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WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL 6100 ROLLING ROAD SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22152

WS leads county in sports transfers

By Melissa Lipman
Laura Robinson
Oracle Staff Writers

The Oracle has learned that a recent report about a Fairfax schools policy allowing students to attend schools outside their boundaries exaggerates the number involved.

WS, however, still has the second-highest number of so-called "pupil placements" in the county, and the highest number of pupil placements in varsity sports. The report fueled charges earlier this year that WS recruits student athletes.

Pupil placement is a process that allows students to attend a school outside of the district in which they reside if they have academic, medical or emotional reasons.

"A parent makes a request and fills out a form at the base school," said Principal David Smith. "The principal of the base school puts a recommendation on the form, and the form goes to the school being requested. That's me."

After the principal of the requested school approves the transfer, the form is

sent to a county schools official, considered a neutral third-party.

A student may be pupil-placed at WS for academic reasons; that their school does not offer the AP or IB diploma or classes not available at their base school. Students can also be pupil-placed for medical or emotional reasons, but not for sports.

WS is an AP Diploma school, and offers uncommon classes such as American Sign Language and Japanese.

The Fairfax Journal reported that WS has had 44 pupil-placed varsity athletes on four teams over the past four years. The Journal counted those 44 students from girls and boys soccer and basketball. The highest numbers were 18 from girls basketball and 16 from girls soccer.

"Of those 18 girls playing basketball, 10 of the 18 parents taught here. This is four girls who were counted a total of 10 times," said Smith. "One thing that I think was unfortunate in this was that this person

See PLACEMENT, on Page 5.



File Photo

The Fairfax Journal stirred up controversy about the number of pupil placement students at WS who also participate in varsity sports.

Field hockey spirit day goes awry

Hazing complaint forces JV team to make a quick change at school

By Nayna Gupta
Viewpoint Editor

Normally, junior Tabby Gassler would not wear red spandex, green shorts, white soccer socks and fluorescent blue eye shadow to school. But when the varsity field hockey team decided it would be fun to dress the JV girls up for the day, Gassler went along with the idea.

Halfway through the day, however, field hockey coach Shannon Matheny told Gassler and the other girls they had to change because the administration was concerned that the outfits fell under the category of hazing.

"I was uncomfortable with the outfits when I heard one freshman



Elina Kravkin

The JV field hockey team shows off their silly outfits that the varsity girls dressed them in for a spirit day

player comment in a giggly voice, 'This is totally hazing.'" said senior administrator Joan Galdi. "Then I knew it had to stop."

Because county regulations

are strict when it comes to hazing, the administration has to be careful about where to draw the



Susan Renford

WS Guidance Director Eleanor Saslaw presents senior Omar distinguished award of Hispanic Merit Scholar

Merit scholars study hard

By Melissa Lipman
Oracle Editor

This year WS has four National Merit Semifinalists: Seniors Drew Brooks, Katie Freund, Jason Strempe and Brendan Williams.

When juniors take the PSAT, they are automatically entered into the National Merit competition.

"Students receive three scores in math, verbal and writing," said guidance director Eleanor Saslaw. "These three scores add up to the selection index that is monitored by each state, and the highest half of one percent [of students] in each state become National Merit Semifinalists."

National Merit Commended, National Hispanic scholars, semifinalists and Referred students are announced in the fall of the following year. WS National Hispanic scholars include seniors Roberto Garcia and Omar Yacoubi; also, senior Arlette Koester is a Referred Student in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. WS also has 18 Commended Students.

Students can put these recognitions on college and scholarship applications. "I'm excited," said Brooks. "I hope it's

going to help me get into colleges and get some scholarships."

To become finalists and receive scholarship money, the semifinalists now have to fill out another application that requires their GPAs, transcripts and other information.

"I fill out an application and put down the generic extra-curriculars and write an essay," said Williams. "I forget exactly what the [essay] question is, but it's pretty open-ended."

WS honored the distinguished students on October 25 with a short reception for the honorees and parents in the Career Center.

"When you think of these students who qualify, it's pretty proud because they're in the top of the nation," said Saslaw.

Some businesses and universities also offer individual scholarships or grants to honorees. But even without any money prizes, many still consider the National Merit recognitions to be a great honor.

"This is a real high profile kind of honor," said Principal David Smith. "I know people who were National Merit winners in high school, and they were still listing that on their resume when applying to doctoral programs."

line. Though wary of the outfits, the administration was happy with the way in which the coach and the girls handled the situation. "I thought coach Matheny handled the situation with sensitivity, and the girls were also very cooperative," said Galdi.

The captains and players on the varsity team did not think the incident was hazing because all of the JV girls agreed to be dressed by their "big sisters" on varsity. While the players did think asking the girls to change was unnecessary, they also thought it added to the humor of the situation.

"I think them having to change made the whole thing funnier," said varsity captain Jess Potter. "I didn't think we'd get so much

attention for dressing people up." In the past, other teams have also embarrassed their underclass teammates. During her freshman year as a player on the varsity soccer team, senior Emily Baskin came to school dressed in a chicken suit.

"I didn't mind doing it, it was one of my most memorable days at WS," said Baskin. "I laughed the whole day."

Even though Gassler didn't mind changing out of her embarrassing outfit, she doesn't understand the administration's motives.

"I don't really think it was hazing because the whole JV team agreed to do it," said Gassler. "No one was forced to do it, it was just for fun."



Bill Maher of "Politically Incorrect" can say what he wants, even if the White House doesn't agree.

Stop terrorism, not free speech

By Melissa Lipman
Oracle Editor

Let's hear it for censorship! At a time of war, what could be better than to stop public figures from expressing opinions contrary to the president?

The White House seems to think nothing could. On the September 17 episode of "Politically Incorrect," Bill Maher commented that flying a plane into a building wasn't cowardly, but that attacking a country with a cruise missile from far away is. Without having actually heard Maher's comments, Ari Fleischer, White House press secretary, condemned the remarks.

"There are reminders to all Americans that they need to watch what they do, and this is not a time for remarks like that: there never is," said Fleischer at a Wednesday press conference.

That's right. It could be downright dangerous for people to start thinking independently right now. We can't run the risk that Americans might consider the possibility that attacking America doesn't automatically make someone a coward. Quite to the contrary, actually, seeing as the United States is the most powerful country in the world.

But the point is not whether or not Maher is right, or even whether or not anyone agrees with him. The point is that he has the right to say what he wants no matter how tasteless the White House, or the rest of the country, might find it. If Maher's viewers find him tasteless, they are perfectly capable of changing the channel or turning off the television.

This country doesn't have the best track record when it comes to the First Amendment during wartime.

There is, however, nothing more important than preserving civil liberties right now. This country doesn't have the best track record when it comes to the First Amendment during wartime. Former leader of the US Socialist Party and five-time presidential candidate Eugene Debs, for example, spent ten years in jail after he made supposedly seditious comments during World War I where he told a crowd in the street to "resist militance wherever found."

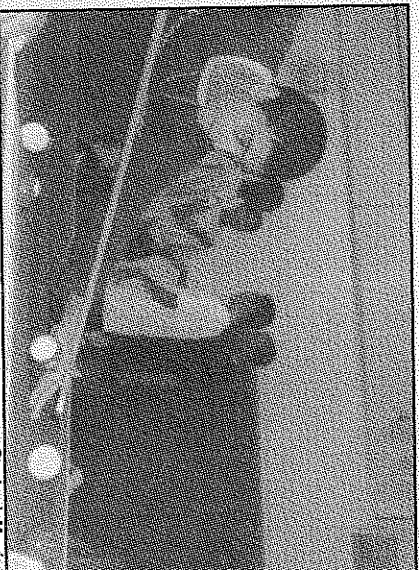
While the current situation has not reached such a low yet, we have to make sure that it never does. The government only becomes tyrannical when its people are afraid to speak out.

Besides, government censorship and chiding are at best a weak deterrent, and at worst counterproductive instigators, stirring up more of the very kinds of comments the government originally hoped to erase.

Springfield needs new hang-out

It is Saturday night, and the clock is ticking. 6 p.m. rolls around, and the typical WS student is still pondering what seems to be the never-ending question, "What should I do tonight?" Some may suggest going to the movies or bowling; all of these are fine the first five times. Others may suggest going to DC and spending a night out on the town. But wait, most high school kids are not 18 yet, which eliminates DC's night life off the list.

After an hour of brain storming, many teens will be so desperate to do something that some feel that taking part in illegal activities is not so bad



Students play pool at the Washington Irving teen center a mediocre substitution for a needed community center

We need to act with liberty and justice for all

By Nayna Gupta
Viewpoint Editor

During World War II, the US government held hundreds of thousands of innocent Japanese-Americans in internment camps simply because of their nationality. Angry and hurt by the devastation of Pearl Harbor, the American public was blind to the injustice Japanese-Americans faced.

According to *The Washington Post*, since September 11, a greater number of Islamic men are being put in jail for immigration violations than men from other countries. Until *The Post* revealed this fact, officials in the government had successfully kept their acts of blatant racial profiling a secret from the public.

Though not on as large of a scale as the Japanese-American internment camps, the secret arrests of 1,147 Islamic men cannot be ignored. If the public does not hold the government officials responsible for these actions accountable, racial profiling in the name of the fight against terrorism could spread to a much larger scale. When Prince William county police pulled over more black drivers than white drivers for speeding violations, the public was outraged. Now, this same kind of racial profiling is occurring at the national level.

Pakistani Mohammad Mouben entered the United States illegally, but he did not know any of the hijackers or terrorists. Still, a government attorney in Miami convinced a judge to jail him without bond, a punishment much harsher than the normal consequences for INS violations.

While Mubeen and other Islamic men have committed immigration violations, so have men from other non-Islamic countries. It is nearly impossible that there are more Islamic immigrants who have violated these laws

Editorial

because there is nothing else to do. Others may sit at home and pout, counting the days until they can leave this place.

This is why we need a Springfield Community Center.

There is a program hosted by Washington Irving Middle School called Teen Center, which is very popular among 7th and 8th graders. Once we get to high school, however, most of us do not want to go back to the middle school "hang out."

Having a public place in Springfield will give teenagers a safe place to be where parents will not have to worry about our safety. Parents are shocked when their child is brought home by the police because of disturbing the peace or taking part in underage drinking.

We are not naive in thinking that the building of a community center will eradicate juvenile delinquency, but a center will give high school students another option.

We need a place where we can have safe fun and not have to worry about getting in trouble or spending all of our money.

Going to the movies gets very expensive, and many of us can not afford to pay for entertainment every weekend.

A room with a large screen television showing requested films and a room with pool tables, will give our high school students a place to hang out and meet new people.

WS students will be very thankful for having a new place to get together.



than men of other faiths and nationalities. Of course government officials should do everything in their power to fight terrorism, but targeting Middle Eastern men just because they are of the same nationality as the hijackers is unjust and unethical.

At a time when our nation's security has been threatened, the government is under pressure to prove that it can respond swiftly. In the rush to act against an enemy, it is easy to infringe upon individuals' rights. Yet it is precisely at such a time as this that the government must uphold the principles that define us as Americans—liberty and justice for all.

The compassionate and generous response for the victims of the recent terrorist attacks proved our strength as a nation, but to maintain our nation's strength it is critical that we oppose any infringements of civil liberties.

THE ORACLE

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West Springfield High School

Anthrax hysteria creates media controversy

Kudos to the media

By Mike Arai
Business/Systems Editor

While a few people say that they are sick of the amount of media on anthrax, 61 percent rightly disagree according to a recent ABC poll.

How many people knew before the anthrax scare that the disease is mostly caused in nature by cattle? I doubt very many. The fact is that most people knew very little of the disease before it spread to the US. The only time we ever really become worried is when it happens to us. If we were more world wise, and stayed informed of events, we would have been more informed than we are now.

However, we do have a right to be concerned, and the media has only been fulfilling its responsibility to the public.

Because of the media, we now know what steps should be taken if we find ourselves in a position where we think we may have been exposed to the bacteria.

We should not be scared of the media's continuing coverage of the outbreak. The best defense against such acts is information and the more information the better.

Many experts, such as Vern Walker, say that the less that is known, the more people will worry. The problem is not receiving too much information at once, but rather the lack of information being given.

For example, there is not as much concern about influenza, a virus, which causes many more deaths than anthrax, as there used to be in the past and this is because of the vast knowledge that people have on the disease. The only thing the media is guilty of is fulfilling its responsibility to inform the public when major events occur. It is not their fault that the major events include four deaths of postal workers from the anthrax scare, the evacuation of the Capitol, and the moving of the Supreme Court when anthrax was found in their building.

The real reason that there is concern is the conflicting messages of officials. When one says there is anthrax in the venting system in the House, another says there is not. This is where the real confusion occurs and becomes worrisome because many start to think if the government does not know, who does? So, to all those who are complaining of the extensive media coverage, there is one last note: if you do not want to listen, don't watch.



We should not be scared of the media's continuing coverage of the outbreak. The best defense against such acts is information and the more information the better.

CNN.com

As always, the media is over-hyping and over-covering these anthrax-related events. I can't think of any other notable topics that the news reporters covered after the September 11 attacks.



Useless laws tally up

Virginians break laws everyday

By Amy McKeever
Entertainment Editor

Old enough to die for our country, but not old enough to vote. In Vietnam, one of the big issues was how 18-year-olds served yet were not permitted to vote. But in 1971, a constitutional amendment permitting 18-year-olds to vote was added to the United States' collection to correct the offending law.

That was one incongruent law that our country corrected; unfortunately there are many similar problems. Stemming from the relatively recent amendment is one of the more prominent issues. Now that 18-year-olds can serve in a war, vote in elections, and be tried as adults in court cases, they are wondering when they can get drunk. Legally, that is.

Even though this issue is not necessarily one that touches everyone, any fool can see that the 21-year-old drinking age is inconsistent with the fact that practically every other liberty is granted to 18-year-olds. If they can be trusted with choosing the leaders of the free world, why can't they have a beer?

I understand the statistics of teenage drunk driving and how they are the reason why we keep the drinking age what it is. It's tough to argue with statistics. But I don't understand why the penalty for drunk driving can't just be stiffened, and I wonder if there is any other solution. It bothers me when our laws punish everybody for the actions of a few people.

I am particularly bothered by the new

Virginia driving laws. To me, they just seem ridiculous. Mandatory midnight curfew, only three people in a 17-year-old's car—their purposes are lost on me. First and foremost, the new laws are secondary laws, you can only be cited for them if you are breaking another driving law at the same time. All that this tells me is that when I'm coming home at 1:00 am or 2:00 am, I had better at least attempt to drive the speed limit. And there are more loopholes in these laws. What will stop a kid from telling a cop that he or she is rushing to the hospital for an emergency, or coming home from a school activity?

But not only are the ridiculous laws governing what time teenagers have to be home or at least off of the street, they are also governing the beds of all Virginia citizens.

Virginia law permits sex only in the missionary position, and prohibits sodomy and oral sex. I see this as an invasion of privacy and an attempt for the government to regulate morality, in an old-fashioned sense of the word. There is no purpose for these laws and I do not believe that they could possibly help anyone. They do not "save anyone from Satan" or even help prevent big issues people have to face these days, like rape or unwanted pregnancy.

