

The Brand

Lowry High School

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

Winnemucca, Nevada

INSIDE

Opinions

Managing Editor, Katy Granath opines about the drinking age.



Sports

Coaches Cabatbat and Murgel pick the bowl winners.



Student Life

Are the stereotypes about skaters true?



Arts and Entertainment

Lowry Drama and Stagecraft perform The Frog Prince of Spama-lot.



INDEX

News.....1-2

Opinion.....3-4

Sports.....5-7

Student Life.....8-10

A&E.....11-12

District faces significant budget cuts

By Amy Balagna and Camille Lyon

Humboldt County School District is facing significant funding cuts and gave the community the chance to participate in the decision.

"The budget shortfall that the school faces will undoubtedly impact Lowry High School," said Lowry vice Principal, Byron Jeppsen

Lowry will be facing many hardships as the state of Nevada cuts back on school programs like sports and extracurricular activities. The school district hosted two public forums for the community to give input on the decision on November 18 and 20.

The forums drew local teachers, school board trustees and members of the community concerned with the future of education in Humboldt County. The groups made suggestions as to which programs should be cut and which should be preserved. Because Winnemucca is a small community, any sort of budget cut will have a large effect.

"Any idea is an idea we will consider," said school board member Andrew Hillyer during the public forum on December 20.

Drastic ideas were discussed at length at the two forums. A four day school week, abolishing all freshmen sports, and cutting back on school outings such as field trips and sports travel were all considered.

Due to the economic recession state tax revenues have declined. Every sector of the economy is feeling the pinch. Nevada currently leads the nation in home foreclosures and car repossessions. In addition, Nevada's number two source of tax revenue, taxes on auto sales, have also decreased. Humboldt County has been hit especially hard. A state mandate is requiring HCSD to cut a large portion of its budget. School district officials are hoping that 14.5% will be the worst case scenario.

"We value the large variety of classes, programs, and activities the school provides to students," said Jeppsen.

However, that large variety may have to be slashed for the sake of essentials. Favorite teachers and classes, clubs and sports,

and especially field trips are all at risk. Minimal impact on students, and the preservation of HCSD staff are a top priority.

"It is never easy to make cuts in any area as we know that it will negatively affect someone," Jeppsen said, "However, we have resilient staff and we will do everything we can to continue to provide Lowry High School students with a high quality educational experience"

A Reduction of \$3,089,471 (14.5%) equates to:

- 40.7 days of operating expense
- 50.4 teaching positions (about 20% of our force)
- 29.4 administrative positions (we have 14)
- 149 classified positions (about 2/3rds)
- 47,530 textbooks
- 3 X Transportation Costs District Wide
- 6 X Athletic Program Expenses District Wide
- A \$909 reduction per pupil/per year

US economic woes continue

By Katy Granath

Monday, December 1, the National Bureau of Economic Research announced that the United States had been in an economic recession since December of last year.

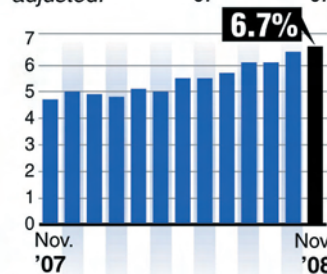
However, on Black Friday many local business owners reported that their sales were solid. But Nevada has not been spared from the most recent recession. According to the Nevada Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation, "Nevada's unemployment rate rose again for the sixth consecutive month, hitting 7.6 percent in October." The national rate is 6.7 percent. Elko County had the lowest rate at 4 percent

The word recession has

been thrown around quite casually, but a whole new gravity accompanies the term now that this recession is official.

see ECONOMY page 2

Jobless rate



© 2008 MCT
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Monthly economic indicator:
Trend in U.S. unemployment rate.
MCT 2008

Spanish Club hosts Santa's Village

By Camille Lyon

Lowry High School's Spanish Club hosted their annual Santa's Village for the community on December 13.

There was an array of crafts to choose from such as, gingerbread purses and lollipop ornaments. Santa Clause even stopped by for some pictures.

The Spanish club has hosted this event to raise funds for trips and scholarships they give at the end of the year.

Mrs. Amie Godinez is the advisor of the Spanish club and has hosted Santa's Village for eight years. Spanish Club vice president Brad Pearce explained the event as "organized chaos."

Spanish Club has been preparing for this event by making posters, ordering supplies, and setting up the cafeteria the night before. The Spanish Club had a successful Santa's Village. All of the children present were having a good time as they constructed their holiday crafts while listening to Christmas music.



Camille Lyon•THE BRAND
Austin Formby makes a train at Santa's Village on December 13, 2008.

ECONOMY

Countless Americans have been feeling the effects of this economic downturn since last year, so an official name for their financial difficulty hasn't come as much of a surprise.

A recession is a period of economic decline during which the value of the goods and services produced by a nation falls for six straight months. The value of all goods and services produced by one country are its gross domestic product (GDP).

As GDP declines, profits often decline, and businesses layoff employees to cut costs. The employees also cut back on their spending which causes a lack of demand, which in turn trans-

lates into a steeper decline of the GDP. It can take more than six months or a year to pull out of the vicious cycle.

Economists believe this recession could last some time, and may be quite severe. A particularly long and relentless recession can be deemed a depression, but only if it reaches a certain intensity. It is important to remember that a recession, or even a depression, will in no way be a sequel to the Great Depression. After the economic catastrophe of the '20's and '30's new regulations and safeguards were put in place to prevent a second Great Depression.

Currently steps are being taken by the federal government to "rescue" the

American economy. Congress recently passed a 700 billion dollar bailout plan that establishes an Office of Financial Stability. Through this office numerous financial salvaging programs will be run. One part of the plan will assist homeowners to avoid foreclosures.

Unfortunately, no solution or bailout package is going to provide a quick fix for this situation. "Things are going to get worse before they get better," said President-elect Barack Obama recently. However, the new leader also mentioned in the same speech that Americans have what it takes, the character, the optimism, and the will, to make it through these troubled times.

Regional leadership

By Esmeralda Aguilar and Camille Lyon

The Lowry Leadership class hosted the Northern Regional Conference on Monday, November 24. The conference, which included delegates from all over northern Nevada, consisted of a general session with guest speakers, workshops and many other activities of which the leadership students from all around northern Nevada came to attend.

The general session began as Northern Region Representative, senior Esmeralda Aguilar, welcomed the attending schools and introduced the executive board of the Nevada Association of Student Councils (NASC). Max Dugan, the NASC state president, then introduced the state conference co-chairs. The State conference co-chairs, from Reed High School, gave a presentation on the upcoming leadership state conference.

Guest speaker Ken Johnson gave a motivational speech and introduced his son Kendall (KD) Johnson who, aside from being a motivational speaker, is also a musical artist. The father and son duo presented a speech about how kids should not stay "Stuck on stupid", but "Be eagles, not chickens."

The leadership students attended skill building workshops presented by Herff Jones representative, Sloane Kahuhu, and Ken and KD Johnson. After the morning sessions, the delegates gathered for lunch before continuing

the conference in the afternoon with more workshops.

Three Lowry students presented one workshop. Camille Lyon, Jordan Sloan, and Mary Granath presented a workshop on event coordination.

The conference finally concluded at the end of the small workshops. Delegates were instructed to take their things and head to their busses after the exciting workshops. Keisha Stewart, Lund Student Body President said, "The conference was so great! I had so much fun."



