



The OACJ

May 25, 2005 Volume 41 Number 11
West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

An annual rite of spring

Festival-goers frolic

By Katie Bourget
Managing Editor

Good food, good music, good friends. The Japanese Honor Society provided all this and more at its Spring Festival, and more at its Spring Festival, or "Haru Matsuri."

The festival inaugurated biology teacher Beth Jewell's Japanese garden last year. Jewell and her classes spent last school year creating the garden out of the weeds and clay formerly known as the Science Courtyard.

The Japanese Honor Society wanted to make the celebration an annual event. This celebration ties in well with Japanese tradition. Spring Festivals are common in Japan. There was an abundance of

entertainment at the festival. Many of the activities were similar to those of a carnival. Students dressed up in kimonos and some even acted out Japanese fighting styles.

Japanese teacher Adam Podell enjoyed being "pied" in the face by giggling students. "It was disgusting," Podell said. "I stayed in my hair and every time I would move my head I'd get a whiff of it."

There was also "tanzaku," in which participants wrote down wishes for the upcoming year on slips of colored paper and tied them to a tree. Students crafted Origami shapes and figures, and the waiting line was long for the traditional Japanese pastime.

The festival featured food in large quantities. A variety of Asian dishes, such as pork rolls and kim bop, satisfied hungry festival-goers.

"It was stressful to organize, but in the end it was worth it," said senior John Bajacan, who was in charge of the event.

The Supreme Quartet, featuring juniors Tommy Beekman, Dean Christesen, David Eargle, and Court Eccles, and senior Jared Bookbinder, played in the garden for entertainment. A few of Podell's students also performed a song in Korean because they were not able to learn it entirely in Japanese in time.

Profits from the festival will be used to purchase cords for



Liz Buchhaeiser
Students dressed in kimonos and acted out Japanese fighting styles at the festival, which featured food, crafts and music.

Japanese Honor Society students considers the festival seniors. Podell plans on having the event again next year to potentially fund a scholarship for a worthy senior.

Most importantly, the and old members come together for a worthy senior. Japanese Honor society as a society," Bajacan said.

Parent pursues political passion in delegate race

By Katie Costello
Features Editor

With the retirement of our State Delegate, Jim Dillard, Republican candidate and WS parent, Bill Finerfrock has decided to compete for the open position, against Michael J. Golden and David Marsden.

Father of Dan Finerfrock, Bill Finerfrock is running for delegate in the upcoming elections. This job is more than just a title.

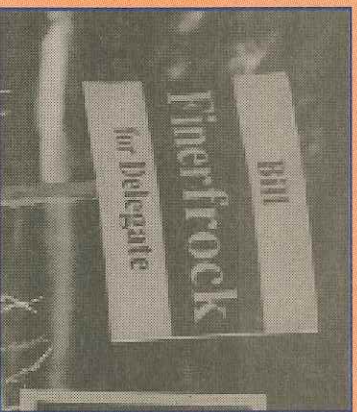
"He will be part of the state legislature and will be making laws," said Dan. As delegate, Bill Finerfrock wants to lower taxes and provide a tax credit to couples planning to adopt. He also wants to make sure teachers have adequate resources to teach, and provide a safe learning environment.

Finerfrock's father has proven that he is dedicated to his work by being politically active for years.

"He ran once before when I was five and he's a lobbyist now," said Finerfrock. "My father's always been in politics."

If Bill Finerfrock does win the position of delegate, things will be different for the Finerfrock family. Dan, however, says things will not change too drastically.

"Some things will be different. There will be meetings, lots of stuff. He'll have to move to Richmond for awhile, but



Brookie Nelson

Signs posted along Rolling Road advertise the candidacy of a WS parent. I'll be in college."

Finerfrock is proud of his dad's accomplishments, yet Bill Finerfrock's passion for politics has not seemed to rub off on his son.

"It hasn't discouraged me from politics," said Finerfrock. "I'm just not interested. It's not really my thing."

Finerfrock has been doing extra things to help out with his father's campaign.

"I've gotten stickers and signs," said Finerfrock. "I gave bumper stickers to my friends to put on their cars."

The bumper stickers have also found their way onto students' lockers.

The election will be held on June 14th. Finerfrock is completely supportive of his dad and wishes him the best in the election.

"I hope he wins," said Finerfrock.

2 alarms + glitches

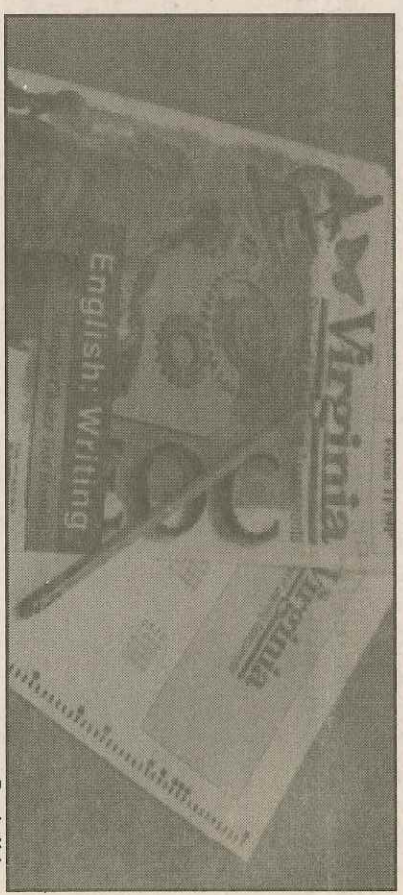
= no fun on first day

By Joley Sullivan
Senior Staff Writer

The English reading comprehension SOL test was recently given online for the first time, but as beneficial as technology is, it comes with drawbacks as well. Unfortunately, the testing this year had a bumpy start.

"The test is stored on a computer in the building and the computer is supposed to be left on, but over the weekend its connection to the network was knocked out," said technology specialist Jerry Mason.

The usually slow school network has trouble handling large volumes of traffic and combined with the connectivity issue, the computers ran exceptionally slowly and frequently crashed. Students all over Virginia are also trying to access



Brookie Nelson

Computer malfunctions, disruptions caused students to yearn for the old days.

the same website, which causes an abnormal influx of visitors slowing the SOL's testing site as well.

"I had to log-in more than once before it would work," said junior Kate Maginn. "[The website] would load and then freeze. I think it was hard on the rest of the class too even if they didn't have computer problems because they had to wait for us."

The point of putting the tests online is mainly the speed in which the results come back, which also allows retesting to happen faster if the need should arise.

"Eventually they want to do all the [SOL] tests online," said Mason. "This year they did four and next year they'll do more except for the writing test." Aside from technological difficulties,

See SOLs on Page 6.



Welcome to the family.



Don't pluralize T. Mac!



Calling all gyros.

Regulations no longer rule

Pass and other requirements not enforced now

There is no point in beating around the bush: Sometimes, school rules and regulations can be considered a mere idea.

Spring has come, and the school year is almost over. As the months have passed, so has the administration's inclination to enforce some of their newer edicts. This is especially true in three major areas: what we wear, where we go and what we do after school.

Rule number one is a rule that has always been around: the dress code. The Student's Responsibilities and Rights book lists the acceptable clothing for school. The rules state that the Big Three—breasts, butts and bellies—should be adequately covered at all times.

Guidelines for dress are put into effect not to control students' minds but to be respectful of others. If a girl or boy finds great pride in his or her body, that does not mean that the rest of the school wants to see body parts that they do not want to see.

Our hallways, though, are filled with boys who have pants down to their knees and girls who have breasts and butts popping out of their just too tight clothing. These inappropriately clad students often prance right by administrators, with nary a second glance. Yet, on occasion, the adult on duty in the hall will then turn around and yell at a girl because two centimeters of her stomach happens to be showing at the moment.

Something has gone awry. The wrong student is often victimized. The administrators need to learn the difference between what is appropriate and inappropriate.

When a boy's pants are so low he can't do anything but shuffle down the hall, then he is clearly breaking

the rules. But when a girl raises her arm to retrieve

something from her locker and her blouse goes up slightly, is she considered a flagrant dress-code felon?

Another example of mixed messages is a new rule created this year to control the rowdy students wandering the halls. A bright, blinding orange chart with columns entitled, "Name," "Destination," "Time Out," and "Time In," can be found in every room. To accompany these sheets are bright orange hall passes.

We learned in September that all teachers and students must abide by the hall pass policy; students may only be let out a certain number of times per week, they must have the hall pass

with them at all times outside of the classroom and all sheets must be collected at the end of every week so that the administrators can make sure students and teachers are following the rules.

The second issue of this year's *Oracle*, which reached student hands in late September, showed how quickly this rule faded. Students now aimlessly wander the halls with nothing in their hands if they so please, and they can probably count on one hand how many times they have been stopped.

Thankfully, students are responsible and are rarely up to dangerous acts, so this new rule is not necessary, but if the administration felt it important enough to make a whole new set of procedures on the matter, one would think that the administration could keep up with the such a simple task of checking hall passes.

That leads us to recent Cafeteria Confinement. Last November, the administration decided that if students wanted to stay after school, they should be



Katie Costello
This doll models styles that have been seen around our school. Is she in violation of the dress code?

under direct supervision of a teacher; otherwise, students were sent to wait in the cafeteria until claimed.

This rule may have been dropped faster than the hall pass scheme. The only times students have been found in the cafeteria after school have been for AP tests, after-school activities, or to visit the Activities Office. Occasionally, an administrator will walk up to a student and interrogate him on his agenda and purpose, but only occasionally.

The point is that if there is no need for the rule, eliminate it. But, once a rule is in place, it should be evenly enforced.

Cleaning allows us to polish up for college

By Chrissy Regelski
Weekend Assistant

Every kid has heard the words "I'm not your maid" from his mother at least once, if not every day, in his lifetime. Sure, we roll our eyes but deep inside we know that she is right. Unless we plan to take our parents with us to college, knowing how to do chores is an essential skill.

Teens today can figure out how to perform the complex, multiple button jump-turn-sidekick-flip Matrix moves on

their X-Boxes but have trouble understanding the dump-pour-push method of laundry. While now laundry

magically gets done when we put it in the hamper or in piles on our bedroom floor, these tactics won't work in our parent-less, closet-sized dorm room.

Sure, our rooms probably won't be examined by MTV's "Room Raiders," but doing laundry will save our friends from our unpleasant smell and prevent our undergarments from turning pink.

Unless we want a re-enactment of "Super Size Me," teens need to learn

While now laundry magically gets done when we put it in the hamper or in piles on our bedroom floor, these tactics won't work in our dorm rooms.

that there are other ways of eating besides ordering at fast food windows. Preparing simple meals now and then won't kill us and, if they do, we know we

need more practice.

Amazingly, shelves and drawers do have a purpose.

Make it a habit to take five extra seconds to hang up a shirt or put away your bathroom supplies so, when you go to college, you can expect your roommate to do the same.

If we don't start trying to take some responsibility now, then no one is going to be there to do our laundry later. True independence from parents is not driving or moving out of the house but instead learning how to take care of ourselves.



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A student-run publication to inform and entertain the students and staff of West Springfield High School and the Springfield community. We publish articles written with as little reporter bias as possible. Opinion is expressed in Viewpoint, Inside Story, ETC., and in reviews and columns. Editorials represent the opinion of at least two-thirds of the staff and do not reflect the views of the adviser, the administration, or the Fairfax County Public School System. The Oracle reserves the right to reject advertising deemed inappropriate. Signed letters to the editor and personal commentary will be considered for publication, but could be edited for grammar, spelling and space.

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Colossal college correspondence

Paper chase is a paper waste

By Katie Bourget
Managing Editor

I never imagined I would need to bring a wheelbarrow to the mailbox to carry all my mail. Three years ago, I felt rejected by the mailman, now I feel like he is stalking me.

Each and every day, colleges bombard me with generic letters and glossy magazines begging me to go to their school. In general, it is nice to feel wanted, but in this case, I feel harassed.

As a junior an average of seven letters or pamphlets have found their way to my mailbox every day since I took the PSATs in October. I now consider myself a connoisseur of college letters and am willing to share my knowledge with fellow college-bound juniors and undergrads alike.

Analysis of letters from college should begin the instant you spy the envelope. If the return address of the university is

not boldly printed in the traditional left corner, or at the very least on the back flap, beware. Chances are this letter is from the University of Timbuktu and the campus is light-years away from any trace of civilization.

Generally, Midwestern colleges favor this technique and wait to tell you the school hidden somewhere in North Dakota until after you are impressed by their Dean of Admissions' eloquence. If your preference is to attend a school in a populated place, watch out for location evaders who hide their addresses.

Besides trying to fool us by omitting important details, admissions officers use visual subterfuge. Nearly every brochure from prospective colleges includes a familiar cast of characters. I assume these archetypal students (or maybe they're not students at all, but really actors) are chosen to make the school appear diverse and eccentric. There is always a boy with long hair



Sarah Shiedha Williams looks through a college brochure she received in the mail.

who looks like he is ready to join the peace corps, the girl with jewel-colored hair and a nose ring, an interracial couple of some persuasion, and a professor with thick, plastic-frame glasses.

I have nothing against any of these people. I just disagree with colleges exploiting them for their stereotypical value.

My last major issue with the influx of college letters is monetary. I fail to grasp why a college would waste 37 cents a million times when it could instead give one of its deserving students financial aid that might save them from massive debt later in life.

Every envelope I tear open and toss into the trash makes me feel guilty. I am wasting the postal service's time, precious trees, and my own time which I probably should have spent doing AP homework.

If colleges feel the need to expose students to all the fabulous possibilities their school has to offer, e-mail would be a great medium. I dislike full e-mail boxes as well, but at least it is free, noninvasive and I can delete it with a quick click.

Announcements lack flair

New look suffers from low-tech handicap

By Christian Romeo
Senior Staff Writer

Television can be educational and informative, as well as entertaining. It can also, like our televised Friday morning announcements, make people want to jam pencils in their eyes.

The televised announcements began with the good intention of spicing up the announcements, heretofore more easily ignored, by engaging people visually. Sadly, the results have been less than visually stunning, though very educational. During these morning announcements I have learned not only that the school store, shockingly enough, sells school supplies, but also that the person shooting the film has very poor video production skills and that our SGA officers have no idea what to do with themselves when speaking, silent, or anytime on camera.

I have been blessed and cursed this year with two first-block classes that either do not possess a TV, or have a set that capriciously allows us sometimes to watch and sometimes petulantly refuses to cooperate, all ensuring that I and my classmates are kept blissfully ignorant of all that awaited us on film. The few times I have been so enlightened have assured me I am not missing much.

As with any cloud, there is a silver lining. For example, televising the announcements takes up much



After-school violence tapes on a new look.

Death of diverse options leads to Hillside brawls

By Colin Embrey
Sports Assistant

While sports teams practice, honor societies better the community and musicians play symphonies, other students choose to spend their after-school hours fighting.

This stems from our school's morality declining drastically to an almost barbaric level. We enjoy fighting. We like the intensity, brute strength, and the simple thrill of watching two people duke it out.

One technological addition to this violent tendency is that the students can now tape their brawl so they can watch it again and again and again. Maybe it turns them on, maybe it's the competitive nature of the thing or maybe it's just that they don't have anything better to do.

To a certain extent, this is the school's fault. These fights, which normally occur on Hillside Road directly after school, are a result of lack of involvement in school-related activities. Sports teams choose players and reject the rest, honor societies only let the top achievers participate and if your musical abilities are limited to the recorder, partaking in a music class is also out of the question.

