

New passionate about beliefs, reading, writing

Works on three publications at Mountain View, enjoys writing 'zines and the Web

Chelsea Kennedy
The Student Press



Rebecca New

As we sit and talk, 17-year-old Rebecca "Bekkuh" Ann New tells that she's a vegetarian for moral reasons. Very blatantly, she shares that hatcheries torture chickens and that she's very passionate about chickens because of the hatcheries' cruelty, and because she thinks they're cute.

There's no sense of hesitation in her voice about anything, even the oddity of tortured chickens. She's intelligent, blunt and very nonchalant about her beliefs.

When asked to choose the three most descriptive words about herself, New replied, "Only three words?!" The two words she ended up choosing were "bunt" and "knowledgeable."

"I'm part of a generation where I don't take crap from anyone," New said.

As far as knowledgeable goes, New made it clear that she enjoys being as well informed as possible.

"I have lots of things to say. I read all the time and I like to be 'in-the-know,'" New stated.

During her junior year of high school, New was the editor of the Mountain View High La Vista yearbook, editor in chief of the

Maverick literature club and magazine, and the assistant entertainment editor of the Mountain View newspaper, *View point*.

Next year, New will be editor in chief and entertainment editor of the newspaper. She is also the treasurer of the Asian Cultural Club, which helps Asians to meet fellow Asians.

Each of these achievements help support News's attainable definition for success.

"I think everyone should have a 10-year plan, and every time you reach a part of your goal, you've achieved

success," New said.

"Zine-reading, role-playing and other teen activ-

ities are pastimes for New, but her passion is writing and being published.

"I would say writing, but it's more like what I like to write about, such as comic books and 'zines," New said. "When I get the newspaper back it's so cool to see your name in the bylines. So mostly writing and being published."

In addition to writing for the newspaper and other publications, New aspires to write as a professional journalist after college.

"I want to study journalism," she added. "I want to beat and I want to write for the Web. I want to try to get the most out of my college education instead of having a job and partying."

While New's characteristics benefit her in many ways, they can sometimes be a burden.

"I'm into 'zines," she said. "High school students generally don't like to read, and they especially don't like to read zines. I like to role-play, but my role-playing friends live in way east Mesa, about five miles."

McCune boasts many talents, writes to make a difference

Writing stands out in Pinnacle senior's busy life

Lindsey Castro
The Student Press



Heather McCune

for her paper, *McCune* spends time with her friends and plays with her two dogs, Daisy and New Dog.

Amidst all of her talents, McCune plays the flute and is also a self-taught pianist. McCune also placed in sec-

Cruising down the street, pedal to the metal, riding a bicycle, while pretending it is a horse. This scene is typical in the life of Heather Nicole McCune, an Arizona high school student born in Dodge City, Kan., on Dec. 21, 1985.

When she was little, McCune always dreamed of being the president of the United States, but she figured that she could make a bigger difference in the field of journalism.

McCune, a 17-year-old senior at Pinnacle High School, is the former captain of her cheerleading squad and a basketball player. She is on the Society of Women's Scholars and works for her newspaper, *The Pioneer Pride*.

In her free time, McCune likes to sing opera and enjoys acting and dancing, which correlates with her involvement in musicals such as "The Wizard of Oz."

On weekends, when she isn't working on deadline

"I want to become really rich and support myself and then marry a man equally successful."

ond in the state for playing the violin at a competition in the seventh grade.

To show her creative side, she oil paints on canvas and even has some of her artwork and posters displayed in New York art galleries.

McCune has been enjoy-

ing the learning experience of the Walter Cronkite School. The atmosphere, the people and the teachers are a new experience for McCune but she is up for the challenge.

"I applied to the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism because I thought it would be an awesome experience to meet new people, learn new things and get a small glimpse at the college life," McCune said.

She added that she has always been involved in a lot of activities, but writing stands out. She has two poems published, one when she was in second grade entitled "Red" and another she wrote in seventh grade about the Columbine High School murders.

McCune, who always has a smile on her face, wants to make her life as best as possible in all aspects.

