



Spartanfest prevails over rain

By Zohra Alnoor
Junior Staff Writer

Burgers, cupcakes, games, tie-dye t-shirts, DDR, pie-throwing and more all encompassed the fun-filled afternoon on Saturday October 22, for WS's annual Spartanfest.

Traditionally, Spartanfest is held outside in nice breezy weather but, unfortunately, at this year's Spartanfest, the weather was wet and cold. While some people missed the tradition of sitting out in the sun, others preferred walking across a giant piece of plastic inside.

"I think since [Spartanfest] was inside, we thought it might be slower, but we were wrong cause it was really fast and close together. There was a lot more action in one space," said senior Aisha Toor, who sold baked goods and had the dart board game at the Speech and Debate booth.

The fall festival still consisted of the wooden "jail" sponsored by Pizzazz where students, parents and teachers could pay one dollar to jail anyone present at the festival; whether it was their best friend since kindergarten or their "evil" algebra teacher. "Prisoners" were locked in the wooden jail

surrounded by cobwebs, plastic spiders and a giant Jack Skellington for five minutes, or they could pay a bail of one dollar.

"[The jail's] been pretty big this year. After one person jails someone, they'll want to get each other back," said sophomore Lauren Douglas, a member of Pizzazz who walked around Spartanfest bearing a bright blue police cap and plastic handcuffs searching for "prisoners" whose names were written on warrant sheets. Of course, these weren't the only activities taking place that day.

The all-famous DDR (Dance Dance Revolution) game, sponsored by the WS orchestra, was a huge hit between children, tweens, teens and adults. One could pay one dollar for two songs and have the chance to play against a friend or another random person standing in line.

"It's a popular game with good music and it's a good workout," said junior Diana Clanor who helped out with the orchestra's fundraiser.

Food was a big part of Spartanfest, as always. It is a great time to fill your belly with funnel cakes from the German Honor Society, pork BBQ sandwiches
See Spartanfest on Page 4.



Carrie DeClark
Earlier in the school year, before her stroke, English teacher Nonia Jones led her students down the hallway in the "Pronoun Hop."

Teacher recuperates after stroke

By Caitlin Kenney
Viewpoint Assistant

Nonia Gay Jones spent Thursday night cooking until 11p.m. for a special occasion. She collapsed onto the bed that night completely drained and exhausted. She made it through the next day. On Saturday morning she woke-up with her left side numb and tingly. Jones was having a stroke.

Jones called to her husband to fetch her cell phone. She had to call her doctor to see what exactly was wrong. Her whole left side was tingly and numb. Her first thought was she slept with her hand brace too tight.

See Jones on Page 4.

Making masquerade memories

Homecoming 2005 tries unmasking hidden school spirit

By Katie Costello
Features Editor

Fortunately for WS, the Phantom of the Opera did not make a surprise appearance at the masquerade-themed homecoming. With masks and orange and blue face paint the students at WS demonstrated spirit "undercover."

Senior John-Mark Walker proved "it's not unusual" for Mr. Spartan to toss rubber ducks or dance like a "Fresh Prince of Bel Air" character. Students felt that it was the rubber duckey song that put Walker at the top of the judges' lists and earned him the Mr. Spartan crown.

"I'm disappointed that I didn't go to Mr. Spartan and get to see John-Mark's dancing," said junior Ansha Goel.

Other crowd favorites at Mr. Spartan were senior Richard Walsh as the famous '80s workout guru Richard Simmons and senior Dalton Cochran's creative rendition of the Gene Autry classic "Back in the Saddle Again."

Incident weather kept fans away from



Liferouch
The sophomore float, shown here being pulled in the Homecoming parade, won the float competition in a surprise upset.

the stadium for the Powder Puff games. It was a night for the underdogs as both the freshmen and the juniors were victorious over their older competition. The rainy

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'Jocks 07' school seniors on spirit

By Cam Rushton
Sports Editor

A distinct new sound can be heard at the varsity football games on Friday nights.

It is not the band playing as loud as possible, or the players on the field trying to take each other's heads off. The evident sound that echoes from the 50-yard line is school spirit.

The atmosphere at the football games this year is a pleasant change from last year, when I cannot recall anything even remotely close to the craziness at the games now.

Craziness, including metal trash cans, noise makers, and obnoxious students, is heard over even the band, seated a good 30 yards down the field.

I have witnessed various kinds of air horns and bull horns, juniors Josh Freer and Matt Kawamoto arriving wearing hard hats and even crowd surfing up and down the stands. The most extreme thing that happened last year was when a student ran across the length of the field in a chicken suit.

It is not just the juniors (dubbed Jocks '07) who have developed a sense of spirit; teachers have joined in the fun, too. Educators like Tom McGrath and Terri Stirk

are regulars at home games, cheering on the football team alongside their students and colleagues. There is a certain funny feeling you get seeing a teacher at a game and realizing they have a life outside of school.

There are still people who don't approve of the excess of school spirit at the games. When the juniors started the tradition of bringing trash cans and air horns and arriving barely clothed, but painted, the seniors expressed their dissatisfaction.

Several of them claimed that the Jocks '07 were cramping their style and had too much spirit. The seniors should not be angry, they should be excited for the juniors and add to the excitement and spirit at the games. Besides, I have seen plenty of spirit from the seniors at not only the home games, but also the away games.

There is so much school spirit apparent at the football games, I think it oozes out of the drumsticks used to bang on the metal trash cans. It is great to see our school come out to support, whether at home or away games.



Oracle File Photo

Juniors Brent Wreckline, Matt Kawamoto, Steven Morris and Hussain Kan show spirit by screaming during a home football game.

There is nothing better than going crazy on a Friday night, no matter if the football team is winning or losing.

Yearbook portraits pose problems periodically

By Beth Stinson
Business Assistant

Every year when the big envelope containing our school pictures comes in the mail, our parents always tell us how wonderful they look.

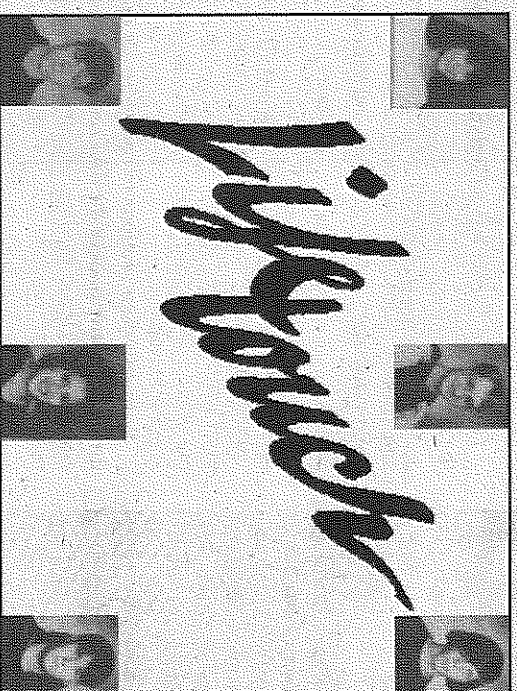
We know they are just saying this, because they don't want to hurt our feelings.

But this year, I believe pictures went beyond "Oh they look just fine!" and reached "Well, when are retakes?" In my opinion, pictures this year came out pretty bad.

bathe and dark circles under students' eyes brought on by late nights of doing projects just come with the school picture day territory. But when everyone's pictures look sort of weird, then something is wrong.

From my hard-core investigation I have found that even the most attractive of our student body had pictures that made them look like they are on five different controlled substances.

Even when students escaped from the horrors of pubescent blemishes and unkempt bed-head, their pictures still looked bad, to say the least.



Olympian 1993

It is as if some cosmic force, dead-set against us having perfect yearbook pictures, tampered with photographers and perhaps bribed them so that we would never be completely happy with our

pictures. Sophomore Suzy Placke found that she was wearing a large black yarmulke for picture day, but the yarmulke turned out to be hair.

Junior Kaska Odoleye says the yearbooks in June

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

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Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

I am writing in response to the October 21 issue's article "Class of 2007 Works Hard for Their Money."

I am the Class Sponsor for the juniors, and I would like to echo the praise this article offers for the efforts of this year's class officers.

They are indeed doing an excellent job raising money and increasing the funds for the Class of 2007.

However, I would also like to point out that the headline on the second page of the [Class of 2007] article, which reads "'07 Finally Starts Collecting Cash for Prom," is misleading.

Most classes collect the majority of funds during their junior and especially senior years, as freshman and sophomore years are spent learning the ropes and getting to know the school and

community in order to effectively fundraise.

The Class of 2007 has been fundraising since August of 2003 (their freshman year), and will continue to do so until graduation day in 2007.

Once again, I'd like to praise and thank this year's officers for working so hard to come up with new and creative ideas for fundraising.

I'd also like to thank all previous officers for their efforts and remind the staff of *The Oracle* that it's important [for any journalist] to research and report on the whole story before going to press.

Sincerely,

*Jocelyn Pickford, English teacher
and Class of 2007 Sponsor*

Dear Editors,

I read the article, "Class of 2007 works hard for their money" in the October 21 *Oracle* with interest because I have been a class sponsor in the past. There is, however, a substantial mistake in the article. The funds raised from Nissan Pavilion concession sales do not go to the students. All of the money goes to the All Night Grad Party committee, which is entirely made up of parents. That money goes toward the expenses of the party, and none of that money goes to the Class of 2007 account.

By the way, did the author find out the amount raised at Nissan? I believe it's over \$20,000. That will certainly help make the All Night Grad Party lots of fun.

*Erik Lind,
History teacher*



Sara Eisfeld

Fundraisers for the Class of 2007 work to make money for their "All Night Grad Party," and not the class itself.

ACTs award calm testing

By Lauren Adams

Inside Story Editor

Give me an A, give me a C, give me a T! What does that spell?

Your new ticket into college—the ACTs are an up-and-coming test that most colleges are accepting as a great alternative to the dreaded and time-consuming SATs.

The ACTs do not only waste less of my time, but they can actually be, yes—hold your breath—enjoyable.

For someone who dreads tests weeks before they are even scheduled to be taken, I actually do not get stressed out when I look at my ticket reminding me the ACTs are coming up.

With only four sections to complete (as opposed to the ten repetitive ones of the SAT) each section contains either math, science, reading, or grammar. Not grammar, reading, math, oh, here's some more math, lets do a little more English, and you know, lets just forget about science all together, who really needs it anyway?

Lets just fail all the scientific people of America who live for science but fail at English. Shinks for you, suckers. Ha.

Cutting the subjects, contained in the SATs, into smaller sections naturally means that the sections will

be shorter, but that still doesn't take away from the fact that there are TEN sections of them.

The four larger sections of the ACTs are only 35-40 minutes long, and they go by in the blink of an eye. You can't even imagine how much better it is to know that when you finish with the first math section, you only have three left, and by the time you finish this thought, the whole test is over!

Finally the stiff SATs hope you'll not only to be able to answer all the questions correctly, but that you'll be smart enough to mathematically formulate how many you can leave blank, without your score being affected. Well good luck to all you Einsteins out there, because for the other 99.9999% of the population, we just don't stand a chance. That's where the ACTs come in.

They encourage you to guess. Guess away! You don't get marked wrong for guessing. You only get credit for the ones you get right. Automatically your chances of doing better are increased. No math formulas, no picking and choosing, no pressure.

If the college you are applying to accepts the ACT, why pass up a test that takes about an hour less of your Saturday and wants you to guess? For someone who hates pressure, the Amazingly Calm Test is right for me.



