

RAVENS



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Volume 43

Number 1

West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

Field gets new turf with SYC's help

By Cam McCallum
Sports Assistant

The football field has undergone a major renovation this summer. The field has been given a facelift with the installation of an artificial turf surface.

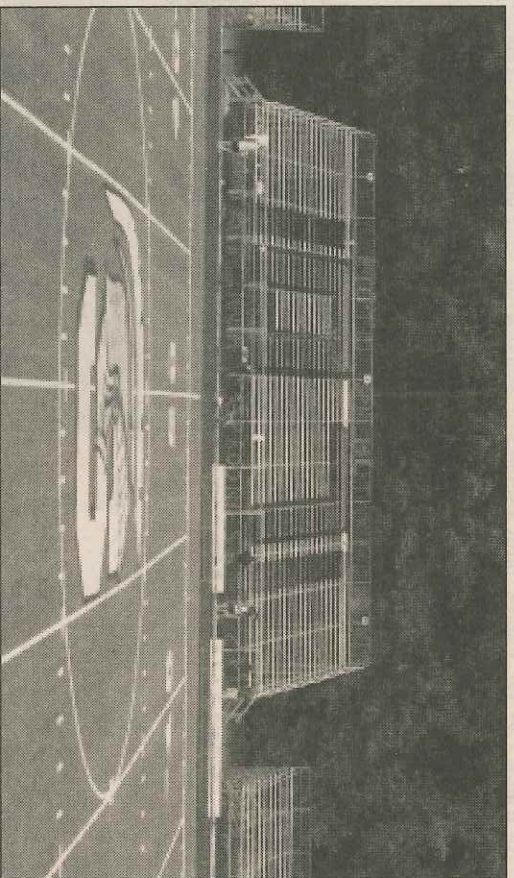
The new surface took nearly two months to put in, and was built in cooperation with Springfield Youth Club. While WS has priority use of the field, SYC will also get to use the field for its football, soccer and lacrosse leagues.

"There are over 4,900 families that participate in our clubs with a total of over 10,000 registrations for our sports," SYC president Dennis Clausen said.

With so many registrations comes a larger need for fields. The new partnership with WS will help SYC in bringing youth sports to the community.

The renovation will not only help SYC, but will make practices and games more enjoyable for our athletes at WS.

"The new field won't get wet when it



Colin Embrey

SYC helped finance the new turf field, the second one at an FCPS school. SYC's senior football player Peter Lalich said, "It'll be a lot nicer."

The field features a state-of-the-art drainage system, which will allow for play during rain. Many athletes prefer playing on turf because it minimizes the

risk for injury. WS is the second FCPS high school to receive the turf. Fairfax High School also has a turf field.

"I've played on turf before, and I like it a lot better than grass," sophomore soccer player Emmie Cleveland said.

"The ball moves a lot faster, and there's no holes or ditches to trip in like there would be on a grass field."

Despite the excitement from the athletes, some marching band members are a little tentative about performing on the new surface.

"We've had a preview show out there already, it got to be pretty slippery," sophomore band member Austin Hall said. "A lot of people in band don't like it, but at least it looks cool."

Athletes and band members aren't the only ones who can look forward to using the new field. The PE classes will also get to use it, making the new field all the more valuable. The new field will make its debut on September 15, the night of the first home football game, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"Other schools tried to do this with their community youth programs but could not," Principal David Smith said.

"Hundreds of students and SYC members will be on that field. This was a win-win."

Former student sentenced



Adam Foote died in 2005.

Wilcox receives 11 months in 2005 drag-racing death

By Chrissy Regelski
Oracle Editor

Former student John Wilcox received an 11-month sentence recently in the 2005 death of senior Adam Foote.

Roughly 18 months ago, the school community was shocked with the news that Foote had died in an Old Keene Mill Road accident. Foote was a passenger in a 1989 Ford Mustang driven by Wilcox, which crashed into the back of a turning dump truck. Wilcox, who was virtually unharmed in the accident, was sentenced to jail for involuntary manslaughter.