This doesn't mean we need to have school-sponsored fights. (Even though, back in the day, the PE teachers used to give the two people who wanted to fight boxing gloves and let them knock each other around a bit). Instead of inadvertently promoting fights, we should offer better clubs, less competitive sports teams and require that all people participate in an activity after school. TJ has adopted this idea and you don't hear about those people having fights and then taping them on their TI-185 or whatever.

As the school forgets about its students, the students forget about the school. Rules are below them and they tend to believe they are immortal. This is why students street race and this is why fights are occurring for *no good reason*. So WS, bring back the students, and treat them as people.

Harvard vs. a happy life

By Liz Weidertold
Managing Editor

It's only high school. High-achievers shouldn't spend innumerable hours memorizing textbooks. A 4.3 student shouldn't care if he is rejected by Harvard. Seven letters on sheet of paper shouldn't dictate an entire life.

The intrinsic problem that lies dormant in the mind of a high-achiever awakens when there is the slightest aggravation to the seamless and meticulously arranged plan to *never fail*. This would be called a B+. This is because by the sick nature of that over-achiever's brain, failing is any blemish in the uniformity of the report card. When a B+ happens (or even, *gasp*, a B), the high-achiever sees the one mark against him that could mean rejection from Yale, Columbia, U-bloody-VA.

That's how the sickness starts. Then it festers and congeals into a swollen infection. Now that same over-achiever has to get not a 94 percent A, but a 99 percent A because otherwise he might not do well on the final exam and this would average it out. Everything is awarded points and numbers constantly run through this person's mind with the thought of *what if*. This means that, to a high-achiever, one test could mean

more time than announcements on the PA system, guaranteeing to waste more time, which has the result of less classwork. This is excellent when there is a test, quiz, or exam that was somehow forgotten and now needs to be frantically crammed for.

Also, the announcements provide a new and refreshing form of amusement. My first-period class has greatly enjoyed the actions of the SGA officers when they think the camera is off as well as the periods when the camera is running, the people are talking, but not a sound can be heard.

The quality, or lack, of the announcements cannot even be blamed on a shortage of individuals with videography skills. I know of several students who have created movies worthy of awards and million-dollar contracts, but for some reason the SGA, the supposed bridge between the student body and the class governments, has not sought anyone out and settled instead for the substandard performance witnessed every week. The result is a show that makes something as brainless as the "Teletubbies" seem like "Meet the Press."

It is unfortunate that the televised announcements, which have so much potential, should be doomed to exist in such a deplorable state because of bad management. But until the announcements come nearer to achieving this potential, keep the freshly sharpened #2's close by.

the difference between UVA and somewhere where the admissions people actually accept students.

Here's the good news: People don't need UVA in order to lead successful lives. Moreover, they will probably live a better life because they are not faced with the soporific competition that follows the high-achievers into UVA. The bad news is that a high-achiever can't understand that.

A few, special students get straight As because they like to work. My hat is off to you. The fact is that most of us get straight As because we are obsessed. We need to feel OK about ourselves. It is quantitative evidence that we aren't as stupid as we feel.

The school system, unfortunately, stresses that all of us be high-achievers. Students are pressured into taking four...five...six AP classes senior year, get their names on that wall in the desolate main office hallway, or worst of all, get to say an eight-second quote at graduation as "Valedictorian."

If high-achievers were a little smarter, we would see that we have absolutely no balance in our lives. College is not the end goal. It is only a means of achieving it. We are still legally children, so why don't we stop trying to grow up so fast by working 12-hour days. It's only high school; let's keep it that way.

Extended day proposal shelved

By Caitlin Laverdiere
Entertainment Editor

Sleeping in and beginning school at 9:20 a.m. has been recently considered as an option for a limited number of seniors next year interested in staying after school to take their English 12 or US/VA Government class.

The administration, however, has decided to shelve the idea of adding an eighth and possibly a ninth period to the school day, and allowing some students to start school later in the day.

"For a variety of reasons, we will not be proceeding with the eighth and ninth period proposal," Principal David Smith said in a recent e-mail to the staff. "It was generally viewed as a good idea but the timing is bad for several reasons. I would not be surprised if it did fly sometime in the future. Stay tuned."

If the proposal had gone into effect, the new classes would be conducted in the same manner as regular classes held during school hours and would follow the block scheduling system of having a 90-minute class period every other day. The eighth-period English and US/VA Government classes would have been on different days, or they may be held at the same time.

"It was generally viewed as a good idea but the timing is bad for several reasons. I would not be surprised if it did fly sometime in the future. Stay tuned."

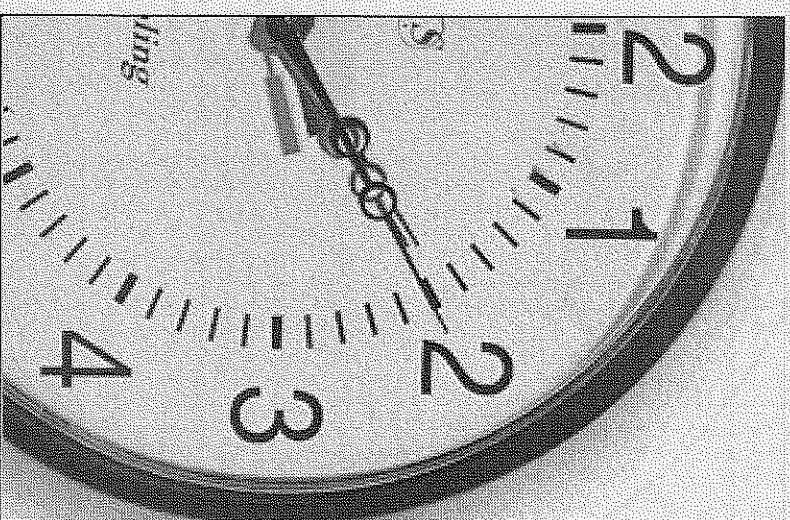
—Dr. David Smith,

Principal

"On those days they would start with third- or fourth-period class," said Dr. Smith earlier last week. Then students would stay late for eighth period.

There are currently other eighth period classes at WS, predominantly in the music department. Adding English 12 and US/VA Government as eighth period classes would offer some flexibility in the morning schedules of those few rising seniors who would not have conflicting commitments directly after school for the duration of the year.

"I don't necessarily think it will work," said junior Chelsea Weaver. "But it's a good alternative for people who like to sleep in late and don't mind staying at school late."



Snapline: Schedule changes were considered to make the usual 2:10 dismissal a thing of the past.

WS still boasts high graduation rate

By Lindsay Smith
Senior Staff Writer

While national high school dropout rates remain high, WS seems to be holding its own, sending more than 90 percent of its graduates last year to college.

Every year, the number of seniors graduating from WS is less than the number of seniors entering their final year of high school the previous fall.

Though some seniors move, and some fail their senior year, a few also drop out of high school before they graduate.

But WS's Class of 2004 sent 95.1 percent of its senior class on to a post-secondary education. About 73 percent of that class went on to attend a four-year college or university.

"Our school does not have a high dropout rate at all. We have both a high graduation rate and retention rate," said Director of Student Services Beth Cohen.

Each year, however, there are some cases in which students do not complete their senior year. The Class of 2005 lost

"Our school does not have a high dropout rate at all. We have both a high graduation rate and retention rate."

—Beth Cohen,
Director

of Student Services

quite a few seniors this year, according to government teacher John McMenamin.

"We were over 500 [seniors at the beginning of the school year] and now we're at 475," McMenamin said.

Students who are struggling through high school are not left alone, however. Teachers and guidance counselors say they do all they can to help students succeed and to make sure that they walk across the stage at the Patriot Centre in June.

"If we see a student who is struggling in a traditional setting we expose them to every other alternative situation they

can have so they can succeed," Cohen said.

Over the last decade, up to a half-million 10th- through 12th-graders drop out of school each year nationwide, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Most of those students were between the ages of 15 and 18.

WS's pride in a high graduation rate is reflected in its student body. "I think students should continue to stay in school," said senior Sarah Tak. "They need to think about their future, their life. They'll miss out on all the great opportunities that will be opened to them."

While dropping out of high school may cross a student's mind as the load of assignments mounts and the pressures of senior year unfold, most WS seniors seem content to stick with it, and see everything through to the end.

"I wouldn't drop out of high school anyway," said senior Laura Haskins, who will attend Virginia Tech in the fall. "But mainly I stay in school because of fear of my parents."

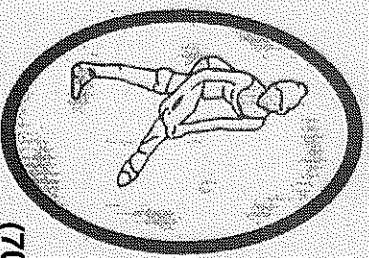


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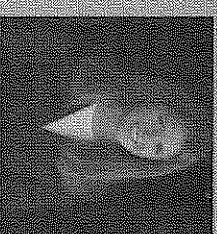
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News Bites

- Congratulations to senior Karla Sakas and junior Jack Powers, finalists in the Shakespeare Theatre's amateur playwriting contest. Each has a chance to have his play produced professionally.
- 690 students earned their spots on the Third Quarter Honor Roll.
- History teacher Ron Maggiano received one of 40 Disney/Land Teacher Awards nationwide in 2005. This prize includes a \$5,000 award to the school that Maggiano chooses how to spend.
- The Giant Food Bonus Bucks Program for WS raised \$7,498.62 and finished 5th among DC metro area schools.
- The WS Forensics team did well at the State Championship Meet.



ELIZABETH COLE

Senior Elizabeth Cole is the state champion in Impromptu Speaking.

36 Latin students earned honors through the National Latin Exam this year, with first place finishes

by Kavika DiWari, Geoffrey Summers, Byong Ha Kang, and Anam Ahmad

Colin Edwards, Gerrit Van Gilst, and Erik White qualified for the finals of a nationwide rocket contest. Out of 712 teams and 10 thousand students, these students

have a chance to be in the top 10 and win a share of \$60,000 in savings and cash. Brian Skoog is also an alternate in the contest.

Yearbooks are on sale in Room 215 after school until June 1.

—Compiled
by Collin Embrey

Here a car, there a car...

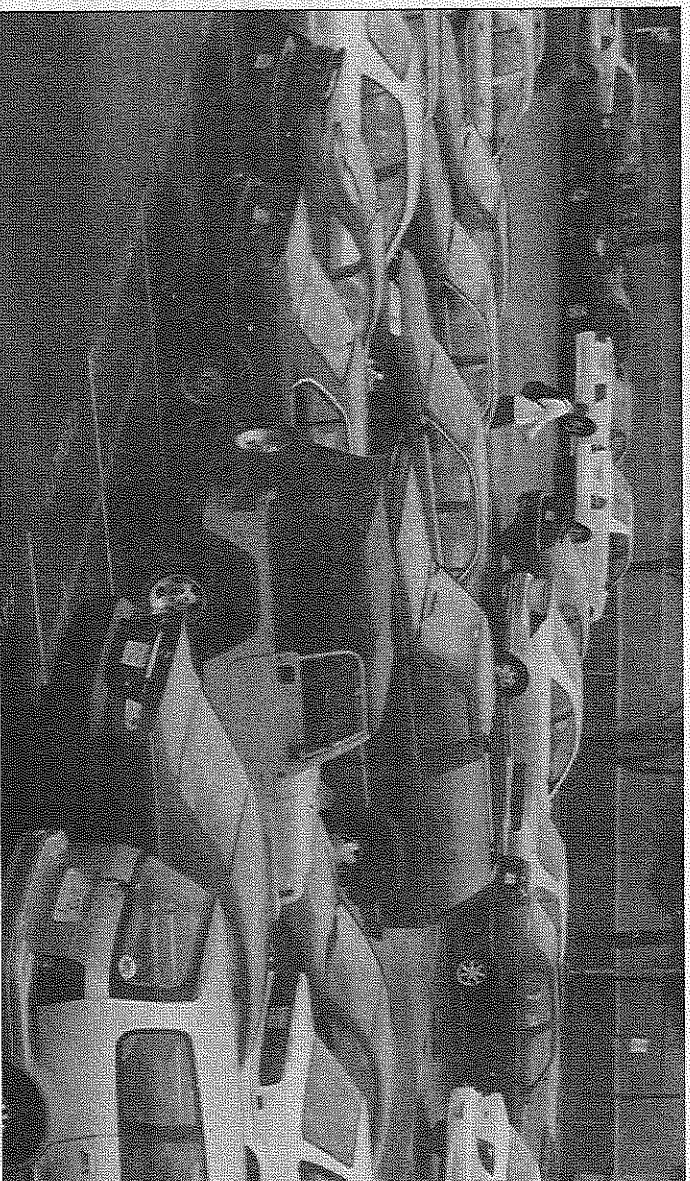
By Joley Sullivan

Senior Staff Writer

Students arrive on school grounds by different means every morning: from bikes or buses, parental drop-offs or even old-fashioned ambulation. Once students get their driver's licenses, however, they cruise to school in style, or lack thereof.

"I drive a 1996 red Corolla that my friends and I call the Red Dragon," said senior John Keeran. "The inside is literally a trashcan; if I have a wrapper or empty water bottle I'll just throw it on the ground."

At one point, old cars were synonymous with teenagers, but now parents have begun to buy their fledgling drivers brand new cars. Interestingly, the car safety gurus at *Consumer Reports* believe this to be the best route to take for new drivers. In the April 2004 issue, they state, "the older the vehicle, the less likely it will come equipped with important safety options." CR continues by saying that if buying a used car to "look for those that have an antilock braking system, traction control, stability control, front and side air bags, and safety-belt pretensioners." CR also recommends several models that fared well in their tests for teenage drivers: the Honda Accord, Subaru Forester, Volkswagen Passat, Honda Civic and the Toyota Camry.



Oracle File Photo

WS plays host to an array of different people, and the variety of cars they drive is appropriately diverse. Just because the experts agree one way, however does not mean they are right nor does it mean students will follow their advice.

"I like my car because it's fun to drive since I'm in control and computer aids like traction control and power steering aren't," said junior Ian Trumbore owner of a Mazda RX-7.

Other students enjoy the more luxurious approach and spring for all the modifications they can afford.

"I have new intake and exhaust, colovers to lower it, new rims, a new sound system and a DVD head unit," said senior Sean Lampley of his black Acura

Silver boxes invade classrooms

By Katie Bourget

Managing Editor

Big Brother is not watching you through the silver boxes in the front of classrooms. Instead, the digital devices called wireless access points (WAPs) will make WS more equipped for wireless laptop use.

Starting at the beginning of May, the WAPs were installed in alternating classrooms to create a parallel networking system so every inch of the building is cover with some kind of wireless signal.

"They're adding more bandwidth," said technology specialist Jerry Mason.

"It's like opening more channels of a river."

Each WAP can provide signal for about twenty computers. The decision to install was made by the FCPS Department of Technology and WS is the first completely wireless high school in the pyramid.

Eventually, it is possible that desktops will be completely replaced by laptops. While the transition depends on the FCPS budget, WS is technologically prepared.

"They send out wireless signals, just the same as people have at home," said Mason. "It's just a higher quality."

The signal applies to anything wireless like a Blackberry or other PDA device.

