

NOVEMBER 22, 1999  
VOLUME 34 NUMBERS 5

THE

# ORACLE

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FOR ICE CREAM  
14 GIRLS CROSS  
COUNTRY ENDS A  
FOUR YEAR ERA



WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL 6100 ROLLING ROAD SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22152

## Bomb forces students to stadium Two hours spent soaking up the sun's rays

By Sue Moon  
News Section Editor

For the seniors, their freshman year ended with a bomb scare. Now among the events of their last year at WS, another bomb threat forced the school to exit to the stadium.

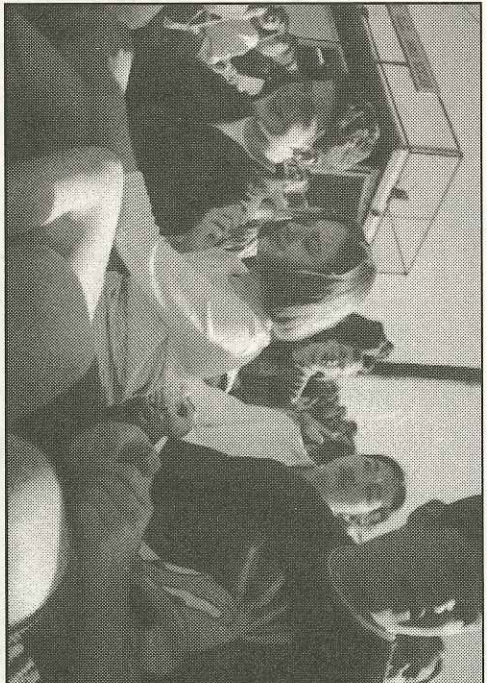
On November 5 the main office received a phone call that there was a bomb in the school. Fifteen minutes later the fire alarm was pulled to evacuate the school. The police arrived to search the school for any possible explosive devices while students and faculty were ushered to the stadium and playing field.

Principal David Smith and West Springfield Police Sergeant D. Cox worked to coordinate a

plan of action, dividing the building into 11 sections. Pairs of police and school security staff each searched through two sections for approximately two hours.

From the stadium press box, Smith announced to the students that they should expect to be out of the school for as long as two hours. The crowd responded with cheers.

"It was disrespectful how everybody was cheering during the announcements," said junior Hollis Alexander. "It is fun to get



Students Ashley Johnson and Jake Mosser enjoy the time outside during the bomb threat in May 1997.

Abby Curran

out of school for two hours but people should be more sensitive after the situation in Columbine [High School in Littleton, Colorado]."

During these two hours students socialized and relaxed, not thinking much of the potential bomb threat.

More announcements were made from the press box notifying teams and club members to meet at certain places in the stadium. Cheerleaders and

Drill Team practiced their routines out on the track and on the field. The varsity football team gathered, and YADDAPP and the Thespians held meetings in the stadium.

Some students attempted leaving school property, but were unsuccessful in their endeavors.

From the press box, faculty members were able to keep a close watch over students' behavior and saw some leaving. See BOMB Page 4

## Violence threatens nation

By Lauren Weaver  
Features Assistant

Columbine, Atlanta, Fort Worth, Honolulu, Seattle. The eruption of violent shootings within the last year is causing many people to wonder where and when the next incident will occur.

"It's ridiculous. None of this would have happened a long time ago," said junior Lauren Sheffield.

Just recently there were two shootings within a 24-hour period. The first episode occurred on November 3 in Honolulu, Hawaii. A 40-year-old employee, who believed he was going to be fired, walked into a Xerox warehouse and killed seven of his coworkers. See VIOLENCE Page 4

# HOLLYWOOD & VINE

## Intersection symbolizes crowded conditions

By Babette Seve  
Special to The Oracle

"Ugh! Uh! Ouch! Move it!" Students shouting through the halls are vocal as they attempt to get to their lockers, or to class on time.

"It's annoying, but it's part of school life," said senior Tommy Furman.

People enjoy congregating like groups of lemmings, blocking WS' halls, and not letting anybody through.

Trying to get through "Hollywood & Vine," the school's main intersection, during break is

one of the worst tasks.

"When I walk through there, I feel like I'm in a herd of cattle and it's a big stampede to get to class," said senior Lindsay Dickman.

For years, administrators have been trying to control the problem, but haven't been too successful.

"There are lots of things that could be done to control the situation, but we [the administrators] are not going to go to war over it," said principal David Smith. "It would take a huge amount of time and effort to move all groups of people out of this main intersection, and get them

to take other routes to class."

There are reasons for WS' crowded hallways. The school is overcrowded, and there is not enough space for everyone to maneuver comfortably.

The building was constructed for about 2,200. Right now there are about 2,300 students—about 100 over full capacity.

Most readily agree that the hallway situation is a real nuisance that should be corrected.

"I have been here for four years," said senior Halle Barr, "and the situation has gotten worse every year."

Laura Strzeminski

## Percoco experiences exchange of cultures

By Mike Waldron  
News Editor

When WS history teacher Jim Percoco went to Russia to participate in a very selective teacher exchange program, he did not know what to expect. Percoco could not wait to start the program, but he changed his mind when he saw where he would live.

"It was like I was in the ghetto," said Percoco about his apartment and the surrounding area. "I wondered what I was doing there, and I wanted to go home."

Despite the rough first impression, Percoco had a great experience in Russia. He arrived in Moscow on Tuesday,

October 19. Two days later he went to Pskov, a city in northwest Russia near the Baltic Nations. It was in this city that Percoco encountered his intimidating apartment.

While in Pskov, Percoco taught at a secondary school called the Lyceum Razvytye. He instructed a world history lesson, but the majority of the students were more impressed with his appearance than with his lesson.

"I mainly talked about what life was like in America," said Percoco. "Many of them told me that their big dream was to visit the United States."  
From the conversations with his

students, Percoco also realized that Russian and American teenagers were quite similar.

"If I could have brought [the Russian students] to the United States, they would have fit right in," said Percoco. "They were very Americanized."

However, Percoco did notice a difference in the values among Russian and American students.

"They had no sense of material wealth," said Percoco. "Their economy was a wreck, and they knew it."

After a week in Pskov, Percoco went to Moscow before returning home on Monday, November 1.  
"I had mixed emotions when I left," said

Percoco. "I learned about the Russian people and about myself. I would love to go back."



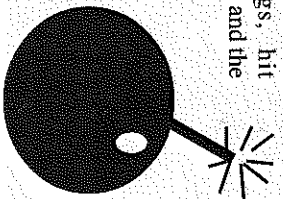
WS history teacher Jim Percoco shows his students copies of the Oracle.

# Fridays really are the bomb at WS

WS joined the club last Friday.

We were officially inducted when the series of school violence threats that have been plaguing schools, especially since the school shootings, hit was a bomb threat and the two hours in the stadium.

Dr. Smith to be honest with the mini-vacation. I didn't hope for, he with cheers and the student body. Needless to say, he was not pleased



home. There school spent football

didn't hesitate completely cause for the response he was greeted with applause from

with his school's reaction, but did we care?

The entertainment consisted of pep performances by the cheerleaders and the drill team throughout the entire "crisis."

Unfortunately, students failed to give them their upmost

attention and instead jumped fences, went to sleep, and enjoyed a free social hour.

During a time when there has been a recurring trend of students getting hurt at school through acts of violence, it is clear that we have been desensitized to the seriousness

## Editorial

# Clearing up the codes

By Lauren Edwards and Ellen Waylonis

Oracle Photographer and Photo Editor

Forget the three R's. Who needs reading, writing, 'rithmetic? This year, West Springfield has added the three B's — breasts, bra straps, and belly buttons — which aren't allowed in school. But that wasn't enough for us. Here's our updated, longer list in a B-flavored nutshell:

Breasts, Backsides, Belly Buttons, Bra straps, Brew-Thru shirts, Butcher knives, Baseball caps, Bullets, Beepers, Barking, Baby-making, Bombs (art projects), Beverages in the hallways, Beer, Barnyard animals (especially Billie goats), and Bad words.

In addition, we've prepared special reminders and clarification of some choice school rules:

- 1) Remember, no unauthorized weapons in school. You have to check in with the office first.
- 2) Always consult a thesaurus. If your intended drug use falls under any of the SR&R's following myriad categories, it WILL NOT be tolerated in school:
  - "planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, strength-testing (?), analyzing, packaging, repackaging,

The EPA supports this 7 million plan and will be funding and administering the testing. In support of the HPV program, the EPA claims that killing hundreds of thousands of animals is crucial to protecting the environment.

However, many of the chemicals Gore has chosen, such as rat poisoning, turpentine, and leaded gasoline are chemicals for which the risks are already known. Furthermore, Gore has called for testing chemicals such as sorbitol, the sweetener in sugarless gum, as well as soybean and palm oil, in which their effect on the environment is non-existent.

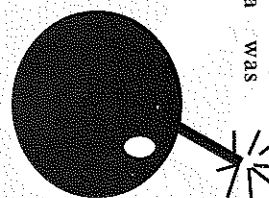
As well, Al Gore and the EPA have been slow to consider modern test methods and available data that could prove more accurate and efficient for screening the potential hazards of these drugs. It is proven that human clinical and epidemiological studies, cadavers, and computer simulators are faster, more reliable, less expensive, and more humane than animal tests.

This heedless mentality cannot be justified when so much animal suffering is at stake. If Al Gore were a true environmentalist he would delay the HPV Program until existing test data and human exposures are thoroughly reviewed. It would be a mistake to allow a hurried and incomplete analysis of chemicals that have been used for decades to launch us into a brutal and costly new cycle of animal testing. Rather, a straightforward retrieval of

of violence threats.

A usual reaction would be to fear or be nervous about a potential bomb in school; rather, students see it as a way to get out of class.

This idea was less than a bomb threat tone sounded in a hallway was heard among bomb threat, seeming disappointment when it was just a fire detector malfunction.



storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body."

3) Be careful! Any "apparel, jewelry, accessory, tattoo, or manner of grooming (?)" could be considered gang related. Basically, live in your khakis and you'll be fine.

4) Finally, YOU CAN. In case of emergency or a sudden lack of self-esteem, please locate the nearest set of large orange signs. This should not be difficult, as they are displayed approximately seven inches apart in a variety of shapes, sizes, and even languages. This is a rule that can not be found in SR&R and instead has been adapted simply to make West Springfield feel special.

Lastly, for your benefit, here's a practice test for next year's SR&R quiz. And don't worry, because just like the PSAT's, this may be harder than the real one.

Directions: For each question, write either "true" if the answer is true or "false" if the answer is false.

- 1) Drugs are legal in school.
  - 2) Saran Wrap makes for fashionable and acceptable skirts.
  - 3) Assault is wrong.
- For an answer key, please come to the Oracle office.

# Killing animals and votes

By Kelly Alm

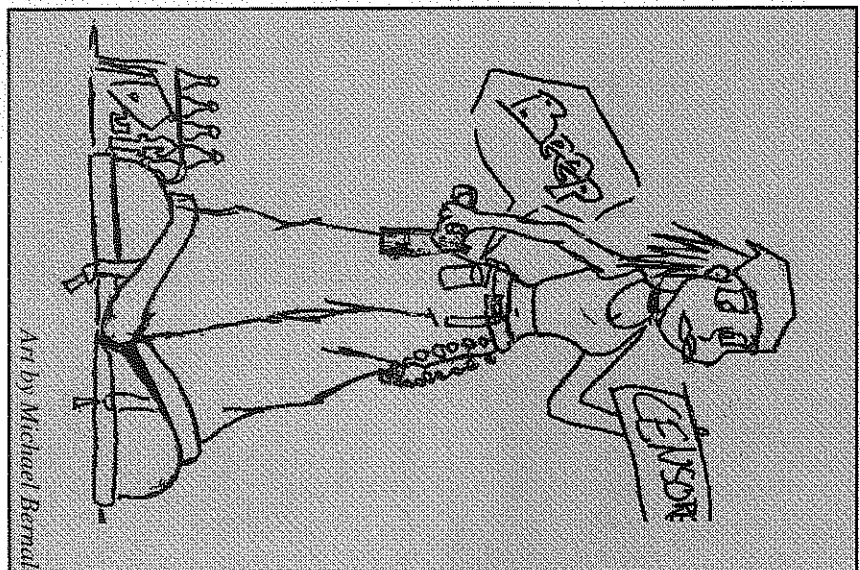
Managing Editor

Al Gore is an active environmentalist. Maybe because he has spent years striving to protect the earth and hence protecting its wildlife, he has currently reasoned that his animal friends now owe him. After his plan to resume whaling and his massive pig farm bailout, the vice president's new plan may be his worst yet.

In the early months of 1999, while the nation's attention was focused on President Clinton's problems, Vice President Al Gore was pushing a plan that will kill an estimated 800,000 animals.

Originally, this plan appeared as part of Gore's efforts to protect the environment. He based his efforts on an old Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report that suggested that many high-production industrial chemicals had never been safely tested. Gore demanded that chemical manufacturers begin new tests on nearly 2,8000 chemicals. Gore aims to begin what is now called the High Production Volume (HPV) Plan before the end of this year.

The tests in the HPV Plan include the gruesome lethal dose-50% test, in which animals are forced to ingest or inhale a chemical in increasing doses until half are dead, as well as longer-term tests. If the plan is transacted this barbaric and inhumane testing will go on for six years.



# THE ORACLE

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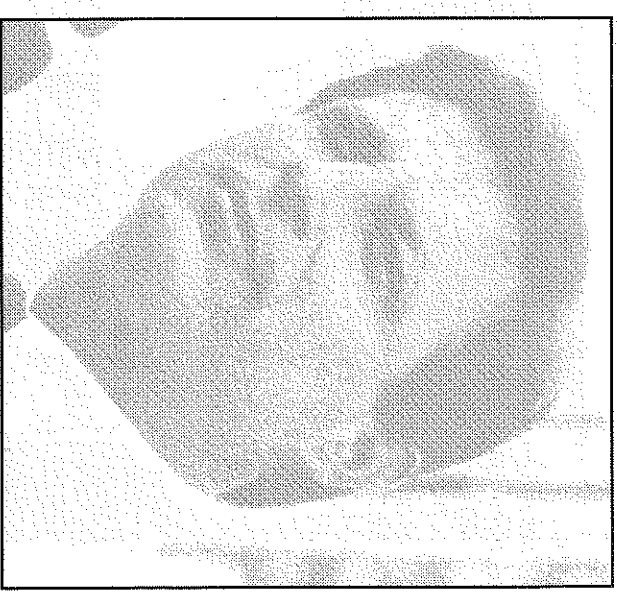
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West Springfield High School



Vice President Al Gore plans to start his HPV plan.

already conducted tests, along with data on human exposures would prove more efficient, as well as more humane.

