

The Clarion

October 2006

Freshmen Are In The House

By Clarion Staff

The first year here at CHS may often cause freshmen to feel small, but big changes have been made to help prevent this.

The school's 960 freshmen were each assigned to a "house" with about 160 other freshmen to help students better connect with the school, teachers, as well as their peers.

"It's designed to make ninth graders feel like a part of the school immediately," said Principal Davis.

According to Davis, if the

house concept succeeds, then grade point averages and test scores will increase and more freshmen will pass enough classes to pass on to the tenth grade. That's what happened at two other LAUSD high schools.

At Carson High School, 71 percent of freshmen moved on to become tenth graders before the school implemented freshmen houses. That increased to 88 percent the first year freshmen were grouped in houses, Davis said.

The results were even more dramatic at Polytechnic High

School, where the number of freshmen who moved on to tenth grade jumped from 69 percent to 92 percent.

Chatsworth is one of nine LAUSD schools that will split a federal grant paying about \$1 million over five years to contribute to the program.

English teacher Mrs. McNiff said the houses can be successful, "but we still have a ways to go. It'll need some adjustments like teachers, like [teachers having] more time to work together over the summer."

Teachers from each house meet to collaborate and discuss their students.

"I think it will help better our education because it is easier to communicate," said freshman Sam Tan.

As part of a house, freshmen are expected to:

- attend five school events
- participate in in-house competitions
- join a club

This year's freshmen will be placed in houses during their

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Minimum Wage Will Rise To \$8

By Huong Nguyen
Staff Writer

Many working students may be ecstatic to learn that a bill signed recently by the governor calls for the California minimum wage to be increased to \$8 by 2008.

The bill was signed for California's working class wages to increase by 75 cents, effective on Jan. 1, 2007, and an additional 50 cents on Jan. 1, 2008. This is a \$1.25 total increase, which may or may not be of dramatic change in our society.

"I have always said that when the economy was ready, we should reward the efforts of California's hardworking families by raising our minimum wage. This is another sign California is coming back stronger than ever," stated Governor Schwarzenegger in a September edition of L.A. Times.

"I think its good that the minimum wage is about to be increased because it will be able to help out a lot of people that are working," said junior Dana Masungkay.

However, this package may not be so beneficial to Californians such as part-time working high school students. The increase in minimum wage will cost business owners, who in turn could raise the prices of their services and merchandise. This would mean that students will be spending more money

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What's In Your Backpack?

By Candy Wong
Staff Writer

When students stroll from Point A to Point B on the CHS campus, do they realize how much their burgeoning backpacks are *really* worth?

Some walking dollar signs—er, *students*—may be hauling around cell phones, mp3 players, textbooks, wallets, and graphing calculators worth hundreds of dollars.

"I have a pink iPod and a Sidekick 3. If I lost them, I would die 'cause my cell phone and my iPod are my life," said Toni Viveros, a freshman.

According to the Apple store website, the new 4GB iPod Nano costs \$199 plus tax, while the T-Mobile website claims the new Sidekick 3 costs over \$300.

So how can students stop their overpriced stuff from being

stolen when the stakes are so high?

"Don't display what you know to be an expensive iPod. It tells people what you have. A girl who lost her cell phone last year came in [to my office] and told me—"I put it out on my desk,"" said Mr. Potter, an assistant principal.

Buying insurance may also provide extra security for threatened backpacks.

Junior Xiomara Piche, who bought a video iPod in the summer, isn't too concerned about losing her iPod.

"I have insurance on it. There's also a two-year warranty," explained Piche.

You should also beware of sinister backpack snatchers if you carry hefty textbooks to class. After all, how much would it hurt to lose even one textbook?



Students have a lot invested in their backpacks.

"They [students] may complain now about paying \$60 for a lost book, but when they get the bill—it'll come up to about \$77," said Helen Keenan, the textbook clerk.

Keenan, "the one everyone sees when they lose or find a book," saw over 21 lost textbooks flooding her C-Hall textbook room after the first two

weeks of school, and claims AP books come out on top in the textbook realm of costs.

"The AP books are the most expensive, coming close to over \$100 each," said Keenan.

