



# Oracle

West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

## Community honors 9/11

By Priyanka Tandon  
*Oracle Editor*

More than 100 white candles stretched out over the WS football field last Wednesday evening, accompanied by stands full of students, teachers and community members.

It's been one year since the terrorist attacks on the United States, and now the country is remembering. WS held its own Reflection Ceremony to honor the victims of 9/11.

The hour and 15 minute ceremony began with "The National Anthem." Various speakers ranging from the age of four to 60 shared their thoughts on the attacks.

"I was really nervous," said eighth grader Josh Brown. "But I am glad I was chosen to speak and my words have gone to good use."

Seniors Sherri Boone and Lianna Carrera shared their talents by Boone singing "I Will Remember You" by Sarah McLoughlin and Carrera signing the song.

Alan Klisheimer, the man responsible for reconstructing the Pentagon, spoke next about his experiences over the past year.

"We started out by people saying it was impossible," said Klisheimer. "But we just thought we think we can, we think we can."

Klisheimer successfully completed the construction ahead of schedule by working long hours.

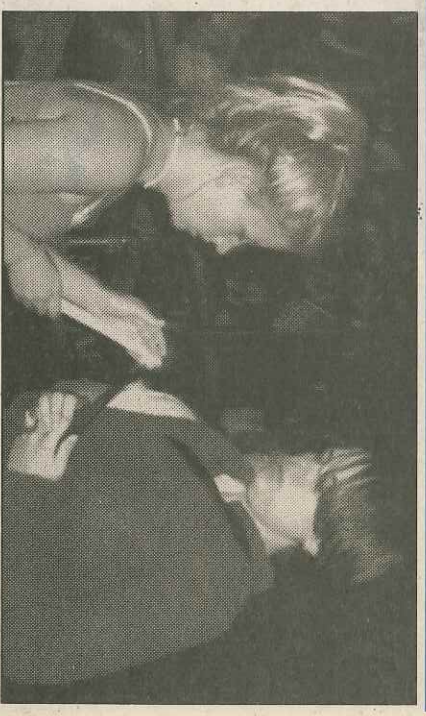
"I slept about two hours a night," said Klisheimer.

Senior Antoine Ware shared a poem he wrote about the attacks, followed by an instrumental "Sea to Shining Sea" by the WS marching band.

A solemn silence filled the air as the evening drew to a close.

Carrera read the names of those who perished on flight 77 and at the Pentagon, as candle holders walked onto the field.

The Madrigals finished the evening with a cappella performance of "I'm Proud to Be



Priyanka Tandon

Senior Emily Morris lights senior Alex Grillo's candle before she walks on to the field. Many WS students look part in the ceremony.

An American."

"It was a huge honor to sing because that's what this was about, pride in our country," said senior Emily Petty.

The event was primarily organized by Carrera and the

SGA, with help from the administration.

"I thought it was a nice way to spend the anniversary," said junior Jenna Wiesenbahn. "We didn't have to dwell too much on the pain."

## New activities director takes control at WS

By Nick Wajda  
*Sports Editor*

The afternoon is soaked and soggy, and the Activities Office is flooded with work. Students call to see if their coaches have cancelled practice, coaches called to see if they should cancel practice. Custodians walk in and out every two minutes needing help. Every desk is swamped with trophies, boxes, uniforms, and paperwork.

This is just another day for new Activities Director Mike Dobson. Dobson, an Oakton High School graduate, is entering his 27th year as either a teacher, coach, or administrator in Fairfax County Public Schools and his first year at WS.

**"Change is good. The opportunity found me, and I took it."**

—Mike Dobson,  
Activities Director

Dobson was hired after five years as Activities Director at Thomas Jefferson to replace Tod Chappell, who retired last year.

"Change is good," said Dobson. "The opportunity found me, and I took it; it will be very hard to follow him [Chappell], though."

Dobson also decided to come to WS after observing WS students at Fairfax County events. He was impressed by the way students carried themselves, and how



Emily Morris

New activities director Mike Dobson goes to take his seat on the bleachers at a football game.

they treated themselves and others.

"The students are fine citizens, that should make the transition easy," said Dobson.

In his three months at WS, Dobson has already accomplished several projects. The crack-riddled tennis courts were resurfaced and the pothole filled track was fixed as well. The athletic fields have also drawn Dobson's attention.

"He [Dobson] cleaned up the entire practice field, all the weeds, overgrown grass, and all of the track equipment," said Head Football Coach Bill Renner.

Not complacent, Dobson is already working on a new online calendar which will make scheduling of extracurricular activities easier. The other project high on his priorities is to fix up the new Activities Office, which takes the place of the old faculty dining room.

Not just a slave to his work, Dobson is an avid sports fan who roots for the Spartans even when they play Oakton, his own high school, or Chantilly where his son attends and plays for the football team.

"I'll be rooting for my son to do well," said Dobson. "But for the Spartans to win."

## Results show rising scores More students pass AP and SOL tests

By Erika Kim  
*News Editor*

After two weeks of continuous AP testing, it was finally over. Or so it seemed. There was another two weeks of testing ahead. Last year, students taking AP classes endured two weeks of AP testing at the beginning of May and another two weeks of testing for the Standards of Learning right after.

Results came back later in the summer, and it was found that the number of WS students passing the standardized tests had increased. Results showed that 71 percent of the students who took an AP exam received a passing three or higher on the exam which is graded on a scale from one to five.

Whereas the year before only 65 percent of the students passed the AP exams.

Nearly 99 percent of AP Government teacher Connie Peduzzi's students passed, and 95 percent of Allison Kopkau's AP Psychology students passed.

There was also a significant increase in the number of AP tests given and the number of subjects tested in the past four

years. The number of tests given nearly doubled since 1998.

Teachers attribute the increase in the number of students taking AP classes to the increase in awareness that the classes exist.

"We start freshman and sophomore year to get the students excited about taking AP classes and letting them know that it's out there," said Kopkau.

In order to get more students to sign up for AP classes, teachers go around to different classes talking about specific AP courses in the spring before students register for classes.

