



The RAVEN

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West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

Hundreds celebrate '00 grad Hauser's passions included history, guitar, lax, friends

**By Adam Rosen
& Joley Sullivan
Oracle Staff Writers**

Hundreds of students, family, faculty and friends crowded St. Bernadette's Catholic Church last Saturday to say goodbye to a man whom one mourner called "a friend to everyone."

Tom Hauser, a 2000 WS graduate, died in Blacksburg September 19 in an alcohol-related incident. Several friends and family members eulogized Hauser, 22, remembering his love of history, his attachment to his guitar, his lacrosse accomplishments and above all, his circle of close friends.

"He was a great guy; it's a tragedy that we've lost him," said Principal Dr. David Smith.

Tom Hauser was no ordinary student; he was involved in school activities and voted Best Personality his senior year.

He was a family man and faithful, as a longtime St. Bernadette's parishioner. He was a student at Virginia Tech, where his favorite thing to do was to play his guitar and hang out with his friends.

"Everyone who met him became a better person from knowing him."

—*Kyle Hoyt, WS 2000*

Hauser's love of music was evident while he was at WS, where he was a member of Guitar Ensemble and Jazz Guitar.

"Tommy was a part of our program for four years. Tommy used to rock this room," said Guitar teacher Keith Owens. "He was way into jamming and really dug what we were doing."

Hauser was also on the lacrosse team. His teammates and coach all praised him.

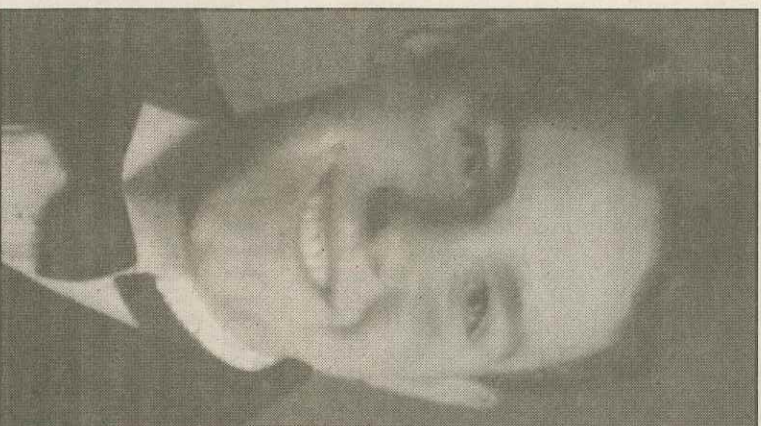
"He was outstanding. He was a good student, good lacrosse player, well-liked, liked to play guitar," said Hauser's lacrosse coach, John Deeney. "One teammate came back on leave from Afghanistan [for the funeral]."

Hauser also put his all into lacrosse. In a decisive game against Jefferson during the 2000 season, WS was down 7-1 going into the fourth quarter. The Spartans scored six goals to tie the game. Hauser scored the game-winning goal in the last seconds of the game.

"Everybody who met him became a better person from knowing him," said teammate and 2000 graduate Kyle Hoyt.

Hauser was also a strong student. Teacher James Percocco had him as a student from 1998 to 2000 in both AP US History and Applied History.

"He was always cheerful, always smiling, energetic; the kind of kid you like to have in class," said Percocco.



Yearbook Photo

Tom Hauser was voted "Best Personality" by the Class of 2000. Hauser, an Virginia Tech student, died in September

Brandt becomes AP

**By Josh Lipman
News Section Editor**

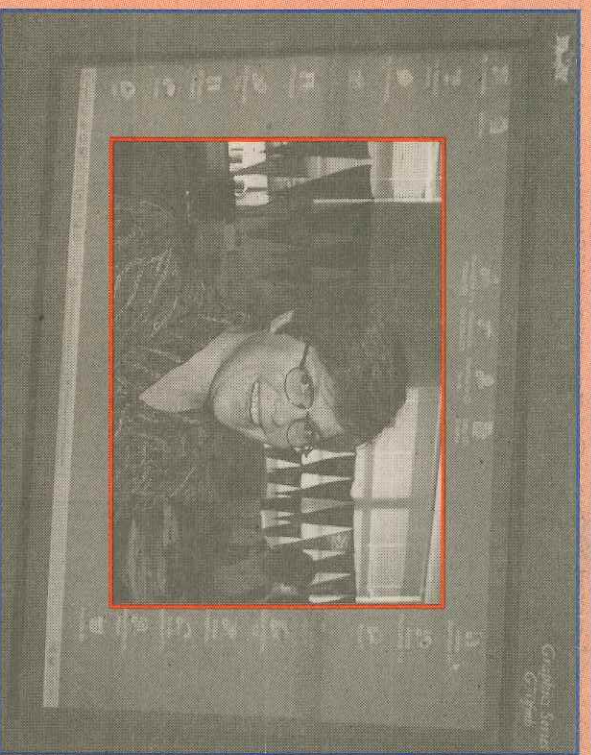
Former Technology Specialist Becky Brandt has replaced Brenda Aiken as the Grade 12 Assistant Principal at WS. The school is still looking for someone to support its vast technology needs.

As assistant principal, Brandt will be working with the science department as well as the fine performing and practical arts department. Brandt will also hold jurisdiction over textbooks and field trips.

Brandt has worked at WS either full-time or part-time for 11 years and she has worked for FCPS since 1989. Her first job with FCPS was as a business teacher and then transferred to the technology department.

"Right now I work mostly with computers. As an assistant principal I'll work with people," said Brandt. "I'm still trying to help things work well at WS."

Brandt's agenda focuses on effective teaming. Effective teaming is teachers working together to try to make sure all students at WS pass standardized testing and graduate high school.



Leah Vanatta

Becky Brandt, who has been at WS for 11 years as senior AP,

"Meeting [students'] needs, figuring out where their gaps are [and] how to address those gaps. That's what I think is most crucial," said Brandt.

The first thing which Brandt wants to accomplish as assistant principal is to meet the senior class. This includes making herself available for seniors to talk to.

"[I am] just [going] to be out, like at Hollywood and Vine, where the seniors are [and] talk to people," said Brandt.

In order to get certified as an administrator in Virginia, Brandt took a graduate course at George Mason University. Brandt was interviewed twice for the job, once by a panel of three teachers, three

See BRANDT on Page 5.

New Jewish Club explores its roots

**By Jordy Serwin
News Section Editor**

In "The Chanukah Song," Adam Sandler says it's OK to be a Jew. He lists a variety of famous people who share his Jewish roots, including Dear Abby, Jack Black, and the guy who played Fonzie on "Happy Days."

Now, juniors Stephanie Feinberg, Alissa Dettelbach and Kenny Rubenstein want to bring the same message to WS. These three juniors have started a Jewish Club offering all students the chance to meet new people while learning about Jewish holidays and culture.

At the club's first meeting, the three founders served apples and honey, which are traditionally served on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. The apples are believed to bring good health and personal well-being and are dipped in honey to wish others a "sweet" New Year.

The founders and their faculty advisor, Spanish teacher Barbara Brand, welcomed others and talked about their hopes for the new club.

"I just want the club to be accepted," Rubenstein said.

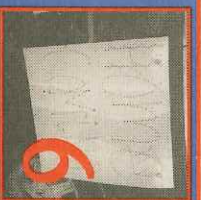
Feinberg said she hopes the club will eliminate some



Leah Vanatta

Barbara Brand sponsors the new Jewish Club.

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8 These guys are funny!



15 Mens volleyball begins

Juniors invade senior privileges

By Jon Nysten
Oracle Editor

All junior year I left my house at six AM just to make it to school in time to get a parking spot along Rolling Road. As a pupil placed student all sophomore year my mother had to drive me to school before going to work.

At the end of sophomore year she began asking the school, school board, and superintendent if I could acquire a parking pass during junior year.

Naturally she reasoned if my son has to provide his own transportation because he is pupil placed and there are open spaces in the parking lot after the seniors who want them have them, why can he not purchase one?

At the start of junior year, while at the attendance office, I inquired if juniors could purchase a left over parking spot as I was a pupil placed student and it would be a lot easier if I could purchase a parking pass.

I was informed that since I was pupil placed, it was my problem, and that I should get over it and wait until I was a senior, as parking in the lot was a senior privilege.

Every administrator, security personnel, and attendance secretary I asked, gave the same reply; it is

a senior privilege. A senior privilege is one of those many blissful advantages to being a senior: leaving class early on Friday's, having a senior only lunch line in the cafeteria, getting a parking space, senior pranks, senior skip day, a host of senior activities, and not having to come back to school next fall.

So I waited until senior year when I was allowed a parking pass, which now graces the front windshield of my car.

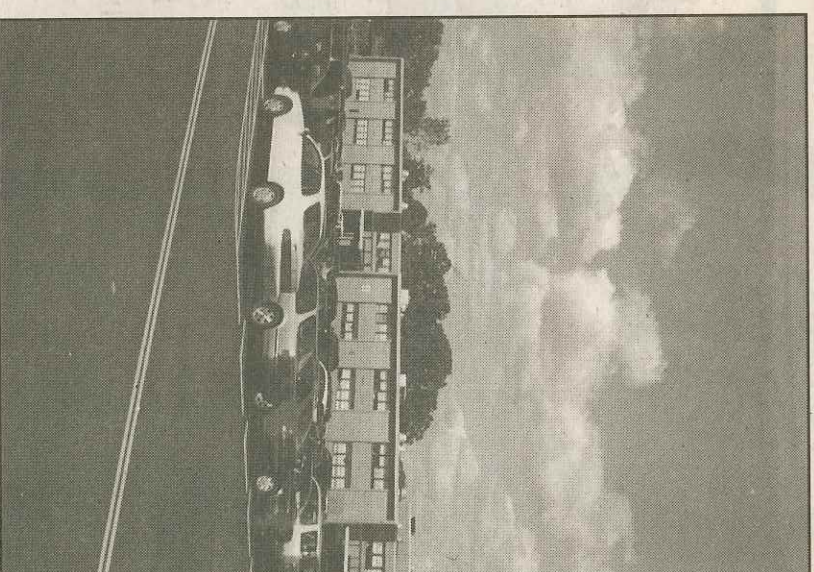
However, this year the administration has decided to sell the left over parking to juniors, removing a parking spot as a senior privilege.

I would not care if they opened up the parking spots to juniors, if in my three years here at WS I had not been led to believe that parking in the parking lot was a senior privilege.

I am hurt and angry that the administration has deemed my senior privileges that I have waited and salivated over, to be open to the masses. The underclassmen already invade the senior lunch line.

Last school year there were 30 spots left in mid-October. Currently there are about 45 parking spaces still open, and it's only half way through September.

My question for the current administration, is why don't we wait another month at least before handing out senior privileges to underclassmen?



The administration raffled off the leftover senior parking spots to the juniors.
Susan Sommerfeld

Letter-to-the-Editor

Dear Editor,

Like many other students who went to the first pep rally of the year, I participated in the moment of silence observed to show respect for those who died in the 9/11 attacks. It seemed like a nice thought, and so I respectfully maintained silence just like everyone else in the gym. But it later occurred to me that not only have people died IN the attacks, but many more had died BECAUSE of the attacks. Specifically, it was those attacks that led to our invasion of Afghanistan and the war in Iraq. This has led to countless innocent civilians killed by our own army, not to mention the number of soldiers that have sacrificed their lives fighting them.

Another detail I noticed was that there was no moment of silence at last year's pep rally, on the second anniversary of the attacks. For a while I wondered why, and finally it occurred to me that this was an election year. I thought it was significant that we had chosen to show respect for the lives lost in the event that led to the president's war in Iraq, but not for the thousands of soldiers who have been killed or injured during that war. To mention such a loss might provoke reaction from people that would make them



A car in the WS parking lot shows off their patriotism for our country.
File Photo

become more anti-Iraq. Because of all this, it seems very odd and probably political that we had no moment of silence last year, and we had none for anyone who isn't an American civilian.

I encourage mourning Americans and non-Americans alike. Perhaps we can give some thought to more than just our own citizens, if there is another moment of silence next year. We might start to give thought to all people who died BECAUSE of these attacks, and not only those who died in them. My annoyance with a few words here may seem trivial, but I feel that changing them would bring greater awareness to people, and would appear less political and more earnest.
—Devon Courtwright, junior

Creating new confusion

Frustration reigns in wake of new pass policy

The smiles on friendly faces you missed all summer, the smell of new textbooks, the squeak of freshly polished floor tiles...and the smooth laminated edges of brightly colored hall passes?

This year, students were welcomed back to WS with more than just the usual bevy of school supply lists and forms to fill out. The administration introduced a new, stricter hall pass system that demands significantly more time and energy of students and staff members alike.

So far, the complicated hall pass procedures are creating only frustration and resentment. All of the sudden, students' bathroom habits and trips to the water fountain are being heavily monitored.

The system is tough on teachers, too, who must turn in their sign out sheets to the administration, who then determines whether teachers are letting too many students out of their classrooms.

The policies are turning a step out of a class into a bureaucratic nightmare. By the time a student has obtained a teacher's permission to leave the class, filled out the sign out sheet, and grabbed the bathroom pass, chances are it could be too late.

Editorial

The new system, though it may have good intentions, is both overly demanding and ineffective.

"The administration introduced a new, stricter hall pass system that demands significantly more time and energy..."

If the administration left it up to the judgment of teachers and students, those brightly colored passes could become a thing of the past – and a trip to the water fountain would never again involve more red tape than a government resolution.

The

Oracle

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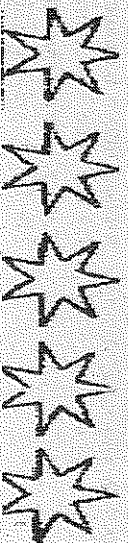


Senator Jay O'Brien visited Keith's Driving School instructors to discuss and explain new legislation.



Keith, pictured holding the sign on the left side, joins a few of his driving instructors after a meeting which included Senator Jay O'Brien.

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For the love of jerky

The snack food just swept me off my feet

By Stevie Florino

ETC. Assistant

When I first stepped foot into the Sedona House of Jerky, (now known as Buck Thorton's World of Jerky), I thought I had died and gone to heaven. The many different aromas swept me off my feet and carried me into the world of jerky. From that day on, I guess you could call me a "jerk."

Until that hot summer day on vacation in Arizona, my knowledge of jerky was practically nil. I never really paid much attention to the snack-rack in 7-11 filled with a variety of flavors of jerky until I met Gary Riley, the proprietor of Buck Thorton's World of Jerky. As I examined the different packages in his store, Riley was ever so willing to share with me his extensive knowledge of all the assorted flavors of jerky.

"We have five flavors of elk, one of deer, two of buffalo, ten of beef, one of salmon and one exotic pack with alligator, ostrich and kangaroo," said Riley. With so much to choose from, it was hard for me to make my decision. I ended up settling on the deer

and the exotic pack, and boy was that the best damn jerky I have ever had.

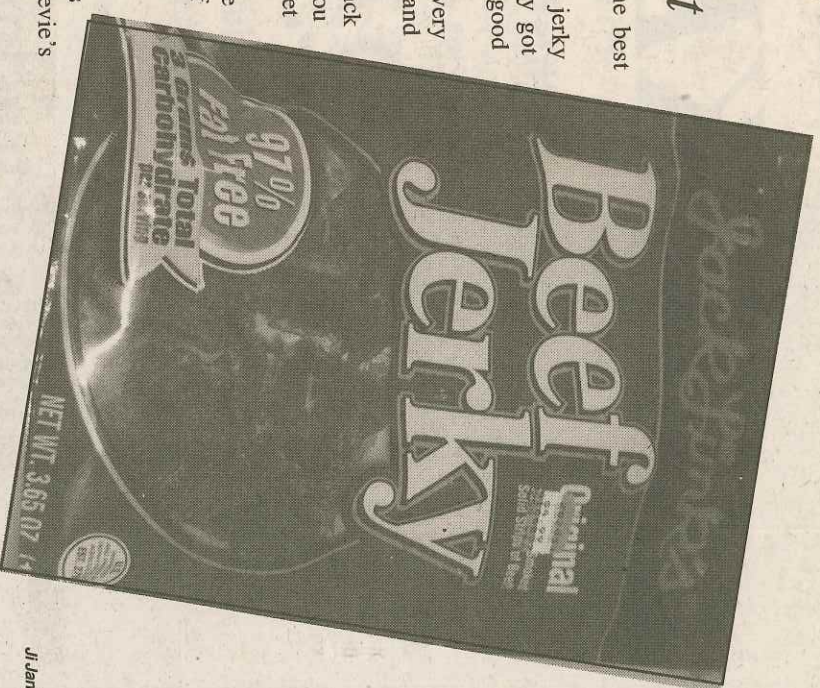
Previously my impression had been that jerky was a junk food. I am not sure how jerky got such a bad rap, because it is actually quite good for you.