These laws are all ridiculous and a waste of time for our government, which should be concentrating on weightier issues. But at the same time, I guess it really doesn't matter if these laws are changed considering few people obey them anyhow.

Anthrax overdose

By JD Kaleem
Business/Systems Assistant

Oh no, more anthrax!

Actually, I'm a little sick of seeing nothing but more anthrax "attacks" every time I turn on the television.

As always, the media is over-hyping and over-covering these anthrax-related events. I can't think of any other notable topics that the news reporters covered after the September 11 attacks - I'm just too bogged down with all this anthrax coverage.

If I was to believe everything I read in the newspapers and see on TV, anthrax would look like a gargantuan epidemic facing the nation. In reality, officials found anthrax in only six cities in the US and it has infected 18 people in four of those cities, out of the millions of cities and hundreds of millions of people in the country. Five people have died from skin contact or inhalation anthrax. The majority of infected people have been postal workers.

The common man barely has any risk of ever seeing any anthrax, and postal facilities have much more security and more sophisticated mail scanning practices now because of the few cases discovered. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) says there is no scientific evidence showing that people can acquire anthrax bacteria from handing mail delivered to their homes. People are concerned about getting sick from contact with anthrax, but it's not at all likely - it's just the craze caused by the media's influence and over-coverage of the events.

Do you know anybody who has been infected or died from anthrax contact? The answer is most likely a "No." Then how can this be such a large problem? I know people whose parents died in the World Trade Center - terrorism is a problem. Terrorism concerns me - anthrax does not.

Do you ever think of the reasons behind why events that occur? Maybe the anthrax cases and coverage are a smoke-screen to distract people from what is happening concerning the US in Afghanistan. I have no idea myself, since, of course, I hear about nothing but anthrax all day. The media has turned us into a nation of hypochondriacs. Many people are rushing to buy antibiotics for any infection of anthrax they may have contracted. Why aren't people rushing out to get flu shots? Flu season is here, and that virus affects so many more people than anthrax. There is no "anthrax season."



Dargie Atteberry

"I don't really have a favorite place, 'cause there's nothing to do."

—Brandon Barden, sophomore



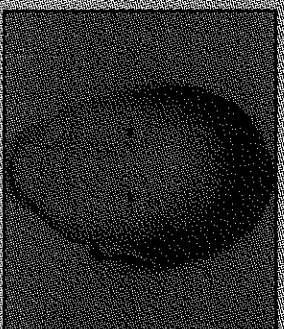
Maggie Atteberry

"The mall, 'cause that's the place to chill."

—Asim Butt, junior

Spartan Spotlight

Where is your favorite hang-out in Springfield and why?



Alysaa Lee

"At my house, because it's in a central location and I can meet there with all my friends."

—Alysaa Lee, sophomore



Brian Savage

"I like to hang out at the mall and talk long distance on the phone, because Springfield's boring."

—Brian Savage, freshman

—Compiled by Maggie Atteberry

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Students take initiative

History Honor Society debuts

By Amy McKeever
Entertainment Editor

When seniors Chris Chipman and Alex Gorski realized that there was an honor society for almost every subject except history, they did not just complain about it. They started their own history honor society.

"Other subjects have honor societies, and history is my favorite subject so I wanted an honor society for that," said Chipman.

Chipman and Gorski first had the idea for a history honor society last year, and now, with the help of US history teacher Margaret Mey, they are implementing their ideas.

"They approached me last year about the society," said Mey. "It just seems fitting to have an honor society for history for kids to participate extracurricularly and be recognized."

Once Mey agreed to be the sponsor of

the History Honor Society, Chipman and Gorski went to Tod Chappell's office to pick up the required forms for starting a club or society and filled them out. They also had to consider the purpose, activities and policies of their new honor society.

"[Chipman and Gorski] talked to the sponsors of other honor societies and looked at the college honor society's, Phi Alpha Theta, constitution," said Mey.

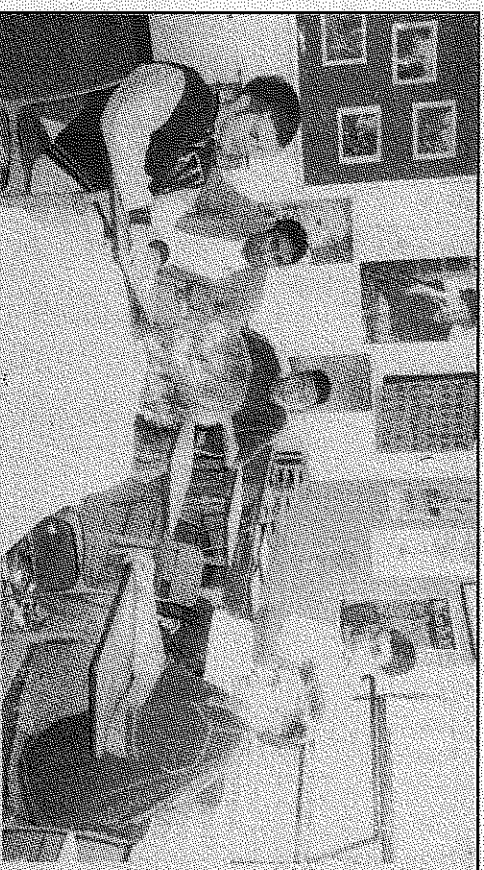
"They showed tremendous initiative."

The History Honor Society just recently completed its application process; applications were due on October 31.

"I was thinking about applying to the History Honor Society because I figured it would look really good on college applications," said junior Katie Rice.

Now that the application process is over, Chipman, Gorski and Mey are looking forward to the rest of the school year.

"We want to have a history bowl in the spring and try to expand the History Honor



Jan Sornacco

Seniors Chris Chipman, V, Ishal Gupta, Daniel Chang, Mike Cryer, Alex Gorski and history teacher Margaret Mey evaluate the applications received for the newly formed History Honor Society.

"It just seems fitting to have an honor society for history for kids to participate extracurricularly and be recognized."

—Margaret Mey

Students join top county orchestra

By Laura Robinson
Managing Editor

Not many people would think of orchestra and band students as being cuthroat competitors, but that's the case for Senior Regional Orchestra.

The countywide orchestra, which has about 100 members, has many students audition for a spot.

"Two-hundred or so people tried out for violin," said senior Chris Franke. "Only about 40 or 50 made it."

Seven WS students will be part of the annual orchestra: seniors Chris Franke, Jake Harris, Brian Hatton, junior Tim LaCrosse and sophomores Sara Franke, Kate Frear, and Grace Jo.

Orchestra members are chosen through auditions, which are rated with a rubric of 200 points.

"You have a blind audition and people give you points," said sophomore Grace Jo. "Whoever gets the highest points gets on it."

For some students picked for the orchestra, the selection was surprising.

For the moment, the minute of silence stands

By Angela Fiorino
ETC Editor

As one of the nine states that requires a moment of silence to start every school day, Virginia has survived yet another challenge.

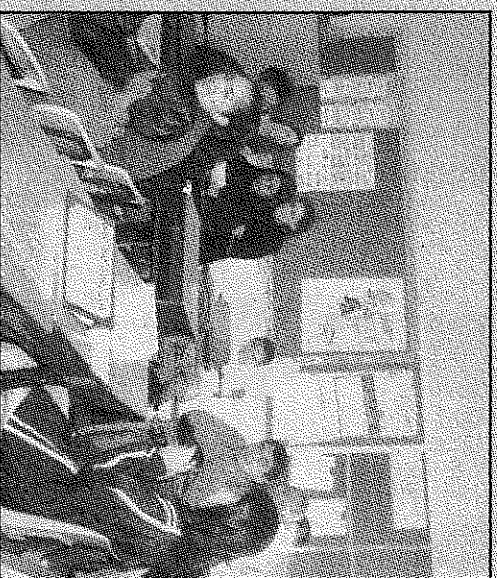
Last month, seven families and their lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union took the moment of silence to the US Supreme Court on the basis that it was a violation of the constitutional ban on state-sponsored religion. In 1985, Alabama tried to have a moment of silence to begin school days but their request was denied because it included prayer.

"I don't think they should ban the moment of silence," said junior Angie Arba. "If you want to do it great, if not then don't, it's not like you have to pray or anything. I don't think they should be taking it this far."

The Virginia Attorney General's office was pleased that the Supreme

Court decided the moment of silence was here to stay. The Supreme Court stated that it was simply a moment of time to reflect, not necessarily pray.

schoolchildren will continue to have a minute each day to reflect on their studies, to collect their thoughts or, if they choose, to bow their heads and pray.



Donner Sornacco

Spanish teacher Susan Lampazzi sits first period class takes a minute during the moment of silence.

"We are delighted to be vindicated by the United States Supreme Court on an issue of such importance," said Attorney General Randolph A. Beales to *The Washington Post*. "It

This is especially important in the midst of our present national crisis." Professionals were not surprised when the Supreme Court rejected the case on the moment of silence. Two years ago, the

court declared organized vocal prayer at high school football games unconstitutional. But since there are no words being spoken during the moment of silence, it does not fall under the same category.

There are many students and teachers who disagree with the moment of silence and feel that it's not fair because it's in the law and it's something that schools have to participate in.

"If someone really wants that time to meditate and not necessarily pray, then there's plenty of time throughout the day to do that: 15 minutes at break and a lot of other time," said senior Nick Little.

Even though many opponents have brought the moment of silence to court, there are still those that support it firmly.

"I think it's pathetic how people take it personal that the moment of silence is forcing religion on people," said senior Alison Byers. "It should be taken as a moment of reflection rather than a religious moment because they never said it was for prayer."



File Photo

Principal David Smith thinks *The Fairfax Journal* reports are misleading.

PLACEMENT, from Page 1

failed to put a total number of pupil placements [in those years]. That would have added a sense of perspective to put this into the whole pupil placement program."

WS has had about 500 pupil placements over those same four years. Students must reapply for pupil placement yearly, so the 500 total is really only about 125 students from other districts per year.

The 44 listed in *The Journal* as varsity athletes were counted not by individual athletes, but by years on a varsity team. For example, if Jane Doe played varsity basketball for three years, she counts as three of the 44 pupil placements in varsity sports. Then if she also played three years of varsity soccer, she counts

Trouble brews

as 6 of the 44 listed. Beth Roop, a math teacher, has had three of her children pupil placed here, two of whom played varsity soccer and basketball each year they were here. So her two girls count as 12 of the 44 pupil placements over the years.

"I had nothing to do with sports," said Roop. "I wanted them here with me, and I honestly thought they'd get a better education here. And they did."

For many in the community, *The Journal* article seemed to expose a controversial situation within WS sports. Different interpretations of the statistics helped ignite the debate over sports and their link to pupil placement.

Despite the negative press the issue has received, WS teachers and administrators are proud that students wish to attend here and teachers place their children here.

"This is a nice school, and kids generally do well here," said Smith. "I don't apologize for that."

Morris reaches beyond the classroom

PBS Teacher Source Advisory Group selects Morris to develop internet materials

By Jenn Carlson
Weekend Editor

The Public Broadcasting System, a largely publicly funded program, has given WS government teacher James Morris the opportunity to serve on the PBS Teacher Source Advisory Group.

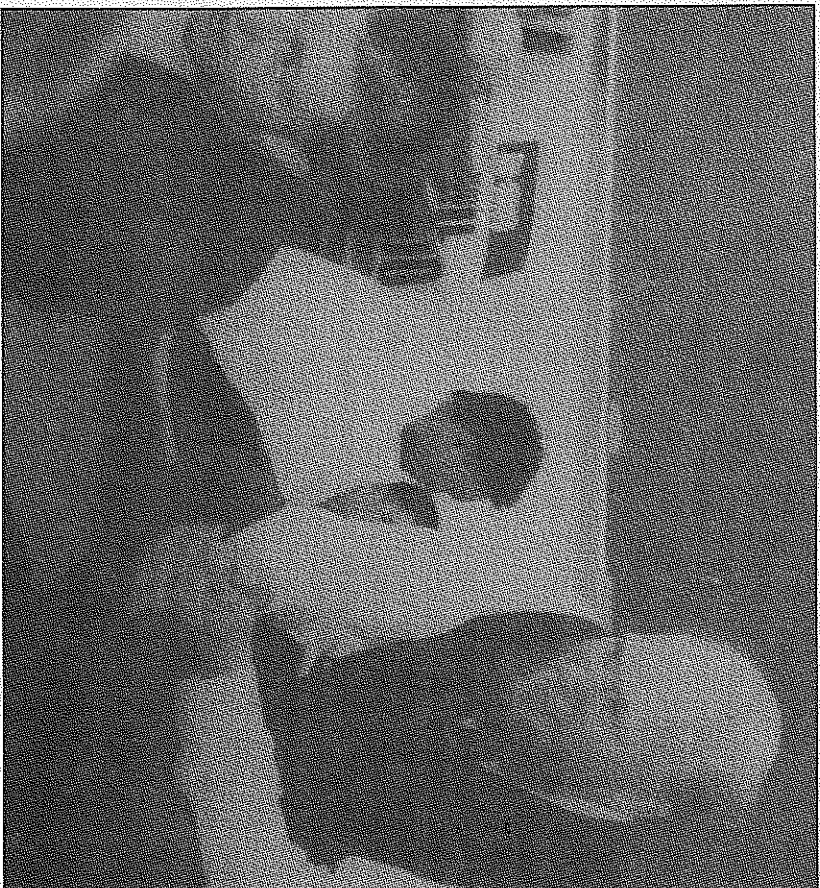
This group, consisting of 15 educators, teachers, consultants and other experts from around the nation, comes together to serve a one year term.

The group will advise PBS on the development of online materials. The materials are available for teachers to use in conjunction with documentaries that they can choose to show to their classes, specifically in grades kindergarten through twelve.

"We can advise PBS on how to design a web page to make it useful," said Morris.

Morris also writes lesson plans that PBS provides for teachers to help enrich the documentaries and bring them to life. "A Buffalo War: A Clash of Cultures" is PBS's newest film and Morris's most recent project.

Morris's lesson plans can be used with the documentary and include information



Maggie Alberry
Morris

Government teacher Jamie Morris helps students build websites in the library aids in website work and planning teacher lesson plans for PBS.

NHS starts tutoring sessions

By Katie W alker

Oracle Editor

If a student needs help in math, he can go to the Math Honor Society for tutoring. Then, if he needs a little help studying for his chemistry quiz, he can get assistance from a Science Honor Society member. And after that, when he needs help raising his French grade, he can run over to the French Honor Society for some help. Or, he could just go straight to the National Honor Society tutoring center and get all the help he needs—in every subject.

NHS has set up a tutoring center in the computer lab in the back of the library. Tutoring is available on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:15 to 3:15. Although the project has already started, it is not fully organized yet.

"This is all in the beginning stages; it's not really developed yet," said NHS president Katy Rifareal. "It will be a couple of months before it really gets started." NHS members can sign up to tutor at various times throughout the school year as a part of their mandatory service hours.

"As an honor society, one of our main jobs is service—to volunteer for the school and the community," said NHS secretary Gaby Pierre. "We try to use the skills we have to help other students."

Tutors are available to help students in every grade with every subject.

"We try to find people with different strengths and have them tutor in a particular area," said Pierre. "We really stress the fact that there will always be someone to help."

The NHS officers realize that they may lose some students to other honor societies, but they say help will always be available.

