



The ORACLE

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West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

Sweeping tardiness out of hallways

Possibility of Saturday school aids administration in putting stop to lateness

By Heidi Stillgoi
Oracle Editor

As the year comes to a close, students are beginning to slack and give into senioritis—but not if the administration has a say in it.

Beginning the week of April 26, Assistant Principal Richard Griffin announced that hall sweeps would be put into effect.

"That Monday when I was standing at Senior Rail, I looked down all four halls and kids were everywhere," said Griffin. "That's when I said we need to tighten up."

Eleven students were caught on the first day of hall sweeps, but on Friday at the end of the week, only one student was caught.

Students were warned that if they are caught in a sweep, they would automatically receive a

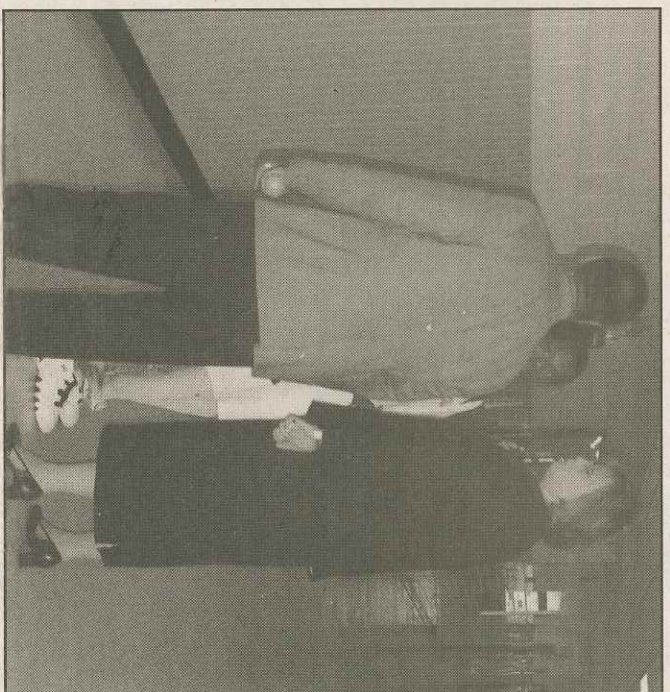
punishment of Saturday school, which has some students upset.

"[If you are caught in] a first offense like that the punishment should only be a stern talking to," said senior Jerry Barb. "Saturday school is too harsh."

Griffin, however, believes the punishment helps the hall sweeps be effective and ensures that more kids will get to class on time: the purpose behind the sweeps in the first place.

"If you know you'll be caught with afternoon or morning detention, you won't care. But nobody wants to come to school on a Saturday," said Griffin.

Saturday school serves as the punishment for students caught on the first and second offense, but those caught for the third time receive a one-day suspension as do those who do not show up to an assigned Saturday detention. In addition to any punishment, a



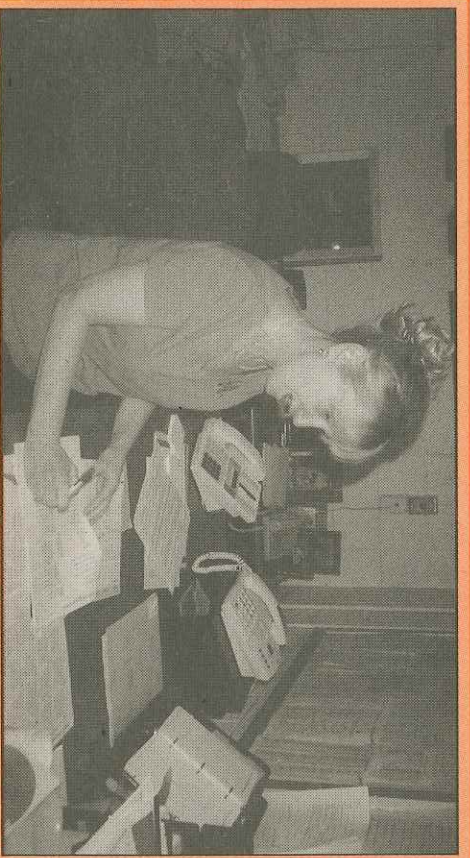
Susan Sommerfield
Senior Administrator Richard Griffin and Ninth Grade Administrator Pat Hans catch a student in the hallway during one of the frequently administered hall sweeps.

letter is mailed home to parents.

Griffin does what he can to help students avoid the punishment by shuffling them along in the halls and saying "you don't want to be late." He also allows students who may be running late extra time. He waits to make the announcement for teachers to close their doors 20-30 seconds after the tardy bell has rung, but he doesn't promise that the extra time will always be given.

"I'm giving you a little leeway by giving 30 seconds. I really don't want to catch anybody," said Griffin. "But I also might pick up the phone as soon as the bell rings."

The announcement is directed either to teachers on the bottom or top floor, varying each time. The building is too large for administration to cover all areas, See SWEEP on Page 4.



Ashley Hughes
As Director of Student Services, Eleanor Saslaw has "worked with the department, consulted with teachers, adjusted the school year, planned the master schedule, supervised the ESOL department, conducted orientations, worked with parents, helped set up testing and fulfilled any other necessary needs."

Saslaw to graduate with senior class

By Adam Rosen
Sports Editor

A Renaissance woman at heart, she has been helpful, kind, honest and hardworking. Eleanor Saslaw is leaving WS after being Director of Student Services since 1995.

"WS has been the best school I have

been to in my experience," said Saslaw. Saslaw's job has not been easy. As

director she worked with the department, consulted with teachers, adjusted the school year, planned the master schedule, supervised the ESOL department, conducted orientations, worked with

See RETIRE on Page 4.

Sherwood takes over drivers' seat

New staff member seen driving golf carts

By Heidi Stillgoi
Oracle Editor

The guy new to the school is not the new guy in town. After graduating from WS in 1978, a former student has returned to the school to take on the roll of security officer.

Peter Sherwood is the newest addition to the security staff and the group of men who make every effort to keep our school safe and the students in line. He is a stickler for rules and his biggest pet peeve is students who wander the hall aimlessly without hall passes or students who display rude behavior.

"I take some things more seriously than [the other guys]," said Sherwood. "I don't like people who lie to me or are disrespectful to me and I'm a stickler for rules."

After retiring from the Fairfax County Fire Department in November, where he worked as a paramedic, Sherwood interviewed with other jobs before settling at WS March 22.

"The staff welcomed me," said

Sherwood. "I've known [Mike] Ukele and [Georgel] Parry a number of years." Sherwood's co-workers enjoy having him around and have no problem working with him every day.

Sherwood stays with Ukele until 4:30 every day and has already helped deal with "incidents" that were occurring downstairs.

"[He] has been a breath of fresh air," said Ukele. "It's good to have him here after school."

Sherwood's close relationship with his co-workers is easy to notice as the men sit in their office by the cafeteria cracking jokes with one another and laughing.

"Maybe if [Sherwood] didn't drink so much coffee, he wouldn't be so uptight with hall passes," said Parry.

Along with coffee, Sherwood enjoys spending time with his wife and two children and rooting for the Red Sox and the Redskins.

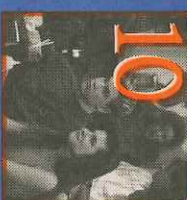
"I would really like the Redskins if they would do better," said Sherwood. See NEW on Page 4.



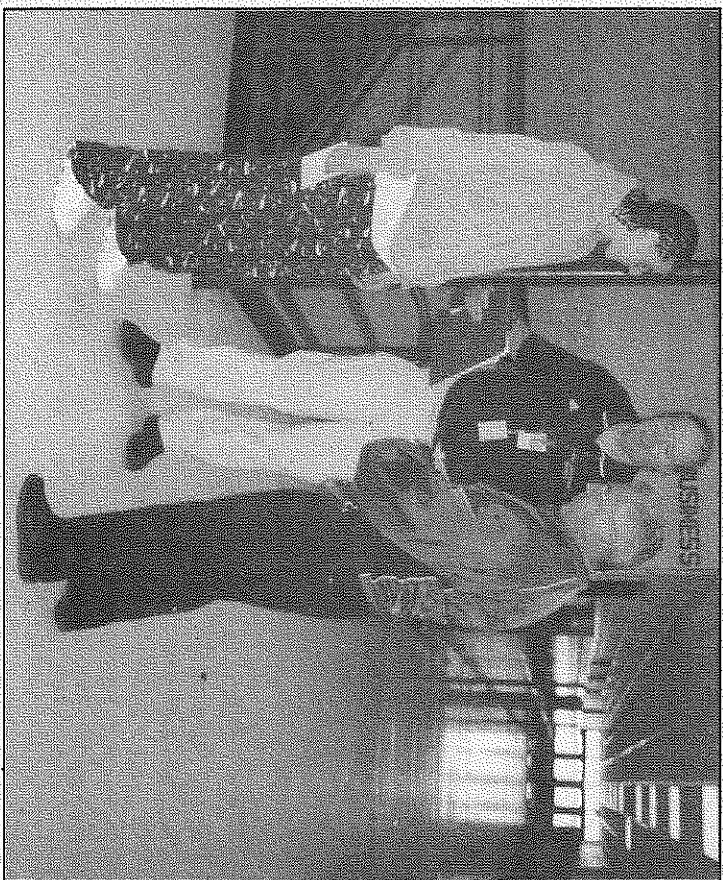
7 There's a new buzz in town.



8 104 Ways to Sign a Yearbook.



10 Test your '90s knowledge.



Susan Sommerfeldt
Senior Pat Carroll shows his hall pass to security officers Mike Ukele and Peter Sherwood during one of the recent hall sweeps.

Recent hall sweeps really are redundant

Although many adults may be skeptics, we students do have minds of our own and with the education we receive in school we are able to make conscious decisions, whether they are right or wrong. That is why the recent hall sweeps bother us. Students need to be held accountable. Recent hall sweeps really do nothing to help us learn responsibility.

Most students aren't chronically tardy anyway. It should be a student's choice as to whether he will be in class on time or whether finishing a worksheet during the moment of silence is more important than getting an unexcused tardy. Either way, the student should be held responsible for the consequences of his actions.

By implementing the hall sweeps, the administration takes students out of class during important classroom instruction for up to half an hour. The people who are always late and are being rounded up in these sweeps are probably the people who need to be in class.

The point of showing up on time is so one does not interrupt the lesson, so the teacher is not delayed, and so the student doesn't not miss anything. Aren't the sweeps keeping students from learning?

Editorial

Students will have to face the "real" world soon. The class as a result of his tardiness.

Some students might even see this as a way to miss class for 30 minutes. So, instead of learning, some might simply arrive late more often. Saturday detention won't make some of these students get to class any earlier. The people who are habitually late are going to continue to be late; one detention is not going to stop them.

An unexcused tardy already is enough punishment. Since three unexcused tardies result in one unexcused absence, a student could still fail the class as a result of his tardiness.

Students will have to face the "real" world soon. The

sooner they start taking responsibility for their actions, the sooner they'll "grow up."

What is the point reviewing our *Student Rights and Responsibilities* booklet at the beginning of each school year if the administrators feel the need to add additional punishments as well? We should learn the rules, and the administration should enforce those rules.

When we graduate and go to college, we'll be on our own. We'll be held responsible if we show up late to class. We should start practicing now, so that we can learn the meaning of responsibility. It's a good lesson to learn.

Country music needs to be given a fair chance

By Emily Sommerfeldt

News Section Editor

A beaten up combination radio and CD player permanently resides in the journalism office, and as the classes next door and across the hall will discontentedly vouch for, it is used quite often, and quite loudly, to entertain myself and my fellow Oracle and Olympianites as we work.

Sounds coming from the boom box speakers range from rap songs by a staff member's boyfriend to the Beatles to the radio's top pop song of the day. But what I never hear enough of are some of those good ol' country tunes.

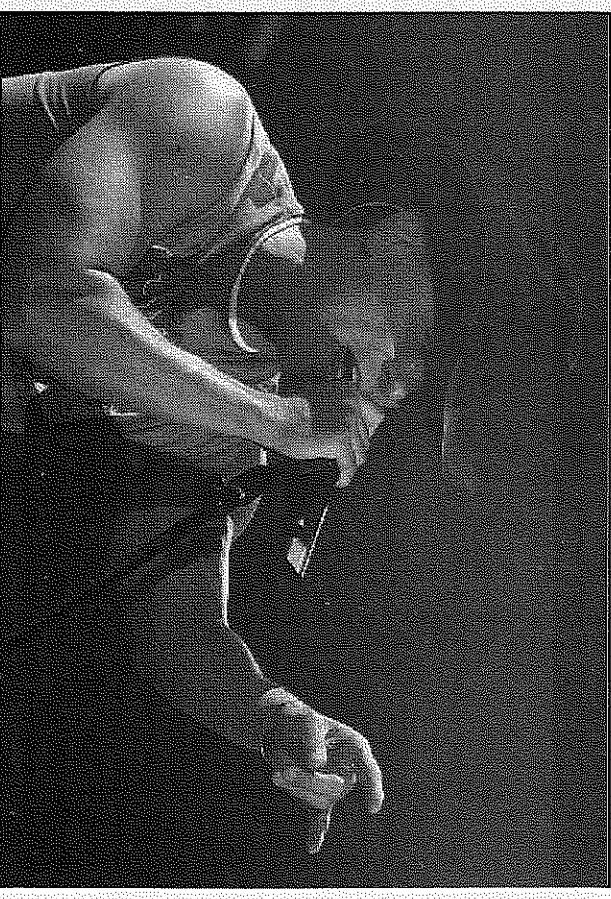
I confess that I used to be a country music hater. If at that time I were able to look into the future and see myself as I am now, a country music junkie, I would be utterly disgusted. I can say the same thing now about waiting so long to give country music a fair chance.

Country music can also claim to have hotties.

Years ago when I would visit my grandma, I would be haunted by the constantly-played Merle Haggard and George Jones. I'd grown up listening to Oldies 100 and the raspy voices of the country station were too much for me to handle, especially at such high volumes.

