

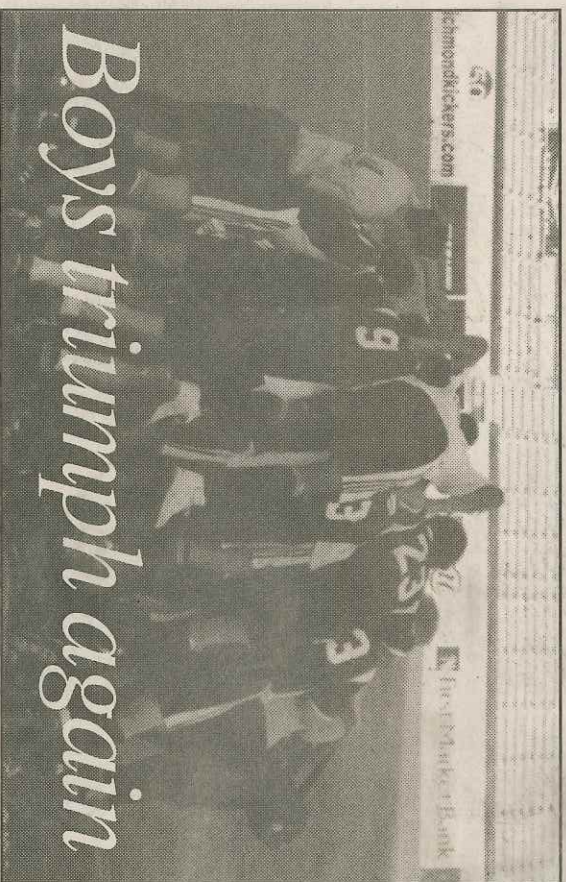
THE



June 12, 2002  
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# Oracler

West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152



## Boys triumph again

Nayna Gupta

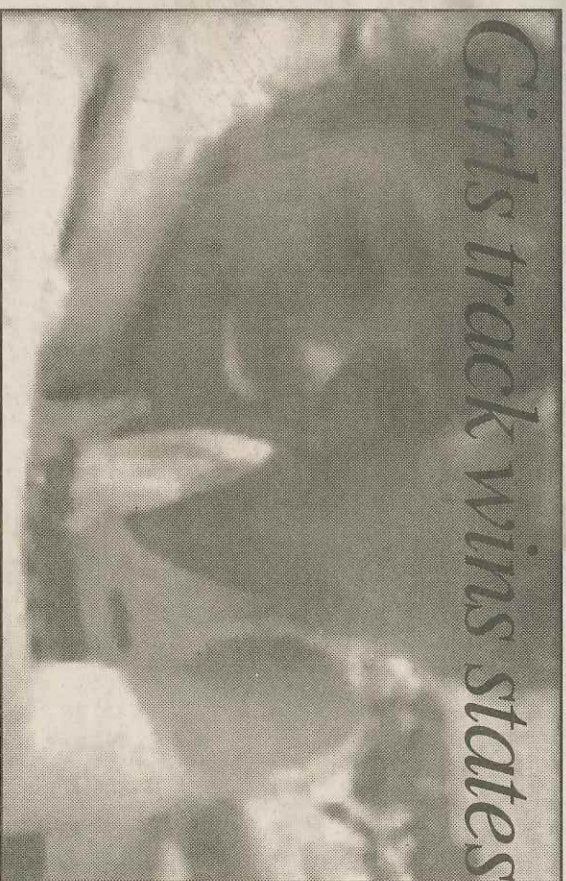
The boys soccer team celebrates after their win over Osborn Park in the state final.

**By Nayna Gupta**  
*Oracle Editor*

After 17 straight wins and both a district and regional title, the varsity boys' soccer team, for a second year, took home their state championship title with an easy 1-0 victory over the Yellow Jackets from Osborn Park High School.

"We made history in school, this doesn't happen everyday," said senior Jeff Carroll. "I'm proud of my team, my brother, and myself."

While the boys had control of the ball for most of the final game at the University of Richmond, they almost lost their state title in the semifinal round of the tour. See **SOC CER**, Page 11



## Girls track wins states

Washington Post

Junior Huma Husain gets a hug from Junior Katie Freund after their team's win.

**By JD Kaleem**  
*Features Editor*

They waited for this moment for three years. They wanted it. They knew they could do it. And they did.

On Saturday, June 1, the WS track team made history. At the Virginia High School League (VHSL) state competitions in

Richmond, the team of juniors Jen Powers and Huma Husain and seniors Mo Hagan and Katie Freund won first place in the 4 x 800 relay.

"It was awesome; the most exciting race of my life," said Husain.

The team clocked in at 9:23:00. Not only did they break the WS record by 8 minutes, but they also won the state title. See **TRACK**, Page 11

## Spartan Jam electrifies audience

**By Nayna Gupta**  
*Oracle Editor*

CME has only been together for about a month, but they're already so hard-core, so dangerous, and so threatening that administrators made the 2002 Spartan Jam audience take their seats as a preliminary defense against moshing or any other varieties of dangerous dancing.

CME (the Christesen-McWilliams Experiment), a progressive metal four- and sometimes five-some, took first place in this year's Battle of the Bands. Junior Tyler Christesen set the pace for the band on lead guitar, but junior Ian McWilliams on guitar, sophomore Ben Sojka on bass, and eighth grader Dean Christesen on drums had no problem keeping up. Senior Sarah Kaye helped out singing, screaming, and looking angry.

"We were holding back a little," said Christesen, "but we have to save something for the world tour." In second place was Franklin Mews, fronted by junior Elliott Wish. The other members of the five man punk band hail from Bishop Ireton. Franklin Mews played a well-polished, well-

rehearsed set of hard-core punk originals and covers.

Third place went to The Dreamlife of Angels. Senior Will Chambers played guitar and his brother Reid Chambers, a sophomore at Robinson, played drums. The aptly named band

but they did all right otherwise," said Will.

The Impediments, with sophomores Jay Hurst, Alex Pines, Scott Clapsaddle, and Andrew Rapoza switching instruments four times during their set, opened the show playing everything from punk metal to elevator music.

"I wasn't really unhappy with the results. CME deserved to win," said Rapoza. "They probably practiced."

Deviation played alternative rock originals and covers. Junior Rob Bruhn played guitar and handled vocals freshman Jordan Danish played bass and Eddie Copland played the drums.

DJ Pullthrough, a.k.a. senior Brian Criggler, added something a little different with his mix of house tunes. Van Whalen, featuring senior Matt Whalen on bass, also included seniors Dave Panaczycowski, Ryan Houston, and Adam Aft on guitar, senior Deron Pinchback on drums, junior Brian



Russ Wagdel/ Junior Tyler Christesen and Sophomore Ben Sojka and their band CME won first place.

played a slightly bizarre set of techno/trance/emo rock with the stage lit only by a pair of lamps that look like they were borrowed from the Chambers' living room.

The four judges for the competition were local guitar players and instructors.

"The judges really couldn't spell."

See **BANDS**, Page 4



Adam Buckley

Chappell will be leaving WS to retire after a decade as the Student Activities Director.

## Chappell leaves WS after long career

**By Jason Gillis**  
*Business/Systems Editor*

After a decade at WS, Student Activities Director, Tod Chappell, will be leaving WS for good.

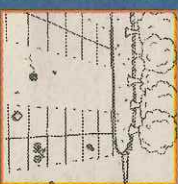
Chappell began in Ohio, and then came to Fairfax County. Chappell came to WS as an assistant principal and head football coach, and then he switched to his current position.

Chappell chose to retire simply because of the benefits. The retirement money is greater if an employee retires after 30 years of working than if he was to continue.

"I think that maintaining the activities office, clubs, and sports is a major accomplishment," said Chappell. "Also making sure that we have the safest and most updated equipment was a major part of my job."

Chappell looks after all the clubs at WS as well. "A major challenge is making sure everyone has an opportunity to participate in a school activity," said Chappell. Chappell's responsibilities include taking care of equipment, working with coaches and managing a

See **CHAPPELL**, Page 4



**2** Should students have to pay for parking?



**5** Students get asked to prom in creative ways.



**10** Crab eating in Ocean City at the beach!

## Student fees increase to no avail

The so-called "richest county in the state" is making its students pay.

With decreases in the amount of money they get from the state, the Fairfax County School Board (FCPS) was forced to cut money from countless areas, including field trips, sports, and opportunities for teachers. But the board is not just making cuts; it is making additions too. To make up for the tight budget, the school board is tapping into students' and parents' wallets.

Starting next year, students will have to pay an extra \$50 for a parking spot. For some, \$50 alone may not seem like a lot. But

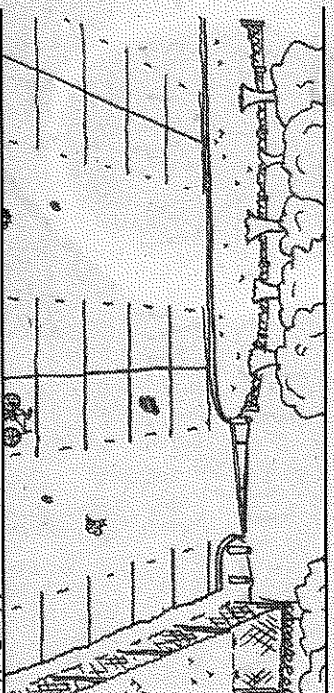
that is in addition to the \$100 we are already expected to pay. That amount, along with gas money and regular car payments makes driving far more costly than most students ever anticipated or can even afford.

The added costs do not stop at parking spots, however. The county, known for encouraging large number of students to enroll in AP classes, is planning to charge \$25 per AP exam. Although the charge is capped at \$50, the county is asking students to pay for an exam that they are anyway

required to pass for college credit. Maybe we would not mind paying these extra fees if the money was going to be used for increasing teachers' salaries or for bringing back beneficial programs that have been cut. But the revenue the FCPS is making

### Editorial

from our pockets will not really make much of a difference. The added costs for AP exams will give the county an extra \$400,000. In a budget that has been cut by several millions of dollars, this amount is almost nothing. In fact, it is only enough



Adam Buckley

**After the price of parking spots went from \$100 to \$150 the New Seniors did get paid. They just do not have money for gas now.** for the school board to improve the "instructional integrity" of their AP programs.

The added \$50 for parking passes makes even less money for the county. The benefit of the nearly \$100,000 profit is far less than the added pressure some of us will be forced to pay next year?

## Developers bring ruin to county's natural resources

By Evan Anderson  
Senior Staff Writer

Considering its great wealth and stature, the average citizen might think of Fairfax County as a wholly urbanized or at least a suburbanized environment. But this is not so. Large tracts of land are uninhabited or sparsely populated: from the swamps and parks in the southeast corner, to Fort Belvoir, to the western edge of the county.

Developers are quickly trying to change that, though. They are trying to turn all of Fairfax County into a haven (sardine can?) for every upper-middle class professional they can in order to further glorify our already prosperous county.

