

THE Oracle



April 4, 2003
Volume 38 Number 10

West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

Alumni prepare to join the fight

By JD Kaleem
Features Editor

The war is on and close to home.

On March 20, "Operation Iraqi Freedom" began with air strikes on military facilities in Iraq. In the following weeks, US, British, Australian and other allied troops contributed to more strikes and invasions of cities such as Umm Qasr and Basra.

Preemptive strikes began only a few weeks ago, but troops built-up in Iraq months before. With many military families at WS, students are connected to this war through parents, brothers, sisters, and relatives.

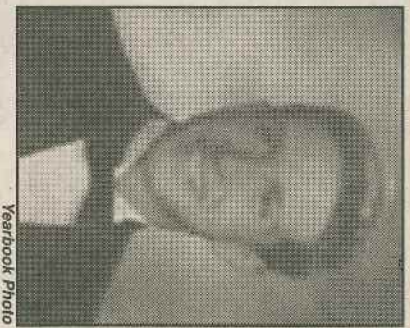
Senior Caroline Evey's sister, Katherine Evey Johnson, a member of the 101st Airborne Division, is on the ground in Iraq. Johnson, a '96 graduate, left home on February 28 to reach camp in Kuwait. In the past weeks, Evey has communicated little with her sister.

"She could write emails and letters, but it takes 8 weeks to 3 months for a letter to get to us," said Evey. "We were communicating by e-mail, but we got one yesterday [March 25] saying she is moving out of Kuwait and won't be in contact for a while."

With the cutoff in direct communication, Evey turns to TV for any information about her sister and the war.



Yearbook Photo



Yearbook Photo

Alumni Heather Roed and James Younts who graduated in 2000 and 1993 are currently serving in Iraq as a result of the war.

"We have CNN on 24 hours a day," said Evey. Johnson fights alongside James Younts, a '93 graduate and member of the 82nd Airborne Division. Younts left for Kuwait in early February. His sister, Elizabeth, has also lost touch with her brother.

"Once the actual fighting started, we haven't had any communication," said Younts, a sophomore at JMU. "I am very worried for him, I'm watching the news a whole lot more, and I pray for him, the rest of our troops, the government and our president everyday."

With the "War on Terror," not only are troops serving in Iraq, but throughout the Middle East.

Heather Roed, a '00 graduate, has served in Afghanistan since

See MILITARY, page 7

Sophomores' rocket reaches top 100 Out of 1000 competitors, Spartan team makes finals

By Priyanka Tandon
Oracle Editor

With about 1,000 competitors, two WS teams competed in the Team America Rocketry Challenge. The team

of sophomores from Maria Clayton's chemistry class was in the top 100 teams, and will move onto the final round that will be held in May. The team from the Senior Science Investigation class did not make it to the final round.

lot harder than I expected." The Senior Science team of seniors Evan Anderson, Sean Brannigan, Lindsay Carter, Mike Demarr, Nayna Gupta, Matt Strampe and juniors Ali Anwar and Adam Bolik started working

The goal of the challenge was to build a two-stage rocket that would hold two raw eggs intact, and fly up to 1500 feet. The score each group received depended on how far above or below 1500 feet their rocket reached. They also got points if their eggs were broken. The ideal score was zero.

"I learned a lot about rockets and air pressure," said senior Matt Strampe. Sophomores Carl Dyzak, Chris Gaudino, Omar James and Nick Jarosz made up the sophomore team. The group came together after Gaudino found a website about the competition, and they also needed to fill a requirement for their chemistry class.

"It was a lot of fun," said Gaudino. "It was a

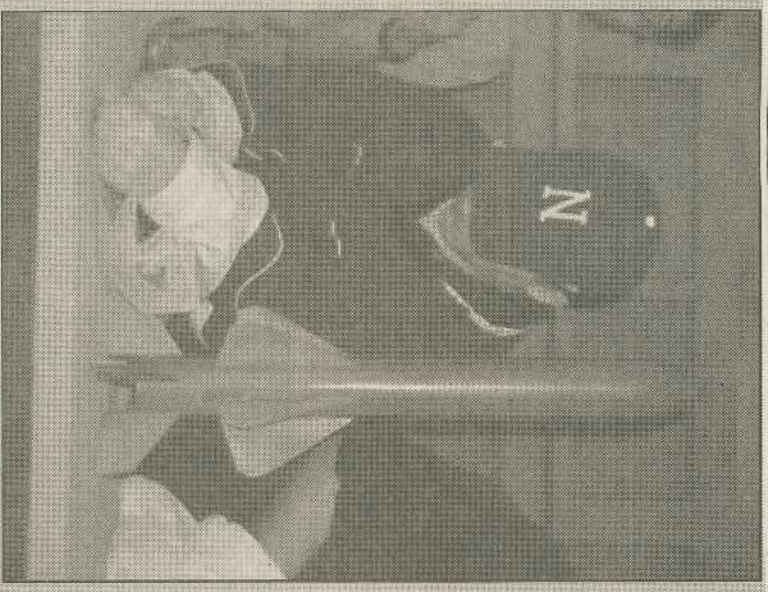
on the rockets in November. "Doc [Debroh Roudeshul] told us about it," said Brannigan, "and we jumped on the opportunity."

The groups received a computer program in the mail, which helped them design and test rocket simulations. After repeated modifications, they decided on two models to enter into the contest. The software also provided a list of required parts to build the rockets.

"I did the dirty work like getting supplies," said Brannigan. "The real genius part of it was Adam, Mike, Evan, and Matt."

The sophomore team had some problems while building their rocket because the engines they needed were discontinued. "The Homeland Security Act made it hard for us to get our engines because the kind we needed are considered explosives and it [the act] forbids mailing of explosives," said Gaudino. The groups tested their rockets for qualifying height. At the first launch Bolik's rocket crashed, but the group tried again and was unsuccessful. On the

See ROCKETS, page 7



Nayna Gupta

Senior Mike DeMar measures a part for the rocket during the competition. Although the senior group did not win, they learned a lot by making their rocket.

Increasing gas prices empty pockets

By JD Kaleem
Features Editor

Gas prices have increased drastically in the past year, making their biggest dollar jump in 30 years, according to the American Automobile Association.

Nationally, self-serve regular, unleaded gasoline averages \$1.75 per gallon, as printed in the *Washington Post*. With the arrival of Spring, student car-use is expected to increase with more outings and spring sports. But soaring gas prices may be a barrier to driving and conducting everyday activities for some students. Regular gas costs about \$1.72 at the local Cardinal Plaza Shell.

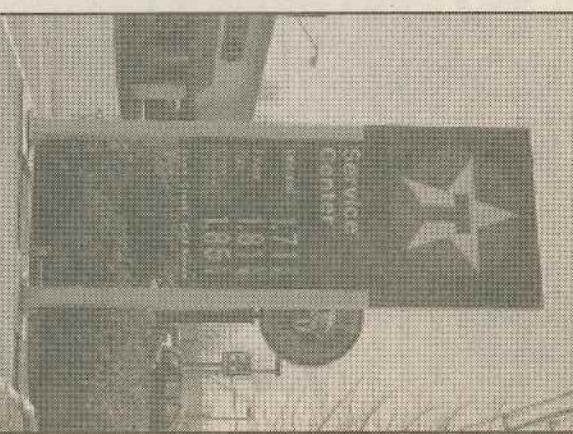
"[Gas prices are] ridiculous. I have to go to my parents for the bill because it's so expensive," said senior Nicole LaFuent.

In addition to the ongoing loss of petroleum shipments from Venezuela due to strikes, Roy Shifflett, a supervisor at Cardinal Plaza Shell, points to a low economy for soaring prices.

"Every station buys gas at a certain price and marks the gas up to what the current local area price is to make a profit," said Shifflett. "Shops are paying more for gas, and the economy is not in tip-top shape, too. It's not just gas prices; prices everywhere are going up."

Prices fluctuate in different areas due to cost-of-living and oil transportation costs, leading some students to travel far for cheaper gas. According to www.washingtonDCgasprices.com, the lowest rates of around \$1.50 to \$1.60 per gallon are found just south of the area.

See GAS, page 7



Jon Simacco

Many students get gas from the Texaco, Shell or Exxon station on Rolling Road.

9 Added...to AIMF



10 Find out who has the most exotic pets.



17 A Feast of Mexican



9 Added...to AIMF

Freedom of speech clashes with respect

Dishonoring flag ignores years of history behind it

By Jenn Powers
Special to The Oracle

Sporting events across America begin with the singing of our National Anthem. Players are lined up on the court, and the people in the stands rise and face the flag. This is a common scene during the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner"; hundreds of people standing as they praise and honor the American flag. That is until one person took it upon herself to protest and not face the flag.

Toni Smith, a senior basketball player at Mahanville College, stood at a 90 degree angle to the United States flag during the anthem as an act of protest. Smith claims to be protesting "the inequalities that are embedded into the American system" and "the war America will soon be entering." According to the United States Constitution, American citizens have been given the right to protest. I am a strong believer that every American is entitled to their rights as a citizen and that every human can express his or her own opinions. However, when that act of protest ignorantly disgraces a symbol of American freedom and perseverance, it crosses the line.

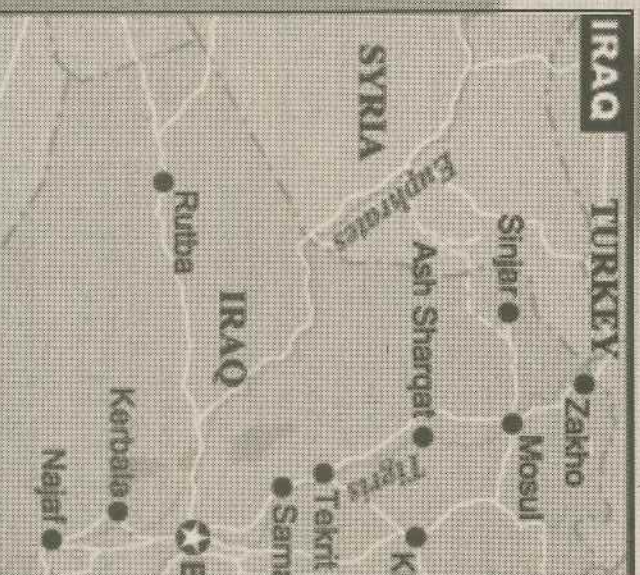
The American flag stands for the freedom in America, the millions of men and women who have gone to war in the name of this country, and those who have either risked or lost their lives for the United States. The Pledge of Allegiance reminds me of how grateful I am to be an American and be able to express my opinions in constructive ways. Smith is ignorant of the many meanings of the flag; all of her reasons for protest against the flag have nothing to do with the true meaning of the flag. The flag does not stand for George W. Bush's politics, politics in general, or the situation concerning Iraq. It has hundreds of years of history behind it.

If she wants to express her opinions regarding the current situation, she can take it away from the playing field and away from the college. She has stated that she never meant for this to be a public statement. Did she really think her disrespect for a symbol of American freedom would go unnoticed?

If she is really upset with the inequality of the American system she should move to a Middle Eastern country where women are unable to play sports, are forced to hide their faces, be subservient to males, and are unable to speak their minds. Maybe then she would honor our flag.



Many have protested going to war with Iraq through many methods such as demonstrations in cities.



As the United States goes to war with Iraq, many have mixed feelings on it if it is the right thing to do.

Replacement of 'French' items serves only to entertain public

Everyone loves a little patriotism. Some show it with American flags on their windows, others sport a "God Bless America" bumper sticker.

With so many easy, conventional ways of displaying one's pride, it is unclear why changing the names of classic favorites is necessary.

Freedom fries, freedom braids, freedom toast, even freedom kissing. These changes are pointless and have no genuine impact of the American public,

with the exception of the occasional laugh. The intention is clear: promote America in every possible aspect of life. But what sort of effect is expected by changing the names of anything with a name associated with another country? Even the most American of all Americans are amused with this purposeless change in vernacular.

Promoting liberty and justice for all in the multi-billion dollar fast food industry won't spark

some unit candle of passion in the millions of "freedom fry" consumers and encouraging independence and democracy in a favored make-out method will accomplish nothing.

Editorial

No one is going to feel inspired. No one is going to go join the military. No one is even going to praise the brains behind this revolution. There's just no point. Now that the ball is rolling

with the word "French," anything is up for a change. At this point, nothing is stopping Chinese food from becoming Freedom food. These name changes have no significant impact on anything. America should just stick with what everyone knows is good: french fries, french toast, and of course, french kissing.



Controversy exists over the changing of the word "French" in certain items to "Freedom" because of differing views on Iraq.

The Oracle

West Springfield High School
6100 Rolling Road
Springfield, VA 22152
(703) 913-3953

A student-run publication to inform and orientate the students and staff of West Springfield High School and the surrounding community. We publish articles written with us, for us, and by us, as possible. Opinion is expressed in Viewpoint and in Views and columns. Editorial represents the opinion of at least two members of the Editorial Board and do not reflect the views of the school administration, or the Fairfax County Public School System. We do not reserve the right to accept advertising deemed inappropriate. Special letters to the editor and editorial comments will be considered for publication, but could be edited for grammar, spelling, and style.

Nayana Gupta	Emily Morris	Camilla Casillas
Priyanka Tandon	Jenn Siomacco	Entertainment Editor
Russ Waddell	Photo Editors	Emily Miller
Jenn Carlson	Erika Kim	Weekend Editor
Ruchika Malhotra	News Section Editor	Evan Anderson
Marianne Shadrux	Mike Araj	Nikolai Wajda
Managing Editors	Viewpoint Editor	Sports Editors
Jason Gillis	J.D. Kaleem	Denis Ing
Business/Systems Editor	Hendi Stihgoj	Etc. Editor
Leigh Johnson	Features Editors	Brooke Nelson
Eugenie Ko	Emily Sommerfeldt	Advisor
Emily Ryan	Rachel Wolters	
Senior Staff Writers	Inside Editors	

Freedom food shows new American way

By Marianne Shaddrix
Managing Editor

Most students at WIS can identify what took place on June 6, 1944 on some French beaches.

But oh, how quickly the French have forgotten.

The vehement opposition from one of our closest allies has caused Anti-French sentiment to run high all across the US lately. The most obvious manifestation of this has been the denouncement of all things French by many American citizens. On March 12, Bob Ney (R-Ohio) and Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) announced the deletion of the word "French" and the substitution of the word "Freedom" alongside fries and toast on the menus of House restaurants. Some Americans have even gone so far as to boycott the purchase of any French food.

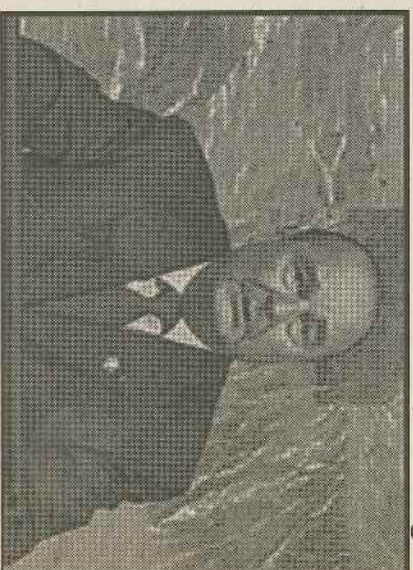
Some may perceive the House of Representatives' plan to be frivolous compared to the problems facing our country today. I mean, the economy isn't doing all that well, and we are at war.

But for those Americans who are sick and tired of

France's shenanigans and attempts to appease Saddam, the removal of the word "French" from menus is a quick way to spite a country that needs to be put in its place—a proverbial slap in French faces.

However, it is true that France is not the only country who denounces America's actions in Iraq. Some of the world's largest nations—including China and Russia—are also opposed. But what great food has come out of Russia? (Oh, remind me never to buy from Borscht-World again.) And to rename Chinese food "Freedom Food" is pointless. China has never been a US ally, so boycotting Chinese food wouldn't say that much to (leader of China). Besides, it would be a shame to put a restaurant as good as Tau-Tau out of business.

Remaining items during times of war is nothing new in America. In World War Two, women all across the country were encouraged to plant Victory Gardens to support the war effort. Well, I see the renaming of French food items as supportive of our military and the hundreds of thousands of men and women fighting for freedom in Iraq right now.



The French Ambassador and President have not helped the USA in the matter of war.

As President Bush explained last year, "You're either with us, or you're against us." France's actions have clearly shown that they are against us, and I'm glad something is finally being done to show them their dissidence will not be looked upon favorably.

Let's use homeland oil

By Jason Gillis
Business/Systems Editor

I filled up my car with the premium gas it requires, it was just under \$30 to fill up the tank. These prices are outrageous and they can be brought down. OPEC and a war on Iraq are not reasons to raise gas prices.

More demand for gasoline is a good excuse for OPEC, the world's oil monopoly, to hinder oil production so it will raise prices and create profit for the foreign nations allied in this monopoly. But before anyone goes complaining about gas prices, people need to find out where this oil comes from. Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producer, is currently manufacturing nine million barrels of crude oil a day.

That oil can be converted through processes into many different things including gasoline. Saudi Arabia is producing 1.5 million barrels of oil more a day than OPEC requires them to. They

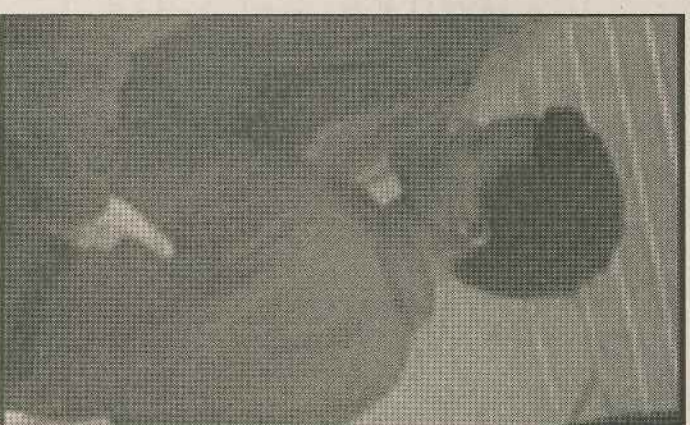
have been withholding this extra oil and holding it in tanks because OPEC does not want them to put more supply in the market, causing oil prices to drop.

Demand is high. Oil and natural gas supplies are low because the supplies have been used to heat American homes through the cold winter months.

SUV's and other gas guzzlers that Americans choose to have increase the demand. I, myself, have a car that requires the premium gasoline, so I'm spending close to two dollars a gallon for gasoline.

With the war looming we face another challenge. With the UN's oil for food program, the US buys up and uses about 1 million barrels of Iraqi oil a day. Most likely Saddam will blow up his oil wells to hurt his people even more than he has. Oil prices will go up unless the world finds another source of oil.

There is one simple plan to lowering gas prices. People always complain about how high the prices are, and OPEC will not release its dominance over the world



The Malvo case should be on TV so viewers can watch his future unfold.

people would tune in.

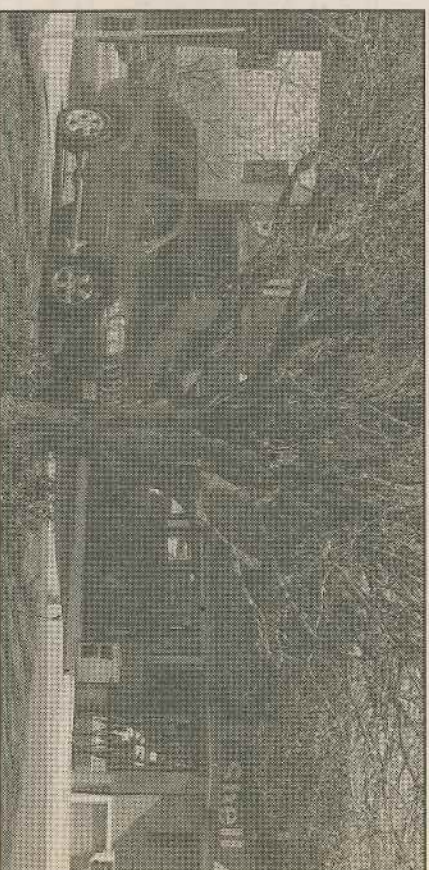
Of course, there are parts I am more interested in seeing than others. First of all, I want to see if there is any remorse on Malvo's face. If he was responsible for pulling the trigger and ending lives prematurely, I want to know if he realizes what he did was wrong.

