



JANUARY 18, 2002 VOLUME 37 NUMBER 7

# THE RACCL E

8 ONE-MAN VOLLEY  
BALL TEAM AMAZES WS



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STIRS CON-  
TROVERSY

13 GOODBYE DR. BENTON

WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL 6100 ROLLING ROAD SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22152

## Club Mirage turns to online alternative

### Financial problems force shift to Internet

By Lauren Decot  
Managing Editor

Students having a full schedule with no room for *The Oracle* or *The Olympian* staffs no longer have a reason to be uninvolved with WS journalism.

*Club Mirage*, a new after-school club, is open to all students who would like to participate in a school publication but do not have the necessary room in their schedule. The club was started by junior Mai-Khanh Nguyen and currently has 50 members, of which 20 are active.

"There are students who would like to participate in a school publication because we want our voices to be heard since we have good things to say," said Nguyen. "But because of our schedules, some can't commit to taking the necessary classes so this is a good alternative. The club is also for people who want to put their after-school time into something worthwhile that can make a difference."

The goal of *Club Mirage* is to publish a magazine that pertains to all aspects of student and teenage life. Some of the articles are directed specifically toward WS students, while others are aimed at students in general.

"The topics that you find yourself talking about with your friends are the kind of stories we feature," said Nguyen. "We have articles about the basics: fashion, movies, music, and news, but we also have articles that are an extension of these basic topics by going deeper and farther by exploring the connections between a student's outside and how these issues affect them on the inside."

The sponsors of *Club Mirage* are government teacher Jamie Morris and business teacher Eric Hardman.

"*Club Mirage* is her [Nguyen's] brainchild," said Morris. "She has organized the whole magazine."

Initially, the magazine was going to be on paper, but now the focus has shifted to becoming an online publication. The



Jen Simacco

*Club Mirage* member junior Hasan Sarsour discusses *Club Mirage*'s plans with co-editor Jennie Jeon. *Club Mirage* is now going to be posted on the Internet.

reasons for this change are because of financial restrictions, and also because, the magazine can reach more people if it's online.

"Money is a huge problem," said Nguyen. "We have had all of our articles and pictures ready since November, however we are holding back until we have the money."

Once the necessary funds have been raised for the magazine to be printed on

paper, *Club Mirage* will be having a pre-sale of the magazine during both lunches.

"We would like everyone to come by the tables outside the cafeteria to check out some of the sample pages and see why *Mirage* is the ultimate publication," said Nguyen.

*Club Mirage* is open to new members at any time. There are no requirements to

See **MIRAGE**, Page 5



Katie Rice

Senior Stephanie Shaw, and juniors Laura Unterholzner, Karen Burnett, Melanie Pearsall and Shanna Jackson enjoy Club Ice's glow sticks. The glow sticks were included in the admission price.

## Club Ice melts winter chill

By Camila Casillas  
Sports Editor

Snow is one crucial thing that WS has been missing this winter, but on January 12 students got the chance to dance surrounded by snowflakes at WS's first winter dance, Club Ice.

"Every year, SGA and Student Congress have wanted to have a dance before prom, but after Homecoming," said junior Eugene Ko. "But no one ever took the initiative before now. We had Sadies, but that wasn't in the winter."  
Jennifer Owens's leadership

class and student congress all took a part in setting up for the dance. They decided to make the winter dance have a club atmosphere and called it Club Ice.

"I know a lot of people in the school aren't 18 yet and can't go to clubs, so it was a good idea to make it a club atmosphere. It was cool to just go and see everyone," said senior Trey Jordan.

Most of the work done for the dance was completed solely by WS students. Students in the leadership class were put into groups and assigned topics, like publicity and decorations. To support the winter club

mood, Student Congress and leadership handed out glow sticks and decorated the cafeteria with snowflakes. There were also flashing strobe lights and a black light set up.

"We thought it would be fun to hand out the glow sticks," said junior Jonny Styron. "People were wearing them and playing with them."

Students could wear their club clothes or just come to the dance dressed casually. "Some people were dressed

See **CLUB ICE**, Page 5

## Alumni pass on college wisdom

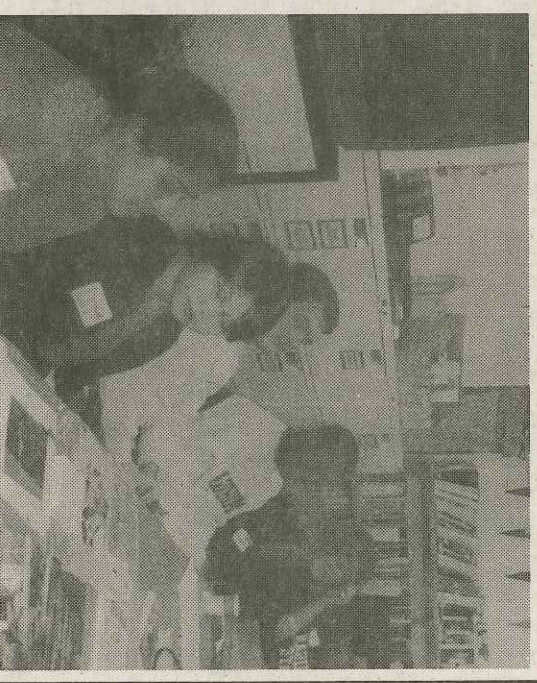
By Melissa Lipman  
and Laura Robinson  
Oracle Staff Writers

Close to 100 students got a personal look at college life recently when almost 20 WS graduates returned to the Career Center to talk about their colleges with them.

The program, on January 4, was open for all students in both lunches and English teachers Mary Love Wynne and Katie Farcloth brought their classes down.

Career Center Specialist Susan Rexford organizes this event annually and thinks it's a good opportunity for students. She also limits the program to only WS graduates.

See **ALUMNI**, Page 5



Maggie Atteberry

WS graduates from various colleges around the country sit in a panel type setting to answer WS students' questions.

## Give us a break on winter break

Did anyone notice that from January 2 to 4, in our assignment notebooks, the boxes are still small, like they were for the rest of winter break? Didn't the company who makes the planners know that Fairfax County would be attending school on those days?

Well, I guess they didn't. Maybe they just wanted to be jerks so we had no room to write. One more thing to frustrate us on the day back to school after our unbelievably long winter vacation.

I hope no one expected the superintendent to give us a break on our break and let us take the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after New Year's Day off. I mean really, that is asking a lot. We are the only county that actually sticks to the 180 days of school rule and we must live up to our standards. I wonder if two years from now when New Years Day falls on a Thursday, the school will make us come to school on that Friday?

It is quite odd how we decide to take days off of school. Break was two weeks into our 99-00 year and the county gave us a day off because it rained. But now, they force us to rush back to school the day after New Years Day. I

could understand if January 1 was on a Saturday or Sunday and we had to report back to school that Monday, but it was a Tuesday. I'm sure everyone was desiring those last three days of the week off, even teachers.

In "Office Space," the phrase, "sounds like someone's got a case of the Mondays," describes all those who hate coming into work bright and early Monday morning after a weekend of relaxation. The phrase, "sounds like someone's got a case of the January 2nds," could be the new motto for all Fairfax County schools that have to go back to school for three pointless days.

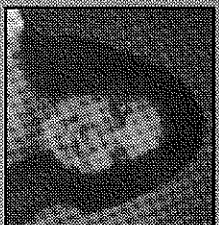
Even though we would only be able to use this phrase once a year, it would be worth it because I'm sure everyone was suffering from the "case of the January 2nds."

Unfortunately there is no remedy for this terrible infection. But for now, maybe we can call the planner company and tell them to make a separate assignment notebook for Fairfax County, one with big boxes on January 2nd, 3rd and 4th so we have room to write down all our homework.

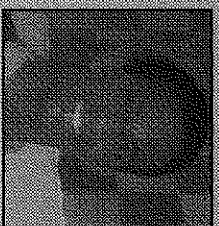
### Editorial

"I want to take more responsibility for animals in my house."

—Sarah Kaye, senior



Maggie Atteberry



Maggie Atteberry

"To get out of high school."

—Ahmed Hassan, senior

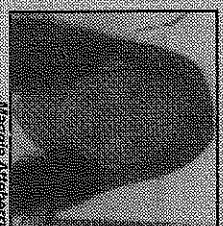
## Spartan Spotlight What is your New Year's resolution?

"I don't have one because I know I'll break it anyway."

—Mike Newman, sophomore



Maggie Atteberry



Maggie Atteberry

"To not slack off as much."

—Anisha Singh, freshman

—Compiled by Maggie Atteberry

## Resolve to stop making resolutions

By Ruchika Mahotra  
News Section Assistant

There is just one thing that comes to my mind when I think about New Years resolutions—what a waste of time and thought.

New Years resolutions are pointless and are never really kept, so why bother thinking of them when you know you will never keep them.

People propose everything from the typical losing weight to the ordinary not cutting your toenails for the whole year. Yet all New Years resolutions are a waste.

No one keeps them for more than a day if anyone remembers to keep them after the blow out New Years party, so why bother making them.

In elementary school we made big colorful posters displaying our resolutions and it was just another excuse to have an art project.

Now, when the task of making resolutions is left up to me, I just do not bother with it. Usually, I only think about it if someone else brings it up.

For example, one year on the way to the New Years party, it was a long drive to the party so to pass the time my aunt suggested we all share our resolutions.

Just to give an answer I made up something that I cannot even remember now so I am pretty sure I did not

keep it.

After having so much fun at the party and having to go back to school the day after, my resolution was the least of my worries.

Even now as I moan and groan my way back to school, my New Years resolution, if I do make one, is forgotten.

As my friends and I talk about our vacations we talk about our list of gifts and holiday events, not our New Years resolutions.

I agree resolutions show good determination to better yourself and start of a good year but keeping them is the big problem, because people are just too lazy.

In a perfect world we would all make resolutions and keep them and become better, happier, and more organized people every year.

However, this is not a perfect world and just because you say your going to do something does not mean your going to.

I plan out everything, from the order of homework to how much time to spend in the shower sometimes. It all is successful, but planning and proposing a New Years resolution never works.

If I, or anyone else, honestly sets goals and makes plans to accomplish something then I will really try my best to do it. I do not need one of societies ritual's labels, such as a New Year's resolution, to get it done.



## Huck Finn heads back to school

By Roberto Garcia  
Oracle Editor

Whether we like it or not, things such as slavery, segregation and discrimination are all part of American history. What's worse, however, is when we try to pretend that they aren't.

As distasteful and insulting as the "n-word" is, for many years it was commonplace in the US. In the 1800's, when slavery was still intact, a white man wouldn't think twice about uttering it. The fact that 156 years later, we're insulted by what he might have said, is unfortunate.

In the late 1800's, Mark Twain wrote *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, a story about two runaways, one a white boy, the other a black slave. This book, considered a masterpiece of American literature, accurately portrays the hardships endured by African-Americans in slavery. More than a century later, it serves as one of the best educational tools in regard to history and English.

Yet, the book has been plagued by controversy for one reason—Twain frequently employs the "n-word" in it. And although he never once uses it out of context, and although it would have been unrealistic to write such a story without it, the book's critics are relentless in trying to keep it from high school students' eyes.

The "n-word" is by no means an acceptable word. But simply because an author used it in his book to reflect the times, it doesn't mean we shouldn't read his book.

In Fairfax County, the book has received four serious challenges since 1980. Although it's never been banned, in October 1999, the county put a rule in place which said that the book could not be taught "in isolation." In other words, it had to be read in conjunction with a related book, such as *The Letters of Frederick Douglass* or classic *Slave Narratives*. While half of the class read *Huck Finn*, the other half would read the other book. This requirement discouraged teachers from teaching the book because of the time commitment of two books.

This year, however, the W/S English department is giving students the choice of whether or not to read the book. Since a lot of students wanted to read *Huck Finn*, but were discouraged by the idea of having to read it with another book, the English department has implemented a system in which students choose between *Huck Finn* and another recommended book, such as *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe or *Roughing It* by Mark Twain. Students wanting to read *Huck Finn* must then clear one last hurdle, having to have their parents sign a permission slip.

The "n-word" is by no means an acceptable word. But simply because an author used it in his book to reflect the times, doesn't mean we shouldn't read his book. Even a permission slip is ridiculous, but if that's what we have to do to please book-banning critics with too much time on their hands, then that's what we have to do.

## THE ORACLE

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# Too sexy for TV: Media crosses the line

By Heidi Sfiligoj  
Entertainment Assistant

Has the joy of Pepsi become the joy of sex? Well, it certainly seems so after watching the latest Pepsi commercials. Actually, it seems as though the entire joy of TV has become the joy of sex. Advertisers and entertainers keep taking

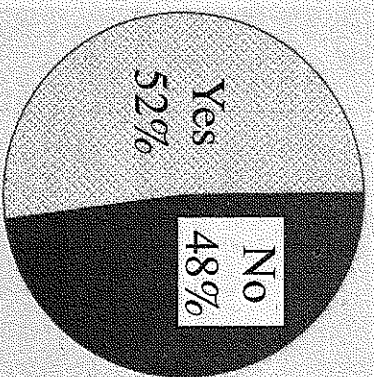
top of her jeans. Now *that* is sick. She claims the song is about her being a slave to music. *Yeah, right.* Next she'll start saying the panting is because she was out of breath from dancing. She also, during the whole sweaty mess, manages to hump a wall, and has boys-and-girls-lick her face. Seems to me like Spears would have a lot more fun prancing around the Playboy

M&M's used to have the sweetest commercials. Then, the green one came into play and all went downhill from there. Madison Avenue introduced her as a sexy M&M that all men drooled over. Sexy candy? Never saw that one before. In one commercial, the parents of a teenage boy are sitting on his bed gawking at the poster of "the green one" over their son's dresser, referring to it as "porn." Oh my. The day M&M's turned sexy was the day I think I began questioning the sanity of the world.

It available to all ages. Also, the cost would most likely keep a number of viewers away as well. If these procedures had been carried out and the show was harder to access, then not just any little kid could flick on the TV, see the women walking around practically naked, and go, "Mommy, what's that?"

## Is the media too sexual?

I don't think I'll ever grasp the concept of advertisers using sex to sell products. Who wants to see people getting down and dirty with the shampoo he or she was hoping to buy?



Poll taken by 200 WS students

—Compiled by Margaret Santiago

it to the next level.

Briney Spears started out as a young girl from the South, and then something went wrong—very wrong. In her new video, "I'm a Slave 4 U," Spears strutts her stuff through a club singing about being a slave and inviting boys to dance up on her.

I don't know if she got dressed backwards, but she is wearing a thong on

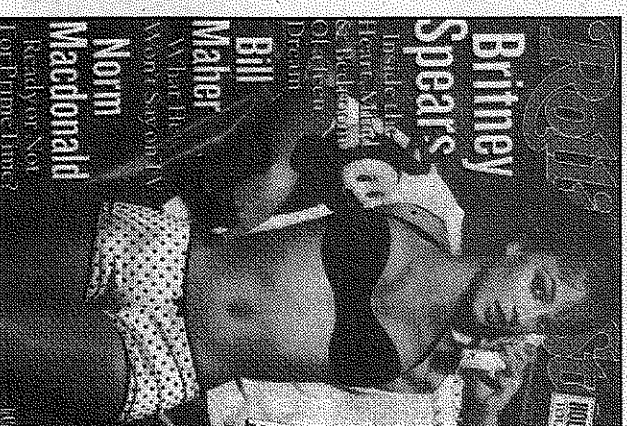
mansion with a pair of those cute bunny ears on her head.

I don't think I'll ever grasp the concept of advertisers using sex to sell products.

Sure, I know it gets people's attention, but I still don't approve. Who wants to see people getting down and dirty with the shampoo he or she was hoping to buy? For example, the cute red and yellow

case somebody ridicules the show so the company can refer to it as a "performance," not just something to turn people on.

It is stuff like this that really sickens me. It was too extreme, and should have been on Pay-Per-View. This way in order to see the show, an adult over the age of 18 would have had to call in, not making



We should not support this kind of behavior from advertisers and entertainers. All they want is our attention and maybe if we don't give it to them, they will find a better way to make their money. I'm almost positive Miss Spears could find something better to do than wear a thong over her jeans.



Dozens of Santas march along a street in Kensington to the town's "peace tree."

## The grinch almost stole Christmas in Md.

Kensington town council tries to ban Santa from the lighting of "peace tree"

By Jason Gillis  
Viewpoint Assistant

The government of Kensington, Maryland received extra coal in its stocking this past Christmas.

In the past, during the annual lighting of the Christmas tree, Santa arrived on a fire truck, throwing out candy canes and other treats to the crowd of spectators. Santa lit the city Christmas tree with the mayor. Last Christmas, it looked as though things were going to change. Two families complained about Santa and felt that they would be uncomfortable because Santa would be at the lighting. The city council took action and in a 4-0 vote Santa

was taken out from the ceremonies, leaving the mayor to light the tree along with some Kensington rescue workers.

