
THE JAMES LOGAN VOL. 43, NO. 5
COURIER
HIGH SCHOOL

ALWAYS FREE

1800 H STREET, UNION CITY, CA. 94587

May 7, 2002

Tragic accident claims three students

By **Anthony Braden, Valerie Cousineau, Kevin Hume, Vineesha Malkani, Rajiv Parmer, Stefanie Pow, and Joan Tarectecan**

Staff Writers

Shortly before 10 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 2002, a 1997 Acura coupe veered out of control on Union City Boulevard south of Palos Way, crashed into a 3-foot stone wall and burst into flames.

Michael Aguilar, J.R. Lahip, and Allan Tongson, were all in the car and never made it out.

Police have confirmed that Michael was driving. His license was legal to drive minors until midnight. Medical examiners said Allan was sitting in the back and J.R. was in the front passenger seat.

A witness said that the car was speeding along at about 75 mph. The speed limit on Union City Boulevard in the area is 35 mph. The closest sign stating this is about half a mile from the crash site.

Michael, J.R. and Allan were all sophomores here at James Logan. The

three were best friends and they all DJ'd together in a crew called Urban Sound. Friends, families, students and teachers all have fond memories of the boys.

"He was the type to play around," said sophomore Anna Runas of Allan. "Allan was always dancing and singing."

"You're DJing for a bigger crowd now" and "We'll miss you" students wrote on Michael's memorial poster.

After the tragic news broke over the loudspeakers, the campus became solemn and overcome with sadness.

"I feel bad for their families. I feel the pain. They were only fifteen and sixteen years old with their whole lives ahead of them," said sophomore Crystal Marrouin.

Junior Liliana Badrillo said, "The pain that [the families] must be going through losing people that have been on this earth for such a short amount of time is unimaginable."

As students try to cope with this loss, they also have learned a lesson out of this tragedy.

As junior Samantha Bartolome said, "Stupid actions result in horrible consequences. It is important to live life to its fullest."

Students are not the only ones filled with grief. Their teachers also feel the pain of loss.

"It's so hard to watch his desk stay empty, when he was just passing out papers for me two days ago," said Allan's English teacher, Margo Fenzl.

Although teachers may not see the three students anymore, they remember the positive qualities they left behind.

"I will remember Michael as a responsible and respectful young man," said Micheal's English teacher Solomon Ireland. "What I will remember most was his capacity for happiness."

J.R.'s teachers had the same good impressions of him.

"I'll remember that J.R. had a passion for playing music as a DJ— he loved it. He made people laugh and put people in a good mood. He will be sorely missed," said English teacher Jennifer Iby.



J.R. Lahip



Allan Tongson



Michael Aguilar

OPINIONS

Mourning Logan's lost students

By Christine Nguyen
Editor-in-Chief

From what has happened in the past weeks of Logan, there are no perfect words that can value the meaning of a lost one. All we can remember is what they have done in the past and how much they meant to us now that they are gone.

I can honestly say, I haven't lost anyone close to me, so I apologize if my words and actions hurt others.

Wednesday, March 20 was the day when Logan started shedding tears. Principal Don Montoya announced 2nd period that we had lost four people of our Logan family: Michael Aguilar, Mark Jenket, J.R. Lahip, and Allan Tongson.

The car accident and discovery in Coyote Hills all hit Logan in one week.

During lunch, I remembered that Wednesday afternoon when everyone was silent. The halls were a lot quieter. For a minute, I even thought Logan was gone.

I went to where the crash was. The first thing I saw was people on the ground crying and mourning for their friends that were gone; others read the notes for Michael, J.R. and Allan on posters and record covers. I couldn't believe it, I was right where it happened surrounded by people who loved these three guys.

I only remember seeing them during passing period, but I didn't personally know them. As I saw a vision of myself in the halls seeing one of them, I started to cry. My heart went to tears.

