

BITE

8 GOLD FRIENDS STILL SHOWIN' AROUND THE TUBE

10 MAMMAMIA STRIKES A CHORD



WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL 6100 ROLLING ROAD SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22152

# Faculty foils WS plagiarism problems

By Navna Gupta  
Viewpoint Editor

After English teacher Brian Martin told his English 12 classes that he was going to use a county website to check their research papers for plagiarism, more than half of his students chose to redo their papers.

"I would have received a C+ on the paper, but I got a D because I look an extra day to go back and document all my sources," said senior Jamie Langley. "But that was better than getting a zero."

Although, like Langley, most students re-documented or rewrote their papers, four students still received zeros on their content grade for plagiarizing.

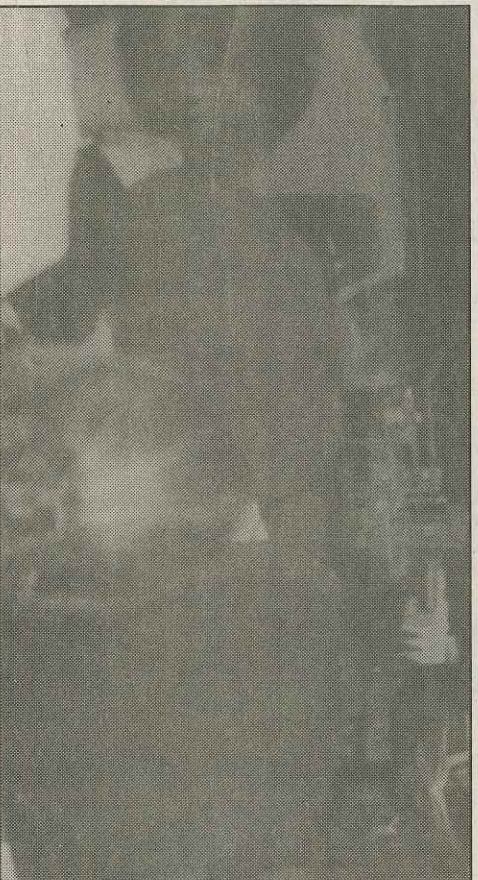
"I know a lot of people who cut and pasted from the internet, and some people even bought papers off certain websites," said Kat Kehler.

From an early grade level, students are

taught that using another person's words as their own is illegal; few, however, know that plagiarism of ideas is an offense too. While some students did choose to copy

websites and other sources verbatim, most did not even realize that they were plagiarizing.

"It's common knowledge that over 50%



Jann Stomaccio

The internet has opened up a whole new avenue for WS students to plagiarize papers and other class assignments.

of students plagiarize their papers, whether it's intentional or unintentional," said Martin. "Before they go to college, students need to understand that plagiarism can be more than copying word for word." In checking for plagiarism, Martin first scanned the papers he received for any paragraphs or language that didn't sound original. Then, in addition to checking the sources listed on the students' works cited page, Martin used different websites to match sources with plagiarized papers. "Grading papers is already time-consuming," said Martin. "Looking for signs of plagiarism is even more time-intensive." Some English teachers think that seniors, restless to graduate and overloaded with the college application process, are more likely to take the easy-way-out by plagiarizing. Tenth grade English and Advanced Composition teacher Judy

See PLAGIARISM, Page 4

## Cha-Ching! Change engages classes in war

By Priyanka Tandon  
News Section Editor

Juniors in first, sophomores second, freshman third and last but not least seniors. This year the senior class held the Penny Wars fund-raiser with a twist.

### Penny Wars Fun Facts

Junior class officers knocked on car windows asking for change on Hillside before school.

Sophomores filled their buckets to the brim.

Freshman had the most paper money.

Juniors had the most coins.

Instead of having the "war" between boys and girls of only the senior class, the senior class council decided to incorporate all four classes into the competition for the first time in WS history.

"It came to us as a surprise that we had won," said junior class vice president Lisa Whelan. "I think we'll do it next year too."

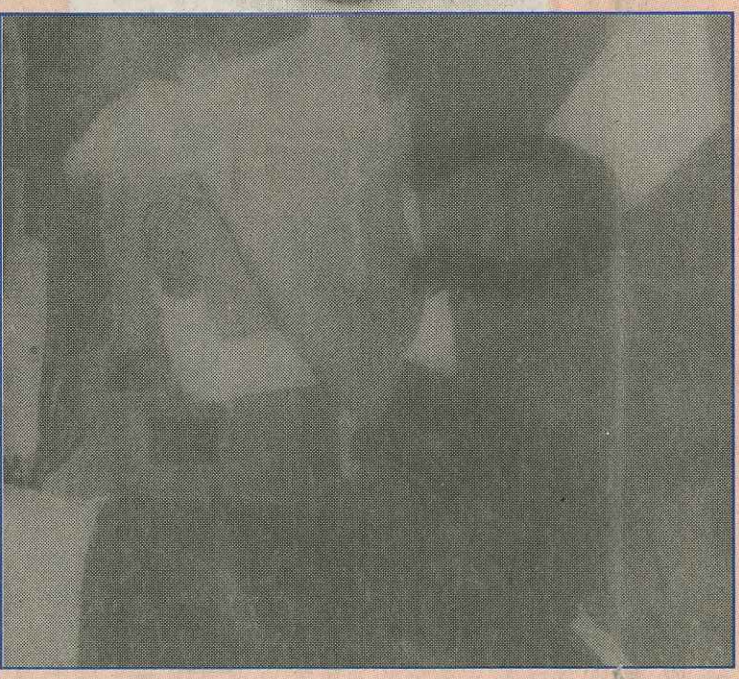
The contest consisted of each class officer carrying around a jar or small trash cans to collect money during the week of April 15-19. Any coins or bills could be collected, instead of the previous rules which only allowed pennies.

"It was neat to see all the classes participating," said senior class sponsor Ann Lam. On April 19 Lam, senior class

sponsor Lisa Lam and the senior class officers spent three hours counting each money from the classes with the help of the Burke-Sawley's Consulting firm. All the money and all the workers were kept in a safe at the senior class room. Many

of the seniors and the juniors got \$570, 40 percent of the total. The freshman and sophomore classes also received \$100 each, taken from the senior class pool.

"I think it was carried out well," said senior class president Sam Jung. "It rose school spirit for all the classes and was a good way to get all the classes involved."



Maggie Althebery

Senior class vice president Kat Kehler and senior class treasurer Trey Jordan separate the various forms of money that the classes collected.

## Envirothon team advances to states

By Lauren Decot  
Managing Editor

A lot of my friends look at me cross-eyed when I tell them I can't hang out after school because I have an Envirothon meeting to go to.

"What's Envirothon?" They always ask, perplexed. So I give this long spiel explaining that Envirothon is

### COMMENTARY

an environmental competition in which teams compete against each other in the form of written tests and an oral presentation. I got involved with Envirothon through volunteering at Hidden Pond Nature Center.

But their eyes are still crossed. Well, not literally, but anyway, the point is that my students have never heard of Envirothon.

On Thursday, April 25, our team competed at the Regional Competition held at Crockett Park near Warrenton, Virginia. There are five members on the team,



Lauren Decot

Senior Laurie Strobridge, juniors Kelly Hogan and Scott Darwin and Lake Braddock senior Laura Berman complete a test at the Regional Envirothon competition.

and four of them go to WS. Besides myself, the other three members are senior Laurie Strobridge and juniors Scott Darwin and Kelly Hogan. We take written tests in five different areas: Wildlife, Aquatics, Forestry, Soils and Invasive Species. Our team placed third at the competition, losing only to teams from Prince William and Culpeper. However, personally, I wasn't that disappointed because down in southern Virginia, Envirothon is almost considered a religion. Those teams meet practically every day to study, while we meet only once a week. We began the competition with our oral presentation on Introduced Species. The presentation was quite amusing, but we received a few raised eyebrows, especially when Scott fell down after I accidentally hit him in the head with a ceramic pot of multiflora rose. After the presentation, we took the five written tests. After all was said and done, we advanced to the State competition. Some students still don't understand why I like being a member of the Northern Virginia Envirothon team, but I think Scott provides a good answer when he said, "I like being a tree hugger."

## Fairfax County, stop complaining

By Russ Wadell

Photo editor

Fairfax County, as its residents are quick to point out, is on the rich end of the economic spectrum. Nonetheless, the students and staff of West Springfield have no difficulty whatsoever finding problems. Sitting in class, it often seems like our school should make fault-finding a varsity sport. We should at least charter a finger pointing club.

Complaining is a way to make everyone share your pain. Unfortunately, everyone else has his own complaining to do and no one else needs to hear yours. Not only that, but whining is a horribly contagious disease. As soon as one person starts ranting, all other individuals with any kind of beef want to join the fun.

Suddenly, there's a giant ory of whining and moaning. The problem is that the only result is a whole bunch of unhappy people. Complaining tends to make the complainer hear all his problems, out loud and its further convinced that his life is endless misery.

So let's just stop. Save our breath. And if we feel the desire to talk, say something good. Say something nice. Say: "Gee, I love my life. I love myself. I love my school." No, this editorial is not complaining about complaining. On the contrary, *The Oracle* staff just wants to promote love and harmony. We think that the first step to taking care of ourselves, taking care of each other and taking care of this place is to be happy with our lot in life. Being happy is the direct result of a positive outlook, and a positive outlook doesn't include non-constructive criticism.

**So let's just stop. Save our breath. And if we feel the desire to talk, say something good. Say something nice.**

In Fairfax County, we do have problems. The teachers should at least get a raise that keeps up with inflation. The superintendent would look a lot better if he hadn't accepted an enormous raise himself. But we all know about the problems. We don't need to point them out yet again.

Among other things, complaints stand out more than praise because complaints are a lot more obnoxious. Complainers just look really bad. They make themselves sound spoiled. They make themselves sound snobby. They make sure it's unpleasant to share their company. But I'm not complaining, of course.



Jen Siomacco

"Fall you for the paper plus a rewrite."

—Andrew Paxton, junior

"Nothing. You should be able to cheat without consequences."

—Steve Moffa, junior



Jen Siomacco

### Spartan Spotlight

What should the consequence be for plagiarism?

"I think they should get an F on the assignment not for the quarter."

—Stephany Lora, freshman

"A stern warning."

—Lady Bell, junior



Jen Siomacco

—Compiled by Jen Siomacco

## Don't catch the plagiarism plague

It's four o'clock in the morning and your English paper is due in three-and-a-half hours. What do you do?

You have two out of the minimum 10 pages completed, but they're not very good. You're out of ideas and frankly just too tired. So, what's next?

You continue down the dark path of restlessness and yearn for sleep until you realize that you're studious and you can at least attempt to finish your paper. All you see, though, are the same random words repeating themselves over and over again. The paper is getting worse, not better. Instead of accomplishing something you're actually decreasing your chances of making even a D.

But just in time, a little light bulb turns on and you decide to surf the Net—only for ideas—to aid you in the completion of this "masterpiece."

Before you know it you've stumbled upon a paper with a similar topic as yours and it's so well-written that it's beckoning to you. It wants to help you get a good grade and it wants to make you sound smart, smarter than you really are. But using it is illegal and morally wrong.

Plagiarism is common at WS. With the convenience of the Internet, plagiarism is easier and there are ways

for students to get the wrong kind of help on assignments. Recently, teachers have taken new measures to decipher whether or not their students are cheating.

English teachers like Brian Martin are using new techniques specifically designed to tell if a student has indeed done their own work. And we think it's about time.

For years we've grown up with students who plagiarize. But by now all high schoolers know what plagiarizing is and that it's certainly wrong. It's not so bad until someone does it to you. Once you have a true A-quality piece that you spent hours and hours on, to have someone else copy it or take excerpts from it is nauseating.

Plagiarizing is pathetic. Granted, everyone makes mistakes, but you're supposed to learn from them and not keep on doing it because it's easier than actually doing your own work.

Once you've cheated, your teacher will never think or look at you the same way. And believe it or not, everyone finds out how pathetic you are and they poke fun at you. Do your own work. Besides, plagiarizing is expensive and can cost you thousands of dollars if you're ever prosecuted and found guilty of such a crime.

### Editorial

## Two fewer days only give teachers a little relief While teachers don't benefit, students get two extra days in the sun

Lauren Decot  
& Katie Walker

Oracle Staff Writers

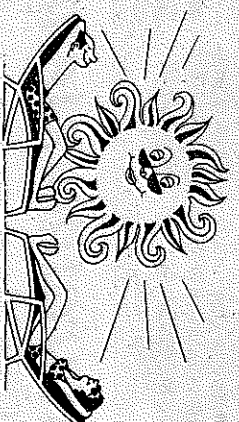
Something is always better than nothing.

Teachers have been lobbying for a pay raise for years, but instead they got two extra days off of school this year. Still, by having school end on June 14 instead of June 17, the county is at least finally showing some appreciation for its teachers. It's good to know that our educators aren't being completely overlooked.

Although the early closing of schools was intended to be a reward for teachers,

it is the students who benefit more. We get out of school earlier, without having to deal with the hassles that teachers face. Namely, reworking their end of the schedules, which could be very frustrating. Fairfax County Superintendent Daniel A. Dome-

nech proposed 11 employee initiatives to alleviate the strain involving this year's significance. Cutting short the school year was a solution that managed to reward teachers without putting further strain on the budget. Although the intentions were good, teachers could end up spending so much time planning their new schedules that all their value and clearly be best, at least the county is trying to show teachers the appreciation they deserve. It is a step in the right direction.



## THE ORACLE

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# University quotas prove unfair to applicants

By Jenny Askin

Managing Editor

For the past four years I have had teachers, counselors, administrators and parents tell me that involving myself in lots of activities and maintaining my grades would prove to colleges that I was a great candidate. While taking the APs and the SATs, I was the class president. I was on the newspaper staff. I went to Girl's State and I was a varsity athlete. To be honest, I never really thought about the possibility of not getting into college.

