

# The Clarion

March 2007

## New Tardy Policy Appears To Work

By Clarion Staff

Though some students may not like the new tardy policy, it nonetheless seems to have them scurrying to get to class on time.

According to the new policy, any student who racks up six tardies in one class must attend a mandatory, two-hour Saturday detention. The new policy was designed to address concerns that students were missing class since they were held in K-78 for being tardy.

After 13 school days, 14

students were late to one class enough to land themselves in detention.

"That's a pretty low percentage out of thirty-four hundred kids," said Principal Davis.

Mr. Jarvis, the dean of attendance, said he has observed fewer students being tardy to class. However, he said numbers weren't available to prove there was a difference.

"I don't see as many students out of class [in the 10-30 seconds] right after the bell rings," Jarvis said. "It appears to

be better, but every time there's a new rule it [depends] on how you enforce it."

The CHS tardy policy mirrors those at many other area high schools, Davis said. It was created with chronically late students in mind—those who are late to a class seven to 15 times.

However, some students voiced disapproval with the new policy. Freshman Denise Reyes said it's wrong to have detention on Saturdays. "It's way too exaggerated for tardies," she said.

Other students say keeping track of tardies takes up too much class time. "It all seems like a waste of time," said sophomore Vanessa Ostovich.

The revised policy has made a difference for junior Hannah Ju, who said she was frequently late to first period in the fall. "Since the new tardy policy was made, I've made a bigger effort to get to that class and I haven't been late so far," said Ju. "I'd rather not waste two hours of my Saturday."

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## Acadeca Improves Ranking

By Candy Wong  
Staff Writer

"Coffee, coffee, *coffee...*" cites Decathlete senior Allison Bellon jokingly as her so-called study aid to prep for Academic Decathlon meets.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> at UCLA, Allison Bellon steered CHS' Academic Decathlon Team to a team total of 3,535 points and a rank of 27<sup>th</sup> out of 45 teams at Super Quiz as our school's "Top Scoring Student." This was a significant jump from last year's 2,350 points.

"I started studying after the banquet last year. I basically lived at Starbucks for three weeks," said Bellon, who also received a Most Inspirational award, given to four students in the competition.

Coached by Ms. Richard and Ms. Weisner, the CHS Acadeca Team typically meets during zero period and after school for three times a week, as well for a few hours every other Saturday throughout the school year.

The class contains 30 students, while the team holds nine members, whose memberships are determined by how well each student performs during a scrimmage meet in November.

"This year, the topic was China's influence on the world," said Bellon. Chinese art, music, social science, economics, as well as language and literature were designated categories Decathletes studied for, regarding the subjective test-taking second portion of their meet. The first portion consisted of Interview, Essay, and Speech.

When asked what part of the Academic Decathlon she enjoyed best, Decathlete junior Jessica Salamanca said, "Definitely the Interview. One, that's how I got my gold medal. Two, you actually get to interact with the judges. You give them a resume of school activities and hobbies and they ask you questions based on it."

Senior Andrew Escano, who received a bronze medal in Interview, agreed, "I did well in Interview. To prepare, I went around asking teachers, parents, and people to interview me."

"My routine for studying is to lock all doors, disconnect TV and radio, and try to focus as much as possible," said Escano, a two-year Acadeca veteran.

When queried about quirky Acadeca traditions, Salamanca said, "Getting lost on the way to Bravo [Medical Magnet School] for the first meet is kinda like a tradition. You have to get off the wrong freeway or something."

The Decathlon team included Allison Bellon, Jessica Salamanca, Cristina Chilin, Matt Weekly, Morgan Gray, Mary Vilgera, Andrew Escano, Kamran Ghiassi, Jason Umana.

## Homework: Is *Less* Actually More?

By Raeanna Walker  
Staff Writer

Homework—the much dreaded end to every student's day. But do we loathe homework due to laziness or do we despise it because we're getting too much of it?

The amount of homework given has always been a sore subject among students, parents, and teachers.

In 1983, the public began to worry about youth education. This was spurred by the report "A Nation at Risk," which stated that American students were given less homework and falling behind students of other countries. After "A Nation at Risk" was published, schools started to increase the amount of work given to students.