"Because the math, science, and foreign language honor societies offer tutoring, I don't know if we'll get students in these subjects, but it [the tutoring center] is still open to anyone who wants to come," said Rifareal.

The tutoring center is convenient because a student can go to one place to get tutoring in several subject areas. It makes the situation more convenient for both the tutor and the student.

"Now I can send a student to it [the tutoring center] as opposed to saying, 'You need to go get tutoring,'" said NHS sponsor James Morris. "I can say, 'There's a late bus today, go to the computer lab for tutoring.'"

Not a lot of students have gone to the tutoring lab so far this year, but the NHS officers believe that attendance will increase as the year progresses.

"Later in the year, more people start to realize that they need help," said Pierre. "We'll get a list of seniors who are failing government, a class that is mandatory



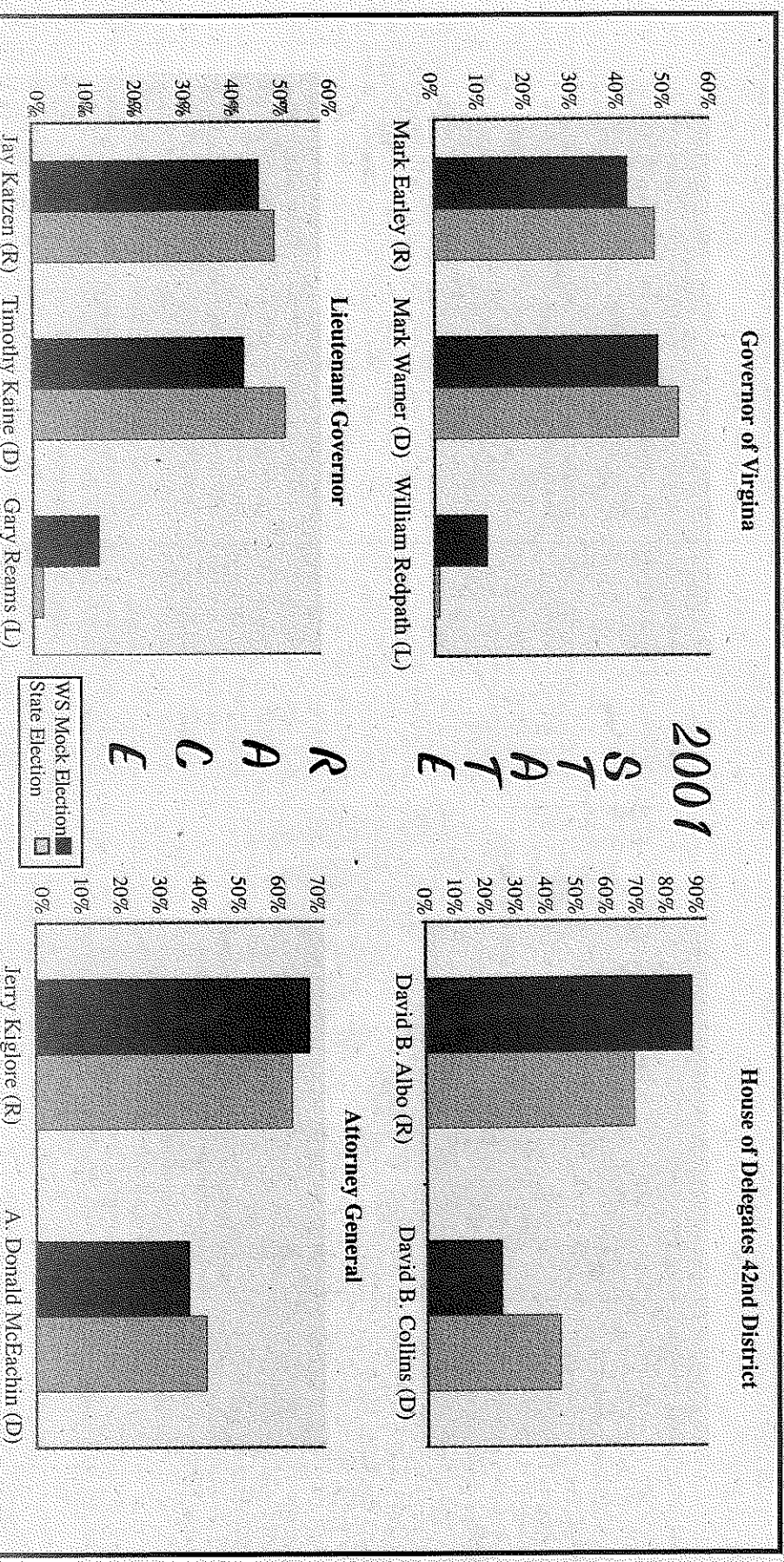
Stephanie Morris

NHS member senior Alex Gorski tutors senior Laurain Hackett after school in the library for NHS points.

Things will get intense towards the end of the year when we tutor students in jeopardy of failing."

Morris attended a tutoring lab when he was in school that was similar to the one NHS has organized.

"It's similar to the system that colleges and universities use," said Morris. "I know from personal experience that it works."



Burke brings Civil War back to life

By Heidi Sfiligoj

Entertainment Assistant

It does not take a time machine for somebody to experience a day in the past. All it takes is some time and a little respect. For school engineer Jim Burke this is no problem.

Burke is active in Civil War reenactments and has been doing them for two years. He works as a volunteer for the 28th VA Company D, and does them to expand his knowledge of a subject he loves.

"I've always been into history. These reenactments just help me appreciate life of the past that much more," said Burke.

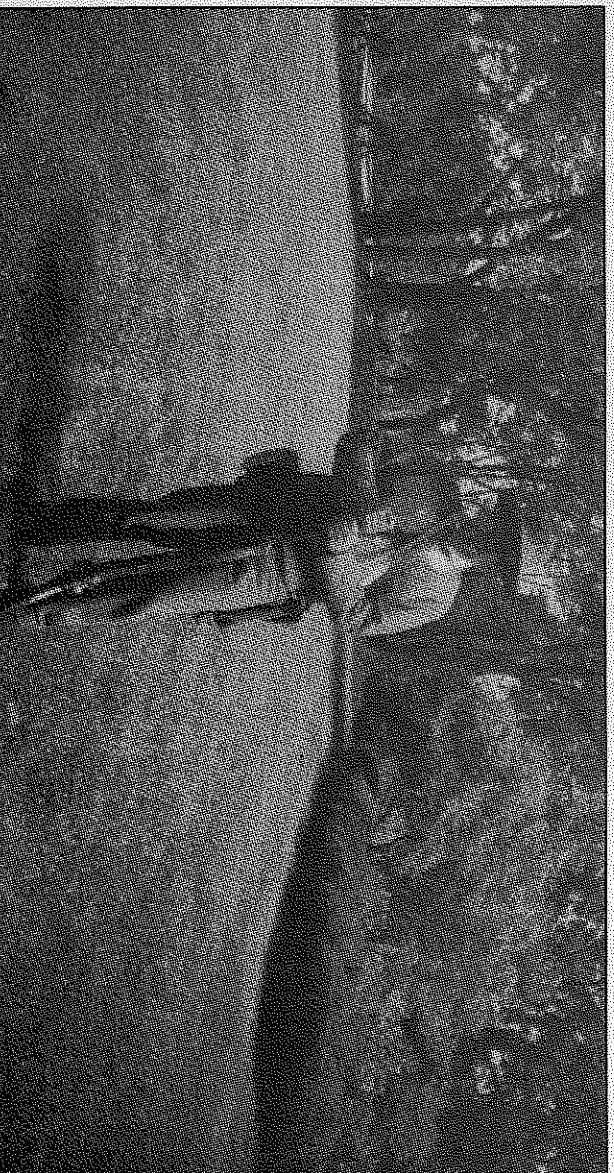
In the battles, Burke plays a soldier and works hard to capture the absolute portrayal of the scene. The fights are about an hour and a half long, but the actors make a whole weekend out of it.

The men and women arrive at the designated field on a Friday night and don't go home until the following Sunday. They spend three days living justice. The people during the time of the war. It helps them realize the hardships of the past and better appreciate the comforts of today.

"When you wake up on that field, it is really cold. The wind is blowing, the conditions are tough. At home you wake up in a nice, warm bed in a nice house. You learn to appreciate the food on the table, the hot water in the showers, the covers on your bed," said Burke. "Small things people take for granted, we learn not to."

Over 15,000 men participate in the Civil War battles, and all come from different backgrounds.

"I love going out and camping and meeting new people



Courtesy of Jim Burke

At a Civil War reenactment, School Engineer Jim Burke takes a moment for a picture in full reenactment uniform.

development that could destroy the battle fields.

"I know you have to have prosperity for people, but once you take battlefields away, they are gone forever. When you see a strip mall across the battlefield, in place of what was once sacred ground, it's just terrible," said Burke.

Still, Burke enjoys paying respect to the men who died for our country and the fields where they fought.

"I plan on doing what I do until I can't do it anymore," said Burke. "I just love it."

Latin club donates Spartanfest profits

By Nayna Gupta

Viewpoint Editor

The boss's words is always final. Fairfax County did not allow school clubs to donate their profits to charities.

President Bush's new program, where donations for children in Afghanistan can be sent directly to the White House, caused Fairfax County to change its policies on financial donations.

This year's Latin club and honor society raised \$70 at Spartanfest selling Latin fortunes attached to blow pops.

"We've tried to give our money away to charities in years past," said Latin club and honor society sponsor Kathy Jarvis.

"But they wouldn't let us do it."

When the President called upon the country to donate money to help the

Afghan children, the county decided to reverse its decision. Exceptions to their rules against donations, however, only apply for this presidential fund.

"We got a letter from the county saying that it was okay to give away the money," said senior class administrator Joan Galdi. "The decision was made because of the presidential directive."

Now because of this change in policy, the Latin club will mail all of its profits directly to the White House to help the Afghan children.

Even though this change in rule only applies for this particular fund, it is often difficult for other clubs to understand why donations can not be made to other groups or organizations.

Although county regulations on donations may remain strict in the future,



File Photo

Spartanfest is always a good place for clubs and classes to raise money year was the first, and maybe only year they can donate the money to charity.

. But this

most agree that bending the rules for this situation is appropriate.

"Everyone [in Latin Club] agreed it would be a good thing to give money to

children," said Latin Club officer Ingrid Garrett. "The recent attacks have had an impression on everyone, and it was good that they let people out."

Teen drivers take heat Accident causes teens' judgment to be tested

By Jen Berne

Weekend Editor

Skidding into other cars, poles, and sometimes people students take on the challenge of driving.

"My class (Driver's Education) is designed to help prevent teenage drivers from making mistakes that could cost them their lives," said drivers' education teacher Ken Minnoz. "If my students walk away from this class remembering anything I hope it will prevent them from harming themselves or others."

Drivers under the age of 25 years old have the highest rate of involvement in fatal crashes than any other age group. Two years

ago, a then rising senior, Miguel Saenz was killed in an automobile accident on Rolling Road.

Saturdays and Sundays are the two days in which most motor vehicle deaths occur. Saturday accounts for 21 percent of deaths and Sunday accounts for 18 percent. Members of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety believe that they are the days because kids are out partying and drinking then. Young drinking drivers are involved in fatal crashes at over twice the rate as drivers who are legally of age to drink.

occur.

Students are often involved in accidents whether they are right here in our parking lot or along the boundaries of the Springfield area. Sometimes students leave notes on cars they've hit and sometimes they don't.

"There's more to driving than mere statistics," said senior Elizabeth Ingram. "It depends on the person. Either they drive carelessly or they don't."

Stop signs can be hard for a new driver. Understanding right away coming to a complete stop and judging if it is a good time to pull into traffic can all be difficult.

Magpie, Alsberry

New club created for the movie buffs of WS

By Rachel W. ohlers

Oracle Staff Assistant

The average Monday talk: "What movie did you see this weekend?" It's just a part of teen life; teens love to see movies. However, now instead of paying eight dollars to spend time with friends at a movie, there is a club at WS where movie viewing with friends can be done for free.

The new movie club meets three times a week in club sponsor Henry Horn's room, room 52, to watch a movie. There is no specific type of movie that the club watches. It varies, all depending on what the students would like to watch. After each movie a club member volunteers to bring in a movie for the next meeting.

A few weeks ago the movie club officially began. Some students, including seniors Brian Hrotenok and Billy Yi and junior Ben Mould got together, all with the hopes of beginning a club that would satisfy their interest in the movie industry. The members of the club vote each week on the movies they would like to watch that particular week. After viewing the movie they discuss a variety of topics which range from the plot of the movie, to



Junior Emily Stevenson films her friends after being inspired by a movie club meeting.

Russ W. addell

the similarities and differences of a director's films, to how the theme of the movie personally affected the members themselves.

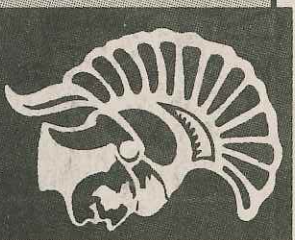
"We mostly watch movies, although I wanted it to be more of a movie-making club," said junior Ben Mould. Although the club watches more movies than it produces, it does spend one of its three weekly meetings working on a movie production and the club's members have already produced a movie.

The movie club also permits the club the freedom to choose the movies they would like to view, although parents have to sign a permissions sheet before their children can watch "R" rated movies.

"We watch a lot of movies that we would not be allowed to in a typical classroom setting," said Mould. "That [freedom] really makes the club enjoyable."

Because the club was just started, most WS students do not know it even exists. However, members expect it to gain popularity as it becomes better known.

Movie Club is the greatest," said sophomore Shana Coffey. "Everyone should join."



Spartan Profiles



Isabelle Melkonian

Alexander Reyes-Campos

By Erika Kim

Inside Editor

Pulling out the weeds, painting the house, cleaning out the basement. As fun as these activities may sound, these are

such as the Future Business Leaders of America and the French Honor Society. Outside of school, Melkonian participates in her church youth group at Nativity Church. Currently, she is a board member of her church youth group and helps organize its meetings.

Like many other area churches, Melkonian's youth group works on various community service activities. With her youth group, Melkonian has gone to DC to feed the homeless and has also helped fundraise money.

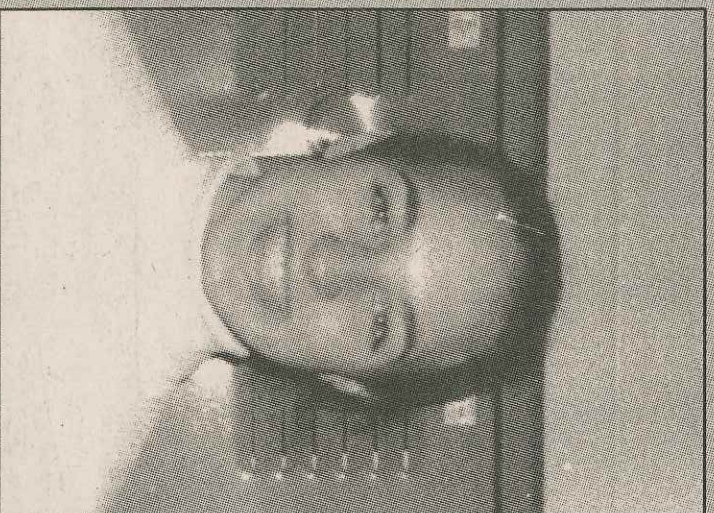
For a week in the summer, Melkonian, along with sixty kids from her youth group travels to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to join other teenagers from around the country to help people in need by doing chores such as housepainting, yard work, and cleaning for elderly or disabled people.