Unfortunately for owners of the latest personal video game system, the PlayStation PCP, the county foresaw gamers potential use of the WAPs' signal and disabled the ability to access the network from a PCP.

For laptop users however, the WAPs will improve the schools wireless signal. Even after teachers have reassured their students that the WAPs are wireless transmitters and not a camera, some students are still suspicious of the silver boxes with the flashing green lights

On opening day, online SOLs prove problematic

SOLs, from Page 1

a fire alarm problem presented other difficulties.

"It was a malfunction in the detector itself," said assistant principal Richard Griffin, who is in charge of the English Department.

"After it went off the second time we

took it down. I was sorry that it happened but everyone handled it well."

Contrary to the rumors floating around, had it gone off a third time, or even fourth, students would not have been allowed to leave the building.

Students engaged in SOL testing at both times when the alarm went off were instructed not to talk, but the second

alarm basically invalidated the test.

Thirty-two of the students testing that day will have to take makeup SOLs because of the problem.

Despite the issues that arose, those in charge say the online testing proceeded, and there were no further major difficulties.

"I was shocked at how great it was,"

said English Department Chair and test proctor Mary Moriarty. "It was so smooth other than that little glitch."

Others do not share her sentiments and object to online testing.

"They should go back to pencil and paper SOLs," said junior Will Heine. "More technology [means] more problems."

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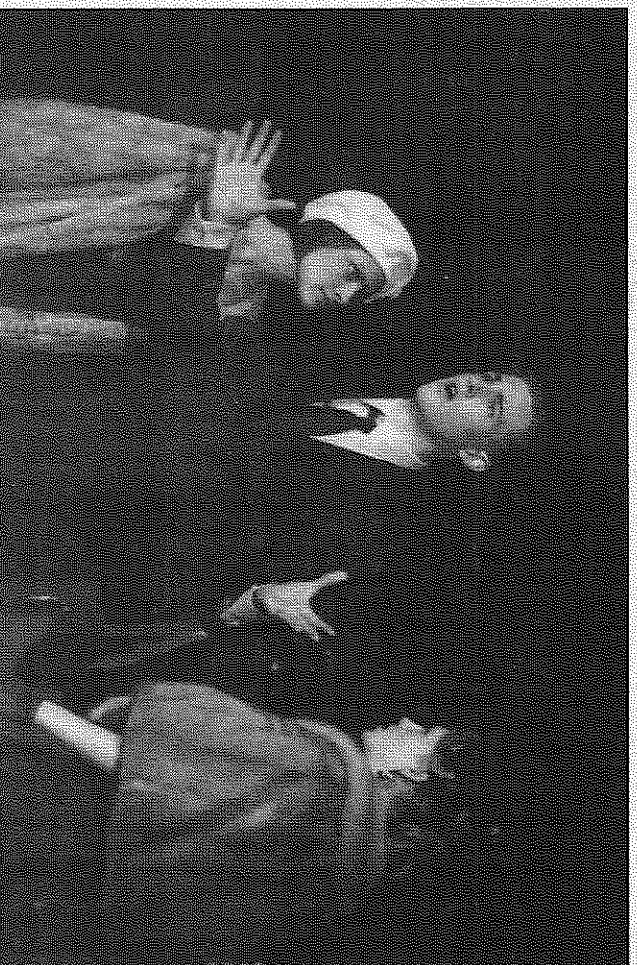




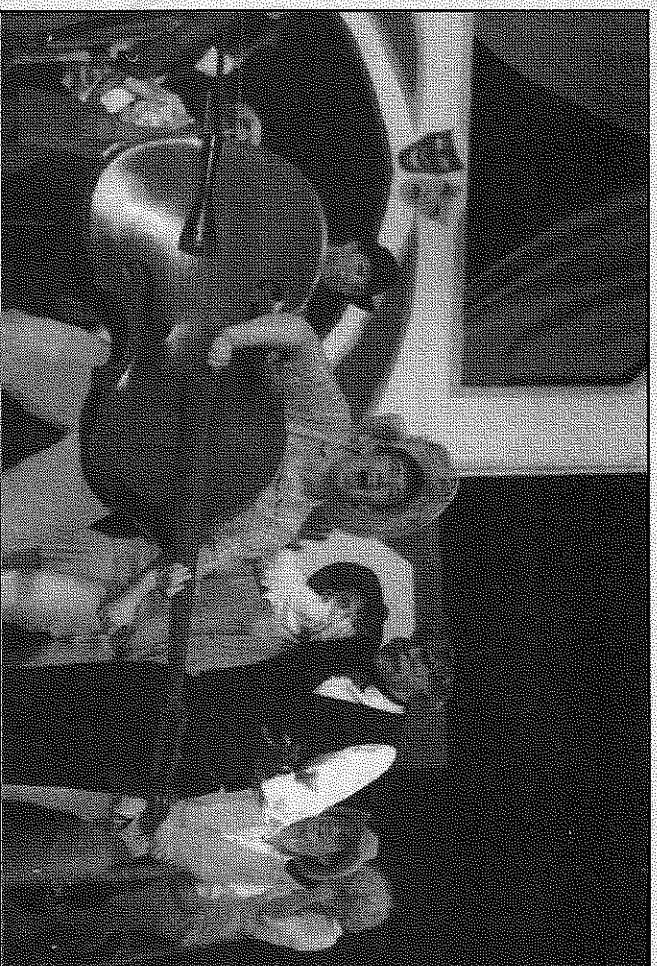
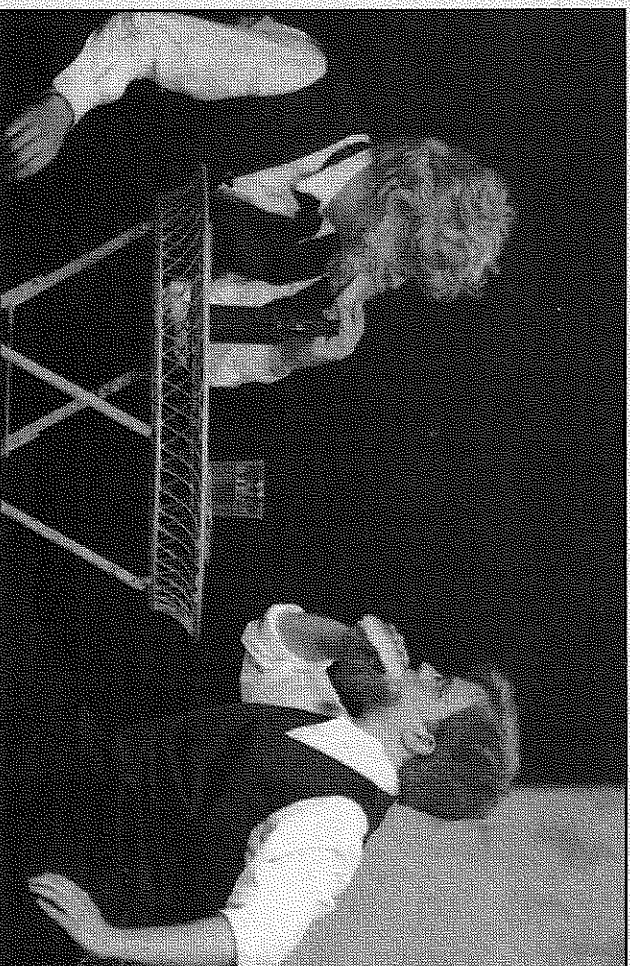
Candid

'Crazy'

Snapshots of WS's Hit Spring Musical



-- Photos by Harry Hamburg
Compiled by Karla Sakas



Clockwise from top: Polly (Marilee Greene sings "Someone to Watch Over Me"; Bela (Cappie Norrinee for Best Featured Actor in a Musical Zack Moody) and Bobby (Cappie Norrinee for Best Male Dancer Dan Pienal); bemoan their lost loves during "What Causes That"; A cowboy (Cappie Norrinee Nathan Taylor) steals the stage during "Slap that Bass"; Everett (Andrew Bentley) comforts his daughter Polly; The Follies Girls dazzle the audience during "Tonight's the Night"; Bobby finds himself caught between his nagging mother (Lauren Angwin) and fiancée (Ashley Linder). The show also received nominations for Best Choreography (Choreographers Emily Levin and Sara Rogers) and Best Critic Team.

'Sesame Street' producers are really tough cookies

Fruit replaces traditional fare for blue Monster

By Katie Costello
Features Editor

The cookie has crumbled for many children who watch "Sesame Street."

Due to the rise in childhood obesity the producers of "Sesame Street" have decided to drastically reduce Cookie Monster's cookie intake.

Rosemarie Truglio, vice president of education and research for Children's Television Workshop, believes it is important that the show provides a positive influence for children when it comes to healthy eating habits. The song, "A Cookie is a Sometimes Food" has now replaced Cookie Monster's theme song, "C is for Cookie," a song that has been around since 1969.

Instead of Cookie Monster shoveling massive amounts of cookies into his mouth, he eats a large sum of fruit and one cookie afterwards.

Students do not think this new approach of preventing childhood obesity will actually reduce the number of overweight children.

"There are little kids who are overweight that don't even watch Sesame Street," said junior Rachel Vetterlein.

Students who watched "Sesame Street" as kids do not blame Cookie Monster for the increasing number

of overweight children in America.

"I watched 'Sesame Street' and I'm not fat," said Vetterlein.

Cookie monster is not the enemy in WS students' eyes because they feel that kids might be gaining weight because they do not get enough exercise, not because they are being encouraged by Cookie Monster to eat junk food.

"They should play sports and go outside," said freshman Matt Weinberg.

Not only do fans of "Sesame Street" think that Cookie Monster's restriction on sweets is ineffective, they also believe that it takes away his identity.

"What's the point of Cookie Monster if he can't eat cookies?" said Weinberg.

This new phenomenon happening on "Sesame Street" has gotten the stamp of approval by Ronald McDonald and Chester Cheetah. These two characters have been promoting healthier versions of their foods and the marketers of their products have sent supportive e-mails to the producers of "Sesame Street."

Parents of younger children are happy about the new change as well. Students who have grown up watching "Sesame Street," however, beg to differ.

"He's Cookie Monster," said Vetterlein. Not "Health Food Monster."



Oracle Staff Photo

Students work out to help relieve stress and to help stay in shape.

Getting pumped

Joining a gym is an effective, easy way to improve fitness

By Caitlin Laverdiere
Entertainment Editor

In the wake of AP exams and preparation for SOL tests, mental fatigue reigns recently at WS.

In order to counter the psychological exhaustion that accompanies an overworked brain, many students seek a physical outlet to let off steam and stay in shape.

Gyms in the Springfield area are far from lacking; every five miles of so a Jungles, Washington Sports Club or Curves can be seen with a full parking lot. A sufficient number of gym-goers are high school students trying to stay healthy and improve their strength.

"[I go to Wakefield] so I can get my upper body strength," said freshman Chris Jones. "[It's close and more convenient [than other gyms]."

Students' choices on where to workout vary, but many choose the county recreational facilities, namely Wakefield and South Run. Another popular choice among students is Washington Sports Club on Old Keene Mill.

"Washington Sports Club is better than other gyms," said junior Meredith Sclarreta, "because it offers a sanitary facility with enough machines to accommodate all attendees."

Gyms offer a variety of exercise options to fit different preferences. Some students enjoy working out on their own, using the cardio equipment, while others prefer attending the array of classes many gyms offer, including aerobics, cycling, yoga and Pilates. Still others go to the gym for weightlifting and strength training.

Many students take advantage of the gym to stay in shape between sports seasons. The workout helps them maintain their endurance and improve their strength.

"[I use the bench and free weights]," said senior Chris Wilson. "[I do it] to get stronger for wrestling."

The proximity of gyms and the long hours they are open allow students a good deal of flexibility in working a trip to the gym into their hectic schedules.

"I get the freedom to work my glutes whenever I want," said Sclarreta. "You'll know where to find me on a rainy day."

Show us the money!

Clubs, honor societies cash in on fundraisers

By Jordy Serwin
News Section Editor

If one were to generate a list of necessities, the list might include donuts, puppies, days off attention, free time and things to go one's way. A top that list, however, most people would put "money."

One way to use our money that is both fun and useful is to buy things that are being sold in fundraisers. This allows one to own something pleasurable (candy, cookie dough, lollipops, a wash for one's car) while at the same time contributing to a worthy cause.

The students involved in WS's extensive list of clubs are no strangers to fundraising.

Members of the West Springfield Spartan Sports Athletic Association, or WSSSAA, volunteer at the concession stands to raise money for the Spartan Boosters, which funds athletic events.

"They have helped to raise thousands of dollars for the Spartan Boosters to date," said Michael Mukai, Assistant Director of Student Activities. Because more people raising funds generally equals more funds raised, this club hopes to increase membership at the same time that it is pulling in money. "We are looking for more great Spartan Students to join WSSSAAA and volunteer their time," said Mukai.

Members of the Latin Honor Society and Latin Club volunteer to raise money.

"LHS will use the money [raised] for senior gifts and a scholarship fund," said Latin teacher Kathryn Jarvis. Candy sales form the major income of the Latin Honor Society and Latin Club.

"Our best money makers in the past have been car washes," said Jarvis. "[But] since our organizations are small, car washes demand more commitment than many students will offer."

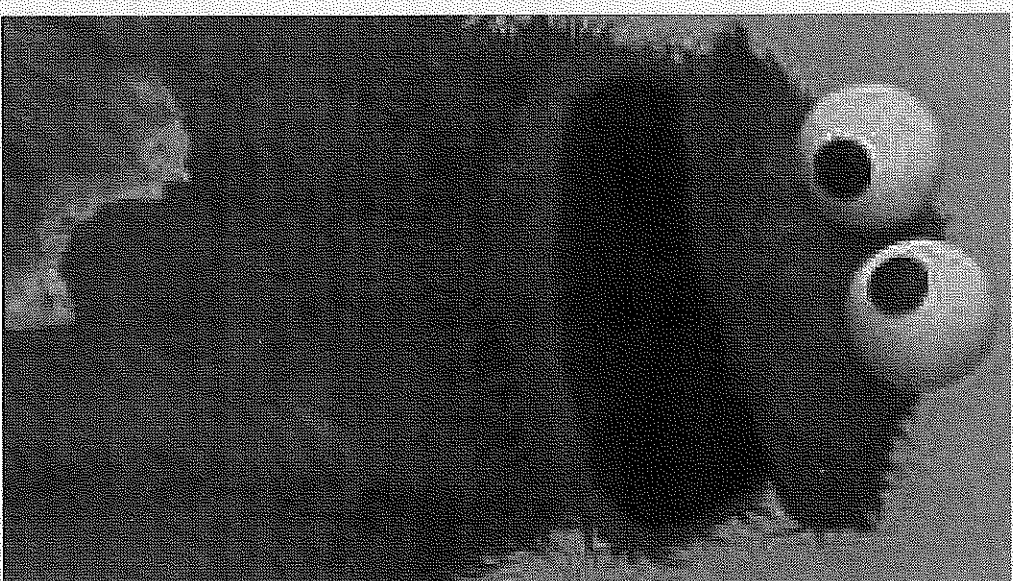
The guitar classes hold multiple fundraisers, including lollipops throughout the year.

"We also sponsor the Homecoming Guitar-B-Q where local WSHS Bands play and Red Hot and Blue sells food," said Keith Owens, who teaches guitar.

