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Presidio Middle School

“The Chronicle without
the funding”

Paw Prints



Do Guys Have It Easier Than Girls?

By Natasha Lee & Tina Kwon

Those complaints can drive anyone crazy. Your best friend is always saying that it is *sooo* much easier to be a guy. You don't have to worry about your mascara running, your parents wouldn't worry if you went out on date, and you could take your shirt off and no one would really care! The girls reading this article are probably nodding their heads in agreement, while the guys are probably shaking them violently. They're thinking, no way! It's definitely harder to be a guy.

I know it's hard for a lot of girls to believe (including us) that guys have it pretty tough in Middle school. Why do they have to act so tough all the time? The answer is: Society has made it so guys don't really talk to each other in *See **Guys** (page 2, column 1)*

Public Schools vs. Private Schools

By Valerie Liu and Yvonne Wong

Why should someone go to a public school and why should someone go to a private school? How can you decide? Well, that would depend on what you know already, what you want to know, and what you think would be the best for yourself. You have to ask yourself questions. Are private schools really academically tougher on your delicate brain? Do you need the challenge? Is a uniform necessary? Are you sick of seeing guys with sagging pants and exposing their wonderfully patterned boxers? Then, you'd need to measure out the pros and cons of both private and public schools.

It's true: private schools *are* more unyielding when it comes to discipline. They have their very own book of rules and regulations to prove it. But if you positively know you're not a potential gangster *See **Public** (page 2, column 2)*

Valentine's 101

By Yvonne Wong & Allyson Gee

You come to school one morning, happy, giddy, and hyper, as if you had just a tad bit too much sugar in your cereal. You're screaming when you see all your friends, dressed in red for Presidio's Valentines' Day dance. And that's when you see it: that special someone as you turn as red as that scarlet scarf you're wearing. He/she is carrying even darker red roses that completely take your breath away, and you feel like you're on cloud nine. But does Valentines' Day have more meaning than just giving those mushy cards, receiving dark chocolates, and inhaling the intoxicating crisp scent of the roses?



Valentine's Day isn't just *See **101** (page 3, column 3)*

Music Means Music

By Matthew Dimaya and Jordan Stern

They're on TV. They're #1 all over the place and yet, they all sound the same. Of course, we're talking about the many boy bands that have come into the pop music scene. BSB, N'Sync, No Authority, the list could go on forever. They have some hit song about how they can't get some beautiful girl, yet they are all adored by girls nationwide who would probably land them in jail if they got anywhere close to them.

If there is one thing that disgusts these writers more than it annoys us, it's the argument over these bands. Does anyone really care who has the cutest lead singer or the best clothes? Absolutely not! These teenage, bleach blonde fans only care because caring sells. God forbid you be the only person on the block without, "I love Justin" scrawled over anything you own, or without a screen name that's something like, *See **Music** (page 3 column 1)*

Guys vs. Girls (from page 1, column 1)

the first place. Not unless it's about who won the basketball game or how "hot" that girl on TV was. The only people they could talk to were maybe their parents when they were younger or that older sister they don't hang around with anymore. So, after years of pulling girl's hair and giving them nuggies, many find themselves dating that girl! What then? It's a hard transition to be going from irritating little boy to a sweet and caring boyfriend.

Another problem about being a guy is that you always have to bottle up your feelings and leave all that "sympathizing" behind. You just can't act like other girls when something bad happens. You have to always be cool and take things "like a man". Guys have a lot of pressure around their teenage years adjusting to who they really want to be: a tough guy around his friends, or a nice guy around his girlfriend? Many try to maintain both characters so that they feel accepted by both sides.

Naturally, guys have to be strong and athletic right? Well, what about all those other guys that aren't part of the "athletics" clique? What if guys stronger than them picked fights with them? The only "guy" thing to do would be to fight back. Some girls fight back with words and gossip (which can really hurt) but guys go more for the beating.