Wilcox, now 19, was charged as an adult in Foote's death. The former student, who pleaded guilty, was originally sentenced to 10 years in jail but the sentence was later reduced to 11 months.

Wilcox also received 10 years' probation which, if violated, could result in him serving the full 10-year sentence. Wilcox's probation includes community service hours, as well as the obligation to speak to young people about driving irresponsibly.

Terror and Chapstick go hand-in-hand in wake of foiled plot

By Kelly Sipple
News Editor

Passengers sometimes stood in long lines and were forced to turn over their Chapstick and other personal items to security personnel in the wake of a foiled terrorist plot in August.

The plot involved using liquid explosives, which could be carried on board and used to create the bombs during the flight. More than two dozen suspects were arrested in connection with a scheme involving up to 10 airplanes flying from Great Britain to the US.

Airport officials in both Britain and the US encouraged passengers to carry only essential items on board, while most liquids and creams were banned from flights all together. Some flights were cancelled, prompting some travelers to cancel their plans.

"My mom was supposed to travel to Tennessee the Friday after everything happened for a vacation," said sophomore Amy Horner. "She postponed her trip because she didn't want to deal with the security lines."

"Each time something like this or 9/11 happens, I worry more and more for my mom, who's a flight attendant," said Horner.

Other students felt lucky that they had avoided all of the hassles following the heightened security levels.

"A bunch of English people came and stayed with members of our church this summer," said junior Valerie LaPointe. "They left the day before they discovered the plot so we didn't have to deal with any of the



Wendee Daily

Hundreds of people wait in security lines at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport. All of the local airports had major delays the day after the airline plot was foiled in August.

problems."

Even with the threat of attacks, junior Charisse Mares is still planning on traveling to England this December.

"My boyfriend lives in London and I'm still going to visit him," she said. "It's important that these people know that they can't ruin our lives."



2

Students skip ahead with summer school.



4-5

Read and learn 'What Not to Wear.'



10

Football team preps for season.

Counselors beat students to graduation

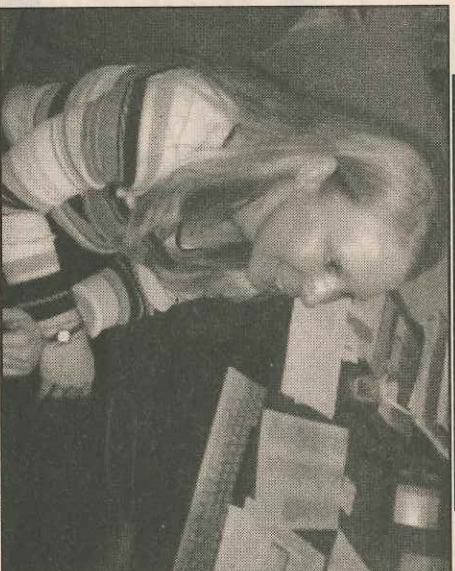
Those unfortunate enough to bear a last name July received a heart breaking letter at the end of the 2006 school year, ending one of the most important relationships you can develop in high school.

"As of June 27, 2006, I will be leaving West Springfield High School to serve as a School Counselor in a high school located in Dunedin, Florida...Sincerely Timothy Papp."

We got dumped for Dunedin, Florida. He might as well have left an "it's not you, it's me" message on our answering machines.

Outsiders may sum up their level of sympathy towards us with a lyric from Justin Timberlake's hit song "Cry me a river," which would make sense if this was the first time this happened. It might even make sense if this was the second time it happened.

We came into freshman year with Mr. Chelew. He saw us from the day we entered the school as scared freshman with the rolly-backpacks. He comforted us,



Colin Embrey

New counselor Jennifer Mosakewicz replaced Ken Christopher after Christopher left WS this summer. helped us get adjusted, and finally, when we are ready to open our arms and accept him...Mail Call! He left.

