

April 29, 2003  
Volume 38 Number 10

# THE Oracle

West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

## Spartan

### games

#### live on

By Erika Kim  
News Section Editor

There is one thing bubble wrap, root beer and old refrigerator boxes have in common. The return of Spartan Games. Spartan Games is traditionally held during Homecoming week of every year, and it was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 15, 2002 this school year, but because of the sniper attacks that were occurring during that time, the well anticipated Homecoming activity was canceled much to the students' dismay.

Spartan Games was rescheduled for April 2 at 7 PM in the stadium, and students from all classes came out to participate and cheer their class on.

"I came out because my friends were in it and it sounded fun to watch," said freshman Megan O'Connell.

The games began with representatives from each class wrapped in bubble wrap wrestling each other. They wrestled each other two at a time and the winner of each round proceeded onto the next round. The senior representative emerged victorious in the end.  
See GAMES, page 4



Jan Stomacco

Junior Megan Downing participated in the Day of Silence like many other students by wearing a ribbon on her shirt.

## Administration lets the dogs out

By Priyanka Tandon  
Oracle Editor

Fairfax County Police's canine unit swept WS on March 28, "hitting" three lockers, but finding no drugs. Four dogs and their handlers were divided evenly between the two levels of WS.

"If one dog 'hit' a locker, we had another dog double check," said principal David Smith.

Smith chose not to have the students present when their lockers were searched because he didn't want to single them out.

The sweep was originally planned to take place in the fall, but because of the Sniper Attacks, police resources were limited. So the sweep was delayed and setup for March. The main reason for the sweep was the recent rise in expulsions, recommendations for expulsions and possession of marijuana both inside and outside of school.  
See DOGS, page 4

## Ban lift allows press back through WS doors

By Eugenie Ko  
Senior Staff Writer

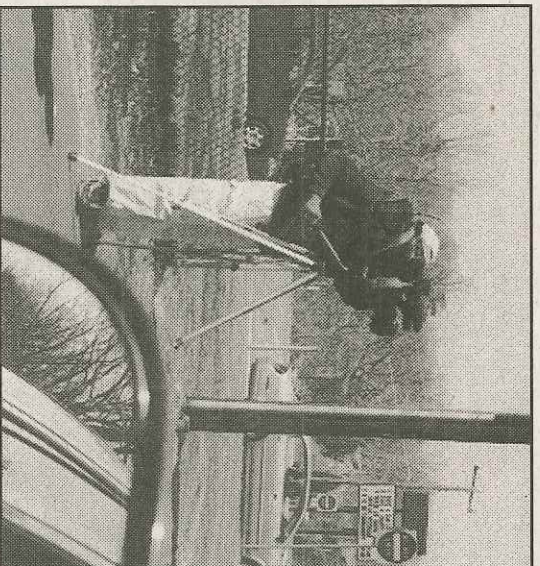
Some marched to protest it. Others wore ribbons and pinned on flyers to support it. Either way, WS students clearly hold strong opinions about the war in Iraq.

The students, however, will not be able to share their views on the war with the media while in school.

The FCPS school board, when the war broke out in Iraq, decided to ban the media from entering schools to talk to students.

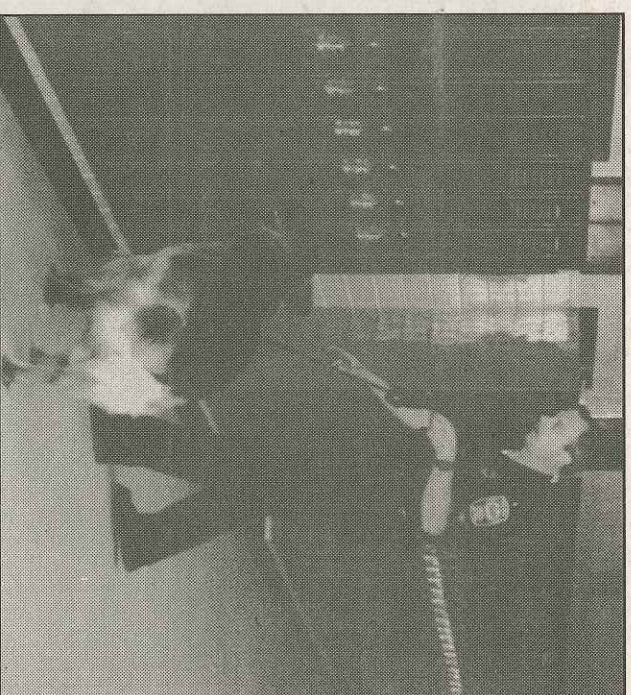
"They decided to keep reporters out of schools," said principal David G. Smith. "It's not just WS, it's a county decision."

After 9/11 and the Sniper incident, many local and national newspapers and stations were eager to visit classrooms to hear how students felt. At the time, some believed that the presence of the press was too distracting for students. So with this latest news story, the county decided instead to protect students from the media.  
In February, Fredreka Schouten from Ginnett news



Brooke Nelson

Members of the press often visit WS interviewing students and faculty and also taking pictures



Brooke Nelson

Police officers and four drug dogs went down the hallways with administrators checking for illegal substances in lockers.

service came to teacher Jamie Morris's seventh period Government class to hear students' thoughts on a possible war in Iraq.

Once the war started, Schouten asked the county if she could return to Morris's class. This time, however, because of FCPS's new policy, she was denied access.

"It would have been a good PR opportunity for Fairfax County," said Morris. "But they were protective of their students."

As of now, the county will handle press entering schools on a case by case basis.

"We don't want cameras roaming in the halls," said Paul Reigner of the FCPS' Office of Community and Relations. "But now it depends on what the coverage is about."

The press will still be able to talk to students from Arlington and Montgomery counties

"I disagreed with the county," said Morris. "But then again, I don't make policy."  
See PRESS, page 4



8 What to do after high school.



12 Shopping for a prom dress? Check here first.



14 Frisbee hole in one.

## Extra time serves only as annoyance to students

When all things are considered and done, the 11 days that we got off for snow and blizzard like conditions was great. It was an awesome total of over two weeks off school.

What's even better is that we only have to make up three of those days. We are allowed three days of snow and then Fairfax County got days waived by the state.

But instead of adding three days into the year on teacher workdays, we must suffer through 30 more minutes of the fiery pits of school. All periods except fifth will receive an extra ten minutes onto their schedule. I think I would take the extra days at the end of the year because we would just watch movies. We now get out at 2:45 instead of 2:15. It doesn't sound like much but now when school has started up again, we will feel the annoyance of

the extra boredom from the extra time to the classes..

Let's make a short list of things that could have happened in that thirty minutes of extra school, had we not been forced to make it all up. First, I could walk down to my car on center road and make it home, been eating a snack and watching TV. I

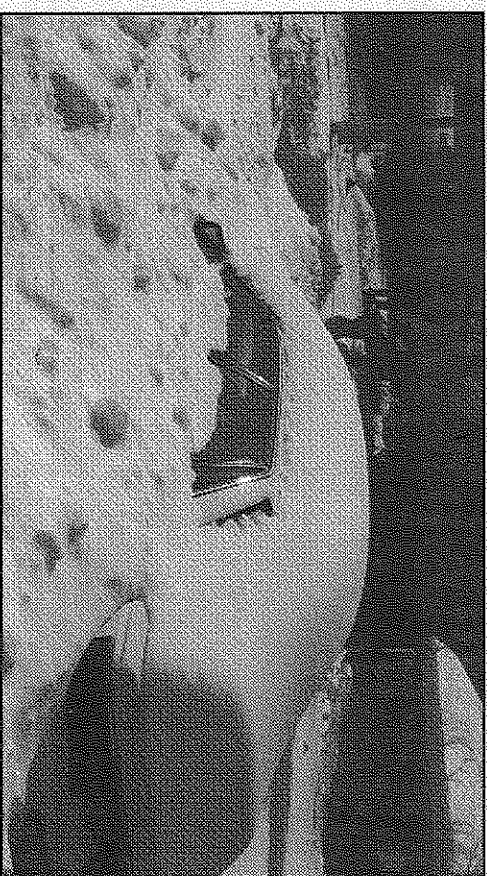
### Editorial

could have been in a meeting of some sort and almost done, then go home.

Now all of these plans will be hindered largely because of the thirty extra minutes of sitting in class being bored, staring at the wood fibers in my desk is added on to the day.

What can be accomplished in a few minutes? We can take that extra one

question test, and by the time the teacher hands it out, it's down to five minutes. But yet if all works out as some have planned, that extra ten minutes would have to add ten more minutes of video watching. The final verdict...this extra ten minutes is a complete waste of time, making everyone rearrange their schedules.



Katie Nelson  
Students and teachers received a reprieve from school due to the heavy snow, but now must make up the time missed through half-hour extra school days.

*Any and all letters to the editor are welcome, but they must be signed. Anonymous letters will not be published.*

## Ban on DC field trips produces adverse results

By Evan Anderson  
Sports Editor

The war with Iraq commenced. No specific threat to the United States was analyzed, but the Department of Homeland Security raised the terrorist threat level to orange creamsicle, just as a precaution.

Just what exactly code orange means is up to speculation. There is no law regarding Code Orange that insists every family must have at least three rolls of duct tape. Similarly, the kinds of precautions schools should take, if any, are not legally specified.

While both the Departments of Education and Homeland

Security offer suggestions of how schools should prepare in the face of terrorist threats, it is ultimately up to the discretion of the school system how to act.

As one facet of their preparations, Fairfax County decided to ban field trips. Recently, when no threats materialized concerning terrorist threats, the county loosened field trip restrictions, allowing trips as long as they did not involve venturing near Washington, DC or New York City.

This comes as a major disappointment to me and other students. The History Honor Society, for one, was considering going to Washington DC on an

organized field trip. That is no longer possible.

One of my fondest memories of AP English Language was the trip to the National Museum of Art. This year, students will be unable to take the trip. Even if, by some miracle, the terror alert level were to be lowered to yellow, there would not be enough time to plan a trip.

It seems a little silly that, living no more than thirty miles away from Washington we should be restricted from going in on a field trip. I mean, it's *right there*. I can understand the school systems concern for the safety of their students and do not see this restriction as unreasonable.

That is not to say I think it is the best solution to the problem. Students have to have permission forms signed off to go on field trips.

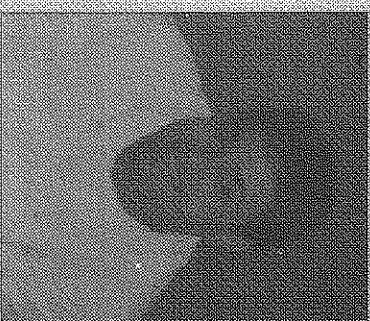
It would only be logical to simply add a section stating that the school would not responsible for any adverse harm that would come to the student while not on school property (as in the bus). True, it's rather morbid, but throngs of students go into Washington anyway on weekends or on their own time. If nothing else, at least organized field trips outside of school time, like those an honor society might take, should be permissible.

Fairfax County's concern for

the safety of their students is certainly legitimate, but I am not sure if simply banning field trips to Washington DC whenever a Code Orange pops up is the best idea. There may be more frequent

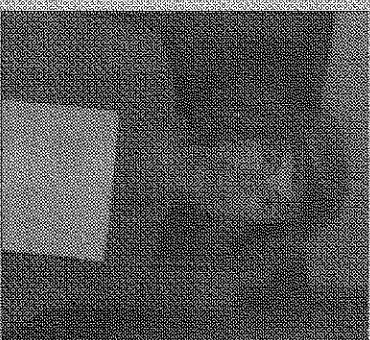
Certainly, the County would not want virtually all trips into DC to be cancelled.

Responding to the threat of terrorism is new and definitely a work-in-progress. I just hope a blanket restriction on all field trips to Washington is not the permanent solution. I know trips to the museums were always some of the best parts of my classes throughout my time in public schools.



"I don't think so, unless you're going into the ghetto part of DC."

—Mano Tenkerian, 10



"I have mixed feelings, [but] the school needs to think of the safety of the students."

—Joan Galdi, administrator

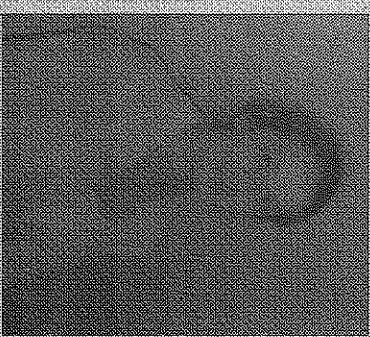
*Do you think field trips to DC should be banned?*

*All photographs by Jen Siomacco*



"No, it's ridiculous. If they're going to bomb us, they'll bomb us."

—Amy LaCrose, 10 —Compiled by Jen Siomacco



"No, because that's what the terrorists want, for us not to be able to live our lives."

—Laura Idrobo, 11

## The Oracle

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# Students express different views on war

## Protestors bring havoc

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

Anti-War protestors claim that they are for the troops, but against the war. The way they demonstrate shows that they do not support American troops.

The protestors say that they are for the troops, but against the war. I can't see how that is possible. Protest signs seem to be against the president, not against Saddam Hussein and his brutality.

If the protestors are for the troops then there would be massive pro troop rallies instead of massive anti-war and anti-Bush rallies.

The president is the Commander in Chief. He leads the military into battle or delegates who does.

The president gave the go ahead for America to begin this war and he is being attacked by protestors. Thus, if someone is attacking the president, they are attacking the military along with it.

They say support our troops, but I don't know how blocking 14th Street shows their support.

Also some of the front groups that organize the massive and expensive rallies are led by people that have their own special agendas or belong to communist groups such as ANSWER, who's most influential member of the steering committee is Ramsey Clark's who has a project called the International Action Center, which is considered to be a communist organization for a communist group called the World Workers Party.

I don't see how so many people can hate the United States government over the Iraqi dictatorship that caused the whole problem in the first place.

Democratic Senator John Kerry lashed out at President Bush during a speech in Peterborough, NH saying that the United States needed a "regime change."

There is no fine line in supporting the war. Either the protestors are for the brave men and women and support what they are doing and what they are fighting for or they are not.

## Spartan game prices frustrate underclassmen

**By Eugenie Ko**  
*Senior Staff Writer*

Like many school events, Spartan Games aims to raise funds for a particular class or club, in this case, the senior class.

The event took place April 2, and as in the past, the turnout was by no means spectacular.

