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THE RASCAL

WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL 6100 ROLLING RD., SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22152

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11 FOREIGN FILMS RISE IN POPULARITY

SGA, SAC elections foreshadow coming year

By Matt Barker
Systems/Business Editor

When the underclassmen gathered in the gym for the recent Student Government Association (SGA)/Student Advisory Council (SAC) elections, it was more than just a good excuse to get out of class.

The assembly gave the SGA and SAC candidates a chance to address the student body, and speak about important issues. Topics of the speeches ranged from visions of the future, to an embarrassing personal story. But, whatever the subject, the speeches gave students a chance to make an objective decision.

"It's pretty intimidating to get up and speak to half of the student body," said sophomore SAC delegate Jennifer Makarsky.

In preparation for the elections, the candidates posted hundreds of signs throughout the school. The signs and speeches led to the elections of juniors Sean

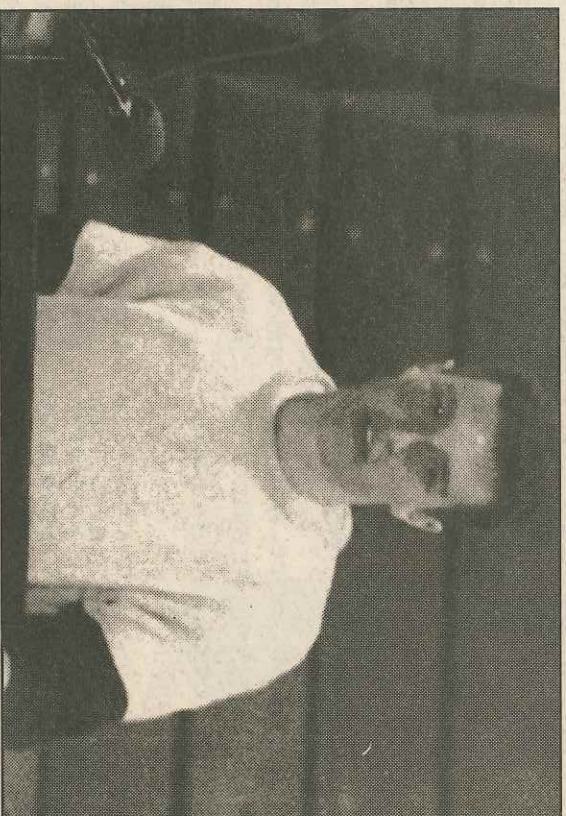
Bury, Briana Butler, Candace Gilson, Jacque Storm, and Joe Styron as next year's SGA. The new SAC members are junior Kyle Hoyt, sophomore Jennifer Makarsky, junior Gracie Obuchowicz, sophomore Mike Waldron, junior Katie Weinberg, and junior Billy O'Shea as an alternate.

The candidates had a variety of reasons for running. Many just wanted a say in the happenings at WS.

"I've always wanted to be a voice of the student body. The students and the things that happen in the school are very important to me," said junior Briana Butler.

Although most students realized who they were voting for, they might not realize exactly what the SGA and SAC are. The SGA plans school activities and spends its fifth period deciding on upcoming events. They also do the announcements each morning. The SAC serves as a link between

See SGA Page 5



Ellen Waylonis

Junior Joey Styron, one of the five SGA officers elected for the next school year, delivers his speech at the March 24 assembly.

Annual musical days away 42nd Street marks Levesque's first spring production

By Jenny Braudaway
Features Assistant

Besides the Lady Spartans, WS is well-known for something else: the highly acclaimed spring musicals it performs annually. This year, though, the production of "42nd Street" has gone through some new transformations.

"We have a new teacher which obviously changes the whole structure," said sophomore Aaron Elliot, sound head.

The arrival of drama teacher Mary Jo Levesque caused a stir in the department which had been headed by former drama teacher Sandy Welch for 10 years.

Students choose elective offerings

By Nikki Werking
Inside Story Editor

As the fourth quarter comes into full swing, students look forward to summer vacation and counselors finish up the hectic process of course selection for the 1999-2000 school year.

The selection processes ran later than usual this year due to the number of snow days used by Fairfax County this winter. Many classes were scheduled to have course sign-ups from March 8-12.

However, Fairfax County schools were dismissed early on March 9 and were closed on

"The directing style is different," said senior and co-tech director Eric Hertsch, who has worked on the spring musicals his four years at WS. "Mrs. Levesque is more concerned about the whole picture where as Mrs. Welch was more of a detail person."

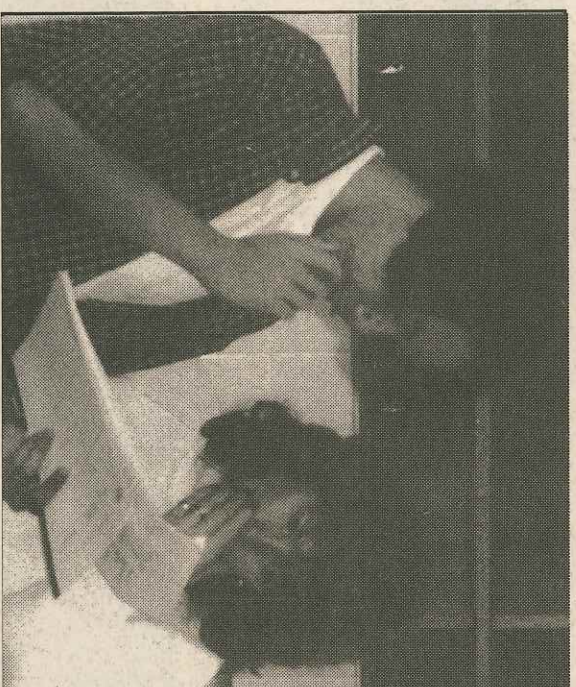
Levesque jumped in though, and made a good impression on many of her theater students. "I think she's been doing well. She's stepping up and trying to fill the shoes of Mrs. Welch because she has to," said senior Bill Napolietto, student director.

"Even though everyone says it's a clean slate, she still has those

expectations." Besides these directing differences, many other changes add up to make this year's musical very different from past years.

"A major difference this year is that the show is based around dancing," said sophomore Ryan Yanovich, who plays lead Billy Lawlor in the play. "In past years it's never been the center focus of the show, but this year it is. The numbers are all really flashy and extravagant, and it's just going to be more bang for the buck."

More bang for the buck includes a sports lobby decorated as the New York City theater



Ellen Waylonis

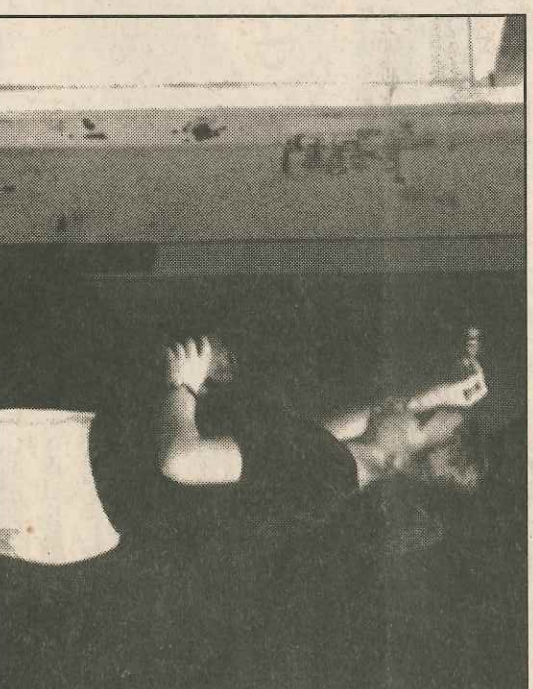
Junior Mike Bernal discusses and reviews his senior year course selections with counselor Jeanne Popovich.

March 10. Classes were also canceled on the following Monday, March 15.

Because of the missed time in school, counselors could not reschedule registration days for many classes. Instead, counselors had to pull individuals out of class

to have them fill out registrations. This process took more time than usual, since students would sometimes ignore the notes sent from the guidance office or were absent.

Counselors are just now See COURSES Page 5



Ellen Waylonis

Junior Rochelle Ronken paints part of the 42nd street set.

district scene and possibly a special Powerpoint presentation to precede the musical. Also, the department has

See MUSICAL Page 4

WS literary art magazine evolves

By Melissa Tran
News Section Editor

While most students were out enjoying their Friday night with friends, one classroom remained lit as a few dedicated students worked to meet a deadline.

The *Symposium* staff recently finished work on the literary magazine that features the work of WS students.

Throughout the year, WS students made over 300 student submissions to the magazine. The work ranged from literature, including poetry and short stories, to sculpture, drawings, and photographs.

"*Symposium* is a great chance to showcase all the talent WS students have," said senior Kelley Miller, who worked on

the publication. Of the 300 submissions, only about 30 were actually selected to be in the magazine. A group of students on the *Symposium* staff gathered to read every submission and judge the pieces of work.

This year *Symposium* had a fresh start, with many new staff members and a new sponsor. English teacher Tricia Kettler took over as the new sponsor this year in place of photography teacher Aldra Sirott, who had sponsored the publication in recent years.

"It was hard because we had a really new staff and a new sponsor, but we still got the job done," said *Symposium* Editor Judy Serin. See SYMPOSIUM Page 5

Making the Lorax angry

By Abby Curran
Oracle Editor

The Lorax would be ashamed of us.

And why shouldn't he be? Very few trees still stand in Northern Virginia, and those that do are quickly disappearing.

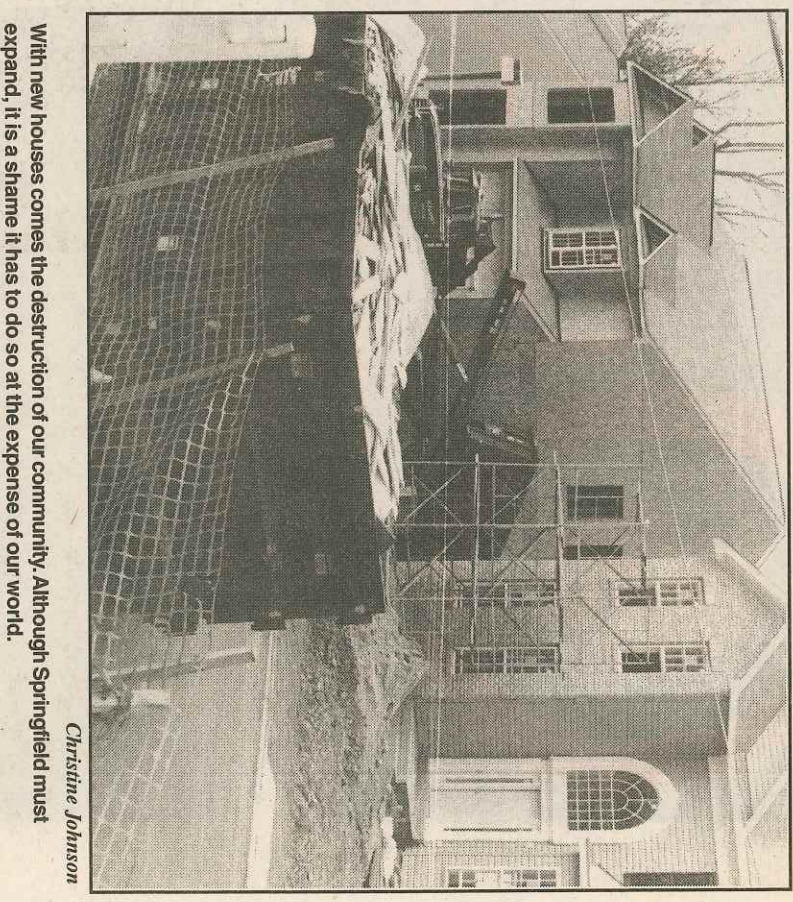
In contrast to the tree-loving environmentalist the Lorax, a character popular among children thanks to Dr. Seuss, we appear to care little for our natural surroundings. Driving through Northern Virginia involves staring at a desolate landscape, littered with identical housing developments and sprawling shopping centers.

Rather than recognizing this travesty and finding ways to solve it, developers and residents alike are jumping full force ahead. I can

remember my elementary school days, when Springfield Mall, although bordered by busy I-95, backed to a green, grassy field. But times have definitely changed; the mall is now surrounded on four sides by buzzing traffic, fledging apartment buildings, metro trains, and strip malls. Somehow the county seems to have forgotten that zoning is an option.

I understand that such development brings money and commerce into the area. But there are ways to do this without sacrificing our natural Virginia surroundings.

Instead of completely bulldozing land and afterwards planting small saplings, we should work around the tall trees that are currently standing.



Christine Johnson
With new houses comes the destruction of our community. Although Springfield must expand, it is a shame it has to do so at the expense of our world.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church's current construction is a perfect example of such zealous development. What was once

about the last patch of trees in West Springfield is now bare and ugly; it only serves as one more reminder that residents feel no attachment to their community. If such an attachment existed, then people would not allow their natu-

ral surroundings to be destroyed like this.

The present situation will not change until community apathy changes. If you feel strongly about the destruction of the land, then talk to those in positions to address the problem. Otherwise, Springfield will soon just be one huge housing development, dotted with massive malls.

Class officer asserts seniors efforts Scope of senior class involvement extends beyond prom

In the March 16 issue of *The Oracle*, a story on prom and the senior class conveyed a sense of negativity towards senior class officials. In the process of such passionate criticism, several facts had been misconstrued.