In SOL scores, all of the pass rates with the exception of Earth Science were 85 percent or higher. There were gains in the areas of Writing, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Chemistry, World History from 1000, and US History. Although there were also losses in five areas since the previous year, none were greater than 1.54 percent.

"The biggest reward in teaching AP," said Kopkau. "It's watching my students realize and come to believe that they can do this."

| WS AP Standings  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| # of tests given | # of subjects tested |
| '98 539          | 21                   |
| '99 925          | 22                   |
| '00 1,016        | 22                   |
| '01 989          | 24                   |
| '02 1,057        | 26                   |



3 Follow a freshman for the day!



5 Top 101 things to do before school gets out.



8 What Russ has to say this time.



## Slow news for media causes negligent reporting

The Department of Justice shows kidnappings are on the decline, but this may seem hard for the public to believe. The media has given high profile child abductions lots of hype this past summer.

Some of these reports include five year old Samantha Runion, six-year-old Cassandra Williamson, 16-year-old Tamara Brooks, 17-year-old Jaqueline Marris, and 14-year-old Elizabeth Smart who were all tragic victims of kidnapping this summer. Runion and Williamson were later found dead, and Smart remains missing.

Parents are hesitant to let their children out unsupervised because of the fear and panic the media has instilled in their minds.

The media coverage of the kidnappings has influenced some parents to purchase Personal Locator bracelets, which allow parents to track down the whereabouts of their children by phone or Internet.

It has even caught the attention of 15

states governments who signed on to Amber Alert. The purpose of Amber Alert is to encourage an entire community to assist in the search for and return of a missing child.

The media has disappointingly failed to report on topics that are bigger problems than kidnapping, which makes up less than

### Editorial

2 percent of crimes against juveniles. Summer headlines haven't alerted people on the 2.5 million poor children living in rural areas.

Instead, the bored media chooses to frighten parents into thinking they need to buy oversized wristwatches for their children so that they can track their every move.

They forgot to mention in their reports that kidnappings have decreased, and abductions by strangers remain very rare.



"This is Channel 9 News reporting from Elm Street, where the Brown family's dog has been missing now for two whole days. More on this breaking story at 10."

The media should focus on significant issues, tedious as they may seem, rather than creating news.

Last summer the media chose to focus their attention on shark attacks. Viewers could not get away from reports about a shark attack at nearby Virginia Beach, but

there was no increase in the number of attacks from previous years.

While the kidnappings of these six girls are tragedies, they are just a couple over reported examples of rare incidents.

Next summer, hopefully, the media will choose to focus their attention on a matter that has a larger impact on the nation.

## One year marks new views

By Marianne Shaddrix

Managing Editor

A year ago, one day changed our lives.

Just like December 7, 1941, September 11, 2001 will forever "live in infamy." It was one of the darkest days in our nation's history.

None of us will forget which class we were in when we saw the Twin Towers on fire, nor will we forget not knowing if our parents were dead or alive.

I learned that day what true evil was. I learned I could no longer pretend I lived in a world in which terrorism occurred only in the Middle East. Since 9/11, I know how truly fortunate we are.

It's been one year, and my eyes have been opened to all the countries that experience 9/11 every day, such as Israel, where citizens live with an undying fear of terrorist attacks at innocent events like Bar Mitzvahs.

Thousands of lives were lost, and the events of 9/11 should not be forgotten. Neither, however, should the many more thousands who have died and continue to die in countries like Sudan.

The US suffered for one day. After that our leaders pledged to "bring the evildoers to justice." They have, and their continuing commitment has reassured my feeling of safety, although threats against the US still exist. But for many people in the world safety can never be assured.

The one year anniversary of 9/11 affirmed for me the resilience of the American spirit. It made me think about how thankful I am to live in a country where we have so much. Our safety is affirmed daily by the millions of men and women who continue to combat terrorism and the evils that have ravaged many other countries. And that truly makes me proud to be an American.

## Family Police Network promotes misunderstanding

By Evan Anderson

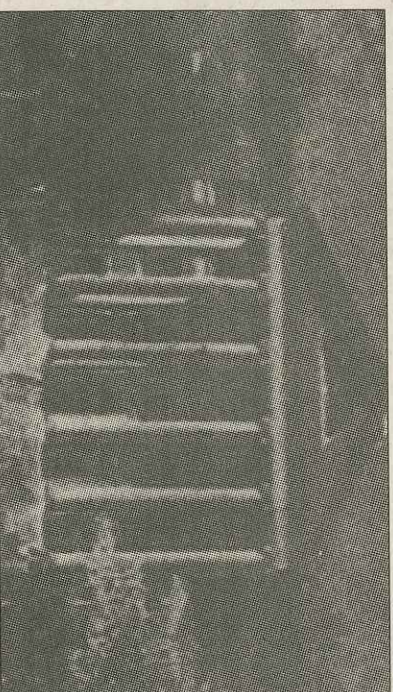
Senior Staff Writer

Long before the attacks of September 11, Michael A. Sells, a professor at Haverford, wrote a book that gave insight into the nature of the world's second-largest, but in many respects most enigmatic religion: Islam.

His book, *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations*, interpreted some of the Prophet Muhammad's first realizations.

This year, as a summer reading assignment, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill asked their incoming freshmen to read this book.

A laudable goal: to try to bring students to terms with a religion whose interpretation has brought pain and suffering to the United



At the University of North Carolina, students were asked to read the Koran as a summer assignment. Now, the university is being sued.

Koran and the world many times. Sadly, some do not see the assignment this way, such as the Family Policy Network, a

Christian educational group. More specifically, the Family Policy Network does not find the

approach taken to the Koran appropriate. It is not sufficiently patriotic.

The book does not include interpretations of Suras (passages) 4, 5, and 9, the infamous passages that approve

of the killing of infidels. So in other words, because *Approaching the Qur'an* does not portray the world's 1.2 billion Muslims as swarthy, gun-toting, murdering heathens attempting to strike down the holy bastion of America and Christianity, it is not a viable book in the eyes of the Family Policy Network.

Other conservative forces agree, such as Bill O'Riley of Fox News, who was quoted in *The Washington Post* comparing reading the book to reading *Mein Kampf* during World War II.

