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WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL 6100 ROLLING ROAD SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22152

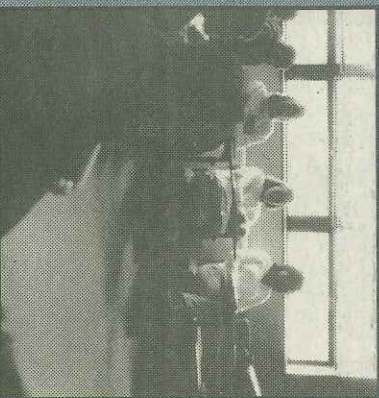
Squirrel fries while school power dies

By Abby Curran
Oracle Editor

Squirrels, furry little creatures that scurry around the woods and run in front of cars, Oh, and they also destroy electrical power for a building of 2,500 people.

On December 3 a squirrel did just that as he sparked a reaction in a fuse box on Center Road that caused a three-hour power outage in most parts of WS. In addition, the attendance office phone line was the only working one in the building, the Tri-School Network crashed and Tiny Tois was postponed.

"Some parts of the building were a little darker than others," said Principal David Smith. "We were just lucky that it was a fairly warm day."



Brooke Nelson

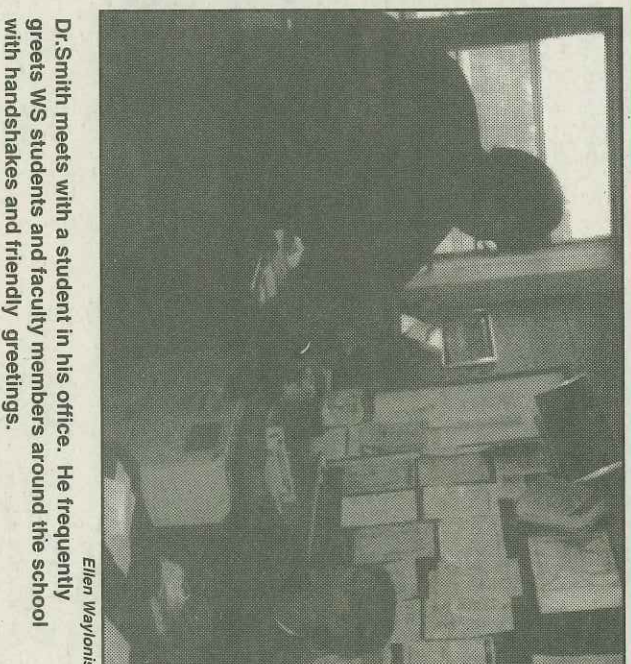
Senior English teacher Hollie Wolter's 1st-period class reviews "MacBeth" in the dark during morning power outage. Unseasonable weather that set record high temperatures in recent weeks, played a part in the decision to not close school, Smith called Area One Superintendent Don Sheldon and described the situation to him; Sheldon instructed Smith to keep WS open.

As the outage continued, lunch became a problem. Since the cafeteria lacked power, food service workers arranged to have Edison High School deliver hot lunches and Lake Braddock Secondary School to bring cold lunches.

"It didn't really affect us because Edison and Lake Braddock delivered food," said food service manager Bettie Sorrell. "A supervisor even came in and was happy with us."

In other areas of the building, students and teachers managed the best they could. Those facing the most problems were in rooms without much light, such as the art department's darkroom, and windowless math, science, and business classrooms.

"We went on with class the best that we could," said math teacher Mark Deegen, whose classroom does not have any windows and was completely dark. "I'd like to thank my third-period class for getting past their petty quibbling and adjusting to the circumstances."



Ellen Waylons

Dr. Smith meets with a student in his office. He frequently greets WS students and faculty members around the school with handshakes and friendly greetings.

Veterans say adios Natale takes new post; Shearin retires

By Caitlyn Kelleher
News Editor

Goodbyes are always hard. English teacher John Natale and Spanish teacher Ginny Shearin will both be leaving WS for new experiences. Natale has received the job of Consulting Teacher in the Teacher Performance Evaluation Program (TPEP). Natale will be leaving his position as English Department Chair and two Creative Writing classes and two English 10 classes.

"I will leave all lesson plans and handouts for the teacher," said Natale. "I'll leave my Hall of Fame to continue but I will come back to pick up the pictures."

TPEP would have liked to him to join their program immediately but they have

allowed Natale to leave WS at the end of the first semester on February 5.

"It's going to be lousy not having him for the rest of the year. I don't think that there is any other teacher as creative and talented as he is," said junior Carrie Lopez.

The job is "a chance to try something new but still work in education and possibly work with other teachers the way I work with students," said Natale.

After teaching for the last 15 years here at WS, Natale has made some strong attachments. He is now co-worker to three students that he has taught: PE teacher Brain Puhlick, ESL teacher Kathleen Lynch, and LD teacher Chip Delice.

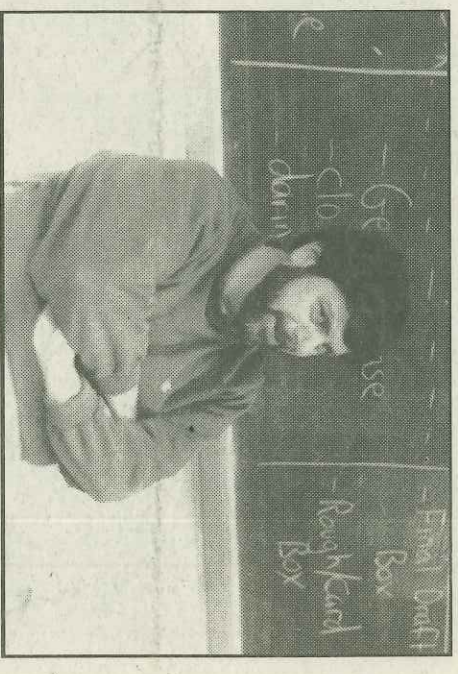
"Mr. Natale made learning fun," said Puhlick. "He has a

Smith celebrates two years at WS

By Mike Waldron
Sports Editor

When Dr. David Smith arrived at WS two years ago, he knew that it would be difficult to replace former principal Glynn Bates. But since then Smith's leadership abilities have led to a smooth transition for himself, the staff, and the students.

"Leadership is about trying to help people become more



Ruth Russell

English teacher John Natale leaves WS one more expression of his to remember as he moves on to his new position.

way of captivating his audience and he makes the material fun. Teaching is what he does best. I hate to see him go."

Natale believes that, in his years, not only has his favorite color changed from blue to green but so has his teaching style.

"I believe that I'm closer to students now than when I was

younger because there is no longer the need for artificial space," said Natale.

Shearin, who retired on December 1, has been subbing for herself until a permanent replacement is found. She has taught for a total of thirty years, 18 of them in Fairfax County.

"It's a mind job and human See VETERANS Page 5

Fairfax awakens to idea of later start

By Gracy Obuchowicz
News Editor

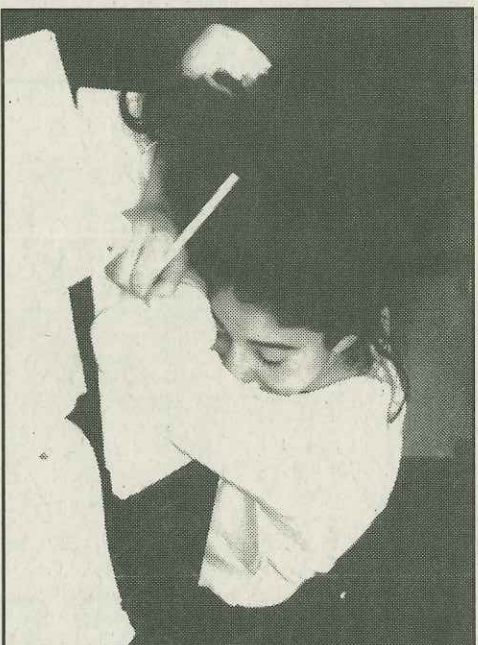
Although the sun is barely up, the day is already beginning for Fairfax County students.

With puffy eyes and sleepy minds, students pour into school and often spend first period class either dozing or trying to wake up.

"I never wake up feeling like I have gotten enough sleep. It's so hard not to fall asleep during my first block class," said senior Bianca Aloma.

Teachers have also noticed the lack of energy in the students in their first period blocks when compared to students in their later periods.

"My fourth period class has so much more character and vitality than my second period class," said physics teacher Stephen Van Brocklin. "Most



Sarah Kelbaugh

The early start at school causes senior Bethany Triggilio to catch up on lost sleep during class.

of the students in my second period class seem so lethargic."

While the logical answer would be for students to go to bed earlier, it is easier said than done for most teenagers. Between sports, jobs, and

homework, most students find it almost impossible to get the eight to nine and a half hours of sleep that recent studies at Brown University suggest is ideal for teenagers.

"Because of lacrosse, being involved in school activities, and all the homework I have this year, midnight has become my new bedtime," said junior Julie Mullen. "I would love to get extra sleep, but I don't know how to fit it in."

Even students who make time to go to bed earlier may find their attempts to be futile.

Studies of teenage sleep habits suggest that teenager's bodies receive the sleep-inducing hormone melatonin about an hour later than younger adolescents. This causes them to stay up later at night and need extra hours of sleep in the morning.

Recently the early start times of Fairfax County high schools were brought into question. Ideas of reversing elementary and high school See SLEEP Page 5

Few understand county guidelines

The person who wrote WS's disciplinary guidelines must have been a little confused. When each offense is looked at by itself, the punishments seem appropriate, but when the entire green "Discipline Guidelines" sheet is reviewed as a whole, it doesn't seem to make much sense.

For example, consider the punishment for forgery. If you're caught forging a parent or teacher's signature, the punishment is usually Saturday school. Or look at a winter day, the first snowfall of the year. In your excitement, you playfully hurl a snowball at one of your good friends, or even at an unsuspecting stranger. The punishment: The same as forging a signature.

Does this really make sense?

Now go to the yellow "student rights and responsibilities" handbook. The handbook is full of broad general statements like "possessing, smoking, or using tobacco products in school buildings, on school grounds, or on school buses or violating regulations governing consumption of beverages on school property" is a violation of school conduct. What kind of drinks? Sodas? Alcohol? Could someone get the same punishment

for walking down the hall with an open soda as someone smoking on a school bus? Not according to Dr. Bart Kramer, who

agreed that the state-

ment should have been broken up into two sections, and that the rule concerning beverages was mostly aimed at school buses. Every year the Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook is revised to make it more understandable; the biggest change this year involved the possession of drugs. This handbook is given out to all Fairfax County students in grades four through twelve. If the statements are so unclear to high school students, how will fourth graders understand them?

If the handbook were written in a clearer manner, the rules would be easier to understand and follow. Instead of just giving students a copy of the regulations, they should also receive a handbook that explains each rule more clearly, along with each school's interpretations of that rule.

If these rules are explained correctly, maybe future students will know the difference between throwing a snowball with the intent to kill, and just joking around with friends.

Editorial

Shop 'til you drop Heinous holiday hype always grossly overrated

By LaMont Mitchell
News Editor

For those who didn't know, the holidays are already upon us. The people behind have two options: start catching up now, or wait the long three months until next year's holiday season hype begins.

Though its unofficial beginnings are much earlier, the holiday shopping season officially begins the weekend after Thanksgiving. This is the biggest shopping weekend of the year, and with good reason. With Christmas looming, it's the last opportunity people have to guiltlessly buy things for themselves. Eventually, the fun really begins as shoppers begin the process of purchasing presents for others.

Holiday gift-giving is often rewarding but, at other times, can prove tedious, due mainly to the absurd tradition that prohibits the person the gift is being bought for from being present to help the buyer select and/or pay for it.

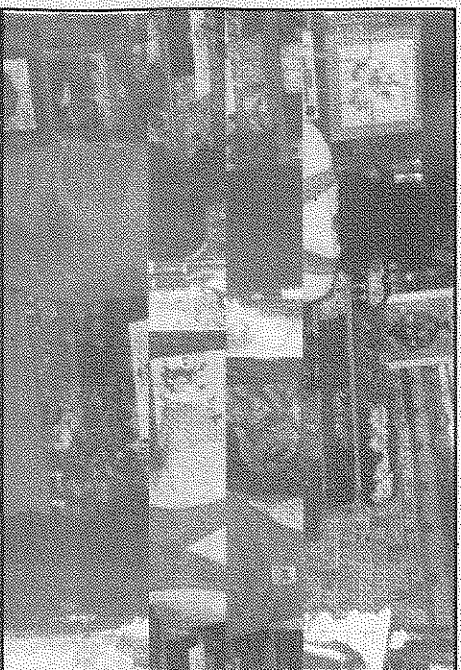
There are also other pitfalls to holiday shopping, like the relative everybody has who always requests, instead of a gift, simply for everyone to be happy. As most people have learned, though, it's much easier to be happy when not faced with imminent physical injury—the likely result of neglecting to buy the aforementioned relative a gift.

These and other factors help contribute to a sort of madness that takes hold during the holidays, involving large mobile masses of people neglecting manners and sensibility as they rush around madly in search of the right presents. The problem, however, is grossly overrated. In fact, more people are killed annually in automobile crashes than in holiday department store stampedes. There is virtually nothing to worry about.

Even so, most organizations feel the need to hype the holiday season extensively, which has now been pinpointed as beginning sometime after Easter. It's never too early for the first Christmas sale. Most stores try to wait at least until after Halloween, but in the face of emergencies—such as the catastrophe of El Niño—exceptions can be and often are made.

So is the holiday season overhyped? Should everyone stop making such a big deal of it? Maybe, but in today's era of political correctness and forced parity, there's a better solution. Instead of hyping holidays like Christmas less, we should just hype the others more.

That means Arbor Day parades, week-long Earth Day vacations, and ornamental Flag Day trees for everyone. So let all of the country work itself into a fit over the holiday season. My Groundhog's Day cards will already be in the mail.



Ellen Waylons

For many frantic people, Christmas shopping starts the day after Thanksgiving. This is when all of the malls start getting very crowded with holiday shoppers.