"Do I look fat?" "I like your shirt." "Oh my god, look at what she's wearing!" Yes, this is what usually pops into guys' heads when they think of the "dark" side of a girl. Of course, most of us don't suffer from those talking conditions (anymore). Many girls, however, do suffer from low-self esteem about themselves. They believe that they have to look a certain "hip-hot" way. You have to be skinny. (no chubbys allowed). You have to have high cheek bones, etc. One girl we know from India



wanted to die her hair blonde because she wanted to be "pretty" just like Barbie. Many girls in different cultures are proud of their natural hair color, and it should stay that way. Commercials, movies, and even toy companies have been dictating what the average girl should look like. But have you ever seen an average girl that looks like the Dorito girl?

Another problem girls face is that they have one time or another, fallen for the not-so-perfect
See **Guys Vs. Girls** (page 3, column 1)

Public vs. Private (from page 1, column 2)

brandishing spray cans and Swiss-army knives, then a public school discipline code should be decent enough for you. On the other hand, if you have some difficulty restraining yourself from wrestling during class (under the influence of WWF Smackdown! perhaps) or nimbly attaching thoroughly chewed gum in your teacher's hair, then discipline coming from private schools may be necessary. However, if you just can't keep yourself from doing the deeds of a pyromaniac like lighting fires and committing arson (ever remember TLC's Lisa "Left-Eye" Lopes incident?), that's a totally different thing entirely. A mental institution may be essential for overcoming this urge.

And then there's always the typical stereotype that parents have of public school kids; all the kids are doing "totally wild and crazy" things such as coloring their hair all the different shades of the rainbow, guys and girls shoplifting merchandise from expensive department stores, some girls possibly getting raped. The lists of possibilities go on forever. Some parents may think that private school kids are little spoiled brats that always get their way. Other parents could think that being in private school would brainwash their child into becoming a stuck-up snob. Yes, these stereotypes do apply to some of the students that go to certain schools, but it definitely doesn't apply to *all* of us!



Some disturbing behavior can come from both private and public schools. The notorious "gaffing" activity may be a regular among public school students, but who says that private school students don't do this? No one can be sure that gaffing is a non-existent tendency in "them private" schools.

So what really is the best kind of school for students? It truly depends on the student. If you wanted to be on the basketball team, you would have tried out. If you wanted to be in Math Counts, you would have joined. Have you ever heard that saying "The higher you aim, the farther you'll get?" Well, this definitely applies to how school is. It's what you do and how high you aim that depends on how well you're going to do. Many parents who are a little overprotective of
See **Public** (page 3, column 3)

Guys Vs. Girls, (from page 2, column 1)

guy. You know what we're talking about; a guy that ranks higher in appearance than in personality. This occurs partly because of the pressure to be popular in school and the pressure from TV shows and friends to have a good-looking boyfriend. If



you dated the captain of the basketball team, the whole school would be fussing about it. If you dated the sweet, regular guy from class, not too many people would care. The fact is that girls rely too much on guys for their own happiness. It's a fact about "fitting in" with the rest of the people that get all the attention. But the fact is that every smart girl goes through this scenario. It's truly unavoidable. A person can grow stronger from experience, but it takes society centuries to change.

Now let's say you decided to go for the homeroom guy. But to your surprise, he doesn't seem to notice how he's not treating you very politely. He keeps cracking the jokes that are not-so-funny (to you) and he probably means well, but you don't feel quite right.

This happens a lot. When a guy treats a girl like everyone else treats him, it can be a disaster. If everyone doesn't think much of embarrassing a guy, would he think it would be big deal if he embarrassed you? Girls aren't used to this treatment and would probably misunderstand their actions.

The fact is that each gender will always assume that the other has it easier. But girls, could you hold in your tears if a guy dumped you in the blue? And guys, have you ever tried walking a mile in 5-inch heels? I guess we'll never know how it really feels like to be the other person. So if you've been complaining lately about how hard it is to be who you are, just picture how the other person is suffering even more than you are!