Wheatoncollege.com

SATs are required for High School graduation, but the ACTs are an easier test that most colleges accept scores from, too.

Advanced classes fail to pass

By Sunnie Ko

Inside Story Editor

&%\$^.\ That was my reaction to the first major AP US test I ever took...and failed...as well as the second one I took...and failed.

Actually, I lied, I didn't fail that one. I passed with a rousing D.

Yes, coming into junior year has been the hardest school transition I have ever had to make—or more accurately—been forced to make.

Comparing junior year to sophomore year is like comparing eating a bowl of ice cream to eating a red savina habanero pepper (for all you non AP scholars, that is the hottest pepper in the world); one makes you feel refreshed, pleased and delighted while the other makes you sweat, turn red and will probably will make you cry.

The horror really began last year, when I was picking my courses for the upcoming school year.

I was told that next year was my junior year (which is something I thought I already had a firm grasp on) and was by far the most important year for me in terms of getting into college.

The conversation between my counselor and I consisted of why it was the most important year and how my future depended on it. It scared me.

In a sense, I can say I was scared into taking APs. The terrifying idea of not

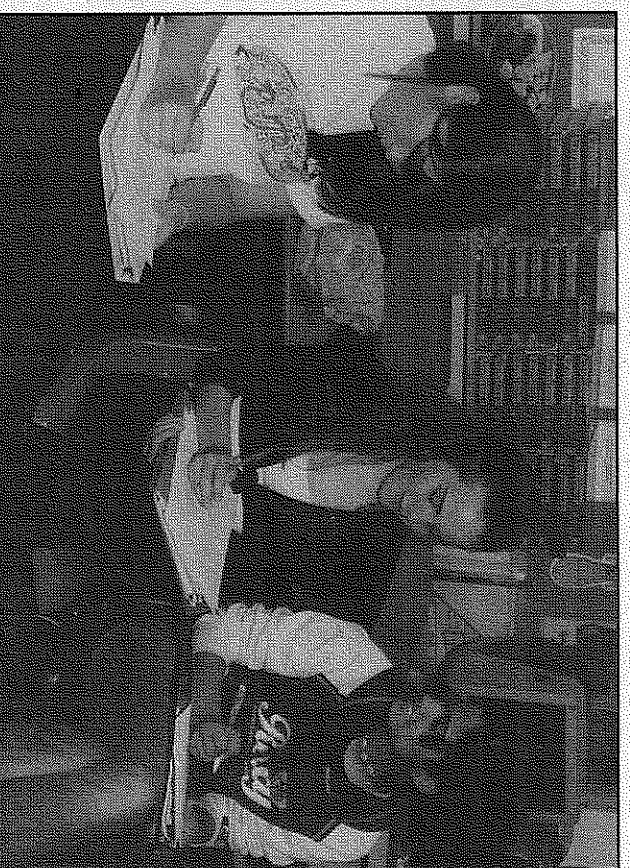
getting into college—which would limit my jobs and therefore leave me at a corner shaking an old mug for pennies clouded the reality that AP were indeed college classes.

A vision of a tattered potato sack as my latest outfit stuck in my mind as I mindlessly put a check next to 4 APs. (Later, I was persuaded by others to only take a maximum of three). This year, it hit me hard. AP really does mean Advanced Placement.

Now, I fondly remember my sophomore history class last year. My honors history class. A comfy, well climate-controlled room with the words "past" and "succeed" (two words I have yet to hear or experience this year) floating about the room.

Yes, I remember the mere five pages of notes due next class (compared to the 20 I do now), the worksheets with clear instructions as to where to find the answers (we are lucky to get things as simple as worksheets now) but most of all, I remember the Glossary and the blue bold words.

First quarter is nearing an end, and I feel that I finally have the gist of what I need to do in order to perform well in these classes. I do, however, feel like one quarter is too long for me to get comfortable with my schedule and has been detrimental to my GPA. Sometimes I feel like I was forced to run before I could walk.



Juniors Amanda Pyon, Amy McGregor, and Madina Newsz study for an AP class together after school. Juniors often have to stay after for AP classes

Oops! That's our bad...

In the October 21 issue of *The Oracle*, in the Features section of the paper, the word "prophet" was misspelled as "profit." We sincerely apologize for this mistake and assure you all we are always working to correct all of our mistakes.

Dedicated faculty member retires

By Kelly Sipple
News Section Assistant

After 20 years of hard work at WS, Jim Burke, the former building supervisor, retired on October 19.

Burke was in charge of the heat, AC, contracting, plumbing, electricity, and other repairs based on the needs of the faculty and staff. With 10 years of work experience in the field, Burke applied for the job at WS.

"I was the AC mechanic when this job came open," said Burke. "With this job, there were a lot more things I could work on. Here I was working with only one building unlike before when I was in charge of dozens of buildings."

Faculty who worked with Burke said that he was very dedicated to his job.

"[Mr. Burke did] more than anyone will ever know," said assistant principal Becky Brandt. "He worked behind the scenes and took care of the building. No one knows what all he did but he mainly worked with the custodians. He did whatever it took to get the job done."

Often, Burke came in during his free-time to make sure that everything was working properly at the school. Burke was also seen working in the school over two

weeks after he retired, simply making sure things were in order.

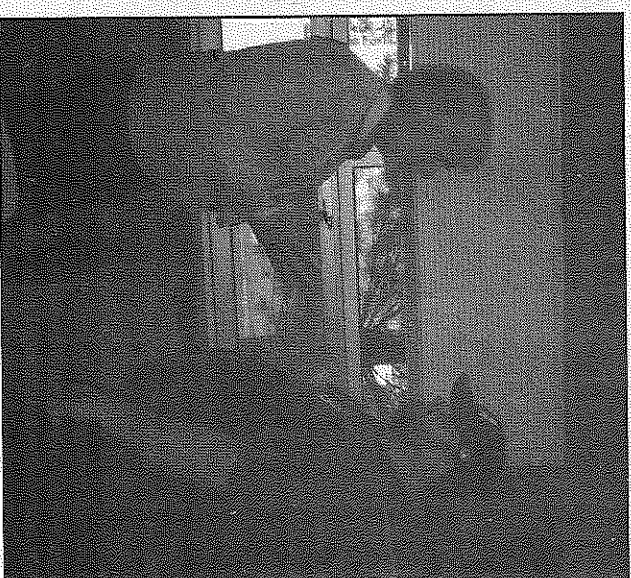
"He comes in the morning in the summertime and takes care of the chiller so it would be cool when the people came," said custodian Ron Rimeretz. He turned the AC on and in the winter came in to make sure the heat was on. I enjoyed working with him for 10 years."

For the time being, the position Burke held is vacant. "We have 10 people who have applied for the position," said Principal Dr. Smith. "First we are screening the applications and then we are setting up interviews. For now, we can call the county for any short-term problems that we have."

Not only did Burke maintain the building, but he also brought his hobbies to some history classrooms.

"He came in all dressed up as a Civil War renactor," said special education teacher Judith Hinds. He brought his muskets and let the kids see his equipment such as replicas of Civil War playing cards. He really brought it to life for the kids and talked a lot about the Battle of Gettysburg."

The teachers who knew Burke attended a reception to say good-bye, wish him luck for the future, and thank him for his commitment to WS.



Leah Venetia
Jim Burke talks with a co-worker during his lunch break. Burke worked at WS as a building manager and retired in October after 20 years.

"It's as hard for him to leave as it is for us to lose him," said Brandt.

Teacher resilient after stroke

Continued from page 1

be dangerous. The doctors didn't know if I had the actual stroke while I was asleep," Jones said.

Jones was extremely lucky to have only escaped the stroke with no paralysis. Doctors have not given a prognosis of how long it will take to fully recover.

"I feel like God grabbed me by the shoulders to tell me to slow down. I'm too involved. I didn't think about what it did to me I just did it," said Jones about her involvement in key roles such as Try-Hi-Y and English Honor Society.

For faculty, students and Jones herself this stroke was completely unexpected. Weight gain and less exercise combined with her case of Carpal-Tunnel Syndrome contributed to the cause of the stroke. Jones has to watch her caloric intake and exercise now to reduce future risk of complications.

"I used to be very active. I did Yoga, aerobics, and walked the dog three to four miles everyday. I've gotten slower and slower as the years went on," said Jones. Jones emphasized how lucky she has been to only come out with stiffness.

Homecoming

bash proves momentous

Continued from page 1

Still, the night was not a loss. Fans enjoyed the other aspects of the game including the colorful floats built by members of each class.

"I thought they [the floats] were really well put together and better than I expected them to be," said Goel.

The sophomore float was declared the winner after the floats made their trip around the track, with the seniors float snagging a second place finish.

Of course, Homecoming would not be complete without a queen. This year, senior Debby Lee won the honor of being 2005's Homecoming Queen. Lee was pleasantly surprised at her win, and remains humble and grateful.

"The best part about being queen is gaining the respect from my fellow peers and knowing that people actually *do* like me," said Lee. "Thank you to

numbness, and a limp. She is hopeful the

therapy she has three times a week will help. Jones is very grateful for all the support and love she has received from students and teachers. It really shows how much impact she has on the school body.

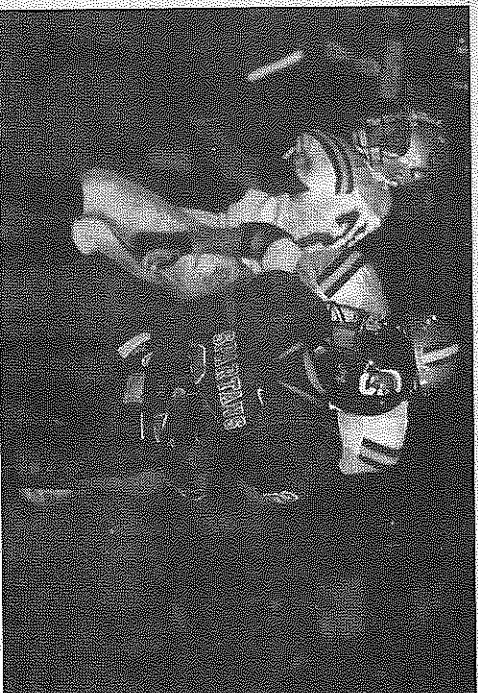
"It's only been two weeks since I have been out, but it seems like two years," said Jones.

Carol Dandy, who has known Jones sense her arrival at WS eight years ago, occupies a room across the hall from Jones in the English hall. The two women have been best friends for a long time. Jones received a room full of flowers, cards, and visitors during her stay at the hospital. Relaxation is a foreign word to Jones and she does not know what to do with it after many years without it.

"She keeps getting impatient to do something. I keep telling her she needs to use this time to get well," said Dandy. Jones cannot wait to get back into

action. She spends her time resting, grading, and doing therapy.

"I feel like the luckiest person in the world. If the worst things are a little pain and a limp for the rest of my life then I can live with that. At least I have my life."



Life Touch
A varsity football player runs with the ball in the homecoming game against Lake Braddock. WS lost the game 23-28.

everyone for the support." SG4 put together the 2005 Homecoming dance with the flashy masquerade theme. The committee in charge of

decorating made sure there were decorations wherever necessary to make the cafeteria as festive as possible for the dance. Their decorating efforts did not go unnoticed by students and the fact that the decorations fit the masquerade theme made the dance attendees happy.