Unfortunately, the only construction technique developers can seem to come up with today is razing every inch of the Fairfax countryside within a mile of the development and replacing the greenery with planned communities. The Wailmar/Target complex built a few years ago is a perfect example of this. An almost

perfectly straight main street splices an almost perfectly planned commercial center, which then runs into an almost

beautiful apartment and enormous \$400,000 homes crammed into amazingly small spaces. And all right next to the power lines, too. How lovely. And all this is surrounded by a desolate construction zone wasteland, a few spindly trees planted by the developers, and that creepy sod grass that seems too green to be real.

Still, that is out to the west. Is the spectre of overdevelopment haunting eastern Fairfax county? Well, driving down Rolling Road past the parkway intersection, I stumble upon some nice moderate-sized half-million dollar houses along a nice little drive called Tanner Robert Court. Unfortunately, the porches of some of these houses are located no more than 20 feet from the roadway.

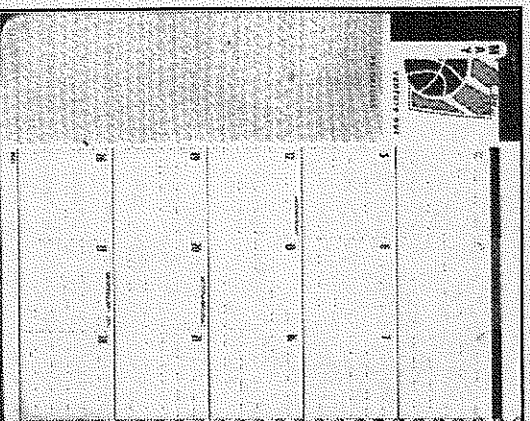
Could this be an isolated incident? A little development screw up? Well, turning off of Rolling Road and crossing over I-95, I stumble across a road that leads to

## WS should be thankful for two extra days off

By Jen Stomacco  
Photography Editor

As we slaved away over our SOLs on May 28 and 29, students in Alexandria City Public School enjoyed a very late winter break. Due to the lack of cold weather all winter there were extra snow days to use. Because of this Alexandria City had school off on the Friday before and for six days following the Memorial Day weekend.

The first question that comes to mind is: How fair is this? Students of Alexandria were able to have a special break in between strenuous testing to relax and go on vacations. The extra days off would undoubtedly let students and teachers take time off to spend and to relax at the pools and beaches which opened that weekend. Students of Fairfax County, on the other hand, will be let out of class two days



Alexandria City Public Schools received six extra days off for Memorial Day weekend using up their extra snow days.

## for two extra days off

earlier. However, the original release day was a Tuesday and it has now been pushed back to a Friday so it is really more like getting out four days earlier. There was no extended vacation during the school year and the Memorial Day weekend was, as usual, only three days long. So why students at WS complain and put out over not being given all of their snow days back to them, it's time for someone to really evaluate the advantages and disadvantages to the eight day weekend.

While a break between SOLs and finals would allow students to relax it would also take away from essential review time with the teachers. How many students really remember what was studied at the beginning of the year? Not many. And many probably will not take the time out of their fun-filled break to go back to the start of the book and review, so it is almost necessary for teachers to go over things to refresh their memory. Over a long, long break you're more likely to forget critical facts than to recall them.

Plus, it would have meant that teachers, students and parents would have to completely switch their schedules around. Students may not had been able to go on long luxurious vacations if their parents were unable to take off from work, which is likely to happen since many offices only observe one day off for the Memorial Day weekend.

Getting the last two days off may just be better than a whole week in the middle of the last quarter after all. When the bell rings on Friday students will not have to worry about what they will have to come back to. And, what can sound more relaxing than an extended summer vacation.

## The Oracle

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# White House warnings make little difference Terrorist alerts give people little, useless information

By Heidi Stilloi

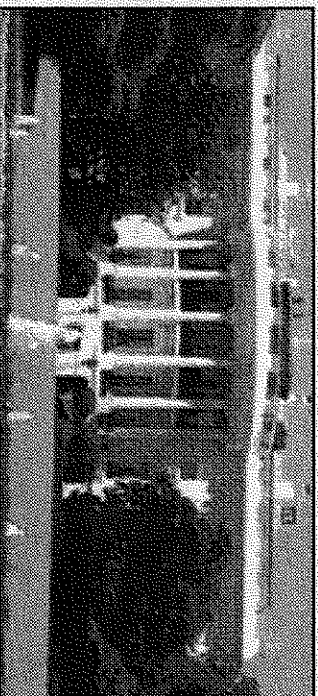
Features Editor

Imagine it happened all over again; another major attack on our great country. Perhaps the White House will be struck by a small plane, killing the President and all his advisors. Or maybe one of our nuclear plants will be hit, wiping out thousands of citizens.

Terrorists could head for New York again, this time destroying the Empire State building, or even the Brooklyn Bridge. The whole city could blow up into flames and be gone in an instant.

The scores of September 11 would seem like nothing compared to what just happened. The dark truth is terrorists could do either one of these evil acts, on any given day, at any given time, and our government would have no lead as to when and where.

After September 11, we all believed that another terrorist



Since recent accusations that Bush's administration knew of 9/11 attacks beforehand, warnings have been issued no later than a day.

attack could be prevented. But no person, law, or intelligence is able to impede anybody or anything from taking a hit on our country. It happened once and it can happen again.

The United States government has been receiving warnings of another possible terrorist attack or attacks. The what, when, why, where, and how are unknown, however. The only given information is that terrorists are more likely to hijack smaller

aircraft, since larger aircraft has been protected by higher security after 9/11. Further reports announce the possibility of terrorist attacks on New York landmarks: rail lines, and nuclear plants.

The general public was made aware of these alerts no later than one day after the government received them. This was done in response to the large controversy regarding the attacks in September, and how the

government was made aware of them in August, but failed in communicating to the public.

Even if the government had told us, however, the same events would have taken place. The President knew as much about September 11 as we know about what will occur next; that something is going to happen. That is it. No specifics; just a general statement.

All al Qaeda has been telling us basically is "We are going to get you." With such a broad statement, neither the government nor the President can be blamed for the fates of our country. They can tighten security all they want and be on a better lookout, but not knowing any specifics limits anybody from protecting our country.

And even if we had been warned back in August of the upcoming events, what would we have done differently? I highly

doubt people, all across the nation, would not attend work or school. I'm sure one warning would not keep thousands of people from flying. And I'm sure Mayor Giuliani would not have acted any differently, considering the fact that the government had no clue as to where the attack would take place.

Turning on CNN must give anyone a chill when they see the scroll at the bottom of the screen saying, "Government says there definitely will be another attack." I guarantee nobody feels any safer now that the public is aware of al Qaeda warnings. It feels horrible knowing that our country is going to be attacked and we can't do anything to stop it.

We might be able to completely stop it if we knew a time, if we knew a place, but we do not. We only know of a terrible fate; one that is impossible to stop.

trades freely and openly with China, another communist country with limited human rights. This directly undermines the nation's sanctions on Cuba.

China is one of the major countries that supports our economy through their heavy business interests, and the United States attempts to use this leverage to gain human rights for its citizens. This policy has aided getting rights for Chinese citizens and can be used for Cuban citizens.

Instead, we would be doing a favor for the people of Cuba by lifting the embargo because of the increase in tourism that would result. They would be more prosperous, and we would be undermining

Fidel Castro's strict regime. There is more than one way to fight a war, whether it is on terrorism or attacks against democracy itself.

As former President Jimmy Carter wrote in *The Washington Post*, "until the embargo is lifted we should take other, more modest steps toward reconciliation" with Cuba.

The Cold War is supposedly over, yet the United States persists in Cold War tactics through its embargo. Human rights can be gained through trade and demonstrating to the citizens of Cuba that they have the right to choose their leaders, but not through slack embargoes and restrictions.



The island nation of Cuba has been an issue of controversy for four decades. While the United States places heavy sanctions on the nation, they are often ignored.

## Bush ignores need for

## change in Cuban policy

By Michael Aral

Viewpoint Editor

While some grab their bags and head to Cuba, many know, and ignore, the fact that the United States has a law against this.

While the embargo on Cuba should be lifted for many reasons, one of the most prominent is the simple fact that the sanctions have not worked in all of their existence and, in reality, probably

never will have any more effect except to encourage tourists to visit Cuba illegally.

Every year, thousands of Americans visit Cuba as tourists, despite the ban on any travel to the dictatorial country, that has lasted for the last four decades. While President Bush should be commended on attempting to give the people of Cuba the right to vote for their leaders, his tactics, as those of past Presidents, have not worked.

Not only that, but the United States



The Pope speaks out for human rights at a church in Cuba. Many, including the United States, has been trying to gain liberties for Cuban citizens with sanctions.

The people who support this law use the argument that "In God We Trust" is printed on every piece of money we handle. Whether it is worth a cent or one hundred dollars, "In God We Trust" is everywhere.

It does not seem to be enough that we look at the motto every time we have to pay for something, now we must think of God and religion whenever we walk to school.

The First Amendment protects the people's right to freedom of religion. It

## Religion steps further into school with backing of law

By Emily Morris

Photography Editor

I am sorry to say that this is the beginning of the end. Slowly, the church is invading the school system.

Last year, we began the tradition of starting every day with a moment of silence, a time reserved for any silent activity, including prayer. This year the church has taken another step into the school system.

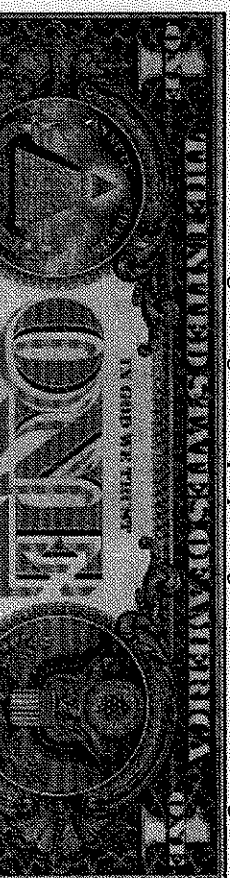
It was passed by the state government making it a law that all public schools must place posters that preach: "In God We Trust." All posters must be placed in a "conspicuous" place, meaning a lobby or high traffic area.

The posters have a close up of a wind blown American flag in the background

and the letters in a big, gold font.

The state was able to justify the mandatory hanging of these posters by having in a small, white font on the bottom informing anyone who has 20/10 vision who can see it that the saying was passed as the nation's motto a long time ago.

The First Amendment protects the



With the passage of a state law, posters reading "In God We Trust" will be placed in common areas of public schools despite controversy over allowing religion in school.

demands separation of state and church. Instead, the church decides to walk the thin line of forcing religion down our throats gently and not pushing with all their might.

Now that people supporting the church's movement to invade the schools have made another milestone: Controlling the school system is within their reach. Now they have the audacity to talk about posting the Ten Commandments in every school also.

I am sorry, but this year I have to pay \$1.50 for a parking pass; the budget is being cut, yet we can find the money to design and print an "In God We Trust" poster. Soon the state and county may be spending money on posters displaying the Ten Commandments. Couldn't that money go towards important items? Like new computers, sports equipment, or higher salaries for teachers.

