car, but I didn't expect it to really be gone."

Jacob began to push the alarm button on his key chain thinking that he forgot where he parked, but when they walked up to the spot where his car should have been there was nothing but broken glass from the window on the ground.

"We parked in the middle of the third row, right behind the handicapped spots. I can't believe nobody saw this happen," Mason said.

Eventually the Austin Police Department showed up because the Pflugerville Police refused to come. Jacob did not know his license plate number so he gave them his Vehicle Identification Number, which his mom had written down at home, instead. The police informed him that they could not do anything unless the car was found. Eventually his mom arrived and took the three home.

"I went home without my car and was going psycho," Jacob said. "Monday morning I got a call that my car was found. I hoped my stuff would still be in there."

Jacob was told that he could go to the impound lot to pick it up for $350 but that he was not allowed to see the car until he paid the money.

"If I had known what my car looked like I wouldn't have paid the money for it," Jacob said.

The car had no wheels, battery, or inspection sticker on it. The upholstery and carpet were cut up, and Jacob's wallet was gone. Brandon's baby pictures (Jacob refuses to explain why they were in the car in the first place) were also stolen.

"How could you steal a person's baby pictures?" Jacob said with a look of surprise on his face.

The hardest hit Jacob took was the fact that his $8,000 worth of car audio, video, and rims were stolen. This included an in-dash screen, four custom Kenwood 6x9 speakers, three power precision amps, JL audio W7 subwoofers, a cobra car alarm, and his 20-inch rims.

"The only things left was my Rosary and some Jesus pictures," Jacob said.

Though his car was stolen, stripped, and wrecked, Jacob is not going to let the person who did this to him get the better of him.

"I'm a stronger person than that," Jacob said. "I'm going to fix it right back up. No one thinks it can be fixed but I'm going to prove them wrong." by brent holman


Maximo Sanchez


Adrienne Sherman


Paris Shirley


Colette Shurtz


Jessica Seggern


Kylie Stanford


Andrew Stauffer


Paul Stelly


Joseph Strelsky


Tyler Sutherland


Brittn Taisler


Mathew Taisler


Tyler Talley


Jenna Thornton


Ryan Tomei


Petra Torres


Erika Trujillo


Logan Tucker


Celeste Vargas


Steven Vasquez


David Velazquez


Estrellita Villanueva


Leslie Villanueva


Leighanne Volek

Crammin&Jammin

What could be more fun on a Tuesday afternoon than spending an extra three hours at school studying for the English TAKS test? As a matter of fact, the students who participated in the Crammin' and Jammin' session found that learning how to succeed on the standardized tests can be quite entertaining and stomach-filling.

"It was all worthwhile when I finally got to eat pepperoni pizza. Oh, and I learned that the main idea comes at the beginning of the sentence too," Carlos Sanchez said.

The students participated in six 45 minute sessions consisting of literary devices, summarizing, analyzing visuals, Tasmanian devils, short answer, inference, and conclusions.

"I learned you should read the questions before the story," Brianna Cantu said.

Mrs. Jennifer Krupala worked hard to create a fun environment for the students so that learning would not cause ennui.

"We went with a rock and roll theme to keep the program upbeat," Mrs. Krupala said.

She is already planning to create a similar program for the math, history and science TAKS tests.

"Hopefully by the creative programs students will score higher on the tests," Mrs. Krupala said.

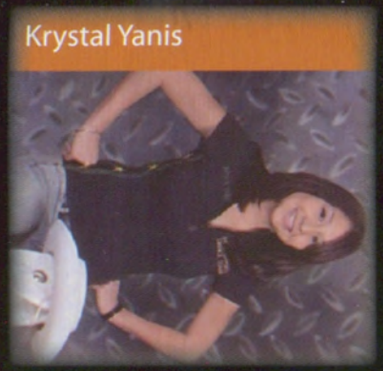
by briana lopez & brent holman



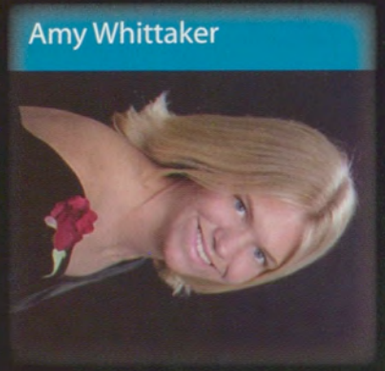
Brianna Cantu strums her guitar as she sings along during the Crammin' and Jammin' session. The students had an opportunity to karaoke during supper to help ease their minds off of TAKS.



David Valverde picks up his slices of pizza while attending TAKS tutorials for English. "I got to eat pepperoni pizza; that was the exciting part about it," David said.


Krystal Yanis

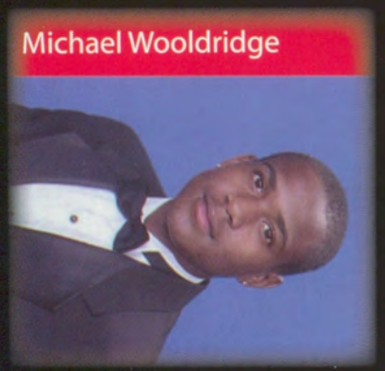

Brandon Winters


Amy Whittaker


Jennifer Walton


Christopher Vongerichten


Kyle Young


Michael Wooldridge


Larenda Willis


Daniel Welton


Ashlee Vrana


Irene Zuniga


Barrett Wygant


Lindsay Wilson


Sarah Werchan


Bryan Vrana

Seniors

Christina Aguilar
Jessica Aguilar
Martin Aguirre
Robert Aikens
Aaron Alderete
Brianca Alderete
Nicholas Alexander



Francisca Araujo
Norma Arredondo
Raul Avalos
Vanessa Avalos
Moises Badillo
Arthur Baisley
Stephen Ballard



Kelly Banner
Ashton Baran
Brittany Behrens
William-Billy Bellemare
Frankie Bevka
Bryce Block
Jillian Boney



Cassandra Brandt
Noah Brinkmeyer
Marianne Brock
Todd Bryan
Joshua Butcher
Cindy Cabrera
Eric Camacho



Amanda Canada
Brianna Cantu
Charlotte Carrillo
Grant Carter
Christian Castillo
Luke Cavo
David Chaidez



Toni Chandler
Brittany Chavana
Kelsey Christensen
Julius Collins
Tracy Collins
Justin Costilla
Chase Danek



Aaron Davis
Danielle Deary
Savannah Dekneef
Mallory Dykowski
Amanda Eckhardt
Coleman Eiben
Angel Escobar



Annette Escobar
Alexandra Estrada
Clinton Fannin
Justin Felder
Irelda Fernandez
Corneil Fisher
Kristi Flores





Krishan Gandhi
Erik Garcia
Susan Garry
Nicolette Gault
Ronald Gibson
Anthony Gonzales
Deveina Gonzales
Emilio Gonzales
Sisto Gonzales
Victoria Gonzales
Robin Gonzalez
Lorna Gould
Lindsey Green
Bruce Griffin
Francisco Guardiola
Albert Gutierrez
Andrea Gutierrez
Ashley Heaton
Brooke Hegar
Abraham Hernandez
Juan Hernandez
Stephanie Hernandez
Suzanna Hernandez
Andrew Herrera
Jesusa Herrera
Christina Hilscher
Leonard Jackson
Mallory Janak

OfficeSpace

For most high school students, managing their time between homework and sleep is hard enough without having to add on the responsibility of a job. But for some teens like Ashley Keith, keeping a job is just part of their daily routine. Ashley works at the Shave Ice stand where she spends four and a half hours a day, several days a week helping people stay cool in the hottest part of the year. Not only is Ashley a dedicated student and a hard worker, she also shows livestock and takes classes at Temple College.

"It gets difficult juggling everything but I love the feeling of having my own money and knowing that all of my hard work is literally paying off!" Ashley said.

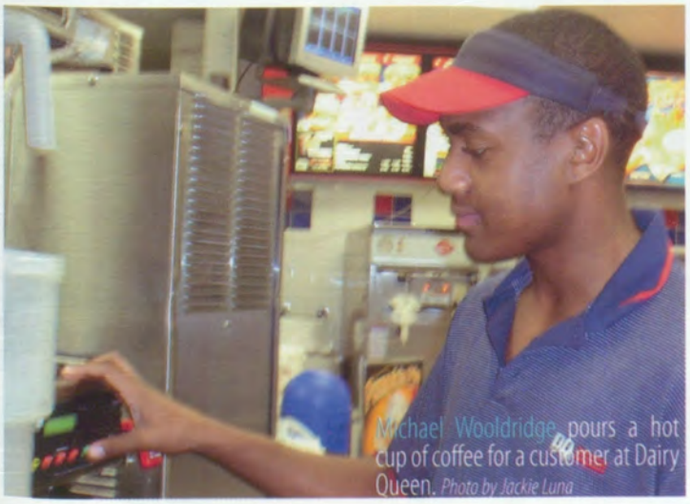
Ashley is not the only hardworking student trying to keep up with everything at once. Michael Wooldridge and Pamela Rossell both work in the fast food industry and while they would agree with Ashley's idea of having their own money, they tend to work longer hours, having to stay at work until 11:00 or 12:00 at night.

"Tips are always good but it is hard getting home after midnight and still get my homework done," Pamela said.

Pamela and Michael, along with many other students, are working hard and learning early on what it is like to juggle everything that is important.

"Between school, sports, and working late, I get exhausted!" Michael said.

by hailey mokry



Michael Wooldridge pours a hot cup of coffee for a customer at Dairy Queen. *Photo by Jackie Luna*



Junior Class Officers, Front: Representative Kyle Vanecek, Parliamentarian Albert Gutierrez. Middle: Historian Lindsey Walton, Vice-President Suzanna Hernandez, Treasurer Paris Lopez, Secretary Sarah Johnson. Back: Representative Devyn Rucker, Representative Hailey Mokry, President Emily Quinn.

KickingandScreaming

A wise man once said, "A big shot is a little shot that kept shooting." Junior Martin Aguirre has been playing soccer since he was four years old and now at the age of sixteen has taken a shot at succeeding at an international sport that many young people are fighting for a chance to become a part of.

Through recommendations from his coach and coaches from opposing teams, Martin received a chance that many people could never imagine; he earned a spot to represent the U.S.A. soccer team in Sydney, Australia. Martin played in Australia this summer from July 7 through July 22 at the Youth Games. The cost to attend the tournament was two thousand dollars. Martin's family and friends held a dinner to raise money for the high expenses.

> "I fell in love with the game when I saw my dad play."

Once he got to Australia, he realized that the playing conditions were much different. "The weather was crazy... it was rainy, sunny, and cold at the same time," Martin said.

Martin's team placed fourth out of twenty-six teams by establishing a record of 14-2. One loss that was received at the tournament was against New Zealand, which was given away by a penalty kick. The U.S.A. team started off strong with a 2-0 lead in the first half. During the second half with fifteen minutes left in the game, New Zealand came back with a hard kick and brought the score to 2-1. With five minutes left, the U.S.A. keeper tried to take the ball and fell in front of the opponent looking like he pushed him, so the New Zealand team got a penalty kick, which tied the game. The golden goal was presented which the teams had thirty minutes to score and with no luck the teams ended the game with a penalty shoot out. U.S.A. ended up missing a shot and New Zealand stepped up and took the win.

With hard work, dedication, and focus on whatever he does, Martin performs well both on and off the soccer field. He excels in the varsity football team and track team. He is an honor roll student who plans to attend Florida or North Carolina to study aerospace engineering. Martin's determination in life is highly respected by his family and peers and they are proud of his accomplishments.

by jacquelyn luna



Martin Aguirre goes for a goal while an opponent takes him down. Martin was given a penalty kick and his opponent was thrown out of the game. *(courtesy photo)*





Francisco Jimenez
Blake Jirasek
Amber Johnson
Clarence Johnson
Sarah Johnson
Whitney Kahanek
John Kaspar



Ashley Keith
Clarissa Kelley
Maegan Kidwell
Joshua Kiewit
Blakesley King
Monique Klepac
Melanie Klotz



Braeden Lawhon
Juan Leija
Brandon Lester
Alfredo Lopez
Andrew Lopez
Briana Lopez
Daniel Lopez



Katherine Lopez
Paris Lopez
Amber Martinez
Angelica Martinez
Juan Martinez
Michael Martinez
Jaboa Matoska



Ashley McFarlin
Aubrey Medaris
Paul Medina
Nakevia Miller
Matthew Milliken
Hailey Mokry
Joshah Moors



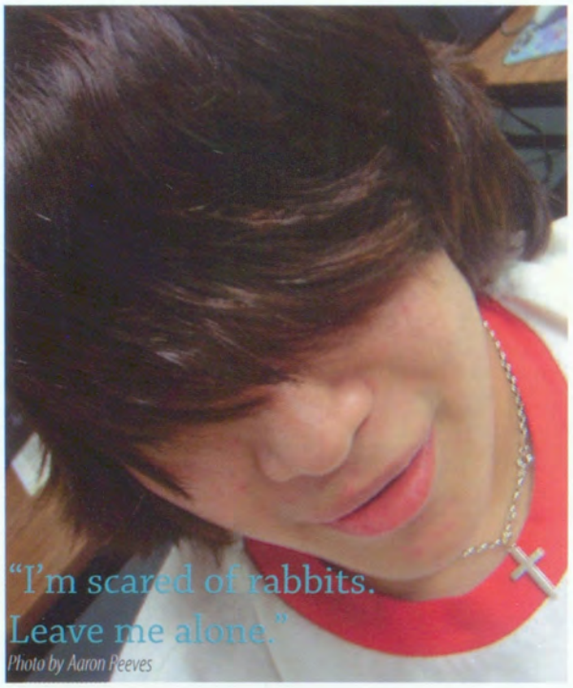
Amanda Moss
Duvelsa Murguia
Kara-Jayne Murphy
Nathan Neitsch
Kyle Nevins
Pedro Ochoa
Valerie Ortiz



Meagan Oviedo
Caleb Owens
Karina Pacheco
Nicholas Pachicano
Scott Palomo
Alexia Patterson
Michael Peschel



Michael Platz
Kelley Portillo
Emily Quinn
Casimiro Ramirez
Aaron Reeves
Ashunta Robinson
Anitarita Robles



What's The Dealio Emilio

Name: Emilio Gonzales
Grade: 11th
Hobbies: playing video games, practicing his music, and chatting online
Where you can find him: at the movies, his house, or on MySpace
Standing out: Emilio made 1st alternate at the UIL State Choir meet. He had to learn 9 songs all together, 7 of which were in German and Latin in all high keys. "The competition was tough; they've been singing for a lot longer than I have. This is my first year in choir," he said.
Biggest Fears: Rabbits, heights, and singing in front of large crowds

Delain Rollie
Alfredo Romayor
Devyn Rucker
William Ruden
Hailey Ruzicka
Matthew Schwettman
Oriell Scott



Sha'Tera Scott
Schirra Simmons
Cassiddy Stefek
Paige Stives
Hollis Stringer
Peter Taylor
Eric Tellez



Gonzalo Tellez
Derek Terwilliger
Erin Tomei
Victor Torres
Sergio Tovar
Colin Valerio
Kyle Vanecek



Paige Vanecek
Amabilia Villarreal
Ricardo Villarreal
Jerry Wallace
Lindsey Walton
Elizabeth Winters
Brittany Wolf



Erika Wooldridge
Johnathan Wooldridge
Brittany Wyatt
Reyna Yanez



Mrs. Whitney Thomas's English class decorates a gingerbread house the day before finals begin. Mrs. Thomas thought it was a good idea to get her students' minds off of the stress of exams by having a little fun. *Photo by Brittany Chavana*



Rachel Parker and Brianna Cantu discuss the activities at the pep rally. Football pep rallies were a great way for students to show their school spirit. *Photo by Emily Quinn*



National Velvet

As Maegan Kidwell sat back and watched her opponents race around each barrel she felt confident in her abilities. With hard work and dedication to barrel racing she had made it to the State Finals in Stephenville, Texas.

While embracing the excitement of State but keeping concentrated on her goal to make it to Nationals, Maegan studied each rider's faults making sure she would not commit the same mistakes. "Though I don't often get too nervous about my rides or study the other riders, I felt the pressure," she said. As each rider took their turn Maegan noticed every one of them had knocked down at least one barrel and felt sure she would have no problem making it to the top ten.

She raced out of the starting gate, guided her horse with precision past all three barrels, and looked up at the clock as she passed the finish. "At the end of the run I looked at the time and knew I hadn't knocked over any barrels so I was sure I had qualified for Nationals," Maegan said. Placing seventh out of ninety seven with a time of 19.192 seconds at State she moved on to Nationals in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Maegan Kidwell races around the second barrel at the state competition. "I placed seventh at State and was really excited to be moving onto National," Maegan said. *Courtesy Photo*

At Nationals Maegan still stayed concentrated on her job but had a lot more fun at it. She raced out of the start and was concentrated on not hitting the first barrel because it seemed to have given the other riders some trouble. "The first barrel stayed up but I understood why there was so much trouble there because the ground was bad," Maegan said. She eased past the second barrel and headed for the third. "I took the third too wide which added some time but I felt I had done well considering my horse didn't know the arena," she said. As she passed the finsh line she felt secure in her ride.

Maegan placed eighth out of seventy nine at National with times of 19 and 18 seconds. "Considering the top six would move onto World, I was very proud of myself," Maegan said.



Ben Harrell sits and has money. "I'm darn good at sitting and having money," Ben said. *Photo by Matti Mott*



Taylor Savage intently catches up on his daily reading of the Bible. Taylor is proud of his hero and does not mind telling all his peers about his passion. *Photo by Chris Bogan*



Reyna Yanez demonstrates her moves like Shakira. "Shakira is a great dancer," Reyna said. *Photo by John Kaspar*

AmericanIdols

Each of us has a different role model. We admire certain celebrities or leaders for a wide range of qualities- their kindness, their fabulous hair, or their ability to stay on an angry bull for eight seconds. We may want to be like our heros, or we may simply covet what they have. It is generally agreed, however, that concealed or revealed our admiration is a desire for a better life.

For Ben Harrell it is all about the money.

"Bill Gates got rich on his own. He didn't just inherit his money, he had to use his mind," Ben said. Although Ben admires Mr. Gates's work ethic he knows he does not retain many of his traits.

"I would rather just sit and have money, not think for it," Ben said. He believes it would be best to be 50 year old Bill Gates because "he's rich and doesn't have to do anything real productive."

We are all in awe of stars in the music business. Reyna Yanez however, finds Shakira interesting for reasons that do not include attention or money.

"Shakira is really down to earth, and a name you don't always hear in people's mouths," Reyna said. Reyna feels she is a lot like Shakira in the way that she too is not always in the gossip but hangs out with many different groups of people.

"I guess I would want to be Shakira because she has a big hit but is still balanced," Reyna said.