Two families out of 1,200 residents complained and Santa was banned. That was a harsh action to take because the town has a Christmas tree and Santa is a part of Christmas which has a Christmas tree. But now to be politically correct, the Christmas tree has a new name. It is called a peace tree with red, white and blue lights. I was outraged when I heard the announcement. I have no problem in honoring rescue workers and how much they do for our country, but Santa is a figure head of the Holiday season and tradition in many American homes.

Due to an increase in public outrage, the fire department announced that Santa would get a ride to the lighting and that he would be allowed to go on stage and take his role in lighting the tree.

Even if the council and mayor did not change their minds about Santa, the town would not be without him. Many people dressed up and brought signs to protest the actions of the city in the beginning. Positive peer pressure does work and this is a great example of it.

Montgomery County, received massive amounts of coal in their stockings last Christmas. Banning Santa in the name of political correctness is ridiculous, but positive peer pressure worked.

## Don't be a part of history, eat your food

By Emily Morris  
Features Editor

We can't stop them. They strike every year at every high school across the country. They attack our book bags, our hair and our clothes. There is no stopping a food fight. No matter what, it is a high school tradition.

In the cafeteria, WS fell victim to the "big food fight" of the year. It was the dumbest thing ever done by students whose level of maturity seems far below a high school level. It can't be that much fun throwing cafeteria food at someone and then getting it thrown back at you. But having cafeteria pizza thrown against me, then walking around school smelling of tomato paste and having a red triangular stain on my shirt is not my idea of fun.

Just like in the movie "Animal House," the cafeteria erupted. Someone was angered, then the whole situation got out of hand before administration stationed in the cafeteria could respond. There have been small food fights that occurred earlier this year, but the administration was able to stop them before they got out of hand.

Some may argue that food fights tend to happen in the spring when students don't want to be in school and rather be outside. In the spring, students tend to get in more trouble with skipping and other students' internal 'food fight' clocks were thrown out of whack. I don't care if it is spring, winter or fall, a food fight is

one of the most ridiculous things that has ever happened at WS, besides kicking water fountains out of the walls. But high school isn't high school without a food fight. No senior can graduate without living through a food fight. It is a tradition that has gone on for years and years, and will continue to go on, no matter how stupid it is.

But what is extremely unfair about food fights is the people it punishes. After the food fight, names and accounts of what happened went to Mr. Griffin's desk. No individuals were punished, rather the whole student body was. Griffin decided to make a rule that the pink trays cannot leave the cafeteria.

It was already a rule, a loosely enforced one, but now administration is cracking down on all students. Griffin believes it is a shame that the whole student body has to be punished for the actions of a few. But the administration has already seen an improvement in the problem.

It isn't fair to students; it isn't fair to the janitors either. They do a great job keeping WS clean. They do more than they should after every lunch when students leave trash on the floor in the hall or sports lobby. But it is completely not right for them to have to clean up a cafeteria that has fallen victim to a food fight.

WS has encountered its big food fight of the year. Let's try to keep it at that. If this behavior keeps up, the administration has already threatened harsher consequences. And there is no reason for another sophomoric food fight.



Juniors Kathleen Prevost and Mary Lurey throw their lunch, defying the administration's stricter lunch policy.

# WS administration waits for federal survey forms

By Erika Kim

Inside Story Editor

It's that time of year again. Federal survey form time. Teachers passed out these yearly forms to their students on Tuesday, December 4, to take home to their parents.

The Federal Survey Forms are intended to give federal funds to schools in counties with a large number of students whose parents work for the federal government since many of those parents do not pay taxes that help pay for the schools. The forms require information such as the parents' employers, work addresses, telephone numbers, and signatures.

Last year, an incident arose at WS in which members of the faculty called students who had not turned in the forms at the designated time to the cafeteria and instructed them to fill out the forms and sign their parents names themselves.

To ensure that a similar mishap does not occur again this year, the school is planning to use a different approach in dealing with unreturned federal survey forms.

The forms were to be handed out by first period teachers and signed forms were to be collected by the first period teachers by December 14.

"I was told to pass them out, tell them when they had to have it back, and I was given a calendar telling me what to do each day and when I had to turn them all in,"

said physics teacher Deborah Roubush.

After all the forms had been returned signed, the teachers were instructed to send the names of those students who had not turned in their forms to the office.

"We have parent volunteers to organize them in alphabetical order once they all come in," said Principal David Smith.

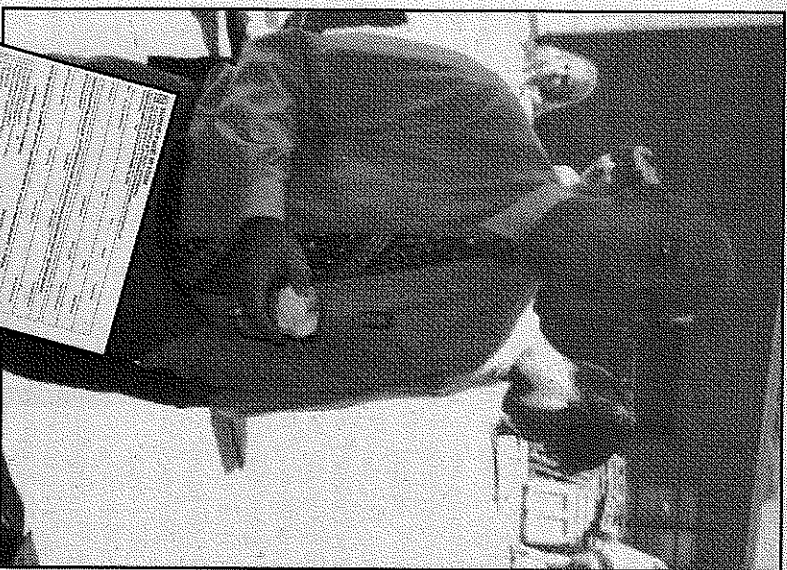
"The forms that had not been turned in by the designated date will be dealt with separately.

Nonclassroom teachers which include the clerical staff, guidance staff, and the assistant principals, will divide up the number of students who have not turned in their federal survey forms and call their parents in order to track down the missing forms and insure that they are turned in.

As of January 2, 23 faculty members turned in completed forms of all their students but 300 forms were still missing.

Since 300 forms were too many to track down over the phone, teachers were given additional forms to cover the number that was missing and were told to try again with the students. The additional forms collected are to be turned into Bill Remmer no later than Friday, January 11.

"I think that Dr. Smith has done a really good job handling the federal survey situation," said history teacher Margaret Mey. "He handled it really fairly."



File photo

Principal David Smith's efforts to handle the federal survey issue proves to be successful because there were more precautions taken this year.

# Students, staff welcome INOVA blood mobile

By Rachel Wolhers

Viewpoint Editor

Some were afraid of passing out or throwing up, and in some instances, that did, in fact, happen.

But for the most part, the blood drive was a smashing success.

The WS Key Club held its annual blood drive on Wednesday, December 19. Posters all around the school and announcements in the morning and afternoon advertised the blood drive.

The blood was collected in trailers outside the auxiliary gym. Small snacks and juices were served to donors before and after they donated blood to rejuvenate their

body and help prevent dizziness and fainting.

The blood drive was set up for 115 donors and the Key Club's wanted to have at least 102. Over 120 people signed up to donate, including students, faculty and parents. The final number of donors is currently uncertain because not everyone who signed up was eligible to give blood, and some never showed up. Before donors could give blood, they had to have their blood tested and their blood pressure could not be higher than 180/100.

"I signed up to give blood, but my blood pressure was too high," said senior Tanja Quinn.

Despite the fact that not all potential donors were able to donate blood, the Key Club was pleased overall.

"We're very happy with the amount of students we had donate blood," said Key Club president senior Myles Curran.

Donors had to be at least 17 years old, in general good health, weigh at least 110 pounds, and also have a photo ID. There were other qualifications a possible donor must meet before they could be allowed to give blood. If a person has had any kind of surgery, they may have to wait between three days to six months before they can give blood. There is also a

wait period for those who traveled to any country with a malaria risk.

"I'm not allowed to donate blood because I spent part of my summer in Kenya," said senior Nikki Atkinson.

There was no wait period for those taking medications, except for antibiotics. Obviously, INOVA had to be extremely careful about whose blood they accepted so that there are no complications when the blood is needed for someone else.

The blood drive was sponsored by INOVA Blood Donor Services. All blood received by the Key

After giving blood at the INOVA blood mobile, senior Jeff Reese shows off his wound as he returns to class.



Russ Waddell

# Academics and writers take center stage Students win acclaimed writing award; forty are eligible for AP Diploma

By Amy McKeever

Entertainment Editor

Uh oh, watch out. WS students are achieving again.

The Guidance Department has recently released the names of the WS seniors who are candidates for the AP Diploma, depending on their performances this year. There are 40 students on the list this year, which is considerably more than last year.

"The AP Diploma program is new to our school and I think that is why more students were interested this year," said Guidance Director Eleanor Saslaw.

Students can earn an AP Diploma from taking five AP classes and getting a three or better on the AP exam in those



Jan Stomacco

Seniors Jessie Chesnut and Meredith Galemore take some time out to write. They both won the NCTE's award in writing.

classes.

The only requirements for the classes are that four of the AP classes must be taken in the four

main academic subjects (language, science, math, and social studies) while the last can be an elective in any subject.

"I am striving to earn the Diploma," said senior and AP Diploma candidate Kathy Rifeval. "But it won't be a big deal if I don't get it."

Many WS students have achieved the honor of an AP Diploma candidate, but also this year, more students than usual from our school have won the National Council of Teacher's of English award in Writing. The three winners of this award are seniors Drew Brooks, Jessie Chesnut and Meredith Galemore.

"This is about the most prestigious writing award any high school student can get," said English teacher and award director Judy Harris. "Usually one state produces two winners — this school produced three."

To enter the English writing award competition, Brooks, Chesnut and Galemore each had to submit a 10 page writing portfolio in April. The results of their victory were announced in October.

"I feel really honored to have won the competition," said Chesnut.

The three WS winners received a great deal of recognition from the competition.

"We went to a ceremony and they made us chant 'I am a writer' over and over again," said Galemore.

From the AP Diploma to the NCTE writing award returns, it is clear that WS students are achieving a lot for one high school.

# Newman joins exclusive teen advisory board

By **Nayna Gupta**  
Viewpoint Editor

When guidance counselor Carol Belkin received a notice from the National School Board Association (NSBA) on an exclusive teen advisory panel, she knew sophomore Mike Newman was the perfect candidate.

After writing an one-page essay and filling out an application, Newman was chosen to be on the teen advisory panel to the Student Health Program.

Newman is expected to contribute his ideas on the health programs NSBA sponsors in schools across the nation.

Newman provides his input on the programs students participate in during health class, such as alcohol, drug, and teen pregnancy awareness.

In the first meeting in November, Newman and the other panel members discussed ways in which current health programs can be improved.

"As a group we decided that the health programs we have in school were not effective because NSBA is targeting students who aren't open to the message each program is trying to deliver," said Newman.

Throughout the next year, Newman will attend monthly

meetings with the same group of students in Alexandria. Sometimes, the group will have regular meetings where it will discuss how to improve existing programs and how to create new ones. On other days, Newman and the group will meet with guest speakers who travel around the country to talk to teens about health risks and education.

"I hope that at the meetings I will be able to help by increasing the effectiveness of the programs that are already implemented in our school and in other schools," said Newman.

Although Newman already holds a leadership position as the



Russ Waddell

Sophomore Mike Newman was selected by National School Board Association for teens. Newman joined the board this school year.

"I applied more because I think the panel is a good outlet for me to make an impact," said Newman. "Especially after the September 11 attacks when we all felt helpless."

# WS graduates return to roots

ALUMNI, from Page 1

"It's important for high school students to hear what college students have to say," said Rexford. "It's easy [for them] to relate. They know the kind of prep you're getting."

Many members of the WS College Partnership Program visited the event. They had the opportunity to ask questions from a worksheet the group provided. But students had other chances to ask additional questions as well.

"Students are interested in social life, resident hall life," said Rexford. "They like to know about academics, how hard it is, and they may have other, specific questions."

The returning graduates found that many WS students had questions about the transition from the high school to the college setting.

"I think they're interested in what it's like being independent and living in a differently structured environment," WS 2000 graduate Tammy Cloyd, who now attends Radford University.

WS students were also excited to see their friends among the returning graduates.

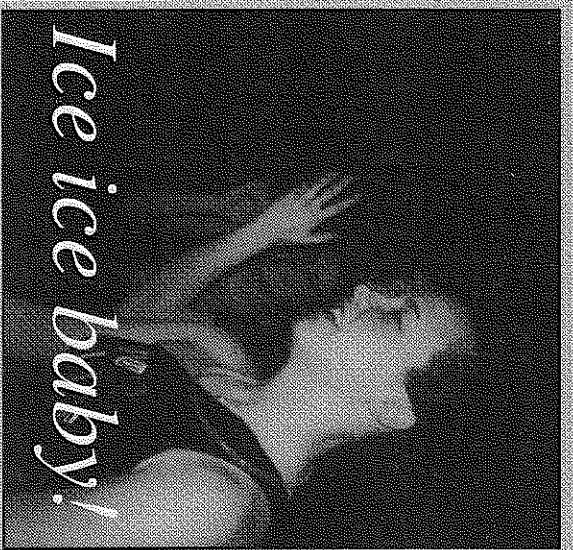
"I got to see people I knew," said senior Drew Brooks. "It was kind of late for seniors but probably good for juniors. I just asked 'How you doing in school?'"

Rexford asked several of the college students to participate, but many offered their time.

"Often the college students will come back and say they'd like to come back and represent their schools."

WS students weren't the only ones to get a lot out of the event. Returning graduates also enjoyed it.

"I'm having a lot of fun," said WS 2001 graduate Laura Cole, who now attends UVA. "It's nice recruiting people for your school and seeing people so interested in college."



Kate Flise

Senior Ann Blaschke and junior Sara Callaway dance the night away at Club Ice while sporting their glow sticks proudly.

CLUB ICE, from Page 1

casual. But mostly the dress was typical club style. Sparky and eye catching," said Jordan.

The DJ played mostly techno, rap and Latin dance music.

Those in student congress or in the leadership class agreed that the turn out was much more than they had anticipated.

"There were definitely a lot more people than we expected. Overall it was more successful than we

## The DJ played mostly techno, rap and Latin dance music.

thought it would be," said Ko.

Next year the leadership class and Student Congress plan to do better publicizing, so more student's will attend.

Student Congress and leadership class will now decide whether or not it should become a yearly event.

"It was fun. I think they're going to keep having them," said Ko. "They should make it an annual thing."

# Key club brings blood mobile to WS

BLOOD, from Page 4

INOVA to Fairfax Hospital, where blood will be tested and processed to be ready for others to receive.

The main reason people seem to want to give blood is because it is a way that they may help someone else.

"It's something I always wanted to do," said Quinn. I like the idea of helping other people."

Although the number of student donors does not seem to have increased since last year, even with the terrorist attacks, there were many more faculty, staff and parent donors than in past years.

"The blood drives at this school have always exceeded the Key Club's goal number of donors," said Key Club sponsor Joy Brinkman.

# Financial difficulties push Mirage online

MIRAGE, from Page 1

tournament is being planned for sometime in March or April.

"Since our objective is to create a web of communication within the school, we are constantly trying to come up with fundraiser ideas to help us raise money for us to publish the magazine," said Nguyen. "Having the magazine published in print is the ultimate way to extend this web of communication."

Some possible fundraiser ideas for the club are a date auction for February, if it is approved.

Also, a basketball

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# Spartans shouldn't expect Trojans in clinic soon

By Emily Miller  
Inside Story Editor

Candy jars, band-aid jars, condom jars, gauze jars... wait a second. Condoms in the clinic? Hey, it could happen.

Birth control in schools has been discussed several times during WS's existence. Recently this issue came up with the National School Board Association which consists of 15 students from the metropolitan area. Each of the 15 students represent their school and sophomore Mike Newman represents WS. He said more than half of the representatives thought it was good idea during a vote.

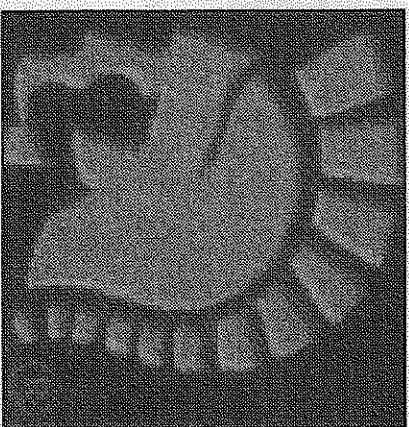
"I won't promote sex; it will just make the sex that is already happening safer," said Newman.

Many students think that if students are sexually active, they should practice safe sex and the least the school can do is provide some sort of birth control.

"If the school were to hand out condoms, it shows they're supporting safe sex and are not denying that students do it," said junior Matthew Ash.