That particular aspect of it, however, is what makes Spartan Games different from other fundraising events: the purpose of Spartan Games is to have *fun*.

Spartan Games cost \$3 to attend, and both spectators and participants were required to pay this fee.

Several underclassmen participants, however, expressed their opinion, stressing that it was unfair for those participating to have to pay.

Before the complaints start to flow, however, underclassmen should keep in mind several very important points.

First, everyone was required to pay, whether they were freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or even seniors.

The entrance fee made no distinction between classes.

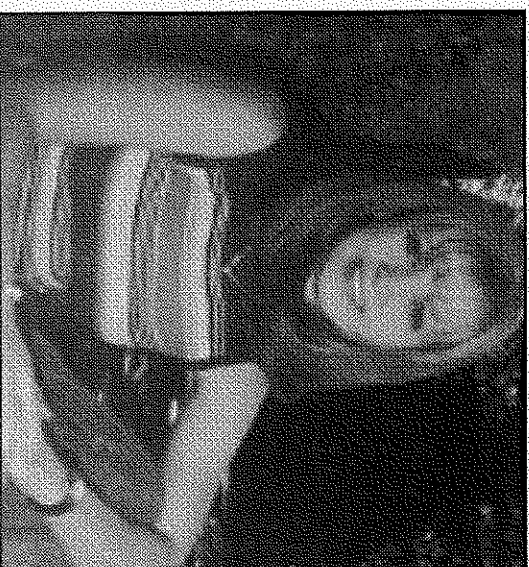
Those who were not in favor of the cost chose to make the argument that by participating, they were dedicating their time to help out a senior class activity.

Spartan Games has typically been attended by the participants, class officers, few underclassmen, and a majority of seniors.

Charging only spectators would not even cover the cost of the materials necessary to run Spartan Games.

In addition to financial aspects, those who participate are only actually engaging in a Spartan Game for the duration of a few minutes.

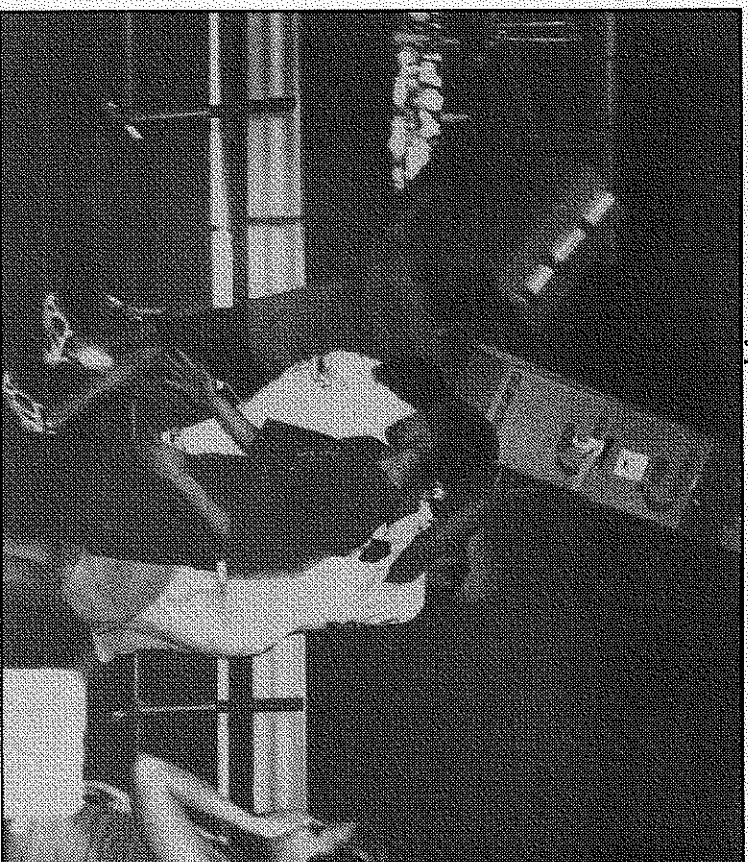
Underclassmen who complained about having to pay for Spartan Games, or any other class-sponsored school event should



Jessica Lynch was one of the surviving POW's through the Iraqi terror.



American soldiers show their courage in fighting for their country.



Kathleen Prevost

Students participated in the refrigerator box carrying in the Spartan Games. keep in mind that all of the money raised goes towards another class's prom and graduation activities.

## Detention drives student insane

**By Evan Anderson**  
*Sports Editor*

Here I am, cold, tired, drained. The harsh, fluorescent lights beam in my face, the inky black shadows of the outdoors, only broken by the lonely glow of the streetlamps. A crowd plaintively caws from outside. Out of pity for us? Or his own desperate plight, caught in the darkness of the world.

How did it come to this? I thought I had escaped caught by the fall sweep only to be forgotten, a name lost on a list. But then I was foolish. I published my story. And so it was. Mr. Griffin and Mr. Ukelele cornered me outside Calculus one Tuesday Morning. I caved. I submitted to... the 6 AM morning detention.

As I drove through the dark this morning, the cold rain pounding around

the car, I have to admit I felt a bit of a thrill. This was the first time I had gotten in this sort of trouble throughout high school. I had crossed the line, over to the delinquent side. There was no turning back now.

My "me against the world" delusion took a slight hit when I arrived at the health room. There were 28 other students in there, and my name was not even on the list. Gardner was more than happy to add it on, though.

I take my seat and look around. I would love to ask the other victims what they were in for, but talking is forbidden. As we are sleeping. And eating. And thinking.

Gardner won't even give me a phone call. Suddenly, Gardner is distracted. Another late arrival. I whip out my cell phone from the right pocket of my jacket, and slip it down into my backpack on my

My relationship with my country is like my relationship with my best friend. I love her to death, yet I also disagree with her at times.

During this month, this day, and this hour, I find myself in one of those dreaded times. I stand angry with the country I love, not agreeing with its actions and not wishing to be a part of them, but at the same time, I am not willing to turn my back on my country.

I do not agree with this war. I do not believe going after Saddam and his country in a violent manner is going to solve anything. Violence only leads to more violence; hate only leads to more hate. I don't hate President Bush for agreeing to this war, and I especially don't hate the troops who are overseas fighting it. It's not going to solve anything if I sit back and curse everyone who is taking part in this awful war. I support the troops. I pray for the troops. I support their bravery, their courage, and their dedication to the U.S.

Any person who is willing to fight for their country, knowing very well that it may lead to the ultimate sacrifice, death, has something in them similar to what heroes have.

I've had people tell me that if I oppose this war, then I oppose my government, my president, and, most strongly, my troops. But just because I'm against the war does not mean I'm against my country. I love my country, and I respect my country. I proudly wear red, white, and blue, and I proudly recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

I oppose this war for a number of reasons, and one of them is because I love my country so much that I can't bear to see my fellow citizens risking their lives. I will continue to protest this war, but at the very same time, I will support the troops and I will support my country.

Why? Because, despite my opposition to war, I am truly proud to be an American.

When those underclassmen get older, they too will reap the benefits of traditionally senior fundraisers.

What? That's it? It's only seven tent! I am not done with my melodramatic lament yet! Oh well, I'm not complaining. At least I am free, free to breathe the fresh hallway air, free to sit at my locker and pretend like I am doing my homework, free to sit in class and... cride. Some freedom.

All right, so sitting in 6 AM detention was not all *that* bad. It was still a pain. I have learned a few lessons from this experience. One: If I can get away with something, I should not tell anybody about it and two: "kill the messenger" is not just a cliché.

The ironic thing is, I suppose I did not learn not to be late to my classes, as I arrived at detention twenty minutes late. So now I have to serve yet another detention, this time in the afternoon. So folks, stay tuned for next issue's episode of the exciting "Hall Sweep Detention Saga." What dangers await our hero *this* time?

# Students speak out about US war with Iraq

By Emily Ryan  
Senior Staff Writer

There are the anti-war protests, the pro-war flyers, the students wearing shirts displaying peace signs, and the students that don't say anything one way or another. With war, emotions fly as people are divided over how the situation should be handled. Each student has his or her own opinion and expresses these opinions in different ways. Some students have participated in anti-war protests

in Washington, DC. Junior Jessica Campo attended one in January prior to the start of the war, then to another one just three days after the war began. While she disagrees with the US involvement, she still supports the men and women serving. "I support [the troops] because they're over there and are protecting us, but I don't support why we're over there," said Campo. "If some people want peace enough, then they'll get it. At least I can show that I want it."

There are the ones who choose to protest with Campo and go to the rallies, then there are others enough time," who don't understand the point of said junior protesting. "I don't understand why Werking. E r i k a

people have to protest because we "I think if can't just back out of the war h e now," said freshman Carrie would've DeClark, who has two cousins waited over in Iraq.

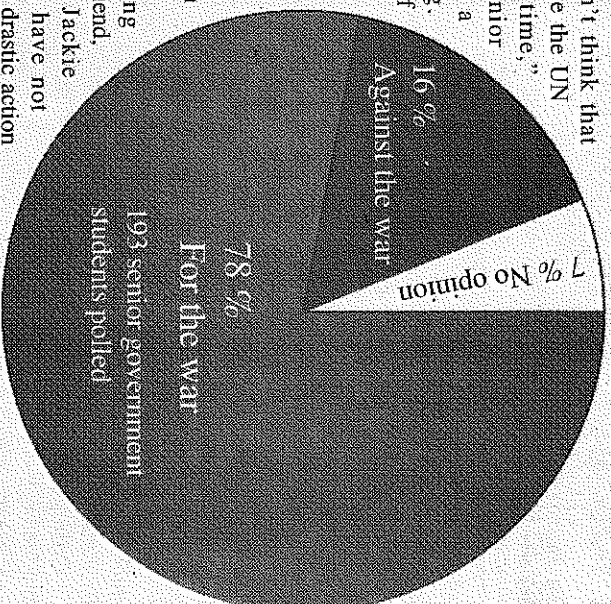
Campo and some of her I r a q friends have made clothes with would've peace signs and slogans on them just given that they wear to school to voice up."

Working Junior Amy Zaiss wears a sign on her backpack and her friend, saying "No War in Iraq." A few junior Jackie represent the other side by Tahiani, have not wearing signs on their backpacks taken any drastic action that are in support of the war or to show their opposition. Instead, passing out pictures meant to they openly express their gather support.

"Most people accepted [the Michael Goodin also lets his pictures], but a small minority beliefs known about Operation found them unwelcome," said Iraqi Freedom.

Junior Matt Benton, who "I'm for the war because I participated in handing out pro- wouldn't mind killing Saddam war flyers. "It's important that myself," said junior Michael no matter what your personal Goodin.

opinions are, you should still Goodin looks forward to the support the troops." day when he turns eighteen and can to join the Marines. There are People all over show support many students who are interested of the troops, but are divided over many services and plan on support for the decision that Bush in the armed services and plan on and other leaders made to go over making a career in the military after graduating. These students to Iraq in the first place.

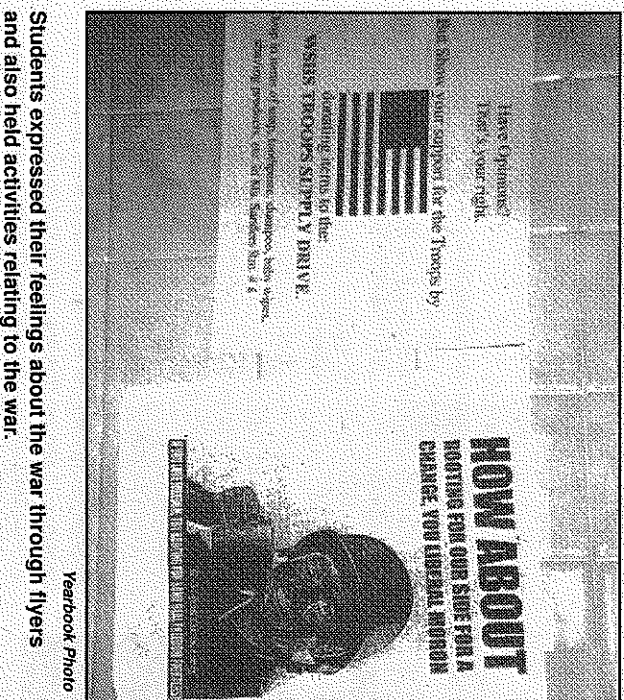


aren't all phased by what's going on now.

"I want to be a pilot and I want to be in the military," said senior Vinny Parde, "so I'm for any military action."

Students and staff members throughout the school have their own thoughts about what is going on in Iraq. While they may not be able to agree whether they should all support or oppose the war, they've accepted their differing opinions.

Campo said, "Everyone is entitled to their own opinion."



Yearbook Photo  
Students expressed their feelings about the war through flyers and also held activities relating to the war.

## Students stay silent all day in the name of awareness and diversity

SILENCE, from page 1  
Senior Christopher Martin chose to wear a red ribbon to show their support.

because he believed it was a more significant statement.

"The red signifies the blood of the victims," said Martin. "By not talking it makes for a greater effect in showing my views on hate crimes. Anyone can wear a ribbon."

To spread the word, GSA members made flyers and announcements and handed out ribbons during lunch. Sponsor Jamie Morris emailed teachers to inform them of the day.

"It's a first year thing," said Carrera. "We didn't want to ruffle any feathers."

Other local high schools like Lake Braddock, Thomas Jefferson and TC Williams participate in this day too.

Establishing this day at WS was an original goal for the GSA.

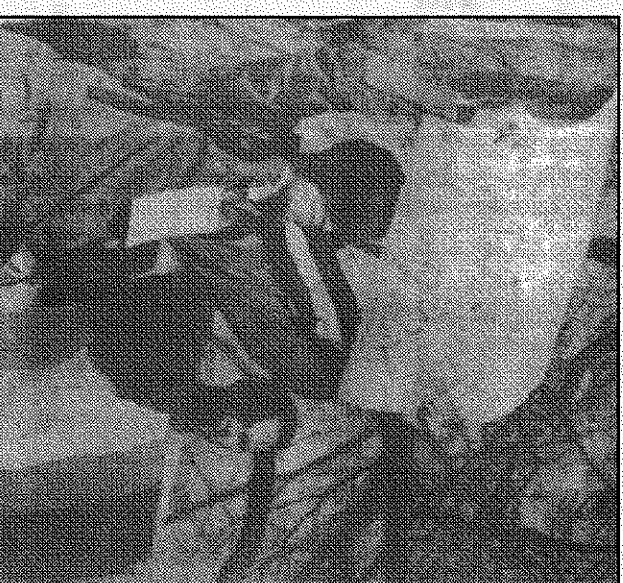
"Our main purpose is to create awareness and promote diversity," said Carrera. "It's cool to see that people care."