Please write to Al Gore concerning the EPA's High Production Volume Program. His address is:

Vice President Al Gore  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

# Stuffing your face

By Melissa Lipman  
Oracle Staff Writer

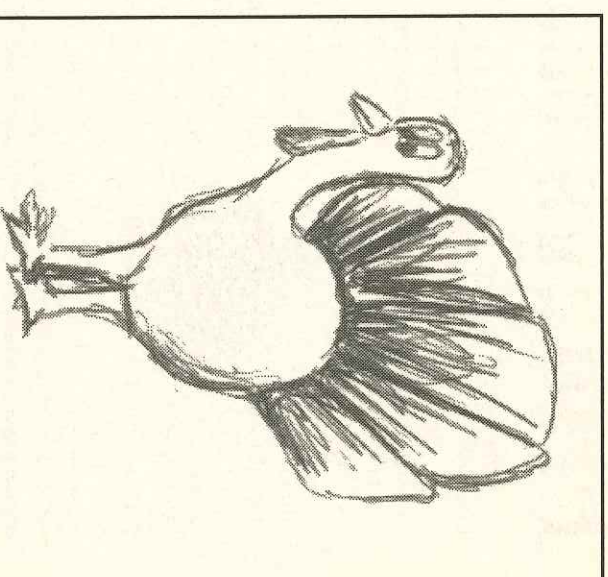
Thanksgiving Day—a national holiday for giving thanks to God, now observed on the fourth Thursday of November. (Webster)

Actually, though, Thanksgiving is the one day a year that we set aside our chickens and support the turkey farmers of America. Everyone knows that Thanksgiving is about the food. Thanksgiving is defined by the food that we eat on it every year. As children, we colored pictures of horn-shaped, food filled, baskets and of giant turkeys, further proving the importance of Thanksgiving Day food.

Another aspect of Thanksgiving Day that makes it so brilliant is that it allows for the breaking of one of America's sacred rituals: the diet. Every other day of the year—with the possible exception of Christmas—we are told to eat as little as possible without keeling over dead. But on Thanksgiving, we are allowed to stuff our faces

with everything possible. (Note—This is symbolized by the elder males in the family loosening their belts a notch, or the complete abandonment of the belt, as the case may be.)

Personally, I don't believe in completely stuffing my face until I feel so sick that I can't move. Well, okay maybe I can't live up to that. It's really not my fault. It's my grandmother's kugel. For those people who are unfamiliar with this delicacy, I'll describe it. Kugel is made with granny smith apples, yellow and brown raisins, twisty pasta, and corn flakes. The apples are peeled and sliced. The pasta is cooked and then cooled slightly, and mixed with the apple slices. Then some raisins are added. After that it's put in a baking pan. On top of this bottom layer, corn flakes are sprinkled on with. I suspect, sugar. Then the whole thing is baked in the oven. It is absolutely perfect...oh just look at me, ranting and raving about food. I told you Thanksgiving was all about the food.



Art by Melissa Lipman

The unwitting star of Thanksgiving.

## The truth about girls and guys...

By Donnie Watkins  
News Editor

I'm feeling very alone right now, Very Alone being the name of my imaginary girlfriend.

It's not that I can't do any better, or for that matter, at least find someone who exists. I fell in love with Very because she's the only person I've met who lives up to what I want from a woman—silence and complete submission to my will. (Okay, okay. It's mostly because I can't do any better. Nevertheless.)

In these days of political correctness I can't even admit that I'm looking for these qualities, let alone expect to find them. Today, the only quality a man may admire in a woman is a good vocabulary.

The catch is that women tend to present themselves as physically desirable objects and still expect that men see them solely for their personality. Perhaps they assume it's easier for guys to see personality when their belly button is hanging out.

If one can see past a woman's physical appearance, another dilemma arises. A guy can no longer walk up to a girl and simply start a conversation.

That's sexual harassment. Sexual harassment, created in the 1960's by women who were offended by the hoots and hollers of construction workers ("Hey, watch out for that crane, lady!"), "No, I will not sleep with you!"), makes it a crime for men to even say hello to women.

If a man wishes to start a conversation, nowadays, he must fill out a series of twenty-four forms in triplicate, no less than three weeks in advance, and mail them to the woman to whom he wishes to speak via certified mail. Then, with her approval, the man is allowed to meet the woman, under the supervision of her lawyer, for lunch.

After this first meeting and the 272 designated "getting-to-know-you" hours required by law, a man reaches the pinnacle of male-female relationships—dinner and a movie. It is the

responsibility of the man to pay for both the movie and the restaurant, but, because women are independent, he has to argue with her for two hours before she allows him to do so.



Following dinner comes the minefield of first dates—the good-night kiss. After presenting verification that he is free of disease, the male is allowed to stand outside the woman's house, making small talk and acting nervous until she gives him written permission to lean over and kiss her on the cheek. He must then go home and wonder how the date went. He must wonder because the woman

cannot tell him. Instead, she must say, "Well, maybe we could possibly do something else together sometime, maybe. If such a possibility becomes likely, I may might possibly give you a

call. Maybe."

Now, in some cases, she will call back. If this is the case, one thing is certain—she has received a statement and is man's yearly income and is pleased. Anyway, this call may, in some cases, lead to a second date. This may lead to a third date. After the fourth date, the male is then required to ask for the female's permission to be loyal to her. If she says yes, he's found

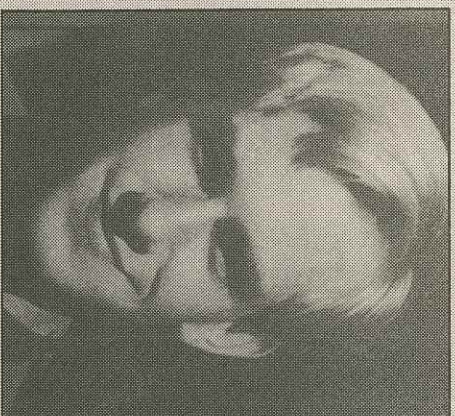
himself engaged in each man's worst nightmare—The Serious Relationship.

The Serious Relationship was invented by women as a method by which to drive men insane. Obligated to make his woman feel good at all costs, a man's primary responsibility is to compliment his woman on her appearance when asked to do so. This question usually comes in the following form: "I'm fat. I'm ugly. No one loves me." "You're not fat, honey. You're perfect. And you're certainly not ugly. And I love you." "Oh, you just love me for my personality!" The correct response at this point is for the man to bang his head against the wall until his better half tells him that it is beginning to annoy her.

Now, I don't mean to imply that The Serious Relationship is all bad, but I don't believe in all this madness. I refuse to play these games. And so, I've chosen to remain with Very—despite the fact she still makes me pay for dinner.

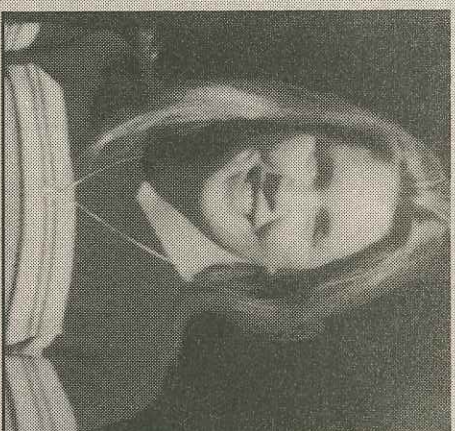
## Spartan Spotting

What are you doing over Thanksgiving weekend?



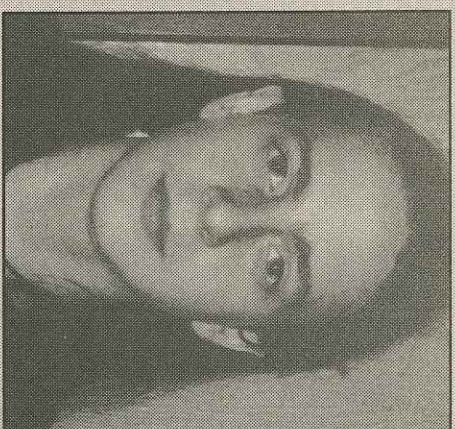
"I'm going to gorge myself on turkey and mashed potatoes until I explode."

Tom Furman,  
Senior



"Every year I go to Fort Belvoir with my family. It's the only time I get to see all of my relatives."

Lauren Sheffield,  
Junior



"My grandparents are coming over, and I plan on making sure that there aren't any leftovers."

David Snyder,  
Junior



"I might go up to New Jersey for the weekend to visit a friend."

Tesyl Martinez,  
Freshman

—Compiled by Ellen Waylonis

## County elections result in changes

By Roberto Garcia

Entertainment Editor

On November 2, as most students stayed in bed enjoying their day off, parents, teachers, and some seniors went to the polls to vote for new county officials.

Throughout the state, the republican party achieved several impressive victories, but Fairfax County marked one of the bright spots for the democratic party. In the Board of Supervisor's race, the democrats claimed seven of 10 seats, while in the School Board, they claimed seven of 12 seats.

In the Springfield district, challenger Catherine Belter defeated republican Carter S. Thomas, one of the most conservative members of the school board, and Elaine McConnell won an uncontested race for a seat in the county board of directors.

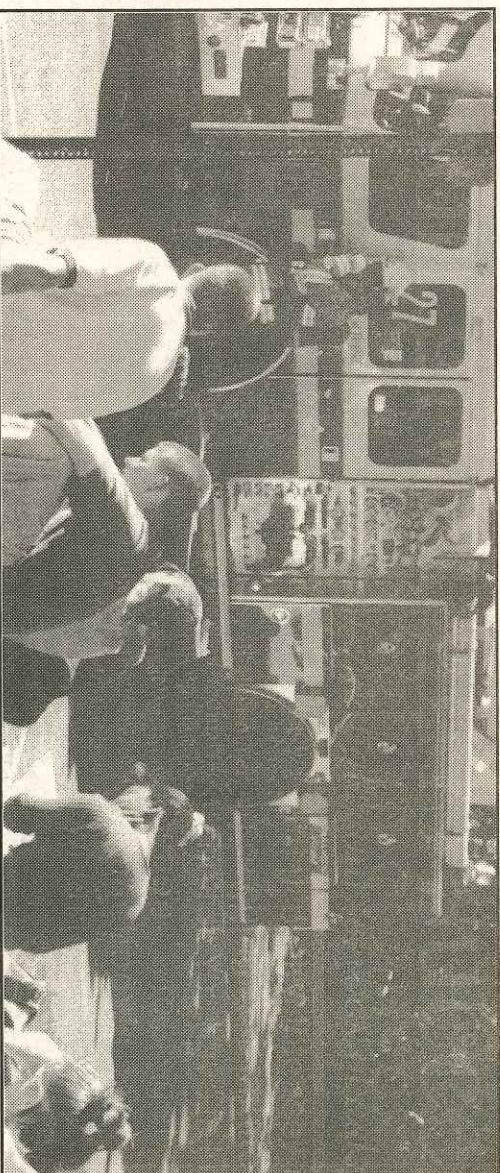
"It's too early to tell what effect the election of Cathy Belter will have on WS, but hopefully she'll do a good job," said principal Dr. David Smith.

Another county race that drew attention was the race for sheriff between incumbent Carl Peed and challenger Stanley G. Barry. Earlier in the year, Peed fired Barry from his position of Deputy Sheriff after Barry announced his intentions to challenge Peed for the sheriff position, causing a race full of attacks and counterattacks between the two candidates.

"I'm glad Barry beat Peed because it was unfair of Peed to fire Barry," said sophomore Gina Diccico. "Besides, Peed had a reputation of being a racist."

Along with offices being up for election, an important \$297 million school bond referendum was also voted on. With 76 percent approval, residents of the county overwhelmingly approved the referendum, which would give money to construction and renovation of schools, as well as to technological upgrades. WS pyramid school Orange Hunt, as well as local schools including Lake Braddock, Hayfield, and Lee will receive funding for much needed repairs and renovations.

"Although we won't be directly affected by the referendum, it will take care of schools that are in most need of repairs," said Smith. "It will also move us up in the county's waiting list for school repairs."



Students sit in front of the school before being ordered to proceed to the stadium during the recent bomb scare. Nancy Rachlis

### From BOMB Page 1

Teachers stopped the students and an announcement instructed students to stay within the stadium fences.

After two hours, the search inside did not yield a bomb or anything else dangerous to safety. Therefore, students and teachers were allowed back into the school to begin lunch and fifth period.

Some concern arose as to how the search ended so quickly and as to why students were instructed to re-enter the school building. Students wondered whether the search was thorough enough to actually detect a bomb if there was one.

"It gets a little concerning, coming back into the school," said freshman Mary Ann Lukeman, commenting on the short length of time taken to search WS in comparison to the duration of time it took to search Colunbine.

Others questioned why the stadium acted as a temporary haven and how officials were certain that the stadium itself was bomb-free.

"I don't understand why they put us on the bleachers when there could be a bomb under there," said senior Casey Hennessey.

In regard to the threats and danger, students noticed an increase in an apparent sense of apathy.

"It's sad that it [the violence] is happening and you don't think much of it," said freshman Karen Foote. "It's happening all the time."

### From VIOLENCE Page 1

The next day, November 4, an unidentified man began shooting in a shipyard in Seattle, Washington. Four people were shot and two died.

"The shootings were so close together that it makes you wonder if they were doing it for attention," said freshman Leslie Graham.

Violent incidents have been happening so often, they are almost becoming a common occurrence. Last April there was the shooting rampage at Columbine. Then, in August, a man walked into an Atlanta brokerage firm and began shooting. In September, a man shot worshippers in a church in Fort Worth, Texas. The two recent November shootings add to this list.

"The violence that has been going on in the beginning may have been genuine, but now it seems like it's for show," said Graham.

Other students also believe that the violence has become too common.

"Violence is getting worse," said senior Susan Hurst. "More violence is involving people who do fake violent things like what happened today with the bomb threat."

