

Balancing act: Student embraces culture clash

BY CALLIE THOMPSON
THE DEVILS APPRENTICE

It is hard to imagine that Ami Gosalia used to be shy. In fact, up until about two years ago, this now fun, spunky and outgoing girl was quiet, introverted and reserved.

However, during her sophomore year at Horizon High School in Scottsdale, she made a 180-degree personality change and now she strikes up conversations with everyone she meets, makes friends wherever she goes, and can talk to anyone about anything for hours.

Gosalia greets everyone with a smile and is always ready to experience new things. She gives her all to any activity she participates in, small or large.

A loyal friend, Gosalia loves to go shopping, see movies and spend time with her friends on the weekend, and she also enjoys just kicking back with a good book, especially her favorite: "Interpreter of Maladies," a series of short stories by Jhumpa Lahiri.

Because of her adventure-some personality, she has a vast array of interests and passions, ranging from yoga to tennis to journalism.

There is so much that makes this girl tick, so let's start with the basics.

Gosalia was born on Nov. 6, 1986 in Phoenix, AZ. She has an older sister Abha who is about to finish medical school, and Gosalia lives with both of her parents in Scottsdale. She works as a pool attendant at the Scottsdale Fairmont Princess Resort.

Although Gosalia is always bursting with energy and enthusiasm, she also knows when it's time to be serious and get some work done, which led to her being named a National Merit Scholar last year and a member of the

National Honor Society at her high school. Perhaps this perfect balance of fun and seriousness is best reflected in her two favorite movies, "Life is Beautiful," and "Center Stage."

"A culture clash has kind of shaped my life," Gosalia says. Both of her parents were born and raised in India, and raising their own children in the United States, Gosalia admits, is very different from India and must have been difficult for them. However, she and her parents have come to understand one another, and now, Gosalia is more proud of who she is and her heritage than ever before.

Gosalia accredits her personality transformation to a number of changes and decisions she made during her first two years of high school. For six years prior to freshman year, she was heavily into competitive gymnastics, practicing five to six hours a day at least six days a week.

After making the difficult decision to quit gymnastics, she decided to pursue other school activities and in a way, "came out of her shell."

Because of Gosalia's upbeat personality, she immediately threw herself into a myriad of other interests after quitting gymnastics.

She served on student government for two years, played varsity tennis, and wrote a number of feature articles for her school's paper, Horizon Highlights.

She did not spend too much time overanalyzing her decision, because in life, she believes that everything happens for a reason. She believes that "every experience makes you into the person you are." With this positive outlook on life, there is nothing that can stop this girl or bring her down.

Gosalia keeps busy outside of school as well, especial-

ly with extensive volunteer work in the field of medicine. Over the past few summers, she volunteered at the Sun Health Research Institute, conducting experiments with brain tissues for a research project, and Boswell Hospital, where she earned her 500-hour pin, doing all sorts of work ranging from office work to helping patients.

While Gosalia is still not positive that a medical career is the path that she will take in life, she says that her work at the hospital was a "great learning experience and made [her] want to learn more about medical science, particularly neuroscience."

Just like three years ago, Gosalia is ready to make another change. This fall, she is headed to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, where she will be studying Human Organization and Development.

While many upcoming college freshmen are nervous and anxious about leaving home and going to a completely new and unfamiliar environment, she cannot wait.

She's ready for the change because she has lived in the same house since she was 6 months old, and is thrilled about living in a new part of the country, embracing a new way of life, meeting people from all different backgrounds and states, and taking new and exciting classes.

Gosalia has big dreams for her future, and her biggest challenge will be deciding which one to pursue. When asked what would she be if she could be anything in the world, she responded with a smile, "an astronaut." However, realistically, she says that she dreams of doing editorial work for a yoga magazine or owning her own yoga studio.

In fifteen years she sees herself being married and



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Although Ami Gosalia will begin studying Human Organization and Development at Vanderbilt University in August 2004, she dreams of owning a yoga studio or working for a yoga magazine.

beginning to raise a family outside of a big city. Gosalia is truly a friend to all. She is

ready to take on the world with a smile, and with her personality, persistence, and fear-

lessness, she can surely accomplish any dream, big or small.



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When he's not making a hole-in-one, Michael Ziman enjoys writing comedy sketches and songs for his improv comedy troupe.

Teeing off for success

BY DANIEL OSPINA
THE DEVILS APPRENTICE

After hitting an accurate tee shot to the par 4 18th, Michael Ziman stands in the fairway patiently waiting for the group ahead to clear the green. The wind is swirling on this beautiful Arizona morning and this begs the question: what club should he use for his approach?

He pulls out a 7-iron and begins his practice routine. He stands over the ball for a moment and then backs off.

"I think I'll use a 6," Ziman says as he rips a few blades of grass from the ground and tosses them in the air. "Definitely a 6."

The green, surrounded by intimidating bunkers and deep rough, is now clear and again Ziman takes a few practice swings.

Then, he lines up and hits a smooth, majestic 6-iron that catches the back of the green, leaving himself with a long, downhill putt.

He calmly walks up to the putting surface and makes a careful decision about the speed and the line of the putt.

Finally, Ziman sinks the difficult putt for a birdie 3, ending his round on a high note.

Ziman's enjoys golf because it requires a balance of both physical and mental strength and it mirrors his personality.

"I'm usually calm and quiet most of the time," he says, "and I'm a very analytical person."

Along with golf, Ziman has a passion for writing drama scripts as well as creative writing. He has written several comedy sketches and songs for his improv comedy group. Despite this dedication and interest in writing, Ziman is still unsure about what lies ahead in his future. He has entertained thoughts about playing golf for a living, but has decided to set more reasonable goals.

"I am going to have to decide between journalism, advertising and drama," he explains.

Whichever road Ziman chooses to take, you can be sure that it will be chosen after a well thought out, practical and informed decision-making process: no different than the approach he takes routinely in golf.

As for his outlook on people, lifestyles and society in general, Ziman believes in having considerable freedom. He contends that

responsible people should be allowed to do almost whatever they want.

"The gambling age should be lowered to 18, maybe even 16," he says. "People should be able to experience the highs and lows of [gambling] and learn from it."

This mindset is one that makes up much of the daily attitude of Michael Ziman; all things that happen early in one's life are learning experiences that will teach lessons to be used later in life.

One such experience has been his periodical moving from neighborhood to neighborhood, though he has almost always lived in the Valley. Once, his family decided to move to Pennsylvania to be near his mother's family but their new life in a new environment turned out to be short-lived.

"The schools there were a joke," Ziman says, "and a bad commuting situation and a cold winter led us to move back [to Arizona]."

Michael Ziman is, more than anything, a simple guy who tries not to complicate things and does not make a big deal out of everything.

"I'm into drama but not that kind of drama," he adds.