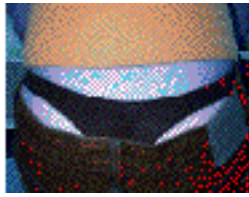


Best Halloween costumes



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New hype: thong flashing



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Girls volleyball team spikes the opposition



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THE JAMES LOGAN COURIER HIGH SCHOOL

October 30, 2002

1800 H STREET, UNION CITY, CA. 94587

Parents propose crash-site memorial to accident victims

By Melissa Perez & Carla Ramirez
Staff Writers

A question involving Logan students has presented itself to Union City: should a memorial be built in honor of the tragic passing of former Logan students last year?

The parents of Allan Tongson, Michael Aguilar and JR Lahip proposed that a memorial should be created in remembrance of their sons at the crash site. Many of their closest friends and family members feel strongly about building the memorial.

One of their closest friends, Marianne Franco, says that having a memorial would bring awareness to Logan students and remind them everyday of the consequences of

speeding and reckless driving. It will relay the message to teenagers that they are not invincible; this horrible accident could have happened to anyone.

Just as Franco said, "Allan, Michael, and JR., had their lives in their hands and took the risk."

Their deaths caused immense pain for their families, friends and fellow students at Logan. To many of their friends, they were the guys that would make them laugh and smile when they were feeling down. Franco believes their deaths brought many people together and made their friends forgive each other for past conflicts. She expressed her thoughts about those who did not know them.

"I feel sorry for the people who did not get to know

them because the three boys were always so full of life." For these reasons, from her personal perspective Franco feels a memorial should indeed be built.

However, some students believe that the memorial would be rather unfair. Senior Mayte Reynoso said, "It is unfair for the students who have died in the past and do not get a memorial." So the question of whether a memorial should be built presents itself to all of Union City, but particularly to Logan students.

The tragedy occurred on March 19, 2002, shortly before 10:00 P.M., when the boys were driving on Union City Blvd. The car crashed into a three foot stone wall and their Acura coupe burst into flames.

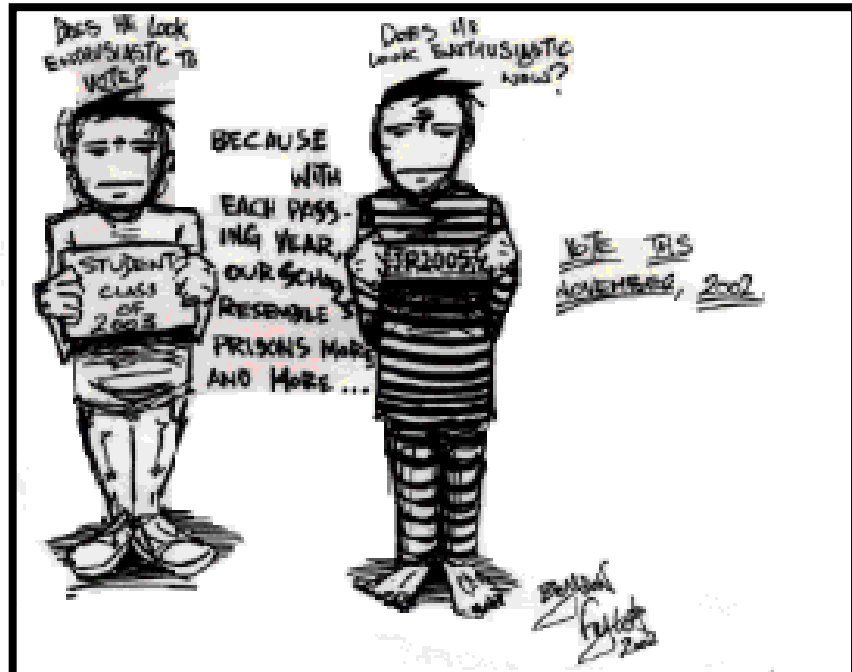
Apathetic voters inhibit democracy

By Natalie Pullen
Editor-in-Chief

This nation is unlike any other on earth. The love of democracy and freedom alone unites its citizens. But with greater freedom comes greater responsibility; democracy only works work if people participate.

In the last Presidential election, only 50.7% of eligible Americans voted. And in 1998, the last non-Presidential federal election, turnout was only 36.4%, down from an already measly 38.8% in 1994.

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The Courier is produced by students to inform and entertain the large and diverse community in which James Logan High School functions, including students, staff, parents and the community-at-large.

Story ideas, submissions, letters-to-the-editor, and other contributions are welcomed, though *The Courier* staff reserves the right to decide what is included in the newspaper.

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Dwindling voter turnout rates plague America

From page 3

This year, a nation-wide group of high school students decided to fight the dwindling voter turn-out rate with an organization called Freedom's Answer.

According to its website, Freedom's Answer is a "non-partisan campaign to answer the 9/11 terrorists' challenge to America with proof that, though the Twin Towers may have collapsed, the nation's democratic institutions are standing taller than ever."

Members of Freedom's Answer, most too young to vote themselves, promise to ensure a record-breaking voter turnout in 2002 by getting 10 people to pledge to go to the polls. They also help register voters and provide transportation to polling sites.

Honestly, it's about time America starts combating apathetic voters. It has become rather obvious this country is no longer a democracy. It has become a country by and for the rich. Only the rich can be elected because of the money it takes and because of the benefits reciprocated to them by their associates.

The rich make the laws for themselves—for example, the huge deductions in tax rates they gave themselves. The poor and middle classes fight for the scraps

and have no power. The rich vote in huge numbers because it benefits their own class and hurts the workers. The poor and middle classes do not vote because they are only picking the best rich person, who in reality is no different from the other rich person.

Citizens have begun reflecting, "What can be done?" The middle and poor classes should start supporting each other in the electoral process by voting together, to "cancel out" the rich people's votes. The last time I checked the bottom two classes far out-numbered the rich...

And of course it is entirely possible the candidate elected may not follow through on campaign promises; politicians are infamous for letting their grass-roots supporters down. Even if that one candidate does follow through and represent his or her constituents' beliefs, he or she can accomplish little without the support of other politicians from other districts, whom his or her constituents had no say in electing.