Despite the fact that the University of North Carolina has altered the assignment—now incoming freshmen can write a paper on why they choose not to read the book—the Family Policy Network has gone ahead with

its first place. It is no small irony that the very same ignorance is what led the terrorists to attack us in the

## The Oracle

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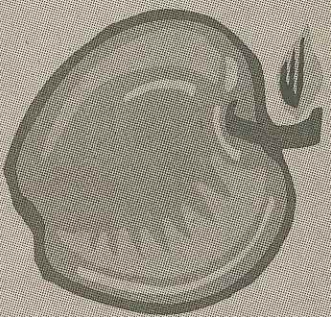
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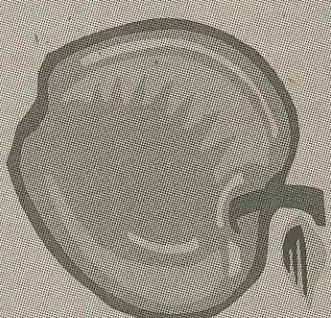
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# Spartan Profiles

## New Teachers



### Meredith Howell

By Adam Rosen  
*Newport Assistant*

Once earning a living as a ball girl on the road with the Baltimore Orioles, Meredith Howell now instead catches lip from students as one of many new teachers that make their way to WS each year.

Howell comes to WS with enthusiasm and a desire to prepare her ninth and tenth grade students as citizens.

Howell graduated from the University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in English in 1997. She previously taught English at C. Milton Wright High School in Bel Air, Maryland. At her old high school, she sponsored the sophomore class and coached the JV girls lacrosse team.

She always wanted to teach high school students because she enjoys working with students closer to her age and to which she can relate. Prior to WS, Howell has three years of teaching experience.

"I want to make learning fun and relate it to everyday life and student's lives," said Howell. "I had some great teachers during high school that inspired me to get into the teaching profession."

Howell will soon become Mrs. Rocketteller when she marries in June. Even though her life will change after the wedding, Howell predicts her desire to teach and work with high school students will never decrease. After her wedding Howell will try to buy a home and get her Ph.D.

Before Howell taught at C. Milton High School she was a ball girl for the Baltimore Orioles. While being a ball girl she traveled on road trips with the Orioles and met many of the players.

"I really admired Mike Mussina when I was a ball girl," said Howell. "I had a crush on him."

Howell also experienced certain



Emily Morris  
Meredith Howell, a new freshman and sophomore English teacher, coached JV lacrosse at her previous school.

"I really admired Mike Mussina when I was a ball girl. I had a crush on him."

—Meredith Howell,  
English teacher

problems as a ball girl. One night Harold Baines of the Orioles hit a foul ball down the right field line and Howell was hit in the head by the ball. Howell saw it on a television newscast and heard about it over the loud speaker.

"My parents even taped the game that night," said Howell. "Every once-in-a-while, they play it for a good laugh."

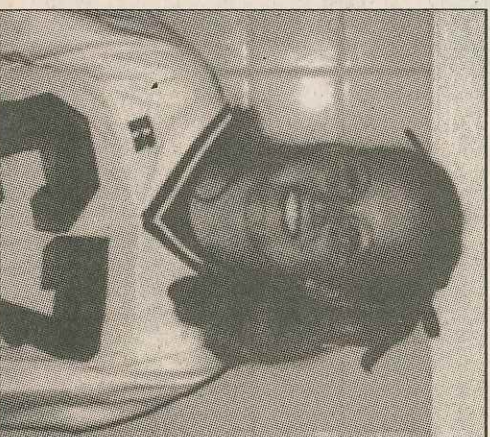
in reference to Beach. "I can't wait. She'll be my 'fun' teacher."

After the bell rang, we headed around the corner to the Foreign Language hall to Latin 2 with teacher Kathy Jarvis. Weiderhold is already getting ahead, having already taken Latin 1 at WS during eighth grade.

"I had Mrs. Jarvis last year too," said Weiderhold. "She's a really wonderful teacher."

Next we went down a hall to World History and Geography 1 Honors. In this class, Weiderhold will study from the first man to the 1500s with Leigh Shipman, who already had an assignment for her unsuspecting freshmen.

Then we backtracked to Beach's room again, whom Weiderhold has for English 9 Honors as well. There the expressive Beach was going at it



Jan Sionacco

Freshman Liz Weiderhold is excited to start her high school career. She plans to join *The Oracle* during her sophomore year and also plans to join the swim team.

### Ersilia Ash

By JD Kaleem  
*Features Editor*

Ersilia Ash was born in West Springfield and graduated high school from WS, yet she only recently took her first step into the building. Try to figure it out.

During high school Ash lived in West Springfield, Massachusetts. She spent the last 20 years in Northern Virginia, although she also lived in San Francisco, California and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

As a new autism and special education teacher, Ash has traveled to 46 of the 50 states, as well as over 12 countries.

She holds a BA in history from the University of Massachusetts and a master's degree in special education from George Mason University.

This is Ash's first year teaching autistic students, although she has taught self-contained and team-taught LD classes at Lake Braddock for the past three years.

"I just felt that I was ready to work with a different population of students. I didn't feel that I was accomplishing what I wanted in my teaching positions," said Ash. "I felt this would be a different experience for me and would give me more satisfaction."

Ash teaches a special education class with 10 autistic students, mostly those with Asperger's Syndrome. She also teaches Algebra 1: Part 1, team-taught Biology with Jenn Owens and accompanies her students to their classes to assist them.

"Asperger's has some features of autism. The students don't necessarily show developmental delays, but have



Jan Sionacco  
Special Education teacher Ersilia Ash loves to travel, garden, and read.

"You have to remember that every child is different. You have to try to get inside their heads to think the way they do, which is the hard part. It takes some patience."

—Ersilia Ash,  
special ed teacher

Weiderhold's second period class is Biology Honors with Beth Jewell, who gave a quick overview of the class, including the science fair and animal dissection.

"Dissection isn't for me," said Weiderhold. "But I don't mind the science project. My brother got an honorable mention once."