"I thought they really fit the theme and made the dance seem like a masquerade," said Goel. Not only were the decorations



Leah Venetia
Sophomore Class Sponsor Shannon Rapoza leads students in a fundraising effort.

Spartanfest success yet again

Continued from page 1

made by volunteering parents of WS students, a variety of cupcakes from DECA, or gourmet soup from the crew team.

Parent volunteer, Kathy Newmeyer, spent time at Spartanfest selling food for the PTSA.

"We cooked 170 pounds of pork for the pork BBQ sandwiches. Enough for 300 people," said Newmeyer.

The variety of games, foods, and activities run by clubs of WS were successful. Students and parents alike agreed that Spartanfest was a huge hit this year.

"I like to see the different things the clubs decide to do," said marketing teacher Liz McDowell. "It's a community event and you get to see WS alumni and its fun to catch up with people."

Plagiarizing ring exposed

By Laura Byland
Senior Staff Writer

The use of the Internet has led to an explosion in downloaded plagiarized papers. Last week the AP U.S. History teachers personally encountered this problem when they discovered some students were directly copying information for their decade profiles from the webpage of a former WS student. "The term 'cheating scandal' sounds sensational. The former student said he put the website up to help other students," said AP U.S. History teacher Maggie Tran. "We were concerned some of the information could be plagiarized because he didn't cite his sources, so it was partly to protect him."

The student posted complete copies of his decade profiles compiled throughout his year taking AP US. "It was the exact same assignment," said Tran. "It was too tempting for some students." The effortless cheating was alluring to many students. With only a few clicks of the mouse and taps on their keyboard, they had a completed profile with their name on it. "People used it because they were looking for the easy way," said junior Emily Lambert. One problem is that students often define cheating differently than teachers. Some even believe that it is not cheating to copy work if they view it as busywork. Tran disagrees.

"The value of the assignment is not an issue. It is like saying I don't believe in capitalism, so it is okay if I steal from other people," said Tran.

Plagiarism can stem from a lack of interest in the assignment or the strain of a challenging course load.

"Kids feel pressure to do well. And when kids forget an assignment or don't know how to do it, they turn to cheating," said senior Katy Zavack.

Unfortunately, WS students agree that cheating is not likely to stop anytime soon because of all the pressures to excel and laziness.

"Unless kids value honor more than they value their grades, kids are going to continue to cheat," said Zavack.

Bored boarders board from sea to shining sea

Friends skate cross-country to experience every inch of America

By Lindsay Burke
Viewpoint Editor

Adam Colton had never been "that guy."

He was never one to follow the rules verbatim; he was, however, the person who wet his pants in Advanced Comp because the substitute wouldn't let him go to the bathroom, and he was elected "Most Unique" for WS senior superlatives in 1997. And he isn't planning on changing.

On July 26, 2005, Adam Colton and two of his friends, Chris Gregory and Shayne Rivers set out on a cross country trip—on skateboard.

The three made a pact to skateboard from coast to coast using long-boards this summer. The trip would be to raise funding for an associating called the ECRW, the East Coast Round Wall

say, "Cost?" Then I'd ask "Who are you going with?" and Adam would say, "Who?" Then I'd ask "Well, who would drive the support vehicle?" and Adam would say, "Support vehicle?"

Colton's mother, though, took the supportive side. "I always said if anyone had enough energy to skateboard across the United States, it was him," laughs Colton's mother, Joanne Colton. "[Skateboarding] is his passion and I think whatever your passion is, you will do whatever it takes to make it work."

Colton took the first of what would turn into hundreds of steps and got his parent's permission to carry out his inspiration. He got serious and fully engaged himself in his idea. The support from his family and friends made all the difference. After months of planning, Colton, Gregory and Rivers set off on what would be a three month trip across the United States.

The boys kept in touch with their friends and family through a message board posted on www.whoisadamcolton.com, a website created so people could follow their journey. They posted pictures and movies of their ongoing trip. A month into the trip, on August 30, their friend Byron Levy quit his job and joined up with the guys in Salt Lake City, Utah. "I hated my job, and I'd kept in touch with [the guys] on the message board," said Levy.

The four guys skated from dawn until dusk, and never once set an alarm clock to wake up. They averaged around 50-80 miles a day. "We went to bed around nine and woke whenever the bus woke us," said Colton. Their bus was a large blue 1966 Chevrolet Conversion bus, dubbed "The Bus", that Colton's parents bought for the trip. The

back of "The Bus" reads "3 Friends, 3 Months, 3000 Miles," their slogan for the trip. Unfortunately, The Bus broke down a few times, and ended up costing the boys a total of 15 days of their voyage. The guys each used only one board the entire trip, with their savior behind them all the way: LongBoard Larry. Larry made extra boards especially for their trip, but they only ended up only needing one.

The boards were only about an inch off the ground when stood on, making it easier to skate longer distances. Three months after their departure, the skaters returned home on October 22, 2005 to open arms. As the boys skated into their home town, about 13 other skaters, friends of Colton, Gregory and Levy met up with them about eight miles out from their finishing point and skated the rest of the way back alongside each other.

A welcoming party of almost 100 people greeted the boys, along with mounds of food. "I cried when I came home," said Colton, "Three times." Colton and his friends shared unforgettable memories during the trip. Colton claims the most rewarding part of the whole thing was "getting to hold Byron at night."

Each night the boys spent off the bus mounds of food. "I cried when I came home," said Colton, "Three times." Colton and his friends shared unforgettable memories during the trip. Colton claims the most rewarding part of the whole thing was "getting to hold Byron at night."

they begged for food and boarding. They had brought hardly any food on the bus with them. Pizza Hut was one of their biggest supports.

West Virginia proved to be the hardest trek. By the time they had reached the Appalachian Mountains, the boys were exhausted from their trip. They had to skate in the road and dodge cars since there were no paths.

With \$8,500 funds raised, 4000 pictures, 3000 miles, 13 Pizza Hut trips, 4 full grown beards, 3 months, and 1 broken Bus later, the boys are still as individual as ever. As a result of the trip, Levy and Colton have both stopped wearing deodorant. "It's a waste of time," said Colton. "I like my smell."

The boys are not done raising for the ECRW, either. Their ultimate goal is to raise \$10,000. They are still accepting donations. Check out www.whoisadamcolton.com for details.

Now that the long journey is over, Colton, Levy, Gregory, and Rivers have plenty of reminders of their trip. From worn longboards, to duct-taped shoes, to The Bus, to the trip scrap book, these things will make their journey an everlasting one. "It will be [forever] in our hearts and minds," said Levy.

Unique teaching methods honored in Disney World

By Josh Lipman
Managing Editor

For Ronald Maggiano, teaching is like being at Disney World, literally.

"[I] was there for a week and we had an incredible time with some very incredible teachers," said Maggiano. "My favorite thing was going to the Epcot Center and seeing all the different countries that are represented there."

He is getting used to WS again after spending his last day at Disney World on October 22, where he was presented with a gleaming statue of Mickey Mouse. The mouse, along with \$10,000 for him, \$5,000 for the social studies department and trips to both Disney World and Disney Land, is the prize Maggiano received for winning the High School Humanities genre of the Disney Teacher Awards. He is the second member of the current social studies department to win a Disney award. The other member is history teacher Jim Percoco, who won a Disney award 13 years ago.

"I accept the award on the behalf of all teachers. It's not just about me."

—Ron Maggiano, US and AP European history teacher

The awards are given to teachers nominated for inventive teaching techniques. Disney has the nominees write essays and picks the teachers who send in the best ones. It does not, however, tell the teachers who nominated them.



Top: Colton, Gregory and Rivers practice their skating skills. The three traveled across the country on their skateboards for the East Coast Round Wall Foundation. Left: Levy joins them from Salt Lake City. They return from their 3000 mile journey tired and reminiscient of their ventures.

connectionnews.gazpar.com



AP European and US history teacher Ron Maggiano proudly displays his Disney Teacher Award. Maggiano received \$10,000 for himself, \$5,000 for the social studies department, and trips to both Disney Land and Disney World.

Photo Credit

"I don't know who nominated me. I wish I did because I would like to thank them," said Maggiano.

He can thank his mystery nominator for a lap top and a digital camera as well as some computer equipment for the social studies department all paid for by the prize money. Unlike whoever nominated him, it is no mystery what his innovative teaching techniques are. Maggiano, who has been teaching for 25 years and is in his 12th year at WS, is not a fan of sticking to the textbook in his US History and AP European History classes.

"He likes to play his guitar a lot," said senior Kristen Brown. "Last year in class he sang songs for what we were learning about."

When he spent six days at Disney Land last summer he performed a song about indulgences for the teachers. He plays this song for students complete with a powerpoint presentation.

"[I like] his sense of humor. He makes class fun and interesting," said junior Josh Freer.

If the award affected Maggiano's ego he does not show it. In fact, it is hard to get him to admit that he is even the best teacher for it.

"I accept the award on the behalf of all teachers. It's not just about me," said Maggiano. "I really do think that there are lots of teachers in this school who deserve it and there are lots of teachers in other schools who deserve it."

Maggiano is not so reserved about why he started teaching.

"I think that it's the most important thing we can do," said Maggiano. "I think it's the most important thing anybody can do."

With a name like WSSSSAAA, *it has to be good*

By Laura Byland
Senior Staff Writer

They are the people tirelessly working behind the scenes during sporting events. They are the handy men and women helping with announcements and the concession stand.

They are WSSSSAAA—West Springfield Spartan Student Athletic Administration Association. Their tasks are daunting, but saying their name is even more challenging.

"When I heard the name, I thought they were kidding, but it's really cool to say 'WSSSSAAA,'" said junior Cori Buck.

WSSSSAAA is a student service group that helps organize events with Assistant Director of Student Activities, Mike Mukai.

"Any request that comes in, the group is glad to accommodate," said Mukai. WSSSSAAA works all the games. They also assisted with homecoming activities.

"We oversee all the activities happening. For football we'll put things on the field. We run concession stands for volleyball," said junior Nick Andrews. "Any odd job there is, we've got it taken care of."

One of the biggest benefits is that if a club member works a certain number of hours at a number of games they can letter in management.

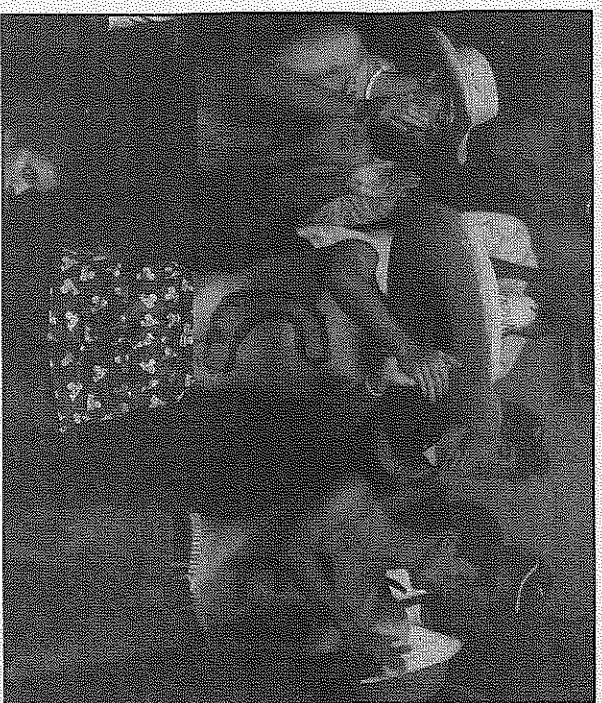
"It's pretty sweet to letter in field hockey since guys can't play field hockey," said co-director of field hockey, junior Matt Warden.

