

# THE ORACLE

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## Curfew plan upsets some teen drivers

By Roberto Garcia and Laura Robinson

Oracle Staff Writers

The Virginia House of Delegates passed a bill in January that would impose a midnight to 5 a.m. curfew on drivers younger than 18.

This bill was one of several to curb the recent increase in driving deaths among Virginia teenagers. Delegates have also suggested raising the minimum age for getting a learner's permit from 15 to 16, limiting passengers with teenage drivers to two, and requiring 40 hours of behind-the-wheel training before licensing.

The curfew bill is now goes to the Senate. While it is more popular with parents and politicians, many students see the proposal as a major inconvenience.

"It isn't fair that a few people are ruining it for everyone," said senior Matt Kirk.

However, parents and many Virginia politicians see this as a way to ensure the safety of teenage drivers. Last year, 167 drivers between the age of 15 and 20 died on Virginia roads. This is an increase from 110 in 1999.

## Elevator poses safety hazard

By Roberto Garcia

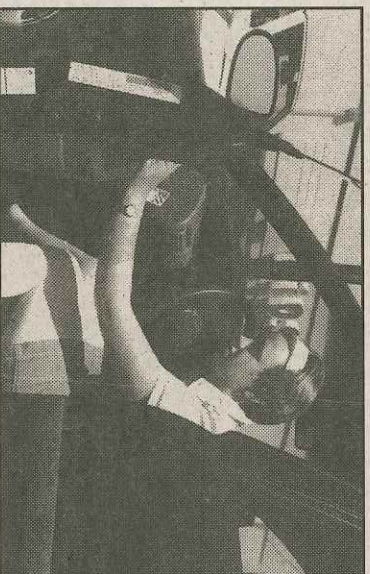
Production Editor

Due to injuries, surgeries, or physical disabilities, several WS students and teachers are forced to take the elevator. However, recent problems with the elevator have caused those riding it to think twice before using it.

In the afternoon of January 5, part time network coordinator Harriette Reaves got stuck in the elevator. She tried putting the key in the key hole to make the elevator go up, without success, and then tried to put it in again to make it go down, also without success. After 15 minutes of trying to get the door open, she opened the door to the telephone, but was surprised to find that there was nothing inside. Although she was hesitant about disturbing the school by pushing the emergency button in the elevator, she eventually did out of fear of being stuck in there all night. She pressed the button, setting off an alarm in the hallway.

After about 15 more minutes, Chemistry teacher Judy Noun heard the alarm and came out of her classroom to investigate. When she heard Reaves yelling for help, Noun called for help. In total, Reaves spent close to 45 minutes in the elevator.

"It was very scary and it seemed like it was 10 degrees in there," said Reaves. "My biggest fear was that no one would



Oracle File Photo

Soon, WS teenagers may not be able to drive after midnight if a new law passes the Virginia Senate.

"I don't need a law to keep my kids under control," said WS secretary and parent Mary Anne Revetta. "However, this bill will help parents who have trouble controlling the driving privileges for their children."

The proposed bill follows the lead of Maryland and 30 other states, plus the District of Columbia, that have passed laws to keep young drivers off the road at night. Maryland strictly enforces its midnight to 5 a.m. curfew, while the District has an 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. ban on weekends and a midnight to 6 a.m. curfew on the weekdays.

The vote in the House of Delegates was 51 to 47. Opponents say it fails to make exceptions for situations where young drivers should be allowed to drive at night.

"Many teenagers have responsibilities, like baby-sitting in my case, that keeps them out after midnight," said junior Amy Block. "This bill does not take that into consideration."

hear me and I would be in the elevator overnight."

According to building supervisor Jim Burke, the elevator, which has been in service since the school opened in 1966, is inspected monthly by the elevator company and had finished getting inspected less than 15 minutes before Reaves got stuck.

"The elevator is up to code, since it gets inspected monthly," said Burke. "The reason she got stuck was because someone broke the key of the elevator switch, so she couldn't open the door."

Reaves' biggest concern is the fact that there is no phone in the elevator. Although she had the ability to scream and yell and eventually set off the alarm, she believes that some disabled students who use the elevator would not have been able to do the same.



Russ Waddell

Dr. Bart Kramer waits to use the elevator which has come under criticism lately because it does not have a phone.

"It could be a very serious problem if one of our disabled students, or anybody in this situation, got stuck in the elevator, especially late in the afternoon, when no one is around to hear the alarm," said Reaves.

However, the administration insists that See Elevator PAGE 4

## Bush tackles schools in first major proposal

By Nayna Gupta

Inside Story Editor

Following on the heels of a presidency that was praised for its economic and foreign policy achievements, but tarnished by scandal, President Bush's administration faces the challenge of maintaining economic progress while rebuilding the public's faith in the office of the presidency.

"I'm looking forward to having Bush as our President because I feel he'll restore a strong moral and value system in our country," said sophomore Laurie Doton.

As President, one of Bush's most influential decisions will be to select two Supreme Court nominees. The two vacancies that Bush will most likely have to fill are currently occupied by justices known for their moderate and liberal views. Bush's nominations will most likely reflect his personal views and views shared by other Republicans providing him the opportunity to shape the critical decisions made by the Supreme Court.

The possibility of Republican views dominating the Supreme Court is a concern for some students.

"Since Bush is going to help choose the justices, the Supreme Court is going to be completely right wing," said junior Judith Pulman. "That is going to destroy the balance between the liberal and conservative justices."

If Bush succeeds in getting his nominees into the Supreme Court, one of the controversial cases that may be heard is the constitutionality of school prayer.

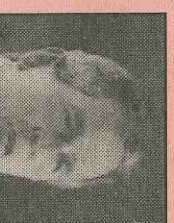
"I think it would be impossible and unconstitutional to force religion in schools, but giving the choice to pray during the school day would be good," said sophomore David Kauffmann.

Another item on Bush's agenda is to increase education spending. One way in which he hopes to do this is by introducing a vouchers program. Under this program, schools that do not improve their performance over a period of three years will lose a significant proportion of government money. This money will then be given to students from the failed school so that they can afford a private school education.

Some students believe Bush should further decrease all government spending for public schools.

"I agree with the privatization of schools, as I feel schools would compete to provide better education and lower prices; and those who can't afford it would use charity money," said sophomore Blair Withee.

Other important items on the new president's agenda include lowering taxes and increasing military spending.

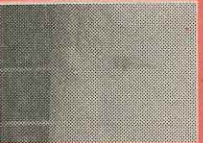


President Bush

"As a military brat it is good to see that President Bush will be taking the proper initiative to ensure that the military is properly taken care of," said senior Dan Edwards.

With four years ahead of him, President Bush has ample time to implement his vision and create his own legacy as president.

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# Relationships have benefits and disadvantages

## Long-term relationships provide comfort and friendship

### High school relationships lack commitment, maturity

By Jen Berne

Weekend Assistant

To me, there are many perks to a long lasting relationship: like having roses sent to your house on your one year anniversary, or receiving a little gift from a spring break vacation. But, the best part is that you can truly be yourself.

I have been dating the same guy for over a year now, and we still have so much fun together! Luckily, we both have maintained strong friendships with our groups of friends by managing to spend time with our friends. At the same time, we have both been introduced to other groups of friends, which has enabled us to have many options as to what we plan to do once Saturday night rolls around. Those two options may be the only perks having a boyfriend go to school four hours away from you.

Of course, there are other good elements to long relationships besides maintaining a social life and receiving gifts on a regular basis. Some of the most treasurable moments of my teenage life have been spent with my boyfriend like shopping at Tysons Corner or mightily suppers spent chowin' down on Chinese food.

Another important trait is having a close friend so that you can talk about anything and share your deepest thoughts. And when it really comes down to it, they will always tell you the truth. Although, no matter what my hair looks like or how badly my outfit clashes, he always finds the nicest way to tell me. Don't get me wrong, we have our share of harmless arguments. And at some times they can be somewhat annoying and unbearable, but then we get over it and realize how stupid the whole thing was.

Long relationships are often misconceived as high-pressured soap operas that end in pure tragedy, but that there are more highlights to a long relationship than there are moments of disgust.

## Letters to The Oracle

Dear Editor,

I would like to comment on a movie review written in a recent issue. This particular review totally bashed the movie "A Clockwork Orange" by Stanley Kubrick. Although I have no problem with this person's opinions,

when these opinions are formed simply because the author could not grasp the true meaning or underlying theme of the movie, I take offense. I can see how the scenes of violence and destruction in this movie could offend someone, but one has to understand the reason for it. The reason such scenes were cut was to cause the audience to form hatred for the movie's "anti-hero," Alex. This was necessary because later in the movie he is caught and subject to a new form of punishment-brainwashing. He is brainwashed to such an extent that he is driven to insanity by his own disabilities and resorts to suicide. The suicide attempt fails, however, and he ends up pathetically hopeless, having to be spoon-fed by a nurse. After this, the audience can't help but sympathize with him.

The true question raised by this film is not "Is the government corrupt?" The most obvious one it raises is "is it right to reform a criminal against his will with scientific brainwashing?" It might seem that "A Clockwork Orange" takes a one-sided negative view on criminal reformation, especially after viewing the pure terror of Alex's brainwashing ordeal as he is forced to watch day after day of ultra-violence and rape with his eyes held open by hooks. But this is not the case. Instead, Kubrick manages to blend argument and debate into the film, and at the same time make his own view of reformation clear—that Alex should "choose" to be reformed and to become good. He must be, as the title suggests, an orange-capable of growth and sweetness, not a would-up idealistic clockwork toy.

Kubrick himself described the film as "a social satire dealing with the question of whether behavioral psychology and psychological conditioning are dangerous new weapons for totalitarian government to use and impose vast controls on its citizens and turn them into little more than robots."

Tyler Christesen, 10

Exitra Note:

I want to reiterate that I am not commenting on the reviewer's opinion. I just felt that people maybe have been given the wrong impression of this fine movie, and I wanted to present a different view.