Within the past couple of years, colleges have been sending me long acceptance letters. I was excited, and I finally figure out where I was going to spend the next four years of my life. When the news came, however, I was anything but excited.

I was wait-listed at two schools and rejected from the third. My friends were all getting into their dream schools: University of Virginia, William and Mary, and James Madison, and I was in a nightmare not knowing what I was going to do.

The shock of being wait listed was intense and brought about a lot of personal frustration. Being on the wait list is a sort of college acceptance limbo. In other

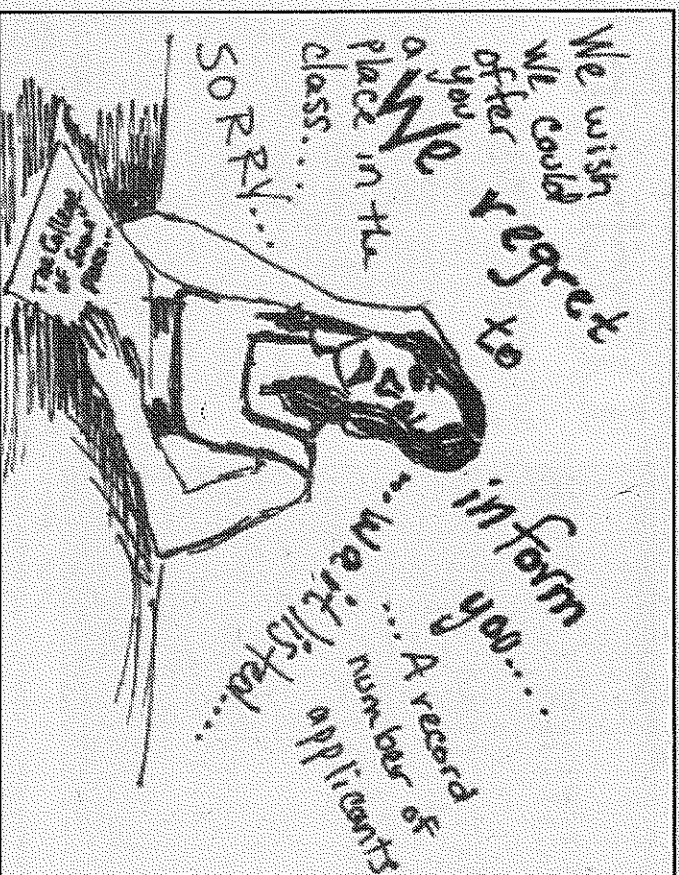
words, the school likes you a lot, but not enough to let you in right away.

After I got my wait letter, I talked to a teacher whom I have been close with throughout my high school tenure. She told me, "If people like you don't get into college, then who are they letting in?" I thought about that statement and I thought about who was getting into college.

Now I am not the only who feels left out and needs help but think how unfair the application process has been. I have heard several stories about top students, who are highly involved in extracurricular activities, who do not get in to their schools. When really outrages me is that students with the mediocre grades, and the low test scores are getting into the so-called competitive schools like JMU.

I would like to ask the Virginia schools what kind of students they really want. Do they want the extracurricular activities, do they want the harder classes, do they want the leadership qualifications, do they want prospective students to hold jobs and to be involved with different honor societies? Well if they do, then why don't they accept these students?

Obviously, Fairfax County is a top area not only in the state but also in the nation. The public education system is quite



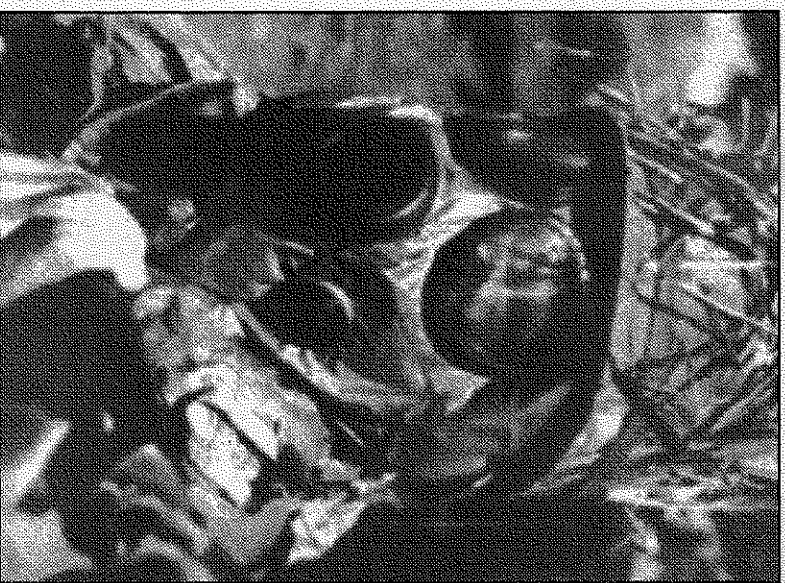
Melissa Lipman

simply one of the best in the nation, if not the best. Fairfax is home to some of the brightest young minds in the country. And because of this, many students get punished in the admissions process.

The so-called Northern Virginia quota system is ridiculous and is a very unproductive. Colleges should base their admissions decisions on the candidate's high school career not by his or her address. It's simple: the best candidate should be offered admission. College acceptance should have absolutely no correlation to your zip code. But life isn't simple or fair. For the most part, the majority of the

senior class knows where they will be heading when August rolls around. As for me, my entire future rests upon a white envelope that should be coming in either May or June. All I can do is promise myself that I will rise above this and become a professional lobbyist. Because once I

graduate from high school, my life in the real world, this college experience will be far in my past. It won't matter that for six months I was in a college acceptance limbo. What will matter is that I'm a hardworking person and that if I can rise above this, I can do anything.



The US army has trained its soldiers extensively about protection against poisonous gas. Soldiers are given the controversial anthrax vaccine because of Hussein's willingness to use the biological weapon.

# Eliminate Hussein before he eliminates the US

By Jason Gillis

Viewpoint Assistant

President George Bush and his senior staff have a monumental task ahead of them: to decide whether or not to finish off what President Bush Sr. started, to oust Saddam Hussein.

The US needs to get rid of Hussein. He is a threat to our security and is even a threat to his own people. Iraq is called a republic, but in reality Iraq is under one of the harshest dictatorships in the world. Hussein has used chemical weapons in his war against Iran, and even has tested poisonous gas on his own people.

During the Gulf War, Hussein forced his own people to be in and around his palaces to act as human shields against American forces. If the coalition forces harmed innocent civilians, Hussein would play to the humanitarian instincts of Americans by making sure the media sends many images of innocent civilians being harmed back to the US. Hussein has laboratories under hospitals so they can't be harmed by bombs unless the hospital is destroyed. With his laboratories he has developed anthrax and is trying to develop a nuclear capability. He is a coward and will not face up to the punishment he deserves.

After the Gulf War, Northern and Southern no-fly zones were established to prevent Hussein from becoming a threat again, but Iraq has threatened pilots that patrol those areas. Surface to Air missile sites roam the desert and attack patrol planes, and recently a build up of surface to air missile sites has been recorded in the no-fly zones.

When planes were attacked in the past, a swift retaliation occurred to destroy the site that fired the missile. But in 1998 Operation Desert Fox, a large scale bombardment of Iraq, occurred to slow down the progression of a build up in weapons, again. Pilots still risk their lives everyday, because of the surface to air missiles sites that roam the desert looking for a plane to shoot down, this is a major reason why Hussein should be taken out of power.

After the Gulf War, Hussein agreed to a treaty that made him disarm and he was forced to let weapons inspectors make sure that he did, but the weapons inspectors were kicked out and to this day were never let back in to make sure Hussein has not rearmed.

In Kosovo and Bosnia so called peace keeping troops are still stationed there to enforce "peace." Years ago the US and other countries overran the government or group of people that were. It wastes government funds and keeps American soldiers away from home for a long duration of time. Even in Afghanistan, British soldiers are beginning to police major cities, but at least there is a major national interest in affecting the lives of the Afghan people.

The US should have attacked Iraq and taken Hussein out of power already. Iraq is a threat and has been a threat for too many years. The Iraqi people need to take charge and create a new government by themselves. So called peace keeping soldiers should not even be mentioned when and if the US takes Hussein out of power.

# Military tribunals should be fair to the accused

By Mike Araj  
Business/Systems Editor

Most would think that when we go to defend our nation and its Constitution, then we would follow it and hold fair trials. This, however, is not the case.

Last November, President George Bush issued an order to create military tribunals for accused terrorists in Afghanistan. This would be fine, if the tribunals were set up in a fair way. They are not.

According to the presidential military order, accused non-citizens of the United States would have "a full and fair trial," but that same order proclaims that the accused will not be able to appeal any ruling and that the death penalty could be imposed immediately.

While the United States received much

help from our allies on the war on terror, many of these countries that did help us oppose the death penalty. Although the US has the jurisdiction over the prisoners from Afghanistan if the US catches them, the US should also consider that we should remain on good terms with our allies and that they should have a say in what should happen to the prisoners because they helped to catch them in the first place.

The United Nations has also had a long standing policy against the death penalty and has rightly objected to the US military tribunals. Their policy was determined through a Human Rights Committee.

If the United States were to find all of the prisoners guilty and sentence them for death, the cost could be tremendous, in financial and moral terms. Many of the people who lost loved ones on September

11 have expressed their disdain for the fact that capital murder may be imposed on those convicted, saying that it would not be a sufficient punishment.

There are too many things that can go wrong with the tribunals if they are instituted, an important one being that if an innocent person is found guilty and given the death penalty, that person will not have a chance to appeal, an action that prevents many innocent US citizens from being executed.

The most imperative reason, however, that the United States should modify the military tribunals in the very least is that it violates our principals and everything this nation stands for: freedom, fairness, and justice. The day that we this country gives up these principals and ideals is the day that terrorism has won.



Zaccharis Moussoui is going to be tried in the Alexandria Federal Courthouse later this year. He is suspected of being apart of the conspiracy to attack the US.



Maggie Attebery

Female varsity players chow down and enjoy the luncheon's entertainment.

## Luncheon lets female athletes shine

By Priyanka Tandon  
News Section Editor

The usual silence of Spartan Hall was missing on Tuesday April 23. A quiet murmur of voices was heard through the thick doors. During both lunches the First Annual WSHS Women In Sports Luncheon for varsity female athletes took place.

Special Education teacher and varsity field hockey coach Shannon Matheny organized the luncheon in conjunction with Activities Director Tod Chappell.

"The main purpose [of the event] is [to give] time for the girls to show support for being outstanding students and female athletes," said Matheny.

Matheny was previously employed at

Edison High School, which had a similar event.

Matheny also got the idea from Fairfax County, which holds a special luncheon for nominated athletes each year.

Matheny had planned holding the luncheon earlier in February on the National Holiday for Women in Sports.

"We did it now because if we did it in February than the spring sports would've been left out," said Matheny.

The luncheon provided subs, a variety of cookies, and a make-your-own sandwich.

The activities at the luncheon included athletes reading a poem or presenting an original creation.

Varsity basketball manager senior Destiny Ramos and varsity basketball player junior Lianna Carrera performed a

rap during both lunches.

"Destiny wrote a rap and we decided to spice it up and add sign language," said Carrera. "We were going for the whole deaf ghetto thing look."

The attendees of the event also heard a few words from Principal David Smith, Chappell, and assistant Activities Director Bill Renner.

"I wholeheartedly believe that our school has the best female athletes in the county," said Renner.

The girls and speakers enjoyed the event very much. Matheny plans to make the luncheon an annual event.

"I don't really get to talk to girls from other sports," said varsity swimmer senior Ann Blaschke. "It gave us a chance to get to know others a little better."

## Senior art mural unveiled

By Katie Walker  
Oracle Editor

Who would have thought that the WS administration would let students graffit on the walls? Of course, in the case of the beautiful art murals around the school, the splashes of color are a welcome change from the dull white walls.

After three months of hard work, the senior art class finally completed its mural in senior hall.

"We were going to do separate square murals next to each other, but then we thought it looked unrelated. We wanted to do something in the shape of a word like the 'Spartans' mural. We picked 'seniors' because we're a class of all seniors," said

senior Adrienne Trinka. "We just took the pictures we'd drawn already and decided what scene fit the best with each letter."

The mural is comprised of seven different scenes, each contained within a different letter and spelling out the word "seniors." The themes of each letter are fish underwater, a woman in the night, outer space, scuba diving, penguins and a vulture.

"The one with the vulture was made to contrast with the beach scene so there would be a variety of different scenes," said senior Elizabeth Hebda.

The class had to go through a lot of preparation before they could even start painting the mural on the wall. They were assigned groups of four and had

to reach a consensus on the theme of their designated letter.

"It was a long, involved process. First we came up with the idea in our groups and drew it on draft paper. Then we had to make the picture fit into the letter. We used tracing paper, flipped it onto an overhead and drew it proportionally up on the wall."

In celebration of the completion of the mural the class held an official unveiling during fifth period.

"We invited our administrator Ms. Galdi, our class sponsors and told our parent about the unveiling," said Hebda. "We brought in very sophisticated snacks like finger foods and sparkling cider. Ed Galtis gave an inspirational speech before we



Rissa Waddell

Senior art class teacher Mercedes Saffron poses with her artists at the unveiling of the senior art mural.

to tore down a piece of paper to will probably remain on the wall for about 10 years.

"Even though we're a beginning art class, the mural still looks good," said Hebda. "We've left our legacy."

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## Plagiarism poses problem

PLAGIARISM, from Page 4

Harris finds that plagiarism is more rampant among upperclassmen.

"I've had no problems with it in my sophomore classes," said Harris. "It would take a really gutsy tenth grader to plagiarize."

