



# The Raptor

June 11, 2004 Volume 40 Number 15  
West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

## Japanese garden graces WS courtyard

By Josh Lipman  
News Section Editor

Three years ago the courtyard was nearly barren except for a few sparse trees. That all changed when biology teacher Beth Jewell was inspired, after taking a trip to Japan, to plant a Japanese Zen garden in the courtyard adjacent to the senior parking lot.

A Zen garden has two main elements: hills that symbolize mountains, and rocks that form symbolic flowing water, according to a handout from the festival to celebrate the garden's opening.

The festival held Thursday, May 27 from 3-5 pm, featured traditional Japanese foods, activities, and music. Students could make origami creations, make vibrant Daruma dolls, play a

version of a traditional Japanese party game, and eat all the free food they could get their hands on. Another activity, called tanabata consisted of writing a wish for the future in Japanese on a strip of paper. Japanese musicians played a harp-like instrument called a koto during the festival and students also performed traditional Japanese drum music.

The garden was designed and executed by students in Jewell's freshman biology classes from the last three years and Japanese teacher Adam Podell's students. The core of the final layout is modeled after a design by sophomores Mia Maceran, Gooun Choi, Hyein Kim and Ilhwa Jun. The project was funded by donations from graduating classes, the PTSA, and

fundraising events.

In fact, the garden is still developing and might take up to 15 years to fully grow in. To help the cause, there was a donation box at the entrance during the festival.

"We think we'll spend two to three more years just on the first phase," said Podell. "Each year, we hope to see some improvement and addition [to the garden]."

The garden's main features are a rock stream and pond, several different types of plants, a gazebo, several benches, and a bridge over the rock stream. Now after the garden's official opening, it can serve the purpose Jewell first envisioned.

"I'm hoping," Jewell said, "the kids will use it just for a place to go and relax."

## Marmalade returns from the dead to defend their title

By Andreaa Maxwell  
Weekend Editor

A tall figure cloaked in a white sheet stomped down the aisle of the auditorium. The figure was playing his red bass guitar, and according to Traffic Jam Marmalade front man, junior Nick Melas, the figure was senior Ben Sojka returning from the dead.

While Sojka had never actually died, Traffic Jam slaughtered the competition for the second year in a row and won the competition. This year, the tenth annual "Spartan Jam Battle of the Bands", took place on Friday, May 21, 2004. The show was hosted by Adam Thaxter and other members of the Jazz Guitar Ensemble who were not competing.

Seniors Mike Hodges and Kyle Haines played the national anthem to open the show. The six competing bands:

The Monastic Ninjas, Intricate Design, Simonfalls, Cactus Rat, Traffic Jam Marmalade and Van Neylan, played for the next four hours. Each band played a thirty minute set of their unique style of music.

Following the performances, WS alumni of the Guitar Program convened to decide the top three bands of the

"Different songs are more fun to perform in front of different crowds," said Melas. "It really depends on what the audience is like."

While the evening was fairly tame and audience members were permitted to stand in front of the stage, the WS Battle of the Bands earned its name as a rock concert when female undergarments ended up on stage. Brooks said, "It was interesting when a barrage of panties hit us."

## Cicadas terrorize the halls of WS

By Jordy Serwin  
News Section Editor

Cicadas outnumber students and teachers at WS — by a lot. Although they don't have assigned parking or tickets to Prom, they are definitely the big bugs on campus this year. The good news is, by the time school starts again in the fall they'll be gone, and they won't return until 2021. The bugs also don't sting or bite. In fact, the only threat that they pose is the minor chaos they cause when they buzz unsuspecting students and teachers in the hallways and parking lot.

The red-eyed, black bodied, yellow winged insects have taken center stage at several recent events around WS. Someone set a large number of cicadas free at senior rail on two separate occasions, causing disgust among students and frustration in faculty. Administrator Mr.

Griffin and the custodial staff ended up being the ones who cleaned the mess.

Similar feelings were expressed when a faulty smoke detector triggered the fire alarm and students had to wait outside.

No sooner had the last student exited the building, when the bugs flew into the waiting crowd.

"I saw this one guy that pulled an Ozzy Osborne [bit the head off of a live cicada]," said freshman Nate Rhoden.

Students hold two main attitudes about cicadas. Many students are not bothered by their presence.

"The cicadas have made school more fun," said freshman Naham Mosher. "We get to kill them during lunch."

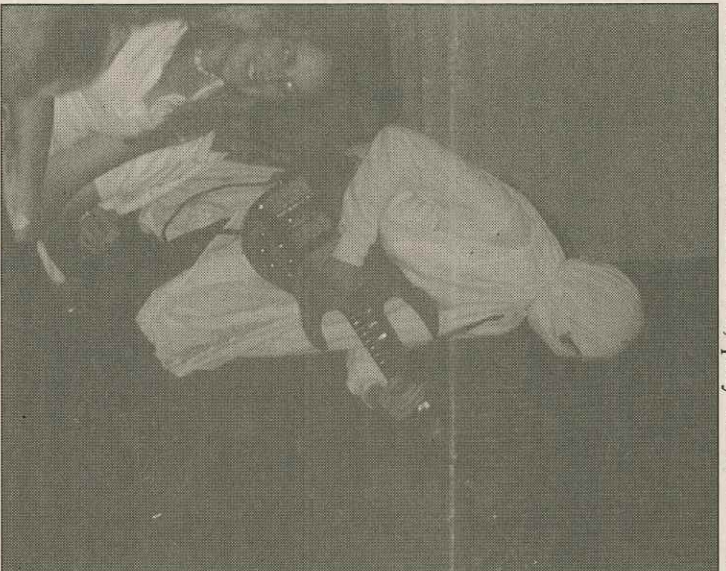
Other students share this indifferent viewpoint. Some couldn't care less about the invasion of brood X.

"My school life hasn't really changed since the cicadas came out," said freshman Kristin Garrett. "I just poke them when I see them."

Other students find cicadas disgusting — at least when their fellow students eat or dismember the bugs at school.

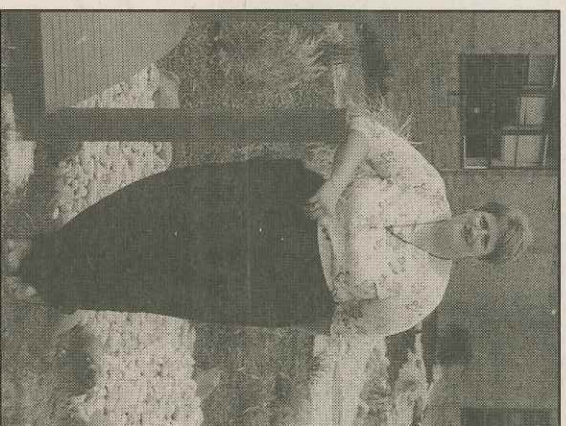
"If you capture a cicada and pull off its two front legs at the same time, its head pops off," said sophomore Adam Brundeman.

Administrators have their own opinion of the bugs and the students' reactions to them. "Cicadas have caused an interesting threat to our student body," said guidance counselor Kristin Hiemstra. "They, themselves, are harmless but when they land on the students, the students start flailing around uncontrollably and pose a threat to themselves and those around them."



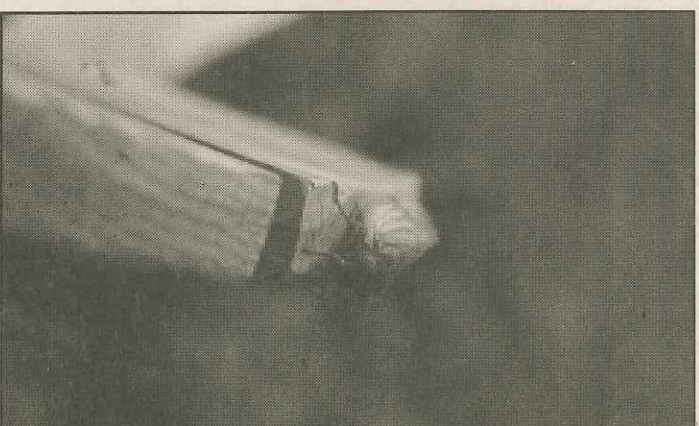
Jenna Wiesenahn

Senior Ben Sojka, makes his way through the aisle of the auditorium to perform at Battle of the Bands.