Jerky is low in cholesterol, low in fat, and very high in protein, making it a wholesome and nutritious snack.

Jerky is an excellent energy snack to pack when hiking, biking, running or whenever you are on the go. It is light, fits in your pocket easily and doesn't make a mess.

Riley sells some of the best jerky in the country. He has made me a devoted fan of jerky and he can make you one, too.

Next time you head out west, make sure to stop by Buck Thorton's World of Jerky in Sedona. And who knows, in a few years you might find me behind the counter of "Stevie's Jerky Shack of Springfield."



Ji Jang

Gang symbols show up in suburbs

By Libby Bursley

Viewpoint Editor

Living in the Northern Virginia suburbs, and not directly in Washington D.C., sometimes visitors are surprised to hear about any gang activity in our county and others surrounding Fairfax.

The police say that currently, there are at least 20 gangs operating in our area. The largest and most violent gang is MS-13 (Mara Salvatrucha). This gang has been traced to several vicious crimes throughout the past few months. Another surfacing gang is the 434 gang, which has been associated in a more recent burst of activity, including a fight with a rival gang in front of an IHOP, resulting in two members going to a hospital, later being released with minor injuries. Fights often break out in unsuspecting places.

Still, people think that all this is still happening far away from us at WS. However, in August, at Lake Braddock High School, a gang member was caught trying to recruit a fourteen year old girl for his gang. Better security, even in school parking lots, could keep this from happening again. That incident brings us to a frightening conclusion. Although many students have not had a personal encounter with this, it is out there.

Even in a girl's bathroom at WS, near the Sports Lobby, supporters of the MS-13 gang have written their acknowledgment of the gang in marker on the stall door. At a conference that teachers, counselors, security guards and other school staff attended on August 18, it is said that to keep students busy with other activities after school would help them in avoiding gangs. For example, in Prince George's

County, school Chief Andre Hornsby has decided to spend \$800,000 on an athletic program for the school.

In Maryland, the laws toward gangs aren't as harsh as in Virginia. Here, it is illegal to recruit someone into a criminal gang. In the Lake Braddock case, the man was sentenced to three years in prison, which is a justifiable punishment for anyone who chooses to do this. Even with these enforced laws, gangs

"The school security is always wary, but not too concerned with gangs at WS. Every school has a bit of conflict. It can only take one or two people to stir things up."
—School Security Specialist Mike Ukele

Erica Wilkening

PENGUIN CLASSIC
OVID
METAMORPHOSE
Erica Wilkening

So, who's stupid?

By Liz Weiderhold

Managing Editor

If you sometimes believe you live in a nation of idiots, then you are one of them.

I walked into Barnes & Noble looking for *The Metamorphosis* by Ovid, a book of classic poetry that has lasted 2000 years and is a work of genius. I asked the woman at the information desk. She could neither spell Ovid ("A-V-I-D") nor understand what genre *The Metamorphosis* was. Consequently, she could not help me without a search engine.

I do not think she is an idiot, though. I don't know her, I can't blame her. Her lack of knowledge in Roman Classics does not epitomize her.

Forty-four million Americans cannot read above a 4th-grade level, according to the U.S. Department of Education's National Adult Literacy Survey. But, in the small print is the truth about this deplorable statistic: "Twenty-five percent...who performed in [Level I—the lowest] were immigrants...Nearly two-thirds of those in Level I (62 percent)...terminated their education before completing high school. A third was age 65 or older, and 26 percent had physical, mental, or health conditions...Nineteen percent of the respondents in Level I reported having visual difficulties that affect their ability to read print."

Just because only 86 percent of Americans can identify the US on a map, doesn't mean the other 14 percent are "stone-cold idiots," as Michael Moore, author of *Stupid White Men*, says.

People like Moore are the idiots. They are misinformed, arrogant know-it-alls, who have nothing better to do than shove meaningless statistics in the faces of people subservient to them so they can indulge in their own self-proclaimed "superiority." They are the ones that deserve the title "Stupid White Men."

are still growing here and across the U.S. But Mike Ukele, school security officer, says "the school security is always wary, but not too concerned with gangs at WS. There was an incident two years ago when a man who didn't go to the school recruited some kids, he was caught and went to jail. Now all we really have problems with is graffiti. Every school has a bit of conflict. It can only take one or two people to stir things up."

Metzger to sponsor Key Club

By Joley Sullivan
Senior Staff Writer

At the start of the school year, while WS students were adjusting to new teachers and waking up at earlier times, the officers of the Key Club were busy trying to find a sponsor.

"I had to hold another officer's meeting and we had a list of about twenty teachers [as possibilities]," said Key Club president, Brian Kim.

The former, sponsor of the club, Joy Brinckman, notified the officers in August that she would not be able to sponsor them this year, leaving Key Club temporarily without a sponsor.

Kim got busy asking any teachers he could find if they would sponsor the club. The problem was that with all of the available clubs and other extracurricular activities at WS, most of the teachers were already very involved.

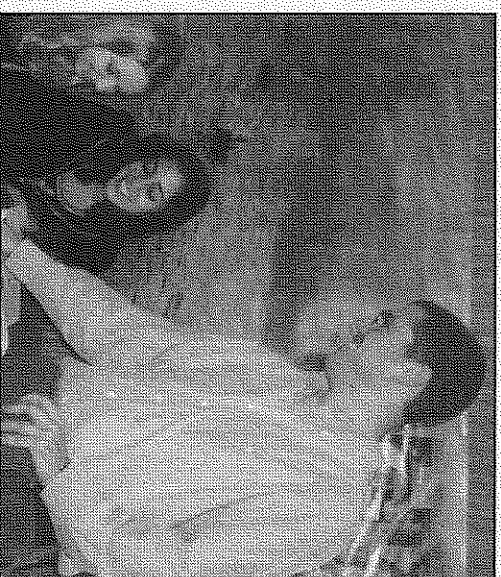
Through persistent persuasion, Kim convinced freshman English teacher Mark Metzger to sponsor the club.

"They need someone to do it and I have time," said Metzger.

Besides having free time and a need for involvement, Metzger is looking forward to seeing what Key does.

"Key Club is tons of fun and we help out the community and we have regular meetings and sometimes we also have parties for the members and we have blood drives and send goodies for the troops in Iraq," said Kim. "Key Club is the oldest and largest service program for high school students and it is international."

The Key Club ski at the Homecoming assembly will go on as usual, but the SGA will run the rest of the

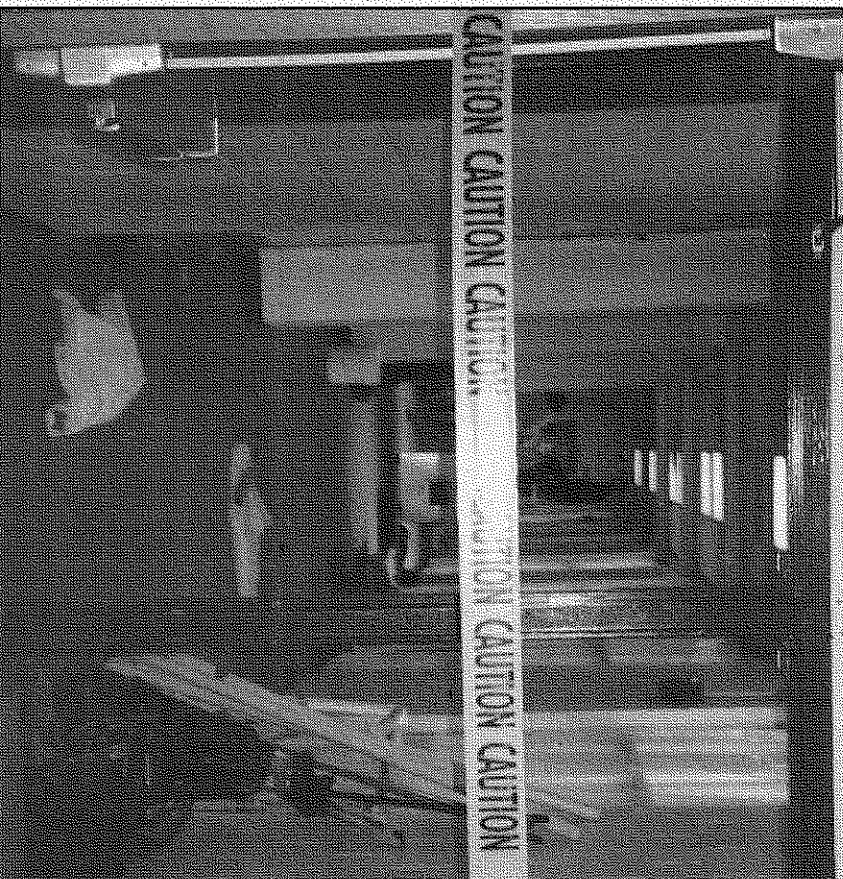


Adam Rosen

English teacher Mark Metzger will be the new Key Club sponsor.

"I think it will just be easier for everybody," said SGA sponsor Jenn Owens. "For the most part the assembly runs itself except for the timing."

BEYOND THIS POINT
DURING LUNCH
AT 1:3 AND 12:3



Sarah Daskin

The library and the courtyard hallway received new carpeting this summer, which was soaked after Biology teacher Beth Jewell's aquarium, along with her beloved "Jack Sparrow," caused a great big mess.

Jewish Club strives to erase stereotypes

Club, continued from Page 1.

negative stereotypes and enable people to have a variety of cultural experiences.

"We're living in a Christian world," she said. "You go to the mall at Christmas and you hear Christian music, even if you're not Christian. This club was intended to help us have some Jewish experiences, too."

"The club will focus on some of the major Jewish holidays," Dettlebach said. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (the Jewish Day of Atonement) are two major Jewish holidays that occur in September and are only part of the list of major holidays spread all through the year. Other major Jewish holidays include Chanukah in December and Passover in March or April.

The club meets in Barbara Brand's classroom, Room 241. The founders plan to meet about once a month but say the schedule will vary, depending on where the Jewish holidays fall on the calendar. Each meeting will include food as well as information about Jewish traditions. Dettlebach says in addition to the monthly meetings, the group intends to do things around school to celebrate major Jewish holidays.

Adam Sandler updates his Chanukah Song to add a new list of names every few years. If he ever does a special WS version, he might sing about Stephanie, Ahsa and Kenny.

Splish, splash!

'Jack Sparrow' meets demise in library

By Jessica Benjamin

Senior Staff Writer

One fish, two fish, red fish, dead fish. It was the middle of the night, the fish happily swimming in its tank. And then tragedy struck. The cart holding the tank shook and collapsed, bringing the tank down with it, smashing the glass and spewing water everywhere.

Jack Sparrow, as one biology class affectionately named him, was no more. Biology teacher, Beth Jewell, was left to start the new year without her fish.

The whole dilemma started with computers, a move, and a garden. Jewell got the chance to move into room 69 because it had a computer lab. She grasped the opportunity, knowing that the room held her dream view.

"I wanted a view of the garden my students were working on," said Jewell speaking of the Japanese garden in the science courtyard of WS. "I wanted a view of my beautiful garden."

But switching rooms meant switching homes for little Jack Sparrow, a rather large South American "Jack Dempsey" cichlid, whose name is up for debate. (The Jack Dempsey comes from the famous boxer, illustrating the

aggressiveness of the fish.) Each one of Jewell's biology classes gave it a new and unique name. The fish found a new home in the library and everything was going according to plan, until night fell. "When the custodians came in the morning they saw the water, and they found the poor little fish in the middle of all the water, not even flopping," said librarian Christine Simpson. "It was a shame."

Jack Sparrow had seen many kids come and go through the doors of WS. Jewell owned her fish friend for "6,7,8,10 years," she said. But the fish will remain in the memories of those who knew him best.

"I'll always remember the stupid fish and the grimy tank in the back of the room," said sophomore Jasmine Mahboob.

New plans are already under way for a new ocean display which will be housed in the library. (This one will sit on a stand and not a cart.) "I want a really nice coral reef tank," said Jewell. Jewell's fish will not be forgotten. He will be missed. "Yes, I will miss my fish, oh terribly so. We were tight," said Jewell.



Oracle File Photo

New Administrator Becky Brandt will have several responsibilities, including patrolling the crowded halls.

Brandt takes the helm from Aiken

Brandt, continued from page 1.

administrators, and one parent and then again by FCPS cluster six director Ann Monday.

Brandt is ecstatic about becoming an assistant principal.

"Personally it's very exciting to me. I will get a chance to work closely with the other administrators here at WS," said Brandt. "In recent years I've been working just with hubs and wires and connectivity. I'm very excited to get back to the education side of things."

The perfect date for the homecoming dance

Find the date that you have always wanted of the 2004-2005 Homecoming Dance at WS.

By Sunnie Ko
Sports Editor

Asking your special someone A.K.A honey bunch, baby cakes, or snuggle-puss, is a widely known tradition. Now, at this time of year, you may be at a standstill as to what kind of guy you are for the homecoming dance. When it comes to inviting someone to homecoming, there are three types of guys in this world.

Slackers are the first type. They are the ones who don't have a clue if they are going to ask anyone, let alone how they are going to ask them. This type of fella will probably end up asking you to the dance on the popular, super romantic... Instant Message. Think about it, your sitting at home talking to your best friend about what the

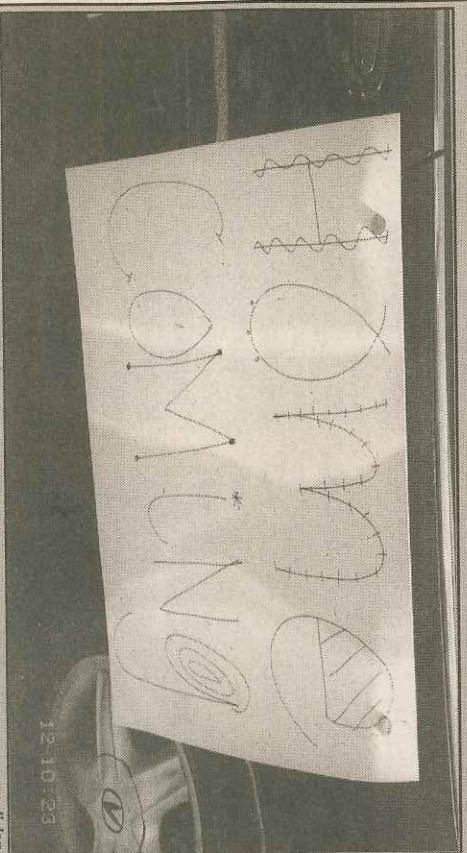
homework is and then all of a sudden, "buduloo!"

Imawesome89: HeY waNnA gO To h*C OGe!TheR?

Imawesome89:...Lol

The second type is the "I think I can" guy. This guy is a step up from your Internet gurr, and gets major brownie points for effort. He racks his brain for weeks and finally concocts some "genius" plan to ask you. He decides to fork your yard spelling out "Homecoming?" killing the grass, destroying your yard and infuriating your father.

The last guys is your typical rent a hot air balloon, write your name in jet smoke, does not exist, guy. This man begins his ingenious plan to ask his sweetie to the dance during Christmas vacation and the effort shows. Senior



Ji Jang

Senior Sean Lampley put this sign on senior Megan Taylor's car to ask her to homecoming. Many cars are being decorated for homecoming this year.

