



**Who will you  
 vote for?  
 pg. 3**

**Wednesday, October 22, 2008**

# Homecoming crowning

*By Amy Balagna*

Halftime of the varsity football game might have drawn as large of a crowd as the game itself. The ceremony began with an introduction of the flag carriers. Tyler Cooper, the Humboldt County High School Rodeo Queen, carried the American flag, Kali Gerhard, Junior Princess Rodeo Winnemucca 2009, carried the Nevada flag., and DeeAnna Pasquale, Junior Miss Rodeo Winnemucca, carried Lowry's flag.

The dance team and cheerleaders then filed onto the field as Homecoming Grand Marshall Doug Conner was announced. Conner has taught at Lowry for 26 years and is greatly admired and respected by the student body. After serving his country in Korea, Conner went on to earn his teaching credentials and a Bachelor of Science degree from UNR. Conner has had a significant im-

pact on Lowry as well as the town of Winnemucca.

After honoring Conner, the royalty candidates were announced and driven onto the field in a procession of vehicles from Bosch Motors. King candidate Collin Messerly was the first to be announced, followed by queen candidate Morgen Thacker. Candidates Derrick Macliz and Sophie Kristof were introduced next, followed by royalty hopefuls Trevor Grant and Stevie Hamilton. All of the candidates are dedicated students and athletes.

After an epic moment of suspense, as shivering students held their breath and crossed their numb fingers, Derrick Macliz and Sophie Kristof were named Homecoming King and Queen. Last year's queen, Dixie Richards, and Junior Class President Mary Granath bestowed majestic crowns upon the beaming King and Queen.



Lisa Scott • WINNADA

*Sophie Kristof and Derrick Macliz were selected as Homcoming Queen and King.*



Lisa Scott • WINNADA

*The Brand staff gathers for a group shot.*

## The Brand prints first edition

*By Amy Balagna*

Lowry High now has a school newspaper produced by the journalism classes. This is the first of five print editions for the school year. Future print dates are December 17, February 18, April 8, and May 20.

In addition to the print editions, the class also maintains an online version of the newspaper (<http://www.humboldt.k12.nv.us/lhs/thebrand/>). The web site is updated at least twice a week by the Online Editor.

"We put a lot of effort into this newspaper and I'm very proud of it," said Esmeralda Aguilar, a reporter for The Brand. The staff has worked hard

to produce a respectable paper and feels they have succeeded.

The students have received advice and assistance from the staff of *The Humboldt Sun*. In addition to printing and carrying *The Brand* as an insert on October 24, staff members from *The Sun* are providing their expertise in the areas of layout, photography, and journalistic writing.

"The class is putting together a professional publication that the whole school can be proud of. Everyone is still learning about what it takes to be a journalist and create a newspaper. Throughout the year our goal is to improve the quality of our work," said Mr. Espinola, the instructor of the class.



## Powderpuff game ends in tie



Amy Balagna•THE BRAND

Senior Stephanie Cochran runs the ball as senior Katy Granath blocks.

By Chloe Rusconi

In a defensive struggle that hasn't been seen since 300 Spartans defended the pass of Thermopylae against the invading Persians, the Sophomore-Junior team played the Freshman-Senior team to a stalemate.

Freshman-Senior coach, Derrick Macliz, stated, "Our defense is tearing it up."

During the fifty-minute game, both teams struggled to move the ball. The longest run of the game was made by senior Missy McKinnon, who advanced forty yards until she was taken down by Junior Abbey Haaglund.

Although the Freshman-Senior team was at a disadvantage with only seventeen players compared to the Sophomore-Junior team of thirty, they worked hard and held their own. The teams both practiced six times in the last two weeks. The Freshman-Senior

team even held a practice just before the game.

"Things are going so-so but I think we can pick things up in the second half, I think we need to run the ball more efficiently and pass more," said a weary junior Skylar Estes.

"The first half has been back and forth, a defensive struggle, I would like to see more offense going," replied Sophomore-Junior coach Matt Felshaw.

Macliz said, "They [girls] are playing like boys and that is the way we like it." On the last play of the game the Sophomore-Junior quarterback threw a Hail Mary pass, but the ball slipped through the receiver's hands as the buzzer sounded.

"Some girl kicked me in the jaw," said senior Erica Graham during intense game. Even though the game was a battle, the players relished the challenge and look forward to next year.

## The HC-1 bond issue

By Amy Balagna

When you walk into school do you see the many wonderful qualities, the libraries, the qualified staff, or do you see the deteriorating foundations and the broken windows? Our schools are old and in desperate need of some serious improvements. At each school in Humboldt County School District (HCSD) there are millions of dollars of improvements that need to be made.