Now, when my sisters and I rock to country music in the car – yes, you can rock to it – I can't help but wonder how I survived without it.

Other than the occasional Alan Jackson song, Shania Twain was the first country



Kenny Chesney is just one of the many talented country singers that millions of country music fans have fallen in love with.

artist to draw me into the Nashville circle. She stuck out because she proved that country isn't bluegrass.

The more I listened, the more truth I found in that statement. Country artists do not all grow up on farms. Their husbands are not the same people as their brothers. And it is not a prerequisite to have lost your wife, truck or dog to write or sing a country song.

"It's too twangy" is a phrase I hear my friends using constantly to argue against my music choices. While twang is often linked with country music, artists such as Toby Keith, Faith Hill, Keith Urban and Sara Evans have voices that fit that country genre, but are far from "twangy."

Country music can also claim to have some hotties. Girls looking for a poster for their rooms can check out Kenny Chesney or Joe Don of Rascal Flatts. If it's depressing songs you like, listen to country. If you want love songs, listen to country. Looking for songs about life? Listen to country. And if you're in a patriotic mood, listen to country. The "honky tonk" isn't the only subject matter found in the lyrics.

When I'm in my friends' cars, I listen to the music that's playing without complaint. The punk, the rap, the '80s classics, the depressing songs – I don't say that I hate them and I'm not forced to like them, but I listen. I ask for the same favor in return. Not all of you who are reading this are my friends, but I'm not the only country music junkie out there. Turn your radio station to 98.7, 99.9 or 93.3 just for one day, and give country music a fair chance, just like I did years ago.

The Oracle

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Homosexuals are next wave of discrimination

By Betsy Miller
Senior Staff Writer

First there is inequality. Then there are court cases to decide the meaning of inequality. Then someone gets the messy job of informing the country that it must change its conception of equality.

As one of the students graduating this spring, I know that many of those who have been up through the ranks at WS think they know a great deal more than they actually do. One thing is for sure, though—everyone who crosses that stage on June 16th knows, if nothing else, the implications of Brown v. Board. Fifty years ago a little black girl decided that she wanted to attend the school closest to her home. It wasn't that strange a request, but many thought it to be ludicrous and even unnatural—merely because of her minority status.

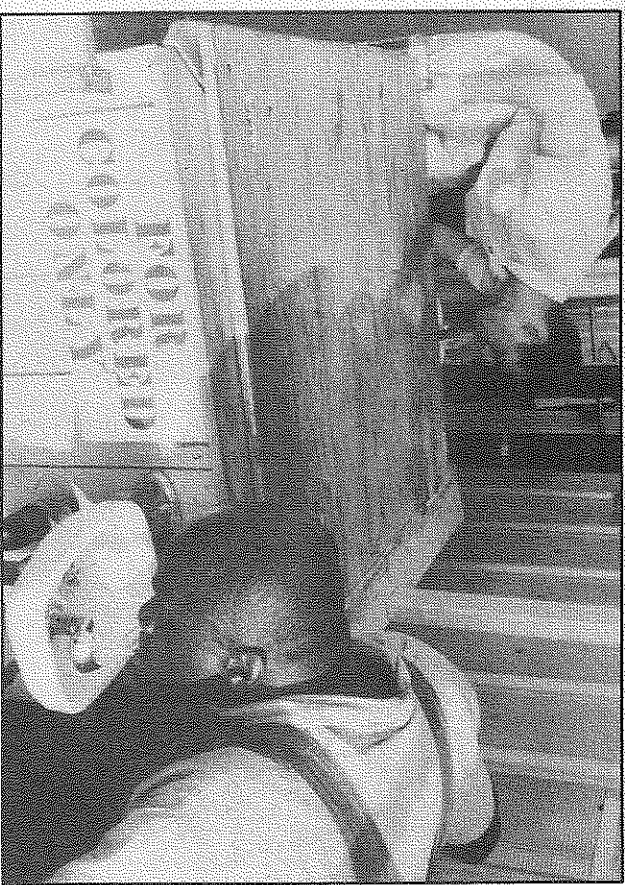
Most people know this story, and even if they don't they can generally figure out the ultimate outcome from simply taking a look around any of the public schools in the nation. Fifty years ago "diversity" was only considered a good thing in terms of describing a supermarket's selection of fruit (and not strange fruit at that). Now colleges consider diversity to be something to boast about, attempting to attract students from not only all over the color spectrum, but all over the globe. Some school districts integrated quickly after Brown v. Board, citing the idea that

African Americans really just aren't that different from (then all-powerful) whites. Homosexuals are not a new minority in

terms of actual existence, as they have constituted a certain percentage of the human population for thousands of years, but new in that they have just recently drawn attention to their personal rights since the latter part of the 20th century.

Gay rights activists share a common goal with the proponents of civil rights that prevailed in the '50s and '60s to end the segregation of public schools. Gay rights activists simply wish to ensure that the percentage of the population that they represent, however small, is guaranteed the same Constitutional rights as the majority of the United States. There is now a new type of minority fighting for their rights—sexual, not racial. Homosexuals' wish to marry, and thereby be allowed the same medical and social provisions as heterosexual married couples across the country, is comparable to African Americans' wishes fifty years ago to be allowed the same opportunities as white children by attending the same schools.

Many believe that it is unnecessary for gays actually to marry and thus be recognized as bound by a sacred covenant in the eyes of the law. Our more "moderate" lawmakers, including Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kerry, contend that homosexuals should be content with the provisions of civil



Like African-Americans in the past, homosexuals are now targeted for discrimination. unions, basically agreements which allow gays to place partners' names on tax returns but not marriage certificates. The kind of satisfaction derived from a civil union is of the exact same brand awarded to blacks under the "separate versus equal" doctrine that the ruling of Brown v. Board so provincially overturned. By allowing civil unions but not gay marriage, are we not as a nation asserting that same concept of separate but equal merely disguised in a different form? Black children were supposedly allowed identical opportunities to whites under the boundaries of segregation, just as homosexuals will be given the same legal rights as married couples under the grounds of civil unions.

George W. Bush is currently attempting to further restrict the matrimonial rights



The old \$50 bill was in need of an upgrade when a simple scanner and inkjet printer could duplicate it with ease.

New \$50 bill adds more color to US currency

Treasury Department takes
opportunity to promote tax cuts

By Katie Bourget
Weekend Editor

Finders keepers is never a better game to play than when it involves cold, hard cash. Except by next fall when the redesigned \$50 bills will be in full circulation, chances are you will confuse the newly colorful money for a campaign ad flyer.

At the April 30 press release in Texas, members of the treasury department expressed their pride in the safety precautions added to the bill.

"It's also a lovely piece of currency maintaining the historical look and feel of a greenback while incorporating the elements of other colors that are very important to us in this country: red, white and blue," said US Treasury Secretary John W. Snow. The tone and subject of the speech however quickly transitioned from anti-counterfeit to an all out pro-Bush policy rally.

"If Congress makes [Bush's] tax cuts permanent, everyone will have a chance to have more of these new \$50 notes in their wallet," said Snow.

While it appears security is not the only motivation of the Treasury Department, there are some new high-tech features in the \$50 bill. Similarly to the \$20 bill released in October 2003, the new bill attempts to thwart counterfeiters with

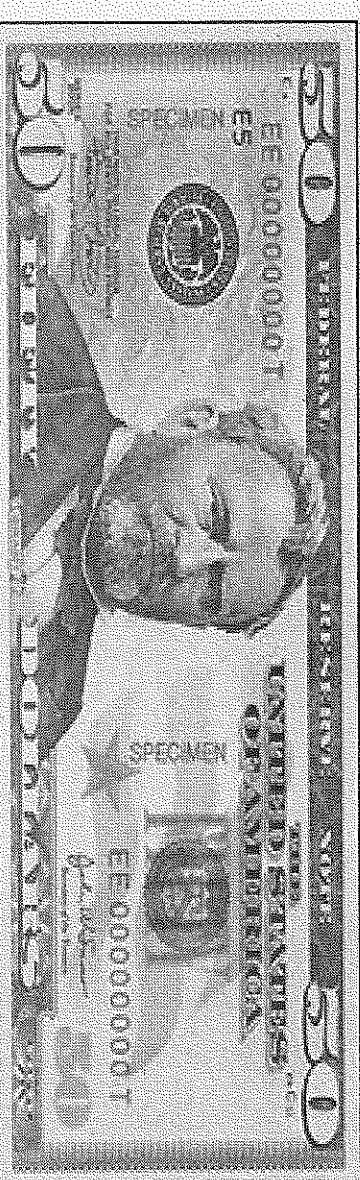
a variety of inks. Also, in the bottom right corner of the bill, the ink may appear to be green from straight on, but from an angle the ink has copper tint.

Other security measures include a thin horizontal thread only visible under ultraviolet light and a watermark icon that can be spotted by holding a the bill up to light.

So the new bill is certainly bad news for counterfeiters who previously could create thousands of dollars in fake money for as little as the cost of an ink jet printer, scanner and paper.

Maybe it's bad news for those of us who do not attempt to produce inauthentic currency also considering all the wonderful clichés that will no longer apply. Will people now be red, white and blue with envy? Will the trees that we all know money grows on only be able to grow in the world of Willy Wonka?

This situation will only heighten in the decades to come as the Treasury Department plans to redesign all bills of \$5 value or higher. So next time so you see a six by two and a half inch piece of paper on the sidewalk, do not be alarmed if it looks like Monopoly money, go in search of a black light to test its authenticity, and then realize even if it is valid money it is also a political tool of the GOP.



The new \$50 bill includes a patriotic red, white and blue color along with new security techniques to stop counterfeiters.

Slow down, look around

Keep eyes focused on each moment

By Heidi Stillingoj
Oracle Editor

Red lights, delayed trains and "no walking" signs are enemies to anyone who gets caught up in this fast-paced world. They keep us from reaching a destination at a planned time and interfere with busy schedules. But perhaps that's a good thing. They give us a chance to look around, to breathe and to see where we are.

The world is blind because we are taught to live in the future. Before we graduate high school we are taught to be college students and even before we start college we are taught about how to prepare for the "professional world." The present has become a time to complete college applications, dream of the future and plan tomorrow's day. The present has become confused with the future. Should we really focus on where we are going or concentrate on where we are now?

A schedule may be interrupted when we get stuck on a train or in traffic but we aren't kept from reaching our destination. During the time in which we are forced to freeze and take a breather we instead focus on how late we are going to be or how if only we had left two seconds earlier we could have avoided the entire situation. Nothing gets accomplished; things go unnoticed. Instead of always scolding the present for putting a hold on the future it may be best to scold the future for erasing the present.

In just a few months graduated seniors will be heading off to college; a destination we've been seeking for the past four years. But who will we be? Will we finally be the person we've been preparing to be or something much wiser than a college freshman? On the outside we will be the youngest, and for the most part, smallest group at our universities but on the inside we'll be doctors, journalists and lawyers, people continuing to seek the future.

While it's good to keep our eyes on the road ahead, we can't overlook where we are in the present or we won't even realize when, or how, we have reached our so-called destination. We should focus on where we are now instead of always asking "are we there yet?"

Thousands of lives not at 'steak'

By Jen Siomacco & Rachel Wohlers
Oracle Editors

Along with the usual pain of Monday mornings, students came to school on a rainy May 3 only to find that the school was not yet open. Around 5 a.m., a member of the custodial staff arrived to open the building and prepare for another routine week.

However, the doors to the school revealed something not so routine—40 or more signs reading “2,200 lives at steak. It’s your choice.”

Soon the information about the newly discovered bomb threat found its way through the chain of Fairfax County supervisors and administrators, and WS staff was advised to keep the school closed until the entire area could be searched and secured.

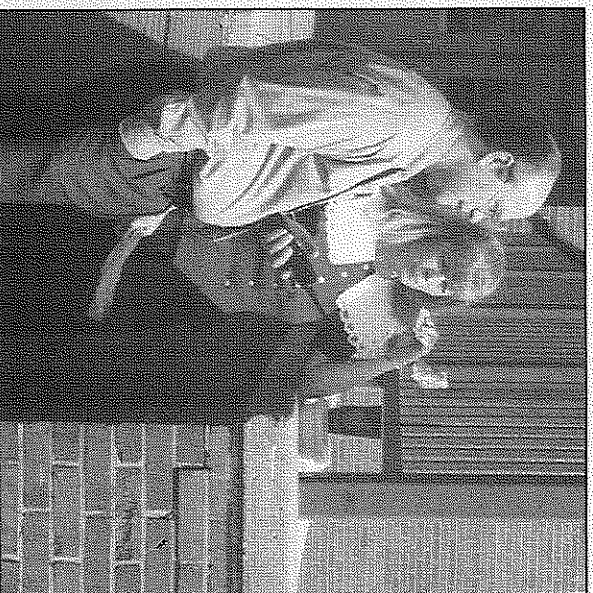
“It wasn’t as negative as it could have been,” said Dr. David Smith, who is offering a \$1000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the threat. “We responded quickly and thoroughly.”

The police were the first ones on the scene and immediately set to work to confirm their belief that the threat was a hoax. The half-dozen officers and a canine unit went around every hall to check for any signs of meddling from an outside source.

The situation could have been much worse, but Smith credited the quick actions of the authorities for preventing chaos.

“[The speedy and thorough search] enabled me to make the decision,” said Smith, “so we only lost 10 minutes in the school day.”

The school doors eventually opened at 7:25 a.m. and the late bell was pushed back to 7:40 a.m. Other than this small delay, most students suffered no real inconvenience. AP Language juniors, however, were forced to not only stand out in the rain, but to prolong



Principal David Smith and administrator Martha Chandler confer during the last bomb threat in 1999. In the recent threat, students had to evacuate the school and wait for the “OK” to reenter.

their anticipation of that morning’s AP English Language exam, the first of many during the two-week exam period. “I thought it was really dumb they made us stand in the rain,” said junior Robbie Nitzberg, “especially since they knew it was fake.”

Some testers, on the other hand, were not extremely bothered by the delay and simply tried to look at the positive side of things.