"We receive a portion of their earnings," Guitar's fundraisers benefit their spring trip and the various needs of the program.

Like other clubs, the Latin Honor Society and Latin Club use the funds they raise for different purposes. "The club will use [its] money for either a scholarship fund, an end of year celebration, or a purchase of videos or regalia for Latin Club meetings," said Jarvis.

Though one may never have quite as much money as one might want, spending time and money on WS fundraisers definite raises one's fun.

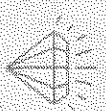


Children's Television Workshop
sued in a cookie restriction for "Sesame Street's" blue monster.

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It's not a crime to bake a cake!

By Lindsay Smith
Senior Staff Writer

One cup of butter. Two cups of sugar. Three cups of flour. Badge. Cruiser. Handcuffs. Officer Shaaron Williams takes the cake.

Williams lays down the law at WS, but also is an avid cake baker and decorator. By day, he breaks up school fights and arrests bad guys, but when he just needs some time to himself, he turns to baking cakes. His cakes are no easy task, though, as they can take anywhere between two and 12 hours to make.

"I needed something to relax, take my mind off everything else," said Williams. "Also it was challenging."

Williams has been baking and decorating cakes for the past fifteen years. His cakes range from specialty cakes to wedding cakes, and throughout

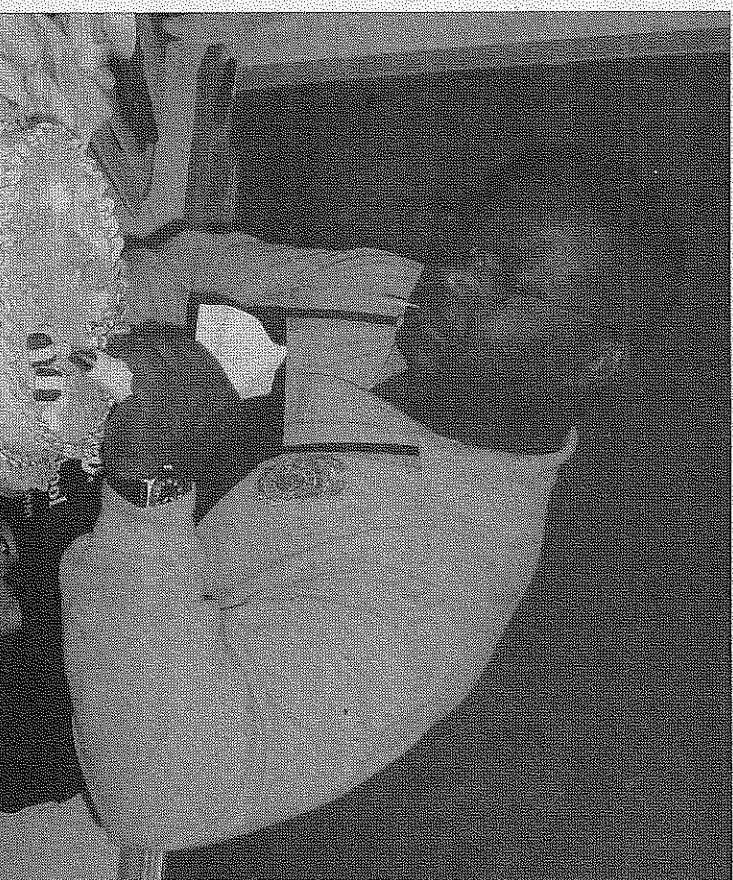
the years he has made somewhere between four and five hundred cakes.

"I think that both of my jobs compliment each other," said Williams. I enjoy being a police officer but when I need to unwind, I bake cakes."

Williams has gone to several schools to teach cake decorating, including WS. Just recently, he taught WS's gourmet foods classes how to decorate cakes. Also, he has taught at Washington Irving Middle School, and at community centers around the Fairfax County area.

He has just recently completed the Wilton's Masters course for cake decorating at an international school for which he was on the waiting list for five years to get into. He was one of only 25 students in the class, and also one of the only students from America in the class.

"I'm pretty much pleased with the



Debbie Barker

Officer Shaaron Williams bakes and decorates cakes in order to relax. He says his hobby helps him take his mind off the stress in his life.

outcome [of my cakes]," said Williams. "During the time I'm making the cake I'm in my own little world."

Williams plans to continue both as a cake decorator and a police officer. While cake decorating may seem an unlikely

Try sun tanning with out the sun shining

By Lindsay Burke
Inside Story Editor

Healthy skin is golden skin these days. Both boys and girls look toward different ways to get tan before summer.

"It's really hot to see a girl with a nice tan. You don't want some girl who looks like she could be a ghost. [When a girl has a tan] you know the girl is outside and getting fresh air; she isn't a "sit-in-the-house-all-day" chick," says junior Bryan Meyer.

A sparkling tan makes you appear healthier, of course, but that does not mean your skin is truly healthy at all.

The original way to get a tan was to lather up in SPF 30 suntan lotion and lie out by the pool for an hour. But, doing this is extremely damaging to your skin; being out in the sun too long and too often could essentially lead to skin cancer.

Ultraviolet rays, most importantly UVA and UVB rays, are the most harmful to our skin- and our eyes. Always wear a pair of sunglasses and suntan lotion with an SPF of at least 20 when sunless glow.

going outdoors, even if it does not appear to be sunny. The sun is still there, and the risky rays are, too. "I wish I could have the benefits of [naturally] tan skin without having to worry about getting skin cancer," says sophomore Bonnie Pedder.

New methods of getting a fabulous tan have developed to keep skin safe.



Erin Dobson

full protection for your body. "Well, the fact is, by sitting in a tanning bed, you're partially cooking yourself." If you *have* to tan, I'd say [to] use a sunless tanner because you're not baking your skin [that way]," says sophomore Emily Bernhards.

Students want a tan that looks like it came from a day at the beach, too. The

Sunless self-tanners, tanning beds, and the infamous "spray-on" tanning systems all offer ways to get golden without the sun. "Tanning beds, however, still don't offer worst tans are the ones that look like they came from a bottle. "I think tanning beds leave you looking fake. The real deal is the only way to go for an authentic looking tan. Tanning beds make your skin look atrocious," says senior Evi Andreades!

Sunless self-tanners and "spray-on" tanning systems are both safe bets, but a self-tanner could cause "zebra-legs." If applied unevenly, the self-tanner will look streaky.

A "spray-on" will not leave you looking like you belong in the jungle, but the prices are high; a professional spray can cost a whopping \$450.

"A girl should never spend too much on the way they look. If I saw a girl who used a self tanner, and a girl with a professionally sprayed-on tan, I probably wouldn't be able to tell the difference. Go with the self tanner- if you mess up, it will be gone in a few weeks anyways," says junior Justin Moore.

Senior scouts sometimes soar

By Emily Boling
Senior Staff Writer

"We don't use lighter fluid because Boy Scouts are all pyromaniacs," said senior Myles Hassell. "But when we do, we call it Girl Scouts juice."

Though a certain amount of rivalry exists between Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts (you should hear the songs!), the reasons students join and remain in Scouts even through high school are essentially the same.

"I joined because my dad made me," said junior Tim Shea.

Shea's reason is a common refrain, but many people have dropped out of scouting by the time high school fills their schedules with sports and clubs and music and academics and jobs.

"I'm not in Girl Scouts anymore because other commitments took up too much time, so I didn't have the amount of time I would have liked to have put into Girl Scouts," said senior Michelle

"As you get older, you get chances to experience things you wouldn't have anywhere else."

—Kate Maginn, junior

Wenz, who was in Girl Scouts through tenth grade.

The rewards are great for those who stick with scouting through high school. Older Scouts are allowed to participate in activities that younger Scouts never even dream of, like scuba diving or 12-day backpacking trips to New Mexico. The added experiences and ranks give them the maturity to deal with people and situations that many of their peers will not encounter until adulthood.

"As you get older, you starting doing bigger and better things, and you get chances to experience things you wouldn't have anywhere else," said junior Kate Maginn, who went with her Girl Scout troop to Europe over the summer.

The Gold Award for Girl Scouts and the Eagle Award for Boy Scouts are the highest awards in scouting, and only older Scouts who have attained a certain



Brooke Nelson

Eagle Scouts work on service projects, such as the original construction of Spartan Park.

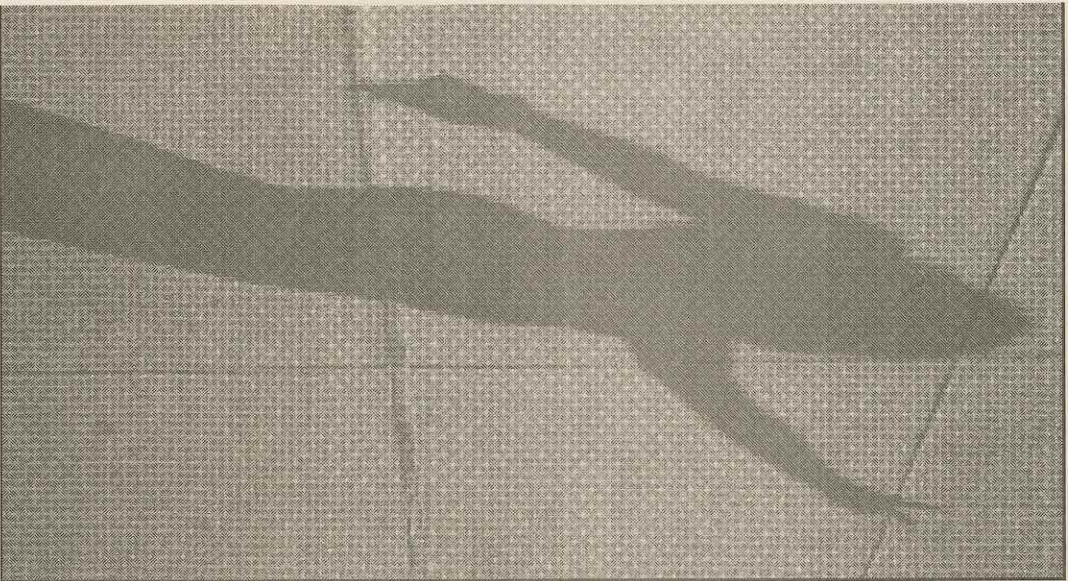
rank can earn them. These awards tell employers and colleges that the student they are looking at, who has put in a minimum of two years of prerequisites in addition to a final service project, is one who has outstanding leadership qualities and will carry a project through to completion.

"Scouting teaches kids the skills they need to reach the goals they set for themselves," said leader Dale Hook, who has been involved with Girl Scouts for 20 years. "It provides them the opportunity to experience and sample all of their interest areas in both the academic and extracurricular fields."

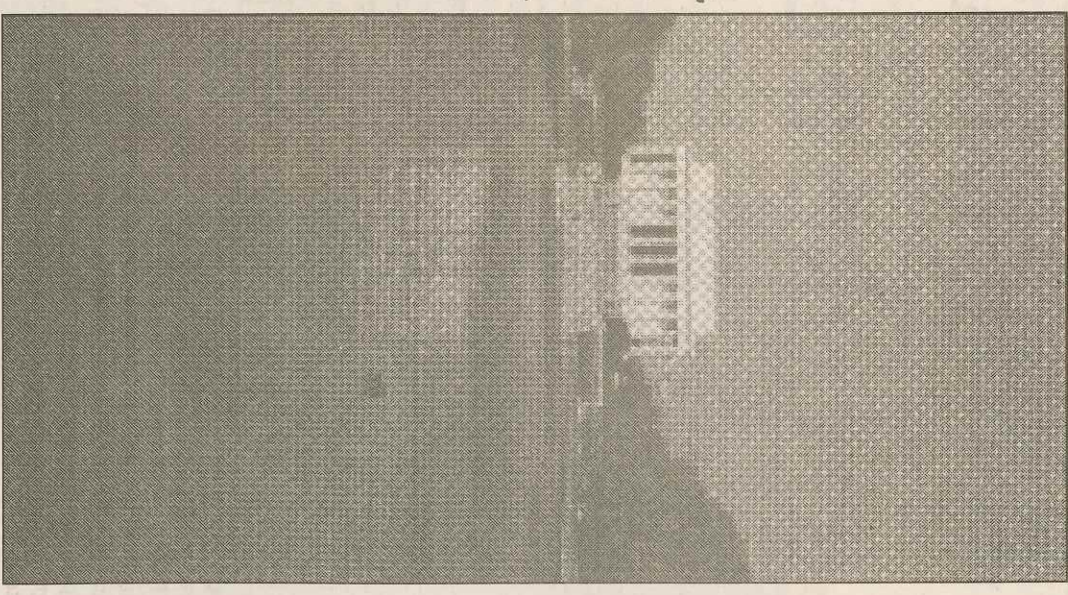
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Right: On our trip to DC for a history project, Tina and I walked the length of the reflecting pool many times. While they're not exactly "reflecting," Tina thought the ducks were pretty cool. Here's a picture of the Lincoln Memorial.



Left: Thinking back to the scene from Forrest Gump at the Vietnam protest, Tina struck a pose for her adoring public.

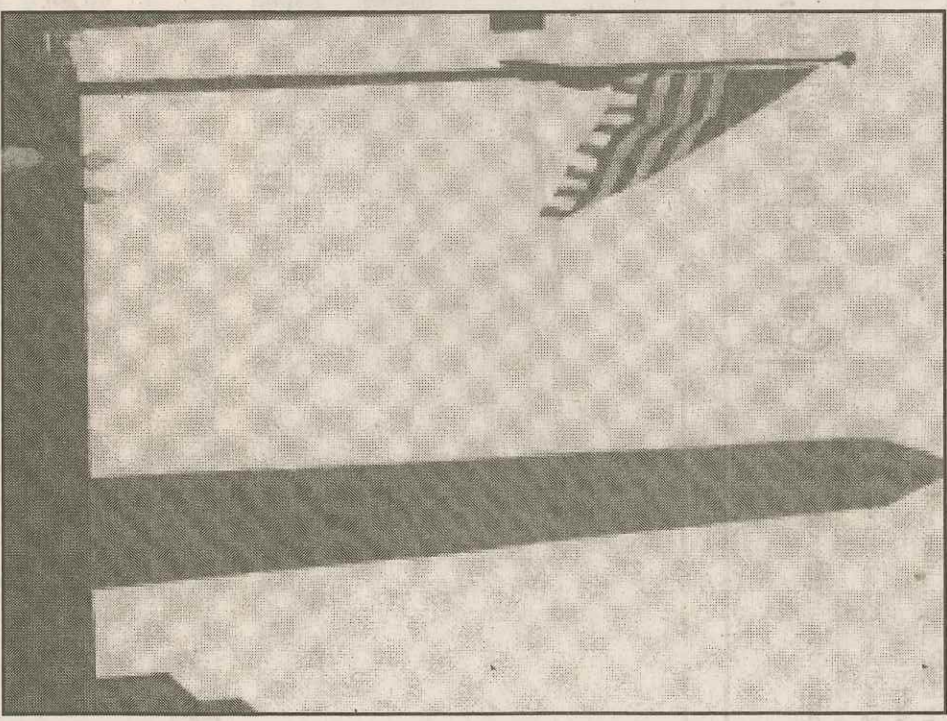
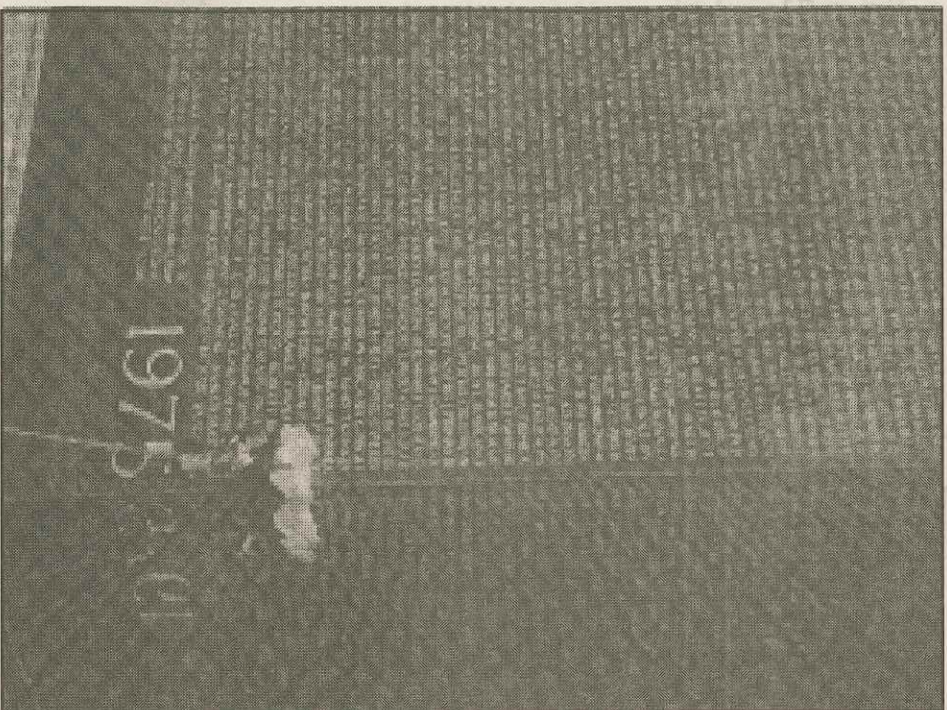
Bottom Left: The Vietnam Memorial was the most impressive of all the monuments. Here we saw a single rose resting at the center of the wall.