THE ORACLE

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A student-run publication to inform and entertain the students and staff of West Springfield High School and the Springfield community. We publish articles, written with as little expense as possible. 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 correspondence will be considered for publication, but could be edited for grammar, spelling and space.

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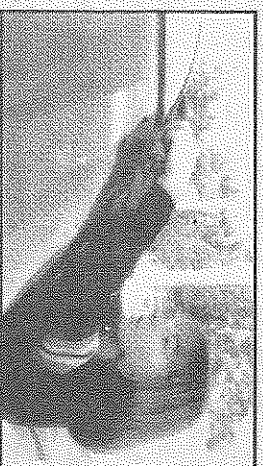
C. 1998-1999 THE ORACLE
WESTSPRINGFIELDHIGH SCHOOL

Students against SADD A small club many don't care about

By Laura Strzemieniski
Photo Editor

My mother always tells me how lucky I am to live where I do. She tells me that I have so many things available to me that she never had. But like most teenagers tend to do, I smile at her like I am listening and then go back to whatever I might have doing. However, despite the fact that I hate to admit she's right, she is.

WS is full of things that students that can involve themselves with. One of the things is the wide assortment of clubs to choose from. Of those clubs, the one I picked to devote my time to is the Students Against Drunk Driving Club (SADD). At some schools, SADD is known as Students Against Destructive Decisions, but the aim of the club remains the same: to help make students aware of how their decisions affect not only themselves, but everyone around them.



Ellen Waylons

Laura Strzemieniski ties an awareness ribbon onto a car for SADD.

tion called the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP). I was originally volunteering for them because I needed points for NHS, but now I do it because I love it. Through WRAP, I discovered all the things that SADD does.

Despite what a great thing SADD is, there is one problem with the club. It's small. There are only about 10 people total. This tells me one of two things. Either there are a lot of people who don't know much about the club, or there are a lot of students at WS who like to drink and drive and don't want to be hypocrites.

Even though I had heard about SADD since I was a freshman, I never really knew what they did and didn't become involved until my junior year.

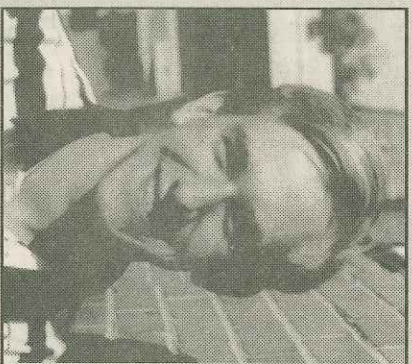
The past two summers I volunteered at a nonprofit organiza-

Spartan Spotlight

What is the weirdest gift you have ever received for Christmas?



"My aunt gave me two Barbies last year."
Michelle DiFilippo,
sophomore



"I got a jar of cherries from my ex-girlfriend."
Tommy Furrman,
junior



"A really old ugly bro-ken fat candle that was passed every year between three families."
Letitia Silverberg,
Spanish teacher



"Anything besides money."
Ben White, senior

Santa Claus is comin' to town

A jolly old fellow gift-wraps communism

By JJ Swick
Oracle Editor

I don't know about you, but I find fat, jolly old men very amusing. The reindeer are cool, and I like getting the presents, but it has to be Santa's looks that are most entertaining. If Santa looked like Woody Allen I don't think his myth would still be alive today.

I also like Santa's elves. They're even goofier than The big man himself. Little people always make me laugh. Maybe that's why the Land of Oz always seemed like a vacation paradise. If we elected Santa's elves to congress, I think my government class would be much more appealing. Elf congressmen would be the only thing better than Jesse "the Governor" Ventura.

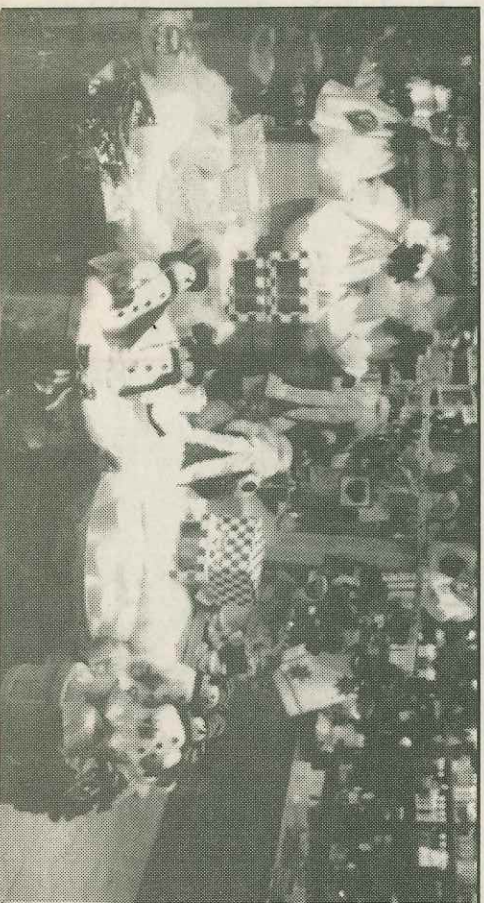
Even though Santa and his goofy little elves are always a good laugh, I've always had a few questions about his behavior.

First of all, is Santa a communist? He just may be. What's up with the red? And why is he working those funny little elves so hard? He also seems real interested in making sure all kids get presents—whether they deserve it or not. I've also noticed a similarity in the looks of Santa and Castro. Maybe Santa migrates south for the winter. Maybe he does it for the cigars, or perhaps he does just to get as far away from Canada as possible. Either way, it's a strong possibility Santa and Castro are the same person. After careful consideration, I finally understand the "Seinfeld" episode where Santa was distributing communist paraphernalia.

And when Santa is not disguising himself as Castro, he seems to be everywhere. I see him collecting money for the Salvation Army all the time. Is it possible that the term "Salvation Army" is just a code name for Santa's regime? Is he using the donations to fund his Communist machine. And why is he always asking what little kids want for Christmas. He may be just attempting to get feedback in order to more easily assimilate America's youth after his Communist takeover.

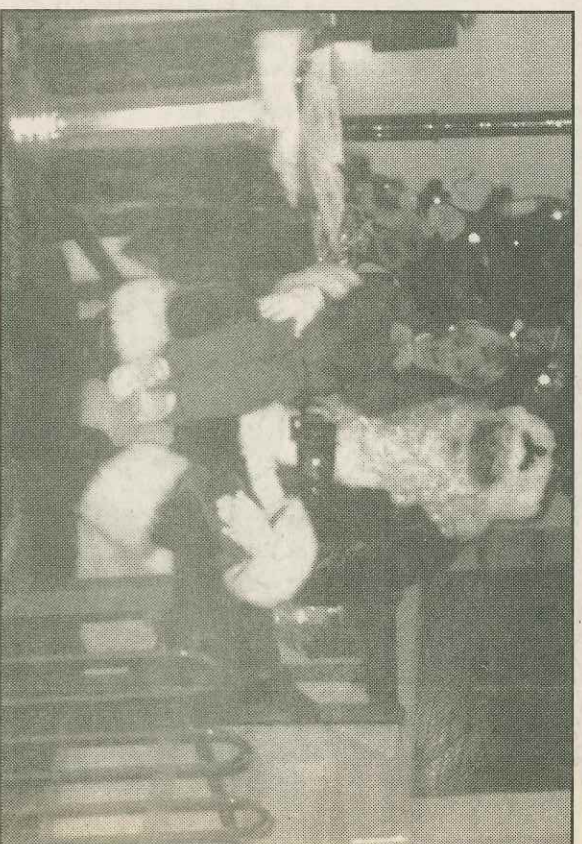
I'll stop now before I take the risk of sounding like a psycho (too late). All I know is that Santa and his elves are pretty goofy (even more than Woody Allen).

Whether or not he is planning a communist overthrow of our government, Santa seems like an all right guy. I'll like anyone who gives me presents—even if it is Castro.



Jessica Williams

Most stores are usually decorated with festive holiday decorations.



Ellen Wayonis

This Santa icon makes children happy at a local mall. Santa icons invade malls

By Stacy Eichhorn
Business Assistant

Once upon a time we all believed in Santa Claus. Once upon a time we all had that beloved innocence that is ordained only to the young. And once upon a time we all woke up one day and realized with utmost sadness that "Santa" is actually a pseudonym for mom or dad.

I miss Santa, I really do. I miss that restless sleep on Christmas Eve and that bright and early rising to see the jumble of presents carelessly strewn under the tree. However, along with the knowledge of who Santa really is, comes a great responsibility. It is our job as the "informed" to keep the innocent "uninformed."

It's our job as human beings, as siblings, and as consumers.

In my house we have a tradition, no Christmas decorations go up, no Christmas music gets played, and certainly the tree doesn't even get talked about until after Thanksgiving Day. More specifically, until after the Macy's Day Parade has finished and Santa has tread down the streets of New York saying "ho ho ho" and rings in the new holiday season.

Why is it the malls and stores can't adhere to the same principal?

I don't know about everyone, but I hate walking around a mall in October and seeing Christmas decorations up right after Halloween. Mistletoe and Halloween? I don't appreciate the combination.

So perhaps this isn't Santa's fault. Maybe the elves don't see what's going on. But I look around and see all the decorations and think "well isn't everyone trying to make a buck." Honestly, how can parents tell their kids that Santa is every guy on the sidewalk ringing a bell for money?

Not that I don't appreciate those men in suits. The money they collect goes to help those in need and I give them money every time I see them. But I also hear the glib responses of mothers and fathers telling their eight-year-olds why Santa needs money. Would you believe I actually heard one say "he has to have money to buy the presents for the children this year?"

To be sure Santa is a harmless thing. I adore how children have such blind faith. Their innocence, optimism and trust is admirable, perhaps adults would be better people if they contained that kind of optimism. Instead they corrupt it by commercializing it, advertising his charms on television months in advance trying to increase their profit margins. Is nothing sacred?

College pressures cause stress for local students

By Meredith Caudle
ETC. Editor

Tech or UVA, in state or out of state, SATs three times or four times, and if I don't get in, NOVA or Mason?

Seniors nationwide are feeling the pressure of applying to college. But students elsewhere don't seem as preoccupied with deciding their college careers as those in Fairfax.

All schools encourage students to be successful. In Fairfax County, however, there is a "big push that everyone must go to college or you'll be nothing," said senior Kristin Fuller. "We are told from when we are little that we must go to college."

In 1996, 72 percent of the graduates county-wide went to a four-year college after graduation. In Virginia, 48 percent went on to a four-year school.

"I think one of the reasons Fairfax County pushes you so hard is because if you plan to live in this area you need to go to college so you can get a job earning enough money, because everything is so expensive here," said senior Nisheeda Hancock, who moved to the area from Alabama.

Fairfax is the sixth-largest school system in the country and is known for providing one of the best educations.

Local high schools offer a

wide array of Advanced Placement and Gifted and Talented classes to encourage higher learning. Many students take advantage of these opportunities.

In 1996, 5,381 students in Fairfax took at least one AP exam. Seventy-four percent of those scored a three or higher on one of the exams.

"I have friends in Maine and they only have one AP class in their school, AP Calculus, and they just got it for the first time this year," said Fuller.

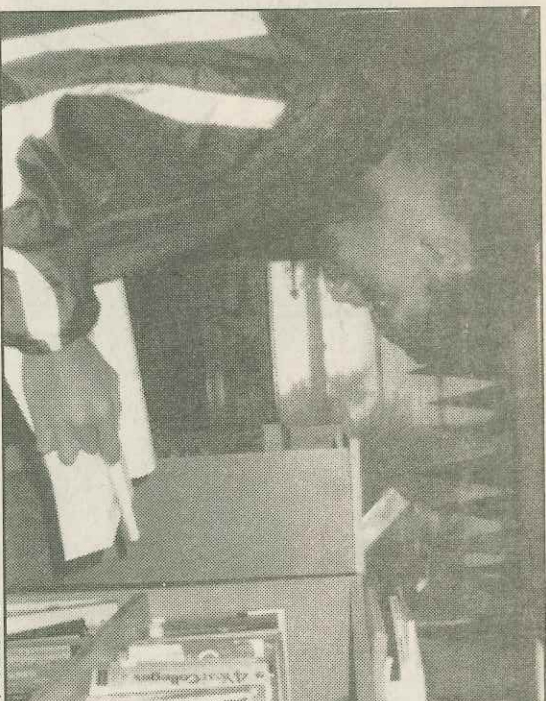
With students taking advanced classes, the standards gradually rise, and as the standards rise in high schools, the standards for getting into a state school also go up.

With a more demanding grading scale and higher standards, students in Fairfax County are often faced with a tougher time getting accepted to certain state schools.

The University of Virginia and William and Mary are two such state schools with low acceptance rates.

"The University of Virginia doesn't have a set number of Northern Virginia kids they can accept," said Guidance Counselor Nancy Wright.

"People with the credentials usually get in; it's parents whose kids don't get in that start saying they only accept a certain number," said Wright.



Junior Kevin James spends time in the Career Center looking up college information. Some juniors like getting ahead in the college search.

In the WS class of 1998, 72 students applied to the University of Virginia, and 34 were accepted. UVA's standards are considered higher than most state universities.

"It's not fair that if someone in Virginia wants to go to UVA they probably won't get in unless they are one of those people with over a 4.0," said McLean senior Tina Jung. "Our parents' tax money helps pay for it. We should be able to go there."

Competition for college acceptance causes students here to go to great lengths to assure a spot in a prestigious college. Fairfax County students, encouraged by parents and guidance counselors to take the

Forensics attracts record numbers

By Shannon Banks
News Editor

The next time you see a bunch of students arguing, it may be wise to look twice.

The WS forensics team, which encompasses speech, debate, and a student congress, is off to a fast-paced start. Over 80 newcomers came to the initial interest meeting on November 5.

"I have good feelings about the team," said coach and WS English teacher Mike Greiner. "This year is a year to develop and improve."

Greiner brings a great deal of experience to the forensics team. He was the Lake Braddock forensics coach for seven years, and under his coaching, the team collected an impressive quantity of awards.