Editorial

Sophomore year, we once again introduce ourselves to Ms. Phelps, built a relationship and BAM! She goes to New York.

Now Mr. Papp leaves for Florida. What is wrong with NOVA? We're right in the middle of things, but still we aren't good enough.

In all seriousness, it is hard to build and build

relationships with people who are a key factor in getting us into college. Every time a counselor leaves, a picture of a huge rubber stamp marked "rejected sucker" gets stamped on our applications, or so it seems.

Counselors learn a lot about their students throughout the year: what kind of student they are, what activities they partake in, family issues and things that your GPA and SAT scores can't necessarily show them.

As seniors have been affected the most, we can't do much now. We graduate in about nine months, send in college applications within four or five months, and are off to college within the next year. It is just frustrating to know our counselor recommendations are going to be based on what your favorite book or movie is (as asked in the Junior Packet turned in last year), a two-digit number called your GPA or whatever you can get your counselor to think of you within the next few months.

GPA and SAT scores are vital to getting into the college. The courses you take are also factored in there somewhere. But character is also an important facet colleges look for, and having one of your recommendations lack signs of that is detrimental.

It is obvious that if you are going to be a counselor, your relationship with your students is important to their acceptance into college; counselors have to be around for awhile or at least more than one school year to really know their students.

High school break ups are hard. Counselor break ups are even harder.

Vacation limitation offers students education salvation

By Zohra Alnoor
Senior Staff Writer

Summer school. Just hearing the word makes you quiver. Since those good old elementary days, students who didn't pass fifth grade, third grade or maybe even kindergarten would have to go to summer school. They'd miss out on the summer fun of going to Adventure World, now known as Six Flags, being able to go with their group of friends to the local pool, or even missing their best friends laser tag birthday party.

But old times have changed. Summer school is not for those misfit goof-off students that you see in classic movies like, "Summer School." Today, summer school is not just for those who failed a school year class.

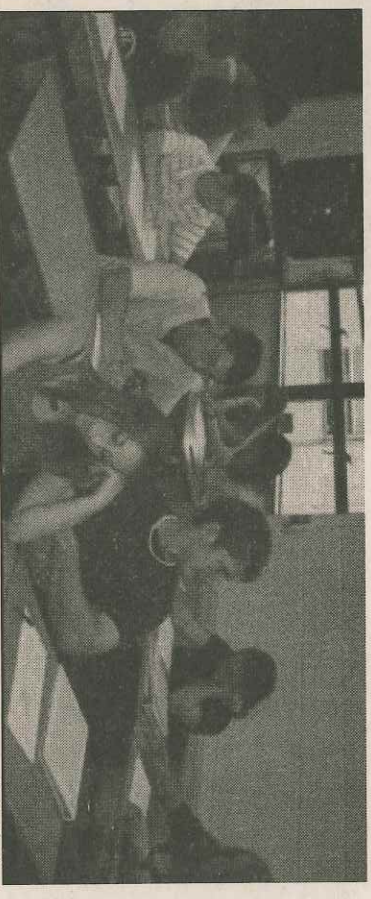
Many students are choosing to take

summer school on their two and a half month break from school. No, they do not love smelling the aroma of a high school classroom.

In fact, their taking summer school to get ahead in classes. A student fresh out of middle school could take Algebra one in summer school, and in their freshman year they could be in Geometry. When students continue to take summer school classes ever year, the benefits begin to add up.

Two close friends of mine, Venus Rezvankhoo and Heela Zamani, both juniors last year at WS, took summer school every summer for the past four years, and as a result they both skipped their senior year of high school and are now college students.

"I only [went to summer school] at first because my parents thought it



Molly Cushing

Many students use summer school as an opportunity to get ahead for next year, instead of making up for bad grades last year.

would be a good idea to do something over the summer," said Rezvankhoo. "But now I'm really grateful with the decision."