However, many students think giving out condoms in the clinic is inappropriate, that the school were to do this, there would be many complicated factors to consider such as lawsuits.

If a couple uses a condom provided by the school and the girl still ends up



According to sales, the Trojan brand logo represents America's #1 condom.

pregnant, they could sue the school.

"I'm afraid that if the school hands out condoms, they will probably be cheap and

not high in quality," said senior Walt Harris.

Also, peer pressure might be involved. If a group of friends went to the clinic and the leader of the pack picks up a condom, his or her friends will most likely be pressured to pick one up for themselves.

"I think handing out condoms encourages people [to have sex]," said senior Eunjo Kim.

Another issue is whether WS students could handle this or not. Condoms could litter the classrooms, hallways, and bathrooms of WS. They could be used for pranks and jokes.

"I don't think people in this school would handle it maturely," said senior Maureen Hagan.

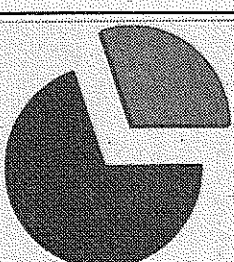
Still the possibility of WS ever distributing condoms is slim.

"If there is so much struggle on family life education, I think you can imagine the controversy for this to take place," Principal David Smith said.

If enough students signed a petition, the issue would be brought up with the Fairfax County school board. It has been discussed

before but never too seriously. The School Public Health Nurse, Nancy Albright, reminds WS students that she talks to students individually and confidentially about issues such as birth control.

## Should the clinic distribute condoms?



Think it is a good idea  
Think it is a bad idea

200 students polled  
— Compiled by  
Emily Miller

"I see goods and bads to both," said Albright. "I think it's important where kids get their information on [birth control] and I don't think the school is the place for it to be done."

# Overseas studies after high school an option for students

By JD Kalem  
Business/Systems Assistant

Eight months enrolled in an intensive foreign immersion program at the University of Strasbourg in France—that's what it took French teacher Laura Bruckmann to get where she is today.

"I took a lot of classes in French and Spanish, while trying to learn and practice as much of the language and absorb as much of the culture as possible," said Bruckmann.

She participated in the exchange program during her junior year at the College of the Holy Cross.

Just like Bruckmann, many students at WS have foreign study on their minds, including participating in exchange programs during college, or even going directly to another country after high school to study.

Junior Anna Kapuscinski plans to go to Europe during college for one to two years.

"I want to study in Europe in places like Paris and Italy," said Kapuscinski. "I want to see the world and different people and get an experience outside the box of the US."

School in France is in mind for senior Allison Byers.

She plans to major in international affairs.

To prepare, she took a trip to Europe last summer and also participated in the National Youth Leadership Forum this summer.

She attended the five-day program where she listened to lectures and attended seminars about foreign intelligence, security and culture, while talking to foreign diplomats and others in the foreign services.

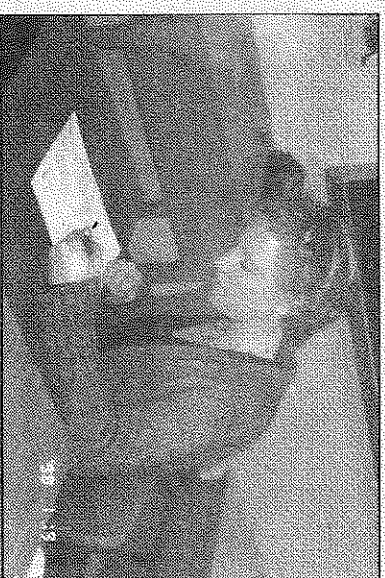
"The experience overseas would help me with my major and help me better understand different types of cultures and peoples," said Byers.

Unlike Kapuscinski and Byers, Europe isn't the only destination of college-bound students.

Junior Taryaba Wagar would like to travel to the Middle East to study Arabic and experience a different culture.

"I think the US has forgotten God in all its institutions, and since the Quran is written in the Arabic language, I would like to study it and learn about the Middle Eastern culture," said Wagar. "There is more culture in other countries, unlike the US, which has turned into a Sahara that lacks any cultural values."

Career Center specialist Susan Rexford recommends all students get a foreign-study experience during college.



Jenn Simonaco  
Senior Allison Byers works hard in class to keep her grades up so she can qualify to study overseas.

"Colleges encourage their students to enroll abroad. Many have campuses overseas and will help finance the trip," said Rexford. "It's a good idea to study abroad for any student, especially those interested in careers in foreign language, political science, international studies, and other related careers."

Students such as junior Florian Becker have already started their experience abroad.

He is one of four foreign exchange students at WS this year and is to come back to the US for college.

"I would definitely recommend studying overseas or participating in an exchange program. It's a great advantage. It will help you in every aspect of your life, especially your career," said Becker. "It's been the best experience of my life."

# Weird hair cuts, colors brighten halls of WS

By Emily Miller

Inside Story Editor

They are seen in the halls to the sports lobby to the cafeteria.

From spiked, to dye jobs of odd colors, to get styles, unusual and unique hair-styles that students have are nearly everywhere.

Many students get unusual hair styles for many and unique reasons, whether its to save time or to stand out from the norm.

"It is easier to have crazy hair than normal hair," said junior Nikolai Wajda. "because you do not have to spend 15 minutes in front of a mirror."

Some of these students receive weird looks from people

"They [people] squinted at me," said Wajda.

The inspirations for these crazy hair-styles are many, whether its to stand out or just for fun.

"I am very original," said Wajda. "If [the hair-cut] was all my idea."

Among these styles are liberty spikes, dyed colors of red, blue or orange, as well as dreadlocks.

"I just wanted to try something new with my hair," said junior Chris Mitzel, referring to a liberty spikes hair-cut that he once received.

While some go to professionals for

someone to cut their hair, not all students do.

"I used blue dye. I got from Hot Topic. I had to bleach my hair first," said junior Amber McKay. "I dyed my hair blue because I really like the Smurfs."

Whether students plan to create a work of art of their on their heads in honor of something, for others it just happens.

"It was a spur of the moment type thing," said Wajda. "Who felt inspired to try something most people won't try. I gave myself my own hair-cut."



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# After 18 years Peduzzi hasn't lost her flair

By Melissa Lipman  
and Laura Robinson  
*Oracle Staff Writers*

Some teachers are full of addages and aphorisms. But for social studies chair Connie Peduzzi, that's an understatement.

"You know how I have the saying 'What are you doing? Playing tiddlywinks with manhole covers?'" said Peduzzi. "[My students] brought me [a manhole cover] one day — rolled—a big manhole cover and put it up here in front of the room. I couldn't move it; they told me they just found it in the woods. I told them they

450 in the senior class, but we only had nine cheerleaders so it was really competitive to make the squad."

After high school Peduzzi attended Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania where she majored in physical education. But when she found she'd have to complete a rigorous swimming program, she decided PE was not for her.

"When I grew up, women had three choices: We could be a teacher, a nurse or a secretary," said Peduzzi. "I worked as a candy striper at a hospital and that did it for me. My typing teacher said I would never be a secretary, so I decided to be a teacher."

Of all the subjects she's taught, Peduzzi prefers political science.

"My typing teacher said I would never be a secretary, so I decided to be a teacher."  
—Connie Peduzzi, government teacher

weren't going to graduate if they didn't take it out."

Though Peduzzi has taught at WS for 18 years, she has lost none of the vivacity she had as a cheerleader in high school.

"I was very bubbly, talkative, perky, probably flirtacious," said Peduzzi. "I loved it. I went to a high school with about

"I like the intrigue of politics," said Peduzzi. "If I were going to do anything different I'd like to work on the Hill, and I actually had considered a career change seven or eight years ago, but I decided I didn't want to get into the downtown DC scene at that point in my life."

Peduzzi has also taught in Pennsylvania, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Korea and North Carolina, but she likes WS the best.

"My proudest moment was being selected by the Class of 2000 as the Teacher of the Year," said Peduzzi.

She would title her life story "Adventures and Challenges"—

Social studies chair Connie Peduzzi discusses the workings of congress with one of her AP government classes.

several competitive races in my age bracket. I play tennis and I'm going to take up golf. I like to read, particularly biographies."

She plans to learn to play golf so she can play with her husband, her son, Michael, and her soon-to-be daughter-in-law. As far as her family goes, she's looking forward to her son's marriage in September and maybe grandchildren in the future.

"I love kids, I really do," said Peduzzi. "They make me laugh. I love teaching seniors because you can always joke with seniors, have fun with them and get right back on track."

## Some students trade Spartan orange and blue for Army green

By Camilla Casillas  
*Sports Editor*

We can all name someone we know who is a part of the military, so it isn't a surprise that some of students at WS have decided to join the military after they graduate.

"My mom said that I should look into the military, so I did some research about it," said senior Chris Wood.

Our area is filled with military personnel, which has influenced some students' decisions to joining.

"I knew I've wanted to join for a long time. I have a lot of friends whose parents are apart of the military," said senior Mike Mazie.

This year especially, more people have been thinking that military work is very important and honorable.

"I want to be in the Air Force because I would like to get a chance to fly someday, said Mazie. "It would be an honor to wear a suit that represents our flag and what it means."

Many students join the military because of money issues. The military offers to pay for college.

"They pay for education. It's a great opportunity, so when I get a job they will see that I was in the military and it will help me get a better career," said senior Phil Burnside.

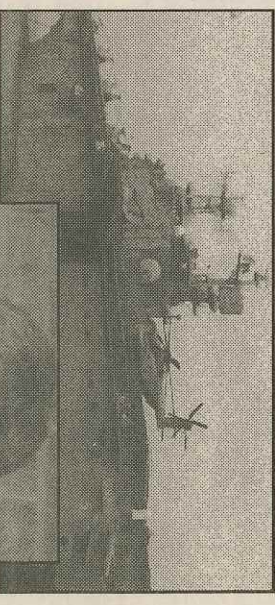
After Burnside enlists, he will be sent to boot camp in Great Lakes, IL.

"After that I get schooling for five to six weeks and I'll get posted at a naval shipping," said Burnside. "It is really cool I have to be on ship for 6 months and get to go to classes. It's like a big city on a boat."

A few years ago during peace time, students didn't have to worry about going into combat, but now during a time of war that has become a distinct possibility.

"It hasn't made me change my mind about going to the Coast Guard. I want to get there quicker and help out," said senior Matt Peters.

In the class of 2001, 11 students from the graduating



Senior Phil Burnside plans to enlist in the Navy after he graduates from WS this June. After being sworn in on Sept. 18 he will be sent to boot camp in Illinois.



Russ Waddell

class joined the armed forces. For the class of 2002, the number of students who decide to enlist won't be known until June.

"I've always wanted to do Search and Rescue," said Peters. "I chose US Coast Guard because I think everyone should serve their country."

## Mazie becomes WS's own amazing motorcycle marvel

By Jen Berne  
*Weekend Editor*

Rolling down the street with the wind at your back while facing the open road can be invigorating.

"There's nothing like hopping on a motorcycle and just riding," said senior Mike Mazie.

He got his first bike, a dirt bike, when he was 11 years old. Mazie eventually saved up thousands of dollars to buy his very own motorcycle.

"I bought my bike in August for a pretty penny. I paid for it myself because my parents wanted nothing to do with it," said Mazie.

Believe it or not motorcycle insurance isn't as expensive as people think. Mazie pays a little over \$200 a year which most people would expect it to be over a \$1000 a year. The reason for this is that insurance companies view the situation as self-endangerment and ultimately motorcycle drivers are not at as much risk to drivers in cars. Therefore motorcycle premiums are at a

much lower rate than a convertible car, for example. Hopping on a motorcycle isn't as easy as often people surmise. There are many factors determining the fate of

the ride like weather, wearing the proper attire and overall safety.

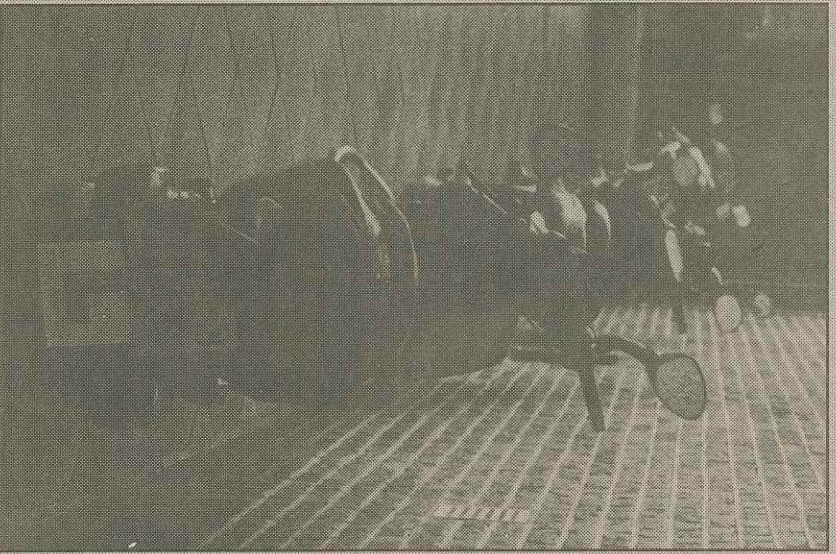
"I wear a helmet, long pants to protect my legs from rocks and insects, and gloves to protect my hands from the same things," said Mazie. "It's important to protect yourself because more often than not the person on the bike gets hurt while the person in the car does not."

The best place to buy motorcycle equipment is Coleman's Power Sports in Alexandria. It's close and sells most anything needed to ride safely.

While Mazie usually plays it safe, he does know a few tricks as well. He can pop a front and back wheelie amongst other crafty tricks.

This spring Mazie plans to enter his bike in at least one show. Mazie's bike has its own custom pieces he added and paid for. Like his own paint job, Inferno Metallic Pearl Red, and a chrome frame. Four carbs have been jetted to increase his top mileage per hour from 140 mph to 185 mph.

"Riding is the best thing I've ever invested in," said Mazie. "But no matter what, I always remember to take it seriously and protect myself and the others around me."



Katie Rice

Motorcycles themselves can be expensive, however, Mazie believes the joy of owning one is worth the price.

# One man beats the odds

## Entire girls volleyball team defeated by one man with a message

By Angela Fiorino  
ETC. Editor

One man beating the entire girls' volleyball team? Impossible.

Not quite. On Sunday, December 16, Bob Holmes, the nationally acclaimed one man volleyball team, came to WS to strut his stuff. This Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) sponsored event housed about 50 kids, 80 pizzas, five staff members from the FCA Northern Virginia office, six former Redskins, coaches, the girl's volleyball team and of course, Holmes himself. Flying in from California only an hour before his performance, decked out in a red, white and blue warm-up suit, Holmes was ready to play.

"When he first came out, I was like, who is this guy?" said junior Chelsea Mazella. "But once he started talking, he was really smart and he really opened me up to stuff I wasn't open to before. His playing one person against the odds is really symbolic."

After feasting on free pizza in the sport's lobby, everyone was rounded into the gym and Holmes began his routine by facing last year's JV girl's volleyball team.

**Somehow they just couldn't beat a man who had won 14,000 games and only lost a mere 200 in his career.**

He had a laptop setup on a table next to his side of the court which he used to

broadcast his theme music across the loudspeakers. He announced to the crowd that the girls could play the ball off the ceiling, off the walls, off the bleachers, and the audience could even hand it back to them. He also gave them incentive by saying he would buy them each a steak dinner if they could beat him.

After his victory against the girls, Holmes invited every guy over six foot to come down to the court to face him in a match. Seniors Jeff Evans and Masood Naderpoor and juniors Josh Wilson, Eric Davis and Marshall Ausberry, were just some of the giants facing Holmes,



One man volleyball team, Bob Holmes, beats the players of the Minnesota Vikings.

Sliding across the court on their knees, desperately trying to return Holmes' seemingly supernatural serves, the girls dove for every ball. But somehow they just couldn't beat a man who had won 14,000 games and only lost a mere 200 in his career.

"I took it as a fun experience and I enjoyed playing against him," said junior Monica Berndez. "I expected him to beat us to begin with, but it was still fun."

but they just couldn't seem to take it home. This time Holmes promised he'd put ten dollars in each of their pockets, and he even gave them a few free-bees but their main problem was returning his "Psycho Serve." For this wild antic, Holmes would throw the ball ten feet into the air, make some weird body movements then spike the ball across the gym. This serve was never returned.

"He was really good. His serves were



# Spartan Profiles

William Webster

Cecilia Teran



By Denis Ing  
Sports Editor

He paddles out about 50 feet into the water. Then a wave comes and he gets up on his surf board. He glides in while doing a few tricks on the way. His name is William Webster, and he has moved

the West coast because of the better waves. Webster never went to any big contests but he did do surfing as a hobby on his free time.

"Whenever I had free time after school and on weekends my friends and I would go out and practice. It was a lot of fun just to do it and have the experience," Webster said.