According to the Fairfax County Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, there are no county policies regarding plagiarism. Since there is no policy, teachers have more flexibility in determining their own

"These students are seniors. I don't think it's necessary to inform their parents."

—Brian Martin, English teacher

punishment and consequences for students who plagiarize.

"I think a school-wide policy coming from a group of students like the SGA would help reinforce that plagiarism is intolerable," said Harris.

Like Martin, Harris gives her students a zero on any plagiarized paper. Others, like eleventh grade English teacher Mary Love Wynne, use harsher punishments by sending a letter to a student's administrator and parents in addition to giving the students a zero for the assignment.

"These students are seniors. I don't think it's necessary to inform their parents," said Martin.

Although Martin's warning and threat of using a website helped most of his students avoid a zero for their research paper, he hopes that next year he will be able to tackle students plagiarizing earlier.

"In the future," said Martin. "I will try to discuss more in depth what plagiarizing is before students turn in their first papers."

# Darwin juggles teacher and student schedule

## Reading specialist works hard to earn a PhD in adolescent literacy

By JD Kaleem  
Business/Systems Assistant

Marlene Darwin's life revolves around reading.

As a reading specialist in her sixth year at WS, Darwin teaches three literacy and SAT preparatory classes, has won one state-level and one national-level reading award, has an undergraduate degree in Spanish, a masters degree in education, and is working hard towards earning her PhD

in adolescent literacy from George Mason University.

"I've been working on my PhD for the past three and a half years," said Darwin. "Currently I'm working on my dissertation entitled 'The Role of the High School Reading Specialist.'"

Darwin is one of the few high school reading specialists in Fairfax County. The majority are in elementary schools.

"I feel it's very important to have high school reading specialists. I want to show that they can help students at all levels," said Darwin.

She teaches one Developing Literacies class for freshmen and two Expanding Literacies classes for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

"Every literature class period my students read silently for 20 to 30 minutes," said Darwin.

In March the Virginia Reading Association honored Darwin as the Virginia Reading Teacher of the Year at a state convention at Virginia Beach.

"It was very special because a high school reading specialist has never won this award. Usually an elementary school reading specialist wins," said Darwin.

Another honor Darwin holds is the Nita Banton Smith Award. She will travel to the International Reading Association Convention on April 27 to receive this award honoring leadership in a secondary content area.

"There will be 17,000 people at the convention and the organization gives this award to one person each year," said Darwin. "It feels great."

To earn her PhD, Darwin took classes in research methods, analyzing research results, early literacy and adolescent literacy, while also performing many independent studies.

"I use what I learned from classes in reading programs at school, such as areas and classes to learn reading and note-taking strategies," said Darwin.

Besides being a reading specialist, Darwin is interested in leadership skills.

"I'm certified to be an assistant principal or principal," said Darwin.

"Perhaps after finishing my PhD, my ultimate goals would be in instructional leadership, or, simply put, teaching

teachers to teach well."

Before coming to WS, Darwin taught for two years at Sandburg Middle School and two years at Longfellow Middle School.

She has also taught seventh and eighth grade language classes in Georgia.

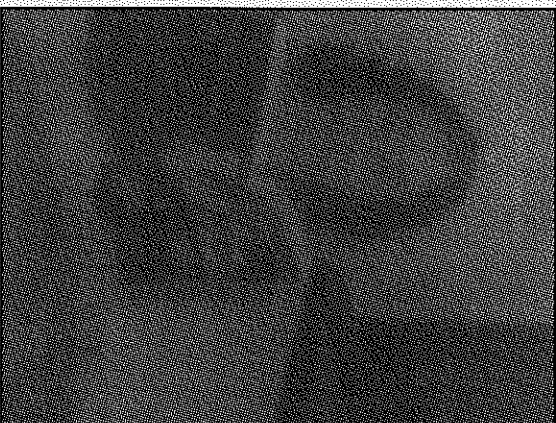
Her husband is retired from the military and she has lived in Germany, California, Kansas, Illinois, Georgia and Virginia.

"I really like this area and have decided to settle down here," said Darwin.

She has two children. Her daughter is a Class of '99 graduate and her son is a junior at WS.

Darwin looks forward to every day at WS and hopes to help students come to enjoy reading as much as she does.

"I think reading and literacy skills are the keys to success," said Darwin. "I love to read."



Marlene Darwin takes time during the day to catch up on some reading for her classes.

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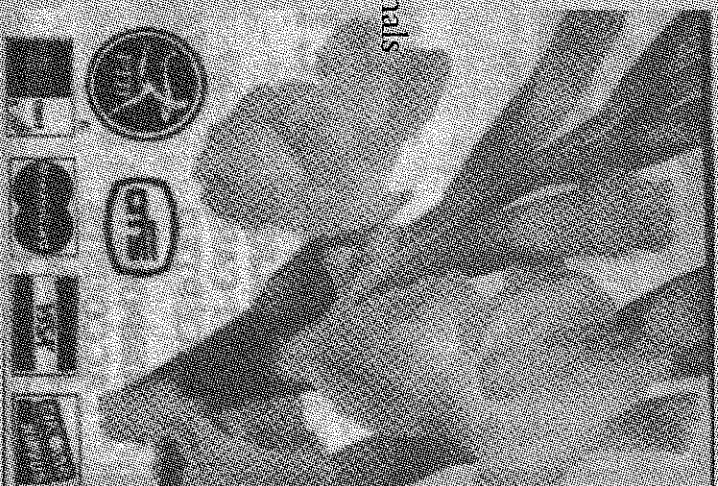
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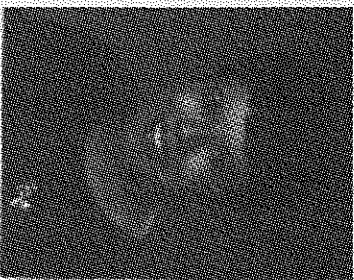
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# Card sharks go on a frenzy at WS

*A deck of cards and some friends provide for endless hours of fun*

By Mike Araj

Business/Systems Editor

With endless possibilities of games from Poker to Black Jack and Spades to Hearts, many WS students enjoy playing a variety of card games.

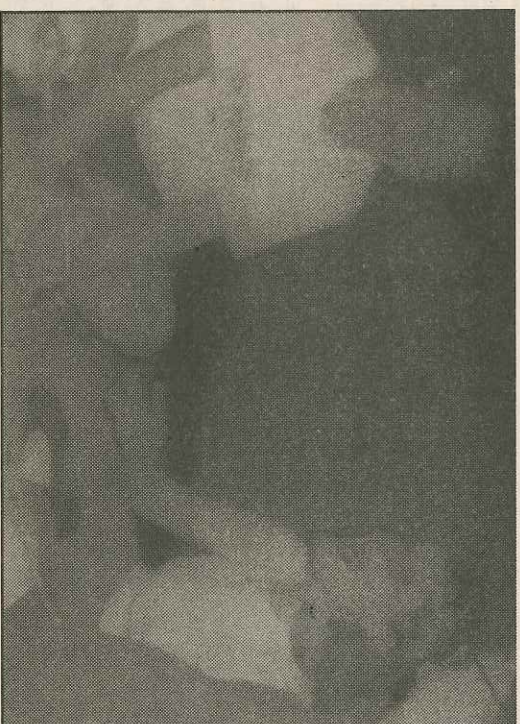
"[The reason] is simple. You can take them anywhere and there are so many games," said junior Sean Branigan. While students do prefer card games because they lack the bulk and extraneous pieces of board games, there are many other reasons why WS students choose cards over other games.

"They're [cards] more versatile," said senior Eve Rogers. "There's no-set up and no set rules."

One of the most popular games is Black Jack, where the object of the game is to get a set of cards whose values that add up to 21 without going over. Number cards are worth their values, aces can be worth either one or 11 and face cards add 10 points to the stack. Some students like this game because of their skill with it.

"Black Jack [is my favorite] because it makes me lots of money," said junior JD Taylor.

But aside from the many money making possibilities, most students just enjoy the game's simplicity since all one needs to play is a deck of cards and elementary math skills.



*Maggie Althebery*  
Junior Emily Petty and sophomore Emily Allen pass their time during lunch playing card games like Spades and Speed.

"I am good at it [Black Jack], and it's the easiest to play," said Branigan.

Other games that students enjoy include Hearts and Speed. In Speed, two players try to get rid of three piles of cards by placing them in descending or ascending order

in a pile in the middle.

"You get to go crazy, and it [Speed] gets out of hand," said senior Allison Byers.

Many students have had many memorable experiences with either friends or families while playing cards, which adds a sentimental side to the many card games.

"[When I was] playing after a track meet [was memorable because] it was just with friends," said Branigan. "It was fun."

There's a big difference between the experience of playing Black Jack in a casino, or in a living room, and so some students believe location and atmosphere are factors that affect the game play.

"It [cards] is better when it's louder," said Branigan.

While there are many card games that students enjoy, some are not nearly as popular among the people at WS.

"Poker [is my least favorite game] because I always lose," said Branigan.

Others dislike some games because of the amount of time it takes to play.

"War [is my least favorite game] because it lasts forever," said Rogers. "It's a never-ending game."



## Spartan Profiles



Laura Pilkington

Danny Hill

By Jenn Siomacco

Photographer

Many students at WS would be more than happy just to receive one or two college credits during their high school career, but junior Laura Pilkington exceeds even those hopes. By the time she graduates she will have racked up a respectable thirteen college credits. In her freshman year alone, she took both AP biology and AP calculus. This year she is battling four AP courses and another five next year.

"I was able to take AP courses as a freshman because I took online courses with a association called APQY. I was able to take Algebra I, Algebra 2, and Pre-Calculus all in the summer after eighth grade."

Being the only freshman in a class that is prominently juniors and seniors can seem pretty overwhelming but Pilkington dealt with it easily.



*Katie Rice*  
Junior Laura Pilkington has been taking AP classes since her freshman year.

"When I walked into AP Calculus a senior asked what grade I was in. He didn't think I could be any younger than a sophomore so when I said I was a freshman he gave me a really weird look. It wasn't really a problem [being the only freshman, though]."

Pilkington is also a member of the Academic Club and Math Team.

"[As [Academic Club] a competition where they tape you and put your competition on TV," said Pilkington. "I also placed fifth in the Calculus Competition at John Hopkins University [for the Math Team]."

This excellent student won't stop there. Another of Pilkington's talents is playing the clarinet. She plays for the WS band and has been working hard at this skill since sixth grade. She placed into the All District Band along with 120 other musicians from the area.

An interest in music is not the only artistic quality Pilkington has about her. She has been working on forming the idea to write a science fiction/fantasy novel since last year. Her inspiration came from reading books like *Fahrenheit 451* and this year in her AP English class, *Utopia*.

"It takes a lot of time to create an entirely new social structure [for the book]," said Pilkington. Though writing a book can be time consuming, Pilkington has already begun looking into aspects for college where she hopes to hold a sophomore standing.

"I'd like to go to a small liberal arts school with a good music and writing program," said Pilkington. "One I've really been looking into is Williams College. I don't want to go to a big ivy league college because the selection process seems kind of crazy. I don't want to go through something that insane."

By Rachel Wohlers

Entertainment Assistant

Freshman Danny Hill was only four years old and he was learning to ride his bike.

"My parents tried to teach me to ride my bike but my older brother Timmy was the one who finally gave me a push and let go of the bike," said Hill.

Hill has two brothers, Andy, who is a senior at UVA, and Timmy, a freshman at JMU. But it's Timmy who has influenced Hill in many ways throughout his life, and he often follows in brother's footsteps.

Hill is a good dancer and was voted by his class to participate in the annual Mr. Spartan competition earlier this year, in which he performed a retro-basketball number.

"[My brother and I] dance together sometimes," said Hill. "He was in Mr. Spartan his junior year and helped me with my performance."

One thing Hill and his brother have in common is their leadership skill. This year Hill is the freshman class treasurer and plans to run for office again next year. His brother was a member of SGA during his years at WS.

Hill and his brother also share the same tastes in food and women. Their favorite type of food is Mexican and they are both fans of the model Josie Maron.

Hill's favorite bands are the underground ones such O.A.R. and Dispatch.

"It's better music and it's not overplayed," said Hill. "I first heard about it when my brother started listening to it and he got me into it."

Hill and his brother also share the same like and dislikes, as well as their looks. But despite their many similarities, Hill has

done something his brother has never done. Recently he got a very lucky break that landed him a chance to model.

"I was at the mall and I saw the sign for Model Search America and it looked like fun so I went in," said Hill.

Out of the other 599 applicants, he ended up being in the 15% who were selected to model for the company. But despite his successes so far, Hill



*Jen Siomacco*  
Freshman Danny Hill's friends call him "Leb" after his Lebanese roots.

isn't interested in pursuing a career in modeling.

"I don't plan on modeling in the future. It was just a fun thing and there was money involved so I decided to go in," he said.

Now that his brother is away at college, Hill is finding it hard to get used to the emptiness in his house without his brother. But for this duo, the distance doesn't seem to create a problem.

"We get along really well and I can still talk to him and ask him for advice," Hill said. "He's a cool dude."

# Top 10 reasons to go to Prom

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9. It doesn't hurt.

8. It will be more exciting than watching

'Pearl Harbor.'

7. Your parents will stop bugging you.

(Mr. and Mrs. C, you're the best!)

6. Rupert will be there and you have to love

'The Matrix' theme.

