



ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

(T.M. PEPPERDAY, Publisher 1926-1956 H.P. PICKRELL, Editor 1926-1964)
(C. THOMPSON LANG, Publisher 1956-1971)

T.H. LANG, Publisher
An Independent Newspaper

Published at Journal Center, 7777 Jefferson NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109-4343, by the Journal Publishing Co.

Gerald J. Crawford, Editor

Kent Walz, Asst. Editor

A6

Tuesday, May 25, 1993

Editorials

High Expectations

Speaking up in class can be difficult for students, especially shy ones. But, in the right classroom atmosphere, students will join in the discussion.

In the process, they can learn to express themselves and think through what they say. In such an atmosphere, even the shyest student can blossom.

Valley Academy, a pre-college program at Valley High School, has tried to create that kind of atmosphere for students. The academy was established to increase the number of Valley High School students who go to college.

The academy has high expectations of students. One of them, Rachel Duran, said her counselor gave her an important piece of advice: "Reach as high as you can."

The students had to work hard. Very hard. Duran, one of the first graduates from the academy, said she hadn't planned on hitting the books so much.

But she rose to the occasion. She earned a 4.13 grade-point average and plans to major in biology at Santa Clara University in California. In addition to increased knowledge, Duran gained something else she can take with her to college — more confidence. In the academy's challenging Touchstones seminar, she and the other students were expected to speak up on ideas in philosophy, science, the humanities.

"Before, I was really shy," she said. "Through Touchstones, I've been able to communicate my ideas to other people. It doesn't seem like much, but that's how I got to interact with more people."

Congratulations to Rachel Duran and her fellow graduates at Valley Academy. One can only wish that every student in the public schools could be imbued with the same desire to achieve, and that every one received the same support and encouragement as the Valley Academy students. How many students sitting in classrooms have the potential of a Rachel Duran, if only they could be inspired to reach "as high as you can."