Then we trudged up the stairs and down to the opposite end of the school for fourth period Health and PE. There Randy May discussed everything from uniforms, to the towel service that's seldom used.

The last class of Weiderhold's day, as well as ours, was Geometry Honors, taught by Debbie Larsen. This is an interactive class, with students participating a great deal as opposed to

# Take a walk on the freshman side

By Heidi Siligoj  
& Rachel Wohlers  
*Oracle Staff Writers*

On Wednesday morning swarms of students raced in from the rain to take a seat in the crowded, frigid auditorium, awaiting an experience they've heard about their whole life, but know nothing about. They begin a journey of homework, exams, college visits and friendships and will leave with a vast collection of memories. Although upperclassmen group all these students together under the label "frosh," they are each unique. We followed one such freshman, Liz Weiderhold, around WS during her freshmen orientation.

She started the day with Journalism 1, taught by Jennifer Beach. The class appealed to Weiderhold since she is an aspiring journalist and wishes to join *Oracle* her sophomore year. "I love her," said Weiderhold

lecturing them the entire period. Larsen, sponsor of the Junior Math Team, also mentioned that extra credit is offered to anyone who goes.

"Yes, I'll go for extra credit since I'll probably need it," said Weiderhold, laughing.

That brought a close to our day as "undercover" freshmen. Weiderhold had more to do. She was headed to a meeting about student government.

"I'd like to be active in student government, as well as swimming and crew," said Weiderhold.

Overall, Weiderhold's brief school day went well and she looks forward to her first year as a WS student. Before she knows it, she will graduate. But she still has time to experience everything that high school has to offer.

"I'd like to join the Japanese Club," said Weiderhold. "Even though I don't know any Japanese, it sounds like fun."



# Top 103

## Things to

## Acco

1. Count down 'til the last day of school.
2. Get up to make it to school at 7:29 everyday.
3. Remember your locker combination.
4. Memorize your schedule.
5. Memorize your friends' schedules.
6. Find out your crush's schedule.
7. Switch into every single one of your crush's classes.
8. Find friends who have the same lunch as you.
9. Get all the forms in.
10. Find a parking place.
11. Finish summer reading and assignments. Weren't they due already?
12. Wait in line to buy tickets for football games.
13. Check out the new cheerleaders.
14. Check out the new football players.
15. Remember and honor the events of 9/11.
16. Watch the season premieres.
17. Fight for senior privileges.
18. Look decent in your year-book picture.
19. Beg, borrow, and steal to get the yellow locker.
20. Decide what to wear every day.
21. Never wear the same outfit twice during the school year.
22. Never wear anything you wore last year.
23. Save up enough money to buy that "in" outfit.
24. Bring home your interim.
25. Get your interim signed.
26. Get that Homecoming date.
27. Find the perfect Homecoming attire.
28. Count down the days 'til winter break.
29. Forge your parent's signature on the Federal Survey Forms.
30. Fall down the senior stairway.
31. Fall down any stairway.
32. Study for the first quarter exam.
33. Skip 7th period.
34. Avoid being seen by your 7th period teacher.
35. Switch classes with an identical sibling.
36. Find 10 cents for a copy in the library.
37. Say hello to "Grandma."
38. Be sad because "Grandma" isn't here anymore.
39. Ask your crush out creatively.
40. Make it a point to walk past the Guidance Office and say hi to your counselor.
41. Get yelled at for bothering Mr. Christopher.
42. Leave campus for lunch.
43. Avoid angry men in golf carts after leaving campus for lunch.
44. Don't get hit by crazy senior drivers.
45. Sell an elevator pass.
46. Sell a pass to the third floor pool.
47. Ditch the people you don't want to hang out with.
48. Read the assigned book for English. All of it - without spark notes.
49. Listen to the radio every winter morning for school cancellations.
50. Listen to the radio every winter morning for a 2-hour delay.
51. Listen to the radio every winter morning for any delay.
52. Bring all your Christmas presents in an Abercrombie bag.



53. Stay online all night and still finish all your homework.
54. Avoid so-and-so in the halls.
55. Win a contest.

# mplish

56. Get out of running in PE and still get an A.
57. Get out of trouble for using your cell phone.

58. See how many times you can wear revealing clothing without putting a T-shirt on.

59. Find a vending machine that is turned on.

60. Find a vending machine that works.

61. Fit a freshman all the way in their locker and shut it.

62. Confront your worst enemy.

63. Avoid a fight with your worst enemy.

64. Avoid a fight with your worst enemy so you can avoid facing Mr. Griffin after getting in a fight with your worst enemy.

65. Submit a "letter to the editor" to The Oracle.

66. Smuggle a pink tray out of the cafeteria.

67. Get past hall security during lunch.

68. Go to a game for every sport, every season.

69. Enjoy a pep rally.
70. Avoid using a port-o-potty
71. Start a club.

72. Visit your old senior crush's locker.

73. Avoid the one teacher that's mad at you for not turning in that assignment.

74. Go to the bathroom as many times as your teacher will let you in one class period.

75. Follow your administrator around for a day.

76. Find a bathroom with a stall that locks.

77. Find a bathroom with paper towels.

78. Get all the members of a group project together at the same time.

79. Letter in journalism.

80. Convince your teachers that you can be mature.

81. See how long people will walk around you if you stand in the middle of the hall.

82. Smuggle in fast food.

83. Lose the teeny-bopper image.

84. Steal your friend's car and then drive away without him.

85. Get dragged around many college campuses.
86. Do your homework and study during class.

87. Convince your teacher that homework is damaging to the brain.

88. Count how many times you can annoy your teacher without getting detention.

89. Get into your dream college.

90. Take notes, copy notes, study notes, write notes, fold notes, pass notes, and read notes.

91. Ace all your pop quizzes.

92. Join an Honor Society.

93. Enjoy the cafeteria food.

94. Participate in the spring musical.

95. Join The Oracle staff.

96. As an underclassman, get in the senior picture.

97. Remember your friends' birthdays.

98. Get fives on all your AP exams.

99. Go to a religious service.

100. Watch a Disney movie.

101. Come up with 103 different Things to Accomplish.

102. Survive school one day at a time.

103. Graduate.

—Compiled By Rachel Wohlers and Emily Sommerfeldt

# Before

# June 20th



# Fans don't miss a thing

## Aerosmith rocked at the Nissan Pavilion

By Heidi Stiligoi

Features Editor

Beer splashed over my head as a sweaty old man tried to make way to the front. My body was sticky and my ears were ringing. I could not hear a word my friends were saying, and somebody kept grabbing my stomach. It sounds crazy, and a little gross, but it was one of the best events of my life. I was in the middle of a mosh pit for one of the greatest rock and roll bands of all time: Aerosmith.