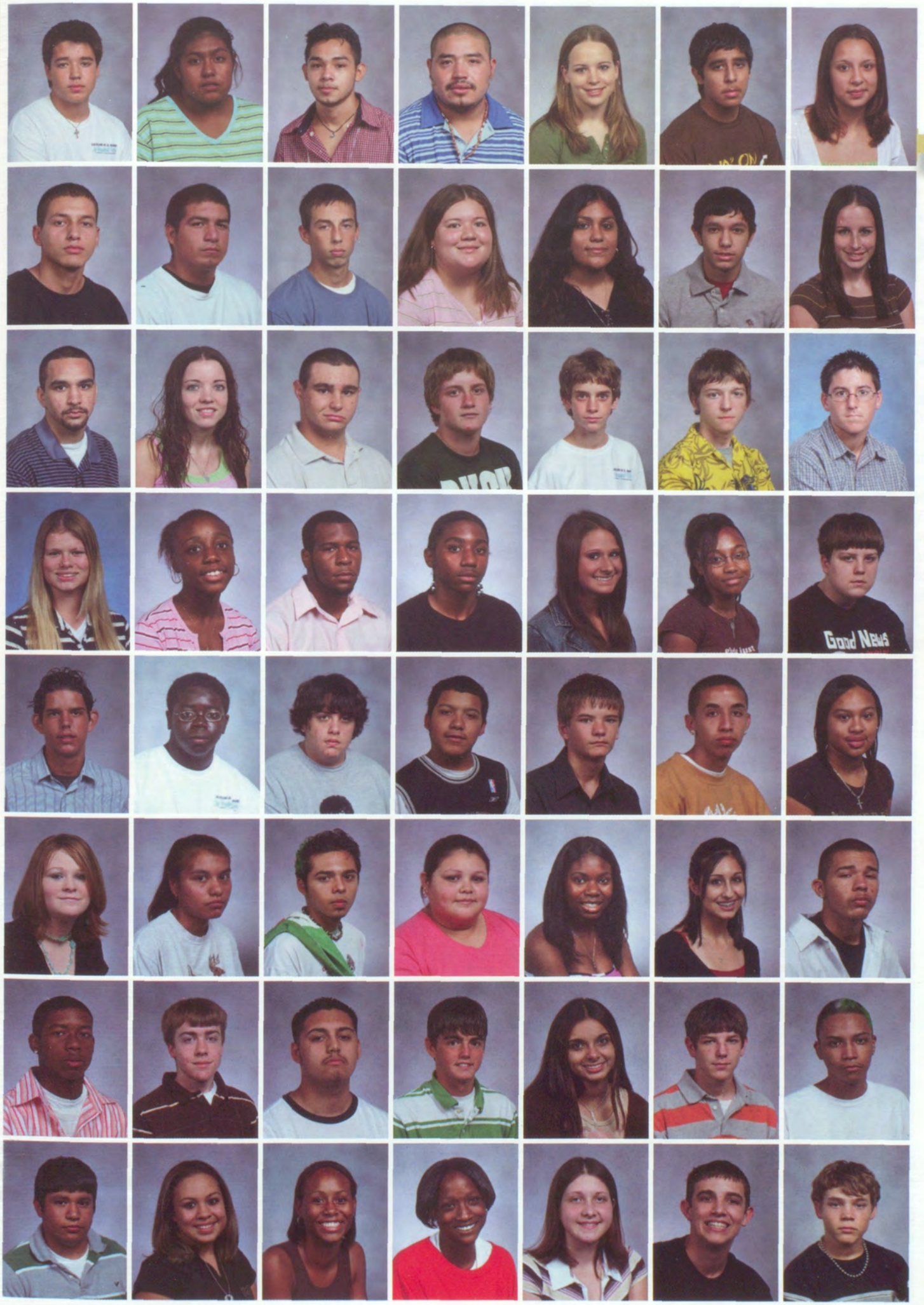
On the other hand, Taylor Savage would like to be similar to Jesus. Taylor does not want to be Jesus but knows that he is a great person to aspire to be like.

"It's what I believe and the way I was brought up," Taylor said. He feels he does his best to exhibit the character traits of Jesus through the youth ministry he participates in and volunteer work.

"He's Jesus," Taylor said. "He's a great man who forgave our sins!"

Our wishes to be someone else is a hope to be better than we are now, and that is definitely not a bad dream.

by matti mott



Nickolas Abbott
Marcie Aguilar
Jose Aguirre
Salomon Aguirre
Kelli Aiello
Jeremiah Aldama
Erica Alderete

Kevin Aleman
Juan Alfaro
Richard Alford
Rebecca Almazan
Kimberly Amado
Jesse Ancira
Brooke Anders

Joshua Anderson
Casey Balduff
Nathan Balusek
Adam Barry
Andrew Barry
Bradley Bogan
Christ Bogan

Stephanie Bourdeau
Chelsey Boykins
Shawn Bradshaw
Jamar Brown
Stacy Bubenik
Jalisa Budd
Shane Butcher

Britton Byfield
Lawerence Caldwell
Daniel Campbell
Chris Campos
Cole Carnes
Allen Castro
Lidia Cavazos

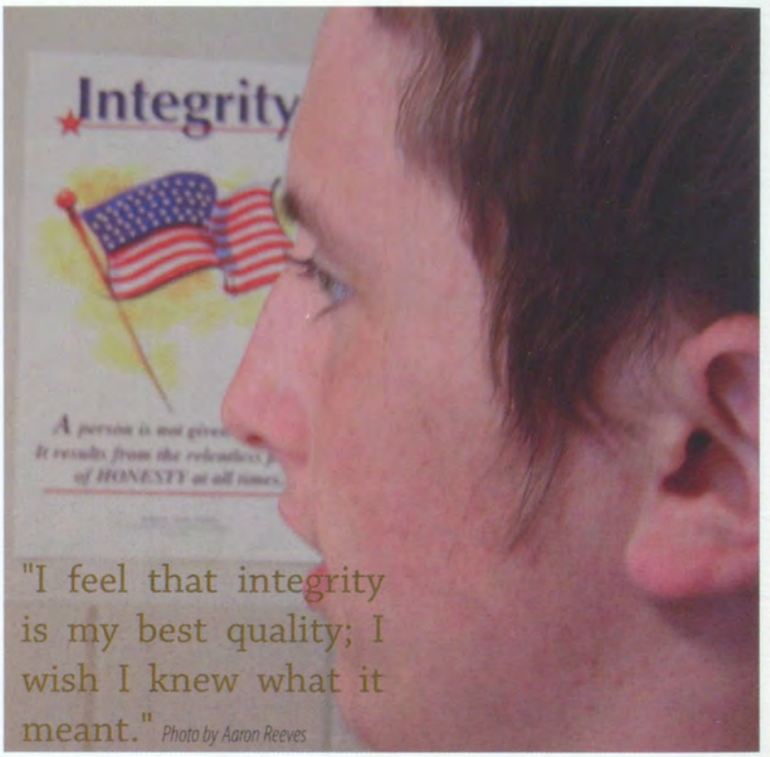
Lori Cervenka
Ana Karen Chaires
Bryant Cigales
Dulce Cisneros
Briona Clark
Lauren Connors
Paul Contreras

Steffon Cook
Noah Corn
Jonathan Cortinas
Jerry Cotner
Jessica Dale
Chad David
Carlos De La Cerda

Andrew Delgadillo
Mariah Dempsey
Shelby Dillard
Shermetri Dilworth
Breana Earley
Jerid Elms
Preston Eschberger

DanTheMan

Name: Daniel Jones
Grade: 10th
Hobbies: music, playing guitar, driving
Where you can find him: at a friend's house or just roaming the streets of Taylor
Bad in Burk's: Daniel has had some funny experiences with teachers in the past; "One time during freshman year, Ms. Burklow heard me talking bad about Mr. Miller's class. She pulled me out of class and made me go down the hall to Mr. Miller's room and apologize. Very embarrassing. But he is still my favorite teacher I've had none-the-less."
Through His Eyes: He is not thrilled with the idea of a closed campus lunch to underclassmen. "I don't care what the policy is, I'll find a way to get off sometime this year!" he proclaimed.
He is totally behind President Bush about the war in Iraq, which is a big topic in the world today. "I think the war in Iraq is what we should be doing, because if we don't handle this then the terrorists are going to keep attacking us and other places."



"I feel that integrity is my best quality; I wish I knew what it meant." Photo by Aaron Reeves

Jasmin Estrada
John Estrada
Jacob Farr
Morgan Faught
Deloris Fields
Andrew Flores
Kimberly Flores



Louis Garcia
Michael Garcia
Patrick Garrett
Pearlie Gault
Reggie Gipson
Brittni Gola
Alan Gonzales

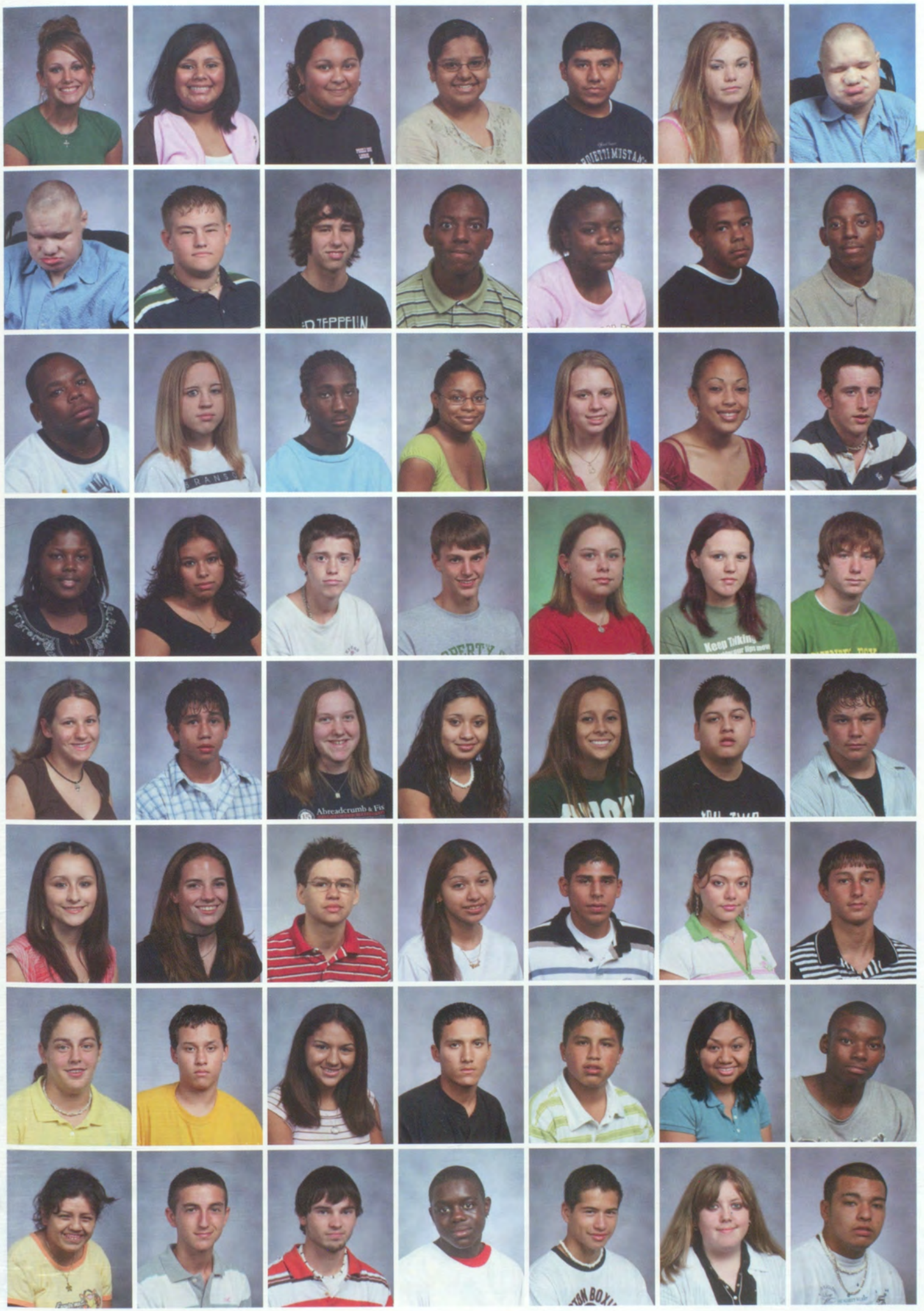


Anna Gonzales
Chris Gonzales
Javier Gonzales
Justin Gonzales
Peter Gonzales
Ryan Gonzales
Santiago Gonzalez



Tyler Graef
Keegan Gross
Erica Gutierrez
Phillip Gutierrez
Jennifer Haley
Reese Hall
Timothy Haskins





Kyra Headrick
Danielle Hernandez
Elvira Hernandez
Frances Hewtty
Joseph Hewtty
Candace Hopson
Nathan Huf
Nathan Huf
Jordan Humphreys
Travis Hyzak
Barry Jackson
Brandie Jackson
James Jackson
Larry Jackson
Rashead Jackson
Kari Jahn
Travian James
Brittney Jefferson
Leah Jirasek
Amaris Jones
Daniel Jones
Lisa Jones
Jasmyne Kernell
Dillon Kimball
Nathan Kirschvink
Paige Kreidel
Kristi Krumm
Cory Kruse
Ashley Lantzsch
Justin Latham
Rachel Lewis
Casandra Leyendecker
Crystal Lopez
Ivan Lopez
Matthew Lopez
Vaudelia Lopez
Justine Lorentzen
Matthew Lozano
Gina Lucio
Gerzon Macedo
Perla Maciel
Dalton Marek
Kayla Marek
Francisco Martinez
Jazzsmen Martinez
Jesus Martinez
Johnathan Martinez
Kelly Martinez
Damian Mayberry
Diana Mendez
Rudy Mikeska
Dylan Moerbe
Josh Montgomery
Roberto Morales
Amanda Nardecchia
Anselmo Oranday

Jacqueline Orozco
Victor Ortiz
Larry Pachicano
Reynaldo Pachicano
Brittany Palomo
Rachel Parker
Ashley Patterson



Kasey Penny
Brandon Peschke
Travis Petty
Cullen Pick
Elizabeth Polasek
Jacob Rangel
Enrique Recendis



Aaron Reyes
Jessica Reyes
Juan Reyes
Laura Reyna
Brittany Rios
Jerrell Roberson
Ray Rojas



Johnny Roman
Stephanie Ruiz
Jose Salazar
David Samuelson
Carlos Sanchez
Cassandra Sanchez
Dagoberto Sanchez



Julian Sanchez
Rachael Sanderson
Sydney Savage
Taylor Savage
Britney Schneider
Tamara Simien
Kammi Sims



MADaGAScar

Time to buckle up your helmet, strap on the knee pads and bring out the Dynos. With gas prices skyrocketing as they are, bike riding is something student drivers may want to consider in the near future.

Many student drivers are outraged as they pull up to the pump and notice a substantial increase since the previous day. The price of gas is unrelenting and many are breaking themselves just to pay for gas.

"It's just crazy. I don't have that kind of money!" Junior Deveina Gonzales said. Not only are gas prices thinning out everybody's wallet, but they are also affecting their travel life.

Prior to the two dollar era, many people never considered gas as an expense when driving out of town or traveling. Now they are cutting back on the out of town driving to save money. Math teacher Mrs. Mary Kalbaugh, who lives in Georgetown, said, "I don't know if I'm going to attend as many school functions anymore because of the high gas prices." Many students are confused and outraged about how much gas has just increased over the past couple of years.

"I quit riding around into the wee hours of the night and use my automobile only for appropriate reasons. I think the whole nation should go on strike against buying gas!" Senior Josh Gonzales said.

At times you may feel like taking a bat to the pump and beating it to a pulp, but that will not have any effect on the prices. Just try and conserve your gas by doing multiple errands at once. Also, try to not floor your car as you speed by your ex's house - that guzzles your gas like crazy. Discount cards are also something to be considered in this battle of outrageous gas prices.

"I go to Wal-Mart and use the discount card for $0.03 off per gallon," Deveina said. Discount cards will help, but only so much. So start breaking open your piggy banks and try not to eat out as much because the price of gas is expected to set new records that no one wants to be around to witness.

by jon hernandez



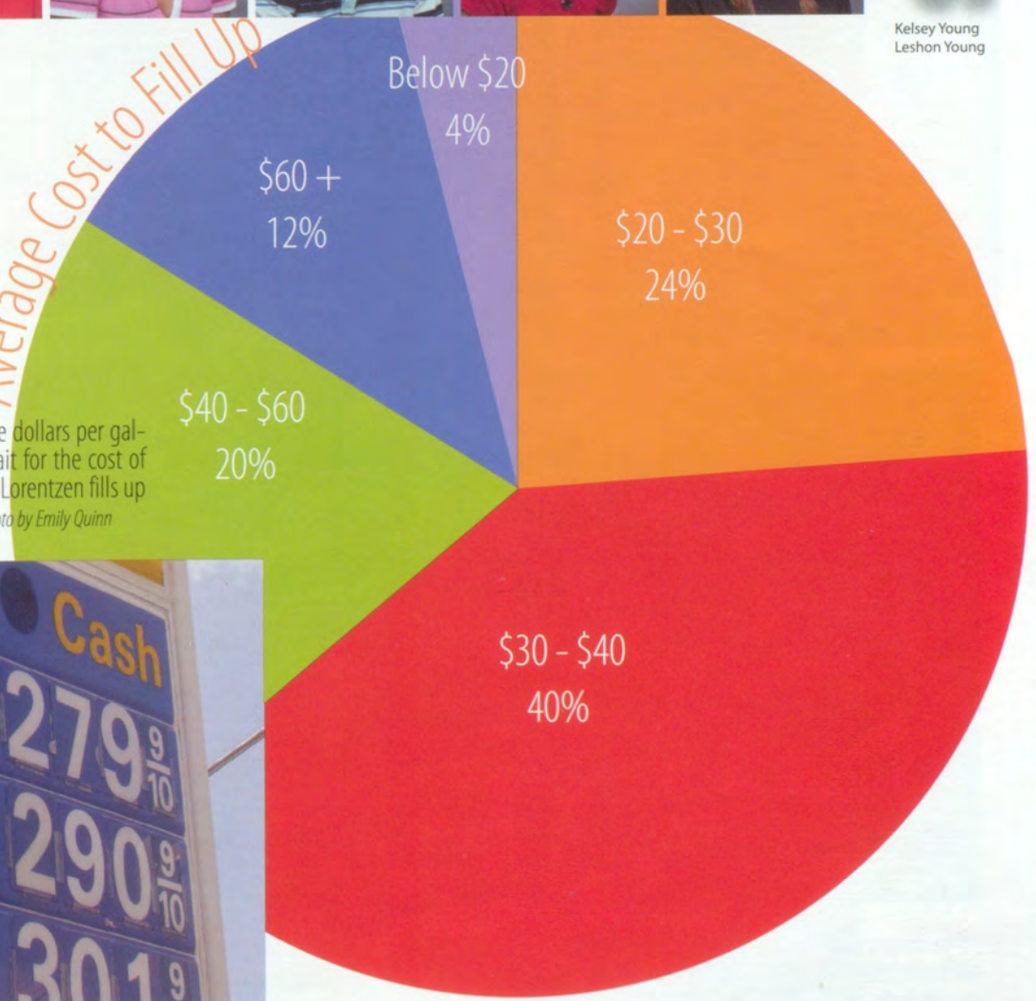


Orlando Smith
Matthew Solbach
Tony Sorrells
Bobby Sovil
Cassie Stabeno
Andrew Stapp
Jessica Stegall
Aubrie Stewart
William Stroud
Ula Tatum
Stephen Taylor
Lanija Thomas
Jeff Thompson
Stephen Torres
Ann Tovar
Erica Triche
Arabela Valladares
David Vasquez
Rodolfo Vasquez
Diana Violante
Aaron Wallace
Brene' Washington
Troy Weiss
Charles White
Andrea Wilkerson
Zachary Wilkins
Jacqueline Wolf
Stephanie Wolf
Kelsey Young
Leshon Young



Gas prices approach three dollars per gallon as student drivers wait for the cost of gas to quit rising. Justine Lorentzen fills up her car before school. *Photo by Emily Quinn*





MudSlingers

Most people think losing control, sliding around, and getting stuck in their vehicle is a scary moment. However, for a few thrill-seeking brave souls this is just another form of entertainment. They call this mudding, and to Noah Brinkmeyer it is "a redneck roller coaster."

Whenever it rains, Christopher Kruse, Holden Schroeder, Zachary Wilkins, and Noah take their trucks off the road and into the wet, muddy surroundings.

"It takes skill," Chase Danek said, to know when to turn and when to hit the gas. Losing control and sliding around brings a thrill like no other. After mudding Holden chooses to wash his truck, but not Zachary.

"I like to show off the mud on my jeep after mudding for a few days before washing it," Zachary said.

