

**WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEKEND**  
For more options, go to [denverpost.com/calendar](http://denverpost.com/calendar).

**POLICE @ PEPSI CENTER**  
Stewart Copeland, Andy Summers and Sting come to Denver. | Saturday, Sunday

**GONATIVE**  
Where to find plants that call Colorado home. | GROW



**NBA FINALS GAME 2**  
7 p.m. Sunday TV, ABC



**SPURS 1, LeBRON 0**

**AT THE MOVIES**

- ★★★½ "Journey From the Fall"
- ★★★ "Ocean's Thirteen," Crazy Lo
- "Surf's Up"
- ★★½ "Day Night Day Night,"
- "Hostel: Part II"
- ★★ "Hollywood Dreams,"
- "Severance" | Screen, Section F



Cody Maverick dreams of being a surfer in "Surf's Up."

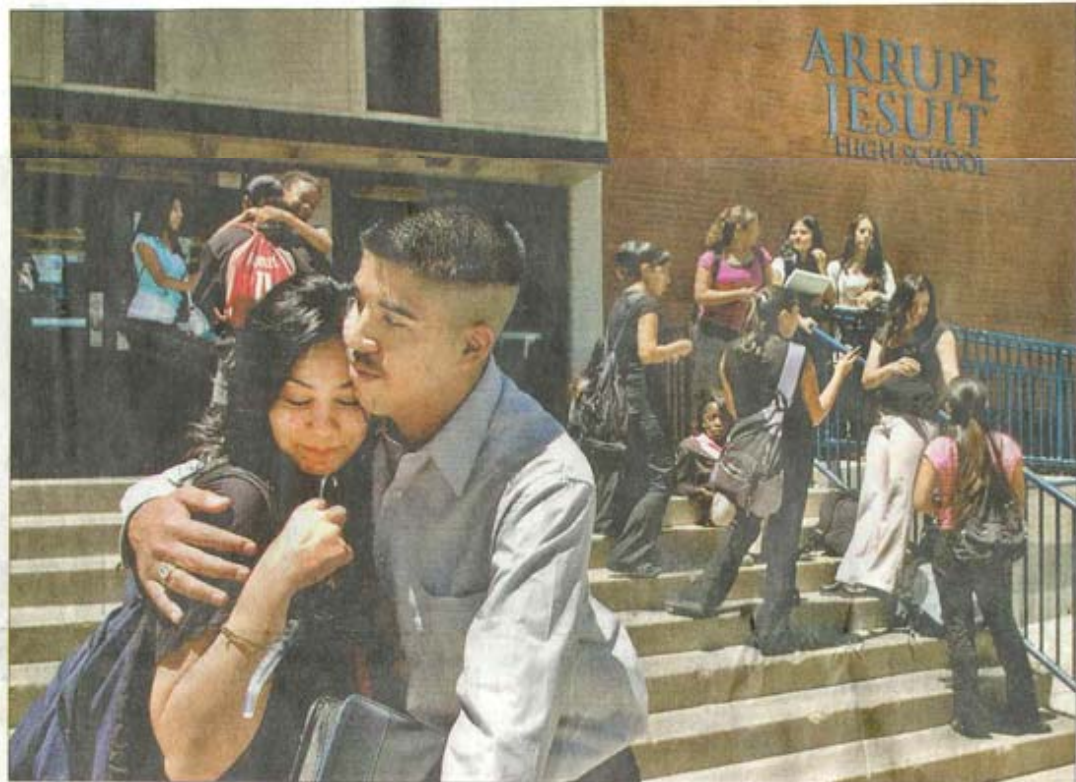
# THE DENVER POST

DENVERPOST.COM | THE DENVER POST | Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire | 50 CENTS MAY VARY OUTSIDE METRO DENVER | \*\*

**CLASS OF 2007** | Arrupe Jesuit High School

## SHATTERING THE URBAN-SCHOOL ODDS

**100%** of seniors were accepted to at least one college | **86%** of seniors are first in their family to attend college | **30%** of seniors are the first in their family to graduate from high school



Arrupe Jesuit senior Ray Fernandez, 18, hugs sophomore Stefani Garcia, 16, outside school Thursday. Fernandez, who joins other seniors today in ceremonies marking the school's first class of graduates, plans a double major in college, in culinary arts and political science.

By Electa Draper, Denver Post Staff Writer

The 260 students at Arrupe Jesuit High School in Denver aren't beating the odds for poor inner-city students — they are annihilating them.

The school's first senior class graduates today. All 47 seniors are college-bound. They have earned a collective \$2 million in scholarships. More than 85 percent of them will be the first in their families to attend college.

On any given day at Arrupe, a college-preparatory school where more than 60 percent of the students live near or below the poverty line, at least one-quarter of them are absent from the building. And that's the way administrators like it.