The apparent crux of this article contended that more should be done to heighten class unity, or spirit by means of extracurricular activities other than prom.

Contrary to the story published in *The Oracle*, officers and sponsors of the Class of 1999 have always organized events designed to build spirit, be fun, and increase general awareness. Such events (spanning as far back as freshman year believe it or not) include: a class lock-in, a leadership retreat exclusive to the Class of 1999, Battle of the Bands, annual float building, annual Spartanfest participation, two school-wide talent shows, multiple ice cream and dessert socials, Spartan Games and Senior Superlatives. Events

soon to come include Senior Award Presentations, a Senior Picnic, Baccalaureate, the Graduation Ceremony, the All-Night Grad Party, and of course prom.

There is continued criticism concerning how expensive prom will be. Surmised as "ostentatious" in the Oracle, a comparison

Letter to the Editor

was made revealing that last year's prom had cost half the amount of this year's prom.

To make it simple for those who fail to grasp a simple concept, a number of current seniors of the Class of 1999 had attended last year's prom and shared the common notion that we could do much better with our prom. The location and date for this year's prom was determined by the senior class officers and a panel of 35 seniors who were bold enough to

take some initiative. It was by the authority of this prom committee that the decision to spend \$25,000 was made. Furthermore, it was through the unanimous consent of this panel that this year's prom break new ground as far as prestige is concerned) on the simple notion that the Class of 1999 deserves only the best. (It's disappointing to think that some people are willing to settle for anything, but the best is well within reach.)

To the few who have consistently contributed their time and efforts to helping this great class, we thank you deeply. The Class of 1999 owes its success to your hard work. To the many who have failed to help out and still continue to henpeck at our hard work, quit your whining.

-Marc A. Dizon
Class 1999 Treasurer

THE ORACLE

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A student-run publication to inform and entertain the West Springfield High School community. Opinion is expressed in Viewpoint and in reviews and columns. Editors represent the opinion of at least two-thirds of the Editorial Board, and do not reflect the views of the adviser, the administration or the Fairfax County Public School System. *The Oracle* reserves the right to reject advertising deemed inappropriate. Signed letters to the editor and personal commentary will be considered for publication, but could be edited for grammar, spelling and space.

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One school, indivisible, divided by pledge

Mumbling pledge has little meaning for students

Daily recitation unites diverse student body

By **Brittany Muel**

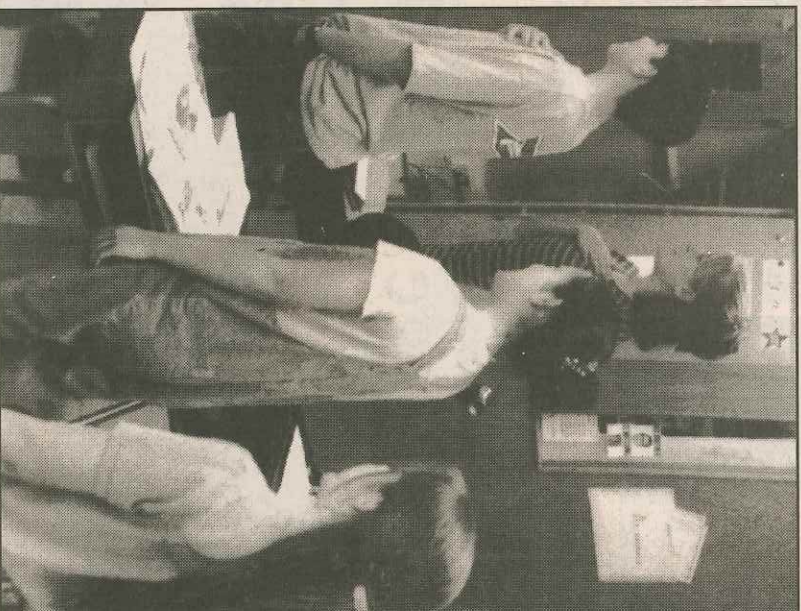
Oracle Editor

Every morning bleary eyed WS students collectively stand for the purpose of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Or rather, about two thirds of them stand and a mere handful mumble the words which have grown meaningless over the countless times they have been spoken.

The Pledge of Allegiance: A declaration of our independence and freedom as Americans. But does anyone really understand the meaning behind the words they mumble every morning? Because of the fact that saying the pledge is a mandatory daily occurrence it loses the meaning it is supposed to carry. It is a statement that students memorize in preschool along with their boy and girl scout pledges. But preschoolers do not learn the United States history behind the pledge.

Having respect for one's country is important. However, being forced to respect that country will not teach a person to truly ever feel that respect. If the pledge becomes a daily chore then it will never be anything other than that.

Having to say the pledge every morning trivializes the meaning behind it. The pledge should be spoken only at special school functions, like assemblies. In addition to saying it less frequently, social studies teachers should begin teaching the meaning of the pledge at an early age. Only then will it truly be a statement of pride for our country instead of meaningless words strung together.



Oracle photo

Each day before the announcements, students and faculty stand and recite the pledge.

By **Brian Gillis**

Managing Editor

Some of us students pledge not to drink and drive, others plan to pledge to a fraternity or sorority, but we should all pledge allegiance to our country.

It has been mandated this year that all WS students must rise from their seats every morning before announcements, put their hands to their hearts, and recite the Pledge of Allegiance aloud.

Even though WS conducts this somewhat superficial pledge session every morning, it is necessary for every student in every American school. Our one nation indivisible is constantly divided by regional, ideological, and ethnic issues, but at least everyone can agree to unite behind our nation's flag. This diversity is especially prominent in Northern Virginia, where the republic hears countless military families to serve a tour of duty near the nation's capital and where flocks of immigrants decide to start making a new life for themselves in a new country.

The WS student population echoes Northern Virginia's diversity, and with so many issues to squabble about, we should at least agree that we are all Americans.

Every student at WS does not have similar generalogy, does not fall on the same side of the political spectrum, and even does not converse in the same language, yet everyone at WS lives in America. Standing together every morning to Pledge Allegiance to our flag should be a reminder of unity.

What WS rule do you want to change?

Compiled by **Christine Johnson**



Open campus for seniors--We are responsible enough.
Christa Peterson, senior



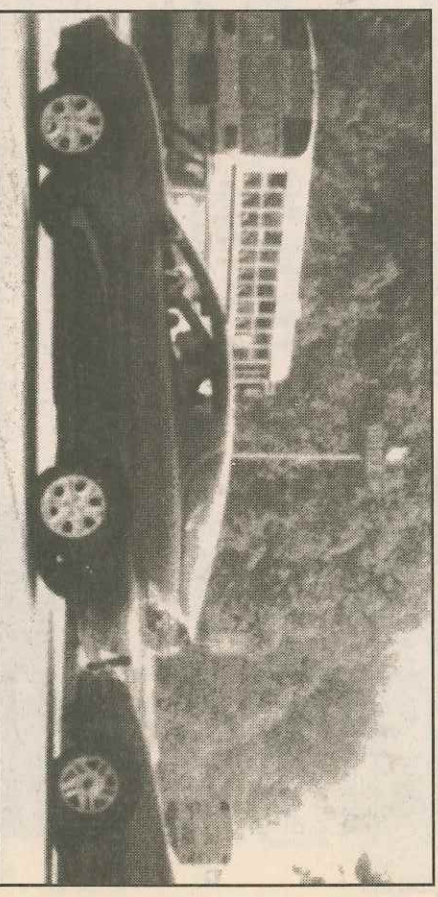
We should have five unexcused absences like Thomas Jefferson.
Vin Lam, junior



We should be able to eat cafeteria food in the sports lobby and the hall around it.
Melissa Fink, sophomore



We should be able to buy soda during school hours.
Byron Levy, sophomore



Oracle photo

After school, cars line up to in the parking lot to leave school grounds.

Administration overlooks parking lot problems

Peering into the student parking lot at 2:15, a person could easily mistake the scene for a Beltway traffic jam. Cars dangerously weave in and out of traffic, drivers cut other drivers off, and blaring horns usually sound.

And all of this under the direction and supervision of administrators.

While this daily nightmare occurs, administrators routinely sit near the parking lot exit and watch. Traffic violations galore are happening, yet School Resource Officer Christa Hampton does not reprimand nearly enough drivers.

For their part, administrators do at least form a presence in the parking lot (although they may not do much, just being there makes some drivers more alert and cautious).

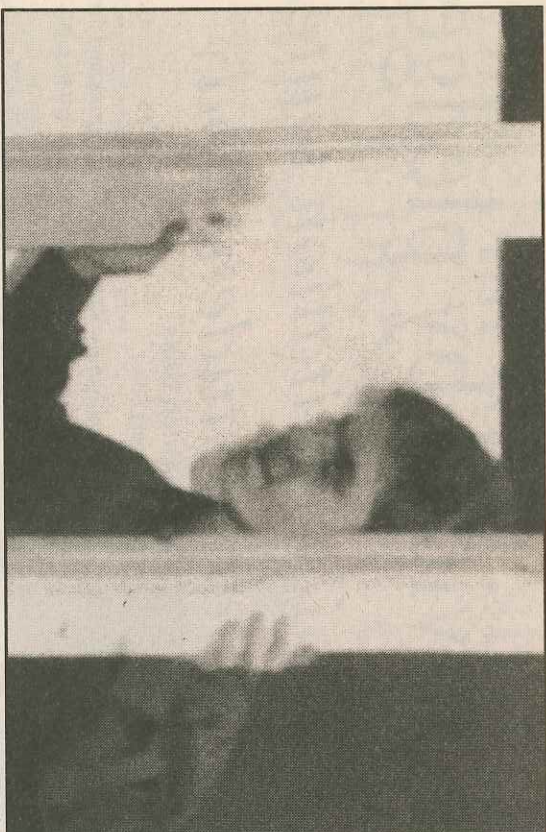
Hampton does write several tickets to student drivers each month, and she is responsible for monitoring more areas than just the student lot. Despite these considerations, the parking lot

situation is still unacceptable.

What is truly scary about this daily occurrence is that, once exiting the parking lot, these student drivers are on the road. They are free to, say, dangerously cut off a minivan carrying a carload of kids. If unsafe driving practices are not curtailed now, then these individuals will continue driving in such a manner indefinitely. High school drivers must learn early on what is right and wrong, so that they can transfer this knowledge on to our nation's roads and highways.

Because beginning drivers must learn these rules, school grounds should be the ideal location to do so. A police officer is present, along with a team of administrators who are to monitor the student parking lot. These adults should take advantage of the position that they hold in a more effective manner. Consequently, the road will be filled with better drivers.

Editorial



Ellen Waylonis

Freshman Billy Henline, working on preparation for the musical, moves a backdrop that is part of the elaborate 42nd Street set.

Spring musical crew makes final preparations

From MUSICAL Page 1

utilize during the show.

"We are the first high school in Fairfax County that will make use of a new type of lighting instrument called the Mac500, and they are incredible," said Levesque.

The Mac 500 is a 60 pound, intelligent lighting system. This means that basically everything about it can be programmed, including intensity, position, timing, and rotation.

Special features include 406 degree rotation, a two color wheel with eight colors each that when combined can make any gel color that is currently available, strobe capabilities, and prism capabilities, which means they can split their beam into three different spots.

"They are going to make the show a lot more flashy and give the special effects a little punch," said senior Lori Vercho, stage manager. Also this year, a web page will be made available to advertise and inform people about "42nd Street".

"It's a big production number, the kind of show you think of when you think of blockbuster. People are going to see some glitz and glamour that they've never seen before," said Levesque. "I think the audience will be surprised, but I don't think anyone will be disappointed."

Seniors get into college

By Gracy Obuchowicz

News Editor

They're here.

Over spring break most seniors received one of the infamous thick or thin envelopes that will dictate where they will spend their next four years.

While some rejections brought disappointment, the acceptance letters some students received offered a pleasant ending to spring break.

"Getting into the University of Washington was so exciting," said senior Emily Crandall. "Both of my brothers have gone there and it was my first choice."

With the knowledge of college acceptance and rejections seniors are now getting a clearer picture of how they are going to begin their life away from home. But with all this activity going on, it's hard for some seniors to stay focused on their schoolwork.

"I try really hard to keep doing my work because all colleges really look at is your first semester grades. It's really easy to

slack-off second semester," said senior Nick Shweary.

Although senior slump has started for some at the beginning of second semester and others after spring break, some seniors say that they are not going to truly slump until AP exams are over.

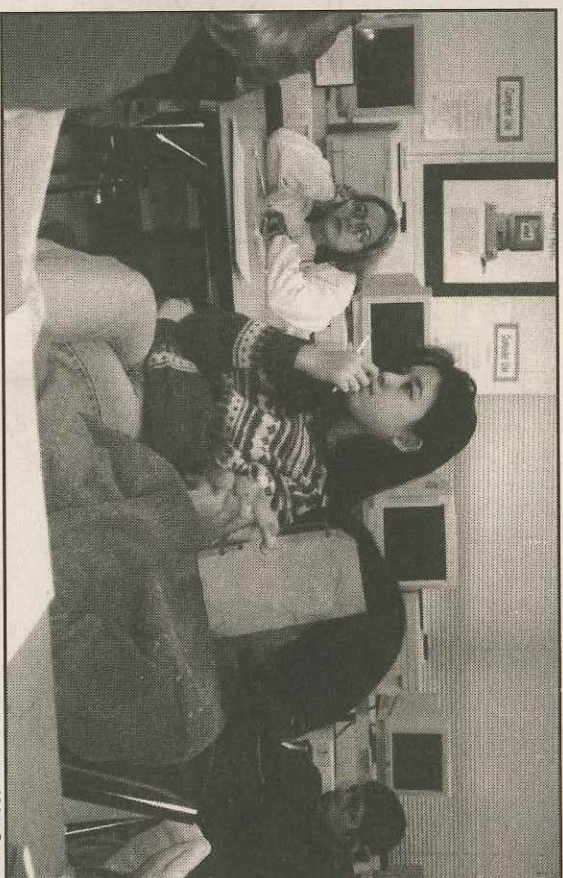
"I've already gotten into college, but I still want to keep on working in order to pass my AP tests and get college credits," said senior Bianca Aloma who will be attending Manhattanville College in New York.

