

Northview Valhalla

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Covina, CA 91722

PSAT Recognizes Valenzuela As Academic Scholar

By **BIANCA DE LA ROSA**

Jessica Valenzuela is a hard working, intelligent student whose hard work has paid off. She is now known as an academic scholar. By tak-

felt great to be recognized as a scholar because this recognition qualifies her to receive money from colleges and

looks good when applying to universities.

The University of Nebraska Lincoln recently

offered her a full paid tuition based on the recognition.

Also USC will pay half of her tuition if she is admitted.



ing the PSAT all students automatically are qualified to enter competition for National Merit Scholarships. Valenzuela was one of the 3,400 people chosen from a poll of 140,000 to receive this scholarship. All this was made possible by scoring high on the PSAT. In addition, because Valenzuela is Hispanic, she is known as a Hispanic Scholar. "I was very happy when I learned I was a National Hispanic Scholar because I was scared that I hadn't heard anything from the college board and had given up hope on receiving a scholarship," she replied when asked her reactions to receiving this honor. Valenzuela also stated that she

Gray Takes Over Pageant World

By **KRYSTLE GARCIA-GIBBONS**

Who knew that here at Northview we have our very own beauty queen? We really do and she is a freshman, Jordan Gray. Gray just may have gotten into pageants one year ago, but she is definitely dominating the scene. She has a few titles under her belt and is striving for even bigger ones.

Gray originally wanted to pursue a modeling career, but instead chose the pageant world. She stated, "I did pageants because it's something nobody I know has attempted." She said that she would always watch the Miss USA Pageant on television and had always wanted to be in pageants, but did not start competing until April 2004. Even though Gray has only been competing for a little more than half a year, she has won many titles including Miss Jr. Teen Covina 2004, Spirit of America 2004, Miss Photogenic 2004, American Coed State Finalist 2004,

Top Talent, Top Interview, and Top Evening/Sports wear.

Her goal is to do the Covina preliminaries that lead up to Miss California and Miss USA. She stated that her dream title would be Miss Galaxy because it is difficult to win and you go through a lot to get there. The next pageant she will be competing in is Miss California Achieve which is in November.

She has her favorite and least favorite parts about competing. She likes the fact that you get cover shots for your portfolio. She said, "My

favorite category to compete in is evening wear because you get to choose your dress and walk along a stage." She said that the downside comes after evening wear because that is when she has to wait backstage until the points are tallied up.

Gray stated, "When on stage it goes by so fast, all that goes through your head is 'smile, don't trip, and hit your mark.'" She also mentioned that all of the contestants are nice and you become friends with most of them. Her advice to anyone who wants to get into pageants is not to be shy! When asked who is most supportive she said, "My parents because even though they didn't want me to compete in any, they were still there for me."

Seems as if Gray is very much on her way to bigger titles. Just think that if she does reach her goals she might be on TV in the Miss USA or even Miss Galaxy pageant.



Sox Break ‘Bambino’s Curse’

By PAUL GONZALES

In an amazing comeback, the Boston Red Sox pulled off the impossible. Down three games to none, the Sox came back and won four straight games against the tough and talented New York Yankees. Once the Yankees won three games, everyone thought the Red Sox were done, except for the Red Sox. They knew that this was one of the biggest rivalries in sports today. In game seven, Boston went two to nothing in the second inning. In the fourth inning Johnny Damon was up with the bases loaded. The first pitch that he saw was in his wheel house because he smoked it into the stands in right field. Just like that it was six to nothing, Boston went on to win 10-3, making his-

tory by finally beating the Yankees. This was their first World Series win since 1918 when they traded Babe Ruth to the Yankees, thus bringing about “the curse of the Bambino.”

After the Red Sox made history, there was a terrible accident that happened in downtown Boston. There was a big celebration and things got out of control. People started throwing beer bottles and one of them hit a young woman in the head and knocked her out cold. It must have hit her really hard because she never woke up. The ambulance rushed her to the hospital, where she died on arrival.



Nation Faces Vaccine Shortage

By MARIA ARCE

On October 5, the British health authorities announced that they would be suspending the license of a key maker of the influenza vaccine.

The company’s name is Chiron Corp. Chiron was responsible for about half of America’s influenza vaccine. The shortage of flu shots is due to some vaccination tainting that occurred early in September. Chiron believed that they would be able to make more vaccine, however, they were unable to do so because of the suspension of their license.

“It is with profound regret that we will be unable

to meet public health needs this influenza season,” said Pien, president, CEO, and chairman of the board of Chiron.