Next, I went to Mark's vigil at Pioneer Elementary school on the big grassy field, where about 200 people attended. The first thing I heard when I went there was the song, *Tears in*

Heaven by Eric Clapton. Many of Mark's friends gave their thoughts and memories of how Mark acted. While that was going on, I saw the people next to me, holding their candles with tears falling down to the ground. It turned out that Jenket's family had moved since he was missing and could only send their thanks to everyone who attended the vigil.

With all this happening in one week, I couldn't even believe we had

lost four people in our Logan family. It hurts me to see all these people who are usually happy now sad and dispirited during passing period. We all need to realize how we need to cherish every moment in lives, whether it is bad or good. Don't make risky decisions unless you are willing to face the consequences. And if you do feel uncomfortable about how your life is going, see a teacher, a friend, or even your dog because no one wants to hear another person is gone.

THE COURIER Staff

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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 the students, staff, parents and community-at-large.

Stories 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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Suicide leaves void

By **Natalie Pullen**
Copy Editor

Paraprofessional Linda Phillips' death announcement on Monday, March 18 shocked me immensely. I had seen her just days before and casually knew her through mutual friends. Her absence affected me in a way that can only be labeled "strangely," our only connections were political and scientific conversations over lunch, Eddie Vedder, and the occasional wave across crowded halls. Yet I definitely felt this void, this loss of life, this somberness that stayed with me throughout the week.

But what upset me—and I do not mean angered, but merely alarmed—the most was learning she took her own life.

Growing up, I was always told suicide is never an option. My parents ingrained that into my head as soon as I was old enough to comprehend the idea of death. Over the years, as my experience with this subject accumulated, I began to see why the statement was true. I found that suicide never ended the pain; it didn't end the suffering. If anything, suicide is a catalyst and creates more pain and suffering.

People need look no further than our campus for evidence supporting the above claim. Phillips felt the only way out of the troubles she faced was to end her life, and in doing so, others are now overcome with pain, guilt, and "ifs." This statement is not judgmental and not meant to blame her or disrespect her memory; I am merely examining the ramifications of her act.

And perhaps that is why I find it so troubling, and disheartening, to learn that if James Logan's student body typifies society's trend, the American Psychiatric Association predicts 55 students will seriously consider committing

suicide this year. Fifty-five. Two whole classrooms.

To these students, I now speak directly: For your sake and the sake of the people who care for and about you, I beg you to get help.

I do not profess to know the difficulties you encounter on a daily basis; I have no way of knowing the pain and suffering you endure.

What I do profess to know is how permanent the "solution" of suicide is to the temporary problems of life. I stress temporary, for the problems faced today are not the ones face in the past and nor are they the ones that will be faced in the future.

The many forms of help available all assist suicidal individuals with problems they feel they cannot face along. Friends and family first come to mind, but if that source is unavailable for whatever reason, I can think of myriad faculty, professionals and hotlines who would be more than eager to be of assistance.

Professionals can be found at clinics like Tri-City Health Center in Fremont and Tiburcio Vasquez in Union City. Clergy and pastors are often trained in counseling as well. The local suicide prevention hotlines listed in the phone

book include: (510) 889-1333 (Hayward/Castro Valley), (510) 794-5211 (Fremont/Newark/Union City), and (510) 784 2433 for 24 hour assistance.

In short, to deny that life has problems is to have never really lived it. But as Italian playwright Conte Vittorio Alfieri once stated, "Often the test of courage is not to die, but to live."

My heart goes out to Linda's family and friends, and especially her husband and grandson.



I miss you already
I miss you always
I miss you already
I miss you all day

This is how I feel

Ah, I miss you already
I miss you always
Three crooked hearts...Swirls all around her
I miss you all day

--"Smile" Pearl Jam

In Memory

In Loving Memory of Tiffany Jefferson



She will always be remembered and truly missed by everyone that knew her.
May her precious soul rest in peace.

Jenket memorial provides closure

By Veronica Solorzano and Kathy Gallegos
Staff Writers

After missing for two years, the body of Mark Jenket was discovered at Coyote Hills in Fremont March 15, 2002.

Jenket was last seen on April 28, 2000. He told his mother that he was staying after school to take an exam; he never came back home.