This process suggests to the voters that despite what opinion or preference they may have for a candidate, the choices will be the front-runners and the other candidates may as well go home. It suggests to the voters

that their opinion will not really make any difference on the outcome, that they are powerless against the tide of public opinion. And that's just not true. Nader earned three percent of the populous vote in 2000; Minnesota elected Jesse Ventura on the Reform ticket.

America is more than just a country, it's an idea. This country embodies a sense of optimism and hope, of a fresh start, of opportunities and this indescribable energy consisting of working hard but playing harder. America is a nation of immigrants, whether your family came here 20 generations ago or last year. Most people made the difficult journey to enjoy the political and personal freedoms this country guarantees. One of them is voting. People in other countries are still fighting for the autonomy many Americans take for granted on a daily basis.

To those of you lucky enough to vote this November: I ask you to think about the effect you have on the democratic process. Don't discourage it by speculating on the election outcome as though it were an immutable fact. Encourage it by staying focused on the candidates' positions on issues—the things that really matter to most people.

Fashion throwbacks dominate

By Yvonne Reykalin
Business Manager

Lately I've had trouble differentiating the students of James Logan High School and the cast of "In Living Color." The return of Chuck D's, backwards jerseys, and hoop earrings causes me to question the creativity of today's hottest designers.

We have arrived in the new millennium, explored a little, and have comforted ourselves in the knowledge that the world did not end, the planet did not cave in, and an alternate life force did not invade the earth. The millennium was supposed to be a revelation of technology, society, and most of all style. But I have yet to see a change.

Gucci's fall line looked like a wanna-be Prince competition, Betsey Johnson's looked like a bad rendition of Madonna's "Like a Virgin" video, and the majority of the pieces in Sean John's collection looked like they were stolen from the set of Disney's 1992 movie "Newsies."

While it is classic for designers to become inspired by the designs of the past, it seems illogical to return to the fads we left in the so recent past. The Ninety's trends designers are becoming inspired from were only ten years ago. That's hardly enough time to develop a new style, let alone return to a previous one.

What is it about the Ninety's that makes us want to return to it so badly? Is it the carefree life-style? The economic stability? Or just the insane trends of fashion? My guess is a little bit of everything.

In today's economic breakdown, Generation X is learning to reduce their financial spending for the first time in their lives. Men and women who are now in their late 20's and early 30's were

raised in a happy-go-lucky economic period where they could spend hundreds of dollars on purple hair dye and Mohawk gel. Michael Myers, in his Wayne's World bit on Saturday Night Live so clearly labeled the generation with his

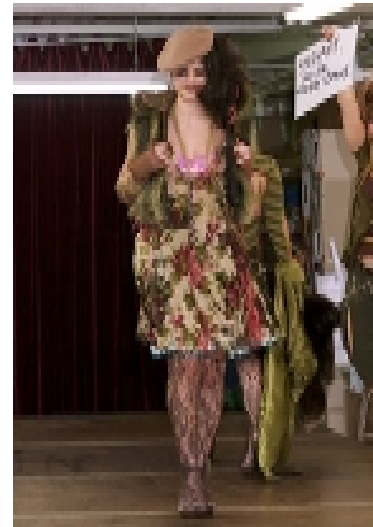
coin phrase, "Party On." So now, in a time when Americans should be pinching their pennies the most, designers have tapped into the inner teenager of the Gen X in order to maintain their

sales. These late 20, early 30-somethings remember the good times of the early ninety's and want to return to a time when things were so simple as to just "Party On." This generation, raised on credit cards, will spend good money to return to their youth, even if it's money they do not have.

The designers of the American market are not so much trying to make a statement with their return to the ninety's fashions as much as they are just trying to make a dime, or a few million for that matter.




Madonna in "Like a Virgin"



Betsey Johnson's fall line

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Result of Docutech budget slashing: Students write long notes with a short budget

By **Leydi Panuco & Hamidah Ha**
Staff Writers

Since August 2002, Docutech has had a shortage of workers because of the budget cuts the district made; staff and students are now both going through tough times.

“I think it sucks that we have to copy everything down,” said sophomore Gabriela Rodriguez. “When I am writing, I am basically concentrating on the writing, not on what [the teachers] are saying.”

The budget cuts resulted in laying off two staff members, which has caused problems for the students and staff.

Jerry Ortega, an employee from Docutech said, “The way I see it, administration could of cut off other positions.”

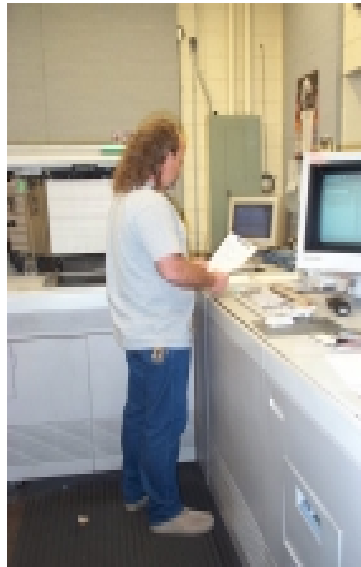
As much as Docutech tries to deal with this problem, Chemistry Fundamentals teacher Mindy Alter said, “It stresses me out that I have to make my own copies at home. I have to use my own money. I just cannot think of what I will be going to do two weeks ahead of today.”

Not only does it take the teachers’ time away, but sophomore Gabriela Rodriguez said, “I noticed that class time is delayed, so we have to write a lot, especially in World Studies!”

Despite all the complaints people think the Docutech workers are trying their hardest. Alter said, “They are awesome! They are just short on staff.”

Despite what other people may think, ninth and tenth grade English teacher Agnes Morrow-Mazure said, “I love the Docutech workers; I know it is not their fault.

They are trying their hardest.”
The district has had problems before, but there has never been such a conflict that has



Tom Ekstom; operating a docutech machine.

affected Logan this dramatically.

Many students want to know what exactly is going on with the Docutech situation. Sophomore

Blanca Ayala said, “I have no clue on what is going on in my own school.”

The majority of the students and staff at Logan want the whole problem to be resolved. According to Ortega, “This problem will probably last forever.”