The U.S. will begin rationing the shots, and those most likely to be impacted with the flu virus will be receiving them. That means that children ranging from infants to six years old and senior citizens will most likely get vaccinated.

The flu kills about 36,000 people each year and causes 114,000 to be hospitalized. During this flu season, it is good to take care of yourself.

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Team America Blows Into Action

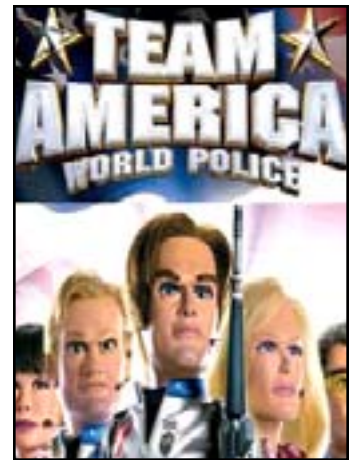
By COURTNEY WOODMAN

Brought to you by the creators of *South Park*, *Team America: World Police* is a new action packed movie about a squad of heroes who fight terrorists. They recruit a Broadway actor, Gary, as an undercover operative. *Team America* is inspired by the old "Thunderbirds" puppet sci-fi adventure TV show. Creators of the movie, Parker and Stone, take joy in pushing the limits of comedy. But are they pushing too far? They borrow the format to mock the Iraq war and blown up Hollywood


movies such as *Con Air* and *Armageddon*. That is where much of the controversy comes in. Stone says, "For us, it's a way to think about all the emotions behind the politics." In the movie, Gary represents all the emotions of people's feelings toward America's role in the world. The two main questions he faces are "Are you proud?" or "Are you ashamed?"

Another issue that creates controversy in the movie is the stereotypes. Stone and Parker basically divided the world population into three

groups. The first group is "sissies" represented by Hollywood stars such as Tim Robbins and Michael Moore. Then come the "jerks" who are made up of hard-charging "My country right or wrong" nationalists. Last are the "psychos," basically people who are terrorists, dictators and criminals. In *Team America* jerks need the sissies to keep them in line, and the sissies need the jerks to protect them from the psychos. Sounds interesting! So you can see where much of the controversy comes from. Overall the



movie is meant to provoke people, regardless of their politics.



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New School Systems For California?

By DANIELLE ARTEA

School districts all over the nation have adopted a new system to fight high school dropout rates, very low test scores, and truancy in high schools. The remedy is more scaled down schools, or facilities that have cut down student population levels. There are 41 states that have already built such "learning academies" backed by the Bill Gates Foundation. The basic approach of the scaled down

high schools is to promote a sense of unity in which the students attend classes with the same people and teachers for four years. This would help to promote teachers giving individual attention to their students and help the students to feel more comfortable in their environment; thus improving their academic and social skills. Chicago and New York City have improved their graduation rates since converting to the

system. California's high school students have just recently shown to be unprepared for college with a rate of 22% ready to take college English and 55% ready for college math. Sacramento is one California city that has improved test scores since the school districts have reformed to smaller high schools.

But seemingly good news always has a bad side. The schools in Lebanon, Oregon have four district academics dedicated to one subject and scheduling difficulties. Finding locations and "suitable" teachers was also an obstacle. Some students missed the wider course selections of their old high schools, saying that the estab-

lished academies, "career-tracked" them with narrow class choices such as biological sciences, physical sciences, information and technology, or social systems. One 16 year old junior lamented, "I don't think it is fair that 9th graders have to make their career choice now. In a couple of years they might not want to be a scientist. High school is supposed to be a time to have choices." To add more stress on the students, they would have to take courses outside of their schools due to the lack of space. Scaled down facilities seem to serve as idealistic experiments that can miserably fail or replace the old systems of the past.

Are You Perfect?

By BREANNA KELLER

When you think of being perfect, you might think of body image; but in this case we are dealing with academics and the price it takes to be perfect in the eyes of those admissions officers accepting students into their colleges. Each year colleges change their requirements making it a little harder to be accepted.

Student GPA (grade point average) is becoming more important to colleges each

day, making applying early an option only for a selected number of students.

The colleges are now raising their standards. It seems as if they want you to be perfect or else you will not be accepted. Colleges these days look for students with a high GPA, good SAT scores, and an impressive number of extra curricular activities such as sports and clubs.