Jenket was well known throughout James Logan High School and around Union City. He was a quiet and reserved young man who enjoyed hanging out with his friends.

"He loved to smoke and listen to his favorite band Tool," said senior Jeremy O'Donnell.

A candlelight vigil was held for Jenket on March 21, 2002. Over 250 people attended the vigil. The attendees who attended were his friends, close family, and other people



This was handed out at Jenket's memorial

who associated with Jenket throughout his years.

Unfortunately, Jenket's

immediate family was unable to be there. They moved to New Hampshire shortly after Jenket's disappearance.

However, they sent a letter that was read by a ministry-coordinator from the church the family used to be apart of. The letter thanked everyone for coming and caring for Mark. They were upset that Mark had to die alone when there were so many people that cared.

During the vigil, many people stood before the large crowd and shared their dearest memories of Jenket. They spoke of the good things he did in this short sixteen years of life and how he touched so many hearts.

"He was a good guy who will be greatly missed," said junior Greg Torres.

Police say it appears Jenket committed suicide in the hills. He was a junior at Logan when he disappeared; he would have graduated with the class of 2001.

Student brings gun to school, arrested

By **Tesia Bell and Yasin Shah**

Staff Writers

Senior Ramsey Houser was arrested for bringing a pellet gun onto James Logan High School's campus.

Houser was arrested on the March 19 in Colt Court after a student saw him place a pellet gun in his waist band and reported it. The police found one semi-automatic pellet gun on Houser and two others in the trunk of his car.

Houser is being charged with three felonies, one for each gun he

possessed. Houser is being recommended for expulsion; the school board will review his case and make a decision in the near future.

This is not the first incident involving guns at Logan.

"In my 28 years of my being at Logan we only had four real gun situations," said principal Don Montoya.

Last year, a student brought a gun to school, was promptly arrested, suspended and expelled.

Once a student is expelled, no

school has to accept that student for a period of one year. In Houser's case however, no school is required to accept him as he is eighteen years of age.

For students who plan on bringing a weapon to school Montoya offers this advice: "Don't do it, Logan needs to be a safe place for everyone."

He added, "Anyone who tries to make it unsafe will be dealt with severely."

Days of Respect discusses diversity

By **Dana Jung**

Staff Writer

Students and faculty at James Logan High School will get a chance to learn about diversity during this year's "Days of Respect."

Logan's annual Days of Respect, which consists of several assemblies and discussions on respecting ourselves and others, began February 25 and ended March 1.

When the Days of Respect first started at Logan a few years ago, it literally lasted only one day. As the years passed, more and more days were added. Last year was the first time that it was a whole week.

"The [Days of Respect] are an opportunity for us at Logan to talk about issues of diversity and pause for a while and think about the diversity we have on campus," said principal Don Montoya.

About 100 Logan staff members attended "Beyond Diversity" training, a two-day workshop in which they discussed issues of respect and diversity. The main goal of the workshop was to get everyone to talk about their issues. Talking and discussing diversity is also the main idea Days of Respect is based on.

The Days of Respect activities have gone well in the past, but some controversy occurred last year because of some things said during a live broadcast of a discussion regarding respect.

"Students were saying some things live that some people were bothered by," said Montoya. "This year we're going to watch that a little more."

Some teachers and administrators have noticed an improvement in Logan students' attitudes towards each other, but this change cannot be totally attributed to the Days of Respect.

"If people don't have respect right now, then they're not going to have respect during the Days of Respect," said senior Ashlee Costa. "It's something you learn over your lifetime, not in a week at school."

"Respect is a big thing. Schools can't correct it. It has to start from the outside," said science teacher Joseph Caruso.

When Logan first started the Days of Respect, many students cut school and did not take it seriously. The faculty has seen an improvement in students' attitudes towards the Days of Respect activities, but it still does not

seem to be getting the attention it deserves.

Said senior Alberto Anaya, "I took it seriously the first time, but they talk about the same things every year. It gets boring."