Wacky students eat their own gourmet foods

You would never even think of all the crazy things that the students eat at WS!

By Lindsay Burke

Inside Editor

Pinch your nose, hold your breath, chew, and swallow-fast. More often than not, when you ask someone around WSHS if they have ever eaten something weird, they say "oh, yes". Soon after asking and hearing about the time they ate frog legs on vacation, you approach another person with the same question, and usually get a similar response.

However, on the rare occasion, a really squishy, slimy story will slip its way out.

"When I was in first grade, I used to pick dead bugs off the window and eat them."

—Kathryn Jarvis

Tenth grader Ben Kirsch was unaffected when asked if he had ever eaten anything odd. "I've [eaten] the torso of a snake, the upper thigh of a bear, and I had rat when I went to Korea," he said.

Weird foods devoured in WS are not always something that should be eaten. "I once ate a bar of soap for a dollar," said tenth grader David York. He went on to explain that it had been a dare, but halfway through the bar he felt too sick to finish eating it. Fortunately the soap was not toxic, and he still got his dollar.

The Active Physics Team teacher, Rene Johnson, had a story of her own to share. In result of a cruel joke played on her, she ate chocolate covered ants while under the impression that she would be eating chocolate covered raisins.

Latin teacher "Magistra" Jarvis agreed to put her younger self out in the open. "When I was in first grade, I used to pick dead bugs off the window and eat them.

Growing up in a Catholic family I had to make sure it didn't happen on Fridays, because you couldn't eat meat on Fridays," said Jarvis.

She then requested that a happy face be put at the end of her quote, but due to unfortunate technological recoils, it isn't possible to do so.

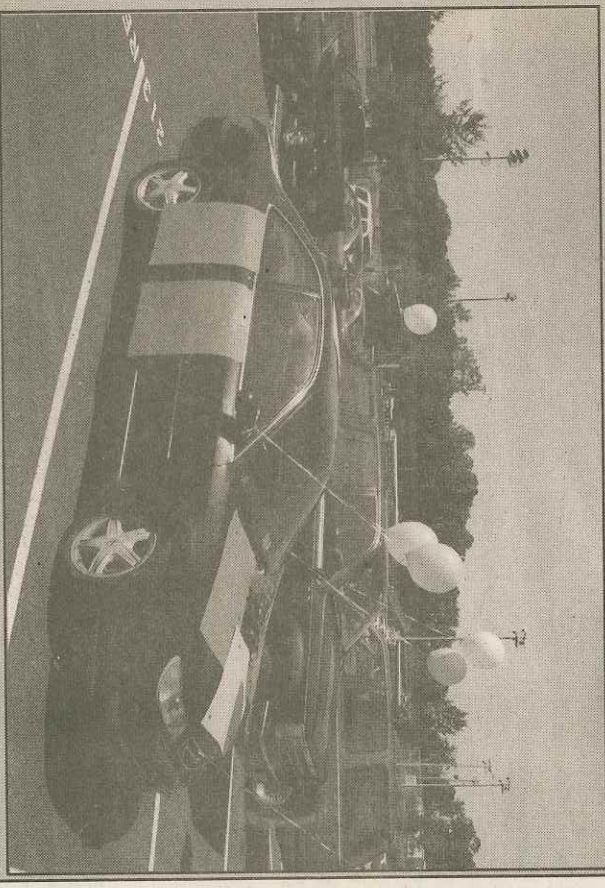
For some people, eating habits are very different then what most people would consider to be a "normal" food.

"I caught a fish when I was fishing and right after I reeled it in, I ate it," said sophomore George Sturgis.

He also stated that he'd done this several times before, and sounded like it was not an uncommon act. To him this was normal.

Deep apologies go out to those who feel that they have eaten something that far surpasses the bizarre stories told above.

To those who got their word in, congratulations- you have officially grossed out the majority of the school.



Ji Jang

Students ask their dates to homecoming by decorating their cars while they are in school.

Sean Lampley is an exceptional example of guy number three. Lampley decorated Senior Megan Taylor's car with ornamental posters, balloons and flowers. Taylor drove home that day with a smile on her face.

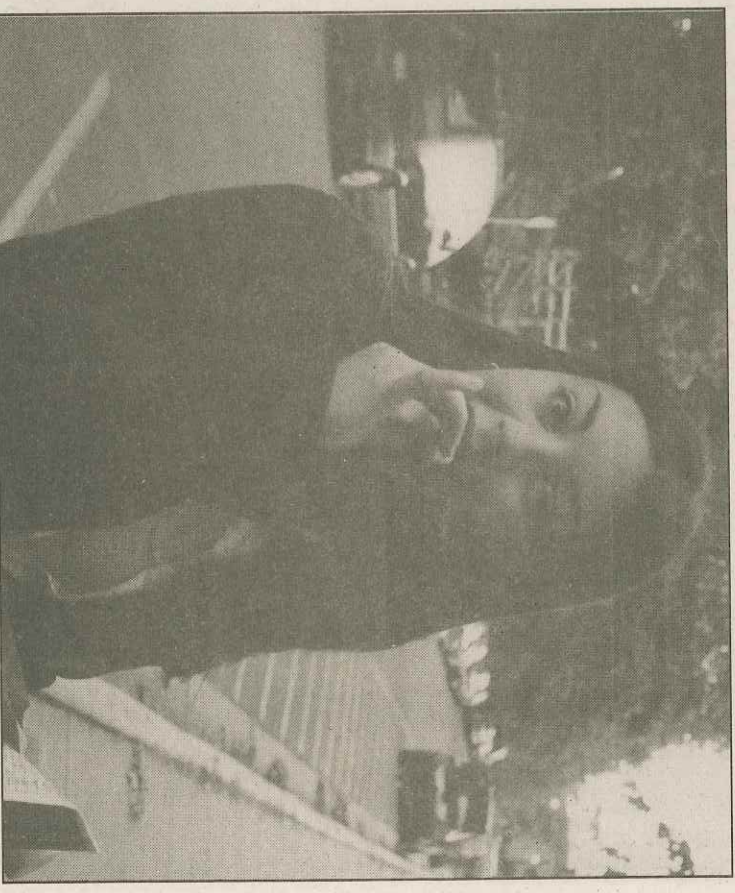
Two other examples of "Mr. Wonderful" are Seniors Danny Tinsley and James Trope.

These two gentlemen invited their dates, senior cheerleaders Jill Hannes and Summer Renner, to the dance by painting their six packs with their message. At half time, Tinsley, Trope and other friends strutted down to the track where they bared their stomachs



Ji Jang

Lampley decorates Taylor's car.



Erin DeBlais

Junior Lauren Catterky eats one of her own favorite bizzare foods.

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Older students act as trendsetters

Younger students choose older peers as role models

By Jessica Benjamin

Senior Staff Writer

People live by example, following in others footsteps. It is the way things have been done since the beginning of time. People live by example, following in others footsteps. But as usual, WS has its own way of doing things.

Many students will try to look older, just so they can fit in. No one would know better than a freshman. They are brand new to the school and many just want to fit in, and of course, avoid being a target as they head down senior rail.

"The girls, when they wear those [head scarves] on their head, they never did that until I saw the older girls wearing them," said freshman Nicole Merrick. "And the guys wearing pink."

Be it style, music, dance moves, or slang, the younger students live by example. They do what they see. But as always, there are exceptions to the rule.

There are many students that want to stand out in the crowd. They want to be unique. This case is commonly found among siblings. They want to be seen as someone other than "so and so's brother" or "whatever-his-name-is's sister."

"She doesn't act like me, definitely not the way she dresses," said junior Adaire Jennings about her younger sister.

Senior Martin Gonzalez agreed with this idea of younger siblings trying to be seen as anyone but their older sibling.

"My brother is my complete opposite," said Gonzalez.

In some sibling cases, the older one is the deciding factor in an ensemble or CD purchase. In Merrick's case this factor is her older brother.

"She doesn't act like me, definitely not the way she dresses."

—Junior, Adaire Jennings

"I depend on his opinion. I ask him if this looks right or that looks right," said Merrick. Older students play an enormous role in the way that younger students act, dress, and speak.

In some cases that is producing a "mini-me" in a sense, and in others it's forcing students to create their own style. But one thing is certain, without upperclassmen the underclassmen would have no one to copy, but no one to rebel against either.



Em Deblon

Students model their clothing preferences after older peers.

Livestrong with Armstrong

Funds from bracelets help cancer victims

By Carlin Sherrill

Features Editor

Walking down the halls at WS, you will notice many students sporting yellow wristbands. These bracelets are a symbol of the Lance Armstrong Foundation, which helps support cancer victims all around the world.

Cyclist, Lance Armstrong, was diagnosed in 1996 with testicular cancer. For seven years he battled against the disease, doubting he would ever win any cycling competitions again. During treatment, Lance created the Lance Armstrong Foundation. LAF believes that knowledge is power and attitude is everything. Their mission is help people with cancer live strong and get the information and tools they need to fight the disease.

Ten million people throughout the world are infected with cancer. Lance helps the cancer victims by donating the money he earns through the foundation. Lance and his foundation help fight against cancer through four core areas: education, advocacy, public health, and research. Through these programs, the LAF can find out more about cancer and how to treat it.

At WS, students are wearing the LAF bracelets to show support the fight against cancer. "I support Lance Armstrong and his cancer foundation," said

"I like them because it's a symbol of strength."

—Amy McGregor, sophomore

sophomore, Eric Highfill. The students wear the band to show their spirit in helping find out more about cancer and how to treat it.

"My good friend Tom hooked me up with one after I asked. I had seen them all over the place and heard about them from friends," said Junior Tommy Beckman.

The bands are so popular that stores that carried them are now sold out and many of them are on back order. Sophomore Amy McGregor does not have a LIVESTRONG band because she has not been able to find them anywhere in stores.

"I want one because they are for a good cause," Many people who want live strong bracelets can not find them anywhere in stores.

The bands are so popular that stores that carried them are now sold out and many of them are on back order. You can find a wristband for one dollar on-line at www.laf.org.

"I like them because it's a symbol of strength," said McGregor.

Undercover agents test new pass policy

Special agents go on mission to create alternative hall passes

By Karla Sakas and Caitlin Crowley

Senior Staff Writers

It was a dark and stormy night...okay, so it was a bright and sunny school day. Special Agent Lola and I, Agent Cap'n, sat in the office, awaiting news from headquarters.

A knock on the door.

"Come in," said Lola. It was a dame. She looked upset, like she had something on her mind.

"What's the matter, dollface?" I said.

"Um, nothing. I just have your story assignment. It's due Monday."

Our mission: to go undercover and test the new hall pass system. We gathered a few creative, alternative passes and set out.

Alternative Pass Method 1: folded blue scrap of paper with "POTTY PASS" written in red lettering. Administrator on duty too involved in reading latest issue of the *Oracle* to question agents. Someone has his priorities in order.

Alternative Pass Method 2: posing as Scandinavian exchange students while roaming halls. Successfully

avoided administrator interrogation, possibly out of regard for international diplomacy laws.

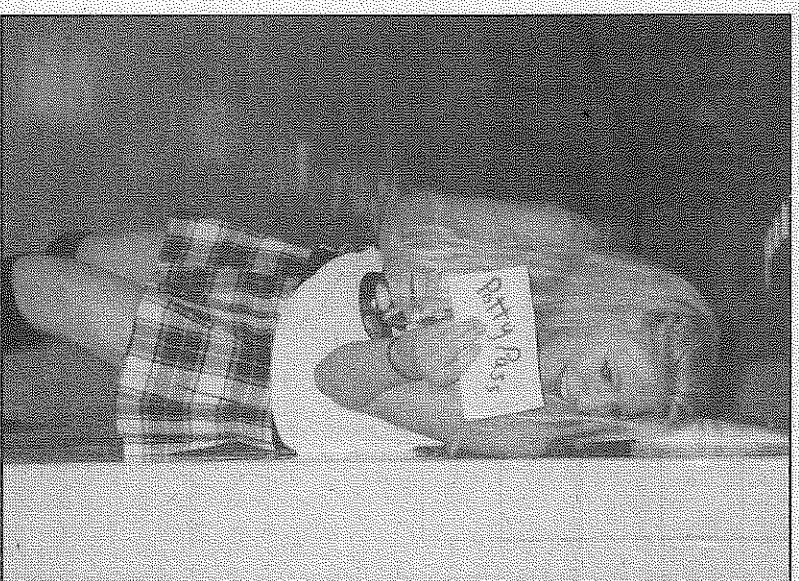
Alternative Pass Method 3: prominent "I am skipping" sign taped to shirt. Raised eyebrows and a few laughs from administrators — but no requests to see actual passes.

Alternative Pass Method 4: plastic clown bank, six inches tall, grotesque. Ignored by a certain fashion-savvy administrator who complimented agent on her outfit instead of demanding pass.

Result: success. While the official hall passes may come in cute colors, we discovered that personalized passes add a special touch and are equally effective in getting you where you want to go. In fact, you may just earn some compliments and chuckles from administrators if they stop you in the hall.

Disclaimer: Special Agents Cap'n and Lola are not responsible if you receive detention using one of our methods. Chances are you did not coordinate your pass with you shoes, anyway.

Commentary



Caitlin Crowley wields a phony hall pass.

Liz Bucheister

JOINT

The Great
Comedian
time

By Adam Rosen

Oracle Editor

Hanukkah, Hanukkah it's time to talk about Adam Sandler. Notably famous for being an actor, stand up comedian and singer Sandler has made his way into being one of the world's most famous Jews. With his infamous "Hanukkah Song" Sandler has shown that anyone can make fun of anything even if it is a Jew.

Sandler started his career hosting the MTV TV show "Remote Control". After Remote "Control" Sandler moved his way into the movie business. His first movie was "Going Overboard" which is about a comedian that takes a job on a cruise ship. After that movie Sandler made his way on the set

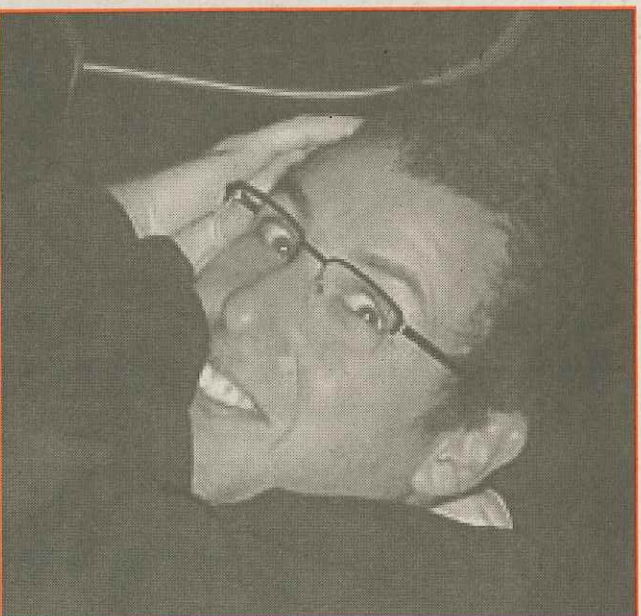
ADAM SANDLER

of Saturday Night Live. SNL made Adam Sandler into one of the most respected comedians.

"Happy Gilmore" and "Billy Madison" were two of Sandler's most famous movies. "Happy Gilmore" was about a hockey player that turned to golf as his sport of choice. He competed against pro golfer Shooter McGavin for a coveted gold jacket prize. This gold jacket would be given to the best player of the tournament.

"Happy Gilmore is one amazing movie," said sophomore Stephen Morris. "I wish I could hit the ball as far as him."

"Billy Madison" is about a rich adult that has not grown up yet. He learns that his father is giving his company to



Adam Sandler gets caught curling up on his couch for a quick nap before trying to memorize lines for an upcoming film. Right now he is preparing to appear in "The Longest Yard".