“The bomb threat was inconvenient,” said junior Eric Yoon, “because it made everyone stand out in the rain. However, it made the exams start late, which made me miss more class and that’s always a bonus.”

The most recent threat was the third time in recent years that WS had to deal with either a bomb or the threat of one. In 1997, a molotov cocktail went off on a Sunday night near the doors by the cafeteria; after custodians discovered the minor damage that morning, Smith evacuated the school to the football stadium until the building could be searched. In 1999, a bomb threat caused another schoolwide evacuation.

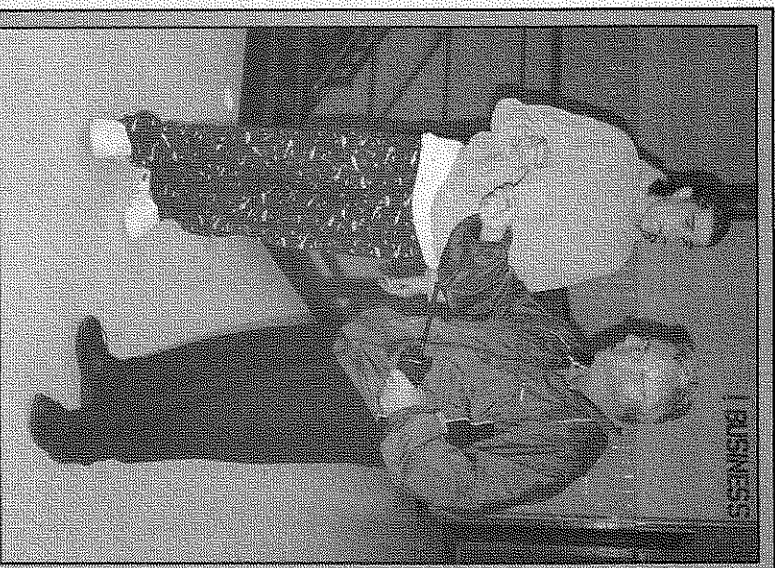
“You have to look at each situation, and make a decision based on the situation,” said Smith, “and keep safety first and foremost.”

Although the recent threat was a hoax and no one was in danger, Smith and authorities are still treating the incident seriously.

“We can’t accept it; people can’t disrupt the operation of the school,” said Smith. “Our hope is that people will understand that we view this seriously.”

To prove to students just how severe a making a bomb threat is, Smith initially offered a \$500 reward for anyone with information that would lead to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators. The following week, Smith increased the reward amount to \$1,000.

“The police are investigating and we are as well,” said Smith. “We are receiving pretty good information and in time we will catch them.”



Susan Sommerfeldt
New security officer Peter Sherwood checks senior Pat Carroll’s pass. One of Sherwood’s pet peeves is students being in the halls without passes.

‘78 grad returns to join forces

NEW, from Page 1

“Coffee makes me really happy. The inside of my veins have a crust of caffeine.”

For a man who fits so well, he thought he would return to his former high school. He enjoys his job and the students, but one of his favorite things continues to be the end of the day, just as it is a favorite for many WS students.

“I always thought I’d get the hell out of Virginia and never step foot back in this school,” said Sherwood. “But I like my job a lot. I like coming to work and I like going home.”

Zero tolerance for tardiness

SWEEP, from Page 1

so it is done in sections.

The faculty supports Griffin’s decision to enforce the hall sweeps.

Officer Mike Ukele said, “You must be in class to pass.”

Griffin notices that teachers operate on different levels, and the hall sweeps help everyone to be consistent.

The sweeps will continue throughout the rest of the year as a way to encourage students to be in class on time and also to entertain Griffin.

“I just like to see the kids run,” said Griffin. “I’m gonna bring my camera; it’s good stuff.”

Administrator Joan Galdi walks down an empty hall during a hall sweep. After a few days of catching students being late to class, the numbers slowly went down.

Saslaw takes last look at WS

RETIRE, from Page 1

parents, helped set up testing and fulfilled any other necessary needs.

Her work has been divided over the years between a number of schools including Annandale, Herndon, Thomas Jefferson, and WS. While working at these schools she has been a counselor, a teacher, and Director of Student Services.

“I love working with students,” said Saslaw.

While being Director of Student Services a lot of difficult decisions have come down to Saslaw.

“Sometimes I have to deal with sticky issues that aren’t too pleasant,” said Saslaw.

Saslaw plans on staying involved in education. She plans to spend some of her new found free time traveling.

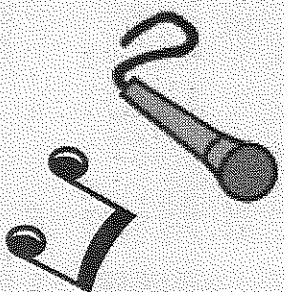
“I would like to start doing things that I haven’t had a chance to do,” said Saslaw. “I’m visiting a former employee, guidance secretary Kathy Pardew, in Bulgaria.”

Guidance counselor Beth Cohen has been announced to replace Saslaw as Director of Student Services next year. Cohen has worked at WS for four years, while working in Fairfax County Public Schools for 21 years. Replacing Saslaw will be a tough job to do, but at the same time it’s exciting for her to begin her new job.

“I’m very excited. It’s a new beginning for me,” said Cohen. “Mrs. Saslaw is a wonderful director and a wonderful person.”

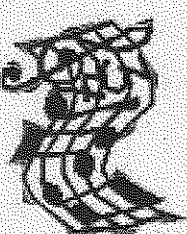
Saslaw plans on moving on, but she will always miss WS.

“It’s very bittersweet to leave,” said Saslaw. “I’ve enjoyed WS students to the nth degree.”



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Chris Shannon

Traffic Jam Marmalade serenaded the audience with their live music at WSHS Live. The junior class sponsored the event where students could dance and enjoy the live music and the DJ's songs. WSHS Live had a variety of music from rap group VMR to the alternative styles of Traffic Jam Marmalade. Despite the lack of profit made from the event, the junior class gained experience in putting together a fund raiser.

Live brings dance to life

By Jon Nylan
Business Systems Editor

Saturday, May 1 was a rainy night, but more than 200 students, teachers and parents from WS were enjoying themselves at WSHS Live.

This event was hosted by junior class of '05. WSHS Live created an atmosphere for students to dance and listen to the performances of Traffic Jam and rap group VMR.

"It gave people a chance to get out and do something on a rainy Saturday night," said junior class sponsor Joelle Torreele. "That is more reasonable than other alternatives."

At WSHS Live there was something for everyone and an opportunity for fun. "I really liked the idea of a band and a DJ, it's kinda cool," said senior Matt Tucker.

Even though the event did not make much in profit, less than \$100, it was a chance for junior class officers to gain

valuable experience in organizing an event.

"It's not all about the money. We gained things much more valuable than money, and [at WSHS Live] the officers gained experience in organizing such a large event," said Torreele.

Despite technical difficulties throughout the night, many people enjoyed the rappers and Traffic Jam.

"Traffic Jam was awesome," said junior Sara Rogers.

VMR had the stage for 30 minutes, and did a rap-over of their CD. However, due to the capacity of the fuse and the wish to not repeat the outages at Homecoming, the CD was as loud as the rappers. A similar occurrence happened to Traffic Jam Marmalade. When they began singing their mixes did not work properly, and could not be heard until much of their hour long performance was over. Barring the lack of vocals and trouble with mics, WSHS Live overall was successful. Torreele said, "Really, it went well."

News Bites

Senior John Hutchinson was named a First-Team All-Met winner by *The Washington Post*.

At the recent Winter Sports Awards ceremony, junior Laura Haskins was named the winner of the "Sportswoman of the Year Award" and senior Mandy Johnson won the "Donna de Varona Spirit Award."

Senior Ben Foster and junior Emily Miller were named to the All-State Orchestra. Freshman Nathan Thomas took first place in the Business Math competition sponsored by Future Business Leaders of America and has advanced to the State Championship event.

Two Annandale High School student journalists are demanding an apology from the Fairfax County Police. The two seniors say their digital camera was confiscated and its memory card erased after the students stopped to photograph officers searching a car near campus. A police spokesman said the officers acted improperly, and the department is trying to recover the photos erased by officers. The students, staff members on the student-run *A-Blaze*, plan a package of stories on the incident and increased police presence near the school in the wake of a gang incident.

Counselor Ken Christopher is an uncle. Ryan Christopher Gilmore was born April 29.

Congratulations to next year's SGA Officers: juniors Meryl Cox, Amy Gilbert, Anisha Singh, Ashley, Wise and Sheldie Williams.

—Compiled by Liz Weiderhold



HOUSE OF RANCE

—End Of School Year Special—

Fall Set 10th French: \$25.00	Lip Wax \$7.00
Regular Full Set: \$23.00	Up-Do Style From: \$35.00
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Talent for words streams into the real world

Junior Christina Rogers chronicles her childhood in her first published work

By Danny Tinsley
Junior Staff Writer

Christina Rogers is your normal high school 18-year-old. She does her homework, talks on the phone, and is now a published author. Rogers lives with her mother and six sisters. Her book, *No Ordinary Dog, No Ordinary Family*, is based on her life with her 4-year-old dog Chloe and her loving family of seven.

"I wanted to write the book to give back to the organization that gave me Chloe and thought that better way than to write," said Rogers.

Rogers, after a long period of waiting, received Chloe during the spring of 2001.

"The first time I got her I was really happy to have a pet," said Rogers. "Having her in public was a little embarrassing at times because she gets really nervous."

To thank the Susquahanna ServiceDogs organization (SSD) for her four-legged companion, Rogers began to write her book. After collaborating with her diary, Rogers wrote during her free time for five years.

"I began writing before applying for a service dog and



Susan Sommerfeld

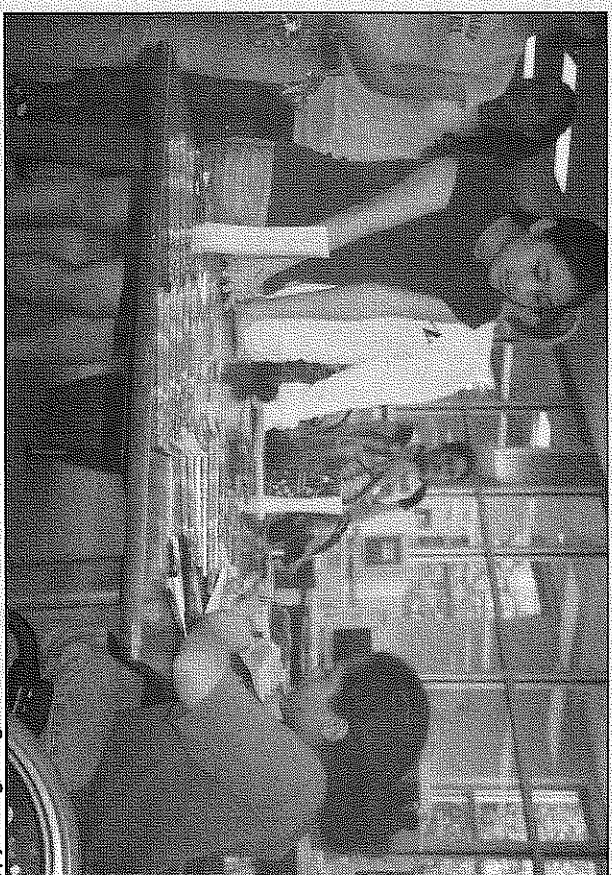
continued to write during and after my training with Chloe," said Rogers.

With a great dog and a caring family, Rogers found it easy to put her feelings into her story.

"I had to rely on most of the book from my memory, which isn't very good," said Rogers. "I

had to look back at my diary and talk with my mom."

After completing her story, Rogers sent it off to the SSD organization for publication. Two months later, accompanied by a Fed-Ex truck and a police escort, her shipment of copies arrived at her home.



Susan Sommerfeld

No Ordinary Dog, No Ordinary Family is no ordinary book. Junior Christina Rogers wrote the book to give back to the organization that gave her Chloe, her four-year-old service dog. Sophomore Sangwan Park gets her copy of the book signed during Rogers' book signing, held in the WS library. The book is about her family of seven and their special pet.

"I was embarrassed, shocked, scared. I didn't know what to look forward to my senior year."

Now that her book is published, Rogers has more time to do what she enjoys: basketball and her junior-load of schoolwork. "I play basketball for fun," said Rogers, "but I am definitely looking forward to my senior year." Rogers, along with Chloe, distributed and signed her book at WS on May 11. She discussed her book and answered questions from people who came to the signing.

It's never easy saying goodbye to 'Friends'

By Jen West
Senior Staff Writer

After ten wonderful years, students of WS said farewell to their "Friends," Monica, Rachel, Phoebe, Joey, Chandler and Ross.

For those students who have been living in a bubble for the past ten years, "Friends" is about six close knit friends living in New York City. While watching them every week from the comfort of the couch, students had the ability of relating to at least one of the offbeat characters.

"I watched ["Friends"] because it was a hilarious show and I can relate to Ross," said senior Kurt Helfrich. "I'm a big dork and have a lot of trouble with women."

After a decade on air, "Friends" became more than just a show. This one show changed fashion trends like none other. After Jennifer Aniston got her hair cut, millions of people went to get "the Rachel." Chandler made sweater vests cool and Phoebe made the bohemian look fun and flirty.

On May 6 the series finale aired and provided closure on the much debated Ross and

Rachel relationship and a chance to say good-bye. After watching a show from the beginning and staying with it for more than half of the student body's life, becoming attached with characters and their lives has become a natural occurrence. It even got to the point where some students could guess what would happen before hand.