Music, (from page 1)

"BSB4EVA." No one argues over which one has the best music, because it is always the same song talking about life or love, which are great subjects for songs, but are becoming cliches thanks to 98 Degrees

The thing people forget is that in the old days, image counted for nothing in the music industry. There wasn't always television and not everyone knew what musicians looked like. They went by the **See Music** (page 4, column 1)

Public Vs. Private, (from page 2 column 2)

their children think that if their child is getting bad grades, it's entirely their teacher's fault. Sometimes this can be the case, but many times, it's because their child isn't trying hard enough and is slacking off here and there. But to the majority of school children, it's a regular to become a slacker at one point.



Now, if you're concerned with dress codes, there are various choices to choose from. You can wear plaid 'n pleated skirts or corduroy pants, if you think the world needs to get conservative and Scottish. You can wear pants without rivets and shirts with collars at private schools with a no-futuristic-dress-but-preppy code. Or, you can take advantage of your total freedom and wear cut-offs and the occasional UPS shirt. However, tube tops and halters violate the somewhat lightly addressed SFUSD's Student and Parent/Guardian Handbook. Well, just don't let a staff member see, and nobody will mind.

Hopefully, you'll realize from this that school, whether public or private, is really what you make of it. You control yourself and what you do. The teachers may be doing the teaching, but you control the grades you get and the activities that you join. So the next time someone says to you, "Private schools are better," remind them that it's what they make of it (and that private schools suck!)

101, (from page 1, column 3)

about writing cards to love ones, or hinting to someone special that you are there. It's also not Aphrodite's day. (Did you think that we would actually tell you who he/she is? You have got to be kidding!) No, it is purely based on history, believe it or not.

This day of love is based on Christian and ancient Roman tradition. In the Catholic Church, they believe that the man by the name of Valentine was a priest who was martyred. Emperor Claudius II thought that single young men were better in war than a married older man. Thus he punished any young couple that exchanged vows. Valentine thought that this was immoral and still brought together young lovers because of his beliefs. He was persecuted and killed because of his actions. Although bad things had happened to him, he carried **See 101** (page 4, column 2)

Music, (from page 3, column 2)

sounds that came out of the radio. It sounded good to them they listened to it. In *today's* music industry, you can't ever get a gig unless teenage girls (typical boy band fans) will throw room keys at you while you're on stage. It's amazing how vain society has become.

This causes what we call, "Justin Syndrome." This is when girls who are in love with all these bands will not listen to any other music and tend to disregard it as garbage. Last year, in this very paper, Kira Garber said that if you listen to bands like Metallica, you are an obnoxious, rude, and a bad bad person. There was even a poll for your favorite BSB or N'Sync song! In the 70's and 80's, bands like



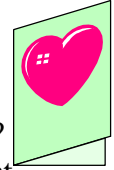
Pantera and The Clash were popular. They looked like TRASH! Yet these people were able to succeed in the music industry. What happened? More and more people started watching MTV, which defeats the purpose of music. Music is a sound, an art form. Seeing the performers automatically demanded, in basic human desire, that they be cover models.

Something that really annoys us is how redundant every single song is. Don't people tire of the same songs on the radios all the time? Mostly about a boy who breaks up with some girl. Boo-hoo. Punk and rock bands have survived so long because top 10 countdowns don't play them every half-hour. These boy bands need teenage girls worse than regular teenage guys do. When's the last time anyone has seen a stadium full of *guys* cheering for Justin or Brian to lose their shirts? If there were no music videos, would so many girls like the bands?

If you listen to those bands we talked about before because you think their *music* is good, fine. But if you like them for their looks, something is seriously wrong with the American music industry. Music is an art that, unlike painting, requires the use of the ear, not the eye. Try turning off your TV and turning on the radio. Then talk to us about music that sounds good before some 17-year-old blonde sack of bones poisons your mind. We know plenty of you out there love boy bands like the Backstreet Boys and you'll probably get seriously agitated by this article. But at least the bands WE like will last two or three decades longer than Brian, Nick, and Justin.

101, (from page 3, column 4)

on to us a very special day of love that is celebrated by everyone in February. Isn't it kind of ironic that St. Valentine's favorite color and stone is purple (amethyst), but the color that reminds everyone of love is red?