Camille Lyon•LEADERSHIP

Ken and KD Johnson speaking to the delegates.



Skylar Estes•LEADERSHIP

Lowry Leadership students waiting to greet visiting leadership students.

PASS holds Open House

By Stephanie Cochran

Lowry High School's PASS program held an open house Thursday Nov. 13. The event was held in the PASS building near the fairgrounds. The staff wanted to allow parents, students, and Lowry faculty to take a look at things that are happening. Student's work was posted on the walls and PASS faculty members stood nearby to explain any questions visitors might have had.

Mr. Lucas, a Lowry teacher at PASS is passionate about the program. "PASS is not a dumping ground, it has a negative reputation but it is a good opportunity for students to be in a successful setting," says Lucas. This year, PASS has already graduated two students, and plans for 10-15 more.



Courtesy•WINNADAA

Mr. Ty Lucas

Students at PASS receive the same opportunities as students at Lowry do. Athletes can participate in Lowry sports, students can go to dances, and participate in any activities Lowry students do. PASS offers electives and core classes. The program gained a new media cart this year and hopes for more updated technology. "Regular high school isn't for everyone and PASS is an alternate method for a good education," said Lowry's administrator in charge at PASS, Doc Welter. Both Lucas and Welter agree that the biggest improvement they would like to see within the PASS program is its technology.

The open house was intended to let the community and other LHS staff members expand their awareness of the program.

Melinda Enochson, an aide at PASS for over two years said, "PASS is a great way to help kids get ready for their futures." The faculty would like to see more support from high school teachers at Lowry, says Lucas.

The teachers at PASS have confidence in the course and expect great things to come in the future.



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Nebraska's Safe Haven law:

Parents, not the state, need to provide a safe haven for children

By Mallorie Leal



Babies cry, toddlers throw tantrums, and teenagers just don't care. These are just a few of the things a person can expect when having a child.

These days it is increasingly common for a woman to become pregnant who can't care for or does not want her child. Women in these situations often resort to an alternative. Some women get an abortion while others give the child up for adoption.

Yet even with these safe and legal

ways of taking care of a pregnancy, some women still choose to abandon their children. Just imagine finding an infant left in a trash can or in a field. Even worse, imagine that you're the infant. You've been left out in the cold, not knowing what's going on and the one person who should love you the most has gone because she was willing to leave you to fend for yourself. Some states have found their abandonment problem to be out of control and have decided to try and eliminate the danger to these infants.

Nebraska was one of the last states to adopt a Safe Haven law. Safe Haven laws allow parents to leave their child at

a hospital, police station, or fire department without getting in legal trouble. Nebraska went above and beyond with this new law, by including all children under the age of eighteen instead of establishing an age limit for the child. This seemed like a good idea, until parents started leaving older kids.

An infant that is under a year old doesn't understand the dangers of the world and wouldn't understand they are being abandoned. A sixteen year old, however, comprehends the meaning of being abandoned. A parent leaving an older child under the Safe Haven law is not leaving the child because the parent is unable to take care of it, its pure and

simple disregard. Parents should not raise a child and then just decide that all of a sudden they don't want to be a parent or they can't handle it.

Nebraska recently changed its law to restrict the age limit to an infant up to thirty days old. This improvement to the Safe Haven law should help restore order and will help parents realize not to wait until it's too late. Women who become pregnant should take responsibility for their actions and deal with their unwanted pregnancy in a responsible and healthy way. Children should never be abandoned and mothers should never have to make that decision.

Cheerleading revisited

By Jayna Hill



After the last printed edition of The Brand, a few people were upset by one article in particular. The article

claiming that cheerleading is indeed a sport.

Senior Jamie Walton found the article particularly disturbing his response was, "Cheerleaders sit at practice and boast about whose boyfriend is hotter, who is the best kisser, and so on and so forth. They sit there and stretch, but are they really stretching? Every sport requires their players to be loose so muscles aren't pulled. How can a cheerleader pull a muscle? They sit on the sidelines while a true team sport is out there getting tackled or going up for a rebound. In a true team sport each team is competing against each other for the win. The only time a cheer squad is at competition is maybe once or twice a year. ...Granted, they are there for support, but they just wear outfits and have pom-poms. They aren't any different than the Cameron Crazies who support the Duke Blue Devils at every home event, or any differ-

ent than Trevin Jarrett and David Eastman going crazy at a home volleyball game."

Walton does have good point; both cheerleaders and dance team members compete once or twice a year. However every other accusation is faulty. Stretching is crucial to cheerleaders, how else would they be able to do the splits? Walton's asinine ideas about what actually goes on during cheerleading practice are completely unrealistic and egotistical. Sure cheerleaders are there to support Lowry's team that is playing but they most definitely do not "sit on the sidelines." Supporting other teams is important but, cheerleaders use games as a practice for

their actual competition. Despite the common misconception, cheerleaders don't just show up at team games for fun.

Sophomore Jacob Laird defined a sport as "Something you practice to do better, where you compete and there has to be a team." Laird agreed that cheerleading is a sport. Junior Jake Maga's interpretation of a sport is "a competitive hobby requiring physical activity or skill and is directed with rules." Maga also qualifies cheerleading as a sport.

Some people claim that cheerleading isn't a sport because there is not direct competition. Meaning when cheerleaders go to competition they don't all compete at the

same time. In football you have both teams on the field at the same time, and in cheerleading you compete one at a time. Also there is not direct contact in cheer. However there is direct contact in cheer its called stunting. Just because cheerleaders don't tackle each other doesn't mean that there is not direct contact or competition.

As you can see the definition of a sport varies from person to person. To me, cheerleading is in fact a sport, it requires physical activity, skill, it is directed by rules, and there is a competitive nature involved, what else do you need?



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Are 18 year-olds mature enough to drink?

By Katy Granath

Having just celebrated my eighteenth birthday, I am enjoying my status as a legal adult. I no longer have to worry about Winnemucca's curfew, I've received several calls from military recruiters, and I had the privilege of voting in the presidential election as well; I even temporarily considered moving out just because I could, but concluded a few minutes later that I enjoy the bed and the free food far too much to move out. However, going over my new rights as a legal adult, I realized that I still must wait to receive the full extent of my rights as an American citizen; for some reason I will be denied the right to drink an alcoholic beverage for



another three years.

Honestly, I have been unable to uncover a legitimate argument against 18-year-olds drinking alcohol that cannot be easily dismissed. Some have told me that they think it's a health risk or a safety hazard to 18-year-olds or those around them. But come on, 18-year-olds are permitted to buy and smoke cigarettes, which is not only dangerous to one's own health, but endangers others as well. Smoking and the second-hand smoke it produces have been linked to such killers as cancer, heart disease, and emphysema. On the other hand, numerous studies have suggested that drinking alcohol in moderation can actually benefit your health. In fact, the Mayo Clinic advises that a moderate alcohol intake of two drinks a day can reduce your risk of heart attack and heart disease, diabetes, and stroke.

What safety hazards does drinking

alcohol present specifically to my 18-year-old self that don't equally apply to my 21-year-old brother? Yes, drinking a bottle of Russian vodka and then driving home, poses a significant health risk both to the drunk driver and others on the road, but is a drunk driver any less drunk on his 21st birthday than his 18th?