Many students are frustrated at the fact that they must copy notes for a very long time.


“If having to copy notes right now is hard, imagine how it will be for the rest of my high school years! I basically think that this whole thing is totally messed up! The district should find a way to get the money needed to hire the Docutech workers,” said Rodriguez.

In the majority of classes, note taking time has doubled, which means there is less time for activities.

“It’s hard to do things that are good for the kids, most of the class time is spent on notes,” said Morrow-Mazur.

“I do not know when this problem will end, but I hope this whole problem will go away,” said freshman Ashlee Harris.

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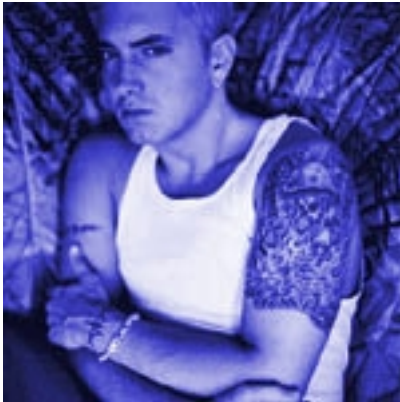
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Eminem, Linkin Park, Aaliyah add new style flavor to music creating new sound mix

By Ivan Chang
Staff Writer



The Eminem Show

This CD was released a while back, but his songs are still talked about a lot when they come on the radio. Marshall Mathers lived a hard life; his parents mistreated him so he wanted to create lyrics telling this story of his past life. With his releases so far, all the people who listen to his music know how much Eminem dislikes his parents. His new release, *The Eminem Show*, is yet another addition to the collection of songs which he expresses his thoughts with. Ever since his first release with Infinite Records, *Slim Shady LP*, his lyrics have focused on the people he hates and the people he says ruined his life.

The hit song "Cleaning Out My Closet" contains explicit lyrics, mostly about his life with his parents. Some people say they like Eminem only for his smooth

flow of lyrics and beats; the abusive language and lyrics aren't much to people. These days, much of the rap industry contains explicit lyrics; it seems like a necessity now. I personally enjoy listening to Eminem only for the beats.

Eminem is famed throughout the rap world. He worked with Dr. Dre in one of his earlier CDs. *The Eminem Show* CD caught my attention quickly when my friends introduced me to it. I love listening to the simple, enticing beats. Although the profanity does give me second thoughts about listening to his music, the beats make me want to listen to the song once more.

Linkin Park

Reanimation is out, and criticism is flying. From what I've heard, results are mixed. *Reanimation* is a remix of their previous CD, *Hybrid Theory*. Most of the people I asked in a poll said the CD was great, while the other people that didn't like it said they didn't like this style.

This rock style music isn't soothing, but it isn't head-pounding. I like the music for the creative beats and use of sound effects. Things are changed around, such as vocals, lyrics and beats. Linkin Park's *Hybrid Theory* had a lot of effects already, and *Reanimation* just adds more. Think of *Reanimation* as *Hybrid*

Theory on turntables, mixed and altered, but the lyrics and beats are still recognizable.

To me, both of the CDs are fine. The twist in the original songs is what makes this CD so enjoyable to listen to. You know what the lyrics and beats are, but I guess you have to memorize the song just once more. "In The End" is one of my favorites, and *Reanimation* has become another one of my favorites.

Aaliyah

After five years of absence from the music industry, young hip hop/R&B artist Aaliyah came back in 2001 with a smashing hit entitled *We Need a Resolution*. Along with other exquisite songs off her new self-titled album, Aaliyah rose to the top of the charts again as she once did with her single "Try Again" off the *Romeo Must Die* soundtrack. Shortly after her horrific and unfortunate accident that ended her legacy, Aaliyah's next single, "Rock the Boat," exploded throughout the nation.

After listening to Aaliyah's new album, I was reminded of how enticing her music was. Even as a young artist who rocked the music world at age 14, she allured her audience with modern and intriguing styles of rhythm and lyrics. I see her as the Queen of R&B.

-See page 16

Best Buddies: solidifying bonds between Logan students daily

By Melissa Perez
Staff Writer

They are only two simple words that has and continues to impact the lives of Logan students every day: "Best Buddies".

Best Buddies is a world-wide organization, with a chapter here at Logan...

Best Buddies is a world-wide organization, with a chapter here at Logan, that enables daily interaction between

students in general education with those in special education.

Its main purpose is to help the special Ed. students participate in a more "normal" teenage lifestyle, because unlike the general Ed. students who regularly interact with friends, play sports that represent their high school, go to parties and the

movies, the students here with disabilities do not normally interact with friends outside of

isn't exactly for everyone. In order to join, students must be committed and willing to take the



Nancy Kong, Photographer

Two best buddies stop their activities to pose for *The Courier*.

school other than their family members. Best Buddies organizes this interaction, allowing friendships to develop where they usually wouldn't if it were not for the foundation Best Buddies provides.

Any Logan student can contribute to the cause by joining, however, Best Buddies

time to develop a strong friendship with their "buddy." They must have the desire to form a friendship with someone of a different intellectual capacity and enter the organization with good intentions. Students should

-See Page 16

Age not a factor for Halloween celebrations

By Nancy Kong
Staff Writer

'Trick or treat, smell my feet give me something good to eat!' This is a saying used by children, and is now heard coming out of teenagers mouths more often. As the years go by, the students grew older and matured. Going door-to-door to receive those once desired morsels of candy was just not enough.

Most teenagers these days do not want to parade around in costumes and ring doorbells only to discover at the end of their long tiring night a half-full pillowcase and a pair of aching feet

"Going trick-or-treating is fun, but I think once you reach a certain age you grow out of it," said junior Stephanie Duong.

Yet not everyone thinks similarly. Freshman Laurie Magers said, "You are never too old to go trick-or-treating, because it is not just for little kids...there is no age limit to have fun!"

Not all teenagers go around neighborhoods to beg for candy. Halloween is also the holiday in which tricks are played on others. It is a day to express wild and

adventurous sides.

"I plan to egg someone's house because they deserve it," said an anonymous freshman.