"It's really tiring because of the busy itinerary but you get over it. At the end of the week I wanted to stay there. I didn't want to leave," said Melkonian.

Last summer, Melkonian didn't do a lot of physical labor that is often required at the work camp, but worked in a rehab center for alcohol and drug abusing women who still lived with their children at the rehab center. She came in contact with many different people.

She played with the children, sang Christian songs with them, and shared the Gospel by telling them stories from the Bible. The most important of all, she gave them much needed encouragement.

"It's really rewarding in the end," said Melkonian. "You get a feeling of responsibility and accomplishment."



Constance Borr

Senior Isabelle Melkonian worked with her youth group to volunteer in run down neighborhoods.

not the types of activities that the average teenager willingly volunteers to participate in over his summer vacation. Senior Isabelle Melkonian, however, gladly gives up a week of her summer vacation every year to participate in a community service activity with her church that includes all these chores.

"I love it. It's really fun. You meet a lot of new people and you get a chance to go out and have fun," said Melkonian.

This is the fourth year that Melkonian has been a student at WS, and she is actively involved in school activities

By Marianne Shaddix

Features Editor

By simply walking down the halls of our school it is easy to observe that WS truly is a melting pot of many different backgrounds and experiences. However, we usually do not take time to notice the many interesting back grounds of WS students until we pick one out of the crowd. Sophomore Alexander Reyes-Campos and his siblings are the first members of their family to be born in the United States. His parents were both born in Guatemala and later immigrated to the United States. Most of his relatives still live in Guatemala, and he has made two trips over there to visit his relatives.

Reyes-Campos believes there are many ways in which Guatemala is different from the United States.

"In Guatemala most of the people are poor and [visitors] can see lots of poverty," said Reyes-Campos. "There are a few nicer areas though with houses like you see in the United States."

Traditions and customs are also other characteristics that he believes set Guatemala apart from the United States.

"For Christmas Guatemalan families buy a manger. Each night leading up to Christmas they add one more piece to the scene and on Christmas Eve they all drive around to search for the Baby Jesus to make the manger scene complete," said Reyes Campos.

Despite his unique background, Reyes-Campos is an all American guy. His favorite movie is "Fast and the Furious," and he loves making trips to Kings Dominion with his family whom he enjoys spending time

with. In fact, his role model is his mother.

"I really look up to her because she has done so much for me and my brothers," said Reyes-Campos.

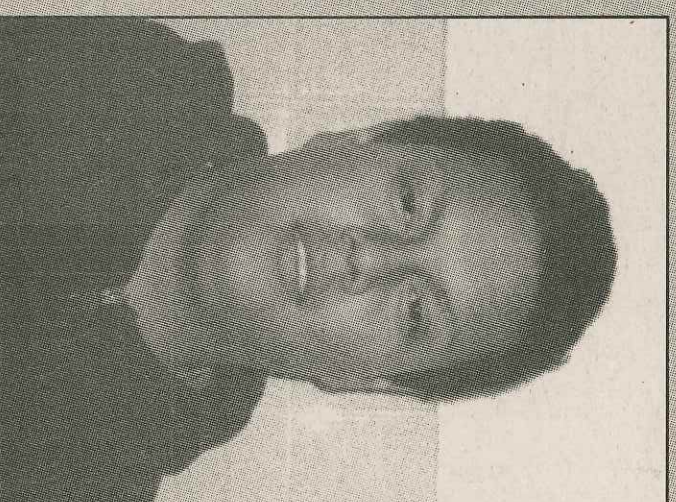
On weekends he can most likely be found hanging out with his friends and playing sports. He has been playing soccer since he was six and basketball since he was 10. Another one of Reyes-Campos's hobbies is writing. He especially enjoys composing poetry.

This is Reyes-Campos's first year at WS. As a freshman he attended Minnie Howard School.

Reyes-Campos has high hopes for his future.

"When I grow up I'd like to be a writer," said Reyes-Campos.

He expects this job to bring a name for himself, and of course, lots of money.



Jeff Sommarco

Like many other WS students, sophomore Alexander Reyes-Campos has roots in a country besides the US.

National programs help prepare students for careers in politics and government

By Ruchika Malhotra

News Section Assistant

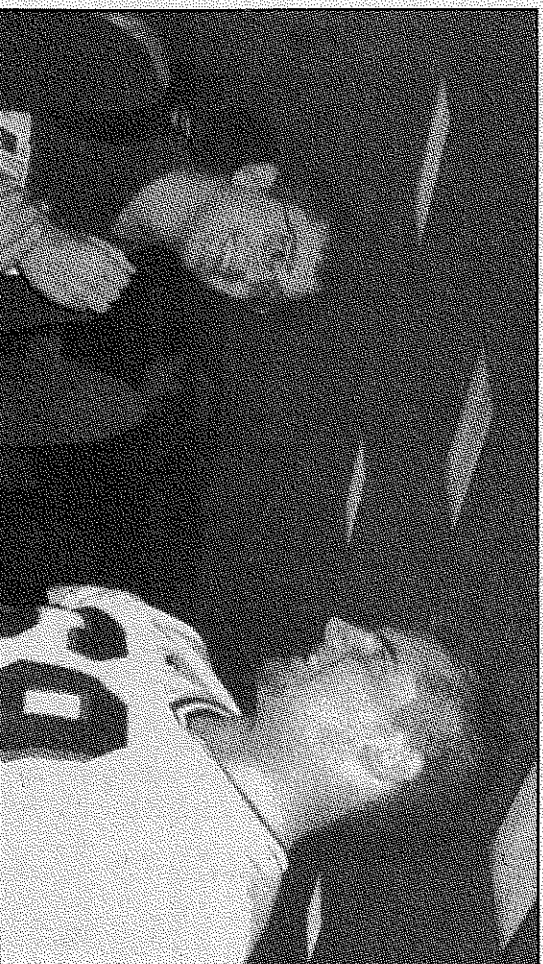
America has always been known as the land of opportunity, and the government is offering many different programs that are promoting this.

A recent event was the National Youth Leaders Congress which was held November 6 through November 10. Hosted in DC, about four students per state are accepted to participate after getting through the nomination and acceptance processes. The program offers students with an chance to personally shadow a congressman.

"I think it's good to meet leaders of the nation and put a face with their name and understand who's running the country," said junior Alex Davis.

Another program based in DC is the Presidential Classroom. It allows high school students to have a hands on approach and experience with the American political system.

"I think it'd be really good time to do it now because of what [all has] been going on," said junior Denise Thrush. "You could get an inside look on how Congress is dealing with the recent events."



Juniors John Massie and Andrew W also discuss their interest in participating in programs like the Presidential Classroom.

Consistana Born

A different program, which is not based in DC, is the People to People Student Ambassador program. It's an organization established by President Dwight Eisenhower that allows kids to go overseas to countries, such as Australia, for 22 days and learn about their government.

"I think it's better [than Presidential Classroom] because you get to apply your knowledge of the American government, rather than learning about it, by comparing it to a foreign government," said junior Sun Cho.

A reason why some students do not attend or apply for the programs is the timing. Hectic schedules can get in the way of these rigidly planned programs.

"I just don't want to take time away from school," said Thrush.

With all the opportunities and experiences these government programs offer, student still attend them for other less political reasons.

"I think it'd be a good experience," said junior John Massie, "and it'll look good on my college application."

Students fall into after school routines

By Jenny Askin

Managing Editor

2:00, 2:10, 2:15. Finally the bell saves the students of WS. After the last bell WS turns into a quiet maze of hallways, almost completely empty.

Once out of school, students often engage in a daily routine. Some do homework, watch TV, or play sports, anything to get their minds off their day and the week ahead.

For the WS students who play for sports teams it is often hard to relax once the school day is over. The academic part of school is only a fraction of the time they spend attending school practices, training, and games. Some students spend an equivalent of a school day at their sporting events.

"I don't have a lot of time after school to relax," said junior volleyball player Michelle Anderson. "I have a

snack, and I watch "A Dating Story" before I have to go to practice."

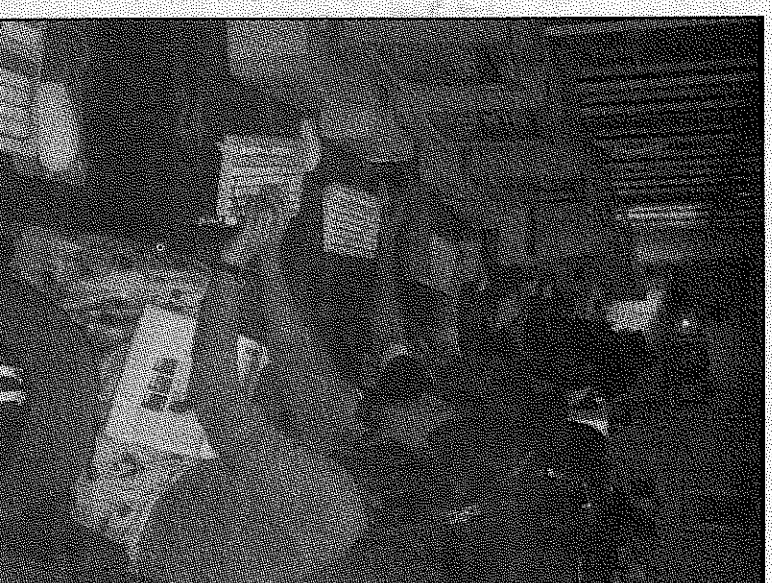
Besides playing sports, students get their minds off of school by just plain hanging out with their friends.

"When I get home I eat some food, and then I like to go to my friend's house to lift weights," said senior Matt Davis.

For the students who like to spend time outside, Burke Lake is an option many embrace. Burke Lake offers students jogging and bike trails, fishing, volleyball courts and the rising sport of frisbee golf.

Some students feel that just being away from school itself is relaxing. After school and even during the weekends students enjoy playing sports and video games with their friends.

Said senior Ryan Shaw, "After school I like to play lacrosse and play the greatest game in the world, NCAA Football 2002."



Students work on the computers in the library after school. This is a common routine for many students.

Russ W addel

MESA holds dance as fundraiser Club joins forces with Namaste to host Nasha Dance Party

By Katie Walker

Grace Editor

There are not a lot of options open to WS students who like to go clubbing—unless they are 18. But for just five dollars, the Nasha Party was a great alternative for younger club goers. Organized by WS's Middle Eastern South Asian Club (MESAC) and TJ's Namaste Club, the November 9 Nasha Party was essentially a club party for teenagers.

"The party took a lot of advertising and a lot of planning," said MESA co-president Priyanka Sarafi. "We [MESA and Namaste members] called each other and split up the work."

The party was held in TJ's main gym and lasted from 7:30 to 11:30. People attending the party were instructed to "dress to impress." There were decorations, lights and a DJ who plays at real clubs.

"There was cultural music," said MESA co-president Fatima Razi. "But we added more American influence because we wanted a bigger crowd so we could raise more funds."

The Nasha Party was very similar to a party that

MESA organized last June called Mash 2K1.

"It was easy to put it together this year because we did it last year," said Sarafi. "We knew that we would have a

members are graduating this year, so it is unclear whether they will be such an active group next year. As a result, officers don't know whether or not they need to save funds for next year. Still, members have many ideas about how to spend the money.

"We might use the money to go on a big trip with everyone that has been really involved," said Razi. "We might try to go to King's Dominion or a cultural place in New York."

There could be complications in planning a trip so there are other ideas on how to use the funds. "We will probably have a couple of other events and also donate some of the money to a charity fund," said Sarafi.

MESA members think that the party was a great success.

"It was a lot of work, but it paid off in the end," said MESA Historian Ali Razi.

The party was not only a success for MESA and Namaste members, but it was fun for everyone else that attended as well. "It was a simple idea," said Fatima Razi. "But it was a good way for people to come together and enjoy themselves."

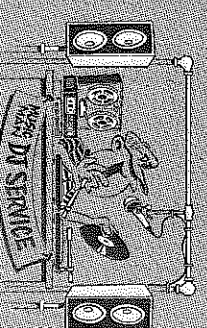


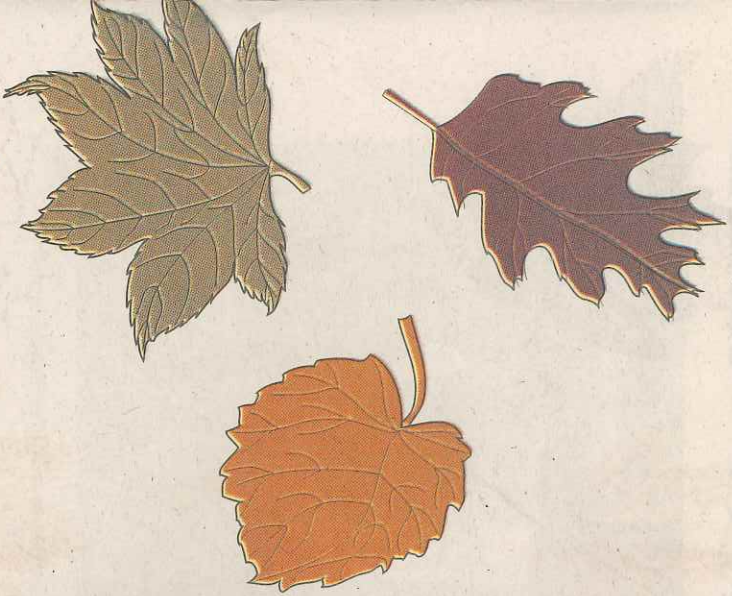
MESA members seniors Shannala Khalid, Jalpa V Sarafi and Ali Razi make plans for the Nasha Dance Party

Jalpa V Sarafi

good turn out"

MESA officers are unsure how they will use the funds raised from ticket sales and drink sales. Many of the



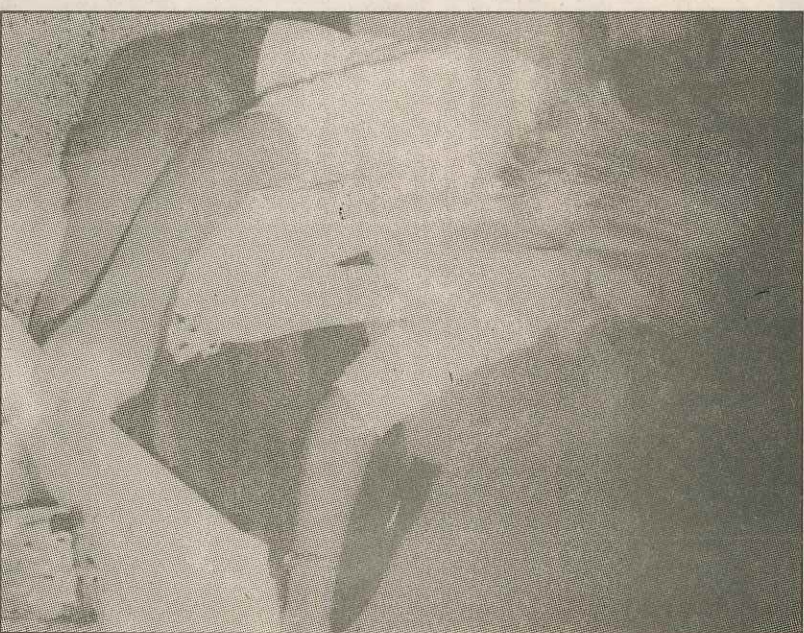


FALL



Maggie Attebery

Junior T eneeshia Rautier comes to school styling in her knee length skirt and black go-go boots.