Drinking a piña colada doesn't pose nearly the health risk signing up for the Army might. It's an honor to have the right to fight and die for our country; it's a heavy responsibility to be able to influence the future of the world by voting; but for some reason 18-year-olds aren't equipped with the ability to drink safely or responsibly. If I'm mature enough to be handed an automatic weapon and shipped off to a foreign country to kill the enemies of America, how can I not be mature or responsible enough to drink?

Iraq: Why are we still there?

By Esmeralda Aguilar

Recently, I've been wondering why we are in Iraq. It seems that, no matter how hard I search for answers, I come up empty and even more confused. The government remains unwilling to give clear answers to what seems like a simple question.

The primary reason for invading Iraq was that Saddam Hussein's regime represented a threat to the region and to the US through its alleged development of weapons of mass destruction. Yet Hussein was executed nearly two years ago and no legitimate evidence of recent WMD has ever been found. This was big news and the world waited to see what the US would do next. Surely there was no further need for American forces to stay in Iraq once Hussein was removed from power.

Without Hussein and WMD as a reason, the US used Osama Bin Laden as a reason for staying. But to say that we are still in Iraq because of Osama bin Laden is not defensible either. Bin Laden, according to an analysis released by NBC in mid-June of this year, hasn't been seen since his 2004 video. Most experts agree that he has

most likely established a base somewhere in Afghanistan or Pakistan. As unsettling as it sounds, neither the military nor anyone else knows where bin Laden is.

If bin Laden is not the reason we are in Iraq, then why are we there? The only two viable reasons are on opposite ends of a spectrum. Either we're staying for the oil or we're there to help the people. Which do you think more likely?

The US has a reputation for butting into the affairs of other countries. But, thanks to the Monroe Doctrine, we aren't supposed to interfere with other countries and they aren't supposed to interfere with us. Yet, it seems the US has had a loose interpretation of this

concept because we've frequently been quite a meddlesome little country.

Since the days of Teddy Roosevelt we've surreptitiously organized coups and overthrown the governments of other countries; once we even organized Cuban exiles to overthrow Fidel Castro. (Unfortunately, the attempt was a complete failure.) Nevertheless, being meddlesome has usually worked out to our advantage.

Since we launched a preemptive war with Iraq the reasons for doing so have changed at least four times. Maybe someday we, the American people, will figure out what we're doing in Iraq. Optimists may believe that we're helping the Iraqi people, but the realists know we're there for the oil.



Open Your Eyes: Cheater, cheater, pumpkin eater

By Stephanie Cochran



I'm sitting in one of my classes at Lowry and I've just finished a test. My eyes wander around the room in innocent boredom; and I see some classmates

cautiously glancing down at study guides or forbidden notes. I am a little repulsed by the fact that students that put half the effort into studying as I do are going to receive a grade equal to or better than mine. But, because it is a typical scene, I ignore the ethical lines I am crossing for not reporting them, and the lines they cross by cheating.

The Josephson Institute's 2008 Report Card on the Ethics of American Youth, a Los Angeles-based organization, said the teenagers' responses to questions about lying, stealing and cheating "reveals entrenched habits of dishonesty for the workforce of the future."

The study shows that American teens lie, steal and cheat at alarming rates. The 30,000 students surveyed illustrated that boys lie and steal more than girls; but in public schools, the rate of cheating is about equal at 47%. More disturbing than that is, that 93% of the students indicated satisfaction with their own character and ethics.

When did it become morally alright to lie, cheat, and steal? It seems to be something embedded in American culture. Students don't think twice about cheating because it has been practiced for so long.

Cheating leads to dishonest habits in student's futures, as recent news would show. Usatoday.com featured the arrest of Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, which resulted from allegedly auctioning President-elect Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat to the highest bidder. This shows that corruption and dishonesty lies in all America's crevices.

Cheating teens grow up to be lying adults; it's your future so choose your actions wisely. America complains that its government is corrupt, yet it doesn't enforce the immorality of lying, cheating, and stealing enough. If students can get away with cheating in school, why wouldn't they later in life?

Wrestlers look to return to state title contention

By Stephanie Cochrane

Returning with all but four or five of last year's seniors, Lowry's wrestling team looks to have a strong advantage this season. Head Coach John Brooks is holding his athletes to their commitment of joining the team. Higher intensity practices replaced the effective but weaker ones held last year. Winning state holds a high rung on Brooks' ladder of goals, but overall improvement is also important. "Lowry has the history behind them where winning state is the goal and it's certainly achievable," said Brooks.

Lowry came in 3rd place at state



Courtesy•ROBBIE GRANT

Trevor Grant pins a Galena opponent at the season opener.

last year behind Pahrump and Spring Creek. Pahrump moved to 4A last year and Spring Creek is Lowry's toughest competition. Brooks said, "They have been the team to beat for the last five or six years. They have a great program, as do we; they have just had a few more studs than we have had."

Brooks said Lowry's premier wrestler right now is senior Trevor Grant. Grant is among the three current Lowry wrestlers who hold a state championship title. "I want to be able to come to my state champion wrestlers any time during practice and point to them and say, 'That's how it should be done'; and so far Trevor has shown that and that's his job."

Junior Skylyr Bleck and senior Shaun Raynor also hold State Championship titles, yet with an early injury Bleck may be out for the season. "If things are good to us, we will get him back," said Brooks.

"We have a couple outstanding freshmen," said Brooks, "Jace Billingsley and Gus Duncan look like they are going to be players for us." Lowry wrestling welcomed 12 freshmen to the team this year. Duncan said, "The

main difference [from junior high to high school wrestling] is probably the intensity. We have really kicked it up in the wrestling room and I think it's going to make a huge difference."

Senior wrestler Tanner Schmidt is confident with the way the season will go. "I think we will have a lot of wins, we have a pretty good team and we have a lot of good athletes spread out in different weight classes," said Schmidt.

Varsity Schedule

12/18-20 Lowry Dual @ Events Center & Cody Louk Invitational
12/29-30 Sierra Nevada Classic
1/6 Elko Duals
1/9-10 Rollie Lane Invitational
1/16-17 Spring Creek Tournament
1/23-24 Fernley Invitational
1/30-31 Zone Duals @ Dayton
1/6-7 Zone Tournament @ Yerington
1/13-14 Nevada State @ Winnemucca Events Center



Courtesy•WINNADA

Lowry's 2008-2009 wrestling team.

Got bowls?

By Stephanie Cochrane and Mary Granath

COACH MURGEL



Courtesy•WINNADA
Shaun Murgel

Mr. Shaun Murgel, a Special Ed. Teacher at Lowry, began playing football at Helena High School. He continued playing during his college years at Western Montana College. His love of the game carried over into his teaching and he has been coaching football for thirteen years.

Rose Bowl-USC over Penn State because Penn State is not a true championship team like the Trojans are.

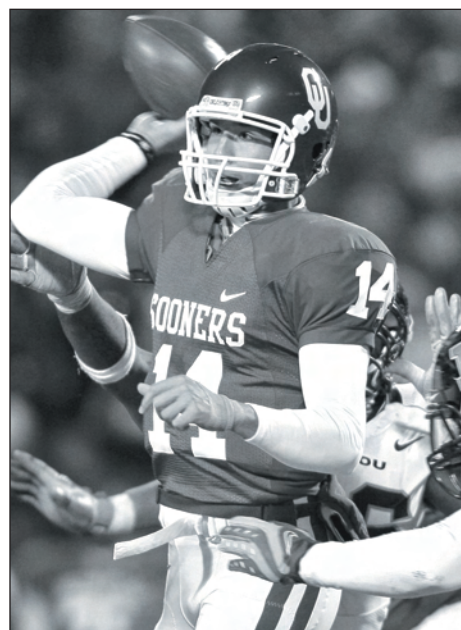
Sugar Bowl-Alabama will beat Utah because Nick Saban gets a month to prepare and give that guy a month and he'll beat anybody.