Roofs need to be repaired and floors and ceilings need to be entirely replaced. In addition, recent technology has placed a significant strain on the twentieth century wiring of older schools in the district. These are only a few of the problems that plague the schools. Unfortunately, the renovations needed to correct these problems are expensive. This is where a bond like HC-1 comes in as it is specifically set aside to improve the physical condition of Humboldt County schools.

A percentage of tax money will go directly to help pay for these needed projects. An existing bond, voted into effect with the original purpose

of building Grass Valley Elementary School, will be continued by HC-1.

"A rollover bond is merely an extension of a tax rate that is already in place," explained Superintendent Mike Bumgartner. The HC-1 bond will continue a tax, not raise existing taxes.

In fact, even without a bond, "The school district is mandated by law to repair certain conditions in school throughout the district by 2010. These repairs have to take place whether the bond passes or not," said Mary Keith, president of the Humboldt County Education Association. Since HCSD must make the improvements with or without a bond, the money will likely come from a new tax or come from the district's operating budget.

These improvements needed in Humboldt County School District are not trivial, they are crucial to the well-being and safety of current and future students and educational staff. Without HC-1, our community's schools will further deteriorate, causing an uncomfortable, and possibly dangerous learning environment, for Humboldt County's youth.



Courtesy Photo

Above are examples of some of the repairs that need to be made to HCSD schools.

## Pig wrestling: "Clean, dirty, fun."

By Stephanie Hageman and Mallorie Leal

Slipping and sliding, mud flying, students and teachers united to take down one thing, little pink pigs. On Wednesday, Lowry's FFA chapter held a pig wrestling competition on Lowry's softball field. The equipment, including the pen where the wrestling took place, was lent to the FFA by Carwill and the pigs were provided by Lance Thompson.

Teams of four entered the competition for a fee of twenty dollars, and the money collected was awarded to the winning team as prize money. Twelve teams participated in the competition including one team of Lowry teachers.

The objective of this competition was to tie a ribbon to the pig's legs, and race back to the gate as fast as possible. First place was taken by a team entitled the Irish, which consisted of sophomores Mateo Echeveria, Alejo Alarcon, Joel Barton, and Dylan Ongert.

One of the winning team's members, Barton, commented that he had a fun and exciting time.

The team of teachers came in fourth place. The teachers who took part in pig wrestling were Mrs. Kim Brooks, Mrs. Rebecca Hill, Mrs. Joyce Knight, and Ms. Amy Godinez.

"Clean, dirty, fun," remarked Brooks about her overall experience with pig wrestling. Everyone is looking forward to next year's pig wrestling competition...except the pigs.



Stephanie Hageman•THE BRAND

Lowry students participate in pig wrestling.



# Where do the candidates stand?

## Democrat Barack Obama

By Camille Lyon



The presidential election is rapidly approaching. On November 4th Americans will be asked to make one of the most important decisions in decades. Many are still undecided and are wondering what the candidates are all about. Voters want the knowledge necessary to make an informed decision for the betterment of our future. Presidential candidate Barack Obama's plan for change involves improving the stagnant economy, addressing the energy crisis, immigration reform, and the war in Iraq.

The US has not seen such fluctuation in the Dow Jones Industrial Average since the Great Depression. People are out of work, banks are failing and gas prices remain high. But Obama hopes to turn it around by implementing tax cuts for working families and the middle-class. As wages remain low, prices for basic necessities are rising. Obama's economic plan will provide millions of jobs for US workers. He intends to employ trade policies and increase the export of American goods to give a boost to the economy.

America's energy crisis is becoming more pressing. Obama plans to provide short-term relief to families suffering from high gas prices by utilizing a windfall profits tax to provide a \$1,000 emergency energy rebate. Obama believes renewable fuels and clean coal

are the key to energy independence.

Immigration is an issue which often divides our nation. Obama feels that U.S. borders need to be secured. He also believes the U.S. should support economic development in Mexico, which would sharply decrease the number of immigrants crossing the border illegally.

Just as many American disagree about what should be done in Iraq, so do Obama and McCain. Obama believes the war was wrong in its conception. Further, Obama believes in a phased withdrawal from Iraq where troops are removed systematically. Withdrawing from Iraq carefully will allow the United States to end the war in Iraq, which has proved to be not only financially expensive, but which has cost the lives of thousands of soldiers.

## Republican John McCain

By Katy Granath



On November four, millions of American citizens will vote in a historic presidential election. An informed voter has the power to directly influence the future of our country with a ballot. With this in mind, take a look at the Republican presidential candidate, Senator John McCain, and his stance on several key issues: the economy, our environmental and energy issues, US immigration policy, and the war in the Iraq.

