

# PANTHER PRINT

Palo Verde High School • Las Vegas, Nevada

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## R-E-S-P-E-C-T



### Opinions



Parents agitate teens with their backseat driving antics.

### Feature



Even though energy drinks provide a jittery boost, they may cause critical health complications.

### Entertainment



Has boredom ever set in on a flight you have been on? Read our 40 things to do on an airplane.

# Lack of respect for ROTC

by Ron Paul Gavino

Staff Writer

Since its creation in 2001, Palo Verde's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program has never received as much respect as other clubs or activities.

"People are always bashing it, giving us bad names," says junior, Mario Calfa, who has been in the JROTC program for three years.

Nicknames and insults are known among the students, which make fun of the JROTC cadets.

"I have heard people call us retards on the campus, making a new acronym for ROTC," says Aztec Tomlinson, a senior in the four-year program. "I've also heard people call us smurfs, retards, and nerds."

While some cadets think that it is completely uncalled for, others think it has reason.

"It's because we're different and made a commitment," says sophomore, Morgan Curriden, a two-year cadet.

On Jan. 27, 2009 Kayla and Greg Gulley were attacked while in uniform and walking on their way to school.

"We were walking to school and a car pulled up," says Greg Gulley, "they splashed a smoothie on us, made a u-turn, drove by and yelled '[explicit] ROTC!' We continued walking and they

came back and threw a full can of beans, and yelled the same thing again. We cut through a neighborhood in so that we would not run into them again."

This shows just how much JROTC is disrespected within our school and community. JROTC may be the most disrespected activity here at school.

"They don't understand what ROTC does for the community" says Gully.

JROTC is a program that prepares students through citizenship. It uses military behavior guidelines to teach the Core Values, values that create the ideal citizen.

"This program is made to teach citizenship," says Captain Gordon Doughty, the coordinator of the program, "the Core Values are based on the good of the community."

The uniform worn once a week teaches valuable lessons to all the cadets that wear it.

The strict policies force these students to be responsible, contributing members of the school community.

"You have to wear it right," says freshman, Monique Richardson, a first-year in the program. "you have to take good care of it."

Being in the JROTC program also has many social benefits. It stresses the use of teamwork with fellow cadets in order to succeed.



Photo by: Ron Paul Gavino

At the annual Barbara Edwards Memorial service, ROTC presents the colors.

"I have a lot of friends because of ROTC," says Calfa, "Its like little family."

JROTC also stresses the importance of physical fitness. Once a week, there is a physical portion of the class called Leadership Application Training (LAT).

"LAT is when we go out on the field and play games like capture the flag," says sophomore Dylan Tatum,

in the program for two years. "it's a chance to get physically fit and bond as a team."

The JROTC program offers much to any student. There is the chance to learn values that help throughout one's life, the offer to form friendships that last for a life time, and gives the opportunity to grow and mature as a citizen.

"Citizenship is first," says Captain Doughty, "military is second."

# New zone affects hundreds of Palo students

by Fatima Gonzales

Staff Writer

There is a good chance that thousands of local students will have to change schools next year.

In a special board meeting held by the CCSD Board of Trustees, discussions of possible rezoning of every school in the county seems a likely occurrence in the next year or so.

High schools and elementary schools in Northwest Las Vegas could be significantly affected by this possible rezoning since most schools in this area are overpopulated.

Palo Verde, along with Cimarron-Memorial and Centennial are all hotspots, which means that these schools are more than 18% over capacity.

Palo Verde, which only has a capacity of 2,700 students, has 3,273 students currently enrolled.

If the rezoning occurs, about 400 students from Palo will be transferred to Bonanza High School.