WSSSSAAA has other rewards, too. Members get free pizza on nights they work.

"My favorite part is working the concession stand because at the end of the night we can eat the leftover food," said junior Tori Prohoda.

WSSSSAAA is also a unique opportunity to meet new people.

"I'm new here, so it's a good way to get to know people and get active in school," said junior Ben Street. Although WSSSSAAA is a new volunteer organization, the men and women of WSSSSAAA



Lifetouch

Senior ACE boys Spencer Askin, Clay Price and Matt Collier cheer for the girls' volleyball team at a home game. Price and Collier are two of the original ACE boys, along with senior Brad Surdam.



Leah Venata

Junior WSSSSAAA member Kavita Dilawari grabs a bag of M&M's for a customer at a volleyball game.

have had some memorable experiences and found plenty of time for entertainment.

"During one game I totally messed up the announcements," said Warden. "We had the Pledge of Allegiance without a flag."

Girls in Spandex thank shirtless boys

By Lauren Adams
Senior Staff Writer

You can't spell ACE without Clay Price, Brad Surdam and Matt Collier. The season is over, so you never will again.

ACE has slowly evolved into ACE!! by adding Spencer Askin, Graham Shellenberg and Andy Ehrhard. Over the past four years, the volleyball games have been filled with excitement, cheering and body paint. These boys filled our games with energy and encouragement. Starting back in their days of freshman awkwardness, these boys came to our games out of sheer curiosity of girls in spandex. Their curiosity slowly

developed into a habitual presence, thus the ACE boys evolved. From then on, the ACE boys stayed. Without them at our games, the gym has an awkward silence that should be filled with the enthusiasm of our most devoted fans.

The boys have been so energetic that they have sometimes pushed the patience of the referees, being kicked out a few times and quieted a few many more. It is always in the good spirit of fun and games—we would not have it any other way. What other school can say that they have so many dedicated fans, and what other school is quoted in the newspaper for our fans actually intimidating the

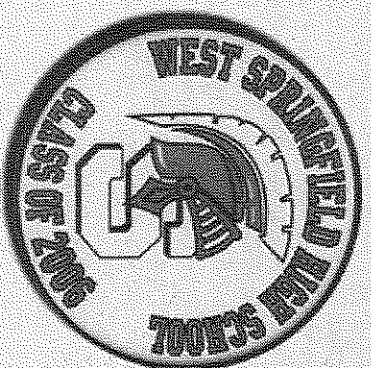
other schools? I know of no others.

They have been there through many great victories, including Districts last year versus Robinson. Without the energy and chanting to lift our spirits, we could never have done it.

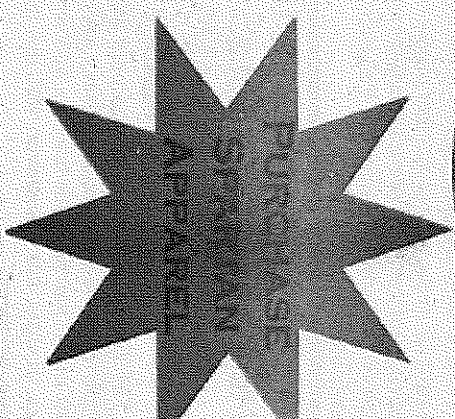
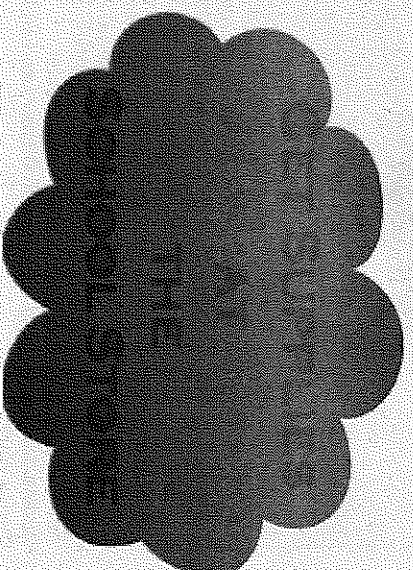
The ACE boys have been the heart of the volleyball team in past years, and will continue to remain close to our hearts. They had a confidence in us that we didn't even know we had, and they proved to the school that we are more than just spandex (slightly more at least). I hope there is a drop of paint left on the blue bleachers, to symbolize the blood, sweat and cheers that they have shed. Thank you.

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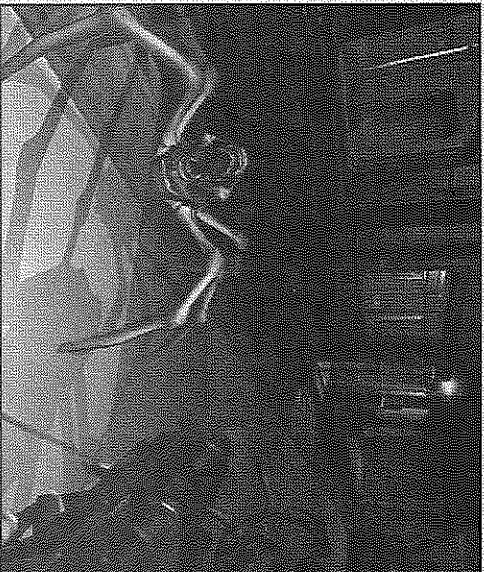


'Doom'ed to failure in the box office

By Scott Babcock
Senior Staff Writer

The movie "Doom" is in fact doomed in the box office. Like the video game, the movie takes place on Mars. Instead of fighting monsters who have come through a portal from hell, however, the space marines are fighting monsters, which like those from every other science fiction movie, are genetically engineered in labs.

Sticking to the theme of the video game, the plot consist of killing monsters—nothing more, nothing less. This movie is not for people who actually want to be entertained with an artistic experience. Even for the

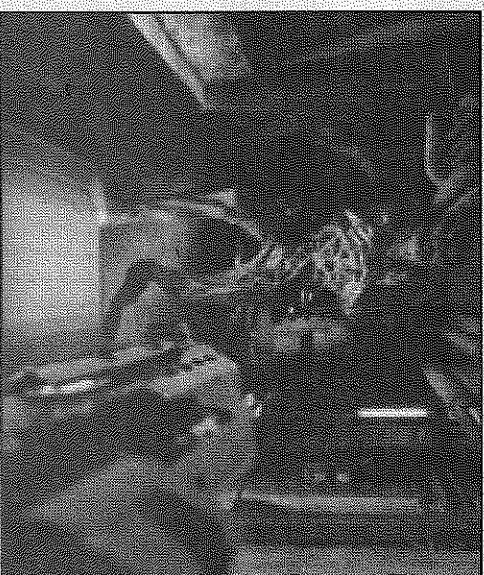


Associated Press

average moviegoer, this movie would be hard to find entertaining.

The character development is almost as bland as the plot. As in the game, there is almost none. The Rock's character, Sarge, bares a slight resemblance to the main character in the game, but it is a stretch. The rest of the characters were made up to ensure that the movie did not end up with only one actor.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, moviegoers looking for some ugly monsters and barbaric weapons, this movie does the trick. The monsters are more than ugly and the weapons can only be described as awesome. For those who like action, this movie is a hit.



Associated Press

"Doom," the movie, right, attempts to imitate the first person perspective that originated in the video game, left.

Sticking to the theme of the video game, the plot consist of killing monsters—nothing more, nothing less.

The biggest turn off in the movie is its nod to the first person shooter perspective that was first used in the game. An entire action scene in the movie is done in this perspective and it is enough to make a person sick. It also looks really fake.

Doom was horrible. Save your money; don't go see it.

'Kids' fight for freedoms

By Stevie Fiorino
Etc. Editor



Associated Press

This new teen movie deals with freedom of speech in schools.

and current issue. School systems are continuously spiraling away from allowing their students to practice freedom of speech.

"Kids in America," based on actual events, is a movie about a diverse group of high school kids who unite to remove their principal (Julie Bowen) from the school system and to prevent her from being elected the State Superintendent of Schools.

The principal suspends and expels students for reasons that she believes violate the school policy. One girl was expelled for wearing condoms on her shirt in order to promote safe sex, despite her status as the

head of the celbaey club. A homosexual couple was suspended for publicly displaying affection towards each other while heterosexual couples were not reprimanded at all for the same actions. One particular student, Holden (Gregory Smith), is expelled for expressing his concerns about how the school is restricting students' freedom of speech during his talent show skit.

Holden's expulsion really made an impact on the student body. With the positive motivation given to them by a dependable and influential teacher, Mr. D. (Malik Yoba), the students begin to realize

that you have to take action if they want to see results so they perform peaceful demonstrations to get their point across. Their devotion to bring down Principal Weller and promote freedom of speech proves to be successful.

If you have nothing to do on a boring night, check out "Kids in America." As expected from a teen-comedy, there are some "jame" moments and the acting could have been better, but overall it keeps you entertained. Not once did I drift off, as I tend to do in most of the movies I see, so that must mean this movie is worth seeing.

In Cold Blood heats up theatres

By Libby Bursley
News Editor

Each time my bag of candy crinkled in the movie theatre silence, I became acutely aware of the fact that I was the only person under 40 in the room.

"Capote" is a movie that can fascinate viewers of any age. Even though the film is based on a true event (and happens to be one of the required AP Lang books), it is by no means boring. The movie tells the story of Truman Capote (Philip Seymour Hoffman), famous author of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and New York socialite, investigating and writing his book, *In Cold Blood*, about a family

murdered in Holcomb, Kansas. He delves into the brutal murders, exploring everyone he meets in any way possible to get the best angle he can for his book and even develops a close relationship with one of the murderers to understand the reasoning behind the killings. He knows exactly how to please people, from friends to strangers, to get them to do what he wants.

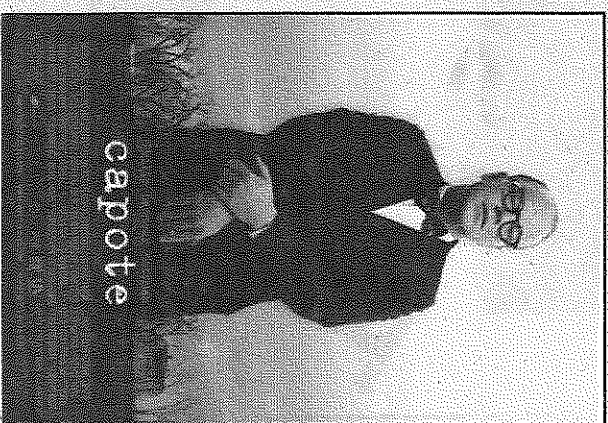
Hoffman portrays the title character with finesse, down to his unique voice and exquisite fashion sense.

The supporting characters, including friend Harper Lee (Catherine Keener) and one of the murderers, Perry Smith (Clifton Collins Jr.), provide both humorous and moving touches to the film. These small

touches bring life to the film that could otherwise have been dull. Collins especially plucks on the heart strings of viewers with gloomy tales of his childhood and his eventual fate. Knowing what becomes of the two murderers while watching the story play out made it even more captivating as I waited for the inevitable.