The team won state debate titles in 1992, '94, and '97. They produced the national runner-up

not just in school, but also with his support of after school activities.

"I like the opportunity to see [students] do things other than what [they] do in the classroom," said Smith, who attends sporting events and other after school activities with regularity.

By showing his support, the WS principal is able to improve his relationship with the student body. Smith's cool demeanor makes him seem approachable to students.

"I think students feel comfortable around Dr. Smith because he is able to talk to them on their level," said sophomore Laura Johnston. "He doesn't act superior to students at all."

With his sociable attitude, Smith's company is enjoyed by WS students. But this feeling is not one dimensional according to Smith, who is in his 25th year in education.

"I have always liked working with young folks," he said.

in debate in 1995. In the last two years, the Lake Braddock forensics team saw an 8th place finish in the national student congress competition. As for speech, Greiner coached the 3rd place state finisher in 1996, and the 2nd place state finisher in 1997.

With this decorated past, Greiner is optimistic about WS's team.

"WS students seem more organized," said Greiner, in comparing the two schools.

Although having a winning coach certainly does not hurt, it's impossible to have a team without members.

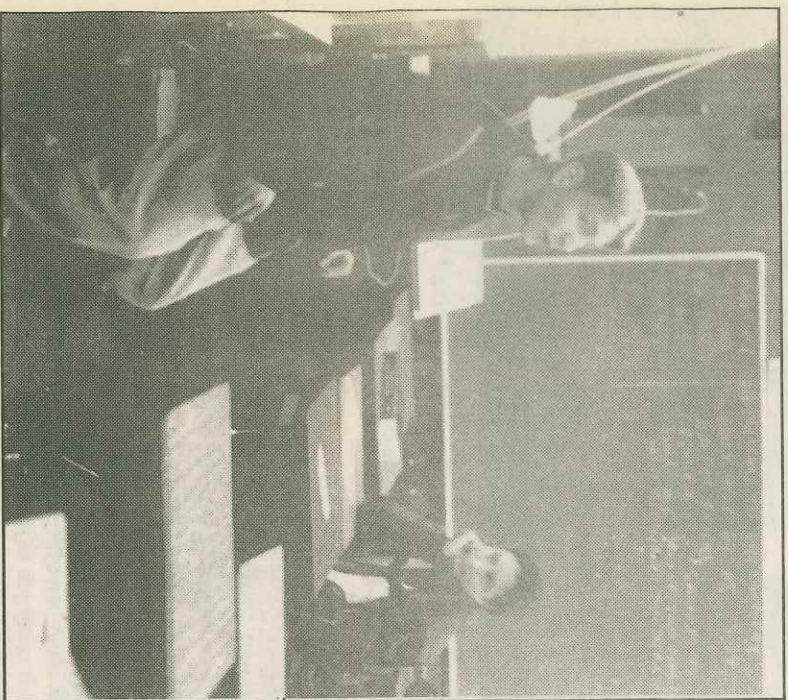
Students join the forensics team for a variety of reasons. It could be speculated that perhaps, at least as far as debate goes, students are searching for a constructive alternative to yelling and arguing with friends.

"Debate is marvelous," said senior Eric Eichhorn. "It's a great way to release verbal aggression."

Of course, there are other reasons. Studies show that the second greatest fear of Americans is death: the number one fear is public speaking. Therefore, it would make sense that people try to get over this fear by confronting it. Joining the forensics team is an excellent way to do this.

"I think it's really important that people become comfortable with speaking, since people fear speaking more than death," said junior Mary Beth Brookshire, who is captain of the forensics team.

The team, which meets on Wednesdays and Thursdays and had 15 members in attendance at their first competition, helps students do that.



Jessica Williams

Junior Chris Plehal practices his debate skills at a Forensics meeting. This team allows students to improve their public speaking skills.

Smith approval rating soars

From SMITH Page 1

generally cares about them," said Smith's secretary Sally Feldner. "He respects them as professional educators."

In the last two years, four teachers who had previously worked for Smith became employees at WS.

"After having worked with Dr. Smith at Glasgow Intermediate, I gained an appreciation for his management style and I knew I could work for him," said math teacher Mike Sponable. "It made the transition to high school that much easier."

One aspect of Smith's style that appeals to teachers is his respect for privacy. When possible, he grants the staff freedom to make decisions without his approval.

Smith uses this approach when dealing with students as well. Instead of ordering teenagers around, Smith says that he tries to understand them on a more personal level. He accomplishes this



Dr. David Smith supervises students in the hallway during his lunch duty. This year marks Smith's second anniversary as WS principal.

Oracle Photo

Peer Mediators help solve student conflicts

By Gracy Obuchowicz
News Editor

Fighting happens. Whether it's between friends or enemies, fighting has always been and always will be a part of high school life.

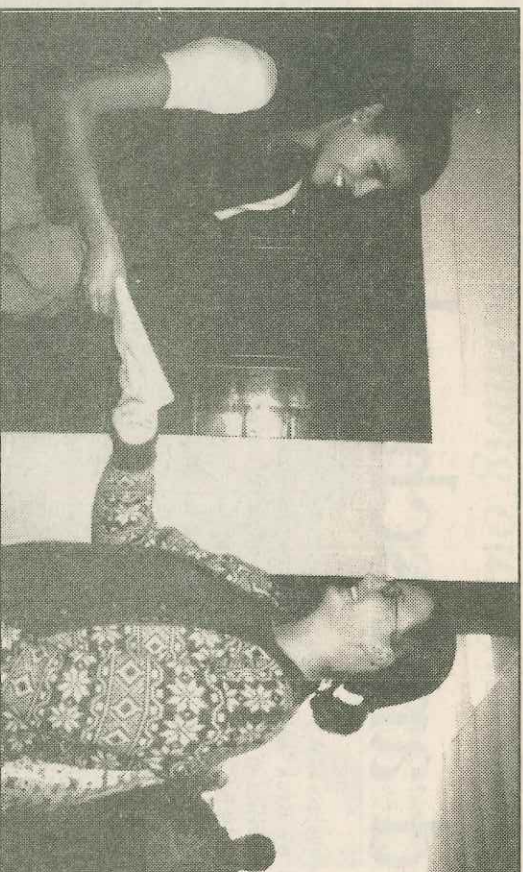
While some people prefer to ignore this high school reality, the W/S Student Peer Mediation Program concentrates on finding calm ways to help students solve their conflicts.

"We don't give students a solution to their problems," said Peer Mediation president junior Allison Bourget. "We just help them to find a workable compromise that they both can agree to."

Although the peer mediation program is in its fifth year, it is yielding far fewer mediations than other Fairfax County schools.

This year the Peer Mediation Program has made it a priority to publicize its virtually unknown program to the student body.

"Other schools have between 100 and



Melissa Tran

Junior and Peer Mediation President Allison Bourget hands papers to junior Jackie Switzer regarding the peer mediation process.

150 peer mediations a year, while last year West Springfield had only five," said Johnson. "This year we decided that something had to be changed. We've

worked hard on trying to make ourselves more known." The 25 peer mediators have made themselves known by placing Peer Mediation referral forms in English

classes, helping with new student orientation, and having a booth at Spartanfest.

"The fortune-telling booth for Peer Mediation was really fun," said junior and vice president Emily Kirkpatrick. "Even though we didn't make a lot of money, I felt like we were really noticed by the school."

Students interested in having a peer mediator can fill out a form their English classrooms and turn it into either Johnson or Jean Waterbury, the Peer Mediation cosponsors. The counselors then select two student mediators, and the mediators, with two troubled students, work together to find a compromise.

Although many of the mediations are administrative referrals, Johnson stresses that peer mediation is helpful to all students.

"Peer mediation is a safe and confidential way to work out conflicts," said Johnson. "It's really effective because it gives an objective person to help students solve their problems."

update

Felons and Corpses register to vote in Virginia:

Virginia auditors found that there are more than 11,000 ineligible felons and almost 1,500 corpses who are registered to vote in the state of Virginia. There are 975 felons and 131 corpses registered to vote in Fairfax and Prince William counties alone, making voter lists there among the worst in the state.

According to a problems official, this could undermine the integrity of elections if left as it is. In last November's election 1,700 felons cast ballots statewide, and 144 corpses were recorded as voting. Auditors connect the problem to outdated

computers and poor management at the State Board of Elections.

Deer crashes through church door:

On November 10, a doe crashed through the glass door of a church in Lynchburg, Va., seeking escape from an enamored buck. After trudging through the baptismal pool, it jumped through a rear window and fled. No one was in the church at the time. Neighbors called police after seeing the deer crash through the door.

Metro passes new policy:

A new policy will allow Metro passengers to bring their bikes onto trains during off-peak hours without permit if they abide certain rules. This policy

came about after a six-month experiment which started in May and attracted up to 1,800 bike riders a week. In the past, a Metro rider who wanted to bring a bicycle on the train had to pass a written test on safety rules, fill out liability forms, and pay a \$15 fee, in order to obtain a permit. Now passengers can bring their bicycles onto trains on weekdays between 10a.m. and 2p.m., weekday evenings after 7p.m., all day on weekends, and most federal holidays.

Officials investigate newborn mixup in Charlottesville:

Police investigating the switch of two newborns at the University of Virginia Medical Center three years ago said they have no clear idea of how the mix-up happened. After four months of examining



Maggie Merritt

Senior K.D. Zuk, as Rudolph, greets families at the Tiny Tots concert. The concert was delayed Dec. 10 because of the power outage in much of the building.

medical records and interviewing family members and members of the hospital staff, they also said they found no evidence that anyone deliberately switched the two baby girls. Both infants'

—Compiled by
Jenny Braudaway

Studies favor later opening times

From SLEEP Page 1

start times forward anywhere from 20 minutes to two hours have been proposed, but none have been approved.

Problems with bus transportation, the county budget, and extra-curricular activities have posed as the major obstacles in adopting a program.

A proposed start time of 9 a.m. for high schools and 8 a.m. for elementary schools is expected to cost the county \$31 million, not counting personal expenses.

At a recent meeting, the Fairfax County School Board decided to survey parents in order to determine if there would be a widespread support for later opening times.

The board members think that without the support of parents, no plan would work. "We can do this—we can change the time schools open, we can address the facilities and bus and sports issues—but there are other issues that parents have a right to weigh in on," said board member Gary A. Reese. "In my mind the survey will ask, 'What do you all want to do?'"

The Fairfax County Area One Student Advisory Council (SAC) reviewed this



Sarah Kelbaugh

Studies show that teenagers should get at least eight hours of sleep a night. Because of the early school start time, junior Amanda Purvis tries to make up these hours by sleeping in class.

subject in depth last spring. Forming a committee of student delegates from around Area One, SAC presented a proposal to the School Board.

The proposal cited both sides of the argument in their report, but its findings favored implementing a later start time for high schoolers.

Even if a new start time is accepted, junior Erick Rawlings thinks that it would conflict with his extra-curricular activities and homework.

"If we didn't get out of school until four o'clock then it would be so late before I got home from swim team practice. By the time

I got done with all of my homework I would be going to bed later than I do now and getting the same amount of sleep," said Rawlings.

But later high school opening times are not impossible to implement. In Edina, Minnesota the school officials have changed the start of school from 7:20 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. They have been pleased with the rise in grades and the decrease in discipline problems.

Montgomery County has decided to begin a program next fall where students can choose between start times of 7:25 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

This system gives students who have after school activities the opportunity to continue with the regular start time.

WS bids farewell to veteran teachers

From VETERANS Page 1

interaction," said Shearin. "I've always liked the motto of WS to make the best better and I hope it will always be the motto."

This year Shearin is teaching Spanish 1 and 2 as well as Susan Fernaniz who is student teaching. "She's been a vital member of the department and she'll be missed," said Spanish teacher Barbara Brand.

Principal David Smith is focusing on first finding a replacement for Shearin and then for Natale. He is hoping to fill both positions before or soon after winter break.

Both Shearin and Natale found it hard to leave in the middle of the school year but it was when it was best for them to do it.

"What should have been an easy decision to accept a very interesting position was actually the most difficult decision I've ever had to make because of the teachers and mostly the students I will leave behind," said Natale. "Big Brother will miss you, but will keep watching."

Teens struggle to balance parenthood and school

By Christine Johnson

Photo Editor

Awakened by the sound of a screaming baby, you stumble through the dark to comfort it.

You don't remember the backpains, morning sickness, or painful labor that most mothers experience when giving birth. Nevertheless it's three o'clock in the morning, and you're out of bed trying to quiet her screams before your brother awakens and he is screaming at you.

She's not crying because she's hungry or because she needs a new diaper, this baby isn't a baby at all.

A doll programmed to cry at random points during the day, Baby Think it Over, is a part of the curriculum for the child

development class at WS. It was designed by Rick and Mary Jurman to provide an experience for young adults which simulates the experience of parenting a young infant.

The doll was brought to WS four years ago and students are required to care for it for 24 hours. The doll is approximately seven pounds, 21 inches and comes in six different nationalities. Its demands are unpredictable and they must be met quickly, using a great deal of time and attention.

A small box in the back of the doll is programmed to cry randomly every few hours or when handled incorrectly. When the doll cries, a special probe attached to the parent's wrist must be inserted into the baby's back until it stops crying. For the time

the parents have the baby, the bracelet holding the probe on it cannot be removed from their wrist to make sure that only they can care for the baby.

If the doll is mistreated or isn't attended to promptly when it's crying, then the computer in the box records the treatment through blinking lights as either abuse or neglect.

This year, students caring for the dolls are required to carry diaper bags along with the car seats that were carried in the past.