While it's easy to get caught up in senior year excitement, it's scary for some their home for the past four years.

"Some of the best times I've spent have been in high school. I'm sad to be leaving," said senior Lauren Cullumber.

But others think they are ready to undertake the responsibility of living on their own at college.

"I'm excited to leave for college because I really want to meet new people and experience life away from home," said



Abby Curran

WS seniors sit in the career center. The spring of senior year can be a very stressful time as students await college acceptance letters in the mail.

Katie Sciarini who will be attending James Madison University next year.

This yearning for freedom and living out of the house can often dwindle when the real-life college experience becomes a reality.

WS alumni and George Mason University freshman Billy Chubb

remembers thinking he was completely ready to leave WS his senior year.

"I thought that I wouldn't have any problem leaving my friends and not living at home anymore, but once I got to college I started to miss a lot of parts of high school. It's hard to make the transition," said Chubb.

update

Morgue loses track of Schoolboy finds pencil in woman:

In Delray Beach, Florida, because of a funeral mix-up, Edner Doirin was sent to the funeral of a woman he didn't even know instead of his late wife, Doinin, of Rocky Mount, N.C. was unaware of the mistake until he saw the body in the casket and realized that it was not his wife's.

After the blunder was discovered, Michaëlle Dieujuste's real funeral was held

weeks later. The funeral mix-up was blamed on a labeling error at the Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office and resulted in the suspension of two employees.

Schoolboy finds pencil in lung:

In London, England, a british schoolboy carried on normally for six weeks unaware that he had a pencil embedded in his lung. The pencil, which fourteen-year-old Roy Rowlandson had stored in his blazer pocket, speared the boy when he was knocked to the ground while playing in school. While he was taken to the hospital, X-rays were negative and failed to show the pencil. Six weeks later, when his

parents saw a lump in his chest, he was taken back and given a special scan which revealed graphite and wood in his lung. The material, finally was removed.

Roller-coaster contestants split prize:

In Sydney, Australia, the last two contestants in a roller-coaster riding competition recently called it quits after 40 days, in a contest that began on February 26. Steve Fletcher and Rosa Vaccaro finally announced a stalemate and split the \$12,600 prize evenly. As part of a radio station promotion, the two had spent more than five weeks on the Bush Beast roller-coaster. Each had to endure 14

hours a day of continuous motion and sleep in the same seat every night.

Through the competition, 11 competitors walked off the ride, five were thrown out because of illness, and give others were disqualified for breaking the rules. By the time it was down to Fletcher and Vaccaro, it took them only one day to reach their decision.

Elderly woman survives rabid fox:

In Brooksville, Florida, a 79-year old Lucy Dover was going outside to smoke a cigarette when she was knocked to the ground by a 15-pound fox, breaking her hip. The woman kept her wits while she was being bitten and clawed by the rabid fox and managed to seize the animal behind the neck and near the tail. Holding the animal miraculously for 12 hours until help happened by, she was able to hold out until her landlord beat the animal to death with a stick. She was hospitalized in serious condition.

Fabio survives encounter with bird:

In Williamsburg, Virginia, Fabio Lanzoni, of modeling fame, was injured unusually

when a bird apparently crashed into his face as he opened a roller-coaster. In Williamsburg's Busch Gardens to promote the park's newest attraction, Fabio received a shock when he collided with a bird during the ride, leaving his face splattered with blood. Afterwards, he was taken to a local hospital where he was treated for minor cuts and released. There is no word on the condition of the bird.

Tokyo man is saved by vacuum cleaner:

In Tokyo, Japan, a man choking on "devil's tongue," a spongy paste made from arum root, was saved by a relative who used a vacuum cleaner to dislodge the food. The pensioner was eating sukiyaki with his family when the chewy food got lodged in his throat. As the man fell unconscious, his family contacted an emergency rescue dispatcher who, first, tried to advise them of other ways of saving him. When all other methods failed, the dispatcher ordered the man's 25-year-old granddaughter to insert a vacuum tube into the man's throat. When she turned it on, the food was dislodged.

-Compiled by
LaMont Mitchell

First Baptist Church Springfield

7300 Gary St., Springfield, 22150 ☎ 451-1500 ☎ Pastor, James A. Weaver

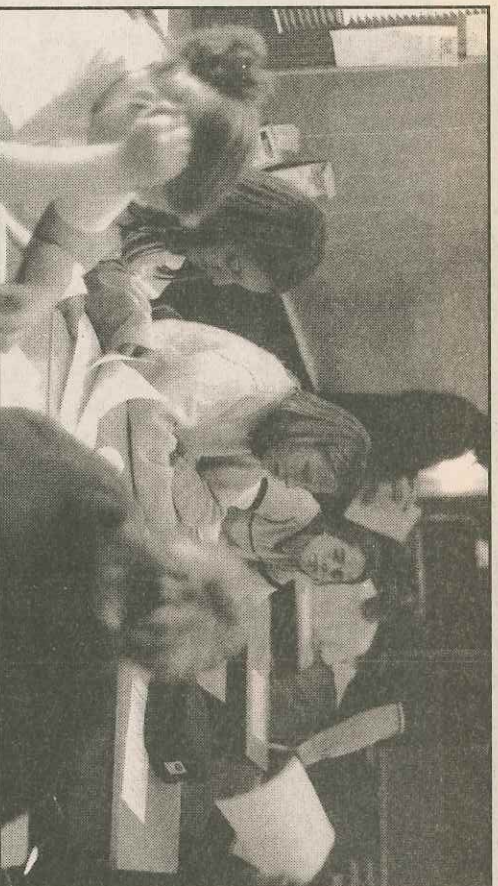
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Great opportunities for youth, kids, and adults!

Activities for youth include summer trips, retreats, handbell choir, basketball teams, choir, and weekly Bible study and mission projects.



Laura Szymanski

A group of students on the *Symposium* staff read over submissions to the magazine. Over 300 submissions were made, but less than 30 were chosen.

Lack of interest

Cancel electives

From COURSES Page 1

finishing the tedious tasks of course selections. Obviously, elective courses take the most time to sort, since different numbers of students sign up for the variety of classes offered at WS.

One course which has an increase in enrollment for the upcoming year is World Studies II.

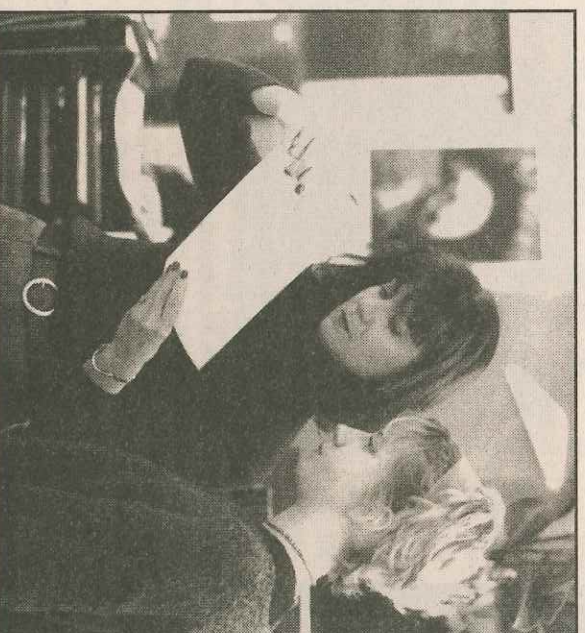
Since the requirements for graduation were changed last year, this class will be mandatory for the current freshmen and other rising classes.

"I think it's fair that the county is requiring us to take more history classes, but they should offer a variety of

courses that focus on certain historical periods rather than learning a little bit about a lot of different subjects," said freshman Natalie Ballew.

To accommodate for the increase in the number of history classes, the school intends to assign one or two more teachers to teach World Studies II classes. Currently, Vic Kelbaugh is the only teacher instructing this course.

Though there are many popular classes, some elective courses receive such a lack of sign-up that they must be canceled for the upcoming school year. This problem has caused the Current Affairs,



Tasha Rimm

Junior Kelly Alm talks with photography teacher Dorothea Swaggard about one of her assignments.

Relationships, Life Planning, Economics, and year-long Speech Communications classes to be canceled for next year.

The semester Speech Communications classes, however, will not be canceled and will continue in the next school year.

HFFSival moves to new location in Maryland

Movement of popular rock concert to Baltimore causes inconvenience for WS students

By Joanna Belter

Assignment Editor

Baltimore and Washington's largest rock festival, the HFFSival, is not only filled with movin' and groovin' bodies this spring, but is movin' itself this year from former venue RFK Stadium to the new PSINet Stadium in Baltimore.

The day-long concert, sponsored by WHFS 99.1 radio station, is moving to the Baltimore Raven's home to increase the number of available seats and take advantage of the state-of-the-art audio and visual setups. Unfortunately for WS students, the concert is moving further from Virginia and is losing access to the Washington Metro system.

"I've been going every year since eighth grade," said

senior Jayme Kamiewski, "and I'm not going this year because it is too far away." Although the festival, scheduled to be held on May 29, is changing its location, the station hopes the price of tickets will not increase from last year's \$25.

"The price of the ticket and the trip to Baltimore is worth seeing the 2 skinnies and a whole day of music," said senior Matt Wood, who attended the festival last year. 2 skinnies, a sent an internet newsletter run by the manager A.J. Stumpy Johnson announcing their performance.

The concert lineup has not been officially announced, but many students hope to see their favorite bands perform. "I also really hope Green Day comes back," said Wood.

The HFFSival brings together different bands from a

variety of genres to play together before a sold-out stadium audience, a feat many bands would not be able to accomplish on their own. The new PSINet stadium holds 75,000 people, a huge increase from RFK's 60,000.

"I think it's great that it's in Baltimore and I'm really looking forward to going," said sophomore Christine Cantu. Fans who do get tickets, usually by waiting in line all night before they go on sale, attend a concert that begins early in the day and ends late at night, with the last act usually playing in the dark after sunset.

"The HFFSival may have good bands and be fun," said sophomore Farryl Mishkin, "but I don't know who would want to make that trip on the way home [after the concert is over]."

Symposium showcases art

From SYMPOSIUM Page 1

In the beginning of the year, around 20 students worked on narrowing down the submissions during after-school reading sessions, but the number of participating students decreased once the actual layout process began.

This led to many late nights at school to complete the magazine, which comes out at the end of the year along with the yearbook.

"It was a lot of fun, but a lot of work at the same time," said junior Anna Chambers. The hard work of the staff is reflected in its final product. Each year welcomes an issue that is just as unique as

the staff who puts it together.

"Each year, the people get to define the character of the magazine, so you can see the personality of the staff and how they incorporate the student talent into the magazine," said Serlin.

The hard work and hours put in throughout the year may be stressful, but the efforts are paid off and the experience is rewarding when the final product is put together and seen by the rest of the student body.

"It is really satisfying to see the finished magazine at the end of the year. It shows us that all our hard work was worth it," said Miller.

SGA, SAC officers selected

From SGA Page 1

students and the school board, and they create proposals for presentations to the Board.

"I don't think many students know what kind of work goes into SAC and SGA," said Waldron.

After her five-year tenure as the SGA and SAC sponsor, Jen Owens will not finish the 1999-2000 school year as the sponsor. She expects to be on maternity leave by November, leaving both the organizations to do tasks they might not have had to do in the past.

"Basically, the only difference will be that they won't have me to pick up the slack," said Owens.

The new members don't actually take their positions until next year, but in the meantime, they have to keep up their GPA's and plan ahead.

"I look forward to a productive year, in which the leadership of the SGA and SAC will be dynamic and fun," said junior Sean Bury.

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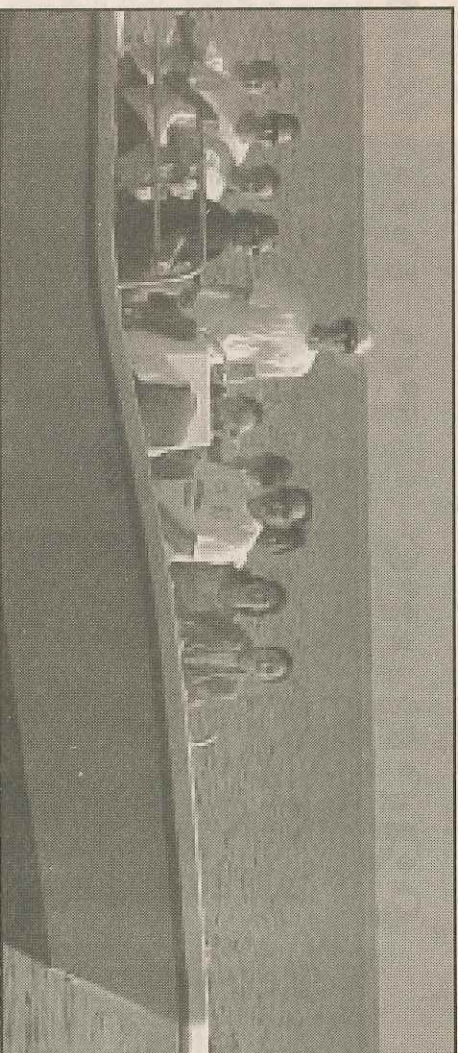
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Studying the deep blue



Beth Jewell's Oceanography class rides the boat to their destination during their Florida trip.