Let it be known to all students before it's too late. If you have nothing to do next summer, than don't stay home surfing on the internet or watching reruns of "Grey's Anatomy."

Instead, take that subject that you despise at summer school and get it over

with in a matter of weeks. This way you can be ahead in school and sooner or later you can be a junior or even a sophomore in a math or science class particularly just for seniors.

Missing a year of high school may mean missing pep rallies, homecoming assemblies and spirit week, but it also means that you get to miss a whole school year of SOL's, AP testing and EnergyZone lunches.

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The
ORACLE

West Springfield High School
6100 Rolling Road
Springfield, VA 22152
(703) 913-3952

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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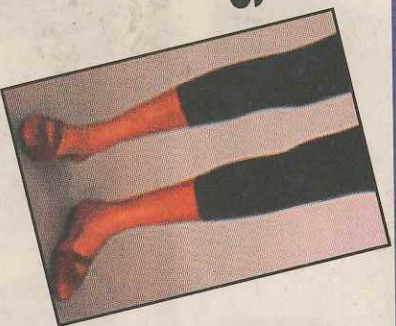
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What's HOT and

1. Black leggings



2. Opaque tights

3. Leopard-print handbags



4. Black flats

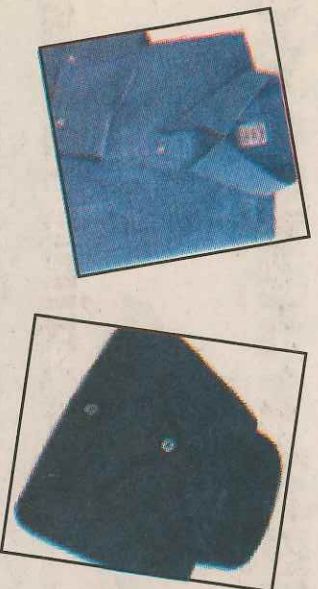
5. Pencil leg jeans



6. Chunky sweaters



7. Collared shirts (for men)



8. Loafers (for men)



9. Argyle sweaters



10. Plaid fabrics



What's HOT

Brought to you by WS's Fashion Marketing classes

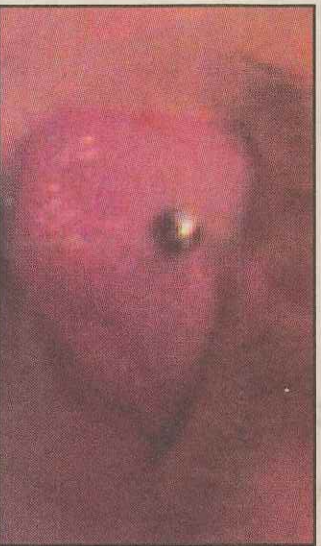
1. Revealing thongs, bra straps and tattoos



2. Baseball caps tilted or twisted in any direction



3. Tongue piercing



4. Anything that glitters



5. Daisy Dukes/ cut-off shorts
(Sorry, Jessica—the movie was a flopi)



6. Timberland boots



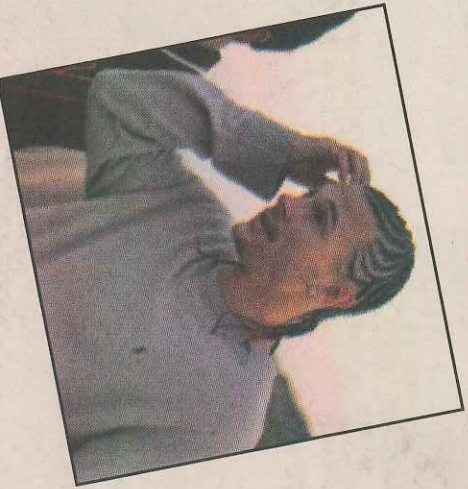
7. Long, white T-shirts



8. Sagging jeans



9. CORNROWS
(What will K-Fed do now?)



10. Oversized hoodies



WS welcomes new DSA Tim O'Reilly

New Director of Student Activities joins WS community as he strives to help and build relationships with students.