The increase of violence has created questions about why people feel they must go on shooting rampages.

"It's representative of the general decline of morals in our country," said senior Sarah Day. "We'll continue to see stuff like this if people's values don't change."

## Singh earns national praise

By Sue Moon

News Section Editor

When patients stay in hospitals, they will notice a theme within. The theme of diversity will linger on the walls and be credited to four posters, one of which belongs to WS student Ruby Singh.

Recently, the Department of Veteran Affairs notified Singh that her artwork was selected for display in some of the nation's hospitals.

Last year the A.P. Art Studio and Art 2 students designed posters encouraging diversity. Art teacher Merceda Saffron assigned the project, coordinated by the Department of Veteran Affairs, because she saw merit in the competition. She does not consider herself a "poster person." Saffron assigned the project, not only because of the competition and sponsor's

reputation, but for this year's theme, diversity.

"When I was [younger], I never heard the word [diversity] we hear. It's taken for granted," said Saffron. "Young people need to examine the word and meaning, and interpret it in a broader sense."

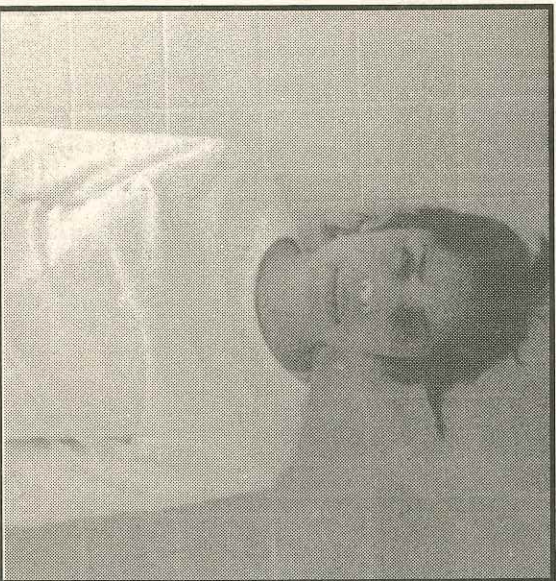
On that idea of interpretation, Saffron chose Singh's artwork and the art of three other students to represent the school. Singh, at that time a junior and A.P. Art Studio student, sent in her representation of diversity.

"Since it was diversity, I thought of different kids playing in a park around a globe. The different continents are different colors and the color of the continent matches the color of the kid from that [same place]," said Singh.

The Department of Veteran Affairs chose select work from the area's artists to exhibit in the National Gallery of American Art during the month of May, and Singh's poster was picked.

Later, Singh received an honorable mention for her talent. The three place winners and honorable mention have the privilege of having their art made into a poster to display all across the nation's hospitals.

"For such a small person, Ruby's art is monumental. How she works her ideas in a manner that is sophisticated, mature, and profound," said Saffron. "She's developed her own style and she takes chances."



Lauren Edwards

The Department of Veteran Affairs picked the artwork of senior Ruby Singh to hang in several major hospitals..

## Domino's Pizza

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# Varsity cheerleaders' bid ends at regionals

By Amy Whipple

Business/Systems Editor

In no particular order we have Lake Braddock, West Springfield..."

The announcer didn't have to go any further than that. The Spartan Cheerleaders were screaming and hugging each other and the fans were rushing out of their seats to join them.

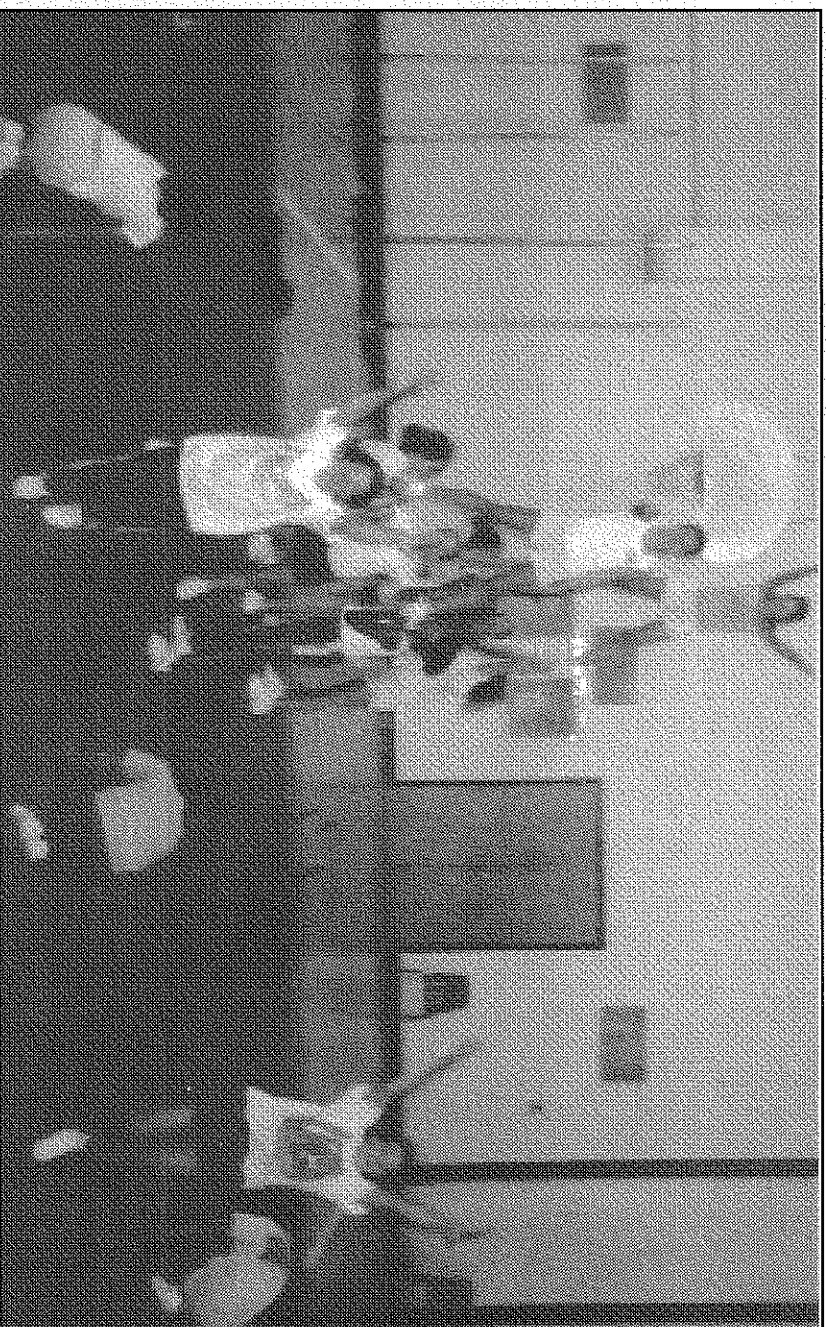
WS placed third out of six squads at Districts on November 3rd. There are seven teams in the Patriot district, but TC Williams had to drop out last minute because of injuries. The victory lead WS, Lake Braddock, and Robinson to the regional competition.

"We really didn't expect to place, but when we did we realized that all of our hard work had paid off," said junior Julie Gullmain.

Regionals were held a week later, where the top three schools from each of the four Northern Virginia districts competed. In this event, the top six schools were called to compete again and then the top four schools go on to States which will be held in March. WS did not make the top six, but the four moving on to States are Lake Braddock, Langley, Chantilly, and Fairfax.

"It was so big and scary," said sophomore Marisa Nomi. "It was such an honor to get to Regionals and we were so excited."

The squad practiced two hours a day for three days a week. When there were two weeks left until Districts, practices were three days a week for three to four hours each. They also spent the day be-



The varsity cheerleading squad prepares for competition in the auxiliary gym. The squad had to stay after school for several hours into the night to to practice for districts and regionals.

fore competition, a day off from school, practicing even more.

Injuries were few, but a fractured ankle kept sophomore Kristi Poling out of the Regional competition. This changed the format of their presentation and extra time was spent rearranging stunts for Regionals.

"The team work and dedication were what got them to place in Districts and brought them to Regionals," said coach Kristen Kidwell.

The hard work was worth it and was obvious from the onlooker's point of view. WS had the two other cheerleading squads,

parents, and dozens of other students packed into the bleachers at both competitions.

"The cheerleaders looked great," said junior Hollis Alexander. "It was incredible to watch them in both Districts and Regionals."

## Update:

### Stripping for spirit

Thirteen members of Ohio State University's women's rugby team were suspended from games and practices after they decided to pose topless for a picture in front of the Lincoln Memorial. The team was supposedly going to place the picture on T-shirts and sell them as a fundraiser. The rugby players said they did the stunt in the name of team spirit. The T-shirts have not yet been made, but the team's picture did appear on the front page of *The Washington Post*.

### Bedroom failure

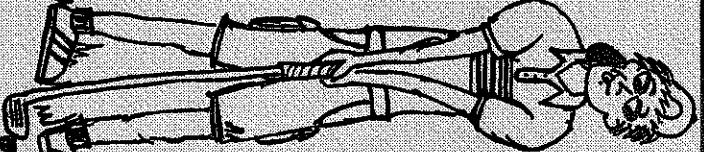
The Supreme Court of Canada ruled five-to-four to reject Brad Stone's

### Getting

"automaton" defense, that he stabbed his wife 47 times because he was in a "robotic" murdering state brought on by trauma of being called a "bedroom failure."

### Drug addicts are better than alcoholics

In St. Cloud, Florida, a mother was found guilty of possession and distribution of a number of



### to the bottom of topless escapades

marijuana to her teenage daughters. The mother said she let them smoke marijuana so they wouldn't become alcoholics like their father.

### Fly the cocaine skies

Former Fairfax High School teacher Fred Benevento was arrested for possession of crack cocaine. He claimed that 13 plastic bags of cocaine came flying through his car window and that he was just looking at them when the police officers arrived.

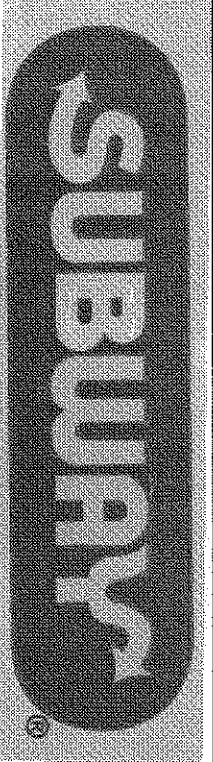
### You sank that putt where?

Muriel Milne of

### I just want to be with you

In DC, a man is breaking into the apartments of single women in the middle of the night. The man enters through an unlocked door, and goes to the bedroom. Once there, he undresses, and crawls into bed with the occupant. When she wakes up and screams, he quietly gets out of bed, puts on his clothes, and leaves. Police have no suspect and no motives in the case.

—Compiled by Roberto Garcia



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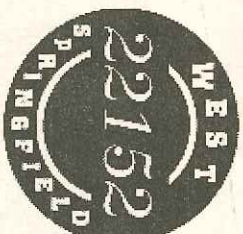
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# Spartan



# Profile

## Laurie Strobridge

By Lauren Decot

ETC. Assistant

"3...2...1...GO!" At the sound of the word "go," sophomore Laurie Strobridge heads down the half-pipe. The wind is blasting her hair, and she wears sunglasses to protect her eyes.

Last winter, Strobridge participated in an amateur snowboarding competition at Ski Liberty in Pennsylvania. She'd only gone boarding twice before she raced.

"When I was thirteen, my two older brothers wanted me to try snowboarding with them. I was bored of skiing, so I thought trying something different would be cool," said Strobridge.

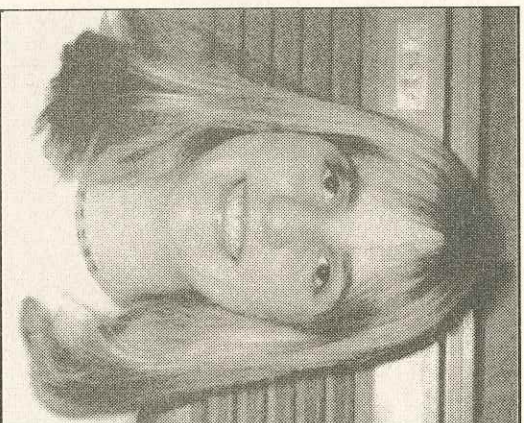
But Strobridge didn't know how "cool" snowboarding would actually be.

"I fell a lot, and my butt became so cold because my pants were damp from the snow," she said.

She first became interested in snowboarding after observing how easy it was for other boarders to get up after falling. On skis, it can be frustrating to get up and begin skiing again.

Strobridge decided to enter the competition to test out her skills. She wanted to see how well she could board against teens her own age.

Although Strobridge did not finish in the top three, she did come away with a strong feeling of satisfaction after finishing



Ellen Waytons  
Sophomore Laurie Strobridge competed in a snowboarding competition last winter at Ski Liberty in Pennsylvania.

the race. "I was one of the worst boarders there, but I'm getting better every time I go. I hope to get really good and buy my own board soon," said Strobridge.

She continues to board every winter and work on her technique. This upcoming winter, she will be returning to Ski Liberty to conquer the black diamond slopes that somehow conquered her last year.

"I'm definitely getting better," said Strobridge. "But I don't think I'll be in any more competitions soon."

## Anders Martinson

By Myles Curran

Entertainment Assistant

Most Americans haven't lived in a foreign country during their lives, but Anders Martinson has already lived in one for four years.

Martinson, a junior at WS, just moved to the Springfield area from Hungary. His father, who is in the Air Force, was stationed in Budapest for four years. While stationed there he saw sights and sounds very different from those in Springfield.

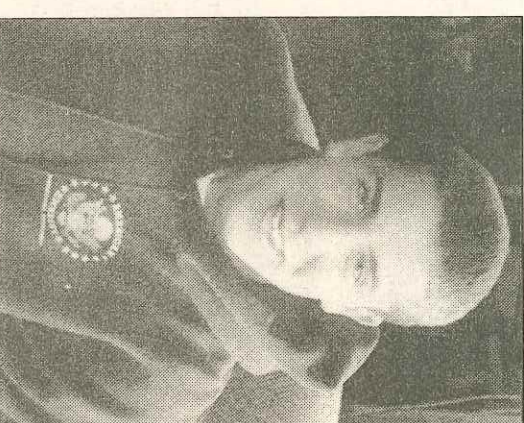
"I liked Budapest much more than Springfield," said Martinson. "I was able to go to different countries for my soccer and basketball teams all the time."