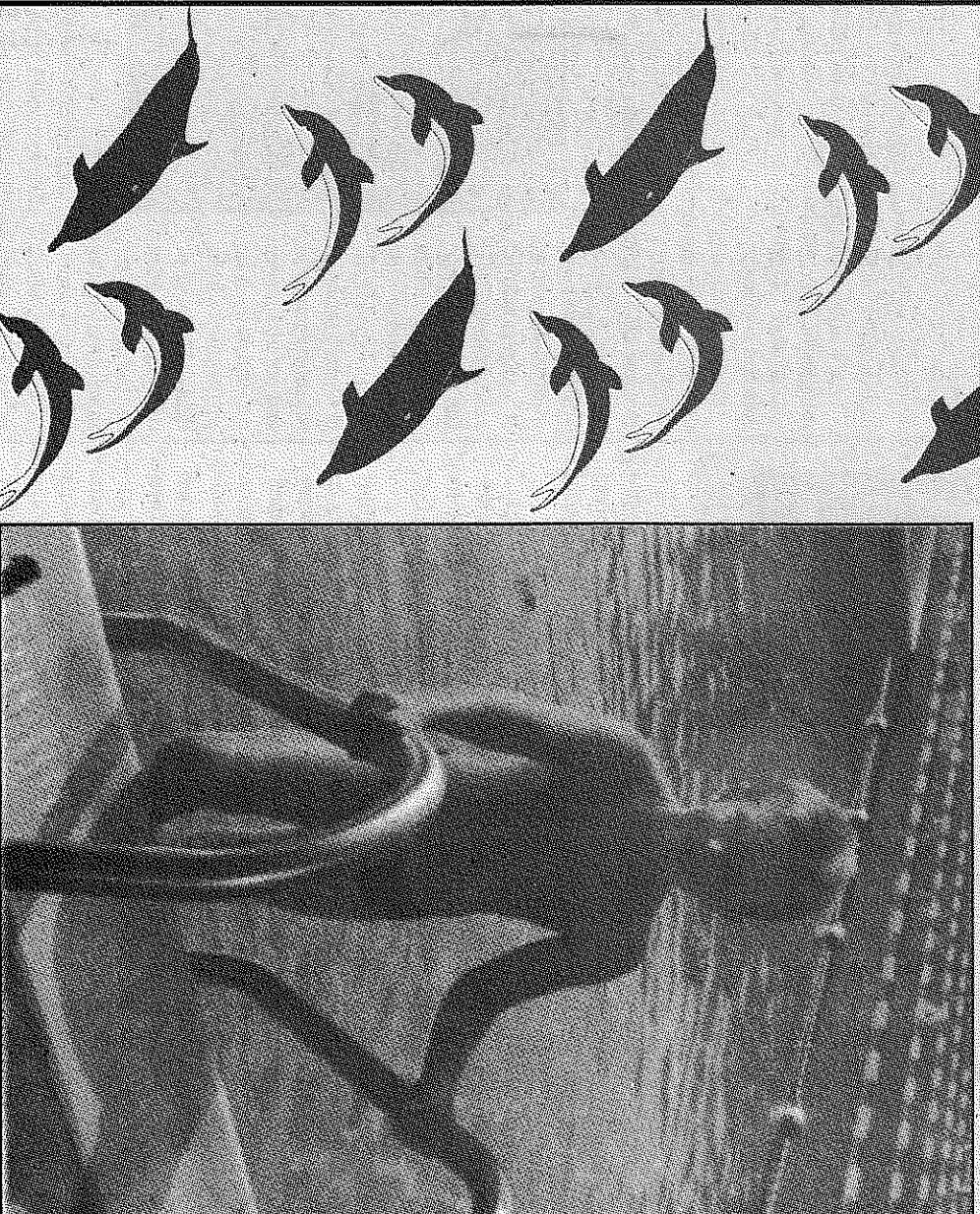
5. I spent a lot on this ad. Bling, Bling.

4. I'm lazy, I'm gonna skip to number 3.

3. I'm planning this all for you.

2. You are really, really ridiculously good-looking.

1. How can you resist this body? Lauren, will you go to Prom with me?



## Old sitcoms still give big laughs

By Jenn Carlson  
Weekend Editor

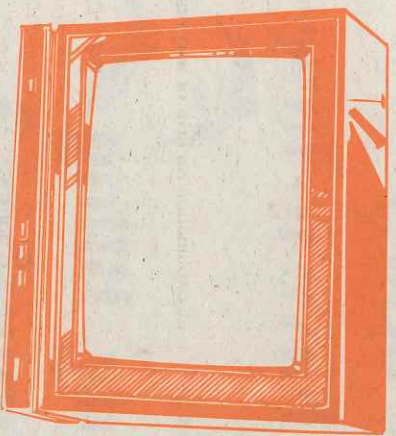
When the school textbooks close and the sports jersey is hung up after school, WS students turn on the TV to catch their favorite sitcoms.

From old favorites to breakthrough hits, there are a variety of sitcoms to be found on many channels. For the "Friends" fanatic, Fox airs old reruns while NBC features the new season. The sitcom follows the lives of a six friends in New York. The hilarious dilemmas and dialogues are a big draw for WS students.

"Friends" is my favorite show because of all the situations

"Seinfeld is really funny, and will always be funny. I connect with the characters because of their crazy escapades."

—Brandon Ferraro, junior



# JUST SEE TV

## Fantasy shows: a little out of the ordinary

By Laura Robinson  
Managing Editor

In the old days there was "Mork and Mindy," "Bewitched" and "I Dream of Jeannie."

Now there is the Sci-Fi Channel, long-running shows such as the "X-Files" and many new shows, all with supernatural themes.

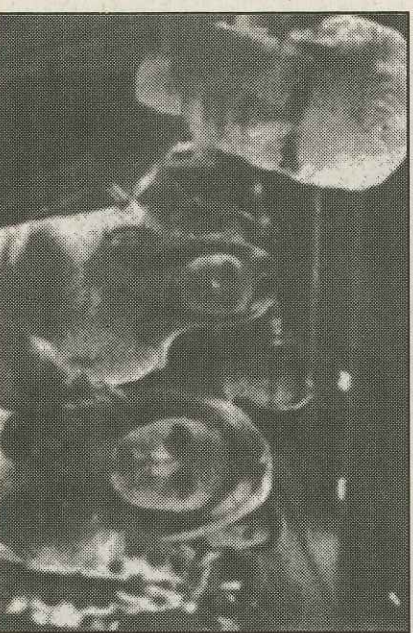
So what's the reasoning behind this trend?

Advertisers claim that shows with this motif appeal to the younger generation—that elusive 18-to-25 year-old viewing population.

For teenagers, reasons run rampant for the popularity of these shows.

"I like the fantasy world stuff; it's a nice escape," said sophomore Alyssa Lee.

The WB has fantasy shows as a major part of its lineup:



"Buffy the Vampire Slayer" is one of the longest running shows that deal with the supernatural on the WB.

they find themselves in," said junior Drew Palmer.

"Friends," which ends its nine-season run in May of 2003, has easily become one of the most successful sitcoms in television history, in terms of popularity and number of viewers. When the show goes off the air for good, NBC will be losing its top-rated television program.

Fox has also found a popular hit in its program "That '70s Show," in the show's fourth season. "That '70s Show" is a nostalgic blast from the past, including everything from bell-bottoms to 8-tracks. Featuring a young cast, "That '70s Show" is a mix of humor and daily life activities makes people to both relate to and laugh at the funny antics that are combined in the sitcom. Eric lives with his conservative dad and mom and his college-dropout sister, Laurie. His friend, Hyde, moved in last season after his mother left town, which adds to the comedy. Eric just barely gets by with the help of Hyde and his other friends Keiso, played by Ashton Kutcher, Jackie, played by Mila Kunis, exchange student Fez played by Wilmer Valderrama and next door neighbor Donna, played by Laura Prepon.

"It's the funniest show ever. Eric and Donna are hilarious together," said sophomore Kurt Helfrich.

The ever popular "Seinfeld" is an obvious choice of students, despite the fact that there aren't any new episodes being produced. The popularity of the show has hardly faltered in the opinions of some.

"Seinfeld is really funny, and will always be funny," said junior Brandon Ferraro. I connect with the characters because of their crazy escapades."

Another popular choice is NBC's "Will and Grace." The show showcases the relationship between Grace, played by Debra Messing, a straight interior designer and her gay roommate and best friend, Will, played by Eric McCormack. Two other unique personalities, Jack and Karen, add to the humor and complicate the lives of Will and Grace.

"It's fantastic," said junior Tim Lacroisse. "It's a good straight and gay alliance."



Buffy's ex-boyfriend David Boreanaz left the show "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" for his own WB show, "Angel."

"Charmed" and "Smallville" are two of its most popular shows and center around fantasy concepts. "Smallville" revolves around the life of a young Superman who lives on a farm. "Charmed" also has a large following.

"I like 'Charmed' because it has witch things and magic," said senior Jenny Caniglia. "It's something a little different."

"X-Files" has been running for seven years, but its popularity has waned somewhat with the disappearance of Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and the new cast.

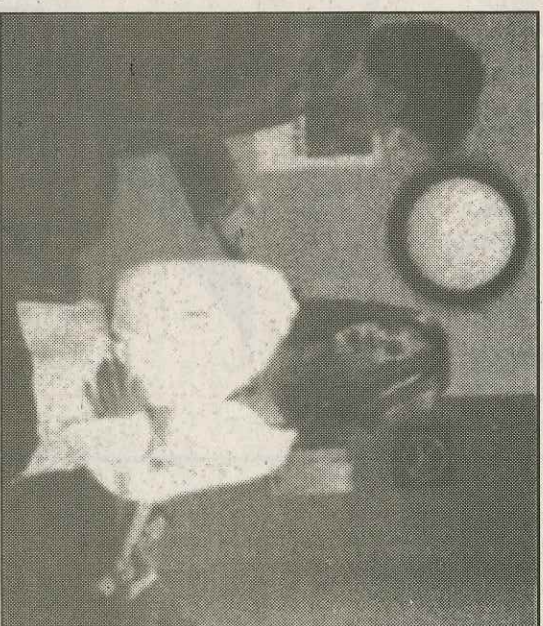
"I watched 'X-Files' because back in the day I thought it was scary," said junior Ed DiBrango.

TV experts expect that shows with supernatural and fantasy themes will continue to grow in popularity. Because of their unique attraction, more shows of this genre should appear on prime-time scheduling.

"We all watch supernatural and fantasy things because we have nothing to relate them to," said senior Alicia Kirsch. "Then we believe them and they're fun."

Most agree that shows reveal something about American culture. They provide an alternative to the reality-based drama of shows like "E.R." or "The Practice."

"I think it's a great escape and people love conspiracy theories so they find it interesting," said Principal David Smith. "People want to believe there's more out there than what they can see."



Sitcoms like "Friends" and "Will and Grace" on NBC are some of the most popular shows among teens today.



## Law shows stan

By Melissa Lipman  
Oracle Editor

If slow and steady wins the race then law-based TV shows have nothing to fear from the flux of reality TV programs.

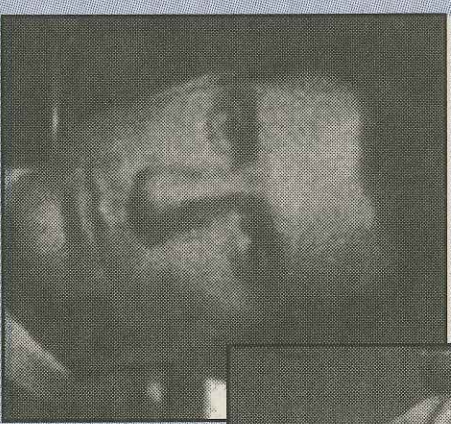
As a myriad of reality TV shows have enjoyed their 15 minutes of fame, series based on law practices like "Law & Order" and "The Practice" have enjoyed a more constant success.

Junior Nathaniel Wiles prefers the second half of the show where the lead prosecutor, played by Sam Waterston, pursues punishment for the offenders arrested by New York cops in the beginning of the program.

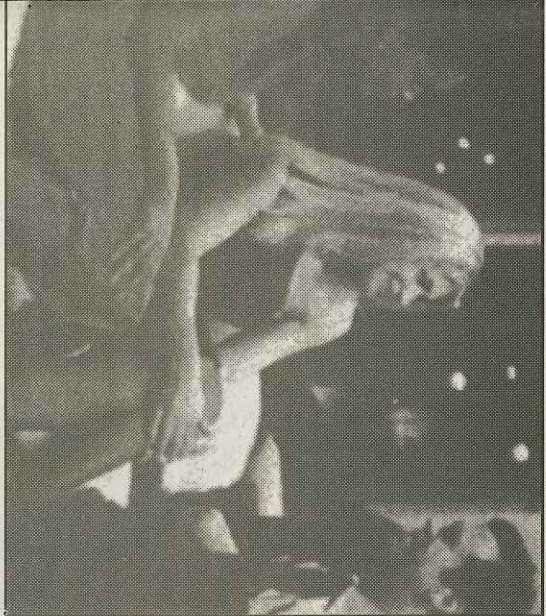
"It's just an interesting show. It's captivating," said Wiles. "It's fun to watch."

If endurance is the mark of success, then "Law & Order" is one of the most successful and popular shows on the air. The program, which debuted in October of 1990, has been on the air longer than any of the other drama series that now compete with it.

Over the show's 12-year tenure it has seen six police officers and nearly as many prosecutors. Jerry Orbach plays Lennie Briscoe, one of the show's most famed cops. Of his partners, which have included Benjamin Bratt and longtime







One lucky woman will go home with the ring in the new reality show "The Bachelor." "Fear Factor" gives a new twist to reality shows by having participants face their worst fears.

## Reality shows become a new fad

By Marianne Shaddrix  
Features Editor

Whether we enjoy them or not, WS students just can't seem to get enough of them.

"Survivor" and "The Bachelor" are just two of the shows that fall under the formidable umbrella of reality television. The big name networks have caught onto America's insatiable thirst for more reality shows, a thirst that can be traced back to 1991 when MTV debuted "The Real World."

The concept was simple: "Seven strangers picked to live in a house and have their lives taped." Devoted viewers turned into MTV to find out what happened "when people [stopped] being nice and [started] being real."

