

THE PRINCIPLE



April 16, 2007 Volume 43 Number 15

West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

Smith graduates with '07 class

By Chrissy Regelski
Oracle Editor

On June 13, there will be an extra WS graduate among the seniors. He may be a bit grayer and a bit wiser than the others but he will be no less excited about this important turning point.

Dr. David Smith, WS principal for 11 years, will be retiring after the departure of the '07 class.

After working for 33 years in Virginia schools, Smith has decided it's time for a break.

"I've been the principal here for 11 years and I turn 55 this summer," said Smith. "It's just the right time for me personally. After 11 years, I feel the school will benefit from a new perspective."

Smith's replacement will most likely be announced the first or second week of June and selected through a county-run process. A meeting about the selection of the new principal will be held Tuesday, April 17, in

Dr. Smith, shown here with 2006 grad Liz Weiderhold, says he will miss this place when he retires in June.



Oracle Staff Photo

Spartan Hall at 7 p.m.

"It will be different seeing how the new principal relates to us because we are so used to having Dr. Smith," said junior Kim Wenz.

Faculty members believe the change will not be a problem but standards are set high for whoever takes Smith's place.

"I think he will be missed," said Assistant Principal Joan Galdi. "I think he's created a positive climate for

teachers to help students achieve and I hope the next principal will be as wonderful as he has been."

Smith will be as sad to leave his students and coworkers as much as they will be to see him depart.

"What I will miss most are the personal relationships," said Smith. "I won't miss all the hours this job requires [but] I really enjoy working with high-school aged people. I will also miss the personal relationships with the adults who work in this building. There are a lot of great people here."

Smith plans to spend his retirement doing whatever he and his wife want to do, like traveling. He also looks forward to spending more time with his two adult children and his grandchild. Though his retirement beginning is approaching, Smith still has plenty to do to finish this year and prepare for next school year.

"While I'm retiring, I'm not retired yet," said Smith. So, "take care of yourself" Dr. Smith. You've earned it. It's our turn to "take care of this place."



Zorah Alnoor

East meets WS

Japanese Cherry Blossom Queen, Michiru Hirabayashi, visited Adam Podell's Japanese 3 class on April 9. She answered student prepared questions and helped them make paper flowers.

The royal treatment 'Princess for a Night' program shortens list of prom expenses

By Rebecca Naramore
Forum Editor

On Thursday May 3 and Friday May 4 many girls will go shopping for their prom dresses. At Quander Road School in Alexandria, VA, Girls that would not normally be able to afford all the glamour associated with prom will be able to get dresses, jewelry, and shoes.

Princess for a Night was

started four years ago by Kathleen Babinski who was originally a social worker at Edison High School.

It was brought to WS last year and is being held again. Lynne Orens, the social worker here at WS has taken up the job of collecting dresses from faculty and students at the school.

"The feeling that someone else is getting the benefit out of [the dresses] is amazing."

said Orens.

The girls are able to keep the dresses after the dance and most give the dresses back to the program for other girls to use. Teacher Nancy Spinoso heard about the project a few years ago and has decided to donate some dresses now.

"At the time I couldn't donate anything," said Spinoso, her children were wearing those dresses at the time. But now that See PRINCESS on Page 6.

Draw for the best Senior Art Show displays talent of soon-to-be graduates

By Becky Cryer
Forum Editor

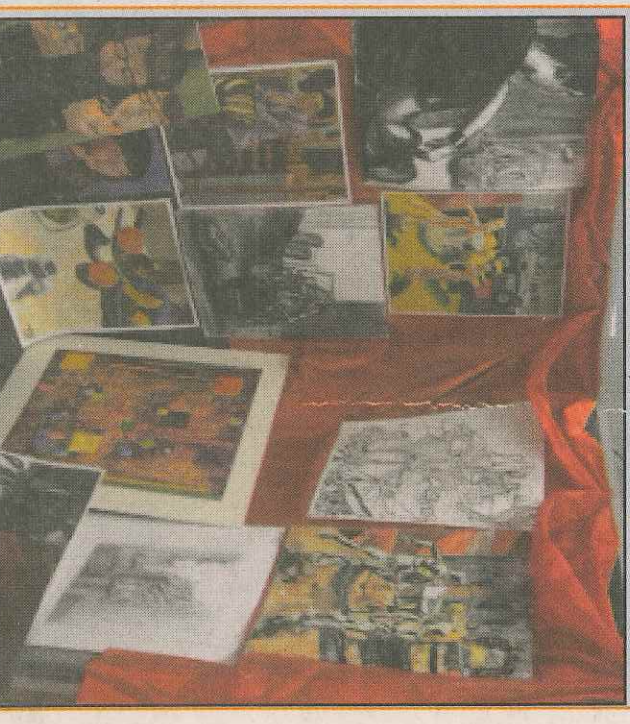
Some people are born with natural gifts and abilities. Others work twice as hard to achieve such talent. No matter where it comes from, last month WS seniors had the chance to demonstrate just how talented they really are.

On March 21-23 WS hosted a Senior Art Show in Spartan Hall in which seniors displayed

panels of artwork created throughout their high school years.

"It's kind of fun that no matter what level you were in you could still be in it, as long as you were a senior," said senior artist Kate Fournery.

Although the Senior Art Show has been going on for 20 years, this was the second year WS held the Art Show in a Pyramid style which means that See ART on Page 6.



Molly Cushing

For the last 20 years, the Senior Art Show has been a way for artists to show off their portfolios, like the one above.



Attendance policies prove unexcusable.



Aux Gym due for repairs.



Rugby team roughs it up.

WS' strict attendance policy goes unexcused

It's impossible to forget the main part of the school attendance policy. After all, we hear "three tardies equals an absence, and three absences equals a failure" several times a year.

The rest of the attendance policy is what is a bit more confusing – and a bit more ridiculous.

The *only* reasons we are allowed to be absent or late for school are sickness, death in the family, medical appointments, religious holidays, suspensions and prearranged absences.

Notice that nowhere on there does it say any of the other completely reasonable reasons for being late for school like a car wreck.

Picture this – you're driving down the road to get to school, and some rush hour driver hyped up on too much caffeine rear ends you. None of the accident was your fault. You've got actual witnesses to prove that. But obviously, you still need to stop and exchange

insurance information with the other driver because it's the law.

Should students get in trouble for following the law? All that a rule like this would teach a student would be that it is all right to break the law in order to get to school on time.

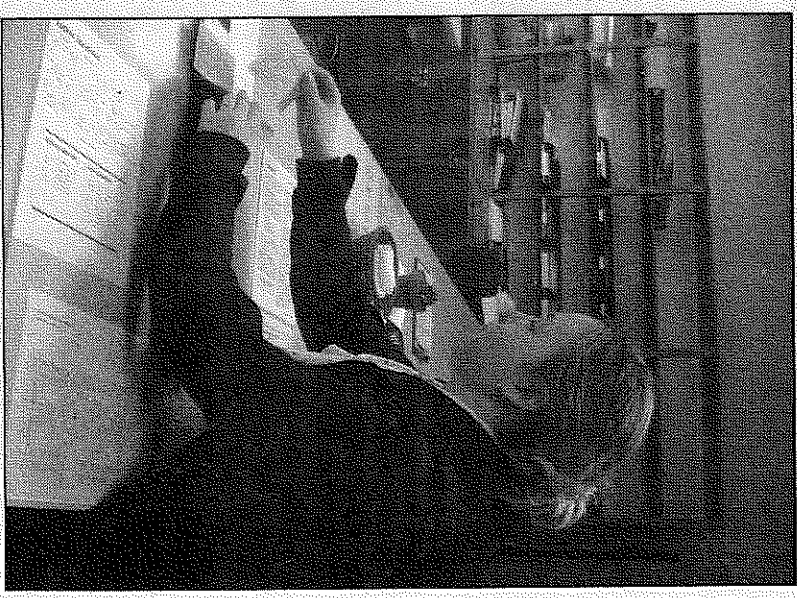
Editorial

Instead of following an extremely strict, ridiculous set of rules, attendance rules should be flexible enough to let off students who are late through no fault of

their own.

After all, what are you supposed to do when you're the last one home, and your dog runs out the door before you can head off for school? Are you supposed to let the dog run wild and possibly get hurt, or are you supposed to track it down and put it back inside before you leave?

The attendance policy should be made more lenient in order to keep students from being punished for things that are not their faults.



Molly Cushing

Senior Emily Wolford checks in to the attendance office. WS attendance policy prevents students with legitimate excuses from being excused.

Peer Helping lives up to name

By Sunnie Ko

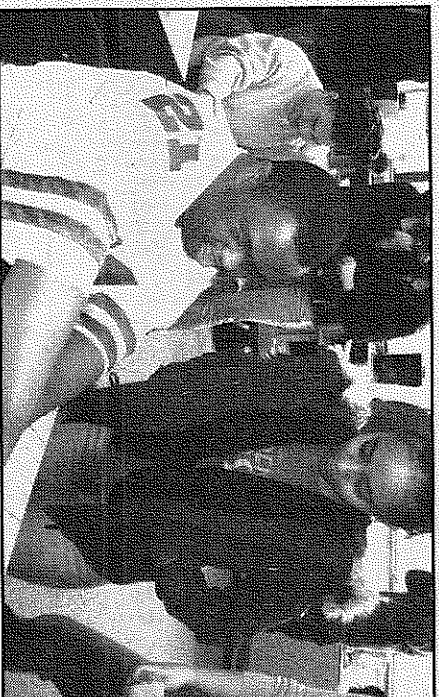
Senior Staff Writer

Boy, they really do live up to their name.

The WS peer helping group has one major goal: to better WS and the community. This year, they have done just that.

Throughout the school year, the Peer Helping group has put on several different events to keep students, faculty and the community aware of ongoing issues while continuing to mediate students who are in conflicts with others.

In December, we saw a flood of purple as the mediators held a well organized and effective "Stop the Violence" week. They hung up posters stating eye opening facts about sexual harassment, handed out "non-



Junior Selamawit Hailu gives a special valentine to B.J. Smith. Amy Mesinger

violence" bands and ribbons and even unified the school by getting many students to wear purple.

Peer helpers also take special classes to gain knowledge about HIV, AIDS, and other

STDs. They then take time out

of their school day to teach the sophomore health classes about the deadly diseases and offer answers to questions that the students may have.

Besides keeping the school

aware of the threats of violence and HIV, the mediators also interact with our FLEX program, planning parties and other activities. The mediators are not only involved in our school, but they help out all around the community.

Every Wednesday or Thursday, the peer mediation class travels to different elementary schools to mentor younger students. They help with homework, and act as role models for children in order for them to develop into successful people.

Younger students how to conduct their own activities at their school, thus spreading the flow of generosity. The first generation college COHORT program is also held by the mediators. This program is for freshman who will be the first in their families to attend college. The mediators provide advice and consolation about high school life and what classes these students should be taking.

Our peer mediation group is sometimes overlooked because of the hectic schedule of the various events going on, but their actions are appreciated.

They have done an amazing job within the community. They work hard to better the places we where go to school, where we work, and where we live.

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Plagiarism is prominent

By Rebecca Naramore & Stephanie Maxwell
Staff Writers

Technological advances are steadily taking over our lives. Everything is now done with computers, from writing to long lost friends to recognizing plagiarism.

