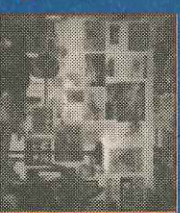




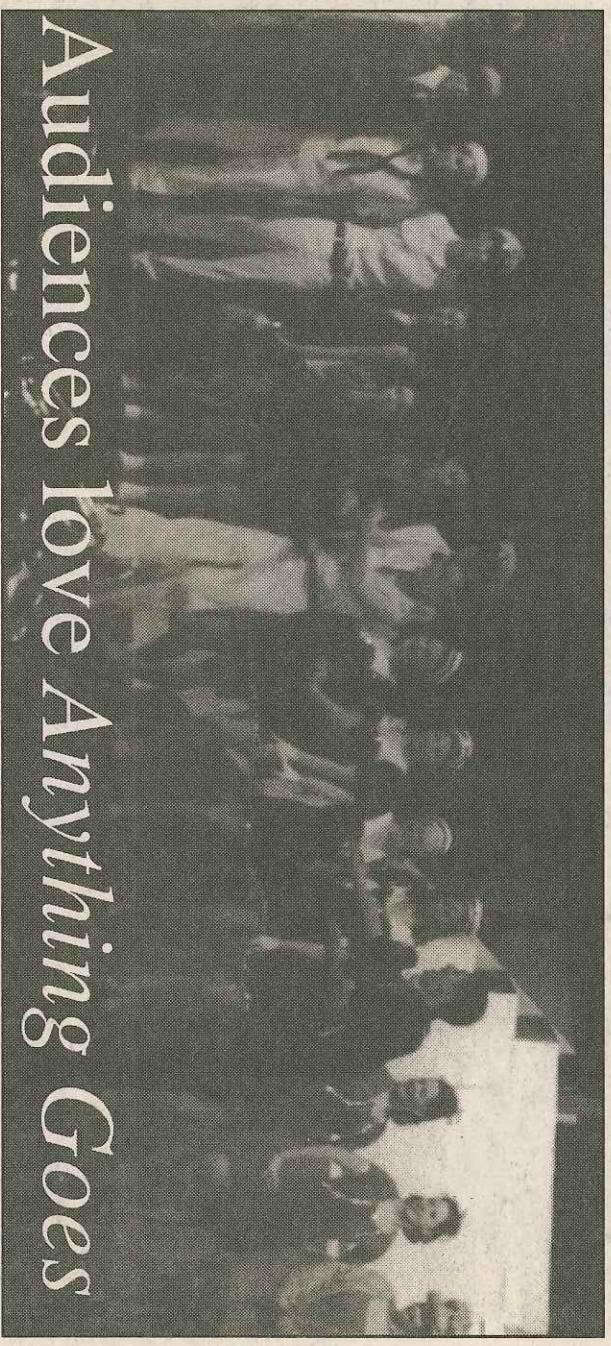
WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL 6100 ROLLING ROAD SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22152

THE RACCLE

12 GLANCE INTO A LOCAL TATTOO PARLOR



8 "ROOMING" INSTYLE



Senior Herman Ramos and the cast look on as senior Rebecca Weiner tap dances. The cast of this year's play was larger than most casts have been in past years. *Jan Starnacco*

Puckett bids adieu

Choral students will face change

By Amy McKeever
Entertainment Editor

Choral students of the class of 2001 had a new head choir director each year they attended WS. The department will undergo yet another change next year.

The current director, Merribeth Puckett, took over her role from her part-time job with the choir department two years ago. She announced recently that she is leaving at the end of this school year.

Puckett originally taught at private schools, which don't require certification. Puckett then came to WS part-time in 1998. Puckett assisted two choir directors before accepting the full-time director's job.

While at WS Puckett has been teaching under a provisional license. Since it expires in June, she would have to take arduous certification classes. Puckett opted to resign instead, although not without some regrets.

"I'm going to miss these kids desperately," said Puckett. "WS is really privileged to have a great group of talented students. It's been fun watching kids grow and develop."

Puckett has created bonds with her students during her time at WS.

"I feel bad for the kids who are still going to be here next year. [Mrs. Puckett] has been like a mother to me," said senior Nick Clapsaddle.

Freshman choir students also have developed close ties to Puckett.

"It'll be difficult for the new teacher to fill her shoes," said freshman Karin Cameal.

The administration has begun the interviewing people for the position.

"My heart hurts that she's leaving," said administrator Brenda Aiken. "She's an outstanding teacher; it will be a tremendous challenge to replace her."

Next year, Puckett will travel with her husband and stay active within her church while still watching her students develop.

"There are great kids here, they get under your skin," said Puckett. "My motto is to enjoy the kids and be there for them. Share your passion for music with them — it will be contagious."



Segall Magestic
Choir teacher Merribeth Puckett will be leaving at the end of this year.

Senior Herman Ramos and the cast look on as senior Rebecca Weiner tap dances. The cast of this year's play was larger than most casts have been in past years.

By Laura Robinson
Managing Editor

With nearly 90 actors, this year's production of *Anything Goes* was one of the largest and most complicated at WS.

Despite the cast size, students remember this play as one of the best in recent years.

"It was very impressive," said senior Alison Highfill. "They were very funny and the music was good."

Anything Goes centers around a love triangle involving Hope (senior Ashley Hoffmann), her fiancée Sir Evelyn (senior Jacob Kidder) and long-lost love Billy, (senior Nick Clapsaddle). Moonface Martin (Herman Ramos) assists Billy and his tap-dancing girlfriend Bonnie (senior Rebecca Weiner). Mrs. Harcourt (senior Alicia Kirsch) adds to the drama as does famous singer Reno (senior Melissa Winmoth). In the end, Reno ends up with

Sir Evelyn and Billy ends up with Hope. Although the shows didn't sell out, the theater department enjoyed greater attendance than usual.

"People go to sports but they don't go to all go to shows," said Weiner. "It was nice to see so many people and hear a lot of people talking about it."

Many other groups used the auditorium for activities, leaving drama with only eight weeks to put together its musical.

"The hardest aspect was that we didn't have as much time as in previous years," said senior Jessie Chesnut, who was a student director with senior Steph Shaw.

Despite the rush, actors and actresses enjoyed their involvement.

"It was great. Everyone was so much fun to work with," said Clapsaddle. "I'd do it all again if I could."

It took much organization to get together 90 actors, techies, sets, music and dancing. Seniors played a pivotal role in

mobilizing everyone to get the work done.

"I think it's teamwork that made the difference this year," said Theater Director Mary Jo Levesque. "You're only as weak as the weakest member of our team, and obviously we didn't have that many weak people this year."

The orchestra was nominated for Cappies, as were seniors Maggie Atteberry, Gillian Ramsey and Rebecca Weiner for choreography. Junior Tom Eisman was nominated for Cameo Actor, Weiner for Female Dancer, senior Mike Mazze for Male Actor, Ramos for Comic Actor, Kidder for Featured Actor and Winmoth for Lead Actress.

"Thirty years from now, students will not remember me or what classes they took, but they will remember being in the musical and the friends they made," said Levesque. "My job is to create memories—good ones—and I think I was successful this year."

Jewell's life blossoms

Teacher wins award, starts garden

By JD Kaleem
Business/Systems Assistant

Beth Jewell is being recognized for her efforts in and out of the classroom.

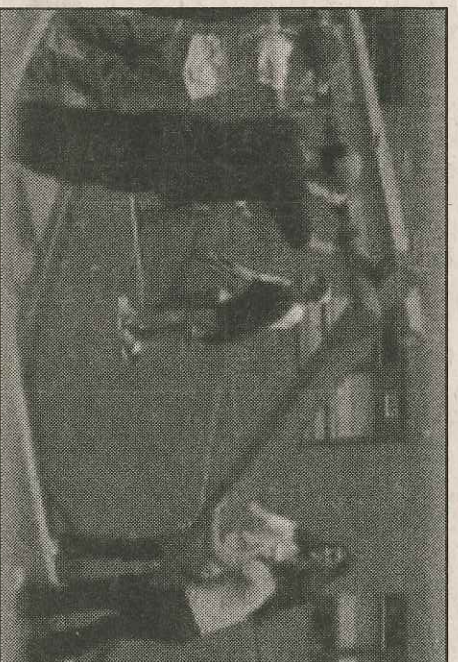
On April 23, the Radioshack Corporation chose Jewell as of 110 teachers in the nation to receive the 2002 Radioshack TechTool \$500 grant for use at WS.

"It was neat because I was being recognized at a national level," said Jewell.

Jewell is using the money to build a garden located in the lower-level courtyard and will feature a Japanese theme.

"So far we've done some basic work and put up posts for the gazebo," said Jewell. "We're waiting for the county's stamp of approval to continue work on the garden."

This past fall Jewell visited Japan as part of the Fulbright Memorial Fund



Beth Jewell

Students assemble a gazebo for the Japanese courtyard garden. Jewell will revisit Japan this summer.

"So far we've done some basic work and put up posts for the gazebo," said Jewell.

"Oceanography students will be working on websites showing how the ocean affects us in Northern Virginia in terms of

hurricanes, recreation, transportation and the military," said Jewell. "In Japan, I will help

the students do the same about how the ocean affects them in terms of things such as food."

Biology students are also working on the Bugs Project, in which they will survey a land and collect bugs, examining and taking pictures to produce websites.

To prepare for her trip to Japan, Jewell is enrolled in an online Japanese course. She

comes to school from 9:00 to 10:00 every Tuesday to videoconference with a teacher in Japan and other students to learn the language.

"It's fun. So far, I can introduce myself, count and say the days of the week," said Jewell.

A new videoconferencing system will soon come to WS, which Jewell will use to allow her students to communicate with students in Japan next fall. Jewell is also the president-elect of the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association.

She has written for the Ocean Planet traveling exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution and organized and mentored participants for an online course, Water in the Earth System, with the American Meteorological Society.

"I'm really enjoying everything that seems to be coming my way," said Jewell. "I hope I can get involved and do even more in the future."

Eminem reborn at HFSStival

By Jenn Carlson
Weekend Editor

Eminem's newest single "Without Me" proclaims "Shady's back."

And he is, in DC, that is and it is not with Dr. Dre or D12 or any other rap act associated with him. Eminem is crashing the party at this year's alternative HFSStival held at RFK.

The radio station 99.1 WHFS's annual concert, the HFSStival, normally features rock and alternative acts. This year's show, to be held on May 25th and 26th at RFK stadium, puts the spotlight on a lineup of bands that includes The Strokes, Sum 41, Dashboard Confessional, New Found Glory, Papa Roach and Alien Ant Farm, among many others.

So how exactly does the "boogymen of rap" fit into all this? Well, I'm not exactly sure.

First of all, Eminem's name has barely been mentioned on HFS, let alone has his music been given any airplay. That all changed since the announcement that he would be appearing on Saturday of the two day concert. Suddenly "The Real Slim Shady" and "Stan" were put into rotation. It sure seems as though the radio station is trying to justify their choice, but personally, I think they could have made it a little less obvious. Do they really think that listeners will not notice the change in the station? We all realize that Eminem's songs weren't played on 99.1 until now.

Eminem's style is nothing like the other bands taking the stage at the HFSStival. Obviously, he raps, but early reviews of his new album, "The Eminem Show" indicate that it sounds a little but more like rock than normal Eminem. The new song "Dream On," this self-produced track samples the classic Aerosmith song of the same title. I think the shift to '70s rock samples may have been a factor in making Eminem apart of the final lineup for the



Rapper Eminem will perform at the HFSStival this year, a concert normally attended by rock and alternative fans.

show, but how are rock fans supposed to realize this, considering that the record has not even been released yet.

Of course, a musician's job is to make music, and I do not ever want to tell someone that they can't make the music that they would like or that they are not allowed to share it as they please, even if it is at a traditionally alternative concert. Even if he doesn't fit in, it could be a good chance for rock fans to branch out and discover new music. He may do more than shock you; Eminem might just surprise you.

Punishment should fit crime

In a few weeks, seniors will celebrate their years at WS by coming together at the Sheraton Premier for their prom. Imagine walking into the ballroom, however,

only to be greeted by an assistant principal who asks you to lift your skirt over your head to make sure you're wearing "appropriate underwear."

This is exactly what happened at a late April dance at Rancho Bernardo High School in suburban San Diego. According to *The Washington Post*, Vice Principal Rita Wilson made girls lift up their skirts, in front of male students and adults, before being admitted to the dance to prove that they weren't wearing "skimpy thong panties." Outraged parents demanded Wilson's resignation, and she was eventually placed on leave.

Luckily, we've never had such extreme incidents at WS. However, whenever the weather starts getting warm, faculty members and students conflict over what is school appropriate and what isn't. According to Assistant Principal Joan Gaddi, the School Board has a dress code policy for students and teachers, and each principal can form his or her own school's dress code as long as it falls under the umbrella of the School Board's version. At WS, Principal David Smith consults with the PTSA, administrators, and the Faculty Advisory Committee before deciding what should be included in our dress code. We don't necessarily disagree with our current dress code, which reads, "Students are expected to dress appropriately in a way that is consistent with the

workplace. Examples of apparel that is not consistent with the work place include visible underwear, low cut revealing tops, backless tops and bare midriffs."

Editorial

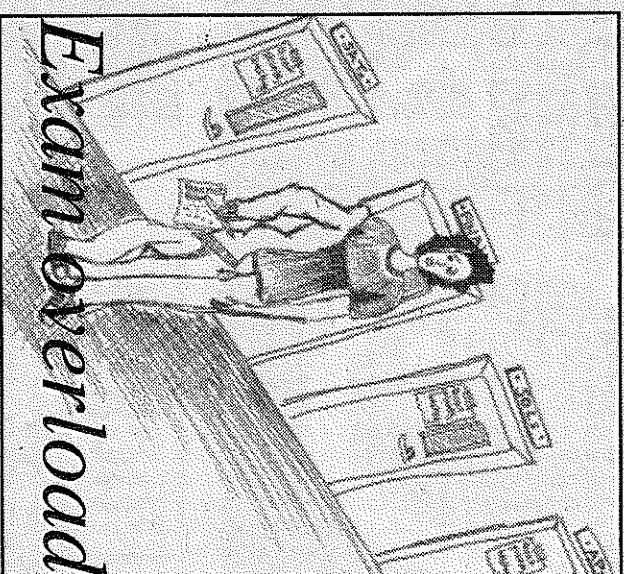
We don't want to see butts hanging out and flabby stomachs showing through, but on the other hand, we don't want to be embarrassed by administrators and teachers who choose to reprimand dress code violators in humiliating

ways. The dress code explains what we can't wear, but it doesn't detail what the consequences of its violation are. In other words, teachers and administrators have complete discretion in choosing how to deal with all dress code infractions.