Maggie Attebery

Freshman Lindsey Elleff wears a scarf to add a little zest to her outfit.

It's all about style

By Heidi Stiiigoj
Entertainment Assistant

This fall, it is all about looking good. Forget the big, fat ski jackets and the facemasks. Yeah, they are warm. But when it comes to being fashionable, there are better things to hide your body in.

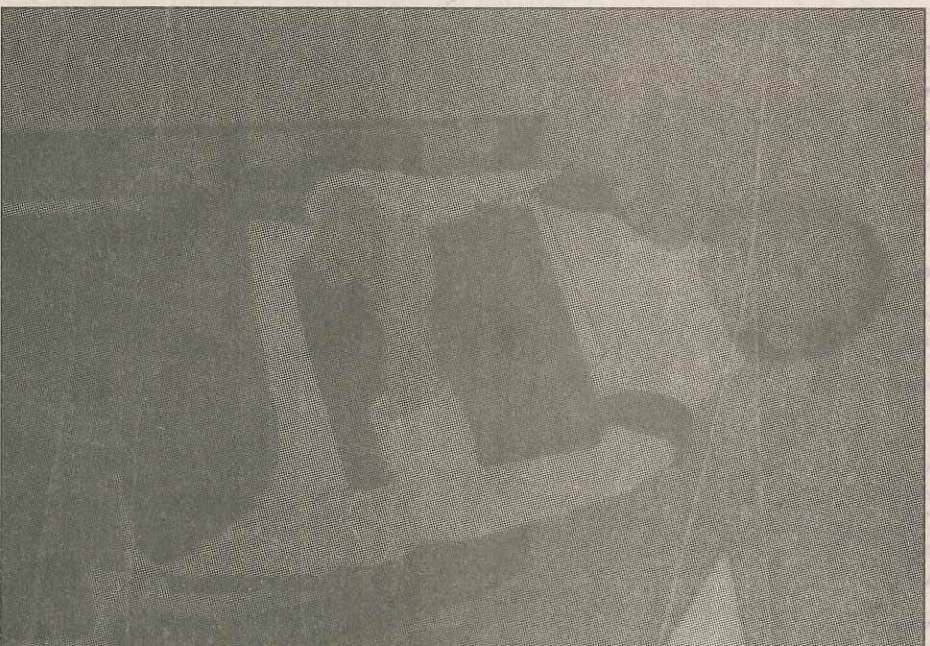
Sweaters are nice, and this year they come with a creative twist. Long, sweeper sweaters that tie around the waist are in with a bang and a definite must-have for any reader of Cosmo or any one concerned with being en vogue. They are popular within a wide range of colors. Camel, however, is a favorite of the season.

Now what to wear with the sweater? Plaid pants, colored corduroys and decorative denim, are all fine choices. They spice up the cold weather and add some tang to the everyday life.

"I love colored corduroys because they are unique. I'm also into studs and rhinestones because they are fun and not found on your average day clothes," said sophomore Lisa Giarrana.

There are many times when a person has to look cute and an obvious one is when a guy or gal is out in the woods, playing in the leaves, and chilling with that special somebody. This calls for a swank bucket cap, a chunky scarf, and matching gloves. Yes, scarves are back in. The childhood terror of bundling up is gone.

If it's the whole celebrity style one is trying to accomplish, then just remember this one word: low. Everyday the styles of pants among the celebrities just keep getting lower and lower, until...what! How low did she go?



Maggie Attebery

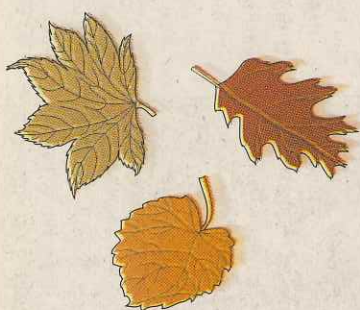
Sophomore Jennifer West not only wears turtlenecks because they are in fashion but also to keep warm.

Other people think, "said junior Emily Lenzer. Now that the looks are known, go out there and get them! This fall, nobody wants to be a victim of the fashion police. So, get the desired look, and flaunt it!

So, get the desired look, and flaunt it!

"There's so much nature; it's amazing."

—David Royce, junior



Stephanie Morris

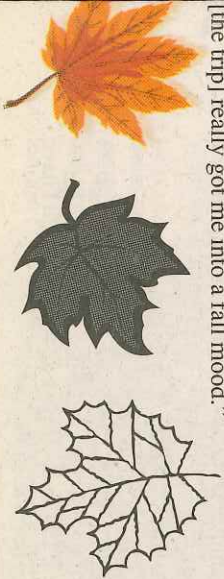
Students go outdoors

"We thought it would be fun to be little kids and play in the pumpkin patch," said junior Erica Reppa.

The group took a hay ride, swung on ropes, played in the pumpkin patch, ate free apples, and drank free cider as well. Cox also has a petting zoo, where the animals can be fed by visitors too.

"The visit helped my transition from summer into fall," said junior Patrick Walsh. "Plus, I went to see the goats and did them."

Others that wanted to bond and get into the season of fall visited a plantation in Fredericksburg where WS' select musical groups, Personality, Pizzazz and Madrigals. The group took a minute hayride around the plantation. They swung on ropes in a haybarn, played various games, and sat around a campfire. "The hayride was awesome," said junior Cari McCluskey. "[the trip] really got me into a fall mood."



United We Stand concert benefits 9/11 victims

By Katie W alker

Oracle Editor

It's rare to see a group of music artists with such diverse sounds as Michael Jackson, P. Diddy, Train, and *NSYNC all play at the same show. On October 21, the all-day United We Stand—What More Can I Give concert at RFK stadium brought together over 25 performers with a variety of music backgrounds.

The concert benefitted the American Red Cross Liberty Fund, the Salvation Army Relief Fund, the Pentagon Relief Fund, and the Rewards for Justice fund. With all profits going toward the victims of the September 11 attack, the concert attracted all kinds of music lovers. WS students were among the crowd that packed the stadium.

"I went because the money went to a good cause and also because they had good bands," said senior Rebecca Weiner.

"*NSYNC was my favorite, but I was very impressed with Billy Gilman's performance because his music went off, and he started

singing a capella. He did a very good job."

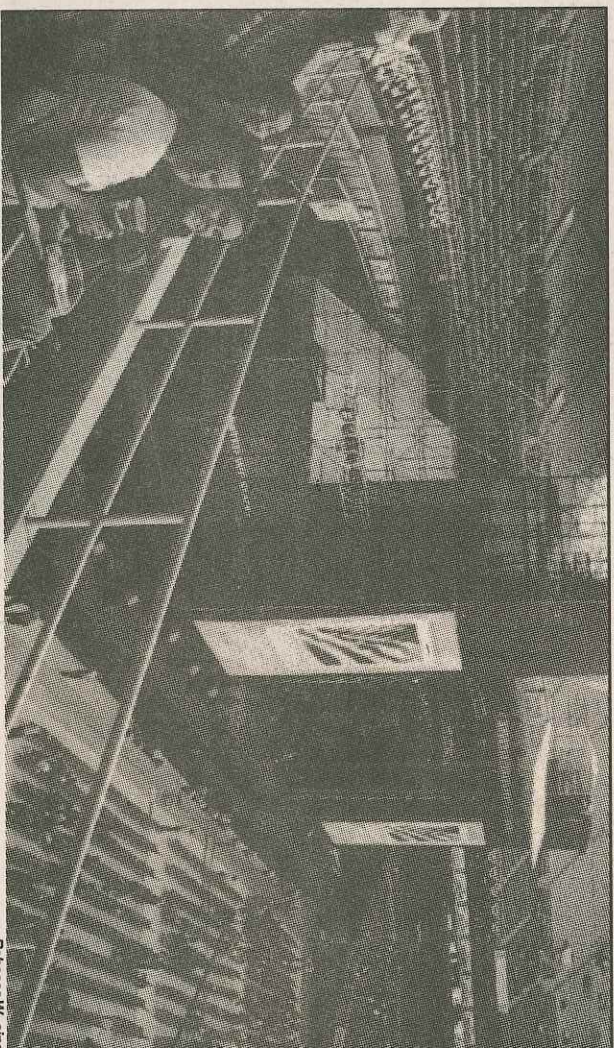
Some students went to see their favorite bands but also enjoyed the performances by artists of whom they are not usual listeners.

"My friend had a ticket and asked if I wanted to go, and I thought it sounded exciting," said junior Heather Bouley. "*NSYNC and Aerosmith did a good job, but I also really liked seeing the people you don't hear a lot like Bette Midler and James Taylor."

The groups did not perform according to the schedule because it took longer to set up between acts than the concert organizers had previously anticipated. Some groups, including The Goo Goo Dolls, Train, and Mariah Carey, performed hours behind schedule.

"I was disappointed that I didn't get to see Train because they came on so late," said Bouley.

While a lot of people went home before the long concert was



Senior Suzanne Wong, junior Heather Bouley, and senior Gillian Ramsey wait in excitement in their seats near the stage for the United We Stand concert to begin.

over, others opted to stay until the end.

"I saw all of it, I was there until one in the morning. A lot of people left, but I came to see

Michael Jackson who was last. I didn't care how late it was, I

stayed until he came on," said junior Krista Roper. "He was the biggest part of it; people were screaming really loud for him."

The United We Stand concert appealed to a variety of musical tastes, but people were generally

supportive of all of the performers.

"Some people liked one particular group, and other people didn't," said Roper. "But it was nice that all different artists could come together for a good cause."

Rocker Ozzy Osbourne is making a comeback with a slightly different style and outlook. His first solo album in six years, "Down to Earth," was released on October 16 and he is currently on the "Merry Mayhem" tour.



Osbourne is reborn

By Margaret Santiago

Oracle Staff Assistant

Bat and pigeon heads are all in the past for performer Ozzy Osbourne.

"I'm glad he's back and I hope to hear more from him," said junior Patrick Walsh.

Osbourne is kicking off his fourth decade with the release of his first solo album in six years, "Down to Earth." This album first hit stores on October 16. The album will not let fans down with its continual flow of hard rock. The album opens with, "Get Me Through," as song written as a letter to his fans.

Osbourne's current tour, Merry Mayhem, was formerly known as Black Christmas but, after the tragic events of September 11 Osbourne decided that with so many lives lost people would already be having a lack Christmas. He wanted

to be respectful of the families. Osbourne is also donating all proceeds from ticket and merchandise sales from the Meadowlands show on December 23 to the families of firemen and police officers who lost their lives in the World Trade Center tragedy.

Osbourne's new album also includes footage of Osbourne and legendary guitarist Randy Rhoads performing "Crazy Train" and "Mr. Crowley" in 1982, only a short time before Rhoads' death.

In the past Osbourne has proven to the world that it's possible to get through everything, and he continues to be a reminder of this to people today.

"I love Ozzy Osbourne," said teacher Micah Herzig. "I think it's great how he and his wife were able to stick close together and remain strong through his drug abuse."

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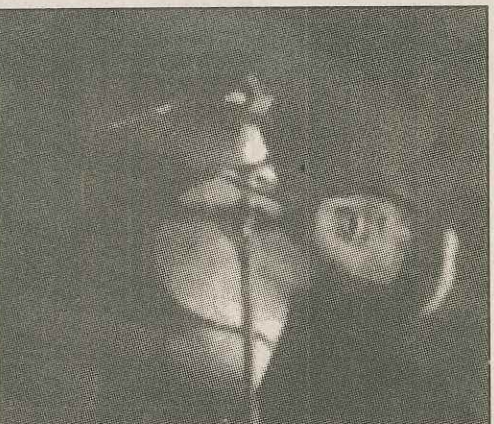
Broadway rhythm visits the DC area

By Jenny Askin

Managing Editor

Broadway is dark tonight. Popular Broadway shows are finally making the trip from the Big Apple to the Nation's capitol.

Starting November 13, the controversial musical "Rent" will be playing at the Warner Theater in DC. The show will run for five days and shows start at 8:00 pm, except for the Saturday matinee show which starts at 2:00 pm. Tickets range from \$25-55, and can be



Eve Ensler, the author of "The Vagina Monologues," one of the shows coming to town, performs in her show.

purchased either on the internet or through ticket vendors.

"Rent" is highly controversial to some because it deals with a group of friends, couples and ex-lovers who battle with the realities of homosexuality, AIDS and death.

Along with "Rent" the colorful and lively musical "Cabaret" is coming to the Metropolitan area. "Cabaret" will perform on D.C.'s Broadway from December 26 until the 29. "Cabaret" has had several well known Hollywood stars take over the lead of the sexy, and scintillating role of Sally. Stars like Joely Fisher, Teri Hatcher, and now more recently Brooke Shields have taken the opportunity to portray Sally. "Cabaret" takes place in Berlin, in a



"Rent" is a popular Broadway musical that's coming to the Warner Theater.

seamy nightclub called the Kit Kat Club. Sally is a singer and star at the club. The musical deals with highly controversial issues like alcohol abuse, sex, and pregnancy.

Last year the WS chorus took a trip to New York where members had the chance to see shows on Broadway. Senior Alicia Kirsch, who is also involved with the WS theater program, was one of the students who got the chance to experience the magic of Broadway.

"I think it's awesome we live so close to a place where we can see these great shows."

—Alicia Kirsh, senior

"I saw 'Rent' and it was awesome. The whole theater was geared toward the show," said Kirsch. "My friends and I waited outside to meet the cast members. It was really cold outside and we waited a long time but we finally got to see them."

Kirsch and other WS theater buffs are excited to have the opportunity to see these popular shows here in D.C.

"I think it's awesome we live so close to a place where we can see these great shows," said Kirsch. "I can't wait to see 'Cabaret.' I know all the music, but I have never seen the show."

Cappies program kicks off their own Cabaret

By JD Kaleem
Business/Systems Assistant

Take an old firehouse, add in \$15,000 and hard work, and one gets the Cappies Cabaret, a new community venue in McLean for high school theater productions.



The program stems from the Critics Awards Program (Cappies), in which drama and journalism students travel around Northern Virginia to review school productions. Then they accumulate in a Tony's-style gala in June, held at the Kennedy Center in DC.

"Though the Cabaret, students can direct and perform shows in a club or cabaret-style setting, before audiences of other teenagers, lending a little teen-flavored 'Off-Broadway' to our community," said Cappies Director, Bill Strauss. "The McLean Citizen's Foundation donated \$15,000 to make improvements to the Old Firehouse Teen Center to convert it into performing space, and it's

now quite a nice-looking place." Any high school in Northern Virginia may perform in the Cappies Cabaret, with Langley, McLean, and Mt. Vernon currently scheduled. The shows are at 7:30 pm on November 17 and 24, as well as on a few dates in March.