Turnitin.com is an available source to help teachers and students avoid the common mistakes of plagiarism.

Fairfax County is adopting Turnitin.com to be used as a learning tool for students. Its purpose is not to incriminate students but rather teach them how to correctly use sources in their writing.

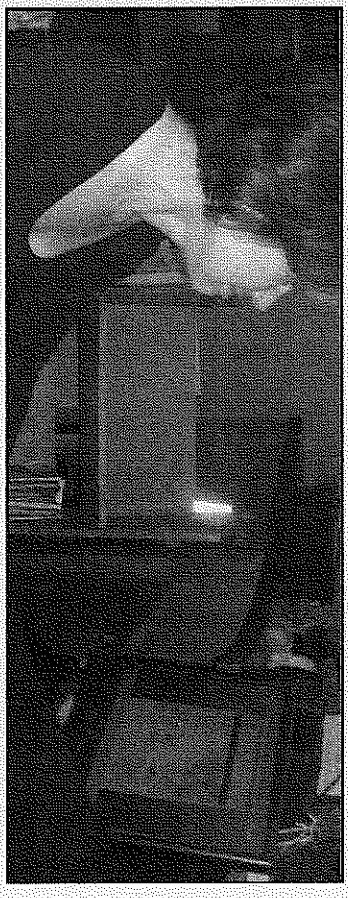
“Teachers are not out to fail you. [They] are here to help you learn to do

the right thing,” said English teacher Mary Moriarty.

The English department along with many others plan to use the program as a way to help students check their citations. Many businesses and colleges use Turnitin.com, so Fairfax County has decided to install it to prepare students for future use.

First, a student would enter their paper into the database and it would be checked against other papers in the database for similarities. This process takes approximately ten minutes. When the paper is returned all sentences and phrases that appeared in other writings are highlighted. In this way students and teachers are able to see how much of their paper has already appeared in another source.

Librarian Carole Ferch-Jablonski opens up the Plagiarism Powerpoint that was shown to all grade levels in order to deter any students from cheating.



Sara Kolar

“Turnitin.com is a learning tool to help students understand what plagiarism is,” said history teacher Cathleen Boivin.

Turnitin.com shows students if they have done something wrong, that way it can be avoided in the future. Even though students are now in high school it is becoming more and more evident

that they do not understand what plagiarism is. Since, cheating becomes easier the more often it’s done, Turnitin.com is trying to stop cheating from becoming a habit at an early stage.

“Hopefully if you learn how [to document sources] you won’t be tempted to [plagiarize] later,” said Boivin.



Sarah Wink

The Caitlin and Beth Show goes CANINE

By Caitlin Kenney & Beth Stinson
Viewpoint Editors

Since the dawn of man, dogs have been faithful companions to humans and their families.

Cats, however, have been the tyrannical objects of forced worship and have been parasites of society. Let the facts be documented to the candid audience why dogs are better than cats:

1. Cat feces can kill fetuses and can severely damage vital systems in both the mother and baby.

Toxoplasmosis is a parasite that infects small domesticated animals, most commonly house cats. When ingested by a pregnant mother, even in trace

amounts, it can cause serious harm to the fetus, and is almost impossible to treat while the mother is pregnant.

Example: Frederick the cat walks through his feces, (after defecating in the vegetable garden), and the mother eats the vegetables equivalent to the cat sticking its filthy paw in her mouth.

2. A cat-inflicted bite can cause much more serious infection than that of a dog

This is true. While a dog may maul you a little, the wound is open and easy to clean. A cat with its fang-like carnassials, injects venomous saliva into a small puncture wound that will breed infection until you turn into a werewolf and DIE.

3. Cats don't answer to their name. Dogs answer to anything.

Either they are too stupid or too pompous. Dogs, however, faithful, never fail to come to their master's call.

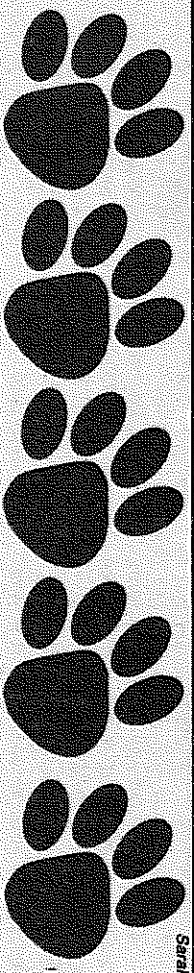
4. Cats turn people, mostly single middle aged women, into crazy Cat Ladies.

Cats are like men, the quickest way to their heart is through the bottomless pit

called a stomach. “Cats are like potato chips,” a novelty door sign once said, “you can’t have just one.” Case in point: there is no such thing as crazy Dog Ladies.

5. Cats are not able to, and do not wish to, protect humans. Lassie, Beethoven, Scooby

... My mirror... my retainer, my fake identification card, my friend's cat, my life-size karate trophy, my make up, my purse catalog...



Doo, Balto, White Fang, Old Yeller, Shiloh, Wishbone, Clifford, and the list goes on and on. These dogs are famous for their heroism and loyalty—traits not uncommon in the dog species.

And then there are cats. Evil villainian is or had Tinkles of Cats and the evil Siamese cats in the Tramp, Lucifer Cinderella's Stepmother's cat, Dr. Evil's Mr. Bigglesworth, and the list continues. Dogs will bark

wake you up if the house is on fire. Dogs will save you if a tractor falls on you. Dogs drag you from a smoldering crater after a meteor falls on you. Cats will just leave you.

6. Seeing-Eye Dogs, Therapy Dogs, Hearing-Ear

Dogs, Rescue Dogs, Police Dogs, Helping cats? No. If you had a Seeing Eye cat, it would lead you off a cliff. A Therapy Cat would scratch your eyes out while you were on a

renting. A Hearing-Ear Cat would lead you out of the house while the smoke detector blared and you were all burned alive. A Rescue Cat would dig for you or save you from a flood. They would laugh at you and do nothing because they can't dig and they have water. Police and Law enforcement would

be a joke. It is an undeniable, factual fact that dogs are better than cats. Dog people are better than cat people, and at least dog people still have both eyes and no scars from their loving pets.

Who wants a school full of grumpy kids?

The following is an editorial that expresses the viewpoint of this year's Journalism I class.

Sleep is a major need, especially for teenagers. But with sports, homework and projects, it is not something we get a whole lot of.

On top of that, all students must be at school by 7:30 AM, most underclassmen have to be at their bus stops by 6:30.

This is because, according to the FCPS Web site, Fairfax County would like to "Maximize the use of the school bus fleet and provide a more efficient operation with as few buses as possible." In other words, the county is making high school, middle and elementary schools use the same buses, so they won't have to purchase as many.

In order to do that, the different schools would have to start at different times so the buses could get to everyone. Unfortunately, we were dealt the bad hand, and we have to wake up the earliest. We teenagers especially need sleep due to our

biological changes. When we don't have it, lack of sleep impairs our mood and affects our performance. It could also prove to be very fatal, because 55 percent of all car crashes in which the driver has fallen asleep involved people under the age of 26.

Editorial

Nobody wants a school full of grumpy kids falling asleep during classes and complaining that they are tired. However, this could be prevented if we were to go to sleep earlier. Through let's face it: With everything going on in our lives and our busy schedules, it is nearly impossible to get even eight hours of sleep when the recommended amount is 10.

There is so much that could be done to make this problem go away. We could switch schedules with elementary school kids, since they go to bed early anyway, but parents complain about how unsafe it is

for them to wait for the bus in the dark.

It is suggested by FCPS, though, that parents escort their children to their bus stop until they are at a "mature" age, so how unsafe could that really be if a parent is at the bus stop?

Also, to answer the critics that a later starting time would mean a later dismissal time, resulting in less overall time to participate in sports and clubs: A recent College Board study recommends that high school students take fewer AP classes. If we take the recommended two or three, instead of five, six or seven during our high school careers, our homework burden will decrease. As for sports practices, why can't we excuse our athletes from PE and put them together during a class period to practice at the end of the school day? That way, practices could spill over into after-school time, and everyone would get home earlier.

For now, though, we will be stuck turning off our alarm clocks in the morning for that extra five minutes, or falling asleep during our first period class.

No, these are not WS students, but a random couple Googled from the Internet. It appears that these two are involved in a much tamer form of PDA than those we observe in these hallowed halls.

PDA

Some affection should fall in after-school category

By Lexi Ramage
Journalism 1

The only thing worse than people who walk slowly in the halls is those "lovers" who just have to stop in the middle of the hall, usually exactly in your way, and start making out with each other.

Sure, a kiss here and there, or holding hands isn't bad, but some couples take it too far. Sometimes, people just don't care that you've been with your "baby" for two whole weeks, and it's your anniversary, and you insist on celebrating by making out, or worse, ever chance you see each other.

We are happy you've found

someone, but how about showing affection to that special someone on your own time? I'm sure your friends feel a little awkward with you two doing who-knows-what in front of them. Save that for after school (and *not* in the school after school: I mean, find a secluded place off campus, after school). Your friends, your teachers or random people in the hallways don't want to be scared and have to gouge their eyes out by stumbling upon you two and your activities.

Kissing, hugging and other forms of affection are nice in a relationship, but when PDA disturbs others, it's a sign to

at least tone down whatever you are doing—a little. There are times to show

self-control, like during a club meeting or during Break, when it isn't nice to see a guy putting his hand up a girl's short skirt in front of everyone. Oh, isn't springtime just absolutely lovely with all those rabbits?

I am not saying we must stop all forms of PDA and run away from our partners; we know you won't get pregnant by just touching, regardless of your gender. I'm just saying that you should be respectful of people and use your judgment.

Also, I'm not going to say PDA disrupts my learning environment, or anything corny like that: I'm just saying

/Village



In our opinion...

...You need to order a yearbook!

Starting May 1, you may order your yearbook after school in Room 215. Please bring a check or money order for \$65. Don't delay—we don't have many left!

Reinvented SAT test prep program aims to improve scores



Bethel Habte
Juniors Karen Wong, John Gooch and Kim Smith take a practice SAT math section, which they later went over with Rexford.

By Bethel Habte
News Editor

Only a few students dotted the orange chairs of the WS cafeteria at 8:20 Saturday morning. The seats filled up by 8:30 with last minute drifters walking through the door, just in time to hear Career Center Specialist Susan Rexford's amplified voice booming.

"Good morning ladies and gentlemen! Is everyone awake?"

On March 24, 150 tired teens packed the school cafeteria, all in hopes of scoring big on their next, or next few, SAT's with the help of Rexford's and counselor Michaelle O'Brien's new and improved SAT test prep program.

In years past, Rexford and



Bethel Habte

Juniors Amy Byers and Mariana Cimino relax during an allotted break. Rexford and O'Brien tried to simulate the real SAT.

O'Brien offered the same, free, school sponsored, program. But this year, the program has taken a sharp, organizational turn. Following the PSAT, all enrolled in the program came after school for one and a half hour study sessions and practice exams.

Rexford found this method unpractical because "they [students] had conflicts: games, homework, and it [being there] wasn't mandatory," she said. Since student attendance was sporadic, keeping records of the participants' improvements was practically impossible for Rexford and O'Brien.