The amount of homework needed to help students understand the material has also been debated. According to studies by Dr. Carol Huntsinger, from the College of Lake County, kids who get more homework in preschool and kindergarten do better academically in later grades and attend more prestigious colleges. On the other hand, Dr. Harris Copper at the University of Missouri wrote



Photo illustration by Jasmine Liu and Stephanny Landaverde.

"*The Battle Over Homework*," which stated no improvement in standardized tests when elementary school students were given more homework. Also, the book "*National Differences, Global Similarities: World Culture and the Future of Schooling*" found that students with less but enough homework got better scores than those with a massive load.

So how much homework is enough? Patty Yoxall, from the National Parent-Teacher's Organization, tells WebMD, "We

believe that children on average should receive 10 minutes of homework per night per grade, so that first graders would get 10 minutes, second-graders would get 20 minute" and so on.

According to this theory, a high school senior should be getting approximately two hours a night. However, senior Janna Bernstein does more homework on an average day than that. "I wake up at 4 a.m. and I do about two hours in the morning and then maybe about two and a half or three hours a night." Junior

Dominique Ortiz said, "The most I spend is about five hours."

Homework can be beneficial as well as counterproductive, according to studies done by researchers such as Cooper. For example, homework can better your study habits, increase your self-discipline and time-management skills, and reinforce what you learned in school.

On the other hand, too much homework can lead to sleep deprivation if a student spends more time doing homework than getting shuteye, and cheating since a student may not have enough time to finish everything assigned.

Many students also have jobs and don't have the rest of the day to complete their homework. Childhood years are also ripped from the students who do not have the time to do things they enjoy.

Is giving more homework to our students the answer to increasing academic success? Alfie Kohn, an author who specializes in education, said, "The trouble is that kids can't be made to acquire skills. They aren't vending machines such that we put in more homework

## An Out-of-this-World Vacation



Source: Google images

By Maggie Ghahri-Saremi  
Staff Writer

What would you give for a trip into outer space? Your right foot? Your kid sister? Your

earnings from an entire year? Try \$20 million. That's what Anousheh Ansari, the fourth person and first female private citizen to travel into space, spent to fulfill her childhood dream.

On September 18, 2006, Ansari's goal of someday visiting space finally became a reality. She journeyed into space for eleven days as part of the Expedition 14 crew of the Russian Soyuz TMA-9. Their trip into space took two days.

She trained in Star City,

right outside Moscow, Russia, learning to speak the Russian language and familiarizing herself with the Soyuz module that transported her to and from the International Space Station.

According to an article by CNN's Ryan Chilcote, "The Iranian-born American will go down in record books in a couple of ways. She's the first woman to pay her way into space and the first person of Iranian descent to get there."

On March 1, Ansari spoke at an event held by the UCLA Iranian Student Group. At the event she discussed her experience in space, how she ulti-

mately fulfilled her dream of traveling to space, and the future of space travel.

Ansari said she always believed, "deep down inside," that she would go into space someday and that "becoming an engineer was my ticket to fulfilling my dream." She also said, "I look at this [experience] as one of the steps in a long journey."

She said, "Some people ask me why I talk so much about space, why I feel space is so important, [it's because] the resources in space will solve a lot of existing issues on Earth."

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*continued on page 3*

## Dine Like An Islander at L&L

By **Huong Nguyen**  
Staff Writer

On the corner of Devonshire and Reseda, there is a small fast food/dine-in restaurant next to Subway called L&L Hawaiian BBQ that serves exotic and delicious dishes with Spam, all kinds of barbeque, and eggs. These are among the most popular foods in Hawaii and it is just within reasonable driving distance from Chatsworth.

According to [www.hawaiianbbq.com](http://www.hawaiianbbq.com), L&L was started by Johnson Kam and Eddie Flores, Jr. in 1976 when they bought a small drive-in in Hawaii. In 1988, the business turned into a franchise and has been growing ever since, spreading their delicious dishes served fresh and at a fair price, throughout the nation.