This may sound odd, but I also want to see him squirm when the jury reads the sentence if he is found guilty. If guilty, Malvo is an evil man, who did evil acts and should be put to death. I want to see his face when he realizes that he was caught and now he will suffer the consequences.

The three million people living in the DC Metro area have a right to see exactly what happens to the man who may have controlled their lives for three weeks.

Frozen moss is the only thing there,

There is a high demand for oil so gas prices are now more expensive than ever.



Adam Buckley

where the refinery will be and actually the warmth from the refinery will foster more wildlife through the minor warming of the surrounding area.

Its America's choice. Gas prices are too high because of a monopoly and the monopoly cannot be changed. The public needs to support refining our own oil fields lying and waiting for mining. Then oil and gas prices will tumble.

Hall sweeps are ineffective

By Evan Anderson
Sports Editor

Hall sweeps. The great equalizer. Friends trying to get in that last word and overachievers trying to integrate that last equation are all caught up in the indiscriminate maelstrom of the great sweep. I should know. I was there.

The circumstances under which I was caught were not entirely my fault.

I was on the other side of the school from my English room, near the cafeteria, trying to land an interview for this very newspaper when the warning bell rang.

I foolishly took the long way around, up senior hall and not through the sports lobby, and was stuck behind numerous groups of people shuffling along whilst tittering about their silly social lives.

I increased my pace, but it was too late. I reached the locked English door no more than three seconds after the ominous message of "teachers, please lock your classroom doors" sounded out from the PA.

I, Evan Anderson, was trapped, along with what must have been a hundred other students from around the school.

We were promptly herded to where I had been only five minutes earlier: the cafeteria.

Fortunately, the punishment turned out to be rather mild. A two and a half hour administrative detention after school.

An annoyance, to be certain, but at least I could take the opportunity to go ahead and do some homework.

I skulked back to the classroom, furious that I had been gathered and herded like livestock into the cafeteria, all to make a point.

I wondered how much I had missed. Actually, getting caught up in the sweep

became more of a joke. As of yet, I have not received my detention.

I had a History Honor Society mural painting that day, and even though it explicitly stated on the administrative detention slip that a school activity could replace the detention, I was told I would be contacted as to when to make up the detention anyway.

(I suppose I am going to have to make that up now).

I can attest that, other than inconveniencing me, the hall sweep had

I must admit, I was fearful at first. Would my parking privileges be revoked? Would I receive an "F" for the quarter?

virtually no lasting effect on me. True, I shuffled along to class a little more quickly for a few days, though I doubt most students even did that much to improve upon their punctuality.

As they stand, the hall sweeps are ineffective.

Either harsher punishments for being late or more frequent enforcement are required to make the idea of the hall sweep work.

The former would be a little harsh. An "F" for a class for being a little late seems hardly justified.

As for the latter, after seeing the large number of staff and administrators required for the hall sweep,

I quickly realized this is not only an inconvenience for the students, but an inconvenience for the staff as well.

case on TV

By Emily Morris
Photography Editor

The crimes John Lee Malvo may have committed were heinous. If he is guilty, not only did he take lives from innocent people, he paralyzed a whole region for weeks.

People were afraid to leave their homes, to stop at a gas station and pump gas, and afraid to run errands like they always do. But after John Lee Malvo and his alleged accomplice were taken into custody, life returned to normal. Except for those families who lost a loved one, their lives will never again be normal.

But now Malvo is standing trial and it's time for people to control Malvo's life. A jury of his peers will hear evidence from both the prosecutor and the defense before deciding Malvo's fate.

For weeks Malvo may have controlled the whole DC Metro area.

Now that Malvo is on trial, I think it's only fair that there be cameras in the courtroom as well.

The people have the right to see the lengths the prosecution is going to ensure that Malvo will get the appropriate sentence.

Being able to air the trial would also bring many stations good ratings. When the sniper attacks happened, they made national news.

I had relatives from Florida and Wisconsin calling my house to ask if everyone was alright.

Many people across the nation are interested in the Malvo trial, and many

AP class responds to world changes

By Kathleen Prevost
Oracle Photographer



Faith Russell

"The World Has Changed Since 9/11, So Should You!" declares the informative pamphlet to the newest addition to the curriculum. Indeed, the world has changed, and it is time to start learning about life outside America.

Next year a new course will be offered in the AP social studies department. US and Comparative Government will be two AP courses combined into one. While seniors would still learn all the aspects of the US government, what they learn about America will be paralleled with the governments of China, England, France, and Russia, as well as a fifth country of the school's choice.

While this course will obviously require more work and time than just AP US

Government, I would have loved to have the opportunity to take this class.

After 12 years in an American school system, I will graduate having never once been tested on foreign politics.

I know plenty about Virginia's history, United States history, and Ancient World history and but I have been taught practically nothing about the current situation of any other country.

People should want to be aware of what is going on with the rest of the world. The Comparative Government and Politics course will give students the chance to learn about more

than just America.

People should definitely know how their own country works, but a curriculum that only makes students aware of themselves is by no means ideal.

Given the opportunity to learn about foreign governments, I hope students will not be intimidated by the extra work load, and understand that the benefits of the combined course will be well worth it: graduating from here with an increased awareness of what is going on with the rest of the world.

Plus, if you're bright, you could get two college credits instead of just one.

Censors overlook books

By Russ Waddell
Oracle Editor

I'm against censorship, but I do believe that some of the things in the books I've read for school are pretty nasty.

Maybe I'm young and naive, or maybe I've been sheltered from reality my whole life. Either way, some things I've read in my classes make me a little uncomfortable. *The Collector*, by

John Fowles, features the kidnapping of a college art student. Her captor doesn't want to do "anything nasty." Of course, knocking her out and stripping her to her skivvies to take some snapshots isn't considered nasty.

This kind of literature does have value. It raises all kinds of questions about society and its values and mores. The book explores loneliness, egotism, and friendship, and uses some pretty vivid scenes to do so.

Of course, nastiness is perfectly okay with me. As a matter of fact, I'm all for sex, murder, and mayhem in TV, video games, and books, as well



The Collector deals with the pornographic pictures.

as any other medium. I just think nastiness might be better reserved for my own time.

In the same school that won't allow hats, bare bellies, or Swiss army knife key chains, I've read about Maya Angelou getting raped and the Clutters getting their brains splattered on the wall. And unlike *The Collector*, I know *Why the Caged Bird Sings* and *In Cold Blood* are nonfiction. I'm glad I'm not sheltered from reality anymore.

Free speech is one of the basic freedoms all Americans should have. That said, I don't understand why we can't read some books without anything shocking. Maybe all quality literature must include sex or violence. Shakespeare, after all, was pretty gruesome.

SOLs hardly test students' abilities; graduation requirement is unfair

By Emily Sommerfeldt
Inside Story Editor

I have a hard time understanding why the deciding factor of whether or not I graduate from high school is based upon the result of bubbling in the correct answers. Not just bubbling, but filling in the circle completely with a #2 pencil.

With a pencil in hand and a spare on the side, I prepare myself at the end of every school year to take my Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. The next 50 or so questions I am required to answer will determine how many years I will remain in high school.

The SOLs are a test of the minimum amount of information a student is required to know before going on to college. But actually, they are only proof of whether or not I am a good test taker.

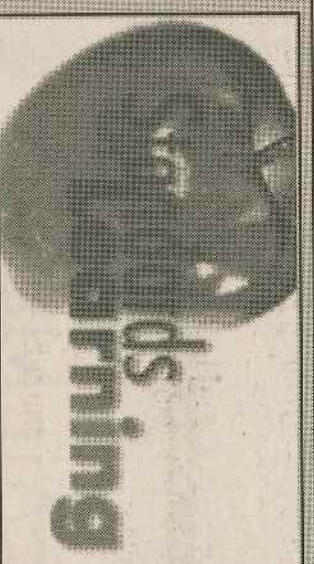
Throughout my high school years, I have discovered that I often do better on quizzes and tests that are not multiple choice questions. I often make dumb mistakes as a result of matching up the correct answer with the wrong bubble on the answer key or skipping a question.

The SOLs are a test of the minimum amount of information a student is required to know before going on to college. But actually, they are only proof of whether or not I am a good test taker.

but not a line for the answer and messing up my entire test. Simple mistakes such as this could require me to not pass the SOL, by a few points and then I would have to suffer the torture of retaking it.

I don't think that I should graduate based on the fact that I am a good test taker. I should graduate based on my achievements in various areas such as writing, or even people skills.

After all, many teachers assign projects and other assignments to balance out the grades for bad test takers like me. Maybe the SOL writers should keep this in mind. Students like me aren't the only ones affected by



Students in the class of 2004 and below are now required to pass the English, science and history Standards of Learning tests in order to graduate.

requiring students to pass a certain number of SOLs. Throughout the school year, my English, history, and science teachers have certain topics that they must teach because students are tested on these topics for the SOL. Little flexibility is allowed in the classroom because the teachers are pressured to provide their students with enough knowledge to pass the tests.

Basically, the Standards of Learning tests show one of two things: whether or not I'm a good test taker or whether or not my teacher taught me all the information I needed to know. They do not necessarily show how smart I am.

My plan to graduate through passing the SOLs is this: to become a good guesser.

Annual DC tradition must still continue

By Lauren Kondo
News Section Assistant

This year there will be dancing and festivals. There will be tea ceremonies and parades. There will not, however, be the pink and white flowers.

The 91st annual Cherry Blossom Festival will take place March 22 through April 7. Because of the cold winter, however, the blossoms will not yet be in bloom. Rather, the expected peak is right after the festival will end, April 8 through 14. They will only last for enjoyment for four to ten days.

Because the blossoms depend heavily on weather conditions, it is hard to predict the bloom time. Nobody can blame those that made the predictions that the festival

is planned around. The process of predicting is complex.

The people that predict bloom time have to take into account the five stages of the bud to make the most educated guess.

This year Mother Nature just had other ideas as to the bloom time. While it would be desirable to have the pink and white flowers to decorate the scenery during this time, it is hard to make predictions until ten days in advance.

Even though the flowers will not be in bloom, it will not detract from the spirit of the festival. Among other celebrations, the festival will feature cultural performances, a kite festival, dancing, sushi tasting and a parade.

Regardless of the lack of blossoming, the important part of the celebration is to

Even though the flowers will not be in bloom, it will not detract from the spirit of the festival. The important part of the celebration is to remember what the trees represent.

remember what they represent. In 1912, the blossoms were given to the US by the Japanese government as a gift of friendship. The first festival took part in 1935 and now there are 3700 blossoms of 12 different species. Of these, 125 are from 1912.

When the blossoms finally bloom, they can be found at the Tidal Basin and the Washington Monument grounds.

Unfortunately the festival won't be marked by its usual picturesque background, but the spirit of the festival will still go on.



Because of Mother Nature's harsh winter, the Cherry Blossom trees in DC bloomed late, and not in time for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival.

A dankly schwag vocab lurks in the halls

By Phillip Ferraiuolo
Special to *The Oracle*

Walking down the halls of WS, you cannot help but hear an unusual *lingua franca* spoken by a wide range of teenage students.

Most of the users of this dialect are male. The lingo consists of several crucial vocabulary words, such as "tight," "straight," "based," and "chill." In this vernacular, "dank" and "schwag" are two of the most familiar words, and it is essential to use them several times a day.

Since many high school students believe that categorizing and classifying items is a significant part of their high school experience, everyone and everything is categorized as either "dank" or "schwag." For example, if someone goes to the cafeteria during break and purchases a deli-



Tight!

Chill

That's sooooo, like, dank!

Dude! It's definitely schwag!

Slang 101

24/7—around the clock	schwag—bad
chill—good or let's hang out.	epic—awesome, or tight, or cool
tight—cool	donkey—a young lady's derriere
cool—tight	hot—good looking
bling-bling—as in J-Lo's rocks	sygal—as in, "I sygal him."
dank—good	

Once upon a time ... The story of the self-styled ladies' man, the six-pack of Orange Crush, and the ones who got away

By Justin Leddon
Special to *The Oracle*

This essay is about a guy who thinks he's a pure ladies' man. However, there are some things about this guy that keep him from actually being a "ladies' man."

The first is he doesn't have the looks. Although he won the "Best Looking in a Speedo" award this year, he only got three votes. One guy got at least a dozen because he's the only ripped one on the team, but he won another award, and then another guy got four votes, but won a different award, and there is the winner, who tied with a gangly skinny kid who could pass for his twin brother. But the gangly skinny kid won the "Best Legs" award.

The other thing is that his ladies' man definitely does not have the stuff to be slick. He would go and try to be slick, by casually walking up to girls and putting his arm around their shoulders, but they would just laugh and take his arm off. Others would try and spin out as fast as they could or slap his hand. He keeps on trying, but his attempts, time after time, almost always end in complete failure. Last

year, however, he did have some accomplishments.

At a McDonald's after a swim meet one night, he took a fake flower from one of the vases, went up to a girl that he liked, and did the "Top Gun" routine, where Tom Cruise sings "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling." She began to cry, possibly from embarrassment, but she took the flower, and apparently still has it.

On the Friday when school let out for winter vacation, he got at least 13 kisses on the cheek from the girls on the swim team, and was able to get a good kiss after going bowling one night. That one was supposed to be secret, but the girl told some people, and by Monday, everybody on the swim team knew, including the coaches. All the guys in the locker room were saying, "Justin, you're the man!" I forgot to mention that this is about me, although some might be able to infer this.

At the end of the season, when we had the Winter Sports Banquet, the captains began handing out the superlatives. One of the captains had a six-pack of Orange Crush soda. She said something like, "We knew who the guy should be, but we

have a difficult task distinguishing the true meaning of this sentence. In the English language, Webster defines the word *dank* as unpleasantly moist or wet.

I am positive the blueberry muffin purchaser did not intend to say, "Friends, this muffin is unpleasantly moist!" As a matter of fact, being an occasional user of the lan-

guage myself, I know the young man is attempting to communicate that the muffin he just purchased is very appetizing.

The word "schwag" has the exact opposite meaning of the word "dank."

So, to use it in reference one could say, "Hey, bro, that DVD player you just bought is *schwaged* out, man." In this instance, the user means to say, "Your new DVD player is not exactly top of the line. In fact, to be honest, it is really mediocre."

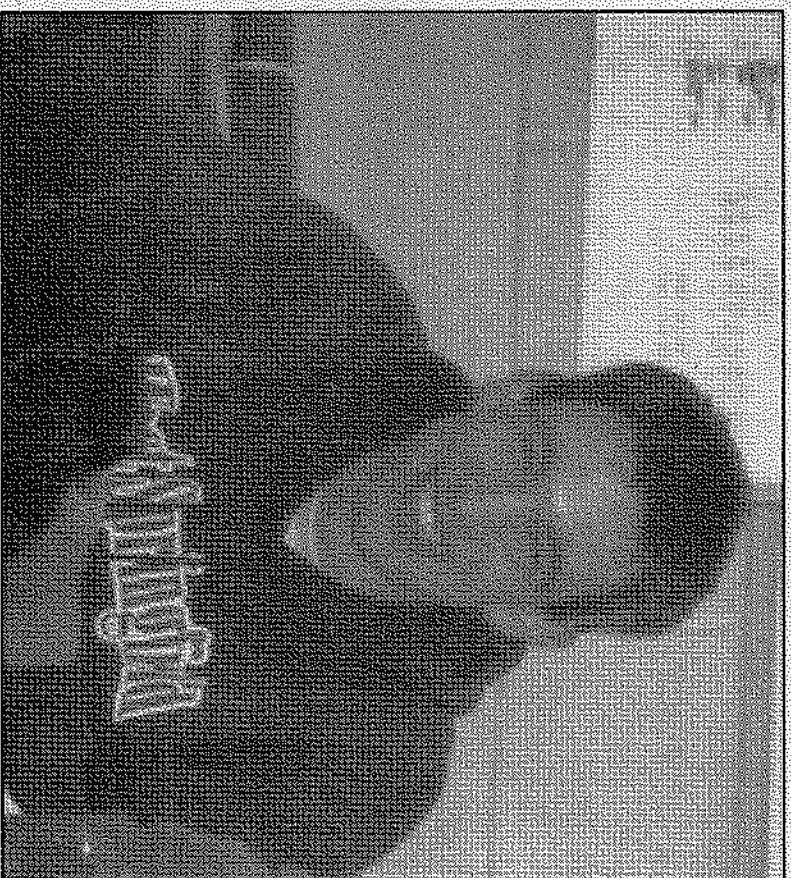
The dialect is quite simple and straightforward. Complex word usage is unnecessary and nearly nonexistent, which makes the dialect

less demanding.

Things in the minds of adolescents are good or bad, acceptable or not acceptable, "in" or "out." There is little need to provide specifics. To try to do so would be "schwag."

Social acceptance is a major influence that motivates people, and few teenagers are strong enough to go it alone. Still, I try to stray from the crowd and minimize the constant use of this language. In part, this is because it sounds unintelligent and brainless. However, spending most of my leisure time with my friends, I do give in to the cultural pressure from my peers.

Social pressures to conform come from many directions. So, it is probably in my interest to look beyond my social group for guidance on this issue. The verbal section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test places a lot of importance on comprehensive vocabulary. Furthermore, I do not think the words "dank" or "schwag" will show up on the analogy section.



couldn't decide on the girl because the guy is such a ladies' man, so we give this to Justin and the whole girls swim team." Now, I didn't hit on the *entire* girls swim team, but it's definitely more than I can count on my fingers.

It was all fun, but I realized that what I did wasn't so good. It got me in some trouble because now, I definitely won't have a chance of dating any of the ladies on the swim team. But it's not like I had much of a chance, anyway.

At a McDonald's after a swim meet one night, he took a fake flower, went up to a girl that he liked, and did the "Top Gun" routine, where Tom Cruise sings "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling."

**THINGS TO
DO BEFORE
SCHOOL'S
OUT:**

**✓CLEAN OUT YOUR
LOCKER.**

**✓TURN IN THAT LIT
BOOK FROM**

FRESHMAN YEAR.

✓KISS MRS.

CHANDLER

GOODBYE ...

FOR MORE IDEAS, PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 14.

New Hooters in town gives area more variety of foods

By JD Kaleem

Features Editor

Steak, cheese, thighs and an order of breasts—to go!

First Dauphine Steak House, then MVC, and now Hooters.

Adult-themed and targeted businesses have crept upon the area in the past few years, and the trend will continue with a new Hooters restaurant opening in July in the Potomac Mills area.

The restaurant offers meals such as chicken wings, fries, and sandwiches, and scantily-clad women make up the majority of the servers.

The restaurant is targeted towards males, although both women and men are known to attend, and there are no age restrictions in place because of the hostesses. Seventy-percent of attendees are males ages 25 to 54. "I love their hot wings, not

that I don't love their waitresses, either," said senior Jesse Storm. "We have an MVC here, so you can't make it much worse than that."

Hooters, with a 20th anniversary slogan of "delightfully tacky, yet unrefined," already has locations in Fairfax, Manassas, Fredericksburg, and Washington, DC. The corporation doesn't hide its sexually-oriented theme, but instead plaster its website and restaurant with references to it.

Students such as senior Anna Kapuscinski stand in disgust. "It's just a bunch of big-breasted bimboes who walk around serving googly-eyed men who don't know what true beauty is," said Kapuscinski. "It's just wrong to use [women] to sell food like that."

Others cite the restaurant's

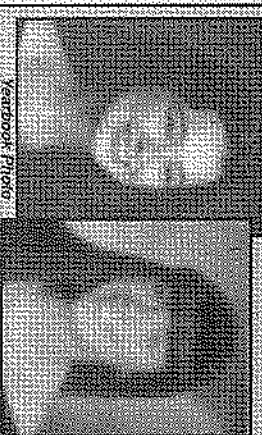
quality food for their support.

"It's a fun place to go to," said junior Jenn Hunt. "It's definitely not degrading to women. If people think it's a problem, they don't have to go. I would go to the new Hooters when it opens."