The priciest textbooks are the AP Economics book, which costs \$123, the Physiology book

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When 132 Tacos Just Aren't Enough, Try 250

By Jorrel Quirong
Staff Writer

Last year's seniors established a name for themselves that went beyond academics or achievements in sports. Their claim to fame? *Tacos*.

One hundred and thirty two tacos, to be exact. That's how many were consumed in one afternoon by eight seniors taking advantage of Del Taco's "Taco Tuesday," where taco lovers can buy three tacos for a dollar plus tax.

However, this record was broken on Sept. 26, when 19 seniors scarfed down 250 tacos (and took another 50 home for dessert).

"John [Paras] made a bet that he could eat thirty tacos," said senior Annette Jo. "But he stopped at nineteen and a half. Then he just got sick of it and spit it out—he ate with a trash can next to him."



Bon appetit! Senior John Paras crunches into his 18th taco.

The Taco Tuesday record was created by seniors last year who wanted to do something great during their senior year, to create a milestone. They set a record which they thought was unbreakable.

Overall, the seniors who ate the most on Taco Tuesday were Chris Oh (21), John Paras (19.5), and Jorrel Quirong (18).

Muslims Celebrate Ramadan

By Raymond Wong
Staff Writer

For Muslims around the world, including those at CHS, the last month was marked by fasting, followed by feasting.

It's part of the celebration of the holy month of Ramadan.

"During Ramadan, you are supposed to be nice to your family and neighbors," said sophomore Jud Ashouri.

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is considered the holiest of the year since according to ummah.net, a Muslim news information site, "the first verses of the holy Qur'an were revealed to the Prophet Mohammad" at this time.

The holiday lasts the whole month (which for us Gregorian calendar users is from Sept. 24 to Oct. 23 or Oct. 24).

Ramadan is a time when Muslims try to get closer to God by purifying themselves.

Muslims can do this by fasting, or specifically by not eating,

drinking, or having sex between dawn and sunset.

However, fasting is not limited to the physical. Muslims are also expected to refrain from feelings of greed, envy, jealousy, violence, and anger.

This creates not only a purity of body but also of mind.

Of course not all people are expected to fast.

According to the Muslim Community Association, if someone willfully breaks a fast, then he or she must make up for it by fasting for consecutive 60 days or by feeding 60 needy people.

However, the necessities of school and student life often dictate whether or not someone actually fasts.

"I usually don't fast because I have to work after school," said senior Monier Mehr.

"Basically I just fast whenever I feel like it."

Ramadan is not about self-denial or inconvenience, how-

ever.

It is a way to celebrate the holiest time of the year with your entire family and community.

Celebrating Ramadan and its end makes you feel like you are, according to Ashouri, "a part of something."

In This Issue

A long bus ride can be challenging for students. See the story on page 2.

Tired of the same old excuses? Check out the **Top Ten Tardy Excuses** on page 3.

Which **new teacher** likes VW's and chips and queso from Chilis? Find out on page 3.

That jackass **Johnny Knoxville** is back, for better or worse. See the review on page 4.

9/11 Five Years Later

By Clarion Staff

Nearly a month ago, September 11 marked the five-year anniversary of the worst terrorist attacks in U.S. history. The Clarion asked students and teachers how the tragedy affected their lives.

Joshua Nensey, a freshman: "I think that because of the event, there has been more racial discrimination against Muslims and Indian people."

Mr. Miller, an AP teacher: "It's kind of like we went back to the time of the nuclear age. It doesn't seem like we're very safe anymore. You never know when something might happen."



Miller

Maria Forss, a custodian: "To me, it changed a lot. It changed for the economics. You don't feel safe anymore. You're just afraid all the time..."



Forss

Shalonda Moore, a sophomore: "It made us more cautious of our surroundings."

Busing No Blessing, But Students Still Succeed

By Jasmine Liu
Staff Writer

Bused student Arthur Huang, a senior on the Boys' Varsity Tennis team, was ready for school by 5:45 a.m., and promptly arrived at his bus stop at 6:15.

On a recent gray morning, minutes after Huang's arrival, two yellow school buses pulled up to the curb and came to a screeching halt. Squeezing through the crowd, Huang entered his own bus.

The seats fit two to three people, and Huang was luckily able to snatch a seat from a friend. Finally settled, the bus bumped and rattled through the forty-five minute ride in the morning getting to CHS.