Their combos root back to the traditional Hawaiian plate which features two servings of rice, one serving of macaroni salad, along with a hot entrée such as BBQ chicken or beef. First named "L&L Drive-In," the founders decided to change

the name to "L&L Hawaiian BBQ" because they say the word "Hawaiian" creates an island fantasy, drawing Californians to the Hawaii closer to home. The business has been so successful that today, there are about 194 L&L's across the U.S.

The main dish I sampled was the Hawaiian BBQ Chicken dish. For about seven bucks, you are served a scoop of rice, chicken, and a side of macaroni salad. The chicken consisted mainly of leg meat marinated in a unique sauce, making it taste almost like teriyaki, but better. I didn't like the macaroni salad much because I thought it bland, but the rice and chicken together were to die for.

My usual order at L&L is the "Chicken Katsu," which features breaded chicken optionally topped with a special sauce, as well as 2 scoops of rice and macaroni salad. The chicken is just tender enough and not soggy at all. You can get all of this for about \$6.50.

Keep in mind that if you aren't that hungry, you can order the meal as a "mini" served with only one portion of rice, less macaroni salad, and not as much chicken.

One new thing that I tried on my most recent visit to L&L was the "Spam Musubi." Going for a little less than \$2.00, the exotic roll consists of a rectangular block of rice topped with teriyaki sauce and a slice of Spam, all wrapped in seaweed like sushi. The Spam Musubi, by far, is one of the most unique things I've ever eaten although I have to admit that the seaweed taste was a bit too much when combined with the Spam and rice. Regardless, it's an excellent choice if you're looking to try something new with a striking taste that seems to come straight from the islands of Hawaii.

L&L is just about the only place you can order an all-American hamburger with Japanese inspired Spam-Musubi, along with Hawaiian BBQ. This type of variety makes it the perfect place to go with a group of friends who do not all have the same preference in food.

## Some Doubt Enviga's Negative-Calorie Claim

By **Candy Wong**  
Staff Writer

Imagine downing a drink with negative calories. Not zero, *negative*. Sounds farfetched, right? Well, canned green tea Enviga—the brainchild of the Coca Cola and Nestlé Companies—claims to boost metabolism and energy use, as well as burn calories.

Enviga, which contains caffeine, calcium, and green tea extract, comes in three different flavors: green tea, berry, and peach. At \$1.29-1.49 per 12-oz can, Enviga hit northeastern U.S. states in November and were sold nationwide by the end of January.

Enviga has 90 mg of ECGC(epigallocatechin gallate) per serving and provides 20 percent of the recommended daily value for calcium.

"The accumulated body of

scientific research shows the ability of green tea's powerful antioxidant ECGC to speed up metabolism and increase energy use, especially when combined with caffeine," said Nestlé researcher Dr. Hilary Green.

However, critics such as the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) doubt this weight loss antidote will live up to its lofty claims.

"It's ironic that Coke, a company that has been a major promoter of weight gain, is now pretending that it is coming to the rescue of overweight people," said CSPI executive director Michael F. Jacobson. "They should have called this drink 'Fleece,' since that's what they're trying to do to consumers. Plain old tap water has zero calories, five calories fewer than Enviga, but unlike Enviga, tap water doesn't cost 15 bucks a gallon."

## Making Plans For Break

By **Sharon Tang**  
Staff Writer

Spring Break is just around the corner and many students are gearing up for their fun-filled week.

Many of us are simply going to be taking it easy at home while others will be enjoying their week to the fullest. From the several students asked about their spring break plans, many said that they were going to Six Flags Magic Mountain and spending the day with their friends or family.

Sophomore Kelly Medina is packing her bathing suit and jumping on a plane to the beautiful beaches of Guatemala.

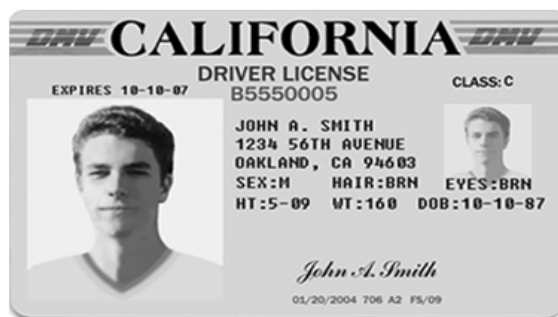
"Since it's going to be my birthday during spring break, I'm going to party hardy," she said.

