

# Northview Valkalla

Volume 46, Issue 4

Wednesday, January 25, 2006

Covina, CA 91722

## Sweger's Immeasurable Light Continues to Shine

By Justin Reyes, Breanna Keller, and Rob Andrade

For those of you that didn't know Ms. Sweger, she was an amazing individual and educator. She was hired at Northview in September of 1968, at the age of 22, continuing here for 37 dedicated years. Ms. Sweger instantly captured the heart of every student that walked into the infamous C-2, where she taught Honors English, Journalism and yearbook during her 5 periods. Ms. Sweger was the type of teacher that not only offered you advice but truly listened to the words you had to say, she cared and valued your perspective. To many, she became a friend. Ms. Sweger was the type of teacher that liked to get involved with her students. Walking into her class you would hear her talking about her favorite moments from shows like *Friends*, and *Survivor*, her face lighting up with every detail. She was a lover of golf, animals, and of course writing. Ms. Sweger was a joy to be around, and her class became a home away from home for many students. Ms. Sweger had a way of making learning and being involved fun in a way that most students had never experienced before, and it is



something I, and many others are sure to miss.

When I was approached to write this article, I was washed with emotion. I was honored with the opportunity to write about my experience with such an incredible human being, but at the same time, I was at a loss for words. There is no simple way to convey the amount of respect I carry for Ms. Glenda Sweger, and there is no simple way to convey what she meant to Northview. The only way I know to write about such a beautiful person is from the heart.

In one word, Ms. Sweger was immeasurable. What has given her students a lasting

impression of her is not necessarily her staggering resume of 30+ years, but her sincere desire to spread knowledge and better our futures. She saw no boundaries in the passion she put in her teaching, the love she shared with her peers, or the inspiration she has shed upon her students.

I have had the great fortune of working on the yearbook staff for two years, as well as being in Ms. Sweger's Honors Junior English class. It was in her classroom where I learned the true value of hard work, diligence, and immeasurable intellect. We often take things for granted, and not until I had to experi-

ence life in C-2 without Ms. Sweger did I feel the full impact of her indelible presence. Ms. Sweger was tough, but she expected only the best from her students. Likewise, she gave her students only the best she could give them. The little things we overlook are often the most missed memories. I'm sure everyone who has taken her English classes can remember her incredible lectures on Huck Finn and how she'd pace across the room, misplacing her glasses on a student's desk, or how she loved *The Amazing Race*. Learning from her was not just about regurgitating facts but delving into yourself to find the true meaning

Ms. Sweger's influence, guidance, and continual support has given my life a lot of meaning, as I'm sure many can agree with. Her light knew no limits and has spanned many generations – generations of scholars, successes, but most importantly, as Ms. Sweger would want, generations of people actively participating in the world and it's many opportunities. We all love and miss you, Ms. Sweger. Thank you for giving us everything we need to keep your spirit alive within us. We hope you're having fun golfing in Hawaii.

# Valhalla preserves Memory

By John Steinbeck

“In her class, our speculation ranged the world. She breathed curiosity into us so that every morning we came, carrying new facts, new values, coupled and shielded in our hands like a patchwork of fireflies. When she went away, sadness came over us, but the light did not go out. She left her signature upon us.

I’ve had many teachers who taught me soon forgotten facts but only a few like her who created in me a new thing, a new attitude a new desire. I suppose that to a large extent, I am the unsigned manuscript of that teacher. What a deathless power lies in the hands of such a person.



Valhalla Staff '05 – '06 would like to dedicate this paper in honor of our advisor, Ms. Glenda Sweger. It is through her guidance and passion for writing that she has given us the tools we need in order to produce an infor-

mative and interesting newspaper. She has inspired us all in one way or another and has helped to better our writing skills. Having been fortunate enough to receive the chance of knowing such a devoted and caring teacher is amazing,

and she will truly be missed. However, her strong willed spirit will forever remain within these pages. Thank you, Ms. Sweger, for all that you have done. The foundation that you have laid down for the Valhalla will continue on for years to come.