During his second summer in California Webster's family took a trip to Hawaii where he spent a month perfecting his surfing skills. There were many people there who helped Webster learn the tricks of the trade. Webster started off surfing on small waves, learning to balance himself. Then soon moved towards the end of his first year of trying surfing he started to get good. That is where Webster started surfing on the big waves.

When Will started to surf he decided he liked how much fun it was. "Surfing is calming and yet at the same time it has a huge adrenaline rush," said Will.

There is so much to learn during surfing that it takes time to learn just the basics. It took Will two years of surfing. He enjoyed it so much that he wants to surf again.

Surfing was so much fun for Will that he surfed every year he lived in California.

"If takes along time to start surfing because you have to learn to balance yourself," said Will "once you start it, though, you never want to quit."

By Erika Kim  
Inside Story Editor

She spins, she twirls, she even jumps. Her name is Cecilia Teran. Teran is a senior and a member of the drill team. She is also a part of CASA and DECA.

Teran has been dancing ever since she was little, but she never danced in any special studio classes.

"I've danced on my own with my friends and cousins," said Teran.

Not only does Teran dance on the drill team, but she dances a dance called Caporales, which is a cultural dance from her country, Bolivia with a dance group called San Simon.

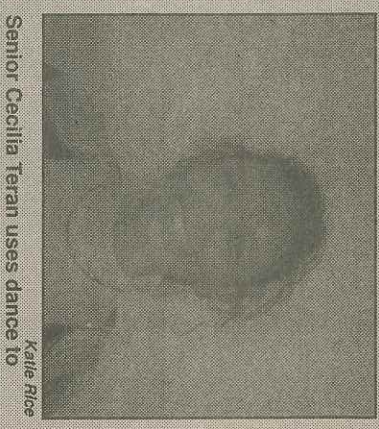
"I don't dance at a studio. I basically dance for West Springfield and my country [Bolivia]," said Teran.

With the drill team she dances at football games, basketball games, pep rallies and different competitions. With her cultural dance group, she danced in Pennsylvania at a Fourth of July parade and even went to New York to participate in the Latin Parade. She has also danced in parade in Washington, DC with her group as well.

As much as she loves to dance, Teran is planning to major in business marketing. She does not plan to pursue a career in dancing despite her love for the activity and her talent.

"I don't think I'll put my dancing aside. I'll keep it as a hobby and have fun with it now," said Teran.

Although Teran is looking at colleges in state, she has not made a decision as to where she wants to go. She is looking to go to either Virginia Tech, Radford or James Madison. Other possibilities for



Senior Cecilia Teran uses dance to connect to her country, Bolivia. Teran and Johnson and Whales down in Florida.

Teran's favorite class is International Marketing in which she gets participate in co-op as a secretary at a collectors agency called The Suburban Credit Company, DECA, and the Spartan Cafe.

"We get to explore different types of countries and how they function and we learn about interesting new cultures," said Teran. "It's a lot of fun, but [also] hard work."

*Katie Rice*  
Sophomore William Webster has been mastering his surfing skills since age 12, from surfing in California to being a sophomore here at WS.

"I started surfing when I was about 12 so I started pretty late because you would usually start around age six or eight. If I would have started earlier then I could have been real good," Webster said.

Many people do not excel at surfing because it takes good balance and a lot of time put into it. Many surfers are on



# I can be your hero, baby!



Cyclist Lance Armstrong celebrates his victory after winning the Tour de France.

## Cycling through cancer

By Roberto Garcia  
Oracle Editor

For a recent cancer survivor, something as simple as walking to the bathroom can cause an immense amount of pain. One man, however, fought through such pain, and showed the world that the power of cancer is no match for the power of the human spirit.

American cyclist Lance Armstrong was diagnosed with testicular cancer in October 1996. Tests also found cancerous cells in his brain and lungs. Having been told that his chances for survival were less than 50 percent, Armstrong's career was apparently over. However, Armstrong underwent intensive treatment, undergoing two operations—one to remove a malignant testicle, another to remove the cancer in his brain—as well as heavy treatment of chemotherapy.

Only five months earlier, Armstrong was miraculously back on the bike, and by the summer of 1998, he had

officially returned to the sport of cycling.

What's most amazing, however isn't that Armstrong beat cancer. In an age of quickly advancing medical treatments, many sticky victims of this horrendous disease battle back and survive. What's amazing is that he didn't let it sidetrack him from the life he led before cancer. Prior to his diagnosis in 1996, Armstrong was amongst the best cyclists in the world. When he returned in 1998, he wasn't back simply to race; he was back to win.

And win he did. I will never forget watching Armstrong come down the Champs-Élysées in Paris 1999, wearing the yellow jersey, seven minutes ahead of his closest competitor. For any of us who have lost a loved one to cancer (a great uncle to prostate cancer, in my case), his feat seemed surreal.

But it was very real. Armstrong proved that cancer was simply just an obstacle: a challenge; something that needed to be overcome. The three Tour de France trophies that he now owns are proof that he overcame.

## Words of Wisdom

By Mike Araj  
Business/Systems Editor

Though my hero is neither a celebrity nor an athlete, he has had a radical effect on my life.

My uncle taught me one important lesson that I have lived by and plan to continue living by: stay calm. Although it may not sound like much, it can make a huge difference.

The first time I stepped onto a soccer field as a referee was when I learned this important lesson. Everything was going fine until a few minutes before halftime.

A player had pushed his opponent inside of the penalty box, which led to a penalty kick for the other team. When I made this call, it seemed to me like chaos broke loose on the field. The parents were outraged by the call, while the coach of the other team came onto the field, which is illegal.

After proceeding to tell me what I supposedly should have done, I asked the coach to step off the field in a calm, yet firm voice, and he complied. Had it not been

for my uncle, who had given me some advice on how to run the field during a game, I most likely would have not known how to react in the situation.

However, this event is not the only incident that make my uncle a hero. When he first came to the United States, he juggled college and a job to not only pay his way through his schooling, but also to pay for his roof-infested, under-sized apartment.

Despite all these setbacks, he made it. Not only did he finish college, he also got a good-paying job with the Internal Revenue Service as an engineer. He convinced my dad to go to college and get his degree. Fortunately, my dad listened and ended up with a job with the Defense Logistics Agency. My uncle certainly has the characteristics of hero that most celebrities cannot claim the experience of: he faced hardship and succeeded. No matter how famous a person may be, he or she is not

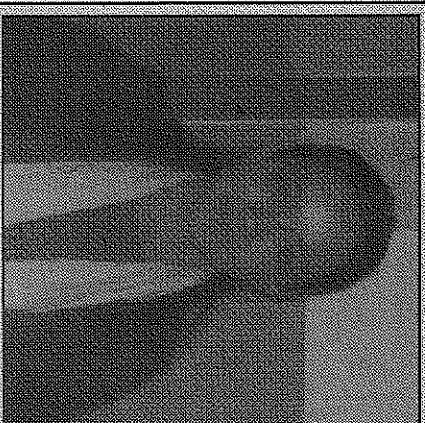
necessarily a hero. What makes a hero is the way he or she reacts to hardship, and that is why my uncle is, and always will be, my hero.



Junior Mike Araj and his uncle stand in front of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

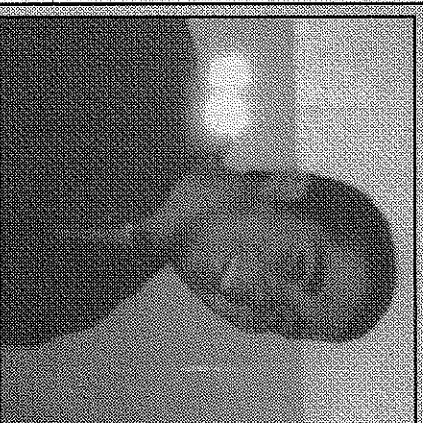
Tony Araj

## Who's your hero?



Jennifer Stomacco

"My mom because she's always stuck through the rough times."  
—Megan Zak, freshman



Jennifer Stomacco

"Jerry Seinfeld. The man's a genius."  
—Brandon Ferraro, junior



Jennifer Stomacco

"Mariah Carey because she's the best singer in the world."  
—Medie Dahmer, junior



Jennifer Stomacco

"Steven Tyler because he's real cool and even though he's fifty some he still acts crazy."  
—Gina Dicicco, senior

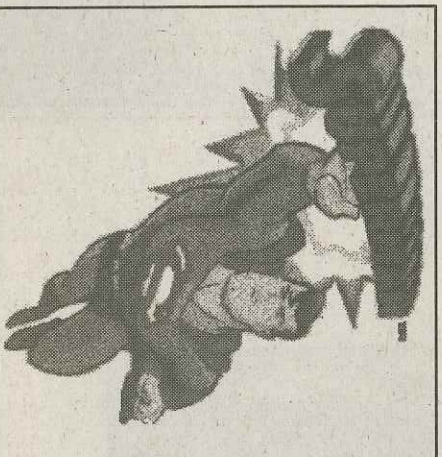
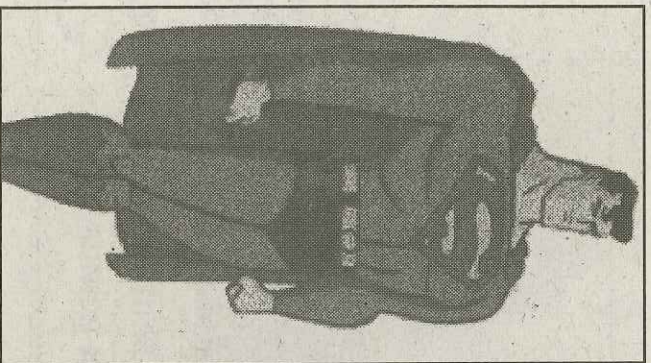
# Up, up and away

**By Denis Ing**  
*Sports Editor*

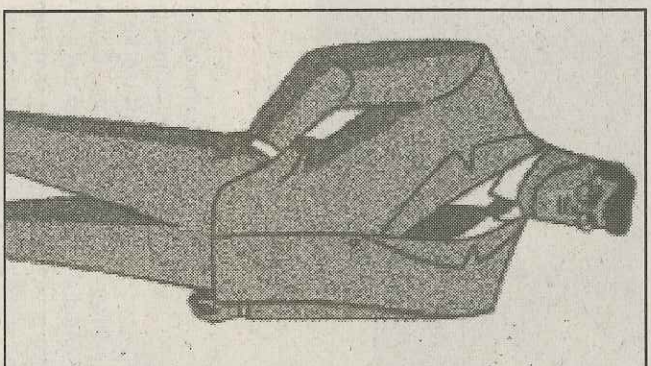
It's a bird, it's a plane, NO it's SUPERMAN!!!

That's what they say about my hero. I have always wanted to be like Superman. With his laser shooting eyes, flying ability and his bullet-repelling body. If I were like Superman I would not need a car because I could just fly to where I wanted to be. I would not have to ask someone to open the pickle jars. I would be strong enough to open all of them. I would never have to pay for someone to weld something for me; I could weld it myself.

I do not think anyone has ever met Superman but if someone does I want it to be me. Just for him to shake my hand and crush it would be a memory that I would always cherish. Despite the pain that would surge through my fingers and hand, I would still admire him.



Superman (left) stands proudly in his traditional uniform. He flies away once again to save the day (center). Superman cleverly disguises himself as Clark Kent (right).



**“And I will stand by you forever  
You can take my breath away  
I can be your hero.”**

**Enrique Iglesias**

# Life lessons

**By Priyanka Tandon**  
*News Section Editor*

Good ol' Dad—my Papa.

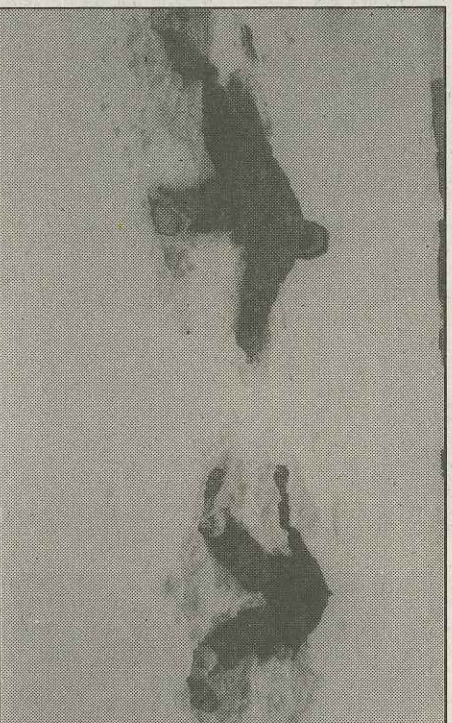
My names for Papa have varied my whole life. When I was about five until about age seven or eight, I used to call him Jit Papa. Jit is Papa's first name.

I fluctuated from Dad to Daddy to finally settle on Papa. Papa is always there. No matter how late or how mad I make him, he's still always ready to deal with me.

In sixth grade I had to do a project on aliens for my GT class. Of course, being the classic procrastinator, I waited until the night before it was due to start the project. My project became the family's

project, with Papa leading the pack. Papa wasn't happy that I had waited until the last minute, but nonetheless, he helped me.

Now Papa isn't perfect. He's always, without exception, late. He has a saying—“My name is J-I-T, just in time.” He's a scatterbrain. More than once he's forgotten to pick me up



*Priyanka Tandon*

Junior Priyanka Tandon and her dad make snow angels together.

and him not letting me give up—it's all there. In case it's not obvious, I adore Papa. Out of everything,

he's taught me that the most important lesson (so far) is to persevere through everything. From Jit Papa to Jit, he is and will always be my hero.

from various activities. (Thank God I now have a license.) With his many faults come great virtues as well. He never holds any malice towards those who cross him. He says it's a waste of his time. He imposes and practices extremely strong morals and it's these unbreakable morals that he has embedded in me. I look up to Papa a great deal, and when I'm not sure of something, I remember his morals.

Also, he calls this a virtue, but I'm not too sure—he thinks waiting until the last minute is the best way to do things. He says the last minute is the best because under pressure, incredible things occur. Yeah, okay Papa, whatever.

I know when he'll look back on life, he will never forget the endless hours we've spent on math and physics homework. The crying, yelling,

and him not letting me give up—it's all there.

In case it's not obvious, I adore Papa. Out of everything,

**“So when you feel like  
inside you and be stro  
see the truth that a he**

# Dear Jc

**By Melissa Lipman**

*Oracle Editor*

Dear Mr. Attorney General John Ashcroft sir:

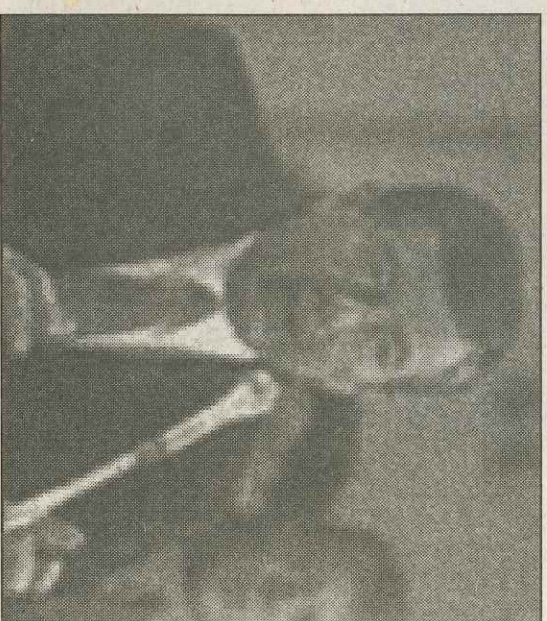
You are my hero. My friends, in fact, pretty much everyone who knows me, probably wouldn't believe this but let me wholeheartedly assure you that I am completely genuine.

Johnny—oh, well, since you're my hero, do you think I could call you Johnny? Thanks. Anyway, I just wanted to tell you what a political genius I think you are. I, for one, could never have been brilliant enough to decide to block terminally ill patients in Oregon from receiving life-ending medicine under the state's assisted suicide law in the “aftermath of 9/11.” (It's the latest catch-phrase. I'm a big fan, how 'bout you?)

Now, the nuance, the suave chivalry of this particular move may escape most people, but I get it. See, while most Americans were trying to come to terms with one of the worst events in modern history, you, Johnny boy, were able to put your personal suffering aside and attack other citizens' rights to make their own decisions about their lives. Bravo, Johnny.

See, you make me proud to be an American. You're the kind of guy I want to hold up to the rest of the world as a poster-child for America's “return to normalcy.” Heck, I'd like to hold you up to the world as an image of a good, red-blooded American. Then I'd like to apply for Canadian citizenship.

Just kidding there, Johnny. Seriously though, I know everything's going to be okay as long as guys like you are still hacking away at the rights of the terminally ill and others.



Attorney General John Ashcroft testified “brilliantly” for the S anti-terrorism policy.

**“Though nothing will driv  
them away, we can be her  
just for one day. We can b  
just for one day.”**

**David Bowie**

**“You know my  
goes my hero  
There goes my**

hope is gone look  
ing and you'll finally  
ro lies in you."