By Rebecca Naramore
Forum Editor

Tim O'Reilly, former assistant Director of Student Activities for Thomas Jefferson High School, was promoted to DSA at WS this summer.

"The stuff is all the same, the people are new," said O'Reilly, who has worked in the county for five years.

O'Reilly's number one goal is to make the transition as smooth



Sara Kofalt

O'Reilly must also work with team coaches. He has already helped the WS girls varsity volleyball team secure a gym at TI.

"[O'Reilly] is different than Dobson, but they're both good about helping us."

—Coach Rick Dunetz

as possible between schools and build

relationships with students.

Senior Ben Truamp, head of WSSSAAA, or WS Spartan Student Athletic Administrative Association, believes O'Reilly will work as hard as former DSA, Mike Dobson.

"He wants the club to thrive," said Truamp. "He has a lot of new ideas."

Truamp hopes that, with O'Reilly, the club will be able to earn more money than the \$4,000 earned the previous year.

O'Reilly must also work with team coaches. He has already helped the WS girls varsity volleyball team secure a gym at TI.

"We will have to change to fit his style," said girls' varsity volleyball coach Rick Dunetz. "He is a lot different than Dobson [but] they're both are good about helping us." Previously a football coach who did not have time to watch other athletic activities, O'Reilly hopes to see some of the cross-country matches as well as the speech and debate competitions.



Molly Cushing

The Varsity football team has two practices every day, followed by watching footage of their practices to learn how they can improve their game strategies.

Varsity Football players put their heads together

By Carlin Sherrill
Weekend Editor

Instead of lounging by the pool or sleeping until noon, the WS football team has been spending their summer hours working hard to achieve a common goal- victory.

Football is practically a year-round sport because of off-season conditioning. The boys have worked hard since last fall in order to step up their game and win. The team's real practices started August 8 and many have been two-a-days.

When the team has two practices a day, they are usually out in the sun for about six hours, with an hour of film at the end of the day. During film, players study and analyze plays and strategies they worked on during practice.

Practices in the summer can be brutal because of the heat, especially when the

team has full contact practices. The managers and trainers keep them hydrated with water and Gatorade, and keep the players and coaches nice and cool. Although the heat may be miserable, the players keep their focus by feeding off each other's encouragement and intensity. If one of them makes a great play, the others strive to do the same.

The team has started out victorious, winning their first scrimmage. The boys focused before the game by spending time as a team and watching "We Were Soldiers" together. Not only is there team unity before games, each player has to mentally prepare and go through assignments in their head in order to be ready to play.

The team has begun the year on a good note, and hopefully will continue to dominate the playing field through the fall season.

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3. It makes freshman like Spartans
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5. Where else can you find blue & orange plaid PJ pants!
6. It will make our new DSA Tim O'Reilly very happy
7. Spartans can now come in multiple colors
8. You can even have a Spartan magnet on your car
9. You won't be confused for an Atom, Lancker, Titan, Hawk Stallion, Wolverine or Bruin
10. Blue & Orange gear matches Dr. Smith's favorite striped tie!

SPARTAN APPAREL AVAILABLE

- Sept 15 - Home Football vs. Edison
- Sept 19 - Back to School Night (Sports Lobby)
- Oct 6 - Home Football vs. West Potomac
- Oct 20 - Home Football vs. Lee
- Nov 3 - Home Football vs. Hayfield
- Nov 10 - Home Football vs. South County

JOIN SPARTAN BOOSTERS

What does the Spartan Booster Club do?

The Spartan Booster Club works closely with WSHS DSA Tim O'Reilly to budget, collect entry fees, equipment, gym rental, repairs, awards, field maintenance, programs and scholarships for our teams.

Memberships with passes get you into all home regular season athletic events!