## High school relationships lack commitment, maturity

By Amy McKeever

Inside Story Editor

I hate to be the Valentine's Day Grinch, but someone needs to burst the bubbles of all of the nauseating couples at WS. The whole "high school sweetheart" concept has gotten way out of control in the past several years. Honestly, how many of the couples right now at WS are going to get married one day and live happily ever after? Not many, if any.

It's sad, but true. When teenagers meet and form relationships, most of them have not completely finished maturing and changing as a person. As they get older, they tend to grow apart. Physical appearances change, interests and activities begin to vary, and jokes that once were funny become tiresome at best.

However, there are always exceptions. Take, for example, French teacher Joelle Torreele. Torreele met her husband when she went to high school in Belgium and married him one year after graduation. They are still together and happily married.

"Since I married him, that relationship was the highlight of my high school career," said Torreele. "You don't always realize the impact of what you do when you are that young."

While Torreele's relationship worked out with the happy fairy-tale type ending, that is not guaranteed for all high school couples, which is probably good.

In high school nowadays, "going out" can be defined as holding hands in the hallway and calling each other on the phone occasionally. I just want to know what happened to the classic definition: actually going out on dates to get to know the other person. Sure, teens now go out with their boyfriend or girlfriend, but usually only after they get to know one another. I always thought the point of dating was to get to know someone that you didn't already know.

Also, far be it from me to disapprove of loyalty, but in the case of high school sweethearts, I'm not too sure of how beneficial a commitment really is. At our age, is it really necessary to feel tied down when there are so many people out there that we haven't yet had the chance to meet?

There's nothing wrong with casual dating and even relationships. Everyone needs to love and be loved. But there's something wrong when we see them as the be-all and end-all of high school life. There is so much more to experience.

"I got lucky," said Torreele, "but I'm afraid for a lot of these couples at WS because the chance for their relationships to last like mine did are quite small. I was one in hundreds."

## Virtual hookup is virtually ridiculous

Here we go thinking that our school has sunk to its low point with the Adopt-a-Bathroom program.

We were wrong. Very wrong. In fact, we don't think the human mind is capable of being so wrong.

Instead of adopting a potty, we are now adopting significant others.

The Virtual Hook-up program is a sophomore class fund-raiser that, according to the flier, "For just \$1 you can find true love...or just fun."

What, exactly is the fun? Is the possibility of 10 different dates or two best friends?

The real question is, which computerized Romeo do you take to the Sweetheart Dance on February 16?

By the way, we personally suggest that you two cute lovebirds take a visit to the freshly-decorated bathrooms for the first date.

If things work out for you, the new WS dating service/sophomore class is offering a chance for the most romantic second date on earth. Where else does love bloom but in the WS cafeteria? Nothing like the smell of last week's burnt leftovers to make you want to trade in your Victoria's Secret perfume.

The most amazing part about all of this is that you really don't need a date to this lovebird's dance. Rumor has it that it's OK to come to a sweetheart dance as a single.

We suggest that this isn't such a good idea, and there isn't a better time to look in the attic for your old imaginary best friend\* Bob the Goat would make an excellent date.

If the Virtual Hook-up fails to find the two best friends it promises, we're sure that the school mascot, Freddie the Flying Squirrel, might consider being your new best friend.

If all else fails, we're sure that your parents wouldn't mind being your Valentine. In fact, one of the items on the 33-question survey is whether or not you like getting Valentine's Day presents from your parents. We're sure that has everything to do with finding a perfect match.

## Editorial

# THE ORACLE

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West Springfield High School

# Flag burning sparks debate

By Melissa Lipman  
Entertainment Editor

Here's how to be revolutionary: Take a lighter and an American flag. Travel back in time 40 years. Set the flag on fire.

Yes, back in the 1960s and 70s, flag-burning was a real problem. Crazy, liberal, left-wing protesters were burning flags to make statements critical of the US government. The first amendment guaranteed their right to do so.

So why are we talking about it now? Because just this past summer, the 106th Congress was debating an amendment to make flag-burning illegal.

My problem with this proposed amendment is not a burning desire to destroy American flags. No, it's that Congress sought to abridge the first amendment. The amendment doesn't say we have the right to freedom of religion, speech and expression, except when the action in question is derogatory of the government.

The idea that someone would burn a flag scares many people, especially politicians. That flag stands for America! It stands for freedom! For glory and prosperity! If someone would burn a flag, they'd turn a cold shoulder

to all the wonderful things America stands for.

The flag is an extension of patriotism. And patriotism is a great way for politicians to rile up Americans in support of all sorts of great causes, like wars for example.

Patriotism is the belief that the place where you're born is superior to all other places because you were born there. Egotistic? Nah, more like ethnocentric.

So we have to prohibit freedom of expression to save patriotism. Heroic, isn't it?

All jesting aside, here's my problem with patriotism and Congress's proposed amendment: If you were born in the US, you're an American. If you were born in Africa, you're an African. And if you were born in Russia, you're a Russian.

But no matter where you were born, be it the US, Russia, Africa, or somewhere else, you're a person.

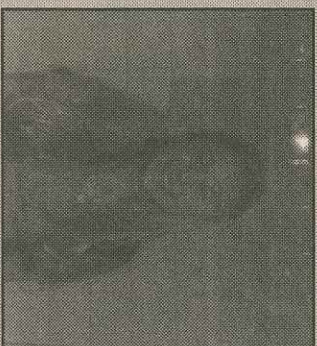
Then logic would say being a person must take precedence over being a patriot. You're a member of the human race before you're a member of a country.

So if you want to burn a flag, knock yourself out. It's the whole freedom of choice idea. Liberty. That's one of the principles this country was founded on. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.



"I got a big kiss!"

—Adam Chesley,  
sophomore



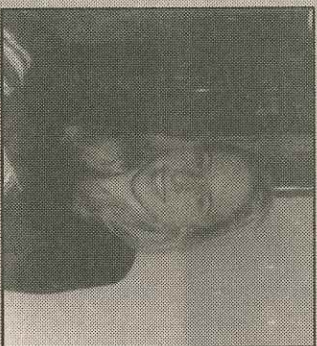
"I got a teddy bear and a box of chocolates."

—Lanisa Vimm, freshman



"I got an early gift. Her name is Lauren."

—Scott Kramer, senior



"I was asked out by my current boyfriend."

—Wendy Pedder, junior

—Compiled by Lauren Sheffield

## Destiny delivers true love

By Julie Davis

ETC. Editor

Love at first sight. What is that? Is it actual love? You see, I wouldn't know. I've never been in love.

One thing I do believe in is destiny. I think that you are matched with the love of your life before you are even born, and you'll meet them sometime in your life. I even have proof of that. My grandparents recently celebrated their 53rd anniversary. They met in 1948, my granddad worked for Bell Atlantic and was connecting my grandmother's phone under her desk. My grandmother walked into her office and was surprised to find a man under her desk. Granddad said it was love at first sight. I just think that he met his match.

Destiny is a principle many people go by. A single decision can change the outcome of your entire life, like deciding which store to go to for milk (you could run into your future prom date) or what party to go to (my aunt met my uncle because she ran into his car at a club parking lot).

Take the blockbuster hit "Fools Rush In" starring Matthew Perry and Salma Hayek. Perry would have never met Hayek if he didn't take a job in Las Vegas, and got to a particular restaurant, and stand in a particular line for the bathroom. Hayek thought it was destiny, and I agree.

An argument against love at first sight is that how could someone instantly love someone they don't even know? That is a good argument. We live in a very materialistic society. People are not who they seem. They use clothing, image, and even a fake personality to portray a different person that who they may be. What you see may not be what you get. I think a lot of people fall victim to lust at first sight, especially with sex being so public and obvious. Love and lust are often mistaken for each other.

"I do think that people fall victim to sexual attraction," said senior Meena Javid. "He could easily come across as modest, friendly and funny, but how do you know that he will be loving? You need to fall in love.

Friends fall in love, co-workers fall in love, even you and your lab partner could fall in love. But if that person becomes your life partner, then you were a match made in heaven. Love at first sight or not, your destiny is set in the stars.

## Flying Solo on V-Day

By Maggie Atteberry

Oracle Photographer

Shrieks of laughter, scraps of pink and red paper spread all over the classroom floor, and globs of glue all over the desks.

That is what I remember about Valentine's Day in third grade. Back in those days everybody got at least one valentine.

I am sure it was partly because of parents that forced their kids to give out little cards and candy, but I think that when we were younger, our hearts were just simply bigger, and more willing to love. Maybe that is because most of us had not had our hearts broken yet, so we had no reason not to love.

The closest I have ever gotten to having a "special someone" on Valentine's Day was in eighth grade when one of the cutest guys in school wrote me a note during math class asking me to be his valentine. He gave me a teddy bear the next day, and I thought it was the most romantic thing that had ever happened to me; I was ecstatic.

The plan was to see "Titanic" with another couple, but as my luck would have it, he never came. I ended up eating

the box of chocolates I had gotten for him. After 17 years of practice I think I am a professional at being single on Valentine's Day.

I will admit, when I see other people walking around with roses and a sparkle in their eye, I feel a slight pain inside of me; but then I snap out of it and remember that just because I do not have a boyfriend does not mean that no one loves or cares for me.

I know so many people who dread coming to school on the 14th of February in fear of being bombarded with the harsh reminder of their solitude; but who ever said being single on Valentine's Day is something to be upset about or ashamed of?

People should not rely on the presence of the opposite sex to make them happy. In the midst of all the emphasis society puts on having a "special someone" we forget that that "special someone" could be a friend who you love, and who loves you in return.

So to all my single friends this is my last thought: do not let yourself be upset or down about something you do not have, because you might miss out on or overlook the things you do have.



The American flag waves above the school representing patriotism and freedom.