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# Ms. Pusey Bids Farewell

By Ms. Pusey

On behalf of Glenda's family and friends I would like to thank everyone for coming here today to celebrate the life of a remarkable woman. I am deeply honored to be standing here today. I can honestly say, with the utmost sincerity, that I have never been prouder to call myself someone's friend than I am to call myself Glenda Sweger's friend.

Glenda's beautiful story began much like it ended—humbly. She was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to adoring parents Glenn and Bertha Sweger. Although she would be a tomboy in her childhood years, her adolescence most defiantly revealed the prissy little girl who then became the woman of class we all know and love. I highly doubt anyone in this room escaped either her glance of incredulity or the ever so famous Glenda Sweger eye roll both of which were extremely witty and effective.

After graduating from Indiana University at Pennsylvania, Glenda pursued a career in education. She left Pennsylvania after one year of teaching and her first job in California was at Northview High School in Covina. She began this journey in September of 1968 and continued this journey for 37 years. Along with the vigorous job of teaching English/Literature, Glenda soon took on the job of advisor of the school yearbook



and newspaper. She was the yearbook advisor for 35 years; the longest tenure in this state. During these years she made many friends of the colleagues she worked with. It is a true statement of Glenda's character and devotion as a friend that she has remained friends with some colleagues and even some students who left Northview some 10, 15, and 20 years ago.

I have known Glenda for twenty years but we did not become friends until I came to work at my Alma Mater Northview High School seven years ago. As a student on campus some 20 years ago everyone knew who Miss Sweger was and everyone loved her. I know, even then, that she was someone special, but it wasn't until ten years later that I would discover just how incredible she truly was.

The year I was hired there were 11 new teachers, which is quite a bit for one year. This, however, did not phase Glenda. As the new teacher mentor she took us all under her wing and guided us through our first year. Her willingness to share her knowledge and experience is not only her strength, but our school's strength as well. She is the foundation on which the rest of us stand tall. Glenda gave us the tools we needed to fly and then slid gently into the background and encouraged us to succeed. Her faith in the abilities of every new teacher is what allows them to spread their wings and fly. Every new teacher on campus aspired to be Glenda Sweger. Everyone wanted to be able to teach as effectively as she did. Both in life and in her career Glenda always went above and beyond what is

expected of a colleague, a teacher, and a friend.

Glenda's encouragement and guidance came second only to the needs of her students. My dear G.S. sincerely wanted every single one of her students to succeed. Any given student in a Glenda Sweger class would witness her passion for teaching and her ability to inspire and motivate young minds on a daily basis. She treats her yearbook and journalism students as professionals, showing them the utmost respect for each idea and helped to cultivate their creativity. I know that she motivated and inspired every single one of her students.

On the last day of Christmas break, her current Yearbook Editor brought me a basket full of gifts that her staff had put together for her. One of the items in the gift basket was Shel Silverstein's The Giving Tree. A note attached to the book stated the following, "Dear Ms. Sweger, during this time of the year it becomes clear to us what really matters in our lives. You have given us gifts that we could never find elsewhere: the gift of life, the gift of passion, and the gift of love. You are our giving tree, and we cannot be more privileged of that honor. Enjoy your holiday and have plenty of rest. We miss you!" She truly is the giving tree to all of her students and her colleagues.

While teaching this week

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# What Will You Miss Most About Ms. Sweger?

"I will miss her leadership, wisdom, and warm personality. It was a blessing to work with her for all of my teaching career."

**-Mr. Rienstra**

"Having Ms. Sweger for 3 years, were probably the most inspiring years of my life. Ms. Sweger was an incredible lady. She had the most beautiful soul in the world. I sit here wanting to write so much about her but words just don't come out. I can't believe that she is really gone. Going to 5<sup>th</sup> every day is just not the same. The editors, including myself knew she was really ill but her being gone was a good thing because she was getting better. We had so much hope for her as she did for us. Yearbook has done their all and has respected her rules as well as her wishes.

Ms. Sweger's years of teaching and her memories will be told over and over again. She has honestly created a legacy for everyone to look back on. Knowing Ms. Sweger has been the biggest life lesson to me. To others she has gone but for myself she will be in "Hawaii" where she always said she was going when she had treatment to go to.