DC

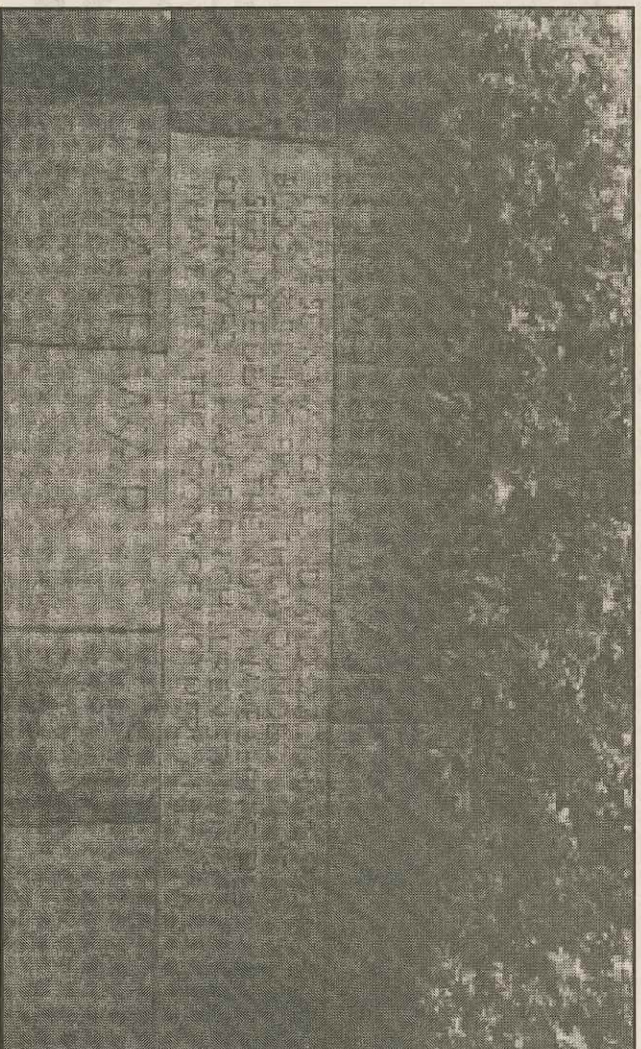
FOR

FISCHER

By Liz Buchheister



Right: This inscription, the the FDR Memorial, quotes Roosevelt's position on war. It appears behind the "I Hate War" rocks.



Above: Standing in the new World War II Memorial, we saw dozens of Peral Harbor survivors. Here we have the flag between part of the monument and the Washington Monument.

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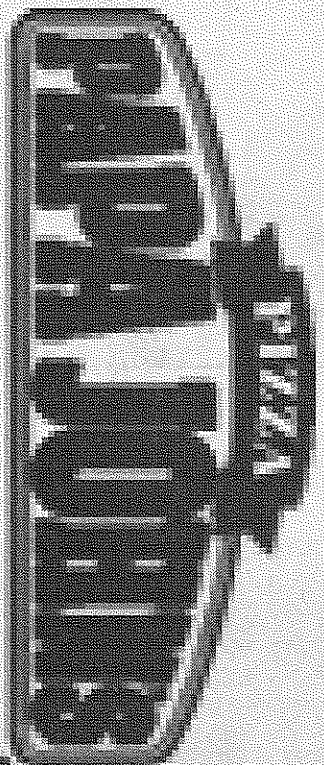
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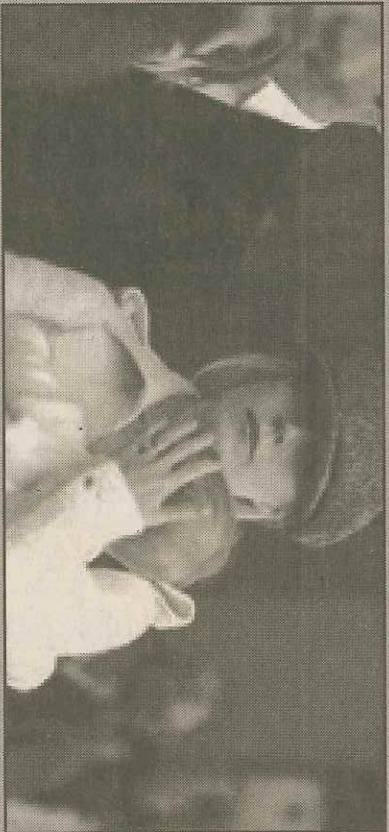
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Paltrow took the name game to a new level with the birth of Apple. Associated Press

Now, That's Entertainment!

A satirical look at the entertainment industry

How to nurture a celebrity child

By Karla Sakas
Senior Staff Writer

In light of Mr. and Mrs. Britney Spears' recent announcement of their baby-to-be, I decided to dedicate this issue's column to the guidelines for successfully raising a celebrity child. Even with unlimited financial support and 24-hour imported Scandinavian nannies, bringing up these little dears can be extra challenging for our famous friends.

Choosing a name

Why settle for a tame name like Brian or Jessica when you can give your baby a moniker no one else will have? Guinevere and Byron are sure to stand out in a crowd, but why stop there? Take it from Gywenh Paltrow and her darling Apple. Naming your kids after everyday objects and people will give them an unique edge from the get-go. It's easy—just take a look outside your window for inspiration. Little Pencepost, Mailman and Volkswagen Jetta will thank you.

Keeping them out of the spotlight

Tabloids will pay paparazzi big bucks for candid shots of your offspring, so why pass up such a profitably opportunity? Make sure the only photos the press ever receives are the ones you sell them. Consider it an investment for your children's college fund. To keep prying eyes off your kids, take a little advice from Michael Jackson, with his impeccable child-rearing skills. Cover their faces with Spiderman masks while shepherding them from the helipad to the mansion. Sound a little traumatizing? Sounds more like smart parenting, to me.

Getting them into the Biz

As a celebrity parent, it's your job to help your son or daughter get into the business. After all, what else can you teach them? Start encouraging them to explore their musical or acting talents as early as possible, with you as their example. Position video screens that play your latest music video over their crib. Miniature guitars for six-month-olds can be special-ordered, as well.

Damage control

Your second-most important role as a parent is to keep your kids out of trouble. Celebrity children have a way of dabbling in drugs, sex, and rock and roll before most American youth, so it's your job to cover for them. Cocaine addiction at the tender age of 17? Send them to \$40,000 a week rehab with the tabloid-approved guise of eating disorder therapy. Drunken carousing with fake IDs? A few *executive* decisions will take that right off their permanent records.

If following these simple rules proves too difficult for your precious bundle of joy, I leave you with this simple solution: foreign boarding school

Broadway-bound?

The Cappies are considered the high school Tony Awards

By Joann Cassano
Senior Staff Writer

The Cappies, otherwise considered the Tony Awards for high school, have been growing exponentially in DC for the past seven years.

Every year in June, the Cappies Gala is held at the Kennedy Center and hosted by Bill Strauss, playwright, novelist, and founder of Capital Steps. Students nominated for awards dress up in stunning evening gowns and suits and walk across the stage. Performances from schools nominated for Best Musical or Best Song perform throughout the show to provide superb entertainment. But exactly where does it all begin and how does a school get this far?

The better question to begin with, what exactly is the Cappies?

"[For the Cappies,] high school students go to see other schools' musicals or plays, view and review them, and a select few reviews get their reviews published in local or community papers," says WS's Lead Cappie Critic, senior Peter Adams. "Everyone on our team has been published at least once."

The Cappies begins with the Cappies Critic team. For every school, there are



Harry/Hamburg
Cappie nominee for Best Critic Team Dan Plehal performs in "Crazy for You."

six student critics, along with three regional critics.

Seniors Lauren Angwin, Emily Levin, Sara Rogers, Peter Adams, Dan Plehal, and junior Maggie Seegers form the WS critics team, with sophomores Jasmine Mahboob, Meredith Hicks and Nathan Taylor form the WS regional team.

The Cappies process begins at the beginning of each school year:

A school chooses which one of its annual productions will be considered for the Cappies. This year for WS, the Cappies show was the hit musical "Crazy For You". For one of the performances, a group of Cappies Critics that represents schools from all over the area views the show. Before the show begins,

WS Cappie nominations "Crazy for You"

Best Featured Actor in a Musical
Zack Moody

Best Male Dancer
Dan Plehal

Best Critic
Nathan Taylor

Best Choreography
Emily Levin
Sara Rogers

Best Critic Team

Peter Adams
Lauren Angwin
Meredith Hicks
Jasmine Mahboob
Dan Plehal
Maggie Seegers
Nathan Taylor

they meet in a designated Cappies room, and after the show they return to the room to discuss their notes on the show.

At the end of the year, all the teams come together and nominate different shows for the array of categories. Some categories are Best Female Lead, Best Song, Best Duet, Make-up, Best Set and Best Supporting Male Lead.

Strauss created the Cappies in order to bring awareness and encourage performing arts programs in high schools.

"For our theatre department," says Adams, "the Cappies has boosted interest and excitement, especially for our musical because that is usually our Cappies show. More and more students are getting involved with the theatre department."

Anyone on the team can tell you how much fun they have had while on the Cappies Critic team.

How can students join the Cappies Critic team?

At the end of every year auditions are held. Interested freshmen,

sophomores and juniors need to write a review of a play or musical and turn it into theatre teacher Mary Jo Levesque (room 201) or to the year's lead critic.

This year's deadline is May 20.

"This is the best team I've been with in all four years," says Adams, "I'm honored to be their leader; hopefully, I've done a good job. Embrace me, my son."

9:30 Club showcases the eclectic

By Caitlin Crowley
Senior Staff Writer

If you are an avid music fan, chances are that you have been to the 9:30 Club. This DC hotspot has hosted thousands of bands in every genre, ranging from classic rock legends like Bob Dylan to bouncy pop bands like the Backstreet Boys.

The club, which opened in 1996, offers a hip and laid-back atmosphere along with its convenient location. The wrap-around balcony with wrought iron hand rails and the cozy interior design add to the ambience. For your older brothers and sister, the club offers bars on all three levels, including a trendy basement lounge.

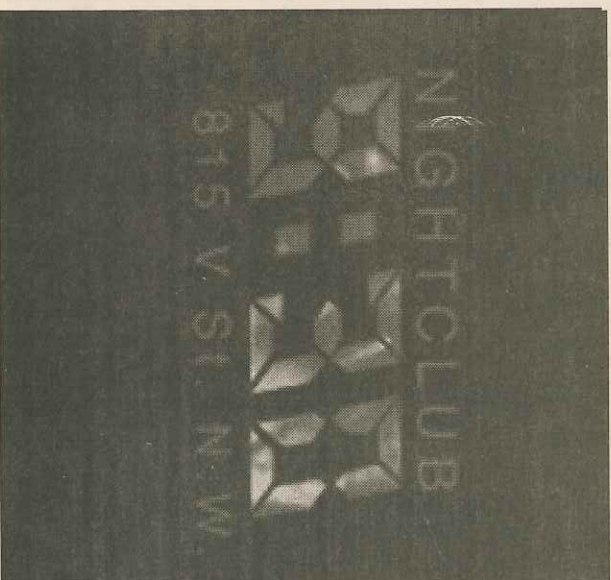
9:30's main floor is standing room only so be prepared to become really friendly with your neighbor, as it is usually jam-packed with fellow fans. If you

need a break, you can go upstairs and take a seat on the risers and chill out for a few.

Adding to all the glory that is 9:30 is that unlike many other venues, it is easy on the wallet. Ticket prices usually range from \$10 to \$25 and on very rare occasion are around \$30. This leaves a couple extra bucks for an easy Metro trip down or a midnight 7-11 trip on the way home.

If you haven't been to the 9:30 Club, check out their website, www.930.com, for a band you are into and get down there. No matter what kind of music you like, 9:30 has something for you. Bands and concert-goers alike are lining up to get in this leading show venue where everyone can have a good time.

The club is located at 815 V. St. NW and is accessible by Metro via the Green Line at the U Street stop. To contact the club, call 202-393-0930.



Family values Return to Sunday

By Adam Rosen
Oracle Editor

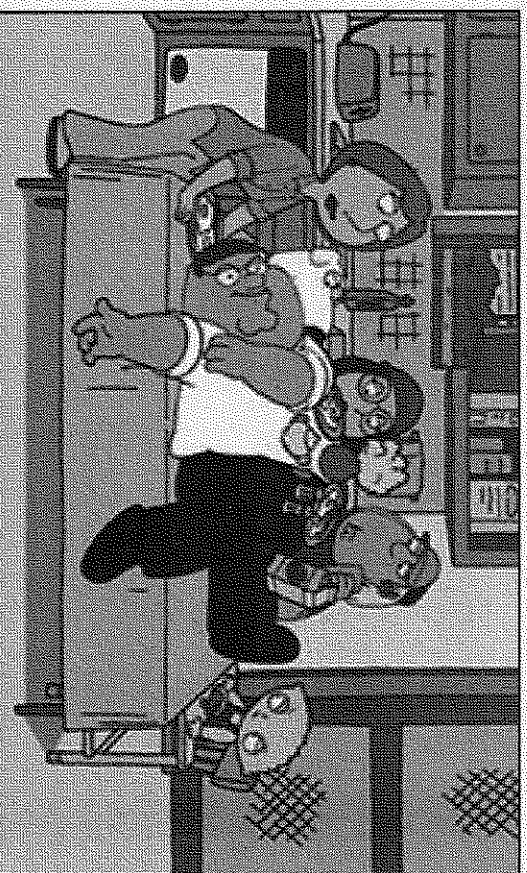
"Family Guy" is crude, insensitive, offensive and just downright funny. The animated show has returned to Fox after a brief cancellation. It aired on May 1 and is the first of 35 episodes this season.