Jenae Ellermann

# Theater department busy with spring musical

## Kramer selected to play back end of horse in 'Hello, Dolly!'

By Jen Schonberger

Features Editor

With auditions out of the way, WS's spring musical, "Hello, Dolly!" goes into production to get ready for the May 2-5 performances.

"There was a difference in the amount of talent present this year," said drama teacher Mary Jo Levesque, "but it was no less as impressive as last year."

Both the spring musical "Damn Yankees," from last year and this year's are big family musicals. Several faculty members have prominent rolls this year. The horse that pulls Dolly's carriage in "Hello, Dolly!" will be played by Dr. Bart Kramer, as the back end, and coach Bill Renner as the front end.

Seniors Ryan Yanovich, Karina Adams, Elizabeth Wilcox, and Peter Thaxter play the leads in "Dolly!"

"When I pick a musical I look for one that has many parts so that I can include as many students as possible to give them an opportunity to participate in a WS drama production," said Levesque. "That is one of the reasons I picked 'Hello, Dolly!'"

The drama department not only has to focus on its production of the spring

musical, but also hopes to win awards at the second annual Cappies, which will be held on June 10 at the Kennedy Center. The Cappie Awards is an equivalent of the Tony Awards, except on a high school level. WS cast and crew were nominated for eight Cappies last year.

Bill Straus, who founded Capitol Steps (a political satire group), believed that high school students should be recognized for their contributions in the fine arts. Straus created the Cappies to do just that. Awards will be announced the second week of May.

"I think it's a great idea to get schools involved in such a program," said senior Elizabeth Wilcox. "Athletes always get recognition, but artists don't. It's great that they're finally getting the recognition they deserve."

The critics who watch and critique these high school actors are students themselves. Some of their reviews are published in *The Washington Post*.

The Cappies recognize all types of talent that go into play productions. There are five nominees in each of the categories, which include a Cappie award in a musical, play, song, lighting design,

## Elevators create dangerous situations

From PAGE 1

the emergency button is adequate in case of any emergency.

"There is in fact no phone, but there is a button that sets off an alarm," said Principal David Smith.

Although the administration does not know of any other serious mishaps with the elevator, several students

who have used it claim to have had problems.

"I was stuck in the elevator for three minutes when I was on crutches," said junior Stephanie Hottell. "I kept pushing the button, and finally Mr. McKinney pushed the button on the outside to let me out."

Some even believe that the elevator is in such bad condition that they would rather take the stairs.

WS won awards for their last production *Damn Yankees*. The spring musical will be 'Hello Dolly!'

sound, special effects, costume, and set design.

"A lot of work goes on behind the scenes," said senior Jill Rippy. "Last year we were nominated for set design. This year we are hoping to win."

The drama team is also looking for extra help for behind-the-scenes work on the musical. Several faculty members already have volunteered.

"It's old, and slow, and cold," said junior Casey Berson, who stopped riding the elevator this year. "Although I never had any serious problems with it, I think not having a phone in there is a huge safety hazard."

According to Burke, the elevator is in adequate shape and works fine. However, those who use it strongly believe otherwise.

"They either need to fix it or rip it out," said Hottell. "I'd rather struggle crutching up the stairs than ride in the elevator and risk getting stuck again."



Lauren Sheffield

Senior Kay Lu, captain of the speech and debate team, speaks at a recent meeting.

## Speech and debate team anticipates successful season

By Mike Araj

Sports Assistant

Speaking in front of a large group of people. This image may frighten many WS students, but one group relishes the spotlight.

The debate team, sponsored by English teacher Marcey Mihalo, participates in many contests for persuasive speech, including Lincoln Douglas and Student Congress forms.

"We prepare and practice debates in order to go to tournaments and qualify for honors and medals," said Mihalo.

Students who want to participate in speech or debate can go to room 200 for information. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month and members meet almost every day after school.

Members research and must be able to speak convincingly in public. Sometimes debate students must argue a topic they don't agree with. Speech students, however, can choose their own topics.

The debate team has events one Wednesday and one Saturday of every month for the first four months of the year.

In March and February the debate team has over 13 tournaments, which include districts, regionals, and finals.

An important debate is the Calumniating event, which will take place in New York City this year. However, the debate team must earn a certain amount of points before competing there.

The purpose of the debate team, besides winning tournaments and events, is to teach its members.

"It [debate team] helps you to talk in front of a lot of people to get over stage fright," said senior Kay Lu, captain of the debate team.

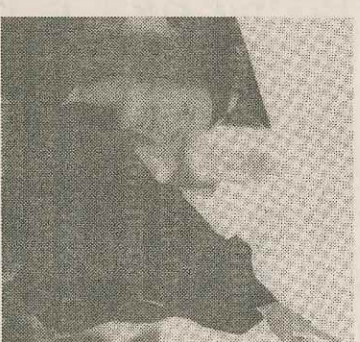
Mihalo thinks members learn more than overcoming a fear of speaking in public.

"I think they [the members] learn tolerance for the 'other' side, organization, and logic under stress," said Mihalo. "They must stay logical, even if they are under a time limit, or [they will] lose the argument."

The team expects the best for the rest of the year.

Mihalo said, "We are going to blow them away."

# Enroll NOW!



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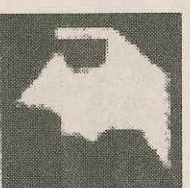
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# Rocky's legend lives

By Jennifer Schonberger

Features Editor

On Christmas morning last year, senior Dan Pallister opened one of his presents, which happened to be the complete set of Rocky movies. Pallister decided to share his gift with his buddy Chris Gibson. The two friends watch the Rocky series—over and over and OVER again.

"My favorite Rocky movie is the first one," said Gibson, "because Rocky goes the distance and stays in all the rounds even though he is defeated by his opponent."

The closest parallel to boxing that the two boys could find was wrestling. Both compete on the WS wrestling team. Pallister, Gibson, and the other wrestling guys watch a Rocky movie before a meet and on the way to a wrestling meet, the guys listen to the Rocky soundtrack.

"The fight scenes in the end of each film really rile us up," said Gibson. "I also like them a lot because I love boxing."

Although the two friends watch the movies for enjoyment, the movies relate to their lives. Gibson even wrote his college essay on how Rocky inspired him.

"Rocky inspired me to get in shape," said Gibson. "When I was in ninth grade, I was fat and now I've lost weight because of the film."

Rocky also inspired Pallister to do his best in everything he does.

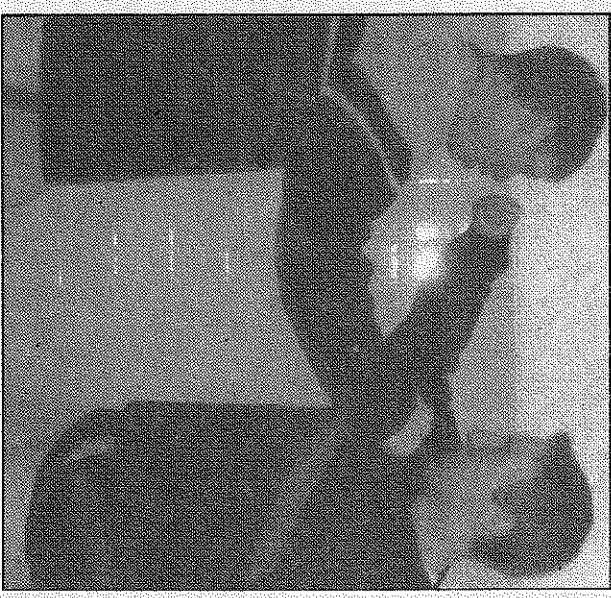
"Rocky inspired me to go the distance in everything I do," said Pallister.

Gibson's sidekick, Pallister, applies the lessons that he learned from Rocky to comply with where he was originally from.

"Being from the south side of Philly, I've had to learn to fight to solve my problems," said Pallister.

The boys get a lot of laughs out of Rocky and learn a lot of lessons.

"Rocky has heart," said Gibson. "He never gives up and I try to apply that to my life."



Bree Wroshko

Seniors Dan Pallister and Chris Gibson imitate their idol Rocky boxing.

# The 'real world' invades WS

## Some teachers pursue alternative route to certification

By Amy Whipple

Oracle Editor

Government teacher James Morris has seen all this before; so has English and journalism teacher Brooke Nelson.

Both were professionals in what they now teach. For instance, Nelson was a reporter for *The Washington Post* before taking over *The Oracle* staff, and Morris used to work on Capitol Hill.

Morris, who also worked as a reporter before becoming a teacher, interned at WS through the Fairfax Training to Teaching program (FTT). Fairfax County paid for 23 teachers, one per high school, to take classes and intern for one year to go from the professional field to the teaching world.

"There is a sense of the demands from out there," said Morris. "And it's more fun than other jobs and more rewarding."

FTT is being pushed aside by a statewide standard to get more teachers into the school system. This summer, a pilot program will begin to train 100 potential teachers to help fill a severe shortage statewide. Candidates will take a three-week, 180-hour summer training course. After this, a state will issue trainees a temporary one-year license, and the person can be hired by any school district in the state of Virginia.

Some people see the new program as a makeshift way to fill in the education gaps in the state, fearing that people will not be able to properly teach the material because of the quick training.

"If someone has a career drive to become a teacher," said senior Maggi Hoban. "They should have an even bigger drive to gain the proper education status."

Current students also see the benefits of having a teacher with real-world experience, even if the standard



Amy Whipple

Morris reviews for a test with senior Linzi Clouser. Before becoming a teacher, he worked on Capitol Hill. education degree is not part of the package. Stephen Van Brocklin, who taught physics at WS for two years, went through a similar program after being a Navy operational pilot.

Van Brocklin, who died of cancer last year, is still sorely missed by the students. "He was really into teaching and helping people learn," said senior Brandon Bert. "He had a great attitude."