It seems they are looking for perfect students, which should not be the case



Clubs Get Into Swing Of Things

By YOYCE PICHARDO

Now that the school year is really underway, most clubs on campus have gotten into the swing of things. The Environmental Club went to Azusa Canyon to do Watershed Restorations with the San Gabriel Valley Water Council and Los Angeles National forest rangers. On their trip they planted trees and collected native seeds. They also had a bake sale at Report Card Night to raise money to donate as a charity gift at the end of the year.

The Spanish Club will be having a candy sale fundraiser for to supplement the cost of a trip to Magic Mountain at the end of the year.

For those of you who are interested in science, check out their website to see everything that is going on.

As for Bible Club, they are raising money for Operation Christmas Child, and the shoebox gift for underprivileged children.

AVID has been visiting various colleges such as UC Riverside, La Verne University, UCI, UCLA, and the Claremont Colleges. They soon will be designing t-shirts for their club and will be taking a trip to San Diego.

It is never too late to join any of these clubs, so come out and have some fun.

Should fast food companies be blamed for America's obesity?

Edwin Martinez, 11- "Of course! If it weren't for those appealing fast food campaigns everyone would have a six-pack just like me."

Candice Castro, 12- "I guess it can be blamed on the campaigning, but obese people would eat anyway, regardless of the ads."

Nick Robinson, 12- "The fast food companies shouldn't be blamed because it is the consumer's problem, not the company's."

Daryl Huynh, 10- "They are to blame, but not fully, because it's their choice to eat it! Companies shouldn't be blamed for American's obesity because that's just dumb!"

Elizabeth Vergara, 10-

Of course they're not to blame! Yes, the food is great, but it's the people that eat it that are responsible for their own obesity."

Joceyln Varela, 9- "Yes and no. One reason is we have freedom of choice. We could eat something healthy or make it instead of going to fast food places. But it's also their fault because they make us want it by commercials and how they advertise."

Emily Tobias, 9- "No! Fast food companies know what they're putting in their fast food. If people are too lazy to buy their own food and cook it then it's their problem. Americans know what they're eating. If they want to be fat it's their fault.

There is no one else to blame but the people themselves."

Stephanie Reily, 10- "Yes and no. No, because people are responsible. Yet yes, because fast food is all over and people eat what they see most."

Brian Armento, 9- "No, it's the people's fault for spending so much freaking money because they are always hungry. It's their own fault for always having to eat so much. They could choose not to eat!"

Alexis Smith, 11- "No, us fatties choose to eat that stuff."

Shannon Yarber, 12- "Would you sue a grocery store for selling candy because it gave children cav-

ities? No, people are responsible for how much food they consume. Fast food restaurants do not force people to eat jumbo size meals, and should not be blamed for obesity caused by overeating."

PJ Martinez, 10- "No, because people have the freedom if they want to become fat or fit. I mean who is going to blame the place they pay for food and say they're the reason they're fat?!"

Ricardo Rosales, 12- "No! The individual should be responsible for America's obesity. The individual should know when their health is in harm's way and stop themselves from increasing the level of obesity."

Fake Lunch Passes Flood Campus

By CORINNA RAMOS

Lunch passes are the one thing that most students here at NHS look forward to as upperclassmen. It is a way to get away from school and hang out at the local restaurants with friends. Lunch passes are a privilege that many students are denied because of grades or behavior. But how do some students who do not qualify still get off campus? The answer: fake lunch passes. To think of fake lunch passes reminds us of movies and T.V., but it has become a shocking reality on the NHS campus that makes this "privilege" available to all.

One student who once made fake lunch passes agreed to conduct an anonymous interview with the *Valhalla*. When the student was asked why he started making the phony passes he responded, "The number of people who wanted them and couldn't get them because of grades is what made me decide to make them." When asked who most of his customers were, he stated, "Originally they were for my close friends. But as people started finding out about me, I noticed the number of 'friends' I had, started going up, so I just gave them to any-



one."

The student was also asked if he made a profit out of them. He answered, "I'm not a greedy person, I gave them away. Some people

handed me money anyhow."

So the anonymous student was just helping to give lunch freedom to those that were denied it. Many students on campus have been making lunch passes, and they seem to be identical to the real thing.

The long awaited question of how they were made, was finally answered and the student replied, "I make them on my computer with some paint program. Then I print them out on adhesive paper and cut them out. Pretty simple as long as you have a computer."

Get Up To Date On Northview

By CHRIS DURAN

•The price of Welch's soda in the student store has been raised from 60 cents to 75 cents.

•Northview's first car show has been postponed from November to April.

•The "no hat" policy has been altered. Students are now allowed to wear plain black, white, and gold hats or hats with a Northview logo.