The dress code asks us to dress in a manner consistent with the workplace. Well, it's highly unlikely that in the real workplace, an employer would give an employee a t-shirt or sweater to put over his or her clothes. We'll dress in a professional manner if administrators deal with our infractions in an equally professional manner.



Oracle File Photo



Melissa Lipman

By Melissa Lipman
Oracle Editor

In honor of our hard-working, test-writing friends in Princeton, New Jersey, Richmond, Virginia, Washington, DC and elsewhere, I've taken the liberty of preparing a few sample questions for them from my upcoming Big Useless, Laughably Ludicrous and Stupid Hellish Test (BULLSHT), BULLSHT is to be administered in the three minutes between the time AP tests end and SOLs begin, or in the two minutes between the time SOLs end and finals begin.

- I. The best way to measure students' scholastic achievements is to:
 - I. Force them to take several sets of tests all on top of each other.
 - II. Give students tests that ask them to read and analyze the label from a box of crackers.
 - III. We really don't know but since we must do something, let's test them up the wazoo.

- a. I only.
- b. II only.
- c. III only.
- d. I and II only.
- e. I, II and III.

Now I know what our favorite test-writers are thinking. "Answer D, no sweat." But the truth is the correct answer is answer C. What a shocker! That's the problem with all the standardized testing. Instead of taking the time to study the problems surrounding education, politicians and educators alike inundate kids in a mess of SOLs, APs and finals, not to mention a myriad of SATs.

Let's see...in April we have the pre-AP exam finals, then in May SATs, then two weeks of AP exams, then SOLs, in June there are SAT IIs and some more final exams. Even if students only take half of those exams, that's a lot of testing.

There are plenty of ways to lessen the workload. Schools could start off by eliminating the redundancy. Chances are, students with passing grades in AP US History will pass the US History SOL with the ease of Stephen Hawking solving a page of Physics I problems. Why should students who will score three, four or five on a college level history exam be forced to take a high school level exam that caters to the lowest common denominator?

With the constant stream of exams I've taken the past couple weeks, I nearly forgot I had some of my morning classes. Even when I've been in class, so many other students are absent that teachers forgo teaching lessons in favor of showing movies or hosting parties. It begs the question: If we're testing all the time for the last couple months of school, when do we have time to learn? How ironic that the very exams schools give to monitor academic achievements make learning impossible.

THE ORACLE

West Springfield
High School
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Springfield, VA 22152
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They may melt in your mouth, but they're brown in the end

By Russ Maddell
Photography Editor

It seems that M&M's is picking a new color. Even stranger, it seems that *The Oracle* cares enough to write about it. And who else but that intrepid reporter, Russ Maddell, would be chosen to cover this earth-shaking story.

I don't particularly care about M&M's colors because they all taste the same. After they get in your mouth, they all taste the same too. I think we should go back to the original color, brown. After all, they'll end up that color.

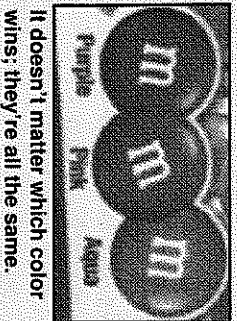
I suppose the true cause for the "global" color vote is publicity and marketing. I suppose that M&M's sell better when the package has a contest on it. But the global vote isn't even a contest. No one wins. No matter what color is chosen, no one wins. There is no million dollar prize, no solid gold Ferrari, no private jet for a week. The candy company is getting cheap, but I'm not fooled. A contest is 'a contest unless I know I have a one in a million chance of winning an overrated prize.

I think that the whole idea is overblown. M&M's makers seem to think that the world really cares about their candy. But

the company is horribly mistaken. The world cares about saving the whales, global warming and fighting terrorism. The color

falls somewhere between worrying about the little plastic ends of the shoelaces peeling off and the age old question of whether to get a BMW or Mercedes.

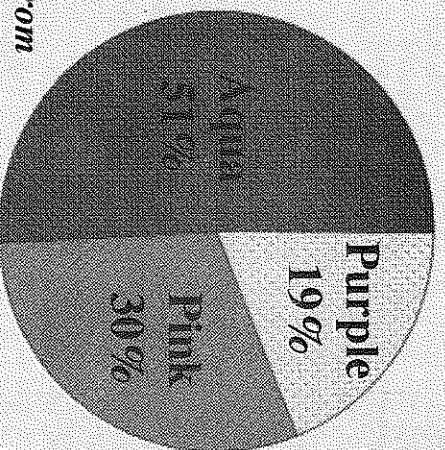
Don't get me wrong: I love dumb stuff as much as anybody. However, the dumb stuff I like is more akin to pondering the color of the inside of my eyelids and going fishing with a stick and some yarn and a marshmallow for bait. I would much prefer to make up my own trivial life experiences than have the M&M/Mars company create little trivialities for me.



It doesn't matter which color wins; they're all the same.

Maybe you think I'm reading too deep into the candy coated chocolate that we treat the global color vote is a sign of the times and a metaphor for our society.

The campaign for a new color can be considered a partial success because at least one high school newspaper has given M&M's some free publicity. Then again, I don't think the seven people reading this article (two are my parents and three are *Oracle* editors, but I don't know who the other two are) will be suddenly inspired to go buy the candy that melts in your hand and in your mouth.

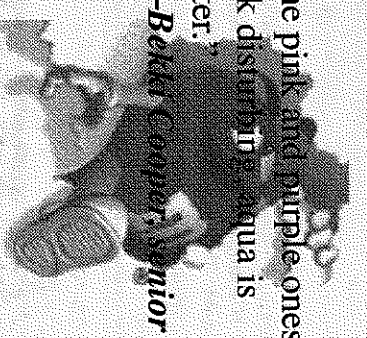


Poll taken from
226 students

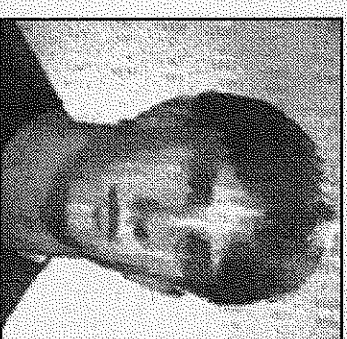
—Compiled by Lauren Decot



"Aqua because it doesn't clash with the rest of them."
—Adam Buckles, junior



"The pink and purple ones look disturbing. Aqua is better."
—Bekki Cooper, senior



—Compiled by Nayna Gupta

Students deserve more field trips

Let's spend less on standardized tests and more on trips

By Ruchika Mahotra
News Section Assistant

From Jamestown in fourth grade to the Baltimore aquarium in fifth grade, field trips were something FCPS never seemed to lack. However, in high school there are barely any field trips at all.

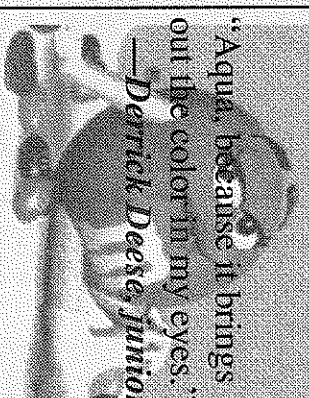
FCPS is labeled as one of the country's richest counties, yet it stops financing field trips and guest speakers as soon as we leave elementary school.

In the three years that I've been at WS I've only gone on two field trips. One was to the Starbucks up the street for the freshman year speed walking unit. As ridiculous as it was to call this a field trip, I still appreciated the fact that we were going somewhere and the teachers' effort to relate it to the class.

Not everyone learns best by sitting in a room all year long and going through a text book. Hands-on lessons are a very important factor in class and should be exercised more often.

Field trips and guest speakers are a fun way to broaden our view on a particular lesson or unit. Mixing up the lessons keeps my attention in class and therefore keeps me more focused in the long term, because I'm not completely bored and sick of the same old class routine.

Since it's not just another problem or paragraph in class, it sticks out in my mind more and therefore I remember and will understand it better.



"Aqua, because it brings out the color in my eyes."
—Derrick Deese, junior

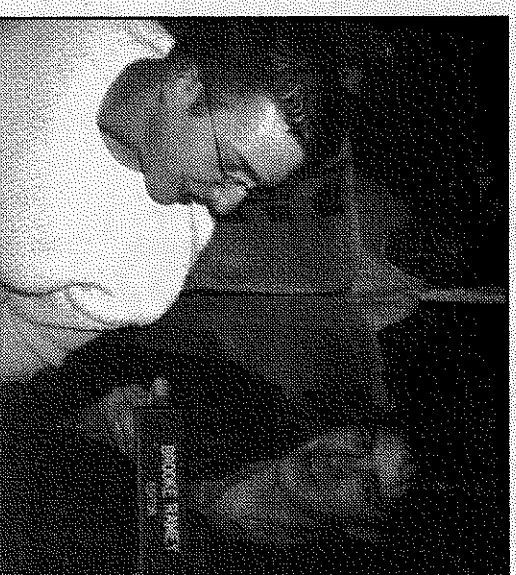


"Pink, because it's a happy color."
—Jessica Campo, sophomore



Spartan Spotlight

What should be the new M&M color?



Seniors David Panczykowski and Matt Whalen enjoy their bus ride to the National Gallery of Art in DC.
Jonny Astin

FCPS spends so much money administering standardized tests to improve and maintain its great reputation, but at the same time it's letting field trips and guest speakers that are essential to students' learning experience slide and fade out.

I remember coming to our planetarium in elementary and middle school so many times. Yet, now that I actually go to WS, I haven't stepped foot in it once. We don't use our resources as much as we should. DC is right around the corner and we're so lucky to have all those museums and exhibits so close by, yet we don't use them as much as we should either.

To make up for field trips and guest speakers, teachers sometimes offer extra credit to students to go visit these places on their own, yet not everyone can go and they miss out on a great opportunity.

There is a lot that goes into putting together a field trip or guest speaker. There are forms, permission slips, money, bus orders, and of course getting it approved in the first place. Yet, these factors shouldn't discourage teachers from broadening their students' learning experience.

FCPS spends so much money administering standardized tests to improve and maintain its great reputation, but at the same time it's letting field trips and guest speakers that are essential to students' learning experience slide and fade out. I think this money should stay for such causes, because they really do help students more than just another scantron for them to bubble in.

Instead of worrying about how we look among other schools, FCPS should try to remember the students and their learning experience because that is what the school is here for.

WS Awards

Eight students took part in the National High School Model Arab League Program at Georgetown University. Juniors Steven Lewis, Ben Mould and Bob Underwood received a first place award.

"It was a Model UN conference, and we had to give our proposal for how to improve welfare in Oman," said Underwood. "The Model UN Chair thought our presentation was the best."

Freshman Jonathan Mundell earned a gold medal on the Level One National Latin exam with a perfect score.

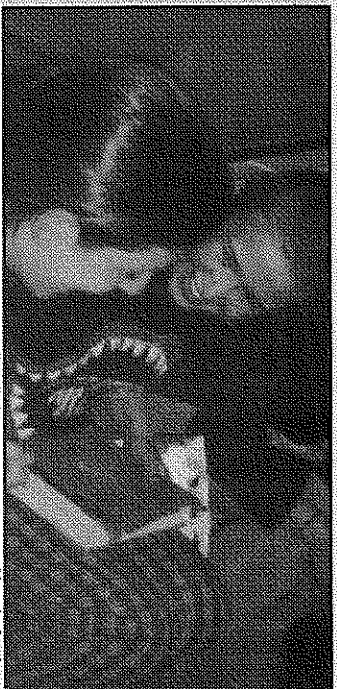
The Girls Varsity Four Rowing Crew won the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championship. Sophomores Beth Ann Dick and Valerie Herruth, junior Katrina Roman and seniors Allison Martin and Carrie Poffey are members of the winning team. In addition, the Varsity Four also won the National Capital Area Scholastic Rowing Association Championship.

Sophomores Jason Gillis and Holly Harben earned 3rd place for their combined entry in NASA's Space Settlement Design Contest. Gillis and Harben wrote an 18 page essay.

"We had to design a space station that would be self-sufficient and survive in outer space," said Harben. "The essay fulfilled the requirement for an independent research project for Chemistry Honors."

Senior Katie Freund was selected as the winner of a corporate sponsored Merit Scholarship through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. In addition, senior Jason Strampe has been awarded a National Merit Scholarship.

—Compiled by Lauren Decot



Seniors Leyla Jordan and Casey McGoroy enjoy their last couple breaks together at senior rail.

College calls seniors

By Nayna Gupta
Viewpoint Editor

Going to WS ice hockey games, stealing the class of 2003's float, and cheating at Spartan Games are just a small part of the long list of WS traditions that senior Sam Jung will miss at college next year. But for Jung, the hardest part of going to college will be leaving his favorite person at home.

"My mom will be the number one thing I miss," said Jung. "I'm a mamma's boy at heart."

With only three weeks left until graduation, seniors count down the time left until they leave WS. While the class of 2002 is ready to take on college life, it will miss the comfort they have grown accustomed to a WS. "I love walking in the hallways seeing familiar faces, it's going to take a while to get

comfortable in this new world that we're going to," said senior Elizabeth Hebda.

Hebda, like other seniors, has chosen to go to an in-state college, but not only for the obvious financial benefits.

"Virginia has some of the country's finest schools so I figure why make my parents pay double or triple the price for an out-of-state program," said Hebda. "Plus, I'm still close enough to home for short visits, but far enough away to avoid my parents being here all the time."

For a different, out-of-Virginia experience, senior Jessie Chesnut is willing to take on a financial burden. Like other seniors who are planning to go to an out-of-state college, Chesnut wants to get away from Springfield and try something new. Yet, she will miss the excitement of the DC area.