Although not everyone chose to wear these ribbons, a significant number of students did participate in the Day of Silence.

"I chose to wear the blue ribbon," said senior Sun Cho. "I like it because I don't always have time to get involved with stuff like this, but this way I can still show my support all day in a small way."

While the GSA would like to see participation in the Day of Silence increase every year, they were more than satisfied with this year's results.

"I want people to stop and ask what this is all about," said Carrera. "And basically just to learn something new."



Indiana University students march for gay rights on the Day of Silence.

## Dogs brought in to search

DOGS, from page 1

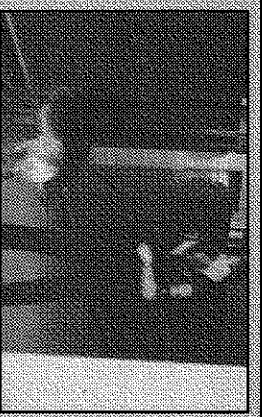
"We've had a rash of students [bringing] drugs to school," said administrator Richard Griffin. "We wanted [the sweeps] to serve as a deterrent."

Smith, in cooperation with the administrative staff, talked with members of the Executive Parent Teacher Association Board as well as community parents, most agreed that the search was a "reasonable step."

"We're serious about what [students] do and don't bring to school," said Smith. "We needed to send a message that we don't look the other way and take [drugs] seriously."

Although the sweep was unknown to students, some think that the dogs were ineffective.

"WS has a problem. But what's a dog sniffing a locker going to do when the drugs aren't in there, but [in students'] backpacks," said senior Ursula Zaboro. Other students disagree and believe



that the administration took an important step.

"A bunch of people have been getting busted so [the drug dogs] were a good precaution," said junior Martha Krueger.

Still others think that the sweep worked against the administration's intentions and only tipped off students for the future.

"We have a problem, but I don't think the drug dogs solved it. It just told kids to keep it out of their lockers," said junior Robyn Adams.

Although WS was deemed "clean" for now, the administration will not tolerate any type of illegal substances and are alert for the remainder of the year.

"We've had quite a number of arrests [this year]," said security specialist Mike Ukle. "We may bring them in one more time before the end of the year."

## Spartan games returns for April

GAMES, from page 1

The next competition was the Root Beer Chug in which two representatives from each class took turns drinking a two liter bottle of root beer to see which class could drink it the fastest. The freshman team finished drinking the root beer first.

Other competitions included a five legged race in which four people from each class were tied together and tried to move across the field the fastest and a refrigerator box relay.

In the refrigerator box relay, a person from each class with refrigerator box over their head spun around a bat and then ran to their teammate on the other side of the track and passed the box on. That teammate then had to run and pass the box on to another teammate. The seniors were the fastest in both of the competitions.

Next was the all time favorite grease wrestling competition. Two representatives at a time got on their knees on a tarp covered with greased, and the objective was to push the other person off the tarp first. The competition ended in a draw

between the seniors and the sophomores. The grease wrestling competition was followed by a pie eating contest, a sack race and the Slip and Slide competition. The sack race consisted of two people from each class that took turns hopping across the field in trash bags to see who would be the fastest.

Four students ran across the field and then slid on their stomachs across a greased tarp in the Slip and Slide Competition in which the Freshman class was victorious. The final competition was a relay where competitors had to run through hurdles, under a rope, spin around on bat, run back

while carrying a melon and then pass the melon off to the next person while class officers squirted them with water guns. Seniors won the relay and the competition. In addition, seniors also won the hall decorating that took place during school hours in which seniors showed the most spirit with signs and streamers hung all over senior hall.

"I thought that [Spartan Games] was pretty fun," said freshman Wil Cope. "The classes showed a lot of school spirit."

# Senior exams revised

## Schedule changes because of prom

By JD Kaleem  
Features Editor

To the delight of seniors, the WS administration has revised and condensed the final exam schedule to avoid conflicts with the June 13th Prom.

Senior final exams will now be held from Monday, June 9 through Thursday, June 12.

Originally, exams would run through the following Monday, forcing students to take tests the day of Prom.

"It was changed to accommodate the students' needs," said senior administrator Richard Griffin.

Griffin, along with other school officials and senior class officers and sponsors, met to revise the schedule.

"A couple of months ago, [junior administrator] Martha Chandler started the

talking about the schedule," said senior class sponsor Allison Kopkau. "The county tells us the timeframe in which we have our finals; it all depends on our graduation date. From there, the school administration decides what to do."

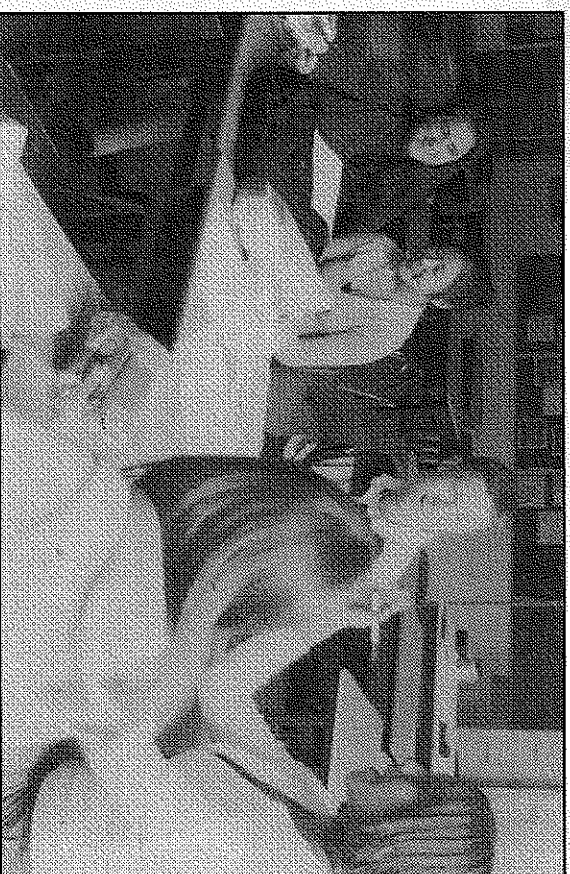
Fairfax County policy requires students attend school for 180 days, so seniors will still come to school until graduation. The senior picnic and other activities will be rescheduled to take place from June 13th onward.

Although, students don't mind activities such as graduation rehearsals and cap and gown distribution occurring after Prom as much as they minded exams.

"Thank god the schedule was revised!

I'm happy our officers were able to work with the administration to get the problem fixed," said senior Caitlin Lennuzzi.

The administration is still working out



Jen Stomacco

The senior class officers, along with sponsor Allison Kopkau spoke with the administration to revise the senior exam schedule so an exam does not coincide with prom. The specifics of the schedule, such as which exams will take place on which dates and when other senior activities will occur.

"No one wants to take tests on Prom

# SOL testing schedule shortens day by 2 hours

By Emily Sommerfeldt  
Inside Story Editor

The clocks read 2:15 and students are still in their classes, but between May 27 and 30, the classes will be emptied by lunchtime.

Due to the many snow days, the school board made the decision to extend the school day by 30 minutes instead of adding extra days onto the end of the year. Their newest decision has been allowing students to leave school two hours early on four out of the five SOL testing days.

The result is students having to go extra minutes after the original dismissal bell at 2:15, but still getting to leave school early on those few days.

"Wouldn't it make more sense to go a full day after the SOLs?" said junior Kristin Williams with a puzzled look. "I don't understand what Fairfax County was thinking."

The debate over whether or not students should be allowed to leave early has left some people with questions, while some



Kathleen Prevost

Juniors in Mrs. Faircloth's English class prepare for the upcoming SOL's. Come test week students will leave 2 hours early four of the five days.

students welcome the 2-hour early dismissal days. To some, time away from school is bliss; they welcome the break.

"I'll take time off anytime," said jun-

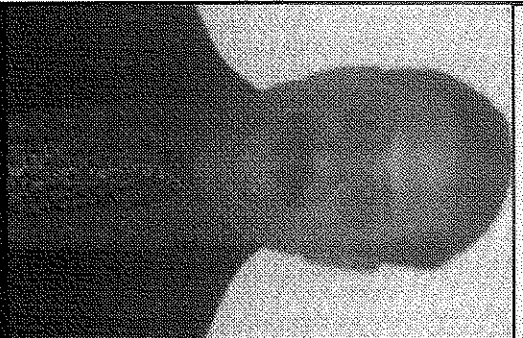
ior Christy Denny. No matter how difficult a test is, test taking can still be stressful, and students think that they should be allowed the extra time to relax from the

"After a day of taking the SOL tests, kids will not be able to focus."  
—teacher Ann Lam

## TONY ARAJ

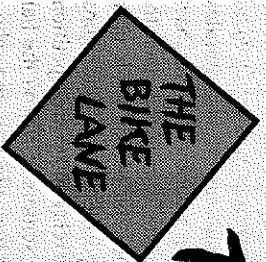
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## NEWS

French teacher Laura Bruckmann was married on April 12 in Ridgefield, Connecticut. *Congratulations!*

AP Calculus teachers have started the yearly evening review sessions for the AP test. The informal sessions are open to both AB and BC students.

"The goal of the sessions is to be able to go over AP questions, purely to review and practice AP problems," said BC Calculus teacher Beth Roop, "because in class, we really do not have enough time to do that and get through the material."

Sessions are usually held from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Dates are posted outside Room 14.

National Honor Society held a media event on April 22nd, with members from the press, including *The Washington Post* and *The Connection* invited. The event was to highlight the success of the society's two week recycling program, in which it collected approximately a "few thousand cans." The society made a wall out of the cans, and Catherine Belfer of the school board was present.

"It took a lot of people and many man hours [to collect the cans]," said president Joe Weidenhold.

Congratulations to the winners of NASA Student Involvement Program's awards. Sophomores Christine Hulse and Debra Geary won first place in the "Mission to Mars" division of the program, while sophomore Jason Kaplan won second place in the "Science and Technology Journalism" aspect.

Journalism student senior JD Kaleem recently was awarded the Knight Ridder Minority Scholarship. The scholarship not only provides \$40,000 over four years, but also provides for internships for different papers of the company. *Congratulations!*

—Compiled by Mike Araj

# Horn builds construction back into his life

**By Heidi Stiligoi**  
*Features Editor*

After seven and a half years of teaching, Hank Horn is moving on to construction; a business he has been in for 15 years.

Horn, who teaches Physics and Active Physics, has decided to start his own construction business up again, and will retire from teaching at the end of this year, which will complete his fifth year at WS.

"I won't miss the hours it takes to grade papers and stuff," said Horn. "But I'll miss the kids."

Horn, born and raised in Rochester, NY, graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in instrumentation technology and education.

Although Horn is a full-

time teacher at WS, he has been working in construction on and off throughout his teaching years. He works by himself, occasionally hiring people when he needs help.

Paul Lee, a 2002 graduate from WS, often works with Horn as he builds additions and remodels houses; the work he'll do when he has his own business started up again.

Horn also takes time out of his busy schedule to relax and have fun. He has been snowboarding for three years and learned to surf at Cocoa Beach, FL, after graduating college in the early '80s. Horn also labels himself as a "gym rat" since he spends large amounts of his time at the gym working out or stretching after a day of construction.

Horn is an avid animal lover, especially of dogs. He used to own a German Shepherd, and hopes to get another one soon.

"[My dog and I] went everywhere and did everything together," said Horn. "He always came with me; my truck served as a doghouse."

What shocks students the most is Horn's interest in racing cars. He races on the weekends at 75&80, a track off of Route 270, usually a couple times a month. He first heard about it through a group of friends.

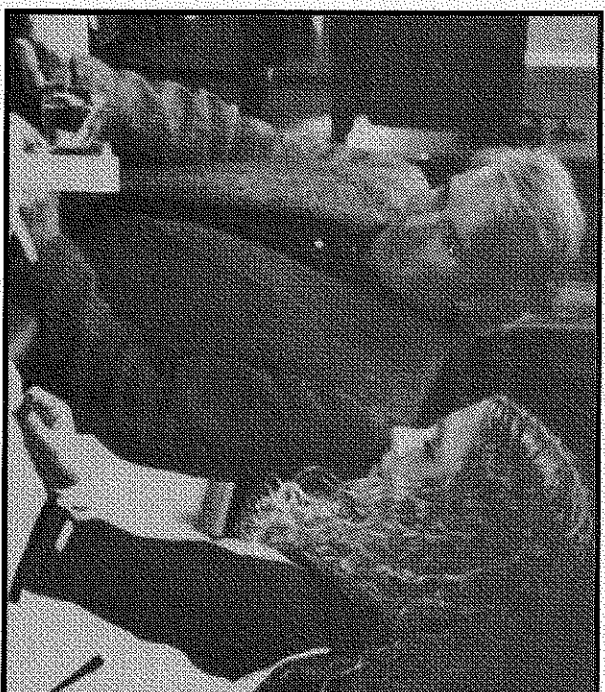
"I've been doing it for a couple years," said Horn. "I'm damn good."

Horn does not just search for adventure on the race track, however.

This summer, Horn will travel to Africa with a group of physics teachers to work with the teachers there and to help them improve their physics curriculum. Horn is positive it won't be his last

time teaching.

"I teach physics to everyone I work with. Instead of talking about 'American Idol' on the job, I talk about the physics in the things around us," said Horn. "I've been teaching for a long time, and I always will continue to teach it."



# AP bio sees live surgery

**By Ruchika Malhotra**  
*Managing Editor*

The surgeons operate. The rib cage opens. Blood oozes out. No, this isn't another Discovery Channel special, but a live surgery.

Teachers are able to plan a trip to take groups of about twenty students to go and watch live surgeries at Fairfax Hospital.

Surgeries happen all the time and are displayed upon the patient's consent. The only types of surgeries that aren't shown are the children's operations.

Students enrolled in certain academy classes have gone on field trips to INOVA Fairfax Hospital to watch live surgery. The Medical Health Technology class went in March.

"I thought it was interesting and something new," said senior Jessica Agudelo.

Viewers get to see every process in the surgery room from the viewing case above the room.

"Just to see the actual heart pumping and how they could start and stop it without killing a person was interesting," said Agudelo.