Beth Jewell

By Caitlyn Kelleher
News Editor

Down where it's better. Down where it's wetter. Take it from me.

Those infamous words from Disney's movie "The Little Mermaid" are some of the feelings that are felt by students taking Oceanography. They are studying the part of the earth that the characters in "The Little Mermaid" brag about.

Oceanography is an elective that is offered seventh period for a class of 21 students. The class is not only involved in learning with a text book but put what they apply into the real world.

"I like creating experiences for the kids that they wouldn't normally have," said Jewell.

The class started seven years ago, and is taught by Beth Jewell. Jewell also teaches biology.

"I enjoy the class because it combines all the sciences," said Jewell. "It was great because it combines my major in Earth Science and my minor in Biology."

The class studies everything from the ocean floor and the animals that live there

to the taste of those animals and how to interact with them.

"It takes the students who have the background in biology, chemistry, and physics and puts it all together," said Jewell, who compared it to a varsity baseball team.

Over Spring Break the students were able to work directly with the animals on their trip to Florida. They stayed at Sea World and took classes there. They also took excursions to the Everglades, the Florida Keys, Key West, and many of the reefs and vegetation sites off the coast.

"It was fun doing all of those different activities," said senior Julia Rausch.

While visiting these spots the students attended seminars that taught them about the areas. They also went snorkeling, to a sea turtles hospital, and to marine labs.

It wasn't not only the students that enjoyed the trip and found it beneficial.

"It was awesome and I have kids that want to go back next year," said Jewell. The class has spent most of second

semester completing labs and dissecting animals. Each time they dissect an animal a student will bring in a dish of that food.

"So we eat and dissect what ever we are dealing with," said Jewell.

They have had mussels, clams, sushi, and seaweed.

"I think trying all of the different seafood is really interesting and I've tried everything," said senior Scott Bartucca. "My favorite one was the mussels."

Other students detested the experience of eating the food and the idea of eating the animals that they dissected.

To raise money for the trip the class members sponsored a Day Camp and outreach programs. This gave them a chance to teach the younger children in the pyramid. To make the programs interesting there were games, snacks, and activities that taught the young students all about the ocean.

"I am glad I took the class because of the experiences," said Bartucca.

Bridging church and friendships

By Julie Davis
Etc. Assistant

Good friends, fun events and learning more about your beliefs.

That is what is found at an average youth group meeting. Today's youth groups expand beyond religion to grow closer with their peers and discuss the occurrences in their lives.

"My closest friends are part of my youth group (Immanuel's Impact), the people there have the same values and opportunities to help out in the community," said sophomore, Rachel Danish. "I have made life-long friends and values that I can incorporate into my daily life."

Immanuel's Impact, which meets on Wednesday nights, features bands, games and skits along with religious study. Some of the bands that have been featured include "The Ned Flanders' Band," and "Consider the Raven."

The bands get publicity by playing for the often large crowd. In the large youth recreational center, a strobe light is featured. "Being a part of the group has helped my spiritual aspect on life," says junior Taylor Teel, who

is also one of 22 Students Leaders. "Being a part of a small group lets you share what is really going on, and how you can take things from the Bible and apply them to life."

Impact is also known for its fun look on religion. It is a place

"I have made life-long friends and values that I can incorporate into my daily life."

—Rachel Danish, sophomore

where teenagers can take a break and enjoy the company of others.

"I like to arrive at youth group in my 'Shaggin' Wagon,'" says Chris Bognanno, a junior.

Another well known group is BBYO (B'nai B'rith youth organization). Although the group only meets once a month, it gets involved in the community and has fun.

"Some things we have done include working with the

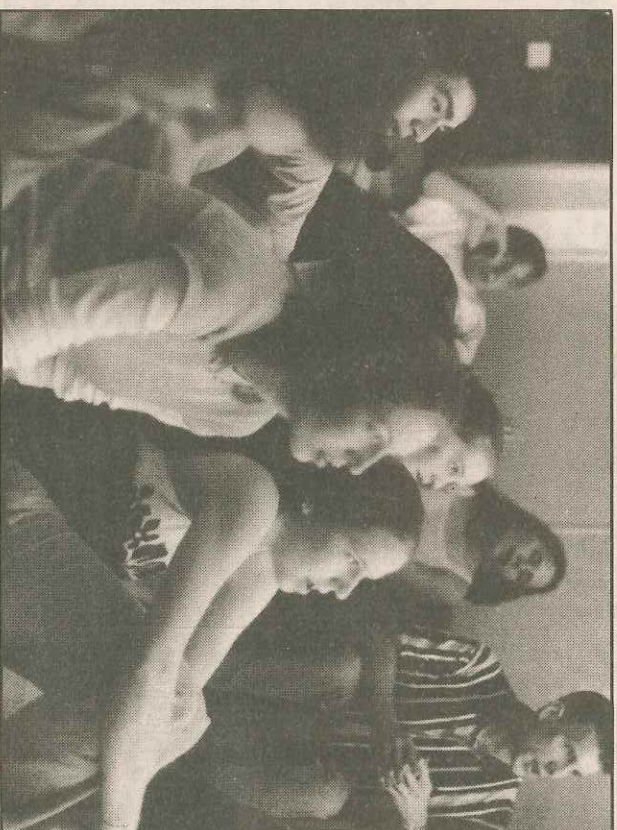
homeless, Eddie's Club, visiting Leewood Nursing Home and visiting battered women shelters," says

sophomore David Glaser, president of BBYO. "We also go out and do fun stuff, such as painting, Planet Play laser tag, and frisbee football."

Since the Holocaust was a major part of Jewish history, every other year the BBYO goes to Poland to participate in "The March of the Living." The march reunites the survivors of the Holocaust, and commemorates the dead.

St. Andrew's Episcopalian Church also participates in community service, such as

"Habitat for Humanity." The group, which meets Sunday nights, also attends various



Laura Stramieniski

Members of the Burke Community Church Youth Group listen to a speaker at a workshop that was held over Spring Break.

retreats and activities.

"What the youth group really is, is people getting together with the similar faiths and morals and having a great time," said junior Jon Cichowski. "It has helped me decide my profession as well as helping me get closer to my friends."

While several groups devote much of their time to the

community and their religion, many still find the time to be a teenager. Many youth directors double as counselors, helping kids through the difficult years of adolescence.

Today's youth groups serve as a safe haven to those wanting to make new friends, while learning about their religion and helping

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Teachers are parents for students

By Christoph Heuer

Business Assistant

Just imagine.

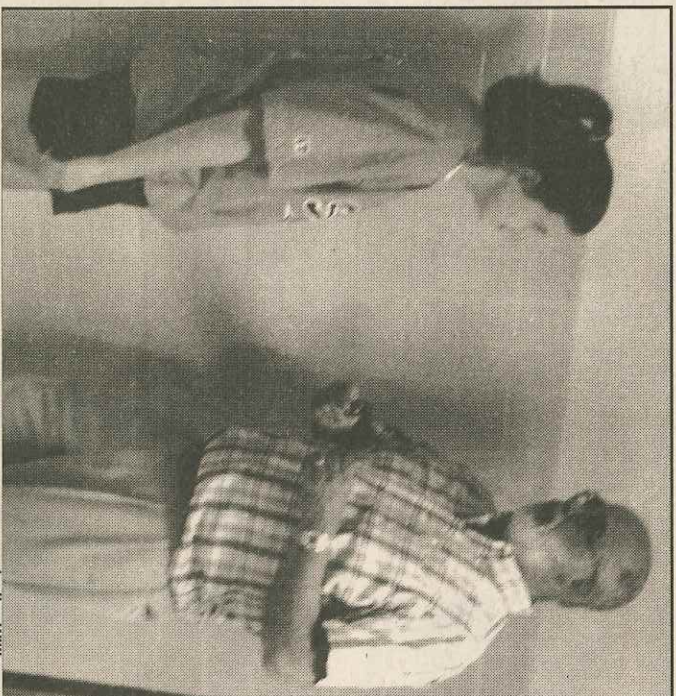
You are the child of a teacher and attend the same school. It sounds like a nightmare, but for the teachers and their kids it is not a big deal.

When you talk to a child of a teacher you probably expect that he or she complains about being under parental control even in school. Actually, that doesn't appear to be the case for students and teachers at WS.

Reading specialist Marlene Darwin said that it is a "real advantage and help" and her daughter, senior Jen Darwin, thinks alike.

"She helps me a lot," said Darwin.

Math teacher Sharon Hauser believes that her son, junior Tom Hauser, is more disciplined knowing that his mother can find out about things that "normal"



Jessica Williams

Junior Sarah Kelbaugh talks in the hall with her father, Social Studies teacher Vic Kelbaugh.

Parents won't ever hear about "Initially it's bad [for him], but

in the long-run it has a positive effect," said Hauser.

One of the "bad" things is that during fifth period.

"teachers go to her when I don't do my homework," said Tom Hauser.

For most teachers it is an unwritten rule not to have their son or daughter in the class.

"It's all right, but it is our philosophy to avoid it," said Social Studies teacher Vic Kelbaugh.

His daughter, junior Sarah Kelbaugh, agrees, "that would be too weird and I probably wouldn't like it."

Other teachers don't care if their child is in their class.

"Some people say it's a negative but it's positive. We can reinforce the things we talked about in class," said American history teacher Dennis Patrick.

Beth Roop, math teacher and sponsor of the senior class makes an exception as well. She has her daughter, senior Colleen McIlwraith, as a teacher's aide

teacher's aide," said McIlwraith. But being in the same class with their parent puts students in a strange position. On the one hand they could treat them like a teacher or on the other hand they could just be parent and child.

"I would never call her Mrs. Roop. It's always Mom," said McIlwraith. Others avoid it to address their parents.

"I don't address him at all," said junior Justin Patrick.

At home it comes in handy to have a teacher around.

"I ask her as much as possible about my schoolwork and homework," said Jen Darwin.

And Tom Hauser said, "it's like having a personal tutor."

After all, it looks like being the child of a teacher isn't bad at all for those at WS.



Laura Strzemienski

Kristin White was the only member of the gymnastics team to compete in regionals at Lake Braddock.

Kristin

White

By Emily Harris
Features Editor

California, Germany, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Texas, Colorado, and Virginia-being in a military family, junior

Kristin White has lived practically everywhere.

"I went to German kindergarten and preschool, so I guess I learned the language," said White, who does not remember whether she spoke German or English at the time.

After she graduates, White would like to be a lawyer and possibly attend West Point. "I don't want to go to any colleges in Virginia," said White.

White she attends college, her family will move to Russia, where her dad, who is fluent in Russian, will work at the Moscow Embassy.

This being only her second year at WS, White has fit in quite nicely. She is currently on the crew team and was on the gymnastics team, where she received the M.V.P. award and was the only member to compete in regionals at Lake Braddock. "I love the floor and beam, but I'm

afraid of the vault," said White.

These interests stem from interests that she had while living in Colorado but she never acted upon. But she did

"I love volleyball. I've played it my whole life, so it was disappointing coming here where we don't have it."

— White

participate in other sports there.

As a freshman at her old high school in Colorado White also played JV volleyball.

"I love volleyball," said White. "I've played it my whole life, so it was disappointing coming here where we don't have it."

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White played club ball during her first year at WS, but the commute to Chantilly was too far.

"I wanted to play college volleyball, but it's difficult to get scouted if you don't play on a high school team," said White, who would like to see a team at WS.

White's mother played volleyball in college and has been contacted by several other high schools in Fairfax and asked to coach.

"It would be better if she could coach a team more locally, like at WS," said White. Since there is no volleyball team at the high school, White participates in organized sports outside of school. She also enjoys skiing and white water rafting.

White was able to participate in these activities more while she was living in Colorado. "It has always been interesting for me to do things with sports," said White.

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Caring and sharing: lessons in plus!

By Amy Whipple

Inside Story Editor

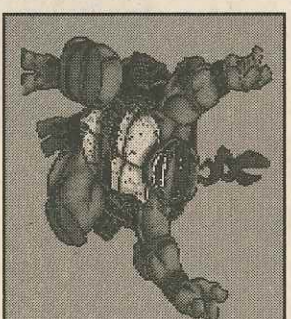
For my fifth birthday I received birthday money and promptly wanted to spend it. I made a trip to Toys R Us with my mom and that's where I distinctly remember buying my first My Little Pony. It was pink and had silver sparkles and its hair was golden and curly. Little did I know that I was buying into the hot '80s toy market.

My Little Ponies weren't the only hot sellers of the '80s. I was the proud owner of a Cabbage Patch doll, which was a hard to find item at the time. Just like Tickle Me Elmo, of the '90s; it was seldom seen in toy stores and was something to be proud to own.

