



The ORACLE

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West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

'Jam' Wins Jam

By Heidi Stillogoj
Oracle Editor

Putting their age behind them, Traffic Jam Marmalade showed the judges and the crowd that talent rules over seniority at the Battle of the Bands. The all-sophomore band placed first and walked away with \$150 from Melodee Music, and a newfound fan base.

Traffic Jam Marmalade's music consists of a variety of instruments, such as the saxophone, played by Mayank Tandon, and Latin percussion, performed by Nick Jarosz.

"[Our music] is a mix of funk and slow jazz," said drummer Danny Martin. "I would call it funk with a jazz mood and fusion cappuccino."

The band occasionally performs covers of bands such as The Beatles or Phish, but prides themselves on writing their own music. Front man Nick Melas, who sings and plays guitar along with Jared Bookbinder, writes most of the lyrics, but everyone collaborates on the music.

On stage, their natural confidence shone as Melas pointed to friends and even invited his younger brother, Chris, 11, up on stage to dance. Bassist Alex Laquement showed his dedication by standing the entire show despite a leg



Chris Shannon

Traffic Jam Marmalade's (clockwise from left) Jared Bookbinder, Nick Jarosz, Alex Laquement, Mayank Tandon, Nick Melas, and Danny Martin, all sophomores, pose for a picture after winning first place at WS's Battle of the Bands on May 30.

Before Spartan Jam, the band made an effort to try and practice every day, but the sophomores still were shocked when they were announced as winners.

"We didn't expect it at all," said Melas. "[I] definitely thought Dead Eternity was going to win."

Dead Eternity, a death metal band, placed second, and Truth and Reconciliation, led by senior Rob Bruhn, placed third.

Dead Eternity's most memorable moment was when they screamed "When I say doctor, you say kill," and led the crowd in a chant.

Senior Elliot Wish, front man of Dead Eternity, has played with senior guitarist Brian Bardino for three years, but their new lineup has only been together four months.

Wish was the main vocalist for Dead Eternity, but senior Paul Slingo recently

joined as well.

"It's not easy to do all the screaming on your own," said Wish.

While most members of Eternity are seniors, they still have plans for the future.

"We have recorded demotapes and hope to record a CD this summer," said Wish.

Traffic Jam Marmalade is also working on recording. Melas's cousin is in a local band, Sake, and has offered to record the band in his studio.

"We aren't doing as many gigs [anymore]," said Melas. "We're focusing on getting our stuff perfect."

The top three bands at Spartan Jam proved that practice makes perfect. Although they all had differing styles, each had the crowd on its feet and singing, or chanting, along.

"We [Dead Eternity] really made a point to get people involved," said Wish. "It's the most fun looking out and seeing people having fun."

Yearbook distribution isn't always such a riot

By Jen Siomacco

Oracle Editor

They may be memories that will last forever, but the insanity that they stimulate can be quite stifling.

Every year lines form outside rooms 215 and 218, winding down into the English hallway and senior hall, blocking doorways and lockers. Yearbook frenzy can be seen at almost every desk in every classroom. Hallways are blocked during break with students swapping signatures and comments on the infamous books.

On May 21 the doors opened to seniors to pick up their yearbooks, and in comparison to years past, the environment was calm. Security officers Mike Ukele and George Parry stood by to reassure that nothing would get out of hand.

"This year they've been very polite," said yearbook adviser Brooke Nelson. "I've only had one parent complain, and there's usually a lot more."

There are generally a few parents each year who complain that their children's photos have been improperly

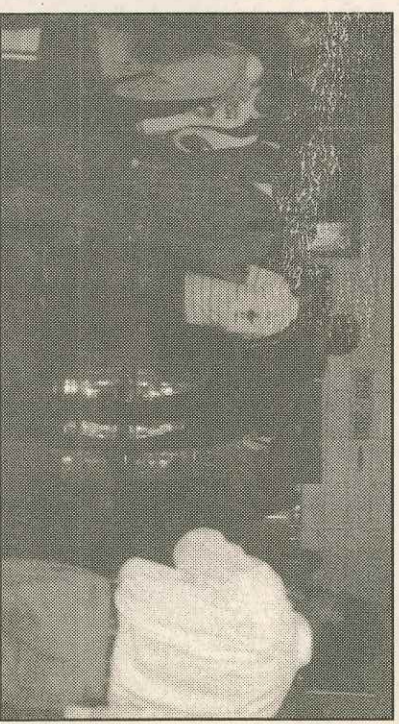
placed, or they have been misquoted. But this year the parents are not the ones with complaints.

"They should have had a better cover," said sophomore Palak Patel. "[And] they didn't even have the right students under the right class."

The yearbook staff, however, only organizes the photos for the seniors. Underclass photos are sent out with their names to the publisher, Herf Jones, and the company does not always get everything right, according to the yearbook staff.

Even though students sometimes complain about the book's contents, they more often complain about the lengthy lines they must stand in to pick one up.

"Yeah, [I'm getting annoyed]," said senior John Cook. "But I've only been waiting 10 minutes. It's not that bad. I do think they should print out two lists and have one at each door [to speed things up]."



Jen Siomacco

Yearbook season means long lines, short tempers, and security staff. Some students can't pick up their yearbooks the first time around because of unpaid fines. Students come to pick up their yearbooks only to be turned away time and time again because that cheerleading uniform hasn't been turned in or the calculator fines have yet to be paid.

See YEARBOOK on Page 3.

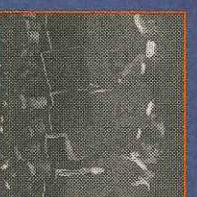
5 Check out the hot summer tours



6 Drop Zone escalates fun at Kings Dominion



7 Track and soccer make it to Regionals



Seatbelt law further ensures safety and brings relief

Kudos to Virginia for taking the next step in enforcing driving safety. More than 41,000 people annually and one person every 13 minutes dies on a road in the U.S. So, finally, Senator Mark Warner decided to take a stand in attempt to protect Virginia drivers.

The new law, whose bill was defeated on the first attempt but passed the second, states not wearing a seat belt is a primary offense. This means a driver can be pulled over just for not buckling up, without committing another driving crime. In the past, failure to wear a seat belt was not considered a significant peril, but just a foot note fine.

The passing of this law may be a nuisance to some, but essentially it enforces the lifesaver of the 21st century. Also, this law is well needed considering three out of every

Editorial

five people could have avoided their death caused by car accidents if they would have buckled up, according to the United States Highway Safety Administration.