I will miss Ms. Sweger dearly and it still does not cross my mind that she is gone. I will treasure my memories of her and keep her in my heart. She has inspired my to exceed life to the fullest and to push myself to do the best. Ms. Sweger was

an awesome teacher and no other would ever be able to replace her. She was honestly one of a kind!"

**-Cynthia Andalon (11)**

"I really can't explain of how Ms. Sweger touched my life. She was such an amazing teacher, mentor, and person. Although I did not have her as long as other people, I will miss her just as much. To tell you the truth when I first had Ms. Sweger I wasn't very fond of her. After a few days I began to see what all the past students admired about her. Then when I began to get used to Ms. Sweger and her amazing teaching habits, she left. Her leaving made me admire what I had.

A special memory I have of Ms. Sweger is when she came back this year after her therapy. As she was taking role she didn't call me, which left me wondering if she knew I was there. Later she told me "I knew you were here, Oscar." I didn't think she would remember me, but she did. That's how good a teacher she was. I will miss you MS. Sweger. I know you are going to be in heaven teaching there as you taught here.

**-Oscar Ramirez (12)**

"Ms. Sweger has had one of the strongest influences on me throughout my high school life. Her passion for teaching and her dedication for yearbook is something rare, you don't find among most teachers. I cherish every moment I was able to spend in her classes, and I am so

thankful I had the chance to take part in something she loved so much. The impact she has made on me is indescribable and something I will carry with me throughout life. We love you Ms. Sweger, and will all miss you so much."

**-Samantha Schmier (11)**

"A beacon and an oracle to inquiring minds,

Glenda Sweger stood at the crossroads of information; Archivist and reporter, both,

Both buzzing news and keeping track

Of details that define the place that is (or wants to be).

A palpable presence, central, centering, center, C2,

Around which dreams, actions, reactions, accomplishments swirled,

Eventually emanating As essays in words or pictures

That left artifacts of what it means to be a Viking.

The beacon is now dark, seeming gone and forever lost.

The oracle answers not questions from the curious.

But things are not quite what they seem.

There is no darkness, nothing's lost

When beacon and oracle live always in hearts and minds.

**-Ms. Bremmer**

"Very few teachers manage to capture the hearts of their students from the love and compassion they showed for what they did. Ms.

Sweger was on in a few. She was an amazing and well respected teacher as well as an inspirational person. I was blessed enough to have been educated by her in all three subjects she taught, Honors English, Journalism and Yearbook. I enjoyed coming to her class everyday, sure some of the material covered was challenging at times, however she always managed to find a way to incorporate some fun. Whether it be talking about some of her favorite shows, Friends and The Amazing Race or figuring out what satellite provider would be better. She left us with memories that go past her teaching. I admire her for the strength that she had these past years and the courage she had to be with us for as long as she physically could. She will always be remembered and hold a special place in our hearts.

**-Bianca De La Rosa Class of 2005**

"There are very few people who come into your life and are able to shake you to the core, challenge your intellect, and shower you with unbelievable support. Ms. Sweger was one of those people. Of course every person's experience with her is unique and inherent to that person and Ms. Sweger, so no one could really generalize what Ms. Sweger was and still is. One of my fondest memories of her comes from this year, when we would sit in the typewriter room and discuss yearbook plans. She

was always so receptive of my ideas. Truly, her support of my vision for the book gave me the utmost sense of validation. Just by simply saying, "I like that a lot" with a hint of a smile brightened up my day, no matter how dreary it had been prior to fifth period. Her spirit continues to reside in C-2, sitting in her high-backed leather chair, beaming at her students."

**-Justin Reyes (12)**

"Words can't really describe Ms. Glenda Sweger, or what she has done for so many of her students. She was more than a teacher and more than a friend, she was someone to look up to, someone who you could talk to, and someone you could learn so much from. Throughout her life she has touched so many students and her memory will be carried with them throughout their lives. I am so lucky and grateful for the four years that I spent with her. She was there for me at the beginning and she will be there for me, in spirit, when it's all over. I want to make her proud and dedicate my future education to her and her wisdom. The love she had for her publications and English classes is exactly what motivated me to want to be in the Journalism field. It hurts to see such an influential individual leave this world, but her memories, laughs, and favorite episodes of Survivor will always be with me and she will always remain in my heart."