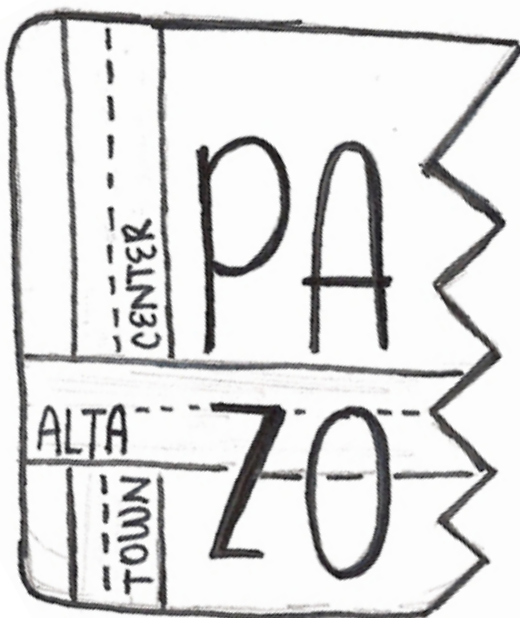


Illustration by: Shelby Bowman

However, there is no need to worry just yet.

"They haven't made a final decision yet," says Mr. Pearce, Assistant Principal for Curriculum. "The AZAC (Attendance Zone Advisory Commission) is the committee who is making that decision. They're going to make a decision probably in March."

The decision must be made before the district presents its 2010 bond package for building

schools to the public, which is planned for late 2009. Since the bond to build new schools was postponed, the district wants to utilize every seat available.

CCSD School Board Vice President Terri Janison said it is too soon to decide on district-wide rezoning because of the failing economy and the expected budget cuts.

In a recent article in the Las Vegas Sun, Janison said, "With the high

foreclosure rate in my district, there are a lot of unknown factors, so I feel a discomfort level of just moving to rezone seats without knowing what will happen in a year from now."

Members of the board believe that possible rezoning will cause an outcry among parents and students that are not willing to transfer schools.

Erin Cranor, a member from the AZAC, a public volunteer committee

made up mostly of parents, suggested looking into resolving 'creative addresses' where people falsify housing documents so that their children can go to a school they are not zoned for.

Wendy Cashin, member of the CCSD School Board explained to parents in the meeting that they did look at surrounding high schools, but they are all overcrowded.

Bonanza is the only high school close to Palo Verde with available seats.

In addition to discussions of possible rezoning, the board will also discuss the possibility of district-wide open enrollment, which allows parents to decide what school they want their children to go.

The possibility of leap-frog zoning, which is moving students from an overcrowded school to an under-capacity school so that they do not attend schools closest to them is also in the works.

## Parents frustrate student drivers

by Reagan Weber

*Sports Editor*

The ultimate joy of passing your permit test can only be destroyed by one thing, having to drive with your parents for six long and grueling months.

The problem presents itself within five minutes of being in the car with your parents.

It's either reminding you to put your seatbelt on before you even start the car, or commanding you to back out slower than it takes for paint to dry.

Comments like this start to boil the blood of a teenage driver.

The conflict is taken to a new level as soon as the car hits a regular street.

The driver can almost taste how tense the parent is on the right, begging that they will not have to face a thorny obstacle.

Brady Witbeck, junior, says, "My mom is the master of back seat driving. She tries to instill the values of driving scared and how to stop at least two-hundred feet before you should."

But of course, something unexpected happens that the driver was not prepared for, whether it be taking a yellow light too late, or not coming to a complete stop at a designated sign.

This automatically results in a ten minute lecture, followed by a threat

of "not ever being able to drive if that happens again."

After sitting through one of these lectures, Andrew Chin, a junior, says, "My mom kept screaming."

Even though this shows how much our parents care about us, a simple 'hey, next time we are in this situation, try this instead' will work just fine.

The atmosphere is now tenser than ever, and any desire of wanting to drive is out the window.

You pull into the garage and head straight to your room due to the embarrassment.

As the months go on, the communication improves; the word 'right'

is now considered a swear word. It is substituted with 'correct', and is, and always will be said in a robotic manner.

Some things are outlawed the entire six months by the parental unit.

Christian Clark, a junior, says, "I never got to listen to my music because my mom was afraid I would not be a good driver and listen to music at the same time."