Although he is a new student at WS, Martinson is already in Key Club, German Club, German Honor Society and is trying out for the National Honor Society. Martinson is also playing for a local soccer team in the Lake Braddock league.

While in Hungary, Martinson got on a committee called the Model United Nations. Martinson and kids his age went to China and acted as representatives for their countries.

"We talked about world affairs," said Martinson. "We talked about ways we could try and fix things, or help the situations. It was a great learning experience."

Living in Hungary he got a full dose of



Lauren Edwards  
Junior Anders Martinson lived in Hungary for four years.

reality from being near the Kosovo crisis. One day, while Martinson and his sister were walking down a street they saw a Kosovo refugee lying in the street who had left everything behind in Kosovo. So Martinson, his sister, and her friends, gathered all their money together and put the woman up in a hostel.

"People should know that what they have is good enough," said Martinson. "Plenty of people in other places don't have much. People should be thankful of what they do have."

# WS faculty members teach alongside their former students

By Katie Walker

Features Editor

Little did she know, she'd spend more than four years in high school. Of course, English teacher Malia Bell only spent four years as a student at WS, but also returned to teach here. Many of Bell's former teachers, including Dr. Carolyn Foronda, Dr. Barinder Deu, Robert Benton, and David Harpman still teach at WS.

"Dr. Foronda is still teaching in the same room as she was when I was here," said Bell. "So all the people that have her as a teacher now are in the same room

that I was in."

Not only does Bell teach in the same department as Foronda, she also shares a classroom with her; the very room where she was once taught in.

"I didn't realize it until Back to School Night," said Bell. "But looking around I realized that it was the same room that I sat in during 12th grade. I even

remember where I sat."

Many of Bell's previous teachers that still work at WS recall what Bell was like as a student.

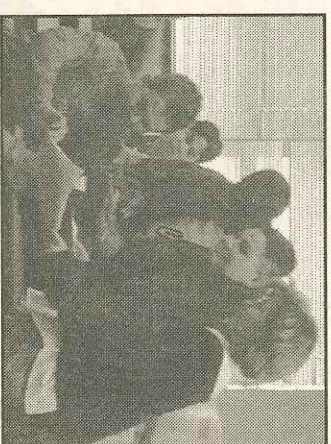
"She was always a good student," said Harpman. "She was pleasant, did all of her work, and was fun to have around."

Other current teachers at WS now work with their former

teachers as well.

English teacher Cathy Welch attended Lee during her high school years, and now works alongside her past English teacher, Sara Schwarberg.

Although they may not be planning on it now, any current student at WS could potentially teach here one day.



Any Whitpelt  
WS English teacher Cathy Welch attended Lee, where she was taught by Sara Schwarberg, who also teaches at WS now.

teach here one day.

"I never planned on being a teacher," said Bell. "I planned on everything else but that."

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Appoints. not always necessary

# Keyettes serve Springfield community

By Lauren Weaver

Features Assistant

At 9:00 on a Saturday morning, most high school students are still asleep in their beds. But in the WS parking lot, a group of girls is beginning to assemble with brooms, gloves, and plastic bags.

This year, 55 girls were present at the Keyettes' annual parking-lot sweep. In less than an hour, the girls swept and picked up trash from both the upper and lower parking lot, the roads around the school, and the football stadium.

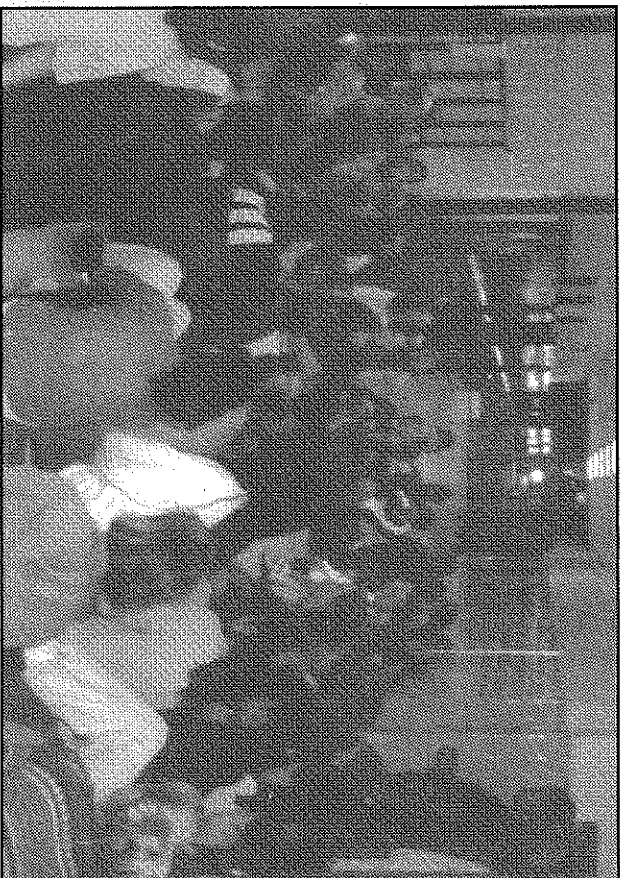
It takes a determined and dedicated group of girls to spend a Saturday morning sweeping a school parking lot.

"It gives us a way to socialize, but we also want to work," said senior Nona Spain. "Lots of my friends do Keyettes and it's a good way to get together on a Saturday."

Keyettes is a service club for girls in the ninth through 12th grades. Its popularity has been growing each year.

"I heard it was a really good thing for your college application and I also thought it would be fun to give back to the community," said freshman Emily Mismoe.

Keyettes provides girls with many different opportunities to serve the community. One of the most popular activities is tutoring children at Cardinal Forest Elementary School. The girls who are involved in this project go after school for one hour each week to help teachers



The Keyettes gather at the intersection of Hollywood and Vine for their first meeting of the year. About 150 girls expressed interest in joining Keyettes this year.

Maggie Miller

with students who are having problems with their assignments.

"I really love tutoring because you get exposed to a variety of different kids who you're not only teaching, but who are also teaching you," said senior Lindsay Dickman, who is a co-president of Keyettes this year.

Visiting nursing homes is another favorite activity of the club. During the Christmas season the Keyettes go to Leewood Nursing Home to talk to the residents and to serve them a meal.

"My favorite thing that the Keyettes do is going to the nursing home at Christmas. That's really cool," said sophomore Judy Brown.

This year the Keyettes plan to devote more time to nursing homes. Members will go to Sunrise Assisted Living once a week to serve dinner, deliver mail, and play games with the residents.

The opportunity for girls to get involved in community service work with a group helps many feel comfortable and more willing to work in places they might

By Steve Massie  
Special to the Oracle

At WS there is an invasion afoot. The enemy has no regard for our rights as students to a clean and sanitary school environment.

These creatures are the widely seen, non-migratory Canada geese of Northern Virginia. This bird has one horrible habit: leaving its disease-infested feces all over the athletic complex.

"WS, especially the athletic fields, has been adopted by the geese as a safe place to live," says Assistant Athletic Director Charles Scudder. "WS has year-round residents," he says.

Because the geese live there all year, they leave their droppings all over the fields. Players have expressed much disgust toward playing and practicing in goose droppings.

The Spartan field hockey team plays and practices on the varsity baseball field. According to senior player Megan Findley, the goose droppings "smell real bad and are disgusting to play in."

The team even had a game delayed because of the Canada geese in late September. A visiting team refused to play until a "pond" made by the geese was filled in with dirt.

Geese have a habit of making "ponds" in places where they live for a sustained

Canadian natives make themselves at home on WS fields

amount of time. They do so by finding a place where water naturally collects and stamp and dig with their feet until a small "pond" forms. The ponds are full of stagnant water. The geese clean themselves there as well. The water is a breeding ground for bacteria and disease.

Even a goose's bowel movements can humble the toughest of football players. As the football team sits in ordered rows to stretch, many players such as senior Brian McCarthy are utterly repulsed because "every time I sit down I know that my legs are resting in a big pile of goose poop."

McCarthy recalls one time when he forgot to look where he was putting his hand and came up with a handful. He felt like throwing up.

A tradition of the WS football team is to loss unsuspecting sophomores into mud and water left over from the water "trough."

This practice was stopped this year because of the fact that there were so many geese feces in the mud and standing water. Head coach Bill Renner worried that the water would make his players sick, and miss a game. "I'd rather be safe than sorry," he says.

The school's athletic training staff has also expressed concern that the droppings could hurt the student athletes. "The Canada goose problem is getting out of hand, and it will result in making the

athletes and even trainers very sick," said student trainer Bridgette Bell.

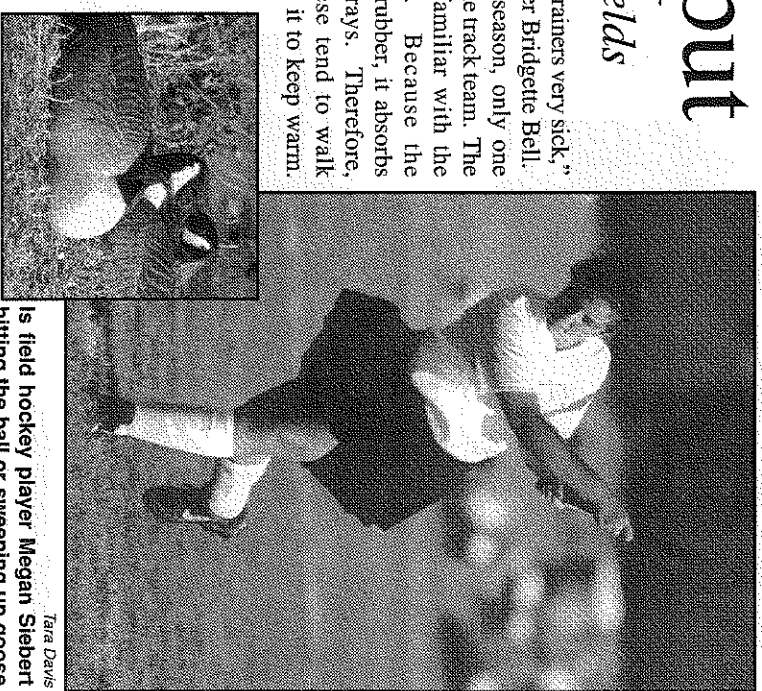
In the winter season, only one team is outside: the track team. The team is all too familiar with the goose problem. Because the school's track is rubber, it absorbs some of the sun's warm rays. Therefore, around and sit on it to keep warm.

Goose droppings on the track are in such a quantity that "Jane one at times can't be seen," says senior Eddie Repa. "Plus, it gets all over our shoes."

Since the geese are attracted to the track, they also leave a multitude of droppings on the varsity game field.

"Many of the soccer players had to dodge droppings as well as defenders," says senior Kathy Wainwright. Consequently, the soccer team took the offensive last spring against the geese and their droppings. They cleared the field by raking it from endline to endline at the start of the season.

There have been many propositions to rid the geese from the athletic fields. "A janitor at WS had the right idea on how to



Is field hockey player Megan Siebert hitting the ball or sweeping up goose droppings? WS athletes from on the way Canada geese congregate on the school's fields.

handle the geese problem," says Scudder. "He went outside and smashed a shovel over the head of a goose, and proceeded to take it home and eat it."

The custodian wasn't the only one with violent urges towards the geese. To get the geese off the baseball fields, baseball players often throw baseballs into large gaggles to get the birds to fly away.

"If I was allowed to, I'd shoot one every time I saw one," says McCarthy.

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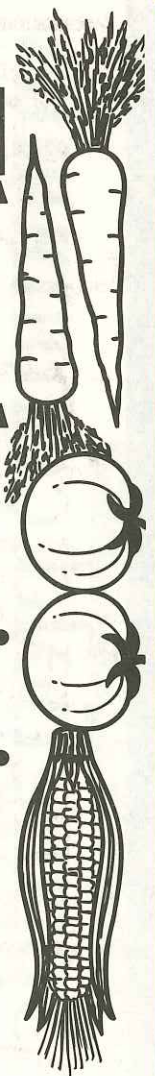
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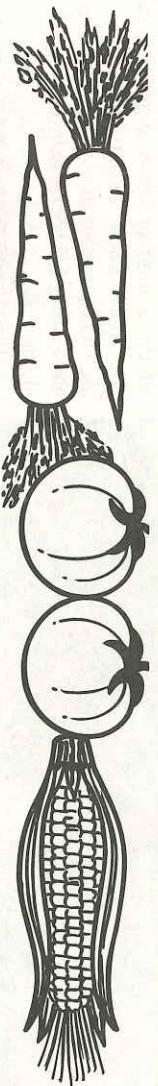
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# Thanksgiving, vegetarian style

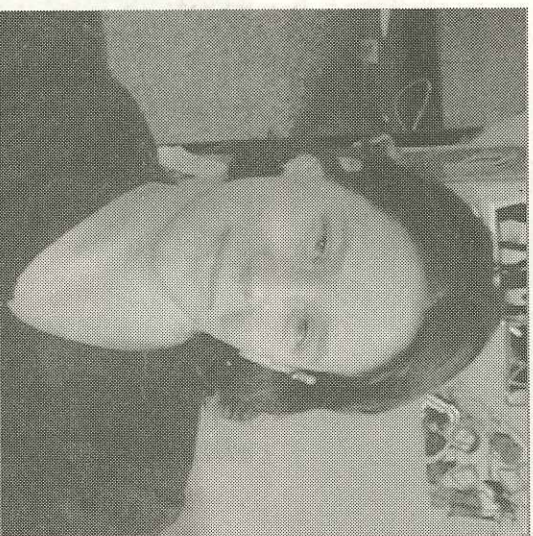


**By Gracy Obuchowicz**  
*Oracle Editor*

When I decided to become a vegetarian the summer before eighth grade, my father never thought I would make it through Thanksgiving.

He was convinced that my avoidance of meat was simply a phase I would soon grow out of, and he pinpointed Thanksgiving, a holiday centered around meat to be my breaking point.

But I held strong through the day, ate my mashed potatoes and veggies, and tried to avoid the smell of the turkey that I had once enjoyed so much.



*Amy Whipple*  
Senior Gracy Obuchowicz enjoys Thanksgiving dinner without meat.