Revenge is not always a good idea, especially on a holiday that has many cops lurking around, due to the recent number of kidnappings.

Taking something out of a children's story book, an anonymous junior who wants to be known as Jaylen Roswell said,

"On Halloween, I plan to walk around various neighborhoods and find unsuspecting kids so I can snatch their full bags of candy and run or at least run around the corner [to get into] my get away car."

The only ironic thing about Roswell's situation is he does not eat candy.

Roswell said, "All the candy will be donated to the unfortunate kids."

Roswell plans to play Robin Hood and steal from the rich and give to the poor.

Halloween is a holiday for everyone. If it is not desirable to go out and play tricks or ask for candy, there are other adventures lurking around the corner.

Senior Jason Choi said, "I am

going to hit up some parties [and at the parties], play hide and seek."

If nothing comes to mind and a party is not interesting, create something special with your imagination.

"Last Halloween, my friends and I built and ran a haunted house in his garage. We are planning to do the same thing this year," said freshman Anthony Orozco.

It may be a bit spooky, or a bit bone chilling to imagine a group of friends being able to build and operate their own haunted house, but it is something that not only brings joy to their holiday but to many other neighborhood kids. As well.

It is still not too late to make Halloween plans. Some people hate the idea of Halloween and trick-or-treating, so keep these encounters to a minimum.

"I think [trick or treating] is retarded, because I tell the kids I don't have candy and they keep coming back ringing and knocking at my door!" said sophomore Crystal Louey.

But, please kids; Halloween is not for everyone, so do not bother Crystal Louey!

And the best Halloween costume goes to...

By Nichole Ryles
Staff Writer

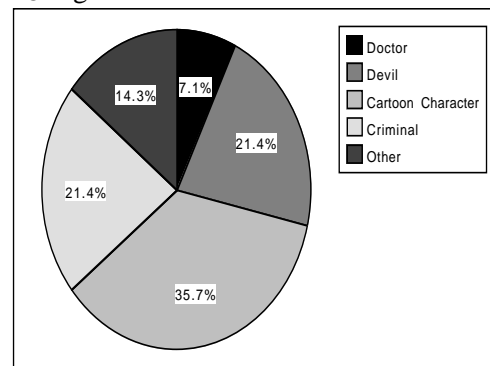
Fall has come and it's that time of year again when goblins and ghosts prance around the dark and haunted streets. Watch out for mysterious bag snatchers, as anonymous student said, "I plan to be a criminal so I can snatch candy from kids...the best crook in town." Students and staff are beginning to scope out costumes they have been eyeing for a while. After hearing about the new costume crazes for this year, people should head to Spirirts to purchase that new "Scream" mask or princess dress.

A costume is very important; it sheds

light on what kind of person is underneath the mask and represents a fantasy world he or she wishes to be part of. It expresses teenager's bubbly and outgoing personalities and can illuminate the shy and quiet ones as well.

Students decided the best costumes to slip into for the night of Oct. 31 where a poll asked random students what they would dress up as. Popularity is on the rise for those who have the best outfit on for the night. The results show just how creative people are and what they have come up with

this year. The poll was conducted around the entire school. Even teachers had an opinion about what they thought was a good costume.



The invisible thong: revealed

By Valerie Zerbini
Features Editor

Blue thongs, leopard thongs, fuzzy thongs, fairy thongs, leather thongs, edible thongs; what the hell happened to the invisible thong? I mean, really ladies, we all know that we wear thongs in order not to show that embarrassing panty line when we want to sport that pair of tight Gap Jeans or that sexy miniskirt. Why are we showing something that we want people to believe is not there?

I know, I know, Brittany Spears did it in her "Slave" video, but hey, **NEWS FLASH**, in case you all did not know, the thong was on the **OUTSIDE!** She was not actually trying to hide her...well, never mind.

Yes, I can assure you that I too saw Halle Berry's butt in it's pretty in pink set at the 2000 Grammy awards. But come on, she gets paid the big bucks to show that diamond rimmed thong, and unless you call attracting twenty football players who try to get you to give them your thong, cashing in the big bucks. Frankly, no one on this campus, in this city, in this area, has the gluteus maximus, the beauty, nor the political and Hollywood clout to be making a statement like that. Can we say cheap? That's right, for someone of our humble, yet perfectly acceptable, demeanor, we look

cheap. Everything our grandmothers turn over in their graves for. Scratch grandmothers, every female elder in your family tree is probably turning over.

I am sure we all remember **Monica Lewinsky** admitting that she caught ex-



president Bill Clinton's attention by flashing him a piece of her thong. Sorry, but would the real Monica Lewinsky please stand up? Nevermind, don't, we'd rather NOT see your public display, she's done enough for the American image.

Lets trace this so-called trend a little further back. According to the 2002 July issue of *Cosmopolitan* this lovely new fashion, as we see it now, started in 1939 at the New York City World's Fair (even your mothers wore thongs). The mayor, who happened to come across the nude dancers in the burlesque shows, told them to "**Cover it up**

WOMAN!" So the G-string was created, which was a small triangle in front and floss for between the cheeks. Can you say wedgy?

Moving on, *Cosmo* also stated that in the 1970s fashion designer Rudi Gernreich introduced the thong bathing suit to the American public, but it was in France and Brazil where woman went crazy for this new sexy, provoking look. Later they even took that off! It was Frederick's of Hollywood who didn't give up on the thong **CRACKING** the sales charts in the United States.

In 1981 the lingerie company, not too optimistic about the thong, held on strong believing that "American woman were ready for such risqué lingerie." Now Frederick's sells more than 85,000 thongs a week. (Do you really need that many pairs? Hey, whatever tickles your pickle.)

So, my fellow thong wearing comrades, yes, this includes me, whether you see the thong as a symbol of sensuality or simply as a panty that helps your butt feel smoother, make sure that what you want to be invisible isn't visible to people around you. After all, if school only taught us one thing, it is that crack does kill.

Senior class takes on the world

By **Marion Johnson**
Staff Writer

From Skaters to Thespians, Asians to South Americans, and future teachers to the next Ozzy Osbourne, this diverse group of 830 seniors of the class of 2003, voted for Melanie Medalle to represent it as its Senior Class President.