She also has dreams for the future.

"[When I am older] I want to become really rich and support myself and then marry a man equally successful," McCune said.

As you can see, she already is a successful, and goal-achieving person for only being a high school senior.

Senior sets sights on magazine writing

Loss of father inspires Rojo

Jordann Clark
The Student Press

After her father's death, Allyssa Rene Rojo's love and dedication for writing increased tremendously. Rojo started writing short stories when she was 11. After losing her father when she was 12, she started writing more poetry and stories to help express herself better.



Allyssa Rojo

"I love writing. When I write what I feel on paper, I feel as if I took a huge load off," Rojo said.

Rojo became more dedicated to writing when she started high school and joined the *Wolver News* staff at Tolleson Union High. She became part of the staff during her sophomore year.

During her next year at Tolleson, she became more involved by becoming the features editor and a contributing writer for the local weekly newspaper, the *West Valley View*. Rojo's last year at Tolleson will be spent as the features editor.

Rojo said she writes for her school newspaper

because she "can express the opinions I have and the opinions of my classmates through it."

She is also a writer for her church's monthly newsletters and has a poem published at *poerty.com*.

After Rojo graduates in May 2004 she plans to attend Arizona State University and major in either print journalism or broadcasting. But for the last four years, she has had her "heart set" on print

journalism.

Following college, Rojo plans on working for a teen or woman's magazine. Then, after several years of experience, she would like to start her own variety magazine for both genders.

Rojo was born on July 8 in Phoenix. This 16-year-old likes to write, like any journalist does. She was captain of Junior Varsity Spiritline for two years.

Rojo finds meeting new people a fun experience. She also enjoys listening to many different varieties of music, and like a normal teenager, sleeping.

Over the past years since her father's death, Rojo has opened herself to different ways and styles of showing her emotions but writing is one way she wants to achieve her life dream.

"When I write what I feel on paper, I feel as if I took a huge load off."

Scharff concentrates active life on school, community

Chaparral senior involved in variety of activities

Jessi Calkins
The Student Press



Reed Scharff

Native of Shreveport, La, Reed Scharff, 16, moved to Phoenix at the age of 7. He now attends Chaparral High School, where he's involved in an abundance of extra-curricular activities.

Scharff dedicates most of his time and energy to The Speech and Debate Club. He has held the position of historian and is now vice president.

Policy debate consists of a large group debate in which teams from each high school compete intellectually over certain topics given to them at the beginning of the year. Extensive research, memorization and voice exercises are required for successful rounds.

"Speech and debate is an adrenaline rush for me," Scharff said. "It's pure competition and everyone strives to win."

He has placed as a state champion in 2002 and 2003, and received the Winner's Trophy three years in a row.

Scharff is extremely involved in a long list of academic clubs at Chaparral, including freshman and junior varsity tennis, National Honor Society, March of Dimes, Chess Club and the French Honors Society. He also holds prominent titles, such as president of the Principal's Advisory Board, president of Science Club, president of Calculus Club, and technology editor for

well-known youth orchestra.

Scharff, who has played the violin for seven years, said, "I enjoy playing the violin. It's fun and so relaxing."

Along with orchestra music, Scharff also enjoys all types of music. He frequents concerts such as Jimmy Eat World, Weezer and Andrew W.K.

"I just love all varieties of music," he said when asked what type of music is his favorite.

Scharff has shown interest in volunteering for his community. He has recently participated in the Cystic Fibrosis Walk and actively takes part in community service. He also takes part in numerous activities at his synagogue. He is a member of AZA, which is a Jewish youth group and attends Hebrew High School.

Scharff would like to attend the University of Pennsylvania, but is unsure of his major.

"As far as my career plans go, I'm undecided at the moment, but I'm thinking of going into the medical field."

"As far as my career plans go, I'm undecided at the moment."

the school newspaper.

Being so involved has made Scharff a candidate as a National Merit Commended Scholar, which is an honor based upon a student's grades and school involvement.

Outside of school, Scharff is interested in music and the good of his community. He is a member of the Phoenix Symphony Guild, a

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