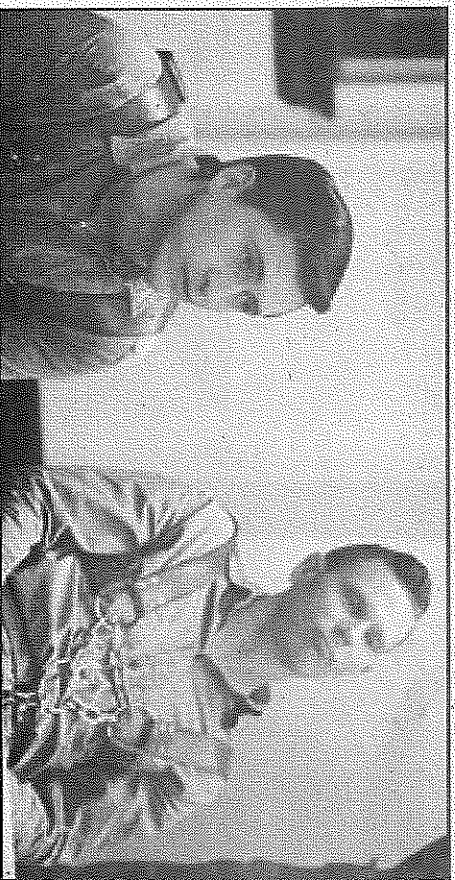
"Capote" is a superior movie, one that actually made me think. It is worth the trip out to the "artsy" theatre and six dollars paid for the matinee showing.

Even though my main reason for going was to get extra credit for English class, this movie is for anyone who wants a change from more recent, trashier movies such as "Into the Blue."



Associated Press

Truman Capote recorded a small town's plight to solve a brutal crime.



Associated Press

Clifton Collins, Jr. and Mark Pellegrino star as the real-life murderers of the Clutter family in 1959, Perry Smith and Dick Hickock.

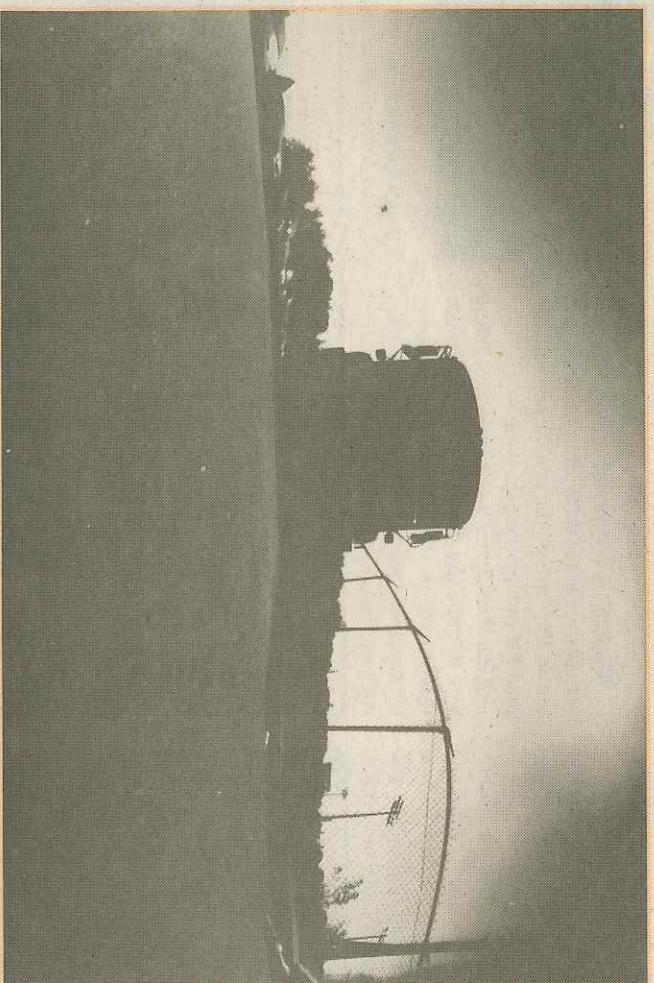


Calling all Creative Students!

Please bring your poetry, prose, artwork, photography, sketches, raps, and song lyrics to Room 215, and we'll publish them in our pages. Or, talk to the *Forum* editors, Stephanie Aguilar and Alyssa Horton, and they'll make sure the right people see your work. Our next submission deadline is December 21. See you in *Forum*!



—Erica Mueller, junior



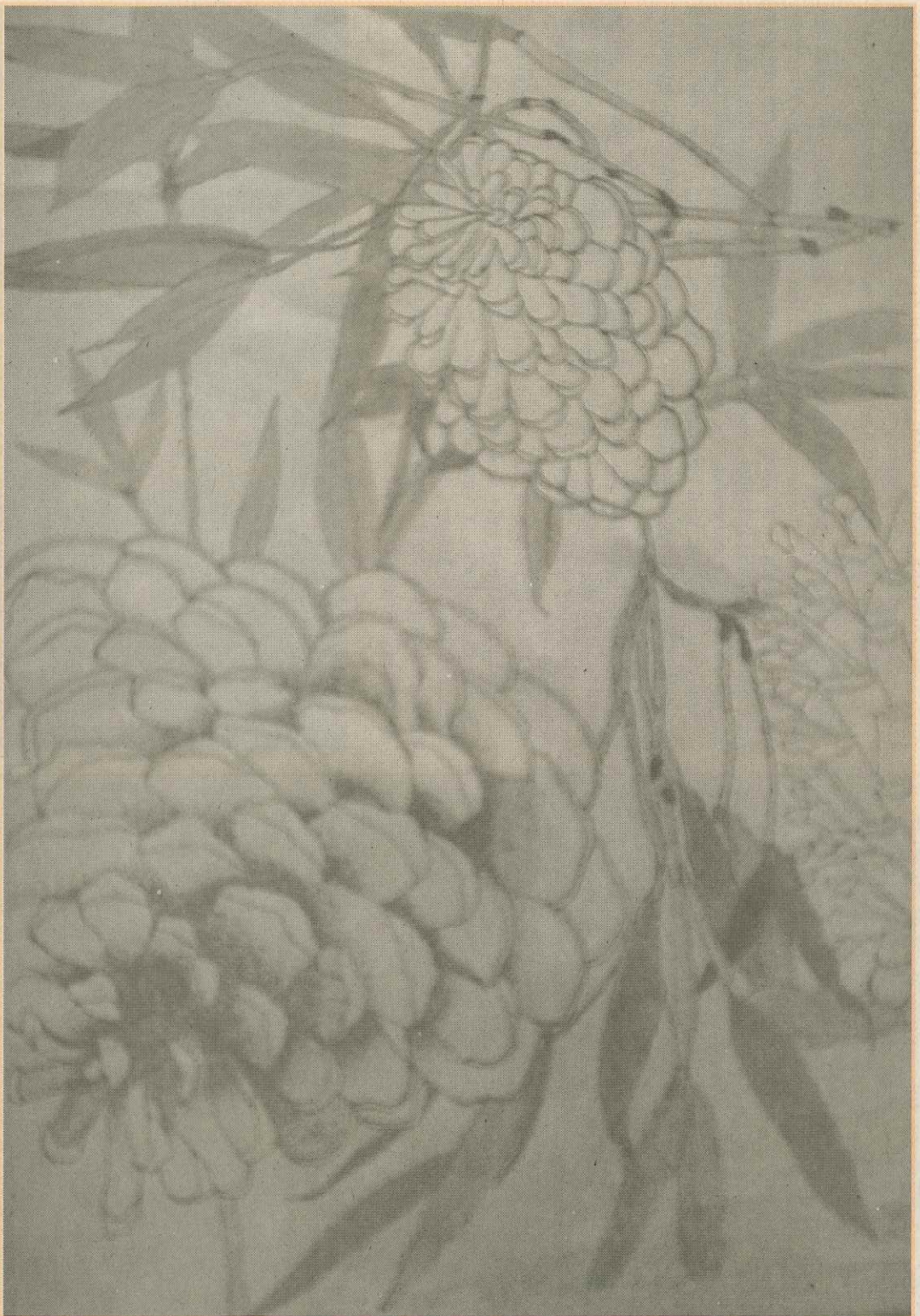
—Katie Tinsley, sophomore

Friendship
 Friendship is so sacred,
 That it can only be broken
 by raw hatred
 And even then it is consid-
 ered
 That the friendship will be
 reconsidered
 It would, too, and the only
 reason why it wouldn't
 is, one, if one friend thinks
 it shouldn't
 Or if a stubborn person
 thinks he couldn't
 Friends should stay that
 way forever,
 and break up they should
 never
 Friends are supposed to
 stay together,
 And help each other through
 all endeavors
 But then some people let
 little things get in the way,
 Then they can't keep their
 anger at bay,
 They fight their friend then
 turn away,
 From the wonderful friend-
 ship that they once had.

—Kaska Adoteye, junior



—Kathryn Wells, junior



—Mike Murrell, senior

YOU'RE FIRED!

1996 WS graduate hears these words on the 2006 season of *The Apprentice*

By **Chrissy Regelski**
Entertainment Editor

"You're hired." Words most WS graduates can only hope to hear. Hearing these words from Donald Trump himself, however, seems like an even more minute possibility. Unfortunately, it still is.

James Dillon, a candidate on "The Apprentice" and a 1996 WS graduate, heard "You're fired" instead, so WS will still have to wallow in the impossibility of having a grad hired by a billionaire with a slanted hairline.

After two teams of businesspeople perform Trump's assigned task, Trump brings the losing team into his boardroom to weed out an unfortunate incompetent. In his final challenge on the show, Dillon's team lowered the revenue of Dick's Sporting Goods' baseball sales by thirty-four percent while the opposing team raised golf sales by seventy-four percent.

Dillon's ultimate love, baseball, was the cause of his ultimate nightmare. The disastrous loss got Trump a little "You're fired"-happy and he kicked four people in the boardroom to the curb and into a prepaid taxi. One of these candidates was our fellow Spartan.

Commentary

I will now have to find another way to show Spartan pride rather than just sitting in front of the TV. Dillon's strategy, formed from watching previous seasons of "The Apprentice," is "not to peak too early" and he definitely stuck to it. This would be the same as if, when my parents confronted me for disastrous grades, I replied, "Well you don't want me to peak too early do you?"

Never stepping up to be Project Manager of a task, Dillon's major role in the show was to show off his baseball skills in Shea Stadium with the Mets and to comfort Jennifer Murphy, another candidate, before she faced the inevitable boardroom with Trump. While

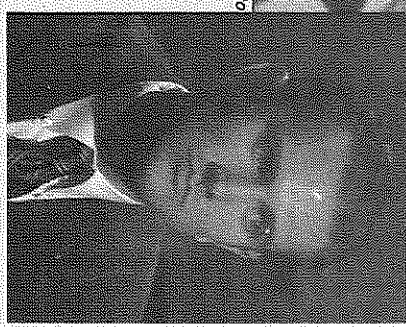
comforting chicks normally is a smart move for a guy to make, the whining, wicky girls were dropping like flies and therefore were absolutely worthless to ally with. When he finally presented an idea, to set up a bathing cage at Dick's to attract consumers, it turned the task into a children's event rather than a sales pitch.

Dillon is no failure, however. At age 27, Dillon has his own real estate investment firm, is in the top three percent in sales at Cingular Wireless, and has interned at our local radio station, Z104. He can also claim a feat that many other WS students can only dream of doing: Dillon is now rich enough to afford eating at Mike's American Grill, his favorite restaurant. Previously known as "Gentleman



Yearbook Photo

WS graduate James Dillon smiles in his senior photo in 1996, above. At right, Dillon looks less pleased as Trump fires him in the boardroom on "The Apprentice."