These rough riders will take their sport wherever there is standing water. So just remember if you wake up one morning and see tracks in your field it is probably one of these mud throwing fools. by john kaspar



Determined to make it down the road, Zachary Wilkins tries to drive through the water. "I didn't think the water was that deep," Zachary said. "Before I knew it water was coming in through the windows." *Courtesy Photo*



Christopher Kruse decides not to wash his truck after a weekend of mudding. "I love the way my truck looks when it's muddy." Christopher said. *Photo by Sarah Johnson*



Christopher Kruse shows off the mud that made it into his truck. "I go out looking for the muddiest places to drive," Christopher said. *Photo by John Kaspar*



Logan Jackson spends his time in the cafeteria during the week of finals playing Monopoly. Underclassmen that were exempt from a final stayed in the cafeteria and played games. *Photo by Matt Matt*



Karyn Roznovak and Cassie Rozacky anxiously await the 8:55 bell to ring before their first day of high school. The student center was always full of students in the morning before 1st period. *Photo by Emily Quinn*



Adan Moreno enjoys his break from written assignments during his English class. Teachers often issue homework which can be done on the computer allowing the students to have more flexibility. *Photo by Aaron Reeves*



Tiffany Salinas relaxes while she studiously rewrites her paper for English class. Many students work better when they are able to leave the classroom and get comfortable. *Photo by Reese Hall*



Carlos Aguilar
Jose Aguilar
Maria Aguilar
Alvaro Alderete
Ana Lisa Alderete
Kristen Alderete
Lucas Alderete

Silvia Araujo
Andrew Bailey
Brittany Blank
Briana Bohac
Tina Bradford
Eric Brooks
Chasidee Brown

Stevie Buckalew
Nathan Burow
Shermane Caldwell
Andreina Calzada
Eric Camacho
Amanda Cannon
Mayra Cansin

Brandee Carlson
Mistie Carpenter
David Castanon
Alysia Castillo
Jesse Cervantez
Jonathan Cervantez
Adrian Chastanet

Justin Contreras
Mindy Cox
Desiree Crathers
Chris Currie
Kelsey Davis
Gustavo DeHoyos
Susan Deluna

Ricky Denson
Joshua Devaul
Kelly Dominguez
Tommy Doss
Chasity Douglas
Micah Dunkle
Matthew Earley

Jordan Eppinett
Krystal Estrada
Brittnay Fail
Ryan Fontenot
Holly Frazier
Brooke Gabel
Emily Gainer

Caleb Garcia
Eduardo Garcia
Mariah Garza
Nicholas Gault
Aaron Gibson
Steven Gibson
Colt Ging

Cameron Gomez
Francisco Gonzales
James Gonzales
Jonathan Gonzales
Erika Gonzalez
Martin Gonzalez
Trevor Gray



James Greer
Kaneisha Griffin
Vence Haley
Janaye Hall
Britton Harper
Tiffany Herklotz
Matthew Hernandez



Santiago Hernandez
Joshua Herra
Justin Herrera
Monica Herrera
Christopher Hill
De'Quint Hill
Ryan Hill



Jessica Hilscher
Carla Hoffman
Megan Holman
Megan Holman
Jenna Howard
Samantha Howard
Courtney Hyde



Brittney Jackson
Jessica Jackson
Terence Jackson
Ryan Jaecks
Shelby Johnson
Milton Keith
Christopher Klotz



Justin Koehler
Tiffany Lackland
Steven Lawler
Kyle Leeper
Yesenia Leija
Kevin Lindsay
Tommy Longoria



Ariel Lopez
Aurelio Lopez
Claudia Lopez
Valerie Lopez
Destiny Lorentzen
Harmony Lorentzen
Abigail Luna



Amber Luna
Raymond Lute
Jacqueline Macedo
Josefina Macedo
Kelsey Marek
Christine Maresh
Chris Martinez





Eric Martinez
Jacob Martinez
Laura Martinez
Maria Martinez
Priscilla Martinez
Allyson Matthys
Deon Mauldin



Jillian McQuillen
Tristan Meyer
Fantasia Miller
Manayah Miller
Christian Miravete
Anthony Mojica
Adan Moreno



Jose Moreno
Manuel Moreno
Mario Moreno
Bryan Mundkowsky
Shane Mundkowsky
Jennifer Murphy
Roland Myers



Frank Nataros
Casey Nygrin
Heath O'Banon
Amy Ochoa
Daniel Ochoa
Bobby Olivarez
David Olivarez



Sylvia Olivarez
Lucas Orosco
Dinah Ortiz
Jonathan Ortiz
Alicia Pachicano
Emilio Pachicano
Marco Pachicano



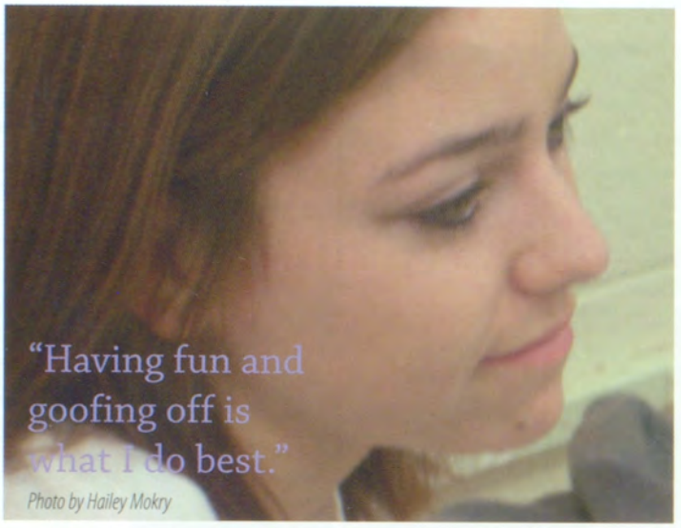
Arzella Parker
Chris Patterson
Davey Pepper
Dillon Pfluger
Stacey Platz
Rufina Polasek





Jillian McQuillen chats on her cell phone as she waits for the exam period to be over. Students exempt from a final were allowed to go in the cafeteria and relax during their exempted class. *Photo by Matti Mott*

Tyler Volek focuses on the screen while playing a video game during finals. During the week of exams students were able to talk and play games, including Atari, in the cafeteria. *Photo by Matti Mott*



A Bit of Britt

Name: Brittany Wilkerson
Grade: 9th
Hobbies: sports, playing ASA softball, and hanging out with friends
Where you can find her: at practice or roaming the halls of Taylor High
Favorite Class: "Ag because it's easy and I get to hang out with my friends and goof around!"
Favorite Person: "My brother because he's a good role-model and he pushes me to do the best that I can at everything."

Dustin Popham
Aaron Ramirez
Lourdes Ramirez
Mariana Ramirez
Natalia Ramos
Juan Rangel
Daniel Ratliff



Chris Recendis
Ashley Reyes
Maia Richter
Abel Rincon
Ashley Rivera
Lavonya Roberson
Kwinicia Robinson



Tarlyn Scott
Danny Rodriguez
Oscar Rodriguez
Trenton Rojas
Adriana Romayor
Maria Romero
Cassandra Rozacky



Karyn Roznovak
Kyle Sakewitz
Matias Salazar
Tiffany Salinas
Seth Samuelson
Anthony Sanchez
Fabiola Sanchez



Valerie Sanchez
Ceara Sanford
Ryan Schrader
Cedric Scott
Charmaine Scott
Jonathan Scott
Rhonda Scott



Brittany Seggem
Krista Seidel
Chris Seigmund
Jess Shaw
Daniel Siguenza
Michelle Smith



CoolRunnings

Before strong winds broke the neighborhood tree limbs. Before twenty feet of water covered the southern city that never sleeps. When everything was calm and Hurricane Katrina had not turned the city of New Orleans upside down, Matthew Hernandez had a chance to see the city first-hand as a participant of the Junior Olympics this summer. Matthew placed fourth out of twenty-eight in the state finals earlier in the summer allowing him to compete in July. Matthew was a participant of a multi-event called the pentathlon, which consists of the 100 meter hurdles, high jump, long jump, shot put and the 1500 meter run.

"He tries 100% every time," his friend Eric Camacho said. "I told him he better go and win." Matthew also received support from his family.

"They were real supportive," Matthew said. "[They] always pushed me to try harder." But his trip was not just all about the competition. Matt also had the chance to experience life on the New Orleans streets.

"It's like Mardi Grais all year down there," Matthew said. "But I didn't get to go to any clubs or get any beads."

However, Matthew would not recall going to Bourbon Street as his most memorable experience there. He will be able to keep the memory of competing in New Orleans for years to come.

by brittany chavana



Matthew Hernandez (in green) tries to out jump his opponent in the 100 meter hurdles. Matthew spent two hours everyday trying to perfect his technique. *Courtesy Photo*



Jonathan Steele
Donald Stevenson
Corey Strmiska
Alejandro Suarez
Courtney Svatek
Travis Tanksley
Jessica Tapia

Ransom Taylor
Lindsey Teggeman
Glenna Tharp
Trinia Thompson
Adrian Torres
Olivia Torres
Reyes Torres

Eric Uriegas
Abram Valdez
Jessica Valdivia
Marcela Valladares
Jacob Valverde
Connor Vanecek
Josh Vargas

Theodor Vargas
Armando Vasquez
Bobby Villanueva
Tyler Volek
Jennifer Wallace
Rachel Weison
Brittany Wilkerson

Chase Williams
Matthew Winchester
Lateya Winn
Meagan Woolridge
Chelsea Wright
Lee Wright
Amador Yanez

Brianna Yanez
Stephanie Yanez
Stephanie Zachary
Aracelly Zavala
Danielle Zavala
Angel Zuniga

Eliza Boyd
Arlene Boyer
Ruth Brockman
Rachel Burklow
Janet Carpenter
Alissa Carter
Melanie Catuogno



Johna Childress
Shelli Cobb
Rick Cobia
Sherri Cook
Donna Curtis
Dawn Fisher
Vicky Formica



Diann Fox
Stan Gabel
Lisa Gorzell
David Guadiano
Gracie Guerrero
Kate Harden
Pam Harper



Chandra Hefta
Betty Jackson
Barbara Johle
Cathy Johnson
Ed Johnson
Mary Kalbaugh
Alicia Kuehl



Doug Kuhl
Kathleen Kulas
Odessa Mackey
Cheryl Mankin
Norma Marquardt
Kimberley Mason
George Matthys



Connie Moehnke
Belinda Nira-Munoz
Yvonne Oranday
Pam Pekar
Paul Quarles
Monica Ramirez
Jennifer Ray-Cooper



Coach Ronnie James receives a pie in the face during a home football game pep rally. Several players and coaches were chosen to participate in a football trivia game and if they answered incorrectly, the contestant was hit with a whipped cream pie. *Photo by Emily Quinn*



Front: Lupe Torres, Jessie Ancira, James "Bo" Stiles Back: Eddie Tealer, Dr. Ron Werner, Johnny Sanford, Cathy Cotner *Courtesy Photo*





Ms.Rachel Burklow, Mrs. Robin Rogers, Ms. Kate Hardin & Coach Shelli Cobb, Dr. Bruce Scott, Mrs. Marilyn Tenill, Mrs. Janet Carpenter, Mr. Danny Volek

Faculty & Staff



Viola Razo
Debra Rinderknecht
Robyn Rogers
Vicki Rowe
David Rucker
Patti Ruemke
Esperanza Ruiz

Roberto Sanchez
Kaye Schaefer
Gloria Schuldt
Carin Shaughnessy
Jane Shepherd
Crystal Simpson
Deborah Skrhak

Chad Springer
Amy Stewart
Dee Sutton
Marilyn Tennill
Whitney Thomas
Darleen Tucker
Dan Volek

Melissa Waggoner
Matt Walker
Cindy Wehling
Jennifer Wesolowski
Kevin Widmer
Kindra Wimberley
Mary Ann Zucknick

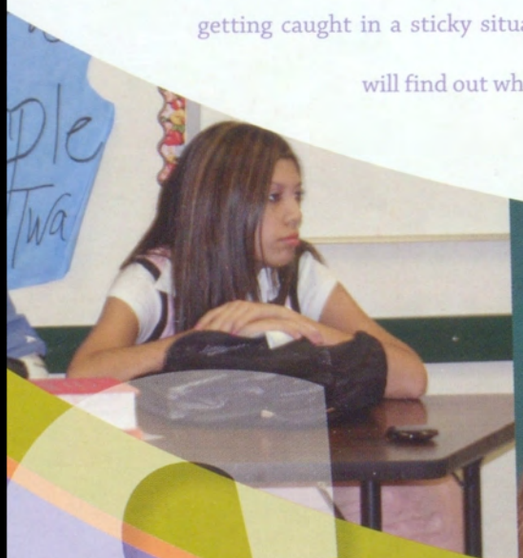


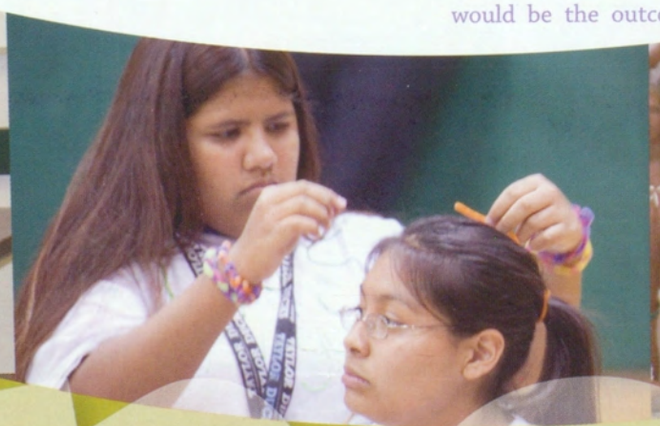
Mrs. Gloria Schuldt and Mrs. Mary Kalbaugh joke with fellow teachers before the Veterans' Day ceremony, which fell on the same day as Hawaiian Day. Many teachers took a break from the morning tutorials to honor the Veterans before school. *Photo by Eleanore Avery*

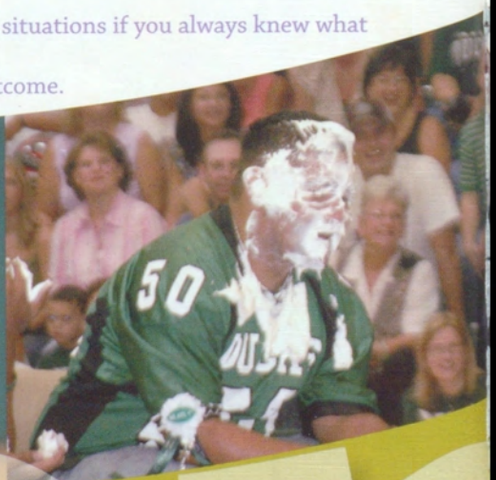


Coach Tonya Cargill sabotages her opponents in an Orange-Crush drinking contest by pouring her drink all over them. The cheerleaders designed games which were designed for teachers as well as students. *Photo by Emily Quinn*

Help is always welcome. At times you will think you can handle difficult situations on your own, but the truth is that you can always use a little help along the way. Very seldom is a big job done by only one person. Support, time, and money are all huge factors that play into the role of teamwork. Who that person might be that saves you from getting caught in a sticky situation is something that you will find out when the time comes. It may be that guy that you never talk to, or the teacher whom you claim hates you, but whomever the person may be, *you will never know until that moment when you need help the most*. If only you knew who would be there for you, you would find yourself not being so judgemental of those people who will later give you a hand when everything seems to be total chaos. It seems that to accomplish anything these days, money has to be taken into consideration. For the most part, things always seem to work out. It is always hard to tell the times when somehow the time, money, and effort are going to pull through in the end. You would never have anything to worry about or any stressful situations if you always knew what would be the outcome.







Spot

Whether it turned out positive or negative, you would know if all your hard work was going to pay off in the end or not. The continual question of whether or not help will be provided or a solution will be found is the only thing which will keep you motivated. The constant guessing of how things will turn out, with help or without help, is what makes life an adventure. Asking for assistance along the way will sometimes be the hardest thing you will have to do. Pride cannot become an issue and sometimes you will be forced to humble yourself and admit that you cannot handle the situation alone. Upon entering high school, *you were not given a list of all the obstacles you would ask for help in*, or who would be the person to come through and pick you up, but that is part of living life. Unlike movies, your problems are not always resolved and aid is not always supplied, but this is just one more reason your character is your own.

Below: Yvette Vasquez *photo by Aaron Reeves.* Lindsay Wilson *photo by Jennifer McQuary.* Nicholas Pachicano *photo by Emily Quinn.* Lanika Ross & Shanta Davis *photo by Emily Quinn.* Richard Alford *photo by Aaron Reeves.* Kaye Schaefer *photo by Matti Mott.*







ISOLS



Friends then, now, and forever.

With love from the Golas and Stanfords.

Leighanne Volek



Leighanne,
"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." - Prov. 3:6
"Why must you have answers? Aren't questions beautiful enough?" - *Fools* by Neil Simon
We love you,

Mom, Dad, Tyler, Ashlynn, and Dayton

Sic 'Em Bears!





Melissa Mokry







Melissa,
We love you and are very proud of your accomplishments, including Hi-steppers and the National Merit Competition. You have worked hard and your future is unlimited.
Love,
Mom, Dad & Michelle

Chris VonGerichten

"SR 2006"

CONGRATULATIONS!!!! We love you and are very proud of you! We pray that God will bless you in all your future higher education endeavors.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Shannon & Sweet Pea

Cotton Boll

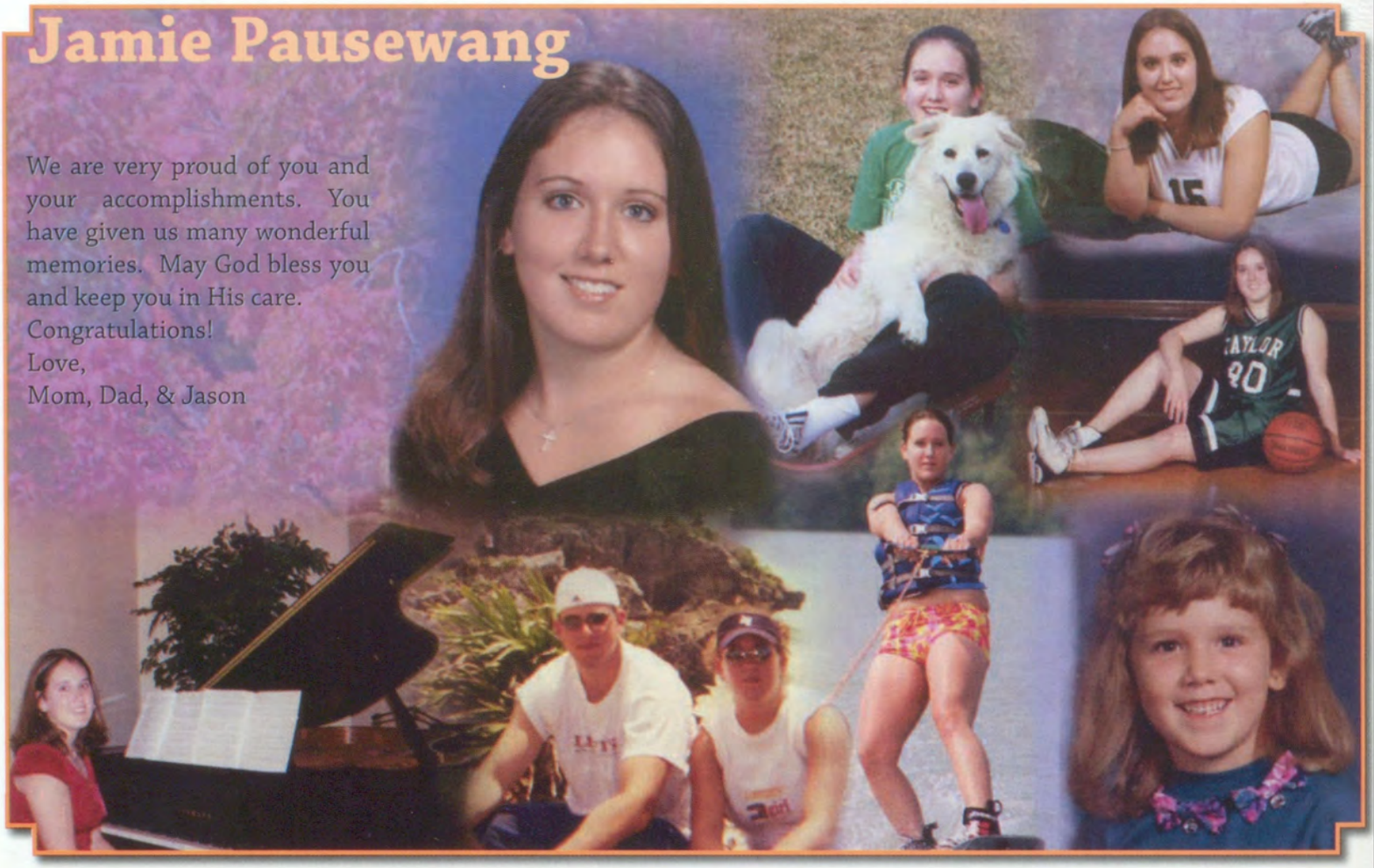
Amy Whittaker, Jacob Ness, Kristina Gaudin, Amber Rodriguez

Congratulations, Seniors, and thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the production of our newspaper.