The job of senior class president is to create and organize activities pertaining to the senior class, such as the Senior Ball, skit, float and other extra activities the lower classmen do not receive. The president holds meetings with his or her counsel and other students of the senior class to discuss up coming events, and issues facing the class. One student, senior Ebany Jackson, said,

“A senior class president should be creative and responsible.” Medalle proves to be just that.

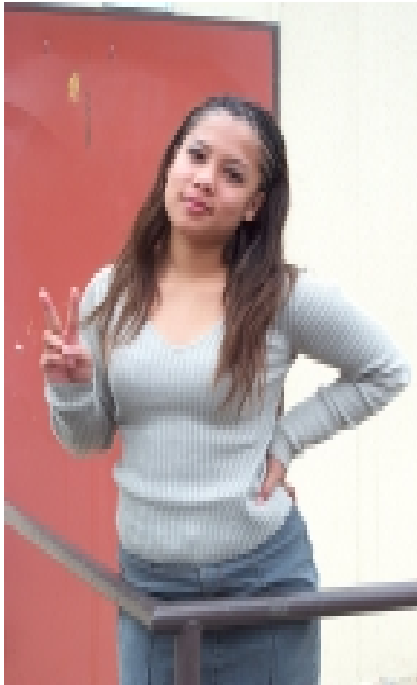
Medalle’s fellow senior class officers feel she, while new to the Leadership program, is very fit for the job.

“Melanie just wants to make impact, she wants to do something big,” said senior class secretary Joyce Hoque.

Medalle has fresh ideas, and does not want the normal activities and ideas for the senior class. She is here to spice it up a bit.

One way she plans on doing this is by harvesting all of the seniors’ ideas. Medalle is not just looking to one particular group for ideas, she is looking for everyone’s ideas and creativity. She encourages a variety of students to come to senior class meetings to give their input on plans for activities such as dances and fund raising.

“What I’m really trying to do this year is incorporate everything that makes the senior class so diverse, because without speaking for the whole school the



whole school can’t be involved,” said Medalle.

Medalle would like to dispel rumors about the students of leadership working for themselves and by themselves. By including members of various groups and clubs, Medalle assures activities will be well attended and meaningful. Medalle knows without the help of other students she cannot be successful in her job.

Medalle said her other officers are key to having success. Without her other officers, who include senior class vice president Hector Ochoa, senior class secretary Joyce Hoque, and senior treasure Melinda Bautista, Medalle could not put all of her ideas into play.

“Two of the other officers are Veterans of leadership and they help along the way,” said Medalle, fully

—See page 16

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Trash, trash, trash and more trash

When you thought it couldn't get any worse, it does

By Yasin Shah
News Editor

Walking around campus lately, all I do is watch where I step. I watch out for the piles of trash various people have left everywhere on campus. If you have noticed this "problem" then you have probably asked yourself... Why?

Our problem is rooted in various places namely lazy students.

"Even if one percent of 4,200 kids throw trash around that's a lot of people," said Don Albright, head of the maintenance department. "The few people who don't want to clean up after themselves make it hard for everybody else."

The trash problem has always existed. However, before the trash was picked up by a special team of custodians who went around and cleaned up after us. As part of last years budget cuts these valuable members of our staff were laid-off.

"Until this year we had an Ark crew who were groundskeepers who went around picking up after students... and they're gone and it's really obvious," said Albright. "Now the custodians who clean the classrooms have

to come out and clean the campus."

The fact that custodians only work eight hours and in some cases spend two hours cleaning up outside is appalling; if custodians have to clean

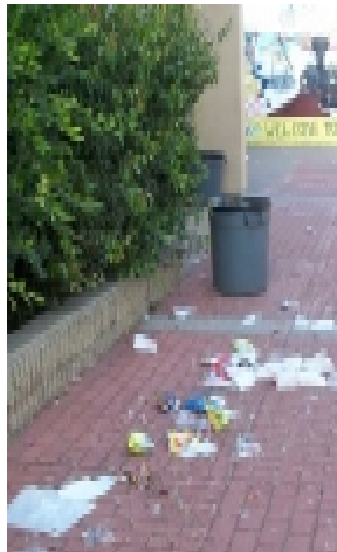


Photo by Nancy Kong

outside more frequently than our classrooms may not be cleaned every day. All this because a few people decided the three feet to the garbage can is just too far to go.

Now, if I dropped my trash on the ground and left it there, my rather close circle of friends would tell me to "pick it up." However, as senior Chris Raff said, "I think it's bad that we're such slobs. I think [we have a problem] because people

don't pick up their own trash."

I believe we are slobs only at school. At home, if any of us tried to dump our trash in the living room we would probably get a tongue lashing from a parent. Now at school, parents are not around to check that we do the right thing. It is up to us to do what is right for all and walk the three feet to the can.

"Logan's about to get a really good recycling program started... in a month or two," said Albright. Now that is a great idea. Restarting the recycling program would probably allow us to recycle most of the supplies we do not need anymore such as paper. However, people would need to be taught what and how to recycle. Then again, to have an effective recycling program the school would need the cooperation of students (to recycle) as well as staff members (to enforce the recycling plan).

Maybe within the next few months, the campus will become cleaner as students begin to realize no one is there to constantly pick up their trash. And most of all, I hope the students who have not yet done so will realize they are not alone in this world: they need to start acting as a people respectful of other members of society.

New games interesting and appealing to students

By William Daniel
Staff Writer

Ultimate Soldier Released August 8th 2002

This game has the classic "shoot-em-up" theme. The actual game itself has a real-time-like quake persona. The review by Biohazard™ said, "the focus of the game is online playing but if you want to play offline it has a few extra add-ons." Overall I give the game an 8.2 out 10.0.

Warcraft III: Reign of Chaos Released August 6th 2002

This game is much like the last two Warcraft games. The graphics could have been better in the making, but overall



the game is a little more advanced. It has a few more add-ons like the improved editor, and the option of choosing winter, summer, or

spring themes. There are also more characters you can play with. Gamereviewers.com said, "Warcraft III augments the typical RTS style play with upgradable Hero characters." Overall I give the game a 9.5 out of 10.0.