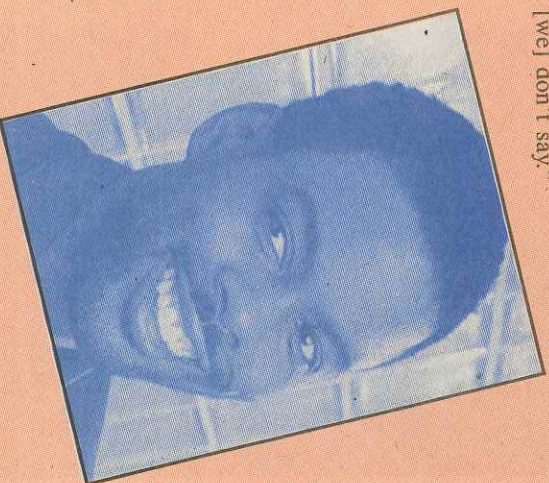
actor Bradley Whitford (Eric Gordon). Sandler enters school and repeats every grade to not let Gordon get the company.

As of right now Sandler is working on "The Longest Yard". "The Longest Yard" will star actors Burt Reynolds, Chris Rock and Tracy Morgan. This movie is about prison inmates coming together to play the prison guards in a football game. Sandler the quarterback for the inmates leads the team against the guards.

CHRIS ROCK

By Jon Nylan
Oracle Editor

He is one of the funniest men alive, his name is synonymous with racially indiscriminate humor. When people here his name they immediately think of his humorous, often notorious stand up acts, and his roles in several movies. His name is Chris Rock. He hosts TV shows, directs and acts in movies such as *Down To Earth*, does commercials, makes fun of politics, and is an all around comedian. Sophomore Molly Cushing, a fan of Rock said, "His style is offensive and insulting but I think that it's funny because he says what we all want to say, but [we] don't say."



Chris Rock, has been known for his offensive one-liners and his political opinions. He's recording another series the infamous "Chris Rock Show."

"The Chris Rock Show" has made him a household name, his comedy acts have made him known throughout America, and he has more for us. "Madagascar" is a movie due out in 2005 where Rock plays a zebra from the national zoo that learns first hand about living in the wild.

Also due out in 2005 is "The Longest Yard," starring Rock as a caretaker of inmates at a prison, and the inmates challenge the guards to a game of football. "Sick Day" whose release date is still pending has only a single cast member at the moment, Rock.

Even with three movies in the works Rock isn't slowing down. He is recording another series of "The Chris Rock Show."

He has risen to popularity and acquired a massive following of loyal fans along the way. His three pending films, the new season of his show and a smashing success on his recent tour "the black ambition tour 2003-2004" means more hours of humor, and even if he bombs on a few of them, fans everywhere will still watch his show, still buy tickets to his movies, because everyone loves Chris Rock.

By Jenny Taylor
Entertainment Editor

When you hear "I'm Rick James!" most would figure that Rick James was speaking. However, this line has been made famous by the enormously popular stand-up comedian Dave Chappelle.

Earlier this year, he agreed to star in another two seasons of his hit sketch comedy "Chappelle's Show" in exchange for a massive contract of \$50 million. When Dave first started doing stand-up at the age of fourteen, he could have never imagined signing a contract of that magnitude. Early on in his career, Dave Chappelle moved from his home of Washington, D.C. to the comedy capital of the world, New York City. Chappelle went from club to club, eventually gaining support for his outrageous style of humor. Once Dave had succeeded in stand-up, he made the switch to motion pictures.

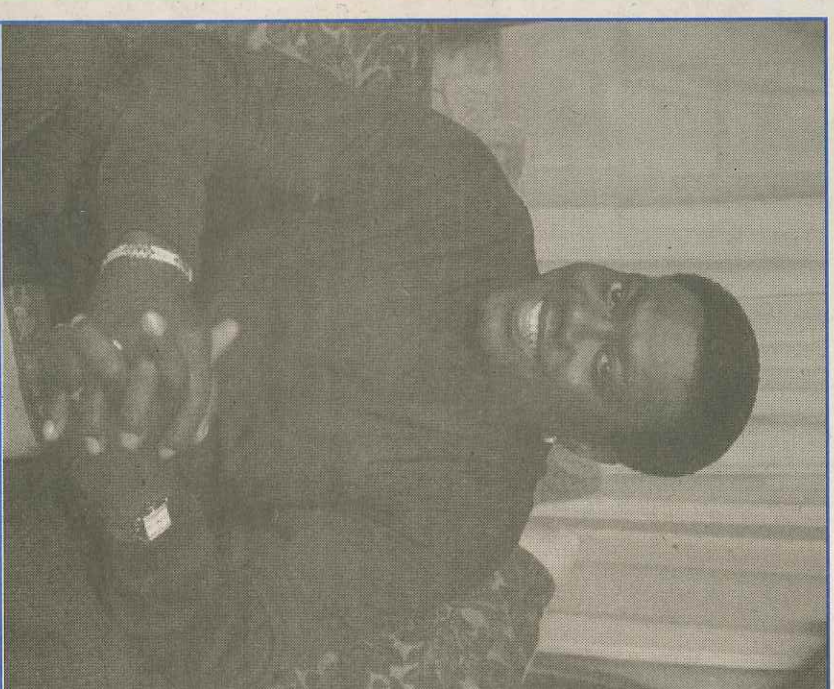
His first movie, "Robin Hood Men in Tights", was released in 1993 and instantly became a comedy classic. From then on, Dave has appeared in ten more movies including "The Nutty Professor", "Con-Air", "Half-Baked", "You've Got Mail", "Blue Streak", and "Undercover Brother". Despite the achievements of Dave's movies, he would not be one of America's top comedians if it were not for his sketch comedy "Chappelle's Show."

Written, produced and directed by Dave himself,



"Chappelle 'I love Franklin. Everyone all sense of hu students."

Norfolk, Va After all thing Dave comedy. "If makin a lifer."



BERNIE MAC

atest
s of our

James

's Show" is now a Comedy Central favorite. "Chappelle's Show!" said senior Travis "It's so funny how he kind of offends no one at the same time." Dave's unique humor seems to be popular among many WS

"Dave Chappelle is the man! He's my hero," said sophomore Emily Lambert. Several students agree that Chappelle has a knack for tackling tough issues like racism and stereotypes while still making them comical.

"The fact that he makes fun of stereotypes is why he's so funny," said senior Yuki Jenson.

For those who can't wait for the next episode of "Chappelle's Show" to air, there is no need to fear. You can purchase the complete first season on DVD for \$19.99. Dave has also launched a nationwide tour, which will stop on October 1st in gina.

that he has been through, there is only one has to say about his spectacular career in g fun of people was against the law, I'd be

DAVE
CHAPPELLE

By Lindsay Smith
Senior staff writer

Everyone knows Bernie Mac as "that funny guy with the TV show," but it turns out that he has much more going for him than just a hit show.

He's best known for his sassy remarks and unusual parenting style on his self-named show "The Bernie Mac Show". As of lately, however, Mac has been dominating both the big- and the small-screen, and as he has accumulated fame, he's become a household name for Americans everywhere.

"Bernie Mac] has one wicked crazy eye," said senior Kiernan Whitworth, "he's never looking at the camera."

Pretty soon, however, Mac will have to get ready to look at a number of cameras, as he has many upcoming projects in the works. In addition to continuing his show, which has won both an Emmy and a Peabody Award, he will be the lead role in the new movie "Mr. 3000." In this movie, Mac plays an aging baseball player who finds out years after retiring that he didn't get 3,000 hits, as his name suggests.

Soon after this movie hits theaters, Mac will begin work on "The Dinner Party", co-starring Ashton Kutcher. In this modern take of the movie classic "Look Who's Coming to Dinner," he will play the father of a girl who brings her fiance home to meet the parents.

"I'm excited to see his new movies," said senior Matt White. "He's a pretty funny guy."

No matter how one looks at it, Mac has successfully risen to fame and managed to acquire an entourage of loyal fans along the way. His upcoming films and the new season of his show hold promise

Bernie Mac is going to appear in several upcoming movies, including "Mr.3000" and "The Dinner Party." Although Mac took the lead role in "Mr. 3000," he is co-starring with Ashton Kutcher in "The Dinner Party."

By Christian Romeo
Senior staff writer

In high school, being different can make you an outcast. In show business, it can make you a success.

Robin Williams is one of the biggest actors in pop culture, but he began with an uninteresting childhood and studied an unlikely subject in college for aspiring actors and comedians: political science. There are hundreds of stand-up comedians, wannabe stand-up comedians and comedic actors, but none have managed to achieve the greatness of Robin Williams.

Part of Williams's appeal comes from his adaptability. "He's very versatile," said sophomore Malia McCreary, "He can do Disney and so much else."

Fellow sophomore Caroline Nicholson agrees, "He can be serious, but also funny." Williams' unconventional language has also helped to set him apart from other comedians and connect him to his audience.

"I saw him live on Broadway and he's the funniest [explicit noun] in the world," said sophomore Carlos Rocha. "He talked about how hairy he was. He said, 'I'm so hairy I'm like a [explicit adjective] Chia pet.'"

"I like him because he drops the f-bomb a lot," said sophomore R.J. St. Thomas Williams began his career as a stand-up comedian, but he is more widely known for his appearances in movies such as "Good Morning Vietnam," "Jumanji," and "The Birdcage." St. Thomas said, "He's one of the few actors out there that's actually good."

Teenagers tend to idolize famous people, repeat their favorite lines over again to their friends until no one knows where it originally came from, and Robin Williams is no exception. The sometimes irritatingly cheerful greeting of

By Cam Rushton
Business systems editor

Cedric Kyles can do it all; he sings, he dances, and he can make you laugh at the drop of a hat. He's the fantastic funnyman featured in Spike Lee's "The Original Kings of Comedy" and two "Barbershop" movies.

He is known as Cedric "The Entertainer," the witty and sidesplitting joker sweeping the nation with his creative thinking and amusing humor.

During adolescence he began to center his comedy on everyday experiences and the "good ol'" days, and he still uses a similar comedy routine today. Because of his unique style of humor, he was voted most humorous and most popular by his high school classmates. Cedric also received high regards in the "Johnny Walker National Comedy Contest" in Chicago and first place in the "Miller Genuine Draft Comedy Search."

Currently, Cedric has appeared at events such as HBO's "Def Comedy Jam" and BET's "Comicview." He frequently works with other skilled humorists such as Steve Harvey, Bernie Mac, and L. DL Hughley, all of which star in "The Original Kings of Comedy." His movie roles range from portraying a reverend in 2000's "Big Momma's House" to a small role as a zoo bear in 2001's "Dr. Dolittle 2." He has also appeared on "Mad TV," "Jimmy Kimmel Live," and several other talk shows.

Being an accomplished comedian like Cedric has its benefits. He has won awards such as the 1994 "Richard Pryor Comic of the Year Award" from Black Entertainment Television and the 1999 and 2000 Image award for best supporting actor in a comedy series (the "Steve Harvey Show").

"Cedric 'The Entertainer' is a true Renaissance man," said senior Ryan Newmeyer. "He stars in movies, stand-up comedy routines, and cameos on rap albums. Cedric is a hilarious comic who takes a no holds barred approach to comedy."

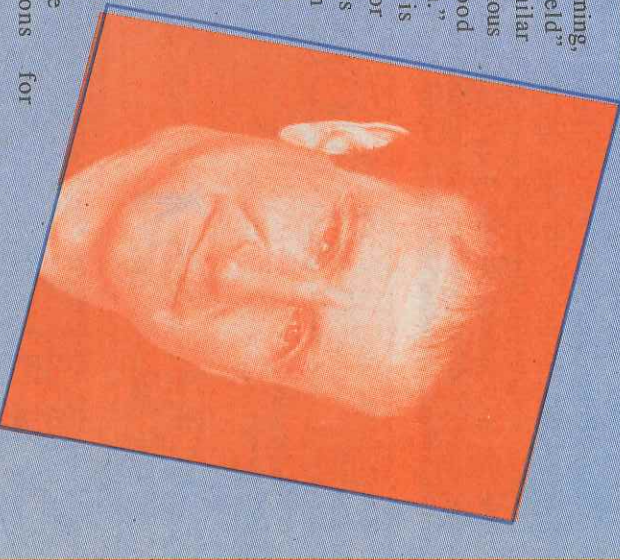
"Goodooooo morning, West Springfield" sounds very similar to Williams's famous line in "Good Morning Vietnam."

Williams is looked up to for other reasons as well. "I like him because he's different. He's not like every o t h e r comedian," s a i d Nicholson.

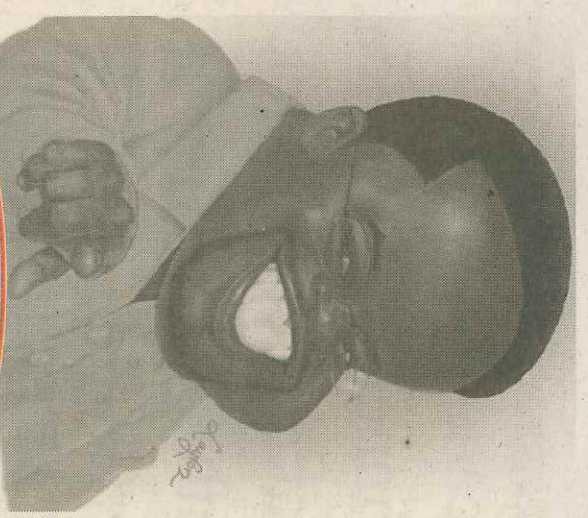
Other students have more personal reasons for admitting him.

"I think he has ADHD," said junior Poucher. "It just goes to show you can succeed."

Whether you like comedy or not, Robin Williams has something for everyone. Though he has no new tours coming up soon, Williams has several new movies coming out this year and two more in the making.



ROBIN
WILLIAMS



CEDRIC
KYLES

Cedric's most recent works of art are "Johnson Family Vacation," the story of a family trip gone horribly wrong and "Barbershop 2," the sequel to the 2002 movie about a day in the life of a South Side Chicago barbershop.

In the coming years, Cedric can be seen in Lemony Snicket's "A Series of Unfortunate Events," opening December 17, and "The Honeymooners," a movie based on the 50's series, coming to a theater near you in mid-2005. So, go ahead and laugh at him.

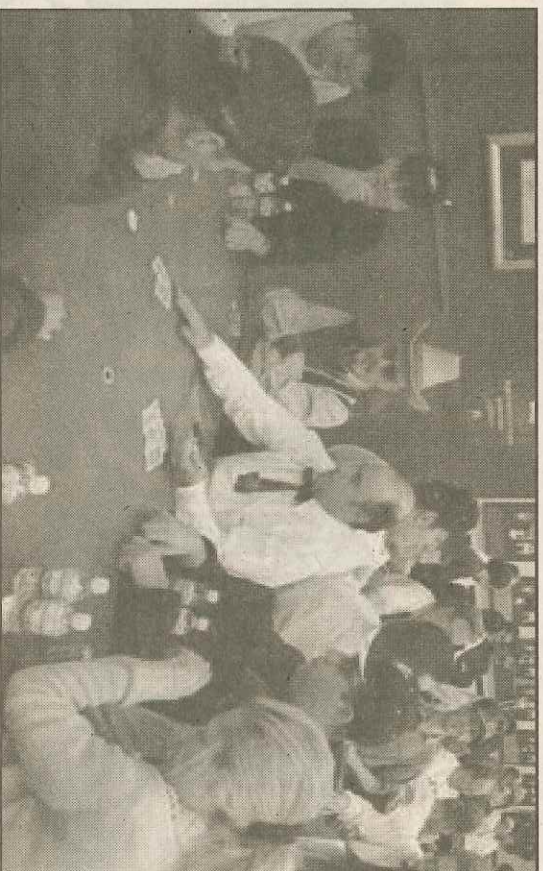
He's Cedric "The Entertainer," for goodness sakes. Honestly, it would be rude not to laugh.

Everyone's going all in for poker

By Joley Sullivan
Senior Staff Writer

Everywhere you look these days, people are playing poker. From late-night get-togethers with friends to World Series of Poker tournaments, the famous card game is all over the place. Three major TV networks have even picked up reality poker shows.