Not only does Hooters offer food, but the corporation also raises funds for cancer research, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

But the source of this money, the restaurant and its atmosphere, still irk some who would not like to see its expansion into areas closer to home.

"I hate Hooters; it's the most disgusting thing ever," said Kapuscinski. "If there is a Hooters, there should be a 'Bananas,' an equivalent for women."



Tasha Pimm, who graduated in 1998, is stationed with the Air Force in South Carolina, standing by in case she is called to fight. Jessica Rose Johnson, a 1995 graduate, is in Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division.

W's alumni fight overseas

Yearbook Photo

MILITARY, from page 1

the change of the Taliban regime. "She serves in Civil Affairs, meaning she helps rebuild infrastructure," said senior Jason Reed, her brother. "She's not in immediate danger, but there's always concern for her nonetheless."

With great financial aid and service-training opportunity, a few seniors have decided to attend military institutions or join ROTC programs after graduation. Senior Aisley Neary will go to West Point next year in New York, but is aware she may serve in US military action in the future overseas.

"I hope this mess will be over soon, but I'm willing to fight for what I believe in and do what's right," said Neary. US officials are unsure of the time scale of the Iraqi invasion and military occupation, but rumors put local servicemen and women back home soon.

"We've heard that [Johnson] might be in Iraq for a year to a year-and-a-half," said Evey. "We're praying for her, and we're very proud of her."

Snow adds 30 minutes to school day

By Heidi Stilleol

Features Editor

Students all over Fairfax County will be starting at the clock for an extra 30 minutes.

On March 13, the Fairfax County School Board voted to make up two of the ten days of school missed due to snow by extending the school day by 30 minutes for a four-week period, starting April 21 through May 16. April 7, which was originally scheduled as a teacher workday, will also be used as a make up day. The last day of school will be Friday, June 20.

"I don't think the extra 30 minutes makes a difference," said sophomore Elizabeth Bush. "Teachers will just extend the work period and just have more work time for what they have been teaching that period."

Fairfax County Public Schools did apply to the Virginia Department of Education for a waiver that all counties are eligible for if they have missed at least 10 days of school. The waiver was granted, meaning that the county only has to make up five of the ten days that were missed. It remains up to each individual school in the county to decide how they want to apply the extra time to their schedule. Principal David Smith met with Department Chairs on March 21 to discuss the different possible ways

to modify the schedule. "We aren't sure yet how exactly the schedule will be modified," said Smith. "I expect 10 minutes will be added to the three of the longer blocks, not fifth period because fifth is already automatically longer."

Current school start times will remain the same. The 30 minutes will be applied to the end of the school day to minimize disruption to existing bus schedules.

The main goal of the extension is to divide the added time as equally as possible across all class periods to meet state standards regarding instructional time.

"I think the 30 minutes is a pain in the neck, especially for people who do sports and things after school," said junior Brittany Marchant. "Instead of getting home two or three hours after the original closing time, it will be more like four."

FCPS made the decision with the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in mind. They believe the extra time will enable teachers to extend instruction, reinforce concepts and hold test preparation and review sessions prior to spring SOL tests, which begin May 19.

"SOL's are a joke, we can get the same content from the current schedule," said junior Dan Phan. "We sleep through the winter and now they give us more time to sleep through the spring, how nice."

Searching for NOVA's cheapest gas

Gas, from page 1

"Woodbridge is the best place to get gas, since it's cheaper," said LaFuerite. "If I'm by-chance driving around and see cheap gas, I'll stop to fill up."

Senior Sahar Aziz also searches-out for cheap gas, going to Amerigo off of Franconia Road.

"It's really cheap [at Amerigo]," said Aziz. "I don't drive any less, but I am trying to save money on gas."

Even with rising prices, some students are not affected or choose not to take any extra action.

"It's definitely blowing a hole in my wallet, but I'm not really carpooling much or doing anything very differently," said junior Jenn Hunt.

While it may be popular to drive far and check gas fare websites for the lowest



Jen Stomaccio

prices, Shiftlett suggests the best thing to do is go to the local gas station.

"I wouldn't recommend driving to Woodbridge or any other non-local area because the little money you do save is spent driving to and from the cheaper gas station," he said. "You should carpool and just avoid driving when possible," said Shiftlett.

"Also, some stations offer markdown days; usually being Tuesdays at Shell and Thursdays at Texaco."



Senior Sean Branigan makes last minute adjustments before launching time.

Rocket team qualifies for finals

ROCKETS, from page 1

Final weekend March 8 and 9, Stampé's and Boltik's rockets were both launched. On March 8 both rockets crashed. Boltik, however, rebuilt his rocket to launch again on Sunday.

The problems didn't stop there, Boltik had forgotten some parts of the rocket. Gupta, Brannigan and Anderson had to add to the rocket last minute out on route 66 in Great Meadows. The big surprise came when the rocket was successfully launched.

The sophomore team's rocket was successful on its second launch on March

9. Both of their eggs were intact and they reached a height of 1335 feet.

The senior science class hopes that the next year's students will continue and enter the competition.

"I hope they do it again next year," said DeMart. "We plan to write down all the things we did wrong, and the things we did right."

As for the sophomore team, they plan to get ready for the finals in mid-May.

"We're going to refine and test the rocket under different wind conditions," said Gaudino. "I think we have a pretty good chance at winning."

CU @ CUA THIS SUMMER!

The sun may be blazing but the opportunity to expand your academic horizons is even brighter this summer at The Catholic University of America.

- College classes alongside college students
- Hands-on courses in architecture and engineering
- Debating classes with coach of #1 U.S. debating team
- Media and video production with CUA's state-of-the-art equipment
- Professional musician mentors in world percussion and opera programs

Check out all the programs and courses we offer high school students at <http://summer.cua.edu>. Call 202.235.5257 or e-mail cu@summer.cua.edu.

The Catholic University of America

AP Comparative offers juniors a new choice

By Leigh Johnson
Senior Staff Writer

Juniors registering for their senior year courses were given a new option. Another government class has been added to the coursebook.

Students may now opt to enroll in AP Comparative Government, which will be taught by Jamie Morris, who teaches US and VA government, and AP Government.

The coursework will focus not only on the workings of the US government, but will compare our country's government to those of France, England, Russia, China, and another choice country. This means that students will be studying from two textbooks, and in May they will take two Advanced Placement exams. The class will be equivalent to taking two semester courses at the college level.

Although the class will carry a heavier load than the other AP Government course,

Morris hopes that students will be compelled to succeed by the information.

"I'm going to run [the course] like a college class. I will trust that the students do the reading because they want to, for the extrinsic value, not [just for the grade]," said Morris.

Juniors who signed up for the class are more excited about the nature of the material than they are about the workload.

"I think it will be a lot of work, but it will be interesting," said junior Amy Highfill.

One goal of introducing the course is to broaden public awareness about other nations. Morris hopes the class will ignite an interest in world affairs and politics among his students.

"We're raised in a way that we tend to look at ourselves; we're a myopic culture," said Morris.

Many students who enrolled in the class desire to increase their own awareness and



Government teacher Jamie Morris will head the new AP Comparative class next year. The course will compare the US government to those of other countries.

Jan Stomacco

battle the stigma that the younger generations are ignorant.

"It's interesting to know about other countries' governments as well as our own. It broadens your knowledge about the world," said junior Christie Kim.

Some support for the class is drawn

from the nature of the times and increasing international conflicts.

"No one knows anything about the other governments," said junior Meghan Kelleher. "It's [important] to be knowledgeable, especially during wartime."

Soaked fields present wet and sticky problems

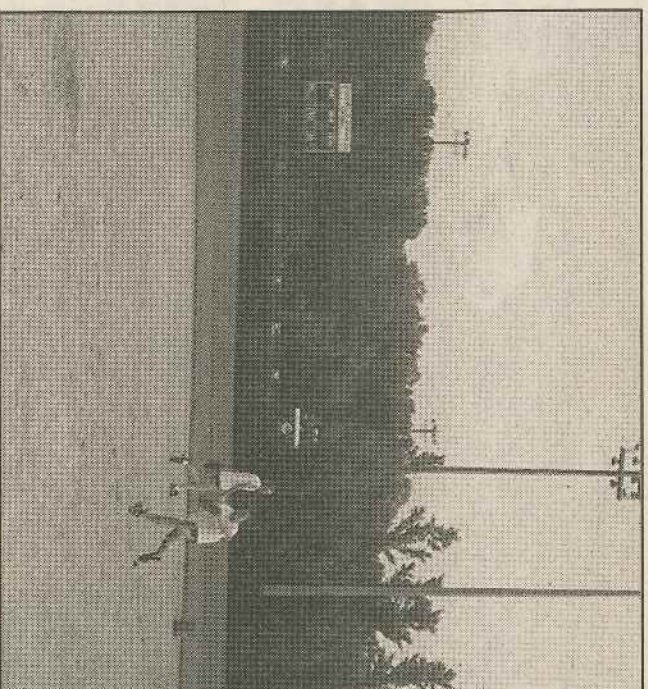
By Evan Anderson
Senior Staff Writer

After having been covered by many inches of snow for several weeks this winter, one might give the fields a little time to soak up the melted water and sprout anew.

Unfortunately, sports schedules do not follow the grass's schedule, and practicing on the fields began in earnest as soon as the snow melted.

Surprisingly, the snow did less damage than many had expected to the fields. Snow actually acts as an insulator, protecting the plant life beneath it from the chilling air above. As a result, the grass on some of the fields, such as the softball and baseball fields, were nice and green.

The bare ground between the bases, where the players actually run, was not so lucky. The snow



The wet dirt along the base line was gummy, making it hard for softball players to run and be agile.

File Photo

had compacted the dirt, making it thick and sticky.

"They were bad at first, but Coach Gibson was out there a lot over the weekends raking the fields," said junior softball player Mary Leonard. "Now they're fine."

Dry fields are essential for good performance on the softball and baseball fields.

"When it's wet, it's kind of gummy and it's hard to move around in and it makes it hard to slide," said Leonard.

The soccer fields suffered more than the baseball or softball fields. Feeble clumps of grass were all that could sprout up between muddy patches of dirt.

"You can play on them, their just not in the best conditions," said freshman soccer player Lauren Adam.

Although the fields can be

played on, players must be cautious. Players are forced to compensate some skill for safety.

"You have to place your footing carefully," said freshman soccer player Cristina Araj.

The situation can clearly be worse. Lacrosse does not do much practicing at WSJ, just the occasional face-off. The soccer team takes up the field most of the time, so they have to look elsewhere to play, usually Washington Irving Middle School.

"Here there's actually grass. There's more grass here [at WSJ] than at Irving," said senior lacrosse player Matt Lappat.

Still, for when he does play at WSJ, Lappat actually found an improvement in the fields.

Said Lappat, "It is a lot better now then it was in football season."

PROFESSIONAL IMAGE

We make your image our business

E.J. Thomas
President

Featuring:
-Embroidery
-Silk Screening
-Promotional products

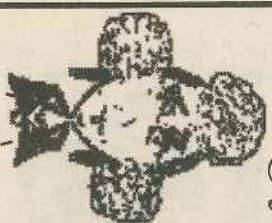
For:
Businesses
Sport teams

(703) 255-2125
(703) 255-3321 Fax

It's that season again...

TAX SEASON!!

Daly & Associates



"We do your taxes and so much more!"

Call us: (703) 893-3448

News Bites

Fairfax County Public Schools have an active Tip Line where anyone can call to ask about school safety. Callers can dial 703-658-3636 or 1-877-4-SAFE-VA.

Congratulations to Hye Young Kim for being a state-level winner in the Safe and Drug-Free Youth Bookmark Contest.

Math teacher Colleen O'Keiley wed Ben Branche on March 15. *Congratulations!*

Senior Tim Lacrosse is one of two Virginia students selected to the National High School Honors Orchestra.

Sophomores Debra Geary and Christine Hulse won first place in the NASA Design a Mission to Mars Competition. James Kaplan won second place in the "Watching Earth Category."

Thirty-eight percent of the winter student athletes maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

At the Winter Sports Awards Night on March 6th, certain special awards were handed out. Senior Julie Johnson received the Donna DeVarona Spirit in Sports Award and senior Alana Genarazio received the High School Sportswoman Award.

Seniors Sean Brannigan, Matt Lappat, and Mike Rowshandel will advance to the International DECA Competition in Orlando.

—Compiled By Ruchika Malhotra

UPP educates fifth-graders

By Heidi Stillgoj
Features Editor

Future WS students are going to be bright, well-rounded, and everything in between, thanks to the Understanding People Program (UPP).

The program, which is headed by counselors Ken Christopher and Kristen Hiemstra, works with fifth grade students at all elementary schools that feed into WS. WS students in the program pick which school they want to go to and visit that elementary school for an hour of each day of the two day program. There, they speak with each of the fifth-graders about important issues such as stereotyping, racism, discrimination and scapegoating.

The Understanding People Program started when a student at WS made a racist comment in the halls. The staff was upset and immediately wanted to do something to make things different.

"We educate the youngsters about these terms so that they can learn at an early age, so that they're not as uninformed when they come to high school," said Christopher.

The program is open to any WS students who are interested. At the beginning of each year, Christopher organizes a meeting for all students who are interested in the program. He splits the students up into teams.

Black magic casts spell over Springfield

Students predict the future and stir up magic with Ouija boards, worry dolls, and magic 8 balls

By Lauren Kondo
News Assistant

They're magical, they're mystical. They're toys like the Ouija board, worry dolls, and the Magic 8 Ball that have been providing fun and excitement for years.

One popular game is the all-knowing "Wonderful Talking Board", the Ouija board.

Proclaiming its clairvoyance, Ouija boards are used for a variety of reasons. One such use is to solve mind boggling questions. Another way the board is used is to communicate with the dead and their spirits. In this game one or more people place their hands on the board and let the spirits guide them to spell out words to answer the question.

Another commonly used magical toy is the worry doll. The legend of the worry doll comes from the Highland Indians in Guatemala. The rules are simple: place the dolls under the pillow while sleeping and they make any worry disappear.

"You put the little people under your pillow for every worry," said junior Katherine Hutton. "I'd like to think they work."

depending on which school they plan on attending, and chooses leaders for each designated team.

This year about 123 students signed up and are currently taking turns volunteering at the elementary schools.

"I hold the one meeting at the beginning of the year, but after that the kids take over," said Christopher. "The kids in this group are the best in the school."

Although the program is dedicated to helping fifth graders, the students in the program learn from it as well. "[The best thing about the program] is knowing that what you say to the kids does have an impact on them," said senior Betty Soliani. "It's great to know that you're helping to shape their view of the world."

To be in the program, students have to take time out of school when their turn comes to visit their chosen elementary school. They are required to fill out a permission slip, and it is usually the last block of the day that they miss.

Students tend to get involved in the program early on, so when it comes time for them to be seniors, they are experienced and are able to teach the underclassmen. The students that have been in the program for three to four years are usually chosen to be room leaders and help out all newcomers.

It is also Christopher's fourth year in the program. "[The Understanding People Program] is the best

At some point almost everyone has consulted a Magic 8 ball to predict the likelihood of an event. Simply ask a question, shake the ball, and turn it over to read answers like "Highly likely", "Not a chance", or "Ask again later."

Sophomore Nick Gratz never uses Magic 8 balls because he doesn't think it works. "Nope, it's all chance," said Gratz. Toys aren't the only source of magical entertainment. Certain rituals also provide supernatural excitement.

"At a cross country camp we tried to lift a normal sized person," said junior Martha Kruger. "It was really hard to try and lift them."

But when Kruger and her friends put their hands above each other and took them out in a specific order, it suddenly became easy.

Magic might not account for this occurrence.

"Maybe it's just mental, but it happens," said Kruger.

Whether these toys really are supernatural or mystical, they are undoubtedly a whole lot of fun.

Junior Kyle Rogers does not buy into any of the hype. Rogers said, "I'm not into that mumbo jumbo."



Jan Stornaccio

Senior Monique Patway, a member of the Understanding People Program, goes through some of her work. She is preparing for her next visit to an elementary school, where she will educate the students about stereotyping, racism discrimination, and scapegoating. program I do," said Christopher. "It's my favorite, and I definitely will continue doing it. I love it."



Courtesy of Jennifer Welsch

Senior Jennifer Welsch's Sun conured parrot, Maverick, is two years old. He is learning to talk and Welsch's mother hopes to teach him Korean soon. Maverick is just one example of an exotic pet owned by students.

Wild and crazy pets

By Leigh Johnson

Senior staff writer

WS is a very typical place. With typical students, and typical teachers. Some students, however, have found an escape from the normal by bringing into their homes some very strange creatures. When owning cats and dogs isn't enough, students choose to befriend more exotic animals.

For the past two years, senior Rebecca Withers has been living with Sedrick. Sedrick is her Iguana, who, measuring three feet in length, commands some attention.

Their friendship is an unlikely one. Before she met Sedrick, Withers had never taken a particular interest in reptiles.

"I'm not a big fan of reptiles, but I got one for my friend for her birthday and I really like it," said Withers.

Sedrick lives in a large wire cage that is in his own bedroom. His diet consists of lettuce, or anything leafy, and water. While Sedrick's appearance may be

intimidating, he really is quite the charmer.

"He's very friendly, if you get him angry he could hurt you, but he doesn't. He's really good," said Withers.

Senior Jennifer Welsch named her two-year-old sun conured parrot Maverick, after Tom Cruise's character in "Top Gun." Maverick's favorite dishes include rice, grapes, and mangos. He's at the age where he's learning to talk and Welsch's mother wants to teach Maverick how to speak Korean. As with any pet, though, he still requires responsibility.

"He's like a child because you always have to be with him, he wants a lot of attention," said Welsch.

Sometimes one exotic pet isn't enough. Senior Ryan Kmiecik owns three ferrets: Olley, Snickers and Rascal. Kmiecik has used the ferrets to wreak havoc during his little sister's sleepovers, but also enjoys taking them out with him.

"It's really cool to take them around," said Kmiecik. "I look them to the mall with me once and put them in my briefcase."

Quote of the Issue

"All you need is love."

—The Beatles



Ouija boards are used to predict the future and to communicate with the dead and their spirits. The player places their hand on the game piece, which then glides across the board to spell out the answer to the question asked.

Students learn from friendships

By Laurie Doton
Special to the Oracle

Most relationships in high school extend beyond the classroom. Peers meet for coffee after school, head to DC together on the weekends, catch a movie with a group of friends, or gather at a school sporting event.

These relationships outside the school walls aren't limited to peers. Some teachers and students share special relationships that go beyond the typical student-teacher bond.

"I met Ms. Kopkau while taking two of her AP classes last year, and she's the kind of person you get to know and make a connection with easily, because she really cares about you," said senior Andrew Paxton about social studies and psychology teacher Allison Kopkau. "I'm her teacher assistant this year, and we go on TA outings to play Putt-Putt or go skiing. It's nice to have a relationship with an adult, because you can trust them and they can really help out with a lot of things because they have life experience."

Students don't have to be a teacher assistant to have this kind of friendship. Sophomore Brian Thomas has a special connection with basic skills teacher Joy Brinkman. He's been her student for the past two years and feels at ease with her.

"If I had a problem, I'd feel comfortable talking to her about it. She knows me, and she helps me succeed in classroom situations, so I think she'd be able to help me with something personal. We still have very definite student-teacher roles, but she could help me," said Thomas.

The friendships can go beyond just

Is 18 old enough?

Opinions split on trying Malvo as an adult

By Sarah Drabkin
Special to the Oracle

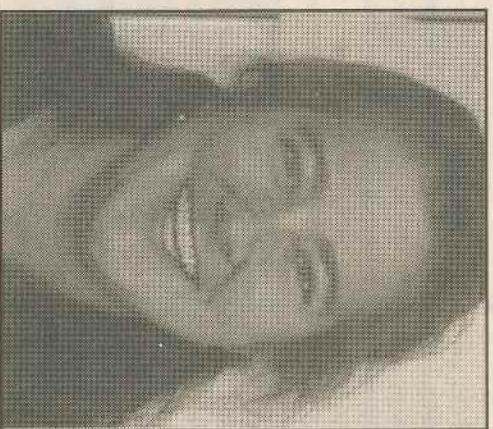
Virginia Circuit Court Judge Jane Marum Roush recently ruled that a Virginia law covering minors and capital punishment should stand. Roush's decision means that if convicted of capital murder in the sniper case, Lee Boyd Malvo, now 18, will face the death penalty.