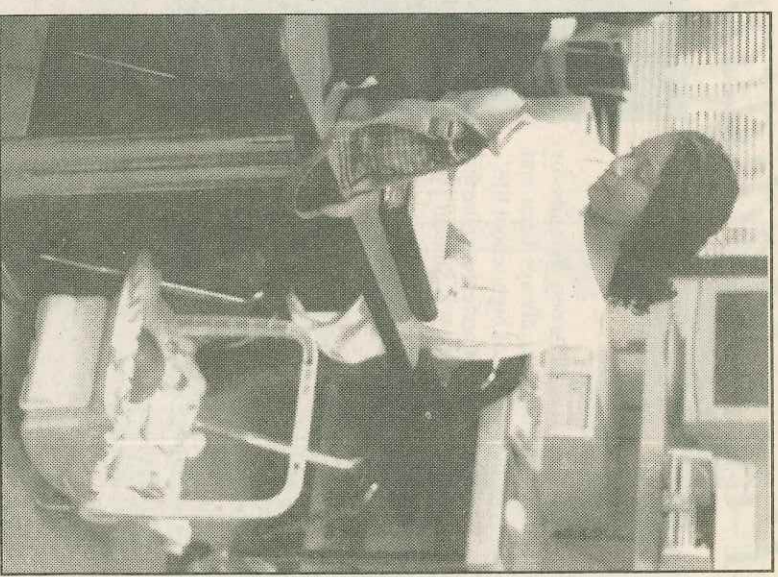
"It makes you realize how much you have to go through if you do have a child," said sophomore Tina Peterson. "You have to be stable and prepared, because you don't get any sleep and don't have time for school." The experience is supposed to

make students think about the decisions involved in having a child. It makes them realize

the many difficulties in being a parent and how hard it is for high school students

to juggle school, jobs, and their social life while caring for a baby. "It scares you," said

sophomore Julie Guttmann. "It made me not want to have a baby until I know I'm ready."



Christine Johnson

Sophomore De-De Hall tends to her school work while caring for her baby from her child development class.



Laura Strzemienski

Junior Erica Kirsch, a *Symposium* member, works to meet the December deadline.

Literary magazine strives to reach top

By Caitlin Marvin
News Assistant

The chance to admire WS students' creative abilities does not arrive often. The *Symposium* staff provides such an opportunity with its annual production of WS' literary art magazine.

"We meet every Wednesday after school to work on the layout and design," said sophomore Bridget Mahoney.

After the deadline for literature submissions, the staff will choose and start placing the work.

On December 10, the staff held a coffee house in Spartan Hall to raise money for the magazine's costly production.

Organized by the staff and their sponsor, English teacher Tricia Kettler, the event invited students to read their own poetry and published poetry, or just to come and listen. They made over \$150 and another reading is being planned for February. The next reading will be open

to not just poetry, but also acoustic music and monologues.

Symposium encourages all students to submit any type of art form. It accepts original essays, short stories, commentaries, feature articles, music compositions, architectural drawings, plays, poems, black and white art including drawings, paintings, crafts, sculpture, graphic designs, and photographs.

All pieces are reviewed on an anonymous basis. The staff then selects the best pieces for display in the magazine.

"We have the students submit their work with no names on it so that it is truly a matter of what the person can do rather than who they are," said senior Phil Turbe. Whether under a true name or a pen name, the result is still the same.

"The *Symposium* shows off what the school can do as a whole," says junior Elaine Giuliani, "and not just what a certain group of

students can do."

The staff works entirely after school hours and is an extracurricular activity that requires strong dedication and effort.

"We may not get as much recognition as *The Oracle* or *The Olympian*, but it takes the exact same effort to put the *Symposium* out as it does any other student run publication," says junior Giamina Ferraiuolo. "And I think we're all doing a pretty good job."

The awards and recognition that the *Symposium* receives proves just how professional a job the staff does. They won a 1998 VHSL First Place award, and the 1997 staff won the VHSL Trophy Class Award as well as a Gold Medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

"We're just going to continue working hard," said senior editor Judy Serlin, "and try to produce the best *Symposium* yet."

IM: Typing replaces talking

By Meredith McClure
Sports Editor

In a time where each household has a computer and multiple phone lines, the teenager that once grabbed the phone and talked for hours, now races to log on and start chatting.

This vast expansion of communication for the teenager is compliments of America Online and other instant-message services.

Instant messaging is equivalent to a phone call, whereas instead of talking two people communicate in real time by typing back and forth.

The most popular feature of the software is the personal Buddy List window box. The Buddy List includes online names

of the people you want to exchange instant messages with and also notifies you when one of those people on your list goes online. It is this convenient feature which draws most teenagers to instant messaging and keeps them hooked.

"Instant messaging is good for lazy people like me because you don't have to do anything," said freshman Tejas Singh. "You're already logged on and then you see your friend is on too, so you might as well talk to them." The service allows a person to talk to a lot of different people at the same time by creating a different screen for each conversation. "The cool part about

instant messaging is that instead of just talking to one person on the phone, I can talk to a lot of my friends at the same time," said sophomore Tom Frederick.

Instant messaging is offered free of charge to any user with Internet connections. Many students take advantage of this free service to talk to friends in other states, or those attending colleges without having to pay expensive long distance phone bills.

"I keep track of all my friends at college and people I've met from different states through instant messaging," said senior Jayme Kaniewski. "The price is right and it's convenient."



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Canned food drive brings in a bundle

By Meredith Caudle
ETC Editor

Seniors Joanna and Meg Better's 68 cans of fruits and veggies, and junior German exchange student Christoph Heiter's oversized cans of sauerkraut helped the SGA boost donations in its annual canned-food drive, although fewer than half of the school's fifth-period classes participated.

The 5th-period journalism class netted about 800 cans in the November drive, enough to earn the students a pizza party, courtesy of the SGA. Only 20 out

of 50 fifth-period classes contributed to the effort.

During the week-long drive, students brought in canned food to their fifth-period classes. At the end of the week SGA officers collected the cans and donated them to a local charitable organization.

While her students are happy about the pizza, teacher Brooke Nelson said she encouraged them to participate because "so many people are hungry."

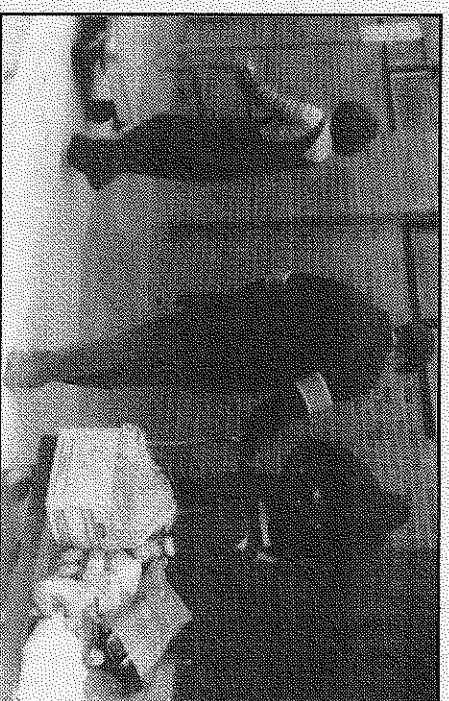
For the second year in a row, Nelson gave her 38 students the option of donating cans instead of taking a 20-point style manual

quiz. Only four of Nelson's students chose to take the quiz.

"We never actually count the cans," said SGA sponsor Jen Owens. "We just look and see which class appears to have the most, but Mrs. Nelson's class had a room full of cans."

By the end of the week the class, which is home to the students in Journalism 2, 3 and 4 who produce *The Oracle*, brought in enough cans to cover two tables and the floor at the front of the classroom.

Last year, Sharon Caldwell's freshman PE class won the party. Caldwell, who let students donate



Jessica Williams
SGA officers Lauren Cullumber, Kevin May and Rosco Newsum cart proceeds from the food drive during the collection.

instead of running laps, does not teach a fifth period this year.

Nelson "strongly encouraged" her students to get involved.

"They learn something," she said. Owens, too, said she believes that the drive teaches students "a life lesson. Most kids in this school are not in need and never will be." The SGA held another

drive before the winter holiday. Some, reflecting on apparent student apathy, thought WS could do more.

"I think it's really selfish that people couldn't even bring in one can," said junior Jen Coratolo. "We would be helping so many more people if everyone participated."

Spartan Profiles

JOHN BYRNS

By Myles Curran
Special to the Oracle

Freshmen don't always start at the bottom, and freshman John Byrns provides the proof.

This year, Byrns became the first WS freshman ever to audition directly into Design and Production. He was allowed to register for the course last spring with the permission of former drama director Sandra Welch. This fall, new drama director Mary Jo Levesque upheld Welch's decision.

"Originally I had an interview with former drama teacher Mrs. Welch after Irving's drama teacher Mrs. O'Brien sent her a letter of recommendation," said Byrns. "Then Mrs. Welch left so I had to go to all this hassle to see if I was still in the class, but luckily I was."

The twist to Byrns' situation is that he never actually took theater arts classes

during his two years at Irving, although he did work on the school's plays as an extra-curricular activity. Byrns thinks this is what makes his present achievement even more interesting.

"I'm not really interested in the acting part of theater," said Byrns. "So I decided to try to get in Design and Production, because I would have felt uncomfortable in theater arts."

When Byrns made the decision to enter the theater arts department, he did not anticipate enrolling in the class that he is currently

a member of. "I thought I would like to take theater, but I didn't think that I would end up being in Design and Production during my first year."

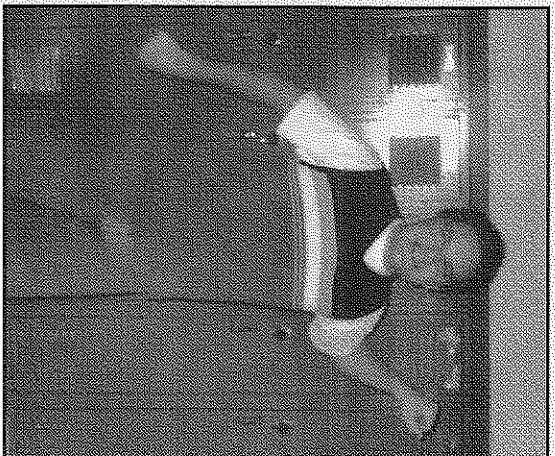
One might think that being the youngest student in a class would expose a person to much

teasing and unfair treatment. In contrast, Byrns feels comfortable in the class and even earned the impressive position of co-sound head during the recent Fall Play Festival.

"I thought I would be abused a little, but Mrs. Levesque made a huge deal about me being the first freshman, so nobody does anything to me," said Byrns. "I've actually made some friends in the class, they're all really, really nice to me."

Now that the thrill of his position has worn off, Byrns faces the decision of whether he wants to continue on with higher level Design and Production classes.

"I really like this class, it's so much fun," said Byrns. "Some of the people say I'll probably take the class all of my four years at WS. I don't really know how long I'll continue, but for right now I'll stick with it."



Ellen Waylonis
Freshman John Byrns relaxes after finishing his work on the Fall Play Festival.



CASEY HENNESSEY
By Jenny Braudaway
Features Assistant

Sure, it looks good on college applications, but there are better reasons to do community service. In fact, junior Casey Hennessey doesn't even mention the phrase college applications when talking about his frequent and continual involvement in the community.

"It's fun. I want to be more involved in my community," said Hennessey. "I like working with little kids. I think little kids are cool."

Hennessey belongs to the Interact Club, a group that deals with drugs, alcohol, and serving the community.

"[We] go to schools and talk to little kids about drugs," said Hennessey. "[We] go to nursing homes and talk to the old people. Because none of their families go and see them that often, we just go and hang out with them."

Last year the Interact Club helped out with the AIDS quilt that was displayed in

the auditorium. Members hung the panels in the auditorium and gave tours of the quilt. Hennessey was a speaker there.

Other acts of service Hennessey has performed include helping kids through a community baseball game and dressing up as the Easter Bunny for a nursing home.

"An old lady fell in love with me too," said Hennessey. "She thought I was the most beautiful Easter Bunny she had ever seen."

For those interested in becoming more active in the community, the Interact Club is a good way to start.

"Everyone thinks it's this boring club because all we do is talk about drugs and stuff, but it's a lot more," said Hennessey. "If we had a greater amount of people we could do more with it and it would be more fun."



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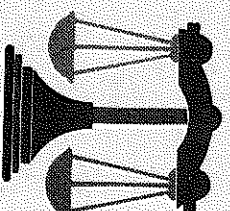
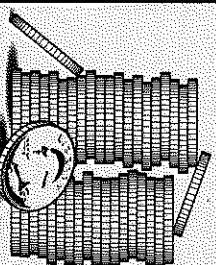
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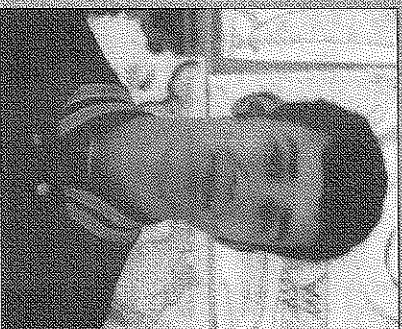


What's your
favorite part of the
holidays?



Mindy
Clark
senior

"Putting the Christmas tree
up on my birthday -
December 8. I get to spend
a lot of quality time with
my family."



Alan
Chambers
junior

"We always build a lot of
fires and I get to go
snowboarding in Utah."

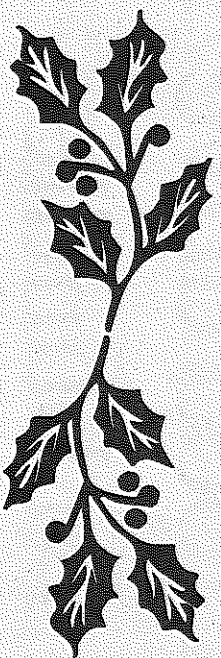


Erica
Jacobs
freshman

"You get lots of presents and
get to spend time with
your family."

- Compiled by Amy Whipple and Nikki
Welking

- Photos by Christine Johnson and
Laura Strzeminski



H O L I

Christmas in Vietnam

By Melissa Tran
News Section Editor

There's nothing I enjoy more than waking up on Christmas morning, looking outside my window, and seeing big snowflakes fall from the sky. This year when I travel to Vietnam for Christmas I'll have other things to look forward to, none of which are snow.