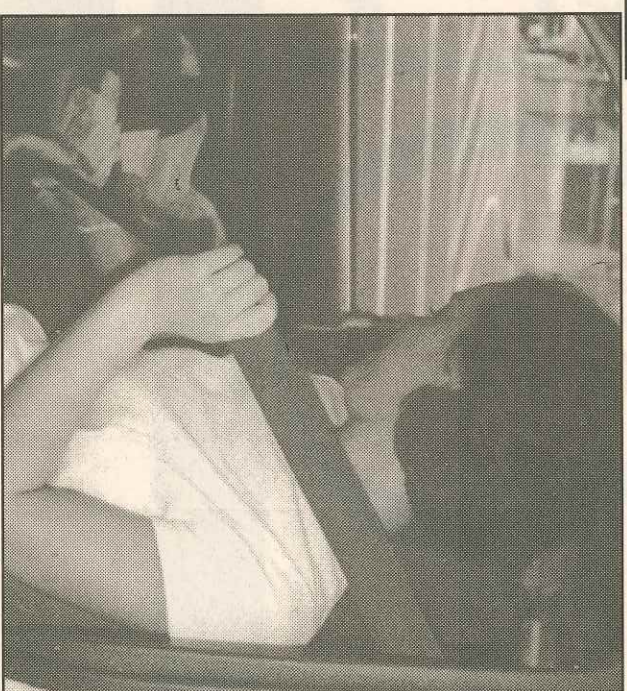
Virginia is the first state to break the mold and continue the

evolution of transportation safety.

Before 1974, the speed limit on highways was 70 mph, now it is up to the states to determine its own limits. Virginia's is now 55 mph, which has decreased the number of fatalities significantly. Other relatively new safety precautions are new car seat laws, drinking and driving laws, and encouraged airbags.

Safety belts are already mandatory on military bases, and can have as drastic consequences as a revoked license if failure to comply.

I applaud Virginia for having the courage for attempting to protect its drivers with this law.



Susan Sommerfeldt
Senior Rachel Tucker buckles herself up tight to ensure safety. As of now, a driver can be pulled over simply because they aren't wearing their seatbelt.

Stress mounts as end nears

By Katherine Hutton

Senior Staff Writer

Ah, the start of summer vacation is just around the corner. But I am not outside enjoying the lovely weather. I am stuck inside studying.

Teachers must think we are all like Hermione Granger—of Harry Potter fame—who finds exams “rather enjoyable.”

Hal! They wish. Every year, students start slacking as the schoolwork is supposed to wane. Unfortunately, this appears to be the time when teachers pile on the projects and extra work to prepare for AP exams, SOLs, and finals.

All this seems to begin in early spring. Teachers realize that in addition to teaching last minute information, they need to cram

in review material so that we remember everything. The pressure and stress mounts on students as we fill our brains.

First come the AP exams, probably the scariest and toughest. For two weeks in May, upperclassmen, and some underclassmen, have to suffer through hours of tests, hoping to score at least a three in order to receive some

college credit. Countless timed writings and practice multiple choice tests

packed my weeks before finally taking the actual exam.

Then, the teachers had four school days to get us ready for the next tests.

A week after the last AP test was administered was the first day of SOLs. Those students who just finished dealing with AP exams now have another week of testing. Luckily, we were given half days, so afterwards we were able to relax. Even though we could not miss school once we had completed

the more grueling AP exam. I suppose we got extra time during SOLs because everyone still needed to cram for them. In May, final exam projects were assigned and more reviews began. More time for studying, less time for fun. The half days helped (did you know that you can watch “Guiding Light” and read your history book at the same time?), but otherwise it was goodby social life.

By the time this article is in Spartan hands, all that will be left are final exams. Hopefully, we will be more relaxed, and the schoolwork really will have disappeared. Until that time, I better keep studying.

Interest arises in student elections

By Rachel Wohlers

Oracle Editor

Towards the end of every school year, walls, lockers and classrooms are plastered with flyers reading “So-and-So for Office.” However, this year, school hallways seemed unusually colorful when compared with previous class elections.

When it came to senior class elections, juniors widely participated in the campaigning process. Seventeen students ran for office, knowing that it was a tough competition and no one was guaranteed a definite win.

Although some may see elections as only a popularity contest, this year's elections proved that winning was based on campaign ideas and final speeches. Candidates covered the school in promotional posters and flyers advertising themselves as the best choice for class officer for 2004.

In past years, many candidates ran unopposed and were therefore guaranteed a spot in office. This did not encourage candidates to campaign at all and did not encourage students

themselves to participate in any of the election process, as their vote didn't make a difference. However, the huge increase in participation this year involved the student body in the election process as students felt they had more control over who their representatives for next year would be.

I was glad to see so many students getting involved in wanting to make a difference in my senior year. It was exciting to see so many of my fellow classmates spend so much time and effort on working on their campaigns in preparation for a better senior year and I felt like my choices for officer made a difference. Whether my choices won the office they ran for or not, is irrelevant to the fact that the junior class was, for once, significantly involved in the choosing of class officers for our senior year.

When faced with the responsibility of choosing next year's class officer, the class handled it well, electing, Theresa Ohanian as president, Christine Rini as vice president, Christie Kim as secretary, John McFarland as treasurer, Alex Vu as historian and Jessica Devoti for SGA representative. Having made a contribution to the election process, I am looking forward to an exciting and eventful, as well as profitable, senior year and hope that next year's junior class candidates are as dedicated and excited about their senior year as ours was.



File photo
President Theresa Ohanian and Vice President Christine Rini of the class of '04 work hard to raise funds at a junior event.

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Students pop the big question in clever ways

By Betsy Miller

Senior Staff Writer

In early spring, West Springfield was able to step back and take a break from the weighty issues of war and foreign policy and worry about a much more stressful predicament—prom.

Usually, the most pressing concerns of prom are choosing a restaurant that pleases the lactose-intolerant vegetarian in the group or finding the perfect dress.

The truly traumatic element of prom, however, comes weeks before hand with that inevitable ingredient—the invitation.

Teachers are often in awe at the full scale production that asking a date to prom has become.

"In my day we just picked up the phone and asked [the girls]," said John McMenamin, Sociology and Government teacher.

Simple invitations are still acceptable when asking a good friend, but many times an invitation to a special someone involves something a little more elaborate and often more public.

Senior Ashleigh Dewitt's date, senior Leanna Carrera, asked her

in front of hundreds at the largely attended "All that Jazz", the Personality/Pizzaz performance. Carrera cast members to spell out the word "Prom" on the backs of their shirts while Dewitt watched from the stage.

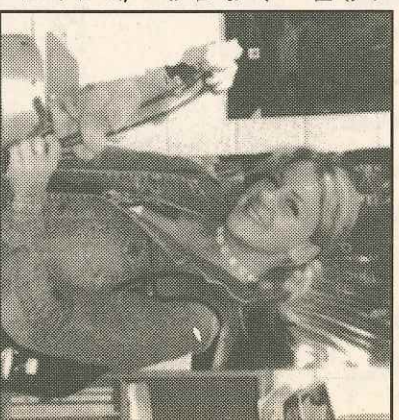
"It was great because it was so unexpected," said Dewitt. Along with being out of the blue, invitations are evidence of some big time cash, involving expensive flowers, candy, or stuffed animals.

"It's amazing how invitations [to prom] have changed over the years," said Spanish teacher

Catriona Stavropoulos. "The level of extravagance and expense has increased greatly."