It was hard, but I felt as if I had accomplished something by the end of the day, and I didn't have to give my father the pleasure of proving me wrong.

Four years later, my vegetarianism is accepted in family, but holidays can still be hard. My relatives still demand explanations when we gather around the table and carve the turkey.

I've tried especially hard to justify my anti-meat thoughts to my grandparents, but because they lived through the Depression I don't think they can comprehend how I could pass up available food.

So Thanksgiving comes each year with some enthusiasm for me, but I'm never sad to see it go. In the past few years, my aunt has made me my own bowl of vegetarian stuffing, so I didn't have to forgo everything.

I'm always full by the end of the meal, but that not disgusting, "unbutton your pants and fall asleep watching football" full that everyone else experiences.

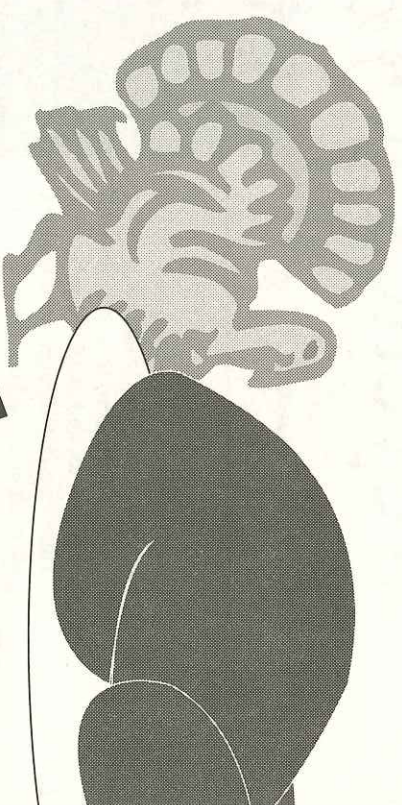
While everyone is snoozing on the couch from the huge amount of melatonin (a natural sleep-inducing drug) in turkey, it's given me sometime to define my personal meaning of Thanksgiving.

I've realized that for me, Thanksgiving is time to be grateful for life, and if a life is sacrificed for that celebration, it would go against the point.

I don't feel the need to convert the world to vegetarians or make everyone around me understand my feelings about meat.

I know that turkey is yummy, and I don't mind when people when people eat it around me, but I know I'm happier without it.

# happy Thanksgiving



# Turkey Day production

**By Caitlin Marvin**  
*Ads Editor*

When someone mentions Thanksgiving, there are so many things that come to my mind.

First, I think of how I never got to be an Indian in all those elementary school Turkey Day plays and how I was always stuck looking like I had just stumbled off the Mayflower in a paper pilgrim hat.

I think of how, for four straight days, the only trek I will have to make is from the couch to the dining room. And above all, I think of the fact that stuffing our faces becomes a patriotic duty.

The preparation for Thanksgiving is one of my favorite parts of the whole holiday.

I'm sure I only enjoy it though because I don't really take part. I just like to open and shut the oven door a million times just to smell the pumpkin pie. And there isn't just pumpkin pie. My Thanksgiving feast consists of the usual turkey, stuffing, potatoes and cranberry sauce. And even



*Bill Marvin*

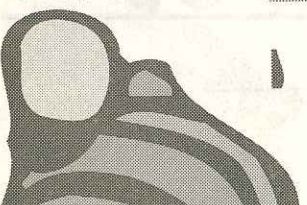
Junior Caitlin Marvin, as a five-year-old, looks away with a look of disgust on her face as her mom cleans the Thanksgiving turkey.

though I have an extreme hatred for turkey, I am grateful that Thanksgiving meals have changed since the actual feast centuries ago. Did you know they ate things called "Pricassee of Coney" and

whortleberries?

After the meal is set out on the table and the turkey is brought out to about 15 of my relatives followed by "oohs" and "ahhs," I feel the most thankful. Not

because the turkey because I know the weekend has begun. It's because, once made stuffing from Stovetop Stuffing to eat on average, And two, I am pointing out imperfect turkey meat. Cal passes the time in giving jokes and "gravy" comments. This Thanksgiving cleaning the turkey very productive. I am looking for "patriotic duty" a to terms with the chance to be an In Day production.





# Say thanks to food

## A weekend devoted to eating

By Kelly Alm  
Managing Editor



There is only one reason why I like Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving not only justifies days spent gorging ourselves with fattening food, but it actually gives us reason to commit such health crimes.

Thanksgiving at my house is not the equivalence of sitting on the couch watching Friday night football with a bag of Doritos in one hand and Soft Batch cookies in the other. It is not even the equivalent of eating a whole tub of Ben and Jerry's "Chubby Hubby" ice cream, topped with whip cream and hot fudge sauce.

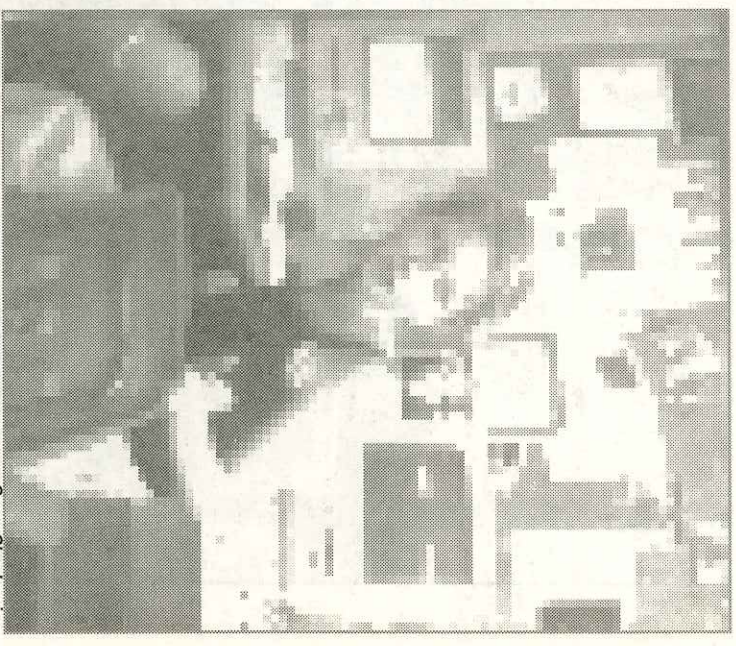
Thanksgiving at my house is four days devoted to eating. This does not even include the weeks afterwards that are spent eating leftovers.

The eating begins Thursday morning. While most people get up early to watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, my family gets up early to eat my father's homemade cinnamon rolls.

Afterwards my mom and dad begin to plan and prepare for our Thanksgiving feast. However, unlike the day long preparation for most feasts this one does not torture me throughout the day.

Although the lingering smell of food cooking in the kitchen is tempting, there is other food to replace my hunger. My parents fill a table with such delicatessens as jam filled croissants, Godiva chocolates, brie cheese and apple cider.

For the rest of the day, in the midst of eating all of this food, my family spends time making our meal, while listening to holiday music. My dad makes mashed potatoes and homemade rolls. I make the the cranberry relish, while my mom



Senior Kelly Alm looks forward to Thanksgiving when she will eat a delicious feast with her family.

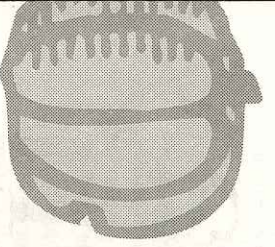
Gracy Obuchowicz

uses bread and onions to stuff the golden turkey. The actual eating process takes about three hours. We take thirds and even fourth servings of food, and by the end of the meal the turkey isn't the only one stuffed.

# Thanksgiving

## eat all you can

# Give thanks and



isn't burned and not grazing period of the day.

me, I get to eat home-cooked turkey which is quite a change from the turkey I happen to eat at home two times a week.

oy sitting at the table eating turkey. I have no objections on the "white" turkey. I am not the immature, but it is between corny Thanksgiving turkey and the "please pass the turkey" turkey.

ing I won't be found out by doing anything or not doing anything. I will attempt to fulfill my duty by attempting to come up with a turkey that I'll never get a turkey in another Turkey



Senior Melissa Tran gives a thumbs up to Thanksgiving food.

Amy Whipple

By Melissa Tran  
Oracle Editor

Thanksgiving is easily my favorite holiday. When else can you gather around a table, chat with your relatives and eat delicious food?

Though most of my extended family lives within a 45 minute drive, there is nothing better than having them all trek to Springfield, gather at my house for a day, and get reacquainted during a time of thanks and appreciation. I will admit, the worst part is

being around the house all day while a huge collection of food accumulates in the kitchen.

Stuffing, turkey, and best of all, the potatoes. Idaho must ship them directly to my house on Thanksgiving because they are the best damned potatoes I've ever eaten. It takes hours of time for one person to smash bags and bags of potatoes into a pot with garlic and butter, and make a delicious blend of mashed potatoes that practically melts in your mouth.

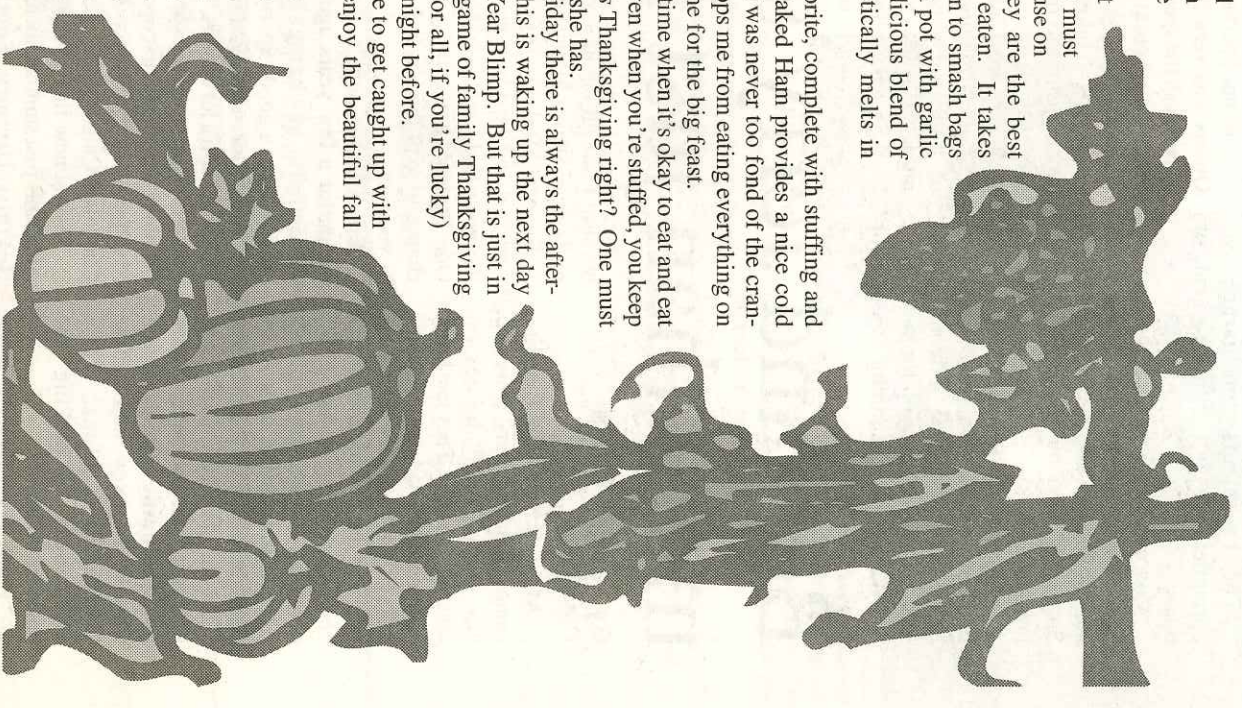
Turkey is always a favorite, complete with stuffing and pretty garnishes. Honey Baked Ham provides a nice cold alternative meal as well. I was never too fond of the cranberry sauce, but nothing stops me from eating everything on the table when it comes time for the big feast.

This holiday is the only time when it's okay to eat and eat until you're stuffed... and even when you're stuffed, you keep on going, because hey- it is Thanksgiving right? One must be thankful for everything she has.

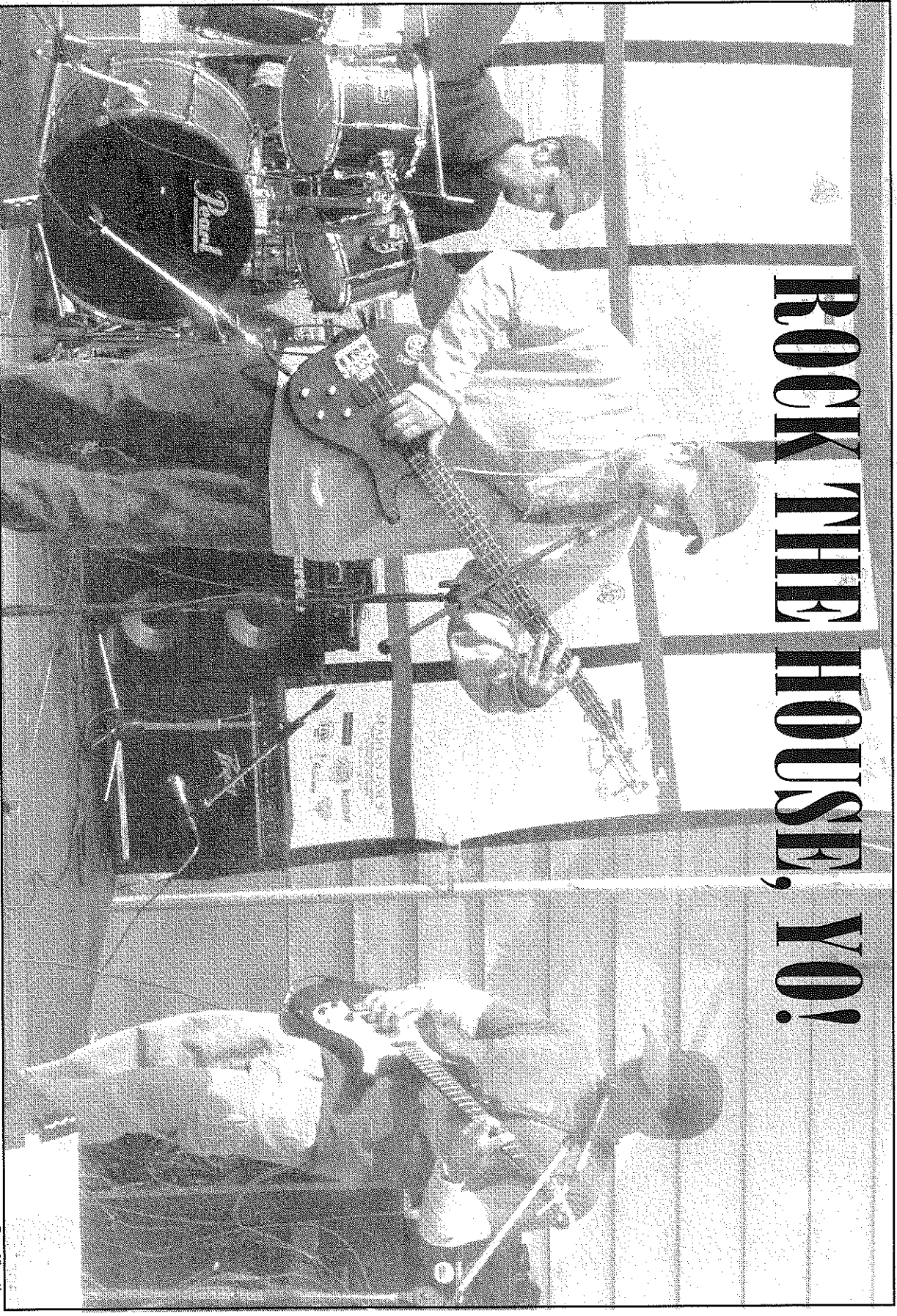
But with every great holiday there is always the aftermath. For Thanksgiving, this is waking up the next day and feeling like the Good Year Blimp. But that is just in time for playing an annual game of family Thanksgiving football to work off some (or all, if you're lucky) of the calories you put on the night before.