•According to ASB, marquee messages and space will be available to buy soon.

•Recently the library added new Stephen King and Mary Higgins Clark novels. In addition, there are new biographies and poem books. In the near future the library plans to add more poetry titles due to popular demand by students.

•According to Dr. Sheehan, Northview's API (Academic Performance Index) score is 662, a growth of more than 20 points from the previous year. Over the past seven years, Northview's

API has grown more than 100 points and the school has been invited to apply to be a California Distinguished School.

•Carol Hernandez was elected the new PTA president. This will be her fourth year as an active member of PTA.

•ATTENTION ALL SENIORS: the last day to apply for early admission to a California State University will be November 30.

•Northview High School

is starting an Alumni Club. Although there is an existing Reunion Hall on the school website, the Alumni Club will contribute to the school and community. This year marks the 45th anniversary of Northview's establishment.

•The dates of the Winter Formal and Sadie Hawkins dances have been pushed back a week.

•Monica Aguilar was crowned Homecoming Queen at this year's Homecoming game.

Yarber Gives Back To Community

By RICHARD LECHUGA

Unlike most teens who spend their spare time going to the beach and hanging out with friends, senior Shannon Yarber spends her time working in hospitals, church, and at her favorite college, USC. Over the past four years of high school, Yarber has managed to accumulate more than 300 hours of community service. In the summer of 2000-2001, Yarber completed more than 100 hours of service at the LAC-USC Medical Center where she worked with adult and children patients, as well as doctors, performing duties such as making beds and transporting patients to X-ray.

Yarber also spent a year as a Sunday School teacher at her church where she worked with children ages three to five.

Her most recent work

was this past summer where she accumulated more than 120 hours at the research lab at USC. "I got to do my own research which gave me hands on experience with all the things I learned in AP biology and I attended countless conferences and presentations, learning more and more about the sciences and the new developments other researchers have made toward cures for diseases." Yarber was able to participate in the program because her mother works in the lab at the university and because she performed well on the AP biology test.

Yarber commented that she was glad she participated in the different areas of volunteering. She received plenty of experience working in different fields and with different people. When asked what she got out of volun-

teering she replied, "It might sound superficial, but there is something special that you get from volunteer work, when

you can give your time in order to make someone's life a little better. I am glad I did all I could."



Lady Vikings' Tennis Wins League

By MICHELLE SUYAT

On Tuesday, October 26, the Lady Vikings played the Baldwin Park Braves only to send them home with a very big loss, sparing them one point with a final score of 17-1. Singles players all went an awesome 3-0. Natasha Evans had scores of 6-0, 6-1, 6-3. Anushri Vyas had scores of 6-0, 6-1, 6-4; and Lisa Nguo had set scores of 6-0, 6-0, 6-4, leaving the singles undefeated in this match. Doubles did an incredible job with Tiana Leung-Jessica Valenzuela going 3-0 with scores of 6-3, 6-1, 6-1. Tiffany Leung-Cynthia Rendon also went 3-0 with scores of 6-0, 7-5, 6-0. Michelle Suyat-Rendell Gazzingan went 2-1, pushing for that third win with scores of 6-0, 6-3, 4-6.

Thursday, October 28, the Vikes traveled to "the farm," to bring home a win which guaranteed the title of League Champions. The final score was 13-5. Singles player Evans went 0-1, then was subbed out due to an injury by Annabel Ramos, who took over and went 0-2. Vyas went 3-0 not giving up one win. Nguo went 2-1 with scores of 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. Doubles players did great. Tiana Leung-Valenzuela went 3-0 with scores of 6-2, 6-0, 6-1. Tiffany Leung-Rendon went 3-0 with scores of 6-2, 6-1, 6-3. Suyat-Gazzingan went 2-1 with set scores of 6-3, 6-1, 3-6.

On the first day of November, the ladies played their last regular season match against the Pomona Red Devils, beating them 17-



1. The singles players did not give up one game, all going 3-0. Evans had set scores of 6-1, 6-0, 6-3. Vyas had set

scores of 6-3, 6-1, 6-0; identical to Evans and Nguo who had scores of 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 confirming the singles' overall win. Doubles players, Tiana Leung-Valenzuela went 3-0 with scores of 6-3, 6-0, 6-1. Tiffany Leung-Rendon also went 3-0 with scores of 6-1, 6-0, 6-0. Suyat-Gazzingan went 2-0 with scores of 6-3, 6-4. Suyat was subbed out by Annabel Ramos, who went 0-1 with Gazzingan.