On August 20, at Nissan Pavilion, hippies, metal heads, preps, the young and the old all came together for the music.

Run DMC opened up with "Walk This Way," and although they did get some hands in the air, I found the old beer belly men freaking their wives to be much more amusing. Soon enough, they were gone, and the next act was on its way.

Kid Rock, came out on stage sporting the usual wife beater, greasy hair and red pants. He opened up with "Sweet Home Alabama," which I considered strange since I'm used to bands opening with their own music. He continued on to do covers of CCR, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and even Eminem, which was interesting at first, but it got a bit tiring.

Midway through the set, he gave the impression that he was leaving, a relief at first, but then five minutes later he was back, and ready to perform his own music. He sang "Only God Knows Why," a song that brought out the lighters, followed by "Cowboy," a song that brought out the female dancers.

Finally, he wrapped things up with "Bawidaba," and insisted everyone repeat his name a hundred times before he exited the stage.

After a twenty minute break from all the screaming and after I got myself some food, it was time to rock. The crowd got silent, the pavilion got dark, and then a body appeared.

Decked out in a red trench coat and a black floppy hat, Steven Tyler came walking out on stage, looking better than ever. The band opened with "Back in the Saddle," and clearly proved that age does not matter. Tyler may be 58 years old, but he still knows how to rock better than any young rock band I know, and his energized scream tells all.

As Tyler woos the audience with his vocals, and occasionally playing the harmonica, Joe Perry amazes again and again with his phenomenal guitar playing. He had a neon-green guitar, on

which he performed many solos. At one point in the show, Tyler took a time out and Perry played and sang a little blues for the fans.

Perry also added a twist to a few of the songs, such as when he threw himself up against the speakers, rubbing his guitar, acting as though he was just struck by lightning, which flashed on the big screen. Another time he ripped off his shirt, banged it against the ground, and then humped the stage better than any boy band ever could.

The highlight of the show for me was when the band made its way out to the lawn where a second stage was set up, and sang classics such as "Mama Kin," and "Dream On." The lawn fans seemed to be the biggest fans of all, as we all pushed and shoved to get as close to the stage as possible. The crowd-surfers came out, and one happened to land on my head. Too soon, Aerosmith had to make its way back up to the main stage where they sang favorites such as "Pink," "Cryin'," and newer hits such as "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing," and their new single, "Girls of Summer."

They ended the show with "Walk This Way," during which Run DMC and Kid Rock came out one last time and jammed along. And when it was



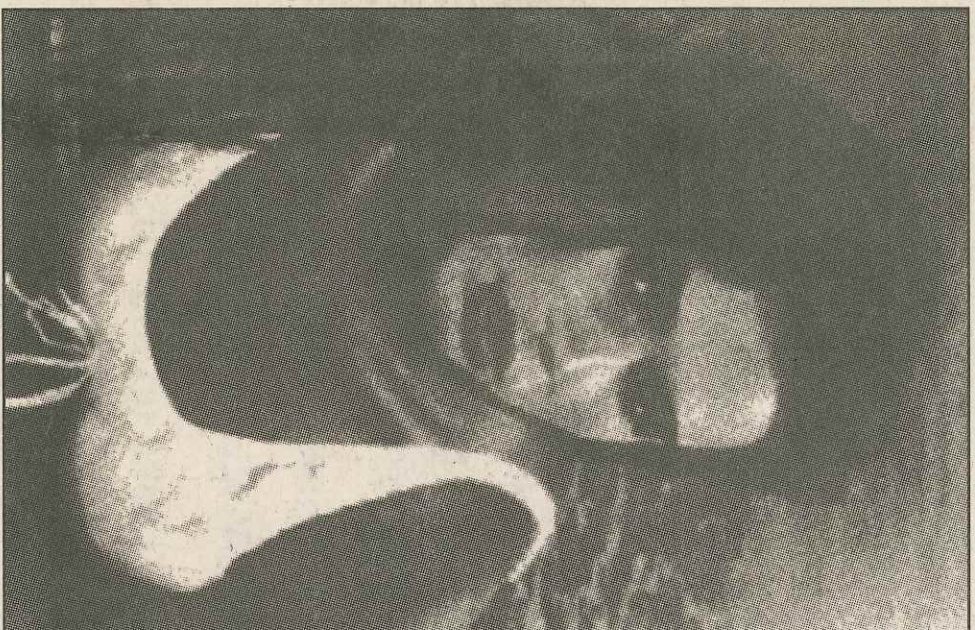
Seventies rockers, Aerosmith, came to Nissan Pavilion August 20 with opening acts Run DMC and Kid Rock.

eventually over, the crowd screamed for more, but the lights came on, and it was obvious it was time to go.

While Aerosmith tours in the modern day, they still manage to incorporate that 70's feel into all their songs. The screens were full of psychedelic images, and Tyler refused to give into a hand-held mic, keeping the stand with him eventually over, the crowd at all times. Amongst the flying beer and flying bodies, and trying not to lose my friends, Aerosmith gave me something not many bands can, let alone one who has survived four decades. They gave me complete energy and made me feel alive. These rock stars still know how to walk their way.

# -HOLLYWOOD TANS-

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# Jenkins and Ausberry sign the dotted line

By Eugenie Ko

Senior Staff Writer

The sun had only been up for a couple hours when starting varsity linebacker Tony Jenkins pulled up to WS, the sound of Warren G pumping from his speakers.

"I always listen to 'Regulator' before games," said Jenkins of his pre-game rituals.