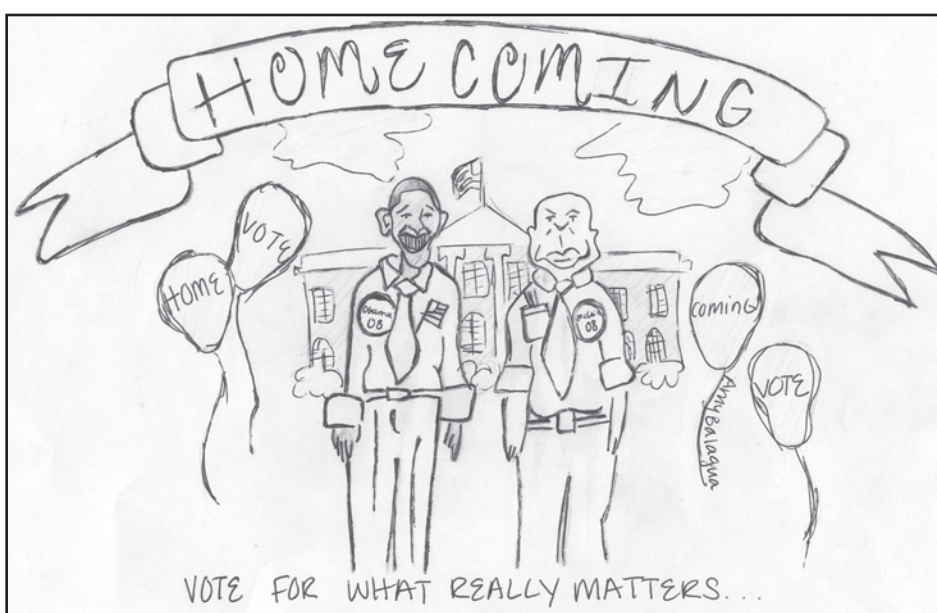
The United States economy is on a slippery slope, however, McCain is wholly confident that his plan is the key to revitalizing the US economy. McCain's experience certainly lends

his plan weight, but McCain's record also speaks against him. McCain has often voted against regulation and reform, contradicting his current support for putting strong regulation in place.

Our next president will have no choice but to confront the growing threats of both global warming and our dependence on foreign oil. McCain advocates an "all-of-the-above approach" to both the environmental and energy crises. McCain's goals involve reducing American dependence on foreign oil by exploring the possibility of domestic drilling on and off shore as well as investing in alternate, clean, energy sources like nuclear power. However, the detrimental effects of offshore drilling are not yet known.

Immigration is one of the most controversial topics in the state of Nevada. Senator McCain's position on this issue is one of delicate balance, taking into account the need to better protect our borders, while not forgetting America's dependence on low-wage workers.

Although many originally criticized Senator McCain for advocating a surge in Iraq, the strategy has saved countless lives. Since its implementation, ethnic violence has fallen by 90 percent, and civilian and coalition force deaths are down 70 percent. McCain has a clear advantage of military experience on his side, which is an important quality for a president who will be thrust into the fierce vortex of tense world diplomacy and politics.



## Why Advisory?

By Camille Lyon



As advisory started last year, many students had mixed feelings about this supposedly helpful class. We all saw the posters blatantly stating that each student would be cared for by at least one Lowry teacher. But did anyone ask the students what they wanted?

Advisory started out shaky for me. Besides its use as a study hall I didn't find it at all helpful, nor I do not feel as if I am being "cared for". I know my advisor tries to make the class worthwhile, but advisory is not where I'd choose to spend so much of my time.

So where did the idea for advisory originate? Vice Principal Welter was able to shed light on advisory's beginnings. Last year a questionnaire was given to the staff to

see what they felt was needed to improve the school. Many staff members felt they needed to connect with the students non-academically.

Many other schools have an advisory class within their establishments. Lowry's administration decided to bring this idea to our school. The school Mr. Welter previously worked for had a successful advisory program. With the changing of the bell schedule, advisory seemed to fit.

Anytime we change the schedule for an event, advisory is always what is sacrificed. If advisory is supposed to be fundamental, why is it always being used for our activities? I have no problem with skipping advisory to attend a pep assembly, but it still raises the question, is advisory necessary? I suppose still have some hope for advisory. This program is only a year old and maybe there will be more improvements to it throughout its many years.

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# Lowry boy's soccer conquers Dayton in homecoming game



Mary Granath•THE BRAND

Sterling Snow scores a goal in Lowry's 6-3 win over Dayton on October 19, 2008.