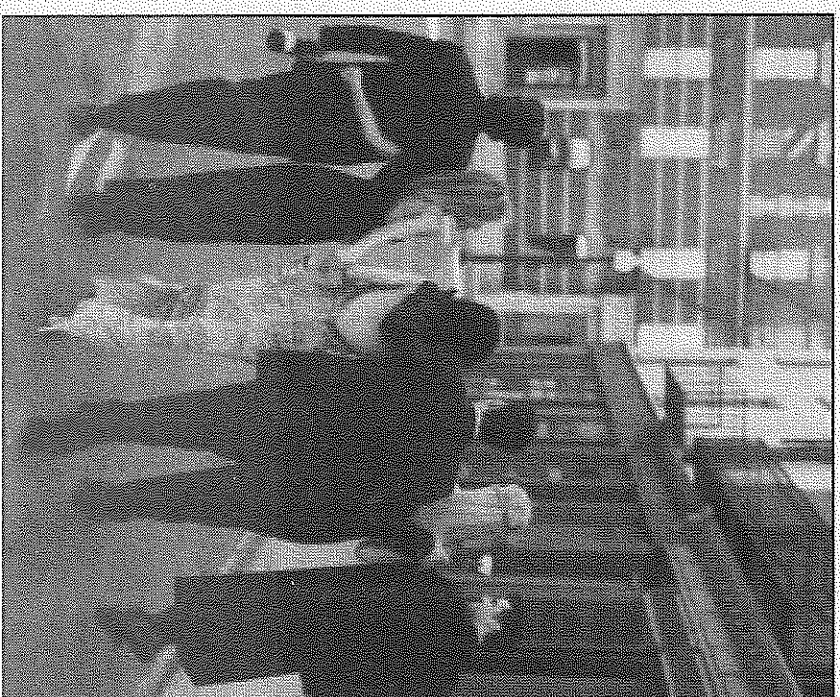
"It was pretty predictable," said senior Sara Alcorn. "The whole Ross-Rachel thing, you know what they were going to do and said before that said it."

Though it was predictable, many emotions flooded through viewers as the show ended.

"I started crying at the end," said sophomore Julie Robert. "It was an end of an era."

While there won't be any new shows, "Friends" can always be remembered through their DVDs, which can be watched at the convenience of the viewers.

"I have the box sets of the first seven seasons," said Helfrich. "I watch them all the time."



As the Friends walk away from the show, seniors must also walk away from their high school years and say goodbye to friends.

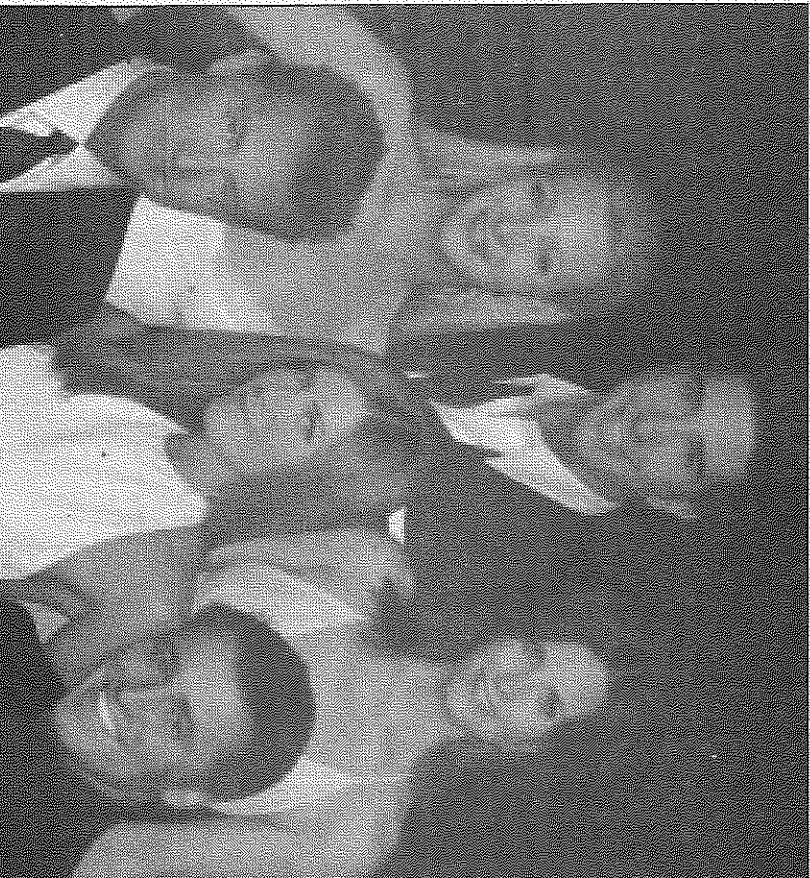
"It was pretty predictable."

—Sara Alcorn, Senior

For those who missed the finale, "Friends" released the DVD on May 11. The

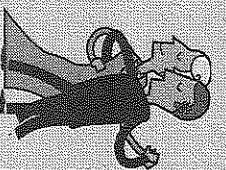
DVD includes the broadcast two-part finale, pilot episode and never before seen footage.

"I love 'Friends'," said sophomore Sepideh Aghajahi. "[But as a finale] I thought it could be better, [however], I'd like to be [first in line to buy the DVD]."



Over ten years students have come to intimately know their "Friends," follow trends, vicariously live their relationships, and become friends themselves.

Who is your dream prom date?



Orlando Bloom: 44%
Brad Pitt: 34%
Usher: 18%
Chris Shannon: 4%

G Olsen Twins: 36%
U Jennifer Garner: 32%

Y Beyonce: 14%
S Miss Piggy: 18%

G I R L S

—Compiled by Sam Lee and
Ashley Hughes
Poll taken of 100 students

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Buzzing amoy- ances ride on the wings of Cicadas

By Grace Jo
Features Editor

Large, noisy and crunchy, the majority of students at WS have never seen these creatures in their life. Scientists have dubbed them Brood X. After 17 years of spending their adolescent years underground, the Magicicada Septendecim better known as the cicada, will be coming out to breed and cause trouble.

"I can't wait for the chaos to ensue," said senior Sara Holcomb.

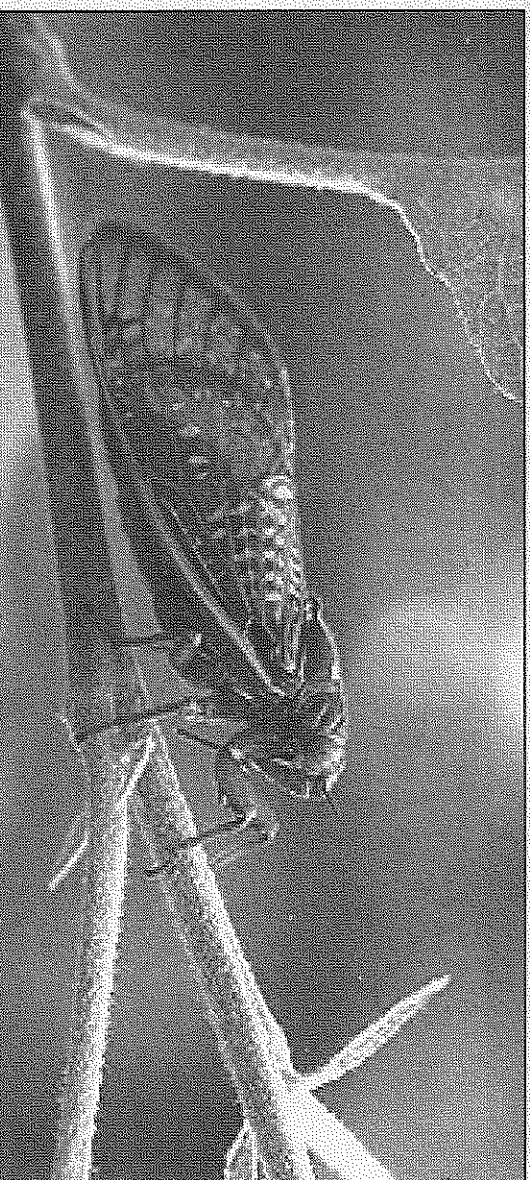
Although the Virginia area has seen cicadas in the past, such as in 1996, it has been 17 years since this particular breed crawled above ground. The difference between 1996 and this year are the numbers. This particular breed will be coming up by the thousands. Approximately 40,000 cicadas will tunnel their way out from under any large tree.

They have spent most of their years underground, drinking sap from tree roots. When they come above ground, they will shed their exoskeleton and begin the process of finding a mate.

These insects will soon cover trees, bushes, sidewalks and more.

"I think they're really scary and I'm going to get into a car accident," said senior Ashima Kapur.

Cicadas do not bite or sting, but they do bring some trouble with them. Their mating call, an incessant trilling to attract a mate, can drown out the sound of an airplane flying overhead. Also, after the cicadas have



accomplished their purpose finding a mate, they die soon after. Their goal achieved, the cicadas die, leaving behind an unpleasant stench.

"I don't know how it's going to be because it's my first time here," said junior Cammy Chen. "I heard it's really scary so I'm not looking forward to it."

Throughout the East coast, preparations are being made for the cicada infestation. Outdoor weddings and graduations have been moved indoors to avoid complications with the incoming insect visitors. Tree lovers are covering young trees with cheese cloths to prevent the cicadas from laying their eggs on them.

Cicadas' sole purpose of coming above ground is to mate. They become too busy to eat or rest.

Unlike the common fly, cicadas have amateur flying skills. They will blunder into anything until they find their mate.

Although many people have an aversion to cicadas, they have useful purposes also such as a dish on a menu.

"The Ritz Carlton put them on the menus and said they're just like crabs," said senior Kim Buckles.

Brood X emerge every 17 years. Once they reach the surface the cicadas shed and go in search of mates.

Cicadas are high in protein yet low in carbolydrates, the perfect food to match up with the fairly low carb diets.

"I want to eat them," said senior Jeff Chen.

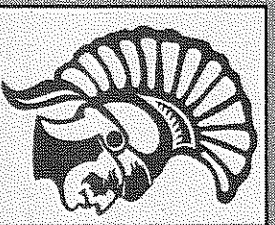
"I think they're really scary."

—Ashima Kapur, senior

Students should take care that their pets do not ingest a large number of cicadas. Although cicadas are high in protein, their hard exoskeleton may cause digestion problems in dogs and cats.

Brood X, one of the few breeds native to Central and Eastern US will soon be swarming out of the trees in WS. Bug lovers will have the time of their lives, while those that have an aversion to 1.5 inch long flying insects, will struggle.

Junior Sarah Tak said, "I think they're just vomiticious."



Spartan Profile



George Rabil

Shanti Chang

By Lauren Kondo

Features Editor

Claustrophobia is the fear of closed spaces. Hydrophobia is the fear of water. But what's the fear of those pesky spider crickets that reside in basements during the summer?

There might not be a scientific term for the condition, but senior George Rabil suffers from it.

"I scan my basement from the top of my stairs," said Rabil. "They scare the crap out of me; I don't get within 10 feet of them."

Once he checks for the spider crickets and determines it is safe to enter the basement Rabil is able to work on his two pastimes: video games and computers.

Rabil hopes to become a video game programmer.

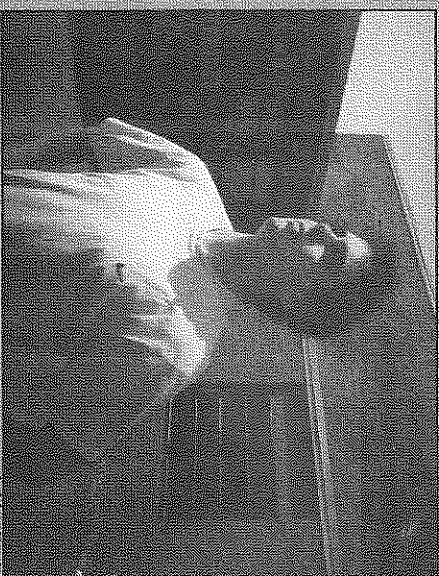
"In seven years you'll see my top-selling game on the shelves," said Rabil. "It'll be the next Half Life."

Rabil is a Tech Assistant, which means he goes around the school and fixes computers.

Along with one of his friends, he is developing a webpage for his pool, Fox Hunt. He also likes to tinker with electronics.

One of his projects was modifying an X-Box controller to hook up to his computer.

After he's finished in the basement, he heads to the kitchen, where he perfects his famous



Ashley Hughes
Senior George Rabil enjoys baking banana bread for his friends.

banana bread. He makes this bread for his friends and hopes to expand his culinary work to include cranberry bread. His friends attest to the great tastiness of the bread.

"The secret is to use bananas that look rotten," said Rabil. "They have to be really black. The older, the better. It's like wine."

Aside from enjoying bread, Rabil also enjoys his grandmother's Lebanese food because he is half Lebanese. A unique fact about Rabil is that his dad's parents are from Lebanon and his mother is from Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

When he's not involved in any of these activities, Rabil is rowing for the crew team. He has been on the team since freshman year and is in the second eight of rowers. One of the reasons he rows is because he couldn't stand the tedium of baseball.

"I played baseball," said Rabil. "I was playing with the flowers in the outfield."



Susan Sommerfeld
Sophomore Shanti Chang is a vegetarian that will be joining the WS Personalities.

By Anna Sommerfeld

Inside Editor

Sophomore Shanti Chang is a girl with small stature and big potential. She may be petite, but don't be deceived.

Chang enjoys shopping and hanging out with friends, but there is much more to her than that.

Chang has been a member of Women's Select Chorus during both her years at WS and will be joining Personality next year.

"She mostly seems like a quiet person in class, but she came to the [Personality] audition, danced fantastically and has a strong alto voice," said choral director Mike Dombrow. "She is an asset to

Ladies' Select and will be to Personality next year."

Chang is excited about joining the show-choir. But being a junior has other advantages as well including driving and being one year closer to graduation.

"I don't like school," said Chang. "It's boring."

Since Chang's interests and priorities lie in places other than education, she focuses much of her time to being active in her church. She is involved musically at her church as well, and participates in other activities in her free time.

"We go on field trips, [have] lock-ins and we do community service," said Chang. "[I'm also involved in] helping with the younger kids."

Another quality that makes this sophomore unique is her eating habits. Chang likes to eat and has also been a vegetarian for about two years. Although she didn't stop eating meat based on convictions or opinions, she feels strongly about it now.

"I wanted to do it for a year, but now I can't stop because I'd feel bad," said Chang. "I'm not against eating meat, but I'm against the treatment of animals and their conditions before they die."