Erin Deblouis

Biology teacher Beth Jewell poses with the bridge in the Japanese garden.

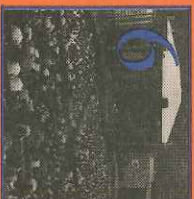


Brooke Neilson

A cicada sits waiting for its next victim.



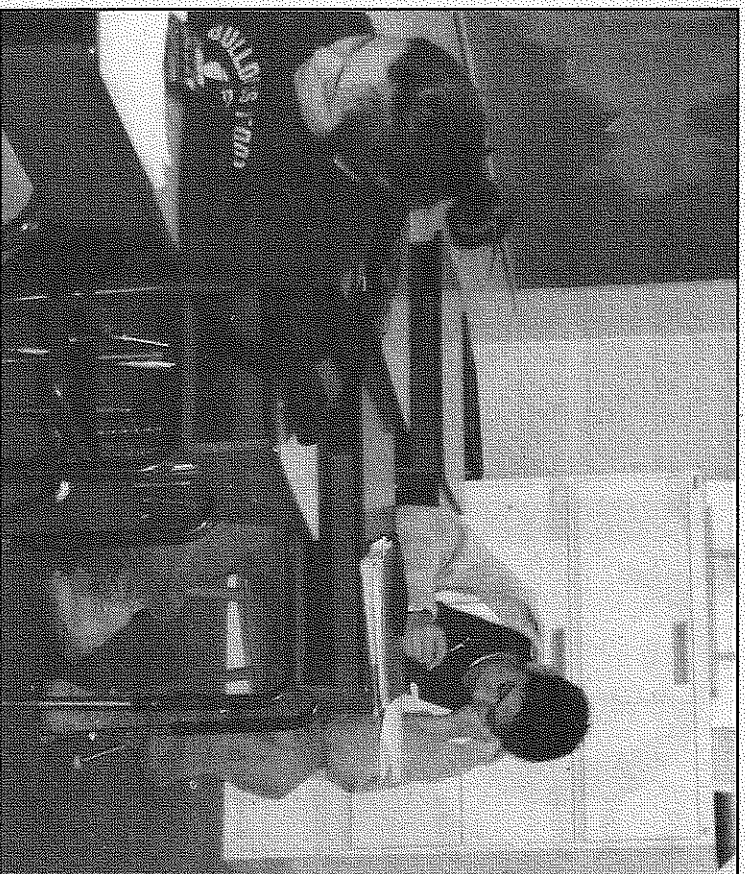
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban disappoints loyal fans



District Movie Fest



Hoagie's World



Sarah Drabkin

Students take a final exam that could potentially determine their future.

## Final showdown

*Students cram for final exams as they continue to approach will rapid speed*

Finals are coming and stress is building. Students have worked hard all year in earning the grades they desire, but there is one grade that determines your fate for the year.

This grade is not like any other grade. It's the ultimate test and is worth 20% of your final grade that is a fifth of your grade. If students have all this pressure put on them, then why not exempt students from a final if they have received four "A's" throughout the year.

Who really wants one grade to make or break their grade? I know that in my high school experience

there was a time that I received four A's

**Anyone's GPA can be ruined and the college that you wished to attend may not be available anymore, because of one grade.**

in one of my classes. I took my final and scored a "C+" and it moved my grade down to a "B+." I know a B+ is a good grade and all, but I deserved an A.

I worked hard all year long and one abysmal grade moved me down. It's not fair. One test can make or break my grade. Why not change the grading system

and how it works. Fairfax County Public Schools is already one of the most challenging school districts in the US. We already have plenty to worry about and thinking about finals is only going to make it worse.

Teachers should also put in perspective that some students are not good test takers. While others may excel in taking tests, certain students study for hours and hours and still perform badly.

I loathe students who don't prepare for finals and then receive a better grade than me. Is it fair? No.

## Editorial

But students are forced to deal with it and accept what happens whether it is good or bad.

June 18 seems like a great day. It's the last day of school, the day where you finally realize that school is over and done with. No more homework except for summer reading, which students will probably start in late August.

There can be one scary last thing that you come to learn on June 18. It's the day where you find out what you scored on your finals and your final grade. Anyone's GPA can be ruined and the college that you wished to attend may not be available anymore, because of one grade. That one grade can essentially affect your entire life.

## Start your engines!

By Katie Bourget

Managing Editor

The Beach Boy generation was able to "have fun, fun, fun," till her daddy takes the T-Bird away." Today, teenagers who must pay for their own gas often deny themselves access to their own cars because of the great expense.

With the national average price of a gallon of regular gas hovering around \$2.05, Americans are now able to better understand why Europeans drive cars the size of those red and yellow Fisher Price and Fred Flintstone style mobiles.

To fill up a twenty-gallon tank in an SUV or sedan is over \$50. At that rate, a tank and a half of gas, is more than enough money to buy a yearbook.

Every time I drive by Rolling Road and Old Keene Mill, the numbers displayed on the signs outside the gas stations shock me.

Not enough time has passed, since I watched "Seinfeld" and a perfect pump and a \$20 bill would take care of you gas needs, for me to be nostalgic about it.

It only seems like a few years have passed since those same signs at the in-

tersection boasted gas prices that had zeros to the left of the decimal point.

So even for WS students who are lucky enough to have parents who pick up the gas tab, fuel is an issue. After school clubs, sports, and school-sponsored activities have students running back and forth from home to school.

Carpooling might seem like a simple solution, but strict driving laws make this difficult. While finding a ride can be difficult, getting your friends to pay you is even harder.

New drivers are permitted only one other non-related person under the age of 18 in their car.

While I will not argue with the value of this law and its ability to decrease crash statistics, it does discourage carpooling, which would be a system that is beneficial both to our wallets and our environment.

In the meantime, for those without licenses or those forced to be stingy with gas, those yellow and red Fisher Price buggies are starting to look appealing.

Just try not to get hurt cramming yourself in there—you're a little bigger than you were ten years ago.



Sarah Drabkin

The recent increase in gas prices have had a harsh impact on the pockets of car owners, but even more so on students with a limited supply of cash.

## The

## Oracle

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# FLEX students host Spartan Idol competition

By Katie Bourget & Liz Weiderhold  
Managing Editors

There was a time when "My Heart Will Go On" by Celine Dion was the earworm of America. For most, the song has faded from their hearts, but for sophomore Marcelo Cohen, this song lives on.

Cohen and his fellow classmates from the FLEX program were able to live their musical dream on stage by performing their very own version of "Spartan Idol." But unlike the harsh judges on FOX network's "American Idol," the judges had only positive feedback to give to the performers.

"The judges had a lot of good things to say, which made them feel very confident," said FLEX teacher Stephanie Caldwell. "Even the kids who had been shy all year long."

The audience, consisting of the FLEX class, parents and teachers, also gave their feedback through smiley-face signs or sad-faced signs. Every performance earned smiley-face status.

The contest featured every member of the class. Senior, junior, sophomores and freshmen were all included. No one was left out.

Each student brought in their favorite CD from home and consulted their teachers to choose their song. For two weeks, they practiced in the afternoons at school and also at home to perfect their routines. They worked very hard in preparing for their performance. Each student

had high expectations for themselves and hoped to do as well as possible.

"My favorite moment was when Marcelo sang 'Titanic,'" said Cohen's fellow classmate, junior Jonathan Wright. "I could tell he has been practicing lately."