"Family Guy" was created by Seth MacFarlane and is about an odd but loving family. The Griffin family lives in Quahog, Rhode Island, and is like any other family except they have a talking dog, Brian, and a highly articulate baby with a vocabulary equivalent to a college-bound English major.

The family consists of Peter (the lovable, fat, male chauvinist, idiotic father), Lois (affectionate mother who has a baby who wants to kill her), Chris (the fat, dumb-as-a-rook son), Meg (the ugly mistake of the family that has no friends or life), Stewie (the baby, who is smarter than everyone, and who knows how to talk and read already) and, finally, the dog Brian, (who enjoys drinking and, like I said earlier can talk).

"It is so funny, because it gets away with so much stuff that other shows cannot get away with," said junior Robert Muir.

After debuting after the Super Bowl in 1999, "Family Guy" became an instant hit. The DVD for the first 28 episodes,



Despite a brief hiatus, the FOX hit "Family Guy" has triumphantly returned to Sunday nights thanks to its record breaking DVD sales this past year.

sold more than one million copies. That amount earned the TV show the fourth highest rated television show ever despite its offensive material.

Viewers are upset with its racist and sexist material. But at the same time the show makes fun of all races, religions and genres.

"Family Guy" is offensive, because it is stereotypical," said sophomore Kristin DeToro. "And it is degrading to certain genres and minorities."

After it was cancelled, the fans wanted it back. The Griffin family was hard to resist. It's irresistible comedic flare makes it addictive to watch.

The truth needs no translation

By Andrea Maxwell
Weekend Editor

The twists and turns of the thought-provoking new movie, "The Interpreter", are sure to be a hit. The movie, directed by Sydney Pollack and stars Nicole Kidman, Sean Penn and Catherine Keener.

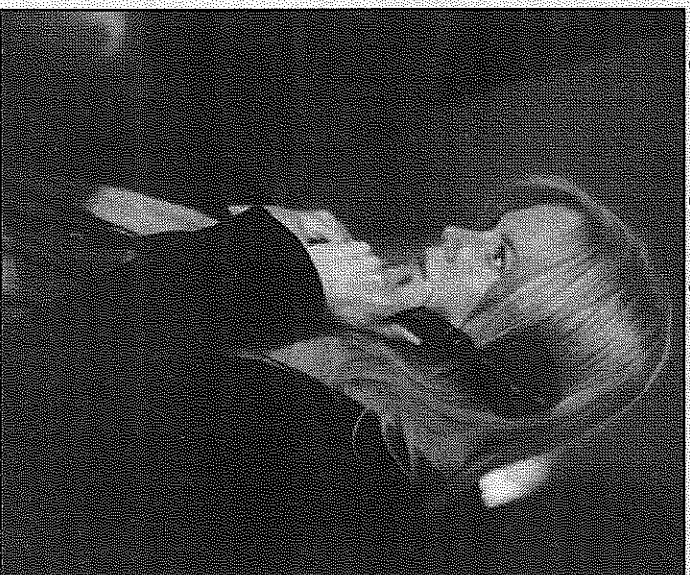
The movie begins with three men in Moboto, South Africa, where a massive genocide is being conducted by their leader, Zuwame. After just a few moments the plot switches over to the United Nations in New York City. Silvia Broome, played by Kidman, is introduced as a UN interpreter. After overhearing a mysterious voice after-hours she is forced to report the incident to the U.N. head of security, Tobin Keller, played by Penn, and Dot Woods, played by Keener, are two members of the Secret Service assigned to the case. They come to New York in search of answers about a potential assassination of Zuwame. Agent Keller must uncover the truth about Broome while dealing with his own melancholy.

With every moment, the audience captivated. Both Kidman and Penn deliver outstanding performances. They are perfect fits for their roles.

The combination of a fantastic cast and an interesting plot make this movie a great choice for everyone. It is rated PG-13 for violence, some sexual content and brief strong language. "The Interpreter" would be appealing for people who enjoy drama and suspense.

"With every moment of the film, the audience was captivated. Both Kidman and Penn delivered outstanding performances."

Next time you wonder what to see at the movies, this movie is the answer. It is not often that a movie successfully mixes both suspense and deception. In the end, the truth needs no translation.

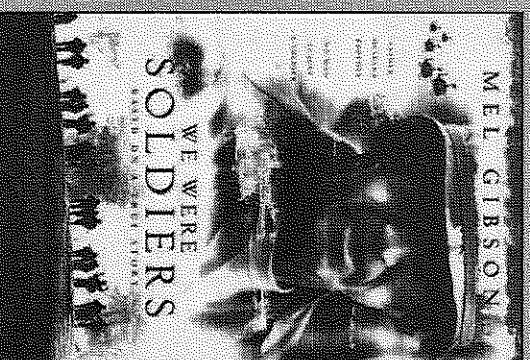
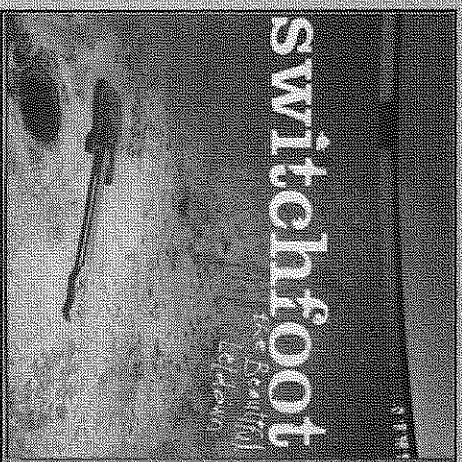


In her latest film, actress Nicole Kidman plays a UN interpreter who learns of an assassination plot.

Oracle Picks

'Beautiful Letdown'

Do not discount Switchfoot just because their music was featured on the "Walk to Remember" soundtrack. In fact, that was what launched the Christian/indie band onto countless radio stations and has made their latest album, "Beautiful Letdown", such a success. The word "switchfoot" is a surfing term that means to face against the waves. With insightful music that challenges today's accepting culture, "Beautiful Letdown" certainly faces against the crowd. The song "This is Your Life" is especially moving because the feeling that the band puts into their message of living in today and for today, and nothing else.



'We Were Soldiers'

Part harrowing war epic, part home front tale, "We Were Soldiers" shows what true bravery and sacrifice are. Unlike most war films, it portrays these qualities through both the soldiers and the wives left in Ft. Benning. "We Were Soldiers" centers around Lt. Col. Hal Moore, played by Mel Gibson. He vows to leave no man behind in the jungles of Vietnam. Assisted by Sam Elliot as his sergeant, Gibson expertly brings together the fear and charisma that makes a true leader. Not for those with weak stomachs, "We Were Soldiers" tells the Battle of Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam like it was...from both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

A Ring of Endless Light

Madeleine L'Engle wrote *A Ring of Endless Light* as part of a series about the main character, Vicky, but it stands alone as a superb piece of literature. Sixteen-year-old Vicky is trying to figure out what life means to her, but she discovers that she cannot do that until she deals with what death means to her. Vicky grapples with the concepts of "Why do I matter? Why I am here?" in a way that almost anyone can identify with. Neither a difficult nor a lengthy read and well worth the effort, *A Ring of Endless Light* deserves to be on everyone's list of things to do this summer.



—Compiled by Emily Boling

Cosmic bowling: sporting, night clubs rolled into one

By Jessica Benjamin
Senior Staff Writer

Complaints on the lack of entertaining things to do in Springfield have never been known to be a rare occurrence. Yet, an opportunity for a fun Friday or Saturday night is always available if one knows where to look: cosmic bowling.

This black light, club-type, atmosphere creates a place for teens to be out late, dance and have fun despite being under the age of eighteen.

When the clock strikes ten, all of the fluorescent lights shut off and the black lights turn on. The swirling color balls hang overhead and the DJ starts taking requests.

At Bowl America, located in Burke, Virginia, on New Guinea Road, the prices are reasonable and the people are friendly. The price to play can be paid in two different ways, by game or by hour.

If paying by game, the cost is \$5.25 per person, per game. Or, there is the option of paying by hour, costing \$30 per hour per lane.

At Bowl America six people can play per lane, so the per person cost can be divided by up to six, making it cheaper to drag along more people. However, each person still has to cover the cost of bowling shoes, \$3.40.

Cosmic bowling, provides still another twist to the game that makes it appealing for teens. Being under eighteen means no clubs. So for people that love to



Andrea Maxwell
Cosmic bowling entertains students at the Burke Bowl America until mid-

night on Saturday nights.

Cosmic bowling provides a club experience for underage teens. It is important, although, to watch out for the current DJ at Burke Bowl America, who tends to play excessive amounts of country music.

The amount of teens that partake in this disco bowling event cause it to fill up rather quickly.

Reserving a lane probably stands as the best bet for large groups looking to

being guaranteed a game. Otherwise the wait could last thirty or even forty-five minutes. It is important to arrive a few minutes early so people are there to claim it, or it may be given away.

Next time there is nothing to do on a dry and dull Springfield weekend night, pick up the phone, dial Bowl America, reserve a lane, pick up a pair of dorky clown-like shoes, bowl a few frames and dance the night away.

Electronically shoot all your cares away

By Jessica Benjamin
Senior Staff Writer

Mad at a friend, shoot them. Before someone calls the police, it is not a real gun. It is a laser.

Laser tag is a game that almost all students are familiar with because many of them look friends there on play dates in the second grade. While the game is one that children can enjoy, it is worth it to play at all ages.

With one of the few sources of entertainment being Springfield Mall, it is lucky that there is a Planet Play right inside.

Planet Play is responsible for the huge play tower in the food court that everyone secretly wishes they were short enough to go inside. Planet Play also has an arcade that houses a laser tag arena, a dark room filled with barriers to hide from the enemy or the opposite team.

"The more the merrier" is a phrase that can be associated with Planet Play laser tag. The more people, the cheaper it is.

With ten or more people in a group, the price is six

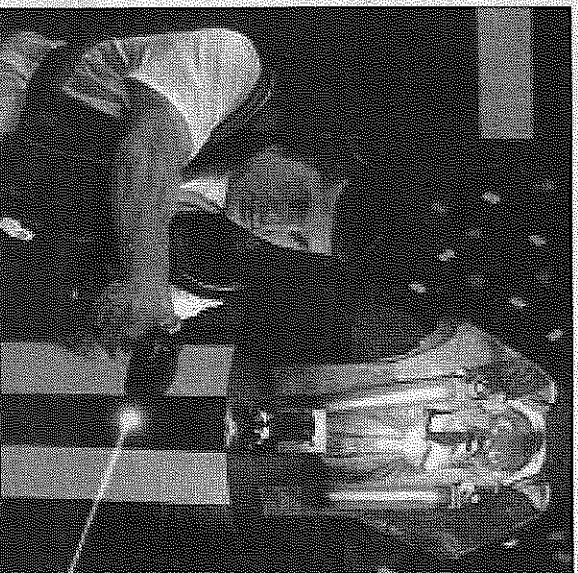
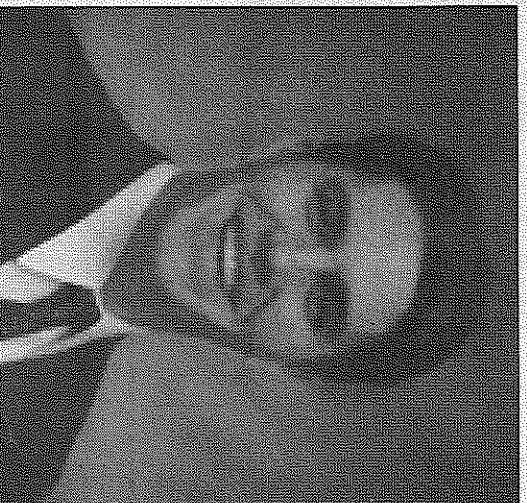


Photo credit:

The closest place to play laser tag is Planet Play at Springfield Mall. The cost is reasonable and the amount of fun is immense regardless of one's age.

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Memorial Day Services honor nation's veterans

By Josh Lipman
News Section Editor

As Memorial Day approaches, students can start to make plans for what to do on their day off.

Memorial Day, which is on May 30 this year, is a remembrance of members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives. There will be several parades and activities in the DC area to attend this Memorial Day.

The National Memorial Day Parade will start on 4th Street and Madison Avenue NW in DC at 8 a.m. and end on Independence Avenue at 14th Street NW at 11 a.m. The parade will feature military units, marching bands, veterans' groups, military vehicles, flag teams and several large floats.

The main Memorial Day musical event will be the National Memorial Day Concert on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

The event will showcase Gary Sinise, Joe Mantegna, Charles Durning, Colin Powell, Harolyn Blackwell, and conductor Erich Kunzel with the National Symphony Orchestra.

Students who enjoy motorcycles will be able to go to the Rolling Thunder

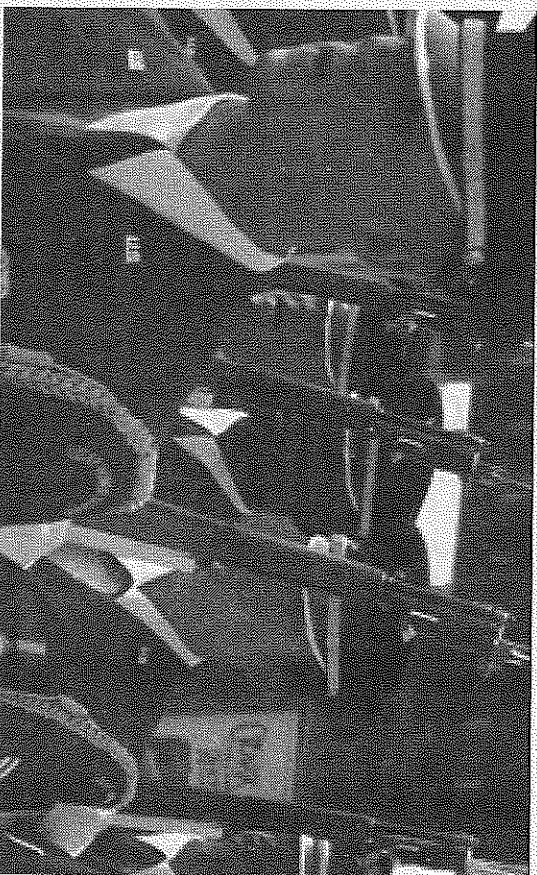
"Ride For Freedom" motorcycle rally on May 29 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Rolling Thunder is a group that advocates for more government aide to POWs and MIAs.

The Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery will hold a service on Memorial Day sponsored by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. The service starts at 11 a.m. Arlington National Cemetery hosts the same service on Veteran's Day.