This is also a time for me to get caught up with my favorite relatives and enjoy the beautiful fall weather.

Thanksgiving also brings the push toward the holidays, so shopping is always a fun alternative. But no matter how you choose to spend your time, the important part is that you appreciate all that is given to you and eat as much as you possibly can.



# ROCK THE HOUSE, YO!



Members of Substyle, seniors Donny Potter, Jason Wendling and junior Elliot Lopes show off their talent at this year's Spartanfest..

Bree Virostko

## Basements, garages echo with student sound

**By Steve Orens  
& Mike Fletcher**  
*Oracle Staff Writers*

The sound is loud, the beat is strong, and the ambiance is slick—oil slick, that is.

The basements and garages of Springfield are alive with the sounds of music.

Conceived last summer in the basement of sophomore Steven Moffa, one student band, "Pound Cake," made its debut at Spartanfest after months of practice and preparation.

With sophomores Adam Aft, Ryan Houston and Moffa, and senior Hal Newman, the founding of "Pound Cake" was a natural progression for these four.

"We had been jamming together for

awhile," said Houston. "And one day we decided that it was fun and wanted to do it more often."

Although the band provides the talent and motivation, the students said guitar instructor Keith Owens helps keep them going.

"For our Spartanfest performance, Mr. Owens was very helpful," said Aft. "He provides all the speakers, microphones and other equipment that we can't play without."

Owens takes pride in the accomplishments of the bands his program help spawn.

"There are a lot of good bands here," he said. "I'm impressed with the number of students trying to create their own music."

WS itself gives student bands a number

of opportunities to project their own music to the public, like the upcoming Battle of the Bands and Spartanfest.

"I have a lot to say through my music and these school functions give me a way to say it," said junior and solo act David Glaser, who has performed at Spartanfest and the Key Club Barbeque.

"I like when people in the school come up to me and tell me that they really liked a song. It makes me feel good about my music."

Glaser recently expanded his horizons and began playing at the Starbucks near Springfield Mall every Wednesday night at 7:30. His solo act is a response to his other band members, who have recently recorded a CD under the name of "Overall Junction," being scattered across the country.

Sublime, Suspect Device and Lung Fung all got their starts in the garages of WS students. And while students graduate and go on to college and careers, some still stay together.

Although new bands like "Pound Cake" sponsored events, the band members say they want to perform at venues outside school.

"We've really just started, with our performance at Spartanfest, but we're hoping to play a lot more," said Moffa. "Later, we want to be able to play at people's parties and other events like that."

Since Spartanfest, many people may be wondering where they can hear even more music from "Pound Cake." For now, Moffa said you can catch their next performance "in my basement."

## Ben and Jerry's serves more than just ice cream

**By Julie Davis**  
*Oracle Staff Writer*

Many know the familiar names, Ben and Jerry. This duo has visited many homes on several occasions. They can bring happiness to a bad day, or satisfy a craving for a sweet substance. Ben and Jerry's ice cream has been a novelty in the U.S., invading the nearby grocer's freezer and setting up parlors across the nation.

In the past few years new, interesting flavors have shown up, including Phish Food, Chunky Monkey, and Coffee Buzz. Their uniqueness is making the business boom.

"Phish Food is my favorite

because I like all the little fish," said senior Shawn McFarlin.

Several students regularly visit Ben and Jerry's, especially the one in Old Town, Alexandria. One student, however, got the chance to visit the original shop in Vermont.

Eric Chaffer, senior, visited the parlor a few years ago and remembers it being very crowded, but a good experience.

"The parlor in Vermont is in a nice area, with a lot of trees," said Chaffer. "There were lines around the block when they first opened. My favorite flavor is Mint Chocolate Chip."

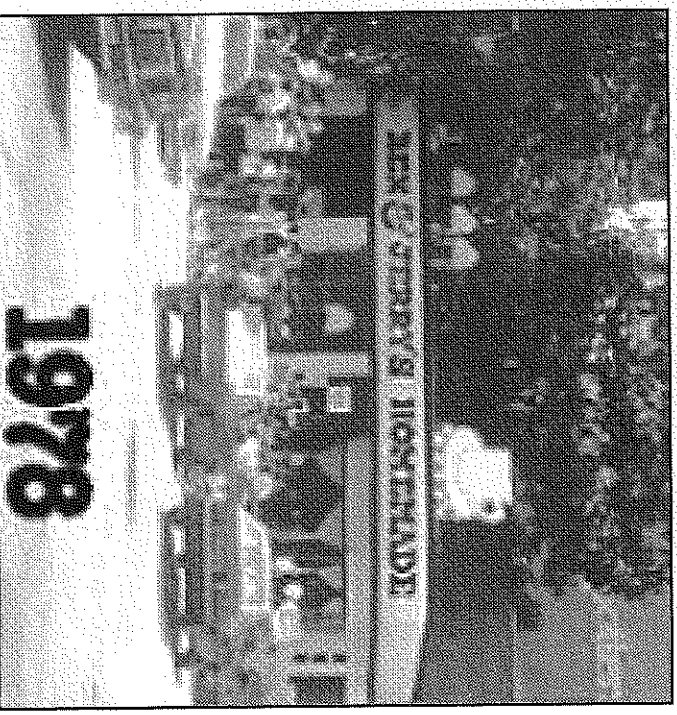
Several new flavors has been added this past summer, including Bovinity Divinity, Southern

Pecan Pie, Triple Caramel Pie, Mocha Late, and Chocolate Comfort.

"Several of the old flavors were removed to make room for the new ones," said Stacy Stanczak, manager of the Old Town Ben and Jerry's. "However, the most popular flavors still are Chocolate Cookie Dough, Chocolate French Brownie and Cherry Garcia."

Ben and Jerry's corporation is based on economics and a mission to the community. It goes beyond just serving ice cream to contributing to the well-being of society.

"Ben and Jerry's ice cream has a lot more chunks of chocolate and fruit than other ice



Since opening their first parlor in Vermont, Ben and Jerry's has increased in both size and number of flavors.

cream companies," said Stanczak. "It is because Ben has had taste and all the customers just loved it."

# All of the hockey, none of the ice

## Roller hockey leagues increase in popularity, level of participation

By Erin Muir  
Managing Editor

It has the speed, the skates and the sticks, just not the ice.

In the past few years, roller hockey has become a popular alternative to ice hockey. It has grown from a game played in parking lots with garbage cans for goals into an official sport with hundreds of leagues across the country.

There are several leagues in Northern Virginia. One of these is the Fairfax County Park Authority league, run out of Wakefield Recreation Center by Greg Keim. He started the league in 1992 with 40 kids.

"[I started the league] to service the growing demand in the community for roller hockey," said Keim.

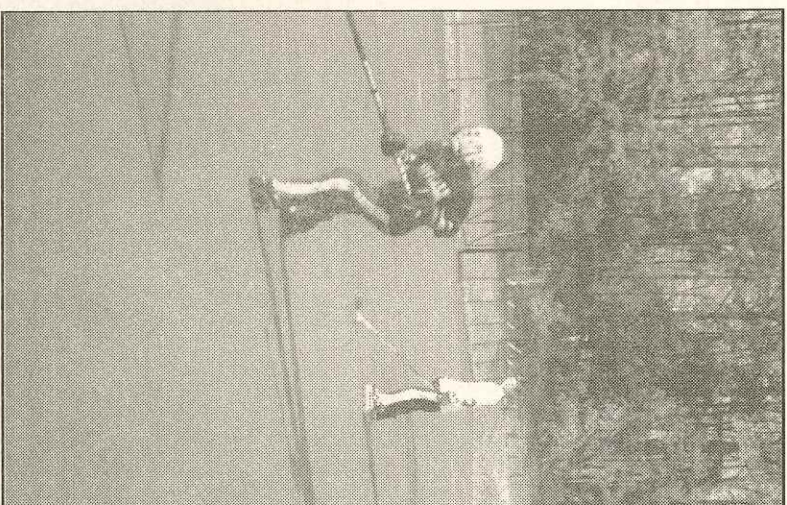
Since its inception, the league has grown by 600%, to over 240 kids ranging in age from six to 16. All of the referees are high school students, as are many of the coaches.

"Because roller hockey is such a new sport, there aren't many adults that know that much about it," said Keim. "Also, young kids are more fun to be around."

Roller hockey started to become more popular in the early '90s, as both in-line skating and ice hockey gained prominence. The high cost of ice hockey and



Erin Muir



Erin Muir

**Freshman Annie Muir warms up at her roller hockey practice with her teammate, Eddie Fry. They both play for the Capitals in the under-13 division at Wakefield Recreation Center.**

lack or local teams made roller hockey the clear alternative. Fees to join ice hockey teams can top \$500. Registering at Wakefield costs \$75. Equipment costs for ice hockey are also high. Ice skates cost at least \$100 and a full complement of pads can total \$300.

While roller hockey does require some of the same equip-

ment as ice hockey, like a helmet with a full face guard, Wakefield offers the option of renting most of the gear. "Renting gear] allows more people to play that may not be ready to make the investment in equipment," said Keim.

Both ice and roller hockey have become popular as alternatives to more traditional youth

sports like soccer and baseball.

"Hockey is a rush," said junior Dan Powell. "It's better than most sports because it's a lot more competitive and tiring. Like the competition, you must grow."

One of the other aspects of Wakefield that attracts people to the league is its low-pressure style. Teams decide whether or

not they will have practices. Because most of the coaches and referees are young, a low-key style of play has developed. While youth soccer games in Northern Virginia are famed for the angry screams of parents, Wakefield games are friendly, with very few negative comments.

"I feel that this league is a tremendous opportunity for the kids. They are learning about hockey, but most importantly, they are learning to have fun," said Anthony Willel, whose son plays for the Power.

Low-key does not mean non-competitive. Many of the players, especially in the older divisions are highly involved in roller hockey, both as players and as referees.

"Roller hockey is like the goo in your bathroom sink," said junior Adam Colton. "Because the goo is always there. It's a part of the sink."

Wakefield holds playoffs and championship games at the end of every regular season for all age groups, from Mites to Midgets. To ensure success, teams have developed dozens of strategies for winning.

"[We have the] Polar Bears," said junior Steve Bassler, who plays for the Hurricanes. "It's this little water bottle. Before this season, we hadn't lost one with it. This season, we've lost two, but it's still special."

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# France comes to DC with Brassai

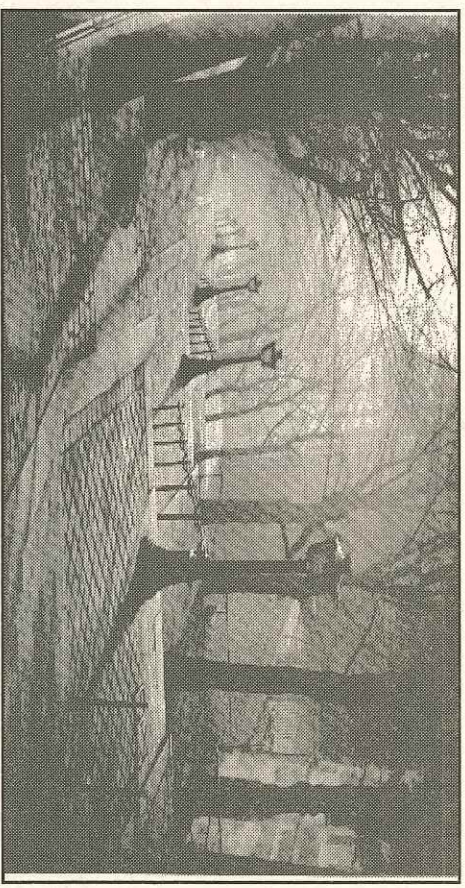
By Lauren Edwards  
Photographer

A French prostitute sits on the walls of Washington's National Gallery of Art. Beside her, baller dancers sit in a stretch hold across from a dark alley in Paris and a naked woman encompassed in shadows. Welcome to the Smithsonian's portrayal of Brassai's world. It was a world of both controversial topics and human expression in a time when Paris yearned for something that could capture its art, its music, and its culture.

Brassai was that something. Born in Berlin as Brasso 100 years ago, the photographer's work showcases every part of Paris in the 1930's with an incredibly unbiased reality. His photographs of its recluses and stars, dark alleys and beautiful bridges show just how much he loved France and its personality.

But Brassai didn't originally dream of the fame, nor Paris, nor the photography. He originally attended the Budapest School of Arts as a student of painting and sculpture and it wasn't until later, when he was actually in Paris, that he realized that he wanted to capture it on film. He never moved out of France again. The National Gallery of Art is celebrating the centennial of his birth with the exhibit, which went on display this month. Hundreds of his best known pictures line the museum's wall. As a photographer, I immediately fell in love with the exhibit and with Brassai's incredible work.

