

Changing the world one dance at a time

BY MARIA RAMIREZ
THE DEVILS APPRENTICE

The lights dim and the stillness of the crowd take over the auditorium. His breathing slows down and his palms stay cool and dry. With a pounding heart and a shining smile his ears adapt to the music and his body moves graciously to the beat.

A feeling of comfort so natural overtakes his body, soul and mind. He looks out to the audience, but only seems to find that shining bright light focused on him. His passion, his love, his addiction for dance has taught him to deal with life. Ten years ago he was faced with a wonderful opportunity and took full advantage of it.

As a native from Mexico, Carranza moved to the United States at age 7 in search of a better life. And that is exactly what he did. During the time he has been here, he has been deeply involved in many areas that have helped shape who he is today, including his passion for dance.

The excitement, pressure, love and passion, with a touch of fear, contribute to the emo-

tions that Carranza is faced with as a dancer and a person.

"Dancing teaches you to be patient and dedicated," Carranza says, "which is necessary for other things."

To Carranza, dancing is his escape. When he dances he forgets about everything else. He admits dancing is a good way to relieve stress from other activities.

"I'd be so happy if I died dancing," Carranza says as he smiles and looks away into his own little world. "It's the best feeling in the world...to be on stage."

Carranza will be attending Arizona State University in the fall and would like to major in journalism at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. He received various journalism scholarships that will be covering tuition, rooming and books. He also would like to major in Mexican Folkloric dance at the University of Colima in Mexico.

As a high school student he was a Drama Club officer and thespian, a member of choir, National Honor Society, performance level dance, and



MIRIAM HERNANDEZ/THE DEVILS APPRENTICE
Rafael Carranza contemplates life and his love of dance while at SJI. He will be attending ASU as a freshman in August 2004.

MECHA (Minority Club Cultural Awareness). Carranza founded the Spanish page for his high school newspaper and was also editor-in-chief and managing editor. He says newspaper is important to him because he wants to influence

people through words and let them know what's going on.

"I want to be the voice, inform other people, and give them something that they can relate to," Carranza says. "And hopefully leave a positive impact."

He is also an intern at the West Valley View, where he worked as a translator for the Spanish section.

"I want to be the ultimate representative of the Mexican culture," Carranza says as he bursts into laughter. "Being far away makes it difficult to preserve our culture." And that is one of the reasons why he would like to study Mexican Folkloric dance, because it is a way to keep his culture alive and he also enjoys it. And that also explains why he founded the Spanish section for his school newspaper.

"I felt there was a lack of diversity within the newspaper," he adds.

Adapting to a new country as a child did not always come very easy to Carranza. And although people were very accepting of him, the language barrier was an obstacle that he was faced with as a young child.

"I was angry that I couldn't communicate with others," Carranza says. But he is glad he moved to this country because there are so many opportunities that he is thankful for: such as relating to other

people, having a greater knowledge of other cultures, and being able to teach other people while making them aware of what's out there and how it can make a difference.

"It (moving here) is definitely a great step forward because there are so many opportunities here that are not available there (Mexico)," Carranza says. Education has been the biggest blessing that has come his way, because in Mexico he would have been working by now.

Carranza relates dancing and moving to a new country as a way to better himself as a person. When he falls during a performance, he gets back up and improvises, and the same concept is applied with starting a new life in a different country.

"Improvising deals with seizing the moment and dealing with what you have, in the same way adapting to this country deals with seizing any opportunity, to learn new things and also to work with what you have to improve," Carranza says. "You have to work to stand up and make it even better."

From South Tucson to ASU to the world

BY JASMINE WIGGINS
THE DEVILS APPRENTICE

Sitting on the floor of Hayden Hall, she tosses her head and throws a toothy grin. As she brushes back her long, curly, black hair to the side, her golden bracelets jingle. Three golden necklaces drip from her neck, and golden hoops swing from her ears.

Sixteen-year-old Karina Arrieta recently talked about making the 115-mile journey from her home in Tucson to Tempe. What lured Arrieta from her home? Was it: A, the city life of Tempe; B, the Arizona State University campus; C, the beauty of the Tempe Town Lake; or D, none of the above? The answer is D. Arrieta trekked to ASU because of a simple love for journalism.

One of 16 chosen to attend the highly selective two-week Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication Summer Journalism Institute, Arrieta plunged head first into print journalism classes and workshops, further developing her journalistic prowess.

Arrieta wants to become a journalist because of an experience that took place three years ago. When she was in the eighth grade, a tragedy occurred when a 13-year-old boy from her neighborhood was fatally shot in the head. "South side boy dies from gunshot wounds," she says as she reflected back on the headline.