"Everyone says there's nothing to do in Springfield, but they're so many things so close like Old Town and DC," said Chesnut. "Where I'm going, Smith, there aren't any big cities near by."

Senior Stephanie Hottell doesn't mind staying in Springfield. When Hottell's younger brother asked her to stay to help him through his first year in high school, Hottell decided one more year at home wouldn't be a difficult sacrifice.

"I'm staying for my family," said Hottell. "I'll go to NOVA for a year, and then transfer to UVA for their teaching program."

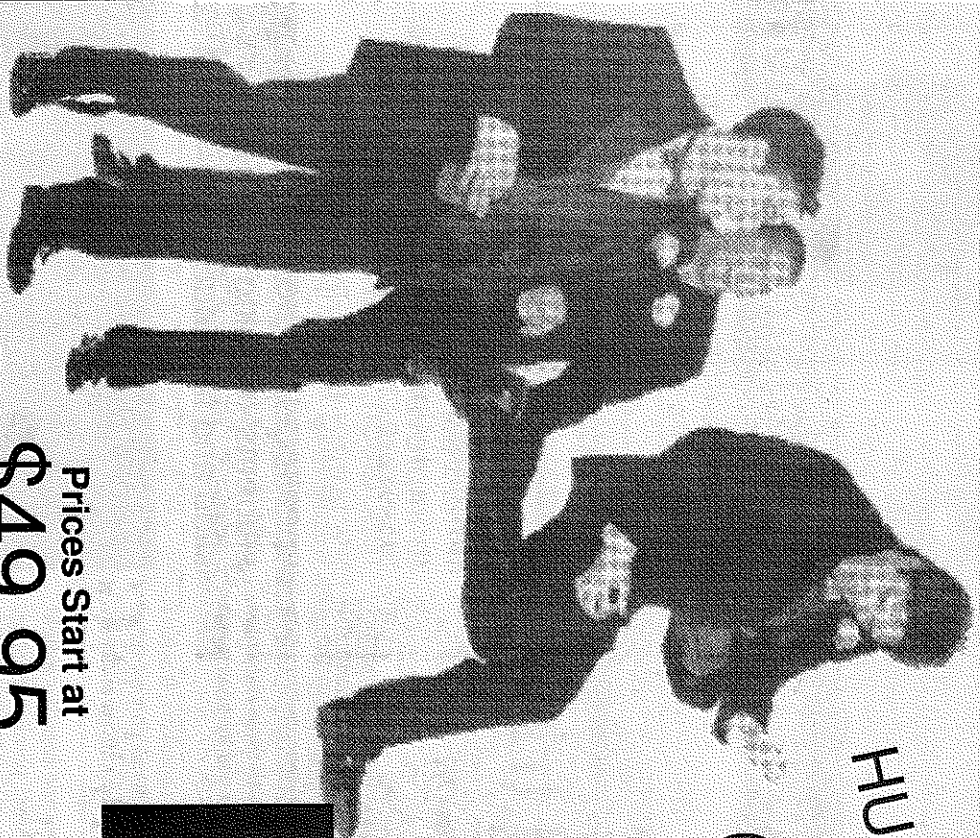
While Hottell is putting off leaving, senior Stephanie Morris decided to graduate early. After a year of taking additional night classes to fulfill graduation requirements, Morris knows she's ready to be on her own.

"Even though I'm graduating a year early, I'm really ready," said Morris. "I'm excited to leave and become responsible for all my actions and handle my life without my parents. I really can't wait."

Despite the nostalgia that many seniors feel during their last days at WS, many aren't leaving all of WS behind.

"My girlfriend wasn't a factor in my decision to apply to UVA," said senior Erik Halseh. "But out of a miracle we both got in, and so did my best friend. Overall, life is great."

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Oldest restaurant home to WS graduates

By Emily Morris
Features Editor

There is no other place like it. The atmosphere and friends there are unbeatable. It's a small restaurant and has that neighborhood bar feeling. Gus' is the perfect place to go enjoy an evening.

It all started when the Pieri family immigrated to America from Greece. Gus Pieri started a restaurant on Wilson Boulevard in Fairfax City in the 50's.

In 1965 Gus Pieri sold his first restaurant on Wilson Boulevard and opened Gus' Restaurant on Backlick Road near the mixing bowl.

Gus' is the oldest restaurant in Springfield, has been family run since the beginning and has persevered through a lot.

Todd Latimer, who has been the Pieri's banker for generations, contributes the success of Gus' to the strong work ethic.

"Pete has the best work ethic of anyone I know," said Latimer. "He works from 3 in the afternoon to 3 in the morning 6 days a week. He never misses a day and works hard every night."

Through the decades they have changed their image with the crowds. Now it offers a homey neighborhood restaurant/bar that

is comparable to Cheers.

One reason this may be is because of the deep roots in the community. Especially roots in WS. Both Pete and Jack Pieri graduated from WS. Jack in '79 and Pete '81.

"My shop teacher helped me out a lot through high school," said Pete Pieri.

A fond memory from Pieri's high school days would be an small incident he had on Queenston Boulevard off of Forester Boulevard.

"I was making a right onto Queenston," said Pieri. "I was going to fast and rolled my JEEP."

Even from the time Pieri was in high school he knew he would take over Gus' one day.

"When I was really little I knew I would work here," said Pieri. "My first job was here, I haven't worked anywhere else."

Gus' is also home to other WS graduates, Jen Pendley. She graduated with the class of '96, and is Pete Pieri's future wife.

"I started working here because my friend Rebecca was working here at the time, and I just have not left," said Pendley. Gus' has a way of sucking people in and keeping them there.

"We have had some hard times," said

Pieri. "But it's the loyal regulars who have kept us alive."

Gus' has survived the invasion of chain restaurants like Outback Steakhouse which moved in down Backlick a few blocks.

Now the construction around Backlick Road is threatening Gus' again. With more congestion, it makes Gus' harder to access.

But Gus' remains to stand strong. Along with good atmosphere which is enhanced by the stuffed game that hangs on the walls and a juke box which continually cranks good tunes, Gus' offers good hamburgers.

"Eight ounces, made fresh every day," said Pieri. "The best part is, they are not greasy like Five Guys burgers."

Having been open much longer than Five Guys, Gus' has been host to several celebrities, such as Kevin Cosner, Charlie Taylor, and Mike O'Mara from the Don and Mike Show, and some of the Redskins.

With Gus' having such strong roots in the community, the Pieri family feel it is their duty to give back to the community.

"I have sponsored little kids' baseball and softball teams," said Pieri.

The Pieri family also donates gift certificates to silent auctions, and to spaghetti dinners at churches.

Jack Pieri spends his times going to

elementary schools and talk to young students about the importance of a healthy diet and a clean cooking environment.

Jack Pieri got a degree in culinary skills from Strayer University, now he is working at Mount Vernon Country Club.

With Jack Pieri busy in the kitchen, Pete proves equal behind the bar.

"In 1992 the Springfield Connection voted me Best Bartender in Springfield," said Pieri.

The plaque still decorates the wall behind the bar ten years later. And will be there, as long as Gus' is there, forever.



Emily Morris
Pete Pieri poses with his beloved plaque celebrating the fact he was Bartender of the year in 1992.

Speed up summer road trip with these car games

By Mike Araj and Jason Gillis

Oracle Staff Writers

Some feel the most dreaded thing to do is to sit in a car, packed with suitcases for a long road trip with nothing to do.

The universal time appeaser, sleep, is an option, but there are other alternatives: car games. One of the best known games is the license plate game. A variant of the game is "Doubles," where players attempt to find numbers on license plates in order starting at zero and going up to ninety-nine. Whoever finds the last number first is the winner.

"I play the license plate game because it's pretty much the only thing to do when you're stuck in traffic,"

said junior Melanie Maguire.

The alphabet game is also well known to road-trippers. In this game players attempt to find an object that begins with the letter "A." Play continues until the alphabet is completed as well as numbers from one through 26. Each person has to find each letter and each number or they lose a point. Whoever has the most points at the end of the game wins. Others enjoy less interactive games.

"On our orchestra trip I played chess or cards with someone," said sophomore Ken Ellis.

While some enjoy playing games on long voyages, others prefer to do alternate activities.

"I sleep, listen to music, and talk depending on who I am with," said Ellis.

In another game, "I Spy," a player chooses a category

and picks an object within it.

Meanwhile, another player asks questions about the object and attempts to guess what it is. Another version of the game is played by choosing a world philosophy or religion, and the guessing player asks questions in an attempt to discover it.

Meanwhile, others pass the time through using more technological games. Lap-top computers now allow users to play games or surf the Internet while on the road. Alternatives include Gameboys, palm-pilots, and other electronic games.

"Gameboy [is my favorite car game] so I can keep myself from being bored to death," said junior Josh Houck. [My least favorite thing to do] is to talk with my family because they annoy and irritate me."

Modern Image

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Thank You...

OBX sticker hype at new high

By Angela Florino
ETC. Editor

They're everywhere. Why? Why does everyone insist on owning an OBX sticker? At one point they were creative, they were unique, they were mysterious, but now everyone has one and everyone knows what they mean.

I'm sure there were plenty of times when a car full of stoned teenagers, slowly driving down some road, noticed a car with an OBX sticker tattooed to its back window and the whole night, that OBX sticker was entertainment for those kids. The whole night was spent trying to decipher it's code by guessing what it stood for. But that can't happen anymore. Even those random teenagers driving down the road at 3 AM know what OBX stands for.

Before all the hype, I thought OBX stood for Ostrich Bank Xtreme, and I vacation to the Outer Banks every summer. I guess I never cared enough to explore this world-reknowned emblem. Well maybe not world-reknown, I bet no one in Yugoslavia owns one. It'd be funny if they did though.

This total nonsense started somewhere overseas, a long long time ago. The kings and queens thought it would be cool if they made everyone put a sticker on his car that showed what country he was from. That's why when driving down the road, you'll occasionally spot a "D" sticker, that looks just like the OBX one, which stands for Denmark. This was really pointless because that's what license plates are for. Why poison your car with a sticker as well?



Once unique and original, OBX stickers now stick out about as much as a tourist in DC.

Jen Stornaceo

Food industry gets a face-lift

Colorful condiments add spice to the dinner table

By Ruchika Malhotra
News Assistant

The sky is blue and ketchup is red... well it was, but not anymore. From green ketchup to jello tubes, the food industry is stretching its limits by putting out new ways to present ordinary foods.

Heinz has been producing ketchup since 1869. The genuine red goo has been complimenting

food for so long, but now Heinz has put out green and purple.

"The green tastes exactly like the red, but just the concept of eating green ketchup on hot dogs and hamburgers is just disgusting to me," said freshman Rachel Saylor.

Yoplait is changing the look of its yogurt. Advertising convenience and fun, Yoplait has put out Gogurt-yogurt in a tube.

People enjoy eating Gogurt because of its convenience.

"It's grab and go yogurt and you don't even need a spoon for it," said sophomore Liz Camron.

"It's more fun."

Gogurt is advertised to be a snack fit for everyone's busy life. People like the new look and the fact that it's a speedy snack.

"I haven't tried it, but I would because it looks pretty cool and

you can eat it faster," said sophomore Philip Ngo.

For others, Gogurt's concept doesn't sound like so much fun and drives them far away from it.

"I'd never eat yogurt out of a tube, because just the concept of sucking yogurt out of a tube doesn't appeal to me," said senior Laura Ogborn.

Not only is it unappealing, but people also find it strange.

"It's just weird, and I don't like the way it looks," said sophomore Brittany Marchant.

Koolaid is also trying to boost sales by making individual transparent pouches with

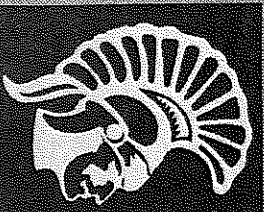
different colored Koolaid. Yet, not everyone can be won over with new package.

"I never liked Koolaid to begin with, but it looks interesting," said Camron.

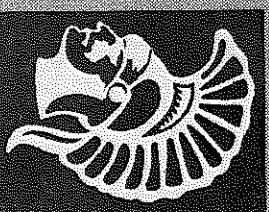
People agree that turning foods into weird new creations isn't always a good thing. "I think it's kind of weird, and the originals are usually the best," said freshman Bill Tran.

The mysteries of these new foods even confuse people.

"If we aren't suppose to play with food it shouldn't look so damned entertaining," said junior Tom Eisman.



Spartan Profiles



Alina Gomez-Klepaczanek

Erik Soto

By Rachel Wohlers
Entertainment Assistant

By Denis Ing
Sports Editor

Sit. Up. Down. Stay. Shake. Freshman Alina Gomez-Klepaczanek has wanted for years to have a dog. Two months ago she brought home Paco, a beagle who is now one.

Klepaczanek has always had a love for animals. Her sister's cat has been in her life for 12 years, but Klepaczanek wanted a dog.

"I really wanted something of my own and I wanted to do something with dogs so I started looking for a dog to

adopt," Klepaczanek said.

This began her search to find the perfect dog. After two months, Klepaczanek rescued Paco. She originally wanted a young collie, but changed her mind once she saw Paco.

"He was one that nobody wanted and I felt sorry for him," said Klepaczanek. "So I decided to adopt him."

Adopting was just as hard as deciding. It involved a long process of begging her parents and promising she would take complete care of a dog.

"It took some work but they finally let me get him," Klepaczanek said. Although Paco has only been with Klepaczanek for two months, he is already learning from his new owner. He knows to sit when he wants to go for a walk and can walk on two legs. Klepaczanek spends time every day working with Paco.

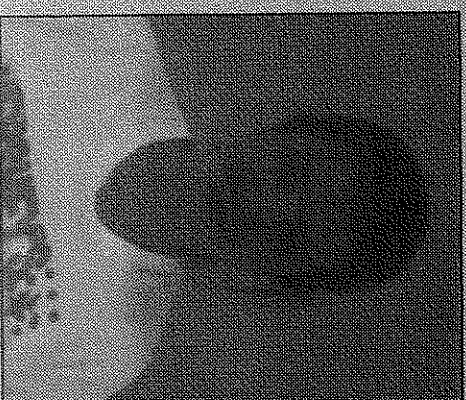
"I want to teach him a lot more so that someday I can show him to people and maybe win awards," she said.