By Mary Granath

The Lowry soccer field was turned into a battleground on Saturday as Lowry defeated Dayton 6-3. The rivalry match resulted in over 10 yellow cards and 2 red cards.

"There is a special intensity for Dayton," stated head coach Steve Swanson, "They have this way of playing that frustrates us and they didn't frustrate us today."

The Bucks took the lead early when midfielder Salvador Mendoza scored

on a rebound off the Dayton goalkeeper in the third minute. Midfielder Tyler Spriet scored six minutes later and brought the score to 2-0.

Dayton then responded by scoring their first goal of the game in the 15th minute.

Lowry came back moments later when Sterling Snow scored in the 23rd minute on an assist from Cain Avila for a 3-1 lead.

Soon after Snow scored his goal, the first yellow card of the game was handed to the Dayton goalkeeper. Two minutes later Mendoza was given a yellow card for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The second half began with the same intensity as the first. Mendoza scored once more in the 43rd minute of the game on an assist from Andy Hernandez giving the Bucks a 4-1 ad-

vantage.

After Dayton's second yellow card, midfielder Jordan Sloan scored the first goal of his high school soccer on a penalty shot. After Sloan made the shot the entire team rushed to the field and dog-piled him. This resulted in one yellow card for everyone on the bench.

The Dayton coach then received a red card. Less than five minutes later Sloan received a yellow card for unsportsmanlike conduct as well.

Dayton added a goal in the 75th minute. But Lowry answered back when Snow scored his second goal of the game in the 80th minute.

Dayton added on more goal late in the game to finish the scoring at 6-3. However, even though the game was over, Dayton's goalkeeper managed to receive a red card.

## Lowry suffers tough loss to Fernley, 51-0

By Stephanie Cochrane

Lowry's varsity football team kept their heads up Friday night to battle through the homecoming game against Fernley.

Head Coach Tim Billingsley knew it was going to be tough because of injuries. "We got stuck by the injury bug early in the season."

Among the injured is senior Collin Messerly, and standing on the sidelines doesn't fit his personality. "It's horrible, I feel helpless watching the team struggle."

A touchdown combined with a successful two-point conversion six minutes into the game set the pace for Fernley. With seconds left, Fernley managed to score another touchdown, ending the quarter 16-0.



Ron Espinola•THE BRAND

Joel Barton drags a Fernley defender.

Joel Barton accounted for Lowry's biggest play of the game with a 37-yard run in the second quarter.

Defensively, Macliz put on a show and played from his heart. "I just go hard every play. I've always said, go hard or go home."

Coach Billingsley stated, "We have two games left this season and we are looking to take them both."

## Girls soccer earns tie against Dust Devils

By Jayna Hill

Tied games usually end with dissatisfaction, but when the Bucks had to fight to earn one Saturday, they were pleased.

The varsity girl's soccer coach Jose Sapien said, "I was satisfied with the tie, the girls played well."

Dayton had several shots-on-goal in the first half, but Lowry goalkeeper Ashley Okuma turned them away. Dayton scored in the 25th minute of the game and Lowry quickly countered with its own shot, but the ball was deflected by Dayton's keeper.

Lowry had other opportunities to tie the score including a penalty shot. But the attempt by midfielder Becky Noonan sailed wide of the goal.



Jayna Hill•THE BRAND

Senior Becky Noonan.

In the 20th minute of the second-half, the Bucks tied the score when Kirsti Ingle slipped the ball by the Dayton goalie.

Dayton added the go-ahead goal to make the score 2-1, but Lowry battled back to even the score.

Sapien said that the girls played much better than in their last game and expects the final games to go well.

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# Senior Spotlight

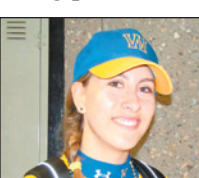


Ron Espinola • THE BRAND

Seniors Tanner Schmidt and Sophie Kristof at Friday's pep assembly.

By Mary Granath

It feels as though so much of the year has gone by already. Autumn is approaching its end, and winter is beginning. For seniors who play a fall sport this means that their final season of playing that sport at Lowry is coming to a close. Some feel sad, others relieved, but all admit that they will miss being part of the Lowry team.

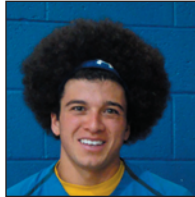


Hayley Noble

"It has definitely made me more open and involved," said Dance Team captain Hayley Noble. "I will miss all the energy."

Noble has been on the high school dance team since her sophomore year. She believes students should be involved. "When you're involved you learn to be responsible." An important message Noble feels her team should remember is that you can achieve greatness, "but know you have to work at it."