Well, I am waiting to see what comes next, the ten commandments, or crucifixes hanging in the lobby, but if we do not stop the church's movement now, it may never end.

## Budget cuts create extra expenses

By Emily Ryan  
Senior Staff Writer

Students all over the county will be hit next year with new changes that will affect classrooms, sports programs, and their bank accounts.

The Fairfax County School Board met on May 23 and discussed the budget for next year, deciding to cut \$47 million. WS's plan to purchase new textbooks has been put on hold while the county tries to save more money.

Next year the price of parking spaces in every Fairfax County high school parking lot will be \$150, as opposed to the \$100 fee of the past few years. However, the security staff didn't notice a difference in the number of applicants when they became available May 31.

"The new prices wouldn't deter me from getting a spot because you need the space," said Junior Rachel Persica. "You can't carpool because the law says you can't have more than three people to a car, but you need a carpool to pay for the space."

Come the end of summer, students or their parents will notice this change by a sudden void in their wallets. This lack of cash will come about again next spring when students sign up for AP tests. There will be a \$25 charge per test, with a \$50 cap per student. Students, however,

who are on the free or reduced-price lunch program will be exempt from the costs. The county will still be paying for more than half of each test whose price is in the \$70 range. Students have complained about the new charges, but costs are not high enough to keep students from taking AP classes and forking out the money to get college credit for the class.

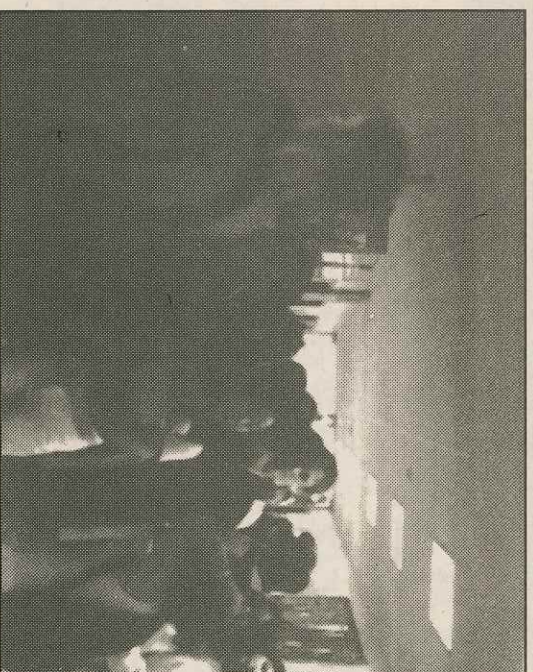
"The classes are valuable enough, so I'll still take them," said junior Sara Walker.

A couple of reasons why students find these classes valuable is because of the knowledge the teachers have about what they are teaching and how they approach teaching it. In the past, Principal David Smith has been able to send teachers to conferences to learn about their profession and subject. The cuts will limit these opportunities, and teachers will have to pay for their trips themselves.

Teachers and students will also be affected by the removal of the cap on SOL classes. This essentially means that there will be one less teacher for each SOL class, raising the class size to 30 people or less from the present 28 students or less. People will have to endure the school heating and cooling system malfunctions for there will

be fewer people to fix and maintain them. Additional cuts to extracurricular activities funds will increase the time it takes to replace old equipment and get them fixed.

"Students need to continue to do their part," said Smith. "Everybody's first and foremost interest is to provide students with the best education they can."



Adam Buckley  
Juniors wait in line during lunch to get applications for the parking lottery for next year.

## "All That Jazz" combines new traditions with old ones

By Camila Casillas  
Entertainment Editor

Personality and Pizzaz's "All That Jazz" performance on May 29, was a bittersweet show for the students and choir director, Maribeth Puckett.

Both show choirs prepared for months for the annual show. The money from the show goes to improving sound equipment, choreography fees, and to other resources that keep the program going each year. The reason for the show remained the same, but the feelings behind it were special this year.

This is Puckett's last year with WS, so this year's "All That Jazz" concert brought some surprises and additions to the show.

"I look for variety of music and different styles that might appeal to the audience," said Puckett. "I also pick songs students will enjoy doing."

Pizzaz performed songs including

# First "Lip Sync" is huge success

## The junior class sets a new WS tradition for years to come

By Priyanka Tandon  
Oracle Editor

On Tuesday May 21, WS welcomed Ja Rule, Pink and even ABBA. The class of 2003 delivered the first annual Lip-Sync contest.

"All the feedback we got was really positive," said junior class historian Katte Rice.

The evening began with juniors Russ Waddell and David Kauffman on scooters. "We entered because it looked like something fun to do," said Kauffman.

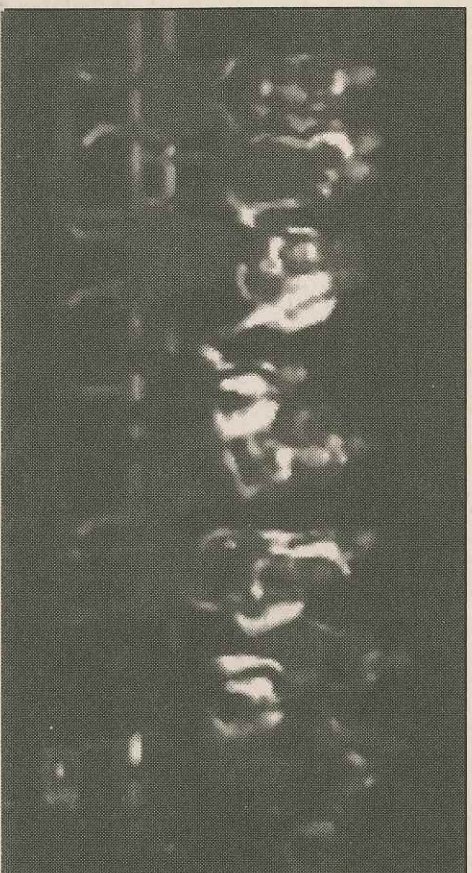
WS teachers Micah Herzig and Allison Kopkau along with Jeff Schlegel, junior class sponsor Andrea Schlegel's husband, judged the contest. Each judge gave the performers a score from one to ten and some comments.

"We wanted judges to be entertaining," said junior class officer Jennifer Welsch.

The judges and audience got a chance to watch seven acts. Junior Charlie Beckman rapped to Coolio's "Gangster's Paradise." Juniors Alison Tugwell, Cristina Hoyt, Tara Austin and freshman Emily Wroebel gave the crowd Britney to the fourth power, four Briney Spears's songs

"Turn the Beat Around" by Gloria Estefan and "Respect" by Aretha Franklin. Personality's performance included "Smooth" by Santana and "Smooth Criminal" by Michael Jackson.

It was Personality and Pizzaz's last performance with director Maribeth Puckett.



Jan Stomasco

that revealed her career transitions. Schlegel and Beckman performed an unscored act to Ja Rule and J Lo.

"Charlie and Schlegel rock my world," said junior Aisley Neary.

Senior Marc Dudzinski's performance was extra special when he asked senior Ingrid Garrett to prom. Five sophomore boys performed a mix of rap songs.

"The sophomore guys had a great performance and deserved to get first," said sophomore Lisa Giarrana.

The show had two rounds. After the first round the top three acts rolled the "die of death" which gave them a song to lip-sync to without any preparation.

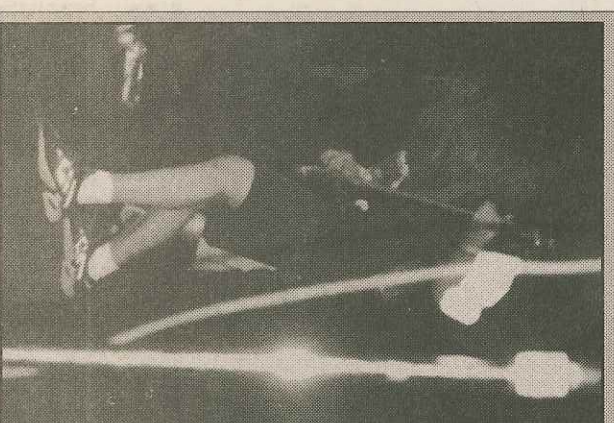
The scores placed freshmen Christine Spata and Butler third, followed by Dudzinski, and gave first to Britney to the fourth power.

"I was surprised that we won because I stepped in at four o' clock that day," said Austin.

The junior class made \$300 from the contest, and many have been inspired to enter the contest next year.

"I liked the show," said sophomore Elina Khaykin. "I'll be shaking my booty to first place next year."

"Smooth Criminal" was my favorite because it's one of those amazing pieces you don't think you'll be able to pull off," said senior Nick Clapsaddle. "But then in the end it all comes together."



Russ Waddell  
Sophomore Ben Sogka who played guitar for CME helped them win first place.

## CME wins first at "Battle of the Bands"

BANDS, from Page 1

Hunke with vocals, and junior Dave Kauffman on keyboards and accordion. The funky seven member band was more like a circus onstage: Paneczyowski sported a grass skirt and coconut bra; Whalen, with a gimpy knee, kicked back in a lawn chair; and Kauffman, well, played the accordion.

Seeing how variety was the goal, the wide range of musical styles played by talented bands made Spartan Jam 2002 a success.

"Out of maybe seventeen bands, there were sixteen good ones," said Owens. "We really went for the widest variety of styles."

## Department accompanies Chappell's departure

CHAPPELL, from Page 1

budget. The whole department of student activities will be leaving along with Chappell. Both secretary Joan Ossakow and assistant director Bill Renner will be stepping down from their positions.

"I wanted to retire together with

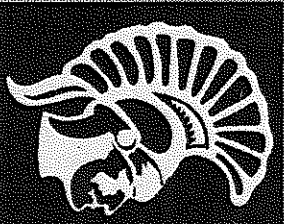
Chappell and while I was still young enough and healthy enough to enjoy my retirement years," said Ossakow.

Mike Dobson, the director of student

activities from Thomas Jefferson will take over July 1 and current WS math teacher, Rob Benton, will be assistant director. "I hope he [Dobson] keeps the traditions that we have kept and we leave him in good shape," said Chappell.

After WS Chappell wants to relax first and then find another job.

"As time goes on new people come and change things for the better or worse," said Chappell. "I hope people remember that I have done things as a team effort."



# Spartan Profiles

## SENIORS

### Ryan Shaw

### Jordan Hamilton

By Heidi Stilloj &

Rachel Wohlers

Oracle Staff Writers

No more being chased by sophomore girls, sleeping in Film Study, or fooling around in the halls. No more lacrosse, no more key club. No more Jessica Campo, and no more working at the music store. Senior Ryan Shaw will say goodbye to high school, and hello to the world, the college world.

After four years at WS, Shaw is headed 480 miles south to the University of South Carolina, located in Columbia, SC, to start a new life.