Even though pricey presents can be nice, it's still the simplest things in life that can bring the greatest amount of joy.

"My favorite part of being asked was the poem he wrote me," said senior Alex Grillo, who received roses and teddy bears from her date senior Mike Roshandel. "It was really special."



Chris Shannon

Clutching her flowers, senior Alex Grillo glows after being asked to prom by senior Mike Roshandel



Spartan Profiles

Liz Corbett

By Sara Maine
News Section Assistant

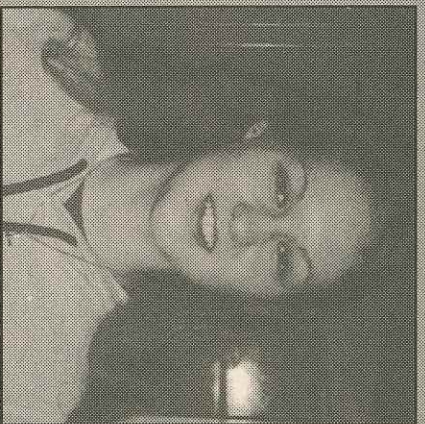
Although some seniors this year don't plan on moving on to college after graduation, Liz Corbett is already planning how to make her mark in history.

Corbett has already been accepted into Miami University in Oxford Ohio, where she plans on majoring in history. Her goal is to become an anthropologist one day. For those of you who don't know, anthropology is the study of the origins of humankind.

Corbett says she has known she has wanted to be an anthropologist "for a couple years. I've always liked history... It's my easiest and best subject." However, as Corbett meekly admits, "I don't really have a worst subject. I guess it would probably be English."

Corbett said that her most influential teacher was Cathy Guthrie, her World History two Honors teacher. "She was a really good friend. We just all got along together."

Corbett, whose father is in the Navy, has also lived in California and Connecticut. California feels like home, since she lived there for seven years. "I still consider myself to be from Californian, since I was there for so long," said Corbett.



Susan Sommerfeldt

Senior Liz Corbett will study anthropology at Miami University next year where she will continue her love of history.

After college, Corbett plans on moving to London. "I like British people. My grandmother is British. I've just always wanted to live there. I'm not sure what I will do there, but I know I will move there."

Corbett would rather munch on Greek food over McDonald's any day: "I love Greek food like Gyros," said Corbett. Gyros are a taco-like Greek food that many people consider to be on their "Top Ten Foods" list.

Corbett says that she likes just about all types of music, but "Irish is my favorite. Bands like 'Flogging Molly' are the best." She also plays flute for the school's wind ensemble.

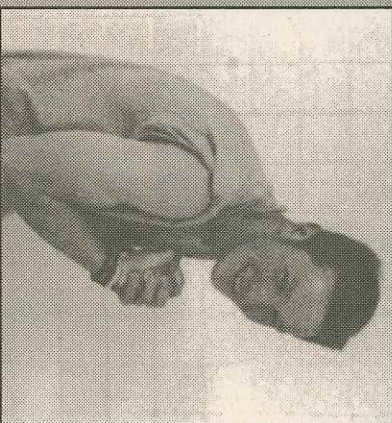
Andy Osborn

By Christie Kim
Senior Staff Writer

He's been seen walking through the halls with his hair gelled up nice and his clothes always stylish and clean. He's been heard yelling that loud, jubilant "Ay!!" He is senior Andy Osborn, also known as "Andy O."

Crew has been Osborn's major interest for the past three years and it's been a turbulent ride filled with ups and downs.

His sophomore year and first time rowing, Osborn managed to work up to making the men's second varsity eight boat being a mere novice. Junior year Osborn stayed on the men's second eight and ended the season with a bronze medal



Chris Shannon

Senior Andy Osborn's muscled arms are evidence of his hard work and determination rowing in crew.

Teachers fly the coop

RETIREMENT, from page 1

Chojnacki thinks it's time to move on. "Teaching has been a most fulfilling experience," said Chojnacki, "but I think it's time to go to the next stage of my life."

Each of the eight faculty members has spent countless hours working with the students, and in many cases, the students have made an impression on the faculty.

"I will miss the students. They make [my job] worthwhile," said Chandler.

While they have all decided that the present is the perfect time to retire, most express how much they will miss coming in every weekday morning.

"I think you'll miss something you've been doing for 33 years," said Brown. Twenty-five of those years were spent teaching at WS.

Leaving will create a void for most of those retiring because for the past years of weekday after weekday, teaching is all they've known. After retiring, Chandler

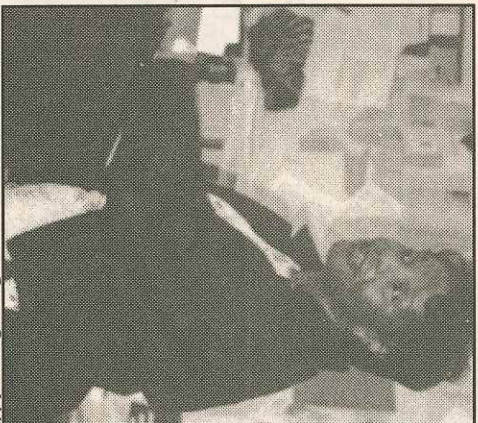


Eugene Ko

is AP Government teacher Connie Peduzzi, left, really jumping for joy because of her retirement? At right, colleague Lillie Brown takes a calmer approach to leaving WS. hopes to have time for traveling, antiquing, and boating.

Rather than using retirement to slow down and relax, other teachers have goals that they want to reach. Jeanes, for example, will not let his time go to waste.

"I'm retiring to try to start a career in golf," said future golfer Jeanes. "My goal is to play in the Champions Tour." Becoming dedicated to the sport is his dream, and now that he is retiring, he will have the time to do so.



Susan Sommerfeldt

Three teachers will continue in the work force, Chojnacki with interpreting and consulting, Horn with construction, and Brown with real estate.

"I'm staying in the work force, but nothing on a full time basis," said Chojnacki.

All eight are leaving, and their reasons for retiring may be different, but they all want change.

"It's time to retire," said Brown, "and start a new journey."

Pleasure & pain

YEARBOOKS, from page 1

Last year, a student was turned away because of fines and reacted violently, pushing Nelson and spewing foul language down the English hall. The administration suspended the boy for the rest of the year, and almost denied him permission to participate in graduation.

"We get cursed out a lot," said Olympian Student Life Editor Laurie Doton, a senior. "They take their frustrations out on us, but we know they are not mad at us, they've never even seen us before. They're just frustrated with the school and we bear the brunt of that."

It's unusual for any of these cases to become extreme. Principal David Smith says more significant yearbook problems include students "looking at yearbooks instead of paying attention in class. There will be a cluster here and a cluster there of students blocking the halls during break. These things are a much more common issue."

Every May the insanity begins again, but many obviously think it's all worth it. It's all about the memories.

A night at the theatre...