The August 24 scrimmage against Yorktown marked the beginning of Jenkins's final year with the Spartan football team. He won't, however, be straying far from the sacred orange and blue when college starts; Jenkins already has a verbal agreement to suit up with the Syracuse Orangemen in the fall of 2003.

"They're basically paying for everything except my transcript," said Jenkins.

Syracuse wasn't the only Division I school to express an interest in Jenkins. Kent State, U Conn and Ohio State also offered him scholarships. Jenkins picked Syracuse because of their conference, the Big East, and their facilities, which include a stadium dome, sparked his interest.

Like Jenkins, teammate Marshal Ausberry also had his choice of several schools. His early options included Virginia Tech, Marshall University and the University of Virginia (UVA). Because he holds education as a priority, Ausberry chose to commit himself to UVA. He is currently interested in a field in education.

Both Jenkins and Ausberry dedicate themselves to hours of practice, often more than one a day. Over the

summer the entire football team attended Camp Capital, a week of intense football training held at a Jewish sports camp in Pennsylvania. This included getting up at 6:30 every morning, rooming with 17 other people and eating various Kosher foods.

While the boys held up their end by putting forth hard work and maintaining eligibility, head coach Bill Renner did his end by calling different schools and sending videos highlighting their skills.

"I've helped by monitoring their development, athletically and academically. My job is to put them in a position to do well; their job is getting it done," said Renner. "I think they're going to be very good players."

After having the first winning season in nine years in 2001, the Spartans have high expectations to meet. With the combined experience and leadership of Jenkins, Ausberry, and other returning seniors, the WS football team yields promise for the 2002 season. Their 42-6 win over Yorktown is just a taste of the Spartan potential.

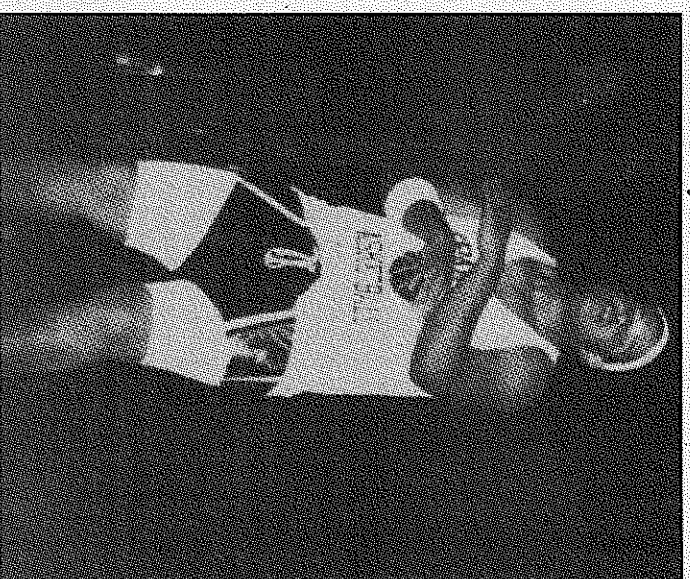
"As a whole the team is very talented in all position groups. The defense looks stronger and quicker than past defensive squads," said Ausberry.

Jenkins and Ausberry both have much to look forward to for their senior year at WS. Both excel at a sport other than football. Ausberry will continue contributing to the basketball team while Jenkins will be giving up baseball to focus on training for his much anticipated college season. Playing football isn't all he's looking forward to though.

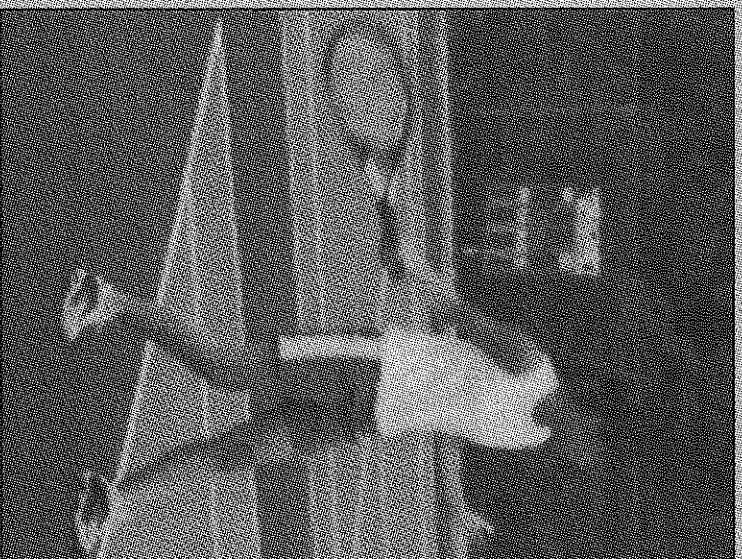
"You know what the best part about going to Syracuse

is? I get to be in video games," said Jenkins. "I can't wait to play NCAA and see myself in the game."

So when NCAA 2004 comes out, forget about Kevin Jones and Rex Grossman; every kid in Springfield is going to want to be Tony Jenkins.



Senior Marshal Ausberry gets down at Mr. Spartan 2001. Next year he'll be getting down at UVA. *Emily Morris*



WS girls tennis player, Seyoung Yoo, prepares to hit the ball on the newly resurfaced tennis courts. *Emily Morris*

## Golf starts in the rough Team looks forward to rebuilding

By Adam Buckley

Photographer

Some Spartan athletes live for the sprint to the finish line, others live for stretching a double into a triple. The Spartan golf team lives for making the ball go into the hole, its home. This year they may have some trouble getting it done.

In past years, the golf team has produced some very competitive teams, even a few district titles along the way, but this year that may be tough. After losing a number of strong senior players, the team is a little weak. The team captain Mike Newsome, a junior, doubts the team's ability to succeed this year.

"I don't think we're going to do that well," said Newsome.

In fact, this year's roster of nine players includes no seniors, and only four are returning varsity players. Players expected to contribute this year include juniors Ryan Frost and Brock Taylor.

So far this season, the team has not fared too well, losing its first match by four

"I don't think we're going to do that well."

—Mike Newsome, Junior

strokes to TC Williams, and their second to Hayfield by two strokes. The team did place fifth in a tournament in Winchester, but failed to do as well at its second tournament in Herndon. The teams next match will be against West Potomac at Twin Lakes.