Associated Press

Jim" on the Z104 show, this hottie, with the essential touch of nerd, looked like Donald's man. Unfortunately, Donald disagreed.

Though Dillon choked when he, literally, stepped up to the plate, I fully believe Dillon will become an even greater business success, with or without Trump's help. After all, he is a WS graduate.

Madame President takes charge of primetime

By **Christina Sohn**

Weekend Editor

I never liked shows about politics. Martin Sheen's puniness and bland personality always kept me away from "The West Wing" while Bill Maher's egotism repelled me from watching "Politically Incorrect."

Yet, finally, one show has become the medicine that has cured me of my allergy to political shows: One woman has entered the prime-time arena to knock out all of the wimpy presidents and all the whiny political commentators to proudly declare herself president of the United States of America.

In comes Mackenzie Allen, played by the tall, elegant Geena Davis, in the show "Commander-in-Chief", which airs on Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on ABC. As the pilot begins, Allen is vice president, an Independent whom Republican president Teddy Roosevelt Bridges (Will Lyman) selected to run with two years earlier so that he could gain more female votes.

While Allen is in France, however, Bridges suffers a stroke and dies, but not before telling Allen to resign in the case of his death, so that the Republican Speaker of the House Nathan "Bloody Hell" Templeton (Donald Sutherland) could become president. After much deliberation and much sneering on the part of Sutherland, Allen decides to take the oath of office and become the first woman president of the United States.

Davis carries this role well because of her dominant but calming presence on the screen. Her face carries the same expression of nobleness as do the faces on the portraits of our greatest presidents.

The show is decked in patriotic colors, from Davis's dark red hair and ruby-colored lipstick to her white blouses and blue blazers. Grand, sweeping music accompanies scenes. The plot lines are simple and clear, but the story often ends with a predictable victory by Allen.

Although I do feel a type of cheesy pride from these attempts to evoke patriotism, it is somewhat nauseating and a weak and overly blatant aspect of the show.

Despite its drawbacks, "Commander-in-Chief" is a show I can cheer for. Every time Mackenzie Allen, or Madame President, presides over the command center, directing military action, I give out a little mental hooray because so much power is in the hand of one woman, something that has rarely been done in history.



Associated Press

Only on its second season, "Lost" has become viewers' obsession.

'Lost': when interest morphs to addiction

By **Jordy Serwin**

Business/Systems Editor

TV watchers everywhere are lured to a tank of ravenous, crazed reality shows in some kind of television zoo.

The graceful soap opera stands regally in the sun while people occasionally walk by to gaze upon it. The dramas sleep soundly in the corner of their pen, bored because no one wants to watch them anymore. The sitcoms plot what playful antics to execute when the occasional visitor saunters by. Despite their best efforts, visitors are drawn past these other shows to the hungry, snapping, real-life based programs.

One day, the television zoo opens a new exhibit. A crowd gathers in front of the recently finished enclosure. A shimmering plaque discloses the name of this new program, "Lost."

Last fall, ABC aired the pilot episode of the suspense-infused "Lost." Stranded on an uncharted island after their Los-Angeles-bound flight crashes, Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox), John Locke (Terry O'Quinn), Sayid Jarruh (Naveen Andrews), and the rest of the forty-sum survivors struggle to survive amid ever building, inexplicable circumstances.

Other primetime programs keep viewers coming back each week only to see what the writers have come up with. "Lost" uses an unconventional approach. It employs cliffhangers at the end of each episode, like those usually seen during season finales, creating an insatiable desire to know what happens next.

While individual episodes of the typical show are arbitrary to the show overall, a given episode of "Lost" requires elements from episodes before and after it to make some semblance of sense. Often, the changes and hints within an episode are so minute that it is helpful to consult the multitude of websites devoted to divulging the easily missed details to unravel the plot's secrets. Even this is futile because no matter how far you dig into the story, the hole is filled in again with the next episode.

It is this facet of "Lost" that prevents it from rotting, like a banana left out in the sun, and fuels the obsessions of its millions of viewers. In the television zoo, the popular, wild, demented, reality shows are here to stay, but so are psychodramas like "Lost."



Associated Press

"Commander-in-Chief" introduces the idea of a female president to television.

Get away, spiritually

By Lindsay Bruhn

Viewpoint Editor

Weekends are a time to stay up late and sleep in even later. There are a few students, however, who choose to spend an occasional weekend in fellowship with people from their church.

"They are actually really fun," said senior Christina Cain.

These two-night sleepovers are known as retreats. They are often fun filled, energy stealing weekends that will leave the students drained of all physical life but filled with a new spiritual one.

"Retreats are a time to slow down and forget about all the stress at home to better hear what God has to say to you," said junior Jessica Lawrie.

Retreats are designed to share the church's beliefs with student guests who have not yet heard the message, whether it be the gospel story of Christ or the principles behind many other religions.

There are also benefits for members of the particular church, including spiritual renewal and learning in depth about what the church believes. It is an educational experience.

Education is not something most students want to take part in on the weekends. For this reason the message is

usually coupled with crazy games and activities.

The more subdued events can include live bands, a bonfire and skits. For a more hard-core camper there is often paintball, horseback riding, snow skiing and various intense games that require extensive running.

"Paintball in the rain was amazing last year," said senior Kristen Hughes.

"Retreats are a time to slow down and forget about all the stress at home to better hear what God has to say to you."
—Jessica Lawrie, junior

The games, which are made up by the youth leaders, tend to go along with the theme for the weekend and have extremely complex rules.

Immanuel Bible Church and McLean Bible Church are two of the bigger churches that have regular retreats. There were about 100 people at BBC's fall retreat this year and MBC had over 150 kids at their ski retreat in February of last year.



Bethany Geel

Junior Kelsey Williams and sophomore Alex Powers participate in a skit during the Immanuel Bible Church retreat.

Shiloh Baptist Church also has retreats to different cities such as Atlanta.

If you are ever in need of a spiritually refreshing weekend and have a lot of energy to kill, check out one of the many church retreats going on in our area.

Grillin' it up, Asian style

Excellent new restaurant serves delicious ethnic foods

By Scott Babcock

Senior Staff Writer

Asian Grill is downright addicting. The great food coupled with the friendly service makes it a place you will want to visit again and again.

Owned and operated by the family of WS junior Brian Ho, and located within walking distance of the school, Asian Grill is more than a local restaurant. By allowing field trips from the school, and by being more than friendly to its diners, Asian Grill is like a second home to WS students.

The breaded chicken was crisp and succulent and was sautéed in peppers and cherries which gave it an extra special zing.

I was delighted when Mrs. Ho made a special effort to make me feel comfortable in her restaurant. She walked over and introduced herself and engaged us in pleasant conversation, which judging from how she interacted with

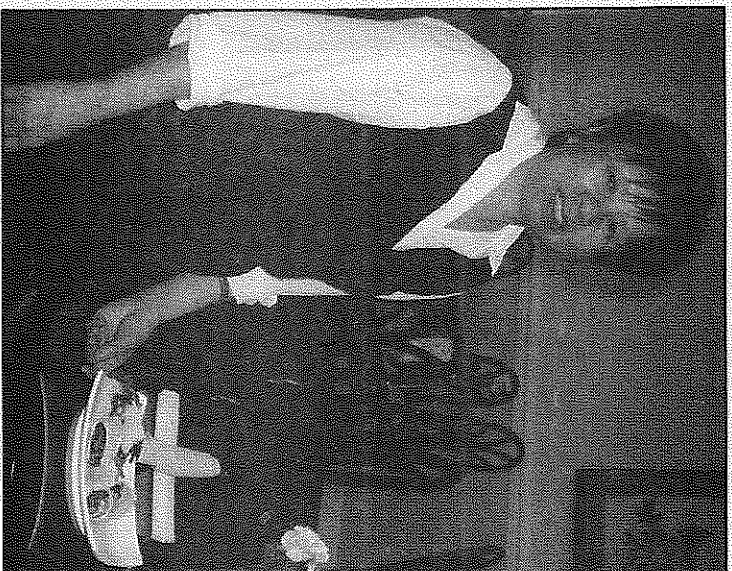
other customers was no unusual occurrence. Her hospitality alone is enough to make me want to go back.

The Ho's also hosted several homecoming groups on the 28th. Its great location most likely had something to do with this. Next year Asian Grill hopes to have even more groups choose it for their homecoming meal.

Equally as good as the hospitality was the food. My date and I split Sweet and Sour Chicken which was accompanied by white rice. The breaded chicken was crisp and succulent and was sautéed in peppers and cherries which gave it an extra special zing. If the rest of the food parallels the excellence of the Sweet and Sour Chicken, I would definitely recommend it.

We were also lucky enough to sample Crab Meat Wong-Tongs, compliments of Mrs. Ho. I must admit that I am not a fan of sea food, but I have found an exception. The Wong-Tong was fried and filled with cream cheese and crab meat. A real treat. Also compliments of Mrs. Ho was some sort of fried banana dessert topped with syrup.

If you are looking for a restaurant that is filled with good food and great people, I would highly recommend Asian Grill.



Tina Weida

Mrs. Ho, mother of junior Brian Ho, and part owner of Asian Grill, which offers delicious foods and great service.

Students grow wary of Springfield Mall

Recent stabbings spark controversy over mall's safety

By Aaron Snow

Junior Staff Writer

Springfield Mall is increasingly becoming an undesirable and, in many cases, off-limits zone for students at WS.

With its combination of crime, low-class stores and gangs, students and parents alike find the mall an unsafe place to shop.

"It seems like a bad environment and there is a large gang population there," said junior Kathryn Fournery.

Though allowed by her parents to go, Fournery has made the decision herself to avoid Springfield Mall.

Recent events have sparked even more controversy concerning the mall's safety. In October, a 15-year-old boy was stabbed in the arm. Police concluded that the stabbing, which happened at 8:45 pm, was gang-related. Though the boy survived the

stabbing, the gang responsible fled and has not been caught.

Sophomore Katie Tinsley's mom was there the night of the crime and no longer allows her daughter to go there.

"She doesn't let me go alone with friends unless I'm going to the movies,"

"She doesn't let me go alone with friends unless I'm going to the movies, because it's not safe to just hang out."
—Kathryn Fournery, junior

because it's not safe to just hang out," said Tinsley.

Junior Daniel Fawcett has a theory about why Springfield Mall has become more violent.

"It is violent because kids from D.C. come in there from the Metro," said Fawcett.

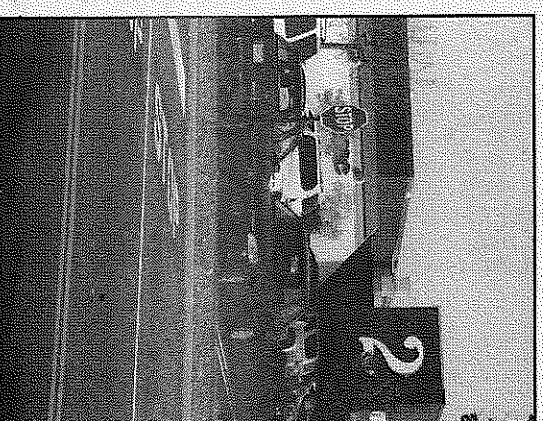
This is one possible reason for the gang-related violence.

Even those not worried about gang violence still find reasons not to go to the mall.

"Springfield Mall is ghetto and trashy and not my class, CHEA," said junior John Emerick.