"We were in danger of losing our grant," said Rexford. "We had to do something to prove it was working."

This time last year Rexford and O'Brien came up with a new way of executing the program for a trial at West Potomac High School by request of the school's Director of Student Services.

West Potomac, as a result of

both the program and other rigorous initiatives to raise falling scores, had the most improved SAT scores in the county last year.

"It worked so well for them, we decided to do it this year," Rexford said. Since the new program is only three short months in progress, actual improvements are not quite apparent. But students can see small and steady differences in their scores.

"Each time I've taken the practice tests my scores have raised higher and higher," said junior Mary Ashley Krogh. Participants must turn in parent-signed practice sheets every week to Rexford or O'Brien's door to stay in the program. They also must come to every practice session and come on time. Out of the 700 people at the initial interest meeting, only 150 participants remain. While many participants complain about the strictness of the

program, Krogh concludes that it's strict structure is necessary. "It's a lot more strict than I thought it would be. This whole cafeteria used to be full," Krogh said, commenting on participants that have dropped and/or been kicked out.

"But they have to be," O'Brien explains why. "If they show up to the [actual] test late, they don't get in. If they pull out a water bottle in the middle of their test, their test is invalidated," said O'Brien.

"We're not trying to make you die of thirst, we're just trying to simulate the real SAT," Rexford added. Students are generally confident that giving up sleeping-in one Saturday morning a month will pay off in the end. "I'm learning all the test taking skills necessary to get into a good college," said Freshman Roupen Sayadian before class, as he stuffs the rest of an Egg McMuffin into his mouth.

Auxillary Gym due for repairs

By Stephanie Maxwell
News Editor

The intense heat of the gym will cease to be a problem after this summer's renovations.

The auxiliary gym, main gym, wrestling room, and the carpeted hallway downstairs are scheduled to get new air conditioning systems once school is out. A crane will be brought in to lift the old units off of the roof and put the new units on.

"It requires that all three parts of the building be shut down," said Director of Student Activities, Tim O'Reilly. "The project should be done by July 16 so it won't impact the fall sports."

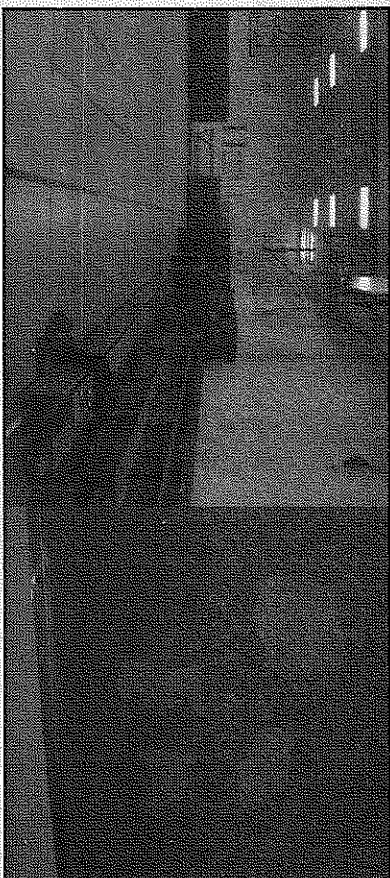
Although everything about the plan seems perfect, it is negatively affecting some. For instance, the basketball team will lose thousands of dollars because

of the renovations. "[Basketball] will lose one and a half weeks of camp," said basketball coach Bill Gibson. Camp is important to the team because it is one of the team's fundraisers. The money goes to anything from new uniforms to next years trip to Florida.

The air conditioning system is not the only structural problem affecting our school. Several other things need to be fixed as well. The new air conditioning systems, however, will fix the leaks in the roof.

In order for something to be repaired, O'Reilly sends and e-mail to the county and they put it on a "to-do" list. The county office then puts the repairs on another list in order of severity.

"Hopefully when they come to do the air conditioning," said O'Reilly, "they'll see the other things that need to be repaired."

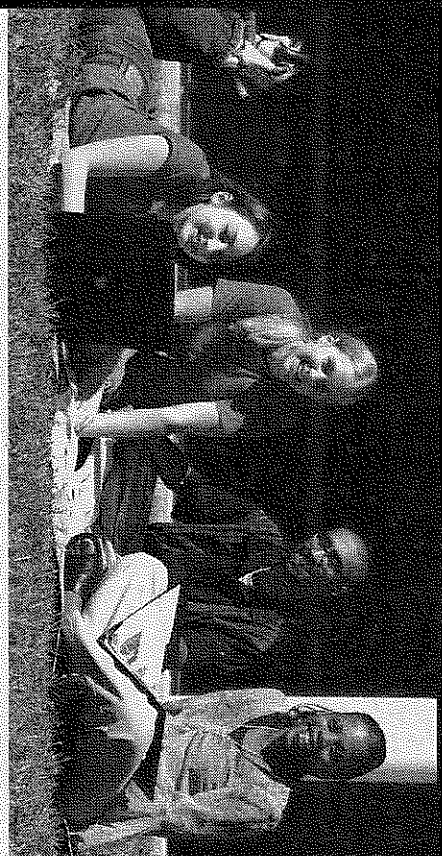


The Auxiliary Gym, while seemingly in tact, suffers from minor damages.

Sara Kofari

Summer Studies

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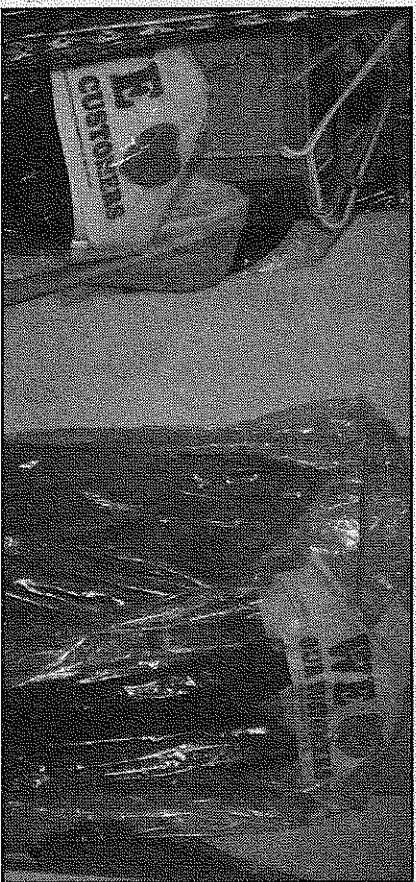
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Check out our summer schedule, affordable tuition and even register online at www.nvcc.edu/geistared or call 703-323-3000

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Rebecca Nanore

Lightly used dresses, like those above, can be donated to "Princess for a Night."

Dress for less at WS

PRINCESS from Page 1. she is giving approximately six dresses to the mission.

Last year the program was at Edison, West Potomac, and WS high schools. This year the schools have consolidated and everyone will be at Quander Road School. Last year over 450 dresses were donated and more than 150 young

ladies found a dress perfect for them.

"It's really kind of neat, everyone manages to find a dress," said Orens. The shopping is done on a first come, first serve basis but all the girls that attend are able to find a dress. Many even find matching shoes and handbags.

Parents are urged to come and help their daughters pick out a variety of dresses to choose from, there are so many different sizes, cuts, and colors. Being able to pick up some of the most important things a girl needs for prom gives families a break from the high prices associated with the big dance. The people that donate also get to feel the joy of knowing that they are helping other create a memorable evening.

"The things that meant a lot to [the previous owners] can mean a lot to someone else," said Orens.



Lifetouch

"Princess for a Night" allows girls to get a less expensive, yet glamorous dress for their special night.

Students get framed

ART from Page 1. local elementary and middle schools submitted their artwork to be displayed along with the traditional senior exhibits.

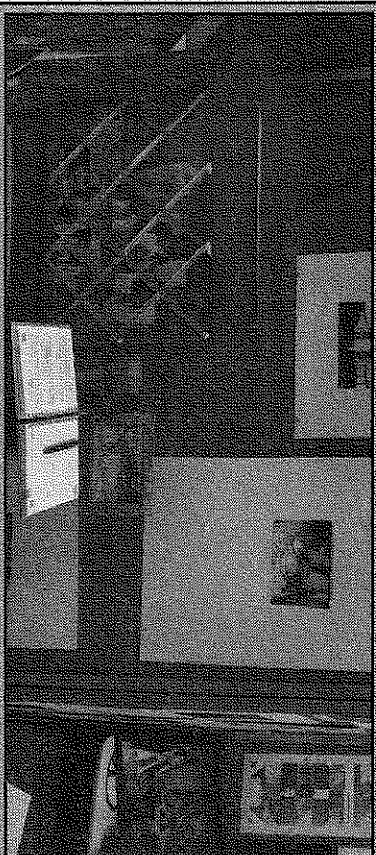
"Art teachers in the WS Pyramid plan to make it an annual event," said Chairman of the Art Department Altha Shott.

Students from Cardinal Forest, Hunt Valley, Keene Mill, Orange Hunt, Rolling Valley, WS elementary schools, and Irving middle school submitted their artwork, which was handpicked and displayed around senior panels.

"The main purpose is to inspire the little kids and show them what they'll be doing when they get into our grade," said senior artist Katie Page.

Self portraits, coil baskets, scratchboards, still lifes, tiles, tapestries and ceramic gargoyles were displayed on walls and tables by students in kindergarten through eighth grade. In the center were panels of artwork created by WS seniors including comics, self portraits, computer graphics designs and photographs.

"I thing all of its really inspiring, no matter what age it is," said sophomore Regina Heehinger, who was visiting the art show with her English class.



Molly Cushing

Art exhibits like this one by Nicole Bolte filled Spartan Hall during the Art Show.

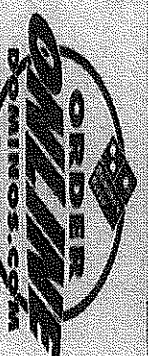
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EARLY WEEK SPECIALS

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Tuesday

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FREE!

WILD WEDNESDAY

Any Pizza, Any Size, Any Way
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47401

Amnesty club starts another campaign for Darfur

By Katie Costello
Oracle Editor

The crisis in Darfur has not gone unnoticed at WS, as students raised awareness of the situation happening in Sudan. Amnesty International participated in the National Week of Student Action for Darfur, a week dedicated to current events in Darfur, a region where violent fighting has been going on in nearby tribes, claiming thousands of lives.

The club held a meeting with Dong Rohm, a state department official, who came to WS to talk to students about what exactly was happening in the Darfur region. "It was a good opportunity to learn about what's

History wins the day in competition

By Zahra Alnoor
Senior Staff Writer

Thirteen students from WS, made history come alive, when they competed in the National History Day competition. The competition was held all day at George Mason University on Saturday March 10.

Although the competition is open for all students at WS, World History 2 Honors and AP Euro classes are required to submit something to their teachers. These submissions can be chosen for the competition if their history teachers see it fit for a competing level.

Junior Becky Koening competed last year as well as this year in the same category: historical papers.