Despite all the different and interesting processes viewers witness, there are drawbacks of watching surgery. Students can be sensitive to the realities of live surgery.

"There was just so much blood," said Agudelo.

Another drawback is the length of

the surgery. The Medical Health Technology class watched an open heart surgery that lasted two hours. Another academy class, Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy, observed a surgery that lasted five hours.

"It was interesting, but it just got boring and very tedious," said senior Andy Grzankowski.

The view can also be a problem. AP Biology teacher Ann Lam saw open heart surgery with other teachers in January.

"There were moments where we couldn't see because the doctors and nurses were manipulating the lights so they could see," said Lam.

Regardless of the drawbacks, watching a live surgery can offer new insights and be a valuable experience, especially for those who want to go into medical fields.

"It really shows you what these professionals do on an everyday basis," said Lam.

Others also find it entertaining. Whatever the reason, live surgery entices people to come and watch it more than once.

"I'd do it again just to get the opportunity to see things I didn't get to see, like other types [of surgeries]," said Lam.

Along with wanting to see different kinds of surgeries, students feel it's all beneficial to view the same type of surgery again.

"I'd go again," said Agudelo.

"Because every time you go to the same thing you learn something new."

# Online journals soar in popularity

**By Lauren Kondo**  
*News Section Assistant*

Now innermost private and personal thoughts can be broadcasted to over 900,000 people. Thanks to the Internet, many students are joining the frenzy and setting up live journal accounts for all to read.

"I started keeping it because I didn't have any classes with my close friends," said junior Sara Alcom.

"It is a way to keep them informed."

Sites like LiveJournal.com have become wildly popular. b o a s t i n g 977,852 total users and 452,842 active members. Xanga.com is another site commonly used by students.

LiveJournal is a way to interact with new people and visit and comment on other journals. It has been in use since 1999 and grows every year. The basic entries are free, but for more extensive services, a fee must be paid.

"It's almost like chatting online, except that it's one way," said senior Jae Lee. "People can leave comments, but basically you're just expressing your thoughts for everyone to see."

A main reason students keep a live journal includes updating friends on the day's events or thoughts about future plans.

"I mostly use it for upcoming

events," said Alcom. Students also use live journals to divulge emotions and feelings, or as a release.

"It was an outlet for my thoughts, and I could tell people about my day," said senior Jae Lee. "A lot of it was for myself though."

About half of LiveJournal.com's users update regularly. Some students rarely update, and some do it daily.

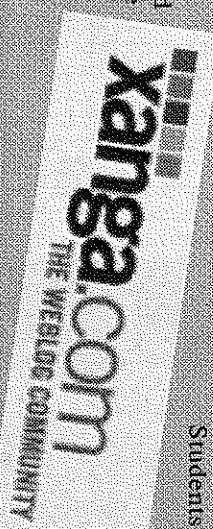
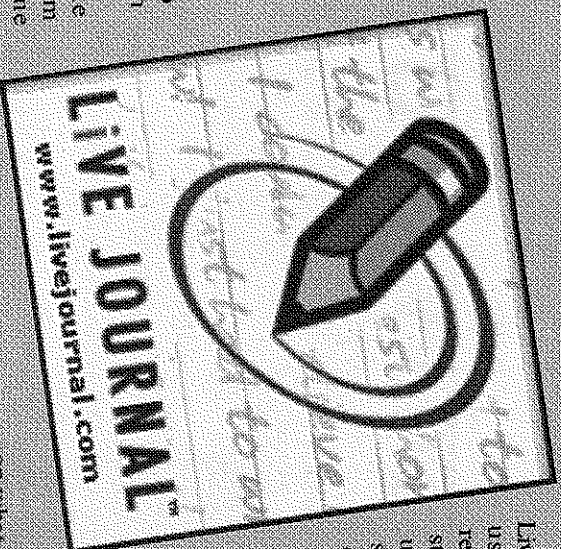
"I write an entry or two about every other day," said junior Danny Bac.

"Sometimes I write one every day. It just depends on what happens."

Students also like to read what others have written to keep informed or for pure entertainment.

"I read other people's posts because it's just another thing to do online," said Lee. "Sometimes people post entertaining things." Whatever the use of the journal, students are enjoying writing and reading them.

"(I write) if something interesting happened," said Bac, "or just random babbling caused by extreme boredom."



# April showers damper senior skip day

## A traditional day for seniors gets rained out

**By Nik Wadja**  
Sports Editor

While April 7th was supposed to be a senior skip day, it appeared to be just like any other school day.

Three or four times every year the senior class designates a day during which most of the seniors will not come to school.

This day was designated because it was originally a teacher work day, but the many snow days forced it to become a make-up day.

This year's attempt did not have many skippers at all.

The lack of class cutters was obvious by the mostly full parking lot and normally large crowd at senior rail. One problem with this senior skip day was that many seniors didn't know it was one.

"I had no idea that Monday was supposed to be a senior skip day," said senior Chris Marotta. "Nobody told me."

There were some people who decided to not show up, however.

Any senior plans for outside activities on a nice spring day were foiled. The

weather was cold and rainy all day long and did not allow for any outside activities. "I was going to skip and go somewhere, but when I woke up I saw that it was raining, I just decided that I should come instead of being bored at home," said

senior Pedro Jimenez. Another deterrent, other than the weather, was that the day was counted in the third quarter, and students with the risk of failing a class because of tardies could not take the risk.

Other students did not skip because of threats that teachers made. Math teacher Sharon Hauser told students that if they did not come to school that she would give the entire class a graded assignment. Some students got around this problem by only going to classes that they could afford to skip.

Other teachers knew that many of their students would not be there, so they watched movies or did other easy activities.

While others wanted to skip, they were not allowed because their parents would not call in to excuse their absences.

"I wanted to skip, but my mom would not call in and excuse me," said senior Andy Grzankowski.

As the year comes to a close, skipping will probably pick up among all students, not just seniors.

For most students, skipping is never planned, it just happens.

"I don't need people telling me when to skip," said Marotta. "I just do it whenever."



Adam Buckley

Seniors slowly slip outside doors and watch for security staff that may be patrolling the parking lot. One of the biggest challenges for skippers is getting past security.

## Teachers take second trip through WS

**By JD Kaleem**  
Features Editor

When math teacher Shannon McIlwraith came to WS last year, not only did she work across the hall from her mother, but also worked among her former teachers from her previous years as a student.

"I was working with people I had as teachers, like Mr. Percoco, Mr. Embrey and Mrs. Fischer," said McIlwraith, a '97 graduate. "It was weird working with them, and I actually still call them by Mr. and Mrs."

McIlwraith is among a growing number of alumni who now are part of the faculty.

Mark Blanchard, a science teacher, graduated in 1971 and has taught at WS for 24 years.

"I was odd coming back, but everyone was very helpful and welcoming. Everybody claimed to remember me from when I was a student," said Blanchard.

With much time at WS as a student and teacher, he saw the school change and evolve.

"A lot has changed since I was a student, like the school layout in the library and the amount of computers and technology use," said Blanchard. "Although, the student and friendly environment are still the same."

He had a great experience during his time as a student. He

was able to do an independent study in English, and was accepted into a foreign exchange program, which he chose not to attend. He also was involved in the theatre department.

"One of my bad experiences was losing my part in *My Fair Lady* because I couldn't dance the Waltz," said Blanchard. Another teacher who was a student is Malia Cameron, a '91 graduate. Cameron has taught in the English department at WS for four years. When she arrived as a teacher, not only was she a faculty member with her former teachers, but also shared a room with a

former teacher. "My first year, I shared a room with my AP Literature teacher, Dr. Foronda. She was still teaching in the same room where I had her my senior year, and I still remembered where I sat," said Cameron. "It was hard to call [Foronda] by her first name that year."

Cameron decided to teach at WS while traveling in Europe and in the Czech Republic.

"I had an epiphany in Prague and decided that I wanted to teach," said Cameron. "After that," said Cameron. "After teaching at so many schools, I knew I had to be at WS, which was definitely the best school around."

## Left-handers don't need a hand

**By Rachel Wohlers**

Inside Story Editor

Benjamin Franklin, Dave Berry, Leonardo da Vinci, Jay Leno, Tom Cruise. One thing they all have in common is the fact that they're all left-handed.

Although not typically thought of as fitting into this category, lefties are a minority. Only about 13% of the world population is left-handed. And the world is filled for right-handed people.

"It's hard to use scissors when you are left-handed because they are made for right-people," said sophomore Casey Meyers.

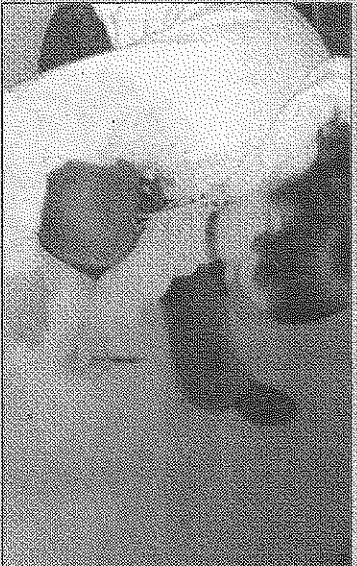
Not only do scissors cause problems, but lefties find other everyday objects favor right-handed people.

"The binder rings make it hard to write and I get pencil smudges," said senior Drew Murray.

Even without binder rings, writing in general can be difficult in a classroom.

"It's hard to write when you are sitting next to a right-handed person because your elbows bump," said senior Erin Crawley.

However, being left-handed isn't all bad. Lefties have



Erin Crawley

Senior Erin Crawley gets comfortable on the floor and works on her assignment with her left hand.

Random Leftie Facts: 1 in 10 people are left handed. Lefties have

greatest parents discourage left-handed children. Left handed pitchers in baseball are known as "southpaws."

Benjamin Franklin was left-handed. 1 in 3 Native Americans in the 1700s were left-handed.

Left-handers tend to think holistically, overlooking details.

Left-handers tend to think holistically, overlooking details.

—Compiled by Emily Morris

# Join America's finest

By Nik Wajda  
Sports Editor

While many seniors will be anxiously awaiting college in the fall, a few seniors will have already reported for boot camp.

Every year several students from the senior class enlist. The military offers a n o t h e r opportunity for students who graduate and do not know what they want to do afterwards.

"Usually between four and seven students enlist each year,"

s a i d Career Center Specialist Susan Rexford.

"Last year we had six students who enlisted."

Students who enlist can serve anywhere from two to six years with the option to reenlist after the enlistments end. The military offers enlistment bonuses and money for college in addition to salary that they will be earning.

"After four years I will go to college," said senior Brendan Downing. "I just wanted to take some time off from school, plus I will earn money towards college."

Downing along with several other seniors will be enlisting from the class of 2003. Downing will be

joining the Army, he must report for basic training on July 3. Basic

training last three weeks, which that Downing will attend Advanced Infantry Training, Jump School, and then Ranger School. Downing

is planning on entering the

over the world.

"I wanted to get out of this area and travel the world" said Hayes.

One place that students could be shipped to is Iraq. Downing said that he thinks that the war will probably be over by the time that he ships out.

He did say that he will likely have to go to Iraq for the after effect.

Neither Hayes, nor Downing said that they were affected by the war in Iraq.

*Brendan Downing will be enlisting in the Army. After four years, he plans to attend college.*



A r m y ' s elite corps, the Army Rangers.

Another senior, Colin Hayes, will be joining the Marine's Special Forces. His schooling will be much longer.

"My basic [training] will be thirteen weeks, then Jump School, Sniper School, Ranger School, Special Forces School, then finally Halo School," said Hayes. "In all, my school will take about two years."

Once all of the schooling is over they will be shipped out to bases all

"I think it could affect decisions in two ways. The

students who enlisted for the experience, the training, and the money/might rethink," said Rexford.

"Patriotic people might be more willing to enlist."

No matter what the reasons for enlisting, there was one common thread through all of them, the sense of service.

"I get to serve my country," said Downing. "I does not get better than that"

## NOVA is neighborhood college

By Mike Araj  
Viewpoint Editor

About this time of year, seniors begin talking about which colleges they have gotten into and to which that they will enroll in, but often overlooked are those students going to community colleges.

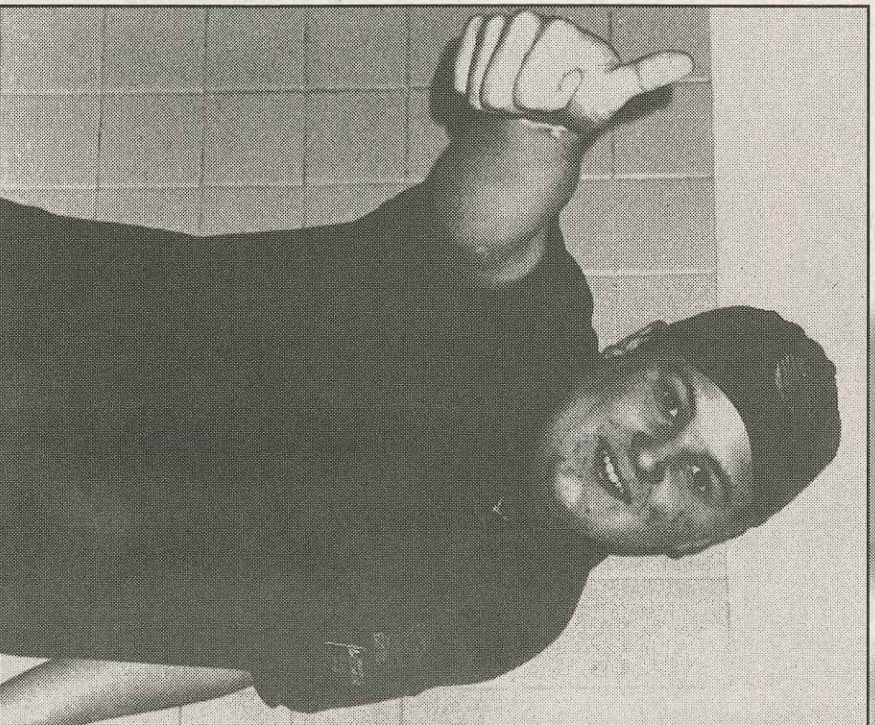
"I got an associates degree of science in science [from North Virginia Community College], said computer science teacher Robert Jones.

The North Virginia Community College (NOVA) is one local school that seniors sometimes enroll in and is one of the largest schools in Virginia with six different campuses. A two year program, NOVA presents students with many pros and cons.