Fiesta Bowl-Texas will roll Ohio State because Ohio State is weak.

Orange Bowl-Virginia Tech will beat Cincinnati because Cincinnati plays in the big East at least Virginia

tech plays a halfway decent conference.

BCS Champs-Oklahoma will beat Florida because it's time for the big boys to go down.



Shane Keyser/Kansas City Star/MCT

Oklahoma QB Sam Bradford, won the Heisman Trophy Saturday. Coach Murgel is picking the Sooners to win the national title.

COACH CABATBAT

Mr. Taua Cabatbat, a PE teacher at Lowry, had an early love of sports. He played football all four years of high school, two years at a junior college, then two years at an NCAA college in Montana where he was coached by Lowry teacher and coach, Mr. Murgel.



Courtesy•WINNADA
Taua Cabatbat

Rose Bowl-USC over Penn State; if you look at it statistically, USC has won 69% of its Rose Bowl games. USC owns that game. They are [playing] in California, so it's their home field. Penn State [is used to the cold], they are going to be coming down for surf sun and fun, their minds aren't going to be on the game.

Sugar Bowl-Alabama over Utah; they aren't going to be able to handle Alabama offensively or defensively. Utah is going to have problems moving the ball. Coach Saban has done a good job all season so Alabama is go-

ing to take it.

Fiesta Bowl-Texas over Ohio State; Texas defense is on a roll, they are going to win big. They are 9th in rushing defense and Ohio doesn't have what it takes offensively to move against Texas' defense. Texas QB Colt McCoy is going to run wild. That game is going to be big.

see BOWLS page 7

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JAVA TOWN

-One Sip & You'll Flip!-

First Look: Varsity Girls Basketball

By Mary Granath

"We've been hard at it," said coach Jack Smith of the Varsity Girls Basketball team. Lowry beat the Elko Indians December 2 and then hosted in the Lowry Invitational Tournament where they won against Wooster but lost to HUG and Elko. "We're making some mistakes," stated Smith "but we're learning. Things are coming along nicely,"

The Bucks will play Damonte Ranch December 10 and then compete at the High Sierra Classic December 11 through the 13. "I expect to have a pretty tough pre-season schedule," Smith said.

However he also stated that he expects to

have the new players adjusted to the system by the time league rolls around. "So that we can make another play-off run," Lowry has added wrinkles to the existing offensive system that was formally known as Flex, but now goes by the team's own ingenious name: Nevada.

Smith learned numerous things from his first year of coaching at Lowry last year, he now has a feel for the type of players he has. He also acknowledged that they are a well behaved group. "I just have to teach basketball. I don't have to discipline very much," His team is like a family he proclaimed.

Something that has made coaching simpler for Smith this year is the help of returning players. "A lot of returning players are making it easy because they know the system." He stated that progress is being made quicker because returning players are helping the younger players, "Things are going smoother."

Returning to the team this year are Morgen Thacker (All-State Guard), Amaya Criswell, (Honorable Mention All-State), Skylar Estes (All-League), Quinn Mader, and Miranda Quilici.



Courtesy•WINNAD

Lowry's 2008-2009 girls basketball team.

New to the team this year are Darrian Black, Rachelle Dennis, Julia Dufur-rena, Courtney Hammond, Lynnsey Johnson, Ashlee Lee, and Desirae Lemm.

Lowry will face some stiff league competition. "No doubt it will be Truckee and Yerington again," said Smith. Lowry faces Yerington on January 16 at an away game and then again

on February 2 at home. The Bucks will play Truckee January 24 at home and then on February 2 at an away game.

Smith's final words for his players were "Stay focused, be persistent, and out of that positive things will happen." Overall, the girl's varsity basketball team looks to have a dazzling future filled with competition and, let's face it, many, many wins.

LHS Bowlers place at State Tournament

By Katy Granath

Five of Lowry High School's athletes recently competed in the State Special Olympics in Reno, Nevada. Stevie MacDonald, Jovi Garcia, Cody White, Mark Langston, and Summer Watkins make up the Winnemucca Strikers, the first Special Olympics team from Lowry in over 12 years.

In order to qualify for the state competition all five athletes competed in 12 games locally. Coaches Leslie Molina and Sarah Renobaker worked with the athletes during and after school to

prepare for the Olympics in Reno. Although Lowry's athletes only competed in the Bowling Tournament this year, Molina plans to add track this spring and basketball next year. This year the Strikers qualified for state. Next time "we're hoping for nationals," said Molina

The Special Olympics consists of several levels; if teams qualify, they can advance from state competition to nationals. At the National Games in 2006, 3,000 athletes competed from all 50 states, where the top three teams proceeded to the 2007 World Games.

The next summer World Games are set for 2011 in Athens, Greece, where thousands of athletes are expected from all over the world. These Olympics allow those with special needs to cultivate physical and social skills, as well as boost self-esteem.

The Winnemucca Strikers and their coaches found the state competition to be an exciting experience. Watkins, who placed 4th in the singles competition and 3rd in the doubles, recalled re-

ceiving her medals as her favorite moment. "As a coach, it was probably the most rewarding experience of my life," Molina smiled, "it was nice for our kids to have something just for them."

In the singles competition, White, Garcia, and MacDonald each took 3rd place within their respective divisions. During the doubles competition, Langston won 5th place, MacDonald placed 3rd, and Garcia took 2nd.



Courtesy•LESLIE MOLINA

Members of the bowling team.



Courtesy•LESLIE MOLINA

Cody White




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Lady Buckaroos host Invitational Tournament

By Mary Granath

On Thursday December fourth the Lady Bucks defeated Elko 60-49. Morgen Thacker was the team's lead scorer in the game with 22 points, followed by Skylar Estes who contributed 14 points to the score.

The game began with Lowry winning the tip off. One minute later, Darian Black was fouled by a Wooster player and made one of her two free throws giving Lowry the lead. Two minutes later Estes scored her first points of the night on a lay-up. Thacker followed this only seconds later with another lay-up, bringing the score to 5-0.



Esmeralda Aguilar•THE BRAND
Amaya Criswell defends a Hug player.

Wooster responded to Lowry's early lead by being called on traveling numerous times in the first three minutes resulting in a number of turnovers for Lowry.

Thacker added four more points to Lowry's score before Wooster made their first points which were followed by Thacker sinking her first of three 3-pointers. By the end of the first quarter Thacker had scored her second 3-point-

er and point guard Amaya Criswell had given Lowry an extra five points, one of which was earned on a technical foul.

The second quarter started off with Thacker making her third 3-pointer of the night. Wooster scored twice in the following minutes before Estes went in for another lay-up making the score 23-11. Wooster was fouled four times before the quarter ended resulting in a number of free throws that brought the score to 25-22. Estes added three more points to the board before the half, one from a free throw, bringing the score to 28-22 at the half.