An extreme teacher shortage is the reasoning behind this quick fix. An estimated 200,000 new teachers will be needed every year statewide for the next several years

as student population increases.

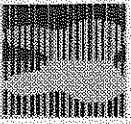
In Fairfax alone, the student population is expected to increase to 167,000 next year, a 20,000-student increase over five years ago.

Teachers are especially needed in the areas of math, science, technology, and foreign language. The new program allows people the chance to give back to the community after they become successful.

"The corporate world has a lot of benefits," said Van Brocklin in a 1998 issue of *The Oracle*. "But now I have more time to spend at home."

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Chris Sarantis

# Going the distance

## Can long-distance love last?

By Jenny Braudaway  
Weekend Editor

All long distance relationships are hard, but the hardest in my opinion is the college/high school relationship.

High school and college are worlds apart—they are two different worlds in themselves. People come back from college as different people entirely. Change is evident in life, but never more so than in college.

I guess everything depends on the individuals whether they have the capacity to work at the relationship or not, because no matter how much you love each other, the relationship will be strained.

Any relationship can be classified into a category, but in the end, I believe, a relationship lasts as long as it is meant to.

As for my personal experience with the college/high school relationship, I met Jeff my junior year of high school, while he was a senior at another school. It was towards the end of the school year and I knew that he would be attending Virginia Tech the next fall.

It was of course different then—I thought it would be a fun summer romance, that he would go off to college,

and that I would be free of all obligation. In my mind it was a perfect situation, during a time in my life when I wanted no obligations or attachments. Not once in the first couple of months did I ever think we would stay together.

Three things happened. One, I fell in love with him; two, he wanted us to stay together; and three, I ignored what I knew and agreed with him. So then came the new and frightening enterprise of a college/high school relationship.

The problems are endless, and some aren't even tangible. Faithfulness becomes an issue—well, many things become an issue. When I felt like I couldn't take the distance or that I had lost trust or that I didn't like the attachment, I always rationalized that above all else, I loved him.

Of course everyone has his or her own definition of true love. My definition is not definitive at all, but based on what I see in front of me at that moment. I don't believe real love can be unrequited and I don't believe that it lasts. The fact that I believe in it at all is really only because I choose not to be ignorant.

I think part of it was he changed a great deal. I knew

he would, but I didn't know how. I know both of us made mistakes and both of us could have done something, but neither of us had time machines.

The confusing thing for me was that we didn't fight. We never yelled at each other and we had some amazing moments. We were always there for each other—there were no immature tie-ups in our relationship, as I saw in so many of the relationships my friends were in. And we did last longer than everyone else around-us. The love didn't go away either—I still love him as much as I always have. So what was it?

This is the thing. A college/high school relationship is worth it if you're in love. Just because I think it is the most difficult of all the types of relationships, doesn't mean it has a lesser chance of lasting. Whether it lasts is as much of a toss-up as any other "category" of relationship.

Sometimes I wish I had never let myself believe in the whole concept of love, but in reality, I don't regret it. Real love is love, whether it's in college, in high school, or on Valentine's Day. Things change, and what is meant to be will be. It's different for everyone. Good luck.

## Blooming with love

By Emily Morris  
Features Assistant

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, picking out the right flowers for your valentine can be a thorn in the side. With many other flowers becoming popular besides roses, the choice can be a difficult one.

"Roses are still out number one seller," said Sami Kasif, manager of Flowers Express, "but red roses are not the only ones being bought; pink and white are also very popular. Red represents love, white represents purity and pink stands for respect."

Roses of many colors are traditional and remain at the top of the sales charts.

"Roses are traditional, easy, and girls like them," said sophomore Andy Osborn. "If you get something else, then you have to plan it out and it gets harder."

Not only are roses a favorite for giving among the guys, they are also a favorite for receiving among the girls.

"If I got to choose what flowers I got for Valentine's Day I would choose roses," said freshman Liz Howard. "They are so beautiful and smell great."

Online flower shops offer many different arrangements. Flowers.com offers violets or an ivy plant in a pot with teddy bear. One of the more unique finds is a heart wreath made of chili peppers. Redenvolope.com offers a wide variety of French tulips, daisies, and lilies.

"We would like to get lilies on



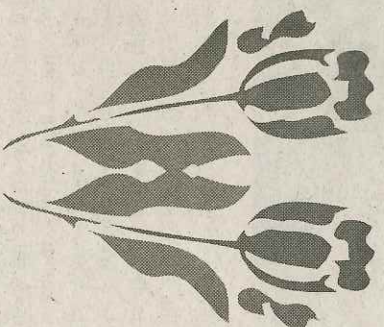
Lauren Sheffield  
Senior Dan Edwards picks out a bouquet of roses for his sweetheart, sophomore Eugenie Ko, at Petal Peddler.

Valentine's Day," said juniors Stephanie Hottel and Elizabeth Ingram. "You can not beat lilies."

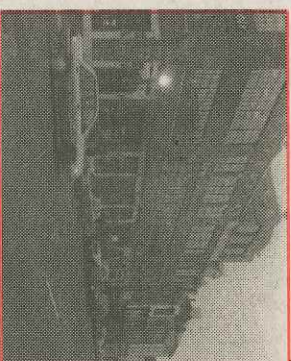
While lilies are also popular, who says you have to pick just one flower?

"We sell a lot of garden mixtures made with all different flowers and several different colors like pinks and purples," said Liz Walker, manager of Burke Florists. "Roses are still our top seller, but the colors of roses are very different, we sell lots of pinks and lavenders, as well as red."

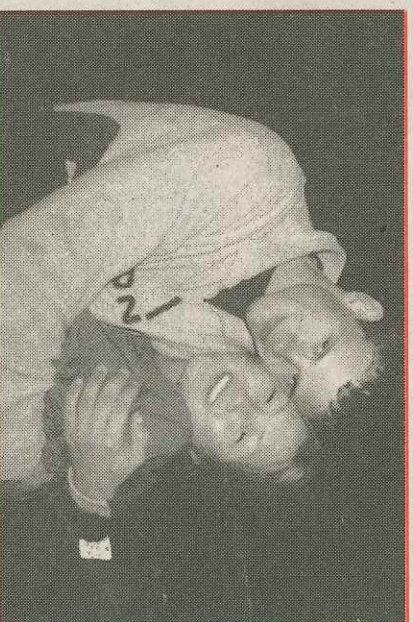
So while many flowers continue to gain popularity for the perfect Valentine's Day gift, roses are still at the top the chart.



Jenae Eilermann  
Eat at Uno's in Georgetown.



Jenae Eilermann  
Share coffee and books with your sweetheart at Barnes and Noble.



Rabee Albulmana  
Senior Jenny Braudaway hugs college freshman Jeff Festa at this fall's Powder Puff game.

# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!!

"Sometimes wish I had never let myself believe in the who concept of love but in reality, don't regret it."

Mickey and Minnie Mouse: every child's favorite famous couple.

## Places to take your

1. Explore Luray Caverns in Skyline Drive; don't miss the tour.

2. Glide on the ice of the outdoor ice skating rink at decorative lights surrounding the rink as you skate hand in hand.

3. Visit Old Town Alexandria. Walk by the water or watch the boats.

4. Dance the night away (if you're 18) at local hot spots: Pottery Barn, F and G streets in DC, Xhale located in Maryland, and the National Mall.

5. Visit various water fountains to listen and relax to the sounds of water.

6. Take a trip to the Baltimore Aquarium and surround yourself with deep sea coral. This unique trip will certainly impress your date.

7. Enjoy a romantic carriage ride on the crowded streets of Georgetown.

8. Choose a ski resort to ride the slopes on skis, a snowboard, or sled. Places to go are White Tail, Wintergreen, Seven Springs, and Snow Mountain.

9. Take a stroll on the frozen Reflecting Pool, but leave your shoes at home.

10. Cuddle up with a hot cup of coffee, a good book, and a movie.

11. Plan yourself a night on the town in Georgetown. You can visit the unique restaurants, or buy a Valentine card to trade with your date.

12. Go on the internet and "type" sweet nothings into your date's name.

13. Cheer for the Capitals together at the MCI Center.

14. Visit a secluded area where you and your love bug can be alone.

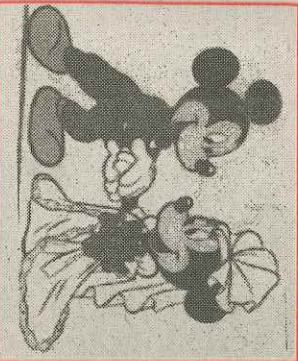
15. Watch a play at the West End Dinner Theatre or at the National Theatre.

—Compiled by Lauren Sheffield

# How do you define Valentine's Day?

- 29% It's a great holiday for people in love.
- 26% It's a day to show you care about the people in your life.
- 24% It's dumb...it's only good if you have a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- 22% It's just another day.

Poll taken of 200 students  
—Compiled by Bree Virostko



## Sweetheart

the Wishing Pool at the end of the Reston Town Center. Admire the hand.

n the performers on various street House Party located in DC.

soothing sounds of the water as yourself with exotic fish, mammals your date.

of DC.

oard, or a snow tube. Some good Massanutten, and Ski Liberty.

the ice skates at home. Skating is your sweetie at Borders or Barnes can visit Gallery Place, eat at one with your sweetheart.

er virtual boyfriend or girlfriend's an exchange smooches.  
e Lazy Susan.  
**field and Jenae Eilermann**

## How sweet it is to be loved by you

By Jenn Carlson  
Viewpoint Assistant

As Valentine's Day rolls around, couples and friends gear up for the holiday. Couples are seen throughout the halls of WS exchanging the typical romantic tokens, including the ever-popular rose.

"For Valentine's Day, I got two dozen roses one year," said Janni Alward.

Some people, like sophomore Adam Lopes, put a creative twist on this basic yet thoughtful gift.

"Twelve days before Valentine's Day, I gave a girl a rose each day, and on Valentine's Day, I bought her a dozen roses," said Lopes.