"Celebrity Poker Showdown" on Bravo, "World Poker Tour" on Travel Channel, and the "World Series of Poker" on ESPN which just announced its 2004 champion, Greg Raymer. Officially, the World Series of Poker began in the summer of 1949 when Nick



World Series of Poker contestants try their luck for ESPN camera crews.

Dandolos challenged Benny Binion to a high-stakes poker match that lasted for five months. However the competition made its formal debut in 1970 at the Horseshoe Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Many WS students have joined the poker-playing bandwagon, but for many the game is nothing new.

"The first game I remember playing was on a family vacation," said senior and poker connoisseur Jimmy Byess. Fellow senior and poker enthusiast, Ryan Davies, shares a similar background with the game, "I [began playing] with my dad initially; I just found it interesting."

What draws many people to the game is usually the mental component of it.

"It's more psychological than you'd think," said senior Steven Dominguez. Many students enjoy playing with the same group of people each time, so as to learn each person's mannerisms.

"There are what you call 'tells' that are common reactions people have that tell you if they're bluffing or not," said Dominguez. "However, tells are also individual characteristics of the person." Davies agrees with Dominguez about the psychological nature of it.

"I guess for me now it's less of the poker itself than [it is] being able to play mind games with people," said Davies.

Men's and women's magazines under the cover

By Katie Costello
Features Editor

Guys and girls will always have their differences and magazines are no exception. It seems obvious girls and guys would have different tastes in magazines, but it is surprising how many different types of magazines the males and females at WS enjoy reading.

Girls are found flipping through magazines such as *Seventeen*, *Teen People*, and *Y.M.* These magazines include everything a girl could possibly want to know about fashion trends, hairstyles, and fitness. Many girls, however, also read magazines that provide more than just details on how to snag that cute boy in your math class.

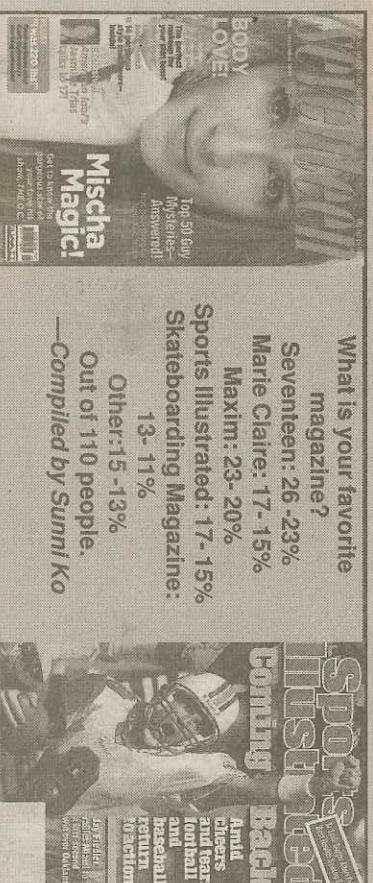
"I like to read *Guitar World* because it's got great articles on bands and concerts and stuff and that's what I like to read about," said junior Rachel Vetterlein.

Some refuse to even look at what is considered a "girl's magazine."

"I don't like to read women's magazines because all they do is gossip, and I'm not interested in make-up

and which star is dressed right," said Vetterlein.

Guys seem to read magazines that focus on one specific topic, unlike girls' magazines that cover a wide variety of subject matters. For the music lovers, magazines such as *Modern*



Drummer and *Rock Sound* are popular. The sports fanatics enjoy leafing through *ESPN* magazine and *Sports Illustrated*.

This does not mean that all guys don't like to read publications that cover more than just one specific subject matter. *Q* is a very popular magazine that

covers a wide variety of topics. Some even go so far as to say it's the male version of the typical girl's magazine.

It covers the season's hottest looks, relationships and celebrity interviews.

Details is a magazine that covers music and movies, fashion and some political issues. *FHM* (*For Him Magazine*) has ideas for making weekend plans, as well as eye candy for those that aren't too interested in reading articles.

Some male readers go against the stereotype that girls' magazines are strictly for girls.

"I like to read *Seventeen* because it helps me to get in touch with my feminine side," said sophomore Scott Waddell.

There are tons of magazines out there that are read by students. It is safe to say that both the male and female population at WS is very well read when it comes to magazine subject matter.

Sophomore Meredith Hicks said, "Magazines are great because they allow you to read whatever's interesting to you."

Academy Award Winner 'Casablanca' makes a come back with today's young generation.

By Emily Bolling
Senior Staff Writer

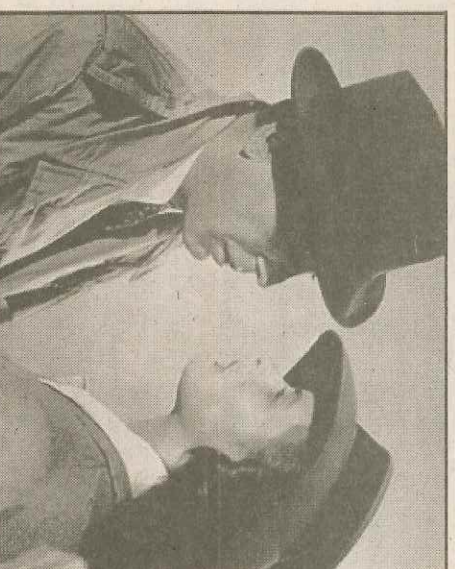
Black and white movies. Once the cutting edge of technology, many people consider the tones of grey obsolete.

"I think black and white movies are really boring. They're not interesting at all because you can't get into them because there's no color," said freshman Megan Hislop.

Other students disagree with that assumption. Senior Charlie Litchfield enjoys black and white movies but said that he generally does not have time to watch any hue of movie.

"I think they [black and white movies] are better than color ones—they're more artistic. They don't cater to today's audience," said Litchfield.

Regardless of opinions of "to-color or not to color", the black and white film "Casablanca" is probably



Rick and Ilsa, the main characters, look adoringly into each other's eyes.

worth the effort. The actors more than compensate for what the cinematography lacks in color.

Directed by Michael Curtiz, "Casablanca" won three Oscar Awards in 1944. These awards were Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay. Such a classic as "Casablanca" consistently ranks in the top 100 movies of all time.

Set in 1941 in Casablanca, French Morocco, "Casablanca" tells the story of the banished American, Rick, and his love affair with Ilsa. Humphrey Bogart plays the brooding and hardened Rick, although the actor originally chosen for the role was Ronald Reagan. The stunning Ingrid Bergman plays Ilsa.

Rick insists that "I stuck my neck out for nobody" even though his heroic record shows otherwise. When Ilsa and her husband come unexpectedly to Rick's café, Rick is still livid with Ilsa because she left him at a train

station in Paris over one year ago. His hatred goes so far as to initially refuse to help Ilsa and her husband escape from Nazi Europe to America.

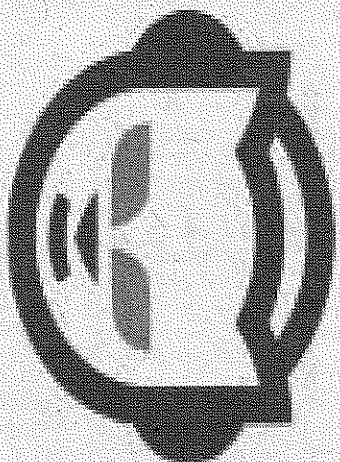
The movie is not as simple as that, for arrests, murder, intrigue, and tests of love and friendship await all the characters. The movie has lighter moments, like when the Nazis and French have an impromptu "national anthem" battle, but even these are actually turning points in the drama. Curtiz excels at portraying the age old question, "Do you love her enough to leave her?", and he keeps the audience anticipating the resolution throughout the movie.

However, "Where I am going you can't follow." The movie can seem a bit long at times, but "I think this [could be] the beginning of a beautiful friendship" between the students of WS and "Casablanca." So, "Play it again, Sam."



Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman play long, lost lovers Rick and Ilsa in the 1942 Academy Award winner, *Casablanca*.

Risky Business: downloading music has its consequences



Students attempt to discover new alternatives for finding favorite songs

By Tina Wajda
Inside Editor

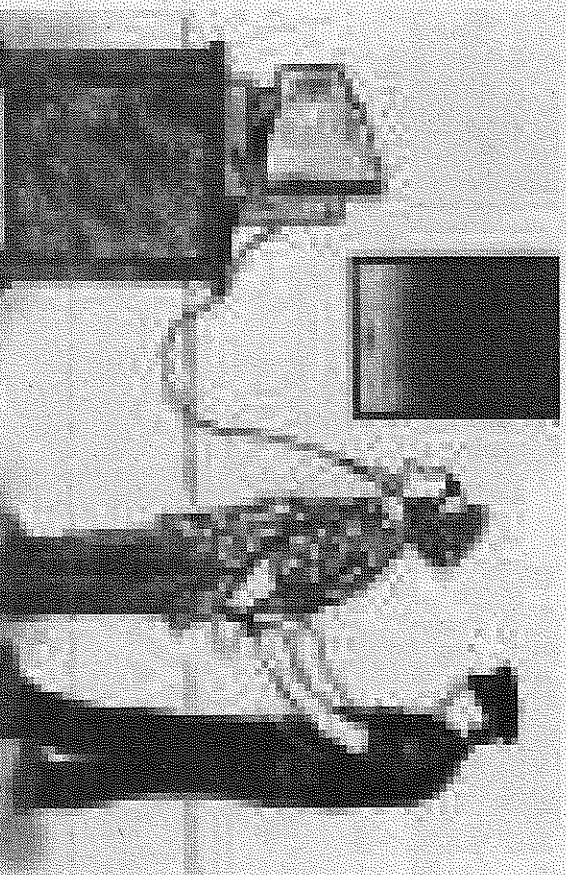
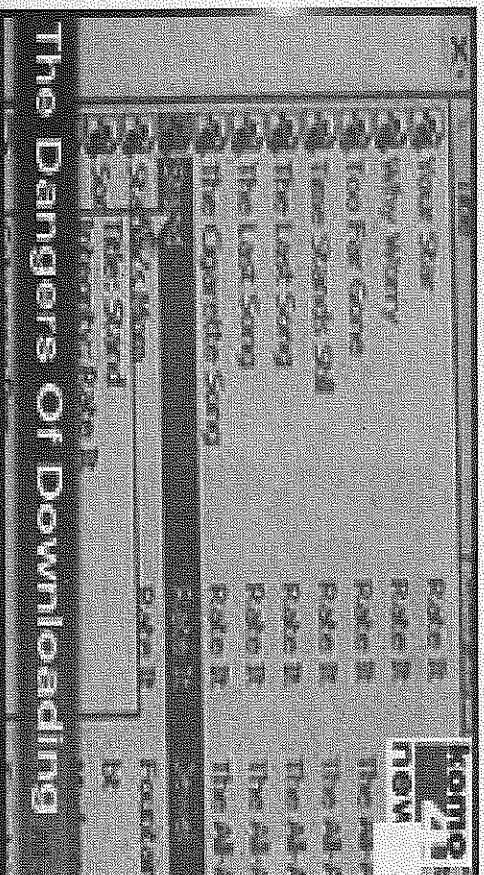
Everyone listens to music.

"I'll listen to anything except country," said senior Jimmy Byess.

For many it is not country music that makes them feel uncomfortable and irritated, but the idea of getting arrested for downloading. It is not everyday that you get in trouble with the law for downloading Ashlee Simpson's "Pieces of Me."

There are other alternatives to getting music. The classic "support the artist and buy the CD" or get a \$400 iPod and pay a monthly fee so you can legally get your music without risk. For those who don't want to take chances, paying is their best option. "I don't want to get caught so I pay for Napster," freshman Mohamed Bakr.

Others take the risk by illegally downloading music. Sophomore Ben Trump gets his music from Kazaa. WinMX and iMesh are also some commonly used programs that students use to download free music.



This cartoon depicts what could happen as a result of downloading music without paying.

Students can choose from a range of sites that are illegal and the idea of getting caught does not always cross their minds.

"I'm not scared," said junior Peter Kapuscinski, who uses WinMX.

For people who are willing to spend some money, they can get an Apple iPod. Each song you download is an iTunes and costs 99 cents. So if you download ten songs, you will be paying the same price as a CD.

Freshman Tim Wing has an iPod but has a spending limit of \$10.00 a month.

"I would download more music if I used a free program like Kazaa," Wing said.

An iPod also contains a plus feature. For \$34.95 you can get an "iTrip", which lets you play your songs on the radio. This is done by changing your radio station to 87.9 and turning your iPod on.

"I'll listen to anything except country."

—Jimmy Byess,
Senior

By sending out radio waves, you can listen to any song on your iPod. For many students, the freedom of downloading as many songs as you want without a monthly allowance appeals more.

The RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) is trying to make sure the rights of the artists and record companies are valued. To do so, they are trying to stop online piracy. These are the people that "catch" those who download illegal music.

The music industry may be cracking down on those who access music from illegal sites, but students always find new ways to get the music they want.

Speechwriters LLC "Satisfaction"

No, that is not a misspelling. The CD "Satisfaction" can be heard throughout the halls of West Springfield, and yet no one knows who the artist is.

The small duo from California goes by the name Speechwriters LLC. Speechwriters LLC consist of two guitarists, two guys, and two voices. A harmonious blend of two acoustics fills the blood with rhythm one cannot help but dance to, while the soothing vocals of Misha Chellam and Dave Lowensohn set the mood.

Beginning with the hopeful lyrics Dave sings in "Acetate", "Satisfaction" covers all range of emotions from heart break, hard workdays, loss of identity, long-distance relationships, and ends with a life-changing moment in "Harmony".

Driving on the road with nothing to listen to? Pop in "Satisfaction" and I can guarantee you it will never come back out!



Oracle Picks



What was I scared of?

Have you ever hopped on pop or had a Wocket in your pocket? Remember the time that cat with a funky hat walked into your house and made a mess of the place?

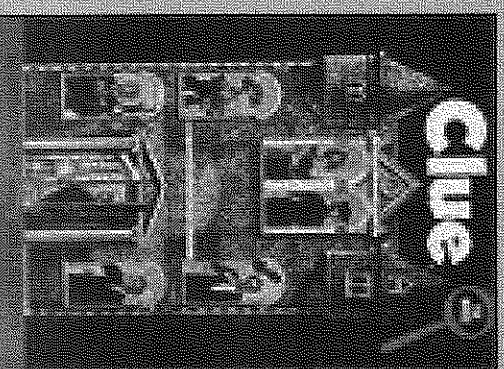
For most people, Dr. Seuss was one of the first steps in the reading ladder. He takes the simplest moments in life, real or unreal, and creates a zany story to bring smiles to the faces of his readers. One of his lesser known stories, *What Was I Scared Of?* tells the tale of a young boy who takes a walk during the middle of the night and runs into a mysterious pair of pale green pants with nothing inside of them.

On a night with nothing to do, dig through your old children's book collection and read about the silly adventures the boy and the pants experience.

Get a 'Clue'

If you enjoy the game Clue, then the movie "Clue" is right up your alley. "Clue" takes place in New England in 1954 and features all the memorable Clue characters, from Miss Scarlet to Colonel Mustard. When a casual dinner party turns into murder, each becomes a number one suspect in the death of their host, Mr. Body.

On a night out with your friends make sure to stop by the video store and pick up this classic 1985 comedy. You will have a few laughs, oh heck you may even have a few tears. And if you discover who the killer is before the end don't shout it out. Let me know.



—Compiled by Joanne Casano

Manners matter at the game

By Emily Boling
Senior Staff Writer

Cheers, shouts, music, chatter, and the smell of hotdogs and cotton candy fill the Friday evening air. Welcome to a football game at WS. Some students come for the chance to socialize while others come purely to watch the game. Many people find a fairly equal mix of both to be perfect. Regardless of the reasons people enjoy the charged atmosphere they, the band, and cheerleaders urge on the mighty Spartan football team.

Just as they have different reasons for coming, people have different ideas of how they should cheer and act at football games.

"They should be crazy," said sophomore Billy Coffey.

Cacophonous noise is a major component of the crazy-wild equation. "I think you should have air horns and trash can lids. It makes it fun," said freshman Neldyn Cooran.