I also remember having not very technologically advanced toys. The only toy I had that required batteries was my GLO Wornn. In '89 one of the first dolls that actually did something, PJ Sparkles, entered the market and my house. I was jealous of my sister, to whom the toy belonged, as she squeezed the doll and its pink lights flashed around our room. For the most part, toys of the '80s reflected the kids that played with them; they



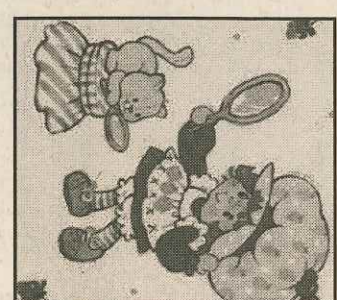
were all about simplicity. Fun toys weren't just for girls. Even though they were directed toward boys, I fell in love with the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and felt deprived when my parents wouldn't get me any. I was, however, quite pleased when McDonald's Happy Meals featured Transformer toys, which I happily played with for hours on end.



There was one male figurine that displeased me, but my sister, surprisingly, found it amusing. It was My Pet Monster. That was the most hideous thing I had ever seen and it scared me. Its yellow eyes

and protruding, wart covered nose were too much for my eyes and I found alternate ways to spend my time when my sister held her oversized stuffed Monster and watched a corresponding video.

Just like any other girl growing up in the '80s I loved Barbie with her neon leg warmers and frowned at GI Joe. He was the precursor to the millions of different war toys on



the market today. I didn't always follow the toy trends. As popular as they were, I had no interest in Rainbow Brite, Strawberry Shortcake, or Jem. Every other girl I knew worshipped all three, but they had no place in my heart.

the '80s, will always hold a special place in my heart.



Children of the '80

Rock stars walk like Egyptians

By Shannon Banks

News Editor

Ah, the '80s: the decade in which singers rocked towns, got the beat, and occasionally walked like Egyptians.

For me, '80s music doesn't just symbolize the good old days of my childhood. It represents a time when music was more fun, more original-while at the same time, a little more innocent.

Let's take a look at the "more fun" part first. Back in the '80s, bands weren't afraid to write songs that were completely bizarre.

For example, the song "One Night in Bangkok". I have yet to figure out whether that song is about chess or women, or some strange combination of both. But its quirkiness is what makes it cool. Nowadays, bands who sing about chess would, sadly, be laughed out of the industry.

Of course, I couldn't talk about '80s music without mentioning one of the biggest breakthroughs of the era, that supposed killer of the radio star: the video. But when you think about it, the video helped musicians of the '80s more than it hindered them. And in my opinion, those early videos were the best.

When I watch MTV now, large groups of choreographed dancers are abundant. And that's all the video focuses on. True, today's videos have much better technology, but where can I find the high adventure of a DuranDuran video without having to watch "Pop Up Video" on VH1?

Sure, some people may say that they hate '80s music- that it's cheesy and good for nothing- but they don't realize the extent of its influence on today's music.

Besides the aforementioned video, the '80s saw the onset of the use of synthesizers, plus the birth of the rap genre with groups such as Run DMC. And about the cheesiness thing: '80s singers may not have moaned about drugs and death, but that hardly means they weren't socially aware. Efforts such as USA for Africa, BandAid, and LiveAid proved this.

The one regret I have about '80s music is all the one-hit wonders. Countless singers (such as Toni Basil with "Mickey" and OMD with "If You Leave") came up with one chart-hitting song, and then seemed to disappear off the face of the Earth. And since most of them live totally different lives now, we'll never know if they could have made more good songs.

So the next time you hear an '80s song or album, don't think about that. Just sit back and remember those great times you had in front of the mirror, hairbrush in hand, singing along with the glam rock stars that have since been swallowed up by time.

were all about simplicity.

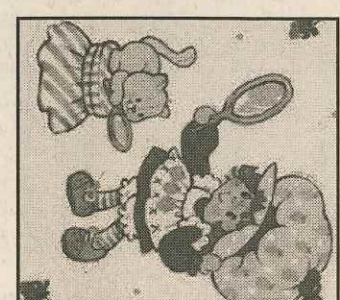
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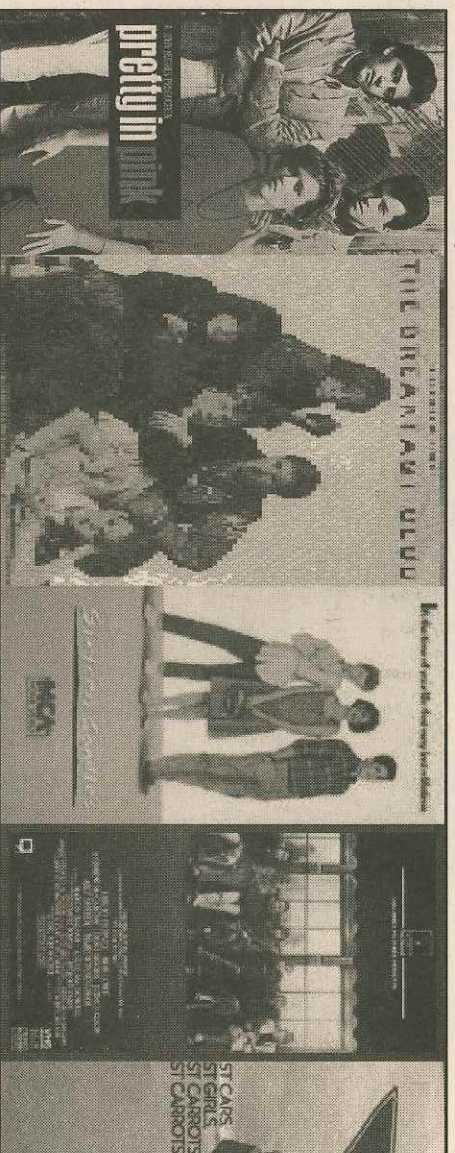
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Brat pack movies, which included "Pretty in Pink," "The Breakfast Club," "Sixteen Candles," "St. Elmo's Fire," and "The Sandlot" were all popular in the '80s movies amongst teenagers.

Packing in brats, action,

By Meg Belter

Managing Editor

Warm up the VCR and pop in the '80s classics. Y2K may be just ahead, but some of the best movie action comes from the decade of our childhood.

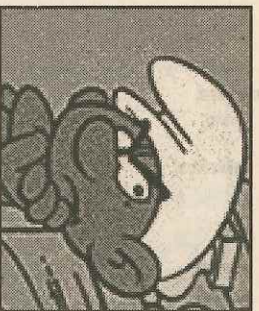
The '80s is almost synonymous with teen movies when the Brat Pack dominated the film industry. Known as the reigning queen

of the '80s, Molly Ringwald became famous playing the distressed teenage girl in several movies including "The Breakfast Club" and "Sixteen Candles." High school comedy was a popular theme in the '80s. Released in 1982, "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" is the story of life in high school. Based on a book by Cameron Crowe, the movie is a comedy that deals with some of the tragedies that high schoolers face. Crowe was a reporter for *Rolling Stone* who wrote the book after going undercover at

a high school for a year. The movie book, but the basic structure is many careers including those of and first-time director Amy Heck direct the '90s hit, "Clueless." In 1986, eighties trademark Matthew Broderick plays Ferris movie which catapulted him into a bright Chicago day with his best his girlfriend to spend it having Charlie Sheen and current Com Stein. Broderick, who got chase the movie "Godzilla," is appearing "Inspector Gadget" in a Disney movie. Movies filled with terror also appeared in 1986 spawning a nightmare was created in 1984 with "The Empire Strikes Back," "Wars" was released in 1980 and in 1983 with "Return of the Jedi." Darth Vader, it will be hard to miss "Star Wars Episode One: The Phantom Menace" released May 19.



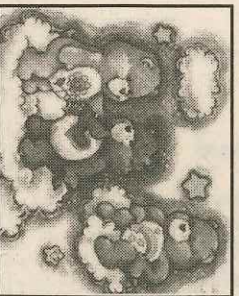
Most people remember Yoda from "Star Wars," a popular '80s movie series.



Soaring through the decade

- May, 1980 - The World Health Organization announced that smallpox had been eradicated.
- May 18, 1980 - Mt. St. Helens in Oregon erupts, spewing 60,000 feet into the air. It was the most violent volcanic eruption that ever took place in the continental United States.
- December 8, 1980 - John Lennon's mission of peace and love ends when he is shot and killed as he and wife Yoko Ono return from a recording session.
- 1981 - IBM releases its first PC. It had 64 kilobytes of memory and cost \$2,665.
- August 1, 1981 - MTV is born. Its first video is "Video Killed the Radio Star" by the Buggles.
- 1981 - In response to budget cut in the school lunch program, the US Department of Agriculture declares that ketchup is a vegetable.
- 1981 - The AIDS virus gets its name, and world-wide recognition when Belgian physician Peter Piot connects the reports of a mysterious, deadly virus seen in parts of America and Europe, the the immuno-deficiency virus he is trying to fight in Africa.
- March 5, 1982 - Comic John Belushi dies of a drug overdose.
- 1982 - Madonna release her first single, "Everyday."
- January 14, 1982 - An Air Florida jet crashes into the 14th Street Bridge in Washington DC, killing 78 people.
- 1983 - Marine headquarters in Beirut explodes, killing 241 men. Lebanese allies are blamed.
- 1983 - Yvonne Williams is crowned Miss America, becoming the first African-American to win the crown.
- 1984 - Geraldine Ferraro, a New York Congresswoman, becomes the first woman to be nominated to the vice-presidency by a major party.
- 1984 - 79 US banks - the largest number since the famous stock market crash of 1929.
- 1985 - British scientists confirm that the ozone layer has holes in it above the Arctic poles.
- 1986 - The No. 4 nuclear reactor in Chernobyl exploded. 31 people died immediately. The resultant radioactive leak was plugged two weeks later, but the damage was done. 40,000 people later died of cancer.
- 1986 - Ann M Martin introduces "The Baby-sitters Club" to preteen girls everywhere.
- 1986 - The Iran - Contra scandal is uncovered. In an effort to aid the Nicaraguan Contras, President Ronald Reagan agreed to sell outdated weapons to Iran in exchange for assistance in freeing seven American hostages.
- October 17, 1987 - Stock market prices crash 22.5%, twice the amount they fell in 1929. Dubbed Black Monday, the Federal Reserves Board helps avert economic crisis by flooding the market with money.
- December 16, 1987 - A Mafia trial in Italy sends 338 criminals to jail.
- 1988 - Prozac is approved by the FDA to be used on depression.
- 1989 - The Iron Curtain falls. After Mikhail Gorbachev pledges to respect he political decisions of Eastern European countries under Communist control, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and East Germany begin severing ties to communism by promoting second parties and electing non-communist leaders.
- 1989 - Pete Rose, the pitcher-manager for the Reds, is banned from baseball for gambling on games.

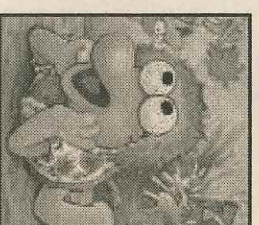
-Compiled by Erin Muir



end of my bed, claiming she was a d she would protect me from any- underneath the bed.



S: Totally Tubular



When neon wasn't just for signs

By Jennifer Schonberger
Entertainment Assistant

Those flashy colors, wacky styles and trends, and television shows like "Saved by the Bell" all look place in an extravagant era: the '80s. Even though we were all pretty young, the '80s were a time of hot, flashy fashion. Slap bracelets and leg warmers were the hottest accessories. Right now most people wouldn't be caught dead in tight leggings, baggy sweatshirts, or pegged jeans.

During the '80s everyone wore hipacks. This spring they are coming back into the fashion scene in a similar form. Designers are showing different styles of "packs" and bags that can be worn around the hips instead of on the shoulders. The idea behind this is comfort; if the contents of the bag are heavy they won't hurt the shoulders.

"I remember hipacks," said sophomore JB Santiago. "I didn't like wearing them. I didn't like the way they looked."

Hairstyles have changed a lot since the '80s as well. Hair was sprayed, scrunched, and tied with a bandana to achieve the Madonna look.

"I loved the hairstyles of the '80s," said sophomore Megan Lechhorn, "My favorites were the high side ponytail and the crimped hair."

Many who wore the hairstyles miss preparing the funky hairdos. "By far my favorite hair of the '80s was the 'Flock of Seagulls Hair,' it's spiky," said sophomore Zak Angel.

Neon colors were also hot in the '80s. People decked all out in fun and amazingly bright neon colors. Matching neons was of no importance. Girls would wear hot pink tops and



and "Fast Times at Ridgemont High,"

and fun

is a watered-down version of the same. The movie jump-started Sean Penn, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Heckerling later went on to

Ferris Beuller came to theaters. in "Ferris Beuller's Day Off," the stardom. Ferris escapes school on a friend (played by Alan Ruck) and fun. Cameos in the film include edy Central game show host, Ben d by a large lizard last summer in g as the newest version of the show movie coming out this summer. made it on the big screen. "Aliens" quels throughout the nineties. A th the release of "A Nightmare on y sequels.

the continuation to the film "Star e original trilogy was completed s this summer's coming attraction: hantom Menace," which is being



Teen idols, especially singers like Madonna and Bon Jovi influenced '80s fashion. These musicians started trends including crazy colored hair, wild patterned clothes.



bright orange pants. "I loved the bright colors," said sophomore Jill Rippy. "For example, the bright orange high heels with jeans."

While some people loved the fads of the '80s, where as some are glad they are over and done with.

"The trends of the '80s were unfashionable," said English teacher Rose Coronado, "I'm glad the fads have changed."