Emerick finds the stores cheap and uninviting and he claims to seldomly go there.

Even with all of the negativity surrounding the mall, a glance inside will reveal a world packed with people. People still find appeal in the mall and are not deterred by recent violence.



Liz Bucheister

Springfield Mall has recently become associated with gangs, violence and crime.

Jammin' on school nights

Studying: Now not the only thing to do on school nights

By Carlin Sherrill
Weekend Editor

Summer time is the normal concert season. The rest of the year is dedicated to school and extracurricular activities. Several performers, however, still come to the DC area during the non-summer months, even on school nights.

While some students study for the next day's history test, others sing along live with their favorite band. It is now more common for parents to let their kids go to concerts on weeknights to see their favorite bands.

"My parents] were alright with me going as long as I called them when I was on my way home after the concert," said senior Justin Moore.

Moore has attended several concerts on school nights, including Victor Wooten and Catch22. His parents are not worried about the concerts affecting his school work as long as he keeps getting respectable grades.

Although most parents stick to the good grades offer, some are stricter about going out on school nights. Lots of parents believe that school nights are strictly for studying and homework, not for going out to concerts.

"My parents] are way uptight and don't like me staying out late on school nights, so I would definitely

not be able to go to a concert," said junior Bonnie Pedder.

One way kids are getting permission to go to concerts is by making deals with their parents about

"[My parents] are way uptight and don't like me staying out late on school nights, so I would definitely not be able to go to a concert."

—Bonnie Pedder, junior

the next school day. Some parents will let their kids either skip school or arrive late to their morning classes.

"My mom made me go to school the next day," said junior Jared Dummale. "It was kind of a deal. I had to get up [on time] the next morning."

Bands like Audioslave and Hot Hot Heat are too important for some WS students to miss, even on school nights. Most students will put up a fight in order to see their favorite bands in concert, even if their parents do not approve of them going out on school nights.

"I love music and there's nothing better than seeing it live and hearing it come straight from the people who created the music," said Moore.



The legendary Rolling Stones came to the DC area in early October. Even though the concert was on a school night, a number of students convinced their parents to let them go.

QUALITY

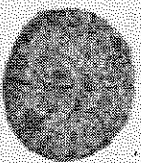
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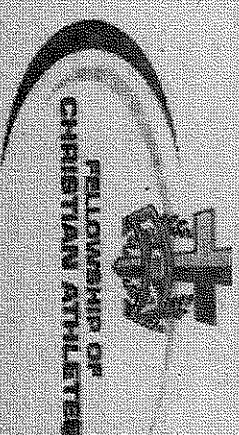
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4. Treasure your time; don't spend it; invest it.
5. Stand for something or you'll fall for anything.
6. Select only a date who would make a good mate.
7. See what you can do for others; not what they can do for you.
8. Guard your thoughts; what you think, you are.
9. Don't get all up on this world's craziness; feed your soul on the Living Bread.
10. Give your all to Christ; He gave His all for you.

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Juniors upset powderpuff tradition

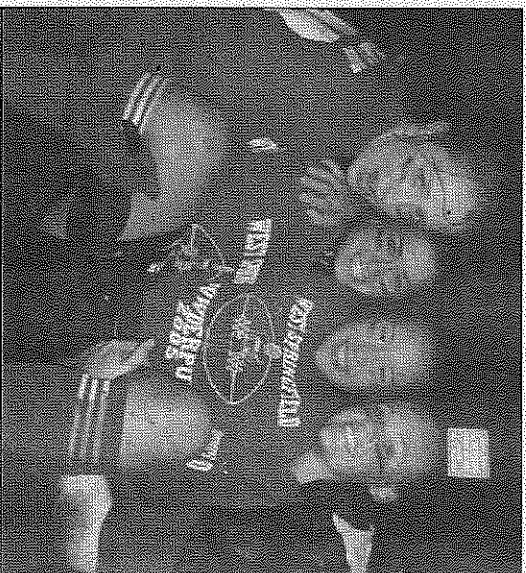
By Alyssa Horton
Forum Editor

The freshmen played the sophomores, the juniors played the seniors and the powder puff games went exactly as planned. This would be correct, except for the fact that it was raining, muddy, freezing cold, and the underclassmen came out on top.

Yes, this year the freshmen beat the sophomores with a score of 19-14, and the juniors beat the seniors with a score of 27-14. The seniors and sophomores were not too happy about this.

"I was disappointed because we really wanted to win," said sophomore quarterback Cori Inman.

The sophomore loss was mainly due to the weather. With 1:16 left to go in the last half of the game, the sophomores had possession of the ball, but because of the weather they were not able to turn the game around. "We kept slipping, which messed us up," said sophomore Erica Peterson.



Summe Ko

The junior class of 2007 challenged tradition when they defeated the senior powderpuff team 27-14.

The seniors were even more upset than the sophomores.

"The game wasn't rigged enough!" said senior Diego Silva. "The seniors are supposed to win every year, but the game wasn't rigged enough this time."

The coach of the senior team, history teacher Kevin Gallagher, believes they lost because of other reasons.

"Unfortunately the rain and a few botched plays contributed to a frustrated attitude and a move away from a team effort and more toward an individual one, which does not work in football."

The senior girls that played in the powder puff game

expressed their thoughts on the loss as well. "The refs were out to get us! They were so unfair," said seniors Laura Yantz and Blythe Klipstein.

Moving on to the happier side of the games, the freshmen and juniors won. The juniors were especially pleased since they had lost to the class of '06 their freshman year.

"We had more determination, because we wanted to prove that we could beat them," said junior Joanna McGlone.

The junior girls believe that their win was the result of a team effort.

"Our class is just really athletic in general, we have a lot of good girls," said junior Devon Buckley. "Everyone played really well, especially Ryan Yohe, Trahana Harris and Corina Strickland."

The freshmen were very excited about their win, and their families were happy for them too. After the game, junior Peter Lalich said, "Way to keep up the Lalich legacy," to his sister Bonnie who played quarterback for the freshmen.

The freshmen had a small advantage over the sophomores because they were able to figure out some of their plays.

"We knew they were going to run it when they put in Erica [Peterson] or Katie [Tinsley]," said Bonnie Lalich.

The freshmen were expecting to win the game because they thought they were well prepared and worked well together.

Even though the tables were turned this year and the upperclassmen lost, there was a minor plus that was added by the weather conditions.

"After the games we all had a lot of fun sliding around in the mud," said sophomore Amy Byers.



Lifetouch

Standout quarterback Peter Lalich has served as a driving force for the WS varsity football team since 2003.

Field hockey ends their 17 year drought

By Jenny Taylor
Sports Editor

Nearly two decades ago, before current WS students were even born, the varsity field hockey team advanced to the Northern Region competition.

Since 1988, the team has been cursed with losing seasons and dismal playoff appearances. Their district banner hangs bare and forgotten among the countless decorated ones in the gym.

This year's season appeared to be following this bleak pattern when the field hockey team finished its first five games with a 2-3 record. Toward the end of September, the girls managed to save what looked like another losing season. They completed their final six games with five strong wins and only one loss.

Lalich declared leading passer in the Metro area

By Nicole Simpson
Entertainment Assistant

Peter Lalich, WS varsity quarterback, was recently declared the leading varsity passer in the metro area. Leading passer or not, Lalich's talent rarely goes unnoticed.

Lalich was not surprised when he saw his name published in the *Washington Post*, "I'm a product of Coach Renner's system," said Lalich.

After three years of playing with the team, in only his junior year, well more than 20 colleges are already offering Lalich a scholarship, including Penn State, Notre Dame and Virginia Tech. Lalich has earned a spot on the rivals100, a list of the top 100 players in the country. With such talent, Lalich seems to really stand out on the field.

As a freshman, Lalich started out as a JV quarterback, since his talent was over freshmen level and he had already worked enough that his athletic ability was above the freshmen team.

"He's got a strong arm which makes him stand out from other quarterbacks," said Coach Bill Renner. Lalich has completed a noted pass of 1721 yards.

"I've never seen an arm like his before," said wide receiver, Thomas Powers. "He's funny, he makes it fun to play," said freshman Bryn Renner, who plays with Lalich on the Varsity team. Lalich gets along well with his teammates, for his personality and unmatched talent.

"He likes to have fun, but he works hard too," said Wide Receiver Jason Brand. "He doesn't give up, he always keeps going."

With Coach Bill Renner as his motivation and his own father as the team



Rivans.com

Junior Peter Lalich is currently being recruited by more than 20 colleges.

chaplain, Lalich is even more driven to play well on the field. "From week to week he gets better as a quarterback," said Renner. "He's just a regular guy, he goes to class like everyone else and he messes up sometimes like everyone else."

The team's comeback came partially as a result of changes made during weekday practices.

"We don't have to run as much as we used to," said sophomore Erika Gleason, "We work on stick skills a lot, which I think has really helped us get better."

After a long history of disappointment, attitude adjustments were eventually made on the part of both players and coaches.

"Our coach is a lot more encouraging now and the team has a more positive attitude," said senior co-captain Lindsay Jones. The positive attitude was reinforced during the Patriot District tournament, when WS clinched a spot in the Northern Region playoffs for the first time since 1988.

What distinguishes this year's varsity field hockey team is the close bond between the players.

"Everyone always supported each other, even when the coaches were rough on us," said senior Ginny McMahon. "We loved listening to pump-up songs together."

While the team advanced to the district semifinals, they failed to move on any further in the competition. WS was forced to play the field hockey powerhouse, Woodson, in regional quarterfinals. The team's loss to Woodson ended their superior 2005 season and halted hopes of a Regional title.

A championship, however, is not always necessary to appreciate a team's progress. Sometimes it simply takes a look back into history.

"We hadn't won districts or qualified for Regionals in 17 years until this season," said Jones, "so it's really exciting to a part of the team."



Lifetouch

It has been 17 years since the varsity field hockey team advanced to the Northern Region playoffs. This year's team improved their basic fundamentals and advanced to the Regional quarterfinals.

Cheerleaders bring it on at semi-finals

By **Stephanie Aguilar**
Forum Editor

After two rounds of performing an almost perfect routine in front of seven district schools, the WS varsity Cheerleading team proudly stood tall in second place. With the exception of a shocking fall in both rounds, the team pulled it together and managed a strong finish.

On Thursday, October 25, the Patriot District cheerleading semi-finals were held at Hayfield Secondary School. Eight high schools including WS, Annandale and South County participated in this competition. The purpose of the competition was to pick the order in which they will perform in the district finals next Tuesday at Lake Braddock. Unfortunately, Lake Braddock finished above WS in first place.

"Our routine was top notch compared to Lake Braddock's. Their stuff was baby stuff," said junior varsity cheerleader Alesha Bell.

During the first round WS's mistakes included one of the girls falling during their routine. Also, the pyramid figure formed was not well connected. The team improved much more during the second round. Although mistakes occurred, there was support from parents, students, and the entire JV and freshmen teams. The

only missing support was from the football players.

"I was disappointed that not that many football players went because we take our time and our money to decorate their lockers every Friday," said Bell.

The cheerleading fans who went to Hayfield to boost the hard working girls' energy were satisfied with the results. Many of the spectators saw second place as an accomplishment for the team.

"I wasn't disappointed because I knew they could do a better job in the second round," said junior Ryan McDonnell.

Overall, a flaw in WS' routine was the defining factor for the judges. However, the difficulty of their routines are what bumped them up to second place. Other schools based their routines on simple cheers, and therefore made them look flawless.