BOOSTER MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

- Sept 11 - Senior Parents' Coffee - 7 pm
 - Sept 12 - Junior Parents' Coffee - 7 pm
 - Sept 13 - Sophomore Parents' Coffee - 7 pm
 - Sept 14 - Freshman Parents' Coffee - 7 pm
 - Sept 15 - Home Football vs. Edison - 6-15 pm
 - Sept 19 - Back to School Night - 7 pm
- or visit Spartansports.org and download the membership form

Hoegie's World
**HOAGIE'S GUIDE
 TO BEING
 MACHO**

By Sean Hogan
 Oracle Editor

Another year of school means a new start, new teachers and another year of maturity under our belts. But for macho guys, that means the continuance of a recurring cycle which includes football, eating and strategic chest bumps. Because I am a successful "Macho Man," I've decided to help nerdy and lame guys out with Hoagie's guide to being macho.

Step number one to being macho: Get a nickname. If you're a natural, you will get your nickname handed to you based on something heroic you've done (or how much you ate at the buffet, thus "Meathead"). A great example of a macho nickname (in the most literal sense) belongs to Victor "Macho" Harris, a defensive back for Virginia Tech. Most of the time, however, a nickname will be derived from your last name (ex: "Hoagie" is derived from "Hogan"). Example of non-macho nicknames include anything having to do with flowers ("Buttercup"), anything a girl would call you

when you're on a date ("Pookie"), any girl's name ("Shirley") or anything having to do with your video game prowess.

Step number two: Bulk up. Guys like to brag about working out and having big muscles amongst themselves. Also, when you're muscular, you will knock smaller guys down when doing strategic chest bumps. Really, you don't think about 5'4", 100 pound guys as macho. Macho is your Uncle Sparty who is 6'2", 230 and has NRA and Marine Corps bumper stickers on his giant truck.

Step number three: Compete with other macho guys to see who is the most macho. Wing-eating contests are the most primitive form of these competitions, with the victor getting his tab paid and a roll of Tums. Other competitions could include simple athletics such as running or football or could be as non-athletic as fantasy football. Be extra careful when it comes to contests, as they occasionally end with pranks. Some guys at my sister's college had a contest to see who could wear an aftershave that had a painful sting the longest. One guy had a small variation, though. His aftershave bottle was filled with Nair. He no longer has eyebrows.

Step number four: Follow stereotypes of male behavior when possible. A macho guy lives by the adage, "2 wrongs don't make a right, but 3 left's do," quoting it three or four times when his female companion is begging him to pull over to ask for directions. A macho guy does not ask for directions for the fear that another macho guy will be at the gas station and will call the Macho Guy Committee, who



culturebully.blogspot

Follow step number two until you have muscles like this man, the quintessential macho guy.

in turn will revoke the directionally-challenged guy's macho status and replace it with "buttercup" status. **Step number five: Ride in style.** A macho guy does not drive a green 1995 Toyota Corolla. He drives an old pickup truck, motorcycle or muscle car. Exceptions to macho driving style only include late '90s white conversion vans, which the author of this guide drives regularly. A macho guy does not, under any circumstances, drive a Miata, Prius, New Beetle (old ones with properly tuned engines are accepted) or anything yellow (except select Lamborghini's and Ferraris).

Step number six: Read the disclaimer. These tips are not to be used to try to seduce women. It won't work under many circumstances. These are only to impress other guys and vault your macho status above Halo addicts and other various types of nerdiness. While some things, like "bulking up" and "riding in style" might attract girls, being stereotypical probably wouldn't.

Stevie's Story
**Senior year,
 at last**

By Stevie Fiorino
 Etc. Editor

"Back to school, back to school, to prove my daddy I'm not a fool, I got my lunch packed up, my shoes tied tight, I hope I don't get in a fight." This ever-popular back to school song was once sung by the one and only Billy Madison. Well, it is that time again. The time when homework, tests, projects and pretending to listen in class take up most of our time. I have to admit, believe it or not, I am glad the school year is beginning because I was starting to get bored. It got to the point where if I wasn't working, I would just do nothing and watch TV all day. Don't get me wrong; I

had some awesome times this summer. The highlight of my summer was definitely when I got to see the Foo Fighters live in concert two nights in a row.