Klepaczanek's love for animals has led her to pursue an animal-related career. In fact, she is planning on applying for a job at an animal shelter.

"I really want to help all the animals," said Klepaczanek.

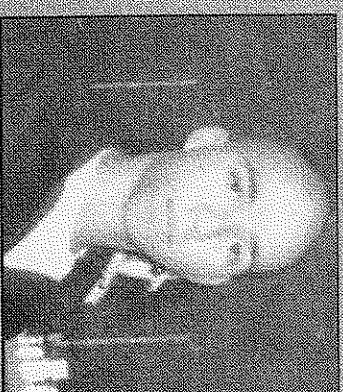
Even though Klepaczanek has a passion for all animals, dogs have a special place in her heart.

"I wish I could have a whole lot more," she said. "Dogs are people's best friends."



Katie Rice

Freshman Alina Gomez-Klepaczanek has a love for animals and hopes to work at an animal shelter.



Jen Stornaceo

Senior Eric Soto has a passion for drawing with a modern approach, that I do is very technological which is hot."

Other than drawing, Soto enjoys baseball, hanging out with his friends and lifting weights after school. After high school he will be going to attend the Naval Academy.

"The Navy has some good training and will be a good step forward in my life," said Soto.

Soto is joining the navy for the education and the experience. While at the Naval academy he will be studying criminal justice and one day hopes to join the FBI. To help him achieve this goal Soto has taken a strong stand against drugs.

"If you're going into the military or not, don't do drugs," said Soto. "They will always mess you up."



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Classroom attracts students' attention

By Erika Kim
Inside Story Editor

Room 215. English teacher Brooke Nelson's classroom located at the end of the English hall is one of the most unique classrooms at WS.

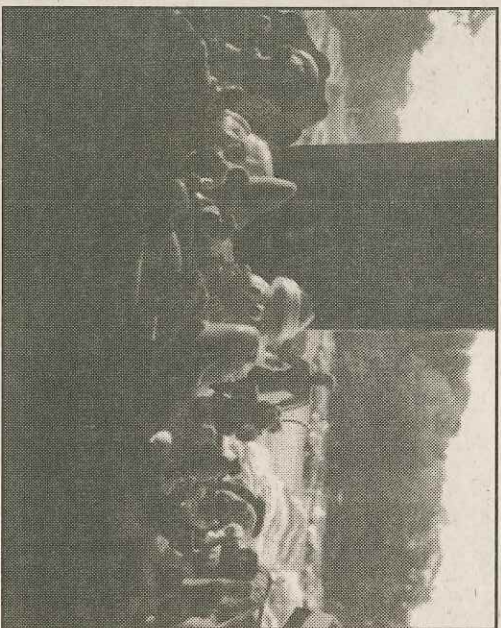
Unlike the majority of the classrooms at WS that have blue and white walls, Nelson has blue and orange walls. She has the only blue and orange classroom at WS, but it hasn't always been that way. Until two years ago, Nelson's walls were blue and white like all the other classrooms.

During the summer, when she came to set up her classroom, one of her daughters suggested that she paint the yellowing white walls another color. They decided on Spartan orange and painted the two white walls orange, leaving the other walls blue.

In addition to the decorative walls, her room is

lined with the front page of every Oracle that has been published since she has been the advisor of the Oracle staff. She first became the advisor eight years ago, and there are currently 114 Oracles along her walls.

She has also kept an array of pictures of students that she has had over the eight years. The doors of her cabinet are



English teacher Brooke Nelson keeps an array of toys on her window sill.

completely covered with these pictures.

On the back wall of her classroom, Nelson keeps a Texas flag that she has hung on every office and classroom that she has ever occupied and was once flown over the state capitol. There are also posters of the Blues Brothers and the Beatles on the back wall.

The awards *The Oracle* and *Olympian* have won are lined up on top of and below the blackboard.

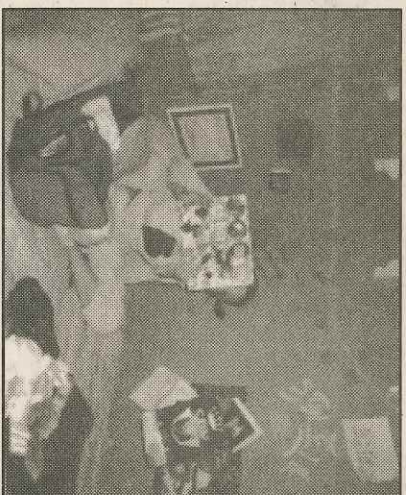
"The awards were all in a box when I got here," said Nelson. "I took them out and arranged them here."

Other interesting things in Nelson's room include a note written on the back of a pizza box by the yearbook staff, wallet chains given to her by a former student, and a cardboard medal made by a former student on a left over computer cord.

But that's not all. The first thing all her students notice and comment on every year are her toys. Yes, her toys. Not just one or two toys but 400 hundred toys. There are hundreds of toys all along her window sill and on top of her book shelf and air conditioner. Her collection started when she picked up about 30 of her children's McDonald's Happy Meal toys off the floor of her house and brought them into her office and set them up on a shelf when she worked as a public relations officer in DC.

"People at my office knew me by my Happy Meal toys," said Nelson.

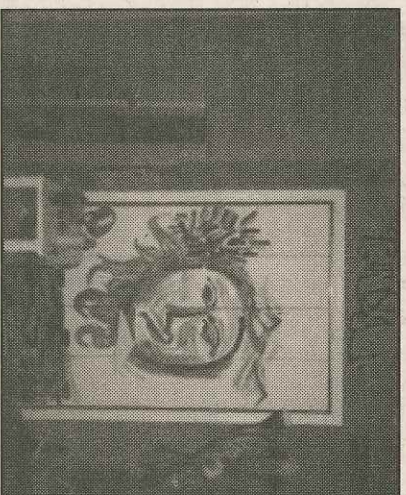
After taking some time off to be with her children, Nelson became a teacher. One Saturday afternoon, she brought her daughter to school with her to catch up on some work and the first thing that she noticed was that she had a really long window sill. Her daughter suggested that she put her toys on it and that



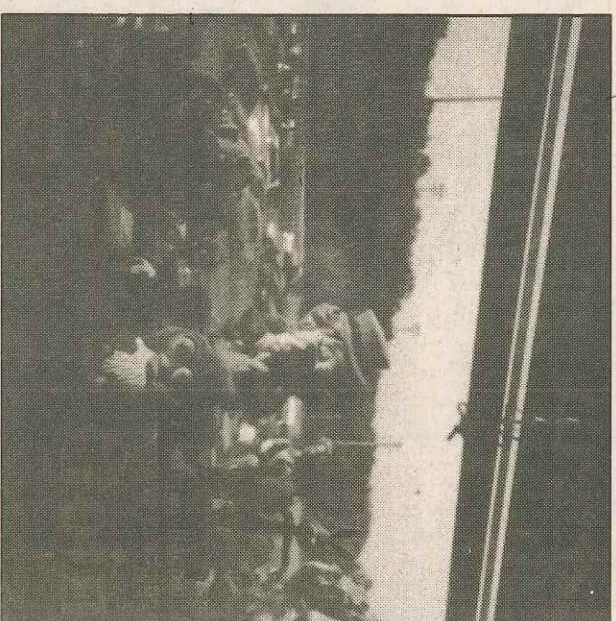
Junior Tara Austin proudly displays her paint set that she used to paint words and pictures on her walls.



"Dreaming" and "Eternity" are two of the words that Austin painted on her wall.



Austin painted a mural of a sun on her closet door and wrote one of her poems on the wall beside it.



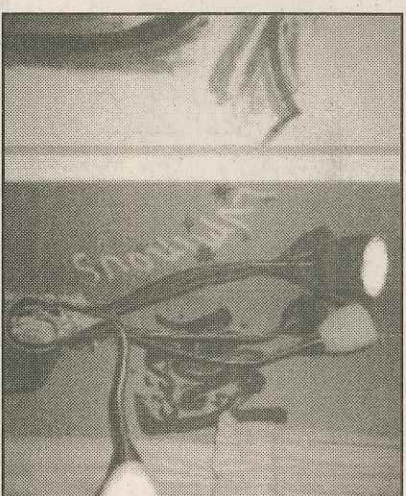
Nelson's collection began with 30 McDonald's happy meal toys and now she has over 400 toys.

was the beginning of it all. She set up her McDonald's Happy Meal toys on the window sill, and since then students have brought in more toys to add to her collection, and her collection expanded from just Happy Meal toys to just toys in general. At the end of each school year Nelson dusts each toy and packs them in a box, and at the beginning of each school year her and her daughters dust the toys off again and set them back up in her room.

"It's become a big tradition for us, setting up the toys each year," said Nelson.

Some students have become so attached to Nelson's room that they are not only reluctant to leave it at the end of the year, but they take another one of her classes just to get another chance to be in her room.

"The reason I decorate my room so much is because I spend a lot of time here," said Nelson. "I want to make it as comfortable as possible."



Austin also has interesting accessories, like her lamp, that match with her room.

Tara's room reflects her artistic style

By Nayna Gupta
Viewpoint Editor

At first, re-painting her room was just a way to fill the long days of her summer. Now, the walls of junior Tara Austin's bedroom have become an ever-changing canvas that she can cover with her own poetry and painting.

"If I see a spot on the wall that's empty, I fill it with my art or words," said Austin.

When she started the project of making her room feel more like her own, Austin chose to cover her walls with her favorite color, a light shade of royal purple. Then, using her own acrylic paints, Austin randomly scattered inspirational words in different directions on top of the purple.

"First I just turned to pages in the dictionary to look for words to put on my walls," said Austin. "But that didn't work because the words ended up being meaningless."

Instead, Austin chose dramatic words that had meaning, such as "dreaming," "eternity" and "serendipity." What makes these words unique, is not just their meaning, but the style in which Austin decided to paint them. When painting "chaos," Austin used shaky strokes and dark color. To show the extremes of "chaos," Austin painted the word twice, once in big letter

Ryan's room: A collector's haven

By Roberto Garcia
Oracle Editor

When most people wake up in the morning, the first thing they see is the plain white of their ceiling. But when senior Ryan David wakes up, he sees New York City and the desert.

Or more specifically, he sees an IBM magazine ad set in New York City and an Isuzu ad based in a desert. These two are among the 200 ads and magazine covers that are stapled to his bedroom ceiling and walls.

"I was bored one day, so I started stapling ads to the ceiling," said David.

It took about eight days to cover the ceiling in ads. However, it has taken him over two years to completely cover all parts of his bedroom.

The ceiling is primarily ads, while the walls are a mixture of ads, magazine covers and even calendars. In one corner of the room, National Geographic covers run halfway up the wall. On the other side of his room hang 10 different calendars of years gone by. Of everything that covers his room, David has two distinct favorites.

"I like the Apple computer ads because they take modern and ancient ideas and put them together," said David. "But

my favorite ad is one of just 15 potatoes on a white background. I'm not sure what that one is for."

One part of the bedroom that stands out amongst all the ads is a wall of numbers behind David's bed. On this wall, which he calls his "running shrine," David has a collection of meet numbers, newspaper cutouts, running posters, and track singlets, which he has collected as a member of the WS track and cross country teams.

Another part of the room that until recently stood out was David's tennis ball collection. Beginning freshman year, David and other distance runners began collecting tennis balls during their runs. The number of balls continued to grow, eventually finding a home under a hanging chair in David's room. David kept the collection, which is currently at 560 balls, in his room until six months ago, when the collection's size forced him to move it to his basement.

"One day, I stopped by Ryan's house with like 200 tennis balls and just dropped them off," said senior Jason Havinga. "But the collection is so big that he didn't even notice."

David thinks he has been lucky that his parents have been lenient in letting him decorate his room as he has.

"My mom wasn't too happy with the staples in the ceiling," said David. "But eventually, she got over it."



Roberto Garcia
Senior Ryan David relaxes in his room playing solitaire.



Roberto Garcia
David's ceiling is covered with magazine advertisements and numbers from his past races are hung on his walls.



Roberto Garcia
David's ceiling is covered with magazine advertisements and numbers from his past races are hung on his walls.

"I want my room to be me, and my poems are as close as you can to get to me."

—Tara Austin, junior

and a second time in small letters. For "spirit," Austin painted a pair of angel wings behind the light-blue and white word.

"I painted 'eternity' in big purple letters with lines surrounding it," said Austin. "It's my favorite because it's the biggest and brightest and attracts the most attention."

But it's not just Austin's wordart that makes her room more creative than most. In a corner behind her bed, Austin painted verses of her own poetry on the walls. Eventually, Austin would like to surround herself with this poetry by covering her entire room, top to bottom, with her own verses.

"I wrote the poem I have on the wall right now a long time ago. It's about the demise of society," said Austin. "I want my room to be me, and my poems are as close as you can get to me."

Just three months ago, Austin noticed that the front of her closet looked too white and empty. To fill the space, Austin experimented with a Monet-inspired impressionist mural. When that failed, she decided to paint a mural of the sun instead.

Right now, Austin can use her creativity to change only her own bedroom. When she gets her own place, Austin plans to spread her art throughout the house.

"My house is going to be a nut house," said Austin. "There are going to be murals everywhere. In the bathrooms, the kitchen, everywhere."

For now, Austin is satisfied with her room. But tomorrow she will probably notice another empty space that needs to be filled with art.

"I'm changing," said Austin. "So my room's changing with me."

Engraving a memory in Missy's room Close friends leave their mark on Missy's walls

By Heidi Stilgoi
Entertainment Assistant

Missy Arbogast's friends left a touch of their personalities in her room—forever. Or at least until somebody buys a new can of paint.

The famous wall of handprints is the wall where Arbogast's friends left their mark. It is almost like a smaller version of the famous sidewalk in Hollywood, only in a 16-year-old's room.

"It began when I was painting with my friends a few years ago," said Arbogast. "We just started messing around and putting our handprints all over the wall."

