

Genius at 10

Young California boy takes college in stride

By JOHN ROGERS
The Associated Press

DOWNEY, Calif. – With the end of another school year approaching, college sophomore Moshe Kai Cavalin is cramming for final exams in classes such as advanced mathematics, foreign languages and music.

But Cavalin is only 10 years old. And at 4-foot-7, his shoes don't quite touch the floor as he puts down a schoolbook and swivels around in his chair to greet a visitor.

"I'm studying statistics," says the alternately precocious and shy Cavalin, his textbook lying open on the living room desk of his parents' apartment in this quiet suburb east of Los Angeles.

Within a year, if he keeps up his grades and completes the rest of his requirements, he hopes to transfer from his two-year program at East Los Angeles College to a prestigious four-year school and study astrophysics.

One of his primary interests is "wormholes," a hypothetical scientific phenomenon connected to Albert Einstein's theory of relativity. It has been theorized that if such holes do exist in space, they could allow for the kind of space-age time travel seen in science fiction.

"Just like black holes, they suck in particulate objects, and also like black holes, they also travel at escape velocity, which is, the speed to get out of there is faster than the speed of light," Cavalin says. "I'd like to prove that wormholes are really there and prove all the theories are correct."

First, he has statistics homework to finish. Later, he'll work with his mother, Shu Chen Chien, to brush up on his Mandarin for his Chinese class. Then it's over to the piano to prepare for his recital in music class.

His father, Yosef Cavalin, frets about the piano-playing, noting that his only child recently broke his arm pursuing another passion, martial arts. He has won several trophies for his age group.

"Finals are coming and everything and he cannot play with both hands. He'll just try to play with the right hand," he says.

If past success is any indication, his son will find a way to compensate. Cavalin, who enrolled in college more than a year ago, has maintained an A-plus average in such sub-



Damian Dovarganes/AP

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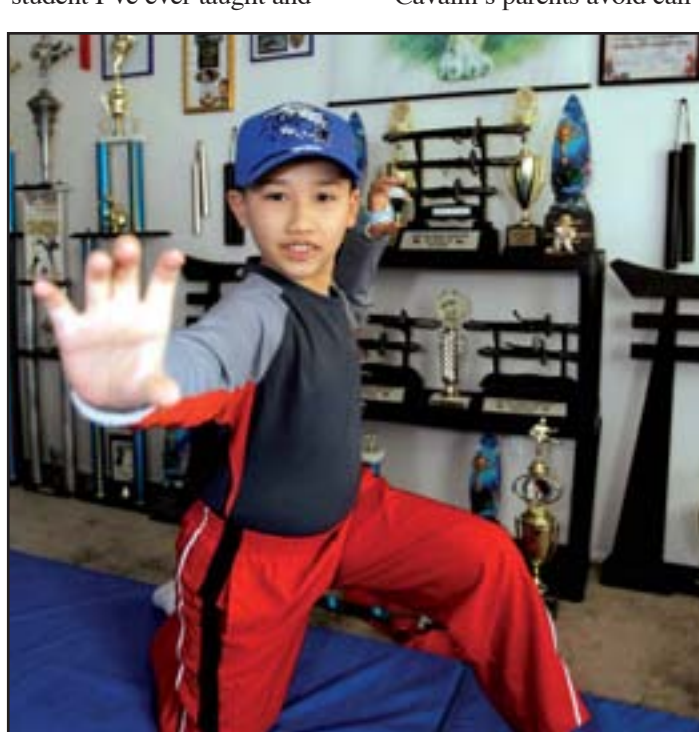
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Moshe Kai Cavalin strikes a martial arts position at his home studio in Downey, Calif. Teachers and classmates say he's a normal 10-year-old.

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BITS & PIECES

Savannah teen wins Las Vegas culinary cook-off

A Georgia teenager is the winner of a culinary school scholarship and the title "Best Teen Chef 2008."

Jonathan Miller of Windsor Forest High School in Savannah took the title in a weekend competition in Las Vegas sponsored by the International Culinary Schools at the Art Institutes.

Thirty-one high school seniors from across North America sliced, diced, and sautéed their way through the two-hour competition.

Aldo Sandoval of Emporia, Kan., earned second-place, while Joaquin Gaytan of Mesa, Ariz., took third.

The 18-year-old Miller won a full scholarship worth more than \$40,000 to study at the International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Atlanta.

He also will have a chance to intern for a day at the Food Network kitchens.