"My English teacher [at NOVA] previously taught at Yale," said Jones. "They have great professors."

One reason that some students decide on a college is financial reasons. Some are unable to afford to pay the tuitions and fees of more prestigious colleges. NOVA provides many with the opportunity to go to school inexpensively. However, NOVA has a tough curriculum. Few students know that it was once part of Virginia Tech.

Cory Harlow (above) plans to work and attend NOVA. "NOVA will be better than going high school." He later plans on transferring to Virginia Tech.



Kathleen Prevost

James Madison [University]."

Though NOVA is only a two year school, many students who are going there plan to continue their education afterwards at different facilities.

Hughes said, "I'm going to try to transfer [to] maybe GMU [after NOVA]."

"I was working 30 hours a week," said Jones.

One disadvantage to going to NOVA is the lack of time students spend on campus, depriving them of opportunities that students going to other colleges may have.

"One word of advice," said Jones, "I think students need to make an effort to get involved in the school. It's a harder atmosphere to meet people."

But NOVA does still offer such opportunities, through intramural sports and other extracurricular activities. "I would try to go to the student center [or] I would try to set up study groups," said Jones.

Some students who are going to NOVA next year, however, currently do not have many plans to become involved with the school due to other time constraints.

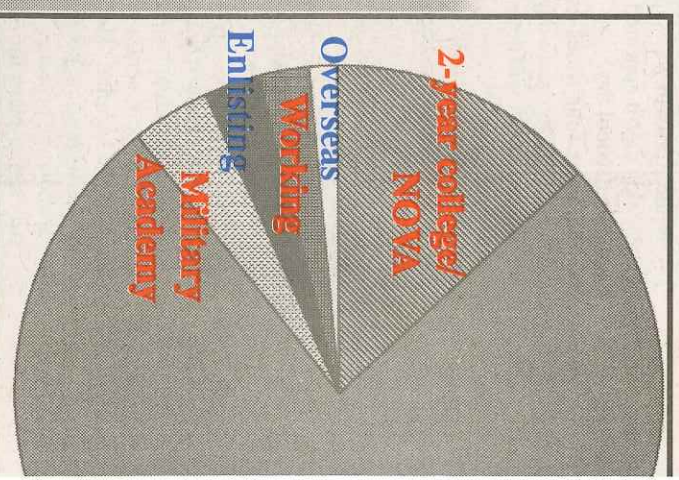
"[I]l probably be involved with the school [maybe next to none because I'm going to be involved with my church," said senior David Hughes, "and I have a job."

One thing that Jones experienced was continuing to be attached to high school due to NOVA's close proximity to home. "Try to cut your ties with high school," said Jones.

Although some may consider NOVA inferior to other schools, they should not expect an easy curriculum.

"In many ways, it is much more competitive [than other colleges]," said Jones. "Teacher's expected more, [and] my GPA was worse at NOVA than at

What are your future plans?



Yes, there is a better way to go after high school.

Go straight to the world.

By Erika Kim  
News Section Editor

The majority of the high school seniors in Fairfax County go on further their education at college, but there are a select few who opt to go straight into the work force.

One reason why some students decide not to attend college because the job they are looking for does not require a college degree.

"Not much more than 30 percent of the jobs require a college degree," said Career Center Specialist Susan Rexford. "We just live in a community that is not typical of the national average."

Students that are not exactly sure of what they want to do with the future choose not to go to college but instead take the time to explore the different opportunities that are available to them like apprenticeship or occupational training programs before they settle on one option.

Students also prefer to enter the work force right after high school because of financial reasons. They take a year or two off from school to earn enough money to finance the college education with out having to borrow money.

Some students feel like they are



# Taking high school one step further

**By Priyanka Tandon**  
*Oracle Editor*

home and it's a good school," said Kails. "It saves me money too. I can work and stay home."  
Senior Alex Chaves is another future Patriot as well. He too wants to stay close to home.

Senior Eileen Kim will be attending the University of Virginia because it's one of the top public universities in the nation and it's not expensive." More than just costs, senior Kelly Hogan is attracted to Virginia Tech's (Tech) beauty. Tech was the only school which made an impression on her.

Senior Jamie Boelens will arrive at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas in August. More than the warm weather year-around, Boelens likes the dorm rooms, and plenty of options for activities.

Religion is another factor that some students think about. Wheaton College in Illinois received senior Rob Bruhn's acceptance of admission because of its Christian environment.

Although many have made their decisions and have bought their college's paraphanalia, others are still deciding.

"I'm afraid to make the wrong choice," said senior Anna Kapuscinski, who is trying to decide between JMU and Tech. "I am going to visit both of them again and see what happens."

**Michelle Anderson** (above) will be attending JMU. Many students choose to stay in-state.

[in Rome]," said Rice.

Rice has recently decided to stay in the US and study at Northeastern University in Boston.

The choice to study in Italy had its obvious downsides of travel costs and distance, but Rice also has concerns about student and working visas. Although it may have required working out some extra logistics, Rice can't ignore the value that would come from studying in a foreign country. Although she has not decided to study in Italy full-time, Rice is planning on participating in a study abroad program and is also considering attending a language school in Rome in the future.

"It's an experience completely unique and different from the typical college scene," said Rice. "It changes your perspective."

military academies are also physically demanding. Students who plan to go to one of the service academies must report at their school in late June and complete six weeks of physical training similar to boot camp. At West Point, these first six weeks are affectionately nicknamed "beast."

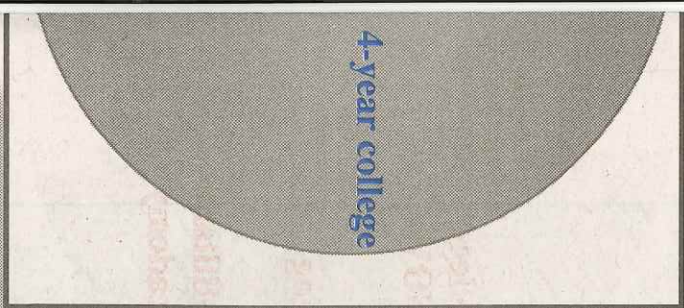
"I know it will be hard, but you get a good education," said Nitzberg, who plans to go into the marine/environmental science field once she graduates from the academy.

Each service academy graduate is required to serve five years in the military after graduation.

Many graduates, however, choose to make a career out of the military and stay in for longer.

"If I'm happy I'll stay in, if I'm not I'll say 'see ya later,'" said Osborne. "It depends on where I am."

story  
your  
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not ready to make such a big commitment to college and would rather do so after they have gained more experience from the real world when they are more emotionally prepared.

"There are students who want to give themselves more time to think about it more carefully," said Rexford.

Every year only about one percent of the senior class at W/S choose to enter the work force straight out of high school. It is typical for approximately three to seven students to choose the work force other than other options. Last year, five seniors choose to go straight to work.

Around this time of year, the counselors meet with the seniors who have not already applied to college or made other arrangements, such as joining the military, to make sure that they have some sort of plan for after leaving high school.

"We're taking those seniors on a field trip to NOVA on the April 22 for an overview of the programs available at NOVA," said counselor Eleanor Saslaw. "We want them to know the different options that are available to them."



Michelle Anderson (above) will be attending JMU. Many students choose to stay in-state.

## Tour Europe or Asia or Australia or...

**By Leigh Johnson**  
*Senior Staff Writer*

College is the perfect opportunity for students to leave the state. But sometimes that isn't enough. Several seniors are considering earning their degrees in other countries.

Our friendly neighbor to the north is an appealing location to some students. Because of its location and similarities in language and culture to America, Canada is an ideal place for students to study.

Senior Laura Unterholzner is planning on attending Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. She will major in psychology, but still find time to snowboard. Her mother's job provides assistance in funding her college education, so the idea of studying in another country was especially appealing.

Last spring, Unterholzner visited the university with her family and decided it's where she wanted to go.

"It's like a regular university," said Unterholzner. "It seemed very much like an American college."

One difference in the country came to mind, though, when she visited.

"It's really, really clean. Much more so than America," said Unterholzner.

Senior Fabio Teran also applied to two schools in Canada—The University of Toronto and Carleton College in Ottawa. He hasn't made a decision yet, but he plans on studying civil engineering if he attends either of the Canadian schools. The cost and distance of a Canadian school aren't high, so the option is a reasonable one.

"The tuition was cheap and the

## Party it up at military academy

**By Marianne Shadrrix**  
*Managing Editor*

While most seniors choose a college to attend based on location, academic esteem or the school's program, others are compelled by Uncle Sam's call of duty.

This year, six seniors have chosen to attend college at military academies.

"I'm really looking forward to the experience and getting into the military," said senior Scott Pistochni, who will attend college at the Virginia Military Institute and go into the Marines after he graduates.

Those who will attend service academies have decided to do so for many different reasons. Senior Kelly Osborne chose to attend the United States Naval Academy because her three biggest role models, track coach Duke Bard, cross country coach, Ed Linz, and her father, each attended the Naval Academy.

After graduating from the academy, Osborne will

also have to attend six months of training to become a helicopter pilot.

These seniors also see benefits in doing so.

"It doesn't cost anything and you won't have to live with your parents after college," said senior Jenn Powers, who will attend the United States Military Academy (West Point).

Going to a military academy also gives students many different career opportunities.

"I'd like to be a doctor so I'm thinking of joining the [ARMY's] MedCorps," said Powers.

Senior Meredith Nitzberg will be at the United States Coast Guard Academy next year and is looking forward to the experience.

"You get paid while you're going and basically have a job," said Nitzberg.

Although they offer many different benefits,

pretty area. It's my kind of place," said Hogan.

Weather is another factor that students consider when choosing their home for the next four years.

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Rice has recently decided to stay in the US and study at Northeastern University in Boston.

The choice to study in Italy had its obvious downsides of travel costs and distance, but Rice also has concerns about student and working visas. Although it may have required working out some extra logistics, Rice can't ignore the value that would come from studying in a foreign country. Although she has not decided to study in Italy full-time, Rice is planning on participating in a study abroad program and is also considering attending a language school in Rome in the future.

"It's an experience completely unique and different from the typical college scene," said Rice. "It changes your perspective."

military academies are also physically demanding. Students who plan to go to one of the service academies must report at their school in late June and complete six weeks of physical training similar to boot camp. At West Point, these first six weeks are affectionately nicknamed "beast."

"I know it will be hard, but you get a good education," said Nitzberg, who plans to go into the marine/environmental science field once she graduates from the academy.

Each service academy graduate is required to serve five years in the military after graduation.

Many graduates, however, choose to make a career out of the military and stay in for longer.

"If I'm happy I'll stay in, if I'm not I'll say 'see ya later,'" said Osborne. "It depends on where I am."

## Big movies attempt to make it on the small screen

By Emily Morris  
Photography Editor

There are few movies out there that really deserve to be on the big screen. What hurts is when one of those movies becomes a television show in hopes of making a company more money.

The first time this idea was experimented with was in 1949 with the series "Mama." This show aired for several seasons, but in 1950 several series followed "Mama's" footsteps and tried to break through on television. But these shows, such as "Stage Door" and "The Front Page" did not have the same chemistry and only lasted one season.

What makes the idea of taking a story from the big screen to the television set so tempting is the built-in audience the show will have. If someone enjoyed the movie, then they will likely tune in to see the television show. With the recent hit "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" which grossed more than \$200 million at the box office it did not take long for it to become a television show, and is the second most watched new show of the season.

The star of the movie, Nia Vardalos also stars in the show, but other roles had to be filled by different actors. This has also been a problem for other movies turned TV shows. Such as "Clueless." The movie starred Alicia Silverstone, but the TV series had an alternate actress, and the chemistry just wasn't right. As a consequence, "Clueless" only aired for three seasons.

Some movies have gone on to become television classics. Such as "M\*A\*S\*H" which ran on CBS for 11 seasons. Another show that shaped television is "Lassie," which was originally a movie, and aired on CBS for 17 years.

But not all movies make successful



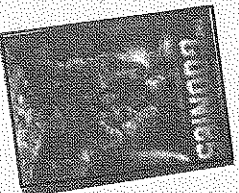
My Big Fat Greek Wedding is one of the newest movies that is trying it out in the competitive television world.

television shows. Many of the over 100 movies that have tried to make the crossover get cancelled after one or two seasons. "Ferris Bueller" only aired for one season, but was a hit in the movies.

There are certain movies that are such classics, they should not be turned into TV shows. Movies like "Casablanca," "Dirty Dancing," and "Shaft" are all such classic movies, that a television cannot do the story justice. It is better to remember a good movie, than to think of a bad television show that was the result of a movie.

It takes an indescribable something special to create a great movie. That something is not always the answer to a great television show.

### Oracle Picks



#### "The Goonies"

Piracy, booty traps, buried treasure and a little lovin'—"The Goonies has all the marks of a great American film.

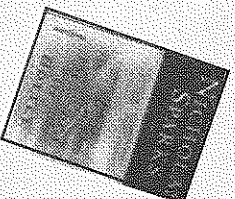
The Goonies tells the story of a group of five friends who find an old map detailing the location of buried treasure. To save their neighborhood from being turned into a golf course, the boys set out on their "ast goonie adventure" to find this treasure, all the while being followed by a group of criminals hoping to do the same.

This movie is full of hilarious characters, fabulous one-liners and crazy shenanigans, all which make it unforgettable

#### Third Eye Blind

Oddly enough, the first time I had even heard of 3eb was after I bought this CD. I was living in Germany at the time and was old by a friend to check out a new band. Since then, "Third Eye Blind" has been one of my most treasured CDs.

Featuring the hits "Semi-Charmed Life" and "Jumper," self-titled debut album introduced me to an amazing band.



#### "Message In a Bottle"

This book is a must-have for all Nicholas Sparks fans. Message in a Bottle is the story of Theresa Osborne, a divorced and disillusioned mother who finds love letters from a man named Garrett to his beloved Catherine that have washed up on the shore in bottles.

Compelled by the beautiful words she reads Theresa begins the search for this Garrett and ends up finding the unexpected, but what happens to her is nothing short of miraculous. Message in a Bottle includes all the elements present in most of Sparks' novels—the search for love, steamy romances and tear-jerking ending.

Rather than including one or two good songs, this CD is full of amazing songs with great lyrics.

The lyrics and tunes are all catchy and the type that will remain in your head and on your lips all the time.