The prints come in yellow, blue and green, and match the sponge paint on all four walls. While the handprints may be the most unique, they are not the only decorations covering the walls. Arbogast has a wide variety of *NSYNC pictures, mostly of Lance Bass. One poster of Bass hangs on Arbogast's door, and at a meaningful height.

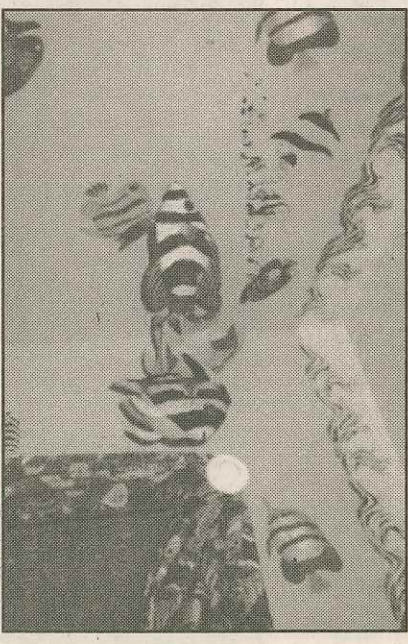
"I hung it up at 5'11" because that's how tall Lance is," said Arbogast. "It's so I can practice."

All girls have their fantasies. Arbogast's room, however, is also full of realities. Hanging next to her bed are two T-shirts from dance workshops she is proud to have attended.

"Dance is a big part of my life," said Arbogast.

From boys to bears, Arbogast has it all. While posters take over the walls, bears take over the bed. A variety of Beanie Babies reside on their own shelf, as do many trophies. And hanging from the ceiling is Byrdie: the beloved parakeet.

Everything matches in Arbogast's world. Yellow, blue and green are the dominant colors. They start at the walls, then



Rachel Martin
Freshman Rachel Martin's room has various fish painted on the walls in addition to fish hanging from the ceiling.

Going against the flow

By Rachel Wohlers
Entertainment Assistant

Freshman Rachel Martin is submerged in her deep sea bedroom.

When Martin moved into her house four years ago her room was average, with four white walls, a door and a closet.

But then her mother had an inspiration.

"The bathroom is painted like a rainforest and my brother's room is painted like outer space," Martin said. "So my mom and I decided to paint mine like it is underwater."

The walls are painted a light blue color and covered in an array of ocean creatures in bright colors.

"My mom used a stencil and put manna rays, jellyfish and three or four different kinds of fish across my walls," she said.

Martin's bedspread is also an ocean theme, with window curtains to match. And to top everything off there are different types of fish hanging from the ceiling.

But the ocean isn't the only obvious part of Martin's room. Spread out across the desk, dresser and bed is her collection of goats. There are about 50 goats, made out of porcelain, plastic and glass and others are stuffed. Martin has been collecting them since fifth grade, after she witnessed the birth of a goat at a pumpkin patch.

"It was a joke at first, but then I started collecting them," said Martin. "I'd actually like to own a goat."

Even though goats may not fit the underwater, the room is full of character and personality.

"I don't have an obsession with the ocean or anything like with goats, but I love the way it looks," Martin said. "It really is my personal room."

move over to the bed, down to the inflatable chair, and up to the yellow clock.

"I like my room because it coordinates," said Arbogast. Besides the hanging bird cage, Arbogast has some netting hanging over her bed.

"I think it's called a mosquito net," said Arbogast. "But I call it the 'princess thing.'"

Most of Arbogast's furniture is purchased from IKEA, but there is also a bit of love tied into it all.

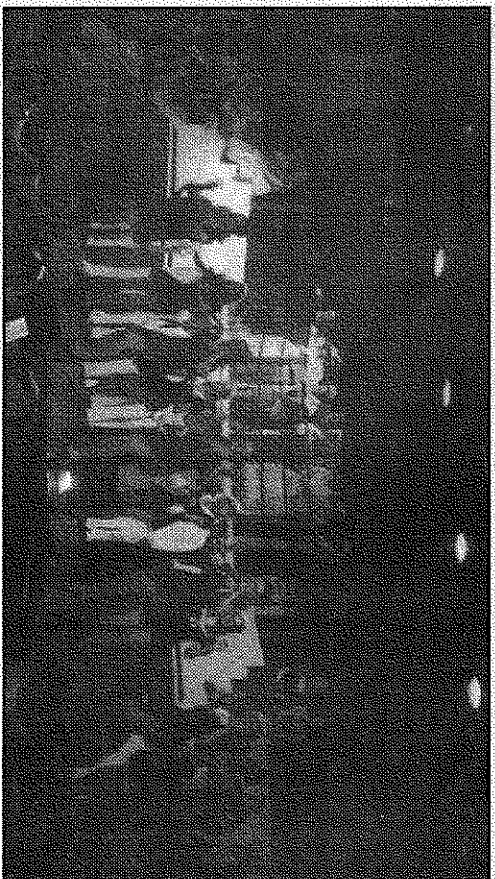
"My great great uncle made the bed and the bedside table," said Arbogast. "And one of the bears was my grandmother's."

Family, friends, pets and future husbands. Almost everybody has left their mark in Arbogast's room.

"My room has that 'personal' touch," said Arbogast. "I like it like that."

"The famous wall of handprints is the wall where Arbogast's friends left their mark. It is almost like a smaller version of the famous sidewalk in Hollywood, only in a 16-year-old's room."

Cappies critique *Anything Goes*



Amy McKeever

The Cappies is a program that originally began in the National Capitol Area and has spread to other parts of the country. In the program, students visit other schools to watch and review their theatrical productions. These are the reviews of our own show, *Anything Goes*.



By Melissa Askins Special to The Oracle

A wealthy debutante falling in love with a poor man and nightclub singer falling for a wealthy Englishman, no this isn't another episode of "Love Boat," but instead a thrilling, high-kicking musical performed by WS's theatrical department.

Anything Goes is about lost loves and opposites attracting one another, combined with fantastic dance numbers and terrific actors who know how to bring their characters to life.

As the curtains pull back, the audience is brought aboard the *USS American* where gangster Moonface Martin, played by Herman Ramos, disguised as a preacher, sneaks aboard the cruise liner with the help of his quick-witted assistant Bonnie, played by Rebecca Weiner. The two actors' comical interaction gives the audience heart-felt laughs, not to mention cute songs like "Be Like the Bluebird" and "Heaven Hop."

Of course the great list of actors doesn't stop there. The chemistry between the wealthy socialite Hope Harcourt, played by Ashley Hoffman, and the businessman's assistant Billy Crocker, played by Nick Clapsaddle, is remarkable. It's almost as

if the actors don't even know the audience is there.

The most unpredictable and funniest two actors in the show are Jacob Kidder as Lord Evelyn Oakleigh, a very proper English lord who is extremely naive in the ways of love, and Melissa Wilmoth as Reno Sweeney, the lovely and talented songbird. The performances of both duos filled the audiences with giggles.

Unfortunately, everything did not go incredibly smoothly. During the musical numbers the orchestra frequently overpowered the actors, causing lines to get lost in the noise. Luckily, the choreography team of Weiner, Gillian Ramsey and Maggie Atteberry did a fabulous job of creating numbers that truly amazed the audience with the actors' high-kicking and excellent tap dancing.

The sets, which were designed by Drew Brooks and Dan Brooks, were colorfully patriotic and wonderfully realistic. This team truly used every space available to create the different sets on both wings and the center of the stage.

WS drama students were able to bring new life to Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*. It was truly an exciting evening as we enjoyed our voyage on the *USS American*.

By Loren Charde Bray Special to The Oracle

If you're trying to find a play with comedy, great dancing and maybe a criminal or two, then Cole Porter may have just what you're looking for. Team him up with a fine group of actors, and you have WS's production of *Anything Goes*.

Directed by Mary Jo Levesque, this play was originally conceived by its producer, Yinton Freedley while stowing away on a fishing boat to avoid creditors. Featuring hit Broadway star Ethel Merman, the play tells the story of a band of characters whose paths collide on the *USS American*, which is headed for England. There's Hope Harcourt, a wealthy young woman and her forgotten love, Billy Crocker. Hope's fiance, a child-like Englishman named Lord Evelyn (Evie) Oakleigh, takes a love interest in famous nightclub singer Reno Sweeney. Also, there's the 'dangerous' criminal, Moonface Martin (aka Public Enemy Number 13) and his henchwoman, Bonnie, who are trying to escape the FBI. With Billy pursuing Hope, Reno pursuing

Evie and the FBI pursuing Moonface, the laughter never stops.

Jacob Kidder charms the audience with his adolescent manner and shuffling walk as the innocent Lord Evelyn. Herman Ramos is witty and keeps the audience on its toes with his outgoing behavior as Moonface Martin. Melissa Wilmoth, who does Merman justice with the aplomb of her stage presence and beautiful singing voice, now plays Reno Sweeney, the role Merman originated. Rebecca Weiner gives the audience some real hooting with her nimble feet in the song "Heaven Hop."

The production eats, drinks and lives patriotism with red, white and blue displayed in the set, costumes and props. A wonderful special effect featured a woman jumping off the ship, sending water over the railing onto the stage. Mics, however, were a problem because they faded in and out at times, making it difficult to hear some lines. Also at times ensemble characters would walk in and out during a main character's line, distracting the audience's attention.

As for the overall run of the show, let's just say that if there's a bottom, they're the top.



Amy McKeever

Seniors Rebecca Weiner and Mike Mazie display their dancing prowess that won them Cappies nominations.



Amy McKeever

Seniors Melissa Wilmoth and Jacob Kidder, also Cappies nominees, perform a scene where Wilmoth seduces Kidder.

And the WS Cappies nominees are...

Orchestra
Lead Actress - Melissa Wilmoth
Featured Actor - Jacob Kidder
Cameo Actor - Tom Eisman
Female Dancer - Rebecca Weiner
Male Dancer - Mike Mazie
Female Critic - Melissa Lipman

Choreography - Maggie Atteberry, Gillian Ramsey, and Rebecca Weiner
Comic Actor - Herman Ramos

Congrats!

Spider-man climbs up box office

By Amy McKeever Entertainment Editor

I was never really a big Spider-man fan. That is, I wasn't until I saw the recently released Spider-man movie. I went to see it rather reluctantly - my friends and I wanted to go to a movie the night before our AP English Language exam and they were all anxious to see "Spider-man." Even though I didn't really care to see it, I gave in and went with them, mostly because it was better than sitting at home studying.

It certainly was better than studying and better than many other movies I have seen as well. "Spider-man" was an action movie, a drama, a comedy and a love story all in one, which some might say is a characteristic of all movies, but the difference is that "Spider-man" does everything well.

Director Sam Raimi tells the story of comic book hero Spider-man in such a way that even people like me, who had never read the comic and knew virtually nothing about Spider-man other than the fact that he is a man who acts like a spider in tight red spandex, could understand the action. For those of you who still know nothing about Spider-man, a quick synopsis is that an intelligent outcast, Peter Parker, gets bitten by a genetically altered spider and he is thus transformed into a human spider. Parker then decides to see the world (and impress a girl) with his new-found super powers and battles his best friend's father, who has turned into the evil enemy Green Goblin.

The cast members of the Sony film were certainly chosen for their talent in addition to how well they fit their roles. The characters Spiderman (Tobey Maguire), Norman Osborne/Green Goblin

(Willem Dafoe), Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst) and Harry Osborne (James Franco) were all excellently portrayed. Dafoe in particular was just as scary and twisted as his evil character calls for, maybe even more. There were many times I found myself covering in my seat when Dafoe appeared onscreen. But the reappearance of Maguire always brought me back to comfort because of his sweet, innocent depiction of Parker and strong, brave depiction of Spider-man. His chemistry with Dunst also made for a riveting love story.

While "Spider-man" certainly is a love story as well as a drama and comedy — one of the more comedic parts being when Parker first discovers his new self and experiments with his powers, swinging straight into a billboard and wearing a ratty old sweat suit as a wrestling costume — the movie is first and foremost an action

movie. Director Raimi did a fine job in creating a movie with tons of special effects that are there for a purpose. Too many movies have incorporated various explosions and such for absolutely no reason. "Spider-man" had just as many thrills as these movies and none came off as unnecessary. Audience members might feel a little nauseous while Maguire zips through the city, but at least they are experiencing what he (or his stunt double) did.

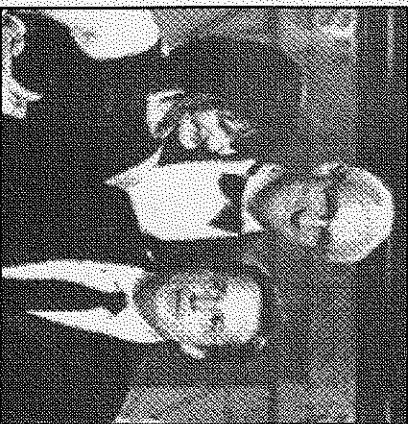
"Spider-man" was a highly anticipated new release and is in fact number one at the box office — although that may soon change with the release of "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones." Still, it was a high-quality movie that this new Spider-man fan plans to buy as soon as it comes out on DVD and recommends for everyone who has not yet seen the movie to spirit to AMC Hoffman now.

NBC celebrates 75th anniversary

By JD Kaleem

Business/Systems Assistant

Adding to the May-sweeps wave of nostalgia, NBC celebrated its 75 years on the air, encompassing everything from "Seinfeld" to "Cheers."



Michael J. Fox reappeared on stage with former Family Tie's costars, Tina Yothers and Michael Gross, which gained a standing ovation.

Incubus drives fans crazy

By Camila Casillas
Sports Editor

The Patriot Center floor was packed, the seats were full and the lights dimmed, as the curtains opened to the sole sounds of Incubus. The pit went crazy and a great concert began.

Incubus started its 2002 Civic Tour with Hoobastank in April and ended up at the Patriot Center on May 10. I didn't catch much of Hoobastank due to my friend John, who forgot to tie his shoelaces before we went in the pit. During Hoobastank's first song he lost his shoe and was getting stepped all over, so we left the pit in search of another shoe. We

realized we weren't going to find one just as Hoobastank left the stage, but we made it back before Incubus. John sat down, and the rest of us went back to the floor.