**-Corinna Ramos (12)**

"Walking into C-2 on the first day of my freshman year, I felt proud and slight-

ly nervous. I was finally going to experience Ms. Sweger's wonderful teaching that I had heard about for so long. Getting to know her over the next couple of months is something I will forever cherish and hold close to my heart. I was perhaps the shyest person in the class, but her outgoing and fun personality helped me to see that I had nothing to be shy about. Through her I learned that I could write a story, that I had potential and that I deserved to be there. Seeing her sitting at her desk at the beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> period, smiling her beautiful smile, is a picture that is permanently placed in my mind. I didn't get to know her as well as I had wanted to be all the things I do know are ones I won't ever forget. I will never forget her or her love for life, outstanding ability to teach and the great advice she had. She was an amazing woman and if I can touch, affect a change for the better, half the amount of people she did, I will be greatly satisfied. I am so thankful and proud to say that I knew her, and that I will never forget her."

**-Breanna Keller (10)**

"When I think about Ms. Glenda Sweger words such as loving, caring, strong, and amazing come to mind. She was such a wonderful teacher that cared and loved each and every one of her students. She cared so much about her profession as a teacher. Whether it was in her Junior Honors English class, Journalism and Yearbook she loved each so much. She always amazed me

with what strength she had. It was a honor to have Ms. Sweger as my teacher for three years in yearbook and the beginning of this year for English. The glow and positive attitude she would bring each day made going to school something to look forward to. I will never forget the memories I have with Ms. Sweger and I will truly miss her. But we must remember she is in a better place and free from pain and suffering. May she rest in peace."

**-Sierra Hinzo (11)**

"It wasn't until I got to high school that I realized I wanted to be a writer. And it wasn't until I met Ms. Glenda Sweger. Her passion and devotion to her students was remarkable. She was the most amazingly educated person that I have ever and will ever meet. Now in college, English is my major so that I can pursue my career as a writer. If it wasn't for Ms. Sweger's dedication to motivate me, I probably wouldn't be where I am today. In the beginning of my senior year I was having doubts about taking on this major, because well, it isn't easy. It was when she explained to me that nothing comes easy and dreams can't be achieved if you don't work hard for them. It is her strength and courage that keeps my head up and my hopes high. Her wisdom will forever be held dearly in my heart, and I am most honored to have met such a wonderful teacher and friend as Ms. Glenda Sweger. May she rest in peace and give me strength to achieve a dream. I will miss

you Ms. Sweger...and I won't miss you anymore...promise."

**-Kelsey Rose Class of 2005**

"Paul McClure once said "A college degree and a teaching certificate define a person as a teacher, but it takes hard work and dedication to be one," and I must say, Ms. Glenda Sweger was definitely a dedicated and hard working teacher. Though I am only one testament to how she has affected the lives of her students, I am sure there are many others whom would agree with me. Both kind hearted and inspirational Ms. Sweger has not only left a mark on my mind, but on my heart. She was one of the greatest teachers I have ever had. Although I will miss her dearly, I will not let my sorrow nor my grief overshadow her life which should be celebrated. It is comforting to know that she now rests in peace, far away from all the pain she suffered in the last years of her life. She will always hold a special place in my heart and when I become a teacher I can only hope to be as dedicated and as inspiring she was."

**-Cheyenne Hinzo**

"Ms. Sweger, I'm so blessed to have you as a teacher. Despise all the critical thinking and dummy sheets, I've extended my knowledge by being in you English and yearbook class. Your intelligence pushes me to become a more fluent and creative writer. Thank you for never giving up to make

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# Memories of Ms. Sweger

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me understand the big and small stuff. You're the key to my success, why college is going to be in my future. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

**-Catherine Chan (12)**

"When thinking of my few years with Ms. Sweger I think of how much she inspired not only me but so many other students. Coming in as a freshman I was so terrified of her but I quickly learned that she was not a person to be scared of but a person to learn so much from. She displayed so much passion when she talked about anything and everything. This is not a time for sadness but a time to celebrate her amazing life. We should all strive to be just like her because she touched the lives and hearts of everyone she knew."