—Compiled by Marianne Shaddix

## Do Hollywood celebrities influence you?

*183 students said they were not influenced by Hollywood  
13 students said they were influenced by Hollywood  
4 said they had no opinion*

## Hollywood stars use air time to voice opinions

By Lauren Kondo  
News Section Assistant

Martin Sheen, Susan Sarandon, Matt Damon, George Clooney. No, this isn't the cast list of the newest blockbuster. It's a list of some of the many actors speaking out against the war with Iraq.

Over 100 actors have joined a group called NOISEmaking, which is vocally opposed to the war. Another group, Artists United to Win Without War has drafted a letter with over 100 actor's signatures.

Students have mixed feelings about these celebrities who speak out against war. Some think the celebrities shouldn't use their influence to force their opinions on the public.

"I think it's good they have their own opinions," said sophomore Karl Neuburger. "But they shouldn't push it



After Dixie Chick Natalie Maines's statement about President Bush at a concert, rumors flew about their break up. Soon after the comment Maines wrote a public apology.

on people."

At the Oscars, celebrities were warned about any trades. Best Director in a Documentary winner, Michael Moore, used the opportunity to express his views anyway. He used his speech to condemn and criticize President Bush.

Saying, "We live in a fictitious time where fictitious election results give us a fictitious president. We are now going to enter a war for fictitious reasons...we are against this war. Mr. Bush, Shame on you. Mr. Bush, shame on you," the speech was met with boos and music and was shortened. We in a time where fictitious election.

"They should be able to express their



Susan Sarandon and partner Tim Robbins have become well known celebrity peace activists. They have recently spoke publicly the war on Iraq and flaut their passion for peace through flashing peace signs.

*I think it's good they have their own opinions, but they shouldn't push it on people.*

—Karl Neuburger,  
sophomore

own opinions," said junior Shannon Jacobsen. "But I don't think they should speak out against the president."

Some artists have featured antiwar lyrics in their songs as a different way to make a point.

In "Beware of the Boys" by Punjabi MC, Jay-Z says "Leave Iraq alone"

"(The song is) not going to help because the troops are already there, but it's still good," said junior Josh Garvin.

The Dixie Chicks are also involved in a controversy over their lead singer saying she was ashamed President Bush was from

# McGraw visits for one night only

## Popular country singer brings special guest

By Rachel Wohlers

Inside Story Editor

After passing rows of pick up trucks, jeep and suburbans, the MCI Center came into view, floating in a sea of denim and cowboy hats.

Standing in line waiting to get checked by security, we fit right in along with everyone else in our jean jackets and hats. Just walking to the building was part of the experience with a show of all different kinds of people.

The stage was set up at one end of the building, and our seats happened to be right behind it. Besides that small disappointment, our spirits were high as we sat waiting for the concert to begin.

To kill time we went for a walk around the concourse, looking at interesting outfits and admiring cute guys, hoping to find at least attractive one without a girlfriend (which we never did). We did see

an array of cowboys hats, some typical, some red and some with flames. Groups of girls walked by decked out in Tim McGraw T-shirts. A group of about five eighth grade girls sat behind us, sporting white tank tops decorated with phrases such as "I love you Tim" or "Tim, you are so hot".

Finally, the lights dimmed and one by one the members of Tim's band, the Dancehall Doctors, were introduced on stage and then the man we'd all been waiting for appeared and the crowd, made up mostly of young females, went wild. It stayed that way for the majority of the concert. Tim commented on what great fans we were and how they wanted to do something special to reward us, so they planned to perform for a good two hours, and with that he opened with hit song "Something Like That" and we were all on our feet, clapping and singing along. He performed many of his old hits from the fifteen years he's been

singing, as well as songs from his most recent release, including "Red Rag Top", "That's Why God Made Mexico", "Everywhere", and "Real Good Man". Other well-known songs such as "Don't Take the Girl" and "Something Like That," Tim stopped and let the audience do the singing.

What we thought were bad seats turned into great seats as Tim moved all around the stage, giving us some great close-ups. He threw water bottles out into the audience, handed out a couple beers, signed tickets and T-shirts, pulled a little boy in a checked shirt and a cowboy hat up on stage and introduced him as "Kenny Chesney", and sang into a cell phone someone had been waving in front of the stage. Another one stage surprise was the appearance of wife, country singer Faith Hill, when she appeared to sing along with his song, "I Don't Know Why You Have to be angry all the time".



McGraw featured wife and special guest Faith Hill at his recent show.

After one fake ending, Tim excused himself from the stage as home videos of his three daughters were played for the audience. Afterwards, who should reappear but Tim himself, in a different shirt and on a different stage at the opposite

end of the center. He slowly made his way through the crowd to the big stage, performed one last time. Then we watched him get into his limo and drive away. I left both deaf and dumb, yet with a renewed love for Tim McGraw. Y'all should have been there.

## Norton took the long, hard

### road to international fame

By Jenn Carlson

Managing Editor

Like many of Hollywood's rising stars, Edward Norton seems to have appeared out of thin air with a parade of box-office hits which include Spike Lee's "25th Hour" and the "Silence of the Lambs" prequel "Red Dragon."

Norton has held his own alongside established stars such as Anthony Hopkins and with award-winning director Lee, but this is not Norton's first taste of Hollywood and fame, expectation and work that comes with it.

Beginning in 1996, Norton made his feature film debut in "Primal Fear," also starring Richard Gere. Norton portrays an insecure and unstable altar boy who uses deceit and his innocent facade to trick his way through his murder trial. He convinces everyone that he is innocent, and a psychologist confirms that he suffers from multiple personalities disorder. All of this works to draw the audience, but be aware of a climactic twist in the plot.

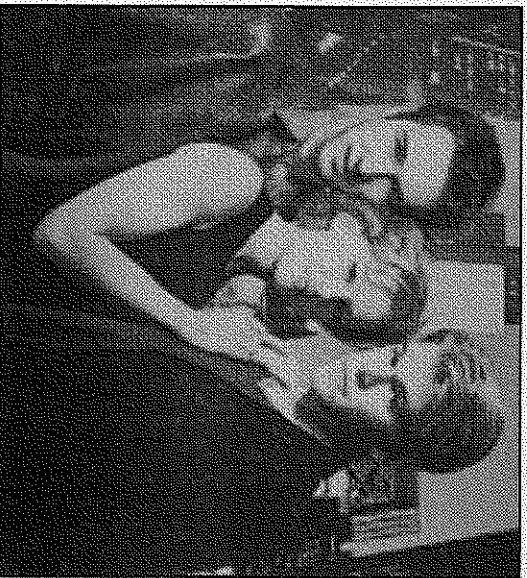
His performance earned him his first Golden Globe award for best supporting actor as well as an Academy Award nomination. Norton also won an MTV Movie Award for the category "Best Villain." Gere stars as the defense lawyer who has never lost a case who takes on Norton's unusual case involving the priest who took him in from off the streets and a brutal murder. This character set the stage for the type of roles that Norton would pursue in the future: generally disturbed characters in profound films which usually contain a large amount of social commentary or equally disturbing plots and events.

Closely following the release of "Primal Fear" came "People Vs. Larry Flynt," also opening in 1996. This biographical movie follows the courtroom battles of "Hustler" founder Larry Flynt, played by Woody Harrelson. Norton plays the attorney who defends Flynt and his fundamental right of free speech given by the First Amendment in front of the US Supreme Court.

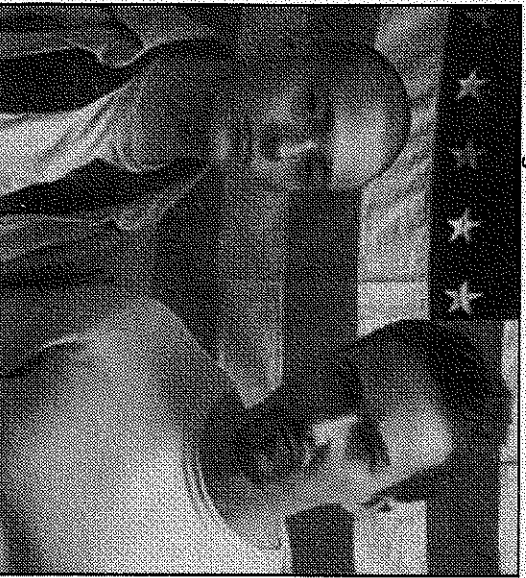
The controversial "American History X" approaches racism and other social and conventional implications through the eyes of a young neo-nazi and his reformed older brother. Edward Norton received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor as the violent and hostile skinhead who changes his ways since serving a prison term for murder, and who comes home to rebuild his life to discover that his younger brother (Edward Furlong) has picked up his place in the dangerous world of hate and violence.

Norton's sequence of serious and violent movies was continued by 1998's "Rounders" with Matt Damon and "Fight Club" starring Brad Pitt. In "Rounders," Damon and Norton portray gifted and lucky poker players battling high stakes. "Fight Club" follows the life of Norton as the narrator through a monotonous, corporate and materialistic world which is all flipped upside down by the arrival of Tyler Durden (Pitt).

Norton took a stab at directing and producing on the film "Keeping the Faith." This romantic comedy, a priest (Norton) and a rabbi (Ben Stiller), who have been best friends since childhood, fall for the same girl, played by Jenna Elfman. Due to their religious beliefs and creeds, neither can pursue a romantic relationship.



Edward Norton stars in "Rounders" with Matt Damon and in the controversial "American History X" with Edward Furlong.



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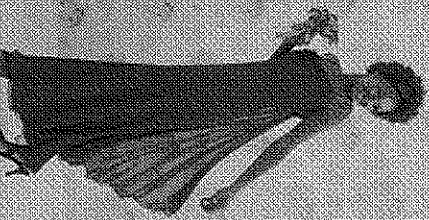
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## Girls just want to have fun

Senior girls search for the perfect prom dress

By Camilla Castles  
Entertainment Editor



The best part, the most expensive part, the most time consuming part, but in the end the most beautiful part about prom: the dress.

Sometimes months of preparing and saving money goes into finding the perfect prom dress. Most girls have a vision of the dress they want, but the real challenge is finding it.

There are so many shopping malls for girls to choose from, that many girls make a day of it. They start off fresh with a couple hours of shopping and then stop for lunch or a snack from Springfield Mall to Pentagon City Mall, girls have roamed into their stores hoping to set their eyes on *the* dress.

"First I went to Springfield Mall, but I didn't find anything good, there and nothing fit," said senior Emily Gorski. "The next weekend I went to Lady Hamilton. I got my dress specially ordered from there."

Each year, new trendy dresses hang from the racks. This year girls noticed a lot of bright and shimmering colors replacing the simple black dresses.

"I saw a lot of two piece dresses and a lot of halter top dresses," said senior

Julie Johnson.

The average cost can be from \$80 to \$150. The price

did find their dress on the sale rack, and other girls fall in love with the expensive dresses they see displayed in the window.

"I had already had an idea of something elegant, strapless and red," said Gorski.

One store that makes Fair Oaks and Pentagon City Mall unique is Lord and Taylor. Pentagon City and Tyson's also has the formal dress boutique Cache'. For a funky look, Pentagon provides the designs of Betsy Johnson.

Closer to home, Springfield Mall has David's Village Shop, Macy's and JC Penney.

"I found my dress at Tyson's Corner at Jessica Melnick," said Johnson. "It has an A-line skirt, it's off the shoulder and green."

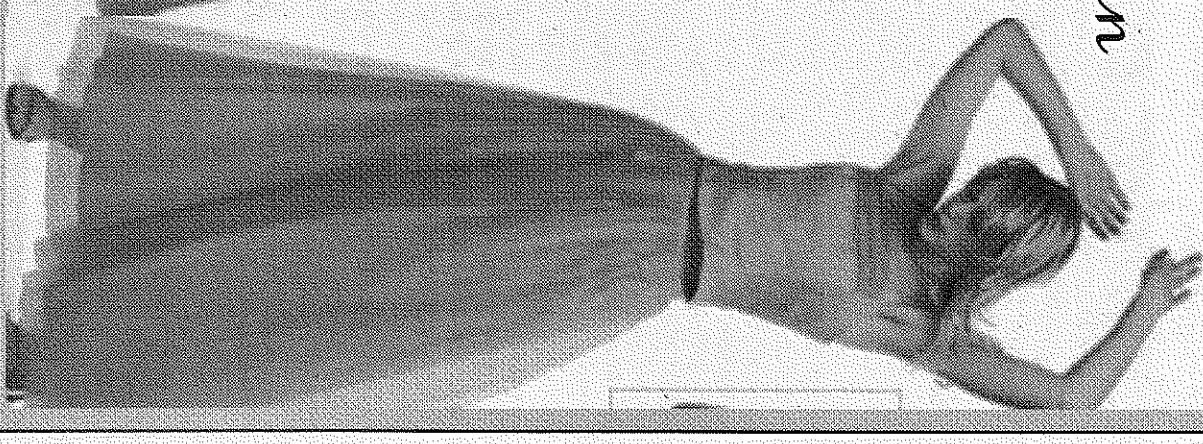
Shopping for prom dresses early is the best way to ensure finding a special dress. As prom approaches many girls will be spending their weekends searching for a dress.

"I wouldn't say I went early," said Gorski. "It takes a while to find a dress that really fits."



Julie Johnson.

The average cost can be from \$80 to \$150. The price



## Clyde's serves up good food, good atmosphere

By Emily Miller  
Weekend Editor

Combine the casual atmosphere of Glory Days, the optional but not mandatory dress-up attire of Mike's, and the burgers of Five Guys to get one of the best restaurants in Georgetown: Clyde's.

The menu at Clyde's is practical and compact, but varied in choices. Just like every good American grill, they serve the traditional three course meal with an appetizer, main dish, followed up with a satisfying dessert. The best appetizers at Clyde's are the salads. There is the Grilled Salmon Salad, which is "roasted red and gold beans, arugula, roasted potatoes, green beans, and lemon vinaigrette," according to [www.clydes.com](http://www.clydes.com). The Baby Beet Salad and the Apple, Arugula and Goat

Cheese Salad runs for \$6.95 as an introduction to the main meal.

There are burgers, chicken, scallops, reuben, rolls, duck, sandwiches, and even turkey burgers. Clyde's has everything from seafood to vegetarian, all at an average price. The cool thing is all this can be enjoyed at the bar up front. At night the bar is packed with chatty people of all ages; two little twin girls were the center of attention spinning on the bar stools when I went with my friends. If the bar is too crowded or any other reason, the booths are red, plush and comfortable, and if the dim lights put you in the mood, are even worthy of sleeping on.