Incubus started off playing "Circles," from its newest release "Morning View." "Circles" was followed by songs like "Privilege" and "Warning." The energy from the band made its way to the crowd, and it never ceased throughout the whole concert. The heaving pit, which engulfed the whole floor, jumped up and down together during the high points of every song. People in seats were standing up, dancing and singing along. We picked my friend Will up so he could go

crowd surfing, and didn't see him until the show was over.

After a few songs the atmosphere of the concert changed. The stage background transformed to a black starry night, and singer Brandon Boyd and guitarist Mike Einziger made their way to a couch that sat on stage. Lighters popped up across the crowd and the mosh pit was calm while Boyd sang acoustic versions of "Drive," "Pardon Me" and "Mexico." Though he was singing live, his voice sounded perfect.

After the few songs that were played acoustically, the rest of the band returned to their instruments and transitioned back to the full

such as "Saturday Night Live," which premiered in 1975 and was an instant success. "I loved the part that showed 'Saturday Night Live' through the years," said sophomore Jared Timmons. "It's cool how a lot of the big television and movie stars all started their careers on 'Saturday Night Live.'"

The show also had segments featuring bloopers and notorious technical mistakes throughout the years.

The special was part of a series of anniversary and nostalgia-related specials from NBC, including "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno's 10th Anniversary," which aired on April 30, "Bob Hope's Funniest Outtakes," which aired on May 7, and "NBC's Funniest Outtakes," which aired May 14. On May 19 "The Cosby Show: A Look Back" will air and on May 20 a special with interviews with the stars and creators of hit anchor shows, "20 Years of Must See TV," will air.



Former "1 Spy" partners, Bill Cosby and Robert Culp, reunited in uniform.

As NBC celebrates its 75 years as a network, viewers will get a taste of the network throughout its lifetime and see how the cultural television history of the US has unfolded.

"The anniversary brought back memories of old shows from my childhood," said sophomore Scott Clapsaddle. "It took me back to the past."



Incubus, including former DJ Lyfe, Mike Einziger, Brandon Boyd, Dirk Lance and Jose Pasillas gave a stellar show at the Patriot Center.

band performing. Images of frogs breaking filled the stage screen behind the band. At one point the entire audience was singing in unison to "Nice To Know You," and Boyd held out his mic to the crowd.

The crowd thought the show was over after a few more songs, but we were all in for a surprise.

The band stayed for an encore performance of "Aqueous Transmissions" that added to the already amazing show. Fans filed out of the pit and the seats, more than satisfied with the awesome show. All that was left in the venue was a huge heap of lost shoes, where John finally found his shoe.

Book: *A Night Without Armor*



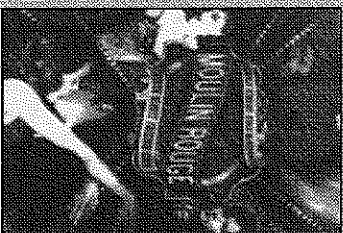
While Jewel may be famous for her profound songs and comforting melodies, she has also published an extraordinary book of poetry, "A Night Without Armor." Her songs are deep, but her poetry will blow the reader away. Some of Jewel's poems may only consist of three lines, yet they capture a lifetime of words. Jewel is a true poet, and her multitude of poems define that. Some of her poems, such as "Wolves in the Canyon" are short stories

entire such as "Junky" made of "Junky" says she goes on a T h e m a y purpose of is this type reflects emotion. P o e m s w h i c h of in "A Armor" out of one may last up to 30 seconds, to last forever. No doubt about it, Jewel is the poet of her generation. She is unafraid to put all her emotions out and share them with the world. The majority of Jewel's poems are based on serious issues, most of which teenage girls have experienced. With that in mind, "A Night Without Armor" is an enjoyable read for young women; and of course, anyone else with an appreciation and understanding of poetry.

Movie: "Moulin Rouge"

"Moulin Rouge" combines the glory of music and art to create a theatrical masterpiece. It is unlike any modern day movie, and it adds to the joy from watching the film.

"Moulin Rouge" starts off in Paris with a young man named Christian, played by Ewan McGregor, sitting before his typewriter. He is commenting on the tragic love story he just experienced. The rest of the movie takes the viewer back in time by a year to witness an amazing love story; the kind that everyone dreams of. Christian meets



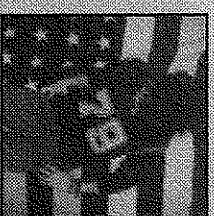
Satine, played by Nicole Kidman

are king screen. They know how to recite a line, sing a tune, and dance a step. Both actors are extremely remarkable all throughout. Another addition to the movie that keeps it entertaining is that it is set in 1899, but includes all famous love songs from the 1980s and '90s. The set design will keep the viewer glued to the screen with its fascinating lighting, colors, and costumes.

The entire movie is pure wonderment and joy. "Moulin Rouge" is about living life to the fullest, and always being true to yourself. And as the famous "Moulin Rouge" line goes, "above all things, this story is about love."

CD: "Gold"

The rest of the music scene is nothing but silver compared to Ryan Adams. No, make that bronze. This album, coincidentally titled "Gold," shines the brightest in any CD collection, guaranteed. This CD is unlike most others. It's not the type to listen to while getting ready, or the type to pop in at a party, but the type somebody wants to listen to in order to relax, in order to escape. And "Gold" is the perfect addition for any modern day music listener.



Adams brings feeling of the lyrics had m e a n i n g and elaborates in and sings. For example, sing about his girlfriend w h i c h about it in simple lyrics, but instead sings about how great times were with his girlfriend on that "trip in phoenix," and now that the relationship ended, he is "between bars and lost forever."

The first track on the album, "New York, New York," is the best anthem for any NY lover. In "New York, New York" Adams relates his leaving the city as breaking up with his one true love. Amazingly enough he shot the music video for the song in front of the twin towers on September 7, 2001. A few of his others songs were written with such personal meaning that they can be interpreted in many different ways. A few favorites are "The Rescue Blues," "La Cienega Just Smiled," and "When the Stars Go Blue." This mostly all-country album was produced in 2001, but truly shows relation to Bob Dylan and John Lennon. All in all, Ryan Adams is a musical genius, and his album is nothing but musical gold.

—Compiled by Heidi Stilloj!

Summer spawns long hours

By Jen Berne
Weekend Editor

Summer doesn't always yield rest and relaxation. For some, summer spins a whirlwind of long work hours and sleepless nights.

"I work at Smoothie World in [Springfield] Mall," said junior Ben Scott. "It's an easy job except for all of the different shakes and smoothie recipes we have to memorize."

Fast food isn't as appealing of a job to some students as retail is. If offered employment at McDonalds or the Gap, many students would lean toward what they consider the cleaner and less-smelly opportunity. "I don't mind working in

retail," said freshman Kayla Childs. "The only bad part about it was having to stay until 10:30 pm to clean the windows and floors."

Without a job, many students wouldn't have money for their necessities in life, including gas money, food money and just about any other "must have" imaginable.

"I have two jobs working at Solar Planet [a tanning salon] and Washington Sports Club," said senior Katie Yates. "The good thing about having these jobs is that I get to tan for free and I get a free gym membership."

Other students attempt to find jobs before summer by using other alternatives like attending job fairs. A recent job fair on May 9 featured over 30 companies

around the area. Such companies included: Fairfax County Park Authority, Ruby Tuesday, TGI Fridays and local swim clubs.

"I went to the job fair," said senior Thomas Craft. "My goal was to find employment for the summer."

Not only do students find temporary employment over the summer, but teachers do also. Government teacher John McMenamin teaches summer school at local high schools in the area. This summer he'll be at South Lakes High School in Reston where he hopes to enrich his students with many of his philosophies on life.

"Summer school is unique," said McMenamin. "There are intense rules and no negotiations."



Jen Stomacco

Senior Katie Yates (left) converses with a customer at Washington Sports Club, one of her two afterschool jobs. Many WS students work part-time jobs in retail or food services

Symbolism lies in concrete Local monuments attract students

By Mike Araj
Business Systems Editor

While they crowd the capital luring thousands of visitors each year, the monuments in Washington DC provide an amazing experience to all their visitors.

Some of the most popular monuments and memorials include the Washington Monument the Lincoln memorial and the Jefferson memorial.

"I think it [the Lincoln memorial] is very effective in capturing the essence of Lincoln," said US history teacher James Percoco.

Another popular monument with visitors is the Jefferson Memorial, a dome shaped building located next to the Lincoln Memorial. No tickets are needed to get into the memorial.

"The Jefferson [memorial] was very nice," said junior Eyan Anderson. "I liked the style."

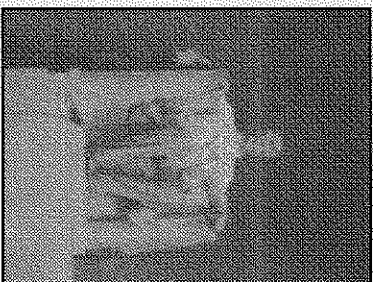
One of the best things about the monuments in the area is that the vast

majority of them are free, allowing for interesting trips at a minimum of cost.

The Washington monument, which reopened recently, gives out free tickets for same day visits. Meanwhile, Visits for advanced dates must be purchased for \$1.50. To get advanced tickets, call 1-800-967-2283 or go to reservations.nps.gov online.

Other less famous monuments are also well-liked. At the Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorial, for example, the memorial is split into four sections, each representing Roosevelt's four terms of office. Each term, in turn, uses symbolism to represent the term, such as waterfalls in the fourth term

of the memorial to represent the peaceful times the United States was about to enter. "The Franklin [Delano] Roosevelt memorial was interesting," said



The Jefferson Memorial lies very close to the infamous pencil-shaped Washington Monument and the Capital building.

Anderson. "I liked the symbolism." Others, however, disagree.

"I don't like the design [of the FDR memorial]," said Percoco. "Some of the quotations are off, and the sculptures of Roosevelt are not good."

While some do enjoy the memorial, even those who like it admit there are flaws. "In the Roosevelt

columns [for the President's second term part of the memorial]," said Anderson. "I would have liked something [to symbolize] the New Deal."

The FDR memorial is located on the National Mall and is available to all public. Another monument that many people enjoy is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"[The Vietnam Veterans Memorial] is eloquent in its simplicity," said Percoco.

Many visitors would go again to a monument if they had a chance.

"Just to see it [FDR memorial] again [I would go back]," said Anderson. "In the third term, it was fun to skip on to the stones."

If you're inkin' about body art, try a tattoo

By Jen Berne
Weekend Editor

Scaring your body for all eternity is a difficult decision for many to make. Tattoos have been gaining popularity since the late sixties and early seventies while people all over the world express themselves with a permanent piece of artwork.

"I have been thinking about getting a tattoo," said senior Jackie Yatis. "I just can't decide if I want my initials or a cross."

The two most common places people get their tattoos are literally across the street from each other. Rick's Tattoo Parlor and Skyline Tattoo Parlor are off of Glebe Road in Arlington Virginia. It's easy to access by taking 66 to Glebe Road or 395 to Seminary Road and follow Seminary to Glebe Road.

Both places have excellent reputations with experienced tattoo artists. They're both clean and show clients every precaution they take before they begin.

Entering Rick's was quite nerve-racking for me. I knew what was coming. But at the same time it was the day after my eighteenth birthday so it wasn't like I was

rushing into anything. I had plenty of time to think about

I walked along the blue walls nearly decorated with sheets and sheets of different tattoos. I was thinking of getting a ladybug, but that idea seemed dull. Without looking diligently, I found what would be etched to my lower back forever.

Commentary

So, instead of a 'lady' bug I would get a 'lady' moon. Because no one has that. And, oh boy, she's cute with her big eyes and luscious lips. She's enduring. Once I finally picked out my design, I put my name on the list and there were three other people in front of me. I grabbed a chair because I knew it would be a while.

Forty-five minutes later, after a grueling battle with stomach knots and a long bout with my father, reassuring him I wouldn't be ruining my life, they called my name.

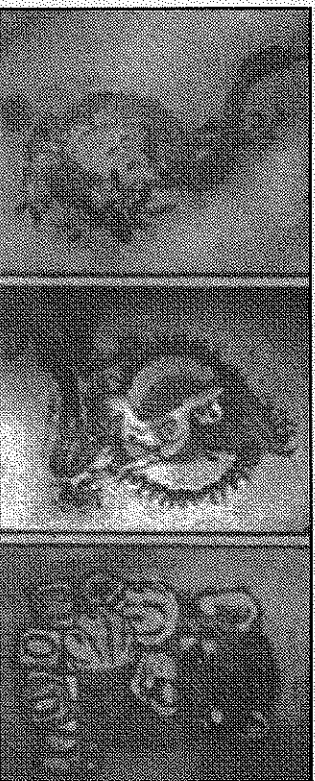
Moe, my tattoo artist, actually graduated from WS in 1995. She has fond memories of Doc Paproucki and Mac and would like to send her love.

She introduced herself and began to look over the contract with me. Gee, it was my second day of being 18 and I already had to sign legal documents. So I looked over the facts: the parlor can't be blamed for any diseases, mistakes, etc.

Shortly after it was time. Moe handed me a magazine and she told me to get comfortable. If I had been in a hot tub in the center of Palm Springs I wouldn't have been comfortable under those circumstances. But I knew she was just trying to take the edge off.

Then it was time. This began another 45 minutes of drilling, poking and scarring. I'm only kidding. I won't fib though, a lot of it felt irritating and a little fearsome. But other times I was chillin' on this table while reading a tattoo magazine. Boy, the stuff you see in those things would scare you away from any tattoo.

Please don't misunderstand me, getting a tattoo was a pleasing experience. It was one I won't soon forget anytime in the near future. Tattoos are classic, especially when it's something you truly appreciate and are willing to look at for all eternity. But most of all it should be something meaningful and important to you. Your *Mona Lisa*, your *David*, your masterpiece.



Hike with friends in Great Falls

By Katie Walker
Oracle Editor

With all of the towering office buildings and traffic backups in the DC area, every once in a while it's good to escape the pressure of city life. Whether they're nearby or a few hours drive, hiking trails offer a chance to get back to nature.