While MTV has since admitted that in the earlier seasons, the house guests were told to follow a basic "script," many people still believe that the reality shows are still far from being real.

"I think a lot of [the shows are] what [the producers] want them to do. Only some of it seems real," said freshman Ryan Leonard.

However, some viewers disagree with the cynical view of the reality TV shows, insisting on the shows' authenticity.

"It's not fake, it's what's real in the world, what's really going on," said junior Mahlet Hailu.

Others refuse to watch "The Real World" for different reasons, including the idea that television is meant to be an escape from the daily grind, not a reminder of it.

"I live in the real world. I don't need to watch that crap," said junior Adam Buckley.

Some students chose not to focus on the authenticity of the "real" shows, and watch for many different reasons, including the shows' soap opera-esque drama.

"I think it's funny when the people [on the shows] fight," said senior Sheri Haupt.

Hoping to profit from the success of "The Real World," the original reality TV show, TV executives have dived head-first

into proposals for other such programs.

Judging by the popularity of "Survivor" and "Temptation Island," their efforts proved to be successful.

"'Temptation Island' was the only show I watched religiously. I wanted to see if the people [on the island] would cheat," said senior Sheri Haupt.

"Survivor" recently finished up its fourth season in the Marquesas, a part of Tahiti. Producer Mark Burnett has announced plans to create an all-star Survivor, which would feature the most popular castaways from past seasons. But the reoccurring theme just doesn't sit well with some at WS.

"It's pretty much all the same, everyone's always on an island," said Leonard.

However, recently CBS aired a new, island-free reality show called "The Bachelor." The concept for this show differed greatly from the other shows of the like. Chris, an attractive, single, 31-year-old and 25 single women looking for a husband move into an impressive mansion on Pacific Ocean. While in the house, Chris goes on group and individual dates with the women. Each episode he chose some women to move on to the next round and some to reject. After four months of getting to know the various women, Chris made the final decision: which girl he will marry.

While many tune in each week to watch "The Bachelor," others believe that reality TV is getting old.

"I've seen at least one episode of almost every reality show, but I don't usually keep watching because it's always the same thing and it gets really boring really fast," said junior Lisa Hedge.

While there is no definite explanation for how or why reality shows became so popular so fast among teenagers, psychology teacher Alison Kopkau offers her own explanation.

"They show people doing things teens want to try, but can't because of the constraints placed on them by society and parents," said Kopkau. "It's a way for people to experience those things. People can live vicariously through them."

# Today's faves

## and their ground

past member Chris Noth, current partner Edward Green, played by Jesse Martin, is Wiles's favorite.

"What [Orbach and Martin] do just seems natural," said Wiles. "They play off each other well."

Other popular TV shows that focus on law firms include Ally McBeal" and "The Practice," both of which David Kelley produces.

"Normally if I watch [a law show] it's either 'Law &

Order' or 'The Practice,'" said senior Nikki Atkinson.

"The Practice" has been on the air since March 1997, and centers around a practice of criminal defense attorneys. Its stars include D y l a n M c D e r m o t t, C a m r y n M a n h e i m a n d L a r a B o y l e. M c D e r m o t t ' s character, named Bobby, is one of

the most popular on the show.

"My favorite character is Bobby because he almost always wins his cases," said Atkinson.

Shows like "Law & Order" and "The Practice" look to enjoy continued success among students.

"There's some element of the intellectual [in law shows]," said Atkinson. "It's not stupid like 'The Bachelor.' It's somewhat reality [based] but it's not like one of those reality TV shows."



## TV draws families closer together

By Jenny Askin  
Oracle Editor

The family that watches together grows together. Well, not exactly, but more and more students seem to be watching television shows with their families.

"I think that if a family can get into a certain show and discuss it, it makes for a common interest," said senior Adrienne Trinka.

Popular family shows like "Gilmore Girls" and "7th Heaven" have been attracting students as well as their families. "Gilmore Girls" has received much critical acclaim and has received a lot of positive publicity; the show takes place in a small town and follows the lives of a single mother and daughter.

"I like 'Gilmore Girls' because it's funny," said senior Kirby Bevis. "A lot of people would love to have that kind of relationship with their moms."

Reality television has also brought the family back together.

Shows like "Survivor" and "The Osbournes" have millions of viewers tuned in every week. Many WS families sit down together to watch the dramas unfold.

Senior Emily Finerfrock and her family watch "Survivor" every week together. After the program they like to discuss what happened and what they think about the contestants. At the end of each "Survivor" season, Finerfrock has hosted parties with her friends and family to watch who will big the next big winner. She has even bought "Survivor" clothes, which she likes to wear at school.

"My family and I like to discuss 'Survivor' on the weekends," said Finerfrock. "We all have theories on how the game is played."

With the success of reality TV, music network MTV created more reality based shows. MTV was among one of the first networks to air reality based shows. "The Real World" and "Road Rules" have been longtime hits with the contemporary network. This past season the network released "The Osbournes" which stars dark rocker Ozzy Osbourne's family. The show is so popular and widely liked that TV talk show host Rosie O'Donnell had wife Sharon and daughter Kelly on her show. "The Osbournes" has turned reality television upside down, the show often deals with controversial topics like alcohol and drug use. While the show deals with hard topics it also weaves in a lot of comedy and real family problems. A lot of families might be able to relate to the sibling rivalry between Jack and Kelly.

"I think it's a good show because it's so dysfunctional it's actually functional," said senior Jacqueline Flood. "They actually have family meetings and rules."

While the network hopes to have a second season of "The Osbournes" the family is considering ending the show. While negotiations are still pending, the network has several new stars in mind, like P Diddy.

Many doctors and analysts believe that television is rotting the minds of the younger generation. Many people disagree, believing that television has the power to bring busy families together. They also believe that television can provoke healthy discussions and promote common interests.

"I honestly don't think that television is bad if we can learn from it," said Finerfrock. "If you think about it and discuss it with either your friends and family it can be beneficial."

## Movie review: 'The Scorpion King'

By Jason Gillis

Viewpoint Assistant

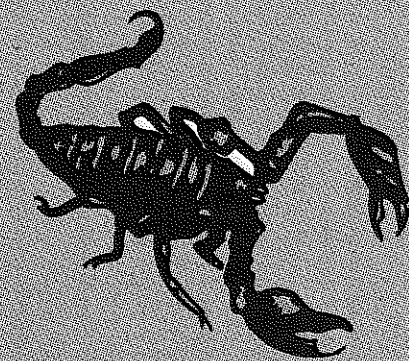
"The Scorpion King" started out with a bang—well not literally. In the movie, viewers travel back in time before the pyramids of ancient Egypt to see the brutal tribal wars.

Arrows, swords and daggers flew across the screen for most of the movie. It was an action-packed, PG-13 movie that brought in \$56.2 million in the first three days since it opened on April 19, which is a new record. "The Mummy" held the previous record since 1999.

In Egypt, before the pyramids scattered tribes are being wiped out by the most skilled swordsman of them all, Memnon, played by Steven Brand, and his grand army. His power or his weakness is his psyche, Cassandra, played by Kelly Hu. Mathayus (Dwayne Johnson, better known as "The Rock") is one of three highly skilled trained assassins left in the world. Mathayus and his two partners are paid to kill the sorceress by the remaining kings of the smaller tribes.

The ensuing hunt for the sorceress leads Mathayus captured, and then allied with a thief that saves his life. Grant Heslov plays Arpid, the thief, who provides comic relief to the battle-stricken plot. Arpid accompanies Mathayus in the rest of his adventure.

Through sword battles and encounters with a child thief and an inventor, Mathayus kidnaps the sorceress and takes her to the desert, where a battles ensues and Mathayus receives a wound from an arrow that was laced with scorpion poison. Eventually the



sorceress takes sides with him and heals him from the lethal wound, but Mathayus still eliminates her powers, in an odd plot twist.

"The Scorpion King" was violent, but not as gory as it would seem with many hand-to-hand combat battles in the movie. The movie lasted only an hour and 40 minutes and the time flies by, but that was a good thing because the sequence of events seemed to repeat. But it still was interesting in a way where the audience wondered if the sorceress's last vision of the future would happen.

In the very beginning and other parts of the movie unexpected events occur that made the whole theater burst out laughing or grunting. The special effects were also done in an outstanding manner from flaming swords to thousands of red ants attacking the doomed Mathayus.

If "The Mummy" and "The Mummy Returns" were interesting, "The Scorpion King" is a must see.

## Fanatics say thank you for the musical

By Emily Morris

Features Editor

So there wasn't an all star cast, and the plot was a little weak, but when the energy of the stage spilled into the crowd and caused the audience to dance in the aisles, it was most entertaining.

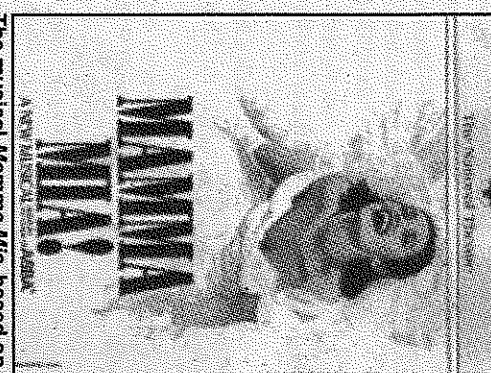
Name a Broadway play that is now in DC at the National Theater, where the only songs were originally performed by ABBA and the crowd can not help but get out of their seats and dance in the aisles. Yes that's right, it's *Mamma Mia!*

In the late 70's, sounds of ABBA filled the airwaves. A group of four, they created timeless hits that are the only source of music in *Mamma Mia!*

Seeing *Mamma Mia* wasn't on the top of my list of things to do. But my dad dragged me into DC on Easter to see it. At first, I was sure it would be awful, but maybe my low expectations helped.

The story was about a young lady, Sophie, on an island off of Greece who is about to get married. Her whole life, she has struggled with the fact that she has never known who her father is.

One day, when snooping through her mom's office, Sophie finds the journal



The musical *Mamma Mia*, based on the music of pop group ABBA, is now playing at the National Theater.

that were in the play.

The spandex costumes, platform shoes and big hair can be rather scary, but they didn't distract me from the rest of the show for too long.

Most of the audience members are big ABBA fans and therefore knew almost every word to the songs. At the end, the audience fills the aisles and dances along. Some fans can not wait for the end of the play to bust a move.

The lady sitting at the end of my row sang every word and bounced along to the beat. It was a decent play, but an even better experience.

## Foreign cultures influence music scene

By Emily Miller

Inside Story Editor

Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera are a thing of the past.

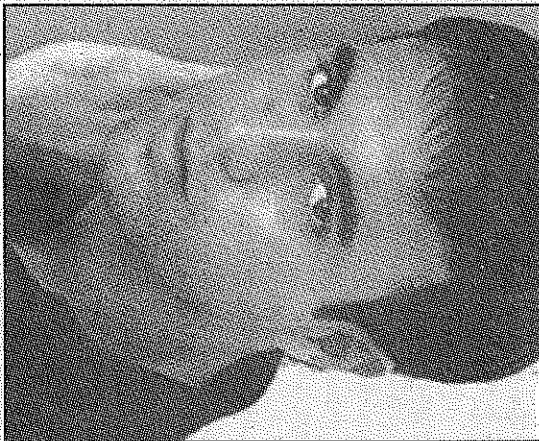
American popstars are quickly being replaced with international singers.

Artists like Bjork, Natalie Imbruglia and Enrique Iglesias, not only steal the show, but create a whole new stage.

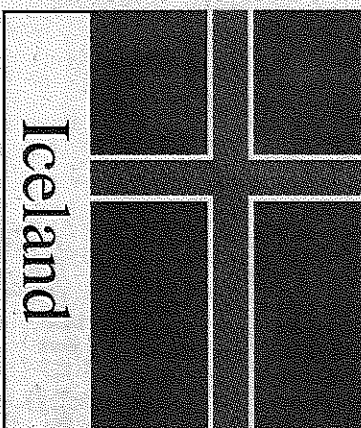
Icelandander Bjork released her hit album "Vespertine" in 2001 opening a whole new

culture to the world. She mixes dance and pop along with the keyboard, an orchestra, and an accordion to create a completely out of the norm CD. Bjork played with several punk bands, including The Sugarcubes, in Iceland. But she packed her bags and moved to London after The Sugarcubes broke up. There she produced several hit albums like "Elektra," "Telegram," "Homogenic," "Post" and "Debut." Bjork began to get recognition as an original Icelandander and inspired other artists to use their native culture in their music.

"Artists should keep their originality from their own culture like Bjork," said sophomore Jackle Garcia. "I'm all out of faith/ this is how I feel/



Enrique Iglesias



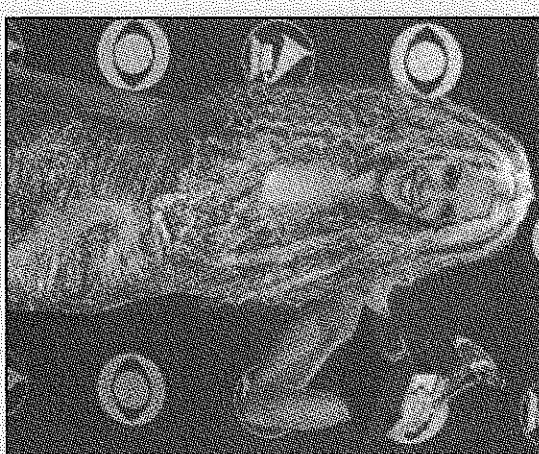
Iceland

I like her songs mostly because she has a cool accent," said sophomore Christy Buzon.