Students revel in variety of movie theaters

By Anna Sommerfeldt
Inside Story Editor

The lights are dimmed. Cell phones are off. People are silent. And exits are located in the front and rear of the theater.

Movie-going is the choice of many students looking for entertainment and a good time with friends and family. With new releases every week, spending a night at the theater never gets old.

Movie theaters in the area offer a variety of recent, independent, and old films. AMC Hoffman holds two stories of cinema delight. For cheaper tickets and new releases that have left major theaters, students can visit University Mall Theater.

To see old films, visit the AFI Silver theater in Silver Spring, which shows the classics, including black-and-whites and westerns. The Cinema Arts theater of Fairfax shows smaller, less known movies.

"I like Cinema Arts theater because it plays more independent films," said junior Martha Barroso.

Frequent moviegoers have favorite theaters and a lot of factors influence their choices. When remembering a movie experience, the type of seats and cleanliness of the theater seem to stand out in people's minds.

Comfy, couch-like seats at Hoffman Center are popular. Sitting through a long feature in small, uncomfortable seats with a large head blocking the screen is never fun.

"I like Hoffman because it has stadium seating," said junior Martha Kruger. "The seats are big and comfortable."

But not all theaters hold as good a reputation as Hoffman. Students choose to go to some

theaters for their positive qualities while avoiding others for either lack of these qualities or for the presence of negative things.

"Springfield Mall [theater] is ghetto because it's dirty and the service is horrible," said junior Jake Dawson.

With the exception of bad theaters, movie going is an enjoyable experience.

"Going to the movies is great because you can spend time with friends and family," said freshman Jessi Molinengo. "You can take a break from reality."

"Springfield Mall [theater] is ghetto because it's dirty and the service is horrible."

—Jake Dawson, junior

Technology allows families to kick back; relax at home. Home theaters provide stress-free environment, better sound, and more casual atmosphere

By Lauren Kondo
Features Editor

Ahh, the power to recline in a comfy couch, pause a movie at leisure, and mainly relax. This is possible with a home theater.

Many students and their families have added huge TVs to their homes to enjoy blockbuster without having to pay upwards of \$8 and wait to go to the restroom in fear of missing a good part.

Home theaters also eliminate the hassle of waiting in monstrous lines for tickets, sticky floors, and dealing with a giant

blocking a tiny person's view.

Junior Reetika Sethi's family bought a 56 inch TV for their home. They consider it a worthwhile investment.

"We watch a lot of TV," said Sethi. "It was worth the money."

When sophomore Deepika Chadive's family finished their basement, they added a large TV to make the room complete.

"We figured the whole family could relax with it," said Chadive.

In addition to a theater size TV, the Chadives bought a disco ball and a pool table for recreation.

There are numerous benefits of these systems, such as surround sound, which adds to the overall theater effect.

"There's better sound and quality," said Sethi. "It feels like

"There's better sound and quality. It feels like you're in a theater."

—Reetika Sethi, junior

you're in a theater."

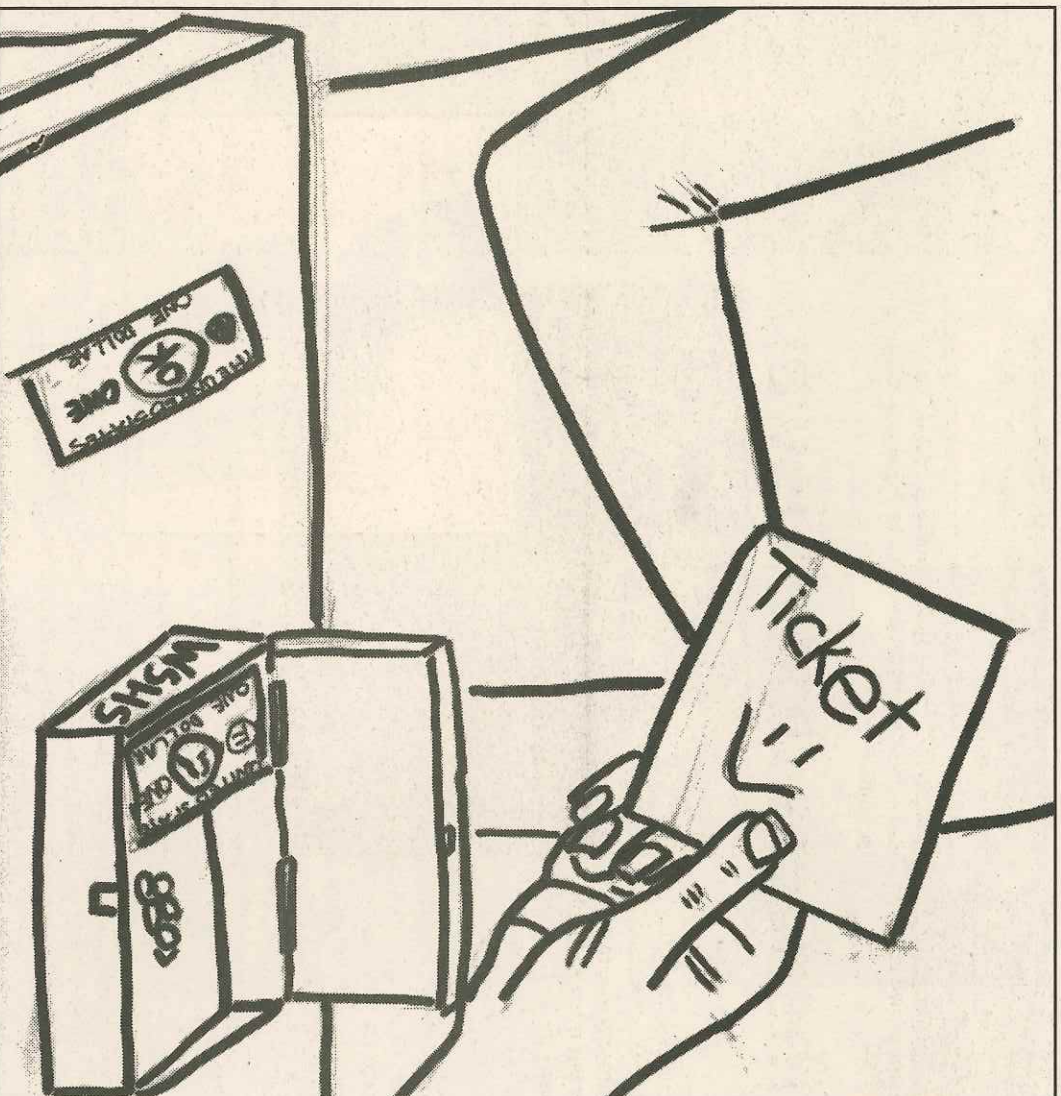
Needless to say, homes with theater-like TV's become popular hangouts for friends. It saves money and time. Chatting is permitted and having fun is a must.

Said Sethi, "A lot of friends like to come over and watch movies."

