

# The Odyssey Review

2006-2007 Issue 4

Q4 Newsletter

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- Elizabeth Holmes
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## OCHS Graduation June 5

Odyssey Charter High School's graduation is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5 at 6:30 pm at the Cashman Theatre. OCHS hopes to graduate over eighty students this year. The final deadline for seniors to submit work is Friday, June 1st.

**See pages 4-6 for Senior Spotlights!**

## Odyssey Announces the 2007 Career Fair

May 22

Ms. Jessica Borgmeier

Come listen to a college admissions representative as she touches on various topics including how to learn to create and keep a budget as well as information about the jobs that are most in demand after high school.

May 23

Mr. Murray Dominquez

Mr. Dominquez is the school training coordinator for local 525 of the plumbers and pipe fitters union in Las Vegas. Learn about apprenticeships and the various levels and requirements involved in becoming a successful tradesperson.

May 24

Mr. Jose Basilio

Come and listen to a branch manager and human resources director for Washington Mutual Bank. Learn about jobs in the banking industry and what professionals look for when reviewing your qualifications and when interviewing you for a job.

### Summer School Questions

CCSD Summer School registration is open to charter students on a "**Late Walk-In**" basis only. Registration is done at the school where the student will attend the course.

Session I and Session II registration: June 13-14.

Session II only registration: July 3-5

For more information:

<http://ccsd.net/schools/summerschool/index.phtml>

**Family Baseball Night!**

May 25th 7:11PM

\$7.00

Cashman Field

51s VS Beavers



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# Life After High School Graduation

OCHS Senior, Heather Lynch

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One of the tasks sitting heavily on teens minds today concern their after-graduation plans. Why shouldn't they? It seems that there are only two options, college or nothing. This can be pretty scary, because college is a big step for most people. But is college really for them? What else is there to choose from? Rest assured teens, because there are plenty of options for teens (and even some adults) after high school.

The first, and probably most basic option is to enter the workforce straight out of high school. Some students prefer to get a head start on this, and start working before their graduation. Some people just didn't do so well in school, and think that working directly out of high school is their best option. Some might change their mind, however, once discovering that recent high school graduates start off a job making only minimum wage. Let's not discount the fact that it

is possible to 'move up' in a job and earn more money. (That, however, takes a lot of time, and teens have money issues of their own to worry about after high school.) Also, most graduates entering the workforce right away end up working in some kind of labor, construction, skilled trades, food services, personal services, or as cashiers. This is fine for starting a job, but ask yourself this: how many people do you know who are working in a fast food restaurant? How about people that are cashiers? How many people do you now that work in movie theatres? Now that we know how truthful this is, let me ask you this: are these the jobs you want to be at over and over again for the next few years? If they are, then great! More power to you. However, there are some that not only want, but also need a better job to support themselves. **Continued on page 7**



*It seems that there are only two options, college or nothing.*

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Student Editorial

## Changes For Odyssey

Kayla Trotter, OCHS Junior

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Odyssey Charter High School is a school of choice for Clark County students; I believe that students that do not try to succeed and not show effort towards improvement towards their academic skills should be withdrawn from the school. Being capable to attend Odyssey Charter High is a privilege to students. The individuals that attend Odyssey should be doing their assignments that are assigned to them. Majority of the staff and teachers at Odyssey are very lenient on due dates and the amount of work distributed to the students. Not every student in the Clark County school district knows about Odyssey Charter High School or has the opportunity to attend the school because there is only one location in Las Vegas, Nevada. Transportation is a big

difficulty as to why some individuals can not attend the school.

In my opinion, if a student is showing that they do not want to do the work and fails to be present on their scheduled school day they should be withdrawn from the school, because that student is basically showing that they have little interest in an education and succeeding in life. I do not disapprove against the individuals that intend on putting this rule in effect. Odyssey is a school that you must be self motivated in order to attend, because you do not have an instructor to be there with you physically on an everyday basis to help motivate you or baby sit you to be sure that you are doing your required assignments.