Not many celebrities are multilingual, but Enrique Iglesias speaks and sings in Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and English. This Latin pop star was born in Madrid, Spain and moved to Miami when he was seven. His first record, released in 1995, sold more than 6 million copies, and "Vivir" his second album, also sold millions. Iglesias is credited for being one of the most talented Latino artists, and was awarded a Grammy for Best Latin Performer in 1996. Currently he is working on his new movie "Once Upon a Time in Mexico" with Salma Hayek, Jonny Depp and Antonio Banderas which will be released later this year.



Bjork



Shakira



Kylie Minogue

# Take lessons on how to create unique CDs

## Complete guide for dummies on creating homemade music collections

By **Angela Florino**  
ETC. Editor

Most have heard of "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective people" and the seven habits of those other effective types. Well, I have yet to publish my book, "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective CD Burners," but in this short but sweet column I will be more than happy to enlighten you with the following ways in order to be successful when burning a CD.

The first step is purchasing a CD that is worth burning onto. There are several blank discs; say at Best Buy or Circuit City, that won't play in car stereos. It is also important to buy a brand that doesn't not resemble a mirror.



So you can tell which side goes down in the CD player. Secondly, the CD that is bought must be one that will fit a good, say fifteen or eighteen songs. Some out there are only 70 minutes long which gives you no leeway for knowing how many songs you might or might not be able to fit. It would be an absolute nightmare if you decided to squeeze your favorite song last, and it

got cut off. That would be sad.

Next, you have to find a good server. Since Napster died, there are plenty of other "underground" music downloaders that have filled its shoes. Morphous, for example, will let you search all of their files which even include videos and movies. Morphous doesn't limit its search to 100 files like Napster and it also doesn't require you to spell the artist's name wrong in order to be successful. In Napster's last days, if you

w e r e

searching for Ja Rule and J-Lo's new song "Ain't that funny," you would have to spell their names, "Droof" or "Jay Low" in hope that something would come up.

Possibly the reason why artists got so mad at Napster was not because their music was getting exploited, but because their names were. Maybe that's why Puff Daddy and Prince changed their names all together. Once you have found the server that is good for you, you're ready to begin your search. This is very painless and quite exhilarating once it begins. You want to make your selection of songs as random and mixed as possible, hence the title of "mix CD." I am notorious for my wide



range of songs on the mix CDs I create. Seeing Dr. Dre or Xzibit and the Grateful Dead on the same disc makes most people chuckle. They always like it, but they always deny it.

When you've completed your search, it's key to find the proper burner. There are really only two types of burners, slow and fast, so it's not that difficult. It would be in your greater interest to find the latter, only because it doesn't waste

any time. The faster CD burners can get a good fifteen or eighteen songs onto your blank CD in a good ten minutes. While the computer is in the actual process of burning the CD you could watch a third of a TV show, make a pound of spaghetti, paint your nails, run a mile, or make a collect call. That is a big mix of things just like your CD.

After the CD is finished, the computer will make a little "ding" and the new mix CD will pop out. Even though you know it is a mix CD, your friends might not, or you easily may forget, so you find a marker, a sharpie preferably, and you label it "mix CD." If you consider yourself an overachiever, you might want to list the song titles on the CD, so you can always remember which track is which.

Finally, the seventh step to making yourself a highly effective CD burner is testing the CD. It is important to be familiar with the art that you've just created, not just anyone can burn a CD.



It is a modern art kind of like the kind you'll see in those, well, modern art museums. Things there like heaps of paper or paint splatter onto a trash can, can be considered quite a mix of things, just like your new CD.

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## Summers on the lake

### Nearby Burke Lake Park offers boating, fishing, hiking

By Nanya Gupta

Viewpoint Editor

As contractors continue to mow down what's left of Springfield's greenery, escaping the dreary uniformity of suburbia usually requires a planned vacation. But for those too busy for long getaways, a day at Burke Lake Park can be just as relaxing.

"It's nice to have a place so close to us where you can still get so far away and escape the reality of Springfield," said senior Chris Chipman.

Located off Ox Road, the picturesque park includes a 218-acre lake that boasts some of the best largemouth bass fishing in the area.

Located near the lake is a shop where fishing novices can rent fishing poles, buy fish bait and take out their own boats. For longtime residents of Springfield, fishing at Burke Lake is family

tradition.

"I've enjoyed many years of fishing with my father and brothers at Burke Lake where there are many different types of fish that can be found," said junior Ethan Heyman.

The park also includes its own 4.68-mile hiking and biking trail. More appealing than an endless track or neighborhood sidewalks, Burke Lake is an attractive alternative for Spartan athletes conditioning or preparing for their season.

"It's a change of atmosphere from my neighborhood," said junior Lisa Marvyn. "Plus, it's very pretty and scenic."

In addition to its 18-hole, par 3 golf course, Burke Lake includes one of the few Frisbee golf courses in the Northern Virginia area. In the woodland course, players try to throw a Frisbee into a basket instead of



Katie Rice

Freshman Jarret Verga gets in the action as he unleashes his frisbee during a game of Frisbee Golf at Burke Lake Park.

hitting balls into golf holes.

"It's fun because it's out in the forest so it's really relaxed," said senior Jeff Allen. "I took onto Frisbee golf pretty quickly, and I think just about anyone can pick it up."

In October, the park also hosts its own haunted house, which is

targeted towards older-aged students. The house is successful every year in raising funds for the park.

"I wasn't scared of the haunted house, but I happened to notice that the girls digging their nails into my arm were scared out of their minds," said junior David

Kauffman.

For those who can't afford a tropical vacation, Burke Lake can be a fun day away from the suburbia of Springfield at a cheap price.

"Burke Lake is a great place," said junior Eugenie Ko. "It's fun and it doesn't cost anything."

## Shaping knots or munchin' green bagels

By Amy McKeever

Entertainment Editor

They come in all different shapes, with different seasonings and different colors.

Bagels from the Chesapeake Bagel Bakery are not just plain. Chesapeake is a well-known chain bagel store, with one location in the West Springfield Shopping Center. They offer a variety of bagel-related items on their menu, from plain bagels to focaccia eggwiches, from soda to coffee.

Chesapeake makes their bagels fresh every morning. The process begins with boiling the dough for a few seconds until it floats. This step is unique to Chesapeake so that the bagels come out shiny. After boiling, employees put the dough into a giant rotating oven until they are dry and then flip them; the

bagels stay in the oven for just under 10 minutes. Chesapeake does not hire employees who specifically make the bagels, however.

"If you've been [working] there long enough, they ask you to make the bagels," said senior and Chesapeake employee Jessica Chesnut. "But it's not something that they teach you in training."

Another important job employees carry out other than serving customers is making sure that the store stays clean. They spend up to three hours a

might cleaning up the messes made throughout the day, by sweeping, mopping and doing dishes.

"It's manual labor," said Chesnut. "It takes the longest time to clean out the inside of the cream cheese container."

But the labor serves its purpose — Chesapeake is



Len Stomacoco

consistently clean and customers at any kind of restaurant are generally looking for cleanliness.

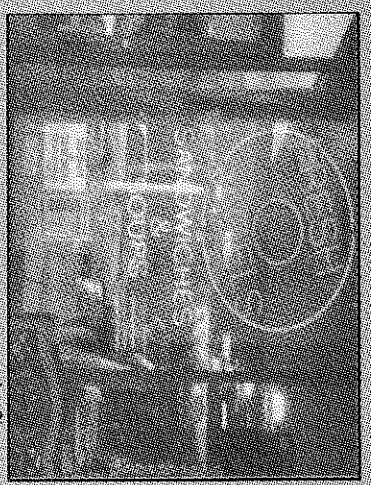
"[Chesapeake] is pretty clean," said sophomore Megan Downing. "It's not as bad as other places."

Chesapeake offers different specials every day and its currently accepting coupons for the focaccia eggwiches. It is relatively inexpensive. A plain bagel costs 65 cents and under \$2

with cream cheese. The pumpkin rolls cost \$1.35 and bagel sandwiches cost around \$5.

At Chesapeake Bagel Bakery, you can get almost any kind of bagel product, including heart-shaped bagel knots for

Valentine's Day, green bagels for St. Patrick's Day and various types of bagels and cream cheeses. But sometimes it's good to go for a simple meal from Chesapeake.



Len Stomacoco

(Left) Senior Casey Pittizzi is busy at work behind the counter at the Bagel Bakery, his afterschool job.

"I like the Bagel Bakery a lot," said senior Kathy Rifarel. "But I just like plain cream cheese on a plain bagel!"

**Bagels come in all different shapes, with different seasonings and different colors.**

## Bagel Bakery dominates hunger and hangouts

By Angela Florino

ETC Editor

Here in Springfield there's not many places to go — none actually. But when it comes down to it, students at WS know the hot spots and somehow they always end up hanging out with bagels.

"Bagel Bakery is like the Peach Pit of Springfield," said junior Christina Hoyt.

This is true. Bagel Bakery seems to be the hot spot, the Max of Springfield if you will, but is it really the one with the better bagels? This question arises in the minds of many WS students when they feel peer pressured into going to Bagel Bakery. Deep inside they may think that Einstein's bagels taste better but because of Bagel Bakery's reputation, they would rather party there. The decision isn't always simple.

"Einstein's bagels taste better, the place is bigger and cleaner and they offer more. I go there every morning before school," said junior Betty Solami.

Solami's friend admitted that she thought that wasn't such a good idea. "They're too expensive at Einstein," said junior Rochelle Barclay.

The price however doesn't keep senior Jenn Discari from getting her pizza bagel and a pickle. "It's the best thing in the world," she said.

In some minds Einstein may have the better bagels

but they don't have better hours. The place accommodates those who like to come in every morning before school but the ones that want to come for dinner are out of luck.

Closing at four makes it inconvenient for the anti-early birds that might want to visit their favorite bagel place after school rather than before. Einstein is also in a bit of a weird location. There's no direct way to turn into the store itself. To get there, going through Texaco, 7-11 or the crazy-colored shopping center behind it is a must.

"Bagel Bakery is probably more popular due to convenience rather than liking," said Athletic Director Todd Chappell who wasn't even sure where Einstein was.

While some discriminate against Einstein without even giving it a try, some just flat out have a grudge.

"Einstein doesn't even make their own bagels, they buy them frozen," said junior Frankie Eiro. "I like my bagels fresh and dank."

But Eiro isn't the only one who has a problem with Einstein's freshness quality. Freshman Danny Hill thinks Einstein lacks the fresh taste and more.

"They're too tough to enjoy the succulence of the bagel," he said.

Einstein has a more to offer. They're bagel dog is popular among many. A hot dog wrapped in an asiago cheese or sesame bagel is something you don't cross everyday.

"My friend got one once and I thought it was really

gross looking but I took a bite and now I'm addicted," said senior Stacy Whipple.

Even though Einstein has their claim to fame that in things like the bagel dog, senior Adrienne Trinka doesn't think its good enough to make up for what they're missing.

"Bagel Bakery has the best soups! It's the best of both worlds, bagels and soups," said Trinka.

A common instance seen at Bagel Bakery would be a group of kids from WS, just chilling. Senior Kristi Poling dips a plain bagel into a bowl of steaming broccoli and cheese soup while junior Grant Bauley stabs his fork into a blueberry bagel knot mandated with icing. This may not be an everyday occurrence but they would like it to be.

Possibly something else that attracts WS students to Bagel Bakery is their tables outside in front of the store. This is probably where Hoyt runs into those fifty people, they wouldn't all fit inside.

So in the end, Bagel Bakery wins, surpassing all other restaurants and taking everything into consideration. But when it comes down to it, there are certain things that Einstein may have going for them that Bagel Bakery doesn't. For example, senior Scott Lawler likes Einstein's cream cheese and Bagel Bakery's bagels. Because of his indecisive mind, he must make two trips just to satisfy his taste buds.

# Kings Dominion opens 2002 season

By Jenn Carlson

Weekend Editor

The opening of a new season at Paramount's Kings Dominion brings a host of new rides for thrillseekers to experience.

About an hour and a half drive to Kings Dominion and a \$39.99 general admissions ticket will not only get you access to all of the old favorites, but access to the new attractions offered by the park.

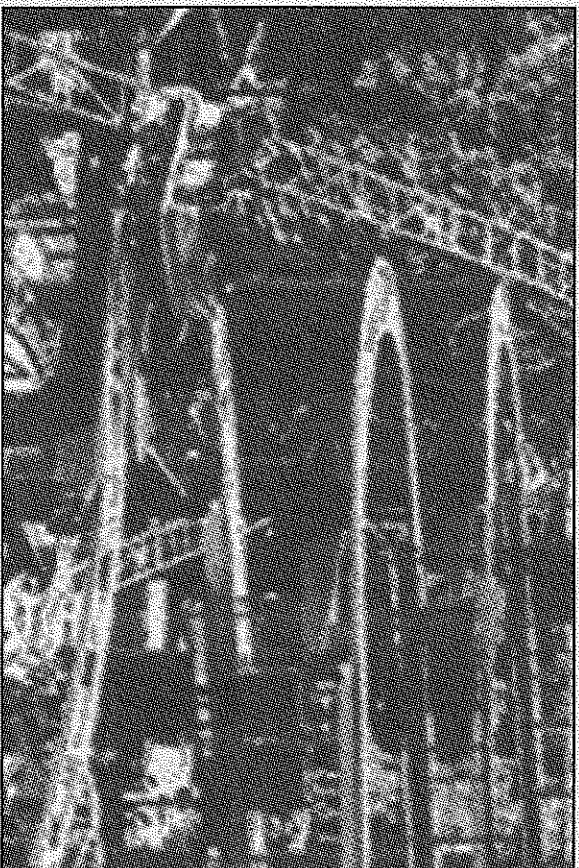
"I think the new rides are going to be supercool and I can't wait," said junior Brandon Ferraro.