Having the stereo volume above a whisper, having a window cracked open, or even having the air conditioning on high enough to be heard will create problems right off the bat.

Advice to new permit users, stay away from anything that could interfere with your parent's ability to be heard, which includes breathing too loudly.

Parents need to realize that as inexperienced drivers, we are going to make mistakes.

Sometimes our parents are uptight while driving with us because they want us to become cautious drivers that make smart decisions.

Entering the car knowing that our parents are on-edge out of love may help you relax.

As much as it feels like they are trying to mess with our heads, they are there to help us become better drivers.

## Writer's Spotlight



## Reagan Weber



by Derek Dunaway

*Staff Writer*

Junior, Reagan Weber has been in journalism for three years in a row writing stories and becoming the sports editor for the 2008-2009 newspaper.

"I enjoy journalism because I have freedom with the stories I write," Weber says.

Since Weber has joined the staff, he has written for the sports and entertainment sections, but lately Weber has found his writing move towards opinions.

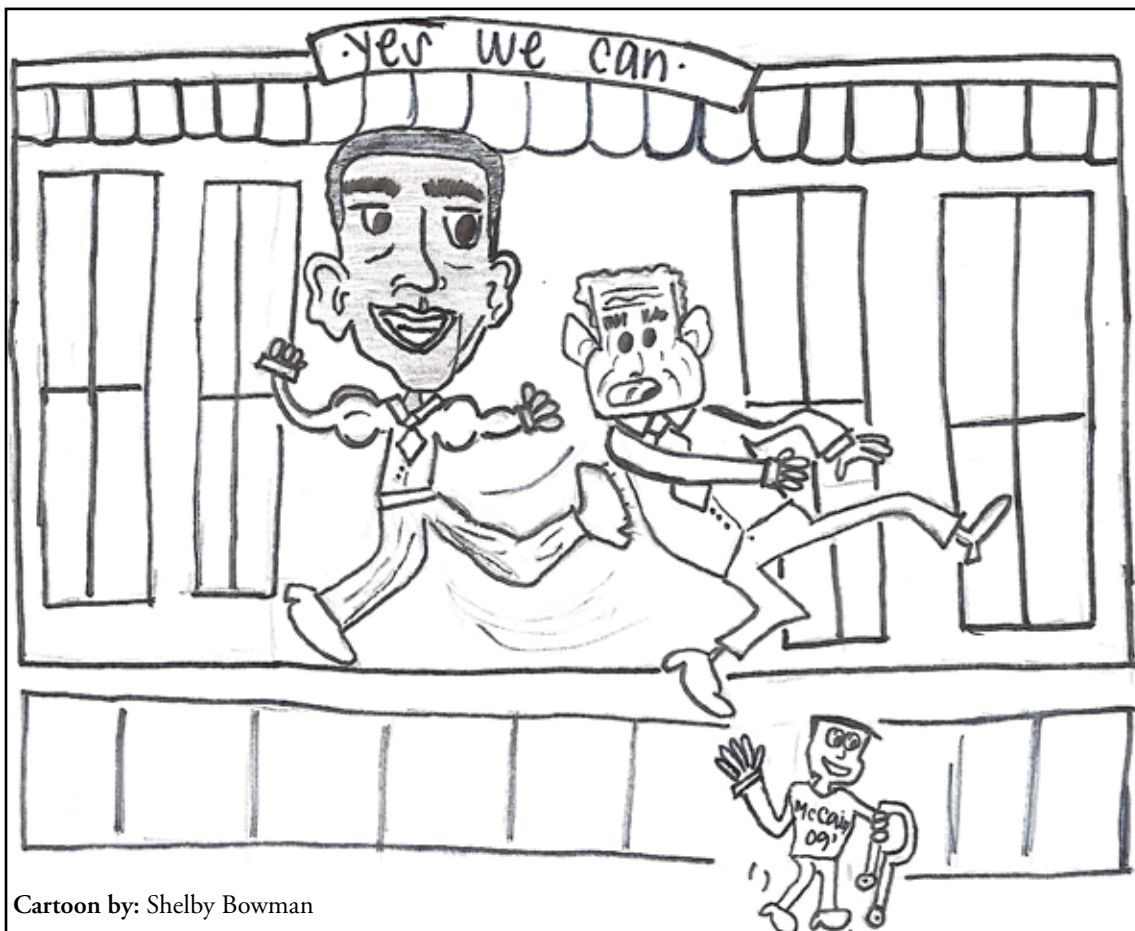
He originally joined journalism to be with his friends.