Junior Meghan Kelleher's friend junior Shannon Lindsay hosted a party based around her home theater. She created an atmosphere in her basement like a real movie theater.

"She set up a big exit sign, had lights on the floor, and set up the chairs like a theater," said Kelleher. "She also had a screen like an overhead to project the

Christie Kim movie. It was really neat."



Broadway brought to VA through local theaters

By Christina Araj
Viewpoint Editor

Going to play productions at local theaters has become a popular new pastime among WS students. Depending on what type of play students want to see and what atmosphere is preferred, students have a choice of attending a small dinner theater or a larger theater, like the Kennedy Center.

A popular dinner theater is the Lazy Susan. Although dinner theaters do not offer major productions, they do perform a series of Agatha Christie mysteries. The play *Steel Magnolias* is currently being performed at the Lazy Susan Theater.

The cost of a ticket is approximately \$30 including a buffet served before the start of

the play. The theater is much smaller, with tables dispersed throughout a dimly lit room facing a stage instead of massive auditorium seating. However, dinner theaters are favored by some due to their unique atmosphere. In a dinner theater, the actors serve you beverages during intermission and during the dinner before going back to the stage.

"You are more drawn into the play because of the close personal relationship with the actors, considering they are also your waiters," said freshman Maggie Seegers.

Talent, however, is not sacrificed in a dinner theater and is still up to par.

"The acting is just as good [as a regular theater]," said Seegers.

Larger theaters, like the Kennedy Center offer their own benefits by presenting major

productions and touring casts. A couple of plays that are currently being performed are *Shear Madness*, *Woolly Mammoth*, *Patience*, and *Reduced Shakespeare Comedy*. *All the Great Books*. Students enjoy the productions at the larger theaters as well.

"What you are seeing on stage is real, it's more believable," said sophomore Emily Levin.

Ticket costs for the Kennedy center are close to that of a dinner theater and range from about \$34 to \$41 depending upon which show and day. Dinner however, is not served.

Some students believe the

larger size of the theater and cast affect the quality of the shows.

"Non-dinner theaters have better production because they are bigger," said Seegers.

Whether it is a dinner theater or a regular theater, most students prefer watching a play over the option of attending a movie for many reasons.

Many students, due to the fact that plays are live and the audience is involved in the action make the difference in choosing to see a play over a movie.

"Plays are more real [than movies]," said Seegers. "They make you feel like you are in them."

After the show audience members are able to meet the actors backstage and get autographs. This serves as another pro to watching a play instead of a movie.

"You actually see the cast and meet them backstage," said Levin.

Others believe that the relationship between the audience and the cast is irreplaceable by the non-interactive movie screen. Moreover, jokes and lines in the plays are often adjusted to each audience.

Levin said, "There's more of a personal connection with the audience."

...or the theater

Concerts rock summer

By Camila Casillas
Managing Editor

Summer: the season for tans, beaches, ice cream, and for music fans, the opportunity to see some of their favorite artists.

Among the concerts touring this summer will be all day festivals such as Lollapalooza, Ozffest, Summer Sanitarium and Warped Tour.

After a five year break, Lollapalooza is on the road again featuring James Addicton, Incubus, Jurassic 5, Queens of the Stone Age, Audio Slave and The Donnas. Lollapalooza will take over Nissan Pavillion at 12 pm on August 1.

"I'm going to Lollapalooza this summer. I'm looking forward to seeing J 5 and Incubus, but I don't think The



The Donnas performed in front of a large crowd at the HFFestival in RFK Stadium on May 24, 2003

Finale cliffhangers draw viewers

By Erika Werking
Entertainment Editor

As June draws near, school is not the only thing that's ending. It's also the time of year when television shows are airing season finales. After approximately nine months of consistent shows, television programs often end with cliffhangers, not only because it is usually the best episode of the season, but also to attract viewers for the next one.

"I like season finales because there is always a twist," said sophomore Deepika Chadive.

Most shows add some sort of risky element, such as romance, marriage, death or babies, to pull in large audiences. While these elements make the show more exciting, they leave the audience hanging to ensure viewers will tune into the next season's premiere.

"I love the suspense," said senior Erin Crawley. Not everyone, however, feels the same.

"I hate season finales. I despise waiting," said junior Nathan Coffey.

For two shows this season there is no more waiting for the viewers. "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and "Dawson's Creek" came to an end this season. Both shows were huge successes when they debuted in 1997, but after six years, the plots became somewhat repetitive and eventually fell out of popularity.

"I watched both shows during their first seasons, but stopped because they got really boring," said junior Jackie Tahiliani.

With no more new shows to produce, series finales often go all out to attract viewers. "Dawson's Creek" advertised that Joey would finally choose who she really loved, and that one of the original four would die. "They definitely sucked me into watching, even

Donnas should be there," said junior Tom Planert.

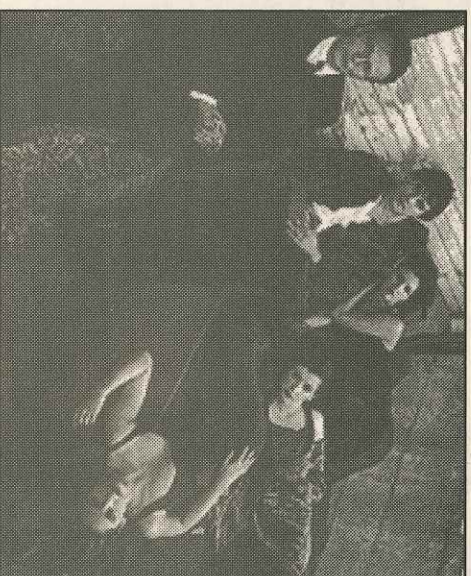
The Vans Warped Tour will arrive in Virginia on August 30. Warped Tour is an all day festival with designated skateboarding areas and different stages for local and well known groups. This year on the road with Warped Tour will be AFI, Rancid, Andrew W.K., Yellowcard and many more. The tour brings along with them a variety of stands and other activities for concert goers to occupy themselves with while they're waiting for their bands to take the stage. Vans gives out stickers, vendors, like Yoohoo, give out chocolate milk, and there are many companies selling clothes and other products. No one goes home empty-handed.

"I've never been before, but I'm going to Warped Tour this summer to see AFI," said junior Jeremiah Quinn.

Ozffest will once again hit the road this summer with many bands including Marilyn Manson, Disturbed, Chevelle and Korn.

Other entertainers making their way around the country this summer are Beck on their Sea Change tour, Jay-Z and 50 Cent, who are touring together. Justin Timberlake and Christina Aguilera are also touring together. Counting Crows will be on tour with John Mayer from July 7 to September 2. Even country fans have an opportunity to see their favorite groups this summer. The Dixie Chicks, Joan Osborne and Michelle Branch will tour together on their Top of the World Tour from May 25 to August 4. Summer concert goers have a big list to choose from this summer.