Even students who sometimes have difficulties speaking were able to rise to the occasion and sing songs both musically and lyrically difficult.

"It was a good experience because the kids showed a lot of courage," said Caldwell.

The idea for the concert developed after the HOT 99.5 sponsored Spartan Idol.

Unlike the other competition however the performances were received so well that the following day each student earned an award. Alix Elie was given the first place award for his version of "My Girl" by the Temptations.

"I got the Shining Star award. It means I won," said sophomore FLEX student Amanda Diamond. "There were no losers."

For a group that is frequently detatched from the rest of the student body, participating in an event that emulated a popular teenage TV show provided a chance for FLEX students to feel more involved in WS culture.

"It was good for the kids, wonderful for everybody," said FLEX teacher Phyllis Ruffin. "The school has always had something for the other kids to do, now we were included."

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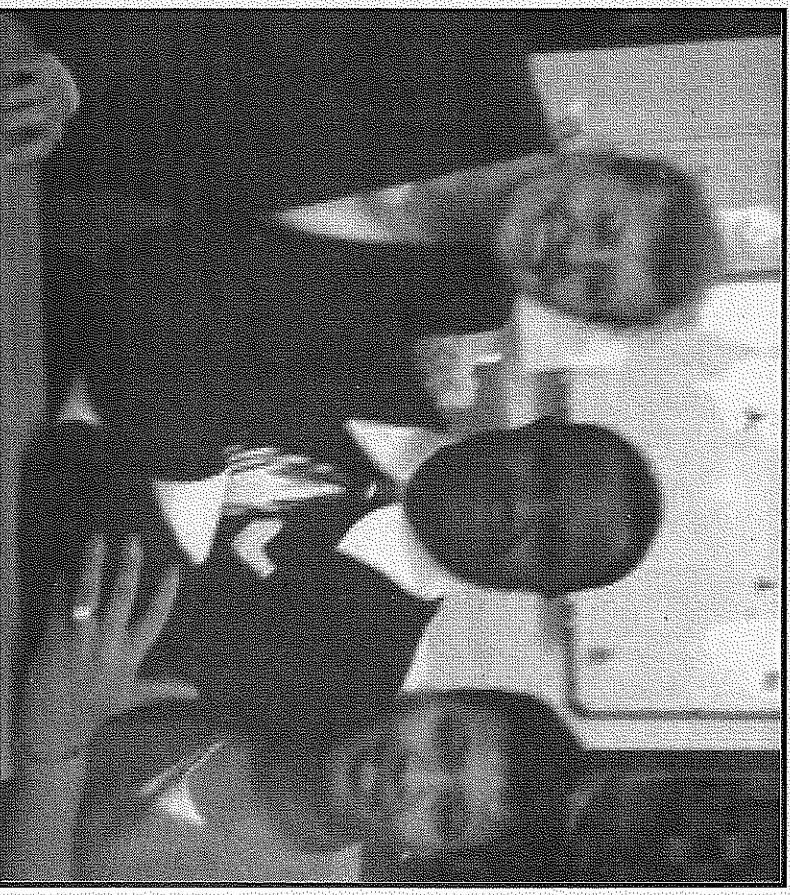
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Courtesy of Nancy Blair  
Spartan Idol contestant B.J. Smith celebrates after singing Ruben Studdard's "Sorry for 2004" with FLEX teachers Barbara Tomczyk and Stephanie Caldwell.

## Latest smorgasbord of Brood X reaches WS diet popularly known as the 17-year-cicada

By Jon Nylan  
Oracle Editor

The crunch of shells and the taste of cashews are in the mouths of some students at WS, as the last vestiges of brood X are consumed.

As the last of brood X or the seventeen year cicadas emerge in the next week or two, students are clamoring to consume, or freeze for later consumption, as many cicadas as they can hunt down.

Why someone would put a squirming, living creature in their mouth and then proceed to eat it is beyond the rationalization of most of the student body at WS.

"I think eating them is just plain gross," said sophomore Kimberly Evans.

"I love to eat them and people love stepping on them, how would you like it if I walked over to you and stepped on your hamburger?"  
—Ben Brobby, junior

While some students are completely disgusted that their peers eat cicadas, others find it fascinating that their friends consider them delicacies.

"They [cicadas] taste great, and plus some people pay me to eat them," said junior Ben Brobby.

Whereas some enjoy writhing insects in their bellies, a large percentage of the school is more likely to stomp cicadas into the ground, which in turn makes those who enjoy their consumption annoyed.

"I love to eat them and people love stepping on them, how would you like it if I walked over to you and stepped on your hamburger," said Brobby. "You'd be pretty mad too."

While cicadas may be good to eat they have disturbed the learning environment multiple times this year.

Some may recall the incident at senior tail, where a few students put cicadas all over the hall.

Classrooms all around the school are disrupted when cicadas fly in the windows, and cause pandemonium, until someone ends the panic with a quick few crunches, and order is restored.

"I love eating them," said Brobby. "They are just the greatest."

**OBON. OBON. OBON**

*31's Festival Time*

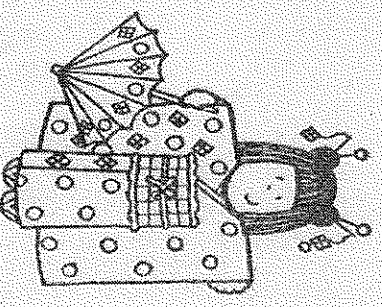
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# It's not easy pooping green

*Consider the plight of the poor goose—he has feelings, too*

**By Jen West**  
Special to The Oracle

After a long day, I just like to hang out with my friends and chill. We don't harm anybody; all we do is eat and talk. However, our peace is always interrupted by intruders.

"I have to deal with wildlife till 2:10," said soccer coach and PE teacher Kellie Mastrodonato. "Then I have to go out to the fields [and deal with the geese]."

If the teams and their coaches think they have it bad, I think that they should live in my feathered body for a day. It's not easy being me. After flying about 16 hours straight at 60 mph, we get tired and land.

If the climate is great then we stay, otherwise we fly south if it's too cold and north if it's warm. It's sad that the humans are unwilling to accept us. All I ever hear from humans are complaints about me and my fellow feathered brethren.

"They just leave a lot of poop on the field," said senior Ryan Albritton. "If you fall, you're in goose poop."

Well, I must say that when you fall, you land on our excrement. But humans really shouldn't be playing, if that's what you want to call it, in our territory. After eating a large meal, just like everybody else, we need to, as you say, "drop the kids off at the pool." However, it's not our fault that you choose to play in our pool. The best

thing for you to do is take the advice of the coach.

"We work around it and through it, literally," said lacrosse coach and PE teacher Brian Pulick.

So get over it! Now that the poop problem is taken care of, let's move to the second largest complaint: We're always in the fields.

"There really isn't anywhere else for them to go," said sophomore Richard Walsh. "Because of the housing

developments [there is a lack of grassy fields for them to settle in]."

Since 1990, the human population has grown 18.5 percent in Fairfax County alone in 10 years. We were here first, and the humans have built us out of our homes.

It was so bad in the 1960s that we were considered endangered. However, humans still deem us as the problem.

"You just run them off and they fly away," said Albritton.

While this may work for the teams, this doesn't work for us. It's hard enough

trying to enjoy a relaxing meal while human-lings are screaming and just being loud and obnoxious.

But then they chase us off of the best feeding grounds. This really damages our emotions. My little sister now pays hundreds to her psychiatrist. It's hard coming up with that many worms; our family is in debt now, thanks to the pesky human-lings. She has nightmares about human-lings chasing after her and trampling over her after a round thing.

I believe that if the human-lings want to play a real game they should play goose, goose, duck! That is a rousing game that our young ones love to play. The geese are now protesting against the terror of the humans.

"They don't move when you're near them," said sophomore Leann Spinoso.