A number of football players share this opinion.

"We like to encourage people to bring out the stuff, like trash can lids. That's pretty cool," said senior defensive tackle Mike Campbell. "Especially at a touchdown, when they ring the bells."

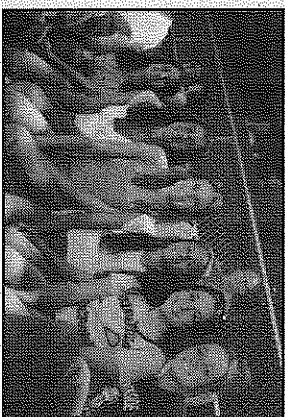
No matter how spirited the crowd, however, there are times when respect or silence is required.

"I don't think they should yell at the ref," said freshman David Hogan. When a player is injured silence is requested; the marching band sits and doesn't play because of the seriousness of the situation.

When the flag is saluted and the Madrigals sing the National Anthem,

people need to be quiet, stand up, and remove their hats. Some people continue to slump listlessly and chatter surreptitiously with their friends while our country is being honored.

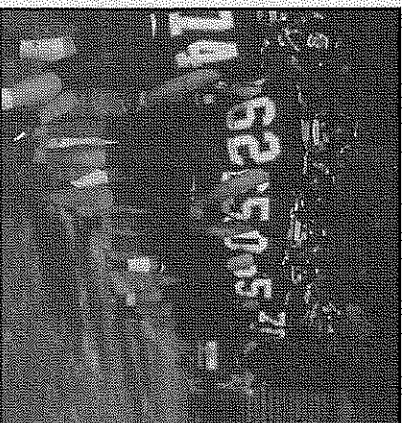
Even as they appreciate the cheers and chants, the football players and coaches still focus on the task before them.



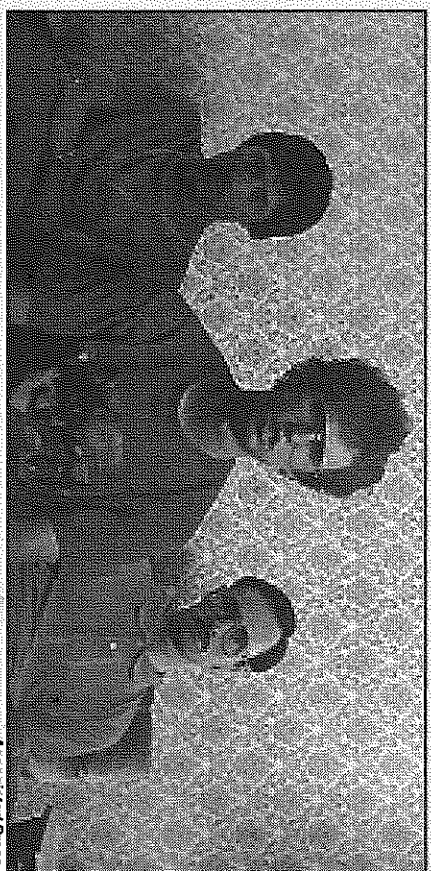
Sarah Chikembebe

Sophomore girls enjoy the football game. "I focus on the team. I just pay attention to how loud and cheering they [the people] are, and it's been awesome," Coach Renner, the head football coach, said.

So come to a WS football game this season. Varsity kick-off is at 7:30. Just remember to stand quietly for the National Anthem, respect an injured player, and cheer loudly.



Football players attentively watch the game. Oracle File Photo



Associated Press

Dynamite is a bomb at the boxoffice

By: Christian Romeo
Senior Staff Writer

Teen flicks come out every year, competing to win teenager's allowances in box office sales. They have all the necessary ingredients for success: beautiful people, some semblance of a plot, good music, happy ending, and humor. Napoleon Dynamite has all of these, except for the beautiful people quota.

"Napoleon Dynamite" is one of those movies that somehow turned into a hit overnight.

It might be because it appeals to teenagers by portraying a high school world, a scene already overly depicted in theaters in a badly synthesized Hollywood version of real life, movies like this usually prompt students and parents to wonder, "Are schools really like that?"

"Napoleon Dynamite" does that, but it also does so much more. "Napoleon Dynamite" is a new spin on high school, a school like no other, an interesting family and with a character that is truly unique.

Well, it is a funny movie. Freshman Prita Chang said, "It was awesome."

When movie tickets cost over five dollars for a person, seeing any movie twice shows just how good it is. "I saw it twice," said freshman Katie Gatski.

While "Napoleon Dynamite" is technically classified as a "sleeper hit," an underestimated film that succeeds unexpectedly, it could be argued that it has crossed the imaginary line into becoming a "cult film", a movie that attracts and retains a small group of obsessed followers. For example, just ask someone who's seen the movie and liked it, and after listening them talk about how much they loved it for half an hour straight, and then it'll be easier to somewhat understand fans' obsession.

"My favorite part was when he danced and my favorite line was when he said, 'Your mom goes to college,'" said Gatski.

"My favorite part was probably when he was doing the dance video," said freshman Rachel Ritter, "or the part in English where the guy was trying to steal his tater-tots."

In a superficial world of anorexic twin actresses and shallow people, teenagers find "Napoleon Dynamite" to be more worthy of their time than other movies.

Individuals fight consumer conformity

By Katie Bourget
Managing Editor

Buying a t-shirt is a taxing undertaking. A potential buyer must change out of pajamas, journey to the mall, search the mall for a parking space for at least an hour and then locate a desirable store.



All photos by Katie Bourget

Once at said store, to find the appropriate size and style the shopper must scout scores of messy racks. Next, the entire surface of the shirt must be thoroughly examined for print or logo that includes sexual innuendo.

If a tee with "Party Hardy at Big Kahuna Beach" written across the chest appeals, the customer can prance over to the register to wait in line until the shirt is no longer "in" and then pay eight times what the shirt is actually worth. The next day at school in English class, a lively argument is sure to ensue amongst at least 10 classmates over who bought it first.

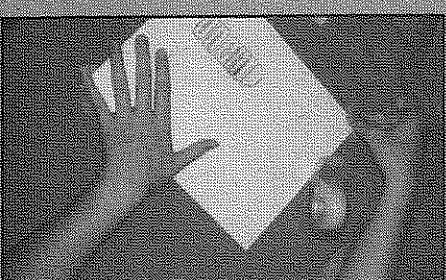
If this commercial system is pleasing, enjoy

expensive conformity. Otherwise, consider the alternative of making a t-shirt that really expresses individuality rather than marketability. In just five easy steps, a custom creation is ready to be worn.

up or shirts in a rainbow of colors are sold inexpensively in the craft store. The project also requires acrylic paint, textile medium, and a couple small paintbrushes.

Step Two

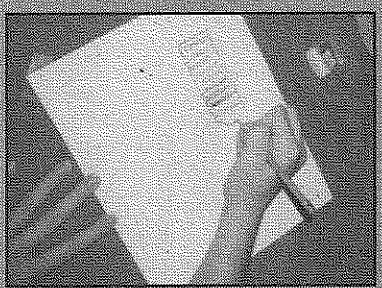
If the shirt is new it is very important to wash it before painting begins. While the shirt is flopping around in the dryer is a great time to make a stencil. Using a word processor choose a phrase and a font. For



Step One

Step 1: Take a trip to the craft store of your choice. There is an entire row dedicated to t-shirt making (while this article is devoted to acrylic/painted shirts, there are also stamps, stencils, iron-on paper and tie-dye kits). An ignored shirt in the darkest corner of the closet would surely appreciate some sprucing

movie "Princess Bride." Band names, inside jokes and any other random idea that pops up will make a special shirt. Make the font outlined and bold and print two copies. Rounder fonts will be easier to paint than square fonts.



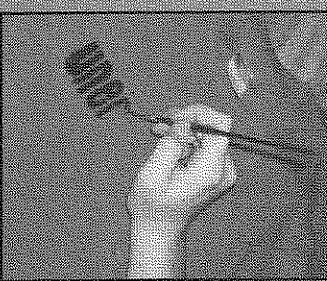
Step Three

Once the shirt is washed and dried, find a clean and comfortable workspace. Put some cardboard inside the shirt (where a person will go when the shirt is finished) and tape one of the stencil printouts on the front. Take a pencil and firmly trace the outline of the letters. Do not worry if the paper rips, in fact it will be helpful to have a pencil

outline drawn on the shirt. Keep the second sheet handy as reference. More artistic t-shirt designers may be able to skip this step if they are comfortable free handing the print.

Step Four

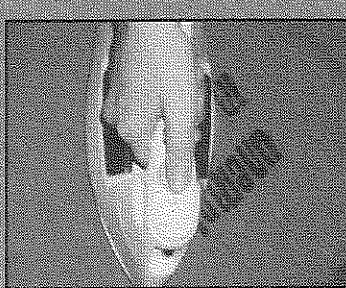
After tracing, the shirt is ready to be painted. Follow the directions on the textile medium bottle. Normally it recommends two parts acrylic paint to one part medium. The pencil guidelines are helpful. This is the most meticulous of the steps.



For perfectionist types, it is important to remember people will not stare at the shirt from a millimeter away, so a smudge or two really is not grave.

Step Five

Most fabric mediums suggest letting the paint dry up to a week before setting it with an iron. After patience has been tested and the seven days have past, bust out the ironing board and steam



The medium will set and the shirt will be ready to wear and wash. To get the longest wear, hand washing is best, but using the washing machine will not damage the shirt initially.

A rainy Saturday would be ideal for connecting creative clothes with friends; no nasty lines, no raunchy emblems and no need to change out of plaid pajama pants and slippers.

Fondue it at The Melting Pot

Melting Pot offers an unique dipping experience

By **Andrea Maxwell**

Weekend Editor

There are a variety of restaurants located throughout the area, the newest and most extravagant being The Melting Pot. The Melting Pot is a fondue restaurant that has several convenient locations including Reston, Arlington, Rockville, and Washington D.C. The surroundings in the restaurant are excellent. There are waterfalls and sophisticated colors that create a serene and relaxing experience.

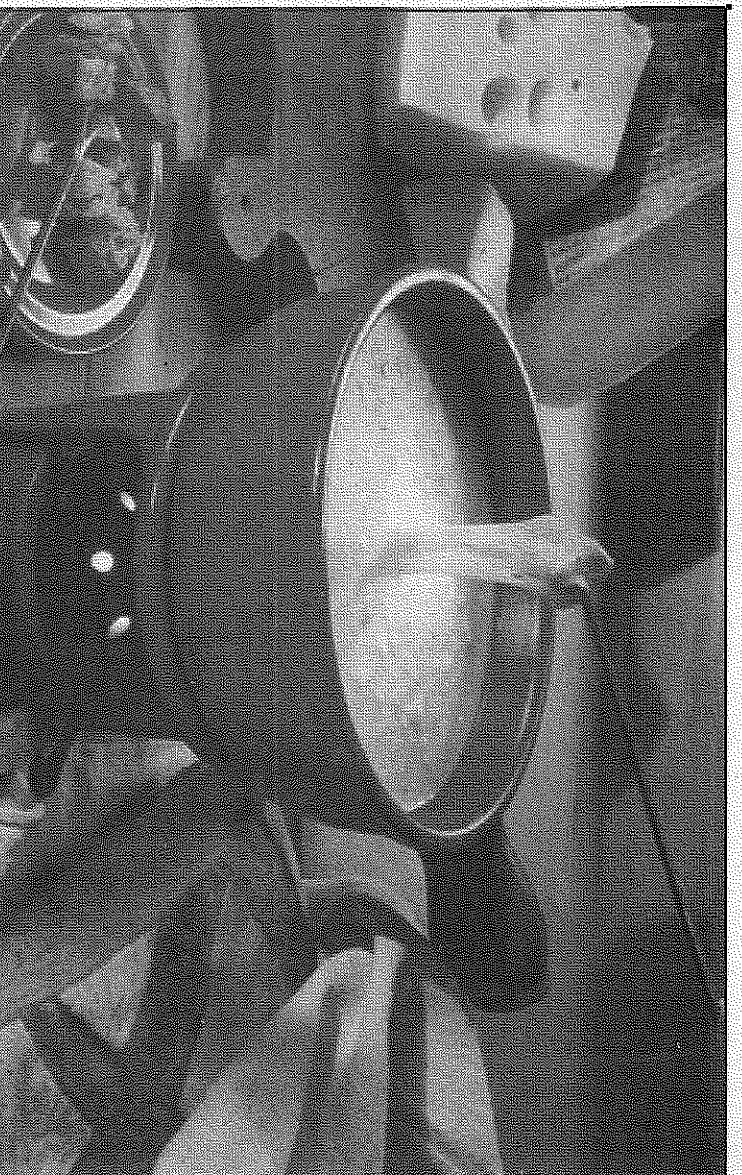
The menu offers many choices for the members of your party to make, including either a four-course meal or an a la carte style of ordering. Several decisions arise if the four-course meal is chosen. First, there is the cheese fondue, or the appetizer. There are four styles of cheese to choose from, and the fresa cheese is excellent, filled with the perfect mixture of delicious cheese and chunky salsa pieces. The cheese fondue is served with bread, tortilla chips, apples, and vegetable slices. The next course is the salad, which offers many exotic tastes.

Now, it is time for the main course. If you ordered an a la carte style meal then you will be served the meat of your choice raw. If you ordered the multiple course

meal, then a platter is served with an assortment of meats from chicken, to filet mignon, to shrimp. It is ready to be cooked. Each piece can be cooked plain, dipped in sauces after it is cooked, or put in sauces which are used to bread the meat before it's cooked. Everything tastes excellent and there is never a dull moment when you are cooking your own food.

For dessert there is a selection of milk and dark chocolate fondue dips to choose from. After a few moments, the chocolate is served. Of course you need something to dip in the fondue, but no worry, they have everything. A plate comes with an elaborate arrangement of fresh strawberries, brownies, and cheesecake. For the members of your party with an endless appetite and an unquenchable sweet tooth, the desserts are endless.

The Melting Pot is moderately priced, with entrees for one person ranging for \$15.00 to \$25.00. If you enjoy chatting with friends, dipping in delicious sauces, and eating to your heart's content, visit the Melting Pot, where you will enjoy a unique and unusual dining experience.



At The Melting Pot students can dip meat, vegetables and fruit in gooey fondue cheese.

Get fired up at Shiro's

By **Christina Arai**

Managing Editor

Flying utensils, bursting flames, and airborne sea creatures. I cannot think of a more perfect place for a pre-Homecoming feast.

One can find these dining elements at either of the two Shiro Japanese steak houses located in the area, either on Old Keene Mill Road or in Kingstowne, each providing lively entertainment while one enjoys a delicious meal.

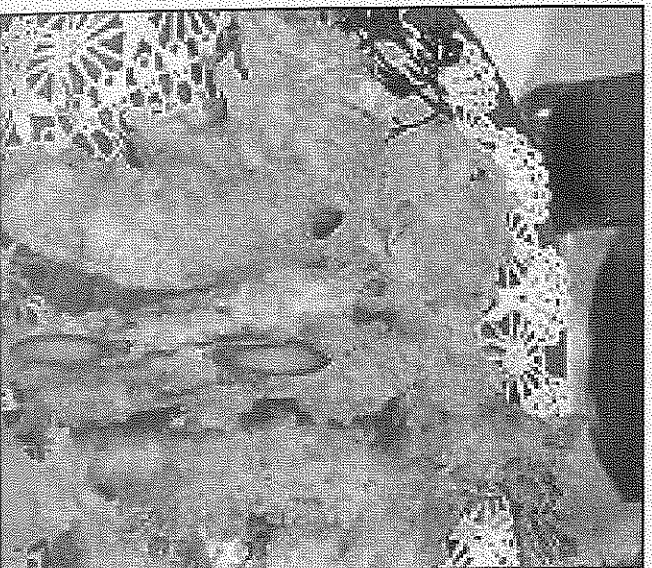
While soothing Japanese music plays in the background, guests take their seats around a Habauchi, which is a large, hot, flat cooking station where your personal chef will prepare your requested meal before you. The process consists of incredible stunts, including juggling knives and carrying forks and elaborate constructions of flaming onion mountains with intense spurts of fire. Random bursts of fire while you are dining are a natural occurrence at Shiro's. There is no need for alarm if your teriyaki chicken suddenly goes up in a flame; both you and your food will be fine.