Aside from her diet and routine activities, Chang enjoys going to the mall, parties and in her words "other stuff like that." Chang is an enjoyable, lighthearted person.

"I'm happy and hyper most of the time," said Chang. "I laugh a lot."

104 Ways to Sign a y

—Compiled by

104. Stay **sweet!**
103. Call me! You know the digits.
102. 7th period was tons of fun.
101. Have a great summer!
100. Have a gr8 summer!
99. I'm the first to sign your cracker!
98. I hope we have classes together next year.
97. Some write for pleasure, some write for fame, but I write only to **sign** my name.
96. I can't believe we're gonna be 1 grade!!
95. We have to hang out over the summer.
94. I never would have survived **AP Bio** without you.
93. Can you believe the year is over already?!
92. No more **PE!**
91. Good luck in college next year!
90. K.I.T.!
89. We have to catch up over the summer.
88. Remember the cowboy with fluorescent pants?
87. You are an awesome friend.
86. Have an absolutely fabulous summer!
85. I'm the **clown** who came to town to sign your yearbook upside down.
84. Isn't this a cool pen?!
83. Check out the pic of me on page 56!
82. Stay cool!
81. I'm gonna miss all the spring trips.
80. It's been great getting to know you this year.
79. IM me!
78. Eat your broccoli. Brush your teeth. Stay cool.
77. I'm gonna miss not seeing you everyday.
76. Don't go all **fake 'n' bake** on me.
75. Hope you have fun on your trip from your bed, to the kitchen, to the couch and back.
74. You rock my socks (even though I'm wearing flip-flops).
73. H.A.G.S.
72. **Class of '04**, out the door!
71. Don't change!
70. It's been great knowing you.
69. Have a fantastic summer!
68. I hope we stay friends next year.
67. You and me = together forever.
66. This year went by so fast!
65. If you were a **pirate** would you wear your parrot on this shoulder, or this shoulder?
64. I'm not gonna miss you.
63. I know you'll succeed in life.
62. Keep in touch.
61. Remember that time at Disney?
60. You know, I never really liked you.
59. Let's go tanning! I'm sick of being white!
58. See ya in the halls.
57. Be good.
56. I've run out of things to say.
55. **Cops**... my pen leaked.
54. Can't think. Brain numb. Inspiration won't come.
53. We so gotta hang out during the summer - since we're total beach babes and all!

earlyBook

Katherine Hutton and Anna Sommerfeldt

As we near the end of the school year, we're all faced with one more task — yearbook signing! Whether a best friend or even that random guy who sits next to you in English, it's often difficult figuring out what to say. Perhaps that's why so many of these phrases will be familiar.

52. I didn't get to know you that well, so I guess you're cool.

34. Here's to passing notes during class.

16. Remember when we first met?

51. You're my **favorite** freshman.

33. My picture is so bad! Stupid photographer!

15. We've come a long way since freshman year.

50. This year has been...interesting.

32. We had some awesome times getting yelled at by [Teacher].

14. Can you believe we got through a year with [Teacher]?

49. Hang tight!

31. I can't think of anything to say.

13. Thanks for being a good friend.

48. Do you have a map? 'Cause I've been lost in your eyes all year.

30. **Algebra Boy!** Page 79!

12. I'm the **first** to sign this page!!!

47. Hello love!

29. XOXOXO

11. 2 cute 2 B 4 gotten

46. This page is claimed by [name]. No one else write here!

28. I hate signing yearbooks.

10. My pic is horrible! I was sweating...

45. **HA HA** I'm graduating and you're not!!!!

27. It makes me giggle, it makes me laugh, to think you want my autograph.

9. Johnny Depp is mine! Savvy?

44. Brothers from another mother!

26. I've been wanting to tell you this for 4 years...

8. It's been good knowing you.

43. There's not enough room for me to say everything I want to.

25. LYLAS

7. Wow! I filled up a whole page!

42. You are a beautiful human.

24. There are so many things that remind me of the good times we've had!

6. Don't forget about me over the summer.

41. Wow...what to say...

23. Have tons of fun over the summer.

5. Thanks for helping me through chemistry!

40. Thank you for the honor of signing your yearbook.

22. Peace out.

3. The colors are different because I changed pens.

39. Yay! No more [Teacher]!

21. L8r **g8r**

2. The end is near, summer's almost here.

38. Don't forget what I look like.

20. This year was fun.

37. I'll never **forget** you.

19. Call me sometime, maybe.

1. **Have a**

36. B.F.F!

18. TTYL

good

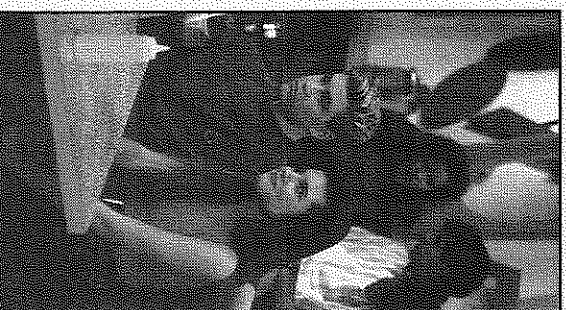
35. Poor ink. Bad pen. That's all. Amen!

17. This year has been...er...fun.

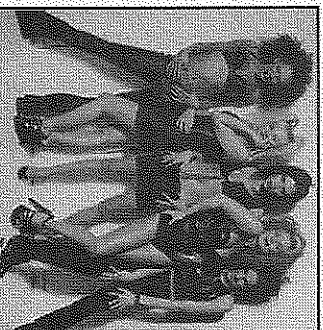
summer!

Do you love the '90s?

1. In the movie, who was the sponsor for the TV show "Wayne's World?"
2. Which two New Kids on the Block members were brothers?
3. On "Beverly Hills 90210," what was the name of Brandon's first car?
4. What TV show did Claire Danes get her start on?
5. What movie does this quote come from: "Oh really, fool? Really! Stop looking at me, swani!"
6. On "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," what was the butler's name?
7. On "The Simpsons," what rare candy does Homer steal from the Candy Industry Trade Show?
8. What was the highest grossing movie of the 90s?
9. Which musician founded the Lilith Fair all-female concert tour?
10. What are Ren and Stimpy's last names?
11. On "Will and Grace," what was the name of Jack's original one-man show?
12. On "Saved by the Bell," what were Zack and Kelly dressed up as the night they broke up?
13. In the movie, Empire Records is in danger of being turned into what large chain music store?
14. On "Beavis and Butt-head," which band's name originally appeared on Beavis's tee shirt?

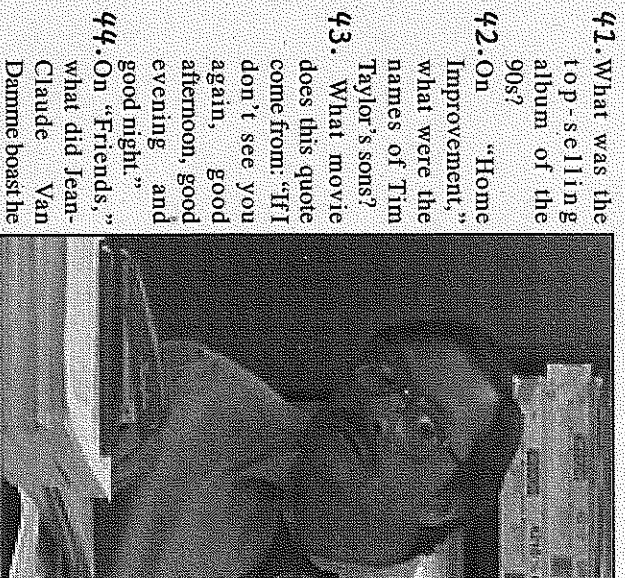


15. Which Madonna music video was banned by MTV for being too racy?
16. In "Office Space," what was the minimum number of flair required for working?
17. How old was Deputy Dewey in the first "Scream?"
18. What song contains these words and who sings it: "I feel stupid and contagious. Here we are now. Entertain us."



19. On "The Simpsons," what are "Nachos, Flanders style" made from?
20. Which sitcom was the first to have an openly gay lead character?
21. On "Friends," what did Phoebe promise to give Chandler if he never smoked again?
22. Who was the original killer in "Friday the 13th?"
23. What is the only movie game show host Bob Barker has appeared in?
24. On "Beverly Hills 90210," how did Scott die?
25. Which "Simpsons" character is known as "the Slack-Jawed Yodel?"
26. What was the second album released by The Cranberries?
27. What movie does this quote come from: "A good friend stabs you in the front."
28. On "South Park," who is Eric Cartman's father?
29. What was Adam Sandler's profession in "Big Daddy?"
30. On "Seinfeld," what does Jerry say was the alternate title for *War and Peace*?
31. On "Full House," what was Uncle Jesse's last name before he changed it to Katsopolis?
32. Which band released the album "Crazy World"?
33. On "The Simpsons," which of Jebidiah Springfield's body part is made of silver?
34. What do Romy and Michelle pretend to have invented in "Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion?"
35. On "X-Files," what was Mulder's nickname?
36. In what year did MTV's "The Real World" debut?
37. On "Friends," what was Rachel's error on her resume?
38. What was in Catherine's crucifix in "Cruel Intentions?"
39. On "The Simpsons," what street does Milhouse's grandmother live on?
40. On "Saved by the Bell," what was the name of the beach club that the gang worked at?

Do you think you remember everything about your favorite music, movies and TV shows from the '90s? Test your knowledge with the *Oracle's* challenging quiz on '90s entertainment. Write your answers on a sheet of paper along with your name and fifth period teacher and room number. Turn it into room 215 by Friday, May 28. The person with the most correct answers will win a prize. *Oracle* and *Olympian* staff members may not participate.



41. What was the top-selling album of the 90s?
 42. On "Home Improvement," what were the names of Tim Taylor's sons?
 43. What movie does this quote come from: "If I don't see you again, good afternoon, good evening, and good night."
 44. On "Friends," what did Jean-Claude Van Damme boast he could do?
 45. On "The Simpsons," which Jimmy Buffet song does Shary Bobbins sing with Barney?
 46. In which music video did Blink-182 make fun of pop stars?
 47. In "Office Space," what item did Peter pull from the rubble of Intech?
 48. On "Seinfeld," what did Jerry's PEZ dispenser have on it?
 49. In "Empire Records," what type of underpants does Gina predict singer Rex Manning is wearing?
 50. Name all five Spice Girls (by spice, not name).
- Compiled by Erika Werking

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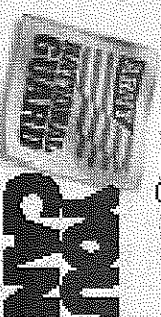


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Pow! Comic book movies are a big hit

By Danny Tinsley

Junior Staff Writer

Hulk-sized super hero movies have been dominating the Hollywood motion picture industry since "X-Men's" arrival in 2000. Since then, the Marvel Corporation has sent their biggest and baddest comic book heroes to the big screen. Every Marvel movie since "X-Men" has debuted at number one in the Box Office.

"Super hero movies are clearly amazing," said sophomore Carly Dodson. "I am Superman."

It was in 2002 that Marvel released "Spider-Man," which slung its web over the top Box Office spot for weeks. "Spider-Man" grossed an unheard of Box Office income of \$114 million in its first three days of release. Children and adults alike were

amazed by the wall-crawling boy wonder.

"I liked seeing Toby Maguire in his tight clothing while he web-slung his way through the streets," said junior Sean Lampley.

Since "Spider-Man," Marvel has had other large successes like "Daredevil," "X-2" and the newly-released "The Punisher." "The Punisher" was so tight because there was more violence than the other super hero movies," said junior James Trope.

With the summer movie season ready to begin, Marvel is already getting its super-sized attention with the release of "Spider-Man 2," slated for a June 30 release date.

Junior Sean DeWyngeaert said, "The summer movie season will be awesome."



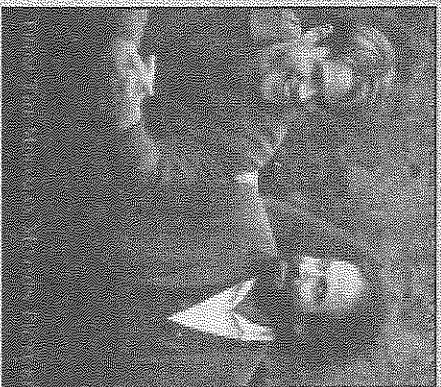
Spider-man and other famous comic book heroes have capitalized after swapping two-dimensional illustrations for the big screen.

Oracle Picks

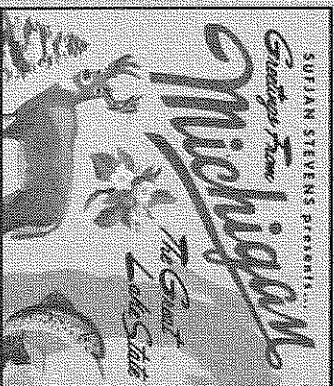
“Good Will Hunting”

Will is a troubled young man, and always has been. He has struggled through his life with the help of friends and works as a janitor at MIT. But Will has an uncanny gift that many cannot compare with. When Will solves an intricate math problem posted in the hallway of MIT, one of the professors takes him under his wing to give him a future and saves him from his wretched criminal record, as long as he agrees to some psychiatric counseling.

“Good Will Hunting,” stars Matt Damon as the troubled Will, Ben Affleck, Minnie Driver and Robin Williams as Will’s counselor. The film, written by Affleck and Damon, is emotional and inspiring. It is a realistic account of a troubled boy in Boston, whose afflictions in his youth have kept him from reaching his full potential as an adult. But through the help of his good friends and Williams’s character, he is able to overcome his trouble and learn how to live his own life without placing himself within others’ restrictions.