Officials say more than \$250,000 in tuition scholarships were awarded in the Saturday event, which has been held since 2000.

Publisher blamed for altered yearbook photos

School officials in McKinney, Texas, say they are appalled by altered photos – including heads on different bodies – in hundreds of McKinney High School yearbooks delivered this week.

Besides the head and body switching, some necks were stretched, one girl's arm was missing, and another girl's head was placed on what appeared to be a nude body, with the chest blurred.

A spokeswoman for Minnesota-based Lifetouch National School Studios Inc. said the alterations were "an unfortunate lapse in judgment" by an employee but didn't believe it was malicious.

The high school had required Lifetouch to make heads the same size and eyes at the same level in all student photos, company spokeswoman Sara Thurin Rollin said Saturday. The request was "unusual and definitely very particular, but that's not to suggest what happened here is acceptable," she said.

Rollin declined to say if the company fired or reprimanded the employee who altered the images. She said Lifetouch is taking full responsibility for the altered pictures, about 30 in all, and will pay to have the publication reprinted before the seniors graduate.

Lori Oglesbee, the school's yearbook adviser at McKinney High School, said the yearbook staff would spend the weekend rebuilding the yearbook.

McKinney is about 20 miles north of Dallas.

He's in a class all by himself – literally

Jeff Greenwood is in a class by himself.

He was the only student to graduate from Opheim High School in Great Falls, Mont., this year, but the small event Friday drew a big name. Gov. Brian Schweitzer gave the commencement address.

Greenwood, who plans to attend Dickinson State University in North Dakota, said the high school is the "hub of activity" for rural Opheim, a town about 10 miles south of the Canadian border.

"The student-to-teacher ratio is pretty good," said Greenwood, who is the student body president and, of course, the senior class president.

Greenwood had a few classmates before high school, but his last remaining classmate moved to Utah during freshman year. He took some classes alone his senior year while sharing others with juniors at the school.

"You get to know everybody and you're friends with everybody," Greenwood said. "At the same time, you can't get away with anything."

Principal LeRoy Nelson, who has also been school superintendent, said he thought this was the first time the school graduated just one student. Six students graduated last year and 12 are on track to graduate in 2009.

Nelson said he thinks single-member classes will become more common as enrollment drops at rural schools. Last year, one other Montana school had one graduate. Schweitzer spoke there as well.

– The Associated Press



NEXT WEEK IN EDGE: A PREVIEW OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

DOWNLOAD THIS | CHRIS BRENNAMAN

Sites provide previews of 'Indiana Jones'



It's been a long week, but no worries, Download This is back, ready to talk about all things Internet. Who knows what we have in our bag of goodies this week? Well there's only one way to find out, dear reader. Read on.

Let's get this thing going:

Early Indiana Jones reviews and synopsis –

They're starting to leak out all over the Internet, and try as I might, I've not been able to stay away. So far I've managed to steer clear of major spoilers, but the basics I'm privy to. No, I'm not going to spoil anything for those of you strong enough to wait until Thursday for the release of the movie, but for the rest, might I suggest starting at

Newsarama.com or DarkHorizons.com. Both offer pretty good spoiler-lite summaries that give some first impressions of what viewers from press screenings have thought of the movie 19-years in the making. You've been warned.

Zuikin English – A few years back, some American decided to mix English lessons with Japanese, and the results are just incredible ... if by "incredible" you mean weird, trippy and insane. Watch in awe as young Japanese girls in workout gear teach an unusual mix of phrases from "how dare you say such a thing to me," "I was robbed by two men," and "hasta la vista, baby," while aerobicizing to really bad synthesized music. Watch in amazement for a few minutes, wonder for days how someone actually dreamed up this and suc-

cessfully got it broadcast somewhere. Start at youtube.com/watch?v=etg3QsE0EcI and branch out from there.

Addictive doesn't even begin to describe the world you're about to enter. Weird. But addictive nonetheless.

SModcast – For the person who can't get enough Kevin Smith, this podcast is about ... all things Kevin Smith. If you're not a fan of the works of this cult-fav director, then chances are there's nothing here for you. But, for the rest of us, a veritable treasure trove awaits.

That about wraps it up for this week. How about we meet back up here in seven days? Yep, sounds like a plan to me, too. Until then, keep the e-mails coming to downloadthis@excite.com.



After 19 years, Harrison Ford returns for the fourth "Indiana Jones" adventure.

COMING THURSDAY IN LIFE: Read a review of the new 'Indiana Jones' movie, plus meet a real-life Brunswick archeologist