

Teachers: more than meets the eye (;

Things you wouldn't know about these incredible condors!

All photos by Caitlyn Scherer

By Jerry Sierra and Caitlyn Scherer

The following passage is the definition of the term 'teacher' from Webster's dictionary: "One who teaches, esp. one hired to teach." The definition is honest, bluntly so, but it fails to capture the true essence of the person 'teacher,' and the influences of such people in the present and future generations. Teachers are our guides through life. They are the ones who enforce discipline and bring to light the reality of true reprisal, something not even our youth can save us from if the crime is atrocious enough. They help to broaden our views so that we may see the vast horizon of our prospective futures. And they carry many a great sacrifices for the better of our future.

Mrs. Gast

What is your most embarrassing moment?

When I was 12 or 13, a cute boy asked me my name at Round Table in Prunedale. I told him I didn't know; let me go ask my mom. So I went and asked my mom and then went back and told him.

What was your favorite class in high school and Why?

Driver's ed because we had it at Palma and it was my only class with boys.

What did you want to be before you became a teacher?

A lawyer.

What was your social status in high school?

I was a jock- friends with everyone.

When was your first kiss and how old were you?

I was 3 in preschool. I kissed a boy for sharing his peanut butter and jelly sandwich with me.

What is the funniest moment in your teaching career?

When I was teaching choices 2 years ago and my chair tipped over with me in it in front of the whole class.

What is a random fact about yourself that no one knows about?

I was in the Miss National Teenager Pageant my senior year of high school.

What were some hobbies you had as a teenager?

Sports, sheep, and reading

Any type inspiring words for the students?

No matter what you choose to do in life- be sure you love it! Work is fun when you love what you are doing.



Mrs. Jordan

What is your most embarrassing moment?

I made the varsity basketball team as a 9th grader. When the coach sent me in to play for the first time, I fell down running on the court!

What was your favorite class in high school and Why?

PE!!!! next was science and math.... as my students know, it was NOT spelling!

Did you play any sports in high school and if any what were they?

Basketball and track-those were the only sports for girls

What did you want to be before you became a teacher?

An astronaut

What was your social status in high school?

Friends with everyone and I wasn't in a real "social group"

What is the funniest moment in your teaching career?

My first year in Jacoma, Washington a student brought me a raw piece of octopus that he had kept in his locker all day! He wanted me to eat it- so I did!

What is a random fact about yourself that no one knows about?

Tattoo's on my teeth

What are any of your present hobbies and strange things you collect?

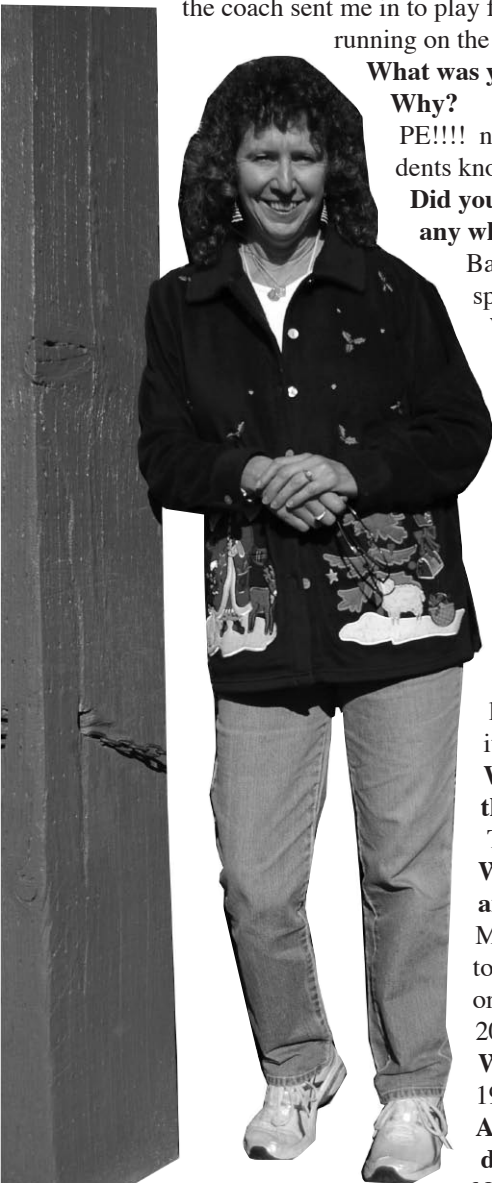
My favorite thing to do is go to the beach to walk or run. I collect Barbie Christmas ornaments- I have ALL of them, including 2009.