Stuntman Released September 4, 2002

Stuntman is a real boring game. The stuntman game itself is a non-stop film. But when you want to go to some driving games, or you want to go to the stunt coordinator, it sucks because you have to win the game to get anything out of either one. Even when you beat the game, you are limited on what you can build in the stunt coordinator, and the driving games bites dusts! Biohazard™ says "A no fun, boring, frustrating, ill-planned, repetitive failure!" I give the whole game a 4.9 out of 10.0

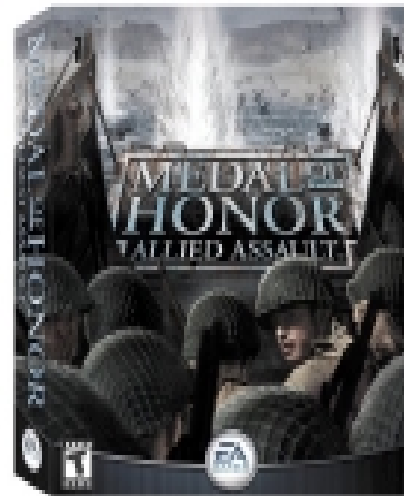
Grand Theft Auto Released July 15th 2002

Wooddog review said "All the cars you can drive and all the ladies you can ride." Grand Theft Auto III has a real-time surrounding, and you can steal anything, grab anything and kill anything. I give the

game an overall of 8.0 out of 10.0.

Medal of Honor: Frontline Released July 1, 2002

Cycovision said, "Exceptional Full-Right Protection System action of the highest quality. A PS2 must-have". The game itself is slow getting started but once you do, you are completely amazed. If



it were up to me I would tell you to go and play this game today. This game has the battle scene from *Saving Private Ryan*, on the front cover. Usually I would say do not judge a book by its cover, but do so this time and play it! The game has highly detailed graphics, and is an amazing game to play. Overall I give it a 9.8 out of 10.0.

Safety in America: snipers' killing rampage puts issue first

Spending a moment to evaluate the safety in America and the sources of unrest

By Sonam Shah
Copy Editor

One has to wonder about his or her safety today. As though the topic wasn't always meandering in the back of our already-crammed minds, it seems to have magnified itself and forced its way forward. As though daily pressure in this hectic world isn't enough, now one has to wonder about being shot by a sniper in front of a Home Depot.

Perhaps this is the end result of road rage? Perhaps this is what happens when the Starbucks line is a little too slow for a few too many days? As though we don't express anger toward our fellow man enough, now we have people jumping from rooftops and killing innocent men and women in broad daylight.

There is a concept of evil we have accepted over time that this insanity does not fit. I am not attempting to make sense of these crazy acts, I'm just attempting to analyze them.

The first of many concepts is this idea of broad daylight. Perhaps this is what startles us more

than anything: The audacity of this man to shoot innocent people in broad daylight. This is one of many factors, I feel, that separates these brutal acts from many others. It is almost psychological that if a horrendous act occurs at night, it is somewhat more "logical, acceptable," we feel safer. We lock our doors at night. We shut our windows. We tuck in our brothers, sister, nieces, nephews. We check under their beds for monsters, open the closets, turn on the night lights.

But what happens when someone decides to hurt us during the day? In the middle of a parking lot? From above? With a weapon? How do we explain? How do we protect ourselves? What LOGIC can we find in that?

I know personally, when I read the sad acts of crime in the paper that I tend to look for a link between the victim and the perpetrator. It makes me feel safer if I can link the two together. "They were related, she had money he wanted."

"She was his cousin, she didn't like his girlfriend." It seems easier to understand, easier to categorize, easier to move on with my life if there is some connection. I can mentally go through my phone book looking for the same tendencies in the people contained there and consider myself safe. What do you do when there is no link? How do you even attempt to

understand? As though crime was not already a difficult thing to understand, what do you do when you cannot put the pieces together to form something even slightly coherent? What exactly do you do?

Even as I write this I can't help but wonder if society itself propelled one man or woman toward these acts of destruction. What are the steps that lead to this madness that plagues us today? In a world where little girls and boys can make icing with easy bake ovens and create their own McDonald's creations, in a world where a man or woman can pay to be put on the moon, what exactly could cause such pain? Why do we force ourselves to inflict pain on one another? Does that somehow create equilibrium in the world? With as much joy and pleasure we can create we must also inflict pain and hardships on fellow man. Does it make mankind feel more secure? More human? Is one man or one woman trying to play God? This is a formidable example of Newton's law, in my opinion. For every action there is an equal or opposite reaction. This is the reaction.

Do we accept the madness? Do we accept the insanity and decide that this horror is now an integral part of our lives? Why

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Specific cost of providing safety incomprehensible in America

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should we accept this? What is going to prevent someone else from continuing these acts? What always scares me when things like this begin are the realization that they have now entered our realm of behavior. If the thought has crossed one person's mind, it has crossed many people's minds, if one person has acted on those thoughts, so will many more. What world will our children grow up in? What exactly will their lives be like?

The ironic coincidence this all plays in my life is that I will leave for Maryland next Friday. My niece is turning one on Halloween. She lives about ten miles away from the site of the first shooting. Her mother told me she now stays home. She's too afraid to take her little girl out to the park.

How is she going to grow up? Memories from my childhood include playing board games, sliding down swings, cutting my elbows from bike rides, flying my kite. Never thinking about a mad man shooting at random people. I never heard my mother say, "Sorry, we can't go out today, the sniper is out and about. We have to be careful. Remember to stay away from the windows honey, oh, and you can't go outside."

That's not a childhood, that's imprisonment. We are locking ourselves into a cycle of chaos through our own advancements in the world.

Is there a point in which we step back and say, "Let's become cavemen again, they didn't have that many problems aside from language and grave diseases." I believe there is. I believe there is a point in which we as mankind have reached our point of excess.

I believe that perhaps this is it. This is our point of excess. We, as a society, have created a country, a world, in which we are afraid to step beyond our front doors. Afraid

of who or what is lurking around the corner.