Spending Christmas in my native country provides a different experience, one that I first encountered four years ago when I spent my first Christmas in Vietnam. It was the first time I had ever visited the country where my parents grew up and where my roots are. It was definitely a trip to remember. Packing swimwear, shorts, and sandals set the mood for the winter trip. I knew this would be different from any other winter vacation I had taken.

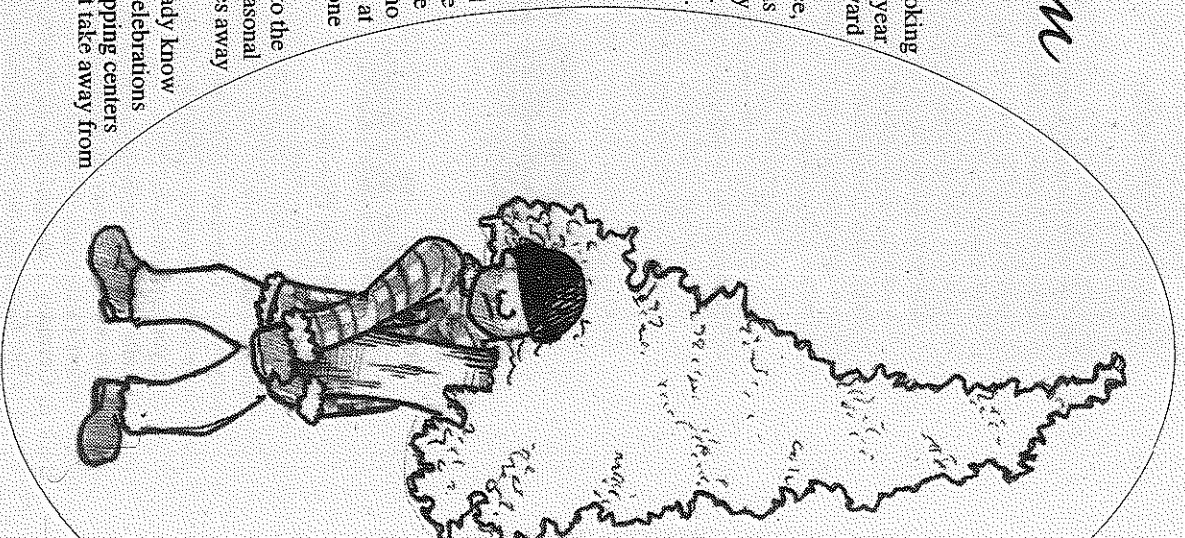
Although I missed the flannel pajamas and bear slippers, the 80 degree December weather in Vietnam was a pleasant change aside from the massive mosquito influx.

In the days leading up to Christmas and even on the actual day, the colorful decorations were going up everywhere from store windows to housefronts to people's vehicles.

I clearly remember driving down a street, gazing out the window and seeing a couple riding home on a moped. A man operated the vehicle while the woman sitting behind him had a plastic pre-decorated Christmas tree strapped to the seat. Cheesy and lame? Yes, quite possibly, but there are no fits growing around the country in Vietnam, so artificial trees are sold at local shopping centers and markets. I took great pleasure in seeing everyone get in the spirit of the season.

On Christmas night, my family and I went out on a dinner boat similar to the Dandy of Georgetown. Dinner was served and a small band played happy seasonal songs while we ate. It was a great feeling to see that even thousands of miles away in a different country, some traditions are still the same.

This year I will travel back to Vietnam during Christmas. Since I already know what to expect, I look forward to the trip with lots of excitement. The celebrations may not be as extravagant, the temperature may be twice as high, the shopping centers may not be as developed, and the sales may not be as big, but that doesn't take away from the true spirit of the holiday that people can enjoy anywhere.



Keeping age-old traditions alive

By Emily Harris
Features Editor

The tree must be real. No imitations will be accepted. The scent of fresh pine needles circulating through the house completes the Christmas season. In other words, Christmas would not be Christmas without this special aroma.

Each year we pick out our tree from the local charity lot. An evergreen will make the perfect Christmas tree if it has needles, branches, and a supporting trunk. Having a straight trunk and strong, nicely fallen branches will only add to its splendor.

After my family finally agrees on the right tree, we pay for it, and tie it to the roof of our van. Slow and steady, we travel the distance home. The kids peer out of the window,

making
sure the tree
remains in
its place.
Never once
have we
lost a tree to
the highway,
but we keep
watching
the road
and roof
intensely.

When we
never setup
the tree
right away.
It sits in a
five gallon
bucket for
several
days in the
garage
before
being
hailed into
the
rearranged

living room. Then the painstaking task of setting it up straight in its holder occurs.

The lights go on first, some blink, some bubble, and some are burned out and cause the whole string of lights not to work. We then hang our own personal ornaments on the tree. I have my own shoe box filled with cheesy decorations that I made in second grade. One of my favorite decorations is my tiny stuffed Gus, the fat mouse from "Cinderella". I got him from one of the fast food restaurant's happy meals and have treasured him since.

For the first half of December the tree stands alone with only two brass reindeer resting beneath it. Not until after the December birthdays are the presents allowed under the tree. After the 16th of December, gifts of all shapes and sizes,

wrapped in
bright
holiday
paper,
slowly
accumulate
under its
low hanging
branches.

After
Santa
comes, the
lights
remains
towering in
our living
room. Dead
pine needles
build up on
the carpet,
forcing us to
vacuum
hourly.
After New
Year's, our
"perfect
tree" is

recycled into
mulch.



Seniors Emily Harris, Meredith Caudle, Stacy Eichhorn and Christine Johnson keep with tradition and visit Santa at Reston Town Center.

Reston Town Center

D A Z E

Celebrating American-style

By Chris Heuer
Business Assistant

Spending Christmas away from home — for some people it is just unthinkable, for me it is reality.

Some of you may think that homesickness reaches a climax during Christmas time. Actually, it does not. Of course, it would be nice to spend this time of the year with my family in Germany, but since I'm living here with a host family I feel like being home anyway. Besides, being an exchange student also means to be open for new customs and traditions.

Certainly there are huge differences between the way Germans and Americans celebrate Christmas. In Germany, people observe it on the evening of December 24. In my family, it is a tradition to eat goose and to give and receive presents. But there is at least one reason I'm looking forward to spending the holidays far away from home. Every Christmas at about 9 p.m., our living room turns into a place from which you can't escape. It is then time for the annual slideshow.

To me, this is a cruel act, showing pictures which I would prefer to forget. Every year I have to endure such repetitive comments as, "Christoph, look how cute you are," and "Oh, your eyes are closed." I really hope that my parents won't send these slides to my host family. It would be my nightmare before Christmas.

Back in Germany I thought that an American Christmas is like Christmas in those movies such as "Home Alone" and "The National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation." I still couldn't figure out how the holidays are really celebrated.

During my first observation, I saw that the Christmas season starts very early here. It is kind of strange to read those ads that say: "Ho, ho, ho. Visit Santa Claus on November 20 at the Mall!"

What I probably miss most during Christmas is the festive but quiet atmosphere in my hometown. I always enjoyed it to visit the "Weihnachtsmarkt." This is an open air Christmas

fair on the marketplace where people just walk around and buy presents. Here you go to the mall, rush from store to store, and get annoyed from songs like "White Christmas" that roar out of the loudspeakers.

However, I'm looking forward to experiencing my first American Christmas. To all of you: Frohe Weihnachten.



Illustrations by Matt Wood

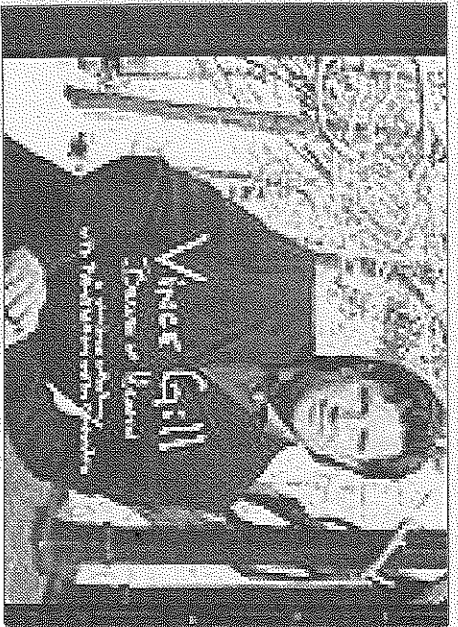
Remixing Holiday Classics

By Abby Curran
Oracle Editor

Jolly Ol' St. Nick must be crying somewhere. And who can blame him, judging from the ridiculous array of Christmas albums currently barraging music stores.

Holiday favorites, such as "Jingle Bells" and "The First Noel," are ruined routinely by pop artists who think that they hold the right to re-make the classics. Since when did the world admire Mariah Carey's incessant screaming over the King crooning "Blue Christmas?"

Unfortunately, many people today actually enjoy the vocal abilities of Carey. In fact, she filled the number seven spot on Billboard's Best-Selling 1997 Christmas chart. The number one spot on the chart, of course, went to the precocious Hanson brothers with their instant classic "Snowed In."



Vince Gill's #1 Christmas Album

But those two aren't even the worst offenders. Country star Vince Gill definitely wins the prize for destroying the most Christmas carols. In the great holiday spirit, he blessed us with Christmas albums both last year and this year. Yes, "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and "Breath of Heaven" are both now available for our listening pleasure.

In an Entertainment Weekly interview, Gill claimed that he wanted to record an album that would include only traditional holiday favorites.

"A lot of country Christmas albums don't sell much because artists cut 'em in the vein of their hit records," said Gill. "But nine times out of 10, people want to hear Crosby or Sinatra, where it sounds like Christmas music."

It's good to know that Gill is looking out for us. Perhaps this subject bothers me so much because I live through it every holiday season. Starting the day after Thanksgiving - never sooner and never later - my father plays Christmas music constantly. Our CD collection, already too large, reaches ridiculous proportions this time of year; we own about 15-20 Christmas CDs. Granted, the selections do not include Hanson, although there are still a few obscure ones: "Celtic Christmas" and "Wassail! Wassail! A Colonial Christmas" come to mind.

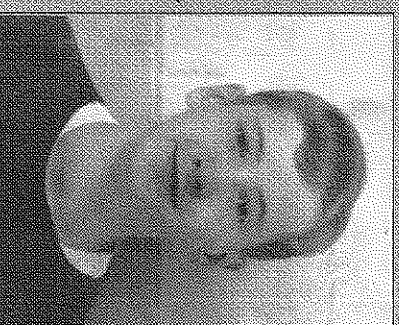
But what I really want to know is this: why do people no longer have respect for the Christmas holiday? Allowing such silly contemporary artists to destroy music that generations of Americans have enjoyed cheapens the originals; it also cheapens the holiday itself. Unfortunately, I can't offer solutions. About all that I can do is warn people about the sadness this situation must be bringing to poor Ol' St. Nick.

Kirsten
Kidwell
teacher



"The Christmas cookies! In my family, it's a tradition for each member of the family to bring different kinds of cookies for the family to eat on Christmas."

Mate
Cichowski
sophomore



"Seeing people like family members that you can't otherwise. Sometimes it's hard being around them when you only see them once a year and they don't understand what's going on in your life."

Jessica
Schilcher
junior



"Listening to all the holiday music, sitting in front of the fire, and catching up on much needed rest."

Old movies live again

By Kelly Alm
Viewpoint Assistant

America has received a blast from the past as old movies strike back.

Major film studios are currently releasing classic hits to the big screen, including "Grease," "Gone with the Wind" and "The Wizard of Oz." The rebirth of these old favorites connects people with the past and gives newer generations the chance to view the all-time classics. A definite demand for old titles has become prevalent among Americans. People of previous generations enjoy movies like "Grease" that take them back to the bubble-gum 50's and the leather-jacket, hairspray, swivel-hop era.

"Going back to see 'Grease,' which was released in 1978, was like flipping through an old yearbook," said Daniel Lawler, father of senior Bethany Lawler. The movie "Grease" also provides entertainment for kids of our generation. With tight denim, characters named Zucko, and unwashed hair and songs like "Greased Lightning," the movie is a

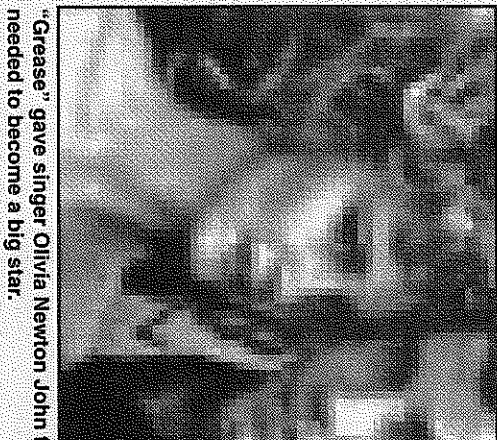
veritable time-machine back to the 60's. "Movies like 'Grease' are actually pretty funny sometimes, with leather and slicked hair, and all that crazy stuff," said senior Aaron Barth.

With the successful dusting off of "Grease," Warner Brothers has also released "Gone with the Wind," a Civil War classic. The movie takes place during the Civil War and is filled with dramatic love and war scenes, with big names of the '30s such as Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh.

Warner Brothers has also produced a digitally restored version of "The Wizard of Oz." It is the same film but with better sound and print. "The Wizard of Oz" still remains one of the most enjoyed movies of all time, with munchkins, a tin man, yellow brick roads, and witches. However, it is still a classic, and more importantly one that the whole family can enjoy. First released in 1939, but also a

legendary kid flick of our time and now revived in 1998, both parents and siblings can appreciate it.

"There's nothing like seeing it on the big screen. It's definitely a classic," said senior Kellee Jaques. In an era of movies filled with violence,



"Grease" gave singer Olivia Newton John the exposure she needed to become a big star.

computer-generated scenes and animation, many people feel America more innocent and simple, and more family oriented," said junior Rickl Kirsch.



"Gone with the Wind" won 10 Academy Awards in 1939.

needs to rediscover the classics. Knife fighting was the extent of violence, and in "The Wizard of Oz," color was the newest invention and computers was somewhere over the rainbow. "America needs to bring back the classics. They are

Deck the TV with boughs of holly...