The Bucks went into the third quarter determined to come out on top. Wooster added 12 points to their score before the quarter's end but post Darian Black stepped in for Lowry with three consecutive lay-ups. Black's eight points, combined with another lay-up from Estes, sent the game in to the final quarter 38-35.

The fourth quarter opened with a lay-up from Wooster but Black quickly countered with a lay-up of her own. Thacker added two points to Lowry's score with two free throws, and Estes swiftly followed with yet another lay-up. Desirae Lemm added an additional four points, and Lowry gained an extra ten points from free throws, five of which were made by Criswell.

The game ended with a final score of 60-49 and Lowry advanced to the next round of the tournament. The Lady Buck's fell to the Hug Hawks and The Elko Indians in the next two games placing them fourth in the rankings overall.

BOWLS

Orange Bowl-Virginia Tech over Cincinnati; I don't like the match-up at all. Virginia Tech is starting to turn it on right when they need to be. Besides the two previous Orange Bowl appearances, Virginia Tech has made three trips to the Sugar Bowl. Frank Beamer's Special Teams are going to win this game.

BCS Champs-Florida over Oklahoma; Florida is going to take it, but it's going to be a close game. Oklahoma's Head Coach Bob Stoops is going to do well, but Florida's Urban Meyer is going to do a better job. It's going to be sick.

To see the rest of the coaches' picks visit The Brand online at www.humboldt.k12.nv.us/lhs/thebrand



Al Diaz/Miami Herald/MCT

Florida QB Tim Tebow sets up to pass against Alabama during the SEC Championship game. Coach Cabatbat is picking Tebow's Gators to win the national title.

The chemistry you don't learn in science



Courtesy•WINNAD

Lowry's 2008-2009 Boys basketball team.
By Amy Balagna

The Lowry Varsity Boy's basketball team has a completely new look with only two returning players. Jamie Walton and Freddy Bernabe have come back to play for the Bucks.

Aside from Walton and Bernabe the team consists of 11 other players. Although league games have not even begun, the Bucks have lost August Ramasco and Collin Messerly to injuries for the time being.

Even with so many new faces the Varsity team seems to be a very comfortable group. "We have chemistry," said junior Zeb Teichert, a newly-instated player on the team. With previous experience playing together on JV, the new and old players have blended together nicely.

The team is hopeful that the upcoming season will bring better results than last season. "Our goals are to win the league, go to zone, win zone, go to state and win state," Walton stated

boldly.

The Bucks played their first game on December 2, a near miss with a 12 point loss to Elko.

"We've had our ups and downs, kind of like an elevator," said Walton regarding the game. The Bucks will next play at home when they face Wooster High School on December 20.

In addition to Walton, Bernabe, Ramasco, Messerly and Teichert, the team consists of David Eastman, Brandon Eldodt, Joey Dendary, Gino Parolin, Joel Mendoza, Jerry Jackich, Andrew Stephen, and Danny Westfall.



Amy Balagna•THE BRAND
Jamie Walton defends an Elko player in the Bucks' season opener.

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Valerie Snijman: from South Africa to Winnemucca

By Chloe Rusconi

"I am not afraid of anything, I have been in some scary situations in South Africa, but ever since I was a child I was not afraid of anything," said Valerie Snijman, an aide at Lowry. She was in a private library in South Africa when the janitor let a man inside. He told her that he needed a lift and some money. She told him that her money was at her house and she lived 72 miles away. He wanted her to go to her house to get money but she kept her head and kept cool. By doing so, she was able to talk him out of it.

Mrs. Val is what the students call her at Lowry. Three and a half years is how long she has been a teacher, two at Lowry. "I was eager to see students getting on and improving themselves," said Mrs. Val on why she became an aide. She

would like to see students in uniforms if she had to change something about Lowry. In South African schools the students all wore uniforms because it makes everyone equal.

Mrs. Val was born in Durban, South Africa, which sits on the east coast. It is a big city, much bigger than Winnemucca. "I don't miss South Africa at all, I've been back three times, I love Winnemucca, I only miss the ocean," Mrs. Val said. She came to the States thirteen years ago. She and her husband were on a mission for their church and came to live with her son-in-law in Winnemucca. The most important thing in her life is church. It keeps her grounded.

She doesn't own a television because she says it is a time waster. Her favorite thing to do is read books; she likes to read about anthropology. One of her habits is eating potato chips, especially the crinkled kind. In ten years she sees herself retired, and maybe traveling. She would like to go to Ireland because her ancestors are from Ireland.



Courtesy Photo • WINNADA
Valerie Snijman

Hispanic Organization holds open house

By Katy Granath

Four girls murmured frantically, discussing the arranged speakers, the food, and the night's agenda. Not everything was perfectly in place, but they'd work out the kinks. Mr. Gibson hovered nearby, calm, cool, and collected, allowing his students to take charge and solve the few minor problems without his help. Suddenly the group scattered- the Hispanic Organization's Open House was about to begin.

Laura Ochoa-Mata, Elizabeth Aguilar, Lorena Arias, and Gloria Avila all contributed to putting together an open house for Lowry's Hispanic students and parents. Advisors Gibson and Mercado stood by to see that all went well. The event was meant to help open a communication pathway between administrators and teachers at Lowry to Hispanic students and their families.

The open house commenced when Ochoa-Mata introduced each member of the administration staff present. Mrs. Debbie Watts, Mr. Byron Jeppsen, and Mr. Doc Welter from Lowry, and Mr. Kelly Novi from the Superintendent's office each expressed his or her appreciation toward the students and their parents. "I think this is a wonderful opportunity for us to meet and talk to each other," Watts said, "so you can meet us and we can hear any concerns

you might have."

Novi specifically thanked the parents present for taking an interest in their children's education. Jeppsen, speaking in Spanish, also offered his support to parents, saying, "My door is always open." Several speakers spoke in Spanish, so Mercado, Arias, and junior Brenda Ramirez took turns translating into English.

After the administrators spoke, a number of teachers were introduced. Mrs. McGibbon, a chemistry teacher, and Mrs. Ludlow, an English teacher, were both particularly concerned with students graduating on time and proceeded to update parents on the new requirements for graduation from Lowry.

In addition to the teachers and administrators, the Hispanic Organization had also recruited several Hispanic students from Lowry to speak about their experiences in high school. Both Juan Ochoa-Mata and Cintia Aguilar reported that their experiences as freshmen at Lowry had been wholly positive. Seniors Esmeralda and Elizabeth Aguilar discussed the changes senior year brings. Ramirez, a junior, described her experience at Lowry as well.

Following these personal testimonies, various speakers covered topics such as the attendance policy and parent involvement, and Lowry graduate

Luis Ruiz informed the audience of his overall experience at Lowry as a whole.

The chief motivation for the open house was to urge parent involvement. Parents were taught how to use Power-



Katy Granath • THE BRAND

Left-Right: Members of the Hispanic Organization, Lorena Arias, Esmeralda Aguilar, Marco Solis, Laura Ochoa-Mata, and Elizabeth Aguilar.

School in the hopes that it would help them stay more connected with their child's education. With so many topics covered, and especially with the PowerSchool tutorial, the night was an unquestionable success. "Our Hispanic Organization students are wonderful kids who really want to do their best and want to involve their parents and the community," Mercado said with pride. She has a right to be proud of these ambitious students who are striving to include their parents, despite the difficult barriers language and culture can pose for them.