What was your first car?

1958 Ford- yellow and white with no radio

Any type inspiring words for the students?

Never ever, ever give up!



MR. SIMPSON

What is your most embarrassing moment?

Ashamed to admit it, but when I crashed my car in 1988, that was awful. My wife was in the front seat and my 3 kids were in the back. The car was a total loss . . . all my fault! (No one was hurt)

Did you play any sports in high school and if any what were they?

I played football for 4 years and I was the starting running back my senior year at Saratoga High. I was also in the track team for 4 years. I was a sprinter and did long jump and triple jump. I held the school record in triple jump for 10 years.

What did you want to be before you became a teacher?

In reality, I think I always wanted to teach. I thought about law and medicine for a short time. I come from a family full of teachers: two sisters, my mother, an aunt, my mother's father was a High school principal for 25 years at Los Gatos high school. Before teaching I worked in an aquarium store for years. I

was a Thrifty drug store manager for 3 years.

What was your social status in high school?

I guess I was a "jock" I hung out with all the athletes and my girl. I had to be the good boy in high school because my mother was a teacher there and she was friends with all my teachers.

What is a strange habit of yours?

I am a bit addicted to playing online poker.

What is the funniest moment in your teaching career?

I have had so many! One time when I was a principal at El Camino High School. I was standing with a student in the quad. A quart of vodka fell on the ground between us and it splattered all over my feet. The student next to me was embarrassed, of course, and said, "It's not mine!" I thought that was so funny!

What was your first car?

My 1st was a 1960 Ford. I paid \$20.00 (twenty) for the car. It was a real wreck. For example the windshield wipers did not work. I drove in it for over a year!

Any type inspiring words for the students?

Try to find a job that you love doing. Save your money. Stay out of debt. Avoid credit cards as much as you can. Nurture relationships. Enjoy family!

Mr. Stahl

What was your favorite class in high school and Why?

Modern European History was my favorite course mostly because of the instructor. He was a former professor from the University of Chicago and taught simply for the love of the subject. In addition, I am half German . . .

What did you want to be before you became a teacher?

I have never clearly known what I wanted to do, and have struggled with choosing a profession for my entire life. I have worked in Bio-Tech, as a paralegal, for the California Coastal Communication as a planner, as a bicycle tour guide for week long treks, and as a teacher.

What was your social status in high school?

Total Dork ! I tried to fit in with the Jocks because I played sports. They never invited me to the parties and pretty much made fun of me off the field. Finally during my junior year, I met a great crew of lads and had more friends.

What is a strange habit of yours?

I like routine. Every morning I wake up at six and walk my huskies for an hour, come home, read the paper and then get ready for work. Not that strange, though.

When was your first kiss and how old were you?

My first kiss happened in the fifth grade- summer break before 6th- on a camping trip with my best friend and his sister. I kissed her in the tent as he was sleeping next to us. = D

What is a random fact about yourself that no one knows about?

I had lived in six states by the time I was 8.

What are any of your present hobbies and strange things you collect?

Anything outdoors is a hobby for me. I don't really collect anything. As long as I can get outside in a day I am happy.

What was your first car?

1985 Toyota Celica GTS. Red, 18" wheels!

Any type inspiring words for the students?

Live everyday to its fullest- you grow up faster than you will ever believe (in retrospect) and there is no time like the present.