"I wanted to follow some of my friends into journalism because they influence me in a positive way, just like my parents," he says.

Weber participates in Palo Verde baseball and is also active with his church.

He does not know what he wants to do later in life, but he does know that he would like to pursue baseball as far as he can.

## Political Cartoon



Cartoon by: Shelby Bowman

## PANTHER PRINT

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### Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Panther Print to educate and entertain readers with up-to-date and accurate information that will appeal to their interests, as well as to provide a public forum for the open exchange of ideas and opinions.

### Editorial Policy

The editorials and opinions section of the Panther Print is an accessible public forum for newspaper readers. The opinions expressed in the Panther Print editorials and opinions section are not necessarily those of the high school student body, faculty, school board, or administration. We, the members of the Panther Print staff, accept no responsibility or liability for advertisements. Signed columns and letters to the editor represent the views and opinions of the writers only, not the entire staff and/or administration. The Panther Print will not publish anonymous letters for any reason.

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# Teen drivers: a lethal threat

by Sarah Buckner

*Editor in Chief*

At 5,000 deaths every year in the United States, car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens; they kill more teenagers than violence, suicide, and drugs combined.

Most car crashes can be prevented, so why are so many teens dying from petty mistakes?

Cell phones, passengers, and music are some of the things teenagers are often distracted by while on the road; and with technology in full swing, it has become more difficult to stay focused.

"Texting is one of the big distractions," says Clark County Police Department's Officer Rivera.

Distractions are not the only things that make teen driving so dangerous; teenagers also lack the experience that adults possess.

"Distractions and inexperience go hand-in-hand. If you don't have

experience and you get distracted, then you won't be able to take action properly in an emergency," says Rivera.

Teenagers also tend to neglect their mood and physical condition when driving, and even though it may seem okay to drive when ill or upset, it can cause accidents.

"I was driving home while I was sick, and as I was pulling into the driveway my foot slipped off the brake and onto the gas, and I ran into the garage. It ended up costing \$3,400 to get my car fixed; not including the damage to my garage," says junior, Rachael Bloch.

Besides inexperience teens often neglect to take simple safety precautions like wearing a seat belt or checking mirrors. Some teenagers think that it is okay not to wear a seat belt sometimes, and others do not wear one at all.

"A friend of mine always goes at least 15 mph over the speed limit, and a lot of people don't wear seat belts," says Bloch.



Photo by: Rachael Bloch

The left, front fender and headlight on Rachael Bloch's Volkswagen show damages from hitting her garage.

Poor driving may result in heavy fines, inconvenient mandatory court dates, and in severe cases, a revoked license.

The average speeding ticket is \$150 and insurance rates, which are already high

for teens, increase with every infraction.

Rivera says, "We're stricter with teens, especially if it's speeding or erratic driving. We know that it is a deadly combination when teenagers are inexperienced

and think they know how to drive properly."

With the high risk of getting into a car accident or getting pulled over, it is much safer to drive the speed limit, wear a seat belt, and take general safety precautions.

## Gross affection

by Michelle Mong

*Managing Editor*

You are walking through the hallways, weaving through crowds of people, trying to get to class when your attention is diverted by a couple in an intense make out session.

What do you do? Look away and resume your business or are you entranced by the debacle unfolding in front of your very eyes?