Mariah Carey

Johnny

Actually, my favorite of your recent remarks, and trust me, with the richness and variety of your words picking a favorite is not easy, came when you addressed the Senate Judiciary Committee.

In response to criticism of the administration's new counter-terrorism measures, you could have gone with something trite like, "The ability of these critics to voice their thoughts even in the face of recent events proves that the cries of the fall of the Bill of Rights are exaggerated." But no, instead you said, "[Critics] tactics only aid terrorists for they erode our national unity and diminish our resolve. They give ammunition to America's enemies and pause to America's friends."

See, I like the way you think. You don't want people to pause to think. No, no, that's a waste of time. You want America to move like a great, frightened herd of wild animals, charging without a care about whom or what gets trampled in the process.

And frankly I'm just disguised by the barrage of websites out there spreading negative thoughts about you, Johnny. While surfing the net, I came across johnashcroftbucks.com, www.stopashcroft.com, www.geocities.com/againstashcroft, www.stopjohnashcroft.org, etc.

Johnny, with your blessing, I'd like to start another website to counter these negative influences: www.helpashcroftstopoutcivilliberties.com. What do you think, Johnny?

Sincerely yours,  
Melissa Lipman



enate Judiciary Committee on criticism of the administration's

Excellent...D'oh!

By JD Kaleem

Business/Systems Assistant

D'oh! That's him. Homer Simpson. The greatest dad on Earth.

Sure, he may seem dumb and shallow sometimes. Sure, his diet consists of nothing but doughnuts and beer. And sure, he may have the manners of a chimpanzee. But his intentions are always good and he never fails to get a burst of laughter out of me.

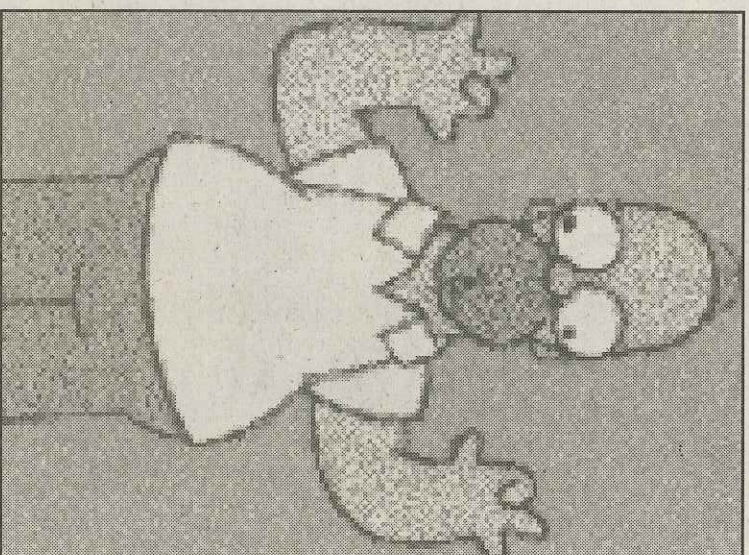
He's the typical American dad—in such an untypical way.

Remember the one time he sacrificed the money he had saved for an air conditioning unit to buy his daughter Lisa a new saxophone for her performance at school? He even got the saxophone engraved with her initials. And yes, he did end up ruining Lisa's night at the end, but in his heart, he was trying to do nothing but good.

How about the time he went crazy a la *The Shining* and almost murdered his whole family? Okay, that wasn't a great thing to do. But, hey, it was hilarious.

Episode by episode, he's accomplished so much in his life.

He got accepted into the elite society of The Stonecutters, was hailed as their god, and then was kicked out.



Homer Simpson is one of the most popular T.V. dad's.

Homer's a great guy. His values and accomplishments are ones that anybody, especially me, would like to have. Too bad he's not a real person. D'oh!

“Did you ever know that you’re my hero?  
You’re everything I wish I could be.”

Bette Midler

Sisterly love

By Marianne Shaddrix

Features Editor

On September 11, heroes were born. Virtually every American put New York City Firefighters on a pedestal and their selfless acts of bravery will always be remembered. However, my hero hasn't saved anyone from a burning skyscraper. She hasn't found the cure for AIDS, or walked on the moon, but my sister Lindsey is always someone I have always looked up to.

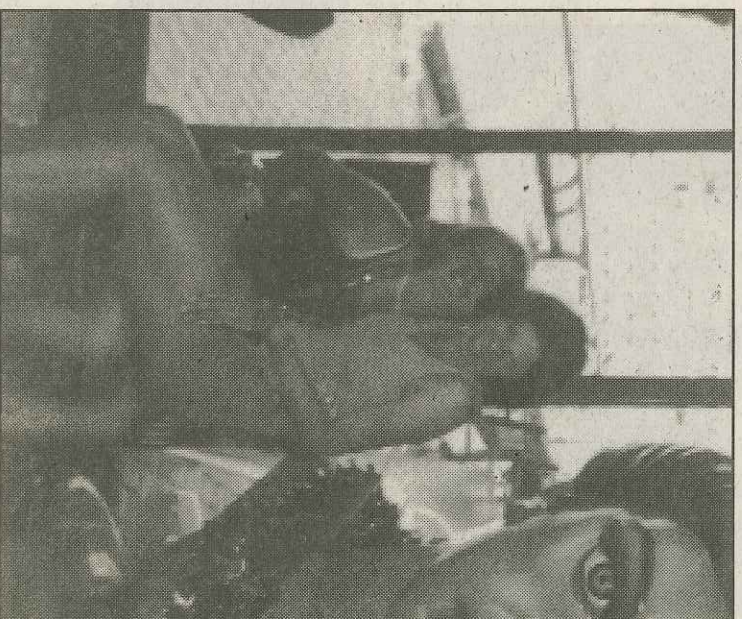
Lindsey and I have been told many times that we are as different as night and day. She is the neat and organized stellar student who is able to succeed at anything she puts her mind to whether it is academic or athletic. I on the other hand am quite higgeldy-piggeldy, and while I'm not a bad student, I feel like I will always be referred to as just "Lindsey's sister" by many teachers who have taught us both.

I think it is hard for most teachers to forget my sister. She was well liked by virtually each and every teacher she had at WS and managed to graduate last year with a 3.9 GPA. However, I look up to her for more reasons than that.

Lindsey has always been there for me when I've needed her. If I ever have relationship problems I know she will always be there to listen to me vent and then offer her best advice, even if it's just a simple, "boys are stupid sometimes." On days when it seemed like everything I owned was dirty, the closet in her room was always just a few feet down from mine. While borrowing her clothes for the day severely angered my sister, most days she just sighed, made a wise crack to my mom, and let me be as long as I promised not to let it end up in the dark abyss of clothing on my bedroom floor.

I knew before she went away to William and Mary last August that things would be different for me with her gone. The size of my wardrobe would undoubtedly shrink, and I

wouldn't have her wise advice to guide me through when the going got rough, although I have realized that AIM is a Godsend. When she comes home periodically, things return to the way they used to be for me and Lindsey, though I like to joke around and tell her that since she has left the Shaddrix household, she is no longer the Alpha-Child. However, in my eyes, she will always be the Alpha-Sister whom I love.



Jan Shaddrix

Junior Marianne Shaddrix and her sister Lindsey pose together at a New Orleans Mardi Gras shop.

e us

hero, the one that's on there  
watch him as he goes.  
hero. He's ordinary."

Foo Fighters

# No Doubt's new edge rocks steady

By Angela Florino

ETC. Editor

Any band that can combine the sounds of dance-hall reggae grooves, 80's techno, new wave, ska and hip-hop, and make it sound good, is talented.

No Doubt's new CD, "Rock Steady," a mixture of all these music genres, proves that the 13 years of hard work has paid off.

On this eclectic CD, No Doubt puts down their guitars and implies the distortion to pickup extra keyboards and maybe even a steel drum. Some of the collaborators include Sly and Robbie, Steeple and Cleevie, Lady Saw, Bounty Killer and the Artist Formerly Known as Prince, or the Artist or whatever he calls himself these days.

"I really like some of the slower songs, which is new for them," said senior Adrienne Trinka. "I like their new sound, it's a good change."

No Doubt got most of the

inspiration to write this record in Jamaica while they were partying with the

Rasistas, and it shows on "Rock Steady."

The CD itself is like one big party, with a

variety of easy, to dance to, songs.

But, their current single "Hey Baby" doesn't really give

listeners a taste for the CD. "Hey Baby" is not nearly the best song on the record and those who are turned off by this

single, should still give the rest of the CD a chance. Songs like

band was playing in Mario World.

"Rock

Steady," shows that No Doubt has become more confident as a band and Stefani has stretched her boundaries on her lyrics.

On "Return of Saturn," Stefani crooned about her mishaps with Gavin Rossdale and her depression. But now that she and Rossdale have moved on to greener pastures and Stefani has room to

display the band's chemistry and gives off their high-energy, If sugar had a sound, it would probably sound like "Rock Steady."



Gwen Stefani, Tom Dumont, Tony Kanal and Adrian Young comprise No Doubt, which recently released a new album, "Rock Steady."

# "Come to the Cabaret!" "Cabaret" revival at the Warner Theater has problems but still entertains audiences

By Nayna Gupta

Viewpoint Editor

Wilkommen to the "Cabaret." With seductive choreography, a provocative plot and music, it's no surprise that the revival of the 30-year-old musical "Cabaret" continues to razzle and dazzle audiences.

Set during pre-World War II Berlin, the story revolves around the Kit Kat nightclub, its dancers and clients. The hero, Clifford Bradshaw, an American novelist, befriends both Kit Kat Club dancer Sally Bowles and Nazi-wannabe Ernst Ludwig. Struck by her vivacity, Bradshaw ignores the sordid lifestyle Bowles leads at the Kit Kat Club. Simultaneously, Bradshaw becomes entangled in Ludwig's ties with the Nazis. Distillusioned by his experiences, Bradshaw leaves a politically unstable

Berlin behind.

While the musical is about the dangerous rise of Nazism and its threat to Jews, the raucy Kit Kat Club adds a provocative tone to the show. Dressed in sexy lingerie, with cigarettes dangling from their red, painted mouths, the nightclub dancers create the authentic ambience of a sleazy pick-up joint. The choreography, full of pelvic thrusts and other suggestive gestures, further accentuates the lurid atmosphere of the club.

The original "Cabaret," choreographed by Rob Marshall did not have such blatantly obscene gestures, although it was equally provocative. It is likely that the choreographers of the new "Cabaret" exaggerated the dance-moves in an attempt to appeal to the younger generation of theater-goers. Contrary to their intention, the obscenity was distracting and



The Broadway hit "Cabaret" recently visited Washington's Warner Theater, starring Allison Spratt. This musical about the rise of Nazism features provocative dancing.

undermined the sophistication of the show.

Starring Liza Minnelli, the original "Cabaret" is a hard act to follow. Although Allison Spratt, who played Sally Bowles, made a valiant effort, her singing and acting did not quite measure up. The ensemble, however, with its vivid characterization, more than compensated

for the deficit in the leads.

In the closely packed Warner Theater, despite its shortcomings, "Cabaret" came alive. Award-winning shows like the "Cabaret" that come to theaters in Washington every year present students with the opportunity to see top-notch shows at the same price as a music concert.

## Movie review: 'Ocean's 11'

By Amy McKeever

Entertainment Editor

Brad Pitt, Matt Damon and George Clooney. Who could ask for anything more from a movie?

In the recent hit "Ocean's 11" the audience does not have to ask for anything more than three very talented and good-looking men—they get it.

This popular remake of the movie that originally starred the rat pack has risen to the top of the box office charts for good reason. Of course, the acting ensemble is stellar, including the likes of Pitt, Clooney, Damon and Julia Roberts. But the film also is packed with action scenes and plot twists galore.

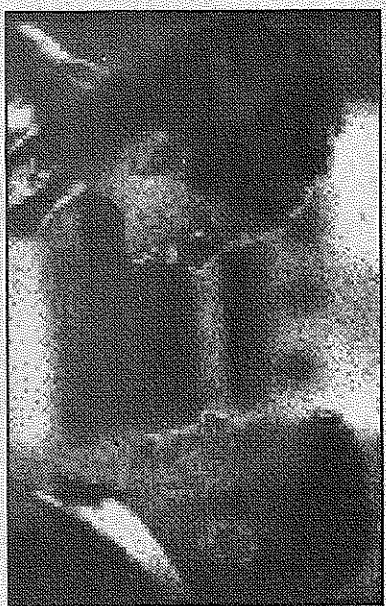
"Ocean's 11" gets its title from Danny Ocean (Clooney), a newly released convict, who comes up with a plot to rob three prominent Las Vegas casinos. He enlists his friend Rusty (Pitt) to help him out with the plan. The pair decide that the scheme will take at least 11 other men to pull off. So they compile a group of men ranging from an acrobatic superstar to a dynamic expert to join their exploit.

Andy Garcia plays the owner of the

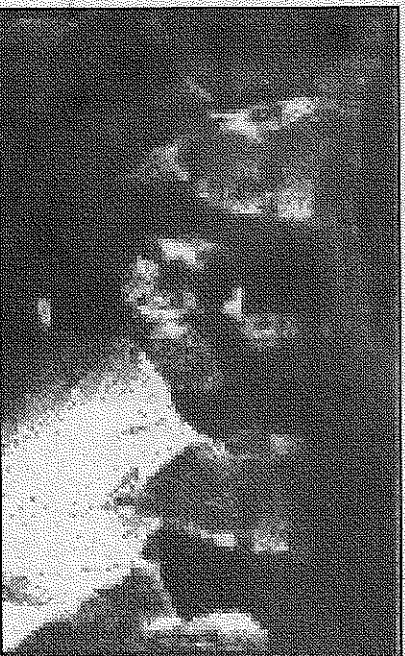
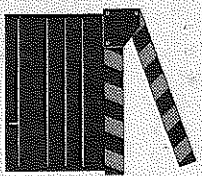
three casinos skillfully, giving off the impression that he really is an all-powerful, insensitive tycoon. His prized girlfriend is played by Julia Roberts. She is another part of Garcia's fortune that Ocean is trying to steal—the two were a couple before Ocean was thrown in the slammer.

Ocean's plan is not only dangerous but also incredibly elaborate. In fact, the screenwriters do not even completely reveal the plan to the audience until the very end. "Ocean's 11" is one of those movies that I like to call an "a-ha" movie. When the plot twists are revealed and new developments are made, the audience all of a sudden realizes how the plot events match up and why the characters did what they did.

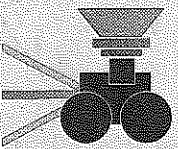
There is no question why "Ocean's 11" has been so successful in its run. With an all-star lead cast, supporting cast, and cameo actors (like Joshua Jackson and Topher Grace from "That '70s Show") the movie could have gone far even if it were only shots of the cast sitting around for 90 minutes. But luckily for the audience, the actors merely complement the scintillating plot.



Famous thespians Julia Roberts and George Clooney are a part of the stellar cast of the 2001 remake of "Ocean's 11."



One of the incentives to see "Ocean's 11" for many WS girls was the combination of heartthrobs Brad Pitt and George Clooney.



# Friends find themselves growing up

By Jenn Carlson  
Weekend Editor

After eight long seasons, NBC's "Friends" contract will expire at the end of this season.

The friends have come along way since the very first season. This hit comedy about six close knit young friends in New York City first started out just as a show about a coffee shop and the adventures of twenty-somethings in the real world. Dating, food, jobs, and friendships were the problems they faced on a weekly basis. But as the friends grew older, the problems grew, too.

Anyone who keeps up with the show will be aware that many changes are happening in the lives of all six of the characters. The most obvious is that Rachel, played by Jennifer Aniston, is pregnant. Suddenly, the friends have been thrown into a situation that none of them have really experienced before.

"Rachel is having a baby, so they have to be more mature," said junior Emily Hatch.

The plot has recently centered around this news and how Rachel, as well as her friends, are coping with it. The pregnancy has made some of the friends a lot more serious.

The wedding of Chandler (Matthew Perry) and Monica (Courteney Cox Arquette) has also revealed the growing maturity of the friends. Their relationship has grown and matured as well and reflects the decisions now being made. Not only are the characters maturing, so is the vocabulary. Viewers are finding the language a little bit different from how it used to be.

"They used to joke around about things like pregnancy."



Faced with more real life problems, the friends' old jokes have become a new reality.

—Emily Hatch, junior

Perry) and Monica (Courteney Cox Arquette) has also revealed the growing maturity of the friends. Their relationship has grown and matured as well and reflects the decisions now being made. Not only are the characters maturing, so is the vocabulary. Viewers are finding the language a little bit different from how it used to be.

"I think the jokes are dirtier," said junior Krista Roper. "I did not think they used to say bad words." Problems behind the scenes have also made the look of some of the characters appear a little bit different. Perry, after a long bout with drugs, has been reported to have attended a rehab program to try to kick

the habit.

"Chandler looks skinnier because he is off drugs," said freshman Joann Cassano. Overall, everything about Friends has changed.