School administrators found some problems with the era's fads. These officials felt that the popular slap bracelets could be harmful, and they banned them from schools. After that the fad faded away from the scene.

"I used to love slapbracelets," said junior Rene Donnelly. "They were so colorful. I loved to hit people with them; that is probably why the administrators took them away."


Another hot trend during the '80s was big earrings and colorful plastic shirt ties. T-shirts with plastic shirt ties and shorts were the hot look of the summer.

"I loved the little shirt ties!" said senior Rachel Wojcicki. "My favorite was a little purple butterfly with silver rinestones. I always wore them with bike shorts and big t-shirts."

Of course who could forget the hot pop group New Kids on the Block. All little girls bought their merchandise; wearing New Kids on the Block T-shirts was considered 'cool.'

"I loved the New Kids on the Block," said sophomore Janet Goehring. "I had a poster on my wall of them and every time I changed clothes I had to cover up the poster because I felt like they were looking at me."

Everyone remembered the '80s for the Great Depression and the '40s for the tragedy of World War Two, but the '80s will be remembered for the goofy fashions and the peky perms.



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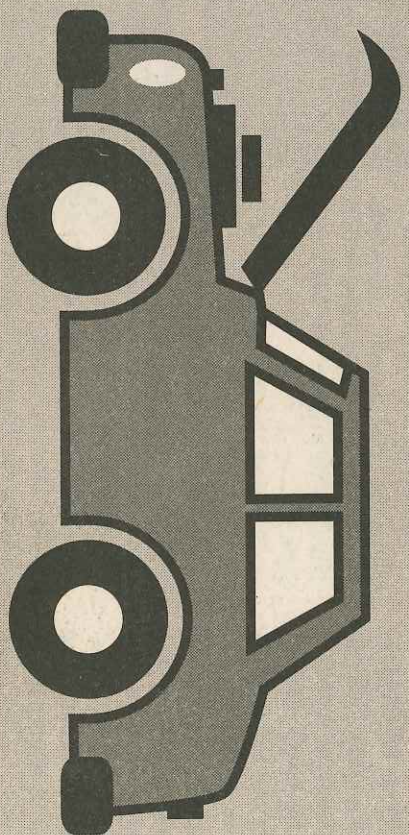
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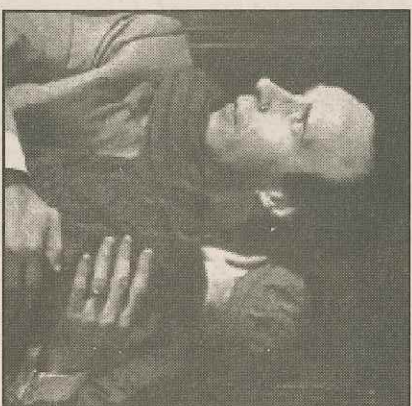
Subtitles and Foreign Films

By CJ Stewart
Business Assistant

With the popularity of Italian film "Life is Beautiful", a WWII drama, this season, foreign films are once again capturing American wallets. Many films continue a successful run overseas by coming to the US, but usually must be subtitled or otherwise modified before monolingual American audiences can enjoy them.

Watching a subtitled movie forces a more active role on the viewer, who has to read the words going across the screen as well as paying attention to the action. This can sometimes be distracting to people who are not used to reading while watching a movie.

"I was watching a German comedy, and it was harder to concentrate on the details of the movie," said senior Karen Ross. "But because it was a comedy the facial expressions were almost more important than the dialogue. You'd start laughing so hard that you wouldn't even be able to pay attention to the subtitles."



The success of "Life is Beautiful" has made other foreign films popular.



"Sevillanos", a Spanish movie, made the list of the top 150 foreign films.



"Dragonball Z" is a popular Japanese fantasy-sci-fi anime based on the story of a group of people who must collect seven dragonballs in order to save the world.

With a character driven movie, subtitling can make it harder to understand the plot when the action on the screen doesn't connect with the translation in the titling. This can especially prevail in operas where not only are the words sung, but they often use very poetic language that is difficult into to translate American language and culture.

"At operas I've been to that use supertitling, it was a bit distracting," said senior Paul Sturtevant. "The translations were a little off. It almost would have been better had they left them out altogether, or just sang it in English."

Even when the dialogue isn't

central, it can still be distracting. "I was watching a subtitled piece of "Dragon Ball Z", a Japanese animated show," said senior Craig Napolitano. "The translations were horrible. It really distracted from the animation, which was incredible."

Other WS students who have become used to watching subtitled movies enjoy them more because the subtitling allows them to enjoy both the sound and inflection of the original language as well as being able to understand the dialogue.

"I'm used to it, and I really enjoyed listening to the Italian," said junior Rochelle Ronkin. "The beauty of the original language enhanced it in a way."

Watching foreign films can even be educational, even if that is not their intended purpose. Simple phrases and words become more familiar over exposure to them through film and theater.

"The Ring Cycle" by Vaugner is a 12-hour opera," said sophomore Ryan Yanovitch. "I even picked up some German while I watched it."

Used stuff

By Stacy Eichhorn
Business Assistant

You know how it is, you see a CD you like, you buy it. The money comes from somewhere, maybe the folds of the couch, but nonetheless you hand the money to the cashier and take the CD home and gleefully hit play.

Then the depression hits. The CD you thought you wanted wasn't the CD you wanted at all. The scratchy, high pitched guitar plucking makes your ears ring, and you can't remember why you bought the over-priced thing at all. So, what do you do with the monstrosity? You sell it, and thank goodness places such as Used CD shops exist.

The second hand market has always been popular with consumers. Not only is it a good way to get rid of those unwanted items, but it is also a chance to find something you really want without the hassle of paying retail.

CDs aren't the only things that can be bought, sold, and rebought. Books, vinyls, computer programs, clothes, and just about anything else out there can leave their unwanted homes and find a proud owner who will actually appreciate them. Where are these miraculous places? A lot closer than you think.

In the computer age, nearly everything can be done over the Internet. So it's no surprise when you go to a search engine and find dozens of sights for buyers trying to find things, or sellers

trying to find buyers. Amoeba Music, mainly a rarities shop, works out of San Francisco, California, but interested shoppers can log on and do their business that way. It puts a whole new spin on the phrase, "home shopping network."

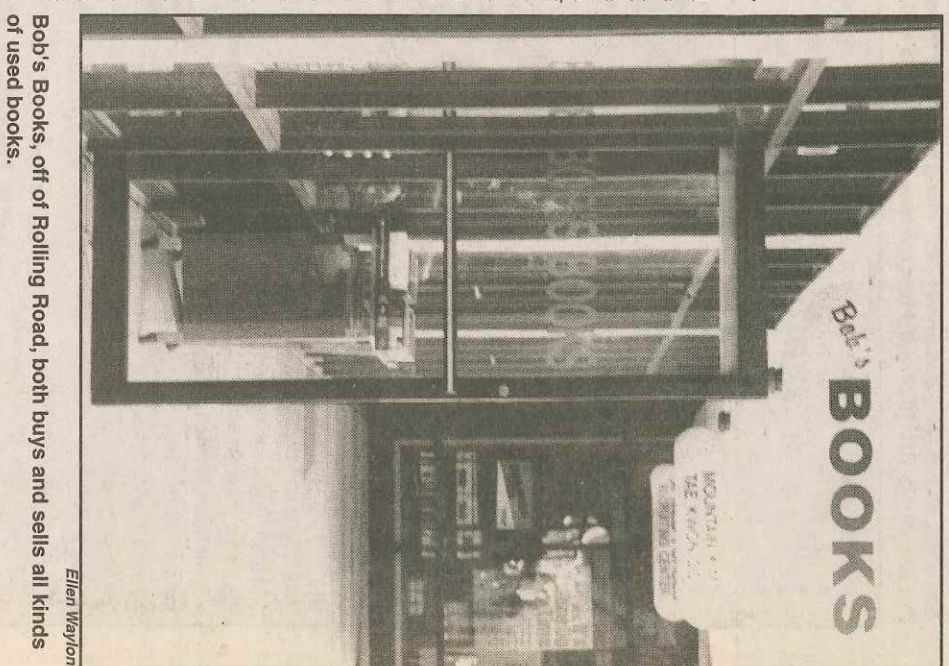
SecondSpin, an Internet based store, gives credits for CDs, books, movies, and vinyls that are sold to them. The credit rate is decided on a case by case basis, and is good for items in their stock.

However, if you're a bit antispy about sending out credit card information or sending CDs to an address you've never heard of before, there are alternatives for you as well. Right here in Springfield, there are used book stores that buy books for half their retail price. Mainly it's done on a credit basis, but if you don't want the money and are just looking to clear space in your shelves, then that's a way to go. In the Rolling Valley Shopping Center, a privately own Used Book Store is open weekdays until eight, and in Burke Center II, there is another privately owned Used Book Store. They both give half the retail price on credit, and charge half the retail price when the books are resold.

Kemp Mill Music offers a trading program, in which consumers can bring in their unwanted CDs and trade them for things they do want of equal value. Otherwise, used CDs are bought on a credit exchange, giving the owner a credit that will pay for other CDs in the store. Other music traders in the area are the Tape Exchange, Record Coverage, The CD Warehouse, Record

Mart, and P&L Compact Discs.

Second hand shoppers have always been a big issue with the publishers and music kings. If they could they would wipe the words off the pages or erase the CD before consumers had a chance to swap stuff, they would force more people to purchase the product from them, rather than thrift stores. However, second hand shopping has always been a big business, and there is no hint of it ever letting up.



Ellen Waylons
of used books.



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Two popular shows reach the end of the road

By Amy Whipple
Inside Story Editor

It has been eight years of sex, sluts, and scandals and pretty soon it will all be over.

After eight seasons, "Melrose Place" is going off the air.

"Melrose Place" revolves around a bunch of twenty-somethings in a fancy apartment building in Los Angeles. The basic plot of "Melrose" consists of revengeful sex, burning buildings, failed marriages, and death. The happy plot kept going in circles and finally lost the public interest, causing Fox to end the primetime

show.

"Melrose" is full of bad actors that just can't portray the young people they represent. I say good riddance," said sophomore Kevin McMullin.

The people at Fox are very closed doors about the final episode of "Melrose Place." On the Fox homepage they offer very little information, but keep a board of viewers' comments. Most of them offer insight on the final note they wish to end the show on, but no hints about the real ending.

Another eight-season show, "Home Improvement," will be leaving too. The more family oriented show revolves

around Tim Taylor (Tim Allen), his family, and his accident-prone job. On the ABC homepage, they are hosting a

countdown until the big day and viewer opinions on the show's ending.

Many people proved to be disappointed about the show ending. Even those that had stopped watching it regularly years ago weren't happy about it.

"I think it's too bad that 'Home Improvement' is ending because it was funny," said sophomore Suzanne Grant. "When I was bored it always seemed to be on, making it a good way to pass the time."

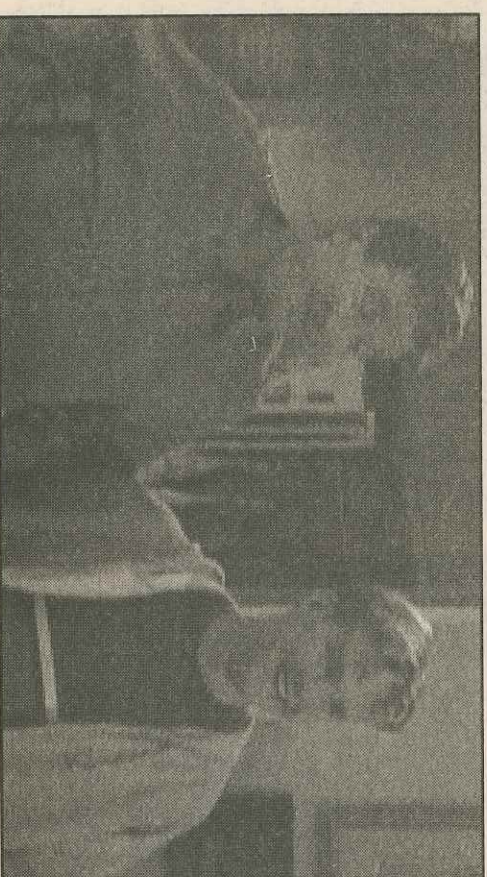
There are still some out there that aren't so sad to see the show go. For a few, the show had too long of a run and got stale.

"It used to be funny, but it got old and so did everything about it. It really needed to get off the air," said freshman Rebecca Carter.

Just as "Seinfeld" ended with a



Critics say that despite character additions like Lexi, the plots of "Melrose Place" have grown boring and predictable.



Tim Allen, star of "Home Improvement," along with other major members of the cast like Zachary Ty Bryant decided that the time had come to end the show.

Restaurant Review: Dolce Vita

By Mike Spector
News Editor

Dolce Vita! No, it's not the latest Italian greeting. Dolce Vita is a top quality Italian restaurant that may not be well known to WS because of its location.

Dolce Vita, located on Lee Highway, is serving some of the best Italian cuisine in the area. Menu selections include various pasta dishes, a wide range of veal and chicken entrees, and a choice of individual sized pizzas.

If you like chicken and pasta, be sure to order Vita's Fettucine Boticelli, a delicious combination of fettuccini alfredo, peas, and grilled chicken. And the individual pizzas are superior to the run of the mill delivery chains. Moderately priced garden salads can start your lunch or dinner off with a real Italian taste.

While dining in the intimate setting, feel free to have all the Italian bread you can eat, because it's always hot and some of the best bread and butter around.