"It's kind of disturbing," says freshman, Hannah Stover.

PDA, or public display of affection, is a rampant problem on campus, even though administrators do not approve of it.

"We don't think it's appropriate for school. I personally don't think it's appropriate for any situation," says Tarsha Hillmon, a dean.

The Palo Verde handbook strongly advocates a "hands-off" policy which states, "you are required to keep your hands to yourself. This rule applies to horseplay as well as to overt displays of affection."

Some students have a different opinion about what constitutes

"overt" displays of affection.

Senior, Zac Stern says "If it's just a peck or a hug and stuff along that line it is okay, but when it turns into making out way overboard, that's nasty."

Sophomore, Christina Eliakis, believes that there are certain guidelines before PDA becomes obscene. "It's okay to kiss goodbye."

While some students are nauseated by PDA, others find no problem with it.

"It's natural so they shouldn't stop it. People have emotions and feelings," says junior, Kelly Sierra.

Others think that their right to PDA is a matter of principle.

"It's stupid because we're in high school and we're supposed to act older and then they give us rules like PDA," says junior, Tim Castillo.

Most students agree that it is not necessary for administrators to punish students for PDA.

"No, it's not fair because it's your own thing and you aren't affecting anyone else," says sophomore, Jessica Bowling.

A majority of students share the belief that PDA is acceptable as



Photo by: Stacy Newman

Complete shock overcomes Shea Mayo as she realizes that Zac Stern and Maura Connor are making out in public.

long as it is not extreme.

"I don't care if people do it, but there's a certain point when enough is enough," says Dave Wichmann, a junior.

Others find PDA awkward in social situations. "It's really awkward when it's you and another couple so you feel like a third wheel," says

junior, Justin Stern.

It is a mere discomfort to those around a couple and most cases don't illicit any punishment besides a warning. In every case PDA can wait until after school or when couples are hanging out with friends.

# Get the monster off your back

by Mackenzy Keller

*Managing Editor*

The glaring light of the alarm clock reads 5:30.

Another day powered on six hours or less of sleep. You sluggishly roll out of bed and reluctantly get ready for the day.

On your way out the door you grab a Rockstar to gulp down on the way to school and suddenly you're wide awake.

Energy drinks can certainly be effective, but is that really the best way to get an energy boost?

Recent studies have suggested that these beverages might not be the healthiest way to jumpstart your school day.

Energy drinks work because most contain caffeine which blocks a chemical in your body associated with sleep.

As a result, your pituitary gland releases adrenaline and your liver secretes extra sugar into your bloodstream.

In other words, you're less likely to dose off every 15 minutes

when your teacher gives a lecture on lab safety rules and the correct way to wear your goggles.

Studies are finding these drinks produce negative effects such as upset stomach, leg weakness, and heart palpitations.

Many energy drinks have a myriad of stimulants, and the combination can be way too powerful for your body to handle.

"They probably are unhealthy, but I like them so



I still drink them," says Jessica Paszek, a sophomore, who drinks them about three times a week.

A Monster advertises caffeine, taurine, and ginseng as their main stimulants.

However, if you were to look at the ingredient label (which is in order from most abundant ingredient to least) the top three items are carbonated water, sucrose, and glucose.

This is what

researchers are talking about- energy drinks are loaded with large amounts of sugar and that is where much of the energy comes from.

In this case Monsters have 27 grams of sugar for only half the bottle, and Rockstar has 31 grams for half a bottle. In comparison, a Snickers candy bar has 29 grams of sugar.

"I look at the label and I can't recognize most of the ingredients," says Kayla Soderberg, a junior.

There are plenty of other ways to get energy naturally and healthfully.

One way to stay energized is to keep hydrated with 64 ounces of water per day. Water doesn't seem like it would give you energy, but one of the number one causes of fatigue is dehydration.

Fruit and fruit juices provide healthy sugars, and carbohydrates such as whole grain bread and vegetables provide long lasting energy.

