

Time for some relaxation



Just paddlin' along

Kayaker Greg Kennedy enjoys the peaceful setting as he paddles by some ducks on the lake at Peña Adobe Park in Vacaville in this award-winning photograph by student Bob Parker. The image earned Bob an honorable mention in the high school division of the photo-

journalism category of The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition. Bob was a student in Sonia Rodriguez' classroom at Buckingham Charter Magnet high School when this photograph was taken and submitted in February 2008.

Warn your friends while you still can

By Alex Jaworski
 Honorable Mention,
 Opinion Writing
 Division: High School

"I am so drunk right now," the voice on the other end of my cell phone bragged. "What? Jeffrey, it's 1:30 in the morning. I'm trying to sleep. I'll call you tomorrow," I said, half awake.

Ugh. Is he OK? I thought to myself, Yeah, he's fine. It's Jeff; he does stupid stuff like this all of the time. Reassured, I rolled over and went back to sleep.

I regret doing that now. Jeff and I have been friends for awhile, and I had just recently learned about his drinking. He said he didn't do it too often, but I still regarded it as stupidity. I intended on talking to him more about it later that day, when we were suppose to hang out. I regret now talking to him sooner.

I called him that morning when I woke up, so we could finalize our plans for later that day, no answer. I called him again and again throughout the day, still no answer.

A little ticked off because we were supposed to hang out, I called one of our mutual friends to ask her if she knew what was up with him. She then informed me that his parents found him passed out, drunk and rushed him to the emergency room.

Scared to death, I called his home phone to see if he was all right. No answer.

I wonder if I talked to him sooner, if all of this could have been prevented. Maybe he would have listened to me about how stupid drinking is. Maybe he wouldn't have had to go to the E.R. that night. Maybe we would be hanging out right now. But I think it's a little too late for maybes.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, approximately 5,000 young people under the age of 21 die because of underage drinking every year. I just hope Jeff isn't one of them.

If somebody underage you know is using alcohol, talk to them, before it's too late. Don't put it off like I did.

The author was a sophomore at Buckingham Charter Magnet High School when this was submitted in February 2008.

Living 'loud' with unique hairstyles

By Alexa Alejandria and Elise Boersma
 Second Place, Featuring Writing
 Division: High School

It's 5:45 a.m. Music blares as Viridianna Brown rolls out of bed, makes her way to the bathroom, washes up, and starts the strenuous task of blow drying, flat ironing, and then plastering her hair together with hair spray, making sure just the right amount of green is evenly distributed between the layers. Viola! An hour later, Vert has once again created a hair masterpiece.

Teens can be daring and bold when it comes to styling hair. They spend jaw-dropping amounts of cash on hair products and stylists to obtain the desired results. And they say it's worth it. Why do students get such funky 'dos?

"It defines who I am. People know me for my hair," said senior Kimberly Rose who has an extravagant, "all natural" (no extensions) combination of intense layers and curls in red, blonde and brunette.

Unnatural colors tend to get second glances from people. That would be neon green in sophomore Viridianna Brown's case.

"I needed to change my hair," she said, explaining why she chose to dye her entire top layer vivid green. "I knew that nobody would dye their hair green."

Yet, she is not the only one. Upperclassmen recall vivid green bangs that senior Sara Nowlin used to have. She dyed her bangs almost every week to retain a striking green color.

So how do parents feel about their child's way of expression? Of the eight interviewed, most said their parents weren't exactly head-over-heels for the idea.

"My mom was on border-line tears," said senior Justin Celestino, recalling the day he first showed his parents his black and blond stripes. Although his mom passionately hates his hair, he said his dad isn't really bothered by it. Justin and his friend, senior Devin Kam, both have different versions of the blond and black streaks.

When asked who did it for them, they both answered in unison, "Kimberly Rose," the same girl mentioned earlier. They also replied, "hXc," their motto, in unison again when asked what motivated them to pursue

the more than original styles in the first place. "We're just kids with sick hair," Justin added.

Not only do colors capture exceptional amounts of attention, old '90s styles that were thought to have faded throughout the years have made a drastic comeback. Senior Miles Lash is almost always sporting a blonde mohawk while sophomore Jason Greenlee wears a mullet.

It makes people laugh," replied Jason. "I also did it for my sister, Ashlee, since it's her senior year."