An alternative to roses on this special holiday is something to fill the stomach—candy and chocolate.

"One year I bought this girl candy, but to make a long story short, the candy didn't work," said sophomore Scott Ankley.

Sophomore Vanessa Evans received a traditional, but still special gift two years ago.

"My boyfriend got me a bouquet

of flowers and perfume," said Evans.

Valentine's Day is a day of love, although not just for couples to celebrate. WS students' friends and family also join in on the festivities. Sometimes, these shows of love are unforgettable.

When sophomore Tabby Gassler was six years old, her father drove her to 7-11 on Valentine's Day. He parked the car, got out and walked into the store leaving Gassler out front.

"When he came back out, he had a flower and candy and asked me 'Will you be my Valentine?'" said Gassler.

Store-bought gifts aren't always the most meaningful. Acts of friendship are heartwarming without money having to be spent.

"One time my friend walked 15 miles to see me," said junior Edith Uthoff.

There is a variety of sweet things to do for a variety of special people on Valentine's Day as well as many special ways of celebrating love, more time together and friendship of any kind.

## Another view on the big "V-Day" The other side of the argument

By Katie Walker  
Production Editor

Valentine's Day is supposed to be about love and happiness, but some people at WS are not so excited about the holiday. While most students dress in red or pink, a few students choose to wear black. They either don't like Valentine's Day altogether or they do not agree with one particular aspect of the holiday.

Some people don't have anything against Valentine's Day itself, but they believe its meaning is often misinterpreted.

"I don't like the way everyone thinks Valentine's Day is just for

## Long-lasting love

By Nikki Werking  
Oracle Editor

Stairs. They're a problem for senior Erin Tiffany and her boyfriend of six months, Hayfield junior Richard Kearsse.

"He's always tripping and falling down," said Tiffany. "We can't play-fight around stairs because he has really bad luck with that type of stuff."

But that's one of the things Tiffany loves about Kearsse. He can always make her laugh.

"I love his sense of humor," said Tiffany. "Most of the time, I'm usually laughing at him, but it's okay because he laughs at me, too."

Freshman Jason Gillis says what he likes best about his girlfriend of two years, freshman Holly Harben, is her personality.

"She's smart," said Gillis, "and she's always there for me when I need someone to talk to."

Like anything else in life, though, their relationship isn't perfect.

"We never agree on things to do," said Gillis.

Tiffany, however, doesn't worry about deciding what to do. The biggest problem is time, since Kearsse goes to another school.

"Since he goes to Hayfield, I don't get to see him every day," said Tiffany. "I wish I could see him more often."

Kearsse makes up for the lost time by doing nice, thoughtful things for Tiffany. Her favorite memory with him is being asked to Homecoming for the first time.

"He knew I'd never been asked before, so he wanted to make it special," said Tiffany. "Purple is my favorite color, so he went out and bought a purple rose for me and gave it to me when he asked me [to Homecoming]. It was one of the sweetest things anyone has ever done for me."

Gillis is working on a plan of his own for Harben this Valentine's Day, which also happens to her birthday.

"She's never been skiing before," said Gillis. "So I think I'm going to teach her how to ski for Valentine's Day."



Maggie Atteberry

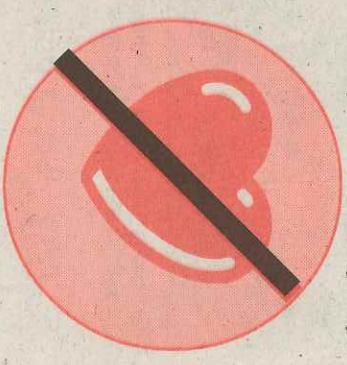
Junior Jen Covey smiles as she receives a kiss from her longtime boyfriend, senior Joe Parker.



High-profile celebrity couples like Julia Roberts and Benjamin Bratt are often found in the spotlight.



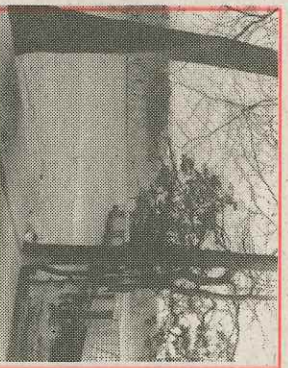
Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt are a recently married celebrity couple.



because I don't want to spend too much money," said sophomore Kanyon MacRae. "It's like \$40 for a half-dozen roses. It's way too expensive."

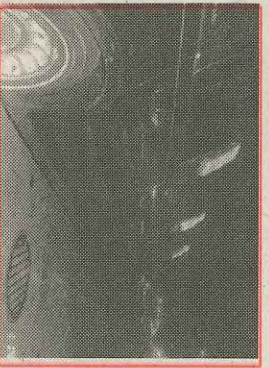
Many people feel that Valentine's Day is a commercialized holiday that does not contain any more meaning than any other day of the year.

"I think that Valentine's Day is way too commercialized. It was probably invented by Hallmark," said marketing teacher Kirsten Kidwell. "Valentine's Day puts a lot of pressure on men to impress their girlfriends or wives on one particular day. Instead, they should treat every day like it is Valentine's Day."



Jenae Eilermann

Take a romantic stroll around Burke Lake and watch the birds poop.



Jenae Eilermann

Watch fancy limos pass as you and your sweetheart walk in the cold.

# Banned books raise eyebrows and criticism

By Emily Morris

Features Assistant

It started as normal day for junior Kathleen Greene. That is until she went to English where her class was reading *Native Son*.

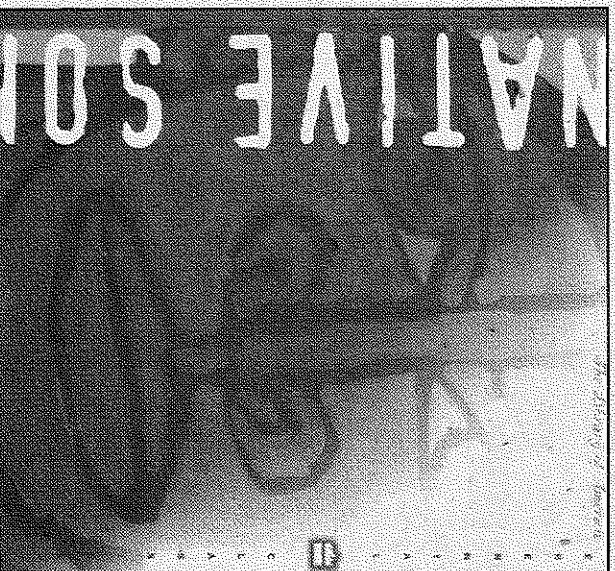
The book is about racism and how the people were affected by it during the 1930s in Chicago. There were several scenes that Greene did not think she needed to read.

"Some of the scenes are very graphic. If the book had been made into a movie it would be R-rated, and I do not feel as though I should have to read the book," said Greene. "It would be different if I chose to read the book on my own, but I do not believe it should be on the [required] reading list."

That night when Greene went home she told her mom how she felt. The next day her mother called the school, and when Greene went to class next time, there was an alternative reading assignment waiting for her.

"My teacher provided me with an alternative reading assignment, it was not a big deal," said Greene.

Greene is not the first to disagree with the contents of a book. After a book is written, it is up to the reader to interpret the books for themselves.



Junior Kathleen Greene found *Native Son*, which is one of two required reading books for English 11, to be too offensive.

## Music calls for political change

MTV launches crusade against hate crimes

By Laura Robinson

News Editor

Political pop and protest rap fills Rage Against the Machine's new album, as they bring political influences to the musical scene.

The hard-rocking band raps against police brutality, racism, and violence. The song, "Renegades of Funk," from their new CD, "Renegades," highlights the achievements of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and other important social leaders.

The band held free concerts to protest the imprisonment of Native American activist Leonard Peltier, whom they consider to be unjustly imprisoned. Rage Against the Machine has also protested the death row status of Mumia Abu-Jamal, an alleged cop-killer. They claim Abu-Jamal, a black man, was incriminated without real evidence and his sentence must be overturned.

"They [Rage Against the Machine] always talk about how the government suppresses our rights and liberties," said junior Sarah Kaye.

Their website, [www.rain.com](http://www.rain.com), highlights a "Freedom

Fighter of the Month," and has reading material from Amnesty International and other political organizations.

Bruce Springsteen, most well-known for his hit "Born in the USA," also had songs with important political messages. Springstein's CD, "The Ghost of Tom Joad," describes the plight of illegal aliens working as migrant workers in California. The songs "Across the Border" and "Sinaboa Cowboy," especially highlight their experiences. Music, however, is not the only aspect of entertainment which has been influenced by politics. MTV launched its yearlong campaign, "Fight for your Rights: Take a Stand Against Discrimination," with the movie "Anatomy of a Hate Crime" on January 10. The movie told the story behind the murder of 21-year-old gay college student Matthew Shepard. Producers showcased the lives of his two killers and their psyche.

"I think it's important to see these kinds of movies to see the other side of hate," said sophomore Sam Lee.

MTV began their campaign after an outcry from listeners. They recently polled young adults about hate crimes and 82% believed that hate crime laws should cover gender, sexual orientation, and disability along with race, color, religion, and national origin. At their website, [fightforyourrights.mtv.com](http://fightforyourrights.mtv.com), messages can be sent to President Bush and members of Congress to propose new hate-crime legislation. MTV had a large viewing audience



"Anatomy of a Hate Crime," MTV's latest made-for-television movie, tells the story of Matthew Shepard, who was killed because of his sexual orientation.

for "Anatomy of a Hate Crime" and hopes that it may have changed some opinions on these important issues. "I thought the show was very depressing, but in a way it helped me see how wrong hate really is," said junior Alexi Shepard.

## Fans rumor of dead musicians walking

By Mike Avai

Sports Assistant

From spottings of the allegedly dead to widespread controversy, musicians' deaths tend to arouse interest and suspicion.