By Caitlyn Kelleher
News Editor

I have celebrated the Christmas season in the traditional way for many years.

This consists of watching the TV series specials, TV and bigscreen movies, parades, and the other special holiday shows.

The Claymation version of "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" is on every year. The movie relates the story of the Abominable Snowman, little Rudolph growing up, and of Santa's eyes. I love watching this movie because of it's

sweetness and happy tone. It's such a heart warming show that gets us ready for the holidays.

There are also the old movies. Every year at least once I watch "Miracle on Thirty Fourth Street" and a movie about a depressed adult returning to their childhood town. The past two years the movie has been CBS's "Christmas In My Old Hometown."

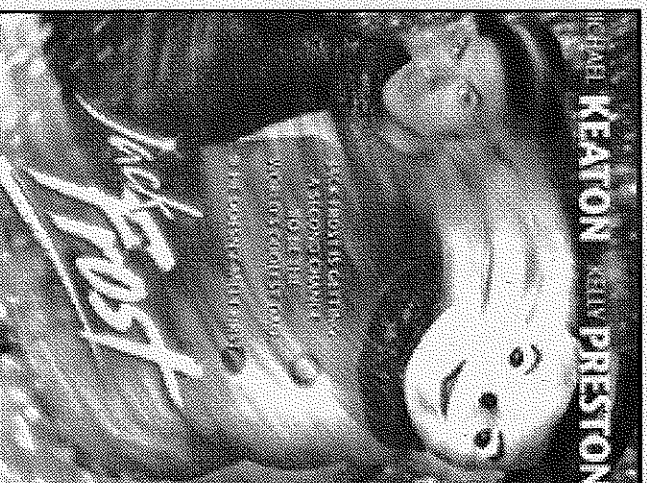
I know I sound sarcastic, but I love these specials. I enjoy sitting down and commenting to anyone who will listen about their cominess and sappiness.

On every year is "A Wonderful Life," the Jimmy Stewart feel good classic that gave us the famous quote, "Everytime that a bell rings, an angel gets it's wings."

"A Christmas Story," and "White Christmas" are also a consistent presence in December. Recent holiday seasons have also brought about a modern twist in some new movies to the holiday TV lineup.

Not only do I love to watch movies celebrates the holidays, but I love to watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. I love watching the Color Guard performers and wishing I could be one of them.

The music and watching Santa Claus come to town has become an annual tradition in my house. Parades



In "Jack Frost", Michael Keaton comes back in the shape of a snowman after he dies.

also include Disney's Thanksgiving and Christmas parades, as well as many more. These are followed by the never ending football games. I really

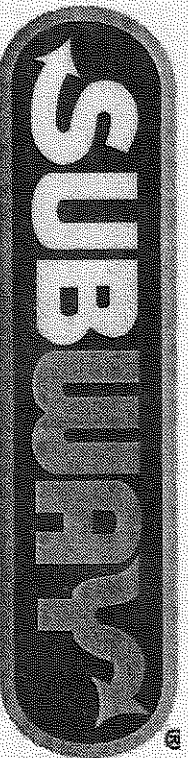
love watching the Color Guard performers and wishing I could be one of them. The music and watching Santa Claus come to town has become an annual tradition in my house. Parades

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Old dogs learn ageless tricks

Musicians from the 70's still turning out chart-topping songs

By Mike Spector
News Editor

Imagine liking the same kind of music as your parents. The scary possibility is reality for the many fans of bands that have been making music since the '70s and '80s.

Certain musical talents have managed to keep putting out album after album for at least a decade. These bands have been able to enjoy success on for a long time by producing good music that adapts to the times.

"Adaptability allows bands to last," said senior Steve Jacobs. "Good bands change with the times."

U2 has topped the charts for years. In the early '80s, it was "Sunday Bloody Sunday," a song about the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. In 1987, the Irish band made its mark with a simple mellow tune, "With or Without You." As the '90s close out, U2's latest album, "Pop," delves into the world of techno.

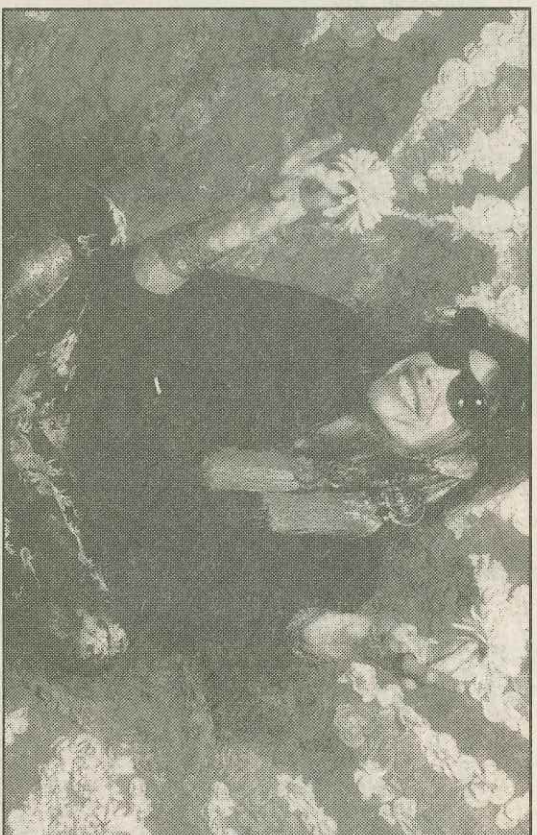
Since the seventies, bands like the Rolling Stones and Aerosmith

have dominated the classic rock scene. These musical acts have managed to please generations of listeners by providing albums that make powerful statements while still retaining the band's classic sound. The Rolling Stones have recently proved their ability to last with the release of their

"Bridges to Babylon" album, a compilation of many of their old hits. Aerosmith, after struggling in the early eighties, made an amazing comeback and has been immensely popular with people of all ages for years. Their "Nine Lives" album, released last year,

followed by the recent "A Little South of Sanity," brought a new

musical interpretations. Madonna has done the same; her hit singles



Steven Tyler's goopy, spontaneous personality and entertaining stage shows contributed to Aerosmith's long term success.

surge of fans to this ubiquitous classic rock band.

One man acts follow the same pattern. Michael Jackson breathes the music industry. From "Beat it," to "Thriller," to "Black or White," Jackson has explored different concepts and

lead singer, Steven Tyler and his big lips and Van Halen's use of the provocative David Lee Roth as well as Sammy Hagar and Gary Cherone to form different chapters of their band all bring fan and media appeal.

"Publicity grabs the fans," said junior Sean Bury. "Without the fans, most bands wouldn't be where they are."

Some musicians have lasted since the late '60s and early '70s. Billy Joel has been successful for a number of years and has also adapted. "Piano Man," contrasts with "We Didn't Start the Fire," a hit that had fans singing the song.

Blues singer Eric Clapton played guitar with the band Cream before going solo. Appearances on MTV's "Vrplugged" have kept the singer in business. So has his hit single, "Tears in Heaven," which appeared on the soundtrack of the movie "Rush" this year, along with his new album, "Pilgrim," have kept the singer popular.

America's wake-up call

Radio morning shows help listeners face the day

By Ked Whitmore
Assignment Editor

For most students, the morning commute to school is a time of sleepiness, bleary eyes, and sometimes panic. But for radio stations, morning is a time to make big bucks.

With so many people commuting to work and school in the same general timeframe (about 6 to 10 am), particularly in the Washington area, morning hours are a time of concentrated listening. For this reason, many local stations put on their best and brightest deejays at this hour.

The morning show format is also different, usually containing a mix of news, weather, and traffic along with the usual variety of music.

In addition, many stations rely on the charisma and humor of their disc jockeys to carry the show. One of the most popular and familiar of these weekday warriors is local legend the Greaseman, whose own brand of raunchy humor graces the airwaves of classic rock 94.7 from 5:30 to 10 A.M. Of course,

no discussion of "shock DJ's" can be complete without the pioneer, Howard Stern, who is on 106.7 in the mornings.

By contrast, some stations, such as DC 101, offer more music and less talk in the morning with the "all request morning show."

Morning show "Billy Bush and the Bush League" airs every morning on Z104 from 5am-9am. The hosts of the show are Billy Bush and Janet Elliot. They have lots of fun contests and prizes that can be won.

Another fun morning program airs on 97.1 WASH FM. This program is another fun station to listen to in the morning. It's not real hard core music. They have a contest called "Battle of the Sexes." Women compete in a trivia contest against men in which prizes are



Conservatives have tried to kick Howard Stern's radio show in several cities.

won from vacations to movie tickets.

For those people who enjoy news in the morning WMAL 630 AM is a good station to listen to. Tim Brant and Andy Parks host the program. They too have contests for certain prizes. They also interview news personalities such as Sam Donaldson, and Cokie Roberts. WMAL always has the latest from the news world. People who enjoy the good old songs should listen to Oldies 100. They have a fun mix of news and music. They also have drawings that you can enter to win big cash prizes and trips.

Restaurant Review:

P.F. Chang's

By Jennifer Schonberger
Entertainment Assistant

It's surprising how well soy sauce and Z104 mix together. Walking into P.F. Chang's, located in Tysons Galleria, I noticed the hard wooden floors, the lively chatter of the yuppy crowd, and the enthusiastic love advice of song artist Robyn, echoing through the restaurant. Listening to the perky pop music, I caught the delicious scent of the authentic Chinese cuisine.

After being greeted, the waiter gave us an oral presentation of the menu and proceeded to recommend the most popular appetizer on the menu: "The lettuce wrap," which consists of a fresh piece of lettuce shaped in a bowl with chicken inside. We were to wrap it like a tortilla. The waiter made a hot sweet sauce, which consisted of soy sauce, oyster sauce, and a Chinese spicy sauce in which we were to dip the lettuce wrap. The contrast of the lettuce with the chicken was surprisingly excellent. The fresh lettuce made the appetizer refreshing.

Afterwards, the waiter brought out our entrees. One of the dishes was "Chang's Spicy Chicken" which are lightly breaded chunks of chicken stir fried in a sweet Szechwan sauce. The chicken was very savory. It was sweet but very spicy.

Another popular dish is "Dan Dan Noodles" which is scallions, garlic, and chilis sauteed with ground chicken on top of hot egg noodles.

The prices are moderate and the food is served family style. There are many varieties of food. There is beef, chicken, seafood, salads, soups, noodles, rice, and vegetarian chow. None of the dishes contain MSG.

I enjoyed the restaurant very much. It's a fun, authentic place to be. I recommend to go and try it.

"I'm not a big fan of Chinese food, but I really did enjoy P.F. Chang's," said sophomore Elaine Rush. "The decor was very original too."

The food at P.F. Chang's is not like regular Chinese food. It's different, but in a good way. The combinations that they come up with are so different, but taste excellent. I highly recommend this restaurant.

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Nationally ranked Spartans aim for another state title

By Joey Tinsley
Sports Assistant

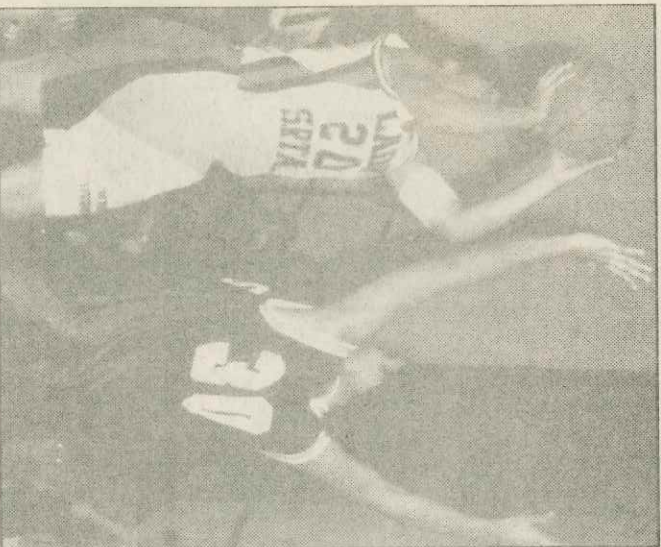
The 1998 Lady Spartans are hoping once again to return to the glory of Virginia AAA state champions. This season they started out ranked at number 18 in the USA Today top 25 list.

Eleven out of the 14 players are returning to the squad, six of them seniors. The returning seniors are Colleen Mellwraith, Tracy Mayrant, Megan Hammerer, Kara Lawson, Jen Shannon, and Joanna

on the squad, and freshmen Sella Monroe and Leah Roach.

The Lady Spartans are seeking their second Virginia AAA State Championship in three years. This season they have a good chance at winning the state title.

The coaching staff is one reason why the team is so successful. Coaches can make the difference between a good team, and a great team. The coaching staff is made up of head coach Bill Gibson, and



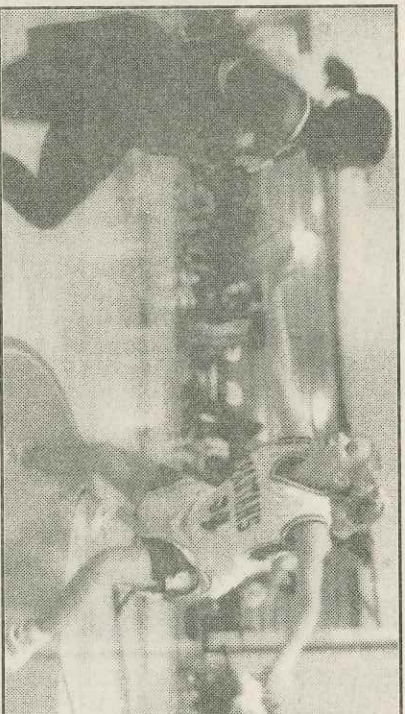
Oracle file photo

Senior guard Kara Lawson is the team's leading scorer. She recently signed a national letter-of-intent to play for the University of Tennessee next year.