**-Krystle Garcia-Gibbons (11)**

"How does one encapsulate such an amazing person, who touched so many lives on a daily basis in a few paragraphs? When Holly Higuera and I reflected on Glenda Sweger, we shared the same memories. In the last five years, Glenda Sweger has not only been my mentor, but one of my dearest friends. These are just some of the things I will remember most... Yellow Daffodils, her favorite flower. She would often give daffodils to people to cheer them up. (They reminded her of the sun). "G-Dog", how she would sign off her emails to Ms. Higuera and

me. "Yowzas", what she would say when something surprised her. "That's *exactly* right", what she would tell you when she agreed with something you said (and secretly you felt ten feet tall, because Glenda Sweger agreed with you). Laughing through staff meetings (and knowing we (Ms.Higuera and I) wouldn't get in trouble, because it was with Glenda). The way she *tried* to be inconspicuous when telling you something in a meeting by putting a piece of paper or better yet, her purse by the side of her face, because then nobody else could see her or hear her?! Our morning coffee talks before school, break in the lounge, and our daily lunches. Her great laugh. The way she made you feel like you were the most important person in the world. Graduations, and her getting upset because she hated to have "hat hair". Her unbreakable spirit and passion for life. Her dedication to education, and her belief that there is a good in all people. Her honesty (even if you did not ask for it, but appreciated it anyways). Her infinite wisdom on any topic. If I had a question about anything, Glenda had a thoughtful, meaningful answer. The "stink eye" she would give to tell you to be quiet. Getting ready for Renaissance rallies. The British accent she would get every once in a while. The skinny room. Her silly, sweet, uplifting e-mails she would send, just to let you know she

appreciated your friendship. The encouragement she would offer daily. Her compassion for her friends. Her incredible amount of patience. The gift she had to let you know she understood you, accepted you, and loved you, without using any words, just her eyes. Her energy. Her advice of life, love, and friendship. Her courage, dignity, beauty, and integrity. There are so many moments, so many memories that many of us carry with us. She had a unique special gift to touch, inspire, and encourage so many lives. I am better person for knowing Ms. Glenda Sweger.

**-Ms. Jenny Patton**

"Thanks for everything you gave us! I didn't know about your sickness. In fact, the last thing I remember hearing was about you 2003-2004 LA County Teacher of the Year accomplishment- I was so proud! It is sad to think of you being gone. You gave so much to so many of us - including opportunity, your trust, and a lot of latitude. I remember a poster you had in your class: "Remove from me every possession in life, save my power of speech...and with it I shall regain everything that I lost." There are no words to bring you back Glenda, but your contribution to our lives is something that we shall always possess.

**-Kenny Lane Class of 1984 (Yearbook Co-Editor 83-84, Yearbook photographer 81-83)**

"I've had Ms. Sweger since my freshman year here at Northview. I remember the very first day I was so nervous. Claudia, Corinna, Silvia and I sat in the back of the classroom because we were so intimidated by her. After about the first couple weeks of school, being in the class wasn't scary anymore. We started to build a relationship with Ms. Sweger. I enjoyed our chats about last nights "Survivor" or "The Amazing Race." She had a way of balancing work and play. Ms. Sweger was just one of those people who you could dislike one minute, and love the next. I think anyone who knew Ms. Sweger could agree that she truly was an inspiration. The impact she created will never be forgotten."

**-Courtney Woodman (12)**

"Ms. Sweger devoted her life to enriching the lives of others. Although she is no longer with us to fulfill her life's ambition, the memories of her love, joy, and kindness live on within each one of us.

**-Mr. Jose**

"If you're lucky in life, hopefully you can graduate high school and finish your primary education having been truly affected by a certain teacher's words, a teacher whose memory you will reflect back on many times throughout life and one who has helped create who you are and who you will become. I am fortunate to have known Ms. Glenda Sweger who was such an influence in my life. Having had journalism,

English and yearbook with her, I was truly blessed to have experienced the passion she exuded for teaching and for her students. I walked into journalism class freshman year terrified of her but left Northview understanding the work ethic she demonstrated and in turn expected of her students and witnessing her unmatched wisdom. I, like many others still don't comprehend that she is gone and regret the fact that I never expressed to her my gratitude. She wrote many recommendations for me for my college applications and I truly can say she awakened and helped develop my interest in journalism and writing and my decisions to major in communications and English. I know she has impacted many others because it was hard to leave her classroom not having felt her impact or seen first hand her passion for what she did. Yes, you're lucky if you've had such a teacher, and how lucky I am have known her. Thank you Ms. Sweger!