I believe a policy of this sort

would ensure that students are at Odyssey for an education. It would prove that the students that are there are self motivated and care about what the future holds for them. This policy would also be an eye opener to certain individuals that are capable of succeeding that was just deciding not to. Some individuals need that extra form of discipline to let them aware that no one is going to do the work for them and that it is completely up to them. It is also a second chance available to the students. In conclusion, I believe students that attend Odyssey Charter High School and are notified that they are failing and do not try to correct their failure should be withdrawn from the school.

# Music

An Interview by Elizabeth Holmes

and outdoor shows, and I see a lot of younger kids there, Music is the vocal or instrumental sound possessing a degree of melody, harmony, or rhythm. In my opinion music was one of the greatest inventions on this planet. There are many different varieties, and there is something for everyone. When I listen to music it brings me peace of mind, or makes me happy when I'm sad. So, when I heard we had to conduct an interview that is interesting to teenagers, I figured that there was not a more perfect topic than music. My interviewee was Halli Cooke, my co-worker and her topic was "Fresh Faces of Music." I chose this topic because I wanted to learn about what kind of music other people are into. Also, I wanted to know more about new upcoming bands and shows.

Halli was a great person to interview, she told me about some of her favorite bands which include: Blink 182, Forgive Durdan, Saosin, Breaking Benjamin and Glassjaw. I asked her what she enjoyed most about music, here was her response: "The passion involved" It takes a lot of talent to memorize songs and perform all of them perfectly on stage in front of a huge crowd of fans. Some bands can create messages in their songs that can be very positive and uplifting. I also enjoy the variety music has and the kind of mood that music can create. I love to go to concerts

which brought me to my next question: What was the last show you attended Halli? She told me she went to Extreme Thing. Extreme thing is an outdoor concert that comes to 30 states. It happens every year and it features, Bmx dirt jumps, a huge variety of bands, venues, skate parks etc. It is a great, positive outdoor event to attend. In my opinion there is not enough outdoor events in Vegas, I would love to hear about more. I wanted to know Halli's opinion on this same topic. She thinks there should be more outdoor events because it gives you more room to walk around, you can be outside and enjoy the fresh air, and it gives you a great opportunity to meet new people." It's great because unlike indoor shows you can enjoy yourself without being claustrophobic." I'm kind of an oldies girl, I love Bob Marley, Aerosmith, Sublime, Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton etc. Unfortunately, my interview topic is not based on oldies it's based on "Fresh" faces of music. That means new, so when I asked Halli if she heard of any new bands lately, only one came to mind. "Red" They are an emo/rock group. She said she wouldn't recommend them because they have a generic/common sound. Not really to original and there probably not my style. **Continued on Page 8**

*"It takes a lot of talent to memorize songs and perform all of them perfectly on stage in front of a huge crowd of fans."*

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a sophomore this year about to be a junior. Everything seems to be falling in place except my future. I'm not sure what I want to major in. My family members are telling me that it is time to step up and to start looking for colleges. I'm ready to grow up but I'm just nervous. Life after high school is hard and not what it seems. I know what I'm capable of doing but I'm scared that I might fail and disappoint my family. So know its come down to where do I want to go? Who do I want to be? What do I want to do? I need to know what I should do help me figure out my future. What are the smart things to look out for. Or when to look for colleges and to know which ones are out of my league. *Sincerely, Alexandria*

**DEAR Alexandria:** There are many young adults that are in college as freshman and sophomores and still do not know what they are going to major in. Take your time on this. You have a couple of years of college to decide a major plus you can always change your major if it doesn't suit you. Yes, you can be looking for colleges now, but talk with a counselor at school also for help. You can also talk to counselors at Community College or UNLV. That is what they are there for.

Life is as hard as you make it and just chill out some and do not let anyone pressure you into a decision. Take the psat's and see what your scores are, which can help you decide on colleges. Also going to Community College for a year or two wouldn't hurt. It will give you more time to decide on a major.