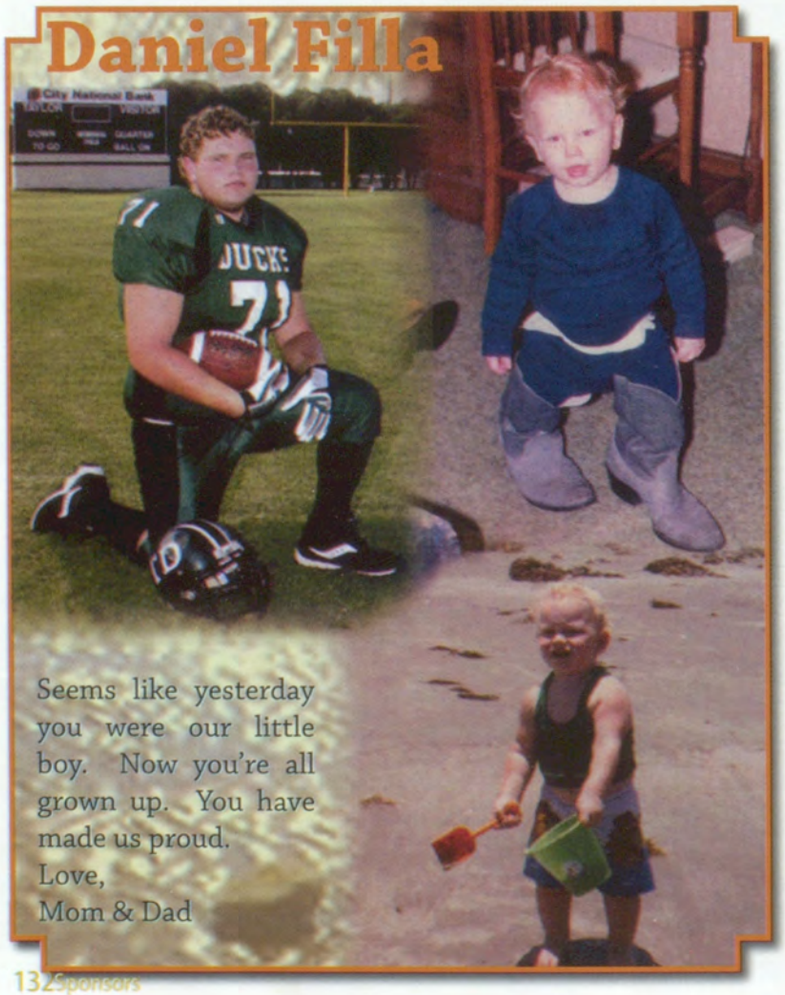
Love, Mrs. Fischer

Jamie Pausewang

We are very proud of you and your accomplishments. You have given us many wonderful memories. May God bless you and keep you in His care.
Congratulations!
Love,
Mom, Dad, & Jason



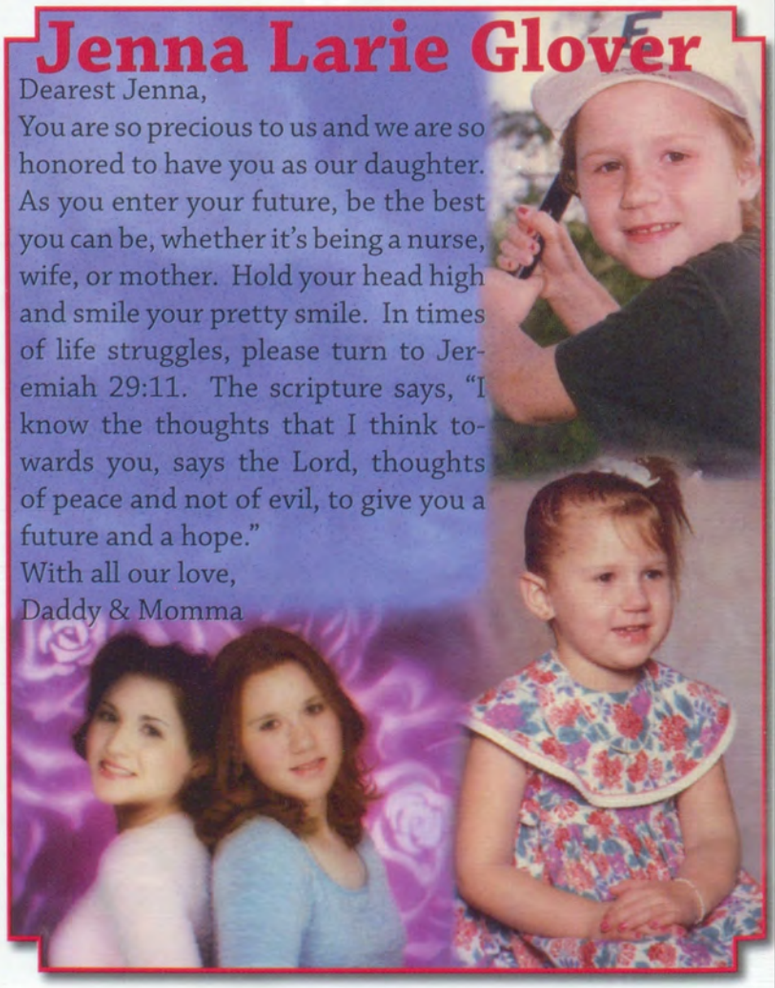
Daniel Filla



Seems like yesterday you were our little boy. Now you're all grown up. You have made us proud.
Love,
Mom & Dad

Jenna Larie Glover

Dearest Jenna,
You are so precious to us and we are so honored to have you as our daughter. As you enter your future, be the best you can be, whether it's being a nurse, wife, or mother. Hold your head high and smile your pretty smile. In times of life struggles, please turn to Jeremiah 29:11. The scripture says, "I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."
With all our love,
Daddy & Momma



Jacquelyn Luna

Congratulations, Jackie!
No matter what life brings your way, you can always believe that God has a plan for your life - a plan only you can discover, a dream only you can live, a gift only you were meant to share to make a beautiful difference in the world, the way you already have in others.
May God bless you always.
Love, Mom & Dad



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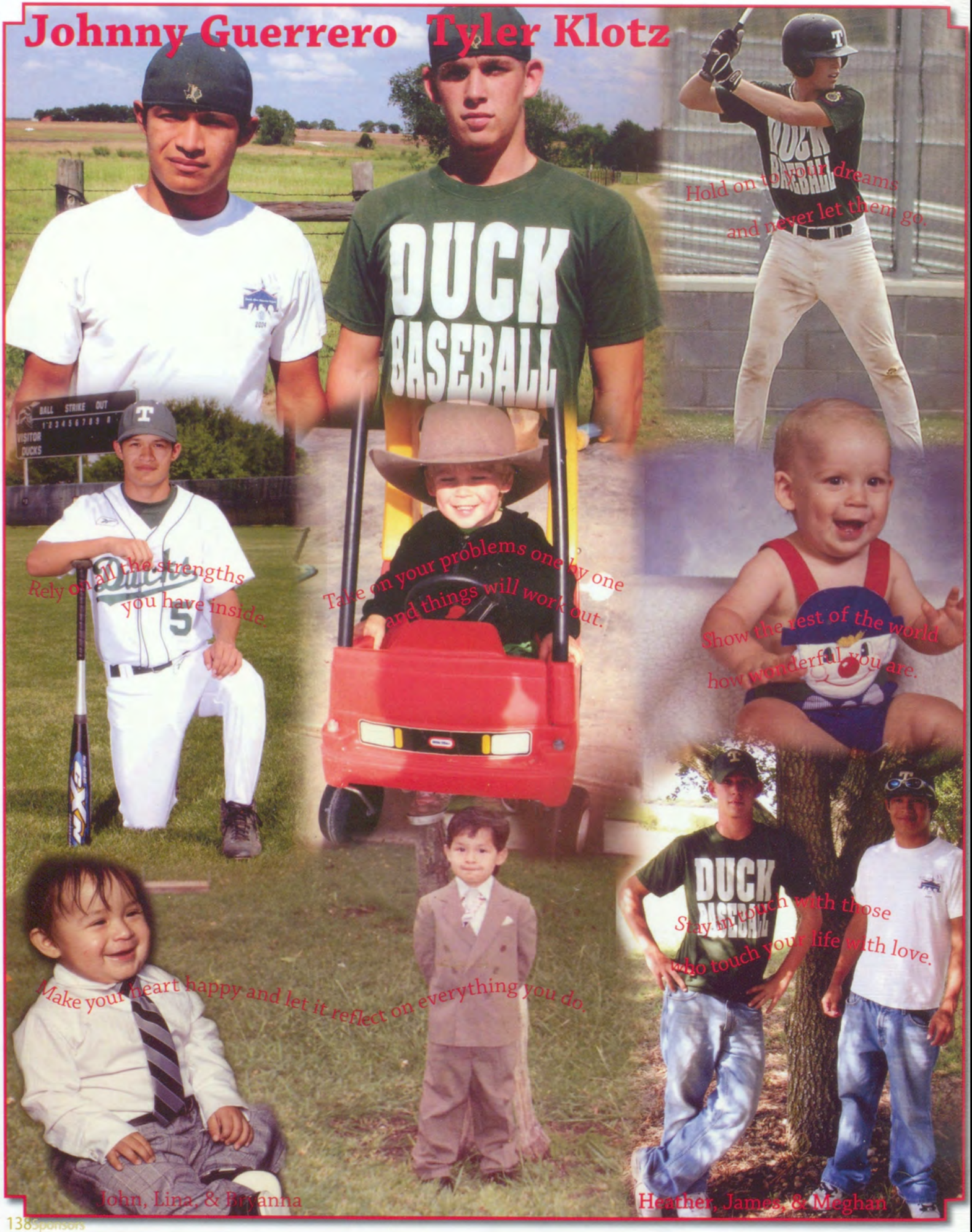
512.759.1515


Cory Beran
Brent Holman
Ryan Green
Way to go!
Love, Your Families

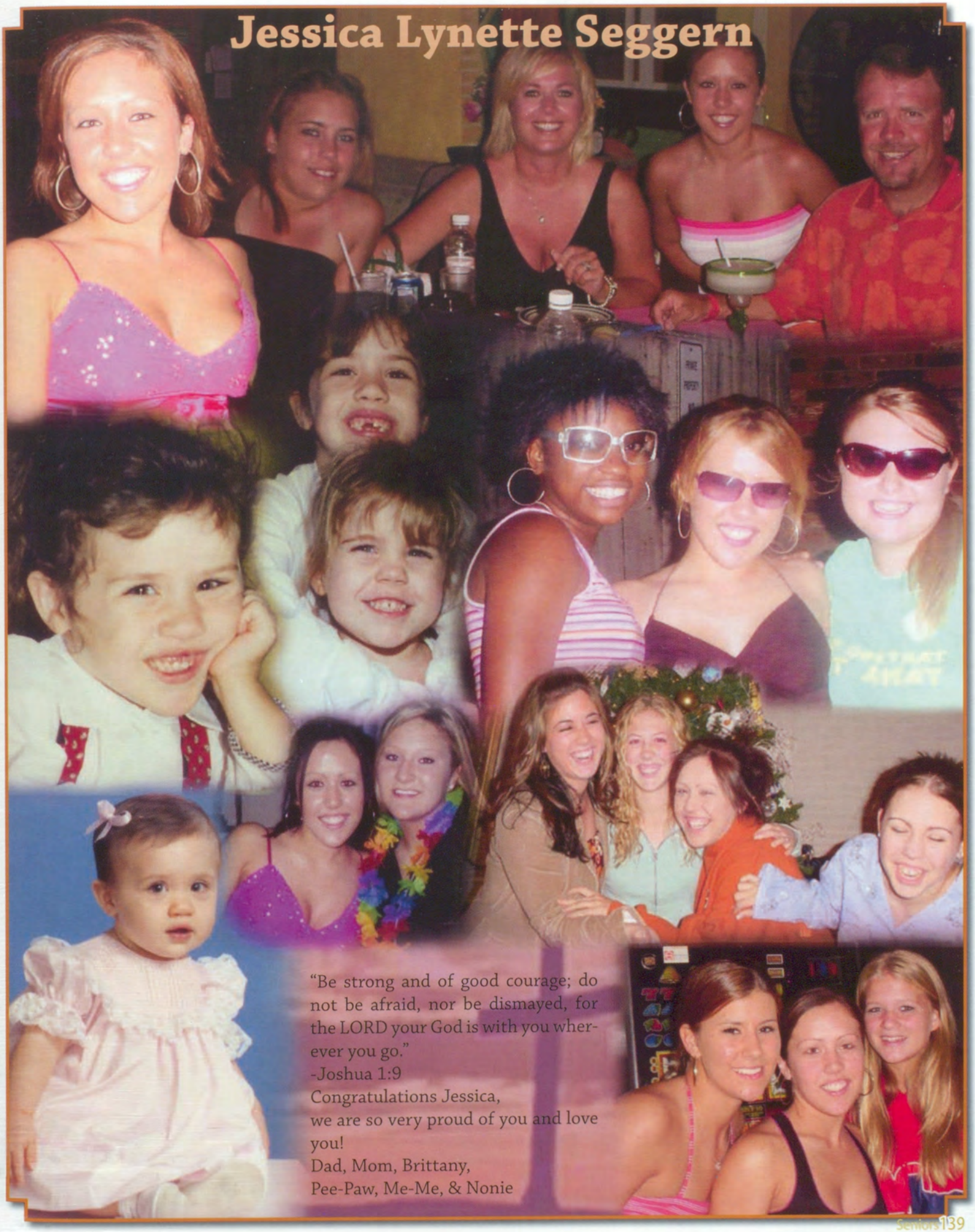
Kylie Stanford

Kylie, we are so proud of you. Reach for the stars and follow your dreams. You are our greatest gift.
We love you Bugs,
Mom and Dad

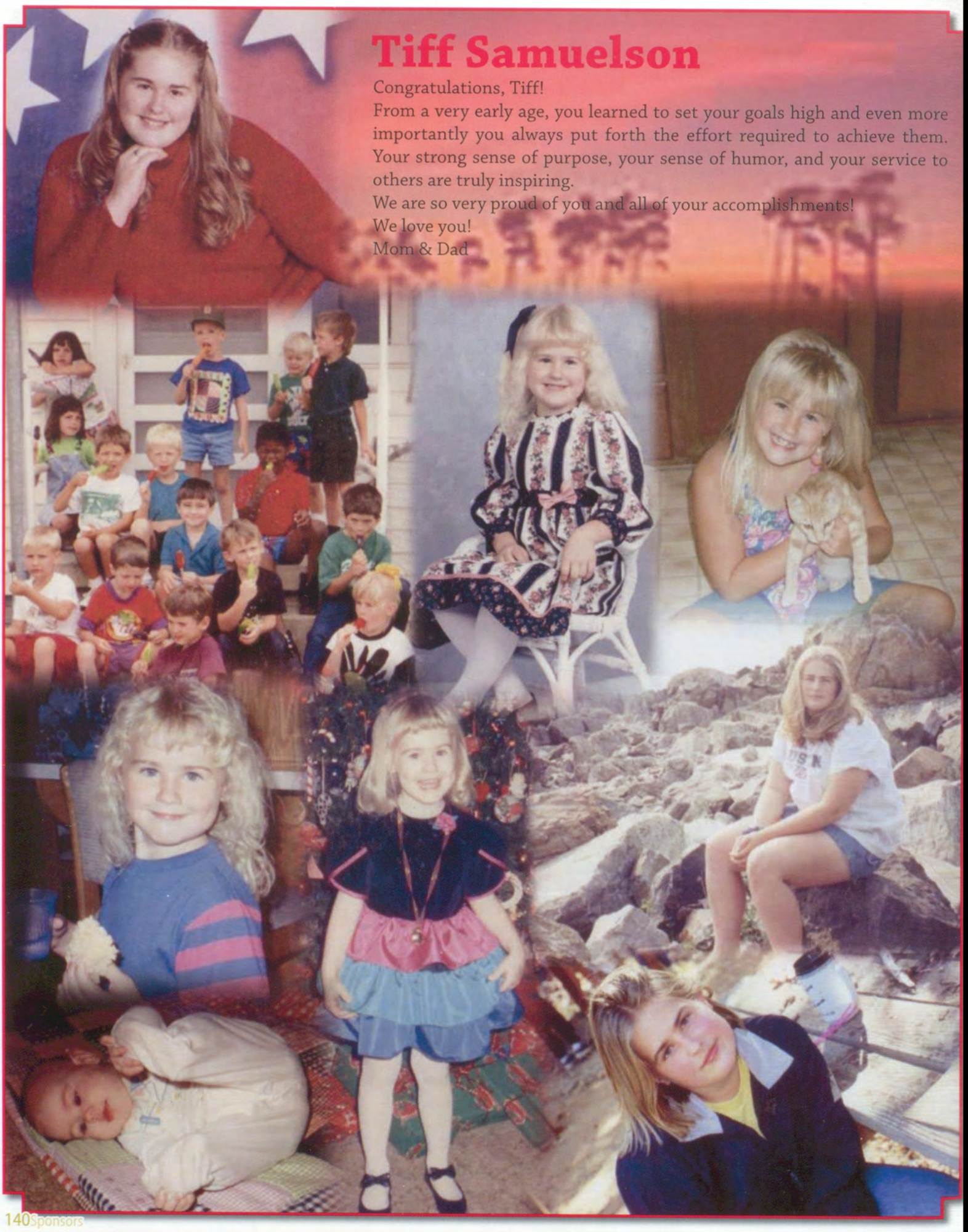



Johnny Guerrero
Tyler Klotz
DUCK
BASEBALL
Hold on to your dreams
and never let them go.
Rely on all the strengths
you have inside.
Take on your problems one by one
and things will work out.
Show the rest of the world
how wonderful you are.
Make your heart happy and let it reflect on everything you do.
Stay in touch with those
who touch your life with love.
John, Lina, & Bryanna
Heather, James, & Meghan

Jessica Lynette Seggern

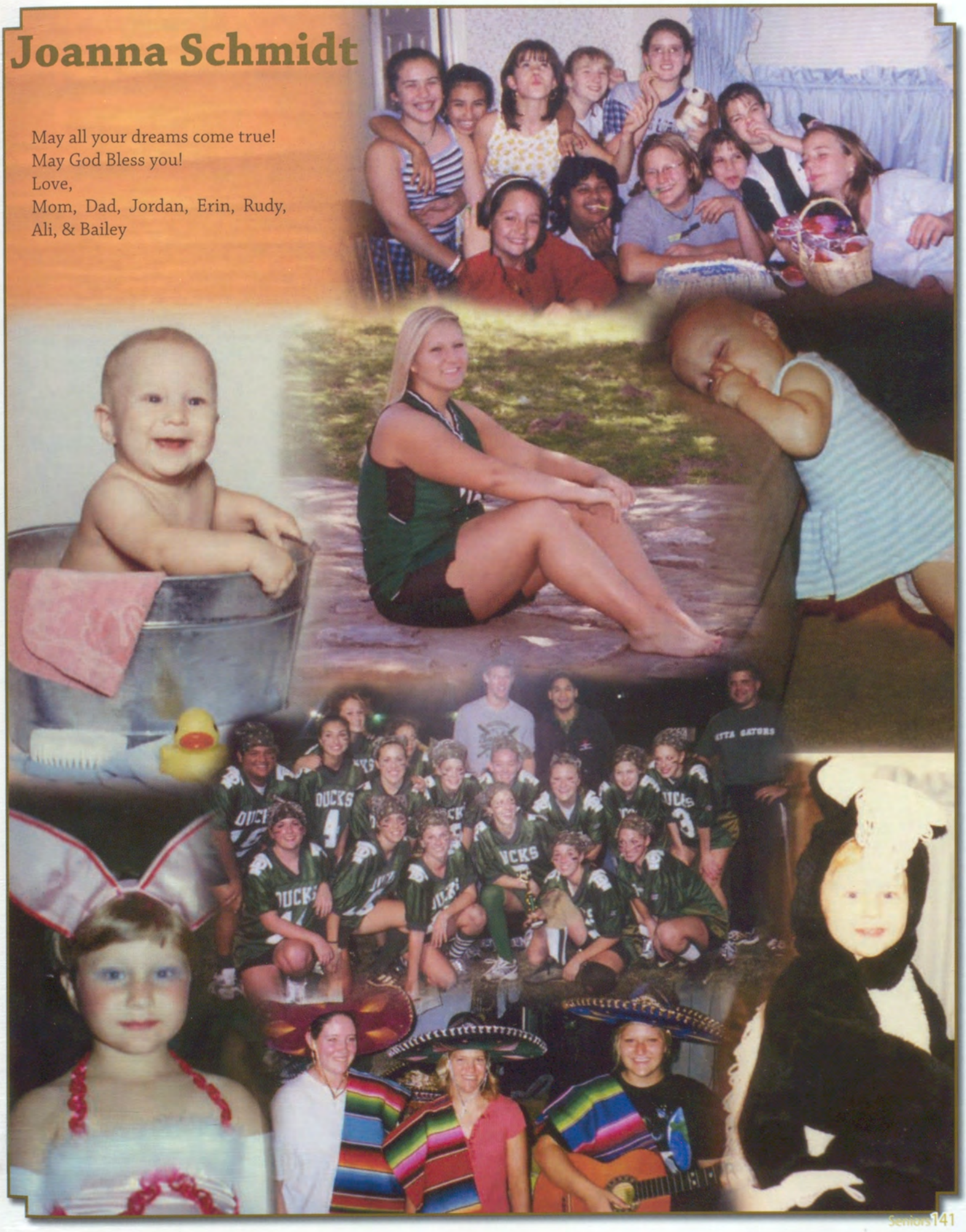


"Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
-Joshua 1:9
Congratulations Jessica,
we are so very proud of you and love you!
Dad, Mom, Brittany,
Pee-Paw, Me-Me, & Nonie