**-Sara Arce Class of 2003**

"Although I did not receive the pleasure of knowing Ms. Sweger as long as others did, I still feel fortunate enough to have experienced her love for her students and zest for life. She was on of the most proper yet bold woman I have ever met and the way she handled the classroom was amazing. Having her open up to us in Journalism let me see the silly, playful side of her. You walk into her classroom and feel her

warmth and immediately feel at ease and welcomed. It's hard now to be in her classroom and not tear up because it just screams her! I will miss you greatly Ms. Sweger and you were now in a better place, you will always be in our hearts."

**-Sara Tobin (11)**

"I've only known Ms. Sweger for a semester and a half. But in that short time I felt that she was a cool teacher, I remember every time I had a game she would always ask me how I was feeling, and tell me good luck, and just ask me about if we had a good team and if I was starting. She would always try to talk to the whole class and ask what's going on, and gossip with us. Even though I didn't know her that well or for that long, she touched me, and I'm really going to miss her.

**-Paul Gonzalez (11)**

"Thank you for making me strive in your honors junior class last year. I know that out of your whole 3<sup>rd</sup> period, you wanted me to go far and beyond when I wasn't doing too well, and I did. I did it because you had faith in me. Now with your faith in me, I will never give up. Thank you so much for not underestimating me. I love you so dearly."

**-Chris Guevara (12)**

"When I showed Ms. Sweger a poem of mine that was published in the tribune, she enjoyed the poem and congratulated me on getting it published. I am extremely grateful to her for allowing me to become an editor. Just

knowing that she believed that I could uphold such a position was a reward in itself. In the short time that I had with her she truly inspired me to excel in every aspect of my writing, and for that I am forever grateful."

**-Rob Andrade (11)**

"Ms. Sweger your strength and livelihood has imprinted on everyone's heart. Thank you for your dedication to your work and students. Northview has lost perhaps one of its biggest assets. I will remember you always."

**-Tiffany Leung (12)**

"I perceived Ms. Sweger as strict at times, but she is a very lovable individual with a golden heart. She was admired by most because she has touched everybody's lives for more than 35 years. She will remain as a teacher of a lifetime."

**-Cayse Padama (12)**

"Ms. Sweger was the epitome of a perfect class role model for all teachers. I hope that I can rise to her standards. She will be missed."

**-Allen J. Casey, Band Director**

"Her humor, sincerity, and wit was the characteristics that made me enjoy her as a teacher and mentor."

**-Daniel Chavez (12)**

"Ms. Sweger was an awesome teacher. Even though I didn't know her, like other students. She really encouraged me to go on in the stories I wrote for journalism class. She was very strong in what she went through. She always put a smile on her face, even though inside she

was hurting in pain. I will always keep Ms. Sweger in my memories."

**-Aimee Cisneros (9)**

"With our mere 15 minute break quickly coming to an end, Isaiah, my high school best friend, and I rushed over to the journalism classroom in search of the advisor. Both Isaiah and I had discussed previously that day that we could no longer stand out current second period class and decided we should attempt to switch to another class – we blindly decided on pursuing a career in "journalism" that day... What possibly could two ethnic kids with over-sized pants from Covina know about writing articles in newspapers? Especially articles that would eventually be published and ultimately criticized by the entire school! Nonetheless, our frustration with our previous choice of class gave us the courage to venture out into the new waters... We caught our first glimpse of Ms. Sweger as we entered the well-lit classroom that seemed to glisten at times due to the reflection of all the pictures of previous classes that bordered the walls. She was discussing with several other educators the issues pertaining to an up coming rally. Startled by our abrupt entry, she quickly asked that we would more formally introduce ourselves and explain our rational behind interrupting her and her colleagues. Of course we had no answer, at least none that would justify our rude approach to gaining