Daren 'Jack' Briones: 'focus on having fun'

By Jacob Kolkman

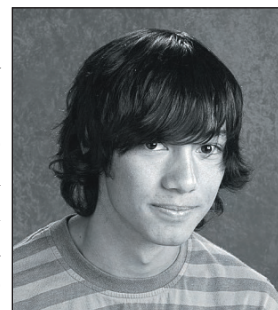
Daren Briones, or Jack as he likes to be called, is one of the most cynical and fun loving seniors at Lowry High School. Daren has been a resident of Winnemucca for many years but before coming to this wonderful little town of ours he lived in Roseburg, Oregon for a while. Daren says they moved just for the sake of change and doesn't even really remember that place.

Daren now lives with his parents, Hector and Stephanie, little sisters Bridget and Jessica and younger brother Warren. When Daren isn't spending time with his loving and caring family he is working at Round Table Pizza. Daren likes to work because he gets no greater satisfaction than out of a hard days work and of course he just loves money. When he isn't working or go-

ing to school Daren relaxes by playing his guitar since his music is his passion, playing games, or being on the internet all day long.

Daren enjoys school on such a level that it would make the hardest working nerd seem like a slacker. His favorite class is Accounting since his favorite teacher Mr. Espinola teaches it. Mr. Espinola is Daren's favorite because he is a good teacher despite the fact that he is old, crusty, and decrepit.

The most important thing in his life, he said, are his vital organs because, "Without them I couldn't really ac-



Courtesy Photo • Winnada
Daren Briones

complish the kinds of things that most people accomplish." Daren doesn't know why, but he just never got along with wide-ruled paper, furbies, or using a toothbrush more than once a day. Out of those three, furbies somehow scare this senior.

Daren is most proud of his girlfriend Casaundra French and his role model BucketHead, since BucketHead makes amazing music and wants people to only like his music and not himself.

Daren doesn't see himself anywhere special in ten years but he did have some advice for others about high school. "Just do enough in high school to get by, but focus on having fun. You will be working for the rest of your life," he says, "so have as much fun as possible while you still can." Wise words from a wise student we are lucky to have at Lowry.

'Shuv It'

By Chloe Rusconi

Up the ramp and into the air, the board leaves your feet, does a 360° turn, reconnects with your feet just as you land on the ground, you have just landed the backside kick flip. Does this sound familiar to you? If you ask a basketball player or a cheerleader they would probably think that you were going crazy, but to a skateboarder it is a difficult trick but everyday term.

"The adrenaline rush when you land a trick makes skateboarding fun," said junior Daniel Lockaby. Sophomore Cameron White said, "It's different than other sports, you can always change it up."

Intrigue is a common reason that many start to skateboard, it's wondering what it's like to land the 360 flip or the shuv it that propels them to head



Courtesy •Cameron White
Cameron White.

to the skate park. Some people just want to have some excitement in their lives; they get bored with the same old routine.

With the skateboard "look," the Fallen clothes and Element shoes, the heavy metal music like Avenged Sevenfold and Atreyu, it's easy to stereotype skateboarders. Lockaby thinks people see skaters as, "the skater punks that do drugs and wear tight pants."

White doesn't care if people stereotype him because he said skateboarding is his thing, and other people have their things. Unlike White, who cares immensely about school and his grades, Lockaby has is different: school comes second and skateboarding comes first. He would rather be skating than sitting at a desk.

Although their priorities differ, the two can agree on one thing: skateboard-



Courtesy Photo •Cameron White

Cameron White, Colton Toblert, Chance Potts, Daniel Lockaby and Clay White with friends at the Winnemucca Skate Park.

ers like to hang out with skateboarders just like cheerleaders tend to hang out with cheerleaders', saying that, Lockaby and White both agree that they have a diverse group of friends, not only skaters. Regardless of whom they hang out with or what they wear, they just want to have fun and skate, whether it being the most important thing in their life or just a hobby.

American All-Star dance team performs in Paris

By Stephanie Hageman



Courtesy Photo
Members of the American All-Star Dance Team in front of the Eiffel Tower.

The City of Lights, fresh crepes, beautiful Seine River, Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral. Eight girls had the chance of experiencing all of these things and much more when they were chosen to travel across the world to Paris, France.

During the beginning of August, the Lowry dance team attended an All Stars dance camp where a number of the dancers were selected to travel to Paris, France. The following Lowry dance team members were selected: Megan Gardella, Elizabeth Aguilar, Kristen Graham, Brandi Brooks, Melanie Vance, Hayley Noble, Sharissa Stevens, Camille Lyon, Rachael Studebaker and Megan Griggs. Camille Lyon and Rachael Studebaker

did not attend the trip. To fundraise for the cost of the trip, 3,000 dollars, the dancers held a Taco Night at Las Margaritas and sold candy and water at parades. The girls left for a twenty-hour trip to Paris on Saturday, November 21. The selected dancers performed at Euro Disney, along with 156 girls from Louisiana, New York and Texas. The group toured sites including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and different cathedrals. "The Eiffel Tower was my favorite," said Sharissa Stevens. They also took a boat ride, saw the Statue of

Liberty, and went shopping.

One of the differences they noticed is that in Paris there are very few cars, the majority of the people ride scooters or bikes. "They dress really nice there," said Stevens. "Their food was really good; waffles and crepes were my favorite."

"Paris was just amazing," said Elizabeth Aguilar "Really good experience." The group returned on November 28th and even though they missed Thanksgiving they returned with memories that will last a lifetime.

A Christmas wish list

By Camille Lyon



The Christmas season has sprung upon us once again. If you did not complete all of your Christmas shopping on Black Friday, then you should hurry

and decide on the gifts you feel your friends and family will need. Other than new boots, clothes, the latest iPods and technology, why not consider the non-materialistic needs of this community. The economy is in a recession; one thing we can now try is putting our needs on a wish list and hoping someone will look upon them and surprise us with Christmas spirit.

In Winnemucca we may have many attractions such as rodeos and motorcycle rallies. These events are entertaining but they are not teen focused. However, we could try new things. I wish Winnemucca would have more teen friendly events, such as public dances or any other activities not involving cheesy, childish activities. Many teens improvise and find other activities themselves. Whether it is saran-wrapping and tagging a car or playing fugitive late at night, we need some variety to keep us entertained.

Winnemucca has a local movie theatre and a bowling alley for teens to hang out at, but these activities become old and lack the exciting thrill they used to have when we were younger. The lack of fun, safe activities push teens to do things others may not approve of, such as drinking and partying. Most teens want to have fun, and we just need some fresh activities in this town to give it a hip, new feel.

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Academic Challenge (Quiz Bowl) trying to improve on last year's second place finish

By Chloe Rusconi

Most people would be insulted if they were called a nerd, but the members of the Quiz Bowl team wear the moniker like a badge of honor.

"The Quiz Bowl is for a bunch of nerdy students to show off their brain power!" said senior Kole Kracaw.

As in any athletic competition, the team competes against other schools in its region such as Battle Mountain, Spring Creek, and Dayton. Since only seven students are used for a competition they must qualify to compete.

The competition consists of rounds of questions that carry values depend-



Ron Espinola•THE BRAND

Quiz Bowl members and advisor Mr. Larry Storm.

ing on their difficulty. Students must be able to answer questions such as, "What event led to the transfer of power over

India from the British East India Company to the British government?" Students have five seconds to answer most questions, but they get thirty seconds for math questions.