"It is certainly well planned and thought out, but some students don't seem to take it seriously. They think it's a big joke," said English teacher Valerie Garcia.

At the least, the Days of Respect discussions will force students to face issues of diversity and racism head-on.

"It brings new information to the surface about what should be done [about the problems with respect]," said senior John Ojeda.

Respect has become an especially important issue since the September 11 tragedy.

Said Montoya, "It could have been a really easy time to stereotype, but [Logan] students didn't do that."

The Days of Respect will give Logan another chance to talk about the tragedy, respecting each other, and the school's diversity. Above all, it will remind everyone at Logan that "Diversity is our strength, Unity is our goal."

FEATURES

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May 7, 2002

Despite consequences, plagiarism remains an issue among students

By Stefanie Pow and
Vineesha Malkani

Staff writers

It's all around us. Everyone does it. Plagiarize that is. Plagiarism at Logan has been an issue for many years.

"Plagiarism is a big thing and it's getting bigger," said American Political Systems teacher Jim Hansen.

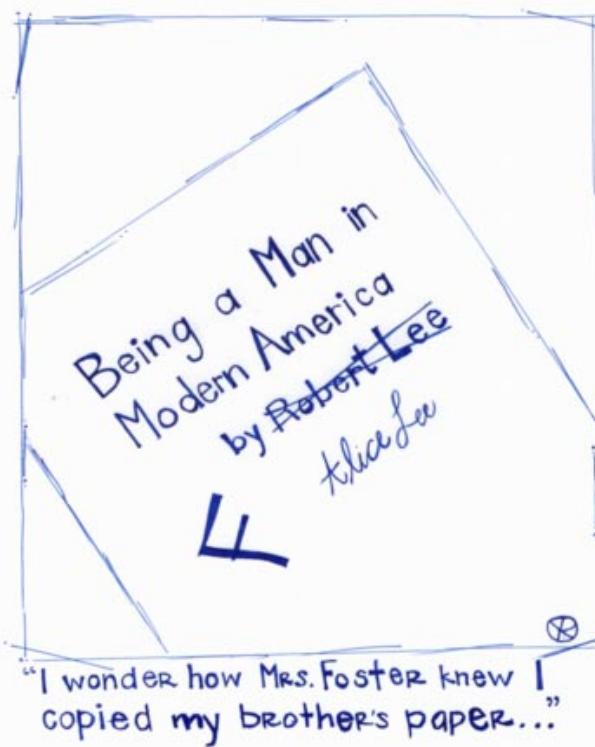
At James Logan, plagiarism is a growing trend. Students plagiarize on research papers and English essays. Simply not sourcing the information or not putting the information provided in their own words are different ways students plagiarize.

According to Economics teacher Shawn Dolgin, "Plagiarism is a big problem at Logan because students develop very poor research habits and have gotten away with different levels of plagiarism all through out their academic careers."

Plagiarism has become more widespread since students began using the Internet as a resource. Internet sites, like Sparknotes.com, encourage students to copy the information. Copying the work of others and calling it their own comes as naturally as breathing for some students. With clubs, sports, dances, and the telephone, who has time for term papers? There is no denying the fact that students are lazy when it comes to their assignments, no matter how important they are. Though

they are only assigned one per semester, students dread their research papers like it's last week's left overs. As a result of this, they are constantly searching for an easy way out and feel that plagiarism is their only solution.

"Most of the time I just do a research paper the night before and I get lazy so I just copy and paste the



information," said one student who did not wish to be named.

Another reason students plagiarize because they believe that their own work is not competent enough for the grade they desire. It all boils down to, "Is cheating worth getting caught?"

Senior Carlos Guerrero found the answer to this question when his teacher noted that his essay looked familiar. After the incident, Guerrero offers some advice to those thinking about plagiarizing.

"Plagiarizing is not a good thing. I don't encourage it. It is not worth the risk," said Guerrero.

There is definitely risk involved. If caught plagiarizing, students receive a zero for the assignment and in some cases, must conference with their parents and the teacher who caught the student. Depending on the teacher, cases might get reported to the administration and follow students in college through permanent record.