One of the more interesting aspects of the restaurant is the atmosphere. It's easy to miss because it is a small bistro. On the outside it's nothing special, but the inside includes a bar and

well dressed tables. It is a small dining room, but it provides a personal and often romantic experience. The entire restaurant is very clean and elegant in its style. Dolce Vita is the perfect place to treat someone to dinner for a special occasion.

No, it is not the latest Italian greeting. Dolce Vita is a top quality Italian restaurant that may not be well known to WS because of its location.

If there is a negative aspect of Dolce Vita, it's the prices. The quality of the dishes means digging slightly deeper into your pocket book. In a moderate to expensive range, the individual pizzas and pasta dishes run between nine and \$12. The major meat entrees cost between \$15 and \$20.

But if the money is available, Dolce Vita will not disappoint. While it's not quite the place for Homecoming or Prom, any other celebration is ideal. So for birthdays, anniversaries, or just an all out mouth watering meal, look no further than Dolce Vita. Northern Va.'s best kept Italian secret.

Music Review: Flick The new wave of power pop

By Ellen Waylonis
Oracle Photographer

Take vocals like those of the Beatles, Garbage-esque guitar, and the electronica-inspired background noise of Radiohead. Now set it to the mellow-yet-pensive sound of the Smashing Pumpkins and throw in some Pink Floyd. Difficult to imagine, yes, but it's pretty good to listen to. The band is called Flick, and the CD is called "The Perfect Kellilight."

This obscure foursome out of Missouri is made up of lead guitarist Oran Thornton, vocalist Trevor Thornton, drummer Adam McGrath, and bassist Eve Hill. Brothers Oran and Trevor Thornton started the band after playing as a pair in local clubs. They went through many drummers unsuccessfully before finding McGrath, and bassist Hill joined after leaving her former band, Sweaty Betty.

The album itself is one of those that you can listen to all the way through. Although it has a definite "sound," the songs range from playful to melancholy and back again. The band's strength lies in the well-orchestrated guitar and vocals. The song "There You Go" is reminiscent of the British invasion with its harmonies, and "Radio Song" alternates between solemn, simple chords and fast, flashy guitar work.

The lyrics are interesting, although not remarkable, but each song carries a definite message. A few plays are necessary to really understand

the words of the first track, "Freezer Burnt," but the remainder of the CD is reasonably clear. The band's creativity is seen also in the titles of the songs, such as "Pink Boo" and "Electric Pear."

Although the music is good, the drum lines are a bit lacking in a few tracks, and the bass could stand to be stronger. Overall, this is thoughtful music, not something meant to be danced to or anything you would hear at a party. For those who like the sound of electronica meets classic rock, this CD could be a good buy.



The still unknown group Flick could very likely find commercial success with their electronica and classic rock inspired pop album "The Perfect Kellilight."

Billboard Top 10 Albums

- | | |
|---|--|
| 10. "Wide Open Spaces," The Dixie Chicks | 5. "Americana," Offspring |
| 9. "N Sync," N Sync | 4. "Sogno," Andrea Bocelli |
| 8. "Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," Lauryn Hill | 3. "The Slim Shady LP," Eminem |
| 7. "Family Values Tour '98," Various Artists | 2. "Fannail," TLC |
| 6. "Come On Over," Shania Twain | 1. "...Baby One More Time," Britney Spears |

With experience, softball team hopes season is a hit

By Mike Waldron
Sports Editor

During his 20 year tenure as the WS softball coach, Rob Benton has had some very successful teams. But this year's squad, he believes, may potentially be one of his best ever.

"Each team is unique, but I feel this team has as good of a chance to succeed as any team I've had," said Benton.

Last year, the Spartans finished the season 14-6, and were the Patriot district champions in the regular season. But in the first round of the regional tournament, the team suffered a 4-2 loss to Oakton, which ended its season.

The Spartans return seven starters from last year's team, which is why the coach believes experience is one of the team's major strengths.

"The majority of our players are back, so now we have to build on the experience the players gained from last year," said Benton.

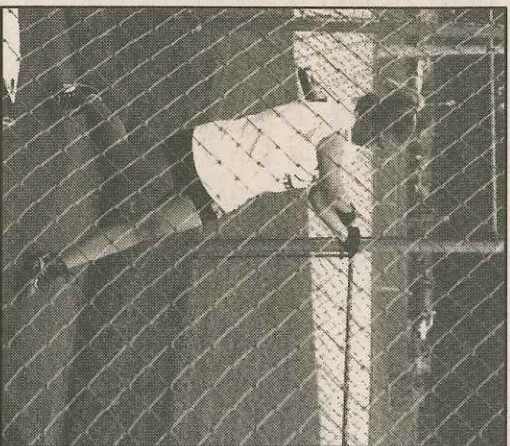
One of the key returning players is junior pitcher Zoe Chipman, who was recognized as an All-district performer last year. Once again, this season she will

be asked to anchor the Spartans' pitching staff.

The team is solid in other areas as well.

"We are a good defensive team," said Benton. "But we need to improve our hitting against quality pitching."

So far this season, the team has rarely exposed its weaknesses. The Spartans began the season 4-1, including a 2-0 record against district opponents. Senior outfielder



Christine Johnson

Senior Jenn Dent, who is one of the seven returning players, takes swings in the cage.



Christine Johnson

Senior Vicky Weaver warms-up a pitcher before the team's game.

"The main goal is to play well consistently," said Benton. "If that happens, other good things will follow. I honestly feel that we have the best team in the district as long as we play up to our potential."

Rugby plays rough

By Meg Beiter
Managing Editor

Grunts and groans dominate the game. Men wrestle, run, and kick the other opponents' face into the ground. The game is rugby.

Rugby is the lost sport at West Springfield. Few join the West End team or know where the practices are held. There are no tryouts and you can't be cut. All it takes to join is knowing who to talk to and the desire to get beat upon by a bunch of guys.

Sophomore Mark "Troll" Bradshaw enjoys playing the game because, "I get to fight two people at once that are twice the size of me."

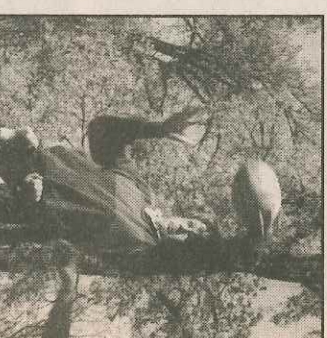
West End Rugby is a club made up of the surrounding high schools, including West

Springfield, where the predominate number of students are from, and Lee. The team's colors, orange and blue, are worn on game day Fridays. Members dress in socks and the rugby shirt, which is either alternating orange and blue stripes or a blue shirt with an orange band across the chest.

In addition to competing with teams from around the Metro area, the team competed in the Cherry Blossom Tournament on the Mall on April 10 and 11. This tournament gathered teams from around the globe.

"We were the most motley team there but we managed to have a good tournament," said junior Jon Henschinski.

Coaching for the team is supplied by former players Chris



Katie Drohan

Willie Harris scrambles for a ball.

Athlete of the Issue

-Compiled by Ked Whitmore



Laura Strzemlenski

Peter Hufnagel is a senior midfielder on the first line of the WS Boys Lacrosse team. He has played at the varsity level for the past three years.

Role Model: Mr. Jersey
Number: Seven

Pregame Ritual: Taking a nap and eating Ramen noodles
Favorite Lacrosse Player: Blair Hoyt

College Plans: Playing lacrosse at Fort Lewis College in Annandale Colorado

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Baseball team strives to meet high preseason expectations

By Joey Tinsley

Sports Assistant

After a 23-2 record and a state championship last year, the 1999 WS baseball team is of to a 6-3 start.

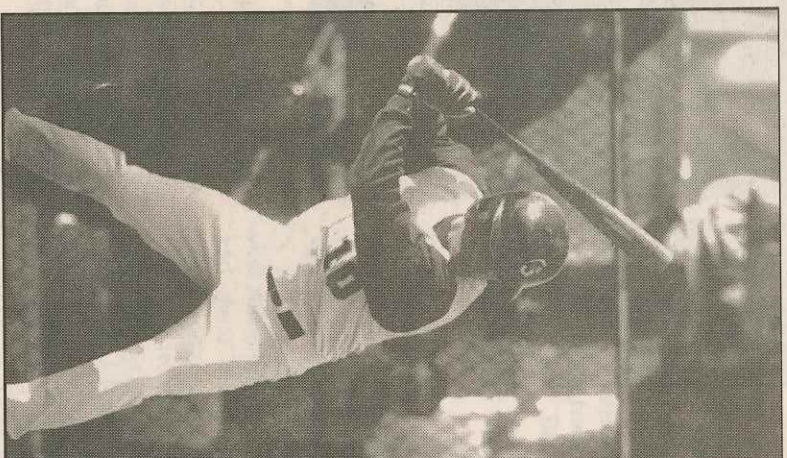
In the season opener the Spartans squared off against Hayfield. It took the Spartans eight innings to break the 0-0 tie. Junior pitcher Nate Longworth scored the winning and only run of the game in the extra inning. Senior pitcher Joe Saunders threw all eight innings for the Spartans and threw a no-hitter. Saunders struck out 16 Hawk hitters in the 1-0 win.

"Joe was just on," said senior catcher Bill Freund.

In the second game the Spartans left 10 runners on base in a 7-5 loss to Robinson.

"We weren't in it as a team that game, but it's better to get that kind of a loss at the beginning of the season than at the end of the season when it means more," said junior second baseman David Capizzi.

The Spartans charged back in their following game against St. Johns College, and won the game 3-1. Junior pitcher Richard Riley held St. John's to one run and earned his first varsity win. Junior



Senior outfielder Jason McCain waits for a pitch in the team's victory against St. Johns.

Boys Varsity Baseball Leaders

Batting Average:
Jason McCain, .375

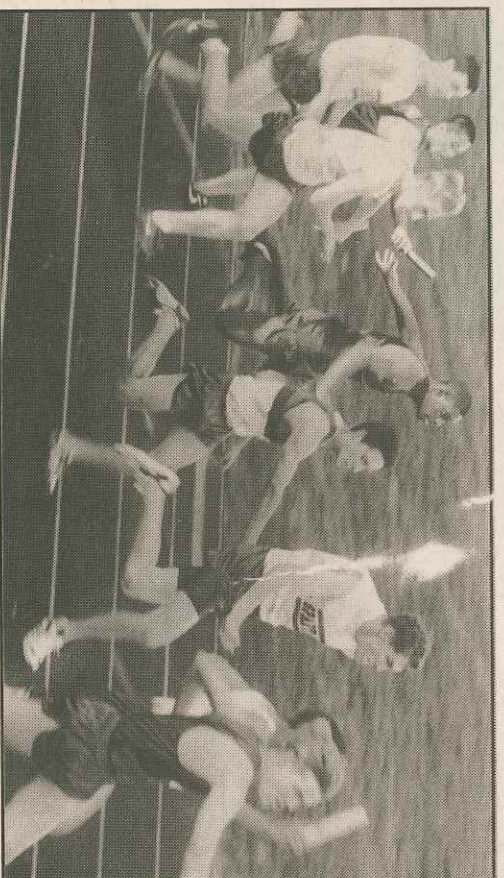
RBI:
Joe Saunders, 10

Hits:
Jason McCain, 12

Steals:
Alex Duncan, 4

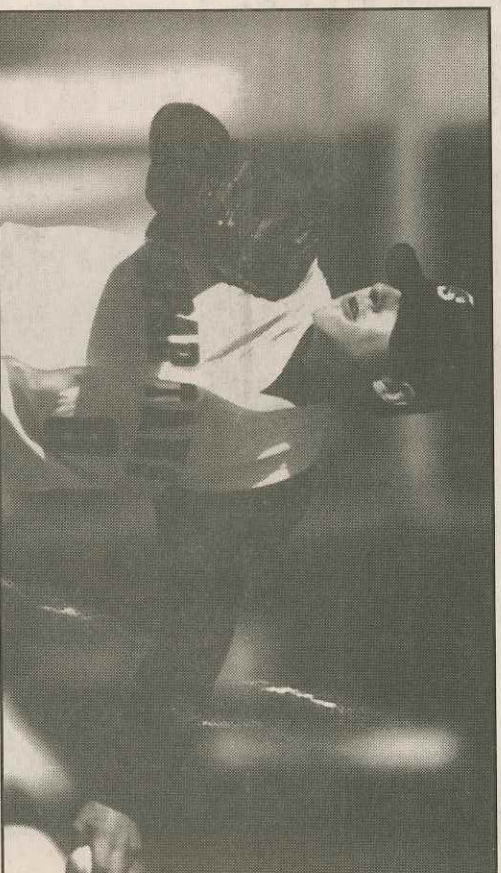
Home Runs: Jason McCain and Joe Saunders, 3

-Compiled by Joey Tinsley and Mike Waldron



Jessica Williams

Members of a West Springfield relay team attempt a successful hand-off at a meet.



Senior Joe Saunders is one of the top pitchers in the nation. He is an All-Met player, with a 17-1 varsity record. *Segall/Majestic*

Track team adjusts to coach's departure

By Caitlyn Marvin

News Section Assistant

With new coaches and a better outlook on the new Spring season, the track team has much more to look forward to.