Vitamin B can also give you a boost, so grab a banana or trail mix to get an effective dose.

750,000 satisfied students can't be wrong!



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## 40 things



*Any of these ideas will surely make your flight much more entertaining, and the best part is that nobody can do anything about it until you land.*

*Have a great flight...*

by Michal Moss

| Staff Writer

1. Be the first to board the airplane, then stand by the door and greet other passengers, pretending to be the flight attendant.
2. Ride the service cart down the aisle.
3. Continuously push the flight attendant call button and when he or she comes, pretend you did nothing.
4. If the passenger next to you falls asleep, put their hand in a cup of warm water... oops.
5. During the safety announcements, go into the aisle and do your own demonstrations.
6. Tell the passenger sitting next to you that you have an illness.
7. During a long flight, take a blanket and make a fort using your seat and the one in front of you.
8. When getting ready to land, start screaming in terror saying, "Brace for impact!"
9. Pretend like the passenger next to you is an old friend of yours, say, "Hey it's been a long time! How've you been?" See how they react.
10. If the passenger next to you is reading and is using the overhead light, turn it off.
11. If you have a window seat, try to get the attention of one of the ground crew while at the gate and make funny faces at them.
12. Fart loudly and act shocked, looking around and saying, "Oh my gosh that was NOT me!"
13. Mess around with the emergency exit, then ask a fellow passenger if they have a crowbar.
14. Go into the lavatory and make rude bodily noises, then come out looking refreshed.
15. Lead a revolt against the first class passengers.
16. Tell the person sitting next to you your life story.
17. Every time you talk to someone, switch accents.
18. With a desperate look, ask the flight attendant where the bathroom is, then look relieved and say, "Never mind, do you have any towels?"
19. Ask a random passenger for their autograph, acting like they are famous.
20. Ask the passenger next to you if they would like to join the mile high club.
21. Make random animal noises.
22. Tap on the passenger's shoulder sitting next to you, and then act like you didn't do it.
23. Ask every passenger around you if you can borrow a tampon. This is especially effective if they are male and even more so if you are male yourself.
24. Guard an overhead bin so that nobody can touch it. Growl and bite at anyone who tries to open it.
25. When the door is closed at the gate, get up and pound on it, screaming, "Let me out!"
26. Get really close to the passenger next to you and sniff them.
27. Lay down in the middle of the aisle and pretend to be dead or just lay there with your eyes open.
28. Introduce yourself to all the passengers around you.
29. Bring a camera, and take pictures of everyone on the airplane.
30. Walk against the flow of passengers when boarding and deplaning. Move quickly as if you have left something important behind.
31. Drop a pen in the aisle and wait until someone reaches to help pick it up, then scream, "That's mine!"
32. Tell all the passengers that the lavatory is out of order.
33. Decorate. Bring a scatter rug and tiny draperies. Hang a "Home Sweet Home" plaque on the back of the seat in front of you. Invite your fellow passengers in for tea.
34. During turbulence (or even when there isn't any), spill your drink on the passenger next to you. Act like it was an accident.
35. If the passenger sitting in front of you has their seat back, kick it forward.
36. Pretend you have a dog, ask people if they want to pet it and walk it down the aisle.
37. Sing really loudly and obnoxiously with your iPod. Then smile when passengers give you dirty looks.
38. When the person sitting next to you is dead silent, turn to them and say, "Will you be quiet?! I can't hear myself think."
39. When a person sitting near you gets up and leaves to go to the bathroom, go and sit in their seat.
40. When the person sitting next to you has the tray table down, "accidentally" hit it and make what ever is on there go flying.

## Tim Burton creates a new story to tell

by Ellen Lewis

| Journalism I

Tim Burton has not been talked of much since "Sweeney Todd," but he is already busy working on another movie.

Burton and Disney have teamed up for a remake of "Alice in Wonderland."

The original novel, which was written by Lewis Carroll, was transformed into a new screenplay by Linda Woolverton who helped to work on story material for "The Lion

King" and "Mulan."