Many students don't think they will get caught. However, detecting plagiarism is easier than they think. Unfortunately for some students, teachers are experts at noticing plagiarism.

"It is simple to catch plagiarism," said U.S. history teacher Dean Cozine, "because when reading papers and essays, it is easy to tell when style and language change. Also, there are times when the concepts and evidence being presented [in the paper] is way beyond anything the student has demonstrated.

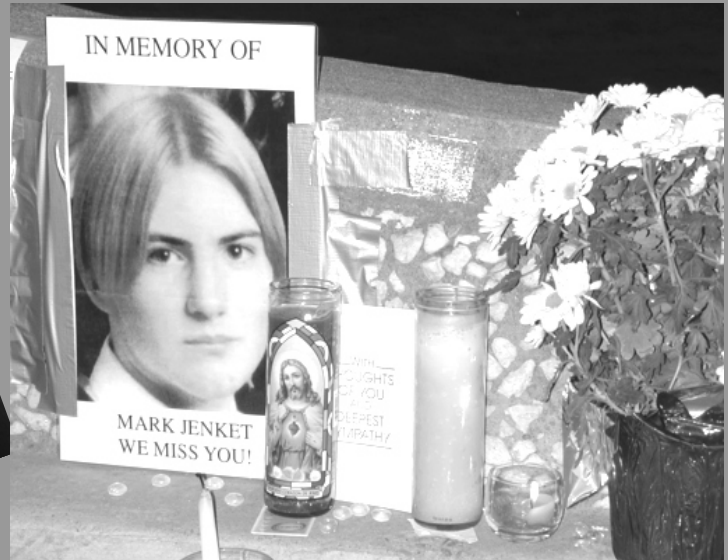
Once the doubts kick in, I check the sources cited."

Plagiarizing is a risk students take to escape failing an assignment. However, is the risk worth taking? With that, it would definitely be a good idea to rethink your decision of blowing off your paper and going to the mall instead.

IN MEMORY

May 7, 2002

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Union City remembers...



Logan athlete spotlights

By Veronica Solorzano

When thinking about of Logan sports, a few unique players come to mind. These are the athletes known throughout Logan for their great athletic ability.

Boys' Basketball

When he walks through the halls with his headphones on, he subtly passes you by and you wonder where you have seen him before. This familiar face is the quiet and talented junior who lets his emotions explode on the court.

As one of the top ten scorers in the Mission Valley Athletic League,



Emonie Fish is the go to guy on the varsity boys basketball team. With two years of Logan basketball under his belt, this year Fish was ready for the varsity level. He led the Colts with an average of 10.8 points, 5 rebounds and 3 assists per game.

"Emonie has contributed offensively to the team as the most consistent contributor and one of the top rebounders on the team," said Coach Blake Chong. "He has a great attitude and works hard."

You may know him as "Money" or the guy who hits all the threes. He leaves his mark on virtually every play he is involved in, especially his trademark three-point shot that

makes the crowd go wild.

Girls'

Basketball

As the glue that held the Logan Varsity girls Basketball team together, senior Marea Blue led the Lady Colts' in a positive direction. Her good decisions on and off the court has taken her game to a next level, which has helped this four year varsity player.



"She is the kind of player every team needs, every coach loves and every player enjoys having her on the team," said Coach Erin Cross.

Her well known leadership ability led the Colts

to the semi- finals of NCS this season.

"She will continue to succeed long after Logan High," said Cross.

Wrestling

Senior Kirk Fitzpatrick once again dominated the NCS playoffs and finished second in the state; this is the fourth time he has qualified for state finals. He has continued to keep his success throughout the years, as a sophomore Fitzpatrick won NCS and was runner up last year.

Fitzpatrick will be

remembered as the vocal team captain who motivated his teammates.

"The key to Kirk's Success is keeping him healthy," said Coach Eli Bagoisan.

After this school year comes to an end, Fitzpatrick plans on attending college and continue his wrestling career in college.