"It's a good idea with a lot of potential although, WS will not be able to participate this year since we're so busy with the fall play," said theater teacher Mary Jo Levesque.

Although WS won't be included in the lineup in November, students hope to be noticed in the future.

"It sounds cool. I definitely am going to push WS to put on pieces

of the spring musical at the Cabaret," said senior Judith Pulman, a Cappies critic and theater student.

Other students see the Cabaret as irrelevant to the school.

"It's a good idea, but it's really far away from WS," said senior Gill Ramsey, another Cappies critic. "I don't know if anyone would be interested in it."

No matter the amount of performances that are scheduled, Strauss expects the Cabaret to be as successful, as the venue was with its workshop's presentation during this past summer of *MakKiddo*, a musical about high-stakes high-stress high schools.

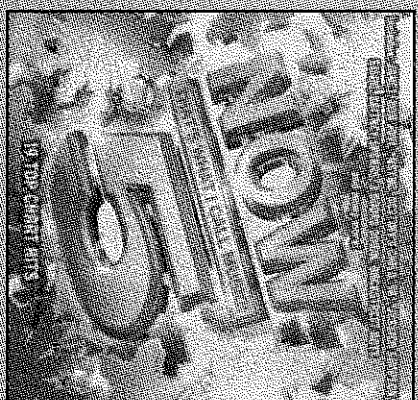


"The goal is to have small-scale shows held before packed teenage audiences on Saturday evenings throughout the whole school year," said Strauss. "To succeed at that, we need two things: great shows and great audiences."

Oracle Picks

"Now 5"

The CD "Now 5" is a great choice for anyone. With a variety of different music genres, nearly every taste is provided for on this CD. It has pop, including songs by Britney Spears and "NSYNC, for that music taste. It contains rock, with "Wonderful" by Everclear and "It's my life" by Bon Jovi. The only downside of the CD is the small amount of each type. Its great selections of titles by talented artists, however, that greatly makes up for this.



File photo

The Relic

With action jumping from every page, the suspenseful mystery thriller *The Relic* by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child proves to be an interesting read to put it mildly. The book starts out with an accident-prone expedition in South America that escalates to disaster until the story continues in the National Historical Museum of Anthropology in New York with a series of brutal, unsolved murders. Margot Green, an assistant curator at the museum, and novelist Bill Smithback find themselves caught in the midst of the crimes while they attempt to find a burial killer before the opening of a new museum exhibit, where Federal Agent Pendelgast believes the killer will strike next. The characters in this book are well described and extremely realistic, adding to the story. This novel makes for great reading with an unexpected outcome.



File photo

"Remember the Titans"

"Remember the Titans" is an excellent movie that teaches good morals and hits close to home. The setting is at TC Williams HS in the 1970s when the school integrated. This Disney movie tells the story of the Titans, TC's football team, and their undefeated season when the school became integrated, causing an integrated team. Although their is initial reservation on the team, the new African American coach, Herman Boone (Denzel Washington), forces the players to unite during a training camp. The team faces many obstacles that their opponents do not have to deal with, the most important being prejudice not only biased referees but also bias within their own school. With suspenseful moments, this touching football story teaches people to judge others not by race but on their character



File photo

—Compiled by Mike Arai

Can't forget about the good ol' classics

By Melissa Lipman
Oracle Editor

Time passes by in an empty bar, piano music plays as a rugged-looking man in a white suit sits with his drink at a round table.

"Of all the bars in all the world, she had to walk into mine," he says.

And that is a classic moment from the film that defines classic movies for many students. For those film neophytes, that movie is "Casablanca," and that man is Humphrey Bogart.

"I think [Casablanca] has become a classic because everyone has their own hypothesis about how it ends, what happens after the plane leaves," said senior Jessic Chesnut.

But while many classics are older films, old age is not a requirement for them.

"A lot of people think that just because it's a classic movie, it has to be old," said film studies teacher Holli Wolter. "I don't think that's true. [Classic] just means that it's something that has come down through the years as something people remember. It has some kind of staying power."

Wolter lists "Jaws," "Forrest Gump" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" as some of the more modern classics.

"[Ferris Bueller's Day Off] is a classic] because no matter what time period it is

high schoolers are always the same," said senior Alicia Kirsch. "I like Cameron. The character is just so funny."

But one man's classic is another man's quagmire, and the definition of a classic film is very subjective.

"The one movie that everyone loves is 'Citizen Kane,' and I think it's awful," said Wolter.

Chesnut is among those who put "Citizen Kane" on their list of all-time great movies.

"Philadelphia Story," "Citizen Kane" and "Casablanca" are probably my top three [favorites]," said Chesnut. "With 'Philadelphia Story' it's amazing that the jokes still fly 60 years after it was made. [The movie] each have their own thing."

Big names like Alfred Hitchcock, Cary Grant, John Houston and Audrey Hepburn can elevate movies to classic status just by being associated with the film.

"I think that you can get actors and actresses that lend their names to their movies," said Wolter. "They give movies credibility just by being in them."

Many note that students should recognize that no matter what the age, classic movies are well worth the time it takes to see them.

"Students today should seek out classic movies and watch them," said Wolter. "Just because they're black and white doesn't mean that they're bad."

Quote of the Issue:

"If you want it, you can have it. But you've got to learn to reach out there and grab it."

—Weezer

Some CDs just should not be copied

By Amy McKeever
Entertainment Editor

I confess: I download mp3s whenever I feel the urge and occasionally I'll even make CDs from them. I also have copied my sister's and friends' CDs so that I would not have to spend my precious money—I am the cheapest person I know.

But you can ask any of my many friends and they will tell you that I flip out if they attempt to copy, or even begin to mention the CDs of my two favorite bands, Barenaked Ladies and Guster.

To me, these two bands are sacred, the creators of innovative, thoughtful, and fun music. Burning their CDs would not only be disrespectful to these creative geniuses, but it would also be sinful.

I know I sound like a hypocrite. And perhaps I am one.

But I don't think that I am the only person who condones the burning of CDs as long as they are not that of my favorite bands. I take music very seriously and am often characterized as "obsessive."

a b o u t Barenaked Ladies a n d Guster. But just having a shrine of newspaper cut-outs on my walls, belonging to e-mail fan groups and constantly trying to convert my friends into Barenaked Ladies/Guster fans doesn't necessarily mean that I'm obsessed, does it? But honestly, I have very

good reasons for prohibiting my friends from making copies

of some of my beloved CDs of my favorite artists. I love and respect the music of bands like Dave Matthews Band and Ben Folds Five as well, but I have no qualms about copying their CDs. The difference with Guster and Barenaked Ladies is that, in my years as a fan, I have learned a lot about the band members themselves and developed a stronger, almost emotional, attachment. That's sad, but true.

For example, I have just learned that Barenaked Ladies member Kevin Hearn recently recovered from a bout of cancer. It seems silly, but if I were to copy their CD, I would feel like I was privately stealing money from a sickly man who needed to pay his hospital bills.

The same thing goes for Guster. Guster is not exactly a

well-known band, although they have quite a large following in New England.

Not only do they make relatively little profit off of their sales, but they also take money out of their own pockets to keep prices low for their fans, a generous move that not many artists do today.

Guster attempts to keep their CDs to ten dollars and has a rep program where their fans can sell their CDs to other fans for the ten dollar fee.

They also participate in handling some of the ticketing for their concerts so dedicated fans do not have to pay Ticketmaster fees, which tend to be very costly. I figure that if they make quality music for low prices, there is no need to rip them off.

Burning or copying CDs is not a bad or malicious activity. It had just better not be Barenaked Ladies or Guster.

Some celebrities don't fit stereotype

By Jenn Carlson
Weekend Editor

Sex, drugs, and rock n' roll. Promising stars in both the film and music industry's have succumbed to this stereotypical lifestyle. Partying a little too hard and not focusing enough have destroyed many and will claim others.

Not all stars are living the wild life of Hollywood, though. Artists like Jessica Simpson, Lifehouse and Weezer have shied away from such a lifestyle and have enjoyed as much fame and success as those who have.

Singer Jessica Simpson has made her choice to stay a virgin until she's married very public. When she first arrived in to the music scene, she also chose not to wear revealing clothing. These decisions have made her a choice role model for younger girls who look up to the musicians they see on TV.

"I love Jessica Simpson's music and all

the issues that she stands for," said senior Yolanda Castellanos.

The band Weezer has also made an effort not to get caught up in the temptations of fame. Weezer's lead singer, Rivers Cuomo, keeps his ego in check, and admits to be a self-proclaimed geek. When Cuomo moved to Los Angeles to pursue his music career, he has said that he "soon realized he was an idiot and gave up," as he says at www.weezer.com. Today Weezer has hit it big but still possesses the same wholesome image of a couple of guys just having fun.

"The guys from Weezer seem really cool and down to earth," said junior Monique Haddock.

While some find this attitude refreshing, others don't like the artists, what they stand for, or just simply the music that they make.

"I listen to rap. I like the beat because you can dance to it," said senior Jalpa Vyas.



Creed lead singer Scott Strapp is one rock star who chooses to live a Christian life.

J-Lo, Jordan, P-Diddy take fashionable route

By Denis Ing
Sports Editor

As if the cover of *Sports Illustrated* and videos on MTV are not enough for superstars Michael Jordan, Puff Daddy and Jennifer Lopez are also stars in the fashion world. Clothes lines are not limited to just Tommy Hilfinger and Calvin

Klein anymore, pop stars and movies stars are getting into the clothes business too.

Michael Jordan started making shoes during his basketball years, and they have become more popular with the newer styles and fashions. When he retired many new types of his shoes came out. "I wear Jordan because the make good



J-Lo's clothes line was started after she wore the infamous green dress to the Emmy Awards.

clothes and shoes and I just like it," said sophomore Mike Mckenna.

Along with Jordan another basketball star has made his way in the shoe business. Allen Iverson makes many brands of shoes that are purchased all over the country and world. His type of shoe is indoor/outdoor basketball shoes.

Not all celebrity clothes lines are for sports. P Diddy makes all kinds of clothes. He makes suits, jeans, dress shirts and, t-shirts. He started his brand when he was 23 years old and still continues coming out with the latest fashions. He and his cousin started making casual clothes and then



Russ W. Adell

went on to making dress clothes.

Companies like Nike and Adidas sponsor many of these people. "I like Adidas because they have nice sandals and they are comfortable," said junior Andy Grzankowski.

Jennifer Lopez also has her own clothes line, that she started by wearing the infamous green dress to the Emmy awards. Since then she has made money off of clothes that she makes and designs. She has a lot of swim wear and casual clothes. "All clothes brands make great clothes for athletes and just sitting around," said junior Pier Lee.

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Centering through local trails and paths

Camilia Castillas
Sports Editor

Horseback riding through beautiful trails on the weekends is a constructive and different way to spend free time. In comparison, spacing out in front of the TV can be mundane.

"Horseback riding is fun and it's a good way to spend your free time without getting in trouble," said sophomore Lauren Frawley.

One stable that is closer to Springfield, Giles Run, is located in Lorton, Virginia. A group can go for the day and ride on their trails. The trails go into the woods and pass a river. A group of three people costs 35 dollars an hour and a group of four is 32 dollars

an hour. They have group and private lessons everyday of the week. It's opened on Saturday from 8 am to 4 pm and Sundays from noon till 5 or 6 pm.

"I ride at Giles Run. I go there mainly because the trainers are really great. They're real nice and so are the horses," said sophomore Erin Yonovich. Students horseback-ride as a competitive sport.

"I started when I was nine and have been riding ever since," said senior Sarah Miller. "Horseback riding is a sport, it teaches discipline, and other things any regular sport would do."

Miller won first place in her division at a 1997 horse show out of 60 people.

Greenway Stables in Aldie, Virginia allows riders only 17 and older. They're open everyday except on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. They offer a few different types of trails, and also have lessons.

Calling the stables ahead of time would be of benefit because some stables have age limits. Some stables are open only on certain days, and all of them range in their prices. Most of them price per hour.

"I go to Pony Haven. The trainer there is really awesome. The horses there are really nice. I go there because I love it," said Miller.

Horseback riding can be a fun, but an expensive activity. Most



Senior Sarah Miller rides "Little Snoop" at the Maryland Horse and Pony Show.

of the prices range from 25 to 35 dollars an hour. Make sure to check prices and wear comfortable clothes. If riding becomes a hobby, equipment can

be very expensive. "Horseback riding is unique," said Miller. "Everyone plays soccer, but not everyone goes horseback riding."

Camp, hike, bike under the Skyline Mountains offer myriad of outside opportunities

By Lauren Decot
Managing Editor

With over 196,466 acres, there is a lot to see in the Shenandoah National Park. It can be difficult to see everything the Park has to offer without proper planning.

The Shenandoah boasts overnight accommodations at three different lodges: Lewis Mountain, Skyland and Big Meadows Lodge. These lodges receive a lot of business because of there is so much to see and do in the Park.

"I go to the Shenandoah often because it is gorgeous and peaceful, and it frees my inner child," said freshman Jamn Cassano.

There are five campgrounds in the park, but only Lewis Mountain Campground has shower and laundry facilities. No reservations are required for entry into the park. Entrance fees are also relatively cheap. It is only \$5 for individual entry on bike or on foot, and it is \$10 for entry in a private vehicle.

There are many different recreational activities available. Biking is allowed on the paved areas, and fishing is also an option. A Virginia fishing license is required, however, for those between 16 and 65 years old. Horseback riding is available at Skyline, but riders must

be at least 4 feet 10 inches tall.

"I like to go horseback riding, but I haven't gone riding at Skyline yet," said senior Kelly Ronken.

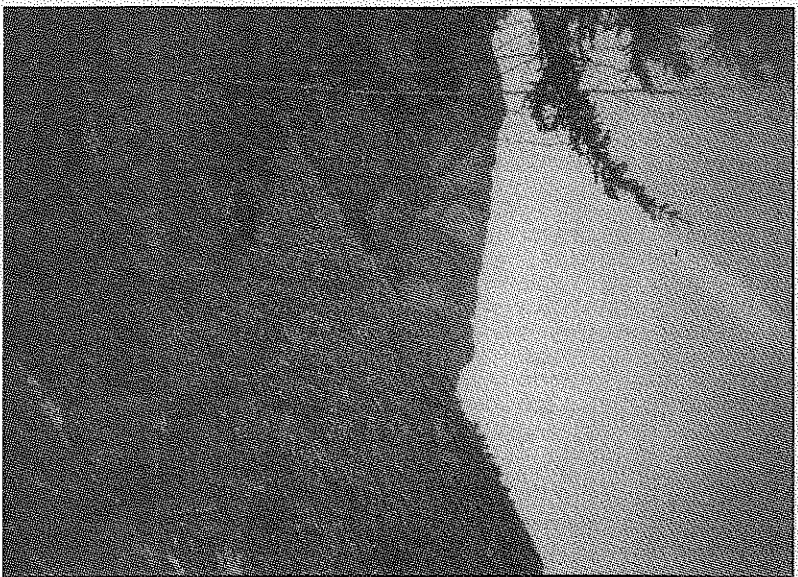
For those looking for a slightly more physical activity, there are over 500 miles of hiking trails in the park. The trails vary in length. The longest trail is an 101 mile segment of the Appalachian Trail.