"I picked it because Virginia schools were too hard to get into and my dad went

to USC, and I have an aunt in Columbia,"

said Shaw. While he has succeeded in many fields in high school, Shaw still does not know what he wants to continue with in the future.

"I was thinking about majoring in sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll," said Shaw.

"Actually, I'm undecided."

Shaw has been a member of the Key Club since his freshman year. He became senior vice president this year and narrated the Key Club ski at the Homecoming assembly.

He is also very involved with the lacrosse team and is one of the team captains this year.

"I'm really proud of helping to take the lacrosse team to a better season this year," said Shaw.

Even though each year has been a new and fun experience, Shaw has a favorite.

"Senior year was definitely the best year," said Shaw. "There isn't anyone older than you, the teachers don't care too much after the first semester, and it's a pretty easy end of the year."

Shaw is celebrating the end of his senior year and subsequently his highschool life with a graduation party.

"I'm looking forward to leaving," said Shaw. "After four years everything has gotten repetitive and I'm ready to be done with it all."

Even though Shaw is looking forward to new experiences at USC, there are some things he will miss about WS.

"Fighting and messing around in the halls," said Shaw. "That's what I'm going to miss."

By Leigh Johnson

Oracle Staff Writer

The past four years are a blur for senior Jordan Hamilton. She did it all.

Hamilton ran track her freshman and sophomore years. She was also on WS's varsity volleyball team the fall of her junior year. Hamilton continued with volleyball her senior year and the team named her an all-district player. She also plays volleyball for the Springfield Youth Club and the organization selected her to play for the all-star team. Hamilton also works as a referee, in addition to her job at Express.

Hamilton has great vocal talent. She participated in the women's select choir for the past three years.

In addition to being athletic and vocally inclined, Hamilton is an honor roll student in WS selected her as a Student of the Quarter twice. Her hard work and accomplishments are not unnoticed.

"My greatest accomplishment in high school was getting a scholarship. I got self-satisfaction out of working so hard and knowing that I'd earned it," said Hamilton.

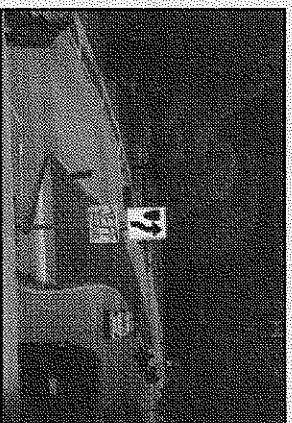
After receiving a scholarship from Florida Atlantic University for her high grade point average and excellent academic record, Hamilton was nationally recognized and became the recipient of the Carl Rowen Scholarship for Project Excellence, which will pay all four years of her college tuition. Hamilton appeared in a recent issue of Jet magazine for this accomplishment.

"My grand parents never went to college. It was up to me to be the second

## Prom sparks creativity in students

By JD Kaleem

Features Editor



Kerry Ryan

Senior Jeff Evans must have felt a little special when he turned onto Huntsman and was greeted by this sign...

Junior Brin Lukens had a stalker. At the beginning of every class, she found a rose on her desk. A mysterious man snuck through the door after each bell to capture a picture of her, and then snuck away.

Actually, the mysterious man was none other than senior Herman Ramos asking Lukens to prom.

"It was exciting. He also left a rose in all my friends' houses that I had to go find," said Lukens. "Then I came home he was waiting on my steps with a rose. It was cool."

As prom approached, seniors and continued the tradition of asking each other to prom in spectacular ways.

"The guys tend to be really creative and it makes things fun and more memorable," an Halfhill.

Senior Dan Weinberg sent Halfhill on

a scavenger hunt to ask her to prom.

"He sent me through my house, neighborhood and neighbor's house with inside jokes as hints," said Halfhill. "The last hint was 'you've got mail' and he had decorated my computer room and left a poem on my keyboard."

Not only did Weinberg ask Halfhill



Kerry Ryan

...he might have been a little confused when he saw this sign, but deep down he knew what it meant...

creatively, she responded creatively.

"I have a cop friend who pulled [Weinberg] over as he came out of the parking lot the end of the day," said Halfhill. "He handed him a ticket for speeding that said Of course I will..."

Not everybody has police officer friends, some just have to use candy to their advantage.

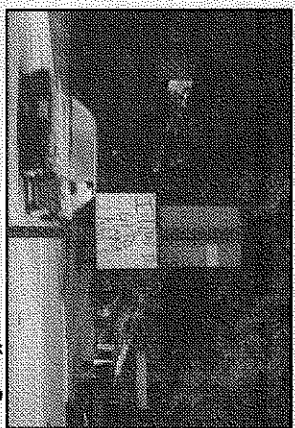
Senior Hunter Peacock spelled "Prom?" with lollipops on senior Emily Baskin's driveway.

Baskin responded with more candy. "The baseball players are always hitting

balls over at us softball girls, so I decided to pitch something back at them," said Baskin. "I filled a big baseball pinata with candy and put it in the baseball field dugout. The guys played around with it and [Peacock] hit the pinata open. The candy and a note saying 'yes' fell out."

Seniors worked on prom plans all year. Over spring break, senior Jamie Giardino went out of town and senior Lisa Ahern trashed his room as a prank.

"He got me back for it and at the same time asked me to prom," said Ahern. "He put hangers all over the room and did other things and made a path from the stairs to my bed and left a note asking me to prom."

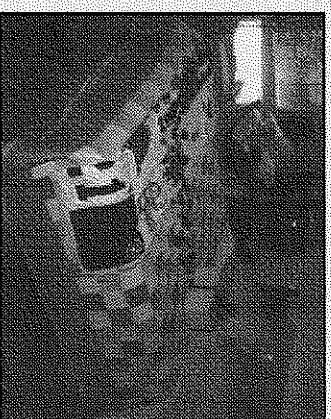


Kerry Ryan

...especially when the next sign came into sight. It was true, Evans had a date to prom...

Senior Jeff Evans also "decorated" senior Kerry Ryan's room as a way of asking her to prom.

"I left school early and put roses and a box on her bed. The box was full of inside



Kerry Ryan

Senior Jeff Evans placed roses on senior Kerry Ryan's bed, with a note, "Will you go to prom with me?"

jokes and candy and at the bottom had a crossword puzzle that spelled "Will you go to prom with me?" said Evans.

Ryan hung posters up on Huntsman Boulevard for Evans to see.

Whether through lollipops, roses, pinatas or traffic tickets, seniors spent much time and effort asking dates to prom. "Some people think the way you ask is a big deal, others just do it casually, it just depends on the person," said Evans. "Either way it's a fun thing to do."



Kerry Ryan

...with the girl he dreamed of going with, senior Kerry Ryan.

Someone has rejected me. In all my life, I have never been rejected. He flat out said, "No, I can't talk to you." I was shocked and appalled.

Since that day, I'm convinced he senses me coming in the halls, and makes a run for the opposite direction. I had finally worked up enough courage to speak to him, to find out the real truth, and he rejected me.

Steve. The Janitor. The "Millionaire."

Ever since I entered high school almost four years ago, I heard rumors circulating about Steve the Janitor. People told me he was a millionaire. So it must have been my fate when I got the word "Custodians" on that little slip of paper that day in yearbook class. I decided to set out and investigate. I knew that the Truth Was Out There.

Surprisingly, my first few subjects knew nothing about the rumor that had weighed on my mind for four years. "Steve? Steve who? What janitor? We have janitors?" This saddened me on my quest for The Truth. However, a name popped up in my quest and I followed that lead. Finally! I found a source of information. My source was quite happy to talk about Steve the Janitor with me.

"I heard that he paid for his car in CASH," said junior Karen Burnett. "I've seen his car; it's really nice. I think he really is a millionaire."

Other than the basics of the rumor, Burnett knew nothing else. But as our conversation evolved, she began to come up with a theory of why Steve the Janitor is the only subject of the rumor of riches—a rumor that never seems to die.

"None of the students know the janitors, so I think we tend to make up stories about their personalities," said Burnett. "We don't care about the teachers' lives, so we don't talk about them." She adds that the millionaire

rumor doesn't hurt the school's image, either. "It makes it more interesting to some, more 'special,' because, *ooooohh*, we have millionaires working here every day!"

# SEEKING

Burnett never denies being part of the rumor problem. In fact, she openly admits her guilt. "I talk about things I hear with my friends; help circulate what I've heard. What's bad about it is that we seem to need to be involved in everyone else's business. We can't give people privacy."

Satisfied that I had at least some support in my rumor quest, I left my newly made friend and set off in search of someone new to talk to. I came upon junior Danny Wuckovich. The dude did not have much to say; he appeared a bit more hesitant than Burnett to talk about Steve the Janitor. He had heard that Steve was rich, and that "he's probably good with money." Yet, I think some day Wuckovich will be a rebel. He will be against the government. "I think if he's rich, he's working on the inside. Why else would he be here if he wasn't?"

I don't know; maybe because Steve the Janitor actually enjoys his job? A career is a concept of happiness, and it appears from observation that Steve the Janitor enjoys working at WS. But I can only surmise—remember, he rejected me.

Upperclassmen are always so suspicious. Trying to talk to the freshmen was the next thing to do. Freshmen. I would have thought that every one of them would have heard about The Rumor. They're FRESHMEN! They fall for everything. I stopped Coach Bill Renner's daughter, Summer, whom I thought would have heard all the rumors, since her dad works here. But, no! I was the first to inform her. I came across another freshman that had heard the rumor, but she didn't believe it.

"Some upperclassmen told me that he inherited all this money from his family but he just chooses not to spend it," said freshman Meryl Cox. "But I don't think it's true. It's like the seniors telling us about the third-story pool. I totally don't believe it."

Not knowing what to do, I wandered on around the school. I stopped sophomore administrator Martha Chandler in the hall and asked her if she knew about Steve the Janitor. The only thing she knew was that "he makes

Who knows what fascinates  
the walls where students

great apple pie." OK, so we can now assume that he doesn't live in his truck.

Since my fellow classmates could not get the facts straight and Chandler was rather vague about what she knew (as I expected her to be), I decided to go to authority. I walked in to talk to Building Supervisor Becky Mullins with a mission. I would find out The Truth. But I only found out more things to ponder about the life of Steve the Janitor.

Mullins informed me that Steve The Janitor attended high school right here at WS, and that he worked as a janitor even as a student.