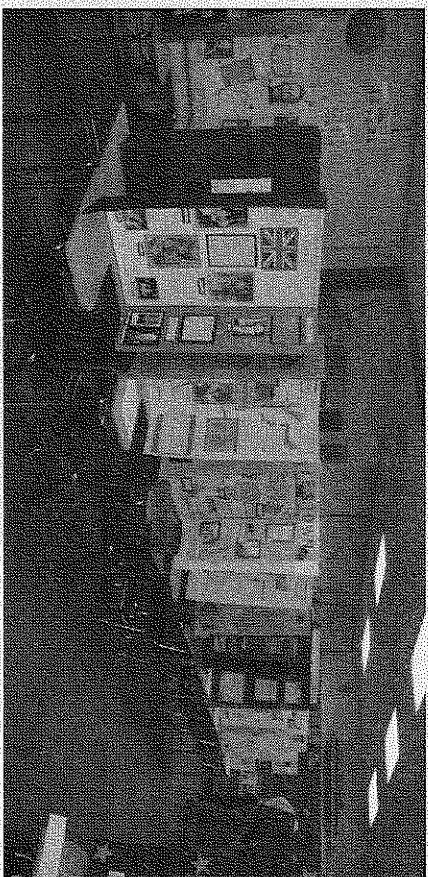
"I wrote a paper about Churchill and how he helped the allies in World War II, and how he was voted out of office," said Koening, who won second place for her essay.

going on in the rest of the world, especially with issues like this one," said senior Joy Sulik. Another meeting was held the following day, urging students to get involved through a letter writing campaign.

"This was a very effective way to raise awareness, which is one of the best things we, as students, can do to help end the conflict," said Sulik.

This week of student action did not stop with after-school meetings. A table in the cafeteria was set up for students to stop by and sign a petition to send to the Chinese government, urging them to stop funding the Darfur government.

"We've had the petition running all week," said senior and president of Amnesty International, Sam Peck. "And we've gotten quite a few signatures."



Leo Boyvin

Spartan hall was filled with NHD triboards for the judging. The winners of the school competition went on to compete at George Mason for Regionals.

Juniors Tim Wing, Sean Ha, and Ford Morrill returned this year once again competing in the same category in which they competed in last year. Group Documentaries, only unlike last year, they won first place this year. "I chose to compete again because last year when I didn't place, I pretty much wanted revenge," said Wing.

Wing, Ha, and Morrill created a documentary about the tragedy of the Apollo 1 space mission and the triumph of Apollo 11.

"We have the exact same team as last year. Last year we did a documentary on the Soviet Space Program," said Wing.

Students fear that the crisis in Darfur is following a dangerous trend in a situation that is not receiving the critical help that it needs to end the fighting. Peck hopes that raising awareness among students will help to make a difference in this pattern of non-involvement.

"This kind of thing has happened before," said Peck. "They [the government] says it won't happen again but it does."

The outcome of this week resulted in students becoming active participants in current events, taking small steps that will optimistically end with big results.

"This week got people thinking about it [the situation in Darfur] which is the main purpose," said Peck. "A lot of students don't know what's going on in the world."

students sit around George Mason pretty much all day until the awards ceremony," said Wing.

After hours of trying to find ways to make the time pass by faster, WS competitors waited eagerly, hoping their names would be called up so they could receive a trophy for their hard work as well as something to include in their college applications.

"It was pretty exciting when we found out that we won first. We sort of came in with high expectations, so we were nonchalant about it," said Ha.

Students who placed first and second in their categories will move onto the next round, in which they will compete in the State competition at Jamesstown High School in Williamsburg, Virginia at the end of April.

"We went to the National Archives and did hour and hours and hours of research," said Wing. "Now, we'll have to go back, add more pictures and clips and perfect it for States."

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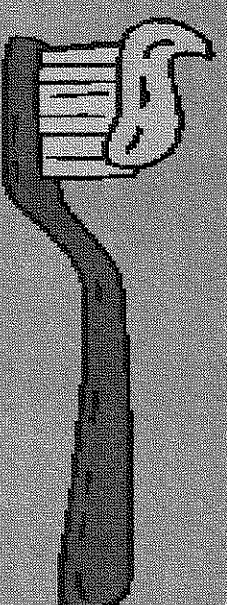
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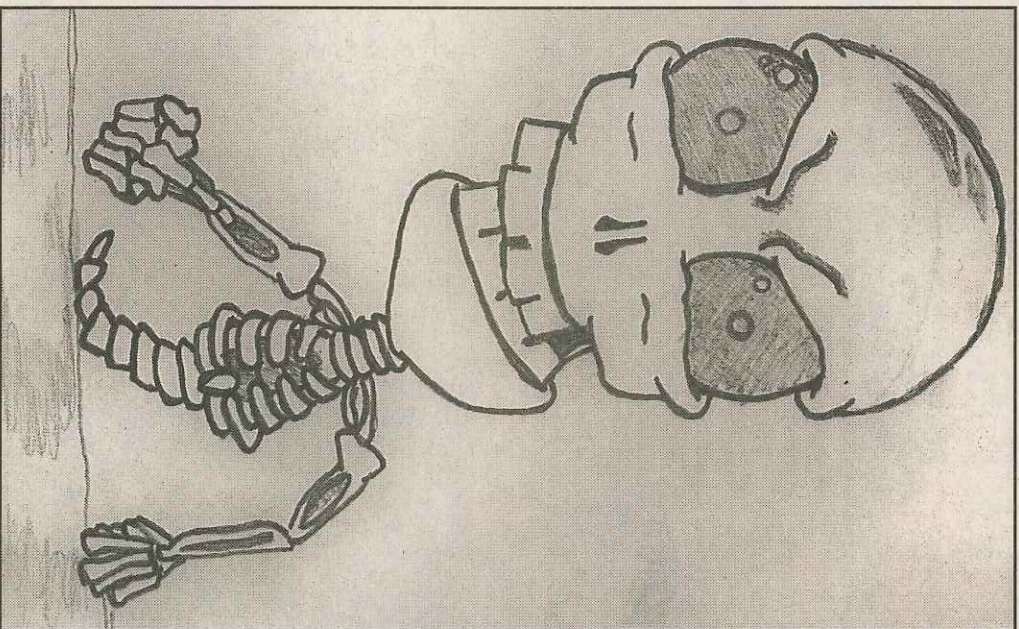
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Richard O. Rice, D.M.D., P.C.





Untitled

Ben Kirsh, senior

Unexpected Love

Love comes in different shapes and forms
 Even the heartless ones, one day will feel that love.
 I am neither heartless nor am I love stricken
 By sight am I not shown the way to love?

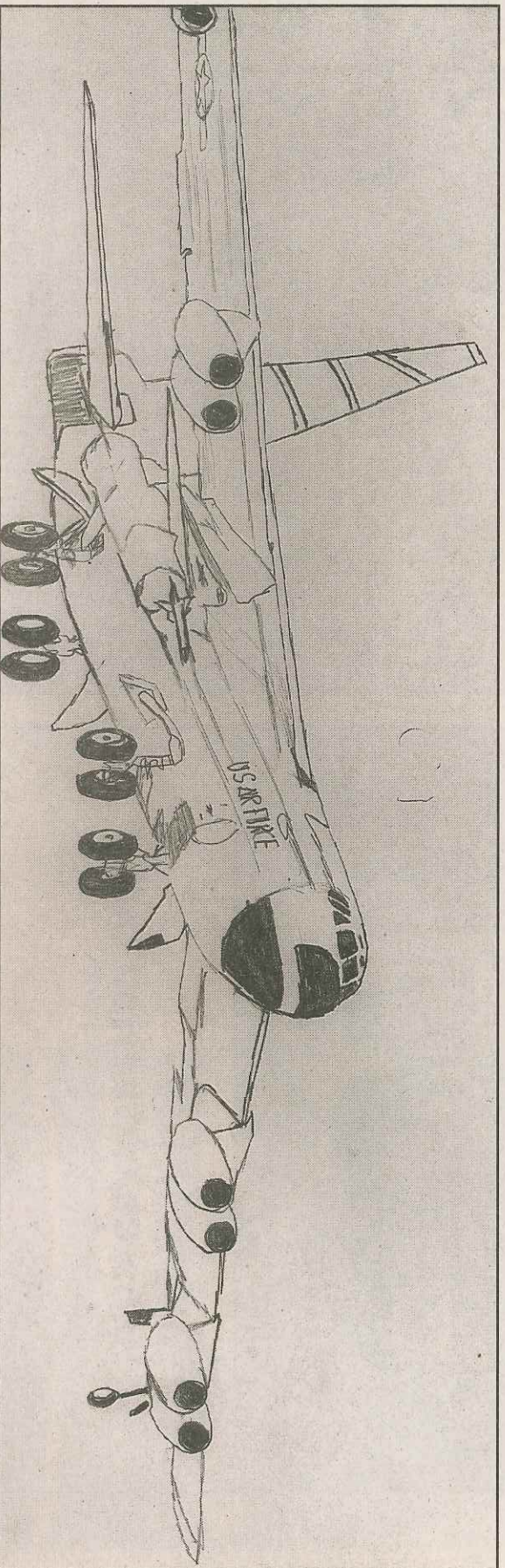
Love is everywhere, even if we cannot see it,
 It is there, waiting to be revealed.
 True love of 2 people sees the love when most cannot
 I can see that love in their face and eyes glittering with it.

Love is right there, right there in our grasp
 Only the ignorant and blind to not see that love.
 I was once one of there ignorant fools who couldn't see it
 But now, I've been love struck by only one person.

I refuse to reveal the name, the name of the boy
 I do not wish to anger the boy, like some would.
 All I will reveal is that I've found true love,
 But my true love... was an unexpected love...