Aldra Strott, the photography teacher, and Joelle Torrelle, the French 5 teacher also recognize the importance of the extraordinary artist. They have joined together their classes to share with each other the culture of Paris during Brassai's life and the amazing techniques of his



Brassai's century-old photographs are on display at the National Gallery of Art.

work. On Monday, November 15, their classes took a field trip to the National Gallery of Art together to visit the exhibit. The exhibit is a great one, easily enjoyable by anyone, and close to other famous pieces in the gallery. Brassai's work pulls the viewer into Paris' culture—and lets you visit America's.

## Concert review

### Save Ferris gets a 10 at 9:30

By Angela Fiorino  
Update Editor

The swinging sounds of ska is what you would have heard if you were at the 9:30 Club November 6. Save Ferris, the seven-piece ska band from Anaheim, CA, put on a most excellent performance.

The horn section is made up of three energetic guys, Eric, Jose and T-Bone Willy, who plays the saxophone, trumpet, and trombone respectively and also offer loud back up vocals. Along with playing and singing they manage to jump around on stage with their instruments.

Along with the horn section, Bill Uechi plays bass, Brian



Angela Fiorino

Lead singer Montique Powell and the rest of Save Ferris jumped and sang all night to entertain the crowd at the packed 9:30 in DC.

Mashburn on the guitar, Evan Kibbourne on drums, and Montique Powell on vocals. The members of Save Ferris are all under the age of 25 and it shows during their performances. The energetic vibes sent out to the crowd are strong enough to get anyone moving. There was even an elderly couple swing dancing to some of the songs.

Sophonore Elizabeth Hebda said "I really enjoyed the show. The whole band is really crowd friendly but my favorite member was the drummer, Evan because I got a chance to meet him before the show and his hair was all spiked up and glittery and he looked really hot."

Aside from the fact that several of the male members of the band are good looking, lead singer Montique Powell let her strong voice be known, by belting out both new and old songs

to the crowd. Powell sported a pink leather top, a red skirt, a red feathered scarf, tall black boots and to top it off, black and red hair. Along with singing and dancing, Powell spent a decent amount of time insulting pop sensation Britney Spears. An advantage to the 9:30 Club, was how close the stage was. No matter where you were standing in the club, you had a great view of the whole band on the stage. Many of the hard-core Save Ferris fans, such as sophomore Jessica Potter, were actually pushed against the stage and could touch the band.

"It was the best night of my life. Save Ferris is the best band!" said Potter. "I was so close that I was touching the guitarist the whole time and after the show he handed me his guitar pick. On top of that I met the whole horn section and the drummer!"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>November 22</b> <i>Tuna Christmas</i> at Warner Theater	<b>23</b> In stores "Lisener Supported" by Dave Matthews Band and "Nastradamus" by Nas	<b>24</b> In theaters <i>Toy Story 2</i> , <i>End of Days</i> and <i>Flawless</i> Shania Twain at MCI Center	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> In stores "Born Again" by Notorius B.I.G. and "Live" by Sheryl Crow	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> In theaters <i>Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo</i> , <i>The Green Mile</i> , <i>Diamonds and Cradle Will Rock</i>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> In stores "Supreme Clientele" by Wu Tang Clan member Ghostface Killah	<b>15</b> Phish at MCI Center			
	<b>29</b> Big Bad Voodoo Daddy at 9:30 Club	<b>30</b> In stores "Let's Get Ready To Rumble" by Mystikal and "The Master" by Rakim	<b>December 1</b> Meatloaf at DAR Constitution Hall, 8:00 PM	<b>2</b> Fats of Clay at 9:30 Club	<b>3</b> In theaters <i>The End of the Affair</i> , <i>Holy Smoke</i> and <i>Sweet and Lowdown</i>	<b>4</b> Smooth Jazz 105.9 Holiday Concert at Howard University
	<b>28</b> Megadeth at 9:30 Club					

## THE BEST OF WHAT'S AROUND TOWN

# Gibson gives girls success

*Coaching career includes college racquetball course, boys basketball*

**By Laura Robinson**  
*Sports Editor*

As a 10-year-old little leaguer, Bill Gibson looked up to his coach, Woody Johnson.

"He was real good," said Gibson, "You did it until it was right, showed a desire to win and had a real good work ethic."

Johnson is now the WS assistant football coach and Gibson is one of the most successful girls basketball coaches in the state. Gibson's coaching career started during one of his classes at Madison College (now known as James Madison.)

"I was in a racquetball class in college and my coach had to go scout and watch some other games," said Gibson. "He let me coach for him and lead the classes while he was gone. I started from there."

While in high school and college he

played basketball, mainly at the shooting guard position. Gibson began to coach boys basketball at his high school alma mater, Bishop Ireton. He guided the Cardinals to a state-winning championship, but left the school after two years to coach at WS. Soon after, he was asked to coach the girls for a short period and then return to the boys team.

"The girls coach had to be gone for a while, and I was just going to sub for a little bit," said Gibson, "When the coach finally came back I had been there long enough to develop the program and improve the team. I stuck with the girls."

Since taking over the girls coaching position, his career record is 252-61. Twelve of his players have gone to college on full basketball scholarships, and about 20 played basketball in college. Although he believes there's no secret to coaching, con-

"I'm pretty intense, and coaching is a matter of control. You have to know when to get in somebody's face and when not to."

**-Bill Gibson**

trol is a major issue.

"I'm pretty intense, and coaching is a matter of control," said Gibson. "You have to know when to get in somebody's face and when not to. Sometimes that's really hard to do."

Gibson has received many awards during his years at WS. He was named the *Washington Post* 1996-97 Coach of the Year, and was regional and district coach



Lauren Edwards

**Coach Bill Gibson began his coaching career at his college racquetball class.** many times. Gibson also involves the community.

"His involvement in AAU programs brings a lot of interest to the West Springfield area," said WS Athletic Director Tod Chappell. "He devotes a lot of time to basketball and has shown a sincere commitment to the school. He's provided opportunities for numerous young women to be involved with basketball."

## Cheerleading: true sport or just an activity?

*Stunting, gymnastics make it a sport*

**By Nikki Werking**  
*ETC. Editor*

I really don't see why so many people think that it's easy to do back flips, lift, throw, and catch other people, especially when you're wearing a skirt.

To anyone who thinks that cheerleading isn't a sport, I have only thing to say to you: You've obviously never tried it. Sure, it may look easy, but that doesn't mean it is. Look at this from the viewpoint of someone who has stood on the track every Friday night wearing a shifted skirt in the 40-degree weather:

Cheerleading isn't a sport. It's more like three or four sports all rolled into one. Basically, you could say that cheerleading consists of a combination of dance, gymnastics, kickboxing, and weightlifting.

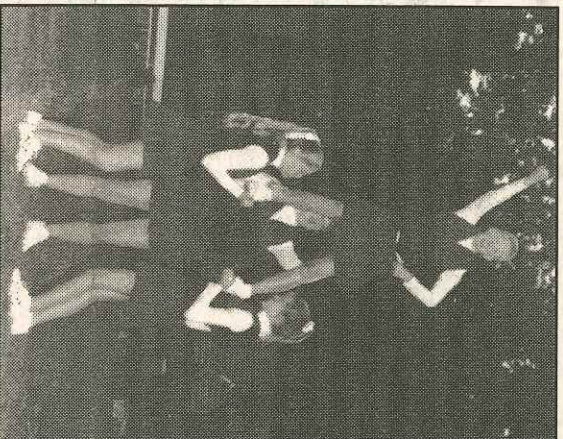
If you've ever watched cheerleaders, you know that they dance, jump, and tumble, so it's really not necessary to explain why we are dancers and gymnasts. I'm quite sure, however, that you're not seeing the connection between kickboxing, weightlifting, and cheerleading. Allow me to explain.

An important aspect of cheerleading is something we call "punching your motions." Motions, for those of you who can't figure it out, are those arm and leg moves we do during the cheers and chants. When you do your motions, you don't want to flail about like a ragdoll, so you hit your motions in certain places with sharp

precision, just as if you were throwing punches in kickboxing.

Thing that most people notice about cheerleading, though, isn't jumps or flips or motions. It's our stunts. This is where the weightlifting comes into play. We wouldn't just want to lift a couple of plain old dumbbells. That would be boring. So, we've turned into something artistic and dangerous: we lift, throw, and catch other squad members all while spinning, doing the splits or standing on one leg while the other leg points up toward the sky. For anyone who has never tried, let me assure you: it's not any easier than it sounds. If anything, it's harder.

Once, I wore one of my cheerleading t-shirts to school. On the back, it says "If cheerleading got any easier, it would be called football." One of my friends read it and said, "But football is hard!" I think she missed the point.



Tara Davis  
cheerleaders playing

involve the crowd. The name says it all.

"The whole purpose of cheerleading is to pump up the team playing the sport," said senior David Visted.

Another thing I must stress is the definition of a sport. If you play a sport you are engaging in physical activity that involves strength, skill, agility, and competition. There are some athletic qualities to cheerleading. The girls execute toe touches, few perform cartwheels or back handsprings, and some are thrown up in the air for stunts.

While strength and skills are important to being able to do these stunts, the reason why they are implemented into the cheers is for attention and excitement. With the

**By Sue Moon**  
*News Section Editor*

I saw a girl somewhere wearing a t-shirt that said, "Cheerleading is MY sport." I could not help but laugh. She probably considered cheerleading to be HER sport, but I didn't consider it to be a sport at all.

At almost every football or basketball game the cheerleaders are standing on the sidelines watching the game and rooting for their team. They cheer, jump, and perform their stunts to encourage the players and involve the crowd. The

positive reaction from the crowd the team gets encouragement to play their best. Cheerleading also lacks fierce competition, a major component of playing a sport. Most people participate in athletics for the competition, but there is not much in cheerleading. During halftime, the cheerleaders from opposing schools are not battling against each other. The main focus is cheering for the team playing on the field or floor.

"There is no real goal in it except to be good," said sophomore Brian Cable. "There are no goals or points."

Also for most of the season, practices are not for competition, whereas the sports are practicing solely for the next meet or game. For members of the cheerleading squad, that practice time is allotted to practice cheers and routines.

I know that at the end of the fall season cheerleaders participate in district championships, regionals, and state competitions; but I don't think the cheerleaders practice a whole season for just one competition or two.

If cheerleading was a sport, they would have more activity than just a few stunts and spotting, and they would have real competition against other schools. If this was the case, then they need to find someone to cheer for them.

Back to my point about the girl's shirt: if she wants to be a cheerleader, I don't have any objection to that, but I do think she should get a different shirt.

## Winter Sports Schedule

**Boys Basketball-** Dec 4 home vs. Yorktown 7:30, Dec 11 at Wakefield 7:30, Dec 15 home vs. Falls Church

**Girls Basketball-** Dec 3 home vs. Edison 7:30, Dec 7 at Langley 7:30, Dec 10 home vs. Mt. Vernon 7:30

**Swim and Dive-** Dec 3 vs. Robinson at Provid 6:30, Dec 10 vs. Lake Braddock at Wakefield 8:30, Dec 11 vs. Annandale at Woodfield 6:00

**Track-** Dec 4 vs. TC/West Potomac/Fairfax at Episcopal 7:30 am, Dec 11 vs. Hayfield/Annandale/Oakton at Episcopal 7:30 am, Jan 8 vs. Mt. Vernon/Langley/Herridon at Episcopal 7:30 am

**Gymnastics-** Dec 8 at Hayfield vs. Mt. Vernon WPot 7:00, Dec 15 at Mt. Vernon vs. LB/BroadRun 7:00, Dec 20 at LB vs Madison Robinson 7:00

**Wrestling-** Nov 27 at home vs Broadrun 10:00 am, Dec 4 at home vs. Fairfax/Oakton/W&L 1:00 pm

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# CC captains star in 4-year drama

By Gracy Obuchowicz  
Oracle Editor

They started as the "fresh-women" and ever since they have dominated WS Girls Cross Country.

The four captains of the team, Elaine Giuliani, Caroline Grummon, Katie Weinberg, and Maggie Marriot just finished a turbulent and emotional last season of high school cross country. Despite being ranked high in the beginning of the season, a series of injuries kept the team from qualifying for states.

The end of the season brought mixed feelings.

"The season was great, but it was so hard to go to every meet and realize it's our last time running there," said Giuliani.

Weinberg is also wistful about leaving, and is still remembers being a freshman.

"I see so much of myself in all the freshman," said Weinberg. "So much of my high school life was spent running cross country."

The captains dominated the team since

their first season. They began to refer to themselves as "freshwomen" as they impressed everyone with their running skills.

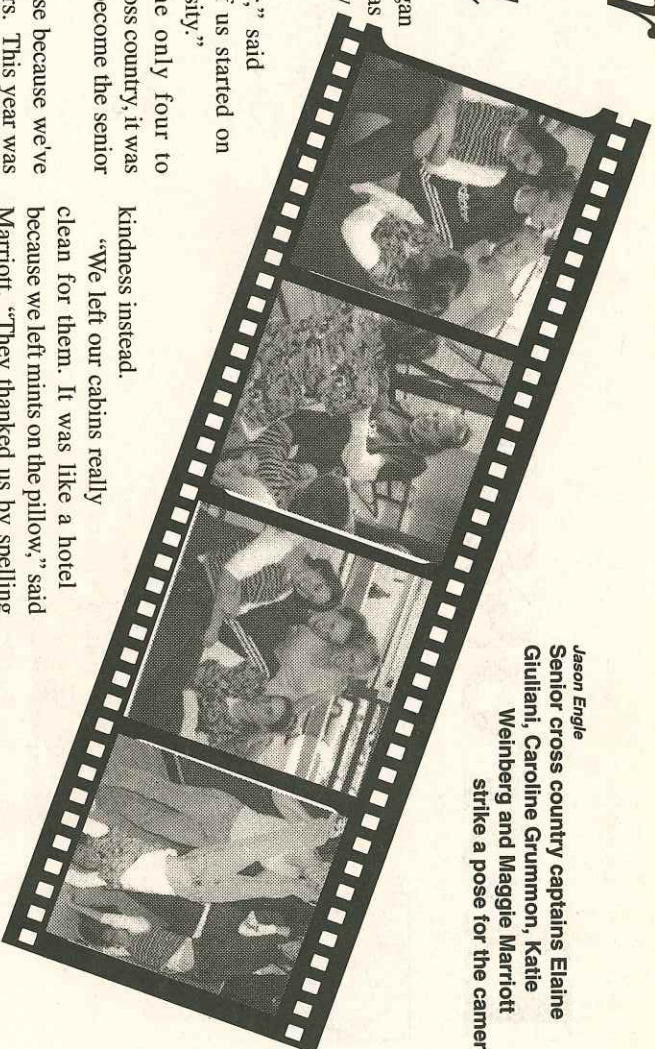
"We really look over," said Weinberg. "The four of us started on varsity and ended on varsity."