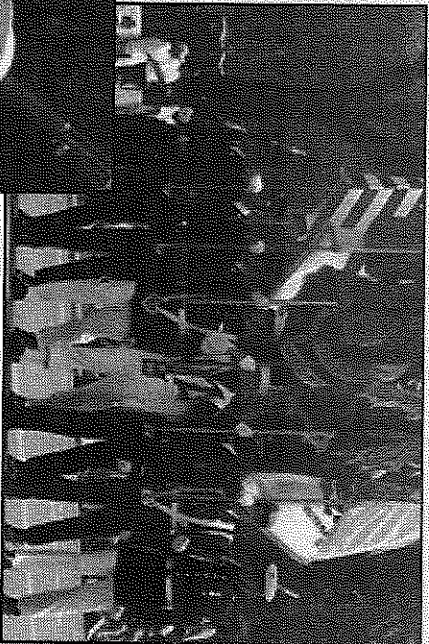
There will be another Memorial Day service at the Quantico National Cemetery Prince William County. An "Avenue of Flags" will include more than 150 flags donated to the cemetery by deceased service members' next-of-kin. The Memorial Day events at the Quantico National Cemetery will last from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and parking will be available at 9:30 a.m.

Memorial Day also offers the chance to simply travel around DC.

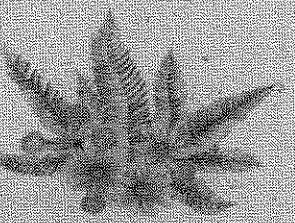
"I go downtown and tour the memorials," said science teacher and veteran Benjamin Allen. "[I visit] the Marine Corps War Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the Korean War Veterans Memorial with my family."



Associated Press
Color guards are just some of the three-hour Memorial Day Parade that marches through DC. Military processions and vehicles will also be parading through our Nation's Capital.




Memorial Day, which is on May 30 this year, is a remembrance of members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives.



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Laglers and Bermans and Kipers, Oh my!

By Tim O'Keefe
Sports Editor

While I was watching an NBA game last week, ESPN analyst Tim Lagler made a point about some of the NBA superstars and referred to them as, "The Tracy McGrady's, the Kevin Garnetts and the Shaquille O'Neals." From the overuse of the word "obviously," to pluralizing athletes' last names, sports clichés explain how analysts are truly copy cats. They need to come up with something new.

Sports clichés show the true intelligence level of an analyst. For example, I have observed more analysts use the word "obviously" when there is no reason to do so.

"The Wizards obviously traded for Antwan Jamison last season."

I do not see how that is obvious. Saying the sky is blue, the world spins, or even the cows are black and white, is obvious. If a six-year-old knows what the analyst is talking about, then it is obvious.

Some clichés simply make me laugh. During ESPN's coverage of the NFL draft in April, I was not marveling over Mel Kiper Jr.'s poofy hair (I still wonder what hair spray he uses), I noticed his overuse of the phrase, "He is just a football player." This usually occurred

when Kiper, Chris Berman, or any other draft analyst had a hard time describing a player. Whether the player lacked speed, athleticism, or excitement, "A football player" was a convenient adjective that made absolutely no sense.

Every player in the NFL draft is a football player. Tell me something new.

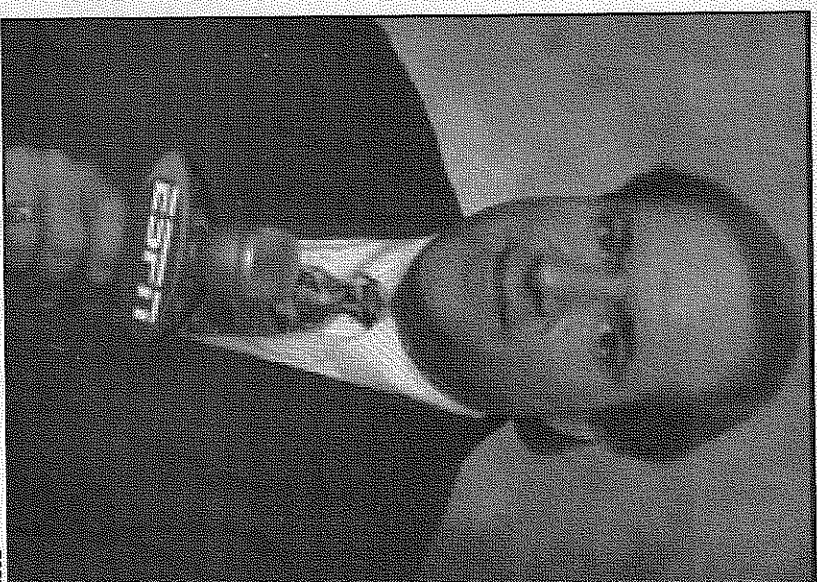
O'Keefe's Beef

Pluralizing last names is simply silly. When an analyst uses the "John Elways, Emmitt Smiths and Brett Favres," phrases to try to make a comparison, it does not work. They could simply say, "Players like Elway, Smith and Favre."

Maybe analysts are just lazy.

The human mind has the capability to create new original phrases that make sense. Clichés must also be something singular to sports because I have not heard something singular on NBC's "Meet the Press" refer to the

ESPN analyst Chris Berman is guilty of poor word selection such as, "He is just a football player." ESPN



Double Trouble McLain, Tomlinson break scoring records

By Christine Park
Senior Staff Writer

There is Batman and Robin, Sonny and Cher, and there was until recently, Brad and Jen.

WS's girls lacrosse team is home to yet another dynamic duo in the form of its senior captains, Kristen McLain and Emily Tomlinson.

Within ten games, the pair has racked up a total of 91 goals due to their amazing partnership. During the May 11th game against West Potomac, McLain broke the previous record for the most goals scored in one season with a total of 57 goals.

On April 27th, along with a 17-9 win over Mount Vernon, McLain broke the school's scoring record of 147 goals

with Tomlinson later setting the one-game mark with nine goals.

"It was really cool because it was senior night and Emily also broke a record that night so it was the two senior captains breaking records together," said McLain.

Tomlinson and McLain have been playing together since sixth grade when they met as teammates in the Springfield Youth League. Both of them started on the varsity team their freshman year.

As the only two freshman on the varsity team, the two bonded and quickly became good friends as well as great teammates. The two credit this bond as the key to their success on the field.

"We've been playing together

since sixth grade," said McLain. "We have a sense of where each other is on the field."

The two midfielders are the senior captains this year, along with senior Dana Crowe, and so far have led their team on a 8-3 record. The team hopes to win their first Virginia AAA Patriot District title this year and with this perfect pair working together, the prospects seem hopeful.

"We want to start working together as a team," said McLain, "to work towards our goal of the Patriot District title."

Although the team lost to LB in the District Semi-Finals, they are off to a good start in the Regional Tournament. They beat Yorktown 11-10 in an overtime win in the first round.

West End competes at WS, hopes to stay

By Libby Bursley
Viewpoint Editor

The West End rugby team took on the administration and won the chance to play on the WS field.

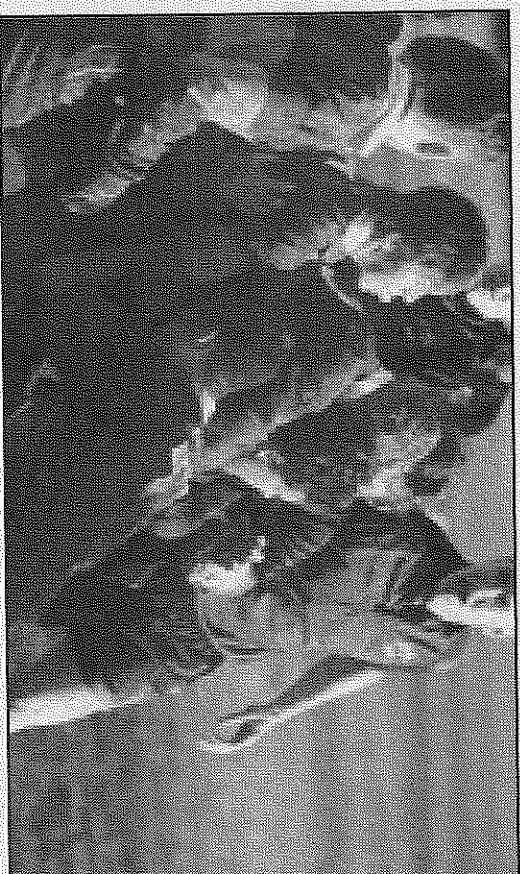
The team's hard work in the form of a petition and meetings with Activities Director Mike Dobson has paid off.

"The team met with me several times, and I talked to Graham most. They asked me for one game this year, so I made some phone calls and the county regulations say that they could play [at WS]," said Dobson.

Rugby had been considered an interest club, not associated with the school. With overwhelming student response and a lot of paperwork, the sport is now able to play here- for a fee.

"We're still only a club team. We have to pay to play on these fields, just like an SYC team would," said senior Graham Shellenberger.

The team has not yet scheduled any games for next year.



Gonzaga Rugby

The majority of players from the West End rugby team, shown above in an away match against Gonzaga, attend WS. The team is hopeful that fellow students will be able to watch them play at WS facilities in the future.

"With a series of eight or nine contests, I'm not sure if it would go right. I'm not saying it can't happen, though," said Dobson.

The rugby team passed around a petition and the students response

suggest students seem to be eager to watch the rugby team.

"We talked to people, and most kids said they would go to games if we played here," said Shellenberger. "Many of West End's players go here,

so this is our home field too."

One of the main reasons the team has not used the field is the liability the players pose to the school. Brutal tackles, which can cause injuries such as broken legs can occur during a game.

"To be able to play, we had to get the insurance info and the other random things they need, for the liability," said Shellenberger.

With the current season almost over for the team, players look forward to knowing they will have a home next year.

"Next year," said Shellenberger, "Everybody here at school will get to see us play at WS."

"Many of West End's players go here [WS], so this is our home field 100."

—Graham
Shellenberger,
junior

Without sufficient funding, runners can't stay on track

By Sean Hogan
Ed. Editor

Around the world in 80 days, 86 years between championships for the Boston Red Sox and 124 large holes in our track.

WS's track is an embarrassment to the school and the county. In addition to

Commentary

the 124 holes, the rubber lining is almost completely gone in huge stretches of lane 4. This may seem like nothing a lazy student who plays no sports, but the track team suffers through numerous injuries, including one sustained by myself. The holes, dips and bumps in the track make it hazardous to run on. Unfortunately, a new track can't be attained due to budget reasons. Originally, there was a rumor that there was a new track over the summer, but it's just that: a rumor. Tracks can cost to the upwards of \$30,000, so they're expensive, but somehow an inflatable helmet for the football team could be affordable.

Our football team won't be able to reach the football helmet if the track stays another year in its current condition: they'd all fall down when it breaks apart. Even if the team paid out of their own pockets for the

colossal head covering of inflatable greatness, they have conditioning workouts on the track almost every day after school.

While some may say that there's nothing wrong with an asphalt track, heck, we ran on one at Irving, it causes copious knee and ankle problems. Former WS track coach Duke Baird estimated the last time the track was redone, guessing 1996 or '97. Patches were done

on the track about three years ago according to Baird, but the patches have either cracked, fallen apart or formed huge mounds that can easily knock over a small child or even a large athlete.



Erica Wilkening

There is more rubber lining in these hands than on the track. The track needs to be addressed now. While a brand-new turf field would make it easier to hold more events, the track is dangerous to run on.

Inspiration at Penn Relays

By Jenny Taylor
Entertainment Editor

The idea of participating in the same competition as world-class athletes may seem like a fantasy to most teenagers.

Members of the track team, however, had this chance in late April, when they competed in the elite Penn Relays. High school, college, and professional runners flocked to Philadelphia to take part in one of the most prominent track meets in the country.

The Penn Relays began in the 1890s and quickly grew to a massive gathering of the nation's top track stars. In its 111th year, the meet featured over 20,000 entrants and 100,000 spectators in the span of three days.

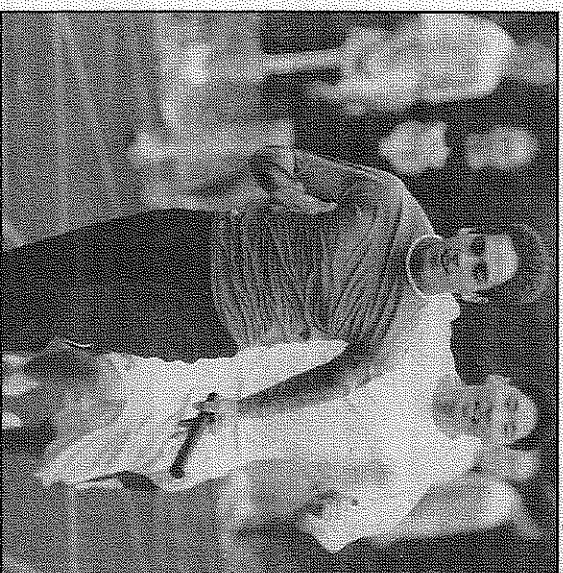
Several Spartan runners were accepted to the illustrious Penn Relays and the team improved overall. "All of our relay teams did really well and a lot of

them [set a personal record]," said sophomore Trish Friedrich. Individual runners like sophomore Michael Spooner, who captured the best 3000 meter time (8:43) in Virginia this year, also stood out and helped WS gain recognition at the meet.

Penn Relays gave high school runners the chance to see what higher level track was truly like. "It was really cool to see college level runners racing, especially when we were at the same meet," said Friedrich.

Besides watching college athletes, amateur runners were also able to see multiple Olympic gold medalists such as Maurice Greene, Allison Felix and Shawn Crawford. Experiencing a world-class track meet is just the inspiration the track team needs before heading into the Patriot District tournament.

"After the meet was over, it made me want to be just like them," said Friedrich. "It was so inspiring."



Seagal Majestic

Sophomore David Dubin and other track athletes saw the top runners in the nation at Penn Relays.

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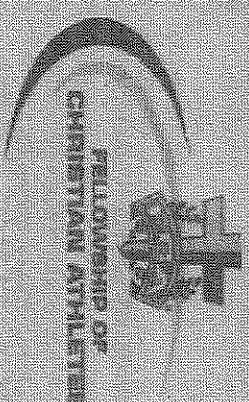
Teen Commandments

1. Don't let your parents down; they brought you up.
2. Choose your companions with care; you become what they are.
3. Be master of your habits or they will master you.
4. Treasure your time; don't spend it; invest it.
5. Stand for something or you'll fall for anything.
6. Select only a date who would make a good mate.
7. See what you can do for others; not what they can do for you.
8. Guard your thoughts; what you think, you are.
9. Don't fill up on this world's crumbs; feed your soul on the Living Bread.
10. Give your all to Christ; He gave His all for you.