The recent weather changes have convinced junior Mackenzie Prather to head to Hurricane Harbor and cool off.

Another sophomore, Tiana Moore, will be spending her spring break on a cruise to the Caribbean Islands. She will also be celebrating her birthday while on the cruise. When asked about what activities she would be taking part in on the cruise, she said, "I'll be going snorkeling and playing tennis, of course." She is planning on getting "pleasantly plump" from all the food she will be eating.

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### Clarion's Editorial Policy

The goal of The Clarion is to provide relevant and reliable news to the students and staff at Chatsworth High School. All stories are produced by students in the journalism and school newspaper classes unless otherwise stated. The paper is subject to review by school administrators before publication. The newspaper is funded by the school and private advertisers.

The opinions expressed in the editorials are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff as a whole.

We hold ourselves accountable for the accuracy and fairness of our work. If factual errors are brought to our attention we will correct them in the next edition.

## Winter Teams Reach Playoffs

By Desiree Ramirez  
Staff Writer

Winter sports have finally come to an end, but all on good terms. Basketball, soccer, and wrestling each had successful seasons and made it to playoffs.

The boys' Varsity basketball team made it to the second round of playoffs, finishing with a 20-8 record.

"It was a successful season. Only a few teams in Chatsworth make it to 2<sup>nd</sup> round in playoffs," said team captain Jeff Osborne, a senior.

"Our season was so-so and could have been better," said Coach Switalla. "Next year, we are expecting a strong team with young talent."

Girls' Varsity basketball suffered a difficult loss to Dorsey in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of playoffs, finishing with a record of 16-12.

"We had a good season overall," said Coach Chevalier. "This season was like a transition year, assuring a promising

season next year."

Chevalier expects next year's team to be competitive. Two of the three captains, Eryka Menzies and Kim Smith, will return next year, making for a solid foundation.

The wrestling team's season ended with placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in city. "They exceeded expectations," said Coach Landau. "Next year we will do even better with a strong group of wrestlers, and we will have a lot of talent."

Captain Thomas Cottrell, a junior, placed first in city and competed for state, as well as Juan Tec, the other captain and senior. The third captain and senior, Jaxael Rizzo, placed second in city.

Chatsworth soccer girls also worked hard this season, but weren't able to get through quarterfinals and get the title they yearned for. The quarterfinal game against El Camino Real, a 1-0 loss, ended Chatsworth's chance to get a city-

sectional title.

Varsity midfielder Christina Chopin said, "We had a rough start as a team, but in the end we gave other teams a run for their money."

When asked about next season, Coach Altshule said, "Every year we have one of the top programs and I'm expecting it to be the same (next year)."

Boys Varsity soccer went all the way to the semi-finals, ending their season with a 16-6-1 record. Although their season ended, partially because of a controversial call by the referee, their season still has brought them success.

They earned the title of West Valley League champions, which they haven't been since 1991. That was after not making it to playoffs last season.

The boys varsity soccer coach, Mr. Minassin said, "We did outstanding this season and next year we will step up ... like we did (this season)."

## For Wrestlers, Going Blond Is A Way To Bond

By Desiree Ramirez  
Staff Writer

What do blond hair and wrestling have in common? Team unity. What began as a simple dye job became a trend among the Chatsworth wrestling team.

We saw them in between passing periods, during lunch, after school, in class, and only one glance at their bright blond hair and wrestling comes to mind.

The wrestling team had a successful season, individually and as a whole. Overall they placed third in city, which was "exceeding expectations," said Coach Landau.

Some may say it was the blond hair, others might say the blond hair is just a form of teenage boys being teenage boys. Whether a form of expressing

one's self or a form of rebellion, eight out of the 16 wrestlers walked on campus with their blonde haired heads held high.

Wrestlers of every skin tone, of every hair type, dyed their hair blond to show they are a part of our successful wrestling team. That included junior captain and city finalist Thomas Cottrell dying his dark curly hair to a bright blond, and Senin Smith dying his blond hair even brighter.