Busing can be a time-consuming and tiring routine for

some students. Although taking the bus to school may be a convenient way to commute to school, some students taking the bus may consider it to be a time killer and pressure creator.

Students put a lot of things on their plate when they participate in after school activities or sports and taking tough classes.

According to Mr. Jarvis, an assistant principal, typical bused students are come from areas in Downtown Los Angeles and the East Valley areas.

Students get picked up from high schools, elementary schools, or major intersections. A total of 373 students take the school bus to Chatsworth.

Since people cannot buy time, busing limits what a student can do after school. For example, bused students who want to participate in a sport

might be discouraged from joining a team due to time and transportation factors.

However, some students do end up challenging themselves by taking tough classes and/or joining a sport. These students expend extra effort to juggle heavy schoolwork, sports practices, and time on the bus.

Amy Lui, a junior in band, can relate. She takes forty-five minute bus rides every day to and from school. Also, she wakes up early to get to the bus stop by 6:30 a.m., and sometimes on game nights gets home at 11 p.m. Although managing classes and band continues to be a challenge, these negative factors of busing do not deter Lui.

"It [busing] helps give you responsibilities," said Lui. Busing can be time consuming, but for Lui, time management re-

mains most important.

Coming home late is another negative factor in busing, but Huang is able to manage his schedule and practices in a timely fashion.

"I go home at seven or eight everyday," said Huang.

"I don't mind getting some sleep on the bus," he said.

Bused students who manage their time well by not procrastinating are able to survive the ordeal of taking sports and hard classes.

Doing all these things takes a lot of commitment from the student, and it does not come easy-- especially with the sport attached to the end of the package. Time management remains an important factor for students who takes the bus and does extracurricular, such as sports after school.

Bring Home the Bacon While Having Fun

By Raeanna Shay
Staff Writer

Everyone knows they can apply to bag groceries at Vons or ring up items at Target. But how many people know they can apply for a job to shop until they drop or play videogames or plan parties?

Here are a few suggestions you may not have considered:

Entertainment DJ

A DJ gets to listen to music all day and turn up the heat at every party. So why couldn't someone in high school do the same thing for money?

An entertainment DJ can work for schools, weddings, birthdays, as well as parties, and earn up to \$300 to \$1,900 a gig.

You can advertise for yourself and play for friends to start out or you could join a company that your clients go to for your services. See www.djentertainment.com or www.partydirectory.com for details.

Chuck E. Cheese's

At Chuck E. Cheese's, you

can get paid to wear the trademark Chuck E. costume. The Kid Checker/Party Host earns approximately \$8-8.25 an hour.

If you become a manager you can earn up to \$30,000 a year.

So why would someone want to dress up as Chuck?

"Because I used to go there when I was little, and I thought it would be a great environment to work in," said senior Jordan Urquhart, who plays Chuck E. outside of school.

"You get to work with kids and the people are really nice and they play around a lot."

Party Planner

If you love to party, then how about getting paid to plan parties? Sign up on www.partydirectory.com and you can plan parties for weddings, bar mitzvahs, Sweet 16's, and baby showers-whatever your clients want and need.

If you would love to sit down with your client and shower them with inspiration, this is the job for you.

You get paid by the party,

and depending on what your client actually needs you to do, you can earn up to \$1,00 for a basic full-blown party.

Wondering what the qualifications are to be a party planner? There is no education necessary or any classes you must have completed.

However, you should be inspirational, unique, able to listen to your client's ideas, and responsible.

Video Game Tester

Becoming a video game tester would keep your parents quiet since you would be getting paid. Getting to test Xbox, GameCube, and PlayStation 1 and 2 games may sound like the dream job for many.

This job basically allows you to spend hours playing video games and determining

what needs to be altered. You can start out earning \$9-11 an hour.

Bowling Alley Cashier

Although many people might not think to apply for a job at a bowling alley, for some it might be more interesting than working at Albertson's.

Does listening to music, MySpacing while no one's in line, and sitting back for most of your shift sound interesting to you?

Well, if you're at least 16 years old, then working at a bowling alley, like Brunswick Matador Bowl in Northridge or AMF Rocket Bowl here in Chatsworth, might be the perfect starting job--just ask senior Jenny Ly.

"Except for the whole shoes thing, it's really fun," said Ly.