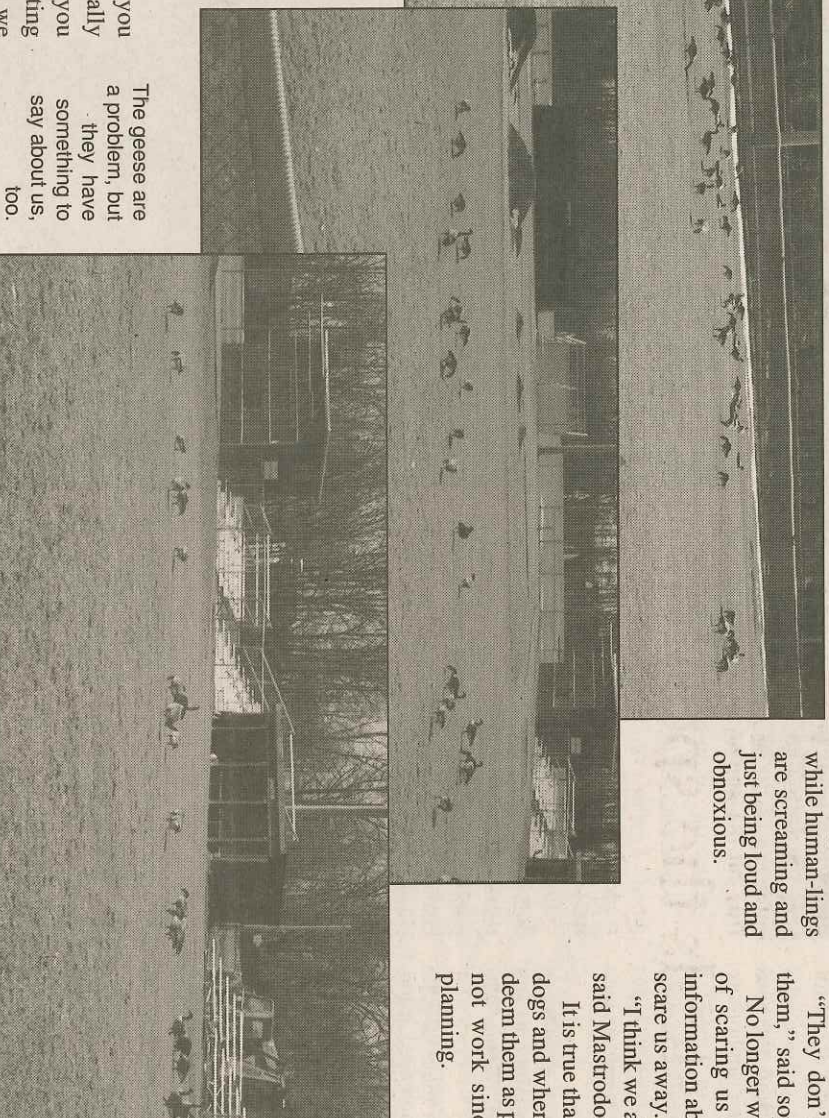
No longer will we submit to your tactics of scaring us away. However, we have information about new tactics of trying to scare us away.

"I think we all need to bring dogs here," said Mastrodonato.

It is true that we tend to stay away from dogs and wherever their scent is since we deem them as predators; however, this will not work since we know what you're planning.

I'll just let you know that the dogs may be taken care of by our highly trained Kung Pow Ganders...if they weren't vegetarian, they would have chopped doggie for lunch.

We are peaceful creatures, we will attack if provoked. So, take caution next time you play on the field. Remember that we were here first and that we won't take your



Susan Sommerfeldt

The geese are a problem, but they have something to say about us, too.

## CONGRATULATIONS

## TO THE CLASS OF 2004,

## FROM THE ORACLE

## AND THE OLYMPIANS!

# Classic story of Troy hits the big screen

By Caitlin Laverdiere

Entertainment Editor

Homer's *The Iliad* comes to life in the new epic thriller, *Troy*. The movie is brimming with mad action, endless love, and...ahem...Brad Pitt. It has it all. If you find yourself glued to the TV over blood and guts-this one's for you. If you are more the hopeless romantic, well, you can definitely feel the heat in this one. Or, if

**"I thought it was a good movie, but it wasn't worth the hype"**

—Nathan Coffey, senior

you are the type that just likes a good story, here it is:

W.S. students have flooded the theaters of the DC metro area to check it out for themselves.

"It was hot because Brad Pitt and Orlando Bloom are hot," said sophomore

## 'Shrek 2' steals the spotlight

By Lindsay Burke  
Inside Story Editor

Sequel: the word often brings horrendous thoughts to the minds of many people. Several movies have come out with a follow up to a great original. Unfortunately, these continuations often come out horrible.

By the time a movie is ready for a second, the characters are often overdone, the theme burned out, and the one-liners are no longer original. However, the movie appears anyway, and gets awful ratings and harsh critiques.

In 2001, "the greatest fairy tale never told" appeared on screens everywhere. Shrek stole the light and our hearts as he rescues a beautiful princess. Unexpectedly, though, the princess has a curse on her, and she is actually an ugly ogre, just like Shrek. But they love each other for who they are and not for what they look like and live happily after.

## 'Prisoner of Azkaban' slaughters masterpiece

By Christina Arai

Managing Editor

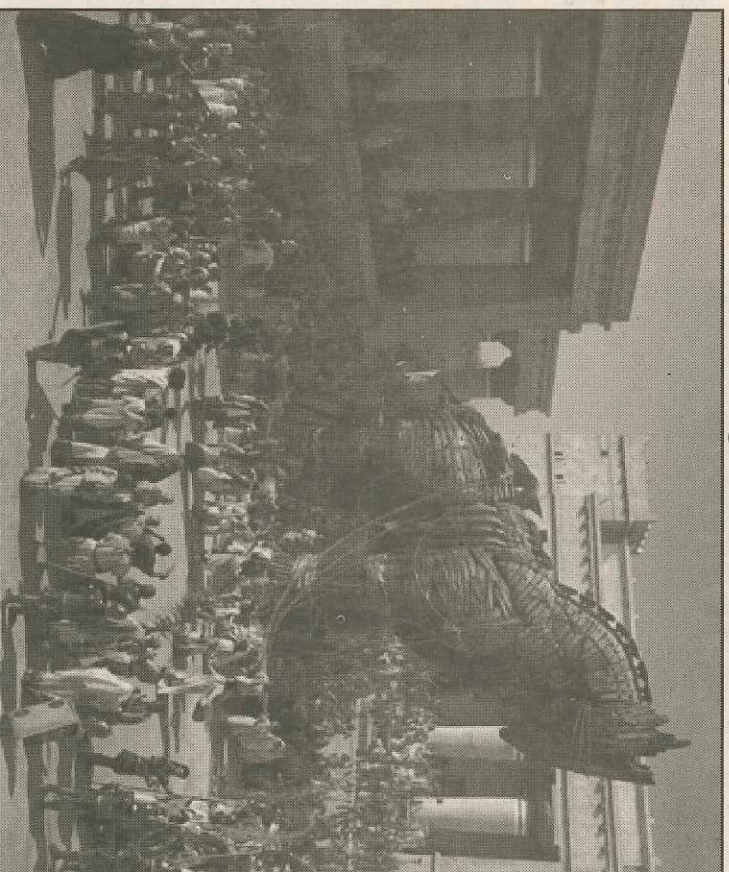
The first question that came to mind after watching "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" was: Did the director even read the novels?, because if so, it was not evident. One more question: Did the director go to film school?

Personally, I'll admit, I have not been to film school, nor have I even taken Film Studies in WS, but any common movie watcher would know the basics of movie making, that is, to say the very least, at least know what viewers want to see. Clearly, this director has lived in isolation for years and has not been exposed to the world for so long that he does not even know that cheesy jokes and corny lines are not welcomed.