Ricochet, Kings Dominion's twelfth roller coaster, is an exciting fast-track coaster filled with unexpected twists, tight hairpin turns as well as a 50-foot drop. The duration of the ride is approximately 3 minutes, but expect the lines to this thrilling ride to be off the charts.

Another addition is the Triple Spin, a rotating car that spins 360.

"This ride should be great," said Ferraro. "That is definitely a reason to visit Kings Dominion."

The last ride added for the 2002 spring



Ricochet is among the new attractions being introduced at Paramount's Kings Dominion. The regular season opens May 27th.

and summer season is Meteor Attack, a new motion-simulator movie that is being shown in the F/X Theater.

Participants take the role of a new recruit that is learning to fly the Rocketstar

preparing to destroy the meteor.

Kings Dominion, which opened for Spring Break and will open again May 11 for its Spring Celebration, still houses all the roller coasters and other tame rides such as the Rebel Yell, the Grizzly, the Hurler and Avalanche.

The park also boasts another new addition, Volcano, the Blast Coaster, which is the only coaster to shoot you 155 feet out of a raging volcano. Speeds can meet up to 70 m.p.h..

"Volcano is the best ride," said Ferraro. "But it gets really hot in the volcano."

Water Works, the amusement park's water park, opens to the public on May 27th. It features four slides including the Night Slider which is the world's tallest enclosed dark tube slide.

Other attractions include a wave pool, a water fun house, of sorts, and other miscellaneous rides for children, or those who are young at heart.

"Kings Dominion is always a blast," said senior Masood Naderpoor. "I like riding all the exciting rides. It's such a rush."

## Occoquan houses fun for everyone

By Jen Berne

Weekend Editor

Enter Occoquan—leave Fairfax County.

Occoquan, a quaint town just eight miles from here, is a unique place to escape from the hustle and bustle of Springfield. It's easy to find something to do there.

To get to Occoquan is quick and easy. Simply take Route 123 (Lowards Woodbridge, cross the bridge over the Occoquan River and turn right into the vintage village.

As you drive in, the Coffee Shop on the left is the perfect place to grab a mocha and a pastry to take along. Don't worry about parking; there are plenty of spaces available for visitors. Sit down and stay awhile.

Once you are finished with your energy boost, then proceed through town and check out the multitude of boutiques and antique shops—oh, antiques are full of history and a little history won't hurt anyone.

The antique shops, like the Village of



The city of Occoquan lies on a quiet river.

Own a sailor suit? If yes, pull it out and take a ride on the river while gazing at the historical town.

Occoquan is the ideal place to go on a date. Not only are there fine cuisines to choose from, but you can swing by the florist in town and buy your date a rose.

Don't hesitate. Don't be afraid of a little culture. Head down Route 123 towards Occoquan. Even if you don't want to.

Hungry yet?

There are plenty of cuisines around town to taste. The Occoquan Inn Restaurant, which is situated right on the river, is an excellent place to dine.

The restaurant offers seating in and outside and it has a wide-ranged menu to please all. Please don't be mistaken, Occoquan is not just a place for old farts. Everyone will find something to interest them.

The restaurant offers seating in and outside and it has a wide-ranged menu to please all. Please don't be mistaken, Occoquan is not just a place for old farts. Everyone will find something to interest them.

## 'Batwing' ride Six Flags boasts

By Denis Ing

Sports Editor

It's the season for theme parks again and people are flocking to new and better rides. This year Six Flags looks like the place to go.

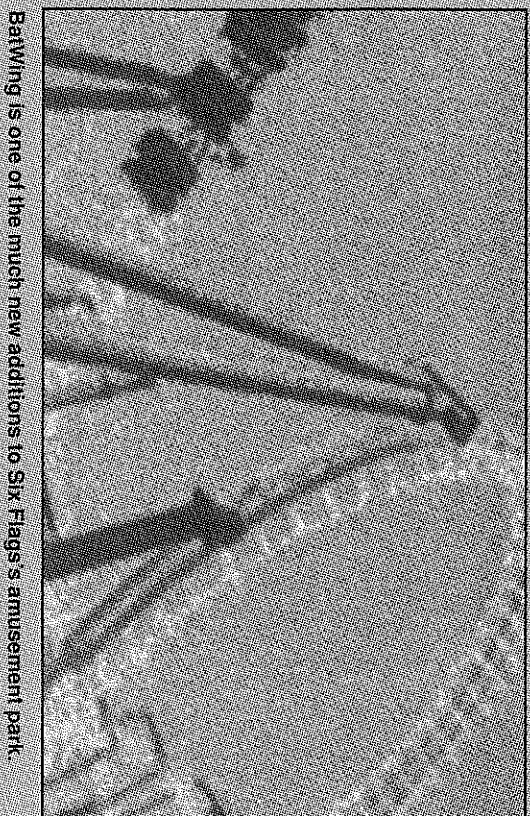
With new rides such as BatWing and Roar, Six Flags could be the place to sit back and have your hair flying and stomach turn.

"I really like Six Flags. The Jokers Jinx is awesome because it starts off really fast and has lots of flips," said freshman Danny Martin.

While the food and merchandise of Six Flags is expensive the admissions fee is very good compared to other places. Prices for entering the park start at \$39.99 for everyone, \$24.99 if you're older than 54, and for kids ages three and under it's free. Other than that the prices for everything else are steep. At Kings Dominion the ticket price is \$44.99, going to Six Flags will not only be \$5.00 less but there are more rides.

The BatWing goes up to 50 m.p.h. and lasts two minutes and 20 seconds. It soars through hoops, does flips, and soars through the air. It is the most high-tech ride that Six Flags has to offer and has become a major draw for customers.

The next ride is the Jokers Jinx which flies through the air at 60 mph. Its goes from zero to 60 in under three seconds. Riding this rollercoaster will lift anyone's confidence in the amusement park world.



BatWing is one of the much new additions to Six Flags's amusement park.

The Superman ride is the fastest ride that this amusement park has to offer. It speeds through the air at an amazing 75 mph and lasting three minutes and 30 seconds. It goes upside down so much that anyone's stomach could flip.

"The Superman is the best because it's so fast," said freshman Andrew McDowell.

When attending a good amusement park the rides have to be excellent but the park itself must be good. It must have good entertainment, also the side games must be not rigged, and the prices must be reasonable. Some games also can cost up to \$20.00. Those are the ones with low probability of winning.

Some people go to an amusement park with their kids and spend an endless amount of money on the games. They will try all day to please themselves by taking home a huge stuffed animal home to show off to their friends.

Some people don't go to the amusement park for the rides. They go to see a concert or a play. O-town and 'N Sync have performed. There will be many new groups coming to strut their stuff this year. Such as the City Beat, which features the top 40 pop and hip-hop groups of 2002 during the time of

April 13-September 15. They will come to dance and sing in the Grande Theater. "I really like the park," said junior Ryan Shaper. "It's really exhilarating to go on all of their rollercoasters."

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## Womens crew wins first at Virginia Rowing Championship

**Priyanka Tandon**

*News Section Editor*

They were neck and neck: WS's men's second eight boat, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology's boat and Woodbridge Senior High School's boat. In the last few seconds Woodbridge pulled ahead and bested both TJ and WS. WS finished third and received a bronze medal.

The boat had been expecting to win a gold medal.

"We had high expectations going in," said junior Andy Osborn. "At the end our sprint wasn't fast enough."

The women's varsity four boat had an exceptional race and came out on top in first place. A small ceremony was held for the rowers on the boat in the WS main office on April 29.

Other boats at the annual Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championship fared average. The men's varsity eight finished fifth out of 13 boats.

"Robinson jumped out at the start, while we had a rough start," said junior Jon Butterfield. "We just couldn't make it up."

## WS soccer kicks back

**By Denis Ing**

*Sports Editor*

WS soccer looks much better now that the two teams are back at full strength. Especially the boys team.

After serving their suspensions, the boys team has gone on a rampage of wins. Their record is 8-2, and after a two game losing streak they won their next four games. Senior goalie Bryan Sanford has had seven shutouts so far this year; one in every game that he has played except versus Hayfield in which one goal was scored on a break-away. Yet the team still beat Hayfield 3-1 on a goal by freshman Ben Phan, his first of his high school career. Senior Tony Soules is one of the many players who has stepped up on the team since last year.

"I'm very pleased with Tony's play so far at forward. He used to be a role player but now he is a full time starter. I hope that the momentum that we have will keep going," said head coach Randy May.

Both the girls and boys squads have bonded through team dinners. The varsity



*Allan Osborn*

Members of the boys crew lower their boat into the water at Occoquan. The men's team placed fifth at the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championship.

The women's lightweight four boat placed fourth overall and believe they did a good job.

"We had expected to place," said junior Michelle Gerth. "We pulled our hardest." Junior Trisha Chhaya is a rower on the women's varsity eight boat, which did not

enjoy's every night before a game with a pasta dinner. The boys and girls each choose a night to bring their own dish. The very first pasta dinner was a celebration for the new varsity players. During the dinners there is a lot of eating, dancing and talking.

"There will definitely be no more parties," said sophomore Tara McCluskey. "I want to win more games now."

The girls have had a harder time this season. They went on a three game losing streak during the suspension period but two games afterward they came back from 1-0 deficit to beat Langley. The final score of that game was 2-1 after double overtime.

Sophomore Kimmy Murdock scored both goals of the game. The next game that the girls won was against TC Williams, by a score of 1-0 on another goal by Murdock. This pushed their record to 4-4. Next they beat Annandale 2-0 on two goals by Allison Hobson. In their game versus ranked Hayfield, the team stepped up to the challenge and won 1-0 with another goal by Murdock.

"We've done well," said senior Ryan David. "There are a lot of standards to live up to [as a team] but we have a lot of potential."

Baird also remains optimistic about the team's future.

"We're folding under the pressure right now. However, there are still a few weeks left of the season," he said. "My goal is to win both 4x800 relays at states."

The boys relay is only a few seconds from qualifying for the state meet.

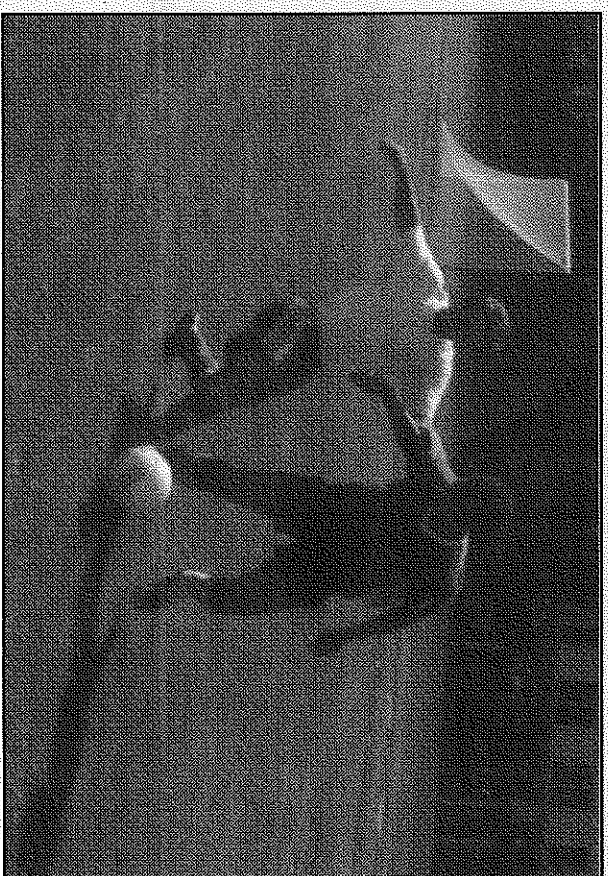
At the Scudieri Team Challenge held at West Potomac High School on April, Hagan won first place in the girls 800-meter race with a time of 2:20. As a team, WS won fifth place overall.

At the Allen Johnson Invitational meet held at Lake Braddock on April 20, the girls distance team also performed well, earning first place in the 4x800 relay, finishing with a time of 9:42.86.

The WS short-distance team is recovering this season after many of it's star athletes graduated last year. But two new ad-

ditions run the team, senior Selia Monroe and freshman Jessica Plum are making up for the loss.

"She [Monroe] is running in all the varsity races," said Monroe's teammate junior Jamie Ratajczak. "She's really good." In just her first year on the team, Mon-



*Riuse Waddell*

Juniors Phillip Ferralucio and Babak Khodolandoen practice after school. The boys team has been very successful after serving their suspensions.

Both teams have come alive in the second half of the season and hope to continue this recent streak. The girls are on a three game streak and the boys on a five. Both teams have four games left and then playoffs. The boys will be playing at home on

Friday against Lake Braddock at 7. This will be their second of the last five games. Come out to watch some soccer. "Even though we have had some early season challenges, we are really coming together," said May. "Let's hope our best soccer is ahead of us."

Senior James Feeney and Junior Jeff Day work out on the track every day after school to prepare for meets.

## post season success

**By Marianne Shaddrix**

*Features Editor*

After five meets and four invitationals, the WS track and field teams are already a force to be reckoned with.

On April 26, WS sent two 4x800 meter relay teams and two alternates to the annual Penn Relays. This prestigious meet features the best relay teams in the country, as well as several international teams.

The girls 4x800 team of juniors Hanna Hussain, Jenn Powers, seniors Katie Freund and Mo Hagan missed qualifying for finals by a second and a half. But their impressive time of 9:30 was good enough to qualify them for states.

The boys 4x800 team of juniors Jeff Day, John Cook, Tim Kwak and senior Jason Havigaga however left the relay meet disappointed.