One such musician is Jim Morrison, who allegedly died of a heart attack in Paris, France.

Some people believe Morrison is still alive for various reasons that cloud his death.

Some of these reasons include that no autopsy was done on Morrison's body and that the French Embassy, when asked by Morrison's recording company, reported that no corpse was in their morgues with the name of "Morrison." Many have their own theory as to why Morrison would fake his death.

"I think [Morrison] is alive.

[He] faked his death because his girlfriend didn't want him to be a rock star," said junior Robert Hull, who believes that his girlfriend helped Morrison fake his death in order to escape his career. "She was involved with faking his death."

Morrison is not the only musician to have a strange death. Tupac Shakur, for example, is

claimed to have died in his car through a drive-by shooting.

Like the case with Morrison's death, many people have questioned the circumstances of Shakur's death, which leads some people to believe Shakur is still alive. In one example of those circumstances, Sage Knight was supposedly only grazed by a bullet out of twelve shots when he was driving the car Shakur was in when he was shot at.

Some people who believe Shakur is alive think he foretold his death in his music video, "I Ain't Mad at Ya," while others believe it because of the name of Shakur's last album, "Makaveli," an Italian war strategist who faked his death in order to deceive his enemies.

Another interesting event surrounding Shakur's death is that he was buried the day after he was killed.

Another musician, besides Morrison and Shakur, who is still believed to be alive by some people is Elvis

Presley, who died of substance abuse. However, many people believe that they have seen the musician at some place after his death.

While many people think some of these musicians are still alive, others refuse to believe the rumors. Sophomore Richard Little, who does not believe any supposedly dead musicians are still alive, said, "People just hope [deceased musicians] are still



Tom Hark's "Cast Away" just barely edged out "Dude Where's My Car?" as the favorite among WS students.

## 'Cast Away' tops holiday season favorites

Cast Away - 23%

Dude Where's My Car - 22%

What Women Want - 16%

Ms. Congeniality - 13%

Vertical Limit - 8%

How the Grinch Stole Christmas - 5%

Family Man - 5%

Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon - 5%

Unbreakable - 2%

Poll taken of 208 students

—Compiled by Angela Fiorino



Jim Morrison is one of many rock stars who fans claim is still alive, despite his death in Paris in 1971.



# Coupled fun on Valentine's Day

By Theresa Rupp  
Managing Editor

Forget those losers who don't have a date for Valentine's Day, there are many of things for couples to do on February 14.

The easiest way to find things to do is to go online.

Check out [www.stvalentines.net/romanticstodo.htm](http://www.stvalentines.net/romanticstodo.htm) for some classic yet corny Valentine's Day activities.

If you are just into spending a quiet night at home with your "valentine", then look at [www.film site.org/romancefilms2.html](http://www.film site.org/romancefilms2.html) for the top romantic movies. They give you a lot of older movies, but also tell you some more recent ones.

If you're an internet person, then go to [bluemountain.com](http://bluemountain.com) and send your boyfriend/girlfriend an "e-card". These animated cards are cute, especially if your significant other loves going on the computer more than going out.

There are many places to go on Valentine's Day around the D.C. area if you'd like to get out of your house.

The National Zoo would be a fun place to go,

and the guys will love it because it's free. Go see those two new pandas we just got from China-Mei Kiang and Tian Tian.

One of my favorite places to go is Tiffany's in Tyson's Corner. It's right across from the mall so it's easy to find. Pretend you are getting engaged and shop for an engagement ring. I promise girls would have a great time doing this.

If you are more on the wacky side, then go to Jinx Proof in Georgetown and get matching heart shaped tattoos. Make sure you are 18 though, or at least that your id says you are 18...

If eating the whole day is your idea of a good Valentine's Day, then head 2 minutes away to Papa Petroni's—right across from Milano's. Call ahead and Papa will make you heart shaped pizzas and raviolis. After dinner, pop an Altoid—they come in their new heart shaped containers.

Whatever you do, just make sure to have fun. And don't forget that you shouldn't just be nice to your "valentine" just on February 14th or they will find someone else to spend their time with. Maybe that person who sent them an "e-card" last week....



## Oracle Picks

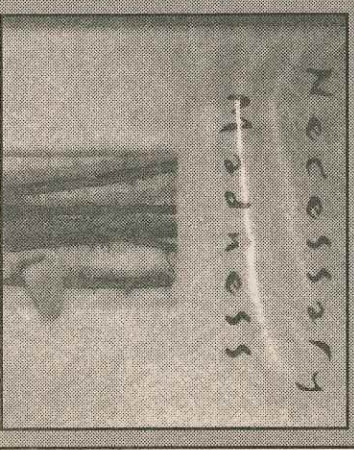
Everyone has heard "Yellow" but not many know the band behind the song. Coldplay, composed of four British guys, released their album in the US on November 7. The band has been compared to the UK's Travis and Radiohead. Their album, *Parachutes*, reached #1 on the official UK charts and three of their songs (including "Yellow") placed on the charts. As for the US, "Yellow" was the 16th most played song on rock radio.

Coldplay's songs are sweet and touching yet tinged with melancholy. In "Yellow", frontman Chris Martin sings, "Look at the stars, look how they shine for you." Coldplay has an incredible way of proving just how consuming first love can be in my personal favorite, "Trouble."

What makes the band so great is that they don't dress their songs up with fancy lines and ten minute instrumental parts. Everyone can understand where they are coming from, and the album, *Parachutes*, is only the beginning of everything to come for Coldplay.

When "Mansfield Park" was recommended to me, I hadn't even heard of it. But after I watched it, I wondered how it got past me. Like "Emma" and "Sense&Sensibility," "Mansfield Park," set in the 1800s, is another adaptation of one of Jane Austen's famous stories. Fanny Price, played by Frances O'Connor, grew up in poverty but when she turns 13, she is shipped off to live with her aunt and uncle in their mansion called Mansfield Park. Although she lives in the mansion, Fanny is constantly reminded of her second class status. But as an aspiring writer, she is determined and confident to do what she wants to do. As she grows up among her new family, she falls in love with her childhood companion, Edward, played by Jonny Lee Miller. If you are a Jane Austen fan, don't let this one get past you.

I have read many books and I am sure I will read a million more. But not one has inspired as much as the novel, *Necessary Madness*. What makes the book so compelling is that voice behind it. The author, Jenn Crowell, was 17 years old when she wrote *Necessary Madness* and when you read the book, you won't believe it. It tells the story of Gloria Burgess's world after her husband of eight years dies of cancer. Left to raise their young son, Gloria struggles to remain sane after her terrible loss. To help her, she turns to her parents' failed relationship. Gloria uses her father's inconceivable despair for his first love and her mother's emotional distancing and resentment towards her husband to teach her lessons on how to find happiness again. This book will make you cry and smile and laugh and even think, hey, this sounds like me. But it will amaze you the most. At just 17, Crowell produced a masterpiece that could stir up emotions in anyone.

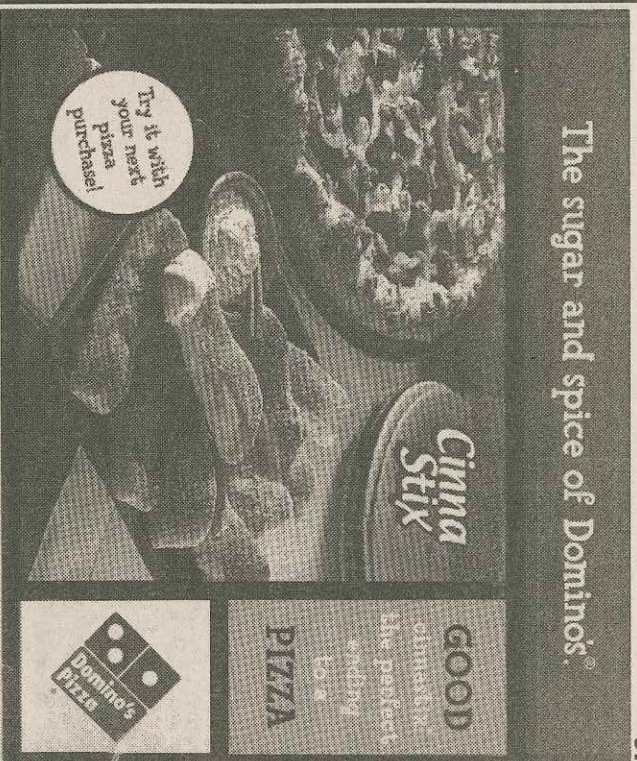


—Compiled by Caitlin Marvin

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LOADED WITH EXTRA PEPPERONI AND EXTRA CHEESE	\$9.99	\$13.99	\$15.99
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A DELICIOUS COMBINATION OF PEPPERONI, SAUSAGE, MUSHROOMS, ONIONS, GREEN PEPPERS AND EXTRA CHEESE	\$9.99	\$13.99	\$15.99
<b>VEGI PIZZA FEAST</b>			
A DELICIOUS COMBINATION OF FRESH ONIONS, GREEN PEPPERS, BLACK OLIVES, MUSHROOMS AND EXTRA CHEESE	\$9.99	\$13.99	\$15.99
<b>EXTRAVAGANZZA</b>			
A SPECIAL COMBINATION OF PEPPERONI, SAUSAGE, MUSHROOMS, ONIONS, GREEN PEPPERS, GROUND BEEF, HAM AND EXTRA CHEESE	\$12.46	\$16.54	\$16.99
<b>CREATE YOUR OWN PIZZA TOPPINGS</b>			
	PEPPERONI	SAUSAGE	
	MUSHROOMS	BLACK OLIVES	
	GREEN PEPPERS	PINEAPPLES	
	ONIONS	HOT PEPPERS	
	HAM	EXTRA CHEESE	
	GROUND BEEF	TOMATOES	
	BACON	CHICKEN	
	(NEW GARLIC DIPPING SAUCE, PEE UPON REQUEST)		
<b>SIDE ORDERS</b>			
CINNA STIX (NEW)			\$2.99
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BUFFALO WINGS (12 PIECE ORDER)			\$4.99
ALSO AVAILABLE IN BBQ			
DOMINO'S BREADSTICKS			\$2.39
8 SEASONED BREADSTICKS, HOT FROM THE OVEN WITH OUR SEASONED TWISTY SAUCE			\$0.72
COCA-COLA (CLASSIC, DIET COKE AND SPRITE) 12 OZ. CANS			\$2.87
6 PACK OF 12 OZ. CANS			\$3.99
DOUBLE CHEESYBREAD			\$3.99
A BLEND OF MOZZARELLA & CHEDDAR CHEESE MELTED ON ZESTY SEASONED BREAD WITH SEASONED TWISTY SAUCE			\$3.99

# Students turn to video games

*New technology and systems lead to more realistic games*

**By Matt Kaitz**  
*Staff Assistant*

Allen Iverson brings the ball down the court with the scored. He goes to the crossover, shakes the defender, pulls up for the jumper, and hits it.