“Greetings From Michigan”

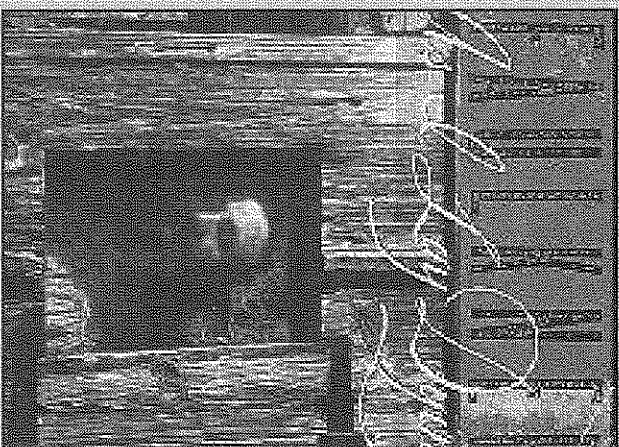


Susan Stevens, a young musician from Michigan, did something on his latest album that most of us haven’t heard since we sang along to Raffi as little kids. On “Greetings from Michigan: The Great Lakes State,” Stevens croons 15 songs that each tell a story about his home state. Listeners may expect to hear catchy little tunes about cheese and Green Bay, but there are songs that mix together Stevens’ musical talents and shows that he’s serious about what he does.

The songs on this album vary in style from slow ballads which combine Stevens’s gentle tone and the strumming of his bango to tell of the hardships of losing a loved one, such as “For the Widows in Paradise. For the Fatherless in Ypsilanti.” Other songs such as “Flint (For the Unemployed and Underpaid)” give the account of those suffering through difficult times and the impoverished. Others, such as “Holland,” consist of Stevens telling personal stories from his youth spent in the Great Lake State.

Stevens has previously released three albums, but this is the first released in his endeavor to create a musical documentary of all 50 states. His folksy style is something he prides, and everything about this young singer/songwriter keeps with this style. Even the tale that he was found in a milk crate on his parent’s doorstep in 1975 helps to create the mood of mythical folklore that is present throughout his albums. Even though it may at first seem like a somewhat uninspiring mix of mid-western folk tunes, Stevens’s music is in reality a refreshing and startlingly stirring break from the continuity of most popular music and is certainly worth a listen.

As I Lay Dying



Addie Bundren is dying and hanging on just long enough for the doctor to reach her at her family’s farm and confirm this fact. William Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying* tells the story of Addie’s family and their struggle to travel miles and miles with only a horse and wagon to bury their wife and mother in her own family’s grave plot. Faulkner is capable of taking a simple plot and turning it into a masterpiece of literature by splitting the books into short chapters and telling the story in first person accounts from all of Addie’s children, her husband, neighbors, friends and even Addie herself.

Through these first person accounts, the reader becomes entwined in the complex mental breakdowns of Addie’s children Vardaman and Dewey Dell, and also comes to understand how each character thinks with a strange intensity. Faulkner’s ability to depict the intricacies of human emotions makes this novel a fulfilling and enticing read that can be appreciated by just about anyone.

—Compiled by Jen Siomacco

Spin-offs sink or

swim next season

By Nina Moses
Senior Staff Writer

Spin-offs will come and spin-offs will go, but come this fall we will see if “Joey” can survive without his “Friends.”

For all of the “Friends” fanatics depressed about the two-hour finale on May 6, fret no more. The producers of the current hit sitcom have already begun preparations for a spin-off starring Matt LeBlanc, who played Joey Tribiani.

The show will feature Joey moving from his hip New York bachelor pad to Los Angeles to further pursue his dismal acting career. So far, only Joey and the part of his mother have been cast. The only involvement from the other “Friends” will be behind the camera. David Schwimmer, who played Ross on the show, is already set to direct a few episodes this fall.

The new sitcom will be met with mixed feelings. Some people are excited that the “Friends” saga will be continuing while others couldn’t care less. Die hard “Friends” fans are looking forward to still getting their weekly dose of “Friends” fun. “I will watch it, because it’s one of the friends,” said senior Aqsa Wagar.

Critics of the upcoming show are skeptical to see if Joey can make it without his “Friends.” Unlike popular spin-offs like “Frasier” and “Laverne and Shirley,” where the characters were loosely tied into the original show, “Joey” was much more than a funny cameo.

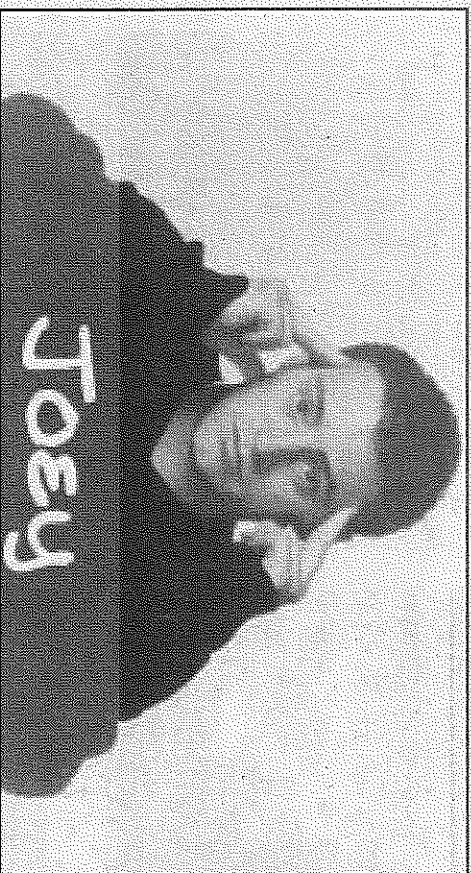
“He is an ensemble character, so to take him out of his element would not work,” said junior Rudy Telson.

The popularity of “Friends” does suggest that it is very likely that the “Joey” spin-off will last just as long as the “Seinfeld” spin-offs, which did not last.

Of course with the good and bad expectations come the indifferent. With a new wave of television shows targeted at our age group many students are apathetic to the end of this era.

“What I think TV needs is more reality shows,” said junior Karla Sakas, “Especially the degrading kind.”

Joey is continuing his post-“Friends” acting career by starring in his own TV show.



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Living in an Amish paradise

By Sam Lee

Senior Staff Writer

There are at least 40,000 interesting people in the US, and they all have one thing in common: they're all Amish. Though they are few in number, the Amish have still fascinated many Americans. Plus, the Amish country is the perfect place to escape the hustle and bustle of DC, even if it's just for a weekend.

The Amish are sprinkled throughout the East coast, ranging from Delaware to Ohio. Certain Amish orders don't enjoy the company of people outside their religion, but there are a few other orders, mostly in Pennsylvania and Ohio, that have embraced the "outside world" and have started stores that sell some of their famous homemade items, such as their sturdy rocking chairs made out of all natural materials.

"Their rocking chairs are actually made out of wood," said junior Sam Waltemeyer.

Another specialty of the Amish is their food. They make a myriad of different dishes like pretzels and jams. The Amish make ordinary cuisine, but since it's all homemade from natural ingredients, the taste is amplified from common to spectacular.

"I went to Camp Highland and they would come and cook for us, so I know they're really good cooks," said senior Meredith Schindler.

Besides spending all the money in the world on goodies and wooden furniture,



The amish are famous for their home-made items like handmade pretzels.

a visitor to the Amish country could also enjoy just observing the Amish. Some families actually open their homes to guests and welcome them to see what Amish life is really like. Though they don't have TV, video games or any other toy that requires two AA batteries, their life is full of happiness and strong family ties. Guests also get to see up close the Amish culture through their homes and dark, basic clothes.

"It was weird seeing people in those kinds of clothes," said sophomore Stephanie Perocco.

Besides viewing their everyday lifestyle, people can also see and maybe begin to understand the reasons behind some of the Amish's unique traditions, like not having their pictures taken for fear that part of their soul will be taken by the pictures.

"The funniest thing about them," said Waltemeyer, "is that they call horse poop 'road apples.'"



Fresh mountain air breathes new life into stressed students

By Jason Gillis

Managing Editor

Getting away from it all is what camping is all about.

"It's good to try to live without certain things today, because it's the pure life," said senior Chris McClelland. Prince William Forest, less than 45 minutes away, offers all types of camping. For the new camper, the park offers a small wooded site with a picnic table and a fire ring. It also has a large public restroom nearby. For the more intense campers, 400 acres of untouched forest await backpackers at the park. Camping permits cost about \$15.

The forest offers many Park Ranger lead activities and the park's visitor center rents out maps and compasses and lets the hiker figure out how to navigate through the woods alone. Twenty-one miles of paved roads await cyclists along with an additional 37 miles of trails for hiking.

If a weekend of camping is not an ideal getaway to nature, then climbing up Old Rag Mountain is a perfect day trip. Located near Luray Virginia, Old Rag stands by itself in the horizon. It costs

five dollars per person to climb the mountain. For this area, Old Rag with its seven mile trek has a reputation for being a physical challenge.

"I dislike Old Rag somewhat because it's very steep and hard on your legs," said freshman Kyle Ashcraft.

On the way up, climbers usually choose the route that takes the longest. It includes a mile of hiking over through and in between gigantic rock boulders, called the jungle gym, some parts are tough to get across, but it is not too difficult.

"The jungle gym is interesting," said McClelland. Old Rag is usually crowded, but still it is a satisfying experience to get to the top and take a break.

"When you get to the top, you can see everything," said Ashcraft.

Whether camping for the week, weekend, or even just a day trip to the mountain, it is human nature to like to be out in the fresh air and not hear radios blasting or the sound of cars on the streets.

"I like to get away from the bustling life," said senior Dan Sieger. "I like to have no worries, no loud noises, and just enjoy nature."

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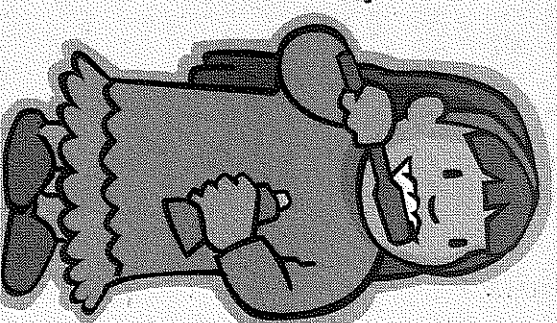
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Lady Spartan soccer succeeds at last

By Christina Araj

Viewpoint Editor

Losses, depression and failure are now a thing of the past for the girls Varsity soccer team. It was not too long ago, however, when these elements were all too familiar.

The Varsity team has come a long way since last year's disappointing results, where the team only won five games out of the seasonal 15. This year, the girls went on to win nine games and more than doubled the amount of goals scored against the other team, while decreasing the amount of goals scored on them.

There are a couple of reasons for this turn around. First, the weather has been much more consistent this year, allowing for continual practices outside, instead of last year's abundant gym time due to the excessive amounts of rain.

Second, on account of the improved conditions, the players own physical conditions have improved as well.

"I think we're in better shape this year," said Varsity Coach Kellie Mastrodonato. "We tried to improve their fitness level."

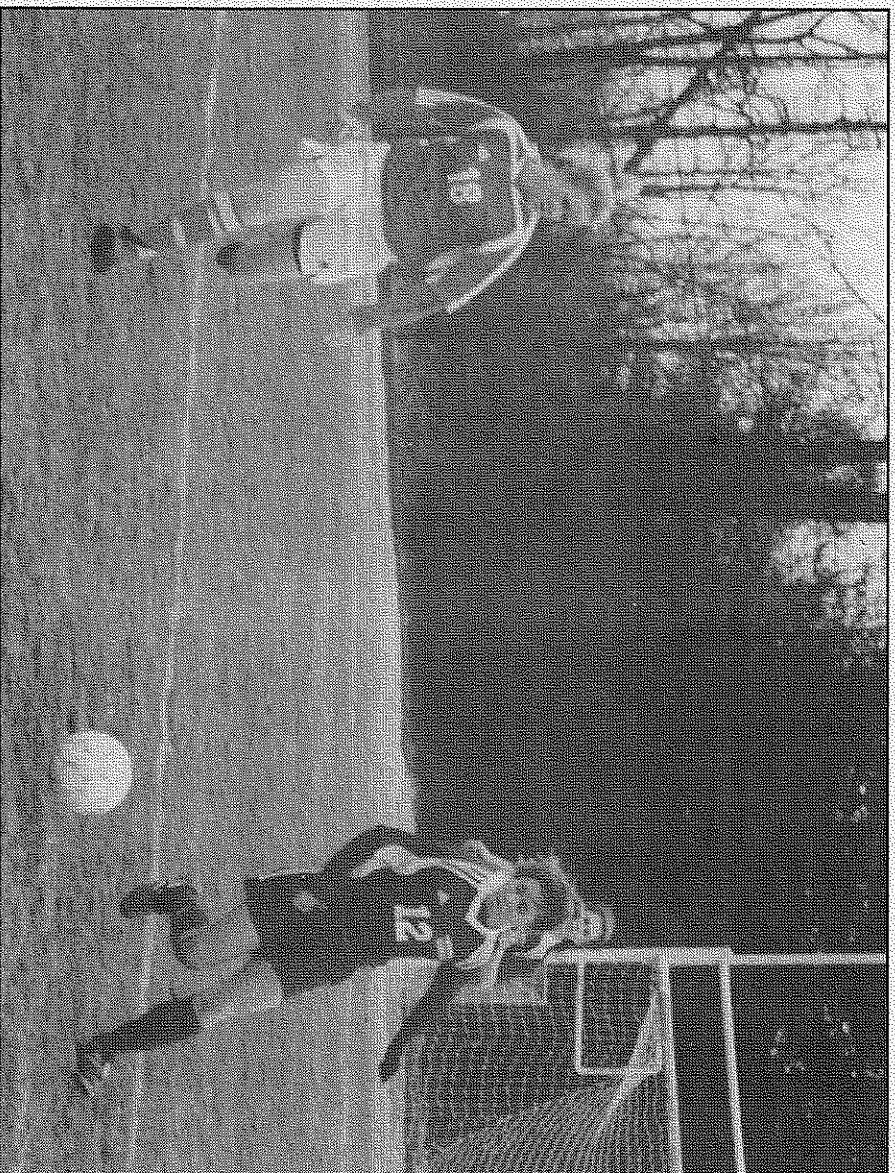
Another major reason for the team's drastic progress is the players themselves. Last year's team consisted of many new, young players, with only one or two years of Varsity experience under their belts due to the departure of key seniors the previous year.