"Soccer is a great sport," said Jordan Sloan. Sloan is a defensive midfielder on the varsity boy's soccer team. Sloan has a great appreciation for the sport despite not having played for very long. "I started last year as a newbie. My friends helped me from the start to gradually build up. At first I didn't even know how to pass a ball," confessed Sloan. Soccer has changed him in many



Jordan Sloan

ways. "It made me more of a team player." When asked what he would miss the most Sloan responded, "The great pep talks from the great Safety Steve Swanson."

Laura Ochoa-Mata is a libero on the Varsity Volleyball team at Lowry. Playing volleyball has had a large impact on her life. "Playing helped me set more goals." Ochoa-Mata will miss a lot of things about Lowry athletics. "I will probably miss the comfort. If I start playing somewhere else it may be different." Self confidence was the greatest thing she took from her experience. Her departing words for her fellow teammates were, "Work hard..."

"I'm going to miss being part of the team," admitted Sophie Kristof, a midfielder for the varsity girl's soccer team. Playing soccer helped Kristof accomplish many things. "It taught me to manage my time well," she said. Most importantly, Kristof learned to work hard. "Just because we play for Lowry doesn't mean we can't make it to state," Kristof joked.

Tanner Schmidt has played football for four years. He is a linebacker on the varsity team and runs the defense. "It taught me to be more responsible," stated Schmidt. The main influence on Schmidt's decision to play football came from home. "My dad played football in high school, so I just kind of grew up around it." Schmidt has learned many important lessons from football but one he will always remember is to never give up. To his team Schmidt says, "Don't let me down; I'm expecting you guys to win."

## Where did all of our athletes go?

By Mary Granath

Interest in high school sports seems to be fading. We may take school athletics for granted. Those that came before us poured all their time, energy, and sweat into athletics. They explain why it is important to revitalize the interest in the athletic programs.

Why be interested in sports in the first place? Lowry graduate of 2008, Joe Brooks answers, "I'm competitive so I do it for myself; but I do it for others too, for the betterment of the team." Brooks played football and wrestled for four years at Lowry and is now wrestling at Lassen College in California. Others said they just grew up around athletics. "It was the thing to do," said Justin Grant, who graduated from Lowry in 2006.

Some teens are convinced that they aren't "sports material". Grant argued with this saying, "It's the heart that makes the athlete." Grant now wrestles for Colorado State University. Brooks and Grant agree that you don't have to be good at a sport to be a good athlete. 2007 Lowry Grad, Bobby Jones believes a good athlete is, "Someone who provides for the team before they provide for themselves."

For students who are interested in becoming more of a leader, perhaps playing a sport could teach them how. Jones said "They [sports] influenced me to take on more of a leadership role than I had previ-



Bobby Jones

ously. I had a more determined outlook on life." Bobby Jones is currently playing baseball for Shasta College in Redding California. Athletes agree that sports can change a person. "Athletics made me who I am today; they made me more mature and forced me to put forth some effort," stated Brooks.

With the strong feelings former Lowry athletes have it's hard to understand the sudden lack of interest in sports. The administration is considering cutting all freshmen sports at Lowry because there simply aren't enough athletes to make a team. "There are a lot more extracurricular activities now. People find too many distractions and don't think sports are as important," admitted Jones. "Kids are lazy," Brooks believes. Perhaps it is a combination of these things that have brought about the declining interest in Lowry athletics. Maybe teens don't understand or have forgotten the benefits of playing a sport. "I started to value what I had a lot more than I did before playing," Jones remembers, "people develop good relationships." Grant strongly believes students can take a lot from playing a sport, "You learn work ethic."

Lowry has a longstanding, traditional athletic program that deserves respect. However, without the athletes to hold up that tradition it will crumble. This is a call to all potential athletes, don't be afraid to try out for a sport; playing will benefit you, Lowry, and the community.



Joe Brooks

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# Homecoming Week activities

By Amy Balagna, Mallorie Leal,  
and Esmeralda Aguilar

"Drag Fernley around cuz this is our town", was this years Homecoming theme. Walking in the Lowry halls this week would have been a sight to see; there were different colors, hobos, crazy hair, and blue and gold everywhere. The dress up days at Lowry were taken very seriously, each day students and teachers took part to make sure they showed their spirit.

Monday was Color War Day; every class had a different color to represent. Each class came up with creative ways to show off their chosen color. Tuesday the halls were filled with dirty, rugged, and shabby looking hobos, for Hobo Day. Wednesday's dress up day was easy since it was Pajama Day.

Insane hair and mismatching clothes was the stule for Thursday and could only mean Crazy Hair and Clash Day. To support our Bucks, Friday was Blue and Gold Day. Students and teachers took part in showing off Lowry's colors.