"To win districts, it's all about the simple easy stuff. We should have made things simpler and cleaner," said sophomore Christina Little.

The results of the competition seeded WS to perform seventh in the district finals. The team hopes to improve upon their second place finish and come out strong in the district finals.

"I was satisfied with the outcome," said coach Rita Robinson. "I think it was a good practice and way to measure ourselves and other teams."



Senior Carly Dodson performs at the fall sports pep rally. Her efforts, along with the rest of the varsity cheerleading team, helped secure a second place finish at the Patriot District semi-finals.

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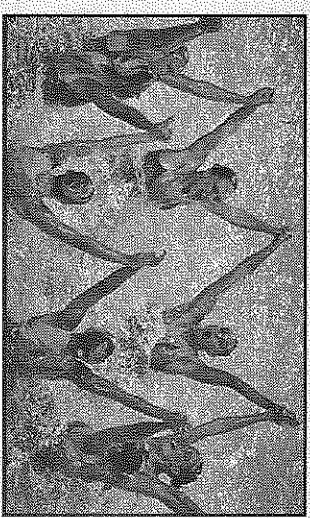
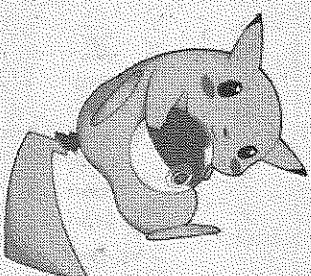
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Poor Liz's Almanac

Dear Diary,

By Liz Weiderhold

Oracle Editor



I've tried to be normal.

I have long since worn out my suspenders and decided NOT to buy a new pair. I traded in my pokemon cards for Prada. I even started watching vulgar TV shows on MTV that shall remain nameless ("Laguna Beach") despite the fact that "History's Mysteries" is on at the same time.

But Diary, I can't conform entirely. The other day I was listening to HOT 99.5 and I heard, to my horror, a song about a woman's rear end and breasts.

The lyrics appalled me:

"What you gon' do with all that junk? All that junk inside your trunk? I'ma get,

get, get, you drunk. Get you love drunk off my hump. My hump, my hump, my hump, my hump, my hump, my hump, my hump, my lovely little lumps. (Check it out)"

I just can't do it. I can't listen to songs where the main focus is either how much it sucks to be that person (see any songs by Simple Plan), how much one guy wants to kill another guy (see any songs by Eminem) or songs about private parts (see above.. and "Candy Shop.")

I also can't go out after a football game and get drunk, not only because I am afraid of letting it slip while I'm drunk that I used to dance to techno, but

because I'd rather be dancing to techno. I can't smoke marijuana, not only because it's illegal, but because I refer to it as "marijuana." Also, I think "home plate" is holding hands.

I am not normal. But rather than morosely accepting it, I have decided to embrace it. I am going to be like that guy who goes to Broadway musicals and sobs endlessly because he is so moved. I am going to be like that girl who joins a synchronized swimming team where her only fan base is synchro-crazy mom. So for the most part, I am going to be myself.

Love, Liz



P.S. "U can look but you can't touch it. If u touch it I'ma start some drama. You don't want no drama, no, no drama, no, no, no, no drama" I just can't help myself.

Hoagie's World

Onycholysis, Leukonychia and Koilonychia

Everyone has unknowingly experienced Sternutation and Rhinorrhoea

By Sean Hogan

Features Editor

Cephalgia packs quite a punch. Everyone has Cephalgia at one point in their life; unfortunate ones may have it occur more often than others.

"What is Cephalgia?" asks the eager nerd. "It's not in my biology textbook!" Look again, Junior, this time under headache. So many common medical terms sit waiting for someone with a peculiar sense of humor like me to find them and abuse them.

It is never a good idea to parade around the school asking people if they've had Herpes Zoster before. HZ, as I like to call it, is a very serious disease. Numerous cases of HZ each year result in deaths of

people of all ages, shapes, colors and blood types. The really crazy part is that often parents throw HZ-spreading parties. What is HZ? The chicken pox of course! HZ is often paired with another common problem, Pruritus. Pruritus, as everyone already knows, means "itching profusely."

Waking up with Epistaxis or Sialorrhea may sound like a result of...something that only mature married couples are allowed to do...but only if Joe has frequent nosebleeds and Samantha drools uncontrollably in her sleep. One of them might also encounter Orthostasis while experiencing Somnambulism. I'm sure that everyone has gotten dizzy while sleepwalking before. They might have even fallen asleep because of the Gelineau Syndrome. Not Jello, silly, Gelineau. Anyone

remember the narcotopic Italian immigrant, Enrico Pollini, in *Rai Race*? He suffered from the Gelineau Syndrome


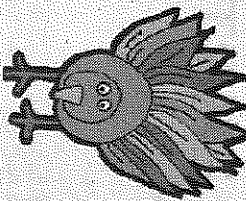
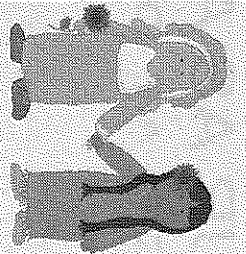
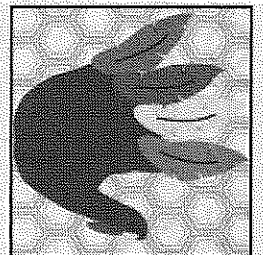
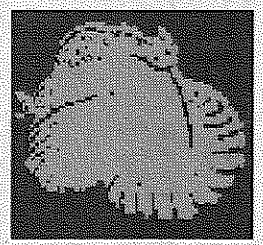
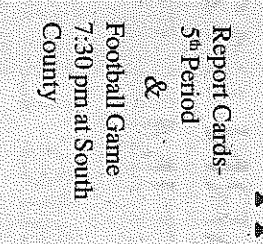
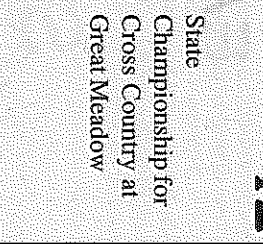
Stomatitis is one of the most irritating problems around. Stomatitis makes eating a difficult and painful task. It is not newly acquired braces or getting wisdom teeth yanked from the gums, but Stomatitis is annoying canker sores that hurt every time you brush anything against them.

I really didn't want to share my past injuries and other ailments like otitis media (middle ear infection) or emesis (vomiting), but I felt that it would benefit the common good by educating everyone. At least Junior can pass biology now. This column was a giant pain to write.

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

"Violence isn't always evil. What's evil is the infatuation with violence."

-James Douglas Morrison

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
13 Whoopi Goldberg's birthday	14 National Random Acts of Kindness Day	15 National Ice Skating Day	16 National American Education Day	17 National Homemade Bread Day	18 National Shallow Persons Awareness Day	19 State Finals for Varsity Cheateading
20 National Peanut Butter Lover's Day & Happy Birthday Stevie's Dadi	21 Ken Griffey Jr.'s Birthday	22 Celebrate the 326 th day of the year	23 2-hour early release	24 No School THANKSGIVING BREAK	25 No School THANKSGIVING BREAK	26 National MAAD Day
27 Snug Hugs for Kids Day	28 Watch the Daily Show in honor of Jon Stewart's Birthday	29 Dummies for Tummies Day	30 Stay Home Because You Are Well Day	1 Honor Rosa Parks and Don't Give Up Your Seat Day	<h1>'05</h1>	

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A Message from Keith

Dear Spartans,
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As you may know, with the help of Senator Jay O'Brien and many other good friends in Richmond, we have been able to pass several bills that have been brought to legislative order thereby becoming law, enhancing the driver education program and the quality of instruction administered to the first year driver. Virginia has some of the best first year teenage drivers in the country - mainly because of the program and the care which this program is administered, especially through Keith's Driving School.

Despite what you hear from some media, portraying teenage drivers as being the worst drivers, this is not true. They don't bother to separate states and tell you which bill or law is what. They want to send the spin the way they want it to sound. It doesn't work that way. Go to the stats. The media might portray things without telling you or breaking down state by state as to which one does and does not have these types of laws or legislation restricting first year drivers.

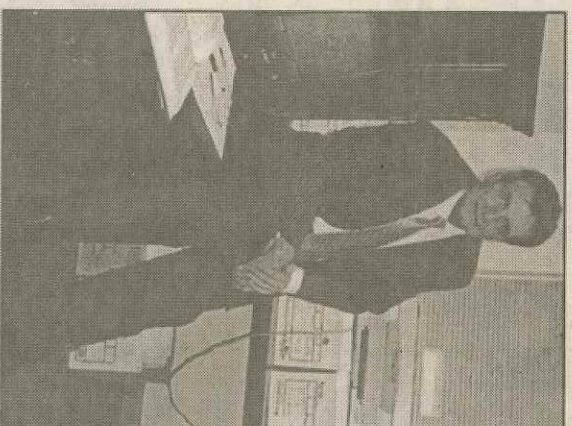
These laws allow us to eliminate some driver education establishments that are not concerned about administering the proper driver education nor the safety of your child. This also makes the driver education industry better. I have always done everything I can to educate the public, the students and parents, on the Virginia driver education laws.

Speaking of parents, I have taught some of you to drive. This past year, five of you searched me out to teach your children. You don't know how good that makes me feel and I wish I would be here to teach their sons or daughters, but that is a bit of a pipe dream.

In every ad you will see my Virginia's license number and the Virginia State requirements. Look at other ads and you don't see those things. It is my way of saying that we at Keith's Driving School do care and are concerned about driver education and your sons and daughters. Parents must know they are going to get the correct type of training that their son or daughter needs at Keith's.

Our instructors are professionals. That is what we do for a living. We teach people to drive and try to help them survive. Though we cannot win them all, we do try very hard. It's true, we charge quite a bit more than some driver education institutions, but this is because we give you so much more. We pick up; we drop off. We are on the road, not on a parking lot. The last time I checked, the death toll in Virginia on parking lots amounted to 1/2 of one percent. That is not a stat that warrants parking lot instruction. Virginia eliminated parallel parking in 1971 to concentrate on more important areas because parallel parking is not a life threatening maneuver. Though we teach parallel parking, we don't concentrate on it.

Our students average 125 miles on the road, with all kinds of traffic situations. Some will drive more than that based on the sparsely populated areas. But in the densely populated areas such as Springfield, Annan-



dale, Falls Church, Fairfax, Tyson's, and McLean, they average is about 125 miles. This along with 40 hours equates close to 1,000 miles of experience before students go out by themselves. This is so important.

Senator O'Brien and myself fought for six years for the bill along with the documentation of the mileage. Nobody really wanted that, but Senator O'Brien had the wisdom to get it passed in a really good bill.

There is really no one in the industry I take second to. We are the best. I ask your indulgence and patience. Enroll your child early to get their program going, even before they start their 40 hours or halfway through their 40 hours. You **DO NOT** have to have the 40 hours completed before enrolling.

We at Keith's are all about teaching driving. Give us a call early. We have some of the best teenage drivers in the country in Virginia and the death toll for first year drivers has been steadily dropping since Keith's Driving School opened. There is proof of that.

I wish we could teach everybody, but we can't. I wish I could be the guardian who rides around with them after they get their license but I can't.

However, I assure you that our instructors will instill safe driving habits, defensive driving habits, accident avoidance and evasive maneuvering habits in your sons and daughters. Please bear with us, summer time is coming and we all want to have a happy summer. Thank you so very much and may God bless and keep every one of you safe.

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