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# Memories of Ms. Sweger

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 her attention. So we just stood there in embarrassment, Isaiah and I blindly staring at each other. I find it kind of comical that I am writing a piece on an individual who essentially taught me how to write. And yes, Ms. Sweger did ultimately accept our request to become apart of her journalism staff. Not to say I wasn't timid after that initial encounter with my new advisor and at first even tried to elude her attention. However, as I continued to grow closer to her during my three years of journalism and one year of honors English, I realized how accepting of others she truly was. Ms. Sweger was never out to agitate or frustrate us as many students often believe teachers are out to do but rather she simply wanted to educate us in more than just academics. Personally, I will always remember Ms. Sweger for accepting us into journalism and ultimately a chance to be apart of her life. It was then, and evermore so now inspiring to know that someone could have such confidence as she did in someone who initially came off as rude and intrusive. For even today there are a few people who are willing to open up and give those an opportunity to shine without prior recommendation. As I continue to reminisce, I realize that this is only one of many events where Ms. Sweger has touched my life inadvertent-

ly. It is this sternness in regards to common manners, determination to educate, and passion to show that she truly cares about the many students that have passed through her classroom doors that truly inspires... And that's exactly what Ms. Sweger did throughout her life, she inspired the uninspired.

**-Jose "Joey" Delgado  
 Class of 2001**

"I was one of the many people who got to meet Ms. Sweger. She was an inspirational teacher who helped me become a better writer both in journalism and English. To me, Ms. Sweger was one of the best teachers I had whom has made an impact on my life. I will always remember Ms. Sweger for the inspiring and dedicated person she was."

**- Silvia Pereida (12)**

"Ms. Sweger, I'll never forget the first semester of honors English my junior year. You were a wonderful teacher who loved her students so much. Thank you for everything you've taught me. We promise to make the 2006 yearbook the best one ever! We love you and we miss you!"

**-Barbara Nguyen (12)**

"We would spend several lunches together just talking. I was nervous around her at first so I spoke a lot. About the price of Lean Cuisines and many other innocuous subjects. As our time increased, so did a com-

fortable silence between the two of us. Her mere presence inspired me, comforted me, and in that silence there was real meaning. Her strength and poise on this journey has moved me more then has moved me more than anything concerning her 30+ career. The price of Lean Cuisines is going up. Gas is going down. I can't make sense of any of it. L to the B"

**-Ms. Blume**

"Thank you for one great semester of my junior year. You made me strive harder to do better and made me realize not to take things for granted. We all love you Ms. Sweger."

**-Rhea Nuguid (12)**

"The Ms. Sweger I knew was a very honest person. When she not like something she'd tell you straight out. A memory I will have of her would be teaching the new people in journalism how to make up a "right" headline for their story and I wasn't paying attention and wrote a wrong headline. The next day when stories were due she read mine and was like "People this is not a headline," and used my paper as an example of a bad headline. I just remembered being so embarrassed, but after that I learned my lesson about listening to her when she was talking and she inspired me to have great headlines. I will truly miss her."

**-Jennifer Loya (10)**

"I was fortunate enough to have met the most amaz-

ing and dedicated teacher: Ms. Glenda Sweger. She was more than a teacher, an inspiration for all her students. Ms. Sweger's knowledge and wisdom gave many people the passion to follow their dreams. She pushed each and everyone of her students to strive for the best. The time I got to spend with her was an experience I will never forget. Thank you Ms. Sweger!

**-Claudia Pinedo (12)**

"Ms. Sweger was such a good teacher, although I only had her for the beginning of this year. Entering her classroom, looking around, and seeing all of her awards, organizations, she was part of, and all of the yearbook pictures she had on her walls made me feel a big admiration towards her. I admire her because of her dedication, hard work, and love that she had toward her students. I am honored to have known her at least for awhile. Her love for teaching made her very special!"

**-Patty Rodriguez (12)**

"Inspired my her confidence, dedication, and motivation, Ms. Sweger helped me to accomplish my goals."