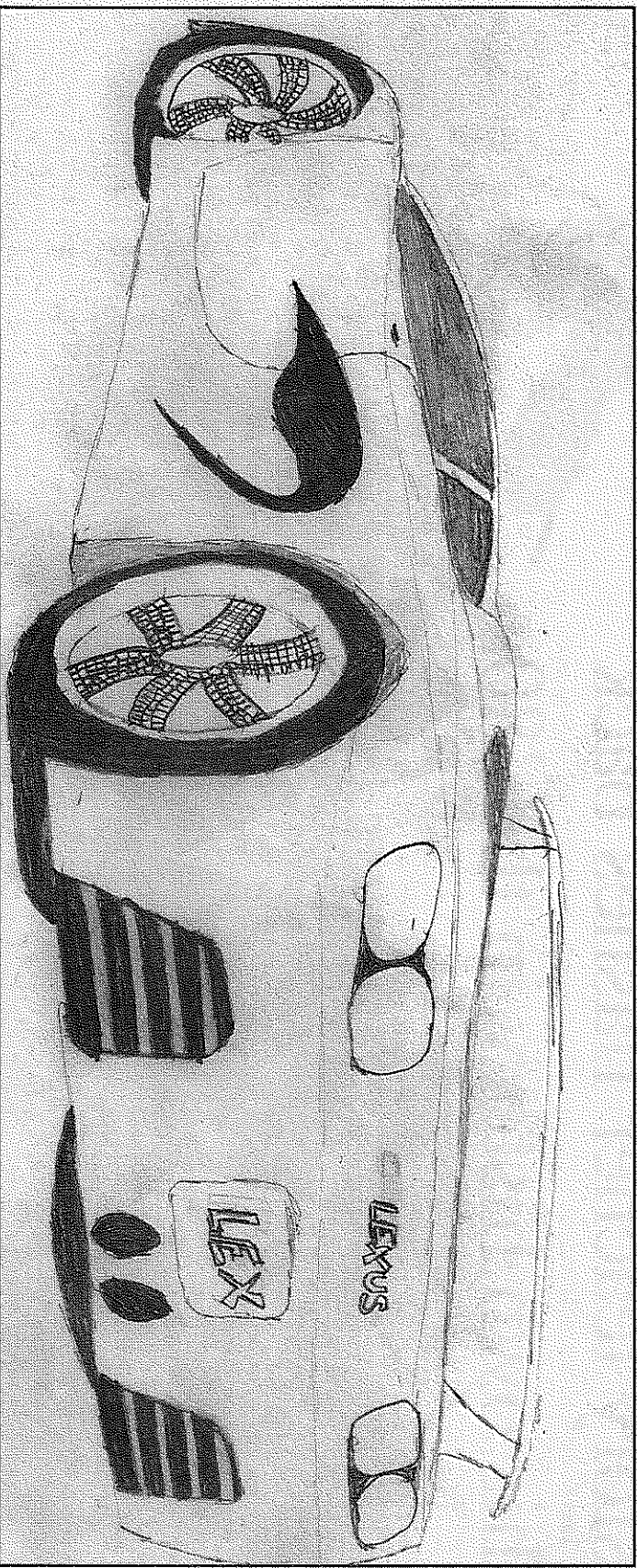
Assytia Benefield, sophomore *

* Pename for a WS student



Untitled

Gajindra Sunupaul, junior



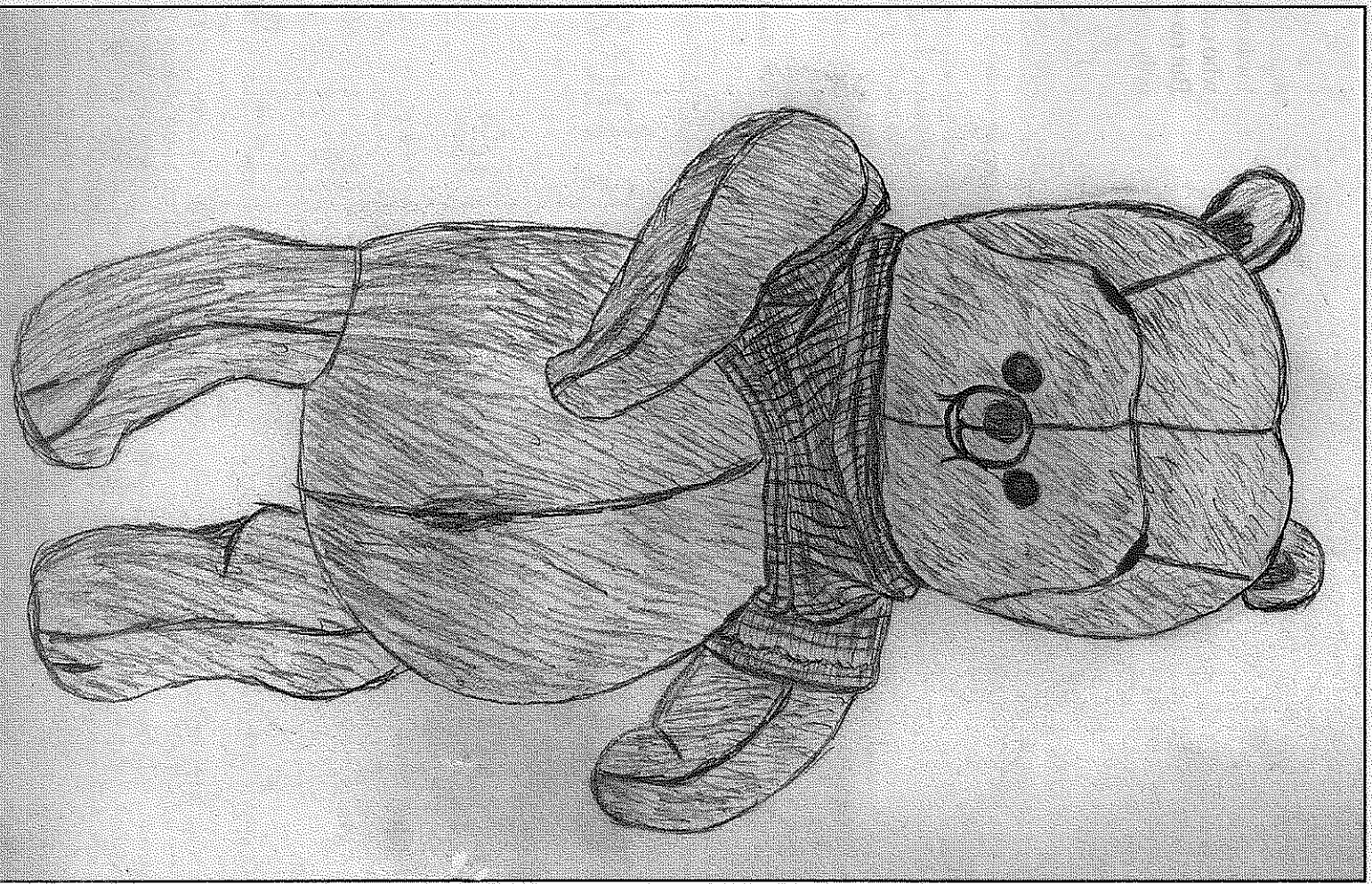
Lexus 2010

Gajindra Surujpaul, junior

Stonehenge

Floating high with butterflies,
 Stealing mushrooms from the cow,
 Come fly with me through cloudy skies,
 If you want to, join me now,
 Playing in the winter snow,
 Watching the green grass as it grows,
 Sick me, fill me up with glow,
 As the white river runs through my nose,
 From the burning bush with lights all pure,
 To odd shaped bottles and things obscure,
 White rabbits tails, rainbow colored snails,
 Reaching a whole new level
 Cooking with the devil,
 The essence of mental levitation,
 Traveling past boundless imagination,
 You are my Stonehenge,
 Reaching ultimate satisfaction,
 From just a single drop of action,
 Red, blue, yellow, white,
 The medicine for my souls delight
 To feel like your floating off the ground,
 That is my Stonehenge,
 Because I see with eyes wide shut, I hear the deaf
 ears,
 I feel with numb senses, my presence known only to
 myself,
 That is my Stonehenge.

David Nelson, senior



Lil' Pooh Bear

David Nelson, senior

History teacher flashes back to his own history in the '80s

By Aaron Snow
Senior Staff Writer

The passage of time has brought with it great change to the halls of WS. Changes in style, technology, and even behavior have manifested themselves each year in our school.

A glimpse into the past offers an opportunity to compare the WS of yesterday with one of today. History teacher Erik Lind was a student at WS in the early 80's and recalls life as a student 25 years ago.

"Technologically, now we have computers, a network, and big T.V.s," said Lind, "we used to have to wheel a couple of T.V.s around on carts."

Lind also notes the influence technology has had on the personal lives of students.

"Everybody today has got a cell phone or an ipod," said Lind, "when I went to school hardly anybody even had a walkman or a CD player."

Physically, our school has had to increase in size to accommodate a population increase in the area.

Pictured above are history teacher Erik Lind and entertainer Madonna-both extremely popular people in the 80s.



"There used to be a courtyard but the added the carpeted hallway, Spartan hall is new. I would say the school has gotten bigger for more class space," said Lind.

Not everything, however is drastically different than what it once was.

"The styles are actually pretty similar," said Lind "long sleeve shirts under Tee shirts, colored sleeves, Vans shoes, and Chuck Taylor Converse were all popular in the 80's."

Lind also doesn't recall the attitudes of students in the hallways being much different.

"There us still all that teenage stuff. Kids having fun in the halls, sports clubs," said Lind, "I do think there is more opportunity for sports and clubs though."

It seems as though despite many small differences in WS today, essentially its message and goals are still the same. Transcending time, is the hope of educating young people in a positive environment. Something that will likely endure at this school for a long time to come.

School transportation puts the 'bus' in 'bust'

By Beth Stinson
Viewpoint Editor

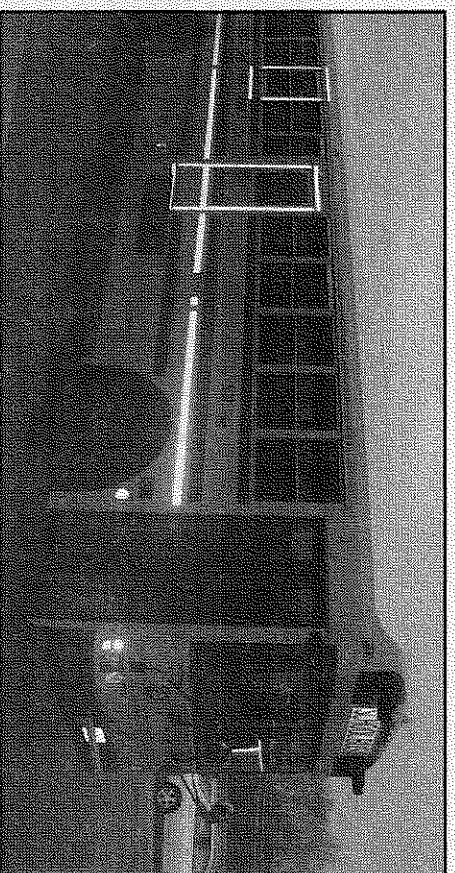
The bus; the stigmatized goldenrod chariot that carries us to and from our beloved temple of knowledge. Though the bus is the only mode of transportation for scores of WS students, many avoid it like the plague and spurn those who ride it.

Many students, namely those who do not have the fortune of having a driver's license, are forced to ride the bus.

"I can't walk home, and I don't have a ride," said freshman Eric Cecchetti. Other students, above the age of 16, are expected to drive themselves around.

However not many can for lack of a car or a license. Senior Kaska Adoteye is one of the many castoffs who have to ride the bus with underclassmen.

"My parents took my license and my keys because I got a ticket for reckless driving," said Adoteye, who remains cheerful about his transportation dilemma. "I'd prefer to drive but the bus isn't that bad. I get to talk to people, so it's OK."



Stephanie Aguilar

The reputed yellow school bus is ridden by a majority of underclassmen. Underclassmen unable to drive are more content with their transportation than Juniors and Seniors. They apparently realize the truth of their situation.

Other upperclassmen feel very differently about the bus.

"I'd rather stay [at school] and wait for a ride than ride the bus home," said junior Rosemary Barber, whose sister drives her to school.

But why then do people hate the bus so much, if it is free and easy and does not require you to do anything but get onto it?

"Freshmen," explains Adoteye, "people don't want to ride the bus because there are freshmen on the bus."

It may be an unfair and overused stereotype, but a popular answer to why people loathe the bus is just one. In many cases, freshman flock to the back of the

"People don't want to ride the bus because there are freshmen on the bus."

— Kaska Adoteye,
Senior

really anything you can do about it," said sophomore Chris Nutbrown.

It seems that the basic feeling of acceptance pervades the attitudes of many bus riders, who don't mind the feeling of riding to school on a mobile stigma.