This year's sports video games are jam-packed with

amazing graphics, incredible sound, and more-realistic game play. With the uprising of new and improved gaming systems like Sony Playstation 2 and Sega Dreamcast, the world of sports video games has raised the bar to a whole new level.

NBA 2K1 for Sega Dreamcast is one of the best basketball games ever made.

NBA 2K1 features quick and upbeat game play along with the 2000 season rosters that include player statistics, signature moves, and life-like appearances. The stadium atmosphere with real announcers makes the people playing the game feel like they are actually watching a real NBA game.

"NBA 2K1 is the best basketball game that I have ever played," said senior Ryan Jones. "The graphics make the game feel so life-like, and the amazing dunks and crossovers make the game just as exciting as if you were at the stadium."

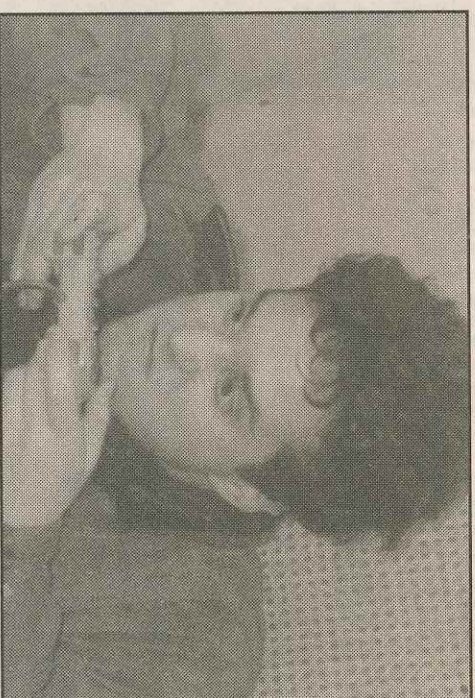
Unfortunately, NFL 2K1, is nowhere near as exciting as NBA 2K1. Although the graphics are

impressive, the overall game play is slow. Controls are also disappointing as play selection is limited and passing is very difficult.

There is hope for gamers who are looking to enjoy an excellent football game, as Madden 2001 for Playstation 2 is by far, the best football game ever made. Madden 2001 gives

players the feeling of actually watching a real NFL football game. The player rosters, along with eye-popping graphics, lets the game leave all other competitors in the dust.

"Madden 2001 is by far my favorite game," said junior Adam Calderone. "The graphics are amazing and the updated rosters



*Russ Maddell*  
Amazing graphics on Playstation 2 gets sophomore Ivan Collich into a frenzy while playing NBA Live 2001.

make the game even more impressive."

Finally, FIFA 2001 for Playstation 2 takes soccer to the next level. With impressive graphics, FIFA 2001 dominates all other soccer games out on the market.

# Spartan athletes seek letters as a sign of success

*Requirements vary for different sports, but getting a letter is still seen as an achievement*

**By Myles Curran**  
*Sports Editor*

play on the varsity team. After only one game, a player has met the requirements for a letter jacket.

Getting a letter jacket is the crowning moment of a high school athlete's career. The pride of showing off your level of experience in the sport is overwhelming. With many sports having athletes receive letter jackets, the requirements vary from sport to sport.

The baseball requirements are fairly easy for a letter jacket. For baseball, all players have to do is

Track is a far cry from the easy requirements set by the baseball team. To receive a letter jacket in track, a runner has to go to districts in a competition. The requirements are also high in cross country. A cross country runner has to compete in seven meets to get a letter for that sport.

"It is pretty hard to get a letter jacket for track," said junior



*Jenae Eitemann*  
Senior Laura Cole earned a letter for crew. She has been rowing since freshman year.

Danny Baldwin. "It takes a lot of practice because you have to go to districts. I hope my senior year I make it in one competition so I can get a jacket."

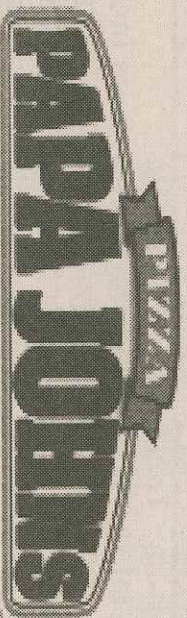
Girls and boys basketball also have the same requirements needed for a letter. For the girls team, a player must make the varsity team. The boys' team has the exact same requirement as the girls team.

"You have to be really dedicated if you want a letter jacket," said senior basketball

player Ryan Lazisky. "But if you work hard and earn your way onto the team, then you can get a letter."

Lacrosse is another sport where a letter jacket is easy to earn. For both the girls and the boys' team, the requirement is that you only have to play a game on the varsity team.

"It isn't hard to get a letter jacket," said junior lacrosse player Bryce Ekrem. "I'm not even very good and I'll probably get a jacket."



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# WS track looks forward to districts

By Priyanka Tandon  
Business Editor

The crowd roars as senior Maya Whitten runs by the WS area of the track at Episcopal High School in Alexandria. Whitten is just one of the track team's members who has excelled this winter season.

Whitten participates in hurdles, high jump and triple jump, the four by 200 meters, and the four by 400 meters. She has qualified for districts and hopes to go as far as she can.

"Maya is a very talented all-around athlete," said sprinting coach Jean Gallagher.

Another key girl on the team this season is junior Maureen Hagan, better known as "Mo." Hagan is a distance runner whose events are the mile, 1000 meters, the four by 400 meters, the mile, and the four by 800 meters.

"Mo has the potential to be the best runner in the state if she keeps running hard and keeps mentally tough," said head coach Duke Baird.



Russ Weddell

The WS indoor track team practices. The team includes Maya Whitten, who runs hurdles, does the high and triple jump, and runs the four by 200 meters and the four by 400 meters.

In addition to Hagan and Whitten, seniors Lindsey Shaddrix and Carly Estes also run similar events, and all of these girls will be competing at districts on February 6 and 10.

"I expect a good showing for the girls at districts," said Gallagher.

On the boys' team there are three runners that stand out—sophomores Jeff

Day and John Cook, and senior Peter King. Cook and Day both excel at distance events, while King is a sprinter. All three have helped WS place near the top at meets.

Not only have certain runners aided WS in placing high, but so have two new coaches who have joined the staff. Doug Humphrey, a 1996 WS graduate, is the

jumping coach. At WS, he was a two-time state champion, and he also holds the WS record for the high jump at seven feet.

"Coach Humphrey is the main reason I may go to states," said junior Brian Cable.

Heather Lacher is the hurdling coach who went to Lake Braddock and is currently enrolled at George Mason University.

"I am really happy that Coach Lacher came, because she has really helped the hurdlers with our speed," said senior Allison Molan. "I have improved more with her in only three practices than I did in the past three seasons."

The winter track season comes to a close with districts, which are less than a month away. The team still has two more regular season meets left.

Baird has been making the workout shorter but faster, as he hopes that his team will peak for the next two meets.

"For most of the team the season will end with our last meet at Episcopal," said Baird. "But some won't peak until districts."

## Lady Spartans look to keep their winning ways

By Jenny Askin

Production Editor

The Lady Spartan basketball team is no stranger to the strenuous post-season or the state championship. This year the team has many expectations, and goals not only for the season, but for districts, regionals, and states.

During the winter break many local teams play in area tournaments just to keep in shape. The Lady Spartans, however, traveled to Fort Myers, Florida to play in the prestigious City of Palms Tournament. The girls not only played against hard competition, but also bonded at team dinners and functions.

"We played really well," said senior Katie Hammerer. "The tournament allowed us to become a cohesive unit."

Hammerer, a 6'2" post player who has committed to play next year at Fairfield University, helped lead the Spartans to a second-place finish. Hammerer was named the tournament's most valuable player. The Lady Spartans have always been known for their skill and speed, however this year their biggest advantage is the depth of the bench.

This year there are six underclassmen who see significant playing time. Freshmen Kristin Kunzman and Sarah Flanagan, as well as sophomore transfer Cassidy Doane, have paved the way for the future of Spartan basketball.

"Kunzman does a great job defensively, and Sarah comes out on the floor without the freshmen jitters," said Hammerer.

The beginning of the season proved to be promising for the young team with a



Jenae Eilermann

The WS girls basketball team practice in the gym. They team went to Fort Myers, Florida, to play in the City of Palms tournament, and they finished in second place.

key win against All-American guard Anesia Smith. However, Smith was expelled from Mount Vernon, and she then transferred to Hayfield.

The Lady Spartans tipped off against the Hayfield Hawks on January 12 and were met with a long and hard battle. The Lady Spartans were winning most of the game with a 10 point lead at halftime, but the Hawks came back to beat the Spartans.

## Power Patrol gets free tickets, works for MCI Center

By Joey Tinsley

Staff Assistant

A group of students in the sports and entertainment marketing classes have been getting into free basketball, hockey, and lacrosse games at the MCI Center.