Jeruzal, Lawson and Shannon are the captains. Returning juniors include Lynn Frangipane, Lisa Leininger, and Kathy Wainwright. Sophomore returners are Katherine Fill and Meghan Ogilvie. In addition to the returners, junior Naquecia Harper is

assistant coaches Bill Langlosh and Chip Delice.

Gibson has been the head coach at WS for the past 13 seasons. In each of his 13 seasons he has led the Lady Spartans to 13 consecutive winning



Laura Strzemieniski

Senior co-captain Jenn Shannon applies defensive pressure during a scrimmage. She is one of the team's 11 returning players.

seasons.

The Lady Spartans have one goal for the season, to win it all.

"Our two toughest opponents this season will be Madison and Robinson," said Gibson, "but I think we can beat them both."

Gibson hopes that this team will be as good as last year but says that this year's team is different than the team of two years ago. The team two years ago wanted it bad, but it's too early to see how this year's team will react.

Our depth is not as good as I would like right now, but I'm sure it will improve greatly as the year goes on," said Gibson, "that's where we sank ourselves last year. We got into foul

trouble and could not afford for anyone to foul out, so we could not afford to play man to man and press."

The role of team leader is handled by Lawson, who won the Gatorade Virginia Player of the Year award as a junior. She will attend the University of Tennessee on a basketball scholarship next year.

There are several key players this year for the post and the outside shot. Down low Jeruzal Mayrant, and Harper will be

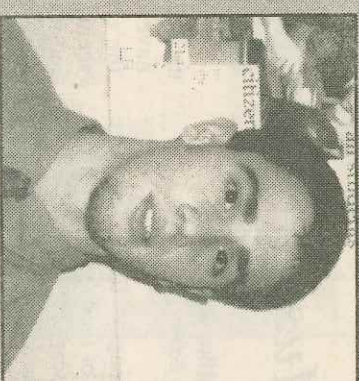
three of the key players, while Lawson, Shannon, Fill, and Monroe are all threats for the outside shot.

Talent and an excellent coaching staff put together can be a lethal combination to opposing teams. The team has used this combination to start the season 5-0. After an impressive 62-41 win over Madison to start the season, the Spartans won their next to games by an average of 49 points.



Laura Strzemieniski

Freshman Sella Monroe guards an opponent on the perimeter while Kara Lawson defends the interior.



Meet

Jeff Scudder

Boys Varsity Basketball
Senior Guard

Other sport: Football

Season outlook: "We're all really confident that we can improve greatly from last season"

College plans: Attending a school that's in the Atlantic Coast Conference or the Southeastern Conference

College sports participation: Basketball and/or football

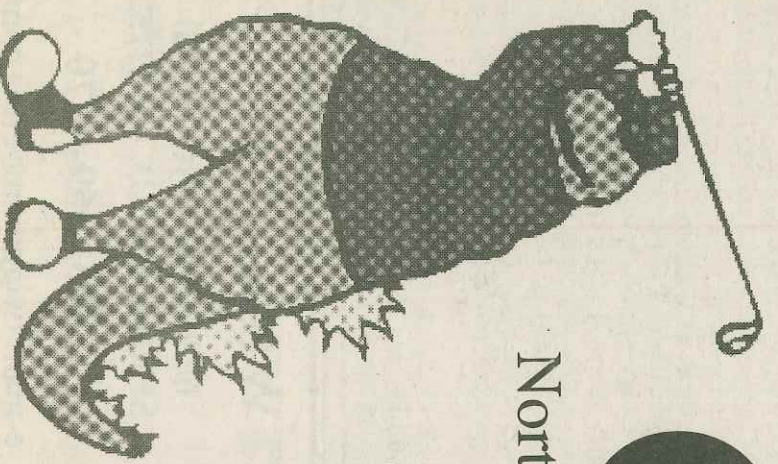
Pre-game ritual: Putting on a uniform

Favorite spare time activity: Hanging out with friends and making people laugh

Best sports memory: Winning the State Cup in soccer

Favorite quote: "It's what you learn after you know it all that counts"

Compiled by Mike Waldron



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New track staff builds team unity with unique methods

By Joanna Beiter
Assignment Editor

Playing ultimate frisbee, tag relays, and scavenger hunts. Just another tough track practice.

With an entirely new coaching staff this year the track program is turning over a new leaf. Focused on teamwork and building a promising future, the coaches are concentrating on the younger, upcoming stars.

"Although it may take time adjusting, we have a promising future," said senior captain Matt Scherrer. It will take time adjusting to the new staff hired after former head coach Phil

Saunders left the program last year. None of the staff from past years carried over. The new head coach is Greg Rowe, who is assisted by Allen Robertshaw and Bernadette Flynn.

"It's my feeling we can develop unity," said Rowe. "I'd like to see a much more well-rounded program." Rowe joins the program after leaving a five year coaching job at Edison High School and five years at Hayfield Secondary School.

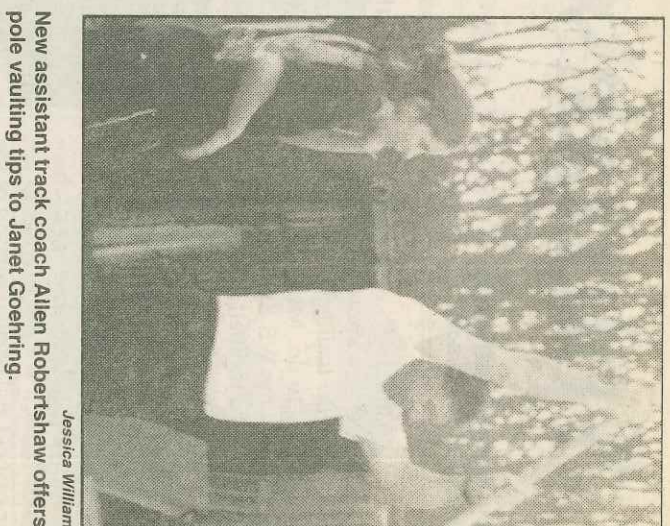
The entire coaching staff is emphasizing the team concept, incorporating games, scavenger hunts, ultimate frisbee, and relays to have fun. The captains have a

lot of responsibility, warming up the team and leading drills.

"It's neat to be coaching at WS," said Flynn. "There are great traditions here, and the team has performed well in the past." Flynn, a PE teacher at WS for four of the past five years, wanted to teach and coach at the same school. She coached at McLean and Robert E. Lee high school's for the past ten years. Happy to be coaching at WS, she is motivated to build a strong team with the other coaches as well.

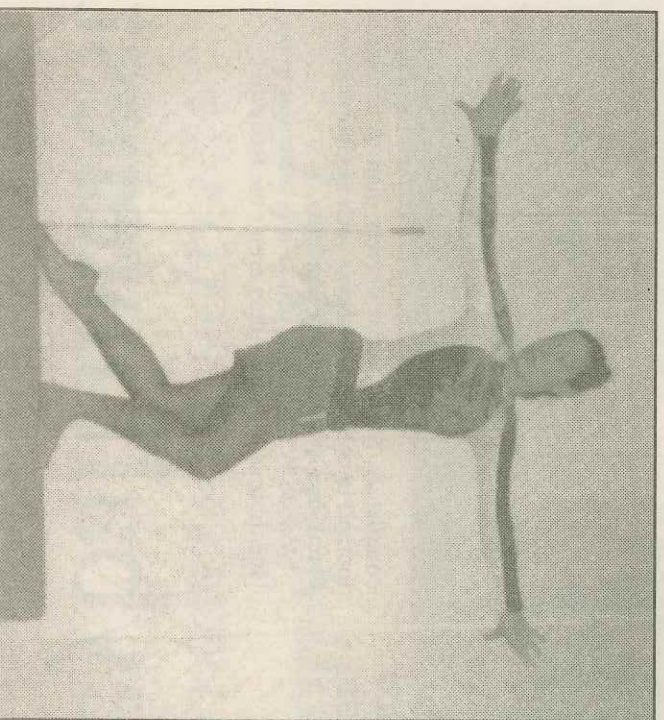
Assistant coach Robertshaw, a decathlon trained athlete, has always felt motivated to coach, even his competition.

"One time I was competing against an opponent who looked as though he was going to break his ankle every time he jumped off the board [in the pole vault]," said Robertshaw. "I helped him move the board over [to a better position] and he beat me by a quarter of an inch." He hopes to give the athletes he



Jessica Williams
New assistant track coach Allen Robertshaw offers pole vaulting tips to Janet Goehring.

trains on the field events proper technique instruction, especially the new girl pole vaulters who will be competing for the first time this year.



Ellen Waylonis

Young gymnastics team starts off well in opening competitions

By Erin Muir
Entertainment Editor

Most people never walk on a four-inch wide plank of wood, much less do cartwheels and handstands on it.

Every day, the WS gymnastics team does just that when preparing for another competition.

The gymnastics team kicked off the season with a second place finish to Robinson on December 2, beating Woodson and Jefferson. At the first home meet on December 9, they placed second again, missing winning by only six-tenths

of a point. On December 12, they competed at the South Lakes Invitational.

That meet was "a good chance for them to display their skills before a large audience," said Coach Jill McKallip.

The team, led by Captains Jackie Chmar and Heather Eisinger, is slightly less experienced than in years past.

"This year we have a lot of new people and a new coach," said Chmar. "Our coach is also a judge so she has been extremely helpful in improving our routines. The new gymnasts have also helped

the team."

However, they are working hard, practicing between five and six days a week for two to three hours per practice.

"Our goal is to have as many girls as possible compete in as many events as possible," said McKallip.

The girls compete in four events; floor, beam, uneven bars and the vault. Each event presents a challenge, both mentally and physically.

"The beam is hardest because it is the easiest to make a mistake on it and fall off," said Chmar.

ORACLE STATS

BOYS

BASKETBALL

WS 52-Madison 36
WS 49-Yorktown 64
WS 52-Lee 83

GIRLS

SWIMMING

WS 172-Robinson 143
WS 228-Hayfield 107
WS 223-Falls Church 92

BOYS TRACK

WS finished in second place at a three team meet at Episcopal

WRESTLING

WS finished 20 out of 32 teams at the Northern Virginia Wrestling Classic

GIRLS

BASKETBALL

WS 62-Madison 41
WS 83-Yorktown 40
WS 80-Lee 25

BOYS

SWIMMING

WS 130-Robinson 172
WS 192-Hayfield 122
WS 228-Falls Church 79

GIRLS TRACK

WS finished in third place at a three team meet at Episcopal

GYMNASTICS

WS placed second at a four team meet at Thomas Jefferson

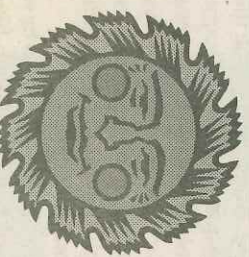
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Spartans=Redskins? No way!

By Amy Hawthorne
Special to The Oracle

The Redskins, otherwise known as the "Deadskins," are known for one thing and one thing only this year: losing. It is the one thing the "Skins" know how to do. Many people in the Springfield area look at the WS Spartans the same way.

But are the football Spartans really that bad? WS' 4-6 District record did not make them champions, but shows they did something right on the field this season.

WS fans sometimes compare this year's team with previous ones, which makes it hard for the players to get the respect and needed support of the fans.

"I think back to my football days," said Receiver Coach Mat Shannon. "We were a strong team with a lot of talent." During the 1993 season, Shannon, along with Brandon Fleck, Jason Van Camp and Damone Boone, led the team to a 9-3 record, winning the Patriot District. "Before us, the last time [WS] won Districts was in 1974," said Shannon. "I think everyone is just crossing their fingers and waiting for another team like ours to come around."

The question remains: When will WS see another championship team? The Spartans had the talent this year, but the team simply did not come together as the coaches were hoping. "The players looked really strong coming into the season," said Assistant Coach Brian Puhlick.

But as the team got into the season, the offense began to fall apart. "Our defense was definitely our strong point," said senior Dan Gibson. "That is what us win our games." Effective blocking and tackling played an essential part in the defense's success.

Led by Gibson, senior Will Pullman and senior Steve Massie, the defense kept the team together and gave hope to other players.

But the offense needed just a little bit more than hope. The offense committed

Analysis

many crucial turnovers. "The biggest regret that our team has was in the game against Centreville," said junior Andrew Seibert. "We lost possession of the

ball during a punt return, which resulted in a 60-yard Centreville touchdown. The worst part is that we lost that game by only seven points."
But the offense had some good moments. WS fans saw the best kicker the team has had in quite some time, senior Jeff Scudder, actually make field goals. Some of the other offensive powerhouses were Pullman and Seibert on the line, with Ryan Fleck quarterbacking for senior receivers Clayton Deitze, Jason McCain, and Gibson. "They were responsible for about 95 percent of our touchdowns," said Puhlick. "You could go as far as to say 97 percent."

This year's schedule, though, worked against the Spartans. "First of all, we play in the most competitive district in the area," said Offensive Coach Treva Taylor. "We don't get much of a break playing non-district games against teams like Centreville and Lee."

It would help if the Patriot District's lines were re-drawn. "It's too bad for WS that the Patriot District is so unbalanced," said Ryan Sloan of the Centreville team. "It must be frustrating, to see us play easy teams like Fairfax, when our skill level is much higher than theirs."

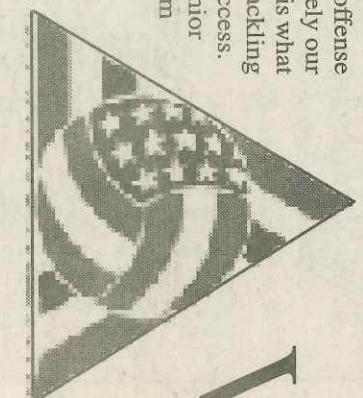
But the list of misfortunes for the Spartans hasn't ruined their reputation completely. Eight senior players plan to continue football in college, at schools such as Georgetown, Penn State and the Naval Academy.

Maybe WS is not as bad as it is made out to be. One thing is for sure—they aren't the Redskins.



Jessica Williams

Player Dave Harris jumps for joy after WS' surprise come-from-behind homecoming victory.