# Ms. Pusey

*Continued from page 3*

I was brought back to an essay by Alice Walker entitled "In Search of our Mother's Garden." While reading this with my class I could feel Glenda's presence and her excitement for this piece. There is a quote from this essay that reminds me of her and it reads, "Her face, as she prepares her at that is her gift, is a legacy of respect she leaves to me, for all that illuminates and cherishes life. She has handed down respect for the possibilities—and the will to grasp them." At the end of each teaching year I know that Glenda left this respect for the possibilities of life in all of her students and I know that she tried her best to inspire them to grasp at their dreams.

Glenda and I were kindred spirits. I can easily remember the innumerable times she and I would talk for hours on end after school on topics ranging from our hero Katharine Hepburn, to the latest crazy reality show she was obsessed with to the ranges of politics and religion. I loved the paradox that Glenda Sweger was for who would ever believe that this classy, sophisticated, highly educated woman who constantly quoted literature and balked at people's poor grammar skills could talk passionately—for endless hours about *Survivor* or *Desperate Housewives* and how could they let Richard Hatch back on the show or how could they kill

Rex and leave Bree to deal with the crazy pharmacist. I loved to watch her get so excited when she spoke of these things. One of Glenda's favorite topics of discussion was family. This was yet another area we had in common. We are both devoted to our families. I am happy to say that she knew mine well and loved them dearly. She would often ask how my crazy cousins were, or my loving mother and sister, or my ill grandparents. She has a way to set you at ease and she makes you feel like you and what you are saying are so very important to her. I love this about her because most people who ask how you and your family are doing don't truly listen and are only asking to be polite, but Glenda truly cared. I loved to watch her eyes light up every time she would speak of her brother and her nephews. Barry, Aaron, Ben, and Nick were her boys and to hear her speak of the four of them you would think they had hung the moon and the stars all by themselves. She adored her mother and seemed to turn into a little girl when she spoke of her. She was deeply in love with her family and overwhelmingly committed to them.

Glenda would not have made it for as long as she did if it weren't for her family. She fought for them and because of them and watching her will to fight had left me forever changed.

A couple of Christmas' ago I was inspired to write

something about Glenda. She had stood by me during a very traumatic and difficult time in my life and I wanted her to know just how much I appreciated her. What I didn't realize is that she was inspired to do the same for me and that Christmas we not only exchanged gifts we exchanged notes of heartfelt friendship. I would like to share those readings with you now because I feel they embody Glenda's strength, beauty, compassion, grace, and giving heart.

"Dearest Glenda,

Strength is not found in the man who can lift enormous weights, it is often found in the person who goes through life holding others up even when life hands them personal strife;

Laughter is not found in the man who brings about levity through ridicule; in fact it is found in the hearts of friends who can laugh at life and the ridiculous situations it brings about;

Benevolence is found in the person whose magnanimous acts are done anonymously because they realize kindness bestowed in those in need is more important than accolades to the giver;

Through friendship we learn how to aspire to greatness because it is in our friends that we see ourselves at our very best; you symbolize this idea of what friendship should be; you inspire me to be stronger, to laugh harder and to give without the needs to find credit in the act of giving, you

are a giver of light. It is a light that emanates from within you and this, my dear friend is one of your truest gifts. This light is a beacon to many who find their way through your guidance, strength, compassion; you are a blessing and I am thankful for who you are and for what you inspire others to be."

If you remember Glenda as the creative, innovative, inspiring teacher that she was, if you remember her kind and gentle ways, if you remember her boisterous laugh, if you remember that infamous eye roll, if you remember her charming wit, and sarcastic nature, if you remember her big bear hugs, if you remember her elegance and class, if you remember her pursuit of excellence in the classroom and in life, if you remember her tender words of comfort and encouragement, if you remember that twinkle of mischief on her eyes, if you remember her love of dogs and all things animal, if you remember her love of the written word then you will remember the essence of her. I am a better, stronger, more compassionate person for having known Glenda Lee Sweger. I, like the rest of you, will carry her with me all the days of my life. She will always be in my mind's eye pushing me forward reminding me that life is a gift and whispering in my ear just how proud she is of me

On behalf of the Valhalla and Yearbook Staff:  
We would like to dedicate this issue in  
loving memory to:

**Ms. Glenda Sweger**



We will never forget her love for life,  
dedication, bravery and amazing  
teaching!

Rest in peace Ms. Sweger!