If the main meal doesn't satiate your hunger, the dessert menu might fill you up. It consists of three selections, all going for \$5.25: Clyde's Cookie Platter, Apple Turnover and Maple

Glazed Banana  
Strudel. Chocolate-hazelnut fudge,

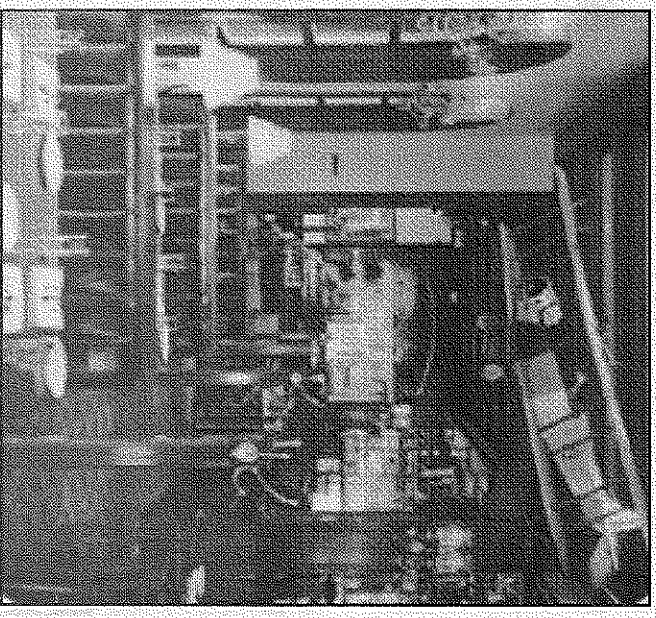
oatmeal-raisin cookies, ginger snaps, and English toffee make up the unique cookie platter, and vanilla ice cream and toasted almonds make up the strudel.

Although the food might be terrific, the service was not as friendly as anticipated.

Maybe it was because it was a busy night, or because they are prejudiced against teenagers, but nonetheless my friends and I still received dirty looks, and a feeling of being rushed to hurry up and eat already.

Other than the bad experience with the waiters and hostesses, the restaurant fulfilled my craving for a

good American burger brimming with the usual but necessary toppings with a side order of fries and all washed down with a coke.



## 'Girl Talk' and 'Dream Phone' conjour late childhood memories

By Jenn Carlson  
Managing Editor

Memories of board games may invoke images of forgotten games like "Girl Talk" or "Mall Madness," but these warm memories can also remind students and other people of a simpler time when hours could be spent playing a board game and spending time with family and friends.

"I remember playing 'Girl Talk,'" said senior Ashleigh Dewitt. "You had to wear those red pimples."

Other games that are still on the market today also bring back fond memories of wishing to be a teenager.

"When I was little, I played 'Dream Phone' where you call up the boys," said senior Lianna Carrera. "I



Dream Phone has 12 special cards like Speaker Phone and Mom says Hang up that are clues to help find out who has a crush on you.

"It can be fun, and a good way to pass the time, especially if there is nothing to do."

—Ricky Campbell, senior

did not like 'Mall Madness' even then. There was too much set up."

Today, some students do play board games to make a younger generation happy and busy, for example during a baby-sitting job.

"I play games like 'Trouble,' 'Sorry,' and 'Twister' with my elementary school buddy for the peer helping program," said Carrera. "She likes these games, but I think that they are boring."

Family bonding also may take place during board games. Students enjoy board games because they span the generations and can universally be enjoyed by all parts of a family or all of one's friends.

"Family nights sometimes consist of some kind of board game," said senior Ricky Campbell. "It can be fun, and a good way to pass the time, especially if there is nothing else to do."

# New movie theaters offer break from normal

By Leigh Johnson  
Senior Staff Writer

When the selection gets bland, moviegoers have the option to attend theaters such as Visions in DC or the IMAX theater to add some variety to their weekends. That is, unless going to see "Cradle to the Grave" for the fifth time is a sufficient movie experience.

Opened in the fall of 2000, the Visions Theater/Bistro/Lounge in DC is the city's only independent movie theater. Patrons can dine in the Bistro, or carry their salad wrap into the theater to see an independent, foreign, or artistic film. The venue offers international cuisine as well as movie theater classics, such as Junior Mints.

For a theater that is devoted to atmosphere and appearance, an evening at Visions comes at a reasonable price. Most shows are eight dollars for general admission, and student, military, and senior citizen customers receive admission for only five dollars. The theater is near the Dupont circle Metro stop but parking is available next to the theater for only five dollars. To learn more visit [www.visionsdc.com](http://www.visionsdc.com).

There are also two IMAX theaters in DC; one is located in the National Museum of Natural History, and the other is in the National Air and Space Museum. IMAX films are generally under an hour in length and some features are presented in 3D. The Johnson IMAX theater at the National Museum of Natural History also presents IMAX and Jazz Cafe every Friday night. Patrons can enjoy live music, food, and IMAX films with no over charge. Admission to an IMAX film is typically \$7.50 for an adult. Discounts, movie times, and film summaries are posted at [www.si.edu/imax/](http://www.si.edu/imax/).

More popular among students is the AMC Hoffman theater which boasts 22 screens, two escalators, two concession stands, electronic ticket machines, and a vibrant Hollywood decor. Although the film selection is mainstream and typical of what can be found at competing theaters, students often choose Hoffman because of the flexibility of movie times and the newer and more advanced facility. Located in Alexandria, Hoffman center is also more convenient than venturing into the district.



One area IMAX theatre, the Virginia Air and Space Center, will feature "The Lion King." Movie screens at IMAX theatres are larger than those at normal movie theatres and the films are shown in three dimensions.

## Journalist searches hard for perfect summer swimsuit

By Marianne Shadrrix  
Managing Editor

After hearing Mrs. Peduzzi lecture about gender equality and discrimination, I have come to a crucial realization. When it comes to choosing the perfect swimsuit, guys have it oh so much easier than girls.

Around this time of year, WS females along with the rest of the teenage female population across the country join the hunt for the perfect swimsuit. This is no easy task. We could stand in front of the mirror ridiculously long amounts of time making sure the swimsuit accentuates and hides just the right areas.

With all this in mind, I warily began my search for the perfect swimsuit.

Upon the suggestions from fellow Oracles, the first place I decided to check out was the Delias website. Most swimsuits featured on the site were cute and unique. Their ten pages of swim wear featured everything from simple white two piece to Hawaiian print and psychedelic swirled halters.

Their Monaco reversible halter with red and gold swirls caught my eye. But at \$36 for the top and \$34 for the bottoms, I decided to pass on them and continue



Water Water Everywhere, located at Fair Oaks Mall and Tysons Corner Center, allows shoppers to mix and match swimsuit tops and bottoms.

Emily Miller

my search.

In fact, all of Delias suits were pricey. The tops ranged from \$29.40 and \$29.38 for the bottoms. Although, the site also featured corduroy swim shorts in light blue, pink and tan for \$42. This was something I was sure I could only buy at Delias, and decided to bookmark the page just in case.

After checking out the Delias selection, I next looked at the Victoria's Secret



Emily Miller

website, positive I would find a broad selection of choices and styles of swimwear. The Victoria's Secret online catalogue featured the widest variety of swimwear. Shoppers can choose from bikini, one piece, and tankini sets.

The site also let me shop by style, tops, bottoms, or collection. The best thing about the site was that they offer swimsuit bottoms in seven different styles, depending on how much you are willing

to bare and what will make you feel most comfortable. And for those of us who can never find a swimsuit that seems to fit, the website also has a "Sexy Solutions fit guide" to help you along in the process.

After looking at the Victoria's Secret website, I was convinced I had found the perfect swimsuit, but decided to keep browsing for comparison's sake.

ICrew is an excellent place to go for swimsuits. They had the biggest variety as far as prints and designs go. The store has solid color suits as well as reversible, floral, bandana, gingham, striped and plaid printed swimsuits.

ICrew has swimwear to suit anyone's style. I noticed these suits were high quality, and priced accordingly at about \$28-\$34 for each piece.

For some swimsuit shoppers, price is the most important factor in determining which suit to buy. Old Navy is an excellent place to go for cute suits at a great price. Most of their swimsuits are \$12.50-\$14.50 for each piece. The selection is limited, but the styles and prints are cute. Old Navy also has a plethora of beach/pool accessories, including sarong and tote bag sets that match the swimsuits.

I decided to buy one of these floral print Old Navy two pieces. My search for that perfect suit hasn't ended though. But until it does, this Old Navy swim suit will have to do. At least I will have a matching tote bag and sarong to keep me in style.

WS's theatre arts  
department presents...

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—L.A. Movie Gazette

# Students drive and putt

## Location and prices attract students

By Adam Rosen  
Viewpoint Assistant

While golf for WS is out of season many students still remain active. They take lessons, going to the range, and even play putt put. Driving ranges such as Kingstowne Driving Range and Burke Lake are two popular places where students go.

Kingstowne Driving Range has two decks to hit balls, a putting green, and two putt putt courses. Kingstowne has been open for three years and currently has been making more additions to their development. Kingstowne also has camps that kids can attend where they practice at both the driving range and Greendale Golf Course.

**"I go to Kingstowne Driving Range to kill the ball and outdrive my friends"**  
—Chris Peacock, sophomore

Balls to hit at Kingstowne costs seven dollars for a regular bucket and ten dollars for a large. There is also other value passes that a customer could buy. Putt-Putt costs \$6.50 for adults and \$4.50 for kids twelve and under. A customer can also replay which is about half the price to play the other course. There are two courses to play on: the Desert course and the Mountain course.

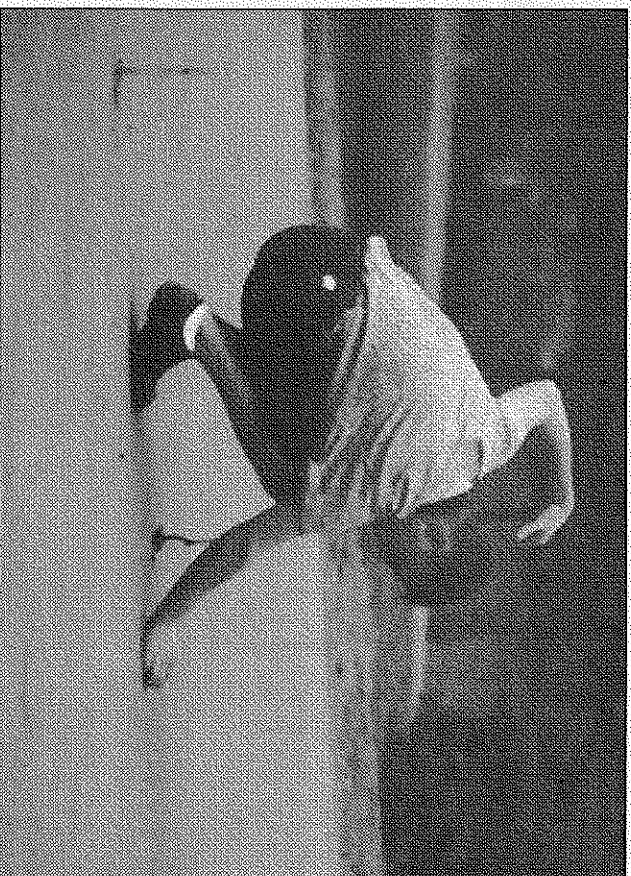
"I go to Kingstowne Driving Range to kill the ball and outdrive my friends," said

sophomore Chris Peacock.

Burke Lake Golf course has a driving range, putting green, and a 18 hole golf course. It offers to give instruction to customers, and has camps where kids can work on their golf game. For juniors to play

course, Greendale, Fort Belvoir, or Polnick.

All these golf course are courses with the typical par 5 and par 4 courses. Anyone can play these courses at any time. The rates differ depending if you play on a holiday or the weekend.



Students play golf at Springfield Country Club, Fort Belvoir, and Burke Lake.

File Photo

the real course it costs nine dollars for nine holes and \$18 for 18 holes. For adults during the weekends it cost fifteen dollars for nine holes and twenty one dollars for eighteen.

"I'm not very good at golf so I like to go to Burke Lake, because it's a small course and once and awhile I can beat my friends on it," said sophomore John Keiran.

For a big course, golfers beginning or experienced, travel to Twin Lake golf

In other places such as Springfield Golf and Country Club (SGCC) only members are permitted to play. Members can bring guests to play, but it is very expensive. SGCC has many activities that a person can enjoy. There is a restaurant, driving range, putting green, swimming pool, and of course a real course.

"I love playing golf, I try playing once a week at Springfield Golf and Country Club," said sophomore Sean Lampley.

## Athletes of the Issue

Allison  
Hobson  
Girls Soccer



Jan Starnaceo

*Allison, a junior, is on her third year of varsity soccer. Before being sidelined by an injury, she played an important role on the team.*

**Favorite Food:** Mac and Cheese

**Hobby:** Shopping

**Favorite Teacher:** Mr. Mac

**Favorite Type of Music:** Alternative, like Dave Matthews

**Favorite Class:** Lunch

**Favorite TV show:** "Friends"

**Most Embarrassing moment:** "When I had to do the freshman initiation for varsity"

Juan  
Pabon Gomez  
Boys Soccer



Jan Starnaceo

*Juan is a sophomore who is on his second season of varsity soccer. Last year he excelled on the state championship team.*

**Favorite Food:** Colombian food

**Hobby:** "working on my car"

**Favorite Teacher:** Mrs. Lynch

**Favorite Type of Music:** Mexican

**Favorite Class:** Algebra 1

**Favorite TV show:** Sports Shows

**Most Embarrassing moment:** "celebrating after scoring a goal in the regions and almost got a yellow card because it's not allowed"

—On April 23 the boys varsity lacrosse team lost to Langley by a score of 3-9. This brings their season record to 1-6. They are tied for last place in the Patriot District.

—The girls varsity soccer team won their first game on the 21st with a 2-1 victory over TC Williams.

—On April 4 senior baseball pitcher Peter Foster threw a no-hitter in a 7-0 victory over West Portnace. The boys defeated Lake Braddock 9-7 on April 22 and TC Williams 17-4 on April 23.

## Sports in Brief

—The varsity softball team defeated TC Williams 16-0 on April 23. This win improved their season record to 9-4. They are now first place in the Patriot District.