Sophomore Kane Mizuno said, "It was Thomas Cottrell's idea and quickly we followed along. It is great to see most of the wrestling team walk into a match, with all the same hair color and walk around campus knowing that the rest of the school knows who we are, the Chatsworth wrestling team."

# Entertainment

## It's No Ordinary Day At The Office For Bauer in "24"

By Arun Dillon  
Staff Writer

It's been 12 twelve hours since the sixth day of Fox's real-time series 24 began, but just how intense has this day been so far for counter-terrorism agent Jack Bauer?

Since day (season) one, Jack's wife has been killed, along with some of his closest friends, including President David Palmer. He has cut off his partner's hand and killed more than 130 terrorists. Jack Bauer has also saved over a million lives by preventing at least six terrorist attacks in Los Angeles. He was forced to fake his own death and was later captured and taken to a Chinese prison.

Day six has been anything but painless and easy for Jack. The new president, Wayne Palmer, brother of David Palmer, made a deal with China to have him come back to America. After a series of terrorist bombings all over the country, President Palmer asked Jack to sacrifice himself so all the bombings could stop. That was at 6 a.m., and now half the day has gone by. Jack has disarmed one bomb, but a few hours before that another bomb went off. He shot and maybe



Photo from Tv.msn.com  
There's no rest for a weary agent Jack Bauer, played by Kiefer Sutherland, in "24" on Fox.

even killed one of his best field agents and was forced to torture his brother. There's even been an assassination attempt on President Palmer.

This new season of 24 has been full of twists and surprises, but lacks that edge-of-your-seat suspense that the first five seasons all had. The previous seasons had a story that was easy to follow, but in day six the story is too complex. The expansion of the main cast has caused it. There are just too many characters to follow. This season has still been exciting from the very first minute, and will keep fans hooked until the last second.

## Audiences Love Those Spartans

By Katrina Ramos  
Staff Writer

The movie "300" has both boys and girls racing to buy tickets for this action-packed, hunk of a movie, with its over-the-top war and gore for the guys, and the buff, six-pack equipped Spartans drawing in the girls.

The movie is based on the epic battle of Thermopylae in 480 B.C., in which 300 Spartans and a few thousand allies held off an invading Persian army numbering 1 million.

The Spartans are portrayed as a highly disciplined, war-based society, so bent on military performance that sickly newborn babies were tossed off a cliff because they were thought of as bad warriors. Sparta's main goal was to create

the best warriors and have them completely dedicated to the thought of no surrender. Most of the lives of young boys revolved around the tradition of being trained for war and to protect their country.

Spartan boys were taken away from their mothers at young ages and taught never to show weakness or mercy. There was no better place to die than in a war; retreat was never an option.

"300" has been a hit in theaters, reeling in \$129 million in its first 10 days. It's rated R, which may not be surprising considering its action, sex and gore.

The movie used digitally created backgrounds, which gives it an animated feel. It was based on the graphic novel

"300," by Frank Miller.

As the film unfolds, the Spartan king rejects a message from a Persian messenger while throwing the messenger and his men off a cliff, starting an obviously bad vibe between the Persians and the Spartans.

The Persian king, who thinks of himself as a god, sent 1 million of his men to take over Sparta, while the king of Sparta had only 300 of his men to accompany him on a suicide mission to hold off the Persians as long as they could. While at home the queen tries her best to convince the council to send more warriors in a drama-filled, shocking story line.

"300" is an epic and brutal battle story between two societies, making this movie definitely one worth your money and time.

## Space Continued from page 1

her colleagues made before, during, and after the journey. On the video she said, "One cool thing [about space] is you have no concept of floor, ceiling, or wall. You push your finger and you fly from one place to another."

During the question and answer period, Ansari revealed some details about future space travel. She claimed that by 2009, commercial flights to space will potentially cost

\$200,000 and in 10 years she hopes that number will decrease to around \$30,000.

In her closing remarks, Ansari left the audience with a quote by Albert Einstein: "Imagination is more important than knowledge." She went on to explain that "one of our greatest assets is to imagine...don't lose sight of that; a lot of new discoveries happened because students challenged what they learned."