Planning a visit is essential to be able to see everything that one wants to see while in the park. It is also important to remember that the mountains are usually at least 10 degrees cooler than the low valleys surrounding the park. "I always have to remember to bring a jacket and gloves, because it's always a lot colder on top of the mountain," said senior Sarah Blair.

Especially during this time of year, the foliage is what attracts WS students and their families to Skyline.

"It would be beautiful to go there this time of year because of all of the different color leaves and trees," said senior Jacqueline Flood. For some students, a day-trip to the Shenandoah is the ideal place to escape the chaos of a suburban area.

"Going to the Shenandoah allows you to get away from the hustle and bustle of Springfield," said senior Sheri Haupt. "It's perfect."



The picturesque Shenandoah mountains are a popular place for students to go hiking.
Steven Carlson

Falling apples leave brisk feelings of Fall

By Camilia Castillas
Sports Editor

The fall season cannot come to an end without completing one main activity, apple picking.

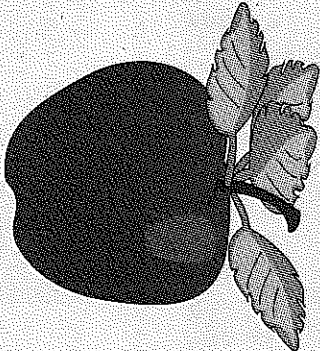
"I went to a farm in Virginia. It was a lot of fun. I went with my friend Ashley. We got pumpkins and everything," said senior Meaghan Kluitz.

Most of the farms that offer apple picking as an activity are in the mountains of Virginia. Devoting the day to going out to visit one of the farms would probably be the best idea.

One of the closer farms, Strubling Orchard, is about 45 minutes away. It's located in Markham, Virginia and is open

from 8 am to 6 pm daily. A friendly staff member greets people at the country store and hands out paper bags to put apples in and a map of the orchard.

Around this time of season most of the apples will not be found in the trees, but on the ground instead. Strubling Orchard has green and red apples, which are 36 cents a pound. They also offer cherries, peaches, grape, and neclammes for picking



during the other seasons.

They have a country store where they sell fresh apple pies, jams, apple cider, bread, and pastries. Outside of the store they sell pumpkins of all sizes. They also have activities to do other than picking: a petting barn, hayrides, picnic grounds, and pony rides.

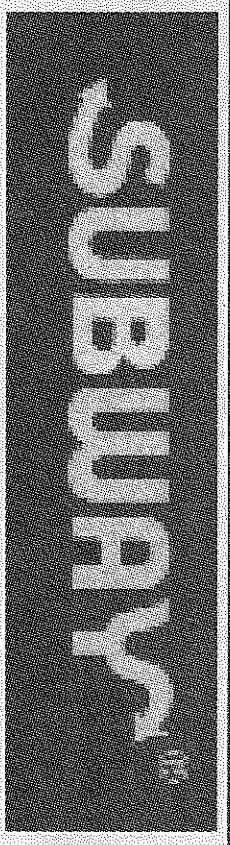
Right across the street from Strubling Orchard is Harland Orchard. They are also open from 8 am to 6 pm daily. Harland Orchard has one long driveway up to the main

barn passing cow fields and hay fields. They have picnic areas, apple picking and pumpkins as cheap as a dollar.

"I went apple picking in the mountains of Virginia. It was a lot of fun," said sophomore Megan Kelleher. "We had to climb the trees to pick the apples, but there were a bunch of bugs."

Make sure to dress warm and wear comfortable shoes especially while trudging around the mountain tops.

"I went apple picking in Bull Run Park with my mommy, my daddy, and my brothers," said senior Stephanie Hottell. "Apple picking is like the definition of fall especially when it's cold and brisk outside."



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New metro heads out

Georgetown now more accessible

By Priyanka Tandon
News Section Editor

Banana Republic, Ben & Jerry's, Up Against the Wall, Urban Outfitters, Commander Salamander, and Houston's hamburgers are now all more accessible to metro riders.

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has released plans to extend the Blue Line from Addison Road to the Largo area of Prince George's County, Maryland. The extension will be completed at the end of 2004.

"The new line to Largo is pretty irrelevant to me, and I think to other teenagers too because I've never heard of Largo, Maryland," said junior Nabila Hussami. "Plus it won't be done for a few years so it doesn't really matter."

In addition there will be new shuttle bus service to Georgetown. The new Georgetown Metro Connection loop stops at Georgetown, Rosslyn, Foggy Bottom, George Washington University, and the loop will end at the Dupont Circle metro station, and buses will run every 10 minutes.

Unlike the Largo extension, the Georgetown bus shuttle will be running by the end of 2001. Most students believe the new bus is a positive addition to the WMATA system.

"I think it'll make me ride the metro more because now there will be more opportunities to go to more places than before," said junior Monica Berndez.

For other students the bus may limit logistical problems.

"It's cool because it's really hard to find parking [in Georgetown]," said senior Shamalia Khalid. "Now I can just take the metro, and I don't have to worry about having enough room or my car getting towed."

Although the connection to Georgetown will be an instant commodity for students, some are thinking about their futures.

"It's a lot more convenient if you want to go to Georgetown [University] for college because now it's only 45 minutes away," said sophomore Kyle Hart.

While most students see WMATA's new plans as a positive action, others do not.

"I won't go to Georgetown because now more people can go there," said senior Marc Dudzinski. "So it'll be more crowded."

"Of Mice and Men" takes the stage

By Angela Florino

ETC Editor

Freshman year this book offered an oasis in the middle of other challenging works. But I never thought that one day I'd be loving it not only for it's short, sweet text and flavorful writing but also for its fantastic potential to be an accomplished opera.

On October 16, I visited the Kennedy Center with a free ticket to check out the dress rehearsal of the opera, "Of Mice and Men." I went with mom and younger sister, and all three of us were familiar to this atmosphere. We have often made visits to the opera since my mom was a supernumerary in Parsifal and since then the we've become very cultured, always watching operas.

"Of Mice and Men" was actually the first English opera that I have ever seen. I've seen Spanish, Italian and even German and my eyes were fixed not only on the stage but on the surtitles above the stage. I was constantly trying to keep up with the language while at the same time trying to follow the plot of the opera. This was not something that I despised because it helps me become more familiar with the languages. But I was excited to see an opera where I would be able to clearly understand what the singers were saying.

I went to the opera with low expectations. I wasn't too sure how fabulous opera singers would sound singing in English or the how director Christian Rath would be able to turn a story like "Of Mice and Men" into an opera. Some of the other operas that I had seen were "Don Quixote" and



The opera of Mice and Men is based on the novel by John Steinbeck.

"Parsifal" stories about heroic deeds and holy grails. I wasn't sure how someone who was simple-minded and mentally challenged would sound singing opera but sure enough the director found a fabulous actor and singer to play the part, Michael Hendricks. His partner in crime, George, played by Rod Nelman, had a dominating personality and did a wonderful job portraying the book character.

All the characters from the book were there in full form in the play and exactly how I remembered them. Along with the wonderful singing, the orchestra offered a powerful sound from below.

"Of Mice and Men" has finished running as an opera at the Kennedy Center but now it's at the Arena Stage as a play directed by Jiz Diamond from November 1-December 19. It will probably go over better as a play but I was very pleased with it as an opera. As it was a wonderful book in the middle of freshman year, the opera offered as a solid two hours where I didn't have to worry about homework at all.

Jit Tandon, EA

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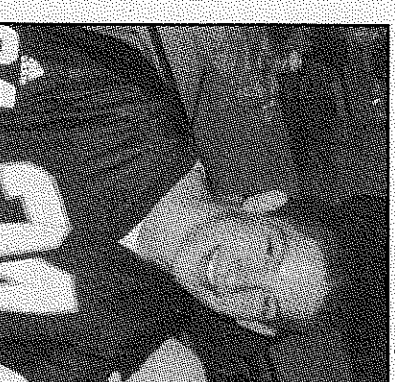
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"We go to DC and walk around and show them the sites."

- Jenna Hafey, sophomore



"We get together, watch football and show them the sites."

- David Grant, freshman

What do you do
with your
relatives on
Thanksgiving?



"We have a traditional American Thanksgiving"

- Jessica Butler, freshman



"We go to the mountains and watch the leaves change and fall."

- Ashlee Curcio, junior

-Compiled by Jennifer Siomacco

NASCAR races to recover from recent troubles

By Jason Gills

Viewpoint Assistant

The 2001 National Association of Stock Car Racing (NASCAR) season has brought the worst fears out of many teams on the circuit. Many sponsors are not renewing contracts and there are new rules.

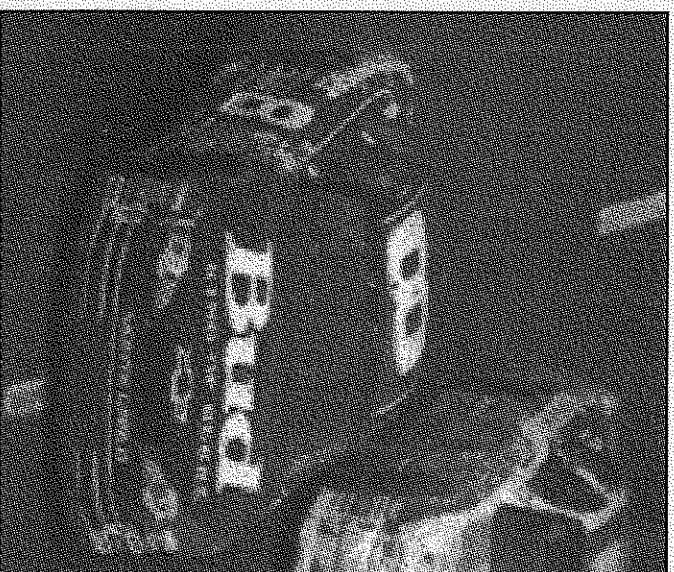
As many as nine teams or more are having sponsor troubles for next season. Sponsorships are the only thing that keeps a team running in the NASCAR season. The main sponsor, which pays for its trademark or name on the front hood of a car and other places, pays an average of five to ten million dollars a year to the car team. That money is the only source of income besides the prize money attained by finishing races.

Prize money can range from hundreds of thousands of dollars for the winner, to a meager 40 thousand dollars for the last finisher.

The sponsors want their car to be shown, and the only way for a car to be shown on the air is to be in the leading pack of cars. If the car is not in the lead, then most likely the car will not get a lot of air time, which means the sponsor will not be seen.

The only thing that binds a company into sponsoring a car is the contract. If the contract is up and they do not like the performance or if they do not have the resources, then the company's decals are taken off of the car. This will be the case for many cars next season due to the poor performances of many drivers and the lack of resources due to the troubled economy. Teams are still trying to find sponsors, but usually teams have a contract made and signed at the end of the summer.

Because of the sponsorship issue, many drivers have



Dale Earnhardt Jr. "Driving car number eight, lost his father during a race. This was one event that triggered NASCAR's new restrictions and rules.

been fired from their job mid-season such as Jeremy Mayfield, Mike Wallace, and Kevin Leage. Mike Skinner also knew that he was going to be fired at the end of the season and he quit so that he could get a knee operation and he will be rehabilitated so that he may have a new ride in the 2002 NASCAR season.

WS girls get a kick out of martial arts

By JDKaleem

Business/Systems Assistant

After a long day of school and Madrigals and Personalities rehearsal, senior Allison Byers comes home to rejuvenate her energy and take out her frustration and aggression by practicing Tae-Bo, a combination of Tae Kwon Do, boxing and dance set to upbeat music.

"I have a cubicle space in my basement in which I practice," said Byers. "I'm too busy to play a sport, and the exercise program gives me way to get in shape and have some physical activity in my life."

Growing numbers of people, mostly women, are joining the phenomenon of Tae-Bo and kickboxing, both which became popular in the 1970s.

Junior Katie Rice takes kickboxing classes with a friend three times a week at Kim's Karate in Springfield Mall.

"Kickboxing is a mixture of the foot techniques of karate and the hand techniques of boxing," said Rice. "It keeps me in shape, and it's a lot more fun than aerobics. It feels good to have self-defense skills in case I ever need them."

Just as Byers practices Tae-Bo to make up for a lack of athletic activity, sophomore Heather Decot sustained an injury and has considered taking kickboxing to maintain her physical health.

"I had an injury to my neck two summers ago, which forced me to stop swimming and now I'm looking for another activity to stay in shape. Kickboxing seems fun, and maybe I would enjoy it even more than swimming," said Decot.

She will have no problem finding opportunities to try out her kickboxing interests. Local sports facilities, such as Washington Sports Clubs, offer kickboxing classes, and martial arts institutions, such as Kim's Karate, give Tae-Bo lessons.

Also, it's not hard to set up a personal activity plan at home for both kickboxing and Tae-Bo, using videos and books to learn the techniques.

Senior Ginger Clarke recently went to a kickboxing class with a friend, and considers taking the class also.

"I loved it. I could tell if I kept taking the classes it would make a dramatic difference and tone my body," said Clarke. "I would absolutely try it again and take a friend, because it just makes your body feel great."

They'd rather be fishing

By Emily Morris

Features Editor

It's a rush. Not the rush of knocking someone off their feet for a loss of yards in football. Not the rush of scoring the winning three point basket in a basketball game. It's the rush of feeling the fish bite the bait and start pulling on your line.

While some look at fishing as a boring sport, others can't wait to walk out on a pier, or get in a boat and cast their line.

"Fishing is an overlooked sport. It is an intellectual sport, and a lot of variables are there that can affect what you catch," said junior Troy Sigman.

Sigman was the driving force behind students who wanted to start a fishing club. They had arranged for Mr. Harpman to be their sponsor. The club would go fishing together, and watch videos about good places to fish and new techniques.

"The club just never got off the ground," said math teacher Dave Harpman. "There was too much liability since students would be going out on the water."

While some WS fishers pushed for a fishing club, others planned to keep participating in the sport for pure leisure.

"I go to a place in Maryland and fish for blue fish. I try to go once a month or so in the summer," said senior

Dave Blaney, Robert Pressly, Robby Gordon, and Jimmy Spencer have uncertain futures in the sport as they have been notified that they would be leaving, or in Spencer's case he told his team that he would be leaving. The team owners want to try another driver to see if the team will do better so that they may get air time and get a sponsor, if they don't have one already.

Because of the deaths that have occurred this season and in the past, NASCAR has mandated that every driver must wear a head and neck restraint device. After the death of Dale Earnhardt most drivers bought a Head and Neck Support device (HANS) or Hutchinson device to be more safe.

The only driver to object to the new safety device is Tony Stewart, who says that he feels more claustrophobic. The device was designed to keep the head of the driver in one place. The idea is so that the driver will not be susceptible to severe head trauma in hard crash.

Another new rule is the one-engine rule that will take effect next year. Currently, teams may use as many engines as they want in the car, but usually teams have two engines that they use on a race week. A qualifying motor designed for speed instead of endurance is used to qualify the car so that it will make the 43 car field. The other engine is the race engine that is designed to last as long as the race but. In 2002 teams will have to switch to one engine. NASCAR made this new change so that teams with less income can have a chance at qualifying and racing.

The 2001 season has been tragic, but it also has resulted in rule changes that benefit driver safety and help smaller and lower budget teams compete with the well financed teams.