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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.

Five People To Know At CHS

By Cris Rodriguez
Staff Writer

It can be a strange place for new kids on campus, so here are a few important people students should be acquainted with besides Mr. Davis, the school principal.

If you need help with your classes, attention to your health, or relief from the school bully, then these are the folks you should turn to.

If you're a freshman, you are appointed a counselor according to what house you're in.

If you're in Phoenix house,

Ms. Koch is your counselor. Schnell covers Griffin house, while Delta belongs to Owens. Titans belong to Mrs. Bryant, and Freya House belongs to Mrs. Lara.

All of their offices are located in A-9. If you want to talk to your counselor, you can get a pass from your teacher or set up an appointment before school or during lunch.

This year, CHS has a drop-out counselor, Dr. Meyers.

This man can help you if you're having trouble with credits you have or don't have, or have grades that are too low.

Dr. Meyers' dominion is the

Attendance Office.

Mrs. Ichida is the school nurse and can be found in her office, A-7.

If you feel sick and want to go home or if you just want to lie down, Ichida can help you.

Mrs. Hoch is the school psychologist and the moderator of Project 10, an impact group for gays, lesbians and bisexual kids. Mrs. Hoch is also located in A-1.

To deal with conflicts between students such as threats or harassments, the man you should seek is Mr. Potter, whose office is in A-10.

Keep Bad Fads In the Closet

By Brenda Fuentes
Staff Writer

Some fashion trends belong in the closet, and should stay in the closet retired for life.

Take platform shoes, for example. Years ago, they made their debut and almost overnight, girls everywhere made them a fashionable staple on the street, in schools, at night clubs, and even in church.

Although platforms are obviously no longer in style, there are still people who wear them to school, to the mall, or to other public places.

Some CHS fashionistas were surprised to hear about people still wearing platforms.

"Oh my God, people still wear those?" said a senior, when asked what she thought about the shoes.

Many may remember when they were actually cool, but they also recognize that they no longer are.

"The Spice Girls were like 10 years ago," said Johanna Hernandez, a senior, who thought that people who wore them had zero fashion sense.

At times, some alleged "trends" were not even in style at all. For example, consider rubber bands on the bottom of the pants.

This is just one of many "fashion" trends that try to make their entrance in style, but don't seem to make it.

Many people have differing opinions on this topic.

For example, Vanessa Mendoza, a senior who wears her jeans like that said, "My pants are too long and I'm too lazy to cut them."

A junior said, "I think it looks cool so I wear it."

Others, of course, may disagree, "They just want to show off their shoes," said Hernandez.

"Oh dear lord, only (cheap) people wear their jeans like

that," added another senior.

OK, let's get to real stuff, guys. There's one trend that is either extremely annoying or supposed to be sexy.

Take wife beaters, for example. There are many that think they are sexy.

Karina Suarez, a junior, said, "I think it's hot. It's about time they [guys] let us see some skin."

However, Johanna Hernandez, said, "I don't think it's cool, but if you have a nice body then it's ok. If not, no—it's not cool."

Another senior agreed, "Oh my God! I'm tired of seeing guys wear those. It's dumb. They are not sexy."

These are just examples of some trends that seem out-dated and not fashionable at all.

All I have to say is that what's in does not mean it's cute, and what might look cute does not mean it's in or is even fashionable.

Is It Safe To Break Out The Leggings This Year?

By Huong Nguyen
Staff Writer

Last year, the new fashion statement that swept the school were 80's inspired leggings but as winter is coming near, many are wondering if their stretchy pants should be stashed, or sported.

During the winter of 2006, many of the popular clothing stores such as Hollister Co., Abercrombie and Fitch, Forever 21, etc. began to model various colored leggings on their mannequins and stocked up their walls. The trend swept the valley, as leggings became an essential addition to every girl's closet, but are they ready to retire?

"I think they're still in, not only because everyone is still wearing them but also because they're still featured in all the magazines. It's a good way to

cover up skin for the winter and also looks really cute," said junior Adriana Whitehead.

On days when the sun don't shine, it seems as though leggings are your best bet if you still intend to sport your short shorts or mini skirts. They have also been worn, lately, with mini dresses that would be, otherwise, too short to wear alone. Leggings still provide conservative coverage, flexible comfort and maximum style, with prices ranging anywhere from \$5 - \$25, depending on where you decide to shop.