"They face many more difficult situations," said Hatch. "They used to joke around about things like pregnancy."

## Dr. Benton leaves the ER

By Jenny Askin  
Managing Editor

The NBC hit medical drama "ER" takes a lickin' and keeps on tickin'. In its eighth season the show has lost the majority of its original cast which included "Oceans 11" star George Clooney. This past December the show took another blow when Dr. Benton aka Eriq La Salle left the show along with his on-screen girlfriend Michale Michelle.

The last episode was dramatic as Dr. Benton fought for sole custody of his son Reese and saved the life of a six year old gun shot wound victim. The main conflict of the show was that Benton had to choose between his hours at the hospital and his son. Benton decided to quit working alongside the infamous Dr. Romano and applied for a position at a surgical referral center in order to gain custody of his son. In the end Dr. Benton gets his son, his new job, and a sentimental present from Dr.



Dr. Benton is just one of the characters to leave 'ER' this season. Carter, played by Noah Wyle.

It seems as though the producers of "ER" just sprang the exit of La Salle on viewers. There were only a few commercials promoting the event.

Actors make up the minority core of the remaining cast members. This year actress Sherry Stringfield returned to the drama after leaving the show to pursue other career interests. La Salle, however, will not be the last cast member to leave the show this year. It has been reported that the actor who plays Dr. Mark Green will be leaving "ER" at the end of the season. Even though the hit show has

lost many key actors it is still number one in its Thursday night time slot. "ER" is a part of the popular NBC-themed "See TV" lineup which includes "Friends," "Will and Grace," and "Just Shoot Me."

More recently, "ER" has been pitted against rival CBS's medical drama "C.S.I." "ER" has won the battle with the popular CBS drama, but by close margins. Each show pools in an average of 27 million people every Thursday night. With the highly anticipated departures of other "ER" cast members it is certain that "ER" will continue to be one of the most powerful shows on TV.

## The return of the bands Guitar department holds new event

By Mike Araj  
Business/Systems Editor

From metal to rock to punk, a variety of music will be playing in the WS auditorium on February 2. The first ever Guitar Winterfest will be held to allow WS alumni and their bands to play.

"It is a great opportunity for high school students to see what happens to bands after their members graduate," said guitar teacher Keith Owens.

The idea for the concert was thought of by Owens and seniors Adam Aft, Ryan Houston, and

David Panczykowski, members of the guitar ensemble. "It will be like a battle of the bands, but not just for WS members," said Aft.

The event will take place in the auditorium from 7 pm to 10 pm with tickets costing from three to five dollars. Many students are looking forward to the concert. "It should be really good music for cheap," said Aft.

The many bands scheduled to play include last years Battle of the Bands winner "Lunar Dawn," as well as "Ohs," whose members include junior Brian Hunke and Aft.

"It is a chance for bands with graduated members to play [on stage] with the large speakers," said Owens.

While the event takes place on a Saturday, a large crowd is expected to support this first annual festival. The proceeds will go to pay for the expensive event, of which most costs are going towards the speakers the bands will be using. However, any left over profit will be given to the guitar department.

"[It is] very beneficial to buy more guitars," said Owens, "we need them."

## Quote of the Issue

"I suggest we learn to love ourselves, before it's made illegal. When will we learn? When will we change? Just in time to see it all come down."

—Incubus

## "Happy Gilmore"

In "Happy Gilmore," Adam Sandler plays Happy Gilmore, a hockey player reluctantly turned professional golfer who joins the PGA tour in an attempt to win enough money to get his beloved grandma out of a nursing home. The movie is filled with hilarious one-liners and a stock of amusing characters. What is the retired golfer whose career was cut short when an alligator bit off his hand. Gilmore's nemesis, Shooter McGavin is the obnoxious golf pro who and Ben Stiller plays an evil nursing home orderly who for as the senior citizens to work for his underground golf operation. "Happy Gilmore" is undoubtedly a Sandler classic.

## Oracle Picks

### "Third Eye Blind"

Third Eye Blind's self-titled debut album "Third Eye Blind" was first released in 1997, but it still has as much appeal as it did five years ago. The album is hard to categorize because it draws from both rock and occasional pop influences to provide a blend of different musical styles. Former hits like "Semi-Charmed Life" and "Graduate" have a more upbeat sound, contrasting with the heavier guitar sound of "London" "Balls" "The Background" and "How 's It Going to Be." There are more melancholy sounds, whereas "Closing a Whole Year" "Juniper" and "Motorcycle Drive by" provide a happy medium. With a comprehensive list of songs, "Third Eye Blind" suits any mood.

### The Things They Carried

Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried* relates tales of the Vietnam War from a unique perspective. The book is divided into episodes and written like an out of order diary. O'Brien candidly describes a young man's fear and anger at the prospect of being drafted and the burdens carried by the young soldiers in Vietnam. He presents a series of interrelated events, blurring the line between fact and fiction and causing the reader to wonder what is reality.

TIM O'BRIEN

The Things They Carried

They Carried



—Compiled by Katie Walker

# 'Star Trek' beams up again

By Jason Gillis

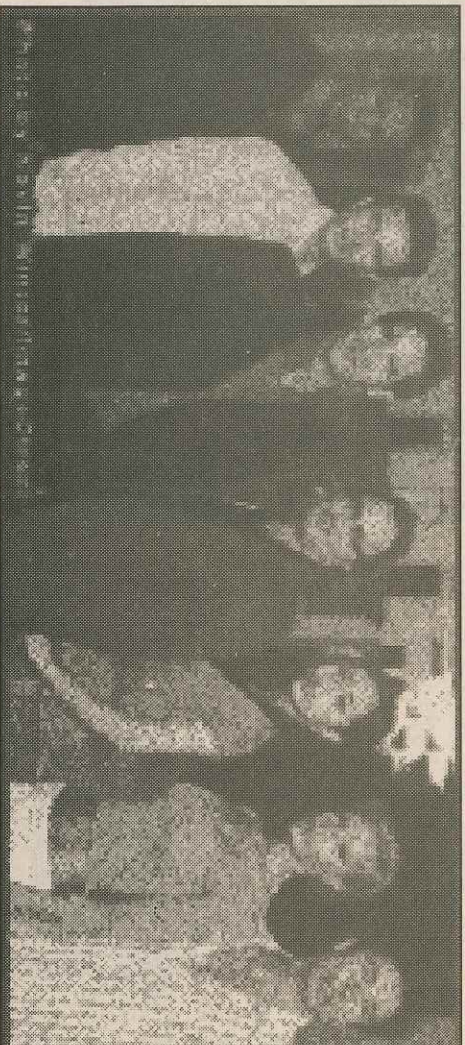
Viewpoint Assistant

Kirk, Picard, Sisco, Janeway, and now captain Archer. "Enterprise" the fifth major series of "Star Trek" began last fall.

The new series takes viewers back in the early stages of the "Star Trek" world. Aided by technologically advanced allies, the human race built the first deep space ship, "Enterprise." They take on a mission to transport a new crew on a voyage of exploration.

The fourth series "Star Trek Voyager" left with high ratings, which ended its series last May. This gives "Enterprise" an optimistic view. With the defeat of the Borg, the worst enemy, the series had to revert to the past for more excitement, which causes irritation to some.

The show helps support the inferiority of the federation, the human earth alliance, by creating



Cast members of the new "Star Trek" series "Enterprise" that began last fall.

phase pistols, grappling hooks, short range shuttle craft, and not using transporter pads as a means of getting around. The items were created to show the technological regress of the "Enterprise" series, but some students do not agree.

"The ship looks too futuristic for the time that the show is based on," said sophomore Kyle Hayne.

The show looks to answer questions like "Episode 1" of the Star Wars series has done. Going to the past in a series of shows or movies is a theme that has caught on in the Science Fiction genre.

"I like how they explain how everything got started," said junior Troy Stigman.

Along with the television show, "Star Trek" has published

books to go along with the series of shows.

"I read the books associated with "Enterprise" and the television show does not have the detail that the books have," said freshman Shiloh Hansen.

Captain Archer and his senior staff have already encountered many new species by making friends, enemies, and having their

first encounter with a time traveler. The reliance on new creatures and small technological advances gives the show a new feature of injuring crew members and showing the techniques of treating the crew with leeches and other small insects. The series got an overall good rating from WS students, but switching to the past has gotten criticism.

"Forget the prequel do the sequel," said sophomore Jamal Mahboob. "It's annoying to first watch a series in the future and then to watch another series in the past."

The series looks to continue the "Star Trek" way by attracting viewers and keeping old watchers watching.

"Enterprise" is a good show," said sophomore Adam Boltk. "It will do well because in the past it has been a traditionally good series."



Popular comedy "Malcolm in the Middle" is one of the many shows the TV viewing world watches.

## Lights, camera, action: Hollywood joins the dance

### The movie industry continues to celebrate the art of dancing in movies

By Nayna Gupta

Viewpoint Editor

When "Saturday Night Fever" debuted in 1977, it was an instant success, its provocative dance moves, catchy soundtrack, and sexy cast brought in over 100 million dollars.

"Most movies don't have good dancing, good songs, and John Travolta," said senior Chelsea Poling.

While the movie sentripples of disco fever through the country, it also created a new movie genre. Over the next ten years, directors and actors tried to match the popularity of "Saturday Night Fever" with their own dance movies.

Though "Flashdance" was panned for its plot, it was the hit-soundtrack that made "Flashdance" and actress Jennifer Beals famous. Within the first two weeks of sales, 700,000 copies of the soundtrack were sold. "What a Feeling," the movie's theme song, climbed to the top of music charts.

## Watch out for the TV craze

### Different genres of TV out to capture teenage minds

By Jen Berne

Weekend Editor

Every Thursday night I rush to my TV set like a hungry animal impatiently waiting for its dinner. It's a little pathetic in that I won't let anything disturb me for nearly three hours. If there's any unfinished homework, forget it baby.

Television has changed immensely over the last three years. Now there are shows to fit everyone's entertainment needs. The latest rage has been the reality shows like "Survivor" and "Temptation Island." I've never gotten into those shows, but I do know a few people that congregate at a local friend's house just to watch "Temptation Island" together. While time is scarce these days, students still find a little time to catch their favorite shows.

"My favorite shows are 'Road Rules' and 'The Real World.' I watch those shows whenever I have time which usually isn't very often," said senior Laura Plimpton.

Dramas first entered the television world nearly 20 years ago. Of course there were a few on television but now there are copious amounts. Some of the favorites around WS are "The Practice," "ER," "The West Wing" and "Judging Amy." Teenagers and adults alike enjoy dramas of this sort.

"I tend to watch dramas like 'CSI' and 'The Practice' they're so much like real world living," said freshman Ashley Linder.

The third genre of the TV watching world is comedy. Shows like "Friends" with over 20 million viewers per episode certainly top the chart. Other popular comedies include "Will and Grace," "Spin City" and "Malcolm in the Middle."

"I'm definitely into comedies," said junior Jimmy Sites. "I want to watch television and laugh."

While configuring your schedule to see if it's possible to squeeze in your favorite show and finish your trig homework, make sure it's worth it. After all, it's only TV and there are always returns.

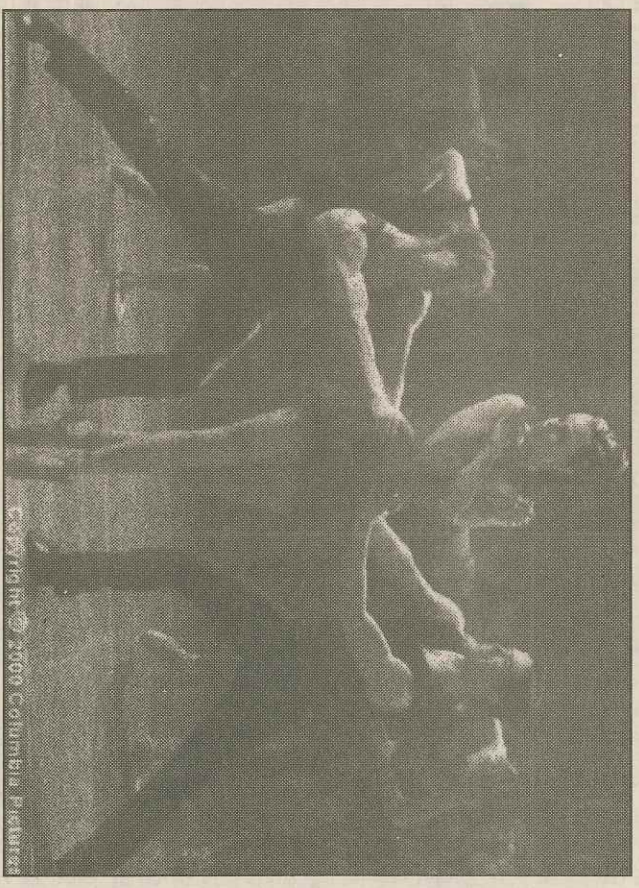
"The song 'What A Feeling' describes perfectly what it feels like when I dance," said junior Cristina Hoyt.

A year after "Flashdance" was released, Kevin Bacon made his Hollywood debut in the dance-hit "Footloose." An instant success, "Footloose" was eventually created into a Broadway musical.

"It was funny to see Kevin Bacon as a teen as a teen idol in a dancing kind of movie," said junior Courtney Turco.

Then, in 1987 the steamy hit "Dirty Dancing" replaced "Saturday Night Fever" as the number one dance movie. Originally made with a budget of only six million dollars, the movie brought in \$170 million worldwide and sold two hit soundtracks. Its number one single, "She's Like the Wind" not only won Academy Award for best original song, but also reached number one on international music charts.

For many, it's the talented and



Ethan Stiefel, Amada Schull and Sascha Radetsky perform in "Center Stage," which is one of the recent attempts to match the success of older dance movie blockbusters like "Saturday Night Fever."

irresistible cast that makes the movie a hit.

"Because I danced with Patrick Swayze [the lead actor in 'Dirty Dancing'] I got more interested in the movie and enjoyed it a lot more," said junior Emily Lenzner. "Plus, for an older guy he has a great body."

By including hip dance moves, catchy soundtracks, and good-looking actors in their movies, directors of movies such as

"Center Stage" and "Save the Last Dance" attempt to match the success of the older dance blockbusters. These newer movies, however, failed to reach the same levels of popularity as the older hits.

"I enjoyed 'Center Stage' because I'm a dancer," said junior Leigh Johnson. "But I think the older dance movies were more popular because the stories appealed to everyone, not just dancers."

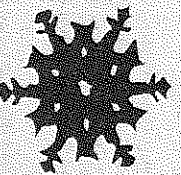
# Snow brightens dark days of winter

By Angela Florino  
ETC. Editor

Let it snow.

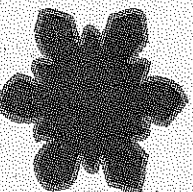
A very popular phrase and it's even a song! But why? Why do people want freezing, white flakes to fall from the sky and cover the ground?

Because playing in the snow is fun, that's why. Ever since snow existed, it's always been used as a way for a bunch of kids to get together and have a grand time chucking blocks of ice and snow at each other while they hide behind



Personally, I've never seen anyone run away when they see snow. No one hides in their cellars like they would if there was a tornado. Occasionally, there will be a

house with an extra stock of canned food and water in their basement if they're anticipating a blizzard, but that's rare.

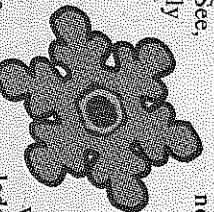


There are often t h o s e parents that d r e a d having their offspring at home for the day, but who

cares! The only time snow is bad is when it causes car accidents. But it's not really the snow that does that, it's more the ice. See, ice and snow are two totally different things. Ice is slippery, dangerous and evil and causes a lot of problems yet snow is soft, safe and lightly covers the ground. It can easily be moved out of the way. Snow and ice is like God and the Devil. There's a lot of things that

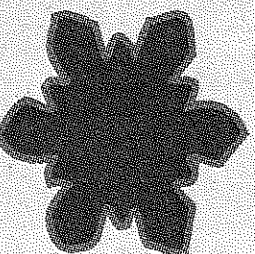
students like to do in the snow to pass their time. "I enjoy snowboarding, snow ball fights and wrestling in the snow," said freshman Tricia Hofstad.

Aside from being so much fun to play in, snow has brought a lot of things to our world and without snow



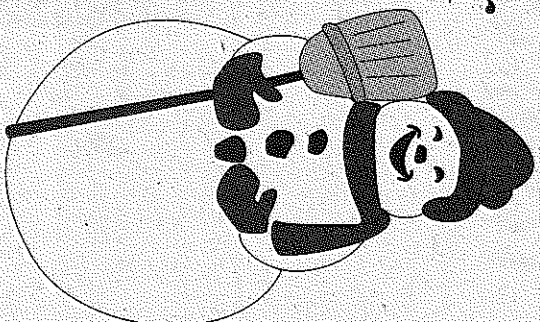
w e'd be a very lacking earth. There would be no snowmen, no days off of school, no s k i n g, snowboarding or tubing, there would be no ski lodges or ski lifts, no snowball fights, no snow forts, no snow angels, no sleds, no snow songs, no snow

plows, no snow shoveling businesses and the people that hike up those really tall mountains in the winter would have no source of water when their canteens went dry.