The team has a good attitude about this year's performances so far.

"This is a rebuilding year," said Newsome who also looks forward to improving performances from the returning varsity, specifically sophomore Sean Lampley, who prepares to be a major force for the team in future years.

With such a young team this year, Spartan golf fans can look for a strong team in future years, but this year it seems that the Spartan golf teams balls may be too good for their homes.

## WS fields get a makeover

By Emily Ryan

Senior Staff Writer

As students eagerly emptied out of the building this past June and left WS to enjoy their summer, the county was busy and was already thinking about preparations for the next school year. Parts of WS were falling apart and needed attention, attention received after the new activities director, Mike Dobson, stepped in.

The new tennis courts are one noticeable change made to WS's exterior. After having a petition circulating to fix the courts, improvements were made. The courts were redone, new nets were ordered, and the fence was repaired.

"We're just happy that there's not grass growing right in the middle of the courts anymore," said senior Trish Dizon.

Instead of it being on the courts, there is now new grass on the field. Due to some undue wear and tear that the field has endured this past year, the county had to resod areas that had been destroyed. While doing so, the track was also repaired.

According to Dobson, the WS track was in the worst shape in Fairfax County, so WS, along with three other

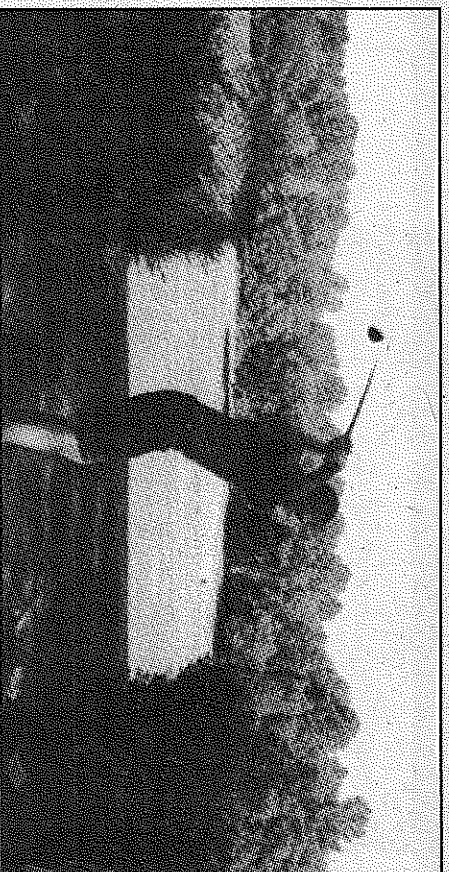
county schools had their tracks repaired. There wasn't enough money for a whole new one, but the county did spend \$17,000 to almost completely redo the track.

Money was also pulled to mend the parking lots. WS was next on the list for its fifteen-year maintenance improvements, which just so happened to include repaving the lots and painting the parking spots all over again.

Behind the scenes work was also done. Cleanup was done on parts of the property; new sheds were purchased for storage; the baseball fields received more dirt, and the softball fields have received more work. In addition to the continued work on the practice fields, after trying to get this work done for some time, Dobson finally got things moving.

"After begging loud enough, the county responded," said Dobson.

Once the budget cuts were made last spring, the first thing to go was the money used to repair and keep up the sports facilities in order to maintain teacher salaries, Dobson, however, is still pushing to get more work done to help WS look better. Next on the list - new baseball lights.



Junior Ryan Frost begins to wind up for his shot. As a returning player, Frost is constantly giving pointers to the new golfers. *Emily Morris*

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# Russ's Ramblin': Russ survives summer

By Russell Waddell  
Editor

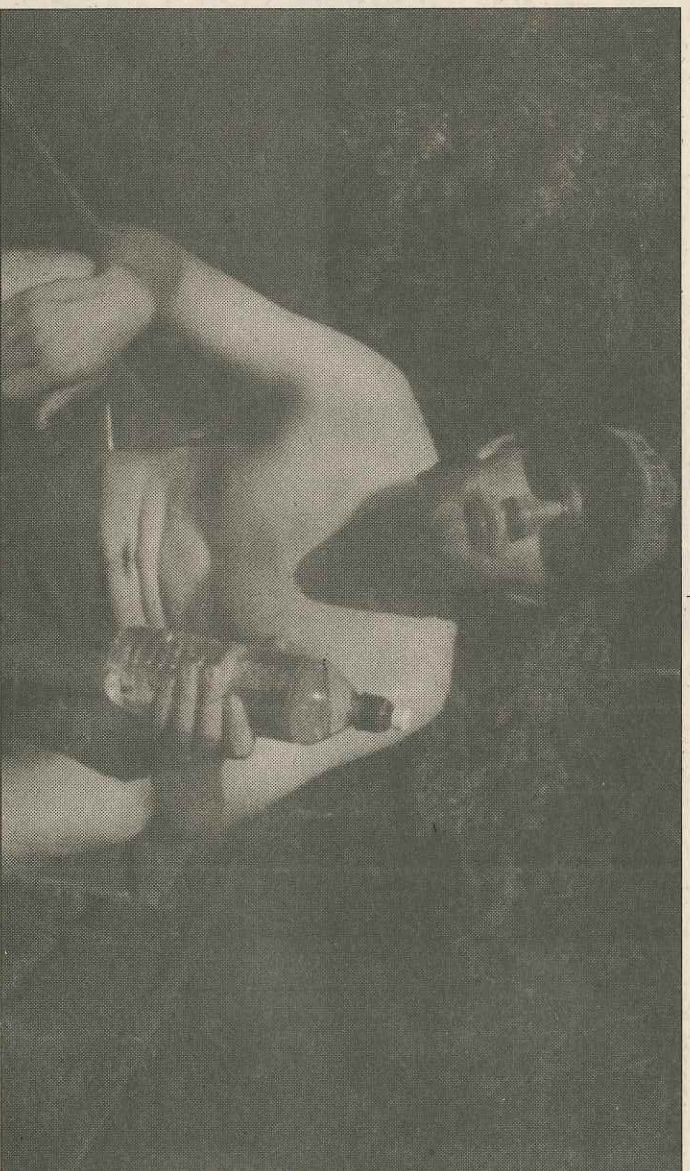
It was mid-June in the suburbs. I started my second year working at Lake Accotink Park, a quiet little park. A dirty little lake. A noisy old carousel. It was everything I thought it could be.