Class rivalries are not uncommon, but during Homecoming the rivalries usually escalate. Lunchtime activities certainly added to the competitiveness of 2008's Homecoming week.

Monday the sophomores won the Explore Your Inner Egyptian competition. They were the fastest class to build a six person pyramid.

On Tuesday, the competition was Find Your Sole. The sophomore team won again as they were the quickest to

find each other's shoes

On Wednesday, the seniors broke the sophomore winning streak in the Drag Em' Around activity. In a close race the seniors edged the juniors in dragging a teammate through an obstacle course.

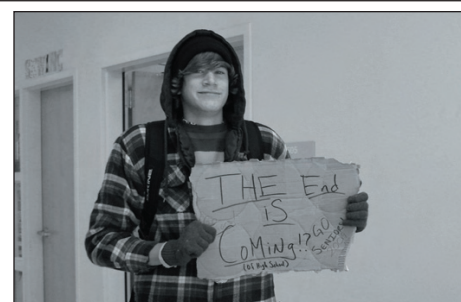
The juniors broke through with a win in Friday's Defend Your Sphere. The objective of the game was to defend their class balloon, while trying to knock off the other classes' balloons.

Monday's pep assembly was a hit with the crowd. Homecoming king candidates Collin Messerly, Trevor Grant, and Derrick Macliz, along with queen candidates Morgen Thacker, Stevie Hamilton, and Sophie Kristof, were announced to four, wildly cheering classes.

The shopping cart-float parade was a highlight of Friday's pep assembly. Both clubs and classes participated in a competition which inspired no end of intuitive designs. The assembly ended with a surprise from some of Lowry's favorite ladies. Students were amazed to see faculty members Janet Kennedy, Marie-Jeanne Dawson, and other Lowry teachers and faculty dance to Michael Jackson's *Thriller* in zombie garb. Kennedy pulled senior Jamie Walton into the fray, and the gym floor soon filled with students and faculty grooving to the smooth tunes of Michael Jackson. After the dance orgy was over, the pep assembly concluded with point announcements and students left the gym in high spirits, excited to finish out their Homecoming week.



Chloe Rusconi•THE BRAND



Esmeralda Aguilar•THE BRAND



Ron Espinola•THE BRAND



Ron Espinola•THE BRAND

Powderpuff's "Queen" candidates Brandon Eldodt, Mateo Echeverria, and Gerardo Covarrubias. (Top Left); Adam Serfoss went all out for Hobo Day (Top Right); Mrs. Corak performing "Thriller" (Bottom Left). The seniors weren't shy about voicing their spirit at Friday's assembly (Bottom Right).

## Sophomores win He-Man

By Rachelle Dennis

Monday, October 13, Lowry High School hosted a He-Man tournament. Each class boasted their own team of brash young guys with little volleyball experience. The freshmen competed against the juniors, and the sophomores went up against the seniors. The consolation bracket later consisted of the senior playing the freshmen as the juniors played the sophomores for the championship.

During the first game, the junior and freshman teams faced off. Junior David Eastman let loose his wicked serve on the freshmen. After five of Eastman's fireball serves, junior Brandon Eldodt finalized the junior's lead with a kill, establishing the score at 14-13. The freshman team continued to work hard, but remained unable to score again against the more experienced junior team, leaving the final score at 25-13.

The second game began with a huge introduction for the senior team. But four years of experience was not enough to keep the freshmen from winning 25-14.

In the consolation bracket, the seniors played the freshman in a surprisingly close game. The score bounced back and forth in both teams' favor. At last the seniors managed to pull ahead while the teams were tied 25-25, making the final score 27-25 for the seniors after a long and intense game.

During the last game between classes, the junior team confronted the sophomores in a fierce volleyball battle. The game remained close during its start, but the sophomores soon began to dominate the court. Even though the juniors came out strong, they fell short. The sophomore team had come to win, and win they did. The score was a blistering 25-16.

In the championship game, the sophomores had to establish their winning title by playing the faculty team. Although the faculty played well, considering their inexperience with volleyball, they too fell to the sophomore's superior team. The final score was 25-20.



Rachelle Dennis•THE BRAND



Esmeralda Aguilar•THE BRAND

Some of the action from He-Man Volleyball (Left). Students show their spirit on Monday's Color War Day (Right).



# A dance to remember



Ron Espinola•THE BRAND

Line dancing to "Cotton Eyed Joe".

By Mary Granath

Students eagerly waited outside Lowry High School gym in the cool October evening for the clock to strike 8:30. "I was excited to get inside and dance the night away," confessed Senior Jayme Poole. The reward was well worth the wait.