Tiff Samuelson
Congratulations, Tiff!
From a very early age, you learned to set your goals high and even more importantly you always put forth the effort required to achieve them. Your strong sense of purpose, your sense of humor, and your service to others are truly inspiring.
We are so very proud of you and all of your accomplishments!
We love you!
Mom & Dad

Joanna Schmidt

May all your dreams come true!
May God Bless you!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Jordan, Erin, Rudy,
Ali, & Bailey





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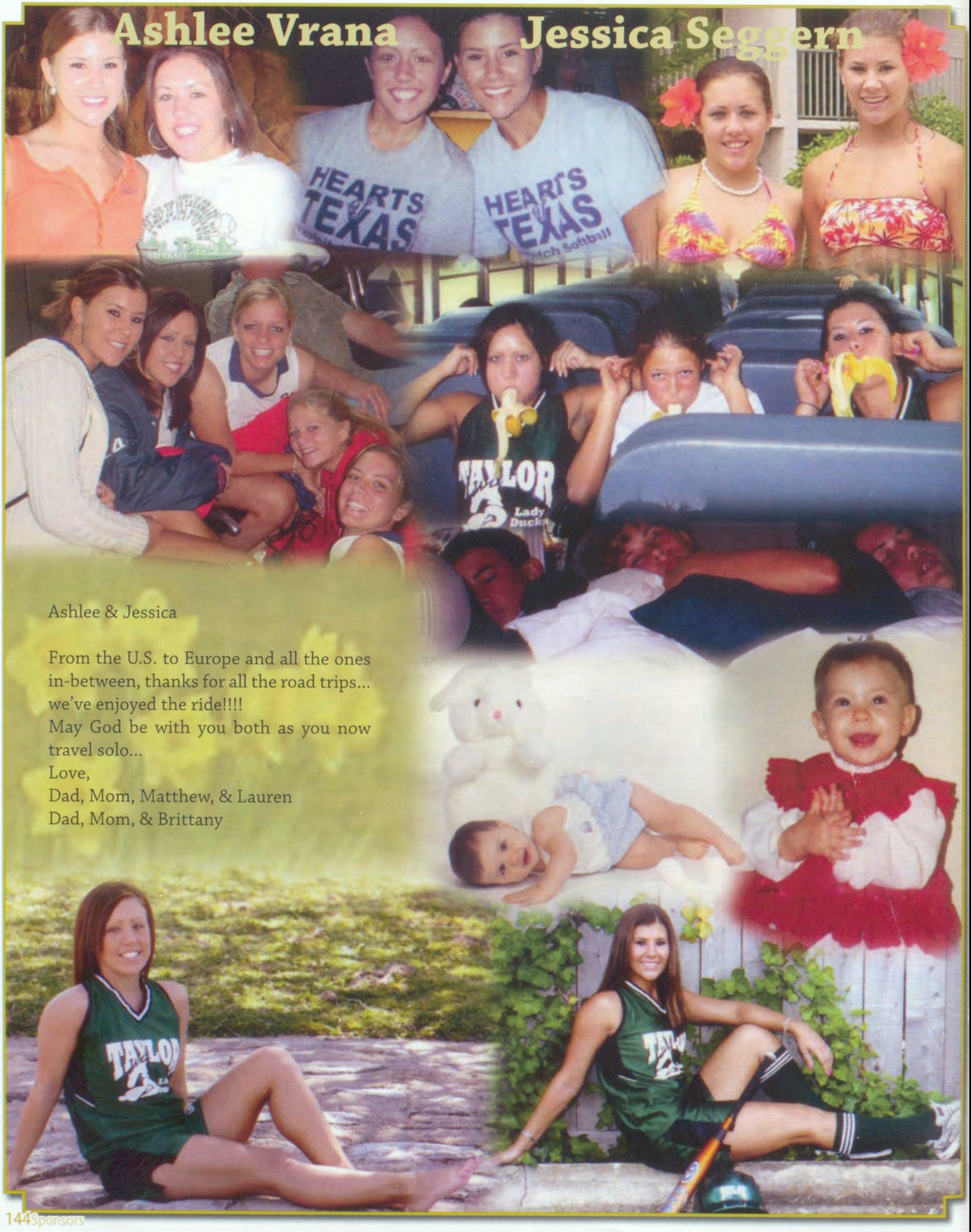
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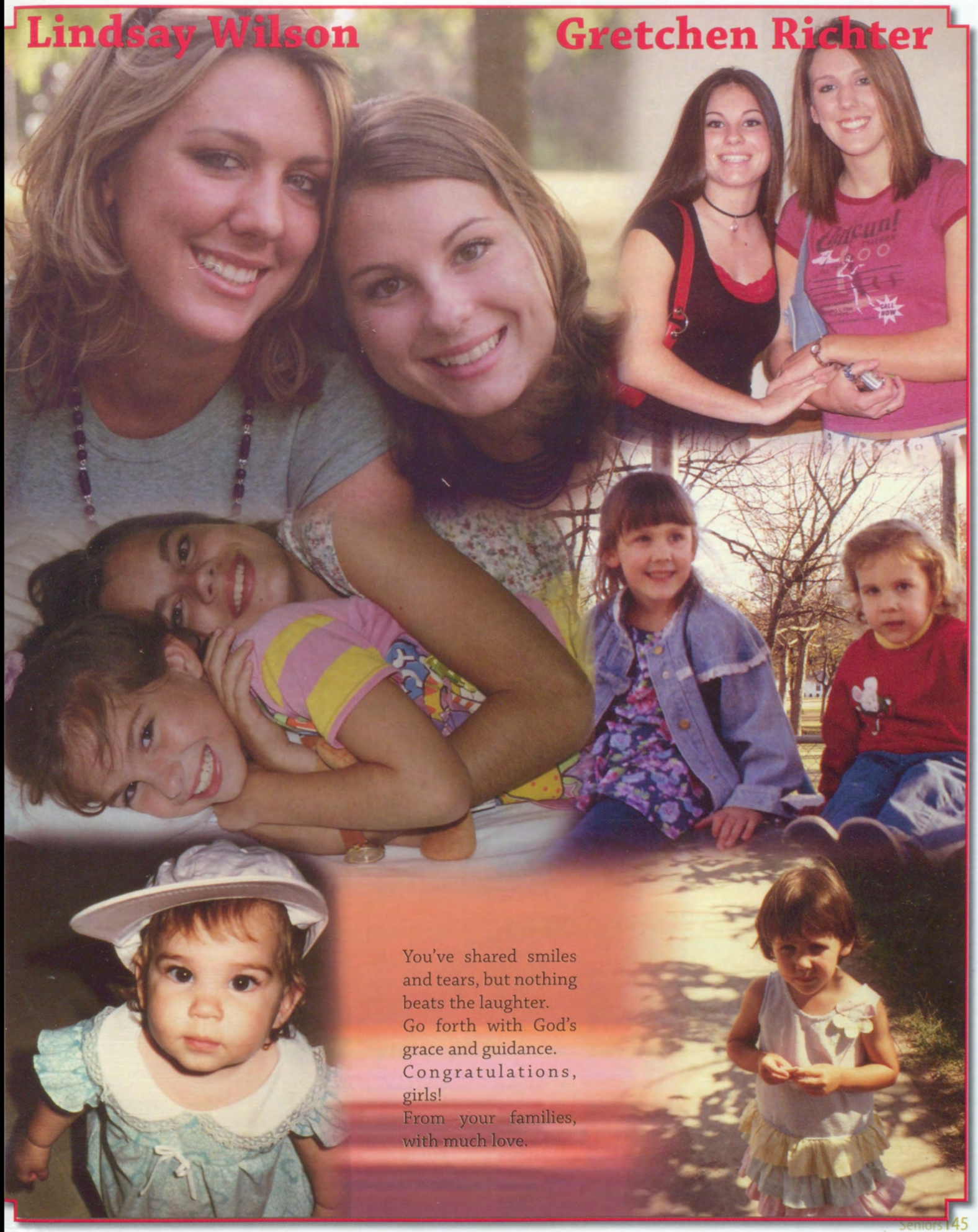
Pastor - David Johnson
Youth Pastor - Matt Hollingsworth

Ashlee Vrana Jessica Seggern



Ashlee & Jessica

From the U.S. to Europe and all the ones in-between, thanks for all the road trips... we've enjoyed the ride!!!!
May God be with you both as you now travel solo...
Love,
Dad, Mom, Matthew, & Lauren
Dad, Mom, & Brittany


Lindsay Wilson
Gretchen Richter
You've shared smiles and tears, but nothing beats the laughter.
Go forth with God's grace and guidance.
Congratulations, girls!
From your families, with much love.

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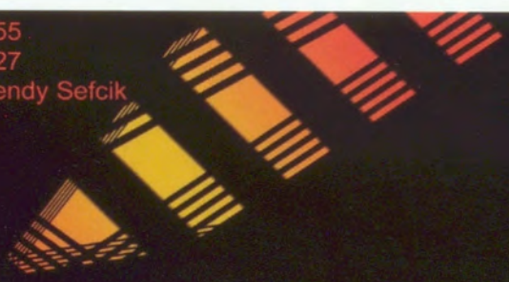
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2006 Mallard Policies

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 2006 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 2006 Mallard, Volume 60 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 photographer, 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 responsibility 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 poor 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 February 1 will not be guaranteed to receive a book. A limited number of books are sold upon delivery for $60 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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Luke Kaspar

Luke,
We are so proud of you and all you have accomplished. Follow your heart and make your dreams happen. Always remember we love you very much.
Mom, Dad, John
David & Savannah



Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to great places!
You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.

-Dr. Seuss

Matti Shea Mott



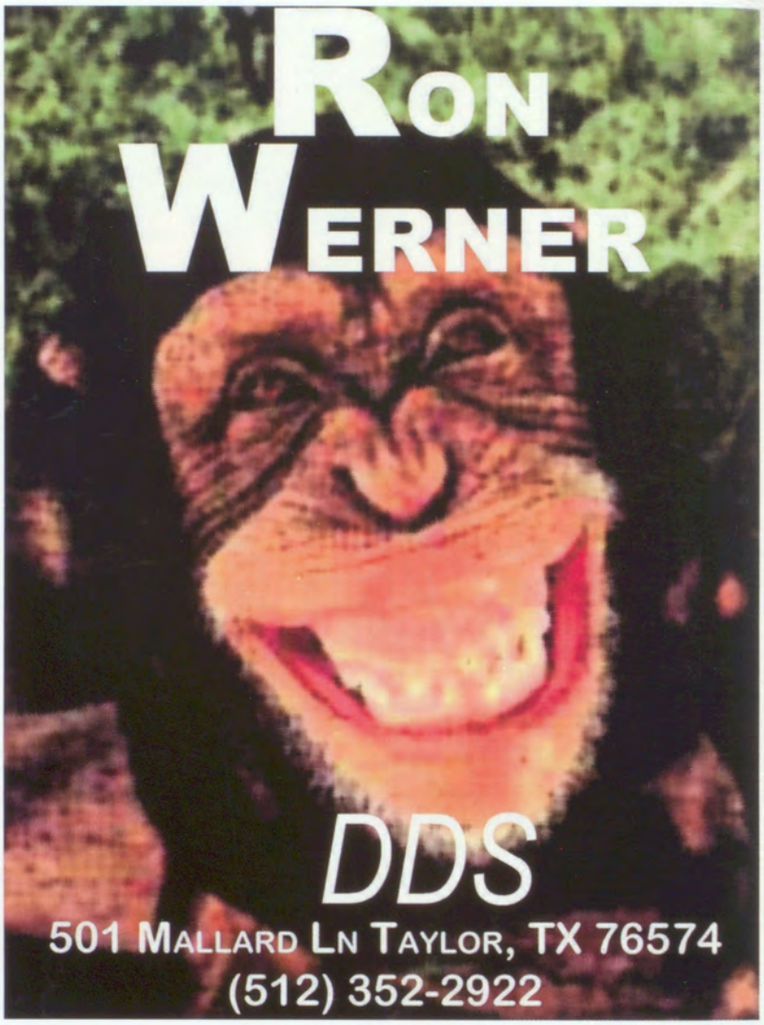
Young woman, my daughter,
My joy and my heart,
You've reached the end
Only to find a new start.

The world sees the young woman
With her charm and her smile,
But behind the woman,
I will always see the child.

We love you,
Daddy & Mom



Ron Werner



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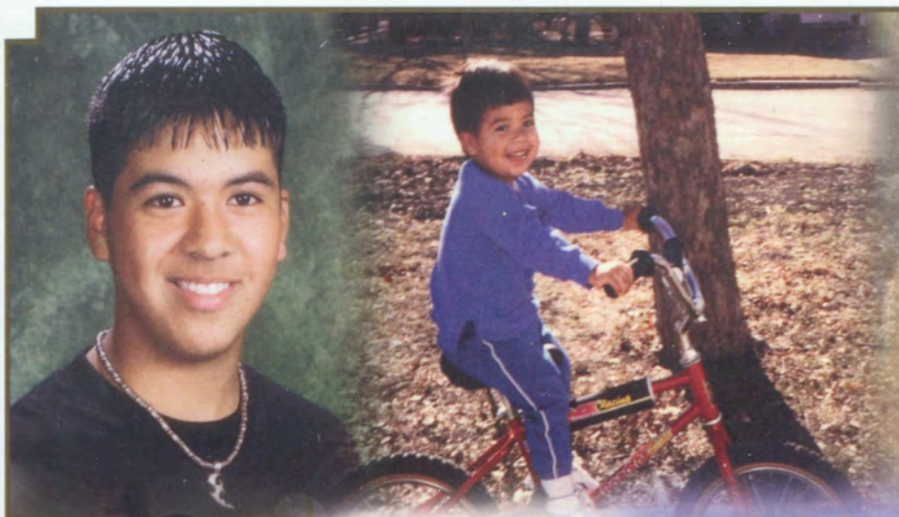
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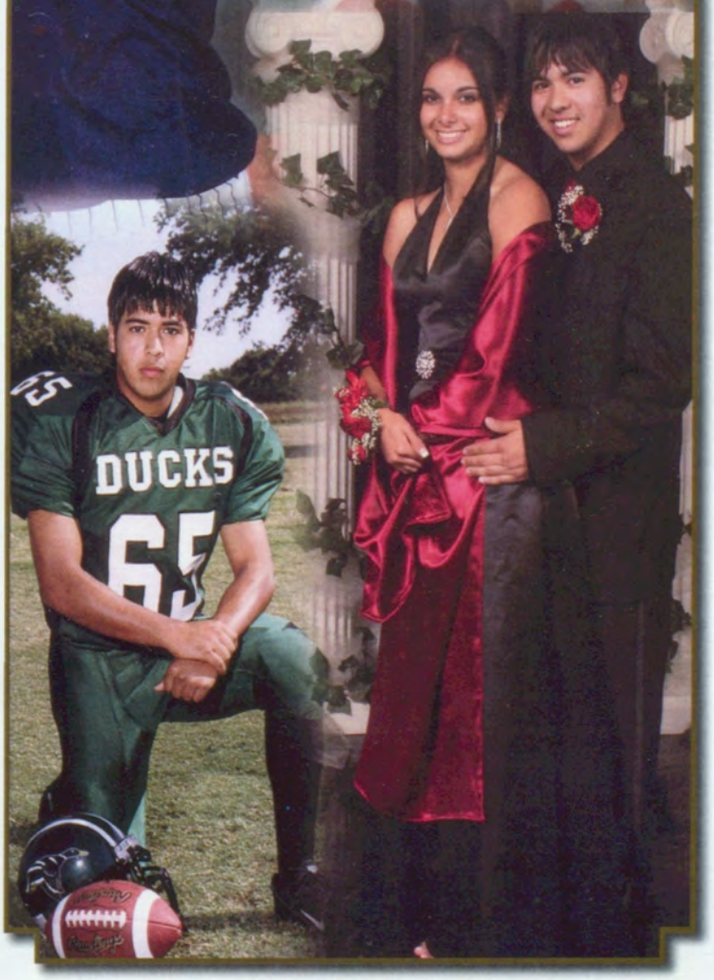
Jon Hernandez

Congratulations Jon! We're very proud of you and your accomplishments. Over the years you've matured into a fine young man and have a promising future ahead. Just remember, keep your head high and may all your dreams come true. We love you so very much Buddy!
Love,
Mom, Dad, CC, Joe, & Jeremy

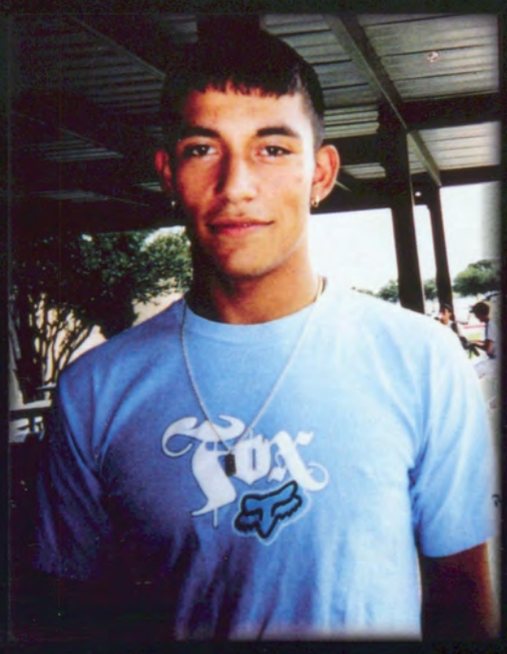








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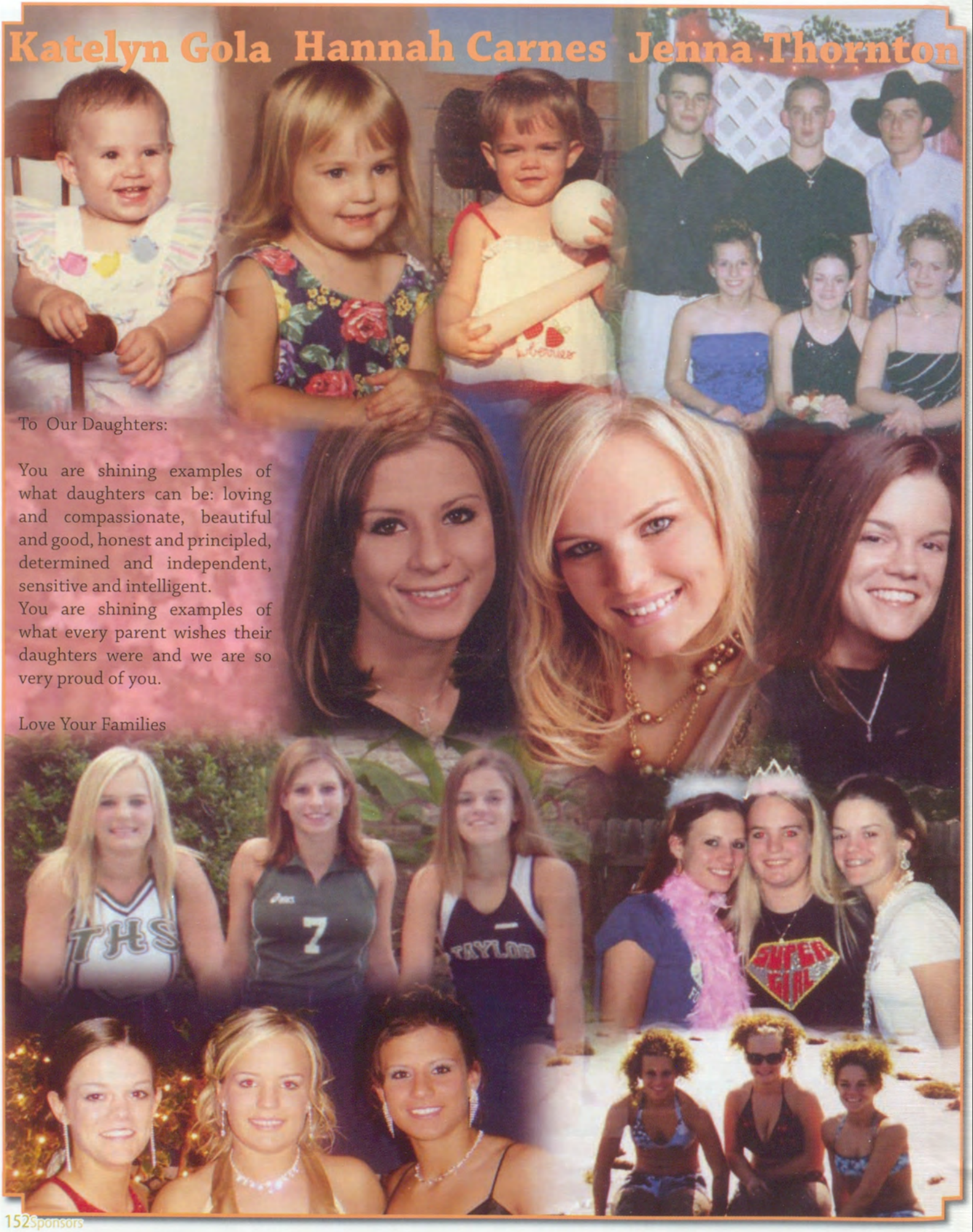