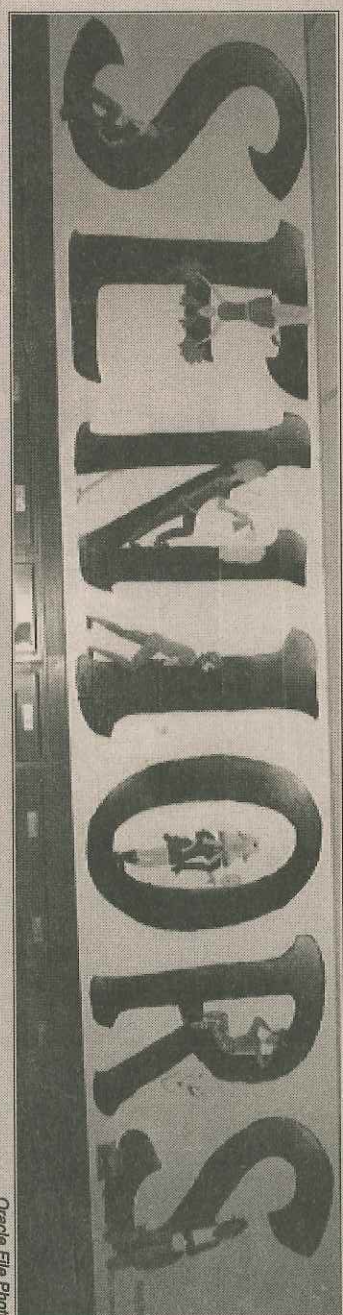
Unfortunately I had to top my summer off by driving one of my best friends to the airport for a one-way flight to California. This made me realize that the summer really is over and it's time to get serious about school.

Senior year. I have been waiting for this year for who knows how long. I'm sure everyone else in the class of 2007 feels the same way. Our last year of

bells, lunch lines, hall passes and announcements. Next year everyone will go their separate ways to different colleges or wherever the wind blows them. Even though I'm excited about finishing up high school, I will still miss it. Once high school is over, it will be time to face the real world, and that is a little scary. Everyone has to cross that bridge from adolescence to adulthood at some point, and that "some point" is less than a year away for the class of 2007.

Well, let the year begin! Good luck seniors!

"Back to school, back to school, to prove my daddy I'm not a fool, I got my lunch packed up, my shoes tied tight, I hope I don't get in a fight."
 —Billy Madison



Oracle File Photo

SEPTEMBER '06

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8 Football at Stone Bridge, 7:30	9 XC at Monroe Parker Invitational, Burke Lake Park, 8 am	10 National Grandparents Day	11 Senior Career College Unit, Groups Guide Orientation-Seniors	12 Senior Career College Unit, Field Hockey vs. Marshall, 7:30	13 New Senior Orientation-Career Center, 8 am	14 Junior Career College Unit, Groups Guide Orientation-Juniors
15 Field Hockey vs. Falls Church, 4 Edison, 7:30	16 XC at Boardman Invitational, Youngstown OH, 11am	17 Tenth anniversary of Spiro Agnew's death	18 Groups Guide Orientation-Freshmen	19 National Talk Like a Pirate Day Back To School Night, Auditorium, 6:45	20 Groups Guide Orientation-Sophomores JV Football vs. Annandale, 7:30	21 Groups Guide Orientation-Sophomores
22 National Elephant Appreciation Day	23 Concordat of Worms agreed upon - 1122	24 National Good Neighbor Day	25 Senior Essay Assembly Field Hockey vs. West Potomac, 7:30	26 XC Patriot All-Corners Meet at Fort Hunt Park, 5	27 PSAT Registration-1st block class	28 JV Football vs. Fairfax, 7:30

PLaunch

Sellinks