Perhaps it is time we reevaluated the future of our country, the future of this world. What impression as a society are we truly leaving? Years from now when we look back on this point in time, will we clearly be able to see the injustices that surround us today, or will we romanticize about the good old days because in that time and place that is exactly what they are? I don't want to be a part of the world in which these are the good ol' days. It's time we stepped up as the next generation to take on the world and begin by changing it!



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Best Buddies: Nurturing the soul and creating friendships together

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want to participate out of the kindness of their hearts, and for that reason, community service is not provided.

General Education participants are required to contact their buddy at least twice a week, whether it be in school or by phone and at minimum take their "buddy" on an out-of-school activity such as a movie or a picnic twice a month.

According to the

president of Logan's Best Buddies chapter, Chung Nguyen, "The problem last year was that people didn't have the commitment and or time to stay with it." This is very unfortunate for the Special Ed. students who had already become attached to their buddy. They were confused about why their friend a couple of days ago isn't there any longer. Students' motive for joining Best Buddies should be to obtain a friendship with others

of intellectual disability and to help each person involved to feel better about themselves. The club does not welcome members who are only interested because it will look good on their transcripts. Best Buddies not only helps those with handicaps, but helps all students to become more aware of the world in which they live and all that they have to be thankful for; Best Buddies makes students all-around better people.

Music: revolution

Continued from page 6

Although she started off at an early age, I think she inspired many of the great young R&B artists today. Female hip hop artists such as Ashanti and Destiny's Child are obviously successful, but in my opinion don't even compare to Aaliyah's elegance and passionate music. Her rich, tasteful songs and beats prove to the world she truly is a one in a million. Even though she may not be with us today, her music will live on forever.

Medalle: creating change one step at a time

Continued from page 7

aware of her officers' purpose.

She depends upon the prior knowledge of her veteran officers to help ease the decision making and implementation process.

Medalle was not able to talk about any of her ideas or plans for this year, being that it is still so early in the year, but she does seem to have a few good tricks up her sleeve. Medalle and officers are taking every available opportunity to

soak up all possible ideas they can get

to make this senior year a great one.

Hoque said to, "Expect something new," from Medalle, and the seniors certainly will.

Contact Melanie Medalle through Leadership or the Courier if you have any questions or comments.

Lack of attendance at junior varsity games disappointing

By: Veronica Solorzano
Sports Editor

No one seems to notice or care.

Have you ever been to a waterpolo or a badminton game, a tennis match, any of the girls' sports, or a game played at the junior varsity level?

When I go watch these athletes, I go on my own free will, enjoy every minute I am there, I realize these players put in just as much effort as the stars on any other team and that the Lady Colts kick butt just as much as the guys do.

It goes back to years and years of underestimating these teams and players. It's absurd that these athletes take their time and put in so much effort, but hardly get noticed. The more I think about it, the more it makes sense. I am an athlete myself and the main reason my team plays is simply for the love of the game. So why not show more school spirit and support the teams?

Unfortunately those sports, along with many other except football (and occasional basketball games) are rarely, if ever publicized and maybe this is part of the spreading epidemic of NO SPIRIT.

We are always invited to

sporting events on Friday nights, in the fall, when the Logan football team has a game. Perhaps football is so highly noticed because our Athletic Director is the head football coach, but I tend to think there is another reason behind all this. Football games have



turned into social hour. Hundreds of students look forward to freezing their butts off on a Friday night at Judson E. Taylor field. But I notice that 80% of the so-called fans enjoy talking amongst their friends rather than watching our team score a touchdown.

The only other time I have heard of a game is when the Logan boys' basketball team has a match-up against one of the rival schools. That is the only time the Guy Emanuele Pavilion is crowded.

But once again it is when

the boys have a game. When I go to girls events I can count the number of spectators on one hand.

But who is counting the spectators, right? Wrong.

I go to support the junior varsity as well as varsity teams of various sports. When I arrive I don't have to search for a seat or hope there is enough room for my friends and I to sit together. The only people who are in the stands are parents, some friends, and maybe a boyfriend or girlfriend of a player.

The question seldom asked is, "Where are all the fans?"

Fans for J.V.--ha--that's a joke.

However, my main question is: Why doesn't anyone go? It's just J.V. playing right? Wrong, again.

The J.V. teams put in just as much effort as any varsity program here at Logan. They are the future. They deserve to be recognized and supported. The girls teams, the J.V. teams, the varsity teams: they all represent something you are apart of.

Maybe some of you should try going to a non-football related sporting event and be a fan, without turning it into social hour. You just might enjoy yourselves and trust me on this one; it won't kill you to have fun supporting your school.

New coach keeps runners on their toes

By **Jamila Booker**

Staff Writer

Both Varsity and J.V. Cross Country plan to start this year off on a positive note while keeping an eye on their competition. Although Varsity and J.V. do not compete together, both divisions do practice at the same time and have the same goal in mind.

They both want to do their best. With Coach Scott Kennedy leading the team this year for the first time at Logan, this season is expected to be filled with success, with the help from former girl teammates who have returned and a young group of guys.

Members from both varsity and j.v. agree that Kennedy is a better coach than last year's coach.

"He communicates way better," said sophomore Eden

Yonas, who is on Varsity, "I would say that there is more communication going on between the coach and the winners."

Alex Rhone and Daniel Cerna are two freshmen who Kennedy believes will make a mark this year. He also said to look out for sophomore Yosef Ghebray, junior Esays Gebrikedan, senior Melissa Aurit, junior Amanda Marinez, and senior Maricel Hernandez, who are considered to be the star athletes for this season. The advice given by Yonas and sophomore Frewayne Gebrekidan is to not give up no matter how hard competition may get, and not to run just for the competition alone, but for enjoyment.

As said by both Yonas and sophomore Frewayne Gebrekidan who runs for J.V. .

"Our strong points would be our first two runners for the guys

and great depth for the girls," Kennedy said.

Unfortunately, winning is never as easy as one can make it seem. With competition coming from schools like Mission, Irvington, and American, the teams focus and positivity is sure to be put to the test.