Sophomore Margo T. Outler goes to Women's Fitness Co. every Tuesday after school to do Tae-Bo.

Eddie Lee. "I like to go with a bunch of friends, it's a lot of fun that way."

For some it is a family tradition to go with their dad or grandfather.

"I fish for 25 pound bass with my dad. We try to go once a month to Occoquan where we rent canoes," said sophomore Alex Neyland.

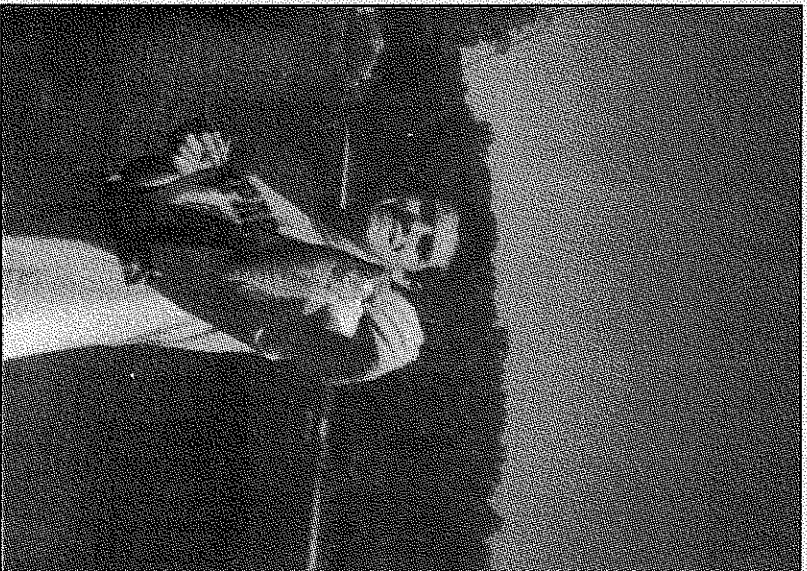
While others limit the type of the fish they go after to one or two species, others do not limit themselves to the type of fish they try to lure in.

"I fish for every species in North America. That's pretty impressive," said Sigman. "But at home I stick to bass and catfish."

To catch bass and catfish, usually live bait is used, such as worms. If a fisherman goes out to fish at their leisure, he may use live bait. But in a competition, to make it as fair as possible, everyone must use artificial bait. That is the main difference. That and the fact that the fish must be kept alive.

In the area, places to go fishing are at Burke Lake, Upper Potomac, Lake Ridge and Occoquan. But some people find going on a fishing vacation is much more exciting than any fishing area around here.

"Over the summer, I went to Yellow Stone [National Park] for a week," said Harpman. "A plus to going on fishing trips is to fish for other species and see new places."



While fishing at Lake Ridge during the summer, junior Troy Sigman catches a White Croaker.

Melanie Maguire

Football team ends Strong season 6-3

By Emily Miller
Inside Story Editor

The football team came close to reaching the playoffs this season, finishing with a 6-3 record.

One of their biggest wins of the season came against Westfield. It was a very close and exciting game, especially since it was taken into three overtimes. The Spartans were losing 21-7 during half-time, but came back in the second and third quarter scoring three touchdowns evening the score 28 all. During overtime, the Spartans scored three touchdowns, winning the game 49-42.

Since the team beat Westfield they played the Annandale Atoms, who were ranked twenty-second in the region. In order to reach the playoffs, the Spartans not only had to win but other teams in their division had to lose key games. The

Spartans did win, dominating competitive Annandale with a final score of 38-27. Five different players scored touchdowns for the team.

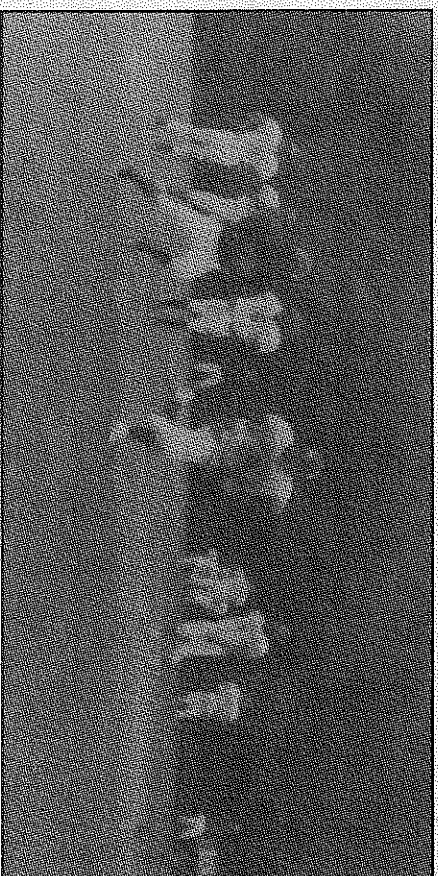
Important players this season include Captain Todd Wilson, senior Kevin Darling, and juniors Tony Jenkins and Danny Adams.

One main strength of the team is its unity. During the Westfield game, the players that were on the bench held hands in anticipation, hoping together that WS would win.

"The guys have gotten better working with each other every week," said head coach Bill Renner.

Junior Andy Grzankowski says the team members hold hands often before games, during coin tosses and during huddles.

"We learned to be a family," said Grzankowski.



Stephanie Morris

During practice sophomore Desmond Braziel puts chase to junior Scott Ankley. The football team finished with a successful record and nearly made it to the playoffs.

Katie Freund Cross Country



Stephanie Morris

As one of the girls cross country captains, Freund has led the team throughout the season. At districts she placed 11th and helped ensure the girls' first place finish at regionals.

Years on cross country team : Junior and senior year

Highlights from this season : "The Brentsfield Relays. We set a course record. We also beat Lake Braddock this year."

Why she runs : "The team. I love hanging out with all the girls."

Pre-Race Rituals : "The girls say a prayer then say a cheer."

Role Model : Maureen "Mo" Hagan

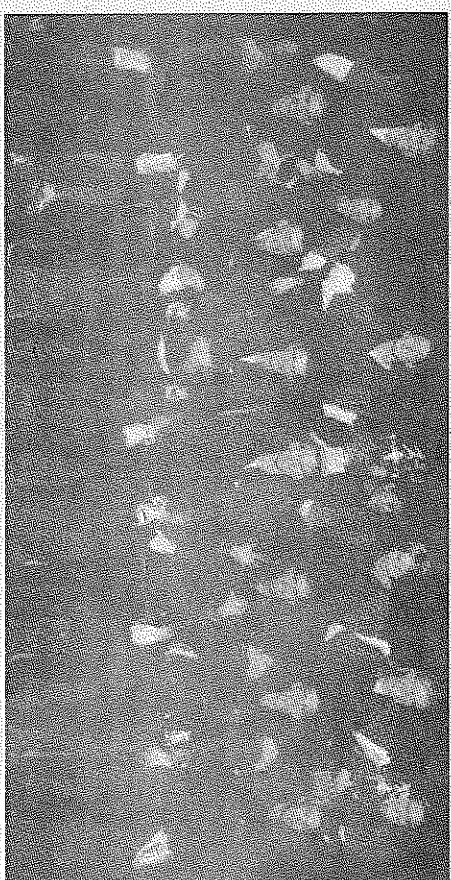
Good luck charm : Wearing the same sports bra for each meet.

Why run? : "Hearing from all the distance girls from track about all the fun they've had being on the team is what got me interested."

Favorite class : Physics

Favorite teacher : Mr. Linz

Favorite band : "Cake!"



Ed Linz

Victorious cross country team members pose for a picture after their sweep of first place at regionals.

Cross Country teams claim third at states

By Melissa Lipman
Laura Robinson
Oracle Staff Writers

The boys and girls cross country teams capped off a successful season by placing third in the state championship.

Both boys and girls had received first place in regionals, so the teams were hopeful for successful finishes.

"We had hoped to win but we were really pleased to be able to get up on the podium," said girls cross country coach Ed Linz. "It's been the highest finish of WS in a very long time. No team [from WS] has ever finished higher."

For the Lady Spartans the placing was especially meaningful since the team had a disappointing season last year.

"Obviously winning states would've been wonderful," said Linz, "but this is the same team that finished that sixth in districts last season. They finished sixth out of seven teams but they came back to win regionals and finish third at states."

Jamie Langley Football



Magge Albersky

During the 2001 season Langley has rushed 178 times for 1,108 yards and has scored 11 touchdowns, and has helped the Spartans to a 5-3 record (stats as of November 3, 2001)

Years playing football : Since second grade, about 10 years

Highlights from this season : Beating Lake Braddock and having a winning record

Favorite athlete : "Michael Jordan because he plays well under pressure no matter who is there watching him."

Best part of playing football for WS : "The camaraderie, I've gotten to know and become friends with lots of people."

Before game preparation : "I have sort of a ritual: I eat three or four Pizza Pockets, don't wash my wristbands, and basically I just keep to myself to concentrate on what I have to do in the game."

Favorite class : Government with Mrs. Fischer

Favorite teacher : Mr. Herzig

Just wanted to say : "You have to just play every down like it would be your last."

Athletes of the issue

Christmas comes with Halloween

By Emily Morris
Features Editor

Everyone, your calendars are wrong. They all have misprints in them.

Every says that Christmas is on the 25 of December. But really, Christmas starts on November 1.

The day after Halloween, while children still have sugar highs, stores start to unload their Christmas inventory. They don't wait until December; instead they stretch-out the Holiday Season into two months. While the air is still

get people in the Christmas mood by adding flashing lights and garland, then they do it to the point of making me sick.

But I don't blame this on the store owners. It's not their fault that within a few years they will start putting up Santa Clause and reindeer the day after Independence Day. I blame society. Yes, society is actually a really nice scapegoat.

We have become too commercialized. Already, my brother has started asking for the newest video game system. He doesn't seem to realize him that Christmas is

more than gifts. But that is all he looks forward to; he already has a wish list e-mailed to all of our relatives.

Gifts are not what Christmas is about. I am not a religious person, so to me, it doesn't mean much. What it means to me is going to my grandma's house. Everyone brings the same food as the year before, we sit in the same places, we share the same stories, and then we sit in the same positions and take the same pictures every year.

Christmas means being together with family and having a good time, and doing whatever makes you happy on that day.

To some, it means church and dinner. To others, getting together for a big buffet-style



Ellen W. ayloins

Halloween pumpkins are now being pushed out by early Christmas decorations.

but that is not what it is all about.

Instead, toy companies and store owners are out for a profit. Toy companies plan carefully when to release toys around the holiday season. Store owners decorate their stores early to remind people that they have to buy gifts. As for me, I am worried about where I can find a job to fund the gifts that I have to get for everyone because they expect them.

I think that love and appreciation should be enough for Christmas; the two month holiday. And still growing longer.



Jessica W. Illiams

Hecht's, like other area department stores, gets decked out for the holidays early

Russ's Ramblin' Get equality with dress

By Russ W addell

Photography Editor

Well, kids here it is. As promised, the nonsense at hand today is "The Difference Between Boys and Girls." Due to the potential conflict involved with this topic, we will put differences aside and instead focus on equality.

I've seen a few cross dressers in my time, and rather than ridicule them, I have felt the need to recognize them as figureheads for equality. To me, men in dresses and women in overalls and flannel are not gofballs but social critics. They take a step back from conventional viewpoints and realize that the real silliness rests in the idea that clothes are gender specific.

The point of clothes is to keep us toasty warm in the winter time, function is truly paramount, for even a seven hundred dollar designer bikini is still a bikini and still inappropriate attire for the dead of winter. In a similar vein, if a full figured man needs the support of a brassiere, then should he be allowed to wear the garments that will give him support?

I say let him do what he wants, but on the other hand I don't have the courage to be the first man to sport a bra, no matter my figure.

That brings me to my next point, which is that when everyone chills out and wears what's comfortable, we have to do it all at the same time, thereby avoiding any qualms about what our peers will think.

So, lastly, I am creating a special new holiday on Friday, November 23. I hereby declare that day to be Wear Whatever You Want and No One Will Laugh Day. Here's your chance, WS. Go crazy. Have fun. Be comfortable. And I'll look forward to next time, with the difference between a good idea and a bad idea.

10. Powdered stuffing from the cafeteria.
9. The ashes of your raked leaves.
8. Starbucks coffee- to keep the holiday going to the break of dawn.
7. Abercrombie gift certificates.

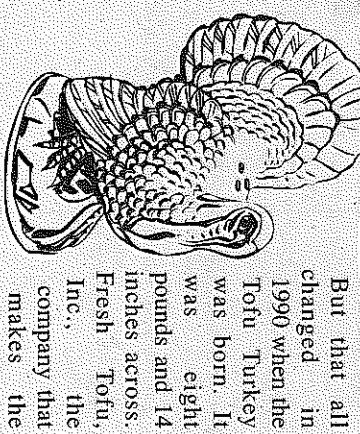
- ### Top 10 worst things to stuff a turkey with
6. Leftover Halloween candy.
 5. Mashed potatoes and gravy.
 4. Jell-O pudding.
 3. Those new gold dollars.
 2. Ben and Jerry's "Fluffin' Stuffin'" ice cream.
 1. Little words of wisdom (You know, a fortune turkey).

—Compiled by Russ W addell

Tofu replaces the real thing

By Lauren Decot
Managing Editor

It is easy to understand why some vegetarians may feel a little unsatisfied when Thanksgiving rolls around. After all, the turkey is the crowning glory of the meal.



But that all changed in 1990 when the Tofu Turkey was born. It was eight pounds and 14 inches across. Fresh Tofu, Inc., the company that makes the

Tofu Turkeys first sold them in 1992, and the attention from the press and vegetarian groups has increased the demand.

"Tofu Turkeys are so nice because I don't have to worry about eating just rice for Thanksgiving," said senior Leslie Campbell.

The product silhouettes the shape of a turkey, and are made to order from a company called Fresh Tofu, Inc., based out of Allentown, Pennsylvania. This company has been supplying the east coast with organic tofu and other soy food products since 1984. Tofu Turkeys are also sold in grocery stores around the area, such as Grant and Shopper's Food Warehouse.

The four ingredients in the Tofu Turkey are organic tofu, tamari, garlic, and ginger. Tofu is a combination of filtered water and organic soybeans. Tamari is a mixture of water, soybeans, wheat and salt.

Thanksgiving menu

Southern:
Herb roasted turkey
Southern cornbread
Cranberry-orange relish
Holiday potato casserole
Candied yams with bourbon
High rise biscuits
White chocolate almond torte

Low-Fat:
Black bean dip with tortilla chips
Puree of yellow squash
Mashed potatoes
Mushroom gravy
Turkey without the skin
Pumpkin swirl cheesecake

Traditional:
Turkey with
real gravy from turkey drippings,
Cranberry sauce, baked yams,
real mashed potatoes or sweet potatoes
Real stuffing (not stove top)
Green beans
Pecan or pumpkin pie

—Compiled by Jason Gillis

"Tofu is a strange



food because you have to add the flavor to make it taste like anything."

T o f u Turkeys can be made at home as well.

"It's much more fun making it than eating it," said Campbell. There are, however, some vegetarians who do not like the Tofu Turkeys for various reasons.

"If you're going to be a vegetarian, then be a vegetarian," said senior Bekki Cooper. "Don't pretend to eat meat."