"I go out with all my neighbors and we have a

huge snowball fight, then we sled down the hill by our houses," said junior Mikki Martinez. "After that we all go back to their house, chill out and drink hot chocolate." Snow is so great that it can even bring joy in the summer months. For all those people that save their snow balls in their freezer until June, they have a fantastic time pulling out their



blocks of ice and chucking them at friends on a hot summer day. What feels better than snow in July? Not much. Not even four of your favorite popsicles or a rainbow. Flavored snow cone. "I like to make snowmen then decorate them with food coloring," said senior Jen Covey. "It's fun."

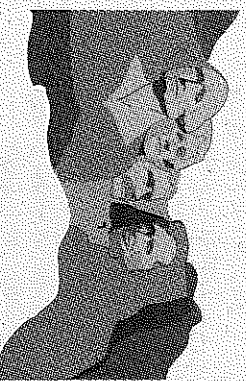
## Local houses lure students

By Ruchika Malhotra  
News Assistant

From the movies to ice skating, visiting old president's houses is another weekend activity option.

Historical homes offer students insights on the presidents lifestyle.

"I think they're great because they show people how the presidents lived," said freshman Peter Adams. The houses cater to many different interests.



"I think they're interesting," said junior Paul Maree, "I would visit them out of school because I'm into history."

Not all students are not as interested in the historical sites. "It's kind of pointless to have an empty house for a dead guy," said senior Hilleri Smith.

Students are even terrified of them.

"I've never been to one and I don't plan on going," said junior Megan Carter, "I'm scared of the dead president's ghosts haunting me."

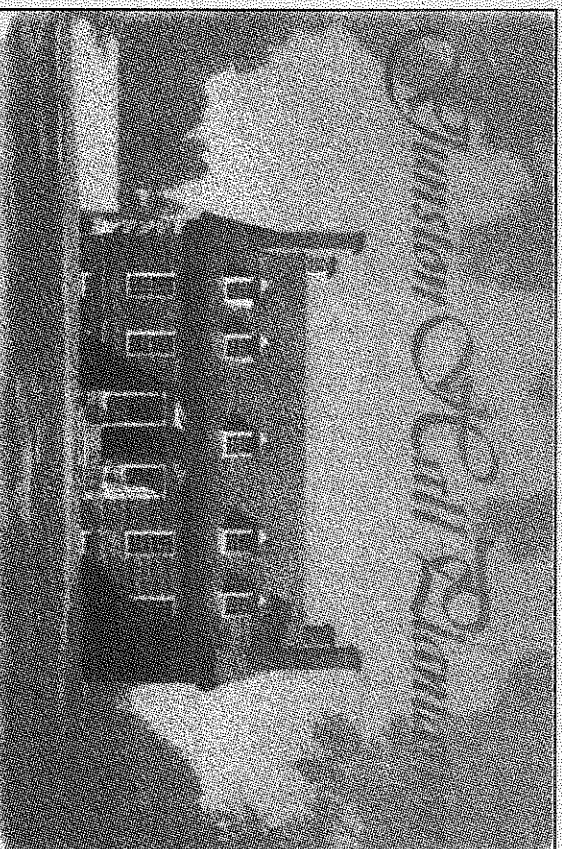
One of the other presidential homes that draws a lot of attention is Gunston Hall. The Home of George Mason (1725-1792), is 550 acres of mostly woods and only 25 acres of cultivated land.

There are many activities to be done here. They include visiting the deepark, pasture with different types of farm animals, trails leading to the

Potomac River, and an archeological site opened in 1997.

Other activities include going to the flower garden and lower garden where making sachets is a favorite among visitors.

"We got to pick and crush flowers," said freshman Stephany Lora.



Gunston Hall is twenty minutes from WS. Students have taken field trips there.

George Mason's home has been turned into a public museum determined to preserve and interpret plantation life for it's visitors.

"It was interesting because they preserved old museums," said freshman Alison Smith.

The manor also puts on shows.

"I remember a little performance that they had there," said junior Angelique Davis. "It was really fun and relaxing because of the music."

Gunston Hall gives students a lot to remember.

"I'd recommend it," said senior Karie Leddon, "You can learn a lot."

## History stays alive for all these years Washington says "Mount Vernon isn't trying to change very much"

By Jenny Askin  
Managing Editor

1799 is back and better than ever. The historic mansion Mount Vernon, once home to President Washington and his family, has been restored back to its old glory.

Mount Vernon is visited by over 1 million people annually and is the second most visited historic home in America, the White House is number one.

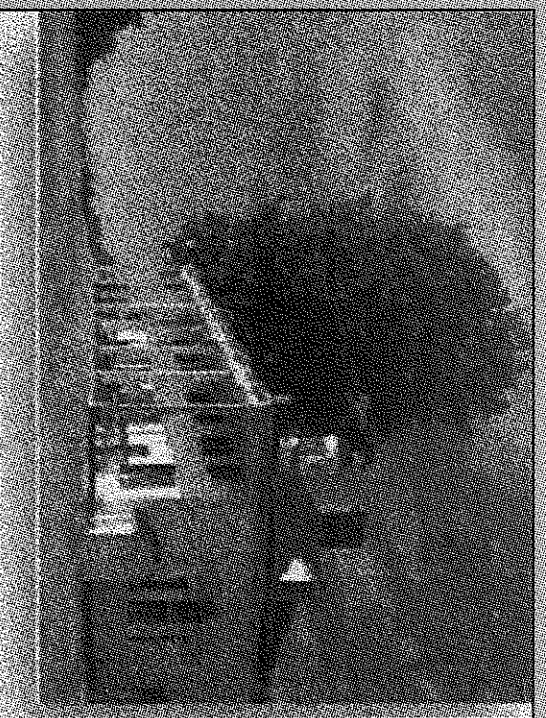
Mount Vernon is located on the Potomac River, right next door to DC. The estate is plush with green gardens and pathways. Several buildings have been restored to recreate the mansion's appearance over 200 years ago.

Washington inherited the home in 1751 and lived there for over 45 years. Washington helped to build his home from a four room house into an elegant mansion. He actually helped rebuild many of the buildings while the house was under construction. Washington designed the gardens and the outer portion of the mansion according to his love for the outdoors and the woods. Washington actually helped design his and his wife's tombs, in which they rest today. Mount Vernon is now owned and operated by the Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, they purchased the house and 200 acres of land

in 1858 for \$200,000. The association still owns and operates the house today.

Mount Vernon is open seven days a week, 365 days a year, that includes all holidays. The grounds are typically open from 9 AM until 4 PM according to seasonal activities. Located on the estate is the Mount Vernon Inn where guests can enjoy meals served by a consumed wait staff. The Inn offers casual lunches and candlelight dinners Monday through Saturday.

Mount Vernon holds several seasonal and monthly activities. Over the holidays the estate is decorated with fresh greenery, and visitors are allowed to tour the third floor, which is closed during the rest of the year. Storytellers greet visitors with tales about how the Washingtons celebrated the holiday season. On the grounds of the mansion visitors are given warm cider and cookies and can participate in holiday caroling around a bonfire. During the month of February Mount Vernon invites local Scout troops to come and participate in a special pin.



Mount Vernon is a popular tourist attraction.

Weather Laying Ceremony at the tomb of President Washington. Troops are admitted in for free if they are in full uniform or if they have an official Mount Vernon pin.

# Cross country skiing found on trails

By Jenn Carlson

Weekend Editor

Cross country skiing is often overlooked by snow fanatics and has been replaced by snowboarding, snow tubing or snow-sledding.

This is relatively older activity that is often overlooked by teenagers but there are many resorts in this region that offer cross country skiing.

Located only 180 miles from the Washington area, in Davis, West Virginia, is Blackwater Nordic Center. The resort features 30 kilometers of cross country trails, available for only a \$5 trail use fee. These cross country trails are linked to those paths in nearby parks, so if 30 km is not enough, there is plenty more to explore. For more information and directions, visit [www.blackwaterfalls.com](http://www.blackwaterfalls.com).

Elk River Touring Center, in Slatyfork, West Virginia, also features cross country skiing, with about 45 km of trail. A \$5 trail use fee is required and guided tours are available. An interesting activity to participate in at this resort is the moonlight madness tour that takes place when the moon is full. Visit [www.erc.com](http://www.erc.com) for more information, other features and directions.

The White Grass Touring Center also features a moonlight madness ski. White Grass, in Canaan Valley, West Virginia offers 50 km of maintained cross country



Cross country skiing requires endurance in addition to skill and talent.

skiing trails, 25 of which are groomed. Visit [www.whitegrass.com](http://www.whitegrass.com) for more information.

"This is my favorite place to ski, although it is far away," said junior Vanessa Evans.

More popular cross country skiing are not located near Virginia or in West Virginia. Located 191 miles from Washington area is Hidden Valley.

This is popular resort for cross country skiing that boasts 50 km of trails, some of which feed off into other trails. For more information, visit [www.hiddenvalleyresort.com](http://www.hiddenvalleyresort.com).

Junior Heather Robb has visited a similar resort located fairly near the Washington area, in the Pennsylvania area, and especially enjoyed the beautiful, wintery landscape. This can be an incentive that pulls cross country skiers back again and again. The same scenery can be found in Virginia, but Pennsylvania was a highlight for Robb.

"It was neat to see all the scenery," said Robb.

Another complaint about cross country skiing is the fact that it is very hard on the legs.

"It hurts your legs, but it is still fun," said Robb.

Junior Ashlee Reese has also participated in cross country skiing, but a little farther away. While skiing in Colorado, Reese found out how strenuous the activity can be.

"It was hard. You would think it would be easy, but it was hard," said Reese. "You get really tired."

## Ski boarders slide down the slopes

By Stephanie Morris

Oracle Photographer

Skating is no longer just a sport only for pavement, but also for the snow. The new craze is ski boarding.

This new activity, which was created about five

years ago by the Levinthal brothers, and has become an extremely popular sport.

Ski boarding is not done with regular size skies, but instead with shorter and lighter ones that enables the skiers to do more tricks. It is almost like skis

and a snowboard put together.

"It is fun and acrobatic. It is also easy to do tricks," said junior Justin McGee.

Because of the skills one is required to have to ski board, the tricks have been compared to skate boarding.

"It is like roller blading downhill on ice," said junior Heather Strobal.

Even though this is a relatively new



Ski boarding allows people to perform tricks similar to skating.

But all in all, ski boarding is a growing trend throughout the region, the nation, and even in the WS community.

Some have tried it and love it, while others are still waiting to experience it.

"My goal this winter is to get out and try ski boarding," said senior Steven Tong.

"I love to skate, and I think this would be a thrill."

Local ski resorts have begun to offer snowtubing as an alternative to more demanding skiing and snowboarding.

## Discover glee in snow tubing

By Heidi Stifflgo

Entertainment Assistant

A frosty blast of white hits the area and immediately the streets are full of action-packed, snow-loving, crazy kids. Who all venture out for the joy of one thing, snow tubing.

Kids and adults of all ages have been enjoying this pastime for years. It is just a given that when a snow day arrives, and the hills become filled with people all enjoying the popular activity and having a great time while doing so.

There's always so many people out there in the snow. I'm always a part of it too. I just go out with my friends and we have a great time," said sophomore Kelly Comitt.

Many popular neighborhood hills in the Springfield area are: Huntsman Lake, Washington, Irving, Hunt Valley, and Greeley Blvd. As well as the usual hill in a person's backyard.

"There's this big hill by my house where people go sledding all the time," said sophomore Shannon Perry. "I've been sledding ever since I was a little kid."

But for those who like to expand their horizons, many ski resorts provide snow tubing as well.

Ski resorts are not just for skiing anymore. Of course, there are now board

parks for the snow boarders, but many unique activities have sprung up as well.

Snowshoe Mountain now provides horse ride carriages, snowshoeing, and of course snow tubing has grown immensely popular. There are many resorts not too far away that provide snow tubing such as Massanutten, Snowshoe Mountain, Canaan Valley, Coolfont Resort and Winterplace.

The prices all vary, but snow tubing takes the same process as it does to ski on snow board. Multiple lanes are set up to allow for more tubers. A chairlift or a pulley takes the tuber to the top of the hill, and from there they can choose their lane. In order to participate in the snow tubing at most resorts, a lift ticket must be purchased, usually only about 20 dollars.

"Snow tubing is really fun because you get a rush when you feel the cold wind in your face and watching the white snow fly by," said freshman Patrick Newhall.

Snow tubing is an adventure all in itself. But behind the racing speed, the steep hills, and the beautiful white snow, he the memories.

"I used to always go snow tubing with my dad and little sister. It was fun because it was a traditional thing with the family," said junior Diego Collao. "I'll always remember it."

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# Swim dives into challenging season with new JV team

By Katie Walker  
Oracle Editor

This year the swim team has a whole new look. Previously, there was only a varsity team, but this year WS has a JV team as well. As a result, tryouts this year were especially grueling.

"We had three days of tryouts, it was harder than any other year," said senior Adrienne Trinka. "One day we did five 100's of freestyle for time, the second day we did a T-30, which is how many laps you can do in 30 minutes, and the third day we did five 100's of stroke, which is anything but freestyle."

Despite the added vigor, old and new swimmers alike seem to prefer the new schedule.

"It gives the varsity swimmers more opportunity to excel at their individual events in practice and focus on improving their time," said junior Scott Darwin. "It limits the amount of swimmers at each practice."

The varsity team benefits from the new schedule, but it also provides motivation for younger swimmers to excel.



The swim team practices at Lee District Monday through Thursday.

"Being on the junior varsity team as a freshman gives me something to strive for in my later years," said freshman Rene Bauer.

## Spartans encounter pro athletes

By Laura Robinson  
Managing Editor

Being on TV is one thing, being in a commercial with a famous athlete is another.

Seniors Emily Baskin and Katelyn Murdock were featured in a commercial on ESPN with Major League Soccer star John Doyle.

"We were at a soccer tournament," said Baskin. "They needed girls for the commercial and there were five or six of us. They just chose me and Katelyn."

Murdock and Baskin kicked the ball around and scored on Doyle. Baskin then came up to the camera and said, "This kicks."

"It was really fun to see me on TV because it was a really funny commercial," said Baskin. "It was corny."

Olympic swimmers Tom Dolan and Ed Moses. Since the two are from the area, Dolan and Moses often swim at the same pools or go to club meets. Many WS swimmers have interacted with the swimmers before.

"One time Ed Moses was sitting on my towel," said senior swimmer Adrienne Trinka. "I had to ask him to move."

Senior Ann Blaschke, a WS swim captain, has received autographs from Olympic swimmers such as Amy Van Dyken and Gary Hall, Jr. Also, Blaschke knows and has visited Ed Moses.

"When we were stationed in Illinois he [Ed Moses] and my brother were on the same swim team. I've basically known him since preschool," said Blaschke. During this time, Blaschke had ample opportunity to get to know Moses.

"When we moved back here six years ago my brother went out with Ed's sister and I went over to his house," said



Senior Katelyn Murdock talks with John Doyle.

Blaschke. "He's so full of himself. If you talk to him about swimming, he's like 'Yeah, I'm the greatest,' but he's nice if you don't talk to him about swimming."

Girls basketball coach Bill Gibson has been introduced to many coaches and athletes including Pat Summit, Shawn Kemp, Cynthia Cooper, Chamique Holdscaw, Coach Mike Kryszczyk and Andre Agassi. Gibson describes Agassi as "down to Earth and really cool" and enjoyed meeting Cynthia Cooper.

"She has a great personality," said Gibson. "She's a pretty wild character."

## College basketball makes its mark on WS students

By Laura Robinson  
Managing Editor

The only reason I love college basketball is Dick Vitale.

Just kidding, but I really do enjoy his lingo. Where else can you learn such great phrases as dipsy-doo dunkaroo [a nice dunk], diaper dandy [a great freshman], cupcake city [easy schedule] and delta man [player who loves to fly]?

But Vitale is only one draw to the game; there's something magical about college basketball. It's structured to provide maximum pressure and suspense. October 12 is a monumental day of the year- Midnight Madness when teams can officially start practicing. Every October 12, I can wear my UNC hat around the house and drive my mother insane by yelling at the TV or radio, whichever has the game on.

Since I am a North Carolina fan, I will hate Duke until the day I die. Duke fans will also hate North Carolina forever. Duke fans complain about the low graduation rates of UNC players; UNC fans call "Dookies" stuck-up, rich kids. And that's the fun of it. Regular season matchups between UNC and Duke are like playoff games. They're intense, loud and big media events and there are sometimes riots afterwards.

College players are playing for the game, not for the money. Unlike the NBA, college basketball is still a team sport. College players often down together and become best friends. That's mirrored on the court. Players pass the ball, work together and are proud of representing their school and friends. There's less chestbeating and players aren't allowed to obnoxiously hang on the rim. Officials in college actually call traveling, unlike NBA referees.