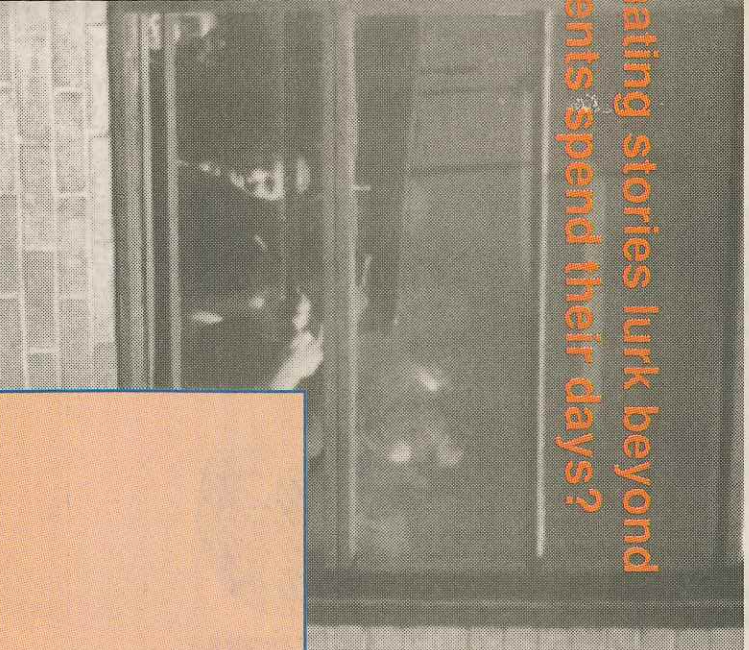
# TRUTH

The yearbook staff was told that there was nothing in the file cabinets, picture of the rancid bagel off the year's book to come in these intrepid reports. "Find" a story. Draw and find out something from Maggie Miller drew "custodians." This report from the



At the Bagel Bakery?

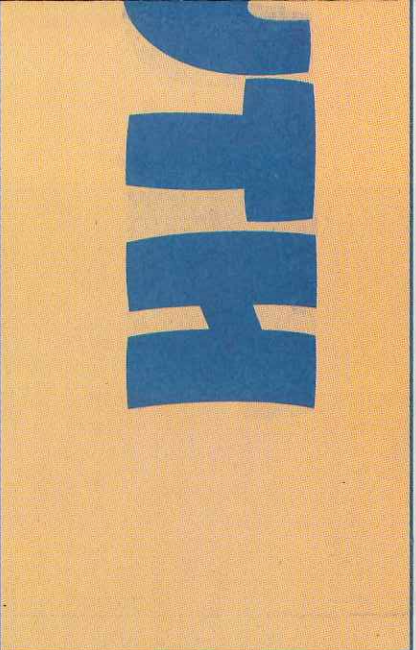
ating stories lurk beyond  
ents spend their days?



Mullins was not positive about how long Steve the

Janitor has been working here. She herself has been at WS for 17 years and Steve the Janitor was here when she got here. Plus, he has four more years until he can retire.

Will he use his millionaire money then to go live off in paradise? Who knows! No one does, apparently. But I did find out that Steve the Janitor enjoys doing the electrical work around the school better than anything else. Besides great apple pie, that's his specialty.



was done for the year.  
left to do but clean out  
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ne field of WS.

**D**espite his years here, he has never taken a supervising position. Mullins explained that Steve the Janitor has a comfort zone at WS, but prefers to be by himself and not to socialize with students. Then, she admitted that she had heard the rumor that he was a millionaire and that he had paid for his



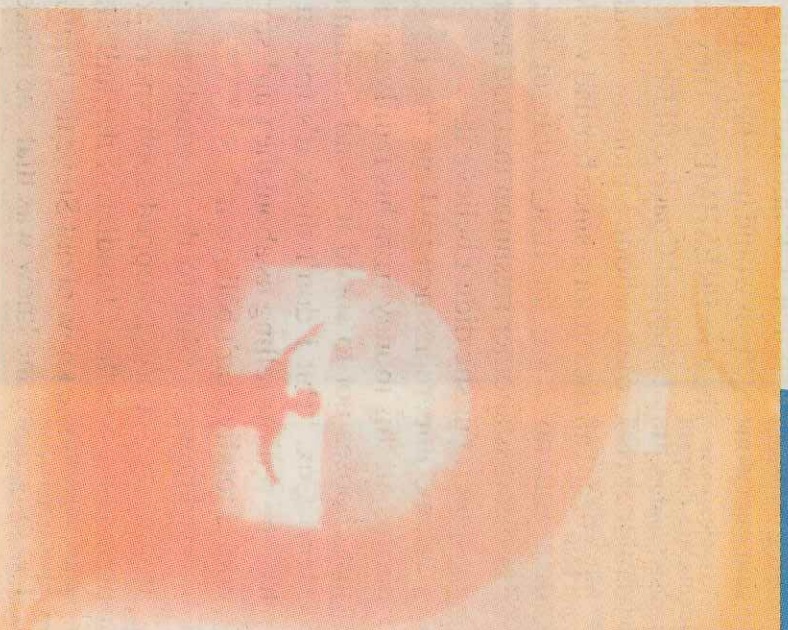
truck in cash. The torture! To have all these sources, and never have a direct confirmation from the man himself was just terrible.

I managed to work up enough courage to ask Steve the Janitor about his life, and tell him how I was so intrigued that these rumors about him had survived WS forever, and then the humiliating moment came.

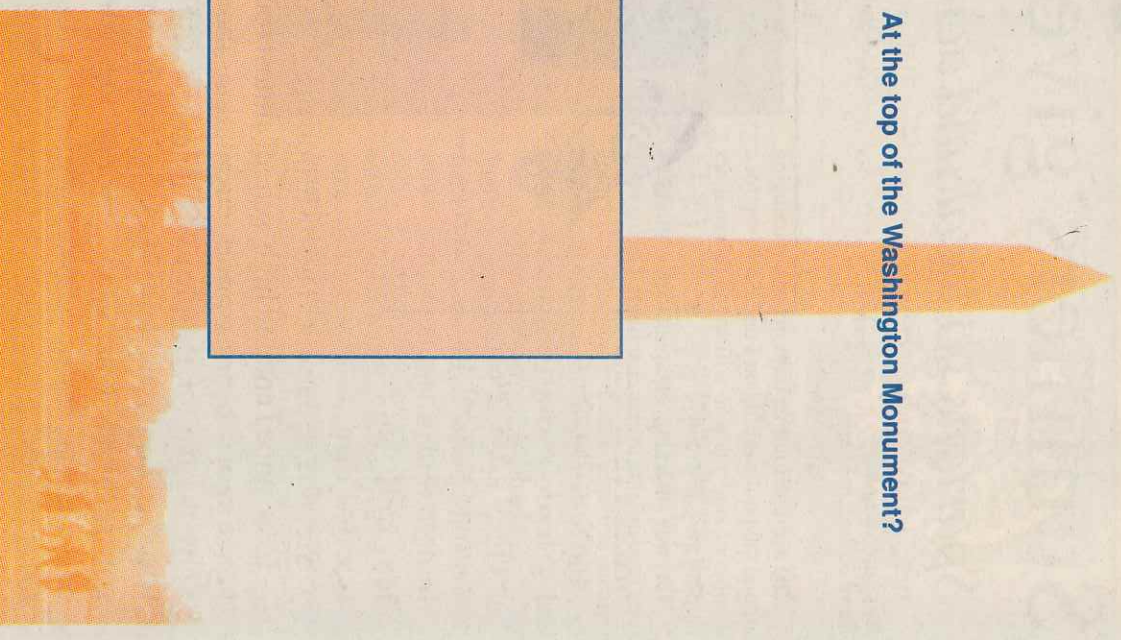
“No, I cannot talk to you. I have too much work to do,” said Steve the Janitor.

I have attempted. I have gone out into the halls with my notebook and my questions, still having a desire to seek The Truth. But I realized, as I go out there, that maybe Steve the Janitor doesn't want people to know The Truth. What if this rumor was all his doing? The students of WS are destined to live their whole high school lives and never know The Truth.

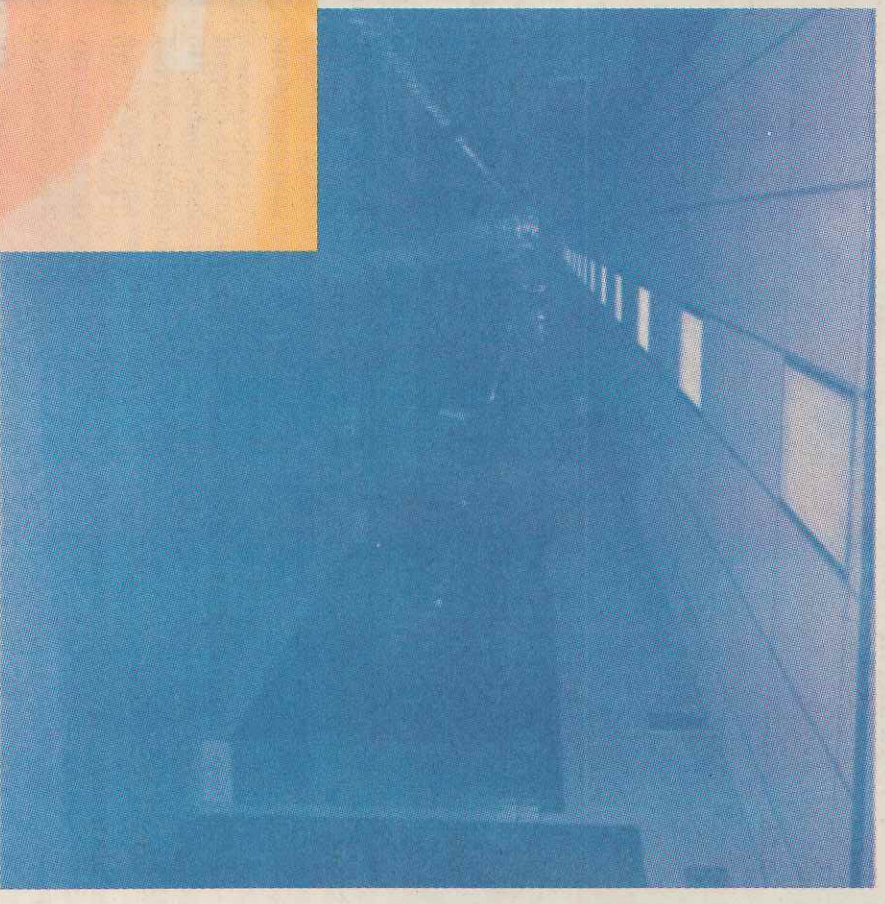
Some say they have gone on The Quest. Some even say that they have talked to The Janitor and



At the top of the Washington Monument?



discovered The Truth. I am skeptical, but I've made a decision. I've decided that Steve the Janitor is awesome. He comes to WS every day and works to make sure that our school is clean, working properly and that we have a safe building in which to learn. That is awesome. That is The Truth.



No, our mild-mannered reporter found what she was looking for in the halls of WS.

# Summers give students time off to help Spartans go local and across nation to offer thier services to communities

By Lauren Kondo  
News Section Assistant

The average summer day consists of lounging around the pool working on a tan. However, for a number of students who will spend this summer helping the community.

One way students are helping their community is by participating in church retreats. During these retreats, activities include yard work and helping the community. Junior Emma Plehal attended church retreats for many summers in Kentucky and Pennsylvania to help construct houses.

"Last year, along with 100 volunteers, we built three complete houses in five days," said Plehal. The volunteers took part in painting walls, appliances, carpeting and landscaping.