At last year's State Tournament, Lowry was the runner-up to Dayton. The team was disappointed but wants to improve this year.

They practice every Thursday in Mr. Storm's room. Seven students get to compete so scores are kept for practice. The top seven get to go with the team to State. "You can't study the right an-

swers because it is not a given test," said junior Jackson Gratwohl.

Newcomers can get a little overwhelmed by the questions. "I like it, but it's hard," freshman Ryan Kracaw said. "What I would like to get out of Quiz Bowl is knowledge and friends," said newcomer Ryan Kracaw.

This year the students on the team are; Kole Kracaw, Ryan Kracaw, Sophie Kristof, Lindsay Tattersall, Erin Tattersall, Tim Palmer, Brett Schaffner, Mishell Alarcon, Jackson Gratwohl and Johnny Cooper III.

If you were wondering the answer to the question above, it is the Sepoy Rebellion.

NHS inducts new members

By Stephanie Hageman

On Thursday, December 11 Lowry's Torch Chapter of National Honor Society inducted its newest members.

Mrs. Michelle Doyle was the keynote speaker. She spoke about the book *This I Believe*. She believes our generation is going to make a better future.

Mr. Doug Conner played guitar and sang "Forever Young," by Bob Dylan.

Current members: Kole Kracaw, Hayley Noble, Samantha Buttrum and Sophie Kristof explained the importance of each of the pillars of NHS. The pillars are character, scholarship, leadership, and service.

To be eligible for the National Honor Society students need a 3.5 GPA, two letters of recommendation from

anyone who is not an LHS staff member, and to write an essay about a given topic. Their character is also evaluated by Lowry staff members.

After students become members of NHS they need to maintain the GPA of 3.5 and have 400 character, scholarship, and leadership points. Three hours of individual community service is also required.

Torch Chapter Inductees

Elaina Barta, Elisa Higbee, Shane Bell, Martin Iroz, Dillon Bryan, Emelia Legarza, Miranda Buttram, Jessica Lindsay, Gaudy Casteneda, Collin Messerly, Tyler Cox, Terrell Messerly, David Eastman, Anders Pace, Carlos Esparza, Mitch Pollock, Arline Franco, Alex Schumacher, Militza Galvan, Erin Tattersall, Noel Garcia, Jordan Tucker, Jacob Gibson, Dean Vetter, Mary Granath, Patrick York, Luis Gutierrez, Josh Young, Desiree Hicks.



Courtesy•WINNADA
Michelle Doyle

Math-Science Club toy drive

By Mallorie Leal

The Math and Science Club collected toys for underprivileged children.

Each member of the club had to bring a girl's toy and a boy's. Math and Science club had the most toys out of everyone, according to President Jake Manzo.

While the club's main activities deal with math and science. One of their greatest accomplishments is the toy drive.



Ron Espinola•THE BRAND
Adam Surfoss and Jake Manzo with toys collected by the Math and Science Club.

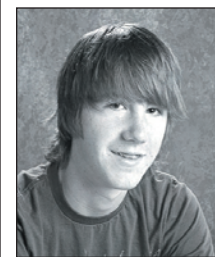
The club's advisor is Mr. Larry Storm. "We also have Mr. Storm, nothing can beat him" stated by both Manzo and vice president Adam Surfoss.

Lowry Voices

By Amy Balagna

With the school district and the school facing budget cuts, what would you cut to save money and why?

Alex Schumacher, Junior



Courtesy•WINNADA
Alex Schumacher

"I would probably cut some of the sports teams' traveling. I would cut spending on our sports teams for traveling that's outside of our division."

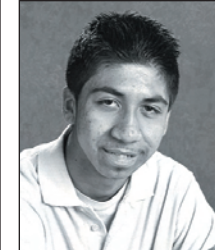
Molly Nelson, Senior



Courtesy•WINNADA
Molly Nelson

"All I know is that I would keep the classes that help later in life, like the computer classes and the math classes and things that would be more needed later. Maybe something that nobody was really interested in."

Erik Viera, Sophomore



Courtesy•WINNADA
Erik Viera

"I think it would be the teachers, because there are lots of teachers right now and we don't need that much."

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Great Eight: The best Christmas movies

By Katy Granath

"Christmas Vacation" (1989)

Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) is planning for a big family Christmas, but what he'll get is Christmas chaos with a houseful of crazy relatives and a string of hilarious incidents.

"A Christmas Story" (1983)

It's Christmas in the '40's and nine-year-old Ralphie Parker is convinced he can't live without a Red Ryder BB gun, but everyone he asks tells him he'll shoot his eye out.

"Elf" (2003)

Buddy the elf (Will Ferrell) is not an elf, so he sets out to find his real family. He doesn't fit in too well, but he brings with him all the Christmas cheer only an elf played by Will Ferrell can induce.

"Home Alone" (1990)

When his family leaves to spend Christmas in France, they accidentally forget Kevin (Macaulay Culkin), who has to protect his house from bumbling burglars by himself.

"The Nightmare Before Christmas" (1993)

Tim Burton's Christmas tale finds Jack Skellington, who has kidnapped Santa, planning to take over Christmas. Unfortunately, his version of the holiday is a little creepier than most.

"Miracle on 34th Street" (1947)

Kris Kringle, the new Santa at Macy's department store, claims to be the real Santa Clause. When he is institutionalized, a lawyer takes on the case in the spirit of Christmas.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" (1983)

The Herdmans smoke, steal, lie, and bully; they're the terrors of the town and they've just landed every major role in the church Christmas pageant.

"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (1966)

The Grinch can't stand the idea of a merry Christmas so, disguised as Santa, he tries to rob Whoville of its Christmas cheer by stealing their gifts and decorations.

'Quantum of Solace': Everything you want from James Bond

By Katy Granath

Tuxedos, martinis, and golden guns belong to the world of the dashing James Bond we know and love.

This is not classic Bond.

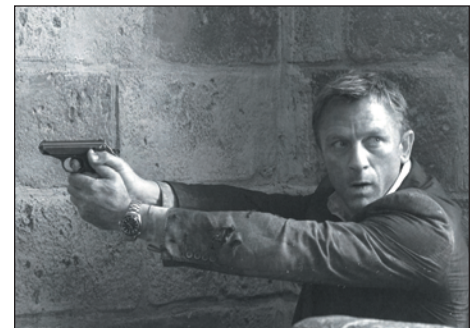
Connery, Moore, and Brosnan were suave and gentlemanly, and infamously womanizing; Daniel Craig's Bond is a rough and ragged representation of the MI6 agent before he became charming or conceived of his infamous "Bond, James Bond" line. A gritty backdrop and a bitter, brooding Bond allow the audience to glimpse the darker side of the British secret agent we once thought we knew. Although I once had misgivings about Craig's being cast, his performance in "Casino Royale" last year and now "Quantum" have proven him worthy of this newly renovated Bond.