"The bus isn't as bad as people think," adds Adoteye. "You can talk to your friends and relax. But I'd still rather be driving."

Freshmen gets his head in the [video] game

By Jimmy Bradshaw
Staff Writer

Normally, when kids play video games, they play against their friends or the computer. For one freshman's game playing habits, that's only the tip of the iceberg.

Ari Jimenez is one of those kids who seems to play video games for a living, as he plays almost daily, and also competes in video game tournaments. His favorite games include Madden and Halo.

"Basically these two games are like the only ones that I play and since I sometimes compete competitively, that limits me just to Halo and Madden," said Jimenez.

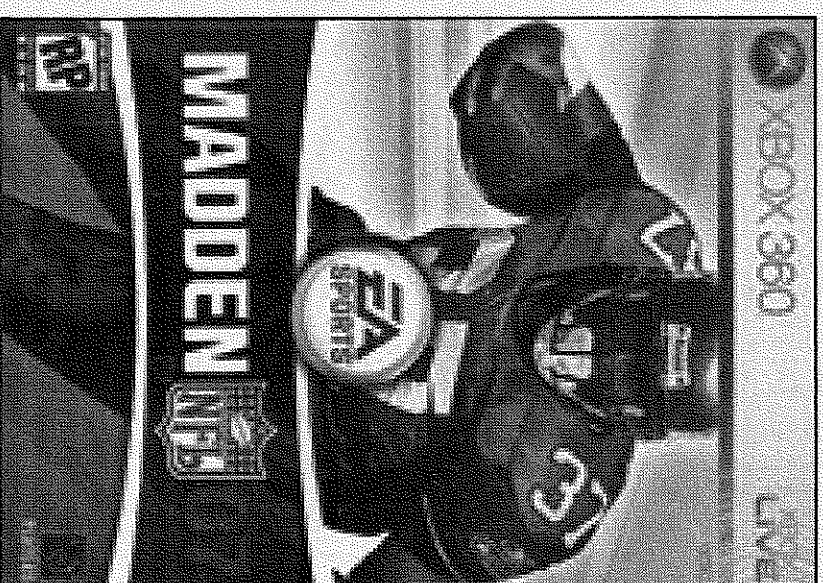
On average, Jimenez plays Madden and Halo for two to three hours each day, either against the computer or friends. To some, it would seem that by only playing these two games, that Jimenez would find boredom. "Actually, I never get bored. There are so

many different levels that I can play in Halo and there are multiple game modes in Madden," said Jimenez. Jimenez says that the drive behind his game playing is due to his lack of athleticism and his competitive edge. Despite this fact, he has found a new love for something different.

"I've never been athletic in whatever sports I've played, but I'm competitive in about everything else, so video games suits me just right," said Jimenez.

Although he isn't nationally ranked, he says he still has aspirations to eventually become ranked, preferably in the high numbers. In order to become ranked, Jimenez would have to compete in a variety of regional tournaments and have a successful showing in them. That is something he has not had time to do but hopes to find more time in the future.

"It's hard to find time to compete in a lot of tournaments because there are so many other things that keep me busy," said Jimenez. "People might say that I'm lazy just to be playing video games, but since I enjoy it, that's all that matters to me."



New York Daily News
The interactive video game, Madden Football, is a one of the many games Jimenez plays during free time.

Classy cuisine from Carlyle

By Chrissy Regelski
Oracle Editor

The Great American Restaurant chain lives up to its name yet again with Carlyle.

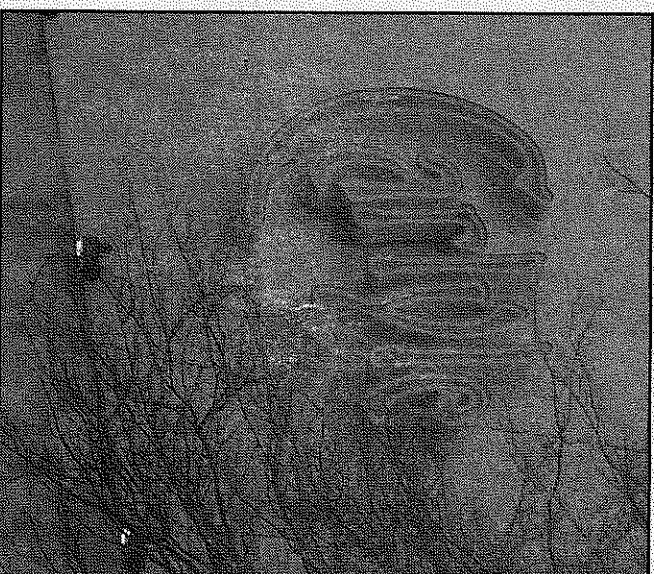
Carlyle's, part of the same coalition that brings us Mike's American Grill, is a snazzy, upscale eatery with delicious food and excellent service.

Located in Shirlington, Carlyle is beautifully decorated in a mix of modern and classical design that invites jeans and slacks alike. Their entrees are just as diverse, ranging from hamburgers to lobster or Hong Kong Style Sea Bass to Cajun Jambalaya Pasta. No matter the type of food you are in the mood for, Carlyle has it and has it right. The dishes are beautifully presented but taste even better. All the food is gourmet, flavorful and fresh and you receive plenty of it. When the menu says description says shrimp, it means a whole boatload instead of restaurants usual sprinkling of four or five. The shrimp is not the only dish on the menu that sounded appetizing. The hardest part was trying to figure out what exactly to order.

The service is also unbeatable. Instead of being served by Slacker Bob who tosses your food at you and then conveniently disappears for the rest of your meal, the entire Carlyle staff is in charge of taking care of you. As soon as you sip your last sip, a server is there to offer you another drink. You can count the seconds it takes for a server to appear and remove a straw wrapper you put on the table. The constant attention is not at all annoying or aimed at rushing your meal but is efficient and enjoyable.

All these treats and treatment, however, come at a price. The main dishes range from \$14 to \$23, excluding appetizers, desserts, drinks, and tip. Its expense is not ideal for routine visits but Carlyle is a great splurge for a special event, like Prom or, for undergrads planning really far in advance, Homecoming. Carlyle's impressive reputation brings a crowd on any night of the week so calling ahead, which will put your name on a waiting list, is strongly recommended.

For a delectable restaurant that will leave your stomach full (but not your wallet), check out Carlyle's grand bistro.



Chrissy Regelski
Carlyle Grand, one of the Great American Restaurants, is the perfect place for a casual dinner with friends. It can also be dressed up for a classy homecoming dinner.

Students get their Hong Anh

By Ariane Irvine
Senior Staff Writer

If you actually want to *eat* pho noodles, it's probably best to brush up on your chopstick skills before ordering them.

The time spent in the mostly futile attempt to pick up the noodles, however, is completely worth it. It becomes entertainment for every person around you who can successfully use their chopsticks. If you master that, the rest is simple.

"It's an acquired taste," said senior Sunghae Bae. "It doesn't seem that good at first, but it's addicting."

Pho noodles are very thin Vietnamese noodles made from rice and put in a soup with other ingredients, which may include cilantro, fennel, and different types of meat. Toppings included on a separate plate include bean sprouts and lime wedges.

"Get them on a cold day," said senior Kat Pham. "It's like chicken soup, only better."

Most students enjoy the exact same things about it.

"[The best part is] probably the broth, because there's so much of it," said senior Noah Burton.

Some people, however, may not like these noodles, either because are given

a choice to order unusual meat to put in it (like tripe), or because it's different from what they're used to.

"It only seems weird at first because it's different," said Bae.

One local restaurant that serves them, Pho Hong Anh, is located in Springfield Plaza. A small bowl on its menu is more than enough to feed one extremely hungry person, and costs around \$5. Although it's cheap, the food is not does not say money friendly.

"[It's great because] it's not that expensive, you get a lot of food, and you're really satisfied," said Burton. "Plus, it's a really good taste of a different culture."



Ariane Irvine
Pho Hong Anh is a popular place for Vietnamese pho noodles, a dinner that is cheap and completely satisfying.

Let go of
the day.



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Amanda Bynes engages in true battle of the sexes

By Wida Razaq

Journalism 1

Duke wants Olivia who likes Sebastian who is really Viola whose brother is dating Montique so she hates Olivia who is dating Duke to make Sebastian jealous who is really Viola crushing on Duke who thinks she's a guy...

Sound complicated? Of course! Amanda Bynes plays the lead in the comedic film, "She's the Man."

When the girls soccer program at Viola's high school gets cut, the battle of the sexes begins after the boys soccer team won't let the girls try out. Disguised as her brother Sebastian (James Kirk), Viola socks it to them when she leads the soccer team to victory while falling for her roommate Duke (Channing Tatum).

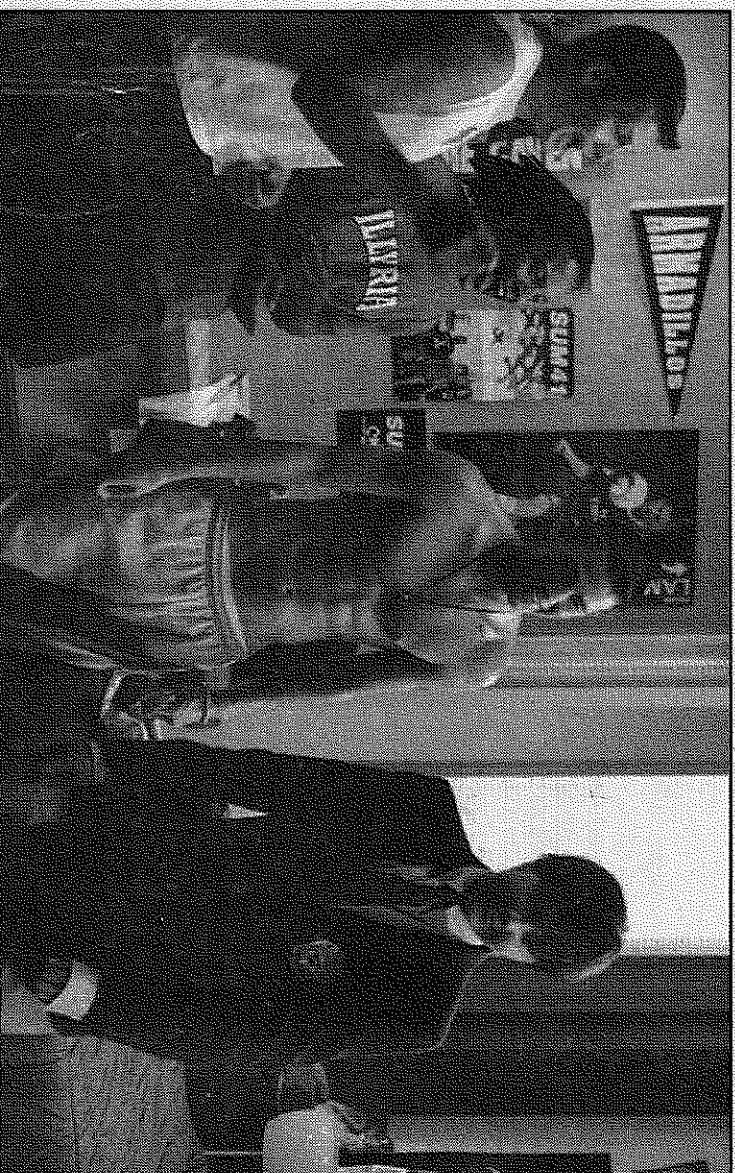
Bynes is Viola, the tomboy soccer player. By modern standards, a "girl" should wear heels and cute little dresses that we mere women would die to have and guys love to see. In this case, though, when Viola masquerades as a boy, she's cute—and funny.