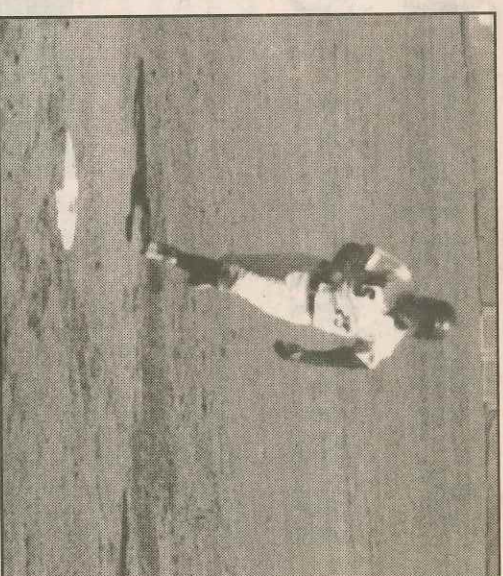
"The changes have made the Spring season much more serious for us and with more meets, we're optimistic about the Spring," said junior Katie Weinberg.

After Coach Greg Rowe's resignation, made official on April 2, the current coaches, Allen Robertshaw and Bernadette Flynn, are continuing to push forward with the team and work closely with the team mates.

"Coach Rowe resigned after there was parental pressure causing him a great deal of stress affecting his personal life," said student activities director Tod Chappell. "I think it is safe to say, his health as well."

At the end of the indoor season, Jean Gallagher took the assistant coach position and Rowe's position is waiting to be filled.

"We didn't change anything drastically when Rowe left because we always had the other two coaches around," said senior Kate Irwin, one of the captains of the girls track team. "We were used to having them around."



Laura Strzeminski

With several starters returning, the baseball team began the season as the Washington Post's first ranked squad.

1. Saunders threw a complete game and the Spartans scored two late runs to earn the win.

In game three the Spartans defeated Sumpter High School from South Carolina 10-8. Senior Outfielder Ryan Fleck doubled late in the game and knocked in the Spartans' ninth and tenth runs of the game.

The Spartans earned a spot in the championship game against Pelham High School from Alabama. The Spartans suffered a 6-4 loss. Alex Duncan tripled with the bases loaded to keep the game close, but it was not enough.

"We got runners on base and played good defense," said Freund. "But we couldn't get a big hit with runners on base."

After spring break, the Spartans lost to arch-rival Lake Braddock 5-1. The Bruins broke open the game in the fourth inning by scoring four runs, and the deficit was

Even with the loss of one of their coaches, the team went on to compete on April 7. The meet ended with the boys track team finishing in first place. The girls team took second.

"We have a lot of meets to look forward to," said sophomore Kerstin Roper. "We've been working really hard and doing well too."

But Rowe's departure has left mixed emotions among the team. Not everyone has welcomed the coaching change.

"The older people, or the ones who have been on the team longer, were more involved with Rowe and I think it is harder when the person you were working closely with is no longer there," said sophomore Terra Caussin.

With more meets and track events in the future, there has to be adjustments made by the athletes and the existing coaches. While they are in the process of finding a replacement for Rowe, the coaches will have to collaborate more on the welfare of the team since they will have one less person.

"We have a very strong team and this is just a minor setback," said Chappell. "I don't see this having major detriments. The kids will overcome this and continue on traditionally."

Congratulations
Spartan Girls Swim Team!
Second In The State!
Go Swimm' Women!

Memories from 10 days in Italy

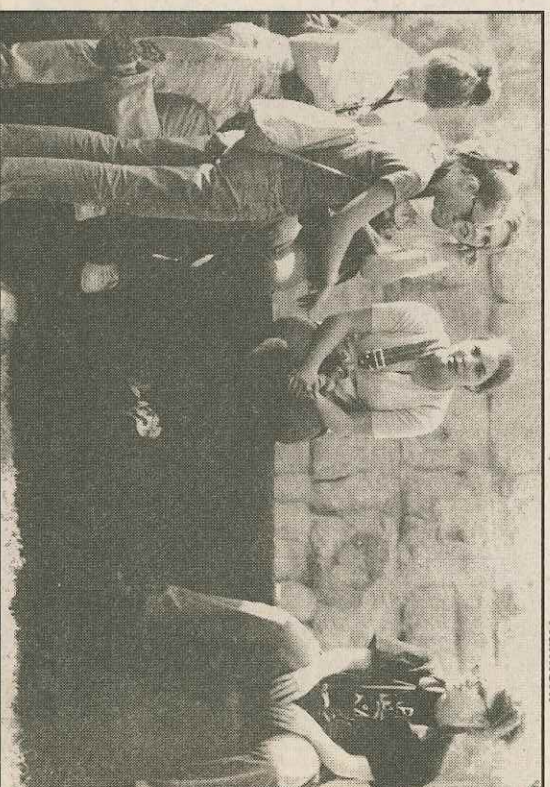
A Photo Essay By Jessica Williams



Our Tour Guide, Hamish.



Juniors Catherine Odell and Ashley Hines feed the pigeons in San Marcos Square during the first part of the trip in Venice.



Ashley Hines, Kristen Pound Kim Ferguson, Kelley Miller, and Catherine Odell, stake a rest outside of the Forum during one of the few breaks in the long days of walking.

The magic of Venice, the art of Florence, the Cliffs of Sorrento, and the ruins of Rome. Twenty-one art, photography, and art history students took 10 days to see as much of Italy as possible this Spring Break.

Venice was surreal. Our first stop in Italy was the ancient water fortress of Vinice. Riding on gondolas, seeing a glass blower, people watching at San Marcos Square; the weather was beautiful, and we didn't want to leave. When we finally did, it was onto Florence.

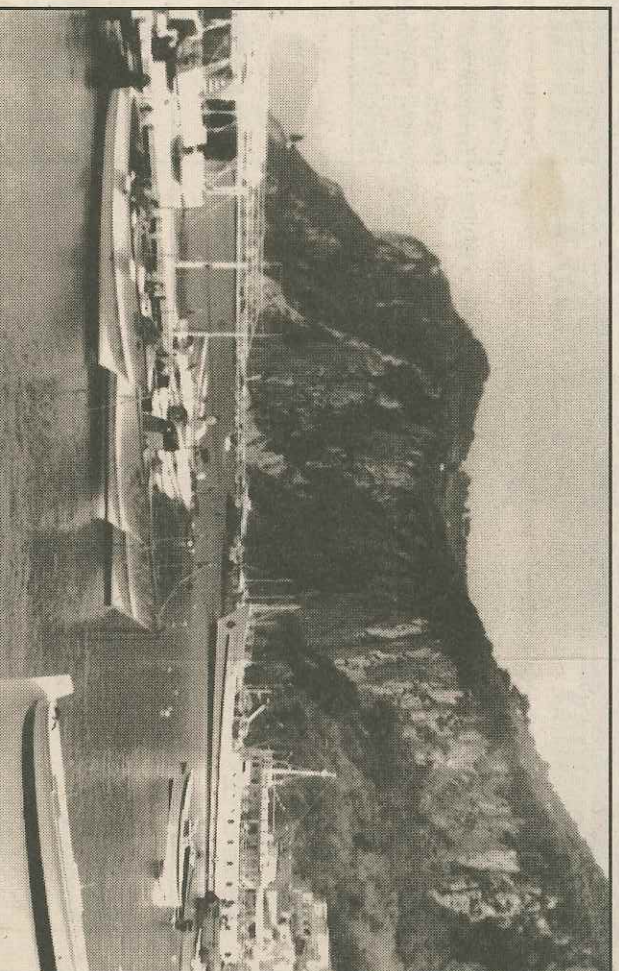
It was here we saw Michelangelo's David, danced with Italian boys at a disco, and got up at 5:50 am to see the Uffizi.

We stopped in a coastal town called Sorrento, and took a trip to Pompeii, to see the preserved Roman town, and then on our way back, we went to the beautiful Island of Capri to see the clear water and the warm pebble beaches.

Our last stop was Rome, where we visited the Vatican and St. Peter's. We were on our way to the Coliseum, when an Anti-NATO, Anti-American demonstration blocked our way, so we changed our plans and walked to the Pantheon. On our last night in Italy, we walked to the Trevi Fountain, and threw two Italian coins over our shoulder: the first for a wish, and the second to bring us back to Rome.



Seniors Jennifer Kalletta, Lisa Harless, Josh Miller, and Kris Range rest outside the Pitti Palace after a long day of touring Florence.

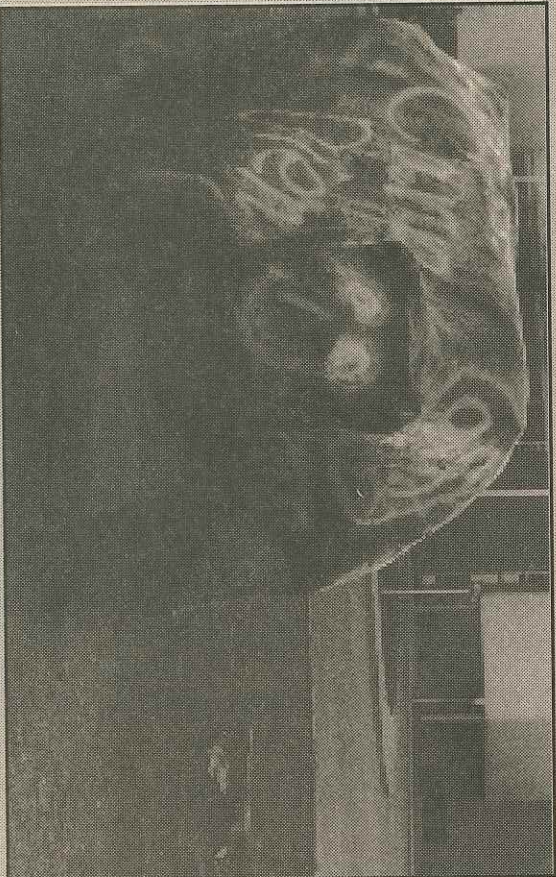


The Island of Capri off the coast in the Mediterranean, was one of the most beautiful places we visited, sadly we had only an hour to wade in the crystal water, along the pebble beaches.



Senior Kim Graf stops to take a picture of ruins at the Forum in Rome

News from other schools



Christine Johnson

The tree previously located behind the Lake Braddock Bruin was cut down and removed to have been done by WS students.

Lake Braddock

In April, Lake Braddock will hold their annual "Mr. Bruin" competition. Twelve contestants are nominated by their classmates to participate and the contest is based on an interview, talent, GPA, evening wear, and the last question. The winner gets \$100 and the money raised goes to support the school. On April 12, seniors participated in "Senior switch day," where they took the place of their teachers for one day. Also, the Drama Department is currently preparing for the opening of their Spring Musical, *Pippin*, on April 28.

Lee

The Odyssey of the Mind (OM) team recently placed third at the regional competition on March 20 at Hayfield. Over 10 teams competed at the high school level. Eight students from the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) team received awards at the regional competition on March 13. The "American Enterprise" team won first place at regionals and advanced to the state finals.

McLean

A Youth Art Show was held at the McLean Community Center, where many art students got the opportunity to have their work displayed. The art show was held in honor of Youth Art month. The Theatre Department will be preparing for their spring play, *Lilium*, a Hungarian tragedy written by Ferenc Molnar, one of the most famous playwrights in Hungary during the early 20th century. The play was later used as a basis for the musical, *Carousel*, written by Rogers and Hammerstein.

Chantilly

Students get the opportunity to meet people in various professions in the upcoming "Hill Fair." The job fair allows students to talk personally with people working in their field of interest. On April 15, a read-a-thon was held in the school library. Students read for five consecutive hours and were sponsored by friends, family, and local businesses to raise money for the school.

—compiled by Theresa O'Neill

Top 10 Ways to know you've been rejected from college

- 1) The first word in the letter is not congratulations.
- 2) The letter is addressed to you.
- 3) The enclosure with the letter is a pack of tissues.
- 4) You've landed a teaching job in a nearby county.
- 5) The reply from the admissions office is an application as a school janitor. You feel stupid unless you are Will Hunting, in which case you are a genius.
- 6) The letter is sent via the office of rejections.
- 7) You're stupid!
- 8) The college sends a letter requesting your real application.
- 9) The first word in the letter is not congratulations.
- 10) The thin letter in the mail was sent fourth-class.

—compiled by Brian Gillis & LaMour Mitchell

SPARTAN

Students paint a mural in the hall after school for the spanish club.



Jessica Williams

Spanish Honor Society - Inductions for new members will take place on May 5 in the cafeteria.

Dance Club - Members meet every Monday from 6 - 8 p.m.

Spring Musical - This years spring musical, *42nd Street*, will run from April 22-24.

Drill Team - Tryouts will be April 26-30 in the auxiliary gym from 4-6 p.m.

WSBA Youth League - begins April 26 in the auxiliary gym from 6-9:30 p.m.

Teacher Appreciation Day is May 6.

Prom fashion Show - May 6 at 7 p.m., in the auditorium.

—compiled by Theresa Rupp

OTEBOK

April Calendar 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					16 SCHOOL OPEN! 7 period day! Snow makeup day!	17 Crew—Mathews Invitational 9 a.m.—track Allen Johnson Invitational @ LBSS
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<i>Fourth quarter begins</i>	6&7:30 p.m.—girls LAX vs Lee	Softball @ Robinson	Tennis @ TC Williams			
25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1
6 & 7:30 p.m.—boys LAX vs Oakton	Softball vs Paul IV	Girls soccer vs. West Potomac	Track @ Lake Braddock	Transition program for seniors and parents		SATs at WS
Spring Musical						