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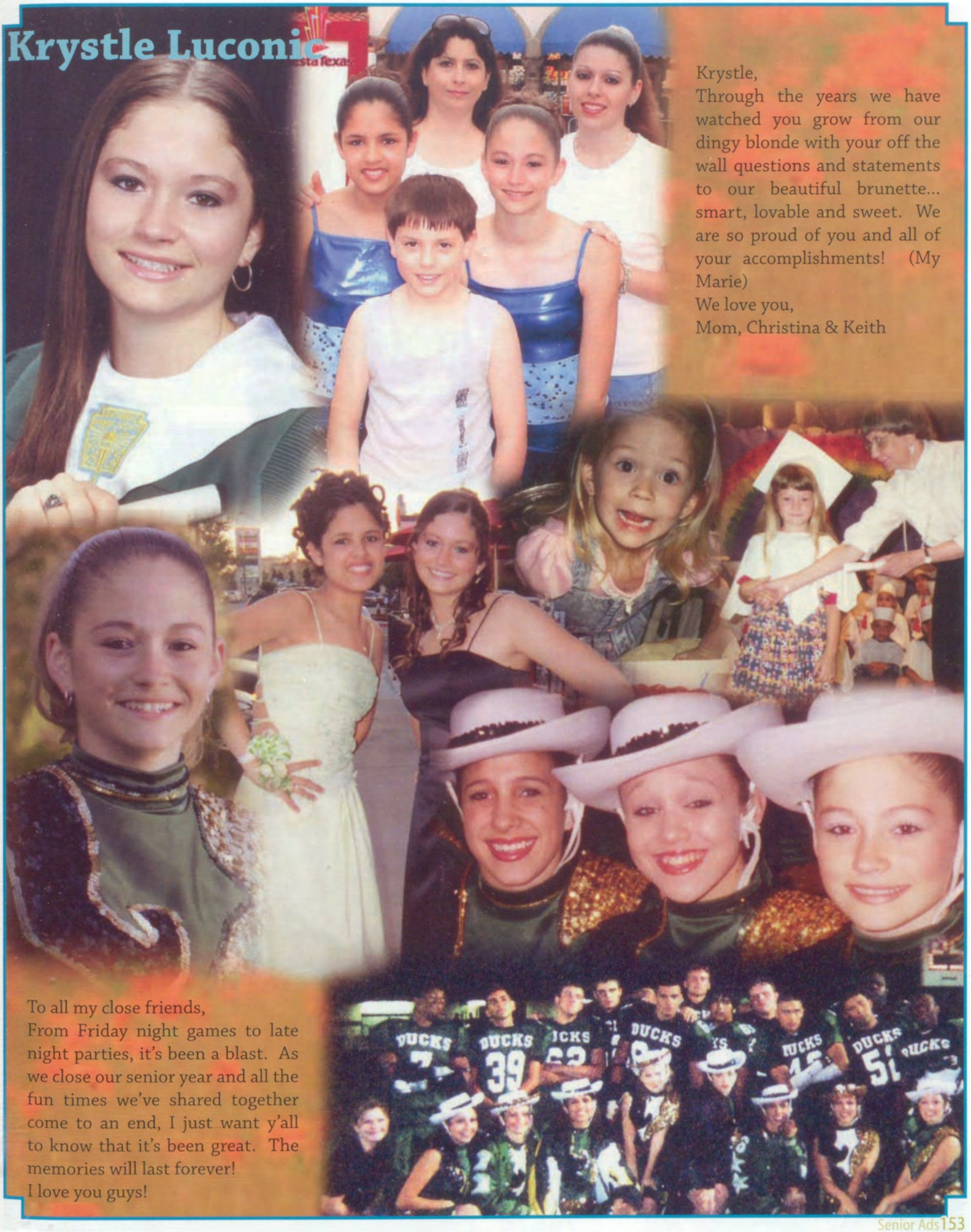


To Our Daughters:

You are shining examples of what daughters can be: loving and compassionate, beautiful and good, honest and principled, determined and independent, sensitive and intelligent.
You are shining examples of what every parent wishes their daughters were and we are so very proud of you.

Love Your Families

Krystle Luconic



Krystle,
Through the years we have watched you grow from our dingy blonde with your off the wall questions and statements to our beautiful brunette... smart, lovable and sweet. We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments! (My Marie)
We love you,
Mom, Christina & Keith

To all my close friends,
From Friday night games to late night parties, it's been a blast. As we close our senior year and all the fun times we've shared together come to an end, I just want y'all to know that it's been great. The memories will last forever!
I love you guys!

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Shattered Dreams

mock crash gets students' attention

Getting through to high school students about the risks of drinking and driving can sometimes seem like a up-hill battle, but on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, the high school administration, Taylor Fire Department, and EMS decided to make a lasting impression on students before they were released for spring break at the end of the week.

A mock party was filmed by several members of the video technology class on Tuesday evening to show as the beginning scenes of the video "Shattered Dreams." The following day, some of these same students acted in a mock drinking and driving car accident. The EMS created wounds and injuries using a make-up kit.

When the juniors and seniors were called out of class to witness the arrest of the drunk driver and to see their classmates lying on the ground seriously ingured or already dead, the students felt the impact of losing a friend or recollected old memories of a friend or family member dying.

"I walked outside and thought, 'What happened?'" Norma Arredondo said. "It gave me the chills." The rest of the scene was planned as closely to a real accident as possible. SAT Air flew in, in attempt to rescue the "injured" actor Edward Stringer.

Ashton Baran was yet another actress that was rushed to the hospital but by an ambulance. The remaining injured actors were "dead on the scene" and were taken directly to the funeral home. By dividing up jobs and assignments, the video crew was able to follow each actor. They shot every possible angle and person to insure that there was enough good footage to create a video of maximum impact to be shown the following day to every student in school.

The video crew was also affected by the staged accident; they were the ones following their friends around and seeing everything that took place at the hospital and in the ambulence. "It was really hard to sit in the emergency room and see my friend's heart rate drop until the line was flat," Emilio Gonzalez said. "It was even harder to see the mother being told that her child had died."

Making sure the video would be one to remember, the video crew, led by producer Bryce Block and adviser Melanie Catuogno, stayed at the school until 2:30 a.m. Friday morning editing the footage. It was clear that their hard work paid off as they received every student's undivided attention during the assembly and heartfelt applause afterwards.

Norma "[realized] this could happen to my friend, my brother, or my sister. It is real life."


Andy Stapp


Ashton Baran


Devin Fontenot


Edward Stringer



Edward Stringer


Cassiddy Stelek


Ashton Baran


Crowd

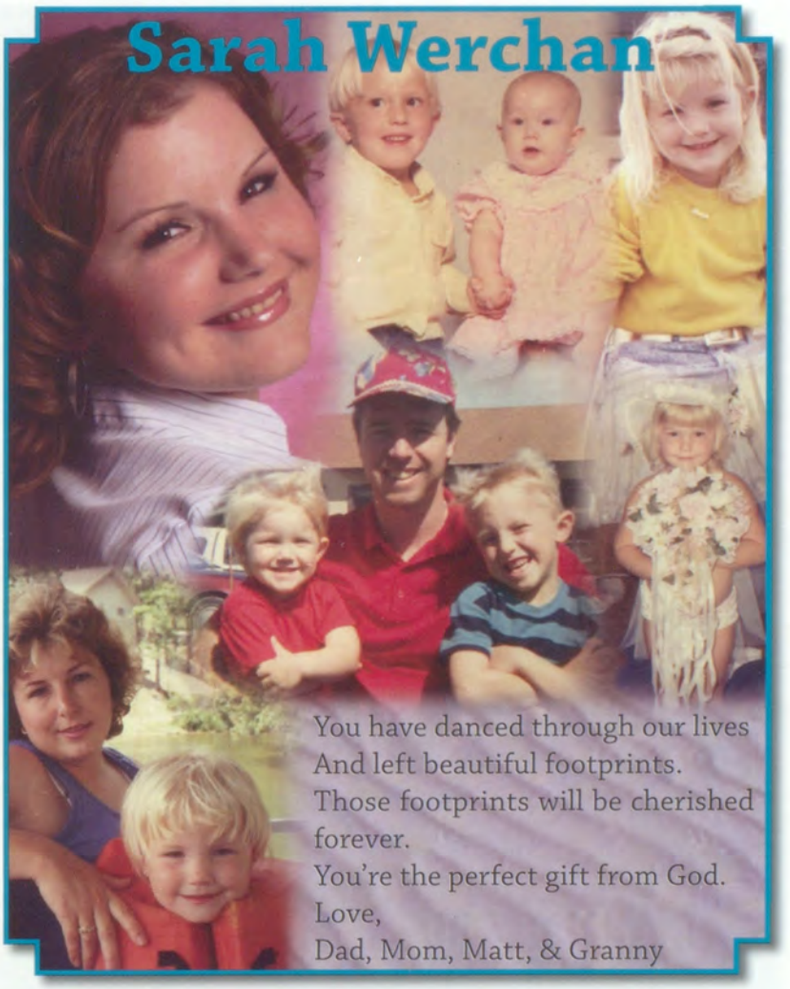
colophon

Software: Adobe InDesign CS, Adobe Photoshop CS2, Taylor YB!Pro. *Equipment*: 22 Dell Optiplex 280s, 1 Dell Optiplex GX 270, 1 Dell Dimension 2500, 4 Sony CyberShot cameras, 1 Canon 10-D camera, 3 Canon Canoscan 8400F. *Fonts*: Chaparral Pro regular and bold, , Bradley Hand ITC, Myriad Pro light condensed, web italic and web condensed. *Cover*: Smyth .160 binder boards, Lithocote Gloss. *Paper*: 100# enamel. *Portraits*: Bryn-Alan Studios. *Printing*: Taylor Publishing, Dallas, TX. 168 pages, 300 copies. *Questions* should be directed to THS Mallard, 3101 N. Main, Taylor TX 76574 (512) 352-6326.

special Thanks

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Jim Anderson, Mickey Mehrens, Stacey Mehrens, Nancy DeWees, David Mosher, Viola Razo, Melissa Meaker, Robyn Rogers, Vicki Rowe, Dan Volek, Marilyn Tennill, David Rucker, Barbara Johle, Kimberley Mason, Susan LeDonne Wind, Robert Borgne, Ryan Perry, Paul Burrer, Jenn Stuchley, Dawn Fischer, Larry Robbins, Brianna Gross, Stiles Byrom, the TISD School Board, and all our teachers, coaches, families, and friends.



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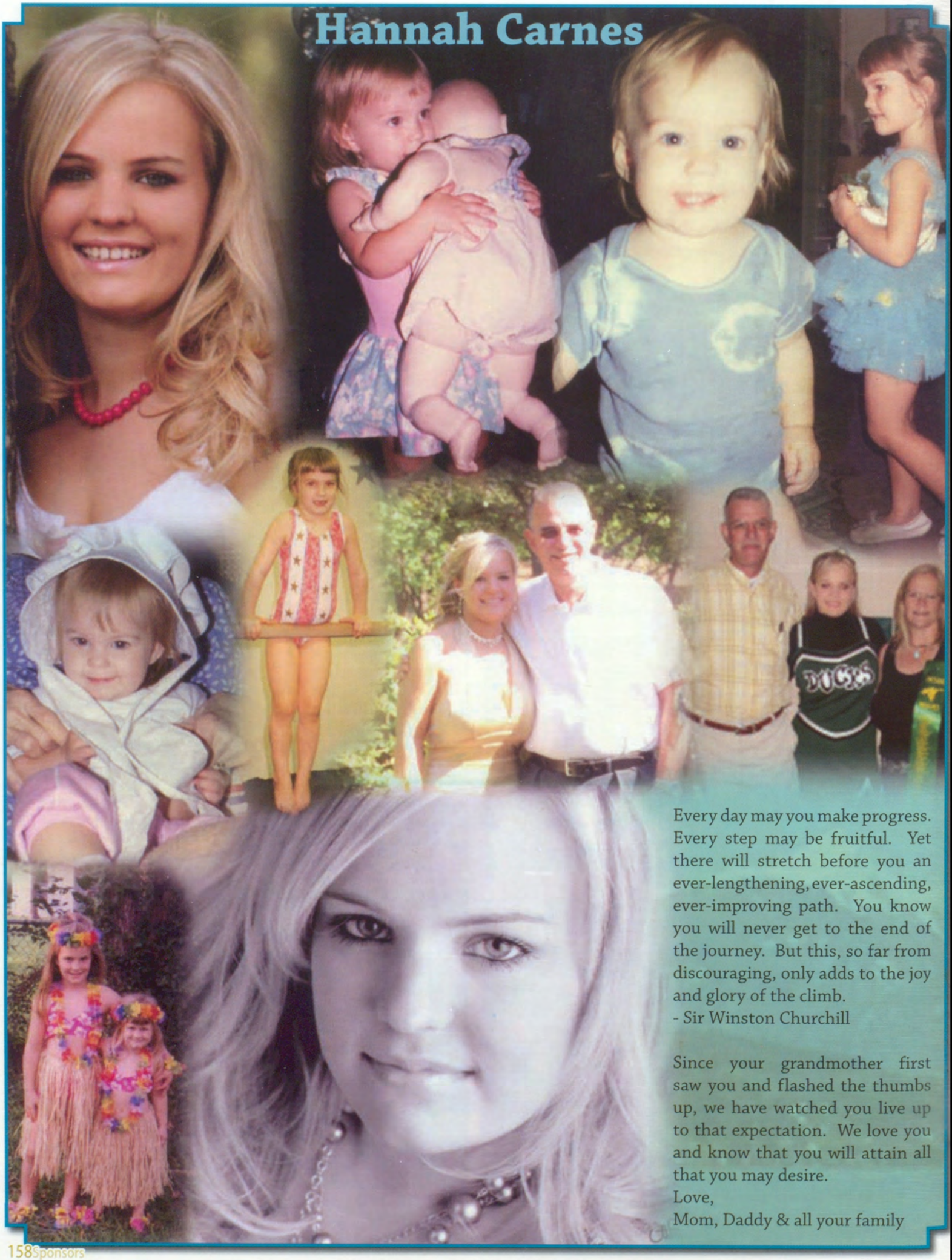
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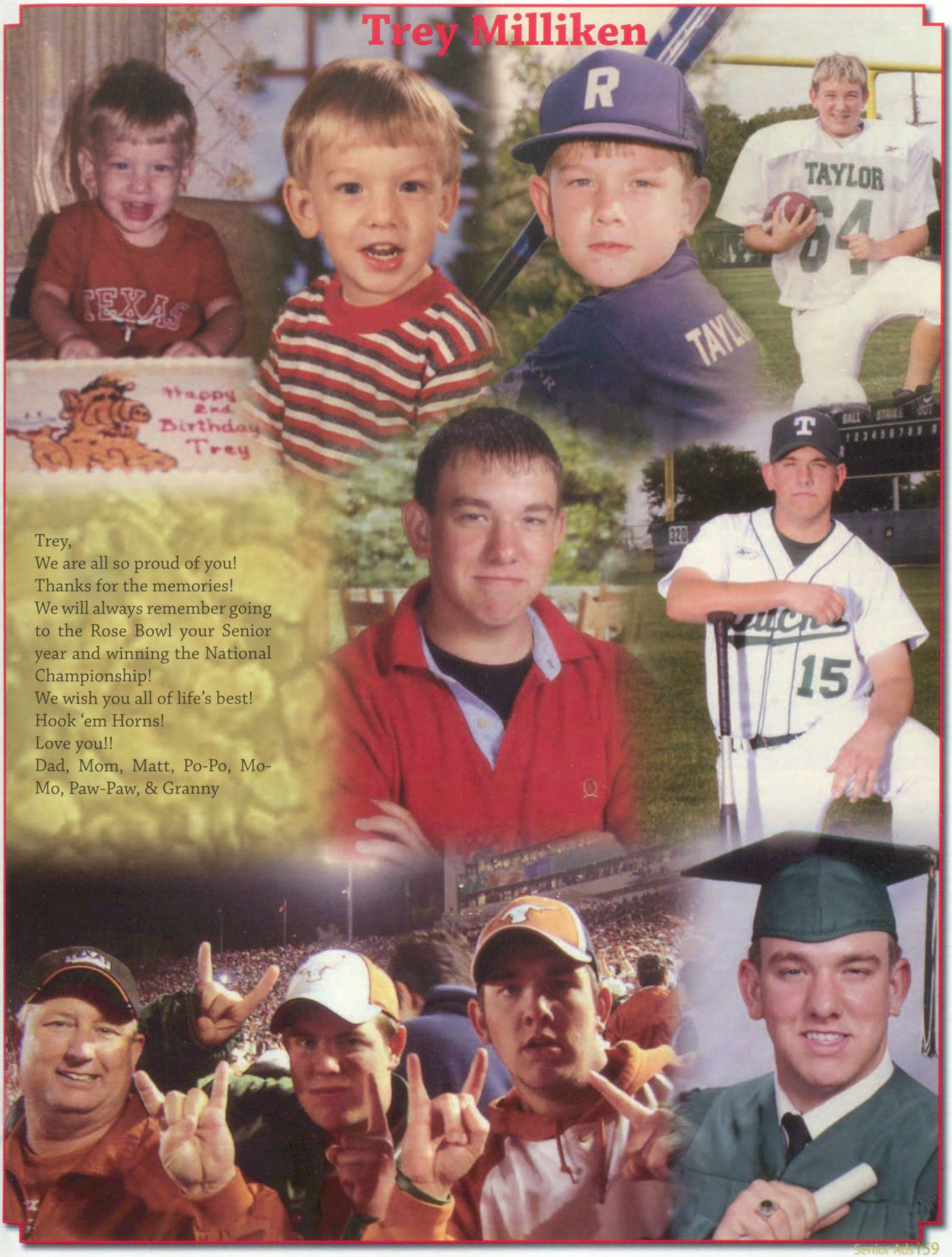
Hannah Carnes



Every day may you make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb.
- Sir Winston Churchill

Since your grandmother first saw you and flashed the thumbs up, we have watched you live up to that expectation. We love you and know that you will attain all that you may desire.
Love,
Mom, Daddy & all your family

Trey Milliken



Trey,
We are all so proud of you!
Thanks for the memories!
We will always remember going to the Rose Bowl your Senior year and winning the National Championship!
We wish you all of life's best!
Hook 'em Horns!
Love you!!
Dad, Mom, Matt, Po-Po, Mo-Mo, Paw-Paw, & Granny

Index



A

Abbott, Nickolas 13, 115
Academic Decathlon 80
Aguilar, Carlos 121
Aguilar, Christina 108
Aguilar, Jessica 108
Aguilar, Jose 121
Aguilar, Marcie 115
Aguilar, Maria 121
Aguirre, Jose 115
Aguirre, Martin 48, 108, 110
Aguirre, Salomon 115
Aiello, Kelli 115
Aikens, Robert 10, 48, 71, 108
Alaniz, Daniel 94
Aldama, Jeremiah 115
Alderete, Aaron 108
Alderete, Alvaro 71, 121
Alderete, Ana Lisa 121
Alderete, Brianca 13, 33, 75, 108
Alderete, Christopher 85, 94
Alderete, Erica 115
Alderete, Kristen 121
Alderete, Lucas 121
Alderete, Matthew 84
Alderete, Sandra 94
Aleman, Kevin 73, 115
Alexander, Nicholas 108
Alfaro, Juan 17, 48, 115
Alford, Richard 48, 56, 115, 129
Almazan, Rebecca 13, 33, 115
Alonzo, Jonathon 8, 9, 19
Amado, Kimberly 115
Ancira, Jesse 115
Anders, Brooke 58, 59, 60, 68, 115
Anderson, Joshua 115
Araujo, Francisca 17, 108
Araujo, Silvia 121
Arias, Cindy 13
Arnold, Glen 94
Arredondo, Audry 94
Arredondo, Crystal 94
Arredondo, Norma 108, 156, 167
Arroyo, Manuel 94
Avalos, Raul 35, 108
Avalos, Vanessa 108, 167