This tangled web of lies and love is a remake of William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." Amanda Bynes plus soccer equals Shakespeare? I know.

In this film, the drama of high school years is overshadowed by the stupendous comedic relief of this young ensemble cast. Bynes is no strange face to the spotlight and has been a comic since she was a kid, but this could easily be the role she was made for—to bring our "girl next door" to the big screen.

The rest of the cast is a swarming of other up-and-coming stars, including Jonathan Sadowski, who is Bynes' confidant; Laura Ramsey playing the sultry Olivia; Alex Breckenridge, who plays the annoying girlfriend part and the egotistical jock ex-boyfriend, played by Robert Hoffman.

For the ladies' viewing pleasure, who wouldn't want



Feeling Reviews

Amanda Bynes' character Viola proves that girls can kick butt just as much as the boys on the soccer field. to see half-naked hunks/heartthrobs that always have their shirts off because they actually have a reason to? They play soccer. For the men, who would want to see a humorous cat fight in the girls bathroom?

This, however, is no teenybopper movie with a cast of people who look 12 and dress like they're 18. Although this may be seen as another teen movie dealing with the whole cliché of teen problems (which is true), the film has a completely different take on the whole cliché of teen problems. In this it carries its own

'Notebook' turns pages on romance

By Kaitie Harrison

Journalism 1

In the classic tale of two young lovers, Noah Calhoun (Ryan Gosling) and Allie Hamilton (Rachel McAdams) fall into a summer romance.

These two characters from "The Notebook" come from totally different backgrounds, and test their love and will against obstacles keeping them from being together, eventually discovering their passionate, unwavering love.

The story starts off with the factory-working boy wanting the rich, well-educated and pretty girl. They meet through their friends and something

sparks from the beginning. Noah gets what he wants, and what he wants is Allie. Soon the summer is bound to end, tearing their fling apart, as Allie goes to college and Noah stays back and joins the Army. He goes off to war, and Allie meets another war veteran, whom she helps nurse back to health.

Allie and her new man develop a strong attachment, which eventually turns into love. They get engaged and Allie begins planning her future. Then, unexpectedly, Allie's and Noah's paths cross again.

Some say the two were destined to be together forever. Allie falls back into love with

Noah—the rest of the story is predictable, in the sense that they end up together. Allie, of course, ends up with a sad and tragic disease and forgets about the "love of her life," who just happens to be reading their life story to her every day.

Gosling and McAdams have wonderful chemistry. The two lovebirds have the perfect combination of love and hate and oil and vinegar. Their fighting is what brings them closer and their love for one another is what makes you love them onscreen. Their passion is shown not through their words, but through their body language and their body contact.



New Line Cinema

Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams star in a true love story.

This film is recommended to all romantics and is good to watch with your loved one. "The Notebook" can be characterized as a "chick-flick," but it's merely just a classic love story to be shared with all. After watching this deep dramatic romance, you'll laugh, you'll cry, believe in destiny and want to love—and get some more popcorn and watch it again.

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Initiation just for kicks

Soccer teams welcome new players in unorthodox ways

By Caitlin Kenney

Viewpoint Editor

Initiation is a prominent presence in WS varsity sports. Newcomers exposed to the tradition often reflect that it adds color to the whole varsity experience. Each season the WS varsity soccer team puts these newcomers to a test, a tradition of performances of ridicule to the entire student body.

"It [pep rally initiation] is a chance to show off new players to the school," said senior outside midfielder Carlos Polo.

The initiation process is more than a tradition, it's an opportunity for the varsity girls and guys soccer

field. Initiation allows the seniors to incorporate a sense of fun and laughter with creative original pranks that the unsuspecting newcomers have to carry out. It's a tradition that has been around since the founding of the school.

"In the pep rally last year we had to paint our faces, bow down to the seniors and say we're not worthy," said Scanlon. "It was really funny."

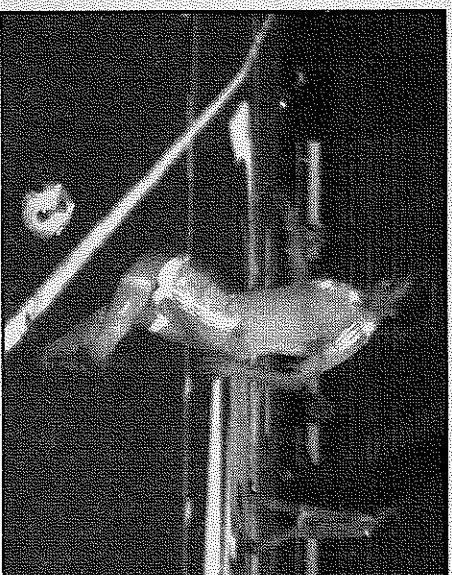
"Team bonding activities like the Silver Diner fundraiser and initiation make the teams closer friends."

—Katie Scanlon, sophomore
Girls varsity soccer

teams to get to know one another and provide an enjoyable, somewhat humorous, atmosphere for team bonding.

"Team bonding activities like the Silver Diner fundraiser and initiation make the teams closer friends," said sophomore outside midfielder Katie Scanlon.

Varsity soccer is a competitive sport that focuses on developing skills and performances on and off the

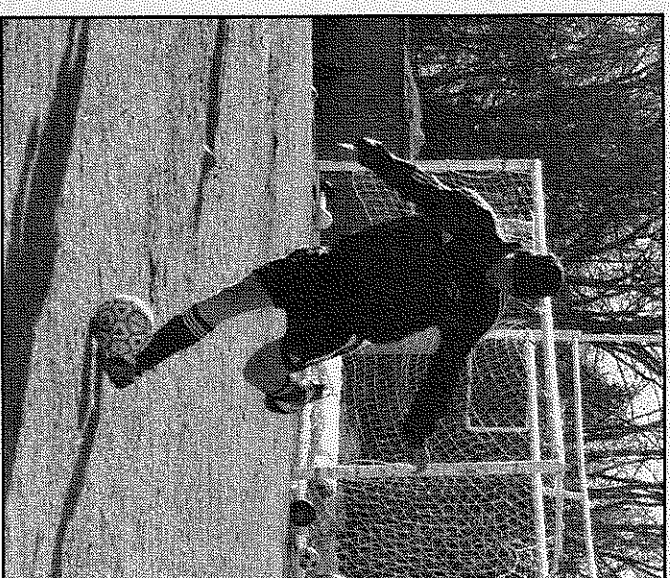


Emily Morgan

Sophomore Jessica Gonzalez dribbles past midfield and into the opponent's territory.

Scanlon is not the only one subjected to the ultimate test of humility; Polo remembers his first time as a newcomer on the varsity squad.

"For my initiation we had to sing 'Girls Just Wanna Have Fun', it wouldn't have been that bad if it weren't for the skirts," said Polo.



Amy McGee

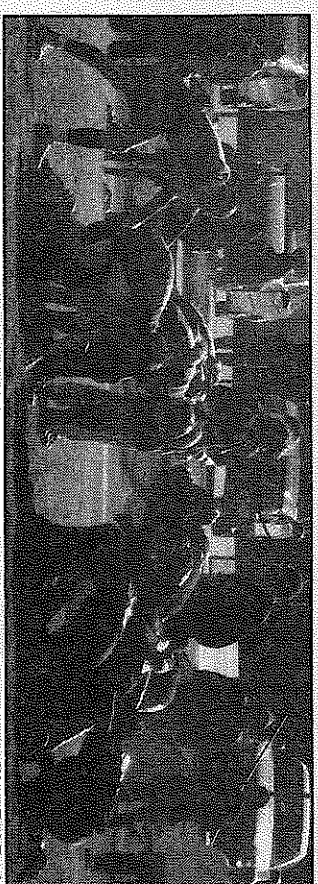
Junior Ansgar Alois winds up to boot the ball downfield during a chilly practice. The boy's varsity soccer team has many initiation traditions for new players that involve the girl's team.

Singing to the student body seems to be a popular theme present in initiations.

"Freshmen year a group of us had to perform 'Let it Burn' by Usher, some of the people were embarrassed but I had a fun time with it," said junior sweeper Britany Klippstein.

WS soccer is one of many sports that carries on the tradition of initiation. The tradition is important to the integrity of the sport and adds to the whole team experience.

"We earn our respect from our performance on the field, but initiation gives us respect off it as well," said Klippstein.



West End Rugby

Give blood: play rugby

West End team attracts WS athletes

By Andreeana Maxwell

Managing Editor

Rugby may not be an official school sponsored sport at WS, however, there is plenty of interest. The West End Rugby team, a private rugby club in the area, consists of players predominately from WS. Other schools with players on the team are Lake Braddock, Amandale, Bishop O'Connell and Paul VI.

Similar to crew and hockey, the team is responsible for raising all of their own money to pay for equipment. Every player on the roster must pay \$65 dues to help fund the team. Because rugby is not sponsored by the school, practices are held in an open field off of Hoopes Road on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Two coaches, both of whom played for the team when they were in high school, are responsible for running practices and preparing the team of nearly 40 boys for upcoming games.

"Everyone shows up half an hour late [to practice] and then we take a lap and do rucking and hitting drills," said junior Nick Lynn.

The West End Rugby team must travel around the metropolitan area for their games. At this point in time, no games are scheduled to be played on the new WS turf.

The season has started out a little difficult. The losses were by large margins but the team has plenty of

potential and high expectations for the rest of the season.

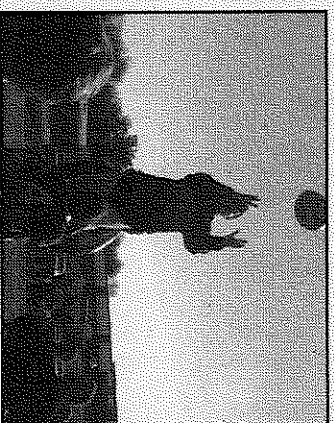
"We haven't been playing too well so far, we're very new," said senior Chip Horan. "We have a very new and young team."

Rugby is known for its aggressive, angry and even violent manner. This nature has taken a toll on the team. Within the first games of the season major injuries have already affected the team.

"I got tackled by this gigantic fat guy from St. John's College High School and broke my ankle," said Lynn.

This new team may face obstacles at the present time but their goals are set high for the remainder of the season.

"I just hope that we become a unit," said junior Andy Poirier. "I hope that I can bring down pain on a fool who doesn't know what time it is."



West End Rugby

Junior Michael O'Shea is lifted by his teammates to catch a line-out.

Erg!! It's cold!!