"I'm going to Ozffest. Everyone who's ever gone has said it was fun, so it should be energy filled," said junior Catherine Kirk. "I'm going to Lollapalooza too to see Incubus."



"Buffy the Vampire Slayer" ended after six years, but the story goes on in its spin-off "Angel."

though I hadn't watched a show for a long while," said Tahiliani. "I had to see what would happen. I was very pleased with the finale."

The season finale of "Buffy", however, was not too drastic since the spin-off of the show, "Angel", is coming back for another season in the fall and is closely connected to the story of "Buffy."

"I really didn't like 'Buffy's' finale. It was very random," said Tahiliani.

Whether finales are enjoyable or frustrating, they have become a tradition of television programming.

"I think how good finales are depends on the show," said junior Christine Rini. "Sometimes they're great, but sometimes they're disappointing. But I always watch them anyway. I can't imagine TV without them."

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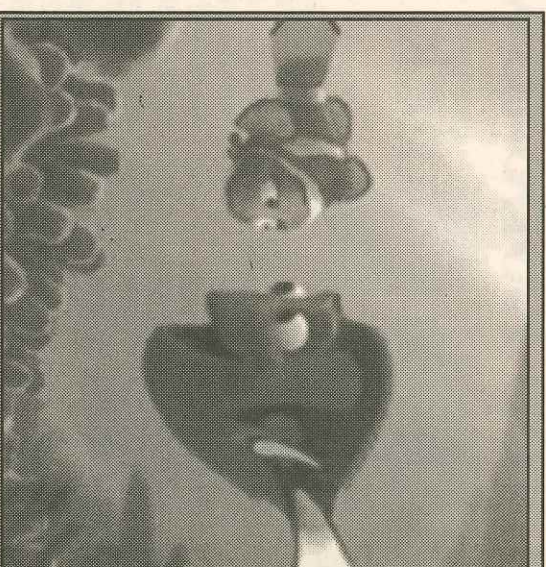
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Disney's newest movie "Finding Nemo" contained elements that appealed to teenagers and adults as well as children.

Cartoons aim at older audiences

By Grace Jo

Features Editor

They're not just for little kids anymore. Animated movies now have a new target: teenagers and adults. Movies like "Shrek", "Treasure Planet", "Scooby-doo", and "Final Fantasy" didn't just have the normal kindergarten audience, but also people who usually wouldn't find it worth their time to watch cartoons.

Recent animated films contained jokes no second grader would understand and, instead of having Ariel singing about her little gadgets, animated movies had popular bands blast away in the background.

Sometimes the mature content added in would prevent the film from getting the usual G rating that all animated films usually get.

The film industry wanted a universal audience and these animated movies were the key. Both little children and adults enjoyed movies such as "Shrek." Dreamworks created "Shrek" to appeal to all age groups, and succeeded. A little kid still got the typical fairy tale movie, but the teenager got the funny jokes and allusions targeted specifically at them.

"It's sort of like watching cartoons when you were a little kid, but you're older now so it's more funny because you understand more of the older content," said junior James Quinn.

Tens and adults enjoy the mixture of animation from their childhood with mature content that is at their level.

"Disney movies are directed at a little too young of an audience for me, but the more recent animated movies like 'Spirited Away' had more mature content," said senior Alex Paik.

Animation also gives film makers more chances at humor. Things that flesh-and-blood actors and actresses can't do can be done with computer generated characters.

"It [animation] is just a different way to express humor for older audiences. I think it gives the cartoonist a wider range of possibilities to make people laugh," said junior Esther Kim.

The new animated films make everyone laugh: the innocent little kid, the not-so-innocent teenager, and the not-innocent-at-all adult.

Congratulations 2003 WSHS Grads!



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Drop Zone tower ride delivers quick thrills

By Katie Bourget
Weekend Editor

King's Dominion's latest television commercial promises a "gravity wedge" to all riders of its new attraction, Drop Zone. According to thrill-seekers although the 305 foot high tower may not deliver the promised "wedge," it does provide a minute and a half of suspense and excitement.

The ride's unique feature is its large capacity of riders each cycle. Unlike traditional coasters, which hold an average of 12 or 14 riders, the Drop Zone holds up to 56 people.

"The line seemed long when we walked up but we only had to wait ten minutes," said freshman Nadia Romero. "The park was crowded, but we got to go on Drop Zone three times while we were there because the line moves so fast."

Drop Zone is boasted as the tallest drop in North America and, in

Excessive

rain encour-

ages creative

rain activities

By Hilary Heincer
Senior Staff Writer

Saturday mornings are full of anticipation of the day's activities, but one look out the window and hopes deflate. It's raining, again, for the fifty-millionth time.

As the particular conundrum of figuring out something to do plagues hundreds of students, one choice is to go back to all the activities you loved when you were a kid, the main one being roller-skating. Franconia Roller Rink is still open and operating.

If roller skating isn't a favorite group activity, gather some friends and find a bowling alley near you. Bowl some and grab some good snack bar grub for a "healthy" meal.

If you don't feel like spending your hard earned cash gather a bunch of friends and bring out the board games. There's nothing like *Pictionary*, *Taboo*, or *Pit* to lighten up a damp, dreary day.

If playing board games gets boring and spending money on takeout isn't an option, grab some friends and invite them over to cook lunch or

comparison to other local parks, its height is far superior. The Tower of Doom ride at Six Flags drops its riders 140 feet while Drop Zone's free-fall measures 272 feet.

"The ride is really suspenseful. You assume it would just go up and then down, but it ended up being more exciting than that," said sophomore Dan Beale.

At a maximum speed of 72 m.p.h., Drop Zone is faster than the popular roller coaster Volcano, which puts the new tower sensation behind only the steel Hyper Sonic XLC coaster, the new attraction at King's Dominion last year.

Until June 6 the park is only open on the weekends, and after that it is open every day until the end of August. But all squeamish individuals beware, Drop Zone includes taking the risk of being subjected to some intense G forces, and the joy of having a personalized "gravity wedge."



Susan Sommerfeld

Students rush to their cars on a rainy day. Despite the bad weather outdoors, students are able to come up with creative things to do.

dinner. If you end up making a mess, it'll be all the more fun.

Frisbee in the rain is always something fun to do. Just make sure it's only rain, not lightning.

After running around in the rain, grab some friends and run over to one of the many clothing stores around here. Give each other different outfits to try on ranging from realistic to outrageous. Reveal them all at the same time in the dressing rooms and just try to keep from bursting out with laughter (but not too hard).

Instead of going to a movie theater, invite some friends over and put in a classic like *Grease* or one of your other favorite movies.

Rain doesn't have to mean the end of a good time. Learn to use your options and what's around you.