Malvo will be tried for the death of Linda Franklin, a 47-year-old FBI analyst, in Fairfax County last October. While state and federal authorities debate Malvo's fate, students and teachers also reflect on the constitutionality of executing a minor.

"Kids should be able to make mistakes because they can change over periods of time," junior Derrick Brazier said.

But biology teacher Ann Lam disagrees. "If the crime committed was an adult crime, then they should have to face adult punishment," said Lam. "I want to believe that the death penalty is a deterrent, but, unfortunately, these days it's more of a punishment."

Attorney General John Ashcroft decided to let Fairfax County prosecute Malvo first because of Virginia's tough laws in favor of capital punishment. Both Maryland and DC juries, where Malvo and his alleged accomplice, John Muhammed, are also charged, have been known to favor life imprisonment over the death penalty.



Psychology teacher Allison Kopkau believes that mentoring should go beyond the classroom.

getting help about a problem or joking together in class. Students often keep in touch with special teachers and come back to visit.

"I always get E-mails from my students and we get together when they come home. It's just great," said Kopkau.

While for students the relationship is about friendship and mentoring, the administration is glad to see students and teachers bonding.

"Our main concern is helping the student. If it means hanging out after school, or going out to dinner, that's OK, as long as the adult is careful in what they model and keep things professional," said administrator Richard Griffin.

Vice Principal Joan Galdi makes sure that she keeps her student relationships strictly professional, and believes that in order to have a relationship, there must

be an equal relationship between the administrator or teacher and the parent.

"I would never begin to mentor or develop a relationship with a student without having extensive parental involvement," said Galdi.

Freshman history and US Government teacher Laurie Fischer says the relationship shouldn't be covert, but parents aren't vital to making the connection.

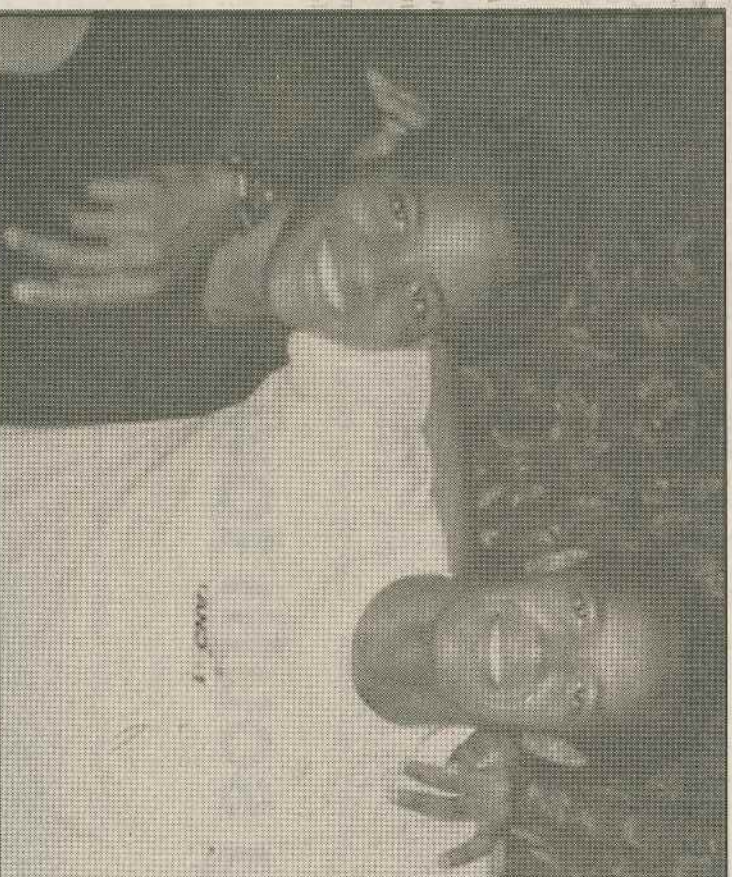
"You develop rapport with a student in the classroom, or out on a field trip. It's an adult relationship between me and the student, and there's no need to involve parents unless there's danger," said Fischer.

Although not every student is close to a teacher, other adults in the school make a close connection.

"[Security Assistant John] Deceny is my lacrosse coach and he always wants to help you, so I could talk to him, or to [guidance counselor] Mr. [Ken] Christopher, because he's comfortable with us. Basically, if the teacher can relate to you, you feel comfortable, and you feel like friends. Not many teachers can do that," said junior Kyle Rodgers.

Although these relationships may be few and far between, the students and teachers say they will always remember and treasure the relationship.

"I know I'm really lucky to be so close with Ms. Kopkau and [social studies teacher] Mr. [Micah] Herzig, and not many kids get to feel so comfortable with their teachers," said Paxton. "I know we'll be able to stay in touch, even beyond college, because that's just the kind of relationship we have."



Fairfax County will try Lee Boyd Malvo, pictured with John Muhammed, as an adult.

Virginia is one of 22 states that offers the death penalty as a penalty in juvenile cases. Virginia has executed three men who committed murder as juveniles, and the fourth is awaiting execution.

Nationwide, 361 people have been executed for crimes they committed when they were minors.

Physics teacher Ed Linz has no problem with executing Malvo if he is convicted.

"If you kill, you die," Linz said. The fear and anxiety the sniper attacks created among students this fall resulted in many heated discussions about who the sniper was and how to catch him. Once Malvo was identified as a suspect in the case, debate continued over what penalty he should face.

"It's hypocritical to kill people, because it doesn't stop crime," said sophomore Valerie Siira, who is against the death penalty in any circumstance. Sophomore Chris Peacock, however,

contends that Malvo should face the maximum penalty if he is convicted.

"If you take someone's life, your life should be taken," Peacock said.

Teachers and students, of course, don't get to decide whether Virginia will continue to execute criminal offenders convicted of committing crimes as minors. The Supreme Court makes the final determination in capital punishment cases. And in January, the court announced that it will not strike down state laws permitting the execution of those who commit crimes when they are under the age of 18.

Malvo and Muhammed are not expected to face juries until the fall. Meanwhile, the debate on this sensitive topic will continue. But most interviewed for this article agreed on one major point.

If Malvo is guilty in the sniper case, he "is seriously mentally disturbed," junior Simon Gammache said.



AIM, anyone?

By Rebecca McMahan
Special to the Oracle

America Online's Instant Messenger (AIM) chat program has the nation's teenagers in a frenzy.

The little yellow man seems to be popping up everywhere. It may not be the first or only chats program, but it just might be the most popular. The program is customized, and has a special appeal to many students.

"I get on right after I get home from school and stay logged in until I go to bed," said junior Megan Klimkos. "It helps that I have a second phone line, because if I didn't my phone would be busy all the time."

AOL allows its AIM users to talk with multiple people at the same time, but users can also form small chat rooms if they want to chat in a group instead of one-on-one. Users wishing to transfer files, pictures, sounds or music can direct-connect with the person they are chatting with, which is called a "buddy."

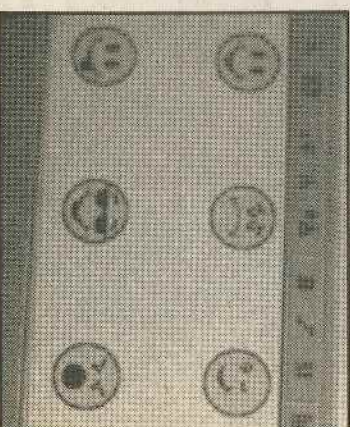
"I use [AIM] more than I use my own telephone," said junior Christine Cwalina. "I chat with friends every day and we use the chat room feature so we can discuss our plans. I also like to send them picture and sounds through the direct-connect feature."

AIM users can also express themselves through rich text, icons, and the famous smileys, which depict almost every human emotion. There are many web sites not affiliated with AIM that users can visit and obtain icons from. The web page <http://www.nightinja.com> offers a variety of icons to use on an AOL account.

"I think the icons are cute and I like to use the smiley faces to show my friends how I am feeling," said junior Sam Lee.

Many users stay signed on for an extended period of time and leave an "away message" detailing what they are doing when they're not on the computer.

"I sort of use my away message as an answering machine because people leave me messages when I'm away," said junior Mike Davis. "It is so much better than the telephone."



Break from norm to help others

By Emily Ryan
Senior Staff Writer

Come April 10, I will be leaving for a ten-day trip to Mexico. I, along with thirty others, will be boarding "big blue," an old fixed-up school bus that my church bought.

For eighteen years a group from Messiah United Methodist Church has made the trip to Matamorras, Mexico, to hold a

with over time.

My first year going, I didn't know what to expect as I stepped off the bus and into an unfamiliar church. I didn't know much Spanish, so I was afraid about how I would talk to the Mexicans. The parents handed their children over to us, putting them in our laps and sitting them beside us. We did crafts together and used gestures to communicate.

That year I met six-year old Zulena. Whenever we were doing something, she was always right there with me. Although she was famished, when the food truck came, she offered another missioner and I what little she received. We couldn't take it. When it was time for us to head back to the States, everyone said their good-byes. I looked at Zulena and saw tears flowing down her face, but all I could do was give her a hug and tell her that I'd be back the next year.

Since then I have developed a relationship with Zulena's brothers and sister also. While I look forward to seeing them and some of the nicest people I have ever met, I don't look forward to the time when we have to say our goodbyes.

The people in Mexico have given us more than they themselves have. One year when we were at the first church, the leader in the pueblo had to barter with people to get chickens for our lunch. We had brought our own food, but they insisted



Ryan (above) holds one of the many children she interacted with last year during her trip to Mexico. Ryan and another church member (right) take a break from crafts to pose for a picture with some of the children.



Courtesy of Emily Ryan

vacation bible school at two churches there and to do any other work in the communities. This will be my fourth and last year going. Being a senior, I will be climbing on "big blue" for the last time for the bumpy and never-ending ride to Brownsville, Texas.

In order to stretch and make the long drive bearable, we make stops for a few hours at a mall in Alabama and in New Orleans. There everyone files off the bus and is free to go where they want until the designated time when we have to meet and continue the trip. By the time we arrive at our hotel in Brownsville, the team has bonded and has become a family.

Each morning for four days we make the journey across the US/Mexico border. Once in Mexico we meet up with a group with whom we have become friends and built relationships

that they give something to us. It turned out to be the best meal that any of us had ever had.

Everyone that I have met on the Mexico trip has been exceedingly kind and generous. This year I look forward to the long drive down and back, spending spring break with my closest friends, eating the best meals that I've ever eaten, and being able to see Zulena and everyone else who I've become close with.

My parents have both decided to join us this year so that they may share the experience with me. Every trip is different, but each is memorable. I expect this year to affect me more because it will be my final trip.

While this being my last time going is sad, I'm counting down the days until we leave.

Speeding south toward a fast-paced vacation

By Jason Gillis
Business/Systems Editor

Roaring engines, crunching sheet metal, and half drunk fans. That's what going to a Nascar race is all about.

Some people say that Nascar is boring, but I respond by saying that once you have gone to a race, your opinion will change. I always look forward to going to races.

For the last three years, I have taken the trek up to Pocono, Pennsylvania with my dad to watch 43 800-horsepower stock cars fly around the triangle shaped track. But this year is different.

Martinsville Speedway lies seven hours south of Springfield and I am the holder of two tickets to the race on April 13. Instead of 180 mph and minor wrecks, the cars bump off each other at every turn. The track is only a half of mile long, which makes bumping and wrecking a given.

Besides watching the race on Sunday, there are many other activities to do during the weekend. At some tracks you can actually drive a stock car around the track if you are old enough or you can be a passenger in a 800 horsepower machine for as little as

\$40. If speed and noise are not your thing, there are a number of activities related to race weekend. Usually outdoor concerts and other

local activities accompany the 80,000+ people that flood into the area pumping millions of dollars into the local economy.

For the hard core fans, most tracks offer

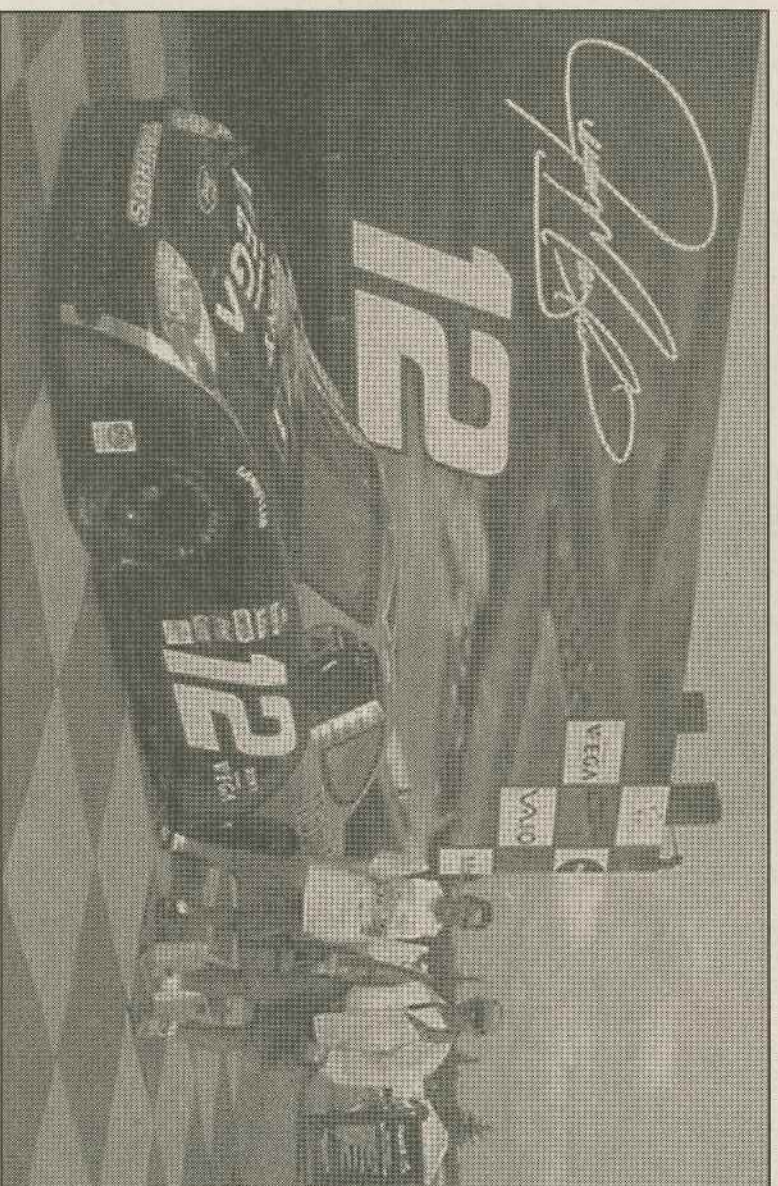
camping on their huge infields. Campers and tents fill the vacant area in a hurry. Off the track, others who cannot afford a hotel room or wish to camp out find nearby residents who rent out their yards to the race fans.

Needless to say, all of the nearby bar parking lots are filled.

On race day, waking up at 5 am to go to the track early isn't very appealing, but I'd rather be sleeping in my final parking spot than sitting in traffic with the 10,000+ cars waiting to get it. I have a flag of my favorite driver, Jeff Gordon, that attaches to the window so I can show my support and as car pass by, you see the other decals and flags of the 43 different drivers.

Being packed with all the other fans into the stands on race day is a great experience. You get to see all kinds of people cheering on their favorite drivers while drunk or getting there. I'm still puzzled why there are seats because for most of the race everyone is standing up seeing all of the exciting racing going on throughout the whole track.

A Nascar race is a place to be at least once. I'm glad that this year I get to spend part of my spring break at the race track.



Gillis and his father stand in front of racer Jeremy Mayfield's car in Pocono, PA, in 2001. Gillis has been going to these races every year for the past three years. This year Gillis will be attending the race in Martinsville, VA.

Courtesy of Jason Gillis



W

Spring

One hundred

By Emily Sommerfeldt

Inside Story Editor

My spring break won't consist of driving in a car across a few states, flying on an airplane out of the country, or trekking on foot up a hiking trail. Instead, I will simply be lazy.

If I make any plans at all during my week of freedom, I plan to wake up far after the morning hours have come and gone.

The rest of my day all depends on two technologies: the phone and the computer. After I am fully awake, I use either the ring or the bling to contact my fellow spring break veggers. We talk for hours about how we have nothing to do and what we could possibly do to relieve our boredom.

Eventually, we derive a plan, so it becomes time for me to change out of my pajamas and slippers. After taking a relaxing 20 minute shower and putting on some comfortable clothes, I make the unfortunate discovery that I have no money. I remember that I spent it a week before on a pair of brand new flip-flops.

Our original plans are ruined, so my friend, the one with the silver Eclipse, comes to pick me up and we drive around for hours with no particular destination. The music is blaring

Plans Gone



Chance to explore future

By JD Kaleem

Features Editor

After a long year of snow days, snow days, and more snow days, it was time for a break: time for a road trip!

We planned to pack our bags full, but ended up packing just some clothes and barely anything more.

Early in March, my friend Jae and I were chatting online, as always. The topic of spring break came up, and we

agreed on one thing: to get out of the house. So north we would head. Off we went to see some colleges and invest in our futures.

Or at least that's what the parents thought. **J o h n s Hopkins**, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia, New York University, and Boston University. Actually, it was more like Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, more New York City, and Boston. New York required an extra few days in our plans. It's just that special. Jae and I, we're pretty smart, as you can see from the school's we planned to "visit."

We were even smart enough to not get any directions for our excursion. We just followed



Courtesy of JD Kaleem

Kaleem and friend Jae escape from the monotonous routine in Springfield and head north for an adventure.

tasted so great.

We only made it to one of the mid-stops of our itinerary, but we cut the venture short. No more getting lost and no more hours of nonstop driving. Even so, I had a great time. I enjoyed quality time with a friend, some blood-boiling and heart-pounding moments, got a wide-knowledge of the odd and ill-received radio stations during the drive north, and, above all, enjoyed the perfect steak and cheese sandwich.

Exotic break in paradise

By Nayna Gupta

Oracle Editor

It started as a dream. And after some serious pleading, detailed planning and a stroke of good luck, my dream came true. This spring break, I will spend seven days in Maui, Hawaii with two of my best friends.

Maui, the second largest island, is nicknamed the Valley Isle. The flat, central valley of Maui connects the island's older West mountains to the dormant volcano, Haleakala, on the east.

During our stay in paradise we will take one day to make the trek up Haleakala, which in Hawaiian means House of Sun. If we can make it out of bed, we will hike up the volcano in time to catch the sunrise.

Most of our week, however, will be spent sunbathing on Maui's exotic beaches. If we're in the mood for some peace and quiet to just enjoy Maui's natural beauty, we will have the more deserted beaches like Kanapali nearby. On other days, when we want to check out some surfer hoties, we will choose resort beaches that are more crowded. And when we want to enjoy Maui's marine life, we'll choose Kapalua Bay for snorkeling.

Besides its beautiful beaches and famous volcano, Maui is internationally known for its whale watching.

Between December and April, tourists from around the world come to see Maui's humpback

whales. With a little more luck, we'll be able to catch the end of the whale-watching season.

But even when they're no whales to watch, the presence of this Hawaii state mammal still lingers. During the evening we will probably spend time shopping and dining in Lahaina, a historic whaling port.

Filled with mostly honeymooners and retired people, Maui doesn't boast a wild night life. But the beauty of the island along with miles and miles of endless beach will be more than enough to keep me satisfied for the entire week.

And, who knows, maybe I will enroll in the University of Hawaii and never even return to Springfield.

Break 2003 sixty-eight lazy hours

and the people in the car next to us on the parkway wonder why we look so funny when we sing.

Curtew comes and my friend drives me home after our exciting day of driving. Day #1 of my spring break is over.

I wake up on day #2. I rummage through the pantry and the fridge searching for something to eat that requires little to no preparation before consumption. I find a Hot Pocket in the downstairs freezer and pop it into the microwave.