Volleyball interest spikes with teens

Chappell says WS could have the sport in 5 years

By Emily Harris
Features Editor

WS is an extracurricular kind of school. After school, students can participate in more than 60 clubs. The school also offers more than 41 different sports for girls and boys, at varsity, JV and freshmen levels.

But volleyball is not on that list.

"It's not fair that we don't have volleyball," said freshman Judy Brown. "Everywhere else it's played, but not here."

Volleyball is a popular sport nationwide. And, thanks to superstar players such as Gabrielle Reece and Karch Kiraly, the sport's popularity is growing.

But even though most sporting goods stores in this area have a whole section devoted to volleyball gear, Fairfax County is not too familiar with the sport.

"It's depressing that most high schools here don't have teams," said Patricia Johnson, Vice President of the Northern Virginia Volleyball Association. "I think that schools offer enough sports

already and volleyball should be included."

Unlike its neighboring counties, Prince William and Loudoun, Fairfax does not have a high school girls volleyball league.

"Those other counties have small school districts, so they're able to start small-scale programs," said Tod Chappell, WS' student activities director. "It's easier for them than it is for Fairfax. They have smaller populations and enrollments."

More than five years ago, however, Fairfax did offer volleyball to its high schools, through its county-sponsored intramural league. But after budget cuts, the intramural programs were eliminated. And all forms of public high school volleyball in Fairfax died.

In 1993, junior Frank Rachal, an avid volleyball player wanting to train for the Junior Olympics, began the WS volleyball program.

Former English teacher Susan Howard sponsored it. Rachal succeeded in gaining interest and participation in the sport, but the volleyball program didn't continue into the next season.

"There hasn't been a real strong interest in the sport," said Chappell, who thinks volleyball is a great sport. "There's some interest, but not enough to bring the sport together."

Despite the lack of a volleyball team here and at other county high schools, some area students have taken the initiative to start their own club teams.

The designation "club" means that the sport is "unofficial," or not funded by the county, much like WS' popular crew team. Members of a WS volleyball team would pay for their own equipment, uniforms and referees.

"We were one of the first schools to start the volleyball program," in this manner, said Donna King, director of student activities at Falls Church High School.

"About three years ago, we had a lot of students interested, so we found a coach." Falls Church began competing against other schools last year. Since Falls Church was one of the only high schools in the area at the time with a volleyball team, they competed against private

schools. But this year Langley, Woodson, Oakton and Chantilly have all joined the race, establishing their own teams. Centreville is still struggling to develop a club team.

Others have gotten in on the act.

To promote volleyball in the next season, the Fairfax Adults Volleyball Organization has contributed a large stipend to local public schools. Promoters of the sport hope that the extra funds will help make Fairfax County volleyball popular and competitive.

Prospects for the game becoming a varsity sport in the county are mixed. More than 15 high schools must carry volleyball as a club sport before it becomes an "official" sport. So five schools is a start. "I suspect that in five years, volleyball will be offered in

every school in Fairfax County," Chappell said. "It's only a question of who will take the initiative to start and continue the program here, at WS."

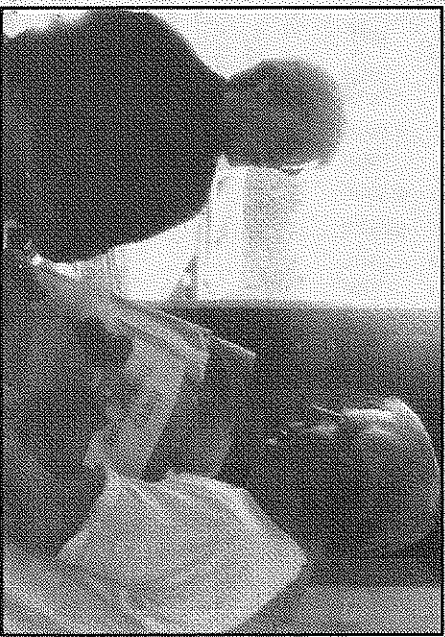
All of the official high school sports available now started a club sports just four years ago. Lacrosse joined the varsity and earned county funding. And there is hope that crew soon will do the same. But nobody knows if the sport will be offered to just boys, just girls, or if there will be enough support to have teams for both sexes.

"It would be so cool to have a school volleyball team here at WS," said freshman Roberto Garcia. "But I bet they'll only get a girls team."





Sherry Congleton labels clothing for the next distribution to needy Springfield and Burke families.



Bill Decker attends to a family for Thanksgiving. Many needy families were "adopted" in order to have food for the November holiday.

ECHO helps local families

A photo essay by Jessica Williams
Oracle Photographer

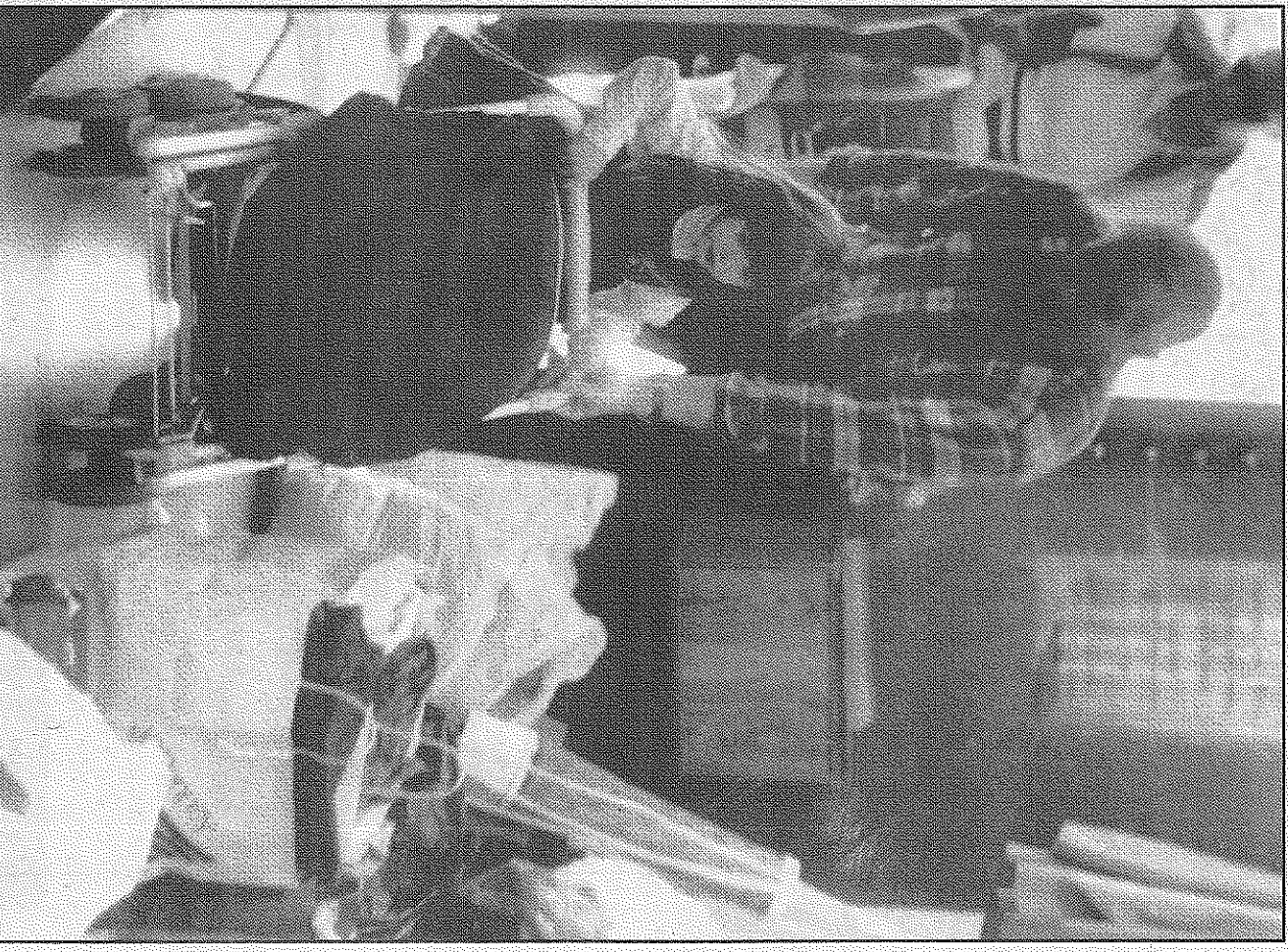
Located off Old Keene Mill Road by Springfield Plaza, ECHO exists to help the community.

Ecumenical Community Helping Others, (ECHO), serves the Springfield and Burke communities. The program is in place mainly to give assistance to people who have low incomes and who require extra assistance to live somewhat comfortably.

Workers collect food, clothing and housewears to give to these families who can not provide those things for themselves. As well as giving material items to those who are on assistance, they provide limited financial assistance and transportation to those who need it.

"As the welfare system tries to move people off and onto their own means, ECHO acts as a link to help them provide the necessities," said chair Pat Gauthier. The group provides additional necessities to the handicapped who are on assistance, and elderly on Social Security who do not have enough of this income to live comfortably.

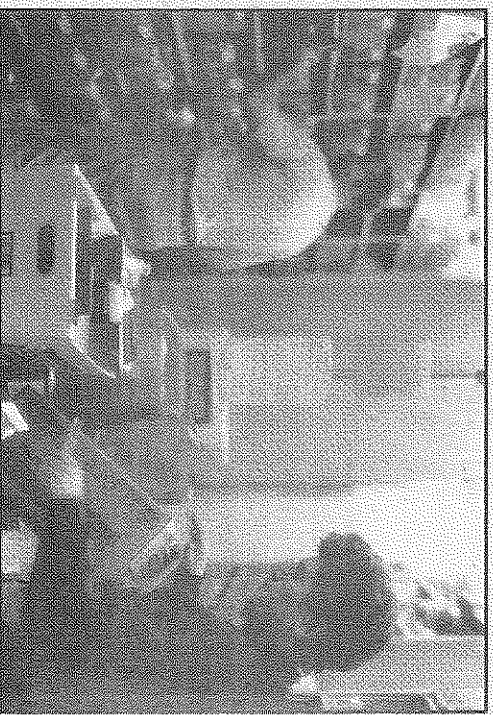
All work is done on by volunteers, and more than 300 people work in the center. New volunteers are welcome. ECHO is open Monday—Friday from 9:30 am-12 pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7-9pm.



ECHO volunteer John Gauthier helps a young girl who is bringing in her old baby items to give to the needy.



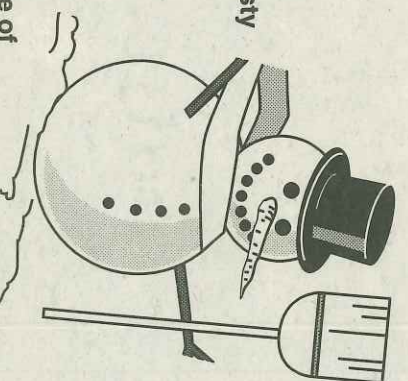
Colletta Hammond sorts clothing and organizes them by men's, women's, and children's, as well as by the type of clothing.



John Pay and Beverly Ramaker sort food to be picked up by families and individuals assisted by ECHO.

Quiz: Holiday Movies

- In "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," what did Aunt Bethany say for grace during the Christmas Eve dinner?
 - She pledged allegiance to the flag
 - Sang "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer"
 - Sang "Hail to the Queen"
- The name of Scrooge's deceased business partner in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was:
 - Bob Marley
 - Billy Bob Thornton
 - Bob Cratchit
- "What I want for Christmas is an official Red Ryder BB Gun with a compass in the stock and this thing that tells time. They are very good presents. I don't think that a football is a very good Christmas present." What movie is this quote from?
 - "Miracle on 34th Street"
 - "A Christmas Story"
 - "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer"
- What song is the choir singing when Kevin leaves the church on Christmas Eve in "Home Alone?"
 - "Jingle Bells"
 - "The Ukrainian Bell Carol"
 - "Silent Night"
- What's the most famous quote from "It's A Wonderful Life?"
 - "Every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings."
 - "I'll Be Back"
 - "It's a Wonderful Life"
- In "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" what was the name of the tiniest "Who?"
 - Matt Barker Who
 - Little Who
 - Cindy Lou Who
- What is the name of Jack's dog in "The Nightmare Before Christmas?"
 - Zero
 - Spot
 - Rover
- Who does Jack accuse Lucy of dating in "While You Were Sleeping?"
 - Joe Junior
 - his father
 - Peter



TOP 100

POLITICALLY CORRECT HOLIDAY SONG TITLES

- "Oh Holy to some races, religions, creeds, national origins, or sexual orientations Night"
- "Rudolph the special-nosed reindeer"
- "Have yourself, if you are so disposed, a mirthful Little December Celebration"
- "Oh symbolically decorative to some races, religions, creeds, national origins, or sexual orientations Evergreen Tree"
- "We Wish You a Merry non-denominational Winter Holiday"
- "The top that has four symbols and spins song"
- "The 12 days immediately preceding the 25th of December"
- "Joy to the World, a Figure of Religious Importance to certain individuals has come"
- "We three prominent political figures of unspecified Eastern origin"
- "The Hanukkah Song" by Adam Sandler

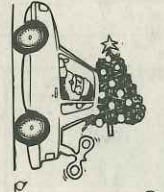


spartan focus:
Heidi Burke, who plays basketball for the Washington Mystics, visited marketing classes in November. Here, she talks with seniors Kara Lawson and Joanna Jerezal. Burke and her twin sister, Heather, are the world's tallest female identical twins. They graduated from Falls Church High School and the University of Virginia.



-compiled by Brian Gillis & LaMont Mitchell

December/January Calendar 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					18 Madrigals Feast of Carols	19
20	21 Basketball vs TC Williams Girls-a-way Boys-home	22 PSAT returned to underclassmen	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 	31	1	2
3	4	5 Basketball vs Lake Braddock Girls-home Boys-a-way	6 Gymnastics vs Chandilly 7 p.m.	7	8 Basketball vs Hayfield Girls-a-way Boys-home	9 Band Concert
Winter vacation						