The closest hike for WS students is Great Falls, an 800-square-acre park along the Potomac. With several 20-foot waterfalls, Great Falls is a popular scenic attraction.

"I went hiking in Great Falls. It's something you can do with a lot of your friends. You can go whitewater rafting and climb on the rocks. It's beautiful," said junior Karen Burnett.

Great Falls has several trails comprising of 15 miles total. The park is open from 7 AM until dark and an annual pass costs \$25. Individual three-day passes cost \$3 and vehicle entrance is \$5 for three days.

There are other alternatives for those who enjoy nature but don't like strenuous hiking. Trip's Farm is an easy walk through the forest that offers many other elements besides merely hiking.

"At Trip's Farm you can camp and you can go hiking. You can just walk around in the forest and try to find your

way back. There's also vendors and shows. At night there's bonfires and you can sing," said junior Molly McGrath. "It puts you in the right state of mind because it's such a peaceful environment."

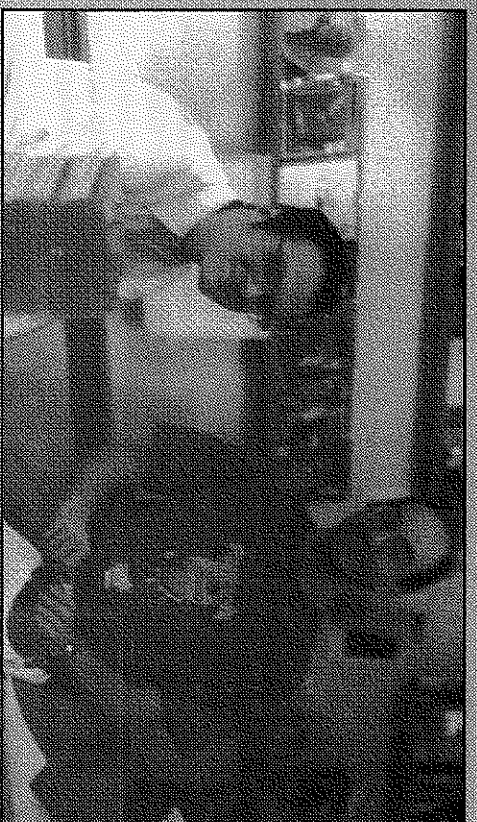
The larger, 196,000-square-acre Shenandoah National Park is a more diverse experience with trails for hikers of varying skill levels. The more than 500 miles of trails range in difficulty from easy to moderate.

The Shenandoah is also home to a myriad of wildflowers, birds and wildlife including black bears and white-tailed deer. There are streams and waterfalls ranging from 28 to 93 feet. The highest waterfall can be seen on the Overall Run Trail.

"Anywhere in the Shenandoah is the best," said senior Stephanie Hotell. "You can go swimming in holes—no one is there so you can do whatever you want. You can have an open fire, and camp overnight. Just hike in whatever direction you want, stop, make a fire and look at the stars."

The most popular mountain to climb in the Blue Ridge is Old Rag, which has a 3,291 foot summit. Old Rag is a day hike with two trails—an easier 5.6 mile hike and a 7.2 mile hike of moderate difficulty. It cost \$5 per person or \$10 per car to hike.

Whether Great Falls or the Shenandoah is a better suited hike for you depends on what you are looking for.



Katie Rice

As you can tell from the goofy grins and glasses, these two men play video games.

Video games compete for play

By Emily Morris
Features Editor

It has been proven that our generation is the first to have thumbs that are stronger than our other fingers. Scientists believe that the explosion of video game systems is the reason for this.

It started with Atari and Pong. A simple ball that moves back and forth between players. But with much better technology, now teens can be entertained with nearly life-like graphics. With dozens of different sports, racing and strategy games, graphics can fool the player into thinking they are watching a real football, baseball, basketball or hockey game.

Microsoft's XBOX, Sony's Play Station 2, and Nintendo's GameCube dominate the game system market at the moment, with PS2 and XBOX taking most of the sales over GameCube.

"It's not a matter of how much money I spend," said junior Sean Brooks. "It's the entertainment they provide in the long run."

Even though GameCube sells for \$199.99, which is 100 dollars less than XBOX and PS2, it sells the least number of units.

But GameCube does not have the ability to play DVDs like XBOX and PS2. For an extra \$100 a consumer can buy a unit with a DVD player built in. With XBOX, a \$30 chip must be bought for the capabilities to play a DVD.

But no matter what system a consumer purchases, all the games cost about the same, from \$39.99 to \$49.99. The big

difference between the systems is the selection of games. PS2 has the biggest selection, XBOX in a close second and GameCube with a sad selection coming in last.

But several games are available on all three systems, such as John Madden Football Blitz, Spiderman, and All Star Baseball. But then there are the games, which are big hits but only available on one system.

"I like to play Diablo on PS2 after school," said sophomore Emily Payne. "My friends got me into it, I am really bad, but it is still fun."

But with the introduction of XBOX in time for the 2001 Holiday season, some consumers start to hoping to find the most realistic graphics.

"I like to play Halo on XBOX," said sophomore Jerry Barb. "I like XBOX better than PS2, it just looks better."

Sometimes there is something about the new games that just don't compare to the older games, like the original Nintendo.

"I like my Nintendo. I like the games," said sophomore Derry Steer. "There is something about the older games that you can't get from the new systems."

The debate between PS2, XBOX, new and old could go on forever. But some people prefer to stay out of it all together.

"I don't like to spend too much time in front of the TV," said senior Chris Back. "I would rather be outside involved in some physical activity."

Clubs attract the under 18 crowd

By Marianne Shaddix
Features Editor

The music is loud, the dancing is crazy, the fun is endless. For some WS students, going clubbing is the perfect solution to a dull night.

For those students not yet 18, the club scene is limited. However, many clubs in the area follow the "18 to party, 21 to drink" rule.

One of these clubs in Platinum, one of DC's well-known hot-spots. According to *The Washington Post's* Entertainment Guide, it is "one of the best club spaces in town. [The] large, lavish night spot moves to house, trance, hip-hop and salsa."

Platinum is open to anyone 18 and over, a rule that is well-enforced. The club features "Millennium Fridays," playing trance, house and progressive house on the main floor and hip-hop and Latin in the basement. Saturdays at Platinum, dubbed Saturday Night Live, feature global beats, house, and trance on the main floor and hip-hop Latin and Top 40 in the basement. Sunday night is the club's "urban" night and techno music takes a backseat to hip-hop, R&B and reggae. Platinum is located at 915 F St. NW in DC.

"I like the dancing and the music. It's

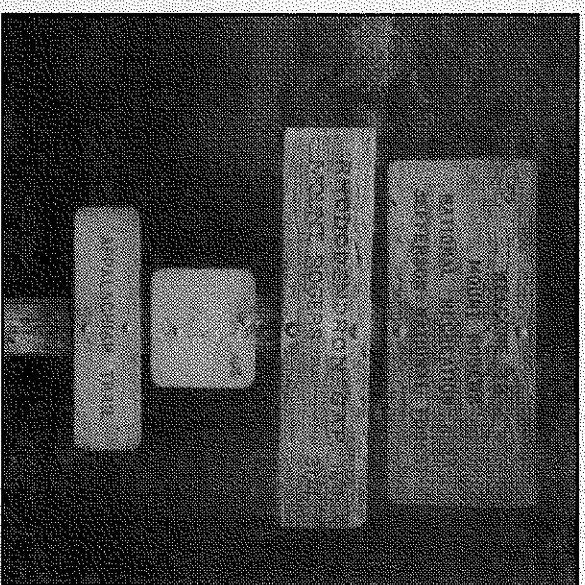
where I meet people," said senior Mark Pangrman, who often spends his weekend night at Nations, located also in DC on 1015 Half St. SE.

Platinum and Nations may allow anyone aged 18 and up in their doors, but some clubs only allow anyone under 18. One of the local teen clubs is The Planet Club, located at 4600 Brookfield Corporate Dr. in Chantilly. One of The Planet Club's unique qualities is that it features different nights for different age groups.

On Fridays, you have to be between 11 and 15 to party. Saturdays bring a slightly older crowd, mainly the 15 to 20 group. The cover charge is usually \$10, although it changes for special events. Chaperones and police officers are always on hand to make sure things don't get out of hand.

At The Planet Club about 1,000 teenagers fill the laser-lit dance floor every weekend for a mix of hip-hop, Top 40 and trance music. Occasionally local high school bands perform, as well as well-known pop bands like City High.

"I love dancing and [clubbing] is a good thing to do for a girl's night out," said junior Caroline Evey. "That's what I'm doing when I turn 18."



Steven Carlson

Mount Rogers, located near Trouttsdale, Virginia, is the third loftiest mountain in the Southern Appalachians.

"At Great Falls there's more human contact—there's railing and concrete," said Hotell. "The Shenandoah is untamed wilderness."



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Softball stays confident despite losing record Injuries and weak hitting provide challenges for team to overcome

By Erika Kim

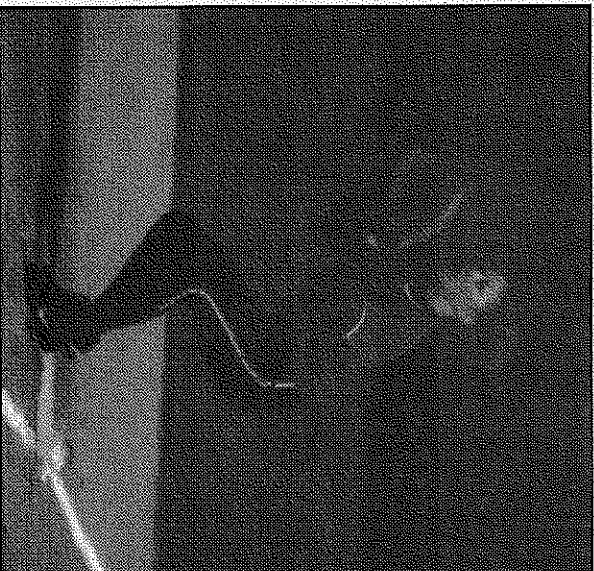
Inside Story Editor

Although the softball team has had a less than perfect season this year, the players are looking forward to the district playoffs with much enthusiasm. They are 8-9 so far in the season with two more games left against Robinson and Langley.

The team's most immediate goals are to win the two games they have left in the season and the district tournament, but the main goal throughout the season has been to improve their game playing, but with injuries on the side, it hasn't been easy.

"Our players are winners, not quitters... The records are not an indication, but our girls are not quitters."

—Assistant coach Steve Shannon



Segeff Majestic

Sophomore Angie Arbia sets up to catch the ball during a game. The team is known for their good catching skills, and is working on hitting.

New rollerhockey team goes undefeated

By JD Kaleem

Business Systems Assistant

Six of the 10 WS JV roller hockey players are students at Washington Irving Middle School.

But that doesn't stop their Spartan spirit.

Started three years ago as a club sport, the JV and varsity roller hockey teams regularly compete as part of the Potomac In-line Hockey Inc. League against other country teams, with games played at Planet Splash and Play in Chantilly.

Barb Brooks helped start the team along with interested students and is the assistant varsity coach. Business teacher Eric Hardman is the coach for both the varsity and JV teams, while Bill Harley and Dan Brooks Jr. are the assistant JV coaches. Assistant Principal Richard Griffin is the faculty sponsor.

"We play in one of the most organized and respected leagues in the area," said Barb Brooks.

The varsity team is undefeated 5-0-1 and hopes to win the league championship in June, while the JV team is experiencing a tough season at 1-5.

"I think we have more talent than any other team in the area," said Hardman. "We can control the puck and the flow of the game, which is how we win most of our games."

Most of the advanced player from WS are on the varsity team, so the JV team must draw younger up-and-coming talent from Irving. The varsity team also draws students from schools such as J.E.B. Stuart, Bishop O'Connell and Washington-Lee high schools, which don't have their own roller hockey teams.

The team has enormous parental support, but few student fans. Still, players don't always notice this absence.

"The guys have such a good time skating. Every once-in-a-while friends do come, but they play just for the fun of the game," said Barb Brooks. Playing roller hockey is expensive,

"Our girls are hard workers," said assistant coach Steve Shannon. "Unfortunately some injuries and things have hurt us this year."

Starting pitcher sophomore Becky Bond, who was named one of the best players in the conference last year suffered a shoulder injury, and starting third baseman sophomore Liz Purvis suffered from a pulled hamstring injury.

"I hope I'll be able to pitch for the tournament even though we're okay with the pitcher we have now," said Purvis.

The team has also been trying to concentrate more on hitting which is a weak part of its game. Some of the top hitters include sophomores Emily Miller, Becky Bond and Purvis and juniors Susie King and Cassidy Doane.

"A strong point is that we play together as a team. We're truly a team," said Shannon.

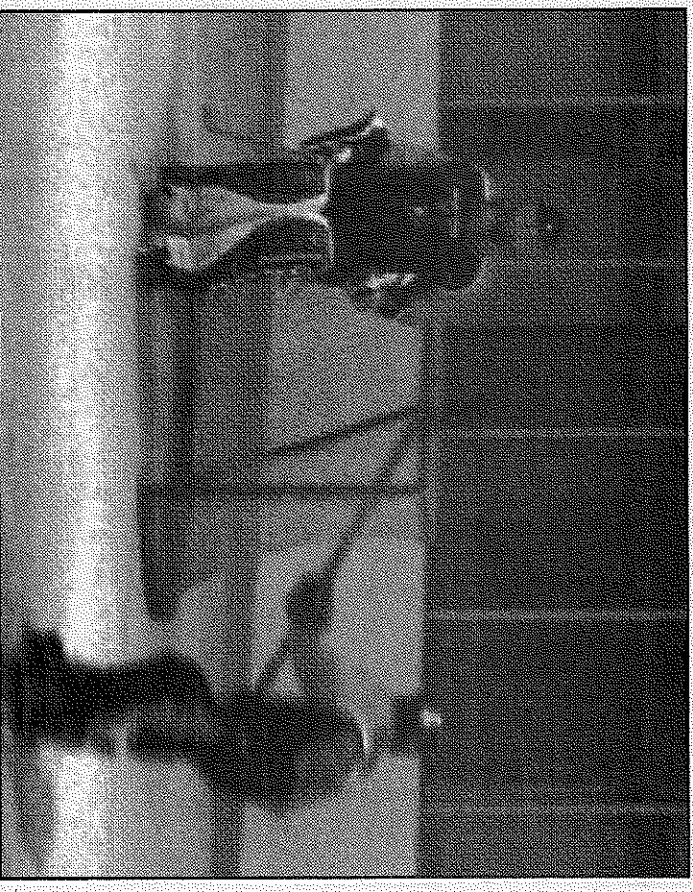
The head coach this year is John Schneberger, and there are several other coaches who have been helping out during practices, Gayle Doane, junior Cassidy Doane's mother and math teacher Bob Little.