She recalls that a local publication, the Tucson Citizen, "emphasized that the boy was from the South side." Her face contorted with disgust as she explained that the publication neglected to report on any of the shootings on the North side, the East side, or any other side for that matter, but the South side. She said the Tucson Citizen presented the South side in an unfair light, because all the "bad" news that was reported was labeled "South side."



MIRIAM HERNANDEZ/THE DEVILS APPRENTICE
Karina Arrieta will be the editor in chief of Luz Academy's school paper — she's only a junior!

Students and teachers were enraged, so much so that they e-mailed the newspaper asking why it rarely reported news that didn't involve the South side. When the Citizen did not reply, Arrieta's teacher turned to her, pushing her to pursue journalism to "change the way people write."

Her teacher had great confidence in Arrieta's writing abilities, and her eighth-grade literary award proves that she possesses the knack for it. Now, Arrieta wishes to change how the media portrays its subjects. As editor in chief of Luz Academy's newspaper, fairness and objectivity are now something she values very much and wishes to revive in the journalism industry.

The Summer Journalism Institute is not the first time she has visited ASU; in middle school, she also participated in ASU's engineering camp MESA (Mathematical Engineering

Science Achievement) a program for students who are gifted in the math and science areas.

Arrieta spreads open her hands and smiles again when she said, "I'm really good at math." Not only is Arrieta a gifted writer, but she also possesses a mastery of math and the sciences as well. She will be taking college-level math and English courses as a junior in high school next year.

This five-time Student of the Month also plays basketball for her school team and for the YMCA, and has won a basketball award. She is still an "ordinary teenager," who engages in activities such as the computer, music and going to the mall.

Looking up, Arrieta ponders her future goals and ambitions, saying with a laugh "to marry Nelly or Frankie J." With all jokes aside, she says honestly, "to have a family and keep them happy, even if it's not with money."

SJI student loves animals

BY MIRIAM HERNANDEZ
THE DEVILS APPRENTICE

Maybe Bruce the Shark from "Finding Nemo" said it best: "Fish are friends, not food." Actually, all animals, not just fish, are friends, or at least should be.

Alison Carrubba adores animals. She loves them so much she owns 18 of them, consisting of a rabbit, a horse, cats, dogs, mice, fish and frogs. She hopes to soon add a charming goat to her wonderful menagerie. She strongly advocates for animal rights and has been a vegetarian for more than a year now.

"Becoming a vegetarian wasn't that hard, but the only thing I miss is the convenience of it all," she says.

Meat is everywhere, and most meat-free alternatives aren't as appetizing as she thought. While her mother was pregnant with her she rode horses, so Carrubba likes to mention how she rode horses before she was even born.

People might think Carrubba is naïve for her beliefs, but her big heart and compassion proves them wrong. Carrubba is a strong believer in karma: "Do unto others as you would wish them do unto you," she notes.

One particular occurrence let Carrubba witness that even the smallest creatures can become victims of cruelty. While shopping one day at a local Petco for cat food, she noticed that mice were being kept in metal cages waiting to be fed to the snakes.

Shocked, Carrubba decided to do what she could and saved four mice, two males and two females, by taking them home and making them her pets. She placed them in a cage, and shortly after the two female mice became pregnant.

Carrubba left the males in the cage, and put the females in a nearby glass fish tank. The next morning, to her surprise, she found that one of the males somehow bent the metal cage, escaped, climbed



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Alison Carrubba, 18, has a menagerie of animals at home, including cats, dogs, mice, frogs, a rabbit and a horse.

into the fish tank and fell asleep with the females.

"I thought that was so adorable, so if anyone says that animals don't have feelings then they are so wrong," Carrubba says.

That miniature mouse showed her that animals, big or small, have rights and feelings just like any human being.

"I'm a little off the wall and my sense of humor it's a little different from other people's," she notes.

To some, Carrubba might seem quirky and odd, but isn't everybody? Her personality traits are derived from the inheritance she received from her father's level head and her mother's feistiness. She admits that when she's alone she likes to have her own private conversations and practice her wacky facial expressions while she talks.

No matter what, Carrubba will always be a kid at heart. As she gets older and settles

into her adult life, like most she will mature, yet still possess the endearing essence of a child.

A major turning point in Carrubba's life has been meeting her boyfriend Shane. He has helped her see her world in a more positive and realistic way. Her outlook has changed because she no longer feels obligated to fit into the dreaded "in crowd." She doesn't follow a humdrum routine, and experience has taught her to stand up for herself and not be so passive.

Carrubba can be considered a true free spirit, and her eccentricity and originality make her stand out and more genuine than most. With similar beliefs to Carrubba, George Clemenceau said it best, "Begin to free yourself at once by doing all that is possible with the means you have, and as you proceed in this spirit the way will open for you to do more."