"It's really hard work, but it helps make the price of the houses cheaper so they are more affordable for low income families," said Plehal.

Other students assist their churches by working daily or weekly with children, acting as counselors, student directors, or music teachers. Students take charge in helping and instructing

children.

"I teach music for vacation Bible school at my church. The kids are so much fun to work with and make me think

there is hope for the future," said sophomore Meredith Schindler.

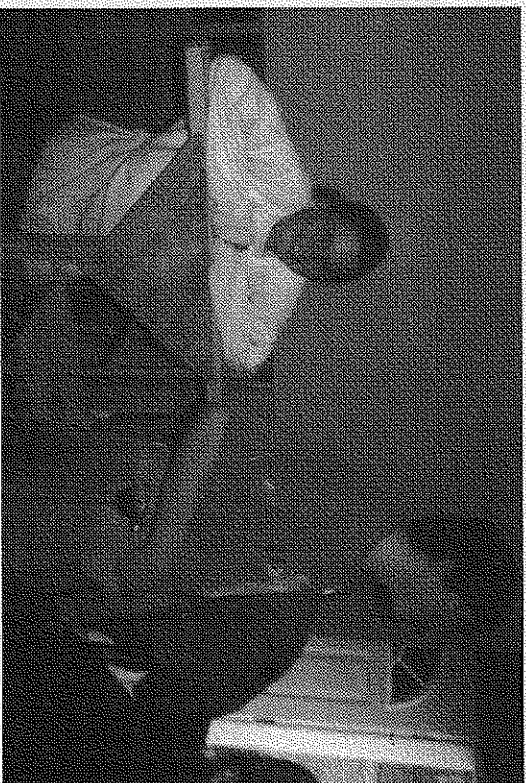
Although

church efforts are the main method of getting involved, there are other ways to help. Students use their computer and other skills to help the community.

"I do community service at Greenspring Village and help [the elderly] work on computers. I help set up email accounts, word processing and teach them the basics," said sophomore Ken Ellis.

Sophomore Laura Gunkowski is working this summer in order to earn the highest award in girl scouts, the gold project. To fulfill the requirement of 50 community service hours, Gunkowski is running a sports camp at Motis Community center. Each day she will teach the basics of a different activity like soccer, basketball, track and volleyball.

"I hope to gain a sense of importance," said Gunkowski. "I'm doing something for the community, and helping some less children have fun and enjoy themselves."



Courtesy of Emma Plehal  
Junior Emma Plehal works on drywall for a house she helped build last summer during spring break during a trip with her church to Newcastle, Pennsylvania.

## Exchange students take back a year full of fun and memories

By Erika Kim  
News Section Editor

Last August, four students with the foreign exchange program came to the area and arrived at WS in September.

"I wanted to see something new, meet new people and become more open minded culturally," said junior Florian Becker.

Becker is one of the exchange students. Other foreign exchange students at WS are juniors Constanze Borne from Germany and Damian Scherzinger from Switzerland.

Becker came from Germany last August and will return in July along with the other foreign exchange students. He actively took part in school activities and worked backstage as head of security for the spring musical

"Anything Goes."  
"I came here because I wanted to improve my English, meet new people and just take a break," said Scherzinger.

In order for them to come the United States as foreign exchange students, the students and their families had to go through an extensive selection process. They were required to fill out several forms, and attend a selection meeting. They gave information about their health, grades and other important aspects of their lives.

Another requirement for the students was to write an essay. They attended an interview at which they were asked questions about their social lives, hobbies, work they have done in their community, and their family lives.

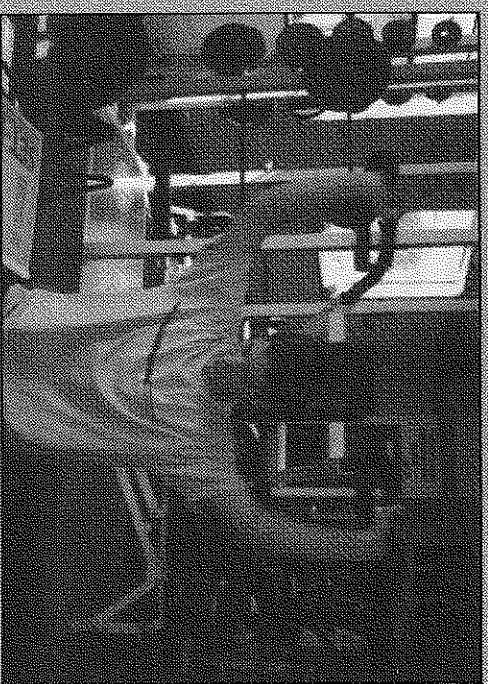
"It was a really good experience," said Scherzinger. "It was a lot of fun, and I got to meet a lot of new people."

Not only is there a tough selection process, but a substantial amount of money is needed to be a foreign exchange student in a different country.

Scherzinger's parents paid \$6,000 for him to live in the United States for a year, not including costs for food, clothing, books, and other personal expenses.

Foreign exchange students stay with host families that live in the WS area. There are no specific requirements a family must meet to host a foreign exchange student, but it is difficult to find interested families.

"In the beginning it was a little



File Photo  
Junior Florian Becker gets in shape during weight training class. Becker's year at WS offered him opportunities to take electives that aren't offered in Germany.

weird because basically they're strangers," said Becker. "But now they're like my real family!"

Next fall, WS expects to enroll eleven foreign exchange students from Germany that were supposed to come this school year but were unable to because of the September 11 attacks. They will arrive the last week of September

and will stay for three weeks. The foreign language teachers are currently trying to find host families for the students next fall.

"I've learned to respect other people for what they believe in," said Becker. "I've learned to be more culturally open minded and to look at different sides."

## As summer rolls by...

### Students take part in diet frenzy

By Emily Miller  
Weekend Editor

Bikinis, Tankinis. Boy-bottom shorts. Skimpy bathing suits are the essence of summer, thus the increasing pressure for WS students to look attractive when baring skin. Students test and experiment with every diet to get fit fast from the peculiar cabbage soup diet to the sketchy Hollywood diet.

Athletes like junior Monica Gibson, search for a way to stay in shape. Gibson went on several diets including Hot Point Fitness and the Slim Fast Plan. Hot Point Fitness is designed specifically for active young people because it has a demanding workout plan and a structured meal schedule. Students prefer this over Slim fast because the plan is so clearly defined.

"Slim fast was too vague, so I didn't stick with it," said Gibson.

Fad diets are more popular and more abundant for people who would like to shed a few pounds temporarily, even though the majority of them are a bit frivolous and fity.

In the Caveman diet, all foods are substituted for bread, wine, or fish. The Cabbage Soup diet consists of eating only cabbage soup twice a day. Junior Katie Bell dieted with a friend at the same time to

support each other. Bell only ate fruit for two weeks and her friend went on the Hollywood diet which has a special drink promising weight loss if drank twice a day.

"My friend ended up losing ten pounds in two days, but she also worked out everyday," said Bell.

Several WS students are diligent enough to be vegetarians. Juniors Mo McClelland and Blair Withee stopped eating meat three years ago. It started as a dare in eighth grade and both stuck with it. Neither have carvings for meat. The closest McClelland came to eating meat is during school.

"I can probably eat school food because it doesn't even classify as meat," said McClelland.

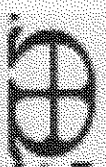
There are a few drawbacks about being a vegetarian. One problem is not getting the essential nutrients from meat.

"My mom doesn't think I get enough protein," said McClelland.

One myth that there is not a variety of vegetarian food to eat. Another myth is the available food tastes disgusting.

Although, Withee doesn't have a problem finding good foods to eat. "I don't prepare special vegetarian meals," said Withee. "I just eat food without meat, like macaroni and cheese."

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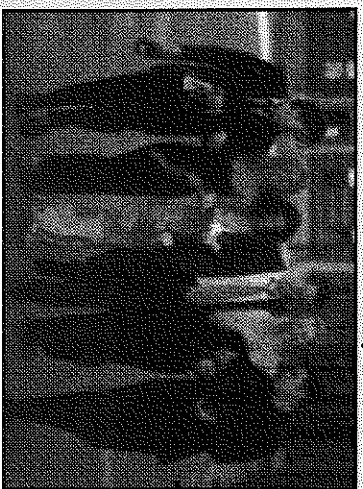


## Season finales leave TV viewers craving more

By Ruchika Malhotra  
Managing Editor

From unexpected kisses to proposals and weddings, season finales serve it all up to make sure viewers will come back when the season starts back up again in the fall.

The last episode ties up the whole season, or in the case of "Alias," ties up the whole show. On "Alias," Sydney has been searching for her mother ever since the first episode seasons ago. In the finale a shadowy figure appears and surprises Sydney. She then calls out to the figure, addressing it as her mother. Just before her quest comes to a conclusion, the episode is over and the credits roll.



"Friends" ended with a new addition to the cast.

"It was everything I'd hoped and expected it to be," said senior Jordan Hamilton. "I just didn't like the cliffhanger." Another finale with an extreme cliffhanger ending was "Friends." Rachel delivers her new baby Emma, and by a twist of fate Rachel thinks Joey has proposed to her.

"It was a nice cliffhanger," said freshman Carolyn Paxton. "I thought it was hilarious."

Not all viewers were as pleased with this episode and anticipate watching for changes.

"It was really surprising and kind of annoying," said junior Vanessa Allaro. "I'll watch it just to make sure they don't get married."

Just like series shows, reality based shows' resolutions aren't always what viewers anticipate them to be. With reality based shows however, such as "The Bachelor" and "Road Rules,"



The cast of "Friends" has been together for numerous season finales, that have always kept their loyal viewers coming back.

the characters don't come back and their story ends with the season finale. The winner is the winner and the viewers have to accept it. On the Marquesas Survivor, Veccepia Towery won and was the sole survivor.

"It was cool," said junior Mike Watson. "But I wanted the other girl Nelah to win."

Not all viewers accept the outcome so nicely if it isn't what they wanted it to be.

"Sometimes they can be really stupid and then you're disappointed," said sophomore Christy Buzan.

The season finale of "Gilmore girls" ended with surprises as well. Chris plans to move back in, but then a pregnancy back home complicates the situation. Rory ends up kissing Jess and Suki gets married.

"It was really good, because you couldn't predict what was going to happen," said sophomore Christie Lang.

As the season comes to a close, there is just one issue that will never be resolved with finales.

"The only problem is that the show ends," said senior Jenna Soto. "Now you have to wait months for new episodes to come."

## Star Wars fails to stay true to the force

By Priyanka Tandon  
Oracle Editor

George Lucas has done it again. He's managed to forget about the essence of Star Wars.

"Episode II: Attack of the Clones" did offer excellent special effects, but wasn't "Star Wars" enough for me.

Lucas did develop Anakin Skywalker's character and establish some background as a basis for his later fall to the dark side.

The movie gives insight into Anakin's anger toward the world and life. His constant disobedience and conceited comments give him the arrogant air he needs to fall to the dark side. Skywalker goes against direct orders from his Jedi master, when he leaves his Jedi mission to visit his mother.