The Lady Vikings have won the title of League Champions with their undefeated season. This is the first league title for Viking girls' tennis in 16 years!

Lady Vikes Work Hard

By SILVIA PEREIDA

Varsity girls' volleyball worked hard this year on the road to success. The Lady Vikes battled it out on the courts Wednesday October 20 against Pomona. The girls tried their best with two blocks and 38 kills. Unfortunately in the end they wound up losing the match with the scores of 18-25, 15-25, 14-25.

The Lady Vikes took a loss against Baldwin Park on Tuesday, October 26. Showing their undaunted spirit, the Lady Vikes made up with a win against the cross town rivals Covina Colts on Thursday, October 28, with competitive scores of 25-15, 25-15, and 25-21.



Vikings Blowout Braves, 55-0

By PAUL SMITH

On October 22, Division IX powerhouse Northview High School once again proved it is the team to beat in the Valle Vista League. Northview scored 55 unanswered points and completely dominated the Baldwin Park Braves.

The Viking offense produced a total of 450 rushing yards, scoring at will on virtually every drive: in fact, taking the ball 60 yards for the score on the very first drive. The entire drive took only five electrifying plays.

Senior running back/safety Remington Hawkins was back, rushing for a game high 145 yards on eight carries and scoring two touchdowns. His counterpart, senior fullback/defensive end Sean Houston, had a home high three touchdowns on 12 carries for 101 yards on the night. To round out the unrelenting ground attack, senior wingback Blake Yarber had 78 yards on six carries, sophomore Will Davis had seven carries for 61 yards and one score, and junior quarterback Damien James had 45 yards on six attempts and one score on the ground.

The Viking offense was completely unstoppable: in one quarter scoring 21 unanswered points. With three scores on the ground of 30 yards or more, Northview took complete control of this game on the ground.

Northview is on its way to the coveted league cham-

pionship: scoring a total of 147 points in the last three games is surely evident that Northview is the team to beat in the Valle Vista League.

For the last 30+ years there has been a cross-town rivalry between the Northview Vikings and the Covina Colts. On Friday October 29, the Vikings once again showed why they have the rivalry trophy.

The Northview Vikings have an explosive offense which has averaged more than 400 yards in three games and has averaged more than 160 points in the last four. The offense was led by Hawkins, scoring the first touchdown of the game on a 20 yard run in which he was untouched, going 61 yards in the third quarter, and receiving a four yard pass and taking it 26 yards to the house. This is physical proof that shows why he is the tempo setter on the Viking offense. He scored two touchdowns which gives him 47 for his career. James, who is compared to the Atlanta Falcons' quarterback Michael Vick, had more than 100 yards and a touchdown on the ground. He also had a 30 yard passing touchdown to Hawkins. He once again showed why he is the leader of Coach Quinsey's unstoppable offense. Yarber, who is the Viking's first down getter, scored on a 45 yard run in the second quarter

and, consequently, is also an integral part of the Northview offense. On the season he has more than 600 yards. To round up the Rushing Attack, Davis had more than 40 yards on the night and a touchdown.

The defense again proved to be unedging. Led by senior defensive linemen Nick Robinson and Houston, the defense held the Colt offense to zero points in the first half. This defense has so many good qualities:

a great secondary that hardly makes mistakes, a line that punishes the quarterback, and a linebacker/hit squad that stops runners dead in their tracks.

The offense produced 419 yards on an unparalleled ground attack and 30 yards in the air. The Vikes, with this win, put themselves in position to end this season with a Valle Vista League Championship and hopefully a chance at a C.I.F. title.

Running To First Place

By CLAUDIA PINEDO

This year's cross country teams have gone all the way to capture the Valle Vista League Championship. In their recent meet against Ganesha, Baldwin Park, Covina, and Pomona, the boys' varsity team captain, David Smith, came in first place! Alex Munoz ran his best and finished in fourth place. Jeff Watson, a junior x-country runner, came in at ninth place, with Chinosono Anunkor finishing in tenth place. Finishing up the top five runners is Luis Vargas who crossed the finish line in seventeenth place.

For girls' varsity, Jacqueline Juarez came in first place, Tatiana Padilla came in second place, Veronica Barajas came in fourth place, Jasmine Juarez finished in sixth place and



Lauren Brady came in 16th place. The girls' varsity team finally achieved their goal after 19 years by winning the Valle Vista League Championship.

The boys' and girls' varsity teams, as well as the girls' J.V. team had undefeated seasons (15-0). The boys' J.V. team, after besting an undefeated Ganesha team, won the league championship and finished with a record of 13-2