Dear Abby

Email your questions to Abby at [odysseyreview@yahoo.com](mailto:odysseyreview@yahoo.com)



## Graduate Spotlights



**Jaymie Ainsworth-** Jaymi is a life-force. Her positive energy and kind words inspire all those lucky enough to know her. *Mr. Plough*

**JB Alcantara-** J.B. has come a long way in the three years I've known him. I'm very proud of his accomplishments. *Mr. Plough*

**Amber Alderman-** Amber, you are a talented young lady who will succeed definitely succeed in university and beyond. *Mrs. Latham*

**Kameren Belle-** Best wishes for a bright and successful future! May you always be happy and healthy. *Mrs. Sill*

**Kristalyn Blazzard-** Always tries her best at everything she does, an amazing trait in a student and a person. *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Johnny Bobowicz-** I feel lucky to have met Johnny this year. He is a strong student with bright goals that I'm sure he will achieve due to his solid work ethic. *Mr. Plough*

**Louis Bornstein-** Louis was a rare student. No matter what I threw at him, he always made me feel like it was too easy. He has a bright future. *Mr. Plough*

**Brandon Brown-** Mr. Brown is plain and simply a wonderful person. The world has nothing on him, go out and conquer it! *Mr. Plough*

**Michael Burton-** We all wish you a bright future! *OCHS Staff*

**Branden Colnarc-** I know you have a great future ahead of you, so pursue your studies in your chosen field. *Mrs. Latham*

**Lindsay Conley-** Great job in psychology this year! You have the tendency to exceed expectations and to go above and beyond to succeed. Good luck in all your future endeavors. *Mrs. Sill*

**Alexander Counce-** Alex is a smart, hard working young man, although maybe not always in his coursework. Kidding. I know you will be successful in life, good luck. *Mr. Plough*

**Shaun Curry-** Keep joking, keep smiling, and remember to trust yourself. *Mr. Plough*  
I will definitely miss your wonderful personality and great sense of humor! Good luck and Congratulations! *Mrs. Sill*

**Greg Daluz-** Greg is a smart, thoughtful young man who has the potential to change the world, he just needs

to make up his mind to do so. *Mr. Plough*

**Jamie Davis-** Jamie has goals and know what it takes to accomplish them. Best of Luck, *Mrs. Haaksma*

**John Fletcher-** John has just done excellent work all year in Applied Communications - no matter what the assignment he always set a great standard. Good luck, John!. *Ms. Smith*

**Michael Flores-** Michael, you are a thoughtful and intelligent young man as well as a great writer! Best wishes! *Mrs. Palac*

**Linyanti Frazier-** Best wishes and congratulations on your success! *Mrs. Sill*

**Dana Gamby-** Dana has added depth to the class discussion in applied communications. *Ms. Smith*  
You have displayed tremendous courage in the face of difficulties. May success and happiness be part of your future. *Mrs. Latham*

**Shannon Goble-** Shannon's presentations raised the level of everyone's work. Thanks! *Ms. Smith*  
I'm so proud of you! Good luck in college and playing softball! *Ms. Lekostaj*  
Shannon is as strong of a person as I've known at her age. Keep your head up, and use that strength to propel yourself through all life's obstacles. *Mr. Plough*

**Michael Grazieano-** We all wish you a bright future! *OCHS Staff*

**Zachary Greenawalt-** We all wish you a bright future! *OCHS Staff*

**Kelsey Green-** Kelsey always has a unique perspective to share with others. *Ms. Smith*

**Erica Greene-** I always remembered Erica's name, because Erica Greene had green hair. Good luck! *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Chelsea Grippi-** Chelsea's individuality and independence is reflected by her willingness to defend her point-of-view effectively.  
Good luck, Chelsea! *Ms. Smith*

**Evan Hansen-** Evan has been great about sharing technology in the class discussions - we have all learned something from him! He is also the best at pulling out an assignment at the last minute and making it work!  
Good luck, Evan. *Ms. Smith*

**Paul Haygood-** A very bright student. Good work in English III. *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Stephanie Hetrick-** It's been a pleasure knowing Stephanie, and I can certainly thank her for a few extra pounds from those darn girl scout cookies. *Mr. Plough*

I have had the pleasure of having you as a student since the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and I am going to miss seeing your smiling face every week! Congratulations – You deserve it!!! *Mrs. Sill*

**Melissa Kegan-** Melissa always gave the most beautiful hand-scarves for gifts. A true treasure. She is also a very diligent student. Good luck! *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Camillea Kilgore-** Camillea is a very hard-working and genuinely sweet person. We will miss her. *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Francis Kodya-** Frank always amazed me with the dedication he put into his work. There was always such passion and fire behind it– and he was always so laid back in person. Best of luck in your bright future! *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Kyle Kuhn-** We all wish you a bright future! *OCHS Staff*