"The return of the core players has really helped," said Mastrodonato. "We have more people with experience."

Seven starters from last year have returned, compared to last year's returning three. Additionally, there have been valuable additions to the team, including two freshmen: Carina Dillon and Laurel Pastor. Sophomore Becky Reed and Junior Amy Ballew are also two key additions.

"The two freshmen are very strong players," said Mastrodonato.

Lastly, the team has taken a different approach mentally than last year, which has proven to be effective to say



Sarah Drabin

Senior Mandy Johnson looks to take the ball away in a scrimmage from an opposing Fairfax player. In the least, considering the amount of goals they have scored.

"They've been much more competitive this year," said Mastrodonato.

Mastrodonato is counting on their success in the regular season to help them succeed in the upcoming District, Regional, and hopefully State competitions. Their first District game against TC Williams was triumphant,

securing a 3 to 2 win. Senior Mandy Johnson scored the winning goal in the last 38 seconds.

Despite the challenging teams that lay ahead the Lady Spartans remain focused and have great confidence in the outcomes of their upcoming games.

"I think we'll make it to the finals," said senior Kimmy Murdock, "because we did really well [in the regular season] against [teams in] our district."

Baseball; at it again

By Nina Moses

Senior Staff Writer

Despite the loss of seniors earlier in the year the WS Varsity baseball team has been having a successful season.

One unique fact about this year's team is that there are only two seniors on the team; the rest of the team is made up of underclassmen.

To everyone's surprise the youthful team has proven to be a force to be reckoned with.

They are currently fifth in the Patriot District and as of the loss to Lake Braddock on May 8, they are 7-11.

Towards the beginning of the season the team received negative feedback from the student body concerning the tryout fiasco. The school now offers their support

seeing that the team overcame the difficulty of having one of the youngest teams in the district.

Student reaction to the boys' success has been overwhelmingly supportive.

"I think it's great" said senior Andy Kalis.

Fans have also been showing their support in the stands. There has been good attendance in the Spartan cheering section at the games, which always helps raise the spirits of the players.

The team didn't start out well this season, but once they got a few games under their belt they have been playing very well together. The two seniors on this team have led this team to be successful.

"It's good that they're winning," said freshman Colin Embry. "They used to lose a lot."



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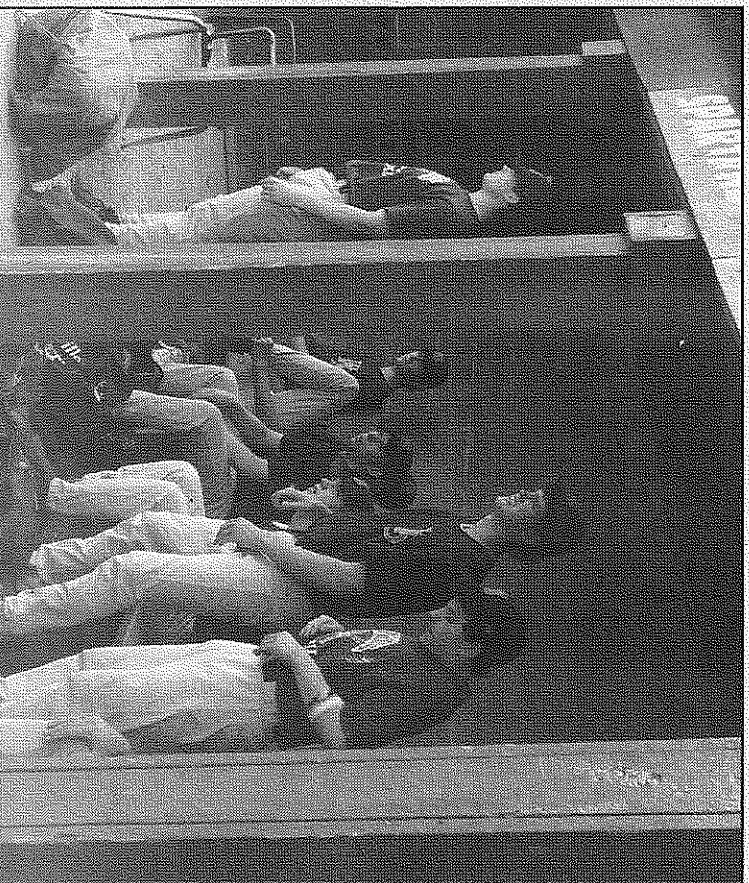
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The WS varsity baseball team consists mostly of underclassmen.

Jon Nylen

Playoff intensity turned up. Eight teams remain in heated NBA playoffs;

Bryant and big-name Lakers attract attention.

By Tim O'Keefe
Sports Assistant

The 2004 NBA Playoffs brings the best out of the top basketball players in the world.

Western conference contenders like the Sacramento Kings, Los Angeles Lakers, San Antonio Spurs and Minnesota Timberwolves have the experience and big time talent. The Kings have Raja Stojakovic, the Lakers have Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal, and the Spurs have Tim Duncan and Tony Parker. The Timberwolves have league MVP Kevin Garnett. All four of these teams could perceptibly win the NBA title.

However, some feel that the power of Bryant and O'Neal is just too hard to handle.

"I think the Lakers are going to win it all," said sophomore David Walsh. "The team unity greatly surpasses the Kings or anyone else."

The Lakers, who beat the Houston Rockets four games to one, have the most attention of any team. Bryant faces felony charges of sexual assault. If he is convicted, he could serve 20 years in prison. On top of that, Bryant will be appearing in court throughout the

playoffs in Colorado. Even with Bryant's off the court struggles, he has managed to average 25.8 points per game.

"The court case does not seem to affect him [Bryant]," said senior Marc Mazzuchi. "Kobe is a great basketball player, and he does what he has to do on the court."

The east by all records is much weaker than the west. For example, the Seattle Super Sonics, who missed the playoffs, had a regular season record of 37-45 in the west. That would have been the eighth and final playoff spot over the Boston Celtics, with 36-46 record in the east.

The Indiana Pacers, Detroit Pistons, and New Jersey Nets clearly are the best in the east. The Pacers have the best record in the league with a 61-21 record. They also swept the Celtics 4-0 in the first round. Jermaine O'Neal, Ron Artest, and Reggie Miller want to lead the Pacers into the promise land, while competing against the Pistons' big four of Rasheed Wallace, Ben Wallace, Richard Hamilton, and Chancy Billups. The Pistons will play the New Jersey Nets, and the Pacers will play the Miami Heat.

The surprise of the playoffs may have



Kobe Bryant soars through the air with an acrobatic dunk. Bryant continues to go to his sexual assault trials in Colorado, while playing a huge role with the L.A. Lakers. been the play of the young, but talented Heat. Lamar Odom, Eddie Jones, and rookie sensation Dwane Wade have surprised many. But Pacers Coach Rich Carlisle still believes that his team will out match the Heat.

"If [the Pacers] keep playing as well as they have, and we keep playing the way we have, then we will see them in the conference finals," said Pacers

coach Rich Carlisle on sportsillustrated.com.

With an 82 game regular season, veterans have been known "pace themselves" for the playoffs, and suddenly play with a sense of urgency. "I enjoy the playoffs because the intensity is turned up another level," said Mazzuchi. "Now [the players] really play."

Aiming for a hole-in-one

Driving range provides a new way of occupying yourself

By Katherine Hutton
Inside Editor

The WS golf team may have its season in the fall, but with the return of spring, WS students have also seen the return of golf clubs.

Students can go golfing at the Springfield Country Club, Twin Peaks, or, if you are in the military, Fort Belvoir. Students that participate in this sport have to concentrate more than some of the more common sports. "It's a lot harder than the other sports I've played," said senior Ryan Frost, who is one of the captains of the golf team.

How students get into golf differs, but most seem to get into it by visits to a golf course with a parent or an older relative.

"I went to the driving range one afternoon with my dad in eight grade and it just went from there," said Frost. Freshman Carlin Sherrill is another student that goes with her dad to the driving range, but for a different reason.

"I can only hit it two feet," said Sherrill. "I just go to drive the cart."

"It's a lot harder than the other sports I've played."

—Ryan Frost, senior

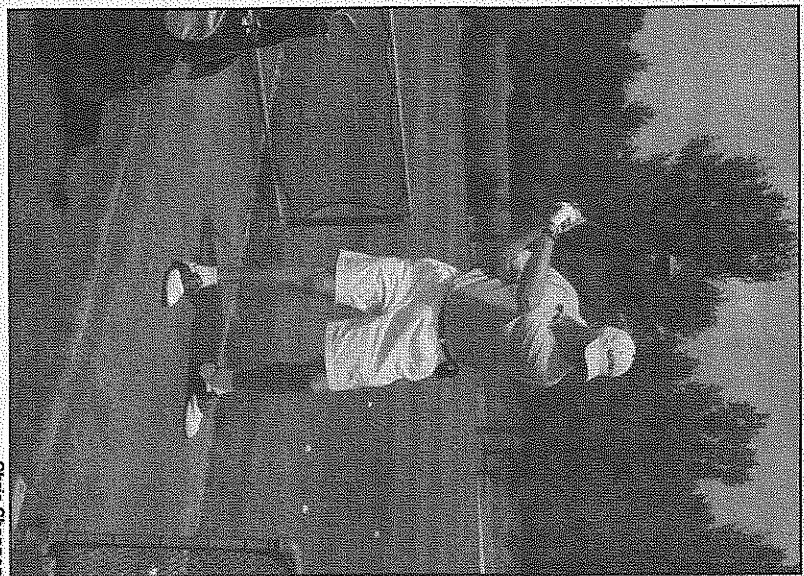
driving part of golfing and focuses just on the putting part of the game. It's a bit silly, with players attempting to hit the ball through a complex labyrinth of tacky things like windmills and clowns' heads. Students have the option to play at Mid-Atlantic Golf Center and Cameron Run.

"[I play] because it's fun and entertaining," said Sherrill. "I go with my friends."

Whether someone goes to a driving range for the challenge of the sport or goes to the local putt-putt place with friends just for fun, students can have a great time with golf.

"It's a personal challenge," said Frost. "It's a lot of fun."

WS students enjoy playing the fun and unique putt-putt, as well as using their driver on the driving range.



Chris Shannon

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Bitter turns to a bittersweet ending

An end to 'Sex' and the meaning of love

By Betsy Miller
Senior Staff Writer

About a month ago I went on a college visit. The May 1st deadline for tuition deposits was fast approaching and this school was really working to recruit its freshman class. The dean of admissions told us that every couple of years the students picked a central question to explore throughout the following semesters and the current topic was "How do we know which questions to ask?"

Sex in the Field
Exploring the intricacies of love, the sexes and relationships in high school

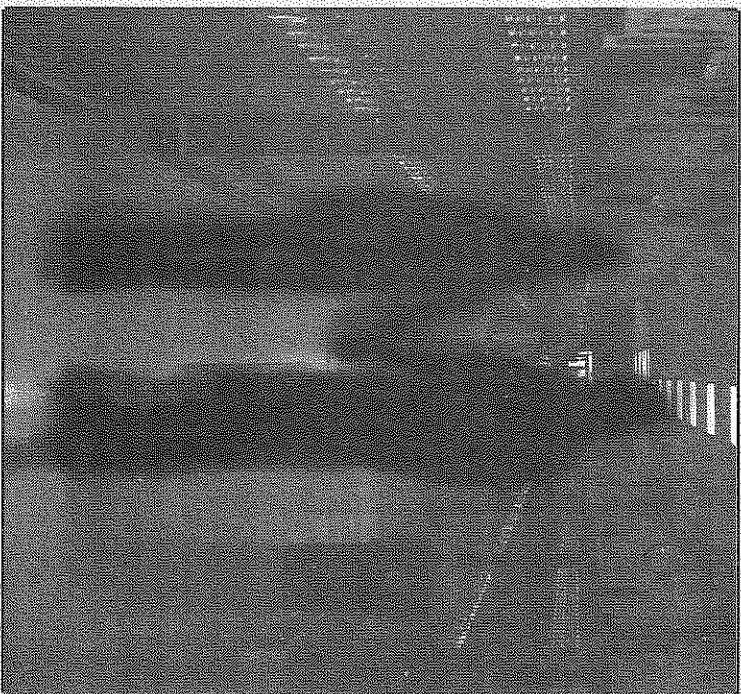
I left the campus that afternoon and never thought twice about attending the college. The love? question that the dean had used to entice us had only sent me back to where I had come from to find the answers I was searching for, or more specifically, the questions. For four years people have asked me questions and I've given them answers—both right and wrong. I've answered questions on the AP exams and act, loving someone takes depth

and experience. The average questions do not provide you with answers but leave you searching. Every bubble I filled in correctly on my SATs only provided me with more questions about where I wanted to go to college. Every time someone has asked me to homecoming or prom or on a date I've wondered what I should wear, how I should act and if my breath smelled.

But is it more important to know the questions to ask or the questions that need to be answered? This is my last "Sex in the Field" column. I started writing it to "enlighten the younger generation on the intricacies of relationships." Looking back, though, I don't think I've really provided that many answers about the central question that I have sought to ask: "What is the meaning of the love?" It's easy to question oneself about the meaning of life because the act of living is inherent to everyone. While people can easily get wrapped up in interpreting the necessities one requires to live, the basic act of taking one breath after another is simple.

and experience. The average breath takes about a second while the average high school relationship lasts about three months, and breathing simply inspires the static motions of the body, while relationships can change one completely forever.

Imagine how you feel when you sit down to take a test and you have no idea what the correct answers are. You've studied and pondered and given the task at hand your utmost effort and yet the subject matter simply frustrates you. It's the most frustrating feeling one can experience. I felt that type of frustration the other day, when someone told me all of my articles, most of which discuss relationships, sound very bitter, and asked me why I hate all of my ex-boyfriends. I don't hate all of my ex-boyfriends, or even vaguely dislike any of them; I simply get frustrated when I think about specific past relationships because the subject eclipses my understanding, much like the questions on a difficult test. Everyone hates failing tests, much like I despise my various failures to maintain relationships, all of which have



Faded figures in the hallway represent the journey beyond WS and the intimacy that can develop from it.