According to legend, Valentine sent the first "valentine" to his lust object. He signed the card "From your Valentine." This cute saying is still being said to show affection. So on this Valentine's keep up the sweet tradition and give a gift/card/candy to *your* valentine.

Where has this holiday gone! Beginning with someone martyred to giving boxes of candy. Okay, so it's turned into the sappiest day of the year. Valentine's Day is the day of love, and just because you don't have a "special someone," you could still cherish the fact that you have loving friends (yeah... those ones that always spread rumors about who your crush is and... oops, wrong thing to say in this kind of article..) and family (the sibs you fight with every day over the Nintendo 64 or the tube but you never take the time to think how special they really are to you). Surprise them with something that you know they'd love, maybe a big box of chocolate chip cookies shaped in hearts or a cd he/she has been dying to get. Even the smallest of things can bring the biggest of smiles to people.

We're not implying to say heck with this "holiday", but please think about the fact that some people are making money off a "holiday" that has been blown out of proportion. Don't get us wrong, we enjoy going to the dances and seeing all those happy couples who are out there, but it does "hit home." Have a fantastic Valentine's Day!

We're Finally Here By Brian Kneuker

We are finally in the year of the new millennium. Since you're sitting here reading this article, I suppose computers didn't crash as computer experts predicted, and the apocalypse didn't happen as cults wished you to believe.

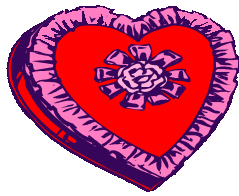
A lot of people were worried that computers would crash but how could they have been certain? The big worry was that if computers shut down, people wouldn't get electricity. Was there a science
See **Finally Here** (page 5, column 2)



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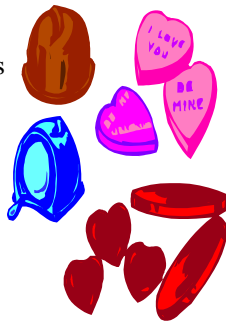


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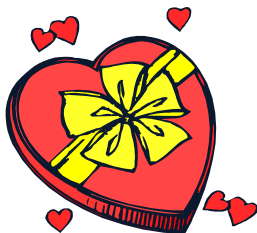
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The next issue of **Paw Prints** will be distributed on February 25, 2000. We welcome articles or letters from any students. Deadline for article submission is February 8, 2000.

Finally Here (from page 4, column 3)
nerd that said computers would crash or did someone start a rumor? Who knows? Who cares?

Last year, I asked Mr. Burke what would happen on the eve of the millennium and he said, “Well, it will just be another day. I really don’t think anything will happen.”

I’ve heard another rumor about nuclear weapons being launched and another World War starting. What I am truly wondering is why some people thought anything was going to happen at all, except for calendar dates being altered a bit. So we’re in the year of the millennium and now just what are people going to do with all their supplies? It is a good thing we live in the Bay Area..... don’t waste those supplies; keep them stored for an earthquake or a blackout!

Now I was thinking, how many people did something weird or exciting on New Year’s Eve? For instance, people were going to rent a boat to see of the fireworks off the Golden Gate Bridge. I called up and asked how much it would be to rent a boat. For one that fits 50-100 people, it costs a hefty \$36,000! In my opinion, New Year’s Eve is when you are supposed to spend time with your friends, just count down to 0, and say “Happy New Year!” I heard some of the rich rent a blimp on New Year’s Eve to avoid traffic. Interestingly extravagant.....



Now let’s talk about memorabilia for the new millennium. Businesses think the new millennium is about profit. They’re raising prices. Stuart Weitzman has designed a few pairs of black pumps. And on this height-enhancers are sporadically placed rhinestones. One \$900.00 pair in Nordstrom’s flashes an image of the Golden Gate Bridge and the numbers 2-0-0-0 on the heel. Is this kind of business taking advantage of the more life-or-death prospect of the year 2000? Another appalling example is the more reasonably priced pair of Arabic looking shoes that says, “Kiss Me at Midnight.” How utterly ridiculous. Now those new years eve has passed I wonder what will people do with all this stuff? We have more important things to think about, such as whether television is going to crash. Until then have a great new year?