The entire movie was not completely incorrect, however. I must give the most genuine kudos to Mr. Alfonso Cuaron, the director of the film, for at least getting a couple of aspects right. For instance, all the character's names were correct and left unchanged...the school's name of Hogwarts was too left the same... Harry lives with his aunt and uncle...there was a prisoner of Azkaban...but that's about it. As you can see, it is much easier to list what is correct and plausible about the book than it is to list what is bad about it. That would take a life time.

As an excuse for the odd new changes the director made, the critics call it a "bold new vision." I, on the other hand, call it a director gone blind.

Cuaron argues that he cut out pointless details in order to make the plot flow faster and smoother. Plot? What Plot? Even if you looked at this movie as only a



Troy hit the screen with a history lesson and excitement.

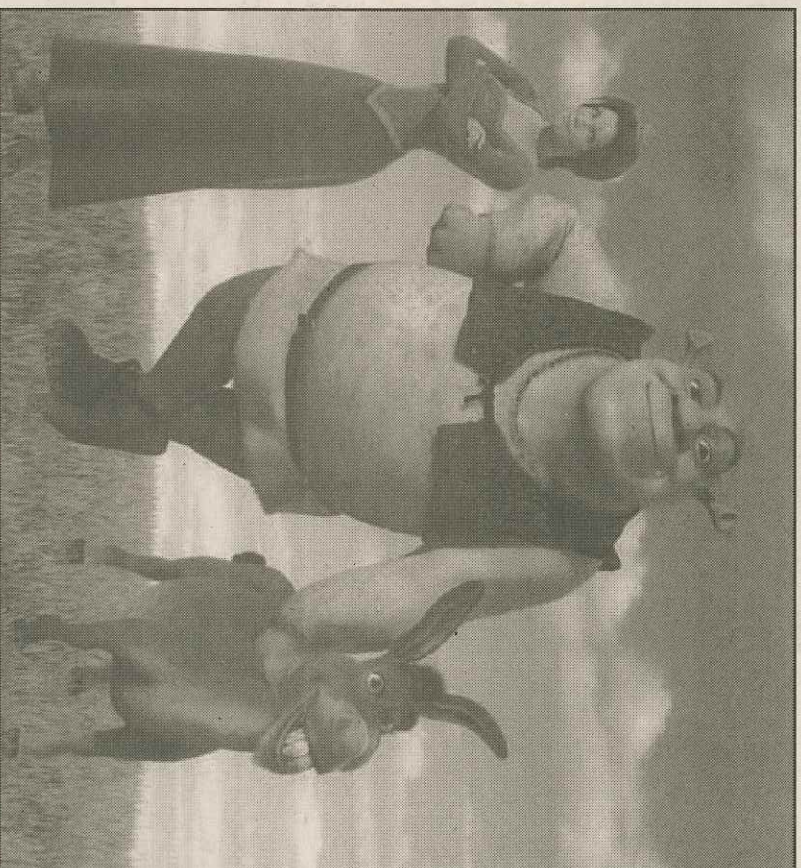
A winning combination of actors such as Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy, and Antonio Banderes, Shrek was a hilarious one-of-a-kind love story. It also had all the Disney characters that we love. It included Pimochio, the gingerbread man, mirror mirror on the wall and Prince Charming. Now, three years later, in 2004, Shrek 2 is introduced to the screen. What's even bigger?

It was brilliant. The characters were as fresh as ever, the theme was witty and expanded, and the one-liners speak for themselves.

Of course, Shrek and Shrek 2 are both winners in the hearts of families across America.

These sweet tales of two ugly creatures capture the strength of love in a new and unusual way.

After all, a fairytale is a fairytale, as long as it ends happily ever after, and trust me, it does... in a way most would never expect.



Shrek 2 opened and was a proved to be a success like the first one.



The new director of "Prisoner of Azkaban" instructs Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter) during a shot on the Hogwarts Express.

film and pretended that it was not based on a book, it would not make sense. Nothing in the movie was resolved, questions were left unanswered. The film ended up consisting of a PowerPoint of choppy clips with no explanation of what was going on. I know of multiple students who never read the books and were therefore unable to follow along and when the movie ended, were left dumbfounded in their seats, unable to comprehend the contents of the movie.

Cuaron made attempts at ridiculous jokes and satire that were just plainly crass and made me personally humiliated for the actors and entire cast. Furthermore, pointless, random shots were added into the movie that had nothing to do

Corey Nickels. "It also had some good fight scenes."

For many it made the classic story of Paris, Helen, Prince Hector, and Achilles come to life. It is a story of a great war fought over love, betrayal, and revenge. However, although the basic story line holds true to myth, the overall movie is far from being accurate. Much of *The Iliad* was twisted and tweaked to give the movie a little more flair.

Aside from the inaccuracies, *Troy* had great special effects and proved to be pretty entertaining. There have been better love-inspired action movies made, but *Troy* is not too far off from the rest.

"I thought it was a good movie, but it wasn't worth the hype," said senior Nathan Coffey. "It wasn't like it was going to be another *Braveheart*."

So, if you were planning on seeing this movie for a quick history lesson, you may want to rethink your plans. But, if you are interested in seeing a good action packed thriller with some renowned actors, look no further. *Troy* is a ticket away.

with the story line. They were simple, sad attempts by Cuaron to add what he called "humor" for the effect of "comic relief", which dismally failed. Those minutes that these random shots took up adds up in the end to valuable time wasted that instead could have been used for adding in one or two of the millions of scenes that he so blatantly left out. Which is funnier: seeing a random blue bird crashing into a Whomping Willow Tree four different times or watching Draco's, Crabbe's, and Goyai's attempt to sabotage Harry by dressing up as a Dementor fail when Harry hurls a patronus charm at him and seeing their priceless, shocked faces?

Not only were humorous and especially favorite scenes cut from the movie, but so were crucial scenes that contained explanations or clues that would set up the later books. Another alternative for using the wasted time might have been to actually explain the Marauder's map or even what actually happened the night Harry's parents died.

In short, this so-called "movie" can be summed up in one word: Dementor. Quite simply, this movie was so atrocious that it sucked all the happiness out of me.

LAUREN M. VANNI

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## Watching the big 'Screen on the Green'

By Libby Bursley

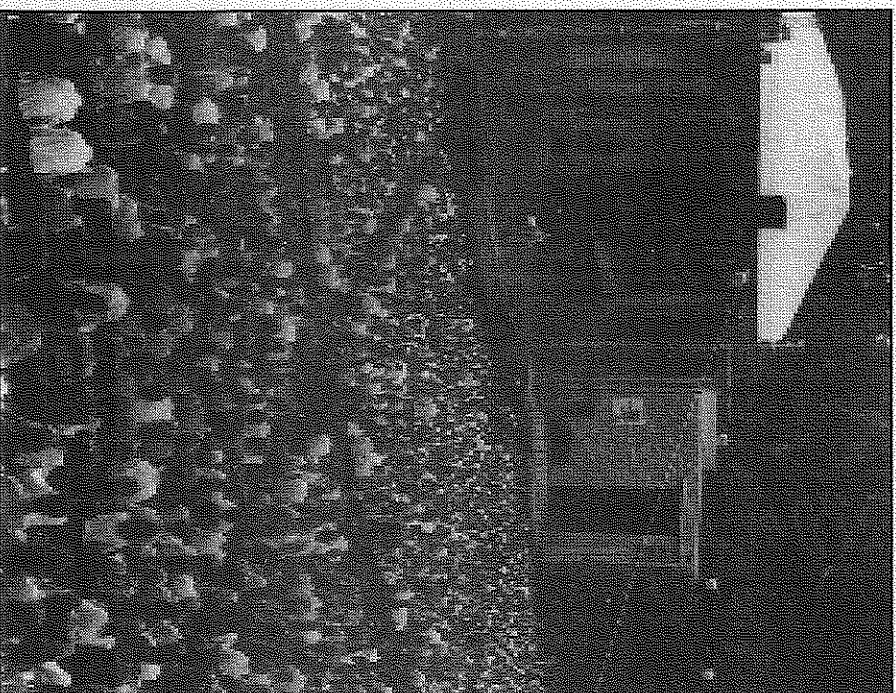
Viewpoint Editor

With only a few days left of the school year, students have already started making their plans for summer vacations. Lying by the pool, countless hours of mindless television and doing anything but schoolwork sounds like heaven to most teenagers.