Skywalker's savage slaughter of his mother's kidnappers reveals his extreme hatred for anyone who crosses him or his loved ones.

Skywalker further disobeys the Jedi code when he pursues Padme, a senator he is assigned to protect.



The beginning of the end of Anakin Skywalker commences, however, there is too much focus on the love story.

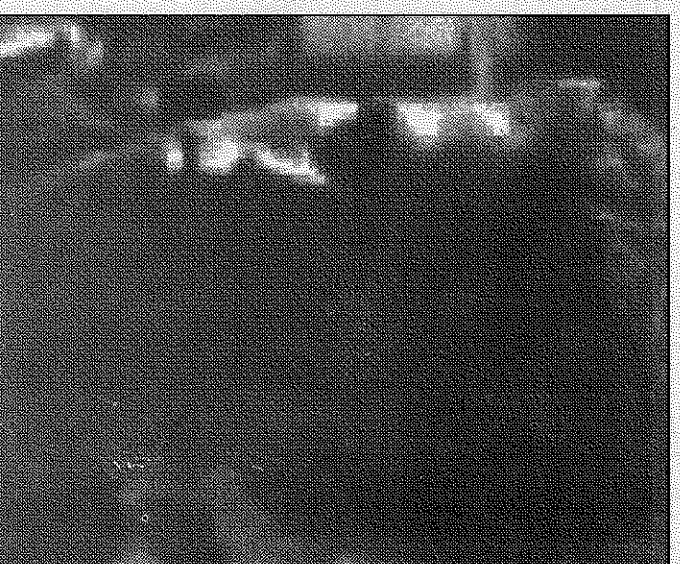
Hayden Christensen provides great looks and good acting, but Natalie Portman just delivers her lines with little expression. Portman's only purpose in the movie was eye candy and a constant fashion show, she had a different outfit on in every scene.

Loveable Jar Jar Binks made an appearance, but should have had a bigger role. The movie needed some more comic relief.

Samuel Jackson's character was inconsequential and was just there so the movie could be more star-studded.

The last half-hour of the movie tries to makeup for the missing action, lasers beams soar, and there is constant fighting.

Lucas saves face at the end with a surprise battle scene. Yoda transforms into a fearsome fighting force to save Skywalker and Obi one Knobi from the clutches of the evil Count Dooku. Light sabers fly and Dooku gets away, but Lucas's film is saved.

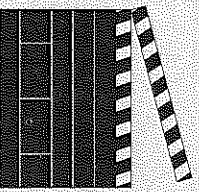


Anakin Skywalker is played by the young Hayden Christensen, who also played a feature role in last year's "Lilo & Stitch."

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# weekend

## Seafood brings WS to the beach

By Adam Rosen  
Viewpoint Assistant

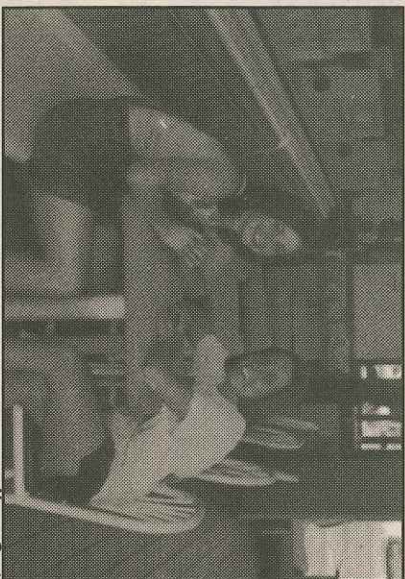
School is coming an end and vacations are approaching where hot, sunny beaches fill boys and girls with joy. Finding the ocean only requires a short road trip to Ocean City or Rehoboth

Beach. Both of these places include fine dining and activities other than going to the beach.

"Going to Ocean City is always the best," said junior Tara Austin. "I always look forward to eating out, especially the crab legs."

Ocean City is attractive for all ages, but especially a younger crowd. Besides the beach, the city includes miniature golf, skateboarding parks, and amusement parks with haunted houses and roller coasters. Ocean City's most well known amusement park is the one located at the city's 72-block boardwalk.

"At Ocean City the boardwalk is fun because I pick out some hot and some ugly guys to be boyfriends for my best friends," said junior Lisa Marvin.



Juniors Lisa Marvin and Tara Austin chow down at a McDonald's in Ocean City.  
Nayna Gupta

Ocean City may be pricey, but students are attracted to its wide range of activities that include watching the Orioles Single A team play ball or shopping at outlets that surround the city.

Ocean City is also known for its great seafood like crab cakes and fried shrimp. Surprisingly, Ocean City's second most eaten food is Italian.

Some of the restaurants that are most popular are the Key West Crab Bag and the Marlin Moon Grille.

"The food was rather good," said junior Maureen Greenlee. "The crab legs are great because they're right by the ocean."

Another nearby beach is Rehoboth, located only — miles away from the Northern Virginia area. At Rehoboth, the beach is wide and flat. Tourists can find their own smaller private beaches. Rehoboth's quieter atmosphere is a good alternative for those who are turned off from the commercialized atmosphere of Ocean City.

Rehoboth also has one of the most well set up art communities. Students can find art classes and museums to visit during rainy days on the beaches. For many students, having both Ocean City and Rehoboth Beach near by is an easy way to get away and spend a day of fun at the beach.

## Feel the heat from summer fashion

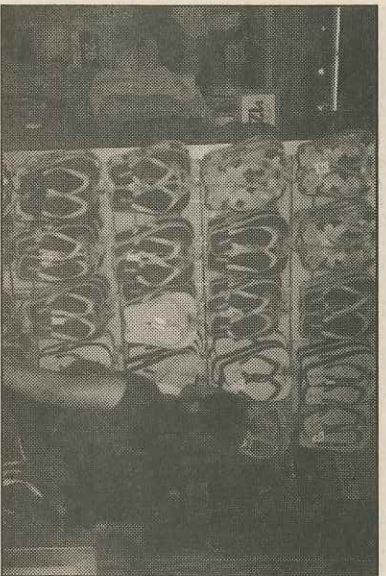
By Jenn Carlson  
Managing Editor

The summer season brings sun, long, lazy days and a whole new wardrobe.

There is a wide variety of stores and shops where WS students can choose to shop for their summer gear. Also, many factors go into deciding exactly what store will be the lucky receiver of a spender's hard-earned money. There are easy solutions for those who are looking for designer names without spending horrendous amounts of cash.

"I go to Ross because the prices are cheap and they carry name brands," said junior Devin McKenzie.

TJ Maxx, Old Navy and Marshall's provide clothes for lower prices and also carry a wide variety of styles and brands. Sunglasses, shoes, bags, bathing suits and



Junior Monique Patwary debates whether to purchase the blue flip-flops or the orange at Old Navy.  
Emily Morris

other quality clothes and accessories for a discounted price.

Others seek jobs in retail so they can reap the benefits of discounts. Stores such as Contempo, Wet Seal, American Eagle and Pacific Sunwear are popular stores in the mall where students hold jobs.

"I work at Contempo and Wet Seal so I buy all my clothes from there," said junior Vanessa Evans. "It's good because I get a discount. Also, I really like the clothes and I can get things as soon as they come out for sale in the store."

Contempo also features necklaces, bracelets, sunglasses and other summer accessories.

"Contempo has the best necklaces," said junior Sherri Boone.

Express is another popular spot where WS girls can be found spending their money. Bold colors and dressy styles characterize Express's line of summer clothes.

"I shop at Express because they have all the latest fashions," said junior Caitlin Sutton.

Sometimes, it is not the store that draws shoppers, it is the mall itself. Boone prefers to shop at Tysons Corner mall for many reasons.

"I work at the Wet Seal at Tysons and I also like shopping there better," said Boone. "There are more stores that I like that carry clothes that I like."

In the Tyson's II mall, located across the street from Tysons, stores like J. CREW offer a myriad of sandals and flip flops in a variety of basic colors such as white, black and blue. Also popular is Old Navy which carries flip flops in almost every color of the rainbow.

"I bought some of my flip flops at Old Navy," said Boone. "They have any color that I could possibly want."

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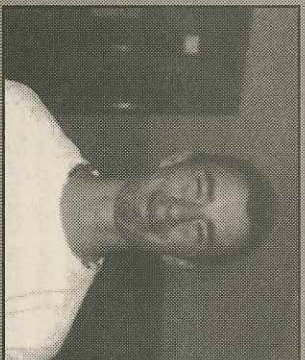
Spartan  
What's your  
favorite beach  
accessory?



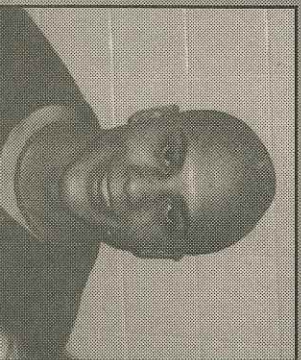
Jen Siomacco  
"Lip gloss. It's all shiny in the sun."  
—Vanessa Alfaro, junior



Jen Siomacco  
"Sunglasses so contacts don't hurt."  
—Masood Naperpoor, senior



Jen Siomacco  
"40 oz. drink"  
—Jason Cahill, senior



Jen Siomacco  
"My car."  
—Ryan Nichols, senior  
—Compiled by Jen Siomacco

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Mention this ad and I'll donate \$500 from my commission to WSHS sport or club of your choice! Go Spartans!

# Evans seals the win

**Soccer, From Page 1**

name. Trailing 0-2 in the first half, the boys came back in the second half to tie the score against Manchester High School. Three overtimes and 10 penalty kicks later, the team was able to victoriously pull through what ended up being a three hour game.

"During the penalty kicks I just sat on the sidelines with the boys grouped up," said senior Jared Butler.

For the team, winning the game in Richmond was more than just bringing home another state title. After 18 of their players were suspended for two games because of drinking at a party, the boys' team was determined to show everyone that they could still make their season perfect.

"After we got in trouble it definitely motivated us because we felt like we had to prove everyone wrong," said Butler.

"Parents and teachers kept telling us we had ruined our perfect season."

For the team, winning states for a second time didn't come as a surprise.

"Before the season we discussed our goals as a team," said Butler. "We knew we could win states, but we really took each game one at a time."

While the varsity boys' soccer team made WS history by winning consecutive state championships, they are also the only WS team to be unbeaten and united in the Patriot District, which includes Robinson and Lake Braddock High Schools. Next year, the team hopes to repeat what seems to have become a yearly boys' soccer tradition.

"We're losing a lot of great players," said junior Bobby Frithian. "But we have some juniors that are going to be able to finally step-up and perform for the team."



The boys team rejoices after they senior Jeff Evans scored the only goal in the game.

# School tennis fans fault

**Commentary by Nick Nelson**

*Sports Editor*

Pete Sampiras, Andre Agassi, John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg; the greats of the game. Yet, the fan base for men's tennis is fading fast. Can you think of many more name-worthy male racket wreckers? Perhaps the players don't play like they used to. Perhaps the publicity could use an increase. Or maybe tennis just doesn't have its appeal anymore. Indeed, even players at WS are noticing the empty seats at home games.