**Angela Latchic-** Angela sets a great example for other students by always being prepared and knowing what she is talking about. We'll miss you next year and best of luck! *Ms. Smith*

**Adam Latham-** We all wish you a bright future! *OCHS Staff*

**Michael Lemmon-** Quiet and cooperative, also willing to do what it takes to succeed - the best of luck in your chosen career. *Mrs. Latham*

**Brianna Lewis-** Brianna has a natural flair for public speaking - even though she may not realize it yet. Good luck, Brianna! *Ms. Smith*

**Brittiany Lodge-** Always such a sweet person. Never an unkind word. Good luck! *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Alia Looney-** Such a bright young lady. You will do well in your future. *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Samantha Lucuara-** Samantha quietly gets it all done and I know she'll continue to do well. Good luck, *Ms. Smith*

**Heather Lynch-** Bubbly and never snarky, what a spirit she has. *Mr. Plough*

**Krishna Malay-** Always her own person. Krishna will go far. Good Luck! *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Jatay Marrero-** Jatay is a very intelligent young man. He will go far! *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Vincent Marrero-** I have enjoyed watching you succeed in my class and throughout your school career. I hope you continue in your education as you could do well. *Mrs. Latham*

**Dustin Mazar-** Your wonderful personality and great sense of humor will be greatly missed in our classroom. Congratulations! *Mrs. Sill*

**Madelynn Meth-** A most pleasant young lady. *Dr. Thatcher*

Madelynn has awesome potential and overall a wonderful person! *Ms. Lekostaj*

**Courtney Millay-** We all wish you a bright future! *OCHS Staff*

**Kimberly Moffet-** Keep reading those great novels! *Mrs. Palac*

**Stephannie Moore-** Stephanie has had some real ups and downs to deal with this year. I hope your foot (and you) have a complete recovery and best of luck. *Ms. Smith*

**Douglas Morgan-** We all wish you a bright future! *OCHS Staff*

**Martika O'Neal-** Don't let life's ups and down distract you from your lofty goals. You can accomplish anything with your great work ethic and drive. *Mr. Plough*

**Kristina Orlando-** You have the ability to succeed at anything you set out to do! Best Wishes! *Mrs. Sill*

**Alyssa Pangallo-** Alyssa, you are a very bright and talented young woman and I know you will succeed in any career you choose. Best wishes, Alyssa! *Mrs. Palac*

**Riva Pelletier-Price-** Riva always has a kind word for everyone. We'll miss you. *Ms. Smith*

**Raquel Perea-** Rocky, thanks for your marvelous sense of humor in homeroom! Best wishes! *Mrs. Palac*

**Andrea Perez-** You have demonstrated great perseverance this semester kudos to you :) *Mrs. Koepnick*

**Kelley Phillips-** We all wish you a bright future! *OCHS Staff*

**Andrianna Porter-** Keep pursuing your dreams. You will be a fantastic nurse. *Mrs. Koepnick*

**Armando Quintanilla-** You are very creative and witty! I wish you well in your chosen career. *Mrs. Palac*  
Congratulations on your music scholarship. You are very talented and I look forward to seeing all that you accomplish. *Mrs. Koepnick*

**Tyler Rasmussen-** We all wish you a bright future!  
*OCHS Staff*

**Randee-Ray Wurtz-** Your passion for photography is contagious. *Mrs. Koepnick*

**Cassandra Robinson-** Cassie is a light that brightens every room. *Mr. Plough*

**Tanika Rodriquez-** a pleasure to have in class this year. Congratulations! *Ms. Lekostaj*

**Nathan Rogers-** Nathan is as keen of a high school student as I've known. He understands the world well and if he decides to use his power for good, he will be very successful. *Mr. Plough*

**Jordan Rosenthal-** Jordan really showed how well he could do in English III this year. Good luck in your future! *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Lynsey Roscoe-** A hard-working math student. *Dr. Thatcher*

**Emily Rouse-** Emily is a very smart young lady and is sure to succeed in anything she does. Best of luck, *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Lisa Sayegh-** I know you will succeed in everything you do! *Mrs. Palac*