After the first two weeks of summer, you get tired of sleeping in until noon and lounging around the house all day. So why not head downtown, and take in some real summer entertainment.

From Monday, July 19 to Monday, August 16, a festival of classic movies starts on the National Mall in Washington DC. Now in its sixth year, a huge screen will be showing movies every Monday that include "All the President's Men" (1976), "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" (1941) and "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?" (1962). Though these films may not be the films that come to mind when you think of popular motion pictures, they will entertain with their charm and old-time wit. The tickets are free, a bonus for students that are tight on cash.

The movies start at sunset, but viewers start getting to the Mall as early as 5 pm, so get there with plenty of time to spare before the show starts. If you don't, you



The National Mall in Washington DC will be hosting a festival of classic movies from July 19 to August 16, including "All the President's Men" and "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

might end up sitting hundreds of feet away, with a bunch of folding chairs in front of you. Another tip is to pack smart, with a blanket and bug spray. Don't bring tall chairs to sit on; other people want to watch the movie as well.

Also, once you get your spot and sit down, stay there and settle in. If you do not want anyone to take your spot, stake it out.

The "Screen on the Green"

can cancel its shows in extreme weather, so make sure you pick a day to go when it's a clear and mild night.

If cancelled, the movies will not be shown again, but don't worry. If you miss the movie you were planning on seeing, you can always rent it and have a classic moviefest with your friends.

It would be a good idea for some excitement on one of those hot summer days, when you just can't think of anything to do.

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## William Shakespeare comes alive in DC

*Shakespeare's Theatre performs William's classic plays for free*

By Chrissy Regelski  
Weekend Section Assistant

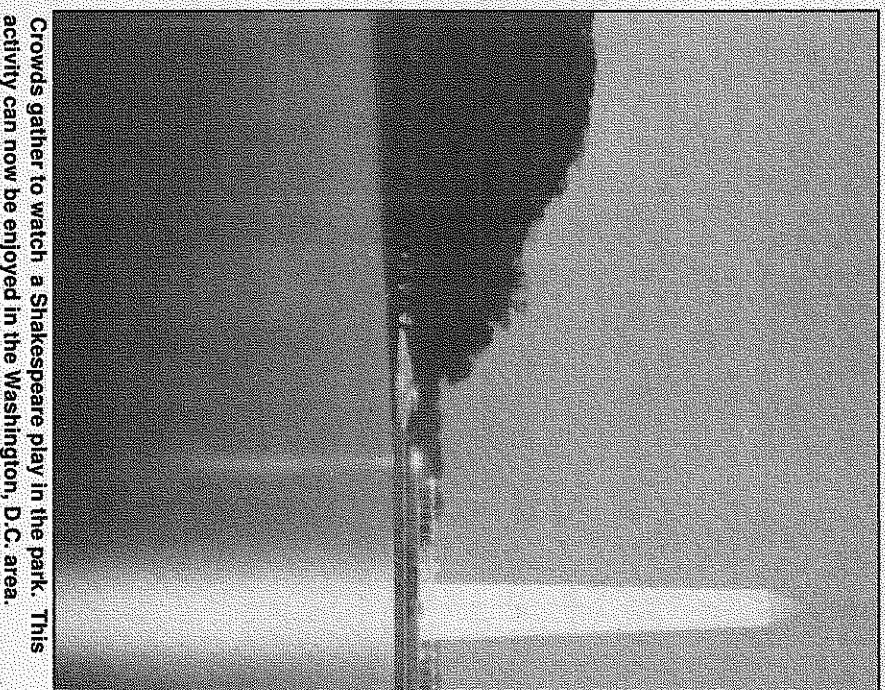
Once summer starts closing in, students try their hardest to stay away from "goths" and "these" as to erase the memories of incessant English lectures and short answer essays. Though Shakespeare is not usually the topic of most conversations and is generally winced at by most, DC's Shakespeare Theater is trying to put literature into a whole new light.

It seems that there is an attempt in our area to prevent our brains from turning to mush after we put down our pencils and escape the confinement of education. Presenting *Much Ado About Nothing*, starring Casey Biggs and Sabrina Le Beauf, the Shakespeare Theater tries to give students a chance to actually enjoy classic language and drama. *Much Ado About Nothing* is a romantic comedy that shatters Hollywood's fantasy of true love and turns it into a twist of lies and humor, all in Shakespeare's intricate speech. Oh, and here's the

good part: it's free. Known as the Theater's Annual Free For All, the show is playing from May 28 to June 6 at the Charter Barron Amphitheater. Gates open at 5:30 pm every night and the drama begins at 7:30 pm. Even though the show does not cost anything, tickets are required for entry. You cannot get tickets in advance unless you are a member of the Friends of Free For All group, but you can get them at varied locations in DC. A full list of places and what times tickets are available are located at The Shakespeare Theater's website: <http://www.shakespearedc.org>.

Over 2,500 people attend The Shakespeare Theater's performances and over 50,000 have gone to the Free for All since its first production in 1991; and not without good reason. Not only are the Theater's shows critically acclaimed in *The Washington Post*, but on TV, including channel 21 and channel 33, by *The New York Times* and by *The Baltimore Sun*.

So, study for your exams and enjoy a night in DC watching the genius work of an dead English guy and the acting of popular, talented performers. Your English teacher would be proud.



Crowds gather to watch a Shakespeare play in the park. This activity can now be enjoyed in the Washington, D.C. area.



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# MLB's Expos may land in Northern Virginia

By Tim O'Keefe

Sports Editor

Over the last few years the Montreal Expos have been in economic turmoil. Moving back and fourth between San Juan and Montreal, Canada, the team craves for a permanent home. That's where Washington DC and Northern Virginia comes in.

Two ownerships have planned to put the Expos right here in Northern Virginia, near the Dulles Airport. They plan to build a huge, state of the art and waterfront ball park. Also, new shopping and recreation areas plan to be built.

The Washington DC area has not had a team since the Washington Senators in 1972. The location interests some students at WS.

"I would go to an Expos games," said junior Kiernan Whitworth. "The location makes all the difference and if the team is within twenty minutes; it's well worth going."

It's obvious that Northern Virginia and the Washington Area are able to support a major league team. The Redskins, Capitals, and Wizards all have been followed and well received.

On top of that, Northern Virginia is one of the most lucrative areas in the country, so northern Virginia financially seems to be growing.

"All the families and businesses are moving to Northern Virginia," said Jerry Burkot on USA.com. "The new ball park is going to be beautiful."

Northern Virginia faces stiff competition locally and around the country. Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos stands firm against any team in the area.

Angelos and the Orioles fear that all the money going to the Orioles will shift to the Washington Area.