The Lake Accotink Park (LAP) employees were like my second family. We laughed together. We cried together. We handed out orange life preservers together. We watered the mini-golf course together. It was a happy little LAP family. But then everything changed.

Actually, nothing really changed at all except that I got tired of working there. I began to hope for thunderstorms. Or excessive heat. Or a forest fire. Or a nuclear meltdown. Or lions and tigers and bears. Oh My! Anything to go home early. After all, going home early meant more time for playing Super Smash Brothers Melee on my coworker Jeff Lopez's new Game Cube. Except for when going home early meant more time to go to Giant and buy some world famous flat bread for a nice snack. Yum!

The plan for my summer was endless frisbee golf, bar-b-ques, and generally doing nothing important. Oh, yeah, and some work. Instead, it seemed like work in between frisbee golf, bar-b-ques, and generally doing nothing important. I saw my youth slipping away and knew that drastic measures were called for. The dream was over. So I quit work at LAP.

By the time I quit, it was already the beginning of August and my family had a two week vacation planned. That left only two weeks to carry out my big plans in my time at home. Time was running short and I desperately needed to have one last bit of fun (by the way I'm writing



While taking a day off his Lake Accotink Park job, Russell Waddell, formerly known as Captain Crusader or Just Russ, takes a nice long gulp of water and rides in a boat down the calm lake while working on his tan lines.

Sarah Runnis

this on August 26, 2002 so I still have time to enjoy myself. Admittedly, I have to help with *The Oracle* and visit James Madison University before school starts. But seriously, that leaves plenty of time to squeeze in some more fun. If I do, none of you reading this will ever know. Hal! It will be my secret. But I digress. Back to the story...

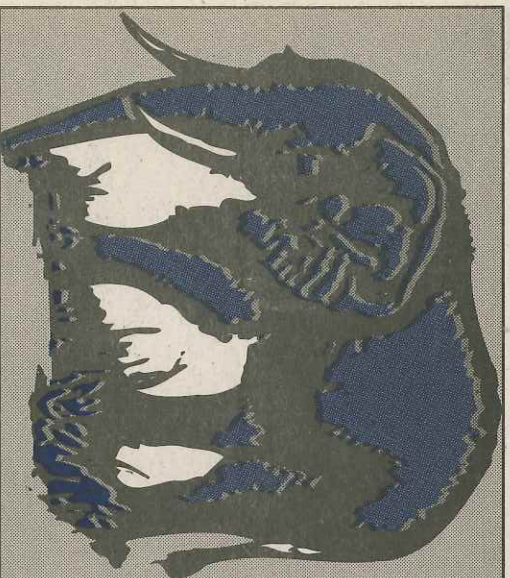
At this point, I would like to end with some huginormous event. But any such event would be a

## Did you know...

- last years football team had the best record (6-3)that the school has had in 10 years?
- there are a 170 days left in school for seniors?
- there are 63,360 inches in a mile?
- that I am single?
- there are 10 new Oracrites?
- there are 18 different shapes in the animal cracker cookie zoo?
- my phone number just happens to be

569-8282?

- that gummybears expand in water?
  - that lizards communicate by doing push-ups?
  - that strawberries contain more vitamin C than oranges?
  - (for all of those who don't know what vitamin C does for you, it helps make your body get over colds and stuff like that and makes it so that your body doesn't scurvey. It helps prevent them)
  - Elephants are the only mammals that can't jump?
- compiled by Denis Ing



| Monday                                   |    | Tuesday   |    | Wednesday  |    | Thursday                                   |    | Friday                    |    | Saturday/Sunday    |    |                    |    |
|--|----|---|----|--|----|--|----|---------------------------|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Coldplay @ Pier 6<br>Skins v. Eagles     | 16 | Volleyball v. Annandale                           | 17 | George Clinton and the P-Funk All-stars @ 930                    | 18 | Golf v. Annandale @ Army Navy Country Club | 19 | Fball v. Oakton @ 730     | 20 | Orioles v. Boston  | 21 | Skins @ 49ers      | 22 |
| Orioles v. Toronto                       | 23 | Orioles v. Toronto                                | 24 | Orioles v. Toronto   | 25 | Orioles v. Toronto                         | 26 | Orioles v. Boston         | 27 | Orioles v. Boston  | 28 | Orioles v. Boston  | 29 |
| Underclassman                            | 23 | Yearbook Portraits                                | 24 | Back to school night @ 645                                       | 25 | Volleyball v. TC @ 730                     | 26 | Varsity Fball v. LB @ 730 | 27 | Orioles v. Yankees | 28 | Orioles v. Yankees | 29 |
| Orioles v. Boston                        | 30 | Orioles @ Toronto                                 | 1  | Orioles @ Toronto  | 2  | Orioles @ Toronto                          | 3  | Orioles v. Yankees        | 4  | Orioles v. Yankees | 5  | Orioles v. Yankees | 6  |
| Field hockey v. Robinson @ 730           | 7  | Volleyball @ West Potomac 730                     | 8  | Field hockey @ West Potomac 730                                  | 9  | Freshman and JV Fball v. TC                | 10 | Rolling Stones @ Fed-Ex   | 11 | Fball @ Robinson   | 12 | Fball @ TC 1130    | 13 |
| Well today is the beginning of the week. | 7  | Volleyball v. LB 715<br>Field hockey v. Annandale | 8  | Today is the middle of the week                                  | 9  | Volleyball @ Annandale                     | 10 | Fball @ Robinson          | 11 | WEEKEND            | 12 | WEEKEND            | 13 |
| Columbus Day                             | 14 | Volleyball v. Hayfield                            | 15 | Today is the middle of the week after another middle of the week | 16 |  |    |                           |    |                    |    |                    |    |

# September/October