**Brittany Schroader-** Good luck at cosmetology school. *Mrs. Koepnick*

**Francesca Sliter-Ruiz-** You have a big heart and I know you will use it to make a difference in a big way! *Mrs. Koepnick*

**Thomas Smyth-** Jordan's presence on campus will be missed. *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Elizabeth Spencer-** Elizabeth did outstanding work during our presentations in Applied Communications and we wish her the best of luck! *Ms. Smith*

**Bryan Stanford-** Bryan has a great sense of humor. I enjoyed him in my homeroom. Best of luck! *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Patricia Taylor-** Patricia, it has been a pleasure knowing you. Good luck in all you do! *Mrs. Palac*

**Ashley Thiriot-** Your career in tennis taught you perseverance and courage. Good luck in your future endeavors. *Ms. Latham*

**Christina Tortomasi-** Christina is a very bright young lady and a talented writer. Good luck! *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Myles Trujillo-** Myles is so positive and enjoyable that it's hard not to smile when you see him. He is a genuinely good person. *Ms. Smith*

**Rachel Vallone-** We all wish you a bright future!  
*OCHS Staff*

**Toni Voutsinas-** Your enthusiasm and friendliness are your best qualities. Good luck, Toni. *Ms. Latham*

**Stephen Walter-** Stephen is a smart young man who will be a positive contributor to society and I feel lucky to have known him the last couple years. *Mr. Plough* Stephen has the uncanny ability to get people to laugh with him no matter how serious the topic. Can you say "Extra Credit"? Good luck, *Ms. Smith*

**Cameron Warner-** Cameron's insights on so many topics have added so much to the Applied Communications class! Thanks and good luck, Cameron. *Ms. Smith*

**Jane Whipple-** We all wish you a bright future! *OCHS Staff*

**Cheyenne White-** Cheyenne has been a solid contributor all year to class discussions and setting a good example for other students in the class. Thanks, *Ms. Smith*

I will truly miss Cheyenne. He is a very talented young man with a great personality. He will be successful in whatever he (finally) decides to do :) *Mrs. Haaksma*

**Shannon Widdowes-** You have been one of the most insightful psychology students that I have had this year and I wish you great success in all you

Odyssey Charter High School  
Faculty and Staff extends  
congratulations to all  
2007 seniors! Best of luck in  
your very bright futures!

CONGRATULATIONS  
GRADUATES!



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# Life After High School Graduation

*Continued from page 2*

A second option for graduates is to enter a trade school. Trade schools are a decently new development, made to further one's education in a particular field of study. Trade schools are available for almost any field of study, but cost about the same as a collage. The one trade school I looked at charged anywhere from \$22,800 to \$83,300 for tuition. Financial aid is offered, for those of us who don't have \$23,000 sitting in our pockets. The financial aid options include FAFSA forms; which are governmental based; gift aid; loans; and work. Many schools offer these options, as well as a few others of their own. Trade schools are great if you're not that into the schooling thing, and need the experience in a particular subject in order to obtain the job you want. Most workers consider trade schools to be equal to a college education. (This is, of course, not something obtained from a source, but from my own experiences in working, and from reading many different job application forms.)

Another popular choice for graduates is community college. A community college is the 'public school' of college. A student's tuition is based on how many credits they are hoping to get, semesters that the student will be attending, and other basic fees required of the school. Financial aid is also offered from community colleges. Community colleges are also great because they offer a wide variety of

classes to take, giving a student many career options to choose from, and a good start on working life. The income of a community college graduate is higher, as well... According to [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov), a community college graduate could earn a starting pay of \$45,400.00 a year. That's the same income as a college Grad! The financial aid offered by community colleges isn't such a bad thing, either. Most Community Colleges should also accept FAFSA student aid forms. Community colleges are a great option for people who want a college education, but don't want the hustle and bustle of campus life. They are also a good option for those teens who want the education of a university, but for a lot LOT less.