## Tardy continued from page 1

Some teachers say the policy is helping. "I think it's an improvement from our previous consequences for being tardy," said Mrs. Zapata, who teaches sign language.

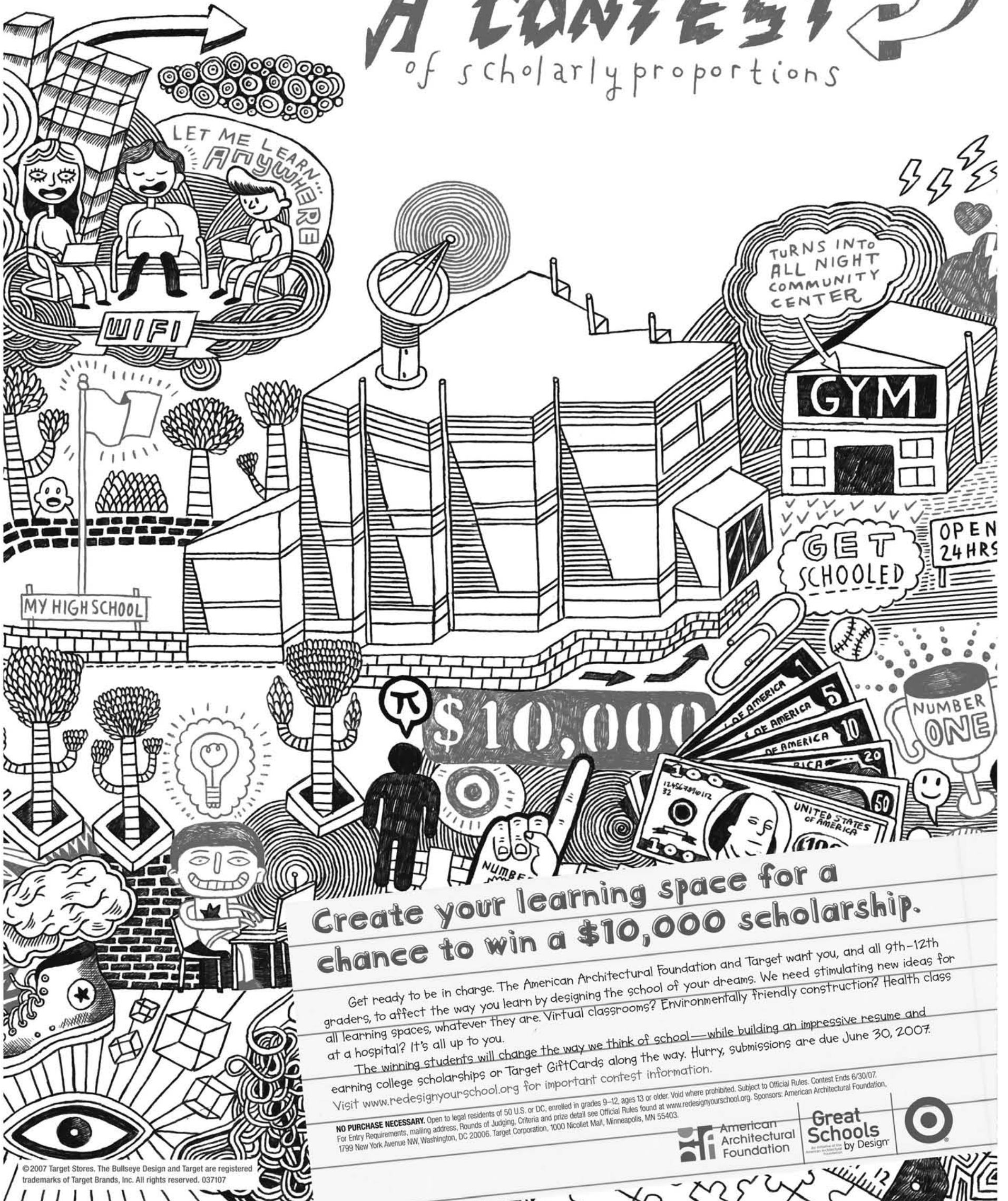
"However, I think the people that are usually tardy will continue to come to class tardy, regardless. If they really wanted to come to class on time, they'd be there before the bell rang."

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