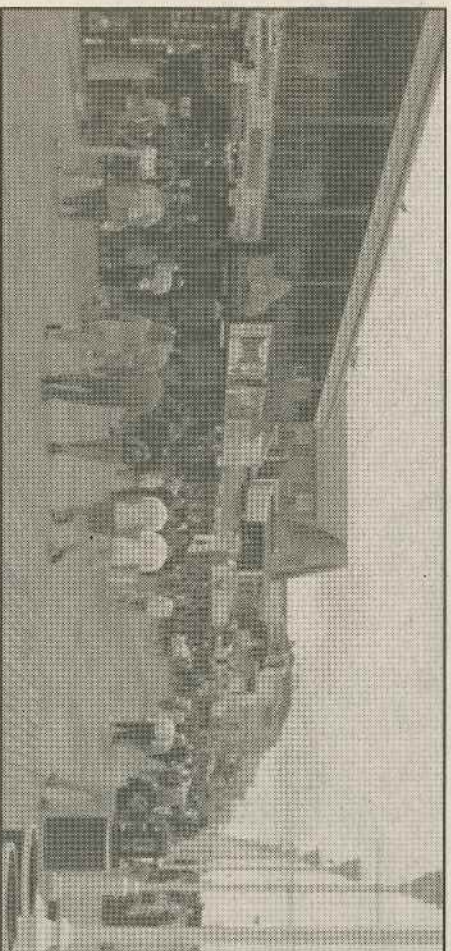
Upon turning around, I see a note taped to the phone.

My mom wants me to find a job. I am forced to go to the shopping center near my house and pick up a few applications.

So much for a week of freedom.



Jan Slavicek



Take a walk on boardwalk

By Camilla Casillas

Entertainment Editor

We're whipping out the bathing suits, rubbing on the bronzer, hopping for good weather and heading for Virginia Beach.

After many conversations of convincing, our parents are finally allowing four of my friends and I to go on our first road trip by ourselves. We're staying at a hotel by the beach and taking full advantage of our surroundings.

We want to do as much as possible in our few days there and do everything people associate with a beach vacation.

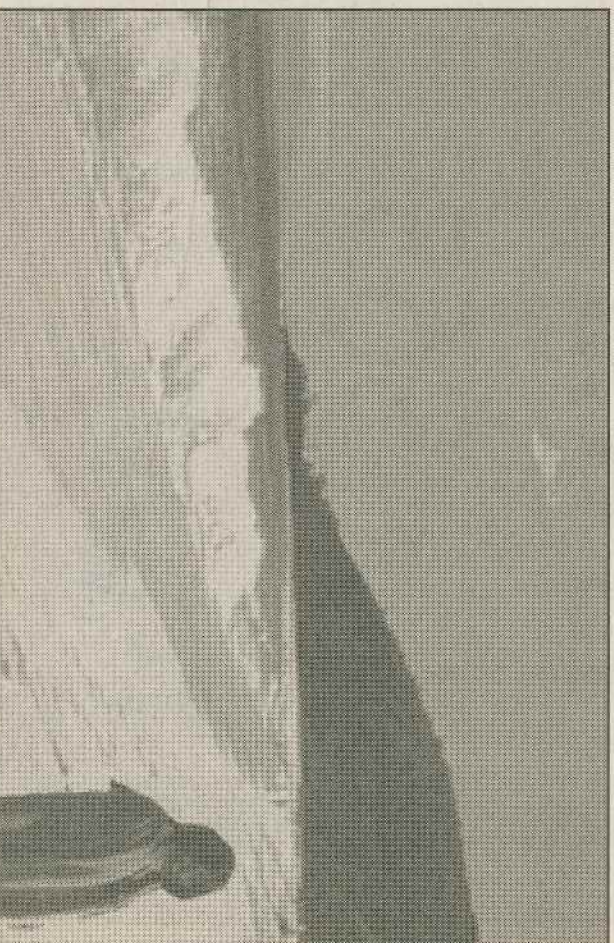
We'll grab our beach bags and venture to the shore in the mornings to bask in the sun. To cool off from the hot guys, oh, and the hot weather, we'll hit the surf shops and the boardwalk. I'm personally taking full

advantage of the many boardwalk snacks that I crave for all winter; you'll probably find me sitting on a bench eating warm funnel cake

topped with ice-cream and chocolate syrup. After my sweet dose of funnel cake, I'll satisfy my salty tastebuds by getting a big cup of Boardwalk Fries drenched in ketchup.

Our nights will hopefully be filled with competitive mini golf, bumper cars, and go-cart racing. We will also be on a mission to find something we have never done before. Maybe we'll find a teen club to dance off those calories consumed earlier in the day. We also plan to find a nearby outlet mall and, for a change, eat at a nice seafood restaurant.

Then sadly we'll head back to Springfield, hopefully bringing back with us suntan lines, new clothes and a camera filled with memories.



Courtesy of Nayna Gupta

Gupta is going to spend the seven days of spring break in paradise on Maui, the Valley Isle, with two of her best friends, shopping, tanning, whale-watching and even volcano-climbing.

ORRDER

YOUR

YE on
EA sale
RR every
day

in May
for \$65
—room 215!
BOOK

Networks try matching “Trading Spaces’s” popularity

Home designing shows like ‘While You Were Out’ debut on mainstream television

By **Marianne Shaddix**
Managing Editor

Home decorating shows have always had a fan base among housewives and soccer moms. But now, a new wave of home decorating shows has hit Hollywood and networks are jumping on the bandwagon to get a piece of the profits.

“My mom has watched Home and Garden TV forever,” said senior Aisley Neary. “I never knew those shows were so popular until everyone started talking about them.”

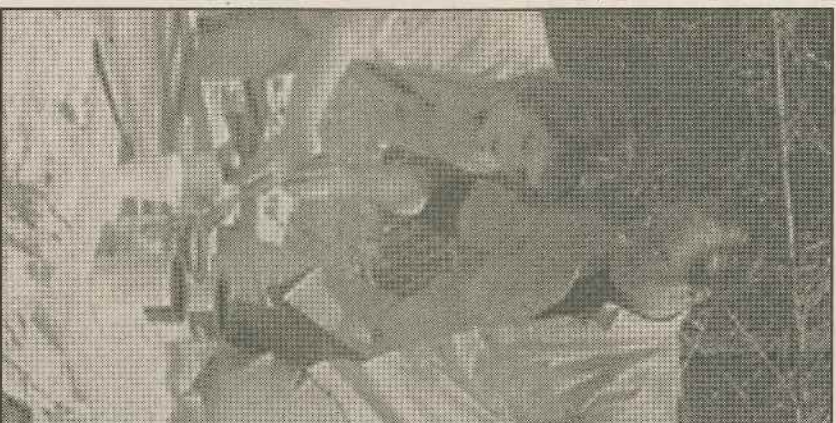
One of the first of these shows to score big was “Trading Spaces.”

“‘Trading Spaces’ was the first one. It was the best,” said senior Jamie Ratajczak. In the three years it has been on the air, “Trading Spaces” has gained a large and diverse audience.

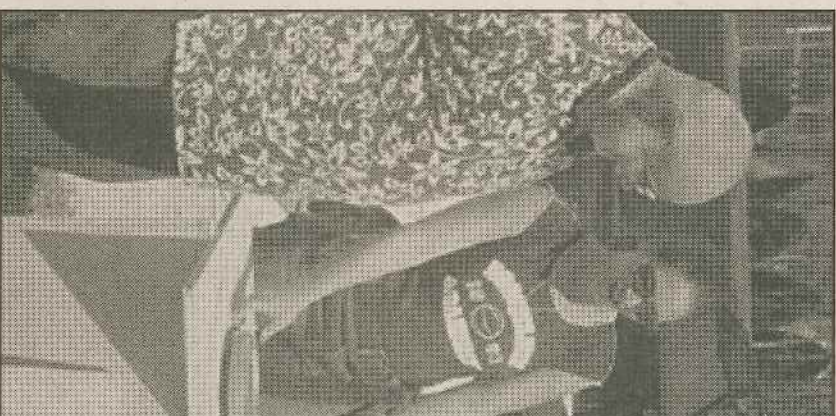
It was a concept previously unheard of on TV. The show paired two sets of neighbors with a professional designer, and gave them each \$1,000 and 48 hours to completely redecorate one room in each other’s home.

The same network that introduced America to “Trading Spaces” has also created a new home decorate show called “While You Were Out,” though the concept is a bit different from “Trading Spaces.”

Every episode the “While You Were Out” team surprises someone with a completely new room, without them having a clue what’s going on while they are out of town. Rather than having two sets of neighbors like “Trading Spaces,”



Left are two homeowners featured on ‘Trading Spaces’ doing art work in the yard. Most of the artwork made on the show is done by the actual people rather than the designers. On the right is designer Frank Bialec and carpenter Amy Wynn working on a project.



the show features one person conspiring to get a designer and team of two carpenters into their home to do their work

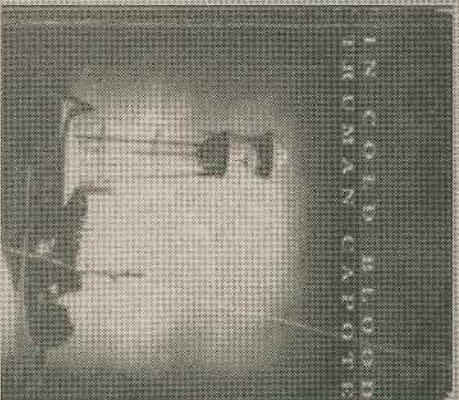
and surprise their loved one. The designer/homeowner team is given a budget of \$1,500 to work with. This allows the designer to do more to the room than

designers on “Trading Spaces” are able to do.

Homeowners on “While You Were Out” are also allowed spruce up an outside area as well, such as a deck or backyard. To do this the designer is allowed a budget of \$1,800.

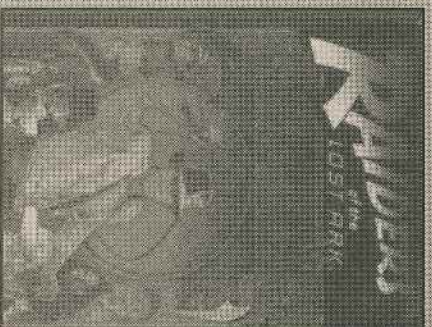
Oracle Picks

In Cold Blood



Despite the bone-chilling title, *In Cold Blood* is a story of two men who killed an innocent Kansas family. The entire book is factual and all the events transpired. Although the reader knows about the impending crime, and doom that awaits the sweet family, the book is still a page turner. The real story is not the actual murder, but the desperate search for the killers. An utter heartbreaker over Detective Dewey during the investigation, Capote keeps the reader’s attention throughout the novel by presenting true facts and events in his own style. That’s the most amazing aspect of the novel. Capote is an incredible storyteller and a master of words. His linguistic talents never fail to keep attention, except for during Part III, which is engulfed in superfluous information about one of the killers, Perry. It’s rumored that Capote may have had a relationship with Perry while Perry was in prison. Although he does go off on a tangent about Perry, I still recommend the book for a rainy Saturday afternoon.

‘Raiders of the Lost Arc’



Booby-traps, near-death experiences and adventure make Indiana Jones an excellent companion anytime. In his first movie, Indy makes the viewer fall in love for all of his moves. The talents of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg combine to make one of the classics. Harrison Ford’s rugged good looks and Indy’s personality make them a perfect pair. Indy’s initial geekiness is overcome by his trademark hat and whip. The thrills of the searching for the Ark of the Covenant is exhilarating as the movie keeps your attention for the entire 115 minutes. The scenery of exotic Egypt and the accompanying music is just another way the movie captures attention. Ford has perhaps never filled a better role. Indy’s “cool” geekiness makes the viewer cheer Indy on, through every peril. And no one can ever forget the giant ball that Indy outruns in the opening scenes. There’s also the romantic aspect of the film with Indy’s love interest Marion. Finally, Indy’s fear of snakes offers a comical feature of his otherwise audacious personality.

My Best Friend’s Wedding



Slow, fast, depressing, happy, this CD has it all. This CD can deliver whatever the mood requires. It opens with an upbeat “I Say A Little Prayer” and “Wishin’ And Hopin’.” This soundtrack is perhaps one of the few soundtracks that actually has songs that convey the action of the movie at every turn. The CD follows the action of the movie when in the middle, track five and six, get a little depressing with slow songs by Nicky Holland and Amanda Marshall. Both singers characterize Julia Robert’s character very well. Her ambivalence throughout the movie is illustrated throughout the soundtrack. Although tracks five or six may be sad they have a nice flow, and “I’ll Be Okay” promotes an optimistic attitude, which is what Roberts exemplifies at the end of the movie. The CD closes with the cast singing “I Say A Little Prayer” and although the movie doesn’t end with this song, it does bring the CD full circle, giving the listener a feeling of completeness. The CD is versatile and great for study music or just to chill.

—Compiled by **Priyanka Tandon**

Other networks besides TLC have created new shows to cater to the home decorating television show fad. Featured on MTV, “Crib Crashers”

“My mom has watched Home and Garden TV forever. I never knew those shows were so popular until everyone started talking about them.”
—Aisley Neary, senior

gives music fans “a once in a lifetime chance to renovate a room in the same style as a favorite celebrity,” according to MTV’s website.

Kelly Osbourne, Outkast, Nelly and Mariah Carey have all been guests on the show.

“[Someone on ‘Crib Crashers’] got a computer and a TV,” said Junior Martha Kruger. “She got totally hooked up.”

The projects done are on “Crib Crashers” are featured on MTV’s website as well, along with detailed instructions as to how fans can emulate that slye in their home, without having to go on the show. Some students question the necessity of so many of the same type of domestic shows.

“It’s a little much, but that’s okay,” said junior Kelly Conruff, “because there’s so much junk on TV anyway.”

Oscars bring anti-war statements 'Chicago' cast walks away with six awards

By Nayna Gupta
Oracle Editor

War didn't stop the stars from dressing in their finest for Hollywood's most important night. Although some speculated that the show would be canceled, the 75th Annual Academy Awards were held as scheduled.

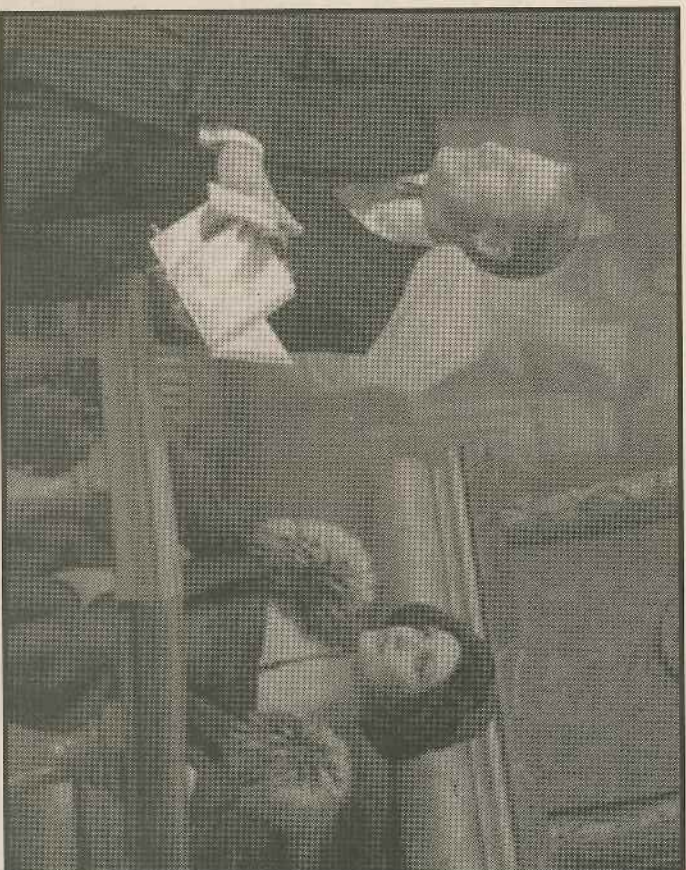
"The terrorists want us to live in fear," said junior Kelly McElhenny. "If we didn't have the show, we'd be letting them win."

The big winner for this year's silver anniversary Oscar's show was "Chicago." With 13 nominations and six awards, including Best Picture and Best Supporting Actress, "Chicago" disappointed other favorites such as "The Hours" and "The Lord of the Rings."

"I think there is a time and place to voice your opinion, but not at a public event like the Oscars."

—Drew Murray, senior

Normally Billy Crystal and Whoopi



At this year's Academy Awards, Catherine Zeta-Jones walked away with the Best Supporting Actress award for her role as Velma Kelly, a cabaret singer, in "Chicago." Goldberg host, but this year, the academy chose Steve Martin to keep the audience entertained through the three and half hour show.

"I believe Steve Martin was the best

host I've ever seen on the Oscars," said senior Sean Branigan. "He was extremely funny and he redirected the public's attention from the war to a night full of comedy."

Reality dating TV not so "real"

By Jenn Carlson
Managing Editor

With the rise of primetime reality television, TV creators have used this to their advantage to introduce a range of dating reality shows and other after-school programs.

An afternoon lineup of lesser known dating or game shows include "Eliminate," "The 5th Wheel" and "Blind Date," all of which run again during late night television on WGN.

"Eliminate" is a half-hour show takes elements from traditional dating show but adds a whole new twist. On a group date, four contestants are put against each other to gain the eye of one lucky single, who gets to pick which of the suitors caught his or her eye. It is up to these feuding singles, three of which will be eliminated by the end of the 30 minute show, to rise above the competition and use whatever they have going for them to gain the attention of the single. Viewers have an all-access view of the events of the date, including candid interviews from each of the daters which reveals their true feelings and strategies.

"It's hilarious when some of these people think they are going to win," said senior Emily Hatch. "I always

wonder where they get some of these people."

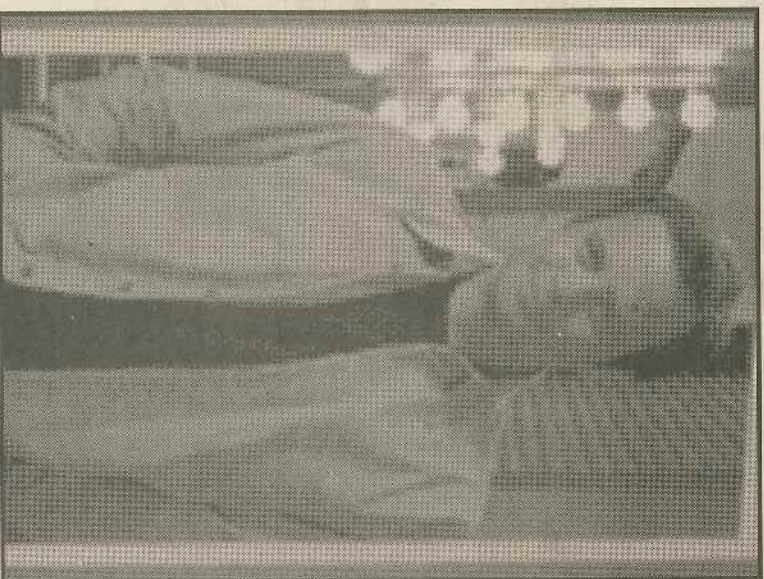
"The 5th Wheel" is similar to "Eliminate" in that a group date is arranged to watch daters compete and connive against each other in order to impress someone and come out victorious.

From the producers of another dating reality series, "Blind Date," this show reveals the outcome when five singles are put together and one of the sexes is outnumbered by one, meaning one and potentially more of the daters will come out without a match.

Two guys and two girls set out on the town for a night of fun, flirting and surprise as eventually the fifth person, the "fifth wheel," arrives and complicated the game. Bonds and hearts are broken by this new addition. Daters intermingle, decide who they like the most, and each player picks who they would like to date farther.

"Blind Date," a popular after-school choice for students, takes a simpler look at a traditional blind date, obviously. This is a normal blind date, the only other pressure is the presence of the show's cameras that capture every unfortunate, hilarious or strange event that occurs on the date.

"I love it when [the daters] hate each other," said senior Ricky Campbell. "Actually, it's even funnier when one of them is happy but the other one hates them."



The host of "Blind Date", Roger Lodge, provides comical commentary and introduces each dater and their background and interests, with a humorous flair.