The gym had an array of decorations however there was no theme. "We try to keep it [decorations] simple yet fun for the kids," stated teacher Marie-Jeanne Dawson. West Coast Entertainment provided the music and the DJ for the night. There were some classic songs such as "Cotton Eyed Joe" and "Sandstorm"; but there were some unfamiliar songs as well.

Throughout the dance students recalled their favorite memories from the week. "The homecoming pep assembly on Friday was amazing," declared Junior Suzi Jones. Senior Tim Principe said his

favorite part of the week was Color War Day, "Because it seemed like everyone participated."

Homecoming for the seniors is even more meaningful because it was their last homecoming at Lowry. "Knowing that I got to spend my last homecoming with my friends was amazing, even though I was sad when it was over," admitted Poole.

Homecoming 2008 has officially come to an end, but it was certainly one to remember.



Ron Espinola•THE BRAND

# Open Your Eyes

By Stephanie Cochrane



Customs, traditions, and rituals are prevalent to each culture in the world; yet some cultures express themselves in ways that others do not understand. Religious practices and social customs direct the being of many cultures. American culture is led by the drive for economic success while many other cultures around the world follow religious beliefs. Why is it that America does not live predominantly by one religion and other nations do?

India is known as the land of spirituality and philosophy. Hinduism is followed by 80% of Indians; America's greatest religious majority is the Protestant religion at 52%. Large countries like India can be prosperous and personify unity in religious beliefs. Small countries may not be prosperous yet personify that same religious unity. It is a sink or swim way of life. Widespread religious devotion may breed success yet it may breed failure. Amer-

ica has grown into a system of success different than any other. Diversity is America's middle name; we are called the Melting Pot for a reason.

Because Americans emigrated from nations all over the world, religious unity will never exist. We are not a nation of Hindus working together toward a spiritual transmigration of the soul; we are a nation of everyone working toward a better future. Each person in the United States would have a different definition for what they think is a better future. Some may say they believe a better future is peace, others may say prosperity. America is a religious nation; it is not a nation of one religion.

America will never live by one religion and that should not be taken as an inauspicious notion. It is enticing that Americans can learn from each others beliefs and work together to blend them into something unique; that is why so many people leave their homelands for ours. This country does not need one dominant religion to be united; it is an always changing perfect blend of similarly different visionaries.

# Is cheerleading a sport?

By Jayna Hill



Many people think cheerleading is not a sport. Cheerleaders wear cute outfits and wave around pompoms. But, there is much more to cheerleading than just how one looks. Cheerleading involves physical and mental abilities. To be a cheerleader you must be dedicated and loyal to your squad and yourself. And, just like any other sport, cheerleading takes practice and it's not as easy as it may look.

The dictionary definition of a sport is: an athletic activity requiring skill or physical prowess and often of a competitive nature.

Cheerleading most definitely falls under all of these categories. First, one needs to be in top physical condition to be a cheerleader. Throwing someone eight feet up in the air then catching them in a "cradle", without anyone getting hurt, takes physical skill and conditioning, both for the base and for the flyer completing an extension while in the air. Some people say 'any one can

be a cheerleader," but they are greatly mistaken.

Who decides what a sport is? What is it that makes a sport a sport anyway? Is it the ball? Well, wrestlers don't play with a ball like football or basketball, or baseball, but wrestling is still considered a sport. Is it the sweat? Well, cheerleaders sweat, too. So, maybe it's the practice? Oh wait, but cheerleaders practice just as hard as or harder than other activities considered "sports." Does it take dedication to qualify as a sport? Because cheerleaders are definitely dedicated. Cheerleading is clearly a sport, why then do some continue to deny it?

Cheerleaders meet the exact same qualifications as other sports do; we practice; we develop strength, stamina, and skills; we have rules for competition; we bring home trophies; we get injuries and we are dedicated to constantly improving the sport of cheerleading. So maybe you should think twice next time when asked if cheerleading is a sport.

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## Left From Center: Rap vs. Rock

By Jacob Kolkman



For decades there has been a harsh debate on which is the better genre of music; rock or rap. While both genres have worked together to produce such hits as Public Enemy and Anthrax doing Public Enemy's "Bring the Noise" and Aerosmith and Run-DMC combining to perform "Walk this Way". Despite the coalitions the feud has still continued to this day.

Rock had been the dominant form of music for more than 40 years ever since the late 1960's and early 1970's. Starting back in the 1950's with blues-rock musicians like Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley and finally progressing to new age and grunge musicians like Kurt Cobain and Adam Jones. Then in the early 1980's in the undergrounds of New York City started the revolution of rap, much like the revolution of rock in the late 1960's, with artists like Public Enemy, Run-DMC, and Ice-T, and it remained in the underground until the early and late 1990's with the coming of Tupac, Biggie Smalls, and NWA.