"There is a lack of fans for boy's tennis," said freshman player Kyle Cornelissen.

Some just dislike the sport. "I just think tennis is lame," said freshman Anna Dellapenta. This might be just a freak

occurrence—an inexplicable deterioration. Has apathy overtaken the sport?

Luckily, the answer to such a bleak question is "no." There are a couple variables that may lead to the deterioration in ticket sales. The young squad of 13 players—many of them underclassmen—is being relied on to bring success to the school. But the team's disappointing 3-9 record also could be to blame.

The most obvious reason for lack of attendance could be lack of interest. Tennis doesn't have a set of trading cards. Tennis doesn't have Bud Light and GEICO making commercials during Wimbledon. And the only real attraction for the teenage male to watch tennis is, face it, Anna Kournikova. And teenage boys are the basic "fan base" for

high school sports.

Junior Charlie Beekman, who has played tennis since he was eleven years old, never really had a chance to take real lessons. He decided to join the tennis team to try his hand at the sport.

"People don't think tennis is as exciting as soccer or football," said Beekman. "But it can be so fun. Plus, you get to see me in tight shorts."

Optimism may be the keyword for next year. Maybe the lonely bleachers are welcoming to these kids. After all, if there's no sound but intermittent clapping, where's your source of distraction? Think of it as practice. There's no distraction at practice except for the occasional kid walking by the courts. If there's no fan presence at the games, is the scenario any



Senior Jason Havinga runs the eight hundred meter race at the state competition.

# Spring track fairs well at states

**Track, From Page 1**

seconds, but traced the third fastest time in VHSL history.

"The team ran every day for the past three years to prepare for a win like this," said track assistant coach Duke Baird. "I knew they were going to win."

Hagan led the relay, running 215 meters, while Freund ran 220. Powers ran 224 and Husain ran 213.

"We planned on backloading the race and putting the two fastest people in the last two lanes, since we knew Jen and I could hold steady in the front and keep running," said Freund.

Once back home, the runners received wide recognition at WS, especially after a

story that ran in The Washington Post.

"At first when we crossed the line it didn't sink in at all," said Husain. "When we woke up Sunday morning and saw it in the paper we were so excited. Usually the team doesn't get much support at school, but after this everybody was congratulating us."

Besides placing in the 4 x 800, Husain also finished eighth place in the individual 800 meter race, as well as senior Jason Havinga.

"I'm very proud. It's the first girls' team to win in over a decade at WS," said Baird. "I'm not just proud of the relay team; this year we've had some very good performances throughout the season."



Senior Mike Kidd practices tennis after school. The tennis team has not had many fans this year.

Team member Cornelissen fans."

welcomes the solitude.

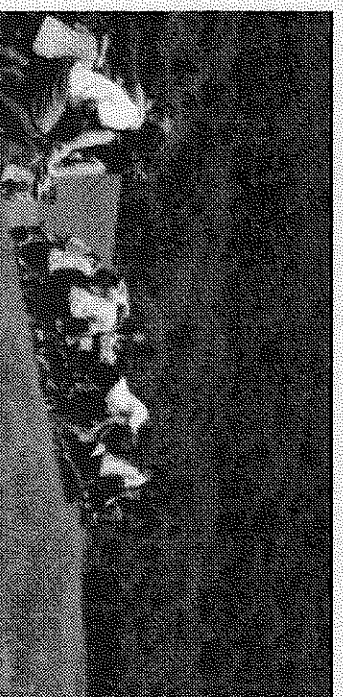
# WS teams build bonds through summer sweat

player Drew Murray. "Then we get a lot of free time, people bring their play stations, and we have video game tournaments."

Free time is an important part of every camp and every player needs it. It gives players time to cool down, to eat, to sleep or to just have fun.

"The tennis team is going to Sweet Briar this summer, they have a pool, and I'm going to be there all day," said junior tennis player Charlie Beekman.

More than ten players of the boys and girls tennis teams will be attending the camp at Sweet Briar College. The six day camp will include instruction by the nationally ranked Van der Meer brothers who run the camp. Many



Courtesy of Bill Farmer

The WS football team works together on their drills during their annual team summer camp. Teams become closer in the summer.

**By Nikolai Wajda**

*Sports Editor*

Haircuts, bikes, Karaoke, and video games. No, this is not a sleepover, it's summer camps for WS athletes.

Both men's and women's teams at WS will be attending team camps over the summer.

For four days in July the boy's basketball team will attend the

Paul Webb Basketball Camp at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

Athletes like the camps, some of their time there is wasted.

"We listen to scouts, but they don't teach us anything, we just play," said junior basketball

of the players felt that this camp will improve both teams losing records.

The football team will have this year's training camp at Camp Capital in Waynesborough, Pennsylvania. The football team will go through grueling days of two-practices a day in the intense summer heat.

"Camp is good because it is away from distractions, where the players can concentrate on football and be in a family atmosphere," said assistant head coach Woody Johnson.

The football team believes very much in the family concept. One activity that brings the team together is a talent show. The show is at the end of camp where

players can showcase their talents, many of which are unknown to the rest of the team.

"We made Dennis Ingrap last year," said junior football player Andy Grankowski. "I shaved my head two years ago, we all did, it was kind of bonding."

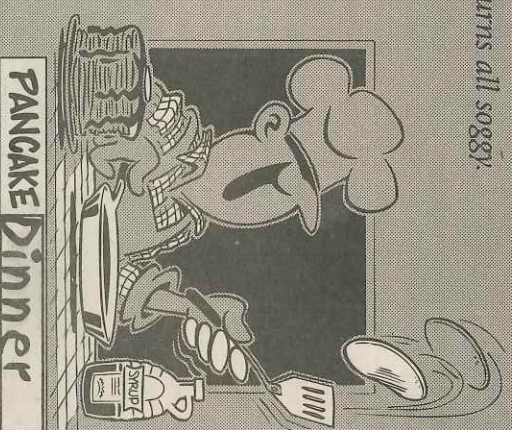
Both coaches and athletes agree that team bonding and a family attitude help a team's chances during the season.

"If a team bonds, we trust each other to do well on every play," said junior football and basketball player Marshall Ausberry.

Both physically and mentally, all the attendees benefit from the camps. "It's expensive," said Murray. "But it's definitely worth it."

# Reasons why it's great school is out and summer is in...

10. No more Oracle.
9. All the kumquat you can handle!
8. Chill with your friends at the pool and hit on the lifeguards with your homies, until your body turns all soggy.
7. You can walk around your house naked without getting cold.
6. Sneaking out at night to the pool to go skinny dipping with some close friends.
5. You can look in your yearbook and make fun of all the goofy looking kids.
4. You and your friends can see how many all nighters you can pull in a row.
3. By the time you wake up and eat breakfast, your parents are already going back to sleep.
2. You can go egg a teacher's house without getting in trouble with the school.
1. MAD PARTIES!!!



—Compiled by Denis Ing and Russ Waddell

# Russ's Ramblin': Some ugly advice

By Russ Waddell

Oracle Editor

High school is all about finding yourself. An identity crisis is perfectly normal for any teenager, and it's important to remember that there are ways to cope.

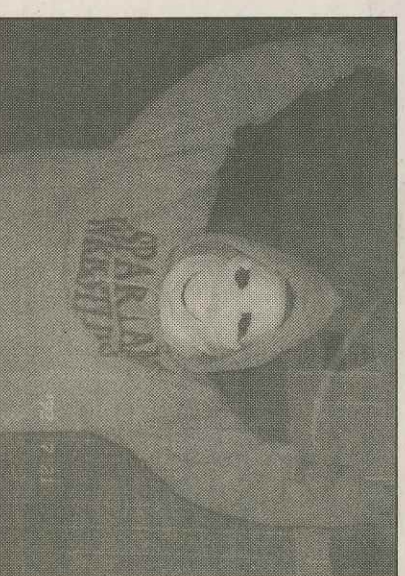
If ever you feel you don't even know yourself, it's okay to hide from yourself. A paper bag over the head will make people judge you for who you are. If a bag is a little too awkward, the full head bandage may be a better choice. Unlike a brown paper sack, some nice white bandages (or toilet paper) won't rattle or fall off. But bandages are more confining than paper bags, and if your head is the shape of a butternut squash, bandages really can't hide that.

If people have a tendency to confuse your nose with a kumquat, you don't have to hide yourself. There are also ways to bolster your confidence. It is absolutely crucial that you spend at least three hours a day in front of the mirror. Tell yourself that you're beautiful. Blow yourself

kisses. Strut your stuff, no matter what your stuff happens to look like. If you've got it, flaunt it. If you don't got it, flaunt it. If you're not attractive, it doesn't matter. Lie, lie, and lie some more until you really believe that you are.

A second solution is turning to total apathy. If you don't care that you're ugly, it's a lot easier to accept it. When you look at your ugly self in the mirror, don't cry. Say something like "Gee, I'm ugly, but I don't really care at all. I love my ugly self."



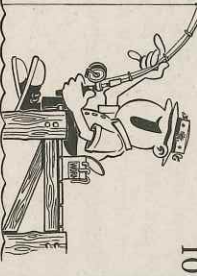

Hopefully, no one reading this will take my advice seriously. If you really hate your own ugliness, I recommend you get professional help (like from a plastic surgeon). Money can solve any problem, after all (that's how capitalism works). Be warned: the uglier you are the more it's gonna cost you. But really, don't take my word for any of this. I am not a professional, and I don't have any experience in the field of ugliness, and if you give me money I cannot solve your problems.



Jan Siomacco

This kid is obviously ugly considering he is wearing used toilet paper on his face to cover it up. I would not recommend this treatment but if you need it, then it's there. If you need some advice on what to wear to cover up that hideous, thing on your neck then come to room 215 and ask for Russ who will give you some ideas.

# June/July

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/Sunday	
17 Graduation Patriot Center 7:30PM	18 Mystics vs. Detroit Shock	19 	20 "Scooby Doo" and "Wind Talkers" come out!! SCHOOL'S OUT!!	21 "Minority Report" comes out!!	22 Usher @ Nissan	23 Mystics vs. Cleveland Rockers
24 buy Orioles tickets for tomorrows game	25 Jimmy Buffet @ Nissan	26 have a nice day	27 have a BBQ	28 Moby and Busta Rhymes @ 930 club	29 Orioles vs. Nissan	30 Mystics vs. Charlotte Sing Orioles vs. PHI
1 	2 Orioles vs. NYY	3 Go fishing for Shamu	4 Orioles vs. NYY	5 Orioles vs. PHI	6 Ozzfest 02 @ Nissan	7 Get sleep and recuperate after Ozzfest
8 Get a camera and tickets and snap some photos of-> Britney Spears @ her concert	9 Briney Spears @ MCI Mystics vs. Phoenix Mercur	10 	11 go to the zoo	12 	13 Happy Summer!	