The same stores that carried them last year, such as Hollister Co. are bringing them back again but this year featuring a pair that extends down to the ankle, fashionably worn with skinny jeans and flats. Don't be afraid to bust out your leggings, girls because it is safe to assume that they are still "in."

Dancing From The Car Lot To The Classroom

By Jordan Lynn Urquhart
Staff Writer

One of many fresh new faces at CHS this year is ninth-grade English teacher Kristen McSwain. I sat down with the former Visalia, California, resident who traded the car lot for a blackboard soon after realizing her true passion in life was to teach. Here's what you didn't know about Mrs. McSwain:

Q: What was your first car?

A: A cherry red 1978 Volkswagen Bug Convertible.

Q: If you could attempt any other profession besides teaching, what would it be?

A: A Lawyer, because I love debating, I'm a good talker, and I like to make good arguments about something by doing the research to prove my point. I

also enjoy helping others who are in need. My biggest dream would be to become a choreographer on Broadway.

Q: Who inspired you when you were young?

A: My high school choir teacher, Mr. Jackson, because he was always positive, and he looked out for the best interest of his students. He is the main

reason why I decided to become a teacher. I want to connect with my students and find something positive in each of them like he did in us.

Q: Did your parents influence you in becoming a teacher?

A: Well, neither of them went to a four-year university. So, my dad had expectations of me going to college, but at age 21 I

failed his expectations by getting a full-time job selling cars, dropping out of college my third year. After a year of selling cars, I realized my true passion in life was to teach. I went back to college to finish my bachelor's degree and my credential, but I still would like to go back and get my master's degree.

Q: Do you have a history in the department of drama or dance?

A: I have taken dance lessons since I was two years old. I took drama throughout high school, and taught dance since I was 15. Growing up, I did theater, and in high school I was a part of the drama team. I used to love getting on stage, but now that I am married, I am happier behind the scenes. I also loved singing, but after watching the embarrassment of American

Idol, you couldn't get me on a microphone to save my life.

Q: If you could go back in time, what age would you revisit?

A: When I was 22, because I had freedom, I was just experiencing life differently. Also, I was just starting to earn my first income, selling cars, without the help of my parents.

Q: What is your favorite restaurant?

A: Chili's, I love the chips and queso.

Q: What type of music do you listen to?

A: I listen to Alternative Rock, some R&B or hip-hop. Dancing keeps me young in terms of music, and I still feel young and full of life.



Blast from the past: McSwain (left) in her senior year.
Back to the future: McSwain (right) in 2006.

Being Late: K-78, Having An Awesome Excuse: Priceless...

By Candy Wong
Staff Writer

It's Monday morning and you've caught wayyyy too many zZzz's. Drowsy, you scold your alarm clock for failing you again. Dazed, you dart out the front door after grabbing your heavy backpack and books.

As you curse your bleak situation under your breath, you mentally compose a list of tardy excuses to use and abuse.

When you step into your first period—red-faced and breathless—your teacher shoots you *The Look*. If teachers' looks could kill, you'd be burnt toast. Forget burnt toast, you'd be fried chicken! Which is exactly how you feel when you start to

"explain yourself"—*chicken*.

Admit it, if great tardy excuses fell from the sky, you'd be the first to grab them with your greedy hands. Well, here are some excuses students have tried in the past and others (#1) that students would only use if they were seriously desperate.

Top Ten Tardy Excuses

10) "My house flooded and the car wouldn't start."

—Marc Bayan, a senior

9) "My locker got jammed."

—Jennifer Montoya, a freshman

8) "My parents overslept and there was traffic on the freeway."

—Stephanie Baptiste, a junior

7) "There was a very long train in my way."

—Gabriel Flores, a senior

6) "I didn't get to school on time because I was doing my homework and I left late."

—Eddie Auxier, a junior

5) "Well, I used to use 'my little siblings were sick'—which was true."

—Kayla Nelson, a senior

4) "The bus was late."

—Quan Wu, a freshman

3) "My parents had to drop my brother off first, and they took forever."

—Thomas Lee, a senior

2) "My mom couldn't find her car keys."

—Haja FoFana, a sophomore

1) "I had to help somebody give birth."