Pearl Jam tickets quest: successful

By Russ Waddell
Oracle Editor

I desperately wanted to get tickets to Pearl Jam. Not because I love the band, but because my girlfriend does. That made it extra super important that I somehow acquire tickets to see Pearl Jam.

My quest began when the radio station WHFS let it slip that PJ were coming to town this summer. Of course, my girlfriend informed me that it was my duty to keep track of when the show was, where to get tickets, how to get tickets, and since I was already doing all that, to go ahead and buy the tickets.

I was ever vigilant, and before long a little birdie told me that HFS was giving

away tickets to Pearl Jam. In Orlando. At the House of Blues. My father summed it up best: "You would be the man if you won those."

The trick to winning was a good game plan. I needed to listen at 7 am to hear the "song of the day," then listen to the radio every minute of the day, then find a phone and call. Oh, and be caller ninety something. So I executed my plan, and it would have worked if it weren't for the ten bajillion other people also trying to win.

So I didn't win the first day, but of course I still had three more chances as there were three more days in the week. I had a great idea for how to listen and win even in school, but something went horribly wrong.



Students try to win tickets for bands like Pearl Jam from contests on radio stations.

I had my walkman ready with those tiny little bud earphones that would be hidden by my oversized hoodie, but in the night I had a dream that I was tangled in strings and couldn't escape. I interpreted the strings as symbolizing the wires to my headphones, and I decided that I valued my life too much to ignore my dreamed warning.

So I didn't win any tickets. I'm very sad that I don't get to go to Orlando. But the story has a happy ending!

Before long, tickets went on sale and I was able to get tickets to the show at Nissan Pavilion. I was determined to get tickets, so I had my dad buy them while I was in school instead of risk having the show sell out while I was trapped in school doing dumb work instead of buying tickets. I was so appreciative that I paid him back in less than two weeks. Thanks Dad!

The moral of this story is never try to win tickets because it won't work. Instead, have your cool dad get them for you.

Maasel and shishas create smokey moods

Prince Cafe is a restaurant dedicated to serving the best flavored tobacco in town

By Emily Miller
Weekend Editor

Being 18 is the ticket to one of the hottest attractions in the DC area—the Prince Cafe and hookah bar. Prince offers an unique Arabian atmosphere, authentic Arabian food and a vast menu of flavored tobacco.

Prince's may be small and a little rundown, but it guarantees a glimpse

There is a list of about 20 flavors, most of them fruity. Some of the classic flavors include strawberry, cherry, grape and pineapple

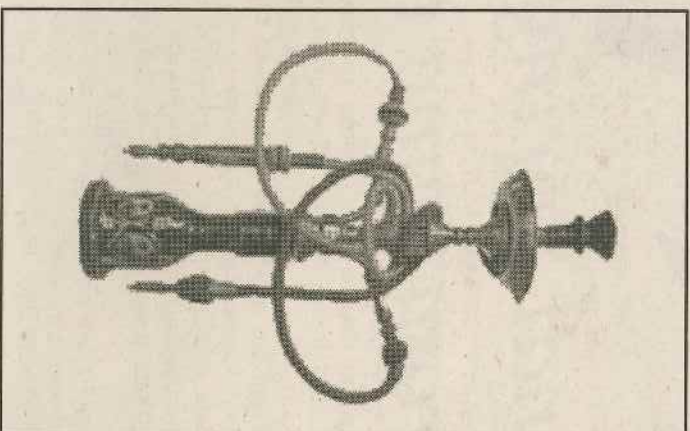
into a different country. The place is covered in posters of Arabic movies, and plays Arabic music over the loud speakers. There are comfortable sofas against the walls and tables for eating spaced out in the center of the room.

The main attraction is a big screen TV measuring about five feet wide that plays Arabian soap operas and music videos.

"It's just a friendly culture," said junior Mike Warren.

Prince's specialty is smoking tobacco, or maasel, out of a hookah. There is a list of about 20 different flavors, most of them fruity. Some of the classic flavors include strawberry, cherry, grape and pineapple. Other flavors that aren't so typical are bahirini, malam, apricots and mint.

"My favorite flavor is strawberry



," said junior Rachel Ainaire.

The actual hookah, or shisha, is a treat in itself. Most of the hookahs range from two to three feet in size and have elaborate Arabic designs on the glass vase.

The hoses are deep colors like blue, green and purple. One hookah, called the Giant Shisha, is the master of all hookahs selling for \$200. What makes the giant Shisha so different is its "excellent taste, the unique style," according to

www.cafeprince.com. There are also cheaper hookahs for sale, starting at \$35.

The tobacco is different than that in cigarettes. The flavored tobacco only has .05 nicotine, so basically the flavored tobacco does not have all the chemicals and is more natural than cigarettes. However, it is still tobacco so you must be 18 to smoke it, according to the law.

If you're not 18 or not interested in smoking, Prince takes pride in serving a variety of international dishes from the Middle East, India and Pakistan. Aloo gobi, maag paneer, mutter paneer make up the Vegetarian menu. Specialty dishes include the Nehari, or spicy beef curry, and Bogon Josh, or lamb cubes in tomato based sauce cooked in special spices. Prince also serves some American food, like French fries and milkshakes.

The only downside about Prince Cafe is it's location. The closest location from Springfield is a neighborhood in Georgetown DC. However if you're up for the ride, there is one in College Park Maryland and Falls Church.

"It's in a pretty crappy neighborhood," said Warren. "But it's worth the trip."

Springfield dines south of the border

By Erika Kim
News Editor

For the students who aren't going to Mexico for spring break, they can still get some Mexican food without having to leave the Springfield area.

Anita's is a Mexican restaurant located in the Rolling Valley Plaza off of Old Keene Mill Road and Shiplet Boulevard where customers can enjoy New Mexico Style Mexican food with soft Spanish music in the background. Anita's serves Mexican breakfast, lunch and dinner dishes.

Once seated at Anita's, the waiters bring salsa and tortilla chips as customers review the menu. The breakfast menu includes omelettes, skilletts, quesadillas, enchiladas and breakfast burritos with a special Mexican touch. They also have non-Mexican food like pancakes and steak and eggs.

For lunch and dinner there are salads, nachos, Mexican pizza, quesadillas, enchiladas, steak combos, chicken, tacos and of course burritos.

Anita's also offers their favorite foods as platters and combos. Platters come with additional Spanish Rice and refried beans and combos allow customers to taste a little bit of everything.

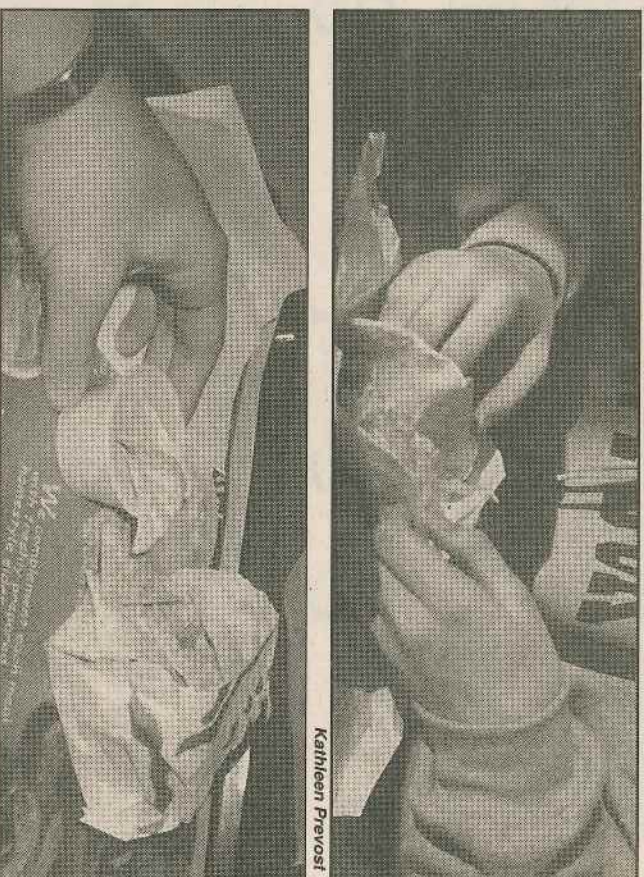
"The Three Chicken Enchiladas at Anita's is really good," said junior Dan Steger. "The red chili sauce and cheese

The breakfast menu includes omelettes, skilletts, quesadillas, enchiladas and breakfast burritos with a special Mexican touch

enhance the enchiladas."

Anita's also offers Mexican appetizers like Flautas and Taquitos and different Mexican desserts to add to any meal.

"My favorite is the Burgerrito," said senior Zak Mathews. "It's cheap, fast and tastes good."



Kathleen Prevost

Kathleen Prevost

Mexican restaurants like Anita's and Taco Bell serves spicy platters and dishes. Taco Bell's newest specials are gorditas and fajitas.

Prices at Anita's range anywhere from \$4 dollars to \$13 depending on the dish, and there's also carry-out for those who are on the run.

For those who still crave Mexican food but don't have any dinero, there's always Taco Bell that has all the favorite Mexican food for less. They have the usual tacos, burritos, Mexican pizzas and gorditas with a drink for all under \$5 and an average of a 2 minute

wait. Other popular Mexican restaurants in the area include Baja Fresh, Tias, Teximex, El Paso, Don Pablos and Chalupas.

"I think the best Mexican food I've had is Teximex," said junior Kyle Rogers. "They gave me this big plate of pork with soft taco on the side with green goo and it was really good."

Enroll Now for Summer Classes!



NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student centered, Community focused.

Summer sessions start May 19 and July 1

703-323-3000

- Get a head start on your college career at NVCC!
- More than 150 programs of study!
- Five campus locations!

- Choose from 12-week or 6-week sessions!
- E-mail and Internet access for all students!
- Affordable tuition!

www.nvcc.edu

NVCCinfo@nvcc.edu

Register today and make your summer count!

Alexandria • Loudoun • Manassas • Woodbridge
Extended Learning Institute



STAR

BARBER & STYLIST

Hair Styling for the Whole Family

M - F 10 - 7

Sat 9 - 5

CLOSED SUNDAY

(703) 913-0627

6345 Rolling Rd.

Springfield, VA 22152

Take a BREAK!

Traditional Spring vacation ranges from tame to tropical

By Lindsay Smith
Special to The Oracle

Spring is in the air, which also means that Spring Break is right around the corner. Students are getting ready to put aside their winter sweaters and coats, and start thinking about warmer weather. Spring vacation is the last big break in the school year before summer, and students are craving a week off.

As the eagerly anticipated break nears, many students frantically try to figure out their plans. Whether it is going to Florida, or a road trip with friends, or just hanging out at home watching movies, many just want to enjoy their vacation and take a break from homework and the stresses of school.

"I want to have as much fun as possible this Spring Break because I only have one year left of high school

and now that I have my license, I can do a lot more," said junior Mary Leonard.

While setting out for a perfect Spring Break destination can be challenging for some, such as deciding on the destination, dealing with the prices and reservations, it is a breeze for others.

"My friends and I are going to Florida for the chorus trip, and we don't have to make plans since it's a school trip, so they are already made for us," sophomore Rachel Saylor said.

For those who have to make plans, there are unlimited options around both the country and world. It all depends on what one is looking for and how much money one is willing to spend. Part of the fun is just looking at all the possibilities and thinking about how much fun it would be to travel.

So, for realistic Spring Break possibilities, try looking online or

going to travel agencies to get information. Find out interesting activities or look for upcoming events, and plan to do something new and exciting.

Anyone staying home over the break also has a myriad of possibilities for break plans. Since DC is so close and it's cherry blossom time, consider taking the subway down to the Mall and taking in a few museums; the antique carousel in front of the Smithsonian, grabbing a hot dog from a vendor, and taking in the sights.

Or, chilling at home is always an option.

"This Spring Break I'm going to hang out with my friends and play FIFA 2003," senior Scott Ankleley said.

Though not everyone is going to be playing video games, many students will use their vacation to get together with friends and relax, and catch up on sleep, so they can make it through the

rest of the school year.

As students are constantly encouraged to succeed, take challenging courses, and to push themselves for grades and awards, Spring Break means a chance to kick back, have fun and not worry about the next assignment, next year's courses, or college. In the worries of war and pressures of school it comes as a welcome relief.

Whatever students are looking forward to about their week off, whether it is warmer weather, getting a tan, or just taking a break from homework for a week, Spring break is a time to forget about problems and have fun.

"The weather has been getting a lot nicer out," said Saylor. "And I definitely could use a break."

For more "insights" into Spring Break Madness, turn to Page 12.

Things get perk-ing at hangout central

By Becky Zukerman
Special to The Oracle

It is our very Central Perk, right here in Springfield. Every day students and teachers roam the halls with the white and green cups in their hands, the cups that

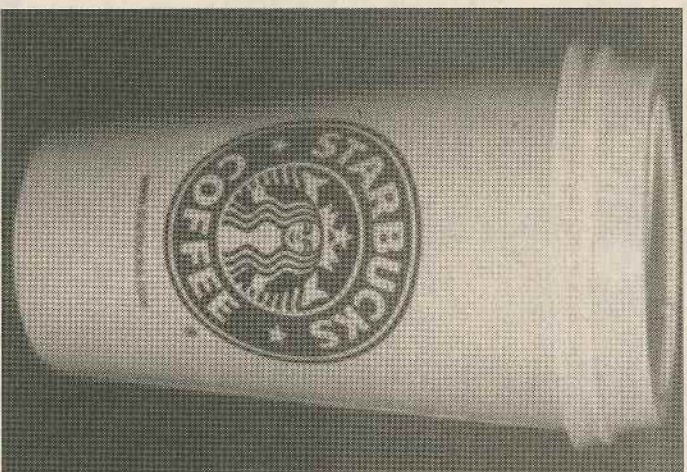
symbolize all that this addiction stands for.

Students grow up. They try to become more "adult," and start spending hours lingering outside the Starbucks on Old Keene Mill Road, drinking beverages as simple as black coffee or as complex as a peppermint soy mocha latte.

Many consider the price of these drinks absurd, (a grande latte goes for \$3.24 a cup), but the steep prices don't keep the crowds down. Starbucks has become an addition to many and an object of contempt for many others.

"The people who like it are usually addicted, and those who don't, are mad because it gets so much business," said senior Erica Evans.

Starbucks has become a landmark for students in the six years it's been here. Students often sit at the outside tables when they can't find any other



way to entertain themselves.

"If you live in Springfield for a long time, you run out of things to do," said sophomore Kevin Cern-ohorsky.

Those who spend every waking hour at the small cafe are the people whom sophomore Danny Hill refers to as "Starbucks."

"A 'Starbucks' is someone who hangs out in front of Starbucks all the time and simply does it for the reason of chilling there," said Hill.

As addicted as some students are to the beverages and ambiance, many others have an intense dislike for the chain.

"There is no real point to going; they have uncomfortable chairs that you can't even sit on, they are just for looks, some art deco," said Hill.

The green mermaid whose name comes from Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* attracts students for so many reasons. But senior Phillip Park sums up the addiction the best:

"Starbucks is a way to kill time, the cool place to be, it's neat and has a lot of keen girls."

For an alternative to fast food, try Quizno's

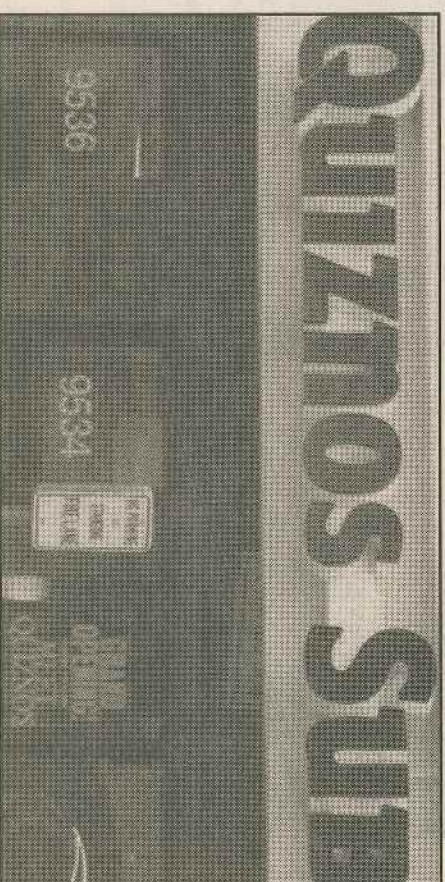
By Marshal Ausberry
Special to The Oracle

When looking for a place to eat a good quality meal, the usual places like McDonald's, Wendy's, and even the revered Five Guys come to mind. But for those looking for anew and different dining establishment, Quizno's is a unique place.

The first Quizno's restaurant opened at 13th and Frant in Denver's Capitol Hill neighborhood in 1981. Ever since, the corporation has been growing by leaps and bounds. The news of Quizno's has been spread by word of mouth.

"They have beast food, it's the best," said senior Tony Jenkins.

Quizno's offers a plethora of mouth-watering sandwiches, like Bistro Beek, Honey Mustard Chicken, Bloack Angus Stuck, and Mesquite Chicken. Even for those watching what they eat, Quizno's boasts a menu selection with only seven grams of fat,



For a change, many students try Quizno's, which is next to Glory Days in Burke.

such as Sierra Smoked Turkey on Italian ciabatta bread, Honey Bourbon Chicken, and Turkey Life.

"Quizno's is really good. I like their toasted subs," said junior Max Kojom. The chain's toasted subs are its specialty.

But there is one problem many have with the sub-making restaurant.

"They are too expensy," said senior Danny Wuchovic. "When I go I only buy a sandwich."

Quizno's sandwiches come in three sizes—small, medium, and large. For a complete large sandwich combo meal with chips and a drink, the cost is about \$10.

For a new and different change in eating, turn to Quizno's, located next to Glory Days in Burke. Even a Subway employee, junior Stephen Spinosa, likes the change.

"Subway and Quizno's are both good places to eat, but if I had a choice I would eat at Quizno's."

Foreign films find audiences overseas

By Ruchika Malhotra
Managing Editor

Shahrukh Khan. Song Hye Kyo. Sophie Marceau. These names might not mean anything to some students, but others recognize them as the shining stars of foreign film industries.

Along with Sophie Marceau, another French actress is Audrey Tautou. In the Oscar winning movie "Amelie," Tautou finds a fifty-year-old treasure box and sets out to return it to its rightful owner. While on this adventure,

Amelie finds her destiny and true love.

"It was very interesting, you really get a sense of the French culture," said senior Sun Cho. The movie opens up the eyes of the viewers to everyday French life.

"From the cars to their homes, everything was so different," said Cho.

Students agree that foreign films bring foreign culture alive and closer to home.

"Indian films help me keep in touch with my culture even

though I live in the US," said senior Nablia Hussaini.

According to critics, Bollywood, the Indian film industry, has the largest film audiences in the world and the most recognized film stars. Bollywood produces one film a day, and has over a 100 years of history. One factor that makes Hindi films different from others is that they include songs that the actors and actresses lip-synch and dance to in the movie.

"They're all musicals," said Hussaini. "It's fun because it makes the movie more upbeat and entertaining."

Along with songs, one major aspect that makes a foreign film foreign is that they are in another language.

"They [Indian movies] are awesome, and they help you understand the language," said Junior Jackie Tahiliani.

Local Indian stores offer Indian movie rentals, and local theaters such as Loehmann's Plaza feature them.

To watch Korean movies, such as "All In," students can rent them from Korean stores or view



Bollywood actor Shahrukh Khan and actresses Madhuri Dixit and Aishwarya Rai star in the super hit Hindi film "Devdas" (2002).

them on late night cable TV channels. "All In" is about success and money from gambling with a love story. Students still regularly watch Korean movies despite the inconvenience of their availability.

"They're fun to watch," said senior Hanna Choi. "Some story lines are very interesting." Along with the entertainment,

Return to childhood with Chuck E. Cheese

Bollywood actress and former Miss World Aishwarya Rai dances with background dancers in the Hindi film "Dil Ka Rishha."



By Rachel Wohlers
Inside Story Editor

Chuck E. Cheese, where a kid can be a kid. Back in elementary school, Chuck E. Cheese was the place to have a party. With tunnels, games, a ball room, entertainment, pizza, and of course, prizes, a birthday party at Chuck E. Cheese was every child's desire.