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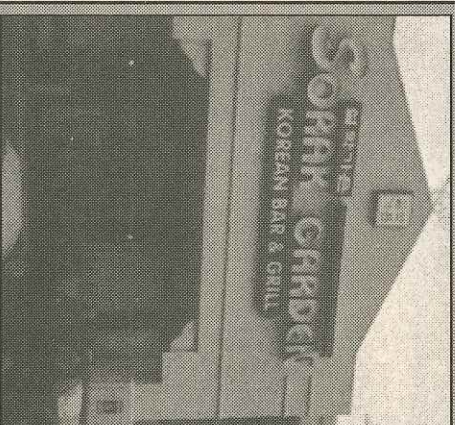
Sorak Garden grills up some exotic cuisine

By Sam Lee
Senior Staff Writer

Flaming onions and spoon wrappers are only a few sights one can see at the Sorak Garden, situated on Backlick Road. This restaurant, specializing in Korean food, creates a great atmosphere from the food, all the way to the grills set into the tables.

Never having eaten Korean food before, I entered the Sorak Garden with juniors Bobby Whetsell and Christie Pedder, and an open mind. At first, everything seemed intimidating. The only silverware was a large spoon and a pair of chopsticks, and the grill's settings were in Korean. Looking over the menu, there were many different selections and thankfully most of them were translated.

After choosing the barbecue chicken, bulgogi, which is thinly cut



Sam Lee

Sorak Garden, a Korean restaurant located on Backlick Road, serves up unique foods cooked on the table.

beef, and kalbi, also known as boneless ribs, we were asked another question: would we like it cooked in the kitchen or at the table? We choose at the table because it sounded like more fun.

Within five minutes the table was filled with condiments in white bowls, mi so soup, and raw meat... After the meat was placed on the hot grill, the waitress cooked most of it and separated it so everyone had equal amounts. She then added the rest onto the grill so we could get more if we wanted.

We were then taught on how to eat the food. After grabbing a lettuce leaf, we were told to put on spicy bean sauce, rice, meat and any of the condiments. All that was left was to roll it all together and eat it.

"It was really fun to make the lettuce rolls, especially since we got to put on whatever we wanted," said Pedder.

After one bite I became addicted. The different spices created fireworks in my mouth and I couldn't stop eating.

"The food is good," said Whetsell, "but it's too expensive for high school students."

The prices were a little steep, ranging from \$10-\$20. The meals, however, are more than enough for one person and can be split between two, but the Sorak Garden is more of a special occasion restaurant.

After drinking our cups of rice tea, we left with full stomachs and a new love for Korean cuisine.

Track, soccer reach for States

By Sarah Drabkin

Junior Staff Writer

During the past three months, the boys and girls track teams and the boys soccer team have struggled through rainy practices and muddy fields. All three teams, however, overcame the weather and managed to slog their way to their respective state tournaments.

In the Patriot District meet, the track team competed well and became a lead contender for the regional and state competitions. Individual runners qualified for regional competition. The men, led by seniors Jeff Day, Tim Kwak, Joe McMahon, and John Cook placed first in the 4x800 competition. The women, led by seniors Jenn Powers, Huma Husain, and Kelly Osborn and sophomore Kerry Carfagno placed third in the 4x800. Husain also won second place in the 1600 and first in the 800. Jeff Day also placed third in the mile. Both team's exceptional performances qualified them for state competition.

During States, both track teams ranked high again. The men's team placed second in the 4x800 and beat the 1999 school record held by Peter Lukens, Doug McMillan, Matt Sheer, and Pat Conway. In the 4x800 competition, girls received ninth place. Husain had another amazing individual performance when she came in third in the 800.

"It was a good race. I did the best I could under the windy conditions," said Husain. "I'm sad that it is over now and I'm really proud of my team."

Both teams competed under hard conditions. Coaches Mark Campbell, and Chris Pellegrini were pleased with the teams' performances.

"I'm really happy for the seniors. I've been coaching them from their freshman year and they have done some amazing things," said Baird.

Boys soccer also had a great season after losing many valuable players last year. The team had an almost perfect performance during the regular season, and was runner-up in Districts. The district final against Hayfield turned out to be a surprising defeat of 0-3.

"We came into the game thinking we would take the title easily. We didn't have



The boys varsity soccer team focuses before a game. The team made it as far as the State quarterfinals this year.

Segall Majestic



Segall Majestic

Senior David Hodge plans to play soccer at Roanoke College after graduation.

the mindset of winning," said junior starter Mike Davis.

The boys carried on even with the disappointment of not winning the title for

the third year in a row. The beginning of regionals fared well for the boys; they beat both Yorktown and Herndon. These wins qualified them to compete for regionals.

The game was highly anticipated. The boys on the soccer team wanted to reclaim their title, and students and teammates desperately wanted to beat Lake Braddock. In the first half, Lake Braddock pulled ahead 1-0.

In the second half, the Spartan boys made two quick goals. However, in the last few minutes of the final half, a throw-in from Lake Braddock was thrown into the WS goal area, where sophomore goalkeeper, Matt Tengs, caught the ball. Unfortunately, Tengs was shoved into the goal and the score was tied. The tie resulted in two overtimes in which no goals were scored. Finally, a shoot-out was held in which Lake Braddock won the score of 4-2.

After two heartbreaking losses the boys still trudged on to the state

competition, where they played Mills Goodwin of Richmond, whose team was ranked number one in the nation. The resulting score was 0-3.

"We are a young team who lost two strong senior classes consecutively," said coach Randy May. "And we had a great season even with a number of injuries. Not many teams can say they have been to states three years in a row."

Team members themselves were also proud of what they accomplished.

"We did what we could with what we had. I'm not disappointed," said sophomore Ben Phan.

"We are a young team .. and we had a great season even with a number of injuries. Not many teams can say they have been to states three years in a row."

—Coach Randy May

DC Post's All-Met 2003

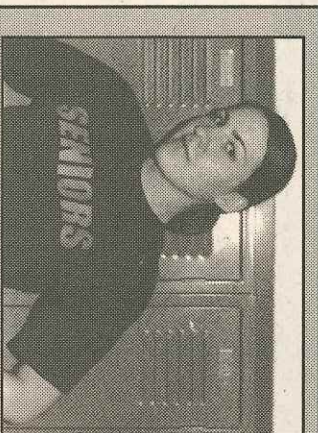
Track & Field
First Team—Sr. Jeff Day
Honorable Mention—Sr. Huma Husain

Softball
First Team—Sr. Cassidy Doane, Second base

Soccer
First Team—Sr. Bobby Fithian, Midfielder
Honorable Mention—Jr. Patrick Carroll, Defender and Jr. Mike Davis, Midfielder

Rowing
First Team—Sr. Matthew Petty
Honorable Mention—Jr. Jacob Buchanan and Jr. Beth-Ann Dick
Coach of the Year—Rick Ferguson

—Compiled by Tim O'Keefe



Chris Shannon

Cassidy Doane,
Softball



Susan Sommerfeldt

Josh Craddock,
Baseball

Bio—Cassidy is a senior, and says "I was fortunate to make First Team All District and First Team All-Met."