College basketball is one of many sports I enjoy, but the way its schedule is

The different schedule is working well for both teams. The girls are 4-1 with wins against TC Williams Amandale, West Potomac and Hayfield and a loss to Lake Braddock. The boys are 3-2 with a loss against Amandale and Lake Braddock.

"It was a very upsetting defeat, but it's giving us a new reality," said Darwin. "We want to go undefeated the rest of the year, which is well within our grasp."

The girls team is looking ahead with confidence; however, they have yet to face one of their biggest rivals. "Lake Braddock and Robinson are our biggest competitors," said Trinka. "Last year we lost to Lake Braddock in a dual meet, but we beat them in districts. We lost to Robinson all last year, but they've lost a lot of people so we will have a chance."

Still, the forecast looks promising for the girls and the guys' teams.

"Whereas other teams lost good seniors, we gained a lot of good freshmen, and we're really training hard," said Trinka. "I think we will go undefeated the rest of the season."

## Dudzinski receives NVSHL award

By Camilla Casillas  
Sports Editor

Goalender, senior Mark Dudzinski has been awarded the Northern Virginia Scholastic Hockey League player of the month for December.

The Washington Capitals were also involved in the choosing for this award. He was honored at the Caps game at the MCI Center on January 14.

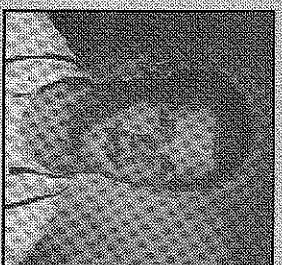
"Currently, I do not know what I'm receiving. They're going to call me soon. The Connection talked to me already," said Dudzinski. This is the first year NVSHL has handed out this kind of award, and Dudzinski was the first player to receive it.

Dudzinski has been a key player for the Spartan hockey team this season. He has led his team to their impressive 4-0 season and posted a shutout against Hylton High School. So far he has a 1.75 Goals Against Average.

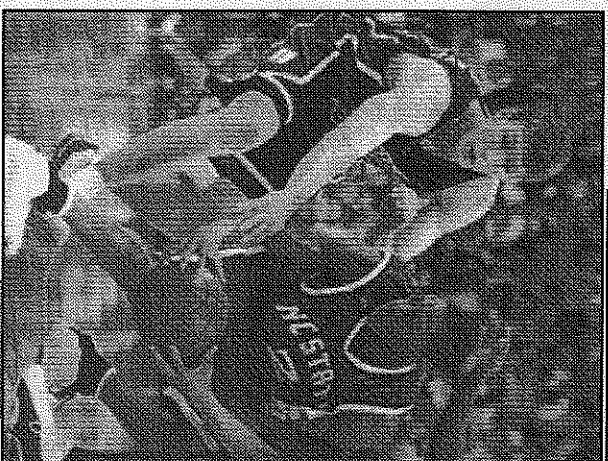
"I feel really honored to have gotten this award. It could have gone to anyone," said Dudzinski. "There are a lot of good players in the league. Especially since it is the first one [award] ever, it's an honor."

Dudzinski already has over 100 shots on him, and he leads the league with a phenomenal 93% save percentage.

Mark is hoping on playing hockey at either Western Michigan or Niagara University next year.



Senior Mark Dudzinski has played ice hockey at WS for two years.



Duke junior Mike Dunleavy battles for the ball against a player from NC State.



UNC player Jason Capel celebrates after a rival win against Duke last season.

set up makes it unique. March Madness- essentially the college basketball playoffs- are win or go home. Upsets always happen.

Ever since I can remember, my dad and I would lay out the newspaper with the 64 teams in brackets. We'd place our bets and circle our final four. Once the field of possible teams decreased to the Sweet Sixteen, the pressure and tension really started to build. My dad and I would place bets, check the odds and buy snacks to eat during the games. I won the bets last year, so I have bragging rights. For a couple more months anyway.

## Girls crush Atoms, boys hope for the best

By Mike Arai

Business/Systems Editor

With a record of 10-2 for the girls and 5-6 with an 1-2 in the district record for the boys, the WS basketball teams are hoping to win the district title.

The girls recently crushed Annandale 81-19 and beat Lake Braddock 65-47. The boys also won 72-64 in which they had five players in double digit scoring.

"We would like to win every game [of the season]," said girls basketball coach Bill Gibson, "by staying healthy, maintaining our offense, and with team unity."

The girls played against Mount Vernon, Chantilly, and Lee, while the boys have a record of two wins and one loss, having crushed Lee with a score of 71-46. The team also beat Mount Vernon, but fell narrowly to Chantilly 69-66.

"Our goal is to play better than last year," said boys assistant coach Charlie Scudder. "We want to get to regionals."

However, both teams would also like to beat their main competitors. The boys' largest competitors include TC Williams and Hayfield and the girls' toughest rivals are Mount Vernon and Madison. All of these teams are favorites to win districts. Lake Braddock and Robinson are also going to be tough competition.

The boys need to make adjustments in order to be

successful in their remaining games.

"Everything needs improvement," said Scudder. "Our offense is behind our defense, but that is normal for this time in the season."

The boys team is not alone with a weaker offense than a defense. The girls would also like to improve on this aspect of their team. Although the teams would like to improve, they both have strong qualities that will not make them easy prey for other teams.

"They get along really well," said Gibson. "We have got a real deep bench."

Despite this, though, the team needs to improve in certain areas in order to stop close games.

"We need to work on defense, intensity and working hard in practice and pushing each other," said sophomore Sarah Flanagan.

With the teams good unity, both hope to succeed and eventually win regionals.

The biggest indicator is team chemistry," said Scudder, "and if it continues we will be better than last year."

Defeating Mount Vernon was a large win for the boys team as it displayed their team chemistry, the main factor that the team hopes to use to their advantage this season.

"I think we get better every game," said senior Chris Streeter. "We're going to improve as the season goes on and we're going to be where we want to be at the end of the season."



Russ Waddell  
Sophomore Casey Clausen makes a layup during warm-ups before practice. All of the players put full effort in to make the team better.

## Women's bobsledding makes its debut at Olympics

By Lauren Decot

Managing Editor

Bobsledding made its Olympic debut at the first Winter Olympics in 1924. Now, at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, women's two person bobsledding will debut in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"It's good," said senior Tanja Quinn. "I like to see more people having equal opportunities to compete."

Women first came onto the competitive

bobsledding scene in the early 1990s. In 1999, women's bobsled was announced as an official Olympic sport.

The two American teams, USA 1 and USA 2, have already been determined at the US Olympic trials in Park City. Jill Bakken of Park City and Shanna Rohbock of Orem, Utah won the right to drive USA 1. Jean Racine of Waterford, Michigan and Jen Davidson of Layton, Utah will drive USA 2.

Although the sled has been around for

centuries for transportation, the sport of bobsledding did not commence until a steering mechanism was attached to a toboggan in the late 19th century.

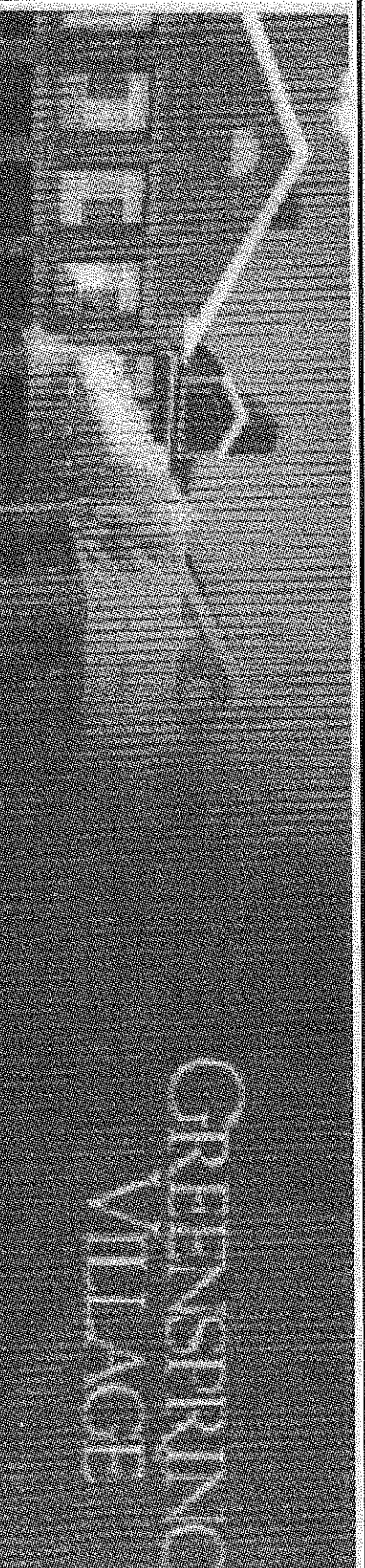
The first racing sleds were made of wood but were soon replaced by steel sleds that came to be known as bobsleds.

"I didn't know that there was so much history surrounding the origin of the bobsled," said senior Sarah Blair.

The sport has expanded worldwide to countries such as Japan, Australia, New

"I like to see more people having equal opportunities to compete."

—Tanja Quinn, senior



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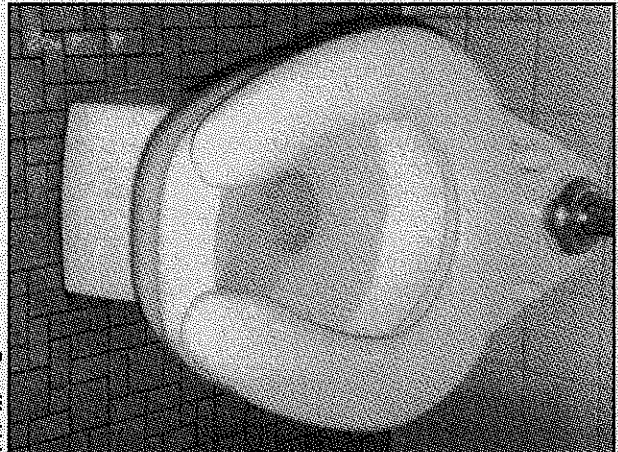
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## 10 worst things about winter

10. Picking splinters out of your teeth after running into a tree on your sled.
  9. Tongues stuck on flagpoles, pumphandles, doorknobs and other assorted metal objects.
  8. Three months of roads turned into salty suburban beaches.
  7. Getting nailed in the head with a rock-filled ball of ice.
  6. The black crust that covers white cars.
  5. The white crust that covers black cars.
  4. Sliding off the road into a telephone pole on your way to the mall on a snow day.
  3. Getting out of bed when it's 30 degrees and dark in your room.
  2. The age old dilemma of whether a white wash in yellow snow is really a white wash.
  1. It's too short.
- Compiled by Russ Waddell



Russ Waddell

## Spartan Focus

*De-throning stupid pictures in our paper*

By Russ Waddell  
Photography Editor

*The Oracle* has a long legacy of printing pictures of toilets. We have frequently printed stories about the cleanliness of the most important rooms in school. Whether the commodes were praised or criticized, the theme has remained the same: we just want to give some free publicity to the fixtures that are made to flush away but are sometimes generous enough to give back to the community. The next time you spot a lake forming on the tiled floor, remember that it's just the toilet giving us something to remember. And the next time you throw paper towels in the sink, remember that the bathroom might have a mind of its own.

## Jansport packs a big punch

By Priyanka Tandon  
News Section Editor

Attack of the Jansport backpacks! Watch out. They come in all colors, shapes and sizes. So, don't think they can't get you, they're everywhere.

It all started 30 years ago in 1967 with three Pacific coast Washingtonians: Skip Yowell, Murry Pletz and Jansport's namesake Jan Lewis.

Jansport started as a small, insignificant company until another company, Downer, which specialized in silk screening for the college market bought Jansport in 1982. Downer changed the company's name to Jansport. Up up and away...Jansport reached new heights in 1982. The company tested its products by giving them to a Himalayan expedition team.

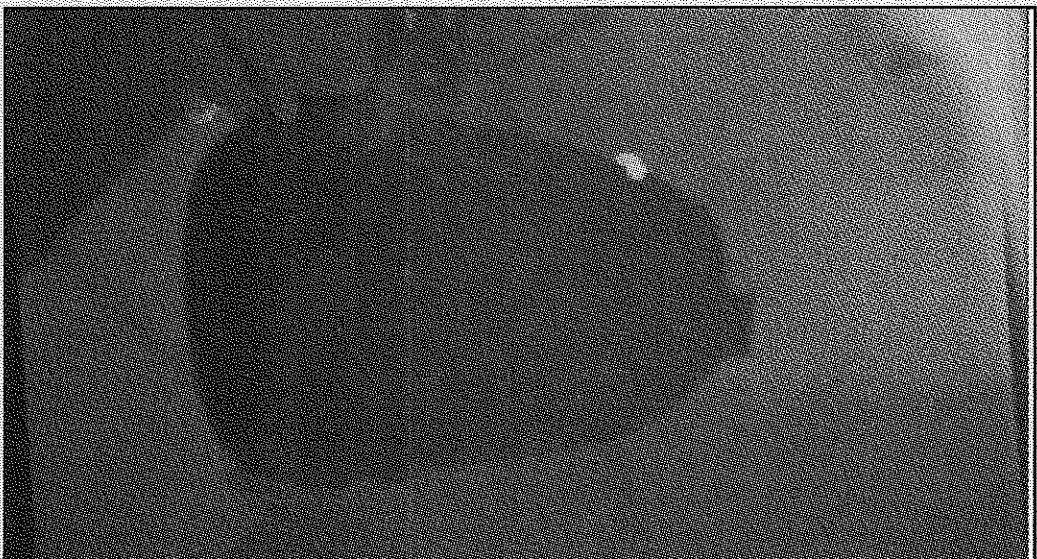
Hip hip hooray! Jansport sold its one millionth backpack in 1985, watch out McDonalds. Big macs and quarter pounders are nothing compared to "keypers" the plastic clasps that hold keys inside a backpack, or the "anti-dork thumb loops" that are the fabric loops hanging from the ends of the shoulder straps. They are anti-dork because they keep your backpack from falling off.

Jansport was ahead of the game in 1989 on the eve of the technological era, when they combined forces with ITW Nexus. Jansport introduced the Velocity Hip Arm, the latest advancement in hip arm systems.

Announcing...Jansport! Jansport goes international in 1996; the company opens an office in London and launches its first website. Of course the international debut wasn't complete without the release of a new line, Sole series of rubber bottom backpacks.

In 1997 Jansport turned the big 3-0, but is still hot. Cutting edge is Jansport's invisible last name. Today it has made a pack for almost everything, laptop computers, CD players, hiking, biking, daytrips, and even skateboarding.

So, next time you're lurking around and up to no good, watch out...Jansport is everywhere.



Stephanie Morris

Anywhere you go you can count on seeing at least one version of a Jansport backpack. Whether it's holding a lap top, books or a 60 cases of pudding, there's always a chance, a Jansport will be tagging along.



## Russ's Ramblin', Some good old fashioned fun



Russ Waddell  
Photography Editor

*Disclaimer: Nothing in this column should be mistaken for a good idea. If anyone is foolish enough to take any of it seriously or actually attempt any dumb stunts, don't mention my name.*

Bad senior pranks are a hazard that threatens our very way of life as high school students. Some are good. Some are bad. Some are funny. Most are not. Okay almost none are.

Everybody and their brother has some

big idea about what would be "so funny if we did," yet none of these ideas are ever carried out. That's because they are dangerous, stupid, require a monkey and a bulldozer or would end with jail time.

With that, I now present the best senior pranks that would never work.

First is the field of spoons. This is one of the most talked about stunts ever, possibly because the ploy is so simple, even a freshman could do it. All you have to do is cover the precious, dear, beloved football field with plastic spoons. The calamity ensuing would go down in history as one of the dumbest things ever. The geese would be out of a home, since everybody knows web-footed geese can't

walk on plastic spoons. The football players would wet their padded pants. It would never work.

Number two is my own original idea. It would be really funny to catapult Dr. Smith's car onto the roof of the school. The problems are obvious. To begin with, catapults are a little hard to come by these days. You could easily get a good deal on eBay. Other than that, the idea is genius.

The school is such a big target and a car is such a good projectile. The school would be messed up and so would the principal's car, and those two items are the most common targets of pranksters. In effect, this trick packs a whopping one-two punch.

Last but not least, the funniest prank in the world that would never work is known as "One hundred tons of elephant poop on the parking lot." The biggest

drawback is that one elephant would take a very long time to produce one hundred tons of poop. It wouldn't take as long for one hundred elephants, but a hundred elephants would be hard to hide. Besides, it might not be effective. All those SUVs parked out there would barely be slowed

down by a foot deep layer of fecal matter. That is only a small sample of all the stupid pranks that would never work. All you loyal readers out there are welcome to drop off your ideas (in writing, of course) at room 215.