Last but not least, a fourth option for teens to choose from is a university. Universities are the classic schooling option, with hundreds (if not hundreds of hundreds) of campuses across the United States. Some students even prefer moving to other countries to get the college life they need! Colleges, however nice they are, don't come cheap. Like trade schools, tuition for a university can get pretty expensive as well. One college charges \$15,820 and upwards for their tuition. I've seen tuition fees run much higher than a mere \$15,000. Many forms of financial aid are offered for college attendees as well. The government has most colleges accept the FAFSA forms, for governmental funding. Grad

Plus Loans are also accepted at some colleges. The college I looked into (Claremont Graduate University in California) accepted the above two, as well as private loans, scholarships, grants, and institutional aids. These financial aids are beneficial to any recent high school graduate, and allow almost anyone to get a college education and a university experience. In fact, there are some that say a college university compares to no other schooling experience. Lets get back to the topic, however. There are also many job opportunities available for college grads. According to [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov), a college grad can get a yearly salary of \$45,400 as a starting salary. Getting a professional degree (of course, depending on what the degree is in) can bump that number to a huge sum of \$99,300 for a yearly salary. Of course, it was not stated whether that number was *before* or *after* taxes. It was also stated by the source that there is a link between a person's education level and their annual salary. If anything, this should be encouragement to the people who *want* to further their education. This Should also be a great encouragement to the people who already have decided to do so, so that they might keep up their effort and continue their schooling success.

As it has been plainly written, there are many options for teens after high school.

*Continued on page 8.*

# Life After High School

Continued from page 7

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There are even options for adults after high school. (After all, not everyone decides to continue his or her education right away.) Let me remind my readers that the 'after high school schooling situation' is solely based upon one person alone; the recent high school graduate. I love the many options available to high school graduates, because then the schooling career is based solely on the graduate and is tailored to their schooling needs. Keep in mind that in the above paragraphs, I have only covered the basics of future schooling. There are still more options available, including military schools, military training colleges, junior colleges, and the 'mix and match' of the above schools. It's not up to me if a graduate decides to take a year off of school to join the workforce before furthering his or her education, but the option is there! I hope that I have successfully created the dilemma of giving teens too many options to choose from, as opposed to too little options to choose from.

## Music Interview

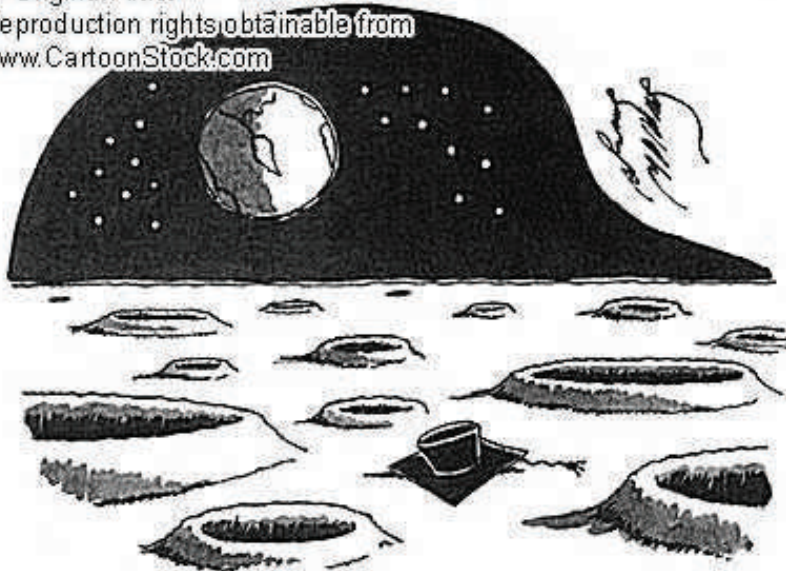
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I also asked her what are some good ways to find out about new bands and upcoming shows. Here are some of her suggestions: The Vans Website, The radio X 107.5, 98.5, 92.3 etc. Myspace is also a good way to find out about new bands. So, mostly online or even in newspapers, and magazines. My final question I thought was a necessity to ask. What cd is in our stereo as we speak? "Senses Fail" Halli said she would definitely recommend them, they have a good sound, very original and they are just all around a great band. "I wish they would come to perform, here in Vegas." While conducting this interview I reached my goal of finding out about other people and what kind of music they might be into. I enjoyed myself while conducting this interview, and I hope you enjoyed what you read.

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Needless to say, discus-thrower Bill Nordlander went to college on a full athletic scholarship.

**Have a great summer!**