No longer kids, some WS students still visit Chuck E. Cheese in order to experience the feeling of freedom which comes from lack of responsibility and maturity they enjoyed in their younger years.

"It's the place to be a kid," said junior Christy Buzan. Although the entertainment may be a little young for students now, the pizza and the games attract the older as well as the younger.

"The little mouse is cool and the tunnels are fun," said senior Eddie Geisler.

Along with the games, there is little that compares to the exhilarating feeling that comes when watching the machine spew out long strings of tickets.

"It's fun to get cool things with the tickets," said Buzan. "My sister and I saved up for the PinArt prize."

However, many students must overcome the obstacles age presents which prevent them from taking a trip down memory lane.

"I don't go because my parents are mean," said junior Dan Phan.

"It's the place to be a kid."

—Christy Buzan, junior

Despite these difficulties, the insatiable desire to experience childhood for a short time still draws students in, and there are plenty of places for them to do this at.

Chuck E. Cheese restaurants are located across the country. For Springfield residents, the nearest ones can be found in Fairfax, Alexandria and Herndon.

Also, for a real party, Chuck E. Cheese still does birthday party reservations so it's fun for everyone.

"I'd go with someone if they asked me," said Phan. "I'd get to be a little kid again."

Horsin' around

By Eugenie Ko
Senior Staff Writer

While most kids were riding their bikes and playing on swings, junior Erin Yanovich was getting ready to saddle up.

Yanovich has been riding horses for about seven years. Her interest in riding developed from her experiences in Girl Scouts. She first rode horses while obtaining a badge. A fellow Girl Scout rode regularly and Yanovich began to attend riding sessions with her. Eventually she began taking her own lessons and riding leisurely on her own time.

Riding is a hobby that requires significantly more dedication and responsibility than others. Financially, riding horses isn't for everyone. Paying for boarding and food costs around \$500 a month and actually purchasing an average horse ranges from three to five thousand dollars. Additional costs apply for taking lessons and competitions as well.

Money isn't the only issue. Unlike typical household pets, horses, in most cases, cannot be kept on home property.

Most horses are lodged in stables, many of which are located in the Clifton area. Yanovich tends to her horse everyday after-school.

"She stays at Oliver Stables off Henderson Road," said Yanovich. "I drive out there everyday to take care of her."

Yanovich rides her horse about five times a week. She enjoys riding her horse on the numerous trails throughout Clifton and is also involved in various competitions, particularly Dressage.

"It's like ballet for horses," said Yanovich. "It's all flatwork [horse footwork]."

The enjoyment of riding isn't just in the activity itself. The hobby is relatively popular in this area and Yanovich has made several friends through it, most of whom are about the same age.

The competition season begins in March and continues through the summer and fall. Yanovich's horse, however, has been injured for the past six months.

Unfortunately, she won't be able to compete until the fall because of a torn tendon.



Horseback riding is a unique hobby that many students, such as Erin Yanovich, enjoy.

Baseball team prepares for their season

Snow-covered field muddles start of season, but players not deterred

By Emily Ryan
Senior Staff Writer

After getting off to a slow start due to snow, the baseball teams have moved forward to prepare for the rest of their season.

The boys started out the season as usual with tryouts and their first practices. Only this time they were held in the parking lots. Snow still covered the field, so the players were unable to get on them to prepare for their games.

Instead, baseballs flew back and forth as cars drove past them. When the sun came out and the weather warmed up, the snow melted and the boys moved from the parking lot to the field.

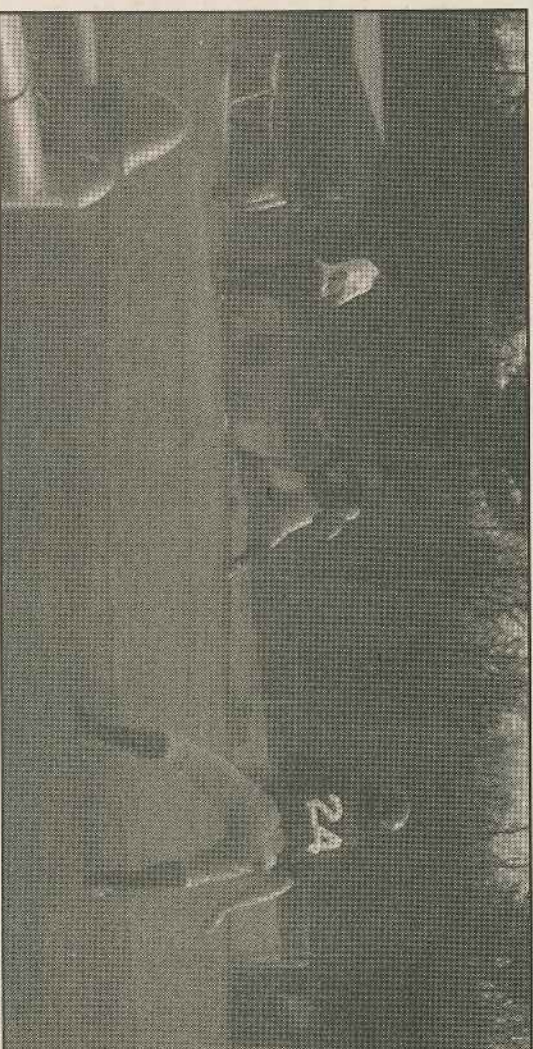
The teams work hard wherever they practice in order to prepare for their competition. Every day after school, the boys endure a two-and-a-half hour practice where they try to

simulate situations they may encounter in games, such as practicing catching and hitting, among other skills.

The boys received a list of rules they are supposed to follow. These instructions include the team can wear no jewelry, their socks must be down around the ankles, they must wear their hats forward at all times, they may not wear their hair past their ears, and everyone must be clean shaven. With these rules, the team will not only play well, but they will also look uniform and more like a team.

Talent and skill are also important to a successful team. "There's a lot of talent on varsity," said sophomore JV player David Grant.

Although there is talent, there still needs to be team bonding so that they may cooperate on the field. The boys have team dinners and work together in practice,



Kathleen Prevost

The baseball fields are finally usable, after the massive amounts of snow that left them wet and soggy. getting to know one another and become more of a team.

"You're a team, so you can't mess with each other too much.

It has to be all in good fun though," said sophomore JV player Danny Tinsley.

After losing four starters, the varsity team is working to make up for their weaknesses in the positions where they lost players.

They made it to regionals last year, but then fell in the first round. This season the boys have high hopes and, while it's still too early to tell, they hope to make it further than last year.

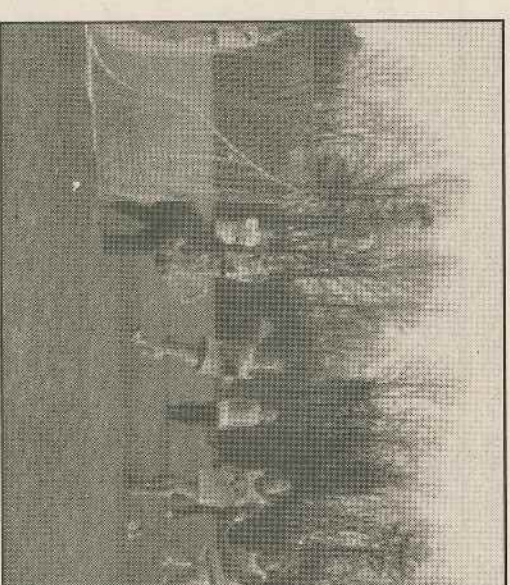
"I think we're underrated," said senior varsity player Danny Trayer, "and we're going to come out and surprise people this year."

Lacrosse girls look forward to great challenges and successes this season

By Camilia Casillas
Entertainment Editor

Although the lax girls have lost some key senior players, coaches and players are determined to make it to regionals.

"We hope to make it to the regional tournament. That's my goal," said coach Brian Pulhick. "I'm concerned because it's a tough district."



Kathleen Prevost

During practice, the goalie positions herself block shots.

As a team, the girls participated in a fall league at Woodson High School. The girls played games against area schools including Lake Braddock, Centerville, and Chantilly.

They also prepared by participating in fall conditioning two days a week since December. Coach Pulhick supported off-season training, but was not satisfied with the number of girls that participated in these voluntary events.

"We're behind," said Pulhick. "I encouraged off-season training but had minimal participation."

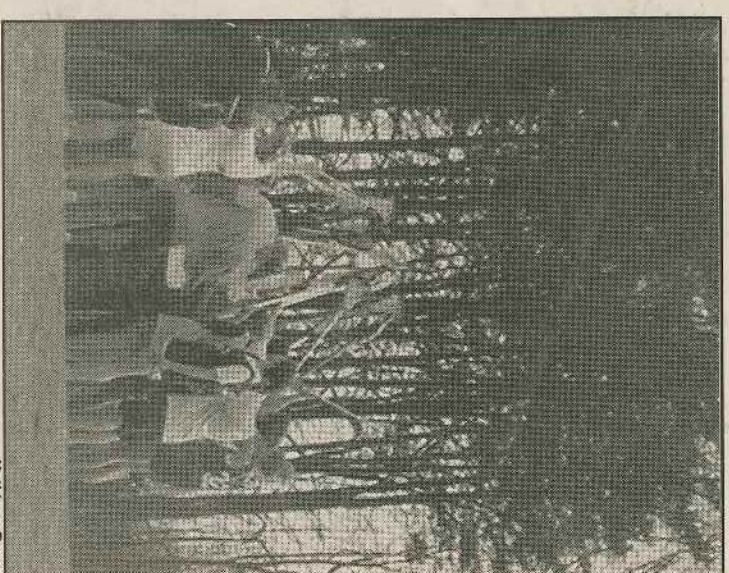
The team is now focusing on the new season ahead by practicing everyday after school and are even devoting some of their Saturdays to work on their skills. Much of their practices are spent running.

"We run a lot and work on our fundamentals. Lacrosse is a lot of running. We don't want to lose a game because we're out of shape," said Pulhick.

The senior captains this year, Meghan Thompson, Lianna Carrera, and Katie Rice are all looking forward to a victorious season.

"We did well in our scrimmage against Bishop O'Connell. We have a really good offense this year," said Thompson.

They are also work on team unity for example by having team pasta dinners with the boys lacrosse team before each game. The lax girls also have their own tricks to defeat rival schools before the game even begins.



Kathleen Prevost

The lacrosse girls use meditating and other more traditional expressions of unity to gather their thoughts.

"This year the defense lies on the grass and meditates before we head out to the game," said Carrera. "It gets us mentally prepared, and it freaks the other teams out."

With a new assistant coach, a strong sense of team unity, a powerful offense and a rigorous training routine with a lot of running, the team is looking forward to a solid season.

Tennis team strives to use their racquets to ratchet up victories

By Eugenie Ko
Senior Staff Writer

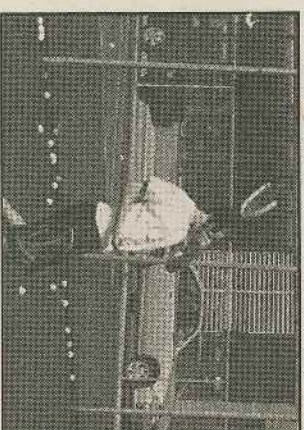
Equipped with a racket, shoes, and a desire to win, the WS boys tennis team has been preparing for their 2003 season. Traditionally, the tennis teams have not received much attendance at their matches, but this says nothing about their skill level.

Bobby Kluttz, a junior who has been on the team since his freshman year, feels confident in his teammates.

"The team is pretty much the same from last year" said Kluttz.

The team graduated only one senior last year, though additional players are unable to participate this year because of grades or administrative issues. With the relatively consistent level of talent, the team is off to a strong start.

Before the season began, prospective players participated in preseason training to make themselves more competitive for the months to come. This included running in the auxiliary gym as well as push-ups and sit-ups. The training was led by the



Adam Buckley

A powerful stroke, like this one, is needed to be able to counter a speedy tennis ball.

coach, gym and health teacher Craig Hamilton.

The team's primary strength is uniformity. All of the players are relatively close in skill level, an advantage for those players more towards the bottom end of

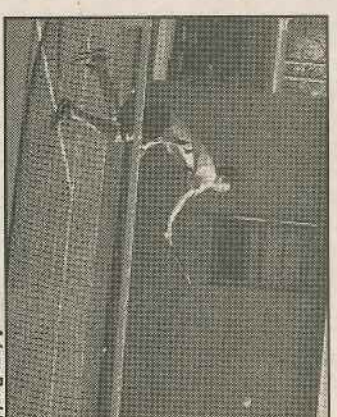
"The team chemistry is really strong."

Bobby Kluttz, junior

the spectrum. This strong amount of talent will prove to be an asset throughout the season.

Typically in a tennis match, the players compete against players from the other team of a similar skill level. The matches of the top 6 players, however, are the ones that count and determine the winner. Those top six players also pair up to compete in doubles against the other team. The cumulative wins of the team result in the final score. Luckily all members of the team function well together.

"The team chemistry is really strong."



Adam Buckley

Sometimes, a ball is just not returnable. said Kluttz. "We're actually better at doubles than at singles."

Recently, against Hayfield, the Spartan boys triumphed with a 7-2 victory. Tim Lacrosse and Eric Anderson did particularly well. The boys also have a loss against TC Williams.

With district giants Robinson and Lake Braddock, the team faces some tough competition for the upcoming weeks. With the continued dedication and hard work from the players, the team is likely to see success in the near future.

Boys lacrosse gears up for another season

By Denis Ing
Etc. Editor

The seconds wind down on the clock and the final horn blows. The season is over for the WS boys lacrosse team, as it ends in the first round of regionals and so started the rebuilding of a championship team for the next season. The season has finally come around after a full year or misery.

The team captains have been holding early practices to get the team ready for domination of the region. The practices started a month earlier than they are allowed to because the coaches weren't present. The team would have no-games and go full speed to make sure they were feeling well when the season started.

There is a strong goalie situation with senior Jimmy Chapman starting for his fourth year. The defense is led by senior Karyon McCray, a two year starter. He leads a younger group of players to keep Chapman from getting too many shots.

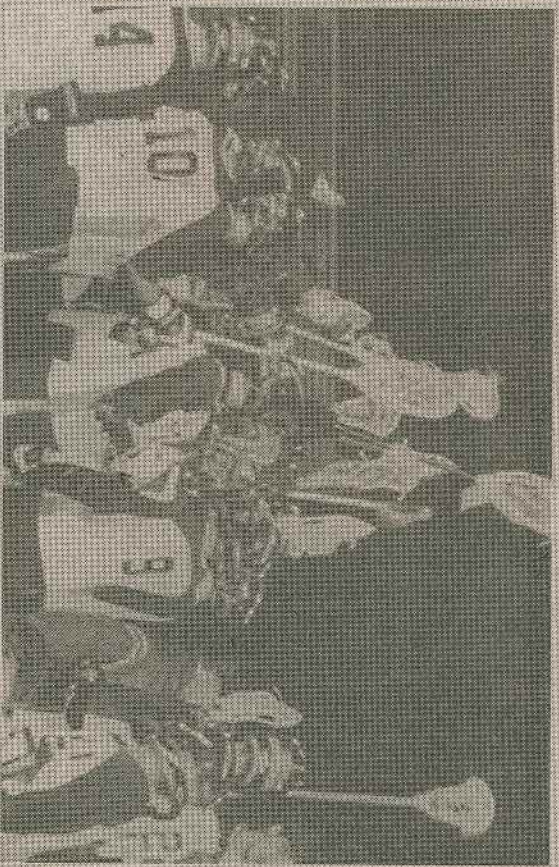
The attack part of the team is led by senior Andrew Generazio. He leads a strong mid line while sophomore Tommy Schauder and juniors Shaun McGahan and Kyle Rogers are on the attack. This squad should lead team WS far into the postseason.

"I think that the team should only lose one or two games this whole year. This team has a lot of talent," said senior captain Drew Generazio.

This year coach Deerey has a strong group of coaches to help him make the team better. Coaches Thompson and Abud have worked with him for years. They know his program and are going to help make this a championship team.

"We had the captains practices early on so we started to play together. Now we can start run the razzle dazzle," said McGahan.

They work hard at conditioning the team and working on plays. The team only cut 5 players so players wont get as tired



The boys lacrosse team players come together for one last pep talk before the game begins. The boys won this game against Edison 17-4.

Jan Stomaccio

as quick because there will be more players shifting in and out of the game. On Monday, March 17 WS took on Edison at home. The boys won the game easily with a 17-4 win. The team led 9-1 after halftime and then just added on as the lower lines were put in so they could get more playing time. Schauder and McGahan led the team with four goals each.

In the their next game, they played at

Mount Vernon. The game was close until the last second. The final score was 13-12 in favor of MV. Schauder, McGahan, and Brian Butterworth were the leading scorers in the game. The team then lost to Mclean 9-8 after leading 7-1 in the second half.

"We just don't play as a team," said junior Dustin Walsh.

Washington wants to welcome new team

By Nikolai Wajda
Sports Editor

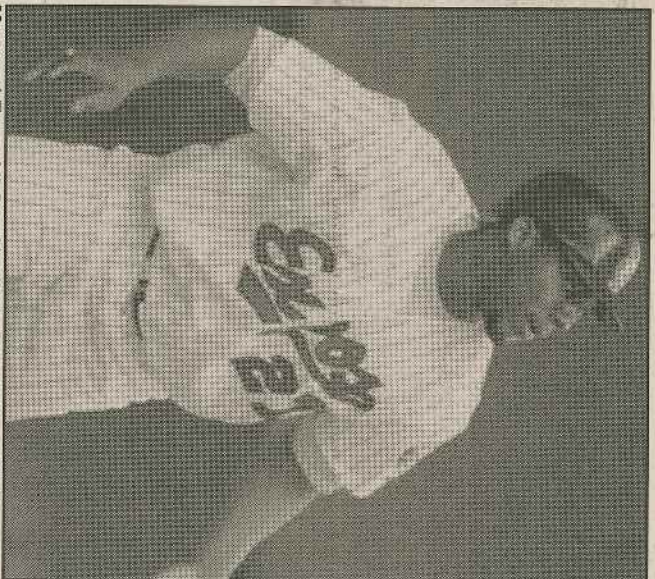
Washington Senators, or the Virginia Patriots, or the NOVA News. No, these are not names of fantasy baseball teams, but they could be the names of a new area baseball team.

The Montreal Expos are having major financial issues and Major League Baseball is considering relocating them to a more profitable location. MLB is now strongly considering relocating them to either Portland, Oregon, San Juan Puerto Rico, or the Washington DC Metropolitan area.

"It would be nice to have a team that is closer than the Orioles," said sophomore Nick Aufiero.

The owner of the Baltimore Orioles, Jerry Colangelo, is strongly opposed to the moving of the Expos to the DC area. He feels that this move would greatly harm the Orioles. A large number of Orioles fans come from DC and Northern Virginia.

"I don't think the Expos will affect the Orioles, people will travel to see their teams play," said senior Tony Jenkins. The move to the area could mean a great deal to the

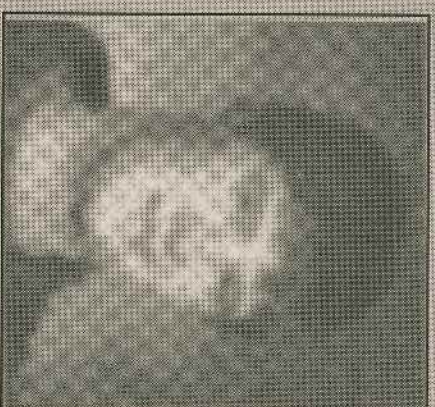


Montreal Expo All-Star Vladimir Guerrero could be one of many new faces if the Expos move to the area.

Athletes of the Issue

Chris Peacock Baseball

Chris is one of the only sophomores on the Varsity Baseball team. He will be the closing pitcher for the Spartans this year.



Adam Buckley

Adam Buckley

Kristin McClain Girls Lacrosse

Kristin, a sophomore, is in her second season with the schools team. She has already scored more than four goals.