—Jabez Hwang, a senior

A Tardy Excuse to Remember:

"The student said, 'I got run over by a bus.' He had his arm in a cast and his neck was in a cast... Basically, he was in a full body cast."

—Mr. York, a History and Psychology teacher

Homecoming Set For This Weekend

By Clarion Staff

The Chatsworth football team takes on Birmingham High School Friday in this year's homecoming game. The homecoming dance will follow Saturday night. This year's theme is Jungle Fever.

The frosh/soph game begins at 4 p.m., followed at 6 p.m.

with the homecoming parade, featuring jungle-animal themed floats from CHS clubs and organizations. The varsity game begins at 7 p.m. The annual fireworks show is scheduled for halftime, between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The homecoming dance begins at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Baseball Duo Goes Deep

By Vinh Nguyen
Staff Writer

Matt Dominguez and Mike Moustakas are back at CHS after helping lead Team USA to a silver medal in the International Baseball Federation Junior World Championship.

The tournament in Cuba stretched from Sept. 18 until the Sept. 27 Championship game.

Together, Moustakas and Dominguez hit three of the four total U.S. homeruns and 18 combined RBIs.

"They are two very talented players," said Coach Meusborn.

"They have the experience, the talent, and the maturity."

Matt Dominguez and Mike Moustakas helped lead the Chancellors to two national

championships in their freshmen and sophomore years.

CHS was the only high school with two players on the Team USA team.

They excelled during the Atlanta tryouts and captured two of the 18 possible spots, and were then flown to Miami and later to Cuba to play for the United States.

Moustakas said, "It was difficult adjusting to our surroundings, but we eventually came together as a team and showed what the U.S.A. could do."

The U.S. Junior National team had a 5-2 record, losing only to Chinese Taipei and Mexico, heading into the championship game against South Korea.

CHS Sports Teams Second To Some

By Vinh Nguyen and Joe Carter
Staff Writers

If there's one thing Chatsworth sports teams seemed to have in common over the past several weeks, it's solid play and second place.

The **football** team cinched a 5-2 record. Senior running back James Walker had over 850 yards rushing in the first six games of the season and Junior quarterback Greg Jimenez has thrown over 800 yards thus far.

Coach Corcoran, in his first year as Chatsworth's head coach, said, "We have a very strong chance of making the playoffs with 3 games left."

The **CHS girls' tennis team** was tied for second place with a

7-2 record, entering its final four games tied. The Chancellors are currently tied with league rival Taft.

Singles players Hanna Nelson and Sofia Radillo are leading the team to a possible championship match.

Coach Baustista said, "I have a strong feeling we'll make the playoffs," but they have a difficult game coming up with its other league rival Granada.

The **cross country** finals are on Nov. 2nd. With help from her star runners who run 20-25 miles a week on the track/in the hills, as well as her strong Varsity team, the team was able to beat Birmingham in its closest and best meets.

Coach Schnell also thinks

that the frosh-soph team looks good going into League Finals.

Some of the players on the **Girls' Golf** team will be competing in the state tournament on Wednesday. The team has compiled a 5-3 record, which put it in second place. The girls lost to first-place Granada Hills Charter High School last week, with a score of 266-247.

Coach Lapaz noted that the loss was against the best team in the league.

"We actually have one of the best teams on campus, because we act like a team and watch each other's backs," she said.

Lapaz is counting on top players sophomore Hannah Jun and freshman Cynthia Dhimdis, to bring back the championship.

ENTERTAINMENT

Knoxville Puts the Ass In 'Jackass 2'

By Jannet Torres
Features Editor

Creators of the MTV film "Jackass: Number Two," presented moviegoers with precisely what the title described: *jackasses*.

The movie opens with the return of Johnny Knoxville and his stuntmen crew as they race across a suburban neighborhood while being chased by angry bulls.

The series of stunts and practical jokes then escalates to the guys pulling pranks on each other and preparing the audience for the most nauseating movie of all time.

Unfortunately for the viewers, dressing up primary sex organs is as clean-cut as this movie gets.

Knoxville and his bunch of morons performed aerial tricks to knock out teeth, impose gruesome body bruises, and even mock the fears of other team



members.