"Our players are winners, not quitters," said Shannon. "You can't tell by the records. The records are not an indication, but our girls are not quitters."

"I like the pace of the game. It's a game of control. Whoever controls the puck the most wins," said center-forward Adoteye.

Top varsity players include seniors Mark Dudzinski, Dan Brooks, Mike Strickland and Eric Wrobel, and junior Alex Paik.

"I work with a great bunch of guys. I never have had more fun than when with my friends laying roller hockey," said Brooks. "I don't care when other people say, 'When you play roller hockey, it's fun, and that's what matters.'"

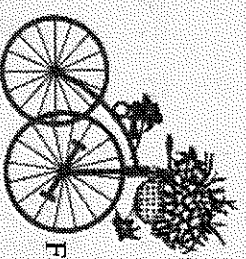


Eric Hardman

The WS rollerhockey teams have three goalies: seniors Mark Dudzinski and Brian Hrotenok for varsity, and eighth grader Sean Donlon for JV. The varsity and JV teams compete at Planet Splash and Play in Chantilly.

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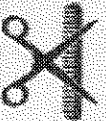
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Orioles start off hot in MILB play

By Emily Miller

Inside Editor

The Baltimore Orioles are back in the game. Despite all the negative expectations of both critics and fans, the Orioles have performed surprisingly well this year.

In the last couple of years, the O's have lost several key players. Without baseball sensations like Cal Ripken Jr., Roberto Alomar, and Mike Mussina, just to name a few, the upcoming seasons looked dismal. Only a handful of fans remained faithful and supportive of the team after the drafts.

"I miss Cal Ripken so bad. He was my idol," said senior Brian Royer.

Right now, the Orioles are third in the American League East behind the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees. So far they have a decent record of 18 wins and 19 losses. The team batting average is .251 with a total of 37 home runs.

Jay Gibbons and Tony Batista lead the team in hitting. Gibbons starts in right field and hits a steady .285. Third baseman Batista hit nine home runs, as well as knocking in 28 RBI.

The Orioles are notorious for their horrible pitching, but things are starting to piece together this year. Scott Erickson, Rodrigo Lopez and others start on the mound. Erickson is 3-3 with 16 strikeouts. Lopez has 21. Relief pitcher Jorge Julio is 2-1 with 13 strikeouts.

Mike Hargrove, the manager of the Orioles, has made some controversial calls with drafts causing fans to doubt his sanity. However, it seems he knew what he was doing to some degree because placing third place is not too shabby. Now that he has signed several new young players, the Orioles are back on track.

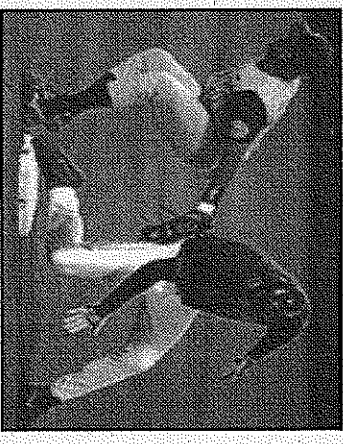
Buddy Groom is one of the new prospects for the O's. Several other coaches tried to grab him, but Hargrove

had enough sense to hold on. Groom is a relief pitcher and another great addition to the bullpen. Brian Roberts is moving up from the minors to replace second baseman Jerry Hairston. After Hairston's strained left hamstring and low on base percentage of .196, Rogers will come up to give Hairston a run for his money.

The Orioles are improved since last year, but some still think they still have far to go from their recent record of 20-22. They are second to last in the standings as of May 20. They were in fourth place in their district. They just recently finished a series with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and went 2-1.

"Right now they're doing better than they actually are. They're pretty horrible," said senior Mark Ashburn.

The Orioles have many games left this season to play and get their record up. Royer said, "I think they're pretty fun and exciting to watch."



The Royals shortstop, Neifi Perez, left, is late with the tag on Jeff Conine. Conine went 3-4 in the game in a game the Orioles won 4-3.

"I miss Cal Ripken so bad. He was my idol."

—Brian Royer, Senior

Girls lacrosse takes third in District

By Jenny Askin

Managing Editor

This year the girl's lacrosse team returned with strong upperclassmen and has slammed their district competition.

The team finished the district tourney with an 8-3 record, finishing in 3rd place in both the regular season and in the Patriot district tournament. The team started the district tournament with a big win over Hayfield 13-4.

Then Lady Spartans lost to rival Lake Braddock 10-4 in the semifinals knocking them out of contention for the district championship.

"We played below our skill level, our catching and passing were not strong enough," said senior captain Jessie Freer. "We weren't transitioning, our defense made some mistakes and we couldn't get focused."

The team, however, advanced to the regional tournament where they will play the runner up of the National district championship.

"Ideally, we would love to play Mount Vernon," said head coach Brian Puhlick. "We played them in the regi-

lar season and we out-shot them, but we just couldn't find the back of the net."

During spring break the team took a road trip down to Florida to compete in a week-long lacrosse camp. The squad saw advanced competition.

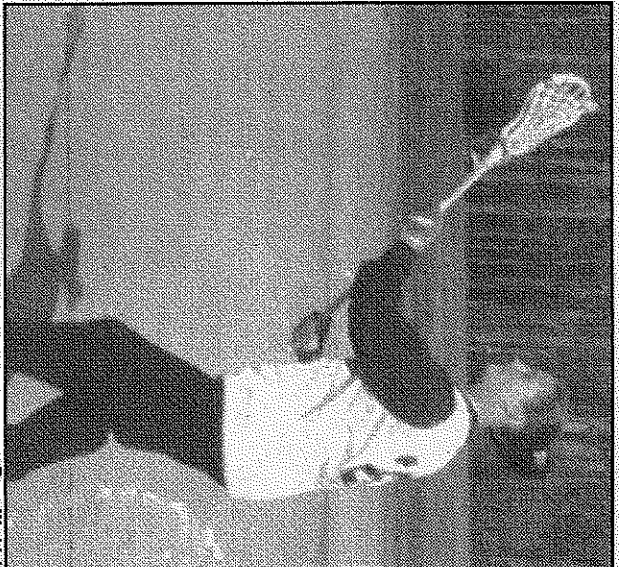
"I think the camp helped with the team chemistry," said Puhlick. "The camp helped elevate our skill level."

This year the coaches emphasized physical conditioning and stick-work drills. Puhlick focused his team on learning the mechanics of catching and throwing. Along with the 16 upperclassmen, Puhlick added four underclassmen to his roster.

"They have contributed. I wouldn't have pulled them up if I didn't think they could compete," said Puhlick.

This year the team will lose eight members, however the team will return key starters Nancy Waters and Lianna Carrera. Several seniors including Freer and captain Kerry Ryan will be continuing their lacrosse career at the collegiate level.

"We have a good nucleus returning," said Puhlick. "But right now our focus is on winning the first round of regionals."



Russ Wadden

Senior Margaret Lewis is looking to catch a pass from a teammate during practice. The Spartans lost to LB in District play to take third in the tournament. They will play the second place team from the National District.



Five Things To Do Before School's Over:

- ✓ Beg, Cry, Plead for a B in Chemistry.
- ✓ Dump Prom Date, get new one
- ✓ Park in Principal's Parking Space.
- ✓ Play in 24-Hour SSX Tricky Marathon.

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So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen my friends

By Russ Waddell and Angela Florino
Oracle Staff Writers

So this is it. The end of a legacy, too bad. Twelve issues of nonsense and drivell. We know we'll be missed over the summer, and it's even worse that the two of us will never be reunited. Russ will be left here, all alone, attempting with all his might to carry on ETC's traditions. Angela will be a Coastie out on ship somewhere up in New England where she'll be thinking about ETC, day and night, hoping that Russ is doing okay back at WS.

It's painful sometimes to leave the ones you love. The kind of pain we're talking about is similar to being bashed in the head with a sledge hammer. You see, it's not simple moving on. I mean, there will always be a place in our hearts for ETC. While Angela is out looking for a lost ship on the lonely sea, Russ will be back here in Springfield counting down the days until school starts so he can be back at the newspaper. But through it all we'll have ETC, in the back of our minds.

The ecstasy we experienced when working together on ETC was short lived. Its duration was only one short year and that's a sad short thing. We shortly wish that it could have lasted an eternity. Just shortly kidding. No matter how much we love *The Oracle*, eventually it is time to leave Springfield (well, Russ isn't leaving, he's staying). But really, what 30-year-old wants to be on a



Tony Florino

During a vacation to the Outer Banks, Angela works more on her facial expressions while playing the guitar, than her actual skills at playing the guitar.



Angela Florino

Russ wore this shirt he bought from, well, Budapest, for over two weeks. Someone dared him to, so he did.



Angela Florino
This here is a picture of Stephanie, our drummer, with her head gear on, reading.

school newspaper staff? There might be a chance that we will reunite one day and become famous together, with our own newspaper. We will only have to make it a few pages to get our points across and it will be real funny.

Not only do we have aspirations of working together on a newspaper, but we are also going to start a band. Russ will play the bass, harmonica and sing, Angela will play the guitar and the gourd, and Angela's little sister will play the drums and the triangle. We are going to transport all our equipment in Russ's gray minivan. Our plan is to play independent bluegrass-polka-punk. We'll play at places like JAXX, deep in the armpit of West Springfield. If Robbie VanWinkle, aka Vanilla Ice, can play there, so can we. But we won't only astonish those metal heads at JAXX with our talent, we'll tour to places like Okinawa, Japan and Fargo, North Dakota so everyone has a chance to see our hot bodies.

We'll live in Russ's van, down by some river and we'll eat Angela's gourd when we get hungry.

But that's the long term future of the ETC. staff. In the short term, summer will be flip-flop tan lines, perpetual BBQs, endless games of disc golf and salty breezes. Russ will get the salty breeze that comes off Burke Lake while Angela will get the salty breeze that floats through towns of New England. The breeze that's mixed with the smell of fresh oysters and octuppi. There's a difference.

Russ's Ramblin': Get up on my grill

By Russ Waddell

Oracle Photographer

Summer is coming, and the air is filled with thick, white smoke. That's right, it's BBQ season.

That thick white smoke is a sure sign of freshly lit charcoal. Charcoal is a miracle of modern science. It's also a lot of fun. The key to properly lighting charcoal is to never, ever buy the easy light variety. That's the stuff with lighter fluid inside the charcoal so that all it takes to light it is a match. The best kind of charcoal takes a bottle of lighter fluid to start. Lighter fluid is used liberally and

is tons of fun to throw a match at.

The key to charcoal is cursing it as it refuses to light properly. That's when it smokes. The smoke is horribly disgusting and probably quite toxic. The worst thing is that the smoke chokes out the fire. So the next step to start the fire is to use a smoke shifter. This hi tech instrument is present at most BBQs, and is often mistaken for a paper plate. Okay, a smoke shifter isn't really anything but a paper plate used to fan the smoke away.

The easy way around the charcoal ignition dilemma is to buy a gas grill. A gas grill isn't really a way around the




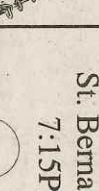

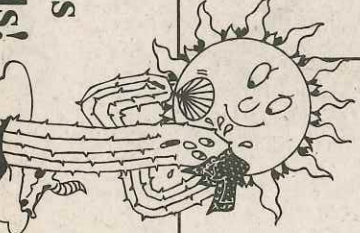
problem, it's more of a way out. In the world of serious grill chefs (like me), a gas grill is cheating. My years and years of experience tell me that food cooked on charcoal tastes better than gas grilled food.

That said, I have a confession to make. I use a gas grill. It's true. But it really isn't my fault. I live under my parents roof, and I grill in their backyard. So accept that I cheat when I grill. Besides, a charcoal grill is best if you plan to spend all afternoon cooking. If you want dinner on the table, it's a little absurd to bother with charcoal. Grilling is a long project when done right, so maybe if speed is an issue corner-cutting

is okay. If you throw some charcoal briquets under the grate next to the flame on your gas grill and you get some charcoal taste without the hour of frustration of trying to light the stinking fire.

While I'm on the subject of grilling, it seems prudent to mention some safety tips. Never grill inside the house. Never let the flame get higher than six feet. Never allow small children to play on a lit grill. Never cook a grenade. In fact, no one reading this should have a grenade to worry about.

May/June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/Sunday
27 Memorial Day, break out the white shoes! Pool opens!!!	28  Orioles vs. Oakland-7PM	 99.5 HIZZYhot anivZaversary shIzow Patriot Center	30 WPGC Birthday Bash-MCI Senior Art Show Spartan Hall	24 June 1 HFestival-RFK	25 June 1 Cardboard Boat Regatta Lake Accotink
3 Senior Military Awards Spartan Hall-8AM	4 Senior Awards Auditorium-9.15AM	5 Saves the Day Blink 182 Greenday-MCI	6 Nothing hizzy hot going on this Thursday	7 Senior locker cleanout!! (no more of that!)	8 Have yourself a BBQ
10 Last day for seniors!!!!!!! 	11 Graduation Rehearsal Auditorium-9.15AM	12 Senior Picnic @ Burke Lake 12-4PM 	13 Baccalaureate @ St. Bernadettes 7:15PM	14 Sheraton Prom 	15 Have a fantabulous summer kids! 
17 Graduation Patriot Center 7:30PM	