Favorite Food: Pretzels and Cheese

Pregame Ritual: Hangs out with her boyfriend

Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Jones

Favorite Type of Music: R & B

Favorite Class: Childhood Development

Favorite TV show: "Seventh Heaven"

Most Embarrassing moment: "All of my blonde moments"

Favorite Food: Pizza

Pregame Ritual: Nothing

Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Harris

Favorite Type of Music: Anything

Favorite Class: PE

Favorite TV show: "Simpsons"

Most Embarrassing moment: Hit Troy Hamilton in the face during Little League

—Compiled by Adam Rosen

Russ's Ramblings

Evidence that people do read WS paper

By Russ Waddell

Oracle Pop Icon

Dear Russ,

I am a victim of geese brutality. One year, I spent my birthday at the Herndon Hilton with friends, where there was a very angry goose. We were enjoying ourselves outside, minding our own business by the pond, when suddenly, there was a goose on the loose. Being the bravest of the group, I took it upon myself to herd the goose back to its home, flailing my arms and making goose noises (brahhhh brabhbb). The goose wasn't having any of this, and lunged at me, all the while snapping its beak. It was a very traumatic experience, and a traveling geese circus would most definitely care of this problem. I also enjoyed your drawing, and it brought me great consolation. It's the best therapy I've received for this situation.

We have that same mysterious carpeted hall here at Herndon, with the exception that it's not actually carpeted. Maybe we can set your hall monster up with our hall monster, and in the process recover your twin brother.

I used to have a poem for you, but I've lost it. All I know is that it thinks we should have a congratulatory beer-o.

You're an inspiration to my journalism class, Mr. Waddell.

Signed,

Coby Wells, Singer Staff Writer

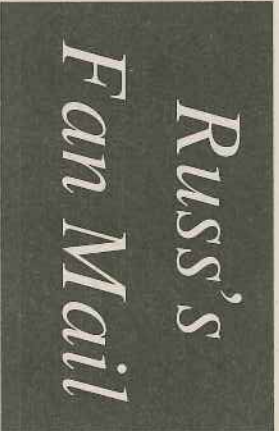
Dear Coby,

Thank you for caring about the important topics explored in *The Oracle*. We pride ourselves on being champions of the truth. The truth isn't always easy to find. Actually, it tends to be slippery and slimy and ever elusive. So, I am always pleased when somebody appreciates my efforts at getting the little sucker. If *The Oracle* doesn't advocate goose control, who will?

In a world full of problems, finding a topic to complain about once every two weeks is no easy task. Nonetheless, I end up struggling time after time for subject matter that is up to *Oracle* standards. I always end up thinking of video games. After all, it's what I know.

The point is, I have to thank you. Your kind and thoughtful letter has allowed me to write this here letter and make it Russ's Ramblings for the next newspaper. My bi-weekly struggle has ended. I have once again defeated the terrible, horrible demons that haunt me and torment me and keep me staring at a white screen for an hour.

I think that the video game I would enjoy more than any other would be called "Writer's Block: Origins of a Madman." The goal of the game would be using a chair to bash computers to pieces. Of course, it isn't the computer's fault that I never know what to write, but therapeutic bashing is good for the soul.



Pop icons define style with pants

By Eugenie Ko

Oracle *Pants Critic*

A great injustice has been taking place on MTV, VH1, and other music networks: the pinnacle aspect of music videos has been overlooked. As a fellow music lover and member of the teenage population, I feel it is my responsibility to fix this wrongdoing and give *pants* the attention they deserve.

Pants have been in music videos for as long as I can remember. Because of my multiple years of expertise in music-video pants watching, I have compiled the top 10 "Best Pants of Music Videos Ever."

10—*Stretch pants*: Who could ever forget the brightly colored elastic that braved the waves in video greats like "Let's Get Physical" and anything by Madonna from the 80's. These tight, unforgiving sausage pants are equally unforgettable.

9—*Vehet Pants*: Made popular by J-Lo, these smooth, comfort enhancing pants are new on the screen and in the streets. With such freedom and luxurious feel, you too can be as cool as Jenny from the Block.

8—*Bell Bottoms*: Bell bottoms were all the rage with super-mega-fantastic stars like Sonny and Cher and The Jackson 5. The slim leg and crazy flair are just too classic to leave off of the Top 10.

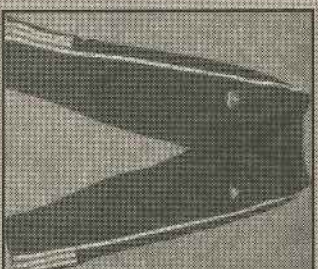
7—*Acid Wash Jeans*: Again, the 80's has left us something to laugh over.

6—*Holey Jeans*: Remember the hole-in-the-ceiling look? TLC did it. Cindy Lauper did it. America did it. < sigh >

5—*Adidas Track Pants*: Rap legends like Grandmaster Flash and the Sugar Hill Gang made these pants.



You know par-
4—*Pants* (with additional Sting, Bon S t e v e n all sported and concert since way



Come on, you own a *Leather* or without *bulge*! Jovi, and Tyler have these video favorites back in the day, not to mention the

club scene. Essential to the wardrobe of a rock star, these pants are still as popular as ever.

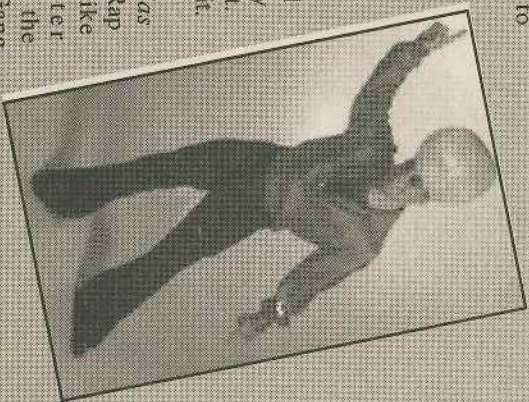
3—*Backwards Pants*: Who could forget the lovable Kris Kross duo, Chris Kelly and Chris Smith. The boys weren't even 12 years old when they hit the scene. Not only did they bring their infectious song "Jump" to the adoring public, but their trademark backwards jeans were never to be forgotten.

2—*Parachute Pants*: No list of top ten pants is complete without MC Hammer's insignia. The light material, flashy assortment of colors, and unbeatable danceability give these pants a well-deserved spot in the Pants-Hall-of-Fame.

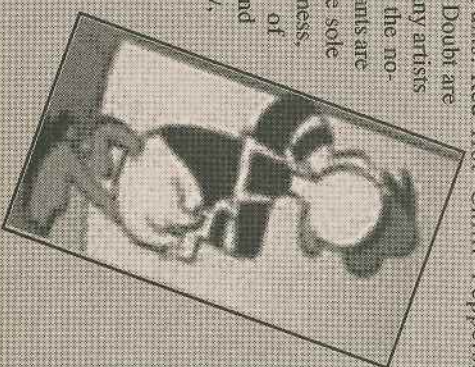
And now for the big numero uno...<drum roll>

The Winner: NO PANTS

1—*LACK of Pants*: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Blink 182, and No Doubt are just a few of the many artists that have adorned the no-pants look. These pants are number one for the sole reason of the frugality, convenient lack of conventionality, and most importantly, sheer comfort. My all-knowing pants knowledge is clear. What pants are you wearing (or not wearing)?



along with matching



"Star of 'Willard' Crispin Glover to be Keynote Speaker for class of 2004 Graduation"

"Oracle Managing Editor Farts: Man Dies of Exposure"

"WORLD ENDS: Only Cockroaches and Nalgene Bottles survive"

"Groundbreaking Medical News: Appendix Actually Does Do Something"

The Oracle lives up to its name and predicts future news

"School's Bottled Water Causes Massive Weight Gain"

"Fishing Club Fails To Gain Popularity..Again"

"WS Dodge Ball Team advances to National Championship, Star Wicker Largent on the Bench with Groin Injury"

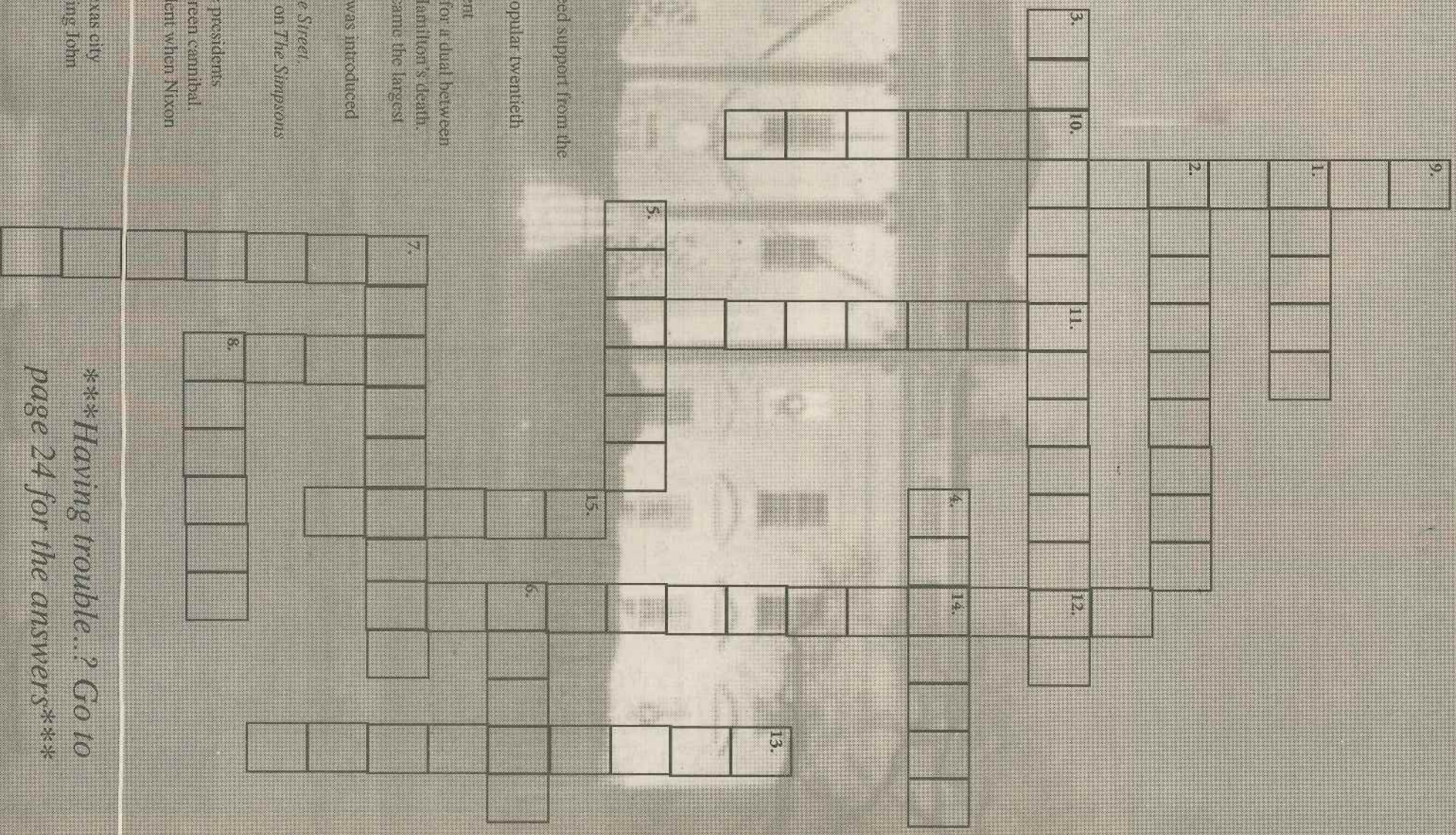
"After Years of Warnings By Teacher Constance Peduzzi, Student is Seriously Injured Playing Tiddlywinks with Manhole Covers"

"Student Drowns in WS Third Story Pool, Freshmen Bewildered"

—Compiled By Adam Buckle

Hail to the Chief

A crossword puzzle by
Marianne Shaddrix
and Russ Waddell



ACROSS

- 1. Jimmy Carter's VP, he was chosen because he guaranteed support from the unions
- 2. Madison's first VP, he shares the same last name as a popular twentieth century president
- 3. He served as John Adams' VP before becoming president
- 4. Losing the vice presidency spot in 1804 was a catalyst for a duel between this incumbent VP and Alexander Hamilton. It ended in Hamilton's death.
- 5. He was VP when Michael Jackson's *Thriller* album became the largest selling record of all time
- 6. He was VP when *The Altaire*, the first home computer, was introduced. When he was VP the Beatles broke up.
- 7. This VP shares the same name as the pet dog on *Sesame Street*.
- 8. This former VP's middle name is shared by a character on *The Simpsons*

DOWN

- 9. He is the only president to have had three different vice presidents
- 10. Lincoln's first VP, he shares a first name with a big-screen cannibal.
- 11. He became VP when Agnew resigned, and later president when Nixon resigned
- 12. He became president after only one month as VP.
- 13. James Polk's VP, he shares a last name with a large Texas city
- 14. He was an extremely successful senator before becoming John Kennedy's VP
- 15. He was Johnson's VP

****Having trouble...? Go to page 24 for the answers****

Hats off to those well covered heads

By Evan Anderson
Senior Staff Writer

I admit it. I am not much of a hat guy. I grow my hair longer than most guys, and, unlike most, actually care about what it looks like. Needless to say, I like the look of hat hair on my flowing blonde strands. When I do consider wearing a hat, I must weigh in two factors. One: the overall coolness of the hat must be enough to override my abhorration of hat hair, and two: the practicality of wearing the hat must be enough to justify the risk of hat hair. Usually, these two factors together are not enough to justify the donning of some kind of head gear. There are some notable exceptions, though.

First off is the crown. This is a definite winner in the coolness area, though it falls a little short as far as practicality is concerned. I have no royal blood in me, as far as I know, anyway.

Actually, I have never owned a crown,

but I admit I have always wanted to. Not just some little gold tiara deal either, I'm talking about a big poofy red velvet (okay, polyester) crown, in the style of the British crown, with a golden frame coming to a point on the top.

I saw one like this once at Hats in the Belfry in Old Town Alexandria. I did not take the opportunity to purchase it, and when I next returned, a different crown was in it's place. It had the right appearance, but unfortunately the frame

Either way, wearing a wizard hat is a very prominent way of saying "Hey look, I'm weird."

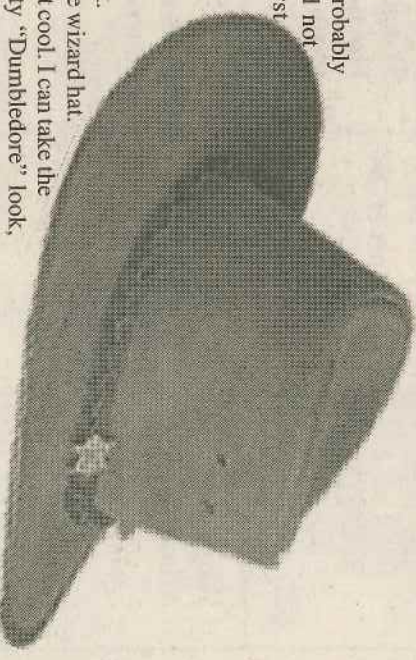
was just part of the cloth and hung limply on my head. It just does not look right.

Actually, it is probably

just as well I did not buy it in the first place. I would really have needed a cloak and scepter to complete the look. Next comes the wizard hat. Now these are just cool. I can take the straight and pointy "Dumbledore" look, or the wide-brimmed "Gandalf" look. Either way, wearing a wizard hat is a very prominent way of saying "hey look, I'm weird." People (i.e. myself) might even think I am a wizard, even if I cannot use any magic. Once again, the hat falls short because, without the complete "sorcerer look," wearing a wizard hat really does look kind of funny.

For me, the big winner not only in practicality but also in overall coolness

definitely has to be my Russian mad



bomber. A great fluffy hat with flaps to protect the ears from extreme cold, it was the hat of choice this winter when hauling sledfuls of snow around, trying to clear out the car. It looks very good, without being confining like a ski cap.

Unfortunately, I cannot wear mad bomber in spring and summer. For me, there is not a hat for every season. Unless I get that crown. Then genuflect, peasants.

The oh so terrible fight with stinky feet, and the how to fix it...

By Adam Buckley

Photographer

It is indiscriminate and has no cure. It strikes without warning and running will only make it worse. I would know, because I am stricken by this ailment: stinky feet.

I did not always have this problem, in fact it was only a few years ago that I developed my condition. I am not sure, but I believe that my foot odor was induced by a combination of running and wearing birkenstocks every day. How could I know that wearing the most comfortable shoes on the planet would have such dire consequences? Yet, to this day I continue to sacrifice a pleasant smell for comfort. Of course, such a decision does not hurt me as much as it hurts my friends, family, and anybody else in my general location.

Stinky feet is not like the Lou Gerighs disease since lots of people have it. You won't die from it...I don't think so atleast. Like Schizophrenia or Genital Herpes it recedes from time to time. You can even beat the strange smells into submission by using odor suppressing agents such as Odor-Eaters Foot and Sneaker Spray Powder, which eliminates foot odor as well as keeping your feet dry and happy. I will be expecting my check from Odor-Eaters any day now.

But to truly understand foot odor completely we must



examine the very beginning of foot odor. We must delve into volume upon volume of historical text trying to find earlier recorded cases of foot odor, tracing it back to its very source. This is the very reason that I will never know where foot odor comes from, who in their right mind would take the time to do something like that.

Yet, if a Discovery Channel special on this topic comes up, I will be sure to watch it...between the commercials of some other show.

Seriously though, I do have a theory about where all foot odor started and it can be blamed on one thing, the invention of the wheel. The moment that happened, roads were built that hurt to walk across. People started to wear shoes, and it was all down hill from there.

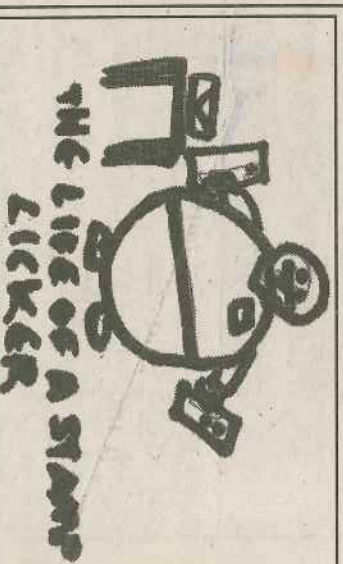
If you too have the unfortunate luck of having foot odor, then do not be ashamed but rather stand up against it. And if you need some comforting come and see me, but make sure to keep your shoes on, your feet smell really bad.

WS votes on the hottest celebs

Russ not voted hottest guy, few stray votes

- Brittany Spears- 17% Other-15%
- Jennifer Aniston- 13% J Timb-23%
- Brooke Burke-10% Evan MarriotT-12%
- Rosanne-2% Colin Farrel-21%
- Top three-43% Russ-4%
- Other-15% Top three-25%

Out of 100 of each gender —Compiled by Denis Ing



Easy Learning

Every time you lick a stamp, you re consuming 1/10 of a

calorie —Compiled by Denis Ing

Keep all of those soldiers that are out in Iraq protecting all of us in your thoughts, so that they may come back alive. Those that don't, let them go to a better place.

April/May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/Sunday
7 Everclear performs at the 930 club and it ends...	8 Boys Soccer v Woodson	9 Track v Hayfield, Robinson	10 Wallflowers performs at the 930 club	11 Wizards v Boston	12 post hump day Baseball v Robinson
14 Wizards v Atlanta	15 Boys Baseball @ Westfield	16 Boys Baseball @ Osbourne Park	17 Boys Baseball @ Garfield	18 Wizards v April Fool's!	19 Crew @ Occoquan
21 It keeps going	22 Boys Soccer v Annandale	23 Boys Lacrosse @ Langley	24 Wallflowers performs at the 930 club	25 ***The cross-word puzzle doesn't work—April Fool's!	26 Track Penn Relays
28 Boys Soccer v West Potomac	29 Varsity Softball v Hayfield	30 Boys Tennis @ Robinson	1 O's @ Detroit SENIORS make those decision !!	2 O's v Kansas City	3 BRN bday in 10 days! :)>
					4 Good Charlotte performs @ Patriot Center