Since they were the only four to complete four years of cross country, it was natural that they would become the senior captains.

"We are all really close because we've run together for four years. This year was great because after being a part of the team for so long we get to lead," said Caroline Grummon.

The girls bonded during the summer that started with captain's practice in the beginning of July, and ended with the annual trip to Cacapon in West Virginia.

The girls team has always shared the week with the boys team, and in the past the two teams have played pranks on each other, such as trashing each others cabins. But this year the team decided switch to



Jason Engle  
Senior cross country captains Elaine Giuliani, Caroline Grummon, Katie Weinberg and Maggie Marriot strike a pose for the camera.

## Wrestlers get in shape for upcoming season

Tight schedule means less time to practice

By Janelle Baldwin  
News Editor

The parking lot is empty. Most people haven't even eaten breakfast yet, but junior Pack Landfair is already at school. He's running on the track to get ready for the upcoming wrestling season.

"There were captain's practices, but I chose to run on my own to get in shape for the season," said Landfair.

Landfair isn't the only one who worked hard to get fit for the season. Other wrestlers got in shape by going to preseason captain's practices that involved running and lifting four times a week. The wrestlers are hoping that their hard work will enable them to start the season well.

"The team is made up of a core or wrestlers who have been together for four years," said senior Daniel Correa. "We hope to be a success this season."

In comparison to previous years, this year's schedule leaves less time for

official practice before the first meet.

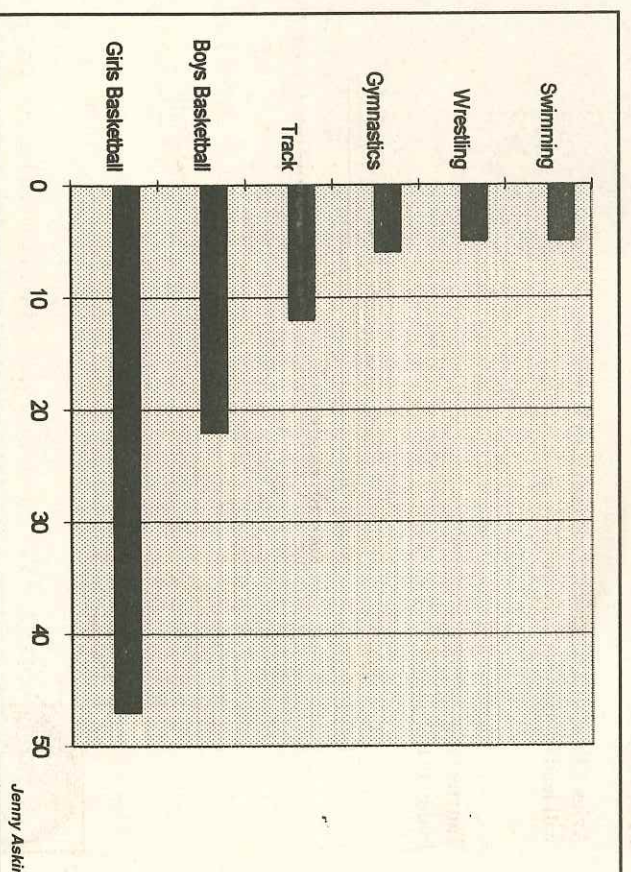
"I'm expecting practices at the beginning to be longer and harder than last year because of the first meet coming so soon," said senior Jared Hoke. "If we want to be ready, practices are going to have to be accelerated."

Wrestlers practice by competing against each other. The day before each match, the athletes in each weight class have "wrestle-offs" to determine who will fill the 14 varsity spots on the team. The athletes successful in their respective "wrestle-off" contests compete for the varsity team at the next day's match.

The whole team hopes to be successful this year, but success in wrestling isn't always just for the team.

Even if the team doesn't get a good score at a meet, individuals can earn personal success.

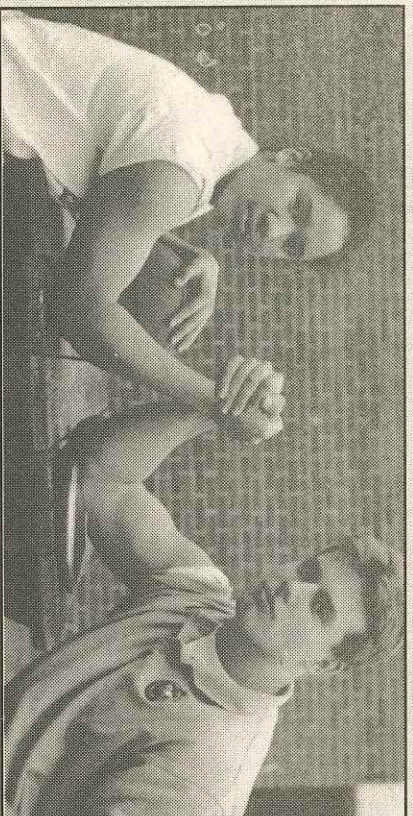
"Success in wrestling is in ore fulfilling than any other team sport," said Hoke. "You earn it yourself."



## Girls basketball scores for the crowd

Lady Spartans win attendance poll

In a recent Oracle poll, 100 students and teachers were asked what winter sporting event they would most likely attend. Forty female students, 40 male students, 10 female teachers and 10 male teachers gave their opinion. Participants were given the choice of girls basketball, boys basketball, gymnastics, swimming, wrestling and track. The Lady Spartans scored the highest in the poll. Winner of the 1997 and 1999 State women's basketball title, the Lady Spartans received 47 votes, almost half of the entire vote count. If the poll is any indication of fan attendance, more people from WS would go to watch the Lady Spartans defend their title than any of the six winter sports.



Monica Landfair

## 'Superlative' play for Lawson

Former Lady Spartan Kara Lawson, pictured as the "Most Athletic" superlative with fellow senior Nick Weinhocky in last year's *Olympian*, led the University of Tennessee women's basketball team to a 1-point victory over the US Women's National Team in an exhibition game November 7. Lawson, a Tennessee freshman who played on two state championship teams for the Spartans, hit a running 8-foot layup with 10 seconds left in the game. The Lady Vols won the exhibition, 65-64, over a professional team that includes former Tennessee stars Chamique Holdscslaw and Nikki McCray. Holdscslaw did not play against Tennessee because of an injury.

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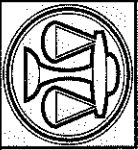
**HOPE** offers friendship and counseling free pregnancy tests prenatal, childbirth, & baby clothes medical & baby clothes complete adoption information housing information & assistance baby furniture

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# Horoscopes



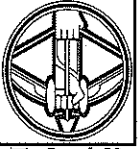
**Virgo (8/23-9/22):** Get a job at Dad's fake plant store and don't show up for work until noon.



**Libra (9/23-10/23):** Walk up to random hotties and ask them if they're from out of town.



**Scorpio (10/24-11/22):** Color coordinate your outfits to match any bruises you have.



**Sagittarius (11/23-12/21):** Throw an '80's party and dress in strappy pants and pink spandex.



**Capricorn (12/22-1/20):** Watch out for flying BBQ-Ranch-sauce-covered olives.



**Aquarius (1/21-2/18):** Watch your fingers. You may get bitten by the rabid person you're trying to steal M+M's from.

**Pisces (2/19-3/20):** You're so excited about your trip to India that you will glow like a pregnant Amish woman.



**Aries (3/21-4/19):** Careful examination of a Wheat Thin will lead to the discovery of all of life's secrets.



**Taurus (4/20-5/20):** Add ginglekises to your buddy list. She will always talk to you.



**Gemini (5/21-6/21):** Be cool like sophomore Amy Sneed by wearing sandals year-round.



**Cancer (6/22-7/22):** Build a night club with a jungle theme in your bathroom.



**Leo (7/23-8/22):** Eat cheese fries at Silver Diner and shout along with the lyrics when "Spish Splash" plays on the jukebox.

-Compiled by Nikki Werking and Amy Whipple



At a wedding in Niagara Falls, a mysterious object looms overhead. What is it? A bird? A plane?.....  
Ellen Waylons

## SPARTAN FOCUS

## Top 10

Things to do during a bomb threat

10. Mess with the guy painting the field.
9. Try to find your friends.
8. Get out of a government test.
7. Meet under the scoreboard with your favorite club.
6. Hold your breath and use the port-o-potties.
5. Run some laps.
4. Join the cheerleaders.
3. Cheer when Dr. Smith says that there might be a bomb in the school.
2. Who cares? We missed two hours of school.
1. Run away.

-Compiled by Matt Barker

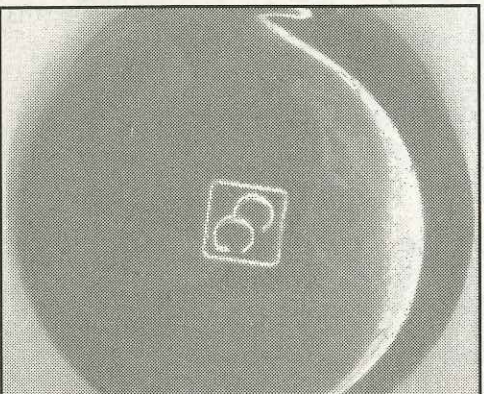
# December Calendar 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Tiny Tots- Auditorium- 9:30- 11AM	2 Tiny Tots- Auditorium- 9:30- 11AM	3 Transcript request deadline for January 1 Applications	4 SAT at WSHS
5	6 Freshman Career Unit Begins	7	8 Band Concert- Auditorium-7:30PM	9 Wind Ensemble Concert-Auditorium 7:30PM	10 Transcript deadline for January 15 Applications	11 Personality Breakfast with Santa- Auditorium
12	13 Interim Week	14	15 Choral Winter Concert-Auditorium- 7:30PM	16	17	18
19	20 PSAT Review and Return	21 PSAT Review and Return	22 Returning College Student Program	23 WINTER VACATION BEGINS	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## WINTER VACATION

# Commercial jingles trivia quiz

- 1) When you gotta go fishing, you will surely find:  
 a) Swedish Fish  
 b) Good Year Tires  
 c) Goldfish  
 d) Star of the Sea Tuna
- 3) My bologna has a first name, it's O-s-c-a-r, my bologna has a second name it's  
 a) B-a-y-e-r  
 b) N-e-v-e-r  
 c) P-a-p-e-r  
 d) M-a-y-e-r



Maybe she's born with it. Maybe it's...Cover Girl?

- 4) Kids love something that doesn't stick to them. It's:  
 a) Lemonade  
 b) M&M's  
 c) Band-aids  
 d) Neosporin

- 7) Some people could really go for some Chicken:  
 a) Flavored beef  
 b) Tomorrow  
 c) Soup  
 d) Tonight



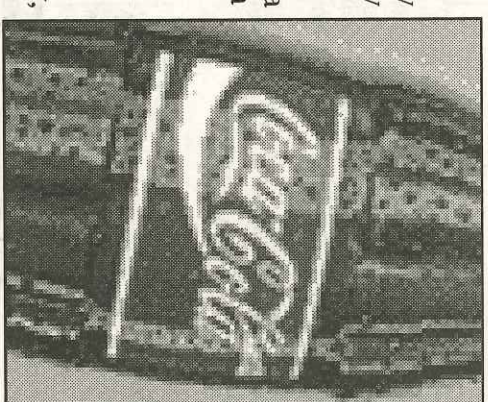
Old Navy Performance Grease?

- 8) For hair so healthy it shines, try:  
 a) Pert Plus  
 b) Loreal Kids  
 c) Pantene Pro V  
 d) Giant Brand Shampoo

- 11) When you're dressed up in my love, you are really dressed in:  
 a) Gap vests  
 b) Old Navy fleece  
 c) Limited jeans  
 d) Stockroom underwear

- 5) Old Navy, Old Navy, Old Navy Performance:  
 a) Peace  
 b) Fleece  
 c) Grease  
 d) Mease

- 9) A country singer is crazy about a:  
 a) Dodge Ram  
 b) Toyota Sonoma  
 c) Toyota Tacoma  
 d) Ford Truck



Whenever there is fun, there's always the real thing.

- 12) If what you're eating is "ALHIVE," it's most likely:  
 a) Goldfish  
 b) Swedish Fish  
 c) Steak Tar-Tar  
 d) Jell-o



I've got the blue box blues.

- 6) The only way to fix the blues is with:  
 a) Kraft Macaroni and Cheese  
 b) Cheer  
 c) Bleach  
 d) Hershey's chocolate

- 10) East, breezy, beautiful:  
 a) Wet 'n' Wild  
 b) Cover Girl  
 c) Loreal  
 d) Oil of Olay

-Compiled by Amy Whipple

## Weird facts you probably never knew

- Acorn worms live in the ocean and secrete slime to collect food particles.
- Hair grows about two cm per month and by the time it is one foot long, the rate of growth is reduced by one-half.
- In the 12th century England, bearbaiting was a popular spectacle involving a fight between a chained-up bear and a pack of dogs.
- Cauliflower is a member of the mustard family.
- Kissing bugs get their name because their favorite place to attack mammals is on the lips.
- The US Table Tennis Association was founded in 1933.
- Joseph Merlín invented the roller skate in the early 18th century, and the skates were produced in 1763.
- Bed bugs really do hide during the day and come out at night, sucking the blood of humans.
- Macaroni is made up of hard, semitransparent varieties of wheat.
- Jumping beans are seeds of tropical shrubs that are infested with larvae of moths which jump when placed on a flat surface.
- A cockroach can live for ten days without a head.
- 80% of Americans say their favorite color is blue.
- The tongue of a giraffe is two feet long.
- The average person swallows eight spiders in their sleep each year.

-Compiled by Theresa Rupp