Although the cuisine is far from authentic Japanese food, the selection is vast and satisfying. There is a spectrum of different choices ranging from teriyaki chicken, steak, shrimp or even lobster tail as well as a must have of their well-known fried rice and Habachi vegetables. One authentic type of Japanese food the restaurant does serve is a variety of sushi options.

The one downside is the pricing, especially for broke HS students. Depending on what one chooses, meals range from fifteen dollars all the way up to thirty dollars per person, drinks and their fried rice cost extra, although they usually fail to mention it. If one takes into consideration that Homecoming comes but once a

year, the quality of the food, and the experience of the entertainment, it is worth the money.

The setup of the Habauchi and the tables makes it ideal and enjoyable for larger parties; the table can sit up to eleven people. Reservations are easily obtained by calling one of the two locations. They are happy to have homecoming groups and for seven dollars and fifty cents extra they will be glad to take a Polaroid picture and present you with their specialty pineapple dessert.



This is a Tempura dish that is served at Shiro's Steakhouse that is cooked right in front of you.

History repeats itself as WS prepares for Homecoming

By **Christine Park**

Senior Staff Writer

In the upcoming weeks of October 2004, almost every high school and college around the country will participate in a spirit-filled week of events designed to make 40 year-old women either nostalgic, or regretful.

"It's a chance for other classes, other than seniors, to dress up, go out, and have fun," said junior Meredith Mazze.

In a few weeks, West Springfield High School's population will grow to accommodate new and old alumni as they return to their hometown for a weekend of tradition dating back to the year 1911.

In an article titled "Homecoming: An American Tradition," by Cindy Nick, it states that the tradition of homecoming was started by University of Missouri Athletic Director, Chester Brewer.

"Afraid that fans and alumni would not attend the 'big game' due to a change in location, [he] devised a plan to add some excitement to the game. He challenged the alumni to return home for a great celebration with parades, parties, a rally and of course the big game," said Nick.

The event brought home 9,000 fans and alumni who filled the stands at the first official homecoming game. The concept of the word "homecoming" was then carried through the fraternity system to universities across the country. Eighty-three years later, WS is preparing for their own annual traditions of float competitions, homecoming court, parades, and the list goes on. So how much has homecoming changed through the years?

According to WS alumni and current choir director, Michael Dombrow, "It's still the same. You get dressed up, go to a fancy dinner that most likely doesn't taste too good and is overpriced, but finally you make it to the dance and get pretty pictures taken."

Many activities will be taking place this year to create another week of memories and photo albums. Homecoming would not be complete without its growing list of rituals.

As senior, Elizabeth Bush puts it, "Isn't it all about tradition?"



Oracle Staff Photo

Some students decorate a potential date's car in order to get a yes answer. They use balloons and streamers in the parking lot to convey their message.

Cheerleaders hope to defend their state title another year

Cheerleaders work hard to win states again

Andreanna Maxwell
Weekend Editor

Every Friday night, the stadium is packed with parents, students, and faculty who are busy watching the football game and the cheerleaders. Although several sports take place during the fall, the most widely known is football. Cheerleading is also a focus of the fall. The fall sport season, is famous for the varsity football game every Friday where many students go watch the game and hang out with friends at the stadium.

"The cheerleaders are a great aspect of the football game and it would not be the same without them," said sophomore Lauren Stephenson.

Not only is the spotlight on the football players at the game but also on the cheerleaders. The varsity squad performs at the varsity football games, while the junior varsity and freshman cheerleaders sell programs to the spectators. The squad, which consists of between 20 and 25 cheerleaders, not only perform at every football game, they also practice routines to different songs that are performed at several

competitions throughout the year. These routines determine which team wins the state championships. Last year the varsity cheerleaders were fortunate enough to win the state championship. As they embark on a new year, the squad of course has to change.

Seniors graduated, people moved up from junior varsity, and a few freshmen also made the varsity team.

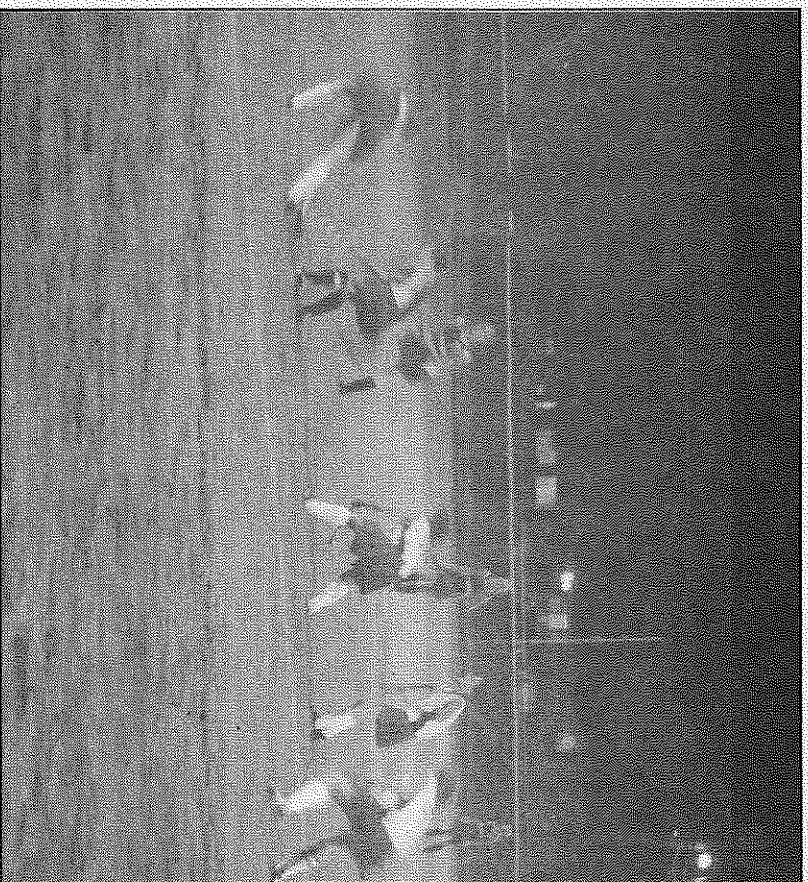
"We want to defend our title," said senior Ashley Linder, "There are teams working twice as hard to beat us, so we have to step it up a notch."

Of course a new team means a variety of new thoughts and ideas.

Junior Dominique is determined for success. "The goal for this season is to keep the title... yeah [we can do it]," said Rudolph.

The fall season will come to a close in November and our team has a great chance at succeeding, especially with the support of their peers.

"Sometimes you have a good team, sometimes you have a great team, and then sometimes, very rarely, you have a magical team. That team is us, the 2004-2005 varsity cheerleaders," said senior Summer Renner. Come out and support the cheerleading squad at their competitions.



Erica Wilkening

The Field Hockey team's hopes are high to have a great season this year.

Golf team swinging for success

By Lindsay Bruhn
Viewpoint Editor

The WS Golf Team is gradually climbing the recognition ladder. People are hearing little bits of information about the team. Even if they seem like crazy guys with golf clubs, the Golf Team is in need of support from WS.

While some may be quite willing to go out and cheer for the team, there are those who are opposed to the idea.

"Golf is boring, it makes me sleepy," said Mari Fray, Senior. There is a population of students who find the sport both dull and lacking physical exertion.

"It's a good way to build the muscles in your hands," said Jessica Lawrie, sophomore. Golf has been the subject for vast criticism over the years. In spite of this, there are a few young men at West Springfield just trying to have fun with this highly ridiculed sport. "I make fun of myself," said Sean Lampley. "I defend my teammates as if they were my children."

Popular or not, West Springfield's Golf team is impressive. The team has been headed by Susan Spatcher, gym teacher, for ten years. The team is

compiled of nine students. Matches are held at Springfield Golf and Country Club and other courses in Virginia. The team has had a fairly successful season so far this year. In their last match, on September 21st, the Golf team beat Amandale by five strokes. This win put them at three and two, having won against

"Tell people to come and watch, people seem to think the way I let out my anger is pretty funny."

—Sean Lampley, senior

Lake Braddock, Annandale and TC, but having lost against Robinson and Hayfield.

An independent match play took place at West Field Golf Course against Centerville on the 16th. The top six wins were West Springfield's. Their next match is Districts, on the 29th and 30th.

"Tell people to come. I hear I'm pretty entertaining to watch," said Sean Lampley. "People seem to think the way I let out my anger is pretty funny."

School spirit extends to all sports and clubs in the school.

Field hockey team sticks with it

Spartan Field Hockey team surpasses expectations

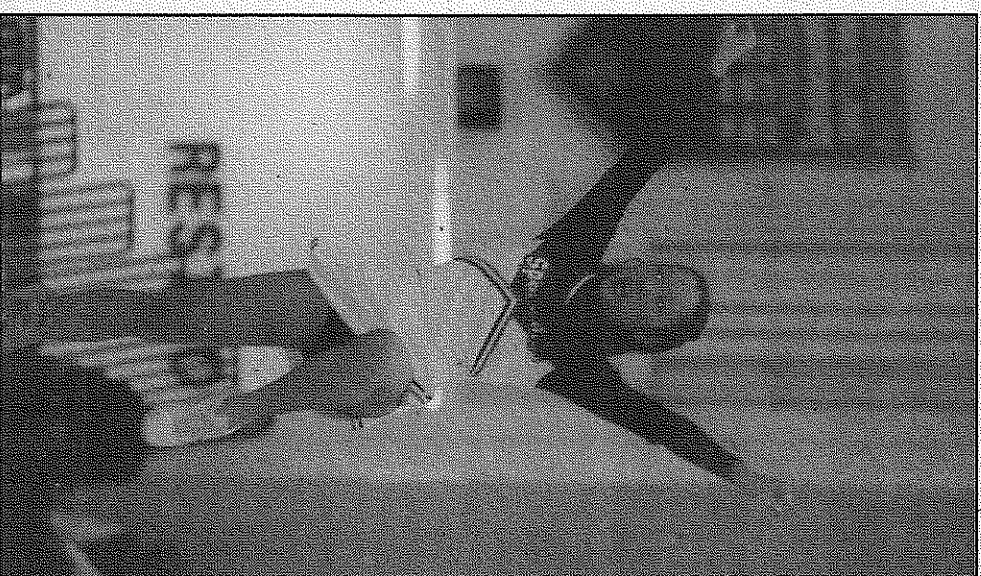
By Caitlin Laverdiere
Entertainment Editor

The varsity field hockey team has high hopes for the upcoming season. They are taking their training seriously and crossing their fingers that it will pay off.

They started the season on a good note, winning their first scrimmage against Lee 2-0, and although they lost their second scrimmage against Marshall, they're not letting it get them down.

"We won our first game vs. Edison 2-1 in overtime," says junior Meredith Scharreta. "We lost two games, but we feel that we'll prove ourselves in the remainder of this season."

The team is certainly putting in the necessary effort to make it a great season. Their daily two and a half hour practices are comprised of running one to four miles, intensive stick work, and sprinting to increase their energy on the field. The team won their games vs.



Sarah Drabkin
Sophomore Mary Andrews, flies high at the pep rally.

Yorktown 5-1 and Falls Church 2-1, proving that all their hard work is paying off.

"We're a lot better than last year," says junior Adair Clayton. "We work well as a team."

Team effort is key and these girls seem to have plenty of it. On and off the field they work hard for a win.

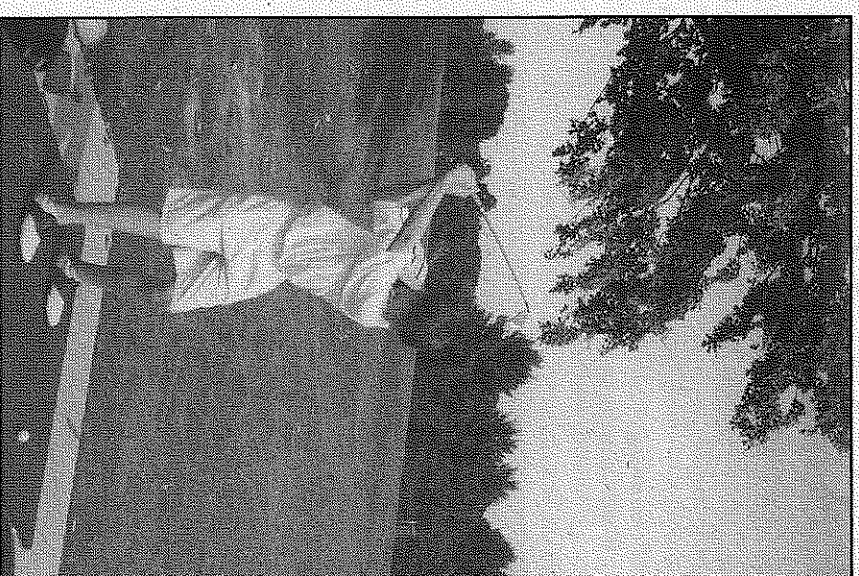
"I like to hit people with sticks"

— Adair Clayton, junior

"Everyone on the team puts forth the effort to want to win," says Scharreta.

Amid the pressure and rigorous training, the team knows it is important to still have fun. They enjoy the games, even some aspects the crowd may overlook. How do they have fun?

Clayton laughs and says, "I like to hit people with sticks."



Leah Vanetta
Sophomore Steven Morris perfects his swing.

Gibbs' return brings optimism

By Tim O'Keefe
Sports Editor

Every great team needs a good coach. The Washington Redskins and their fans think Joe Gibbs will restore the previous glory of two Super Bowl Titles. The Redskins opened their season with a 16-10 victory over Tampa Bay. Although the Skins slipped the following week to the New York Giants 20-14, the Skins are still grabbing national attention.

"The Redskins looked pretty good," said junior Daniel Park. "It does not matter because the Eagles are going to win it all."

The buzz about the Redskins is evident. The Redskins traded their pro bowl cornerback Champ Bailey to the Denver Broncos for all pro running back Clinton Portis. Portis, who was the first running back to run over 1,500 yards in his first two seasons with Denver.

"There is no doubt that the Redskins got the better deal," said junior Victor Fosser. "Portis is just a beast."

The Redskins also traded for veteran, Mark Brunell from the Jaguars. Brunell brings consistency, leadership, and morality to a team in constant change.

Gibbs, who has not been coaching since the early 90's, brought back many

of his old coaches. Joe Bugel, among others will guide the offensive line.

He also brought in former Buffalo Bills head coach Greg Williams as defensive coordinator. Gibbs feels his coaches will help his players become the best they can be.