"Quantum of Solace" opens mere moments after "Casino" leaves off. Bond had been enamored with lover Vesper Lynd (Eva Green), who then betrayed her agent boyfriend and committed suicide in front of him by drowning herself. Filled with searing rage at Vesper's betrayal, but also deeply troubled

by his true love's death, Bond is now smitten with sweet Revenge. Driven by his anger, Bond sets out to get even with the crooks responsible for Vesper's betrayal and death, and he'll kill anyone stupid enough to get in his way. Judi Dench plays "M", Bond's sensible boss, who finds it increasingly difficult to control an agent who has suddenly and violently turned rogue. Naturally, Bond's vengeance is served quite nobly in the end, and naturally his wrath is appeased after shooting, throttling, and killing as many thugs as he can. Just as naturally Bond meets mysterious and angst-filled Russian beauty, Camille (Olga Kurylenko), whom he can't fall in love with because of Vesper-baggage, but must aid anyway because she's a damsel in distress out for the same revenge Bond is looking for.

Although "Quantum" has been critically acclaimed for being action-packed and "gritty" and "raw", I find myself missing the old Bond a bit, with his "Bond, James Bond" and his famous martini, shaken not stirred, which have been noticeably absent from the new films. "Quantum" does provide a

second look at the womanizing James Bond of previous films, allowing a more real, more human James Bond



Courtesy•Susie Allnutt/Sony Pictures Entertainment/MCT

to emerge. Craig's performances have truly been top-notch, as he exhibits his expansive range of talent. Whether he's being angry and smoldering, or seductively chivalrous, or killing someone in cold blood, Craig can pull it off. In fact, Craig's emotional Bond proves the most interesting aspect of "Quantum" as the story, which centers around a political message, never gets better than boring. But seriously, it has a boat chase, a car chase, evil villains, sultry women, fancy cars, big explosions, and a good-lookin' hero- what more could you want from James Bond?

SHE teacher writing book about education experience

By Rachelle Dennis

In addition to teaching, Janhunen plans on becoming an author.

"I'm kind of to the spot in my career where I want to be in the classroom and I want to work with kids, but I want to

work with adults and other teachers."

She has been a teacher at Sonoma Heights Elementary School for 16 years, and prior to that she spent three years teaching early childhood at the Department of Human Services.

Janhunen loves to teach and doesn't know what she would do without it; some of her best memories involve watching kids learn.

"In the first grade, it seems like one day a kid can't read and the next day he or she can," Janhunen continued, "I enjoy seeing the kids not want to put a book down. It makes me feel good when I see the kids reading."

Janhunen realized she wanted to

teach when she had her first child. "If I teach one kid at a time how to read then it will help," Janhunen said, "Think about it, if I ended up teaching 300 students how to read by the end of the school year, I would consider that helping out the world."

Janhunen added, "Every year I found myself saying the same things over and over to new teachers of methods that work. Then Jenny Cunningham, who runs the mentoring program, said 'you should write a book.' I

thought maybe I should."

The idea of the book is how to empower students to guide their own learning. Each chapter begins with a story involving her students' experiences.

Cunningham has been helping her with the book. Janhunen writes and emails her ideas to her and then she edits and sends them back to Janhunen.

Janhunen is hoping to complete the book in two years. Of the ten chapters planned, six have been completed.



Rachelle Dennis•THE BRAND
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Drama shines in performance of 'Frog Prince of Spamalot'

By Esmeralda Aguilar

Lowry Drama's first production was unveiled on Wednesday, November 19. After weeks of hard work by both the Stagecraft and Drama classes, the realization of the play was completed. The play's title, "The Frog Prince of Spamalot", promised fun and entertainment for the night.

The plot followed a frog named Hyronomous A. Frog, played by Brad Pearce, who wants to become a human. After being informed by a warlock that, in order to become a human, he must be kissed by a maiden, Hyronomous sets off to the land of Spamalot. Hyronomous in the hope of finding a princess who can break the spell. Yet, in the midst of his adventure, Hyronomous discovers that his mission will not be as easy as he thought.

In the play, only one person is able to look past the frog's ugly, clumsy appearance. Delphinium (Caitlen Thompson), a handmaiden of the princesses of Spamalot befriends Hyronomous. In the end, it is a kiss from Delphinium that breaks the spell.

Lindsey Steepleton, who played Princess Gladiola, said of the play, "I just thought it went really well; we had

a great ensemble of new actors and the performance was awesome."

The crowd's reaction to each performance of the play confirmed Steepleton's remark. Some crowd-pleasing moments included the dinner scene, in which Hyronomous pretends to be an aunt of the princesses and accidentally puts a pie in Princess Gladiola's face, and the rap/dance scene done by Sir Lancelot Pancelot (played by Joey Lester). In this scene, Pancelot raps about how incredibly brave he is,

while the castle's waiter (Ronnie Joe Schofield) beatboxes.

Stagecraft and Drama teacher, Mrs. Kennedy, was highly satisfied with the outcome of the play. "Anytime the crowd reacts it's good," stated Kennedy. She impressed with the performance because, even though most of the actors were new, it went exceptionally well. Kennedy has big expectations for the next act and hopes to see a show even better than this one.



Jason Wilson, Bradley Pearce, Ronnie Joe Schofield, Justin Rice, and Joey Lester.



Esmeralda Aguilar•THE BRAND
Bradley Pearce and Shauna Bunch.



Esmeralda Aguilar•THE BRAND
Joey Lester throws down some moves.

Left from Center: The King of Rock 'n' Roll?

By Jacob Kolkman



When you hear rock n roll you usually think of Elvis Presley in Vegas, with his shaking hips and bright rhinestone jumpsuits. Most people contribute the creation of rock and roll to Elvis. The supposed King of Rock 'n' Roll was a little late getting on the rock 'n' roll wagon; Elvis may be credited as the first person to bring rock and roll into the mainstream but he wasn't the creator of this classic genre that has been influencing American culture for so many decades.

While rock 'n' roll did originate in the south it didn't originate with Elvis Presley. A group of underappreciated rockabilly and blues musicians should be credited for the creation of rock. Musicians such as Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, and Muddy Waters created the foundation for rock 'n' roll in the late fifties and early sixties. Elvis did influence future musicians like John

Lennon and other artists of the British Invasion of the sixties. However, Otis Day, B.B. King, and other blues musicians influenced bands like The Rolling Stones, The Who, and The Kinks. British youngsters, especially those who had grown up during Europe's reconstruction after WWII, strongly identified with the pain and sorrow of the blues. That pain and sorrow even convinced a few of those teens to pick up an instrument and become some of the most influential artists of our time.

You might find this hard to believe, but some say Elvis might have only written a few of his songs; others say he didn't write any of them. Rather, his songs were written by musicians like Chuck Berry and other artists who were not credited with their songs. I call this a "Nirvana Complex"; in the early 1990's hair metal was dying and grunge was on its way up. Most people contribute the death of hair metal solely to Nirvana for being the "first" grunge band. While they were the first

to bring it into the mainstream, just as Elvis was the first popularize rock, Soundgarden, Pearl Jam, and Alice in Chains had been releasing albums a few years before Nirvana. Elvis was really a marketing tool for record companies so they could promote a new form of music that was popular in the Deep South. The record companies thought if they could get a white guy to sing rock 'n' roll, then maybe rich, white kids around the country would buy the albums and the record companies would profit. The music wasn't selling because African Americans were advertising it; and it wasn't until Elvis became the face of rock 'n' roll that the music became popular nationwide.

So there it is, the truth behind the king of rock 'n' roll. While Elvis was an influential person in rock 'n' roll, some people are too quick as to call him the king. Go buy some old blues and rockabilly albums and experience the true origins of this great and noble genre.

Old School