To settle this decades-long debate, I went out to the campus of Lowry High School to get some of the opinions of the students to see what they thought about this. Sophomore, Stephanie Hageman gives her vote to rap stating that, "I like the rhythm of rap and how it makes me want to dance." Junior, Chance Billows quotes AC-DC saying that, "Rock and Roll ain't noise pollution." Freshman, Destiny Kolkman supports rap saying, "The beat and rhymes of rap beats all the scream singing and guitars of rock."

I guess this debate will never end, in my opinion however rock will always be better. More than any other type of music it has influenced our culture, inciting revolutions that no one will ever forget. However, rap will also never be forgotten. While it hasn't ignited such monumental revolutions, it has had an impact on our culture. Give me some Public Enemy or NWA. and I'll be right there getting jiggy with the rest of them. So the great musical debate still rages on and probably will never be resolved; to this reporter's dismay.

## Texting, texting, texting it's all about the texting!

By Jacob Kolkman



These days with the innovations of the cell phone conversing regularly on the phone is starting to become a thing of the past. These days its all about the texting and the "lol" and the "omg". To some this new way of conversation is like a new religion or way of life while they sit at home at night resting sore thumbs. To others it dumbing down the youth of today and erasing the way that we as humans communicate on a daily basis while destroying the king's English.

No matter what your point of view on the subject is, people seem to have gone completely crazy for texting. While you used to have to pass a handwritten note across the class room hoping that one of the couriers doesn't read the message, and taking minutes to get half a conversation in before the end of class. Texting has offered a new handy little way through your cell phone to get the message not only to one person but you can have conversations with multiple people. In my book that makes paper and pencil-0 and texting-1.

While texting has been a godsend to students and teenagers everywhere it has been just as much of a burden to teachers. Teachers who in this new



age of technology have had to battle for the attention of their students over iPods and texting while in class. It has become such a problem that even the mere hint of a cell phone in one of their student's hands has caused the school to adopt the policy of confiscating it on site. The question that is etched into the minds of teachers and administrators in this school is simple, "why oh why are these kids so obsessed with texting?"

Is texting the new form of legal drug to today's youth or is it not addicting as some would say? While I say that it is a great invention to simply pass quick messages back and forth at satellite enabled speed, spending hours at a time waiting for the next message like you're about to receive the key to the universe is something entirely different. So this reporter went out into the texting jungle we call Lowry High

School and asked around to see what the big deal about this texting thing. Freshman, Jalynn Sauer says that, "It's just a fun and easy way to talk to people. Plus its a good way to keep in touch with people that you don't get to talk to all the time." Senior, Eric Robertson uses the line, "Texting is like Pringles once you pop you just can't stop."

So will we ever truly now why people are so "obsessed" with this texting phenomenon. Or is it not obsession like some of us believe it to be but an actual addiction like the crack epidemic in the 1980's. Unless the government does some kind of study to prove why kids and adults alike are going crazy about texting I don't think we will ever know the true cause of it all. But until then I guess just go with it and text your brains out before they find out it causes carpal tunnel or something.

## What's your beat?

By Chloe Rusconi

At Lowry there are many different tastes in music. We don't always agree on what to listen to, but we can agree that music influences our lives. The results for our Top 10 iPod play list:

1. "Live Your Life," TI featuring Rihanna
2. "When I Grow Up," The Pussycat Dolls
3. "Picture to Burn," Taylor Swift
4. "I Kissed a Girl," Katy Perry
5. "Hey Jude," The Beatles
6. "Before He Cheats," Carrie Underwood
7. "Fall for You," Second Hand Serenade
8. "Gold Digger," Kanye West Featuring Jamie Foxx
9. "With You," Chris Brown
10. "Cupids Chokehold," Gym Class Heroes

## Anderson is "Old School"

By Katy Granath

Andy Anderson has been an art teacher at Lowry High School for three years. His cartoon series, "Old School", is based on his experiences as a high school teacher. Anderson has drawn and illustrated three of these cartoons each year he has spent at Lowry. Anderson says he draws "Old School" to make fun of himself.

Each of Anderson's one-panel gag cartoons, is meant to poke fun at himself. Anderson, like the character of "Old School", often misuses teenage lingo in his classroom. These awkward moments, have provided him with an abundance of funny stories as inspiration for his cartoon. Chuckling about saying "fo shizzle" in class, Anderson laughs, "My students say, 'no, Mr. Anderson, just don't.'"