They're not ditching school. They are at entry-level, white-collar jobs. Each student works one day a week at a Denver-area company because Arrupe, which opened its doors to its first freshman class in 2003, has an unusual corporate work-study program.

The school requires students to earn about \$5,000 of the \$7,500 annual cost of their education. Tuition for each family is \$2,500, but most students are eligible for further reductions. Fundraising makes up the deficits.

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**Expectations**

**"If you hold the bar high enough for them and offer support, they will jump over it."**

Rev. Stephen Planning, Arrupe's president

> See **SCHOOL** on 4A

**IMMIGRATION**

## Shaky accord stalls in Senate

Bill pulled from floor as failed move to end debate

By Anne C. Mulkern, Denver Post Staff Writer

**Washington** — An effort to pass sweeping migration reform allowing 12 million undocumented immigrants to stay legally in the U.S. plodded Thursday when the Senate rejected to bring the bill up for a vote.

Senators voted 45-50 on a procedural motion to end debate, a necessary step before a vote on immigration bill. That fell 15 votes short of needed number.

The vote came after a day of tense meeting negotiations involving two White House Ca secretaries and phone calls to Republicans Vice President Dick Cheney. Despite that, President Bush lost what may have been his chance to pass a major domestic initiative.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., insisted the bill wasn't dead, but he yanked from the floor and moved on to other business.

"I have every desire to complete this legislation and we all have to work — the president included to figure out a way to get this bill passed," Reid Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo., who crafted this as part of a bipartisan group of about 12 senators said he was "disappointed but optimistic."

"I'm optimistic because failure is not an option here," Salazar said. "We're going to keep at it need to get it done."

But other senators questioned whether the legislation will exist to restart the effort. The bill polarized many in the Senate, even within political parties. Some Republicans wanted to pass the bill

> See **BILL** on 1A

## Army maneuvers around Dismal

# SCHOOL: Students must earn \$5,000

< CONTINUED FROM 1A

tricky financial problem," said Arrupe's president, the Rev. Stephen Planning. "But what it's turned out to be is a phenomenal education."

Students don't get out of one minute of class time because of the work program, Planning said. The school is open 10 months a year. The school day lasts until 3:30 p.m., later if a student didn't turn in all the homework required, which typically takes one or two hours a night.

"It is a rigorous and demanding program, and these are kids from whom society does not expect a lot," Planning said. "But if you hold the bar high enough for them and offer support, they will jump over it."

For Candice Gurule, whose daughter Erlinda Ramirez plans to study business at Regis University, Arrupe has been a safe haven. Ramirez's two older siblings, who attended Denver Public Schools, both missed a lot of school, experimented with drugs and joined gangs, Gurule said. Neither went to college.

"I told the principal, 'You don't know what it means to me to have this peace of mind,'" Gurule said.

The principal, Michael O'Hagan, tells the kids: "You will earn everything you get here. Nothing will be given to you."

For Ramirez, earning most of her own education is a source of pride. After three years of working at Wells Fargo, she knows she wants to study finance.

But her time at Arrupe also means leaving old friends behind.

"Almost all the kids I went to elementary school with are either pregnant, dropouts, doing drugs or in gangs," Ramirez said. "I'm the only one not involved with that."