Chris Shannon

occurred from my lack of understanding of their subject matter—love, trust and compassion. Students are generally bitter when they can't quite seem to pass and teachers preach to them that their grade doesn't truly matter as long as they eventually understand the subject matter. They hate it because it is up to them to recognize their faults and learn from them. Relationships are tests of our character and understanding. They may leave us bitter, but they also leave us with complete consciousness of

our own failings, and if we're lucky, some type of insight into how we might alter them, are thereby altering our lives forever. How do we know which questions to ask? We don't; we can only hope that someday we realize those that need to be answered, and have the strength of character to seek those answers from deep inside ourselves even if we get them wrong. Then maybe someday we'll meet the person who thinks we all got them exactly right. And that is the meaning of love.

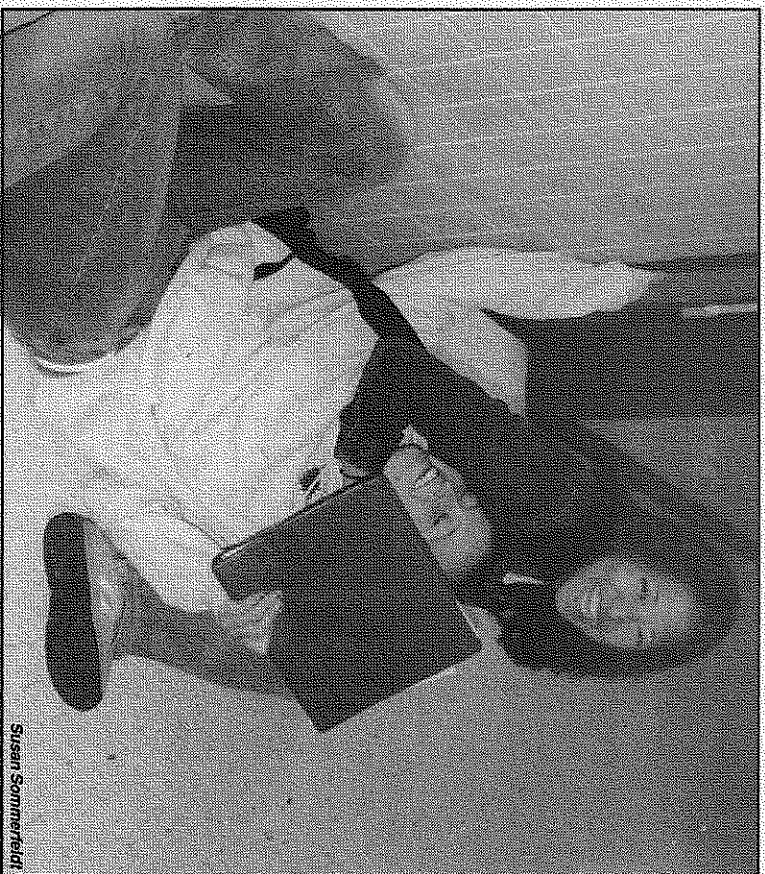
Through hell and back: a babysitting tale

By Christie Kim
Senior Staff Writer

Once you reach a certain age, you begin to outgrow specific parts of your life, for example: leggings, knee-long shorts, and baby-sitters. The wrath of the baby-sitter did not lie with me this past weekend, however, but with the baby-sitter, Joe Weiderhold's sister, Liz.

The interesting part of this is that she is a sophomore. Yes, 16 years old, only one year younger than me at this present moment. This proved to be difficult for me because I knew this wasn't going to be any ordinary baby-sitting vendetta. I wouldn't be able to just pop in a movie and put the kids to bed early, or duct tape her hands and mouth and lock her in the basement... but that's for another story (by the way, if there is anyone looking for a baby-sitter, I'm very available). In any case, I survived the weekend, and this is my story.

Day 1, hour 1: God is punishing me. I arrive at Joe's sisters' house after a hard crew practice to begin the gruesome task of "baby-sitting." I had been there for all of ten minutes and I was already prepared to throw myself through a glass window. But a few of us rowers prepared an adventure to paint a group of large rocks that are situated along the bank of the Occoquan Reservoir where we row daily. So, we took a nice drive all the way over to Prince William County and continued to traipse through the pitch black woods with only two flashlights and seven spray paint cans to accompany us. After prying Liz off my legs for ten minutes, we made our way to the waters' edge only to discover we were about 300 yards to the right of where we wanted to be. After soaking in the amazing view, we make our way back to the car. Persistent in our goal, we drive around,



Sueann Sherman/Field

Senior Christie Kim and sophomore Liz Weiderhold act out a scene from their babysitting experience. Kim displays classic senior authority.

for what seemed like five more hours to find the rocks, but end up about 300 yards to the left of our destination. So we give up, get food, and head back to Joe's sisters' house.

Day 1, hour 278: After arriving at the house, Liz and I decide to watch *Toy Story* (classic) and eat our fattening fast food toys not wanting to be blown up. So, we tudge upstairs and I collapse in a sweet bliss of Liz-free time.

refusal. Kids can be so disobedient to their elders nowadays. But anyway, I made her accompany me to Fair Oaks Mall (which we drove around for an hour trying to find) for a little prom dress shopping fun. Once we get there, Liz and I get right to business, Liz trying on the most ridiculous looking dresses, of course, to match her personality.

Day 2, hour 519: We received a gift from God and slept in Saturday morning. We proceeded to make chocolate chip pancakes, and thankfully I caught Liz in the act of trying to poison my pancakes so I tried to send her to her room much to her

Day 2, hour 934: After a rather unsuccessful prom dress search, we decide to be seen in public with Joe's sister made my heart race, but I figured I would be able to keep a good hold on her for an hour or so. We decide to dine at Mike's American Grill, and thankfully we got through the evening without Liz throwing a fit about

something like Santa hats on the stars hanging from the ceiling.

Day 2, hour 1045: The rest of Saturday night consisted of a night in at Liz's and *Love Actually* with some of her friends. Feeling a little out of place, I thought maybe I should set an example for the underclassmen, being a senior and all. This notion was quickly shot down after Liz pulled out a smart (bleep) comment. So I told her to go to her room, and again, she threw a fit. Some people just can't deal with authority figures.

Day 2, hour 5091: After Liz's friends went home, we decided to spend some time with one of our beloved male friends of all time - Conan (we still love you Dave Barry!). But four Conan's, an Ellen, a Pyramid, a Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, and lots of loud laughter later, we realize it's 4 o'clock and pass out for the night.

Day 3, hour 90123: Freedom is so close. Deciding not to stray too far from the previous day's breakfast menu, we splurge and make chocolate chip waffles. After brunch, I gather my belongings and gladly step out of the door with Liz crying in the background, asking me not to leave. I know I can have a profound effect on the younger crowd, but this act was a bit pathetic. I breathe a sigh of relief for the fact that I wouldn't have to see Joe's sister for a full 22 hours.

Despite the fact that it was a difficult and agonizing weekend, it was nice to spend time with someone younger than me (Liz's friends) to gain some perspective on the nearing end of this phase of my life. But a word of advice to all you babysitters out there: sophomores are people like me and you. Even if it takes every ounce of strength not to strangle one of them, they can end up turning an ordinary weekend into... well an awful one.

'POOR LIZ'S ALMANAC' PROUDLY PRESENTS:



I'm sorry to 2004



By Liz Weiderhold
ETC. Editor

Dear Class of 2004,

Now starts the season where you will be bombarded with speeches, memories and music signifying that you, as adults, are going to drink lots of beer next year. You will hear Vitamin C's "The Graduation Song" so many times that your ears will bleed. Your yearbooks will be filled with page-long notes with every inside joke you've ever had with any human since birth. You will laugh. You will cry. And you will hear every representative from generations above you talk about what graduation means. (For the record, "graduation" is a noun meaning "conferral or receipt of an academic degree or diploma marking completion of studies").

But I'm not writing this to tell you what you should expect. After all, I won't be applying to college, not doing my homework and obsessing over prom for another two years *at the very least*, so really, what do I know anyway?

I have, however, discovered that rarely do seniors truly understand their effect on the underclassmen. Therefore I write to you, Class of 2004, as an appreciative sophomore who wishes to convey your significance in my life. I'm just kidding of course. But I feel I do owe you some apologies, so here they go in no particular order:

I'm sorry for the miscommunication between Desmond Braziel and myself,

resulting in my severe embarrassment, and hopefully his, but the most fun I've had writing anything. I know now how to spell "Thur" and continue to stand firmly for my belief on the lyrics of "Get Low." I still hate the song "Shut Up."

I'm sorry that I continually quoted Jared Timmons' famous lines of (and I am paraphrasing) "I want there to be dancing on the streets of Manhattan and the streets of L.A." for a full two months until I was literally beaten out of it. I'm sorry to Heidi Stiltgog for ruining her Lent.

I'm sorry to Katherine Hutton for calling her Hilary, a name which is not even close to "Katherine."

I'm sorry to Beth Ann Dick for almost being mean to her due to my firm belief that she was Christie Kim.

I'm sorry to Valerie Herruth and Erin Yanovich for having to put up with me every morning in the car, where I would tell them the dreams I had featuring Valerie, my brother, Christie Kim and myself. I won't go into much detail except to say that my brother made me go to his physics class (which was a closed) in order for him to be left alone with his friends. These were disturbing and so I offer only my most sincere apologies.

I'm sorry to every senior on the crew team that I gave wedgies to (except the team that I gave wedgies to).

Christie Kim). I am most sorry to Jenn Young who I wedgied for no reason while we were rowing.

I am sorry to Jessica Klynsma for anything I ever did to her. These acts of rudeness were a mistake for many reasons, the most critical being that she would bite me viciously on the arm or back and call me names.

I'm sorry to Betsy Miller that I don't know what to be sorry for.

I'm sorry that the random man, who would come onto the stage and break dance, interrupted every school function.

I'm sorry, on behalf of the sophomore class, that we rightfully won the spirit stick during the second pep rally. I am also sorry a man wearing panny hose on his head took the spirit stick from you again and you were left with nothing but bitter memories.

I'm sorry, on behalf of Fairfax County, that you only had one snow day.

I am sorry for walking up senior rail. I am sorry for associating with your friends. I'm sorry for making eye contact with you accidentally or on purpose.

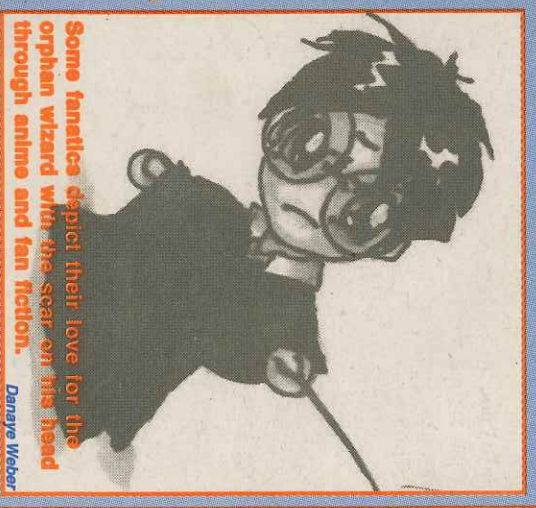
I am most sorry that you are leaving. With the exception of Christie Kim, this has been a great class. You may not be honored or idolized by we insignificant lower classmen, but you will be missed. Again, not Christie Kim, per se, but the class in general. So farewell, bon voyage, sayonara, adios, muy beim, como estas, avowal, avril lavigne, too da loo, cheerio, Casablanca, Cambodia, Nuremberg, good bye Class of 2004. Our last month together will be an interesting one at the very least and I hope it doesn't go by too quickly because I don't want to say bye yet. Well, maybe to Christie Kim.



Jessica Klynsma displays her trademark attack of biting on senior Matt Welsh.

Top 10 ways to know you're a Harry Potter fanatic

10. You call your favorite teacher Lupin and your least favorite Snape.
9. You go to Kings Cross station and run into the barrier between platforms 9 and 10.
8. You call Voldemort "You-know-Who" and no one has a clue who you're talking about.
7. When playing chess, you yell orders to the chess players and get upset when they don't move.
6. Your computer says "you've Got Mail" and you run outside looking for an owl.
5. You refer to your chemistry class as Potions.
4. You mutter "Alohomora" every time you unlock a door.
3. You point at normal things like parking meters and say "Look at the things these muggles dream up!"
2. You sort everyone you know into the four houses (Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff, Slytherin).
1. You were kicked out of the movie theater for standing on your chair, throwing your shoe at the screen and yelling "THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN IN THE BOOK!"



Some fanatics depict their love for the orphan wizard with the scar on his head through anime and fan fiction.



May and June



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					SOL Testing, Period 2	Softball Districts
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
SOL Testing Period 4	Period 6 SOL Testing	Period 5 SOL Testing	Girls & Boys Soccer Regionals	Softball Regionals	The Fabulous Mary Ann Redmond Band @ Jamm'n' Java	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Softball Regionals	Senior Awards Assembly (Auditorium) 9:15-11:00	Senior Military Awards (Spartan Hall) 8:00-9:30	Senior Art Show (Spartan Hall) 7:30-2:30	Senior Art Show (Spartan Hall) 7:30-1:30	Girls & Boys Lacrosse Regionals Track @ Newport News, 1:00 (State)	
6	7	8	9	10	11	
Girls & Boys Soccer States	Locker Cleanout Sr. 5 th Period Exam Sr. 6 th Period Exam	Sr. Exam 5 th Period Sr. 7 th Period Exam	Sr. 2 nd Period Exam Sr. 4 th Period Exam Seniors leave @ 11:02	Sr. 1 st Period Exam Sr. 3 rd Period Exam Seniors leave @ 11:02	9 th -11 th 2 nd Period Exam 7:30-9:08 PROM! @ Hilton Mclean Tyson Corner	

—Compiled by Katherine Hutton and Mugglenet.com