Favorite Movie—"Forrest Gump"

Favorite TV Show—"Real World"

Favorite Type of Music—Country and Alternative

Athletic Highlight—Winning Districts back-to-back in 2002 and 2003

Nickname- C-Doane

Food- Peanut Butter

College- VA Tech

Bio—Josh is a junior and is on his second year of varsity. This year he has played an important role for the team by playing third base.

Favorite Movie—"Scarface"

Favorite TV Show—"Sportscenter"

Favorite Type of Music—Anything that sounds good

Athletic Highlight—Hitting a home run against Robinson

College—VA Tech

Food—Steak

—Compiled by Adam Rosen

Athletes of the issue

Families make summer go from cool to cruel

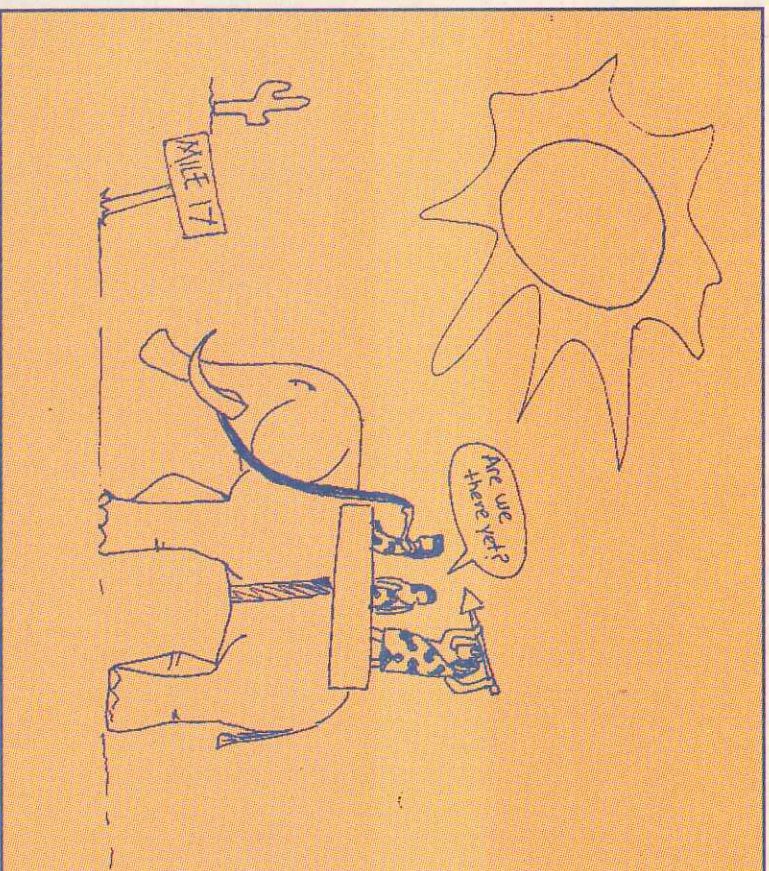
By Liz Weiderhold
Etc. Editor

Family vacation *n.*

1. A period of time devoted to pain, torture, or the constant nagging of parents to "sight see" when, in fact, the only thing you want to see is a teenage human of the opposite sex that is in no way genetically related to you.

Family vacations may be the single most infuriating and unbearable event of the summer thus is something that your parents will force you to experience because "you are never home anymore."

Family vacations have existed since the Paleolithic Age. Their reason was also no different than ours: to experience pleasure and relaxation by traveling hundreds of thousands of miles with Paleolithic kids who either need to pee paleolithically every three and a half Paleolithic minutes or are fighting with each other so much that the Paleolithic parents would feel more relaxed if a woolly mammoth and a saber tooth tiger armed with primitive weapons were in the "backseat." Ancient man was said to have a brain to reason and learn from experience, but how could he if we continue the tradition of family vacationing? Traveling with family is always a big



Adam Buckley

mistake, but if you think that you could bring a friend along to relieve your agony, just understand that voluntarily allowing your friend to laugh at you and your family

unmercifully is just putting more salt in the wound. Your friend (from now on his name will be Donatello) will discover, not by choice, the real way your family acts. If, in

Answers you won't find on your finals

H₂O is hot water, and CO₂ is cold water.

Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, veins, and caterpillars.

The largest organ in the human body is the head.

Respiration is composed of two acts, first inspiration, then expektoration.

The pistol of a flower is its only protections against insects.

Germinate means to become a naturalized German.

To remove air from a flask, fill it with water, tip the water out, and put the cork in quick before the air can get back in.

Romeo and Juliet were a romantic couplet.

Algebraic symbols are used when you

do not know what you are talking about.

A triangle which has an angle of 135 degrees is called an obscene triangle.

The Magna Carta provided that no free men should be hanged twice for the same offense.

Homer also wrote The Oddity, in which Penelope was the last hardship that Ulysses endured on his journey.

Actually, Homer was not written by Homer, but by another man of the same name.

In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races jumped, hurled the biscuits, and threw the java.

—Compiled by Liz Weiderhold

TOP 10 Reasons you won't get a parking space

10. Two words: Parent signature.
9. You would rather ride the bus, as suggested in the paperwork.
8. You don't feel like paying the 30 cents you owe the library.
7. It's faster to walk than push your car to the spot.
6. You haven't passed your driving permit test yet.
5. The parking lot has been converted into the golf cart storage area.
4. Walking from Hillside is your exercise for the day
3. Your helper monkey can't fill out the paperwork correctly.
2. You failed Behind-the-Wheel with Mr. Joe.
1. You raced for pinks after watching 2 Fast 2 Furious.

—Compiled by Jason Gillis

June 13-END!!!

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday/Sunday |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| 16 Last full day! 1st Period Exam 7:30-9:08 3rd Period Exam 9:28-11:01 Senior picnic- noon at Burke Lake Park-Area A | 17 Half day (11:00)! 2nd Period Exam 7:30-9:08 4th Period Exam 9:20-10:50 Graduation rehearsal 9:30 am auditorium | 18 Half day(11:00)! 5th Period Exam 7:30-9:05 7th Period Exam 9:20-10:50 9:20 am Cap/Gown distribution (cafeteria) | 19 6th Period Exam 7:30-9:05 Students dismissed at 9:20!!!!!!! 2:00 pm Graduation Patriot Center All-night Grad party 11:00 pm-5:00 am Lee District Park | 20 Last day of school! It's over! Finally! Come in to say good-bye and get your grades. See you next year! | 21-Whenever, who cares because time is no longer an issue! Get your "summer reading" done and read <i>Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix!</i> Three long years and it is finally here! Enjoy yourselves, but use your time wisely! Fun activity idea: count the amount of exclamation points in this calendar!!!!!!! |
| 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 14-15 |
| 9:00 pm Prom at the Sheraton Premiere | Friday the Thirteenth | 9:00 pm Prom at the Sheraton Premiere | Friday the Thirteenth | LAST WEEKEND BEFORE SCHOOL IS OUT! Study for 1st and 3rd Period finals and do your homework for 5th and 7th because you still have those classes. | |

BEEN DONE THAT