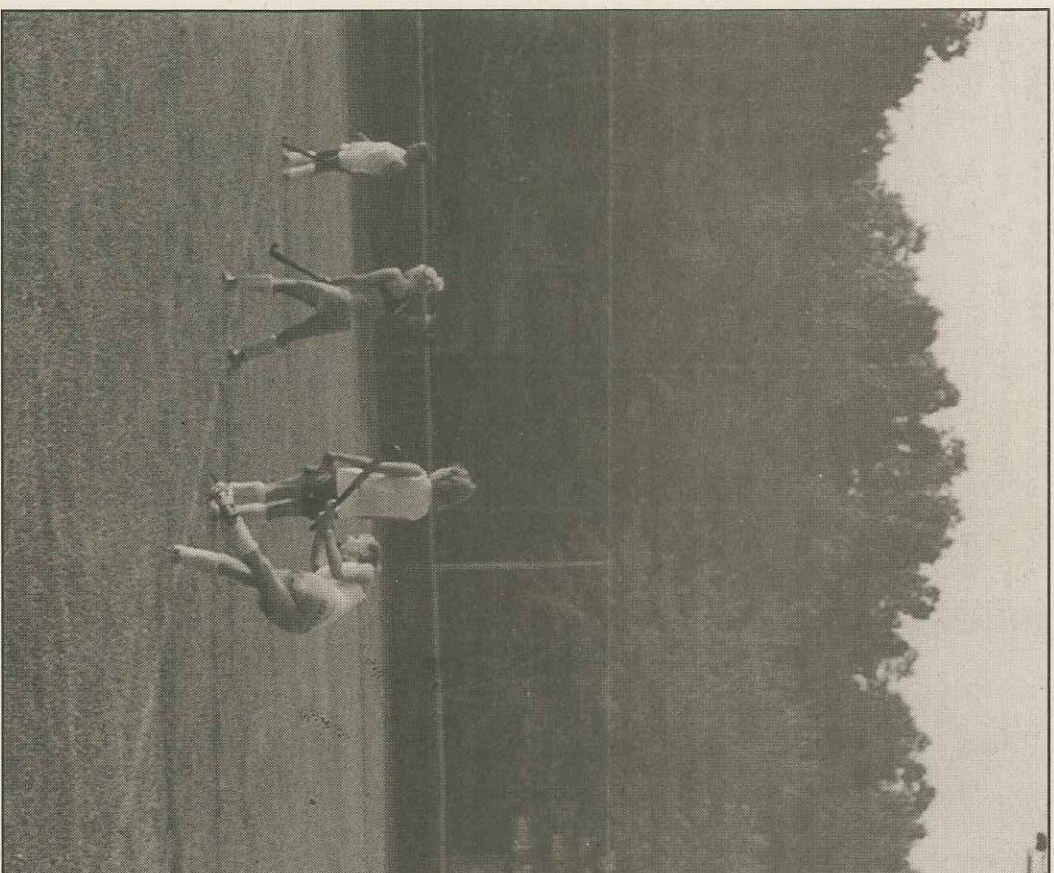
"He is concerned about the viability of the Baltimore Orioles. It's not a Peter Angelos factor. It's a Baltimore Orioles factor," said MLB president/chief operating officer Bob Dupuy in the Kansas City Star. "It's something to take into account as we weigh the value of the competing markets."

Northern Virginia is not the only market bidding for the Expos. Ball parks could be in Las Vegas, Monterrey, Mexico, San Juan, Norfolk and Portland.

If a ball park were to be built, it would not be completed until 2008.

In the mean time, the Expos would play at RFK stadium, much closer to Baltimore.

"It's great to spend an afternoon watching baseball," said Whitworth. "I hope they [Expos] come here."



The girls field hockey teams hosts summer camps to improve skills. *Sarah Draklin*

## Boys soccer progress toward States

By Colin Embrey

Sports Assistant Editor

At the beginning of the spring season, everybody had great expectations for our boys and girls soccer teams.

After a tough season, both teams really showed what they could do and came away with another great season. The girls turned their season around from the beginning, and rose to win the district and go far into regionals.

The boys put together another great season, winning every game up to the district championship.

Coming back from a loss in the finals to Lake Braddock, the boys won the region and cannot wait to move on to states. The girls (13-5-1) improved on last years postseason with an appearance in the region semifinals. They played last Wednesday night against Centerville and came close, losing 3-1. After a hard fought half, the teams were even 1-1 with an awesome

header goal by forward Allison Hobson. Unfortunately, the Wildcats scored twice in the second half.

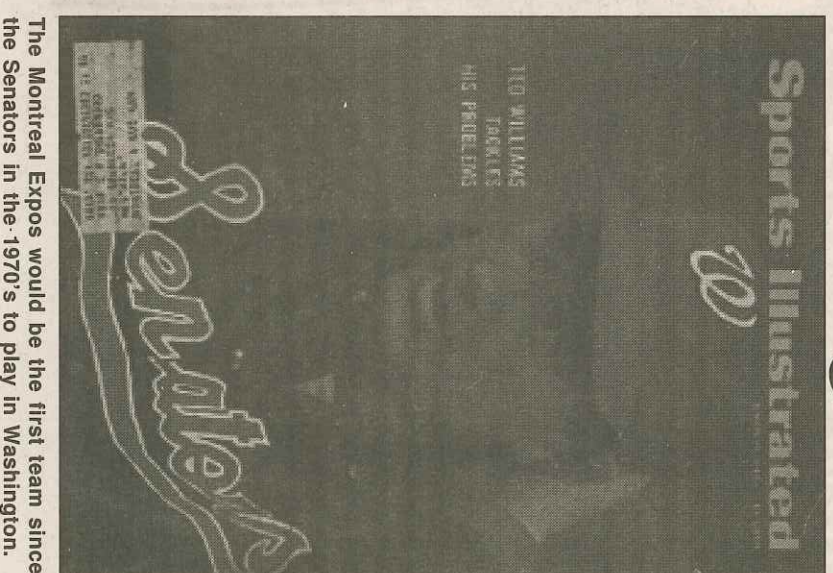
Our lady Spartans fought well and had a great season. Their hard work during the season really paid off.

"We had our struggles in the beginning of the year, but we really blossomed at the end of the year," said junior Megan Taylor. "I think we will be strong next year and fans from all over the school can't wait to see the team next year."

The boys (17-1-0) hope to continue the great season they have going for them in the State tournament. After the tough loss in the district tournament, the boys stepped it up and dominated the region tournament.

"The loss to Lake Braddock was sort of a reality check for us," said senior Nick Wagonhurst. "I think it was kind of good for us."

Overall, both the boys and girls have had outstanding seasons. Making it as far as they have shows the commitment



The Montreal Expos would be the first team since the Senators in the 1970's to play in Washington.

## Summer sports on the rise

By Sunnie Ko

Sports Editor

In simple terms, the Patriot District has always been known to be great. Webster's dictionary defines "great" as "adj: Remarkable or outstanding in magnitude."

This means that athletes at WS have to be on top of their game at all time, in order to defeat the competition.

By working outside of the sports season, prospective athletes have plenty of time to perfect their "A" game. For many athletes, summer is an ideal time to improve on their skills.

Without school work to complete, the athletes can focus mainly on the increasing the level of their abilities.

Also, students can experience one on one attention which can potentially advance their skill level immensely.

"I'm heading up to North Carolina to go to some basketball camps this summer," said sophomore Jessie Mulqueen. "It's great because you get a lot of individual attention you don't usually get in regular practice."

Many athletes like Mulqueen go to camp for individual attention like Mulqueen.

"I'm going to dance camp this summer," said freshman Julie Frost. "It helps so much because it's like going

to school everyday, just instead of math, you dance."

However, camp is not just a place to improve you individual skills; it is also a great experience for teams.

"It's a great opportunity to work with potential teammates," said wrestling coach Gary Embrey.

Also, it's much less stressful environment than regular seasons which help greatly in the amount of acquired skills," said WS wrestling coach Embrey.

Contrary to last year when the Spartan wrestling team traveled to a UVA camp.

The team is hosting a district wide wrestling camp in august which features two time all American Todd Beckerman.

Usually, camp is compacted into a mere week, which means athletes can spend up to five hours a day learning and practicing new skills.

The amount of skills learned at camp can sometimes add up to the total amount of skills learned during the regular season.

It is a great chance to amp up your game a great amount.

Because of the hard work and dedication of the athletes, we can expect a step up in next years sports seasons. Next year spectators can expect yet, another exciting and victorious season.