However, when the guys themselves—along with cameramen and producers—begin to gag and vomit, the movie no longer appears to be just stupid funny.

In what the gang finds absolutely hilarious, beer is inserted into one of the guy's body cavities (hint: it's not the mouth)

only for human nature to bring it back out.

Speaking of human nature, it is completely preposterous for a movie skit to show a constipated man drilling out poop piles while the audience munches on savory sweets.

Though having no apparent plotline, "Jackass: Number Two" did haul in a whopping \$28.1 million during its weekend release, earning the number one spot at the box office.

If viewers are willing to detach their brains and stomachs for 92 minutes and enter a debauched mental state, then the film could be somewhat entertaining, leaving audiences laughing long after the film's finale.

For others, one blooper scene couldn't have expressed it any better:

As a stuntman turns toward the camera and begs, "Please, God, don't let there be a Jackass Three."

Leatherface And Family Return In 'Chainsaw 2'

By Jannet Torres
Staff Writer

The carnage and blood-spattering in director Jonathan Liebesman's "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning" was the only attention-grabber throughout the entire film.

Evidently being the prequel to the urban legend, the movie begins with the birth of mass murderer Thomas Hewitt (Andrew Bryniarski), better known as Leatherface, in a meat-packing warehouse.

When his grotesquely malformed face fates Tommy to die, an inbred psychotic family takes the monstrous child as their own—a catastrophe in the making.

Decades later, brothers Dean and Eric, played by Taylor Handley and Matthew Bomer, set out on a road trip with their girlfriends Chrissie and Bailey, played by Jordana Brewster and Diora Baird, as a last goodbye before the boys leave to Vietnam.

Along the way the two couples suffer a disastrous accident in the middle of an abandoned Texas town that leads them to-

ward an upheaval as their assumed savior turns out to be none other than Leatherface's barbaric uncle Hoyt (R. Lee Ermey).

From the start of the film, the audience can precisely predict the movie's plotline.

Here stands a traumatized disfigured guy who, because of his uncle's cannibalistic nature, becomes a mass murderer.

If movie-goers have seen the 2003 remake, then the ending is virtually spoiled even before heading out to watch all the gore.

For those who have yet to witness Liebesman's better flick, "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre," this movie serves as a good introduction to the first one.

The chainsaw installment failed to take home the crême of the crop during its weekend release, with box office sales stacking up to \$27 million for "The Departed" and a second place \$19 million for TCM: TB.

Though the film doesn't include any new information about Leatherface, the gore certainly keeps the audience at the edge of their seats.

Backpacks *Continued from page 1*

(around \$150), and the AP Psychology book, which costs a little over \$100.

Athletes also need to watch their backs, as well as their backpacks.

"I'm basically carrying like hundreds of dollars worth of stuff," said Leslie Valenzuela, a sophomore on cheer. "I have my bag, sweater, uniform, jacket, pants, shoes, and ribbons, which I'm afraid to even put in my locker sometimes."

Although students are not allowed to put padlocks on their regular lockers, they are able to padlock their P.E. lockers.

"Kids can purchase pad-

locks for their P.E. lockers from the student store. Those are allowable. Students can't put on their own locks, though," said Potter.

A CHS-approved padlock costs \$3 at the student store..

There are things students can do to help make themselves less vulnerable to backpack theft.

"Number one, leave what you don't need at home," Potter said. As for cell phones, keep them out of sight. "People see cell phones as a need now and I understand that. But rather than put it in your backpack, leave it in your pocket," he said.

Wage

Continued from page 1

on the things that they usually purchase every day.

"Minimum wage should have gone up a long time ago, since gas has been so expensive for us," said junior John Shin.

"The state minimum wage is always higher than the federal [minimum wage] here in California but it seems to have been so long since we've had [an increase]," said career adviser Mr. Pina.

As senior Sky Lee puts it, "I think it will be a great change for everyone that's working in California."

Freshmen *Continued from page 1*

sophomore year as well, Davis said.

In eleventh and twelfth grades, the plan is to plant academies focused on careers such as teaching, law and government, business, health and medicine, visual, performing and technical arts, sports fitness, and management.

Davis figured that allowing students to work in a less crowded learning environment would enhance their academic performance throughout their high school careers.

"If the kids know that you are truly working for them and care about them, they will work harder for you," said Davis.