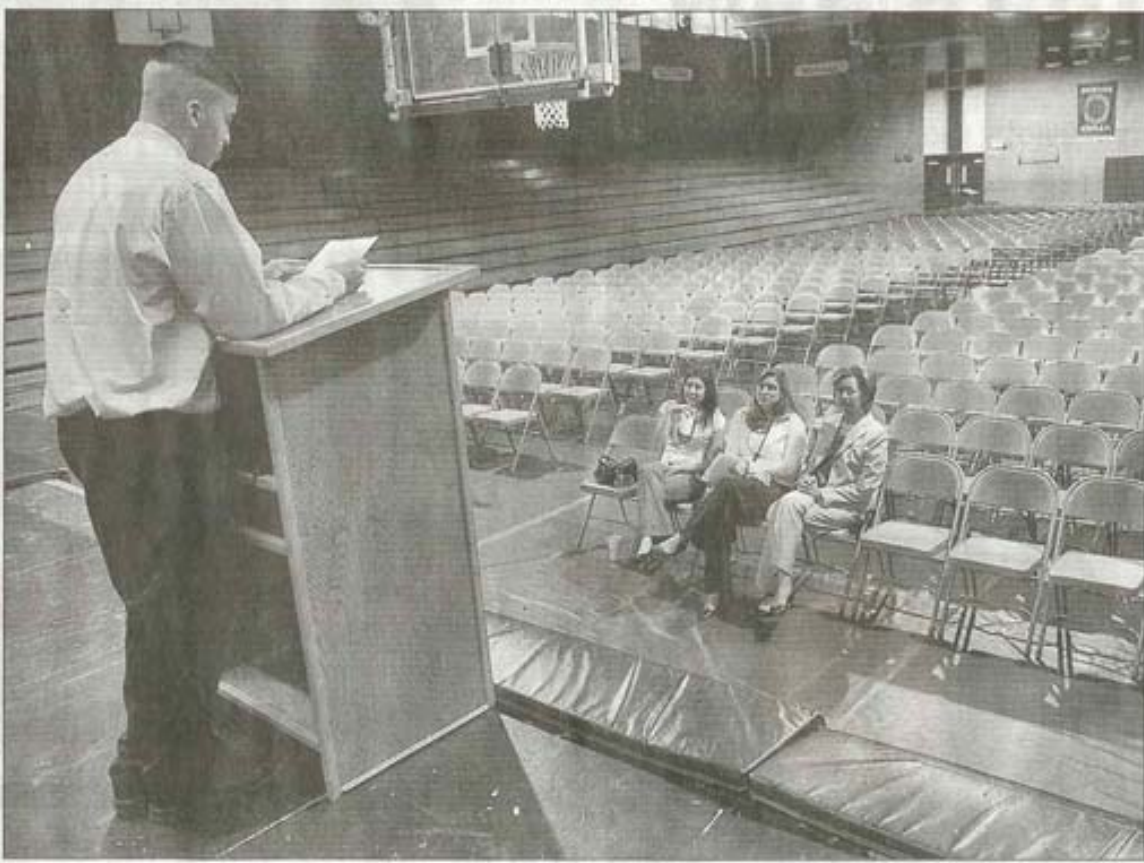
Her classmate Ray Fernandez, who has been cooking for himself since he was a little boy, has now worked with skilled chefs at catered events. He plans a double major, in culinary arts and political science.

"I can't wait to get out of this school," Fernandez said. "Don't get me wrong, I love this school. I just can't wait for the next step of my life."

He and Ramirez are already planning their 10-year high school reunion — at his restaurant.

Corporations that participate in the program, about 80 next year, pay a flat fee of \$20,000 for a full-time position. Typically, four students job-share to log the 40 hours a week at each site. That means that once a month, each student must work an extra day.

"At first it seems to these com-



Lyn Ahwels | The Denver Post

Arrupe Jesuit senior Ray Fernandez rehearses his graduation speech before an audience of three: from left, fellow senior Erlinda Ramirez, 18, college counselor Joanne Augustine and director of development Helen Salazar Martin. Graduation is set for today.

## From the school's 28-page list of suggested summer reading

"The Andromeda Strain," by Michael Crichton  
 "Wrinkle in Time," by Madeleine L'Engle  
 "Eragon," by Christopher Paolini  
 "A Prayer for Owen Meany," by John Irving  
 "The Bluest Eye," by Toni Morrison  
 "Bless Me, Ultima," by Rudolfo Anaya  
 "Shoeless Joe," by W.P. Kinsella  
 "Hoop Dreams," by Ben Joravsky  
 "Hatchet," by Gary Paulsen  
 "Pride of Puerto Rico: The Life of Roberto Clemente," by Paul Robert Walker  
 "LeBron James: The Rise of a Star," by David Lee Morgan Jr.  
 "Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now," by Maya Angelou  
 "Gutsy Girls: Young Women Who Dare," by Tina Schwager and Michele Schuergler

"One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer," by Nathaniel C. Fick  
 "Elizabeth Blackwell: Girl Doctor," by Joanne Landers Henry  
 "Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters," by Matthew Ridley  
 "E=mc<sup>2</sup>: A Biography of the World's Most Famous Equation," by David Bodanis  
 "Celebrating Women in Mathematics and Science," by Miriam Cooney  
 "Six Days in October: The Stock Market Crash of 1929," by Karen Blumenthal  
 "No Easy Answers: The Truth Behind Death at Columbine," by Brooks Brown and Rob Merritt

Find Arrupe Jesuit High School's full reading list at [arrupejesuit.com](http://arrupejesuit.com).

panies that they're doing a good thing for humanity," Planning said. "The reality is these kids do a great job."

Several corporate partners agreed.

Arrupe junior Mayra Gamboa finished her last day at Denver Health on Thursday, and the director of volunteer services, Daf-

na Michaelson, said the staff is "devastated to see her go."

"I see an incredible amount of growth in these kids during the year, from shy, timid and unable to complete tasks on time to being core parts of our team," Michaelson said.

Kevin O'Connor, a senior vice president with Wells Fargo Pub-

lic Finance, said the company could just write a check to benefit education, but signing a paycheck and going to see Erlinda Ramirez graduate is a lot more satisfying.

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## Arrupe Jesuit High School

Arrupe has a student body of 260, with 47 in the graduating class of 2007.



### Student-body breakdown



Source: Arrupe Jesuit High School

Anna Berken | The Denver Post