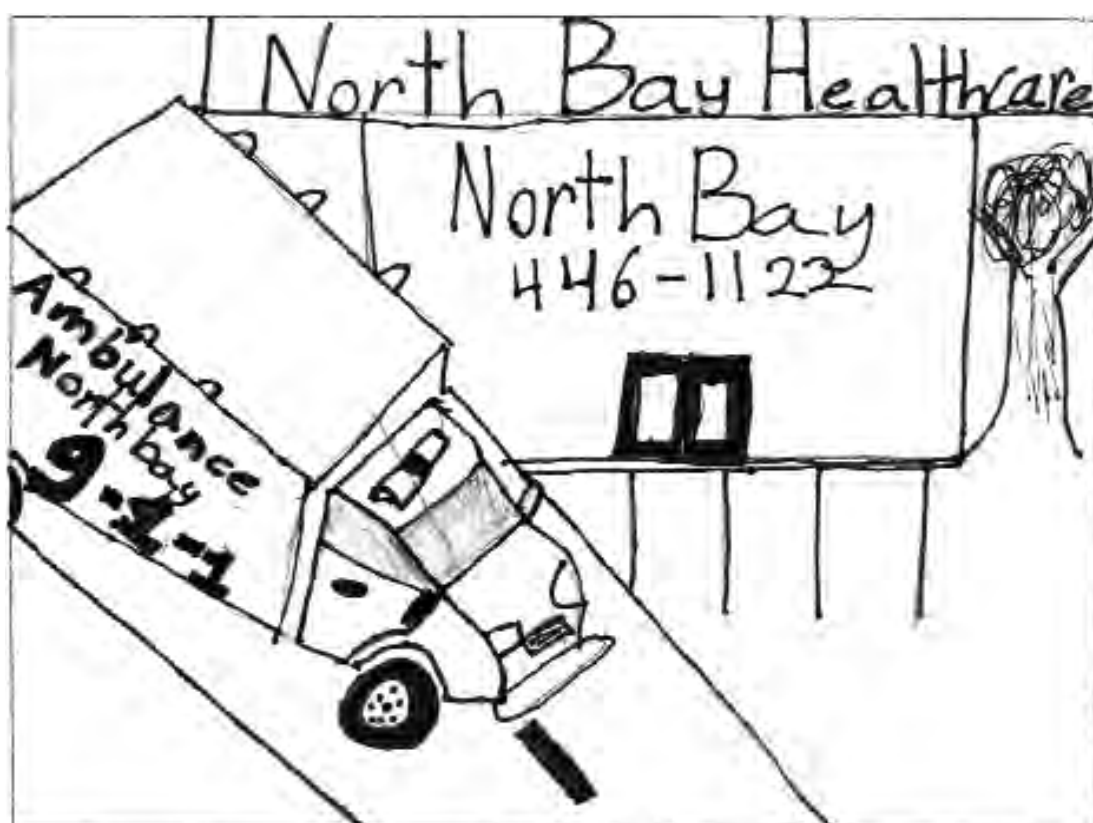
Sophomore Attiana Parker had her hair styled in a modernized mohawk involving braids and rubber bands.

Although you would think that crazy hair would make its wearers feel different, most said it really didn't make them feel individual at all, just a little bit "louder" than other people.

Although they don't exactly blend with the crowd, they're not the least bit bothered by it. After all, who wants to just blend in?

The authors were both juniors at Rodriguez High School in Fairfield when this was submitted in February 2008.

Design-an-Ad winner



Jeffrey Malone earned a third-place honor in the 3-4 Grade Division of the Design-an-Ad contest in The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition for this advertisement, which features NorthBay Healthcare. Jeffrey was a fourth-grader in Mrs. Vadnais classroom at Padan Elementary School in Vacaville when this was submitted in February 2008.

Puzzles, Games, Comics winner

Beatle's No. 1 Hits!

W M A N N O D A M Y D A L Z L O V E M E D O
 D K L E T I T B E G F E N S N A U V H L K T
 N X L Y B C A N T B U Y M E L O V E C O L H
 A E Y G T O K C A B T E G I Y H F C Y K E E
 H U O H R M K L D F E N I O P Y L D A D D L
 R P U I F E E L F I N E T B C K N A D A I O
 U W N M I T T R E Z K E V Z I A I Y R A R N
 O Y E L L O W S S U B M A R I N E Y T R E O G
 Y C E D B G M N A M W F L H O G D R T Y T A
 D Y D C N E S L O S F D D E J S N I S S T N
 L T I J F T L R H E Y J U D E N K P E O E D
 O F S H E H F R R I F Y V Y W S T P Y M K W
 H E L P D E Y B D O O G O L L E H E M E C I
 O G O J S R M N D A B E T S N V K R D T I N
 T S V T R G A A H A R D D A Y S N I G H T D
 T R E S H E L O V E S Y O U J T R E K I E I
 N L I Z R L A D Y U E N A L Y N N E P N S N
 A O L P A P E R B A C K W R I T E R U G J G
 W A O B Y R A N C K D A T Y A S J A G M A R
 I N E I G H T D A Y S A W E E K T O N D G O
 I H T H W E C A N W O R K I T O U T E B E A
 T L E S E L U R Y B G I R R O N A E L E V D

The Beatles' No. 1 hits make up the word list for this puzzle designed by Demi Anne Abiua, who earned an honorable mention in the middle school division of the puzzles and games category. She was an eighth-grader in Ms. Battiste's classroom at Notre Dame School in Vacaville when this was submitted in February 2008.

- Love Me Do
- From Me to You
- She Loves You
- I Want to Hold Your Hand
- I Feel Fine
- Eight Days a Week
- Ticket to Ride
- Help
- Yesterday
- Day Tripper
- We Can Work It Out
- Paperback Writer
- Yellow Submarine
- Eleanor Rigby
- Penny Lane
- All You Need Is Love
- Hello, Goodbye
- Lady Madonna
- Hey Jude
- Get Back
- The Ballad of John and Yoko
- Something
- Come Together
- Let It Be
- The Long and Winding Road