Shooting has already begun in Cornwall, England.

Eighteen-year-old Australian Mia Wasikowska is to portray 'Alice' while Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum are to be depicted by Matt Lucas and David Williams, two stars from the BBC comedy *Little Britain*.

American celebrity Johnny Depp is playing the Mad Hatter, while juggling roles in a fourth "Pirates of the Caribbean" and a remake of "The Lone Ranger."

Adding to the star-studded

cast, Anne Hathaway and Helena Bonham Carter are playing two sisters, The White Queen and Red Queen.

Actor Michael Sheen is to be in the movie, he will be playing the Cheshire Cat

The movie is set to be in Disney 3-D and to be a combination of live action and computer generated imagery (CGI).

Disney once awarded Burton with a scholarship to the California Institute of the Arts.

He has worked with Disney

studios as an animation apprentice for the movie "The Fox and the Hound," eventually working on "The Nightmare Before Christmas" and "Ed Wood."

Disney chairman, Dick Cook, said, "Tim is one of the most dynamic and creative storytellers of our time, and having him back at Disney is just great."

There is no telling what the movie will be like until the trailer is released.

Burton's portrayal of the story is set to release on Mar. 5, 2010.

# Unsportsmanlike conduct

by Chase Sutton

Entertainment Editor

Unsportsmanlike conduct can be defined as a player who taunts his opponents or referees, or acts in an inappropriate manner.

Even though it looks like this smack talk is just being used to draw their opponents into tipping over the edge, athletes have their reasons for employing this strategy. Palo Verde's own sportsmen can attest to that.

"I use intimidating words or gestures to get in my opponents head. It is a strategy. I use it in basketball and especially in tennis. I am competitive and do not like to lose. I use anything and everything to give me that advantage. If that means using an inappropriate word, so be it. If I have to use an unkind gesture, oh well. I win, no questions asked," says senior, Jordan Diab.

High school sports rules do not tolerate fighting, hitting, vulgar language, or anything of that nature.

In most occasions none of these events take place on the Palo

Verde field or in the gym.

It is true though that this "strategy" can provoke extreme rage and rash behavior.

"We always talk smack to other teams. At one of my softball games when scouts were there things got really competitive. I ended up lowering my shoulder into a girl who was going for the plate. Because of what I did I was ejected from the game," says junior, Jamie Martin.

Occurrences like these are somewhat common in high school sports.

Things are sometimes taken too far, but only in the name of the game.

Rivalries are built through these acts of competition. Sometimes rivalries form through friends on the field.

"Smack talking is a must every game. It is fun to talk smack to the other team especially when somebody I know is the guy defending me. They talk just as much as me on the field. It makes the game more competitive," says senior, Torren Harris.

Winter

January 22-24

## SCOREBOARD

### Men's Basketball

Panthers 70

PVHS	20	13	19	18
SRHS	5	12	12	16

Panthers 65

PVHS	9	16	12	28
CHS	25	15	15	20

Mustangs 45

Shields 75

### Women's Basketball

Panthers 50

PVHS	22	6	16	6
SRHS	3	6	11	8

Panthers 52

PVHS	16	12	8	16
CHS	3	6	14	17

Mustangs 28

Shields 40

### Women's Soccer

Panthers 3

PVHS	2	1
SRHS	2	1

Panthers 7

PVHS	5	2
CHS	0	0

Mustangs 3

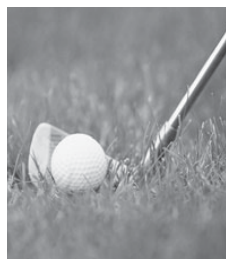
Shields 0

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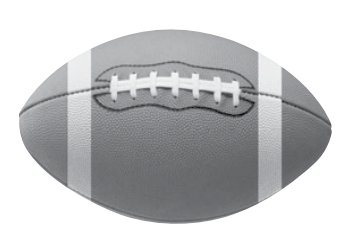


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