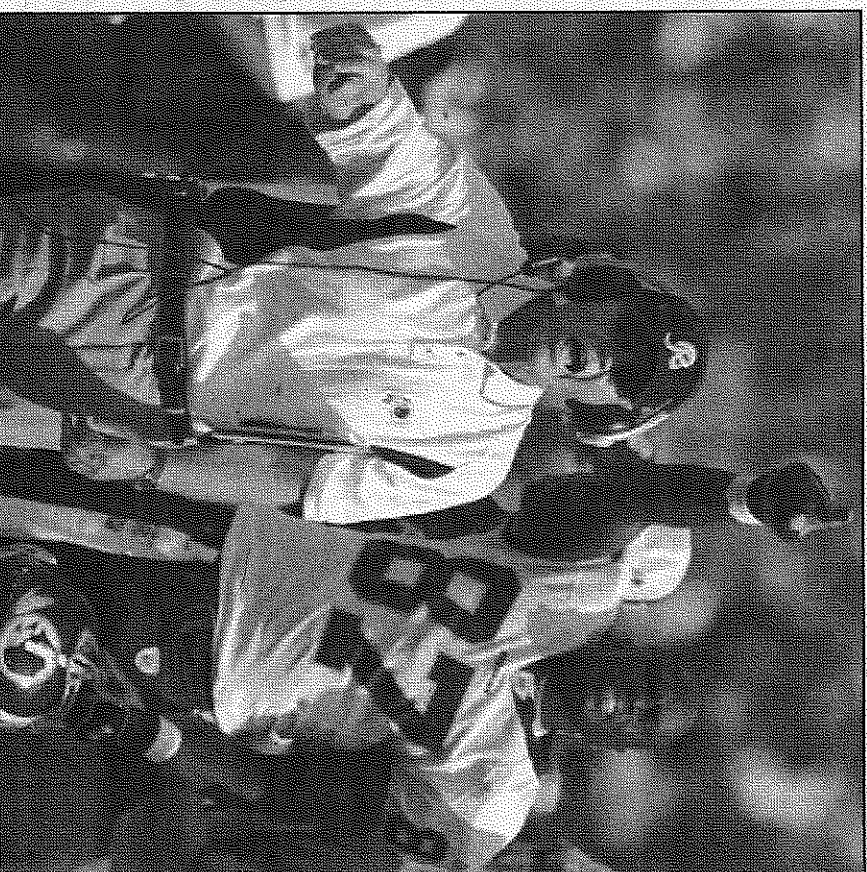
"There are some guys who play professional sports and they get every minute out of their ability," Gibbs said on www.washingtonpost.com. "Those are the guys who are totally committed to what they're doing, are extremely well prepared and you never have to worry about them. Those are the guys you're going to keep and they play until the last second."

Even with an explosive backfield with Portis, and an improving defense, Gibbs and Redskins will face tough competition. Bill Parcells in Dallas is a hall of fame coach who brings discipline and toughness.

"The Redskins looked pretty good."

—Junior, Daniel Park

Coach Andy Reed in Philadelphia has reached the NFC championship the last three years. With the addition of elite receiver Terrell Owens,



Legendary coach Joe Gibbs returned to the Redskins after an 11 year absence. Gibbs and wide receiver Rod Garner celebrate their opening day win.

A Super Bowl may be on the horizon. Finally, the Giants feel they will improve with the strict discipline of head coach Tom Coughlin.

Gibb's connection to the glorious years of past bring structure and

optimism to a franchise in constant turmoil. Even with the fan support, Gibbs feels theirs more work to do.

"I think I have to prove myself all over again," said Gibbs on www.denews.com. "This first win was real emotional."

Men's volleyball sets up first season

By Colin Embrey

Assistant Sports Editor

Fall has come around and that means another season has started for all the fall sports teams at WS. Students were sitting in their classes, ready to leave school when out of the intercom came a completely unexpected announcement.

"If you want to join the Men's Volleyball team, come to the interest meeting today after school."

To most, it was a shock, but to some, it was exactly what they were waiting for.

"I think it's a good idea and I'm really glad so many people came out to play," said junior Lauren Adams, a member of the

women's varsity volleyball team. "I'd love to play against them sometime."

Guy's in PE class who wished there was a men's volleyball team have something to look forward to.

Tryouts have already started and at each practice more and more people came. They hope to start a successful program for the future.

Juniors Dean Christensen and Nick Gonzalez were excited about the idea of making a men's team.

"I've been waiting for one [a men's volleyball team] ever since I saw the girls play," said Gonzalez.

The men's volleyball team practices in the main gym three nights a week.

"Our team goal is to have a good time."

—sophomore,

John Ransom

Coach Chris Plummer may have a game plan for leading the team to success, but he also has a curious background. Palmer left a UI8 club team for unknown reasons.

"Our team goal is to have a good time, and learn some volleyball," said sophomore John Ransom.

There are five other teams in the area, but there is no set schedule.

"We hope to win states," said Gonzalez. "Where we are now, we wouldn't, but with practice we could."



Liz Bucheister

Volleyball coach Chris Palmer instructs players on form.

EA's Madden sweeps nation

By Chrissy Regelski

Weekend Assistant

Football season is now in full swing where teams compete and try to prove their worth for the ultimate title in sports. Football fans aren't only concerned with the Redskins versus Dallas rivalry but with "Madden NFL 2005" versus "ESPN NFL 2K5." The gaming world has a full-fledged competition on their hands. Everything from price and graphics to how well coaches' quirks are displayed is being compared to determine the better game. According to the poll on Gamespot.com, it's a close call. Out of over 23,000 voters, "ESPN NFL 2K5" won with a 49% compared to "Madden NFL 2005's" 41% (9% voted for both).

"ESPN NFL 2K5 is an awesome game," said sophomore Bryan Bolтик. "I think it's better than "Madden" because of the realism, the cut scenes, sportscasters, and no John Madden."

"ESPN" is praised for having more life-like graphics and more realistic stats. The reality of the game is supported by the quarterbacks' ability to dodge sacks

and the defense can change their coverage schemes. Alex Navarro, in his review on Gamespot.com, admits "Madden" has a better defensive game, but that "ESPN" has "a stellar package" and that it's "impossible to pass up."

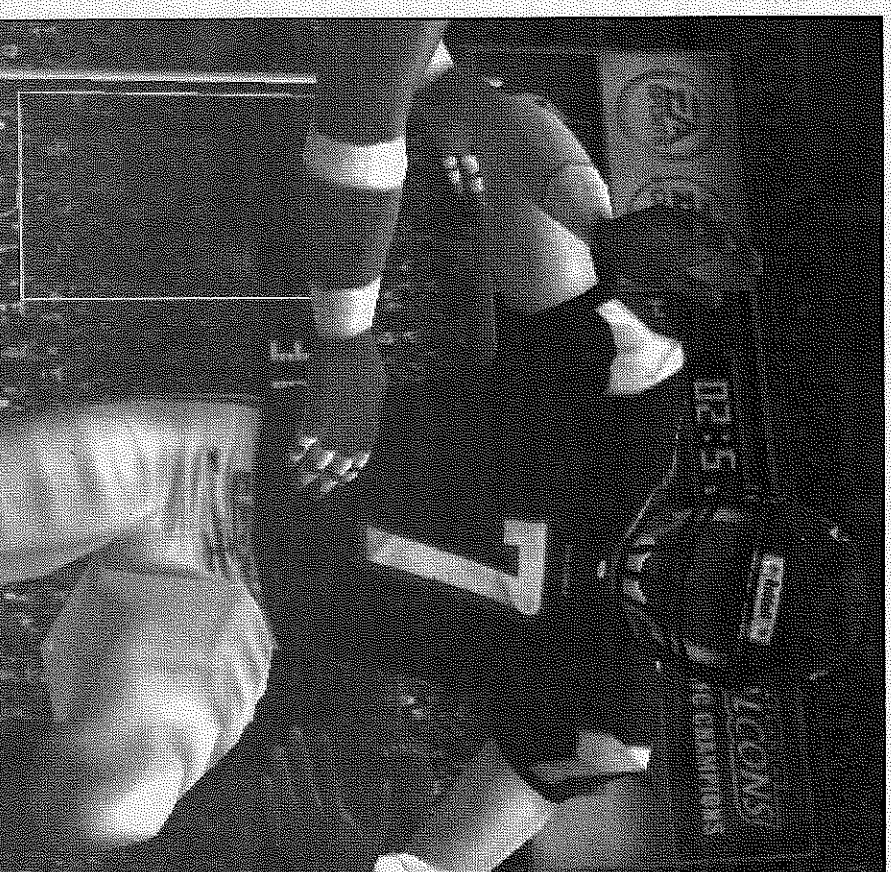
"Madden has a history of classic games," said sophomore Scott Waddell. "It's not a game, it's a lifestyle."

One of "Madden's" new features, when playing defense, is the ability to highlight players and move them wherever you want while keeping key defensive players locked so opposing receivers are still covered.

Some of "Madden's" additions are the new mini games to help with training and the Create-a-Fan feature. The mini camps allow you to get the basics of the game down while the Create-a-Fan is useless but entertaining.

"Madden NFL 2005" is available for Nintendo Gamecube, Game Boy Advance, Playstation, Playstation 2, and Xbox for \$49.99.

It's tough to choose but it you feel like spending \$70, buy both (unless you have Gamecube).



Madden makes it seem lifelike with its high tech graphics.

Poor Liz's Almanac

Liz wages her own 'Trojan' war

By Liz Weiderhold

Managing Editor

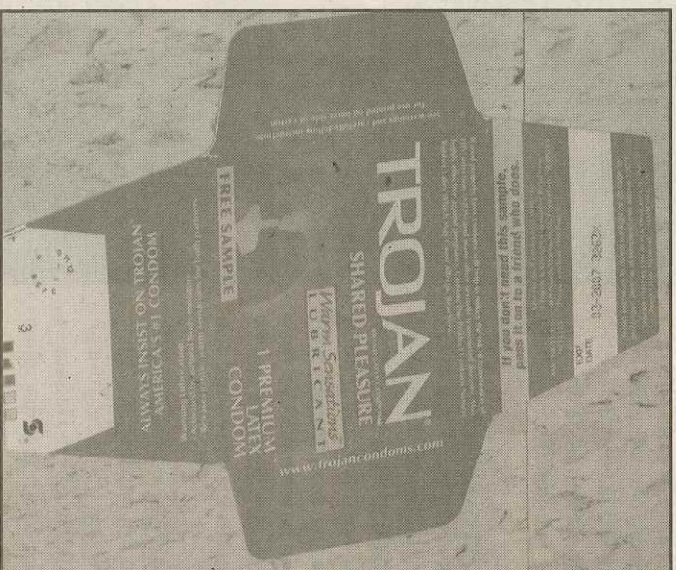
I am in a crisis of conscience right now. My friend walked down the halls of this very school where she found ("GASP!") an empty, flattened box of condoms ("free sample"). Now, it is clear to me that by obtaining a "free sample" of condoms, you are not just sampling the condom but the USE for it, if you catch my drift. And this is why I am worried.

I don't think this person deserves to be commended for even considering being sexually active during high school. It isn't praiseworthy to have people think, "Hey, WS ain't so big on abstinence but they use PROTECTION, baby."

High school, despite what certain students think, is NOT the time to be experimenting with naughty activities such as sexual intercourse and snorting crack. (In fact, there is no good time to be snorting crack, and I think many of our nation's leaders, including Marlon Barry (too expensive), would agree with me.)

High school is a time to snort only when laughing. It's a time when "Jack Daniel's" is the name of your friend, not your preferred drink. A time when the only thing you should be doing is your homework. A time when Doctor Pepper is your favorite party beverage instead of the name of the man who delivered your baby.

High school is more fun without having to "light one up" during break, after 4th period, during 4th period, three times during lunch, on the way to 5th after school, during tests, in the bathroom, in a house, with a mouse, here or there. It's more fun without the felony charge for whatever reasons. It's more fun when you can remember what you did last Saturday, even if you just climbed trees with the neighborhood kids. It's like that old saying,



Liz Buchheiser
This "free sample" box of condoms was found in the Senior hallway.

"Better climbing trees than running into them while you're drunk."

It is possible to enjoy yourself without being a "rebel without a cause." If you want to know what happens when you are rebellious, offer Dr. Smith a joint or ask Mr. Griffin if he's seen your bottle of 1986 Pinot Grigio. Then maybe you will want to take the high road...and no, you gutter-mongers, not that type of high.

Top Ten: Ways to ask someone to Homecoming

10. Be original. Just ask her up-front and in person: "Will you go to homecoming with me?"
9. Pass her a note during 7th period, when you both can't think straight because you're so dog-tired.
8. Give her a flower during every period and then pop the question at the end of the day.
7. Go to her house and write on her driveway with chalk.
6. Post a huge sign that is both colorful and extraordinary over senior rail (this idea even works for freshmen, although you'd risk being pelted by eggs and other assorted items).
5. Sunnie Ko, will you go to homecoming with David Dubin?
4. Record a scary movie on a blank tape, and when the scary part approaches, tape yourself yelling "BLAH!! Will you go to homecoming with me?"
3. Decorate her locker with streamers, paper and balloons.
2. Place paper kisses in the hallway leading to their bedroom with a note on the bed that says, "Now that I've kissed the ground you walk on, will you go to homecoming with me?"
1. Do what Hoagie did and give her your socks with a note written on them that says, "Will you rock my socks and go to homecoming with me?"

—Compiled by Cam Rushton

Hoagie's World

Hoagie's guide to Homecoming rejection

By Sean Hogan

Etc. Editor

Tis the season, my friends, to reject and be rejected. Yes, this means Homecoming time (note: making you cringe since school was invented). Roughly 16.345% of us will ask somebody to homecoming and be RE-JECTED, as Chip Hearn would say. You're going to need something to do, or maybe even something to read! Thus, here is Hoagie's Guide to Homecoming Rejection!

There is one golden rule you should follow after being crushed by your crush: Don't get down on yourself. They said no. Big whoop. Get over it. There are many more fish in the sea, many more monkeys in the barrel. Therefore, you need something fun to do. Here are some ideas:

Ask someone else. The original person obviously is not "the one," or probably not even "the two," so go find your future soul mate.

Hang out with friends. Not everyone goes to homecoming. Nobody's forcing you, so go putt-putting or play ping-pong.

Cook. Baking goodies often soothes the mind, so make yourself something healthy, like barbecued ribs or lard.

Do homework (I'm joking! This is a humor column, not "Dear Abby").

Create a dynasty on Madden 2005. Try to take a team that's obviously one of the top dogs in the NFL, such as the Chargers or Cardinals, and take them all the way to be the 7th-worst team instead of the 3rd.

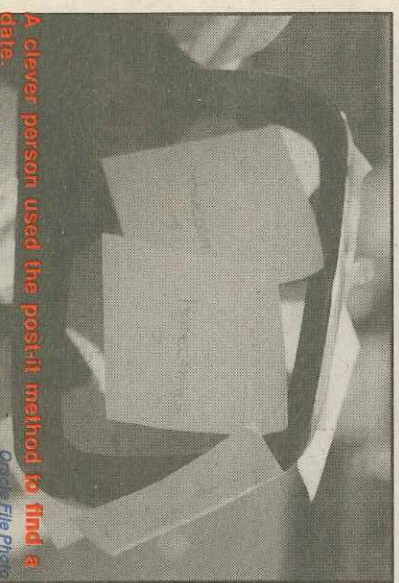
Watch TV. I'm sure "World's Wildest Police Videos 546" is better than hanging out and dancing with your friends.

Read the phone book from cover to cover. You'll find interesting names like Wanfezi, Poindexter, LaFawnduh and Joe.

Talk to yourself. If all else fails, your family will see you and will make you go to a mental institute. Hey, at least you'll get out of school for a while!

Alphabetize your M&M's. This has always been a simple cure to my boredom.

If all else fails and you're a girl, I have 2 arms. Any takers?



A clever person used the post-it method to find a date.

Orion File Photo

October 1-23

Friday, October 1	Varsity Football home vs. Hayfield 7:30
Saturday, October 2	National Custodial Workers Day
Sunday, October 3	Day 3 of Toilet Tank Repair Month
Monday, October 4	Varsity Field Hockey home vs. West Potomac 7:30
Tuesday, October 5	Cross Country meet @ South Run 5:00
Wednesday, October 6	Varsity Field Hockey @ Lake Braddock 7:30
Thursday, October 7	Day 1 of Squirrel Awareness Week
Friday, October 8	Varsity Football @ Annandale 7:30
Saturday, October 9	Leif Erickson Day
Sunday, October 10	Bring your Teddy Bear to Work Day
Monday, October 11	Columbus Day
Tuesday, October 12	National Gumbo Day
Wednesday, October 13	PSATs-No School for Seniors!
Thursday, October 14	Day 1 of Shopping Cart Safety Week
Friday, October 15	Varsity Field Hockey @ T.C. Williams 4:30
Saturday, October 16	Varsity Football home vs. West Potomac 7:30
Sunday, October 17	Homecoming Dance in Cafeteria 8:30
Monday, October 18	Alaska Day
Tuesday, October 19	Volleyball home vs Lake Braddock 7:15
Wednesday, October 20	Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day
Thursday, October 21	Volleyball @ Robinson 7:15
Friday, October 22	Varsity Football @ Robinson 7:15