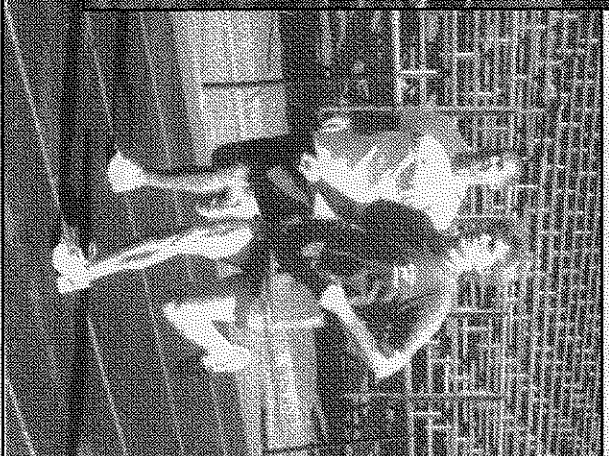
"They didn't do nearly as well as expected. They got an 8:07 which they could do at practice," said Duke Baird, the team's assistant coach.

Despite the disappointing results at Penn Relays, the distance team remains optimistic.



*Riuse Waddell*

Junior Jeff Day joins junior Tim Kwak on the track.



*Riuse Waddell*

roe has qualified for districts in the 100-meter sprint. Plum has also qualified in the 100 and plans to keep running while she's at WS.

"We're looking very good, but we just have to stay with it," said Freund. "We have a very good chance at doing well [in the post-season finals]."

# Baseball starts off season slammmin'

By Erika Kim

Inside Editor

Baseball season is in full swing, but it's not all about peanuts and cracker jacks.

The varsity baseball team got off to a good start this season. They are currently 7-4 and 4-2 in the district, and it looks as though they have a good shot at becoming the next district champions.

The team started off the season by beating TC Williams 13-0, Annandale 12-3, Hayfield 7-4, and West Potomac also 7-4. Their district loss came against first place Lake Braddock 6-3.

"The first half of the season's over and our record was 4-2 with our only losses coming to lake Braddock and Robinson. Second half of our season starts this week and we're planning to dominate the district and go 6-0 with a first place seed in regionals," said senior Jason McDonough.

The next big anticipated game will be against

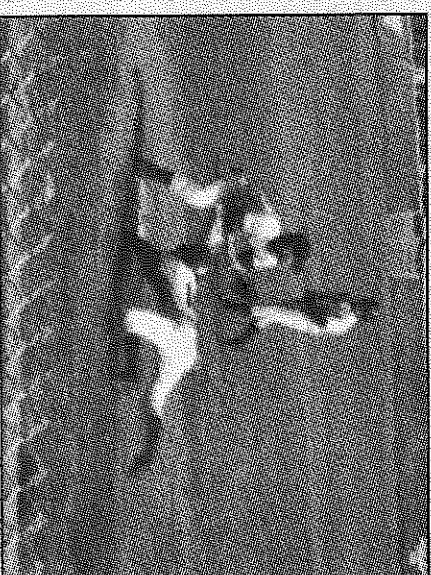
Robinson. If the team wins that game, they will be tied for first place with Lake Braddock in the district given that Lake Braddock won their games against TC Williams and Annandale.

Twenty-seven boys tried out for the varsity team in the beginning of the season and there are a total of 18 boys on the team. Some of the team's key players include senior Adam Calderone, juniors Danny Wackovich and sophomore Josh Craddock.

"I think this year's a little different from last year because the guys we have now, all they do is pitch. We don't have as many position players," said Varsity baseball coach Ken Munoz.

The team is constantly trying to improve its defense. The players are working towards their getting their pitches to be more consistent and accurate. Offensively, the team is working on improving the strike out over the walk ratio.

"I'm hoping that we continue to improve," said Munoz. "And play better defense."



Meggie Atkinson

The varsity team warms up for a big game. Their record so far this year is 7-4. They are planning for a good second half of the season so that they can win the district.

## Lacrosse has high hopes

By Roberto Garcia

Oracle Editor

Unity. According to seniors on the boys lacrosse team, this is the strength that will lead the team well into the post-season.

The team is well on its way to achieving this lofty goal. After finishing with a disappointing 7-7 record last year, the team is off to a winning start. They have a 5-2 record, with victories against Mt. Vernon 12-2, Centreville 10-4, Edison 11-5 and McLean 26-0 and a 17-4 over West Potomac.

"We played really well against both McLean and Edison, but our win over McLean was our most impressive," said senior Ryan Shaw.

WS, however, struggled with inconsistency during its two losses, failing to district rival Robinson 13-5, as well as to Fairfax 13-9.

"We should've beaten both teams," said senior Erick Barr. "We just played poorly against them."

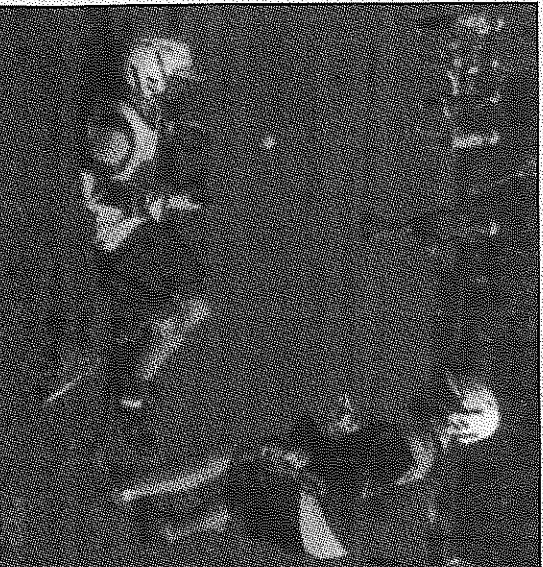
Despite the losses, players see the team as strongest WS has had in over a decade. Anything short of a district title and a strong showing at regionals has been labeled as insufficient.

"This is the best team we've had in a very long time," said senior Kevin Park. "If we play our best, we should win districts and maybe make the regional finals."

A strength of the team is a pool of talented seniors, led primarily by twins Bryan and John Schauder. Bryan is leading the attack, while John has contributed to the team's defense.

Since all remaining games are district contests, the team sees them all as important, although players are especially looking forward to playing Lake Braddock on senior night, as well as playing a rematch against Robinson in districts.

"The game against Lake Braddock should be a good one," said Shaw. "However, the Robinson game will be the most important because it will decide who's the best team in the district."



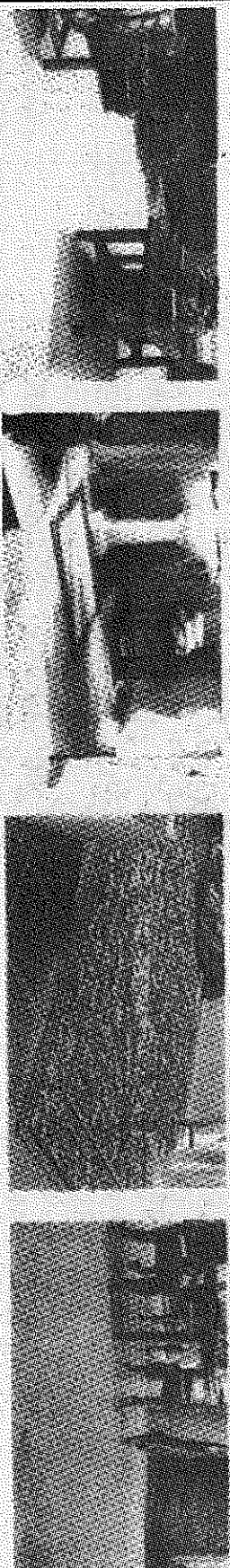
Jens Stamaco

Sophomore Tony Mackin stands tall over freshman Adam Foote after laying him out on his back. The varsity and JV team both have four regular season games remaining.

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# Russ' Ramblin' Putting the west back into Northern VA

By Russ Waddell  
Photography Editor

You know you're a redneck if your grandmother can successfully execute the sleeper hold. Or if the shag carpet on your floor matches the shag carpet on your toilet seat.

My people come from the hills of West Virginia, and while I'm proud to be a Northern Virginian, I can never stray from my roots. I don't like Lexus sport utility vehicles. I don't like Starbucks coffee. I don't like malls. I don't like fashion.

I like rusted out Ford pickups, I like Coca-Cola out of a bottle and Kmart. I like faded jean shorts and t-shirts with the sleeves ripped off.

But I really don't fit the mold for a true hick. My house has no insulation hanging out of the exterior walls, exposed to the world. There are no cars without wheels sitting on cement blocks in my yard. I don't have a rotweiler. In fact, I don't have a dog at all.

I have escaped poverty—stricken West Virginia, and now I'm not entirely sure whether making fun of them is such a good idea. My parents, both of whom graduated from West Virginia University, sadly informed me that inbreeding probably does exist there. It doesn't take much to see that nobody there is nearly as rich as the people of West Springfield.

I am now reconsidering my own agenda. Is it okay to always make fun of people? What if I hurt someone's feelings? I must not allow myself to take advantage of the less fortunate. I have been forced to look at myself in the mirror and see myself for what I really am. I am no savior for good. I'm no hero. In fact, I am an evil genius using my powers for destruction and evil—what else would an evil genius use his powers for?

My life is going to start going in a new direction. I think my first goal will be to save the whales. After that, I will go on a long campaign of shameless self-promotion in order to win the popularity necessary to become president. My presidential campaign will be financed by the political party I form, which will be known as the Evil-Genius-Turned-Savior-for-the-American-Dream Party.

As I begin my journey to end exploitation of evil intellects, I have one question for you friends, loyal readers, and fellow students: Are you with me, or are you with me?!



Russ Waddell

"We have a Code Red...over!"  
It seems that Russ Waddell isn't the only one who's after that new cherry red soda pop. Here at *The Oracle*, we only give free publicity to products that we know are real winners. So get your heiney over to 7-11 and buy yourself a "totie" of our favorite chilled beverage.

# We secede, we succeed

By Angela Fiorino  
ETC. Editor

We are big. There are a lot of people, a lot of dogs, a lot of car dealerships, a lot of malls and a lot of Abercrombie—more than anywhere else in the world, I presume.

This is Northern Virginia as we know it and if we didn't exist, the rest of Virginia probably wouldn't either. What would happen to UVA, Tech or JMU? They wouldn't have West Springfield and Lake Braddock to make up half of their enrollment. They would no longer feel the exultation that they get when they deny a Northern Virginian acceptance, because instead of applying to them, we'd have our own college and we'd be so cool.

I'm talking about George Mason University—soon to be known as the University of Northern Virginia. Everyone would go there, it would be the thing to do. Booo-yah! Harrisonburg, Charlottesville and Blacksburg. Not to mention Fredricksburg, Newport and Williamsburg. Mainly just the burbs. At the University of Northern Virginia, we'd be big enough to be Division I and everyone would get in, but we wouldn't have to accept all those kids down in Norfolk because they'd be out of state. Yeah that's right. At UNOVA, we'd be hip and cool and everyone would want to be us.

I think that it'd be a very healthy move for the United States to make Northern Virginia a separate state. I mean there's a North Dakota and a South Dakota and combined, and their population is still smaller than ours. I admit it would seem a little selfish for there to be a North Virginia, South Virginia and West Virginia. I mean it kind of looks like we're trying to dominate the entire Mid-Atlantic region, but it'd be for the best. I also think that this can be done in a very peaceful way, in a way that would upset very few people. No civil wars or anything.

If we became our own state, all the taxes that we pay would be for us and we wouldn't have to give all our "hard earned" money up to the south and their schools. We could use it to fund UNOVA's curling team.

The only dilemma is finding a place for the extra star on the flag. I'm sure good ol' Betsy Ross wouldn't be happy, but she wasn't around when they snuck Hawaii and Alaska on to the bandwagon so, what the heck? Might as well.

Being so large, we have many different aspects to Northern Virginia that are hard to find in other states. I mean where else is there an area called Tysons where you could drive by, block after block, and see nothing but car dealerships and five star restaurants side by side?

| Monday  |   | Tuesday |   | Wednesday |   | Thursday |                                | Friday |   | Saturday/Sunday |    |                           |    |                           |
|---|---|---------|---|-----------|---|----------|--------------------------------|--------|---|-----------------|----|---------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| <b>As of May 3...Seniors-25 more days of high school, Juniors-205 more days, Sophomores-385, Freshman-565 (ha!)</b>                     |   |         |   |           |   |          |                                |        |   |                 |    |                           |    |                           |
| 6   | Boys soccer vs. McLean (Girls @ McLean) | 8       | Girls soccer vs. Robinson (Boys @ Robinson)       | 9         | 1/2 day Incubus-GMU Boys lax vs. Braddock | 10       | 11                             | 12     | Boys soccer vs. Braddock (Girls @ Braddock) Tennis @ Robinson | 11              | 12 | Crew regatta Matthews, VA | 12 | Cowboy Junkies @ 930 Club |
| 13  | Boys lax @ TC                           | 14      | Tennis districts (7-10)                           | 15        | Singled Out                               | 16       | Lords and Ladies of Comedy-MCI | 17     | 18  | 19              | 19 | 19                        | 19 | 19                        |
| Baseball Districts (13,15,17,20)  |   |         |   |           |   |          |                                |        |   |                 |    |                           |    |                           |
| 20  | Softball vs. Langley                    | 21      | Boys lax districts (14-17)                        | 22        | Track Districts                           | 23       | Crew-Stotesbury Regatta        | 24     | 25  | 26              | 26 | 26                        | 26 | 26                        |
| 27  | Lip Sync Contest                        | 28      | Break out the white shoes! Memorial Day No School | 29        | Dead Kennedys @ JXXX                      | 30       | Pete Yorn @ 930 Club           | 31     | 31  | 31              | 31 | 31                        | 31 | 31                        |
| Answers to that quiz a few times ago: 1:A, 2:D, 3:B, 4:C, 5:D, 6:A, 7:D, 8:A, 9:D, 10:B, 11:A, 12:B, 13:B, 14:A, 15:D, 16:B, 17:B, 18:A |   |         |   |           |   |          |                                |        |   |                 |    |                           |    |                           |

# May