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My Gyro

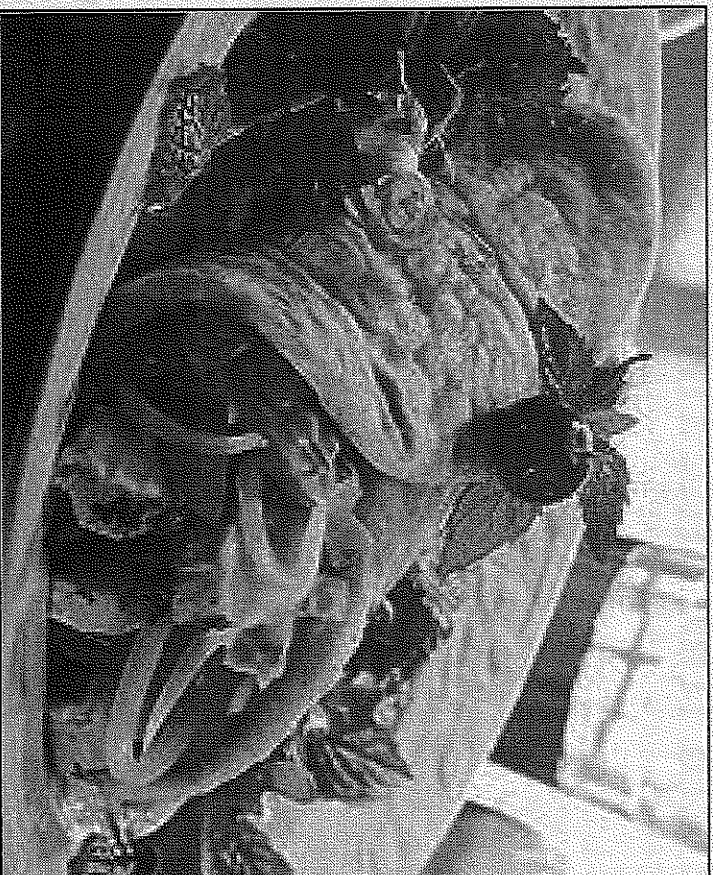
By **Stevie Florino**

Assistant Etc. Editor

Once there was a girl, an Italian girl who came from a very Italian family. She grew up in a strict household where she was force-fed bowl after bowl of spaghetti and meatballs, eggplant parmesan, pasta va gol, sausage and peppers, risotto and many other authentic Italian dishes.

Every holiday gathering was loud and obnoxious and full of food and no one went home sober or with an empty stomach. This was the way I grew up. My life revolved around food.

When I was nine, I moved to live with my mom: a calm, quiet, reserved English woman who could cook a mean Hamburger Helper. Hamburger Helper? What on God's green earth is that? It did not have any garlic, it was not dripping with olive oil and it sure enough did not come with a salad, wine and a huge piece of tiramisu for dessert. It took me a while to conform to this new style of eating, but I did not have much choice. My lunches were brown paper bags full of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, apples and pretzels instead



of calzones or meatball sandwiches. My favorite part about this dramatic culture change was that I got to go out to dinner a lot more. This was when I discovered the gyro.

I remember the first time I tried a gyro sandwich like it was yesterday. It was a Friday night in 1998. I was at Milano's for dinner with my mom. The sound of a

sandwich made with beef, lamb, lettuce, tomato, onions, feta cheese, tzatziki sauce (which I couldn't even begin to define at the time) on a grilled pita rolled up and served with fries sounded like a neat dish to me, so I ordered one. I had learned at this point in my life to appreciate new things. The sandwich was delicious, to say

the least. The overstuffed pita would not even fit into my mouth, but I still managed to finish the whole thing, while making a huge mess and covering the table in balls of paper napkins. I was stunned, and could not believe I had lived that long without tasting this incredibly palatable sandwich.

It was quick and easy and fun to eat and consisted of all the main food groups. I tried to imagine the Italian equivalent, but I failed; there was none. There was nothing that could compare to the gyro.

I have to admit I would never eat a gyro in front of anyone who didn't know me well enough to appreciate my love for food, and I definitely wouldn't eat it on a first date. The act of eating a gyro is without a doubt an extremely difficult and messy process. It gets all over your hands, your face and the table. They wrap the bottom of the sandwich in aluminum foil to assist you, but for me it doesn't really work; sometimes I would eat the foil too.

So there you have it. My favorite food is Greek. I wonder what my father's side of the family would think. I am now open to all sorts of interesting cultural dishes and my taste buds encourage food from all different countries. This all started because of good ole Milano's and their enjoyable gyros.

One very important duck

Secret Service comes to rescue of feather friends

By **Jordy Serwin**

News Editor

If you are furry, fuzzy, feathered, or scaly, you have been waiting for spring all year.

While the larger, habitat-destroying creatures with whom you share the world are busy throwing things out of their houses and cutting grass with big loud machines, you are probably equally busy finding a mate. After this critical task is complete, it may be time for you to build a nest.

Finding just the right location to lay your eggs and perpetuate the species can be a bit daunting, considering all the options available to you. From parks, trees, and wreaths on people's front doors to government buildings, the possibilities are seemingly endless.

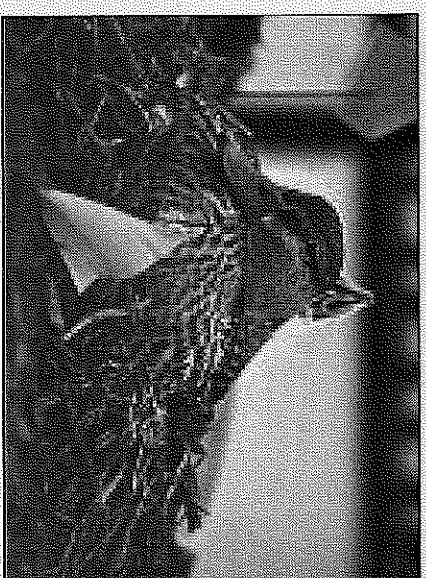
Early this April, one particularly clueless mallard duck chose the latter option and built her nest on a small patch of dirt outside the US Treasury Building. In

keeping with this high-class real estate location, the United States Secret Service, the same agency that protects the President and important political figures, was assigned to protect the duck and her 11 eggs from the various threats posed by the throngs of tourists who stream past the Treasury Building on their way to the White House.

The bird was given the finest protection the federal government has to offer, minus its own terror alert scale. Nicknamed variously "Quacks Reform," "T-Bill," and

"Duck Cheney," the brown feathered fowl attracted increasing numbers of tourists during its stay, including middle school students from Kansas City, one of whom, according to CNN, delivered a poised and eloquent remark upon viewing the avian creature.

"This is very cool." On April 30, Duck Cheney's offspring broke free of their egg prisons. The babies spent about a day in the nest in front of the Treasury before the National Park Service and US Wildlife Service transported the fowl to Rook Creek Park. Though the



ABC
The Secret Service now has a new temporary duty — protecting a mother duck and her eleven eggs.

move caused the mother duck a few moments of quacking panic, experts believe the less-urban living space would be better for the mother and baby ducks' long-term well being and development.

Like A-list stars at the end of their career, the ducks will have to adjust to the less fabulous life of the average duck. As for the Secret Service agents who so valiantly guarded the ducks during their brief stay on government soil, we salute you ... but get back to work.

Idaho's flippin' sweet bill

Idaho honors 'Napoleon Dynamite' with House Concurrent Resolution

By **Tina Wajda**

Inside Editor

Well apparently all problems in Idaho have been solved because the ways and means Committee has passed HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.29.

Get ready for this one: Resolution No. 29 recognizes the vision, talent and creativity of Jared and Jerusha Hess in the writing and production of "Napoleon Dynamite." You cannot completely blame the politicians for a senseless waste of taxpayer money. After all, "Napoleon Dynamite" did put Idaho on the map.

The movie that gives awkward high schoolers and factor-tots a place on the big screen is apparently a source of pride for the Idahoans,

because they felt it necessary to acknowledge the talents in creating such memorable (and probably in the annals of time, quite forgettable) characters as Uncle Rico, Pedro, Kip and of course, Napoleon. It's not everyday a character like Napoleon, an awkward teen with no discernable social skills who has a penchant for "Ligers," becomes a hero.

It probably did not take too much talent to create these outlandish characters; all one has to do is visit Preston High (come on, would it surprise anyone if Idaho really fosters such bizarre characters as Napoleon). So in the end I guess Idaho is celebrating its mediocrity by passing measure to recognize this film and what it has done for Idaho. Which is

give Idaho 15 minutes of fame, sadly though, "Napoleon Dynamite" has been the only fame Idaho has really gained in recent memory. Idaho is at least able to make light of this situation by putting a special caveat stating "WHEREAS, any members of the House of Representatives or the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Idaho who choose to vote

"Nay" on this concurrent resolution are "FREAKIN' IDIOTS!" and run the risk of having the "Worst Day of Their Lives!"

That about says it all. People from Idaho are truly as crazy as the people in the movie and for that I commend them. Yay for Idaho, yay for tots, and yay for milking every bit of the 15 minutes of fame possible.



Hoagie's World

I miss the good old days...

By Sean Hogan
ETC. Editor

When I was four years old, I was a monster. I ran around the house with my Thomas the Tank Engine train and smashed everything in sight.

This is typical young guy behavior. Girls play with dolls. Guys smash the dolls. Girls like pink because it's pretty and feminine. Boys like red because it resembles blood.

I learned a lot about small children a few weekends ago when I spent time with my uncle's family. My uncle is a stereotypical All-American dad who loves power tools, big trucks and sports.

He raised his three young

boys, "The Knuckleheads," to follow in his footsteps. Their favorite pastime is

- a) killing things,
- b) pretending to kill things,
- c) talking about killing things or d) playing with trucks.

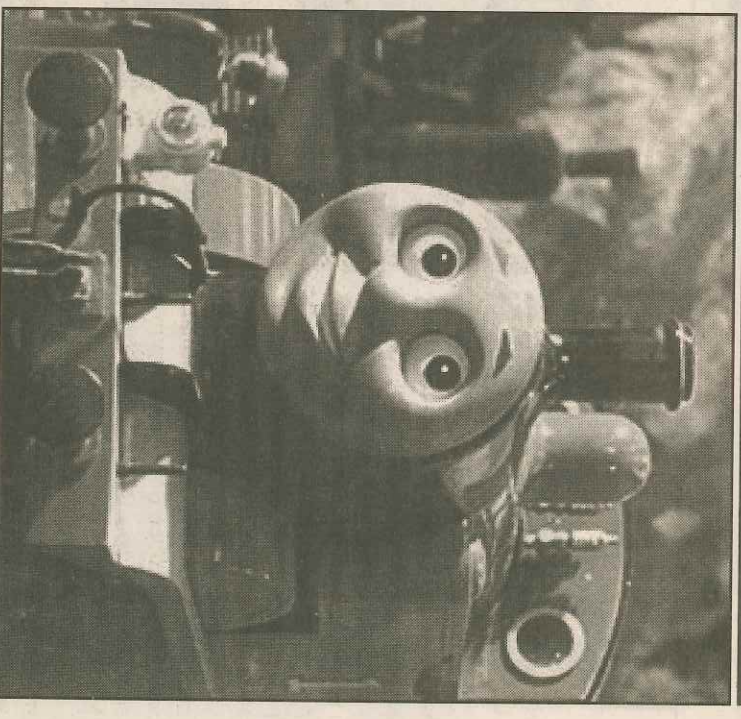
This is how I used to be. I've changed a little, but I still enjoy large vehicles and blowing stuff up. Making farting noises, however, and paying closer attention to the opposite sex are higher on my priority list than they were when I was seven years old.

This may sound silly, but I really miss the days when I could just sit at my house and smash the evil Koopas on my Nintendo. Unfortunately, I'm stuck with the determinant, the

subjunctivo, balancing equations and reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Instead of waking up at 8 a.m., eating, then sleeping again from 9 to 12, eating, then sleeping again from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., eating again and finally watching "Final Jeopardy" and going to bed at 8, I wake up at 6 a.m., go to school, go to track, do mountains of homework, then maybe, JUST MAYBE, I'll rest for an hour or two before the next day.

And parents ponder why we're so excited that school's almost out. Hey, at least we don't have to walk six miles uphill each way in the snow with no shoes to school every day.



Gullane Entertainment
Thomas the Tank Engine, a favorite show and toy of many youngsters, was also one of young Hoagie's favorites.

Mystery Person

Who is this student?

By Libby Bursley
Viewpoint Editor

Blond hair, blue eyes, a swimmer's body...no, this is not a personal ad, it is the mystery person.

Rocking a mohawk or painting his whole body for a swim meet is not out of the question for this blond senior. Shaving his body for better speed in the water, however, is a completely different story.

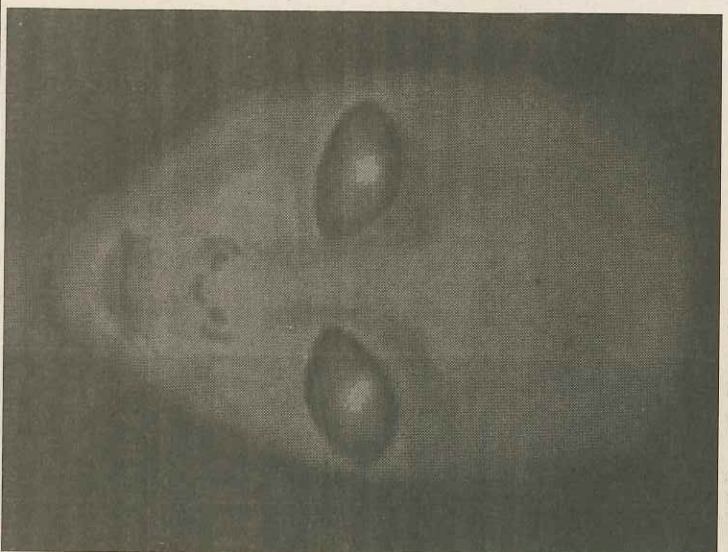
A self-described La-Z-Boy recliner, this mystery person enjoys watching football and just hanging out with his friends. And although he is not afraid of most animals (such as wombats), he has admitted to having been scared by a snake that he found one day in his garage.

Do not bother buying him anything of the color

sunshine yellow, as he hates it with a passion. Opt for a nice pastel light blue instead. When going to eat, a steak sub is always a favored option. He loves to eat, but instead of trying new things, this picky eater sticks with his normal food choices, such as peanut butter on white bread. At the zoo, you will most likely find him looking at the monkeys in their cages.

He excels at swimming, and minor injuries from hitting his head on the sides of the pool have not affected his abilities. The blows to the head have also not affected his memory, since at 17, he can still remember when at the innocent age of five he opened the car door- while his mom was driving.

This guitar-playing, weight-training master blows out 18 candles on July 29. Use your noggin and figure out this mystery person.



MAY

"People tell me that Senator Edwards got picked for his good looks, his sex appeal, and his great hair. I say to them, 'How do you think I got the job?'"
—Vice President Dick Cheney

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			25 Mike Myers' Birthday	26 Track Regionals @ Lake Braddock	27 Grape Popsicle Day	28 Digestive Disease Month
29 Rolling Thunder-Noon	30 Memorial Day	31 National No-Tobacco Day	1 Senior Awards Assembly-9:00 a.m.	2 Tina Wajda's 17 th Birthday	3 Student Holiday	4 Kenny Chesney/Keith Urban/Gretchen Wilson Concert at RFK
5 "Marky" Mark Wetters Birthday	6 Student Holiday	7 National Frozen Yogurt Month	8 Best Friends Day	9 Senior Citizen's Day	10 Red Rose Festival	11 Joe Montana's Birthday
12 National Taco Day	13 Lobster Day	14 Flag Day	15	16		

'05

Ways to get kicked out of the college that accepted you

10. Send in the deposit with a check made out to the wrong school
9. Send the college a list of all the things you don't like about their school
8. Drop out of high school
7. Send the admissions office "anonymous" threatening emails...with your name signed at the bottom
6. Fail all your classes
5. Wear paraphernalia from rival schools
4. Tell the school you want to change your major to "drugs and alcohol"
3. Don't send in the deposit
2. Prank call the admissions office
1. Get expelled from school

—Compiled by Lindsay Smith

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