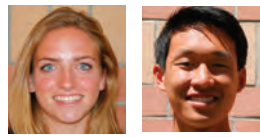


**Senior edition**  
 Graduating class says goodbye and shares college plans

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2011

**reviewbook**



The Gazette's Katie Zingheim and Justin Shiiba look back at the school year - B1

THE GRANITE BAY  
**GAZETTE**

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G13

THE AWARD-WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF GRANITE BAY HIGH SCHOOL

COMMENTARY



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**Life lessons learned from an English prison**

Lately I've had an idea stuck in my head: the Panopticon. No, it's not one of the millions of vocabulary words the SAT expects all students to know, nor is it some type of rare genetic mutation. It is a prison, or it was supposed to be.

In 1785, Jeremy Bentham – an English philosopher that AP European history students have probably already forgotten – created a plan for a new prison. It was designed in such a way that a guard could watch all of the prisoners at once, but the prisoners couldn't see the guard.

The idea at the basis of Bentham's plan is that since the prisoners never know when they're being watched, they will always be on their best behavior. Thus, there is no need for a guard at all.

The idea gets even more interesting when you apply that concept to everyday life.

Meaningless things like "Don't Walk on the Grass" signs and social norms that everyone is expected to follow are all Panopticons.

I was fascinated to say the least. While I was taking the SAT and listening to the hundreds of rules the ever-dull script outlines, I simply could not get the idea out of mind.

Yes, some of the rules are valid and necessary to keep things fair, but others are trivial.

I mean, why do I have to show my ID every time I reenter the classroom when there are only 15 kids, all of whom the proctor has seen? And why does he have to read the stupid script in the first place? Who will know if he doesn't follow it word for word?

Elementary school, STAR test-taking me would've said the test makers. They would know if anyone detoured from their rules. After all, they know everything.

Back then, I imagined the windows exploding as ninjas rushed in to punish me for bubbling ahead of directions or using a mechanical pencil instead of a standard No. 2 (a rule I still cannot stand.)

Now, I laugh at how successful the Panopticon was in conditioning my thoughts and actions.

Honestly, the College Board will never know if I bubbled ahead or if the test started slightly off schedule. There is no ninja squad or vindictive test queen waiting in the wings to punish me or the proctor.

There's only the illusion of the Panopticon.

And while I'm not saying that means all rules should be thrown out, I do think people need to become more aware of the Panopticons around them.

When I began to notice the Panopticons in my life, I felt a lot like the scholar who broke free of his chains in Plato's "Allegory of the Cave." The world was less scary, less stressful and I felt I had more power.

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Jessica Reese, a junior, is a Gazette co-editor-in-chief.



GOODBYE TO THE  
**SENIORS**

Gazette photo /MAGGIE LOUIS

Seniors Rachel De Los Santos and Amanda Befort enjoy the slip-n-slide at Day at the Bay, one of the last in a string of events that mark the end the school year.

**Administration prepares for ceremony and celebrations**

BY JESSICA REESE  
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The class of 2011 is often described as having exemplary character, leadership and, with 20 percent of the class holding a GPA of 4.0 or higher, academic talent.

"There are times in the course of things where a class will graduate and adults will comment, 'I wish them well, but, boy, those were an interesting four years,'" Principal Mike McGuire said. "With this class, (nobody) feels that way."

With AP tests behind them and college acceptances finalized, the seniors can, at long last, set their sights on their impending graduation. The administration, in conjunction with student government and parents, has a number of events planned to make their remaining time fly by.

See GRADUATION, page A5



**Chelsey Lee**  
 Senior and valedictorian earned a 4.61 GPA, the highest in her class. Next year she plans to attend UC Berkeley.

**2011 valedictorian and salutatorian selections announced at Senior AMAs**

BY ALLISON GARVEY  
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There was much debate this year over which students would receive the distinction of representing the class of 2011 at the May 28 graduation ceremony.

A great deal of dedication and ambition characterized the class of 2011 as one of extraordinary merit, and there were many graduates eligible for the honor of salutatorian or valedictorian. The selection of the students who would speak at the ceremony was a detailed process.

As with previous years, a committee was put in place to determine which students would be chosen. The decision took a variety of different qualities into consideration.

"There is an administrator, a counselor and three teachers (on the

See SPEAKERS, page A5



**Stacey Wong**  
 Senior and valedictorian earned a 4.52 weighted GPA. She will attend Stanford University in the fall.

**GBHS teachers moving on to new futures**

Seven faculty to leave for retirement, administration, transfer



**Sharry Colnar**

IB coordinator and chemistry teacher will be retiring at the end of the year after joining the staff in 1996.

BY MATT VENEMAN  
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At the end of every year, Granite Bay High School says goodbye to some of its teachers. This year is no exception, as the school is losing some of its most accomplished and beloved teachers who are moving on after many years in the classroom.

GBHS will be losing seven teachers at the end of this year; Greg Holmes, Sharry Colnar and Walt Wild will be leaving due to retirement, Chris Roberts and Judi Daniels will be moving schools and taking on administrative positions and Dynah Cunkelman and Angela Ash will be transferring schools.

**Greg Holmes**

Holmes began teaching in the district in 1979 at Oakmont High School. After 17 years at Oakmont,

Holmes decided to switch schools and teach at the brand new GBHS campus.

"It became real obvious at Oakmont that Granite Bay was going to be the academic campus," Holmes said.

Although there were minor setbacks and obstacles in the first few years, Holmes says that nothing was ever a struggle while here at GBHS.

"I have great colleagues. (They have) been great to work with and have become some of my best friends," Holmes said.

Holmes's greatest accomplishment while at GBHS was building up the math department to where it now is.

"Yearly we have at least 20 percent of our senior class taking the AP calculus test, and that's incredible," Holmes said.

Holmes looks forward to traveling and seeing new parts of the world once he retires, as well as fishing, camping and doing things he hasn't had

time for while working.

"I'm really anxious to go on a trip when all the kids in the world aren't on vacation," Holmes said.

**Sharry Colnar**

Colnar, like Holmes, is another one of GBHS' original teachers.

Also like Holmes, Colnar came to GBHS from Oakmont, where she taught for 21 years.

Joining the GBHS staff in 1996, Colnar built and designed the science department.

"We got to invent everything because the school was brand new: invent our mascot, invent our colors, invent traditions and that's something they say you only get to do once in three lifetimes," Colnar said.

Colnar made many great memories at the school, which she says she will carry with her throughout her life.

Not everything was easy however.

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**Teen depression**  
 GBHS students share their stories and struggles

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**Ripple Effect**  
 Analyzing the success of student government's anti-bullying campaign

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