Kennedy said, "Competition will come from Mission for the girls because Mission wins yearly, and for the guys I would say.....Irvington and American because [their] guys are more talented."

The team also feels that they need to focus on working better together and not trying to out do one another, which will help both divisions when competing against Mission.

As Kennedy said, "Hopefully it's a fun and successful season for all team players."

Girls varsity bumps, sets, spikes toward a fantastic season

By **Vikram Dhesi**

Staff Writer

The girls' varsity volleyball team is 12-and-13 for the season, putting the Colts at 3-and-0 for league matches. They won their home game on October 1 against Irvington and also finished fifth out of 32 teams in the Deer Valley tournament; the Colts are winning big and early this year. They are led by senior Amy Rodrigues, who has been

on the varsity team for all four years of high school. She also has been on First Team All League for three years. Rodrigues, a former center who now mostly plays as a setter feels that this team can win the league this year and hopes to get to the NCS Division 1 championships. The Colts are also led by Coach Roderigues, who has been coaching volleyball for 25 years. Coach "Rod" is confident that his team is strong, because of its out-

standing performance by the outside hitters. This team is fortunate to have one of the best coaches in the league because Al Roderigues also currently coaches men's volleyball at Stanford, and has done so for the past 12 years. He won the league 13 out of 14 years with James Logan. With a strong coaching background, no wonder this team is looking to take the league this year.

Logan starts season with winning record

By Joseph Silva
Staff Writer

Despite a big loss to Skyline 33-13, the James Logan High School football team still demands perfection. Logan was hammered by Skyline and was looking to rebound against Clayton Valley. This was the last game of the preseason before heading into league.

"We need to work harder and watch more films to be more prepared," said Coach Neal Fromson.

Coach Fromson made some changes on the defensive side of the ball. On offense he hoped to pass the ball more. Logan has averaged 15 yards a pass to 4 yards a run.

Logan really had trouble stopping the run.

"We have to be more physical and attack the ball," Fromson said.

Logan plans to put nine guys up front to stop the run. The Colts will depend on their speed to stop the pass.

"We need to get better everyday, stay focus, and have no fall backs," said Fromson.

This game is really important for the Colts. Logan is coming off a loss and needs a win for momentum, heading into league.

On Friday September 27, the Colts eat Clayton Valley 27-10 in a come from behind victory. There were plenty of heroes for the Colts, who had 20 unanswered fourth quarter



Photo by Veronica Solorzano

Ryan Ting running the ball back

points. Logan struck first with a 25-yard touchdown run by running back junior Jonathan Ugay.

"Our team effort was okay but we haven't played our best game yet," Ugay said.

Ugay had 98 yards on 10 carries and really put the Eagles away. He had three really big runs to help beat Clayton Valley.

The Eagles got a field goal and a touchdown to take the lead, 10-7, going into the fourth quarter.

Clayton Valley was driving to score again but a big interception by junior defender David Halle turned the whole game around. This got Logan back into the game.

Logan went on a drive and scored on a 9-yard sweep run by wide receiver senior Ryan Ting.

"We started out slow but in the fourth quarter we poured it on," Ryan said.

As Logan had a 14-10 lead, they traveled 39 yards in seven plays to make it 21-10. A big fourth down play by senior quarterback Brandon Ting to his brother Ryan Ting kept the drive alive. Then Brandon scored on a 3-yard quarter back keeper run.

The Colts defense held the Eagles to zero points in the fourth quarter. Logan would add another touchdown by junior James Abuan to cap off a 27-10 victory.

"David Halle really stood out with a key interception to help us come back," Brandon said.

James Logan is 2-1 heading into league and they hope to continue to add more victories throughout the rest of the season.

Water polo dives into new season with new coaches

By: Valerie Zerbini

Features Editor

Boys Water polo

Starting out the season with a bad lose to Irvington High School, the James Logan Varsity Boys Water polo team, is ready to try harder.

Once again this water polo team had to adjust to a new coach, 19-year-old Gene Kendall, who currently attends Ohlone College in Fremont.

"But he's a good, cool guy," said senior Marc Del Rosario, who has played water polo for four years and is now one of the team captains.

The team began practicing with their new coach on August 28, and according to Kendall, has improved with each practice.

"I like to get in the water with the team from time to time to show them some pointers," said Coach Kendall.

Kendall, who attended and played water polo at Irvington High School, said "Our biggest competition right now is Washington and Irvington, but we've matured as a team since we began practicing in August and my goal is to win League and go to North Coast Section."

But having a new coach and losing three of their largest players from last season hasn't

taken this team down.

"We have more communication now," said senior Mitchell Hong, who, like Del Rosario, has been playing water polo since his freshman year and is also a team captain.

Learning how to deal with a new coach and filling the holes left by three graduating seniors from last season, the boys water polo team has learned to bond with each other to make this season worth while.

"The whole team is involved now," said Del Rosario, "and I think we can make it to NCS."

Hong, who is very optimistic about this season said, "I expect us to play beyond the level we have before. At first it was 90% heart, and 10% focus, this year though, it's nothing but heart."

Girls Water polo

This season the James Logan Varsity Girls water polo team is trying to do only one thing: grow and learn as a team.

Headed by their new coach, Martin Munoz, this team is going straight for the victory in their up coming seasons.

"Right now we need more experience," said Munoz, "but by the end of this season we'll be doing way better."

The team's lack of experience showed when they played Irvington High School last

month.

"The girls played well," said Coach Munoz, "but their inexperience began to slow them down."

The cause of their inexperience was brought about when the team lost 8 graduating seniors from last season. Luckily, this team has had a large amount of new comers.

"We have a really young team this year," said 3 year water polo player junior Emily Walton, "but we have the potential of being good."

Right now the team is learning how to play well and bring their skills together.

"We're pretty good with offence, but defense is what wins games." Said coach Munoz.

Sophomore Jillian Lothian took a different look at the youngness of the team.

"I want everyone to have a good time. We all get along. Now we just have to play our hardest."

But with a whole season ahead of them, and with future plans of forming a successful team, the Varsity Girls Water Polo team is taking it all step by step.

"Right now we look at each game as a learning experience, and take it all with a good attitude." Said Walton.