B

Badillo, Moises 108
Bailey, Andrew 121
Baisley, Arthur 16, 108
Baker, Janice 2, 74, 94
Balduff, Casey 115
Ballard, Stephen 48, 51, 108
Balusek, Nathan 115
Band 12
Banner, Kelly 58, 59, 89, 108
Baran, Ashton 38, 39, 47, 54, 55, 108, 156
Baran, Kyle 11, 48, 94
Barry, Adam 48, 93, 115
Barry, Andrew 48, 115
Basketball, Boys 70
Basketball, Girls 69
Bauerkemper, Rebecca 7, 74, 78, 94
Bedsole, Ashley 28, 54, 94
Behrens, Brittany 24, 25, 60, 77, 108
Bell, Antoinette 65
Bellemare, William-Billy 108
Beran, Cory 50, 53, 74, 76, 94, 130, 136
Bevka, Frankie 21, 24, 108
Blane, Gus 1, 48, 94
Blane, Kevin 17
Blank, Brittany 51, 121
Block, Bryce 12, 13, 19, 77, 80, 81, 84, 108
Bogan, Bradley 115
Bogan, Christopher 37, 42, 48, 115, 165
Bohac, Briana 121
Bolding, Randi 16, 17
Boney, Jillian 7, 108
Bosley, Jessica 15, 16, 52, 94
Bourdeau, Stephanie 115
Boyd, Eliza 126
Boyer, Arlene 126
Boykins, Chelsey 43, 68, 69, 115
Bracamontez, Alexandra 14, 15, 39, 94
Bradford, Tina 121
Bradshaw, Shawn 81, 115
Brandt, Cassandra 94, 108
Brinkmeyer, Noah 45, 48, 108, 120
Brock, Marianne 66, 67, 108
Brockman, Ruth 126
Brogan, Austin 80, 94
Brooks, Eric 52, 121
Brown, Chasidee 121
Brown, Jacques 12
Brown, Jamar 42, 43, 115
Bryan, Todd 3, 48, 52, 108
Bubenik, Stacy 24, 25, 31, 52, 54, 55, 62, 115
Buckalew, Stevie 121
Budd, Jalisa 43, 115
Burklow, Rachel 87, 95, 116, 126, 127
Burow, Nathan 71, 121
Business Professionals of America 38
Butcher, Joshua 37, 108
Butcher, Shane 115
Byfield, Britton 62, 63, 71, 115



C

Cabrera, Cindy 108
Caldwell, Lawerence 48, 115
Caldwell, Shermane 48, 71, 121
Calzada, Andreina 121
Camacho, Eric 19, 48, 108, 121, 125
Campbell, Aaron 52, 94
Campbell, Daniel 115
Campos, Christopher 115
Campos, Michael 47, 48, 49, 89, 94, 95
Canada, Amanda 94, 100, 108
Cannon, Amanda 121
Cansin, Mayra 121
Cantu, Brianna 106, 108, 113
Cantu, Regina 96
Cargill, Tonya 27, 127
Carillo, Charlotte 7
Carlson, Brandee 37, 54, 121
Carnes, Cole 115
Carnes, Hannah 54, 55, 96, 152, 158, 165
Carpenter, Janet 126, 127
Carpenter, Mistie 83, 121
Carrillo, Charlotte 108
Carter, Alissa 126
Carter, Grant 77, 108
Carter, Gregory 16, 48, 71
Castanon, David 121
Castillo, Alysia 121
Castillo, Christian 108
Castillo, Justin 74
Castro, Allen 115
Castro, Jeffrey 7, 96
Cathey, Johnny 96
Catuogno, Melanie 84, 86, 126, 165
Cavazos, Lidia 115
Cavo, Luke 108
Cervantez, Jesse 121
Cervantez, Jonathan 48, 71, 121
Cervenka, Lori 115
Chaidez, David 108
Chaires, Ana Karen 115
Chandler, Toni 108
Chase Williams 125
Chastanet, Adrian 121
Chavana, Brittany 108, 165
Chavis, Donnell 96
Cheerleading 55
Childress, Johna 126
Choir 16
Christensen, Kelsey 15, 30, 38, 39, 108
Cigales, Bryant 87, 115
Cisneros, Dulce 115
Clark, Briona 115
Cmerek, Kenny 48
Co-op 28
Cobb, Shelli 59, 126, 127
Cobia, Jacie 60, 61, 96
Cobia, Rick 48, 49, 126
Cochran, Ashle 19
Collins, Julius 71, 108
Collins, Tracy 68, 108
Color Guard 57
Connors, Lauren 14, 15, 115
Conrardy, Aaron 23, 37, 76, 86
Contreras, Justin 121
Contreras, Paul 115
Cook, Sherri 126
Cook, Steffon 16, 17, 48, 52, 82, 115
Cooper, Jennifer 15, 65, 88
Corn, Noah 24, 25, 115
Cortinas, Jonathan 13, 115
Costilla, Justin 108
Cotner, Jed 62, 63, 79, 115
Cotton Boll 24
Covey, Brandi 96
Cox, Mindy 121
Crathers, Desiree 121
Crayton, Mason 48, 96, 105
Crayton, Skylar 67
Cross Country 59
Currie, Chris 121
Curtis, Donna 126



D

Dale, Jessica 6, 60, 115
Dance 64
Danek, Chase 48, 49, 70, 71, 108, 120
David, Chad 115
Davis, Aaron 108
Davis, Brandon 5, 31, 48, 70, 71, 95, 96, 105
Davis, Kelsey 121
Davis, Shanta 96, 129
Deary, Danielle 108
Deary, Kendra 43, 68, 69, 95, 96
Debate 18
Debus, Joseph 10, 23, 30, 86, 96
DeHoyos, Gustavo 121
Dekneef, Savannah 108
Delatorre, Liz 66
Delgadillo, Andrew 19, 35, 115
Deluna, Susan 121
Dempsey, Mariah 14, 15, 115
Denson, Ricky 121
Destination Imagination 81
Devaul, Joshua 121
De Hoyos, Josue 96
De La Cerda, Carlos 115
Dillard, Shelby 115
Dilworth, Novella 96
Dilworth, Shermetri 64, 115
Dominguez, Anthony 96
Dominguez, Kelly 58, 60, 121
Donahue, Jennifer 96
Doss, Tommy 121
Douglas, Chasity 42, 68, 69, 121
Draine, Aundris 37, 48
Drummond, Matthew 28, 48, 86, 87, 89, 95
Dunkle, Micah 121
Dykowski, Mallory 48, 108



E

Earley, Breana 115
Earley, Matthew 121
Eastman, Cody 16, 43, 53, 96
Eckhardt, Amanda 14, 15, 108
Eiben, Coleman 35, 108
Elms, Jerid 86, 115
Engelke, Kathrine 8, 9, 96
Eppinett, Jordan 121
Eschberger, Preston 115
Escobar, Angel 66, 67, 108
Escobar, Annette 108
Estrada, Alexandra 108
Estrada, Jasmin 19, 37, 60, 81, 116
Estrada, John 19, 33, 81, 116
Estrada, Krystal 56, 57, 121



F

Fail, Brittnay 60, 121
Family Career and Community Leaders of America 39
Fannin, Clinton 108
Farr, Jacob 35, 48, 71, 116
Farr, Jeffrey 96
Faught, Morgan 54, 68, 116
Felder, Justin 108
Fellowship of Christian Athletes 42
Fernandez, Irelda 108
Fields, Crystal 67, 97
Fields, Deloris 116
Filla, Daniel 5, 48, 49, 97, 132
Fischer, Dawn 24, 85, 91, 126
Fisher, Corneil 64, 108
Fitzgerald, Jarvis 70, 71, 166

Fitzgerald, Joe 100
Flores, Andrew 116
Flores, David 97
Flores, Kimberly 116
Flores, Kristi 108
Fontenot, Devin 97, 156
Fontenot, Ryan 71, 121
Football 49
Formica, Vicky 126
Foster, Krista 97
Fox, Diann 84, 126
Frazier, Holly 60, 68, 69, 121
Frederick, Donald 66, 67, 97
Future Farmers of America 45



G

Gabel, Brooke 9, 58, 59, 121
Gabel, Stan 48, 126
Gainer, Emily 121
Gandhi, Krishan 48, 75, 109
Garcia, Caleb 121
Garcia, Eduardo 121
Garcia, Erik 109
Garcia, Louis 116
Garcia, Michael 116
Garrett, Patrick 48, 84, 116
Garry, Elisabeth 8, 9, 20, 21, 109
Garza, Mariah 121
Gaskin, Doug 97
Gaswint, Jillian 97, 165
Gaudin, Kristina 22, 24, 56, 57, 79, 80, 97, 131
Gault, Nicholas 121
Gault, Nicolette 42, 109
Gault, Pearlie 60, 68, 69, 84, 116
Gerren, Evan 30, 31, 38, 97
Getlak, Brittany 97
Gibson, Aaron 121
Gibson, Meagan 15, 97
Gibson, Ronald 48, 109
Gibson, Steven 121
Ging, Colt 121
Gipson, Reggie 48, 116
Glover, Jenna 44, 97, 132
Gola, Brittni 24, 25, 60, 62, 63, 77, 116
Gola, Katelyn 52, 60, 82, 97, 130, 152
Gomez, Cameron 122
Gomez, Cody 66, 67, 97
Gonzales, Alan 12, 48, 71, 116
Gonzales, Anna 116
Gonzales, Anthony 12, 109
Gonzales, Christopher 116
Gonzales, Deveina 109, 118
Gonzales, Emilio 16, 17, 27, 109, 112
Gonzales, Francisco 122
Gonzales, James 122
Gonzales, Javier 116
Gonzales, Jonathan 122
Gonzales, Joshua 12, 20, 74, 118
Gonzales, Justin 37, 47, 116
Gonzales, Peter 116
Gonzales, Ryan 48, 56, 116
Gonzales, Sisto 3, 48, 51, 109
Gonzales, Victoria 42, 64, 65, 98, 109
Gonzalez, Emilio 156
Gonzalez, Erika 122
Gonzalez, Jose 98
Gonzalez, Martin 122
Gonzalez, Robin 41, 109
Gonzalez, Santiago 116
Gorzell, Lisa 60, 126
Gould, Lorna 68, 109, 165
Graef, Tyler 48, 76, 116
Gray, Maureen 74
Gray, Rebecca 7, 12, 13, 98
Gray, Trevor 122
Green, Lindsey 15, 37, 109
Green, Ryan 30, 73, 98, 130, 136
Greer, James 9, 122
Griffin, Bruce 36, 80, 109
Griffin, Kaneisha 43, 68, 122
Gross, Keegan 62, 63, 116
Guadiano, David 48, 70, 126
Guardiola, Francisco 109
Guerrero, Gracie 126
Guerrero, John 98, 138
Guterriez, Andrea 66, 67
Gutierrez, Albert 12, 48, 109
Gutierrez, Andrea 109
Gutierrez, Erica 116
Gutierrez, Phillip 116



H

Haley, Jennifer 116
Haley, Vence 122
Hall, Janaye 122
Hall, Reese 60, 61, 62, 116, 165
Hall, Vicki 63
Harden-Mooney, Kate 126, 127
Harper, Brijhan 23, 98
Harper, Britton 122
Harper, Pam 126
Harrell, Benjamin 98, 114
Haskins, Timothy 3, 43, 116
Haverland, Ryan 85, 98
Hazelwood, Heath 85, 98
Headrick, Kyra 20, 21, 50, 62, 117
Health Occupations Students of America 44
Heaton, Ashley 89, 109
Hefta, Chandra 126
Hegar, Brooke 36, 109
Henegar, Nicole 98
Henegar, Valerie 21, 98
Hennington, Heather 66, 67, 98
Herklotz, Tiffany 122
Hernandez, Abraham 48, 56, 57, 109
Hernandez, Danielle 117
Hernandez, Elvira 117
Hernandez, Erica 65
Hernandez, Jon 48, 51, 95, 98, 165
Hernandez, Juan 109
Hernandez, Matthew 48, 58, 59, 122, 125
Hernandez, Sabrina 98, 100
Hernandez, Santiago 122
Hernandez, Stephanie 109
Hernandez, Suzanna 24, 56, 57, 109
Herrera, Andrew 109
Herrera, Jesusa 98, 109
Herrera, Joshua 122
Herrera, Justin 122
Herrera, Marcus 23, 98
Herrera, Monica 122
Hewtty, Frances 32, 117
Hewtty, Joseph 117
Hi-Steppers 14
Hill, Christopher 48, 122
Hill, De'Quint 48, 122
Hill, Ryan 17, 122
Hilscher, Christina 13, 109
Hilscher, Jessica 63, 68, 69, 122
Hoffman, Carla 60, 68, 73, 122
Holden, Nathan 98
Holman, Brent 30, 53, 98, 130, 136, 165
Holman, Megan 58, 122
Hopson, Candace 117
Howard, Jenna 58, 122
Howard, Samantha 122
Hudlin, James 12, 98
Huf, Nathan 117
Hughes, Haley 15, 16, 98
Hull, Nick 48
Humphreys, Jordan 48, 117
Hyde, Courtney 93, 122
Hyzak, Travis 32, 33, 117



I

Interact 34



J

Jackson, Barry 67, 117
Jackson, Betty 76, 126
Jackson, Brandie 68, 69, 117
Jackson, Brittney 68, 122
Jackson, James 31, 117
Jackson, Jessica 122
Jackson, Larry 66, 67, 117
Jackson, Leonard 109
Jackson, Logan 120
Jackson, Rashead 117
Jackson, Terence 122
Jaecks, Ryan 58, 59, 122
Jahn, Kari 9, 54, 93, 117
James, Ronnie 48, 126
James, Travian 20, 21, 71, 117
Janak, Adam 48
Janak, Lance 30
Janak, Mallory 48, 109
Jefferson, Brittney 65, 117
Jefferson, Tiffany 65
Jimenez, Francisco 111
Jimenez, Maricuz 99
Jirasek, Benjamin 5, 48, 49, 78, 86, 93, 95, 99
Jirasek, Blake 35, 76, 111
Jirasek, Leah 60, 68, 117
Johle, Barbara 126
Johle, Mark 99
Johnson, Amber 60, 68, 77, 111
Johnson, Andrew 23, 99
Johnson, Brooke 39, 54, 99
Johnson, Cathy 126
Johnson, Clarence 48, 111
Johnson, Ed 126
Johnson, Nicole 64
Johnson, Sarah 109, 111, 165
Johnson, Shelby 60, 68, 122, 166
Jones, Aaron 66, 67, 99
Jones, Amaris 60, 68, 84, 117
Jones, Clinton 99
Jones, Daniel 116, 117
Jones, Gerald 48
Jones, Keshia 69
Jones, Lisa 117
Juarez, John Michael 47, 48



K

Kahanek, Whitney 14, 15, 16, 73, 111
Kalbaugh, Mary 118, 126, 127
Kaspar, John 30, 62, 111, 165
Kaspar, Luke 30, 51, 62, 63, 77, 78, 82, 99, 130, 149
Keith, Ashley 35, 45, 51, 53, 82, 109, 111
Keith, Cory 9, 51, 122
Kelley, Clarissa 111
Kernell, Jasmyne 117
Kidwell, Maegan 111, 113
Kiewit, Joshua 47, 62, 111
Killingsworth, Aubrey 48
Kimball, Dillon 117
King, Blakesley 20, 111
Kirschvink, Nathan 3, 48, 117
Klepac, Monique 67, 111
Klotz, Christopher 122
Klotz, Melanie 111
Klotz, Tyler 99, 138
Koehler, Justin 122
Kreidel, Paige 15, 117
Krueger, Megan 67, 99
Krumm, Kristi 117
Krupala, Jennifer 106
Kruse, Christopher 120
Kruse, Cory 48, 56, 57, 117
Kuehl, Alicia 126
Kuhl, Doug 48, 126
Kuhl, Katy 99
Kuhl, Kelly 48
Kulas, Kathleen 126



L

Lackland, Tiffany 122
Lamar, Christopher 16, 17, 48, 100
Lang, Gaye 42
Lantzsch, Ashley 117
Lantzsch, Byron 18, 23, 30, 80, 81, 82, 100
Latham, Justin 117
Lawhon, Braeden 30, 48, 111
Lawler, Steven 122
Leeper, Kyle 58, 93, 122
Leija, Juan 111
Leija, Yesenia 122
Leone, Joan 53, 80, 100, 103
Lepe, Daniel 41, 100
Lerma, Savannah 56
Leschber, Barbara 38
Leschber, Laci 100
Lester, Brandon 111
Lewis, Rachel 24, 117
Leyendecker, Casandra 117
Lindsay, Kevin 122
Longoria, Tommy 37, 48, 122
Lopez, Alfredo 111
Lopez, Andrew 48, 111
Lopez, Ariel 53, 56, 57, 122
Lopez, Aurelio 122
Lopez, Benito 100
Lopez, Briana 47, 54, 111, 165
Lopez, Claudia 122
Lopez, Crystal 51, 60, 68, 117
Lopez, Daniel 70, 71, 85, 111
Lopez, Ivan 117

Lopez, Katherine 111
Lopez, Lauren 89, 100
Lopez, Matthew 117
Lopez, Paris 24, 109, 111
Lopez, Valerie 122
Lopez, Vaudelia 117
Lorentzen, Destiny 122
Lorentzen, Harmony 54, 122, 166
Lorentzen, Justine 15, 76, 79, 117, 119
Lozano, Matthew 37, 117
Lucio, Gina 117
Luconic, Krystle 15, 39, 52, 100, 153
Luna, Abigail 56, 122
Luna, Amber 122
Luna, Jacquelyn 16, 19, 29, 60, 83, 100, 133, 165
Lute, Raymond 48, 122



M

Macedo, Gerzon 117
Macedo, Jacqueline 122
Macedo, Josefina 122
Macedo, Miriam 100
Maciel, Perla 117
Mackey, Odessa 126
Maddox, Ashley 100
Maddox, Latyvia 100
Mankin, Cheryl 126
Marek, Dalton 117
Marek, Kayla 117
Marek, Kelsey 60, 68, 69, 122
Maresh, Christine 122
Marquardt, Norma 126
Martinez, Amber 111
Martinez, Angelica 111
Martinez, Christopher 48, 71, 122
Martinez, Eric 123
Martinez, Francisco 117
Martinez, Jacob 123
Martinez, Jazzsmen 117
Martinez, Jessica 16, 21, 101
Martinez, Jesus 117
Martinez, Johnathan 117
Martinez, Juan 111
Martinez, Karina 44, 101
Martinez, Kelly 24, 117
Martinez, Laura 123
Martinez, Maria 123
Martinez, Michael 48, 56, 71, 111
Martinez, Priscilla 19, 123
Martinez, Sophie 101
Mason, Kimberley 103, 126
Mathis, Cody 21, 101
Mathis, Dwayne 48, 49, 70, 71, 101
Matoska, Jaboa 12, 13, 83, 111
Matthys, Allyson 123
Matthys, George 126
Mauldin, Deon 123
Mayberry, Damian 117
McCallie, Howard 101
McFarlin, Ashley 111
McFarlin, Melanie 17
McGee, Caleb 101
McQuary, Jennifer 14, 15, 39, 95, 101, 165
McQuillen, Jillian 60, 68, 123
Medaris, Aubrey 24, 111
Medearis, Tiffany 67, 101
Medina, Paul 111
Mendez, Diana 67, 117
Mesta, Hector 101
Meyer, Tristan 37, 48, 123
Mikeska, Rudy 35, 62, 63, 117
Miller, Craig 53, 116
Miller, Fantasia 93, 123
Miller, Manayah 58, 59, 123
Miller, Nakevia 14, 15, 39, 42, 111
Miller, Ynobe 58, 59, 68, 101
Milliken, Matthew 48, 83, 111, 166
Milliken, Trey 48, 74, 101, 159
Miravete, Christian 123
Mireles, Kristen 17, 101
Moehnke, Connie 126
Moerbe, Dylan 79, 117
Mojica, Anthony 123
Mokry, Hailey 60, 109, 111, 151, 165
Mokry, Melissa 14, 15, 101, 131
Montgomery, Josh 117
Moors, Joshah 64, 84, 111
Morales, Jose 101
Morales, Roberto 117
Moreno, Adan 120, 123
Moreno, Jose 123
Moreno, Manuel 123
Moreno, Mario 123
Moreno, Melisa 102
Moss, Amanda 8, 111
Mott, Matti 39, 102, 150, 165
Mundkowsky, Bryan 48, 123
Mundkowsky, Shane 123
Murguia, Duvelsa 111
Murphy, Jennifer 3, 51, 65, 123
Murphy, Kara-Jayne 14, 15, 44, 88, 111
Myers, Roland 67, 123