The free admission given to the students is due to a program called the Power Patrol. In order to receive this free admission, students must perform some specific duties requested by the teams, which mainly includes passing out flyers containing information about the teams and coupons for different games. These items are passed out at the beginning of the end of these games.

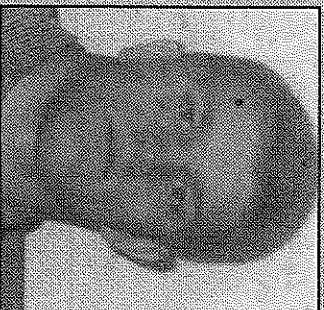
The teams that the students work for are the Washington Wizards, Washington Capitals, and the new lacrosse team, the Washington Power.

"I am the Power Patrol man," said senior Mike Straub. "I am the only one who has been to every game."

WS sports and entertainment marketing teacher Bill Gibson brought this program to his students when the Power moved from Pittsburgh to Washington. He was able to make this deal because a friend of his knows the general manager of the Power.

## Athlete of the Issue

Brian McLain  
Wrestling



Russ Weddell

**Other Sports:** Football and baseball

**Most Memorable Moment:** Qualifying for states sophomore year

**Best Experience:** Pinning a state champion

**Pre-match ritual:** Listening to Rocky Music

**Favorite Sports Movie:** "Vision Quest"

**Lucky Number:** 8

**Superstitions:** Wearing the same clothes on match days

**Favorite Athlete:** Deion Sanders

**Favorite Team:** Florida State

**Record this year:** 25-1

**Overall Record:** 96-29

-Compiled by Joey Tinsley

The Power's general manager was looking for a way to help promote the Power in DC, and Gibson suggested that his students could help.

They not only have fun, but they are also learning about marketing techniques as well.

"When I heard that the Power needed help, I suggested that my kids could help," said Gibson.

For the students who are like these different sports or are fans of these teams, it is well worth the work if they can attend games for free.

"I have only been to one game," said senior Chris Behrmann. "But it was fun, and I had a good time watching the game."



Gary Gait, the greatest lacrosse player of all time, takes a shot during the opener. Some members of the Power Patrol got a chance to meet him at MCI Center.

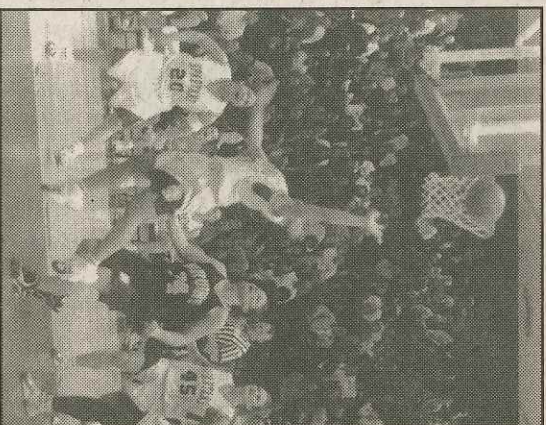
# MYSTERY PERSON

By Angela Florino  
ETC. Editor

If you want to find out who this mystery person is, you might want to go to a girl's varsity basketball game, look for a maroon Mitsubishi Mirage, or find someone who wears a lot of Guess clothes.

This junior also helps out with Special Olympics on Saturdays when she's not busy playing basketball. You might find her snacking on Pop Rocks while watching her favorite movie, "Lean on Me," or listening to Destiny's Child.

Some more interesting facts about our mystery person would be that she owns 25 pairs of shoes, hiked the Grand Canyon on crutches, has her own web site, scored 27 points in one basketball game this season and plans on majoring in theology. She takes American Civ. ASL 3 and passed PE with straight A's both years.



Bree Viroshko  
Taking a shot from inside the key, our mystery person played with former WS Spartans, Kara Lawson and Colleen McIlwraith

This issue's mystery person is very involved in many activities with the school and she is very athletic. She has a busy life but still finds time to hang out with her friends and have fun. You also might know her as "baby girl."

## Top 10 Ways to dump your sweetie on Valentine's Day

10. Buy a velvet leopard print hat and a feather boa, and show up for your next date surrounded by your "lady friends"
9. Don't bath or wear deodorant. That will get the message across.
8. Buy an ad in *The Oracle* advertising your breakup, so everyone knows that you are on the rebound.
7. Avoid the awkward situation by moving downtown and taking up residence in a cardboard box.
6. Call her up at 3 o'clock in the morning and tell her that you had a vision, and she wasn't in it.
5. Roses are red, violets are blue, I'm sorry but your best friend is hotter than you.
4. You're really nice, but your sister has a really nice...car.
3. Give her an empty chocolate box and tell her that it is a symbol of your love.
2. "Welcome to Dumpsville, population: you. - "The Simpsons"
1. Don't dump your sweetie, it's Valentine's Day! (or at least until you get your present)

—Compiled by Clint Crosier and Russ Waddell

## Vintage cars hit the road

By Julie Davis  
ETC. Editor

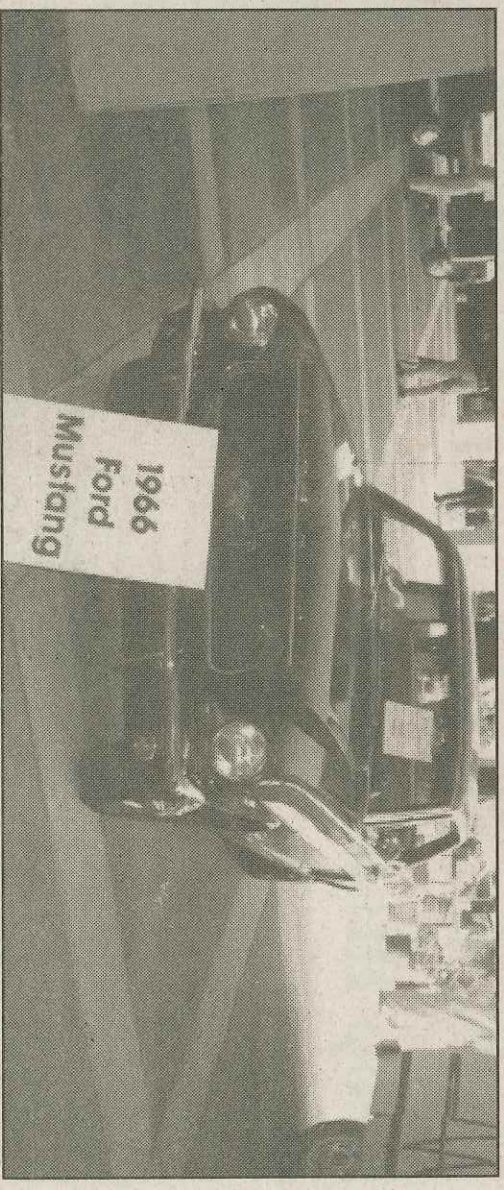
New cars are not an uncommon sight in the WS student parking lot. Many students either purchase their own cars or are fortunate enough for their parents to buy one for them.

"My aunt bought a new car and gave me her truck," said junior Joanna Rogers. "It was only a few years old and had low mileage, I felt fortunate because my older sister had to buy one herself."

A couple parking places though, are filled with a reminder of past decades. Senior Emily Smolen inherited her grandfather's car after he died. It is a 1976 Jeep Eagle; the model has since been discontinued.

"We used to spend so much money trying to keep it up," said Smolen. "But it's really expensive to keep replacing the parts, so we usually just drive to local places."

Another student also inherited a vintage classic from



Vintage cars, such as senior Matt Esteve's Mustang, are shown at local auto shows.

Matt Esteve

his father. Senior Matt Esteve keeps up the 1966 Ford Mustang his dad found in the junk yard in the mid-eighties. The car has been renovated, and recently had the engine replaced.

"The Mustang has been there for as long as I can remember," said Esteve. "My dad, me and my two brothers work on it to keep it running."

When the Mustang was new, it was sold for about \$2,400, but now the blue book value says it is worth

\$500. Nineteen sixty-six Mustangs are relatively uncommon, and a fully renovated vintage could cost up to \$6,000.

"I recently replaced the old engine with a 302V8 engine," said Esteve. "It isn't a very economical car; it only gets 12 miles per gallon."

Although keeping up vintage and classic cars can be costly, newer cars still have their share of problems.

"I have a '93 Jeep," said senior Kristen Allen. "The alternator broke and I had to walk home."

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 African-American Read-in WS Library 7:30 p.m.	6 Track/field events @ Episcopal-5:30 p.m. Boys Bball v. Hayfield 4, 5:45, 7:30 p.m. Girls Bball @ Hayfield 4, 5:45, 7:30 p.m.	7 Report cards distributed 5th Period Regional Boys Dive Meet @ Oak Marr	8 Regional Girls Dive Meet @ Oak Marr	9 Regional Swim Meet @ Oak Marr Wrestling Patriot District Tournament @ Annandale 4 p.m.	10 Gymnastics Regionals @ Centerville 12p.m.
12 Lincoln's Birthday!	13 Boys Bball @ TC 4, 5:45, 7:30 p.m. Girls Bball vs. TC 4, 5:45, 7:30 p.m.	14 Valentine's Day	15 Military recruitment during lunch, outside cafeteria Varsity wrestling @ Robinson 5 p.m.	16 Boys Bball vs. W. Potomac 4, 5:45, 7:30 p.m. Girls Bball @ W. Potomac 4, 5:45, 7:30 p.m.	17 Gymnastics States @ Forrest Park
19 Patriot District Bball Tournament begins	20	21 Tiny Tots Disney Show	22 Tiny Tots Disney Show George Washington's B-day!	23 Patriot District Bball tournament ends	24
26 President's Day No School!	27	28 International Night 6:30 p.m., WS auditorium			

# February 2001