—The boys varsity tennis team lost to TC Williams on April 23. They are now 1-7. They are second to last in the Patriot District.

—Compiled By **Nikolai Wajda**

All Records are as of April 23

—Compiled by **Denis Ing**

# Player of the year awarded to Janielle Dodds Basketball star receives honor in face of tough competition

by Kathleen Prevost  
Oracle Photographer

Let's all give a warm round of applause to Janielle Dodds for being Northern Virginia's Coach Association Player of the Year for basketball!

This coveted award is given to only one player in the region who is voted on by all the head coaches. Dodds was awarded this honor based on her skill and contributions to the team.

Assistant Coach Langloh said he

expected her to win.

"It was between her and a couple other girls but she definitely deserved it. Dodds had a lot to do with our wins, and was a major part of the team's success," Langloh said; "I felt she should have been player of the year last year too."

Despite netting 18 points a game, Dodds was more modest than her coach about her chance of receiving this title.

"I didn't expect to win at all," said Dodds. "I definitely thought the award would go to a player whose team made it

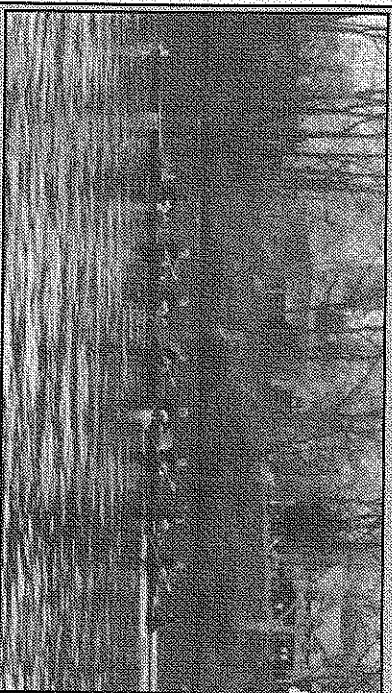
to the state finals."

Langloh admits the Coach's Player of the Year can be a little subjective, because a team has to be good enough to get recognized by coaches in other districts before the player can be recognized individually. That aside, the award is really made to highlight the specific player's accomplishments and does not reflect that much on the whole team. Along with scoring 18 points a game, Dodds averaged nine rebounds, two blocks, three steals, and three assists.

The last West Springfield player to win this award was Kara Lawson in 1999. She is currently playing for University of Tennessee.

Dodds will also continue to play basketball in college, and has received a full scholarship to Southern Methodist University.

While the title does not effect her college plans, Dodds is glad to have won. "It's really nice to be Player of the Year," said Dodds. "It's a great accomplishment."



Jan Stomaccio

A classic scene of W.S.'s boys rowers upon the placid potomac.

## Crew row, row, ROWS their boats to victory

by Eran Anderson  
Sports Editor

Crew—despite its large number of participants, is not an officially sponsored sport of West Springfield. As a result, it does not get as much attention as, say, baseball.

Crew's no second-hand sport, though. It requires a lot of commitment and effort. For one thing, rowers cannot simply practice and play at West Springfield, not even on days when the moat out front is full. "We race down at the Sandy

Run Regional Park at the Ocaquan River," said junior rower Adam Bolik.

Racing is an involving matter which take up most of a rower's Saturday.

"They launch races once every 8 minutes or so. There are usually 30-some odd races. That includes different types of heats and finals," said Adam.

All races are 1500 meters long, and usually consist of six boats racing against each other. The number of individual races, or heats, varies depending on the number of teams present. Victors of a heat move on up to the next

weight classification rather than a skill classification.

There are four groups of eights for the boys, a separate eight for freshmen, and two teams of fours.

Likewise, the girls have two eights, with two separate freshman eights, and a team of four.

Crew is not all competition.

There is practice as well, every weekday at four. Practices are held at Sandy Run as well.

"We just go there early to run or go to the rowing machine. We're usually on the water for about two hours," said senior John Butterfield.

"There's just the team aspect of it. There's no stars."

—Jonathon Butterfield, senior

Butterfield, along with senior Matthew Petty, are the team captains for the boys team. Seniors Jessica Faller-Parrel, Michelle Bernh, and Triscia Chhaya are captains of the girls team.

Being a team captain means extra responsibilities. Not so much on the boat as in taking care of preparation and odds and ends.

"We're in charge of making sure that every thing gets done before we go to practice," said Faller-Parrel.

Crew, like any sport, has its challenges, but rowers enjoy the experience.

"I like the attitude on the boat and the work ethic of everyone. There's just the team aspect of it. There's no stars," said Butterfield.

More than teamwork makes being on crew enjoyable. Friendly relations between rowers adds to the experience.

"I really enjoy the social aspects. The girl's and guy's teams are friends," said Faller-Parrel.

Victory is also sweet. The team has had a fantastic year this far, netting seven first place finishes in their previous matches. The rest of the season looks equally promising.



Jan Stomaccio

The girls carry their boat down to the dock for launching. Rowers are often assigned individual jobs, such as carrying the boat.

# Frisbee Golf: No funny shoes required Frisbee golf an affordable way to a good time

by Adam Rosen  
Viewpoint Editor

Frisbee golf is a sport that is so exciting that once people start playing they can't stop.

Frisbee golf is free. The objective of the game is to throw a frisbee into a hole. The frisbee is to be thrown into a cage. The game is a lot like golf except it is not anywhere nearly as expensive. There are different frisbees, (discs) people use, such as a Teebird, which is sort of like a driver. There is also a Putter which is used for throwing short distances like a golf putter. Then there's a chipping disk for mid ranges which is like irons in golf.

When throwing a disc the arm should be at wrist level in order to keep the disc going straight through the air. After the disc player throws the disc, they walk up to where they threw it and pick it up and throw it again.

Burke Lake is one of many courses that people can play disc for free. Students can

also make their own course.

"My friends and I made up our own course where we have to hit fire hydrants and poles to win," said sophomore Sean DeWyngaert.

Frisbee golf has proven to be a very popular game. Junior David Hebda, who shoots eleven under, has taken a serious interest into the game. Hebda plays at one

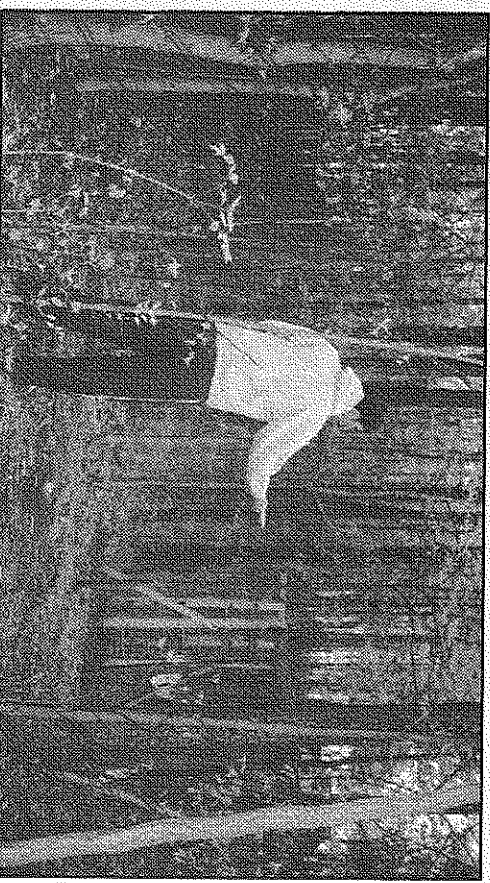
"[We] made up our own courses where we have to hit fire hydrants and poles to win."

Sean DeWyngaert, Sophomore

of three courses: Burke Lake, Pohick, or Spotsylvania, which is 45 minutes away.

"Spotsylvania is awesome because there's a river you can throw over," said Hebda.

At the course the majority of people that



Adam Buckley

Frisbee golf is tougher than it looks as discs are often thrown through thick forest.

play are men. Hebda believes that girls should not allowed to play. "Don't bring girls their not allowed to go," said Hebda.

Burke Lake's disc course has eighteen holes where a player has to throw a disc into a cage. "Burke Lake is close by and it's free and it's fun to play frisbee golf,"

said sophomore Danny Hill. Frisbee golf has shown how the price is affordable and where you can play is convenient. Sophomore Danny Tinsley said, "It's tight to have a place that's close where you can just go and chill with some friends and play frisbee golf."

# Pick which of these two stories is true

By Adam Buckley  
Oracle goon, 2nd class

A young man in Illinois was recently arrested and almost crushed to death after committing armed robbery at a seven-eleven. The young thief almost escaped when he hid in a dumpster behind the store, but his escape was foiled when a garbage truck emptied the dumpster contents and almost crushed the criminal to death while compacting the trash.

The operators of the garbage truck heard the young man's cries for help and immediately stopped the machine. Police then read the man his rights and arrested the fiend.

Then the garbage men drove him the police station while still trapped amongst the garbage.

The two officers, who had obviously never been in the lime light before, said that "although the man had a 'pressing engagement' his actions had to be paid for."

The young man on the other hand found his treatment to be less than pleasant, and has vowed to sue the department for its cruel and unusual method of arrest and transport. The man had been tried with attempted armed robbery and resisting arrest. He was unable for comment after his arrest.

Two veteran detectives investigating a robbery at a Jersey City deli yesterday were interrupted by three gunmen trying to rob the store, police said.

The two men were charged with attempted armed robbery, two counts each of attempting to shoot a police officer and various weapons charges.

In that incident, a customer said he was confronted by two men as he walked out of the deli about 9 pm and robbed of a large sum of money. No weapon was shown, and it was unknown yesterday whether the men were involved in that robbery.

Two police officers were in a back room, with the door shut, interviewing the three witnesses to the earlier robbery when the cashier burst in and said a man was about to shoot him, police said.

Then one of the gunmen stuck his gun through the doorway of the back room, pointing it at the officers and others inside, but the cops slammed the door shut, drew their weapons and identified themselves as police officers.

The three gunmen retreated to the front of the store, where they had forced three customers to the floor.

The men were then apprehended by the two officers after a short foot chase in which shots were fired. They were taken away in a police car where they were kept in holding cells before their court date was set.

## The fatness of a celebrity life

By Emily Sommerfeldt  
Inside Story Editor

There must be something in Hollywood's water that is the cause of the high numbers of mothers-to-be popping up in celebrity news.

On a normal day, the media follows their every move, but now that they're pregnant, the media becomes involved even more. After all, there is a second person to keep in mind - the baby. Here and there, little tidbits of information are fed to the public.

"I think the media makes a big deal about celebrities having babies. It's just a normal thing," said junior Alexandra \*\*\*Check name\*\*\* Vu.

With all of the media coverage, many of the actresses become slightly vain. Their strive to stay fashionable is almost a contest as to which woman can sport the best dressed humps.

Mothers-to-be like Claudia Schiffer and Brandy choose the natural approach, giving the world an early introduction to their future children. Both show off their large stomachs by wearing mid-drift shirts.

"I don't like it when they show their stomachs," said senior Mesa Gorbunt. While some find the bare skin disgusting, others support their choice of fashion.

"It's natural beauty," said junior Martha Krueger.

Other celebrities, such as Jada Pinkett Smith, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Catherine Zeta-Jones, made the decision to disregard the natural approach and to dress

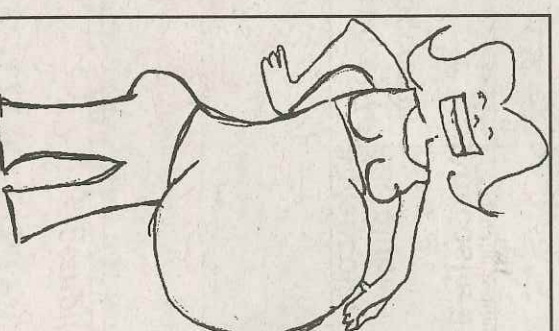
more conservatively.

Zeta-Jones, as seen at the Oscar awards, chose to wear something a little less revealing. Her covered stomach was popular among some of her fans.

"She has been very graceful about her pregnancy. She carried it off very well," said Krueger.

Pregnancy has always been a private thing for a family to enjoy together. But the media has given it a new purpose - to entertain. Currently, the large numbers of expecting celebrities may have something to do with the media hype, but there are still those who think that the media is too involved.

"You shouldn't show off your body to the whole world," said sophomore Jordan Gates. "Having a baby should be a personal thing."



This is the "cool" thing to do if you are a celebrity and have a gigantic stomach, yet still think you have that sexy edge over other women.

## Facts you must know to graduate

The longest place-name still in use is Taumatwahakatangihangaokoauotamataeturipukakap ikimaungahoronukupokaiwi anuakit-natahu, a New Zealand hill.

—compiled by Denis Ing

# April/May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/Sunday	
baseballball vs. LB 6 softball vs. LB 7	Boys lax @ Hayfield 715 girls lax Hayfield 715	Lifehouse @ 930 Club Foo-fighters @ Patriot Center Spring Musical	Boys lax Ann 715 girls lax @ Ann715	sbball @ WPot 7 boys soccer @ LB 7	Millencolin @ 930 club crew @ Anacostia 9 @ 7:30 in the auditorium	Good Charlotte @ patriot center
5 girls soccer vs. Mclean 7 boys soccer @ McLean 7	13 boys lax districts @ home girls lax districts	7 AP Testing baseball districts @ Hayfield boys soccer districts	8 girls soccer @ Robinson 7 boys soccer vs. Robinson 7	9 Fleetwood Mac @ MCI Center boys lax @ LB 715	9 Crew @ NCASRA-Occoquan 9	10
12 Avril Lavigne @ Patriot Center AFI @ 930 Club	19 softball districts girls soccer regional	14 boys tennis regionals	15 girls and boys soccer districts track districts @ TCW 4	16 girls and boys soccer districts track districts @ TCW 4	16 Boys and girls lax districts boys tennis regionals	17 boys tennis regionals
19 boys tennis regionals softball districts	20 boys tennis regionals	21 track districts boys tennis regionals	22 Dreamscape 23 Project, Sake and Another Side of Silence @ Jaxx 610	23 Dreamscape 23 Project, Sake and Another Side of Silence @ Jaxx 610	24 Alkaline Trio @ 930 club Hstival @ RFK	25
26	27	28 Beck and Dashboard Confessional @ Wolf Trap	29 Lone Star with Carolyn Dawn Johnson @ Wolf Trap	30	31	1 First day of the last month of school