N

Nardecchia, Amanda 117
Nataros, Frank 123
National Hispanic Institute 19
National Honor Society 35
Neitsch, Nathan 48, 71, 111
Ness, Jacob 24, 25, 48, 49, 52, 95, 102, 104, 105, 131
Nevins, Kyle 16, 41, 111
Newkirk, Joanna 48
Nira-Munoz, Belinda 126
Nygrin, Casey 123



O

O'Banon, Heath 62, 71, 123
Ochoa, Amy 123
Ochoa, Daniel 123
Ochoa, Pedro 111
Olivarez, Bobby 123
Olivarez, David 123
Olivarez, Sylvia 123
Oranday, Anselmo 117
Oranday, Stacy 67
Oranday, Yvonne 126
Ornelas, Cecily 102
Orosco, Lucas 48, 123
Orozco, Jacqueline 19, 24, 60, 79, 118
Ortiz, Beronica 88, 102
Ortiz, Dinah 123
Ortiz, Jonathan 19, 48, 123
Ortiz, Valerie 111
Ortiz, Victor 118
Oviedo, Meagan 111
Owens, Caleb 48, 70, 71, 111



P

Pacheco, Blanca 102
Pacheco, Karina 111
Pacheco, Veronica 66, 67
Pachicano, Alicia 123
Pachicano, Emilio 48, 71, 77, 84, 123
Pachicano, Larry 118
Pachicano, Marco 48, 123
Pachicano, Nicholas 48, 111, 129
Pachicano, Reynaldo 48, 118
Paloma, Claussie 102
Palomo, Brandon 44, 48, 74, 102
Palomo, Brittany 54, 118
Palomo, Isaac 102
Palomo, Scott 111
Parker, Arzella 68, 123
Parker, Rachel 113, 118
Parker, Stephen 102
Parker, Stiles 28, 30, 35, 62, 63, 73, 78, 79, 130
Patschke, Megan 102
Patterson, Alexia 111
Patterson, Ashley 118
Patterson, Christopher 48, 71, 123
Pausewang, Jamie 35, 50, 53, 60, 68, 86, 95, 102, 132, 165
Pekar, Pam 126
Pence, Sarah 18, 19, 80, 83, 102
Penny, Kasey 6, 118
Pepper, Amanda 27, 102
Pepper, Davey 48, 123
Perez, Stephen 102
Peschel, Michael 111
Peschke, Brandon 118
Petty, Travis 66, 67, 118
Pfluger, Dillon 48, 123
Physical Education 65
Pick, Cullen 35, 48, 93, 118
Pickerill, Victoria 102
Platz, Michael 111
Platz, Stacey 123
Pokorney, Matt 48
Polasek, Elizabeth 14, 15, 24, 118
Polasek, Rufina 123
Ponkoney, Stephanie 54, 102
Popham, Dustin 124
Portillo, Kelley 13, 52, 111
Propane Gang 56



Q

Quarles, Paul 126
Quinn, Emily 62, 109, 111, 164, 165



R

Ramirez, Aaron 124
Ramirez, Casimiro 111
Ramirez, Dinora 102
Ramirez, Jonathan 102
Ramirez, Lourdes 124
Ramirez, Mariana 68, 124
Ramirez, Monica 39, 88, 126
Ramirez, Randy 67, 102
Ramlochan, Stacy 67, 103
Ramm, Kevin 63
Ramos, Natalia 124
Rangel, Jacob 16, 17, 118
Rangel, Juan 48, 71, 124
Ratliff, Daniel 124
Ray-Cooper, Jennifer 126
Raya, Angel 74
Raya, Miguel 103
Razo, Viola 53, 127
Recendis, Chris 124
Recendis, Enrique 118
Reeves, Aaron 83, 111, 165, 166
Reyes, Aaron 118
Reyes, Amanda 103
Reyes, Ashley 42, 124
Reyes, Jessica 118
Reyes, Juan 118
Reyna, Laura 118
Richter, Gretchen 27, 28, 39, 50, 103, 145
Richter, Maia 9, 50, 124
Rincon, Abel 124
Rinderknecht, Debra 127
Rinehart, Rebecca 103
Rios, Brittany 118
Rios, Jose 103
Rivera, Ashley 60, 124
Robbins, Ashley 15, 39, 103
Roberson, Jerrell 118
Roberson, Justin 103
Roberson, Lavonya 124
Robinson, Ashunta 16, 17, 33, 60, 111
Robinson, Kwinicia 124
Robles, Anitarita 111
Rodgers, Stacy 65
Rodriguez, Amber 17, 24, 103, 131
Rodriguez, Christopher 48
Rodriguez, Danny 124
Rodriguez, Eloy 70, 71, 103
Rodriguez, Jessica 104
Rodriguez, Michael 66, 104
Rodriguez, Oscar 124
Rogers, Mark 48
Rogers, Robyn 127
Rogers, Stacey 60
Rohan, Rusty 48
Rohlack, Sarah 77, 104
Rojas, Ray 118
Rojas, Trenton 19, 48, 124
Rollie, Lamar 17, 48, 71, 112
Roman, Johnny 118
Romayor, Adriana 56, 124
Romayor, Alfredo 48, 52, 53, 112
Romero, Maria 124
Ross, Lanika 104, 129
Rossell, Pamela 104, 109
Rowe, Vicki 80, 86, 103, 127
Rozacky, Cassandra 60, 120, 124
Roznovak, Karyn 60, 63, 68, 85, 120, 124
Rucker, David 127
Rucker, Devyn 62, 63, 109, 112, 165
Ruden, William 112
Ruemke, Patti 127
Ruiz, Esperanza 127
Ruiz, Stephanie 118
Ruzicka, Hailey 40, 47, 54, 60, 112



S

Safarik, Larry 48
Sakewitz, Kyle 124
Salazar, Angelica 104
Salazar, Jennifer 104
Salazar, Jose 118
Salazar, Matias 124
Salinas, Tiffany 68, 120, 124
Samuelson, David 118
Samuelson, Jordan 71
Samuelson, Seth 48, 124
Samuelson, Tiffany 7, 80, 81, 83, 104, 140
Sanchez, Anthony 124
Sanchez, Carlos 106, 118
Sanchez, Cassandra 118
Sanchez, Dagoberto 118
Sanchez, Fabiola 124
Sanchez, Julian 48, 118
Sanchez, Maximo 104
Sanchez, Roberto 127
Sanchez, Valerie 124
Sanderson, Rachael 118
Sanford, Ceara 68, 124
Savage, Sydney 14, 15, 21, 24, 118
Savage, Taylor 7, 37, 81, 114, 118
Schaefer, Kaye 76, 127, 129
Schmidt, Joanna 10, 28, 60, 104, 130, 141
Schneider, Britney 60, 78, 93, 118
Schrader, Ryan 124
Schroeder, Holden 20, 21, 51, 104, 120
Schuldt, Gloria 82, 127
Schwettman, Matthew 35, 112
Scott, Bruce 127
Scott, Cedric 124
Scott, Charmaine 42, 65, 124
Scott, Jonathan 87, 124
Scott, Oriell 68, 69, 112
Scott, Rhonda 124
Scott, Sha'Tera 112
Scott, Tarlyn 71, 124
Seda, Alberto 88, 104
Seggern, Brittany 60, 68, 124
Seggern, Jessica 60, 105, 130, 139, 144
Seidel, Krista 27, 43, 54, 60, 124
Seigmund, Chris 124
Shaughnessy, Carin 127
Shaw, Jess 48, 124
Shepherd, Jane 127
Sherman, Adrienne 17, 74, 85, 105
Shirley, Paris 105
Shurtz, Colette 105
Siguenza, Daniel 124
Simien, Tamara 65, 118
Simmons, Schirra 112
Simpson, Crystal 78, 127
Sims, Kammi 48, 118
Skrhak, Deborah 127
Smith, Derek 48, 89
Smith, Michelle 124
Smith, Orlando 119
Solbach, Matthew 58, 119
Sorrells, Tony 71, 119
Sovil, Bobby 48, 56, 57, 119
Special Olympics 66
Springer, Chad 82, 127
Stabeno, Cassie 54, 60, 119
Stanford, Kylie 7, 60, 105, 130, 137
Stapp, Andrew 37, 99, 119, 156
Stauffer, Andrew 22, 23, 30, 105
Steele, Jonathan 48, 125
Stefek, Cassiddy 47, 48, 112, 156
Stegall, Jessica 13, 18, 119
Stelly, Paul 105
Stevenson, Donald 125
Stewart, Amy 18, 127
Stewart, Aubrie 119
Stives, Paige 112
Strelsky, Joseph 23, 105
Stringer, Edward 71, 112, 156
Strmiska, Corey 48, 125
Stroud, William 119
Suarez, Alejandro 125
Sutherland, Tyler 105
Sutton, Dee 42, 43, 127
Svatek, Courtney 54, 125



T

Taisler, Brittn 105
Taisler, Mathew 21, 79, 85, 105
Talavera, Armando 48
Talley, Tyler 27, 45, 48, 51, 74, 105
Tanksley, Taporsha 53
Tanksley, Travis 48, 84, 125
Tapia, Jessica 125
Tatum, Ula 119
Taylor, Peter 112
Taylor, Ransom 125
Taylor, Stephen 7, 48, 86, 119
Teggeman, Lindsey 56, 57, 125
Tellez, Eric 112
Tellez, Gonzalo 112
Tennill, Marilyn 34, 127
Tennill, Mike 48
Tennis 63
Terwilliger, Derek 33, 48, 112
Tharp, Glenna 60, 125
Theatre 8
Thomas, Lanija 65, 119
Thomas, Whitney 113, 127
Thompson, Jeff 119
Thompson, Trinia 19, 125
Thornton, Jenna 35, 48, 58, 59, 68, 69, 79, 106, 130, 152
Tomei, Erin 54, 112
Tomei, Ryan 48, 106
Tooley, Rick 48
Torres, Adrian 48, 125
Torres, Olivia 125
Torres, Petra 106
Torres, Reyes 125
Torres, Stephen 119
Torres, Victor 112
Tovar, Ann 119
Tovar, Sergio 19, 48, 112
Triche, Erica 90, 119
Trujillo, Erika 106
Tucker, Darleen 127
Tucker, Logan 76, 106
Turnbo, Holly 60



U

Upward Bound 42
Uriegas, Eric 91, 125



V

Valdez, Abram 125
Valdivia, Jessica 125
Valerio, Colin 30, 41, 112
Valladares, Arabela 119
Valladares, Marcela 125
Valverde, David 106
Valverde, Jacob 48, 125
Vanecek, Connor 125
Vanecek, Kyle 48, 109, 112
Vanecek, Paige 27, 39, 54, 55, 91, 112
Vargas, Celeste 106
Vargas, Josh 125
Vargas, Theodor 12, 125
Vasquez, Armando 125
Vasquez, David 119
Vasquez, Rodolfo 119
Vasquez, Steven 106
Vasquez, Yvette 129
Velazquez, David 106
Villanueva, Bobby 125
Villanueva, Estrellita 106
Villanueva, Leslie 106
Villarreal, Amabilia 17, 112, 166
Villarreal, Ricardo 112
Violante, Diana 119
Volek, Dan 127
Volek, Leighanne 80, 82, 106, 131, 151
Volek, Tyler 123, 125
Volleyball 61
VonGerichten, Christopher 106, 131
Vrabel, Ryan 48, 64, 65
Vrana, Ashlee 60, 61, 79, 95, 107, 130, 144
Vrana, Bryan 36, 107



W

Wagonner, Melissa 87, 127
Walker, Matt 33, 48, 127
Wallace, Aaron 119
Wallace, Jennifer 125
Wallace, Jerry 112
Walton, Jennifer 39, 54, 60, 61, 107
Walton, Lindsey 15, 22, 84, 109, 112, 166
Washington, Brene' 99, 119
Wehling, Cindy 127
Weison, Rachel 27, 31, 52, 60, 125
Weiss, Troy 119
Welton, Daniel 107
Werchan, Sarah 16, 107, 157
Wesolowski, Jennifer 83, 127
White, Charles 71, 119
Whittaker, Amy 12, 13, 24, 34, 107, 131
Widmer, Kevin 48, 66, 127
Wilkerson, Andrea 30, 41, 54, 55, 119
Wilkerson, Brittany 60, 124, 125
Wilkins, Zachary 62, 63, 119, 120
Williams, Ashley 31
Williams, Chase 65
Willis, Larenda 13, 107
Wilson, Lindsay 24, 27, 28, 29, 37, 38, 39, 107, 129, 145
Wimberley, Kindra 127
Winchester, Matthew 48, 125
Winn, Lateya 125
Winters, Brandon 107
Winters, Elizabeth 112
Wofford, Kimberly 78, 79
Wolf, Brittany 112
Wolf, Jacqueline 6, 60, 119
Wolf, Stephanie 60, 84, 119
Wooldridge, Erika 82, 112
Wooldridge, Johnathan 48, 112
Wooldridge, Michael 17, 34, 48, 52, 107, 109
Woolridge, Meagan 125
Wright, Chelsea 16, 17, 125
Wright, Lee 125
Wyatt, Brittany 42, 112
Wygant, Barrett 45, 107



Y

Yanez, Amador 48, 125
Yanez, Brianna 58, 59, 60, 62, 125
Yanez, Reyna 112, 114
Yanez, Stephanie 125
Yanis, Krystal 15, 16, 17, 107
Young, Kelsey 60, 119
Young, Kyle 107
Young, Leshon 119



Z

Zachary, Stephanie 60, 68, 125
Zavala, Aracelly 125
Zavala, Danielle 125
Zucknick, Mary Ann 127
Zuniga, Angel 71, 125
Zuniga, Irene 107

Editor's Note









2006 Mallard Readers,

Finally! We've made it through another year of high school. It has been crazy, exciting, and definitely filled with tons of inside jokes and ridiculous situations. While most of us would say we hate school, the honest truth is that if we could just cut out all the homework and tests... school would be a blast. Where would we find out the latest gossip and news about everyones' lives if we didn't have our five-minute passing period and serious blow-off classes? I just want to make sure that I cherish every day I have in high school because once I get to college--life is going to be completely turned upside down.

No words can express my fear and timidity I felt upon hearing Mrs. C. ask me to be the Editor-in-Chief. Of course that is what I wanted her to tell me that day, but at the same time I couldn't help but face the doubt in myself. But, here it is: the book is complete and I couldn't have dreamed it to be any better. After being 100% confused about what I wanted to major in when I got to college, this opportunity has given me a much better idea of the career I wish to pursue. I love graphic design! I can't remember how many times I told my staff members, "Don't worry about that- I'll fix it" or how often the next day they would come back the next day to find their layout completely changed. I love my job. The idea that I helped create this book is hardly comprehensible!

Staff: y'all have been amazing and definitely have taught me this year how to be a good editor. Although our "staff meetings" were not always the most fun, we made up for it every other day, despite the fact that "we all sucked at living," according to Aaron. Although I will always be a work in progress, y'all have taught me leadership skills, by taking me out of my comfort zone and testing me. I've become a stronger person throughout the year because of the obligations that this job requires and that is something for which I am truly grateful. Mrs. C. - thank you so much for going out on a limb and giving me a shot. Honestly, this book would not be here if it weren't for you. Devyn and Sarah - where to start?? You have been so amazing this year! There is no way I could have done this without you and still be passing all my classes! You honestly deserve just as much credit as I do for each one of these pages.

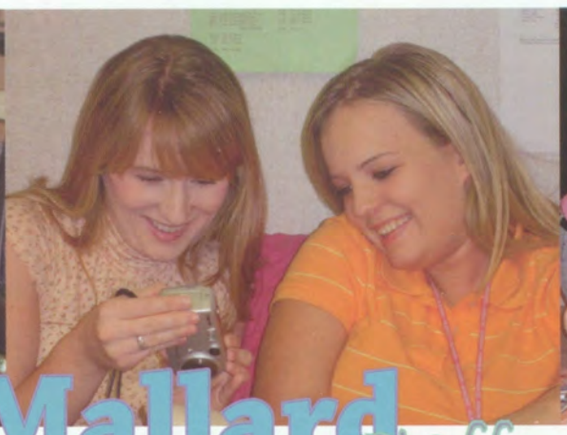
I am anxious to begin next year's book and I feel so blessed that I have the opportunity to be the editor of this book once again! All jitter bugs and shyness gone, I am ready for anything which gets thrown my way. Thanks again to my readers for the best year ever and remember to never settle--God has a plan for everyone and if you let Him...He'll give you the desires of your heart.

Yours truly,

Emily Quinn

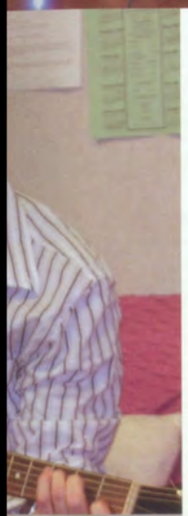
Editor-in-Chief

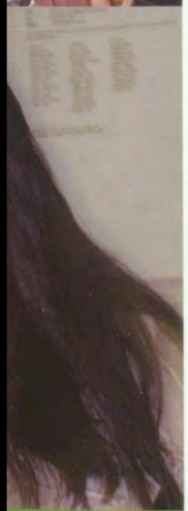






Mallard Staff









Editor-in-Chief

Emily Quinn

"I don't know why that isn't Wal-Mart's slogan -'God shops here.'"



Photo Editor

Devyn Rucker

"Why ain't I got no water buffalo, Superchick?"



Copy Editor

Sarah Johnson

"Instead of weirdo, I think friend's a better name!"



Business Manager

Hannah Carnes

"Everyday is a gift, that's why they call it the present."



Senior Ads Designer

Jamie Pausewang

"Worrying is like a rocking chair - it gives you something to do but gets you no where."



Business Ads Designer

Aaron Reeves

"If at first you don't succeed, then you're not Chuck Norris."



Matti Mott

"Those who believe sunshine brings happiness never danced in the rain."



Brent Holman

"Remember not only to say the right thing at the right moment, but far more difficult, is to be silent in the tempting moment."



Jon Hernandez

"Wear your heart out on your sleeve. That which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."



Jackie Luna

"Never bend your head. Always keep it high. Look the world straight in the eye."



Julian Gaswint

"Life is too short to pass up any possibility for love, happiness, education, or really good food."



Jennifer McQuary

"Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself and know that everything in this life has a purpose."



Briana Lopez

"Cuz' I'm a lady - that's why."



Hailey Mokry

"I'm kind of an important person...people know me... I have many leather bound books and my apartment smells of rich mahogany."



John Kaspar

"Why does Todd always act like he's in Mallard?"



Lorna Gould

"Yeeeeah!"



Brittany Chavana

"Kick butt and take names."



Reese Hall

"Laugh and the world laughs with you, snore and you sleep alone."



Chris Bogan

"If God was a burrito, would you eat him?"



Adviser

Melanie Catuogno

"When the staff is as great as this one, my job consists of three phrases: yes, no, and nice job."

Surviving the drama of relationships, living down embarrassing moments at parties, and even struggling to meet the strict grade requirement to play at the final softball game of your senior year can seem unbearable at times. There are no rules to follow, no scripts to read when we need to come up with the perfect comeback; all we have is ourselves. Who would want to go to a school where everyone always knew the perfect things to say and there was no surprise in conversations, no flustering moments when you talk to your crush? That was the fun of this school year, the hoping but never knowing what the outcome would be, the late night cramming to get your music video done for your video tech class before first period the next day. As challenging as it was, we somehow made it through. Without the individuality and randomness that each person brought to the classroom, our year would have been predictable and boring. What are actually the odds that in your favorite movie the good guy won't win or that the nice guy won't get the girl in the end? Pretty much slim to none. Our year, however, has been filled with surprises, letdowns, and excitement. We call our shots and determine the outcome in our **UnScripted** lives.



Right: Harmony Lorentzen, Jarvis Fitzgerald, Lindsey Walton, Shelby Johnson, Aaron Reeves, Matthew Millikan & Amabilia Villarreal. *photos by Emily Quinn.*



Crammin&Jammin
Vanessa Avalos and Norma Arredondo sing along on a karaoke machine. Students were encouraged to participate in karaoke contest during their TAKS tutorials to liven up their study time. *photo by Briana Lopez*

When you receive your spring supplement *(which includes coverage of baseball, softball, prom, graduation, and more)*, insert it after this page.



Take a Walk
Cody Eastman and Jessica Seggern make their way from the Fish Tank to the Academic building. *Photo by Matti Mott.*