Senior Mike Davis looks to take the ball away from an opposing player. *Fin Daniels*

to a great program. Other teams in the area know who WS is and expect tough matches.

Now the boys have a chance to win it all. The State playoffs are underway and

"We need to win states," said junior Brian Tweed. "Anything else is a disappointment."

## Hoagie's World

# Exploring the wild world of mayonnaise

Sean Hogan  
ETC. Editor

Mayonnaise is tasty. It is good on burgers, fries, roast beef sandwiches, chicken and waffles. But not only do I like it, sophomore Shaun Henson likes it too, as is evidenced by his bold statement, "I like mayonnaise." Mayonnaise has a unique twist in its flavor that improves the overall taste of any foods or other products that are able to fit inside your mouth. Mayonnaise is a thick, creamy white condiment that tastes good on anything. And Mikey likes it!

Seriously, if you eat it, you will have a massive blocked artery within 1 hour, 42 minutes and 57 seconds. Condiments were meant to be red like ketchup and yellow like mustard. White has already been taken by chopped onions and the inside of bread. Eating mayonnaise is a serious detriment to your health; it's the greatest thing about it!

Unfortunately, it may rot or mold and force you to either hire an expensive contractor to put in drywall or attempt a massive do-it-yourself project in which your father staples his hand to the walk ("Dad, you did it again?!?"). So be careful when painting walls with mayonnaise.



Mayo is nature's candy.

DISCLAIMER: WALLS COVERED IN MAYONNAISE MAY ATTRACT FLIES, OTHER INSECTS, OR EVEN FAT POLITICIANS.

IF YOU DO WISH TO COVER YOUR WALLS WITH THIS SUBSTANCE, MAKE SURE TO PREPARE THE PROPER CLEAN-UP GEAR: A SHOE, A PIECE OF TOILET PAPER, AND A PROPERLY FLUSHING TOILET.

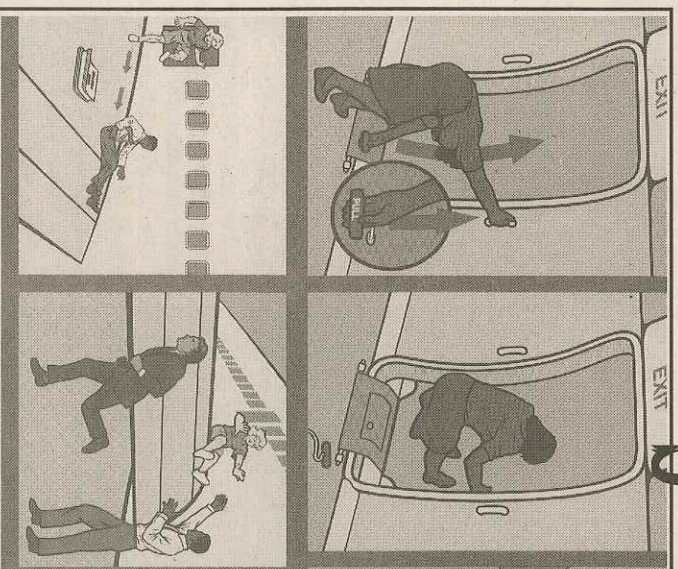
## Factors of insufferable flight

Liz Weiderhold  
Managing Editor

I recently experienced the joys of air travel. Well, not so much "joys" as "agony." But these two flights, to and from Florida, alerted me to many problems in our airline industry including (but not limited to): The Comfort Level vs. The Cost Factor (TCLVTCF), The Open Seating Factor (TOSF) and The Level Of Happiness Of The Captain And The Stewardess', But To Be Politically Correct I Will Refer To Them As FlightAttendantsFactor (TLOHOTCATSBTPCIVW-RTAFAP).

On a level of 1-10, 1 being the same level of comfort as drowning, and 10 being the same level of comfort as having large pieces of duct tape ripped off various parts of your body, I would give air travel a resounding 3. This is generous, considering 3 is the level of comfort of sticking your hand into a garbage disposal. My point is that, considering an alternate use for your seat is a flotation device, flying in a coach class airplane lacks comfort. Additionally, the seats recline only enough to allow blood flow back into the head after the takeoff, wherein your seat must be in the "upright and locked position" or more commonly referred to as "the most uncomfortable position next to being folded in half." If you are too hot, you can turn on a little hole that blasts a sharp, painful stream of reused air at different parts of your head. All these features for only hundreds of dollars, NOT TO MENTION the potential to be groped in public preceding your flight by a complete stranger who is legally SUPPOSED to do that.

I'd like to point out that the "fake" seat belt that the Flight Attendant holds up in between the isles to show the nimrod people, like myself, how to use their remarkably confusing seat belts, is not fake. It is a seat belt extender for people who have "body dimensions that do not comply with those intended



The proper, politically correct way to exit a plane in an emergency.

for the seat." Sitting next to that person is a good sign that you'll have a good flight.

I also enjoy when there is turbulence on a flight. As one of our Flight Attendants announced, "shift happens." My friend, Amy, who was experiencing her first flight, apparently did not hear this comment, and when we were experiencing some "shift," which actually was very chaotic shaking, Amy asked me frantically, "Is this death?"

At this point, I would have replied in a very sarcastic way, but my mind went back to a sign I read as I was boarding the plane.

"All jokes concerning the flight are taken very seriously and criminal charges may ensue."

But, low and behold, I boarded the flight without worry that I might be incarcerated within the next eight

seconds. This particular flight had open-seating. The problem with this is that you could either be next to someone who is literally boring you to death or a 4-year old boy who is screaming about how there is a "MONSTA ON THE WING-OF-THE-PLANE!"

Southwest Airlines is the company I traveled with. And this particular company boasts that it "doesn't serve airplane meals." This does not mean that their food is somehow better than any of the freeze-dried trash you eat on other airlines. They don't serve ANY meals. Period. Not that this is a real tragedy. I got my bag of honey-roasted peanuts, wheat thins, and cup of ginger ale. And for a two-hour flight, this suited me. But I surmised that I might need food if I were on a, say, 14-hour plane ride to Japan.

This is similar to United Airlines new policy of "no frill" flights. This, according to my dad, means that when you get your "gourmet snack mix" that promises you "pretzels, cashews, and peanuts" you get half a cashew. He, quite literally, discovered this was the only form of cashew in the entire snack mix.

I found ways to survive without food. But the flight attendants and the pilot didn't help it much. I may have heard the pilot speak two times the entire flight. To tell us our barometric pressure and altitude. I didn't think that there could have been a better way to waste your breath than to tell a plane full of tired people that our barometric pressure was 101.3 kPas.

The flight attendants were the most superficial people I have met. Even if they were talking about what to do if we were rapidly flying into the ground, they would retain the high-pitched, excited, squirrelly voice, which was characteristic of their job title I'm assuming.

"If there is an emergency you can exit through whatever side is not obstructed with debris, fire, smoke or water. Please place your oxygen mask on yourself first and if the person next to you has been a poor neighbor, steal his. Please do not use any of the exits while the plane is in the air and if you see someone doing so, please feel free to tackle him to the ground. Southwest Airlines wishes you a wonderful flight."

I have discovered that this is impossible because "wonderful" and "flight" are inherent contradictions.

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<b>June</b>						
<b>LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL!!!</b>						
13 National Juggling Day	14 Exams: Pd.1 7:30-9:08 & Pd.3 9:23-10:56-half day	15 Exams: Pd.5 7:30-9:08 & Pd.6 9:23-10:56-half day	16 No school Graduation @ Patriot Center 10:00 am	17 Exam Pd.7 7:30-9:08-get out of school early	18 Last Day of School	11 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> period exam 7:30-9:08 PROM! @ Hilton McLean Tyson Corner
						12 Girls & Boys Lacrosse States Girls & Boys Soccer State Softball States
<b>DONE!</b>						