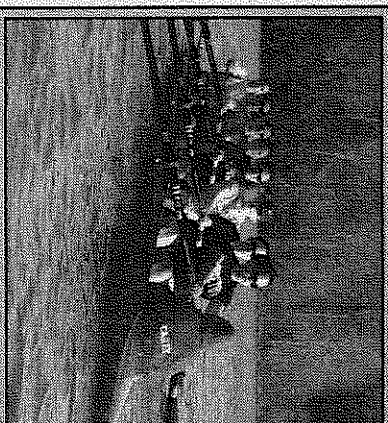
Crew team battles with paddles

By Cam Rushton

Sports Editor

The most difficult rival for the WS crew team in recent years has consistently been the Thomas Jefferson Colonials. Yet, with the current season only weeks old, a new foe has developed that the team must combat: the weather.

Unpredictable weather has affected every spring sport, from baseball to soccer. The crew team has suffered the most, though, since, unlike other sports, their practices depend on the condition of the Occoquan River, where the team practices.



Mark Hemphill

The girl's varsity crew boat begins another practice on the Occoquan River.

"Unless the water is frozen, we still practice," said senior Alex Avalos.

The difference between crew's practice conditions and other sports is affected by the river in various ways. For instance, the air temperature on the river can be anywhere from ten to twenty degrees cooler than that on WS's turf field. Plus, the team must find other methods of training if even parts

of the river are frozen. Some of the alternatives to rowing on the river include land training on erg machines and running up and down hills.

"We practice three hours a day,"

said senior Andrew Ferraro, "and we never know whether it is going to be warm or cold."

Ferraro is the varsity boat's coxswain, meaning he sits at the stern

"Unless the water is frozen, we still practice"

—Alex Avalos, senior

Crew

and steers the boat, as well as motivates and directs the power and rhythm of the rowers. The boy's varsity boat is expecting to make an impact this season, especially at the St. Andrew's Regatta in Delaware, which they competed in on April 7th.

"Our only real competition for the season is Thomas Jefferson," said Avalos.

The girl's team as well wants to prove they are as good as the boy's team, if not better.

"I am expecting [the team] to make finals, hopefully top three," said sophomore Kim Helfrich.

Whether the team is successful during the season or not, their training is definitely preparing them for whatever other teams (or nature) has to offer. Rain or shine, warm or cold, the crew team can always be found preparing for the season or their next regatta.

"We never stop rowing," said Ferraro.

Spartan Spotlight: Andy Saffron, Head Coach, Boys Varsity Soccer

By Jimmy Bradshaw
Sopomore Staff Writer

Q: How long have you been coaching at West Springfield?

A: This is my third year as head coach and 11th season overall (8 seasons as asst. varsity coach). So I started coaching at WSHS in 1996.

Q: What do you want out of your players?

A: I want the players to be as successful as they possibly can each and every year. I want them to learn to play beyond their abilities, to push and to strive to achieve their goals on the field and in life.

Q: How do you keep the team focused, after all the state titles you've won in the past?

A: You can't worry about the past, be it a championship three years ago or a win just yesterday. You always need to get ready for the next game.

Q: Where did you play your soccer in high school?

A: I graduated from WS in 1990 and as a senior played on the regional championship team and reached the semifinals of states for the first time.

Q: Have people ever asked you what it's like to coach a such storied soccer program?

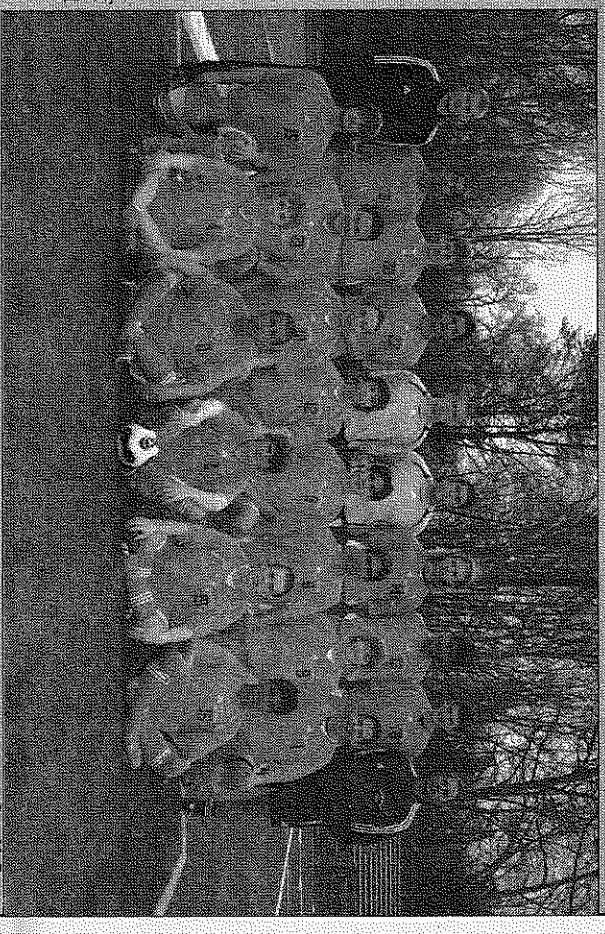
A: People do ask me what it is like with the "pressure" of coaching at West Springfield after having won a number of State titles, but I think what people don't realize is that I have been coaching here since before the State titles as well as during the championships, so for me, it's simply a matter of going out and teaching and preparing the team as best as I can like I have always done.

Q: What's the outlook for this season, given that you dropped players from a year ago?

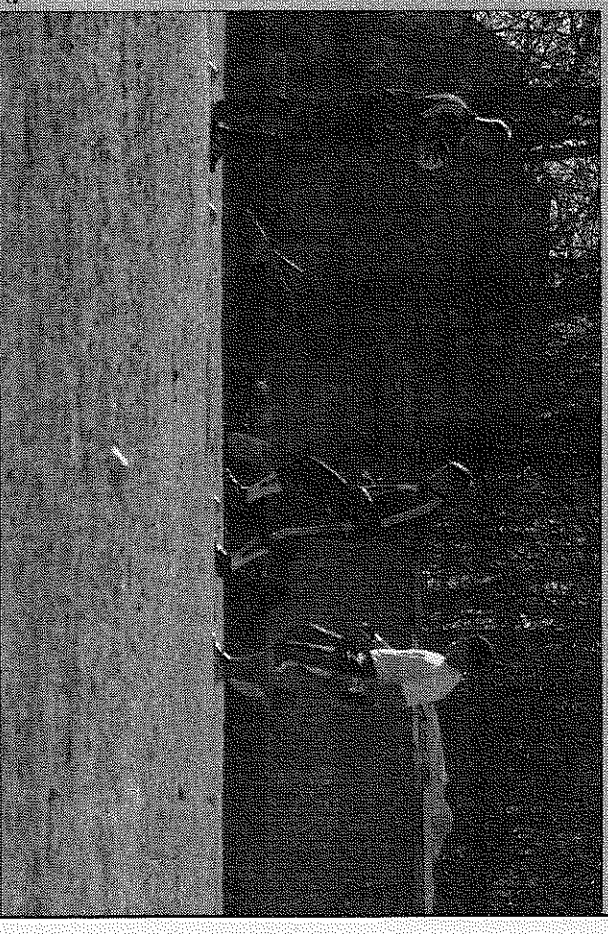
A: This year we have a very nice group of players with the skills and talent to compete with any team. It will be interesting to see what type of chemistry and dynamic develops within the squad.

Q: What needs to go right for the team to be successful this season?

A: In order to compete this year we will need to physically battle and be mentally tough we need to find our "voice" and our intestinal fortitude, to learn to impose our will on our opponent, and if down, battle back. If we can develop that sort of character early on, than on any given day we will be tough to beat.



Amy McGregor
Coach Saffron knows his teams' toughness and character will be key this season. Despite the losses of several key players, Saffron believes his team will have a successful year.



Amy McGregor
Practices are key to developing team chemistry. Coach Saffron uses this valuable time to practice strategy and work on soccer skills.

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Jake Disagrees

Rock stars don't die before they get old

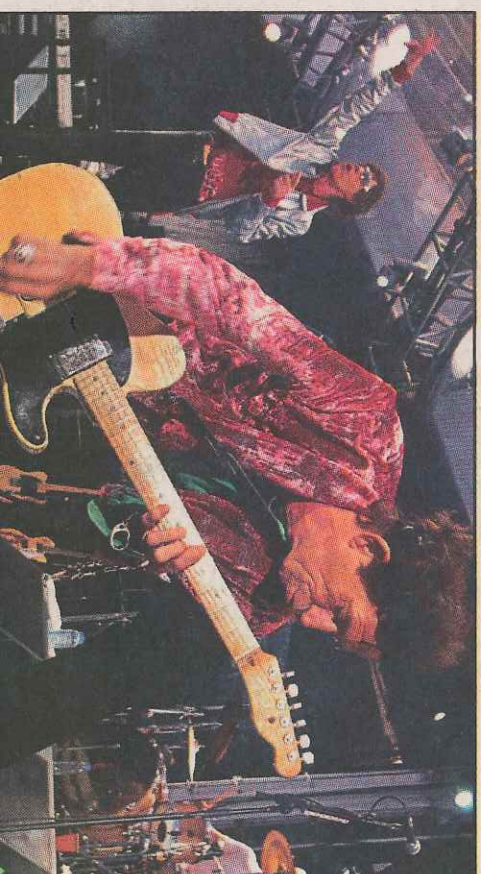
By Jake Serwin
ETC. Editor

At some point in their lives, most people die.

I say most people because there are a select few who apparently lack the coordination to kick the proverbial bucket. These people are rock musicians.

We see it all too often — people like Mick Jagger, Paul McCartney and John Tesh, one-time teen heartthrobs now running on pacemakers. It goes against nature, like a bird with a clipped wing; these abominations are paraded around by ticket corporations that write them huge checks, which goes against all those champions of rebellion once believed in.

More importantly, however, they are gross. Rolling Stone Keith Richards,



Rolling Stone Keith Richards, once a young pioneer of the rock genre, now very much resembles an old woman with beef jerky for skin. He is arguably dead.

In a few short decades, we may be watching Shakira belt out “Plastic Hips Don’t Lie” at Caesar’s Palace.

who is probably immortal, looks like a baseball mitt left out in the sun on the surface of Mercury. Former Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page is now nearly indistinguishable from Chairman Mao Zedong. John Tesh is technically an extraterrestrial, so he’s all-over weird.

Recently, I paid a near-exorbitant amount for eighth-row tickets to see The Who at Verizon Center. The two original members still alive put on an excellent show, and the backup band did its job (that is, they covered Who songs well

enough to please the drunken pot-bellied businessmen reliving their youth). But it was depressing in concept: those members of a once-great band who are not yet deceased perform songs they wrote thirty or forty years ago with Ringo Starr’s kid backing them on drums.

The children of the first wave of rock and roll artists are now filling in for those who have ascended to rock Valhalla. There’s something almost Oedipal about that, but I won’t go there. It alerted me to a frightening realization: soon our own musical idols will be old and balding, too.

Perhaps years from now we will have realized how atrocious modern music is and all of these people will simply be old, balding regular people. That is rather unlikely, though, so it may very well be that in a few short decades, we may be watching Shakira belt out “Plastic Hips Don’t Lie” at Caesar’s Palace. If Bono is allowed to live that long, he will have exhausted all plausible relief efforts save to try (in futility) to raise money to fight heartburn in Portugal. That guy from American Idol’s hair will be exactly the same color.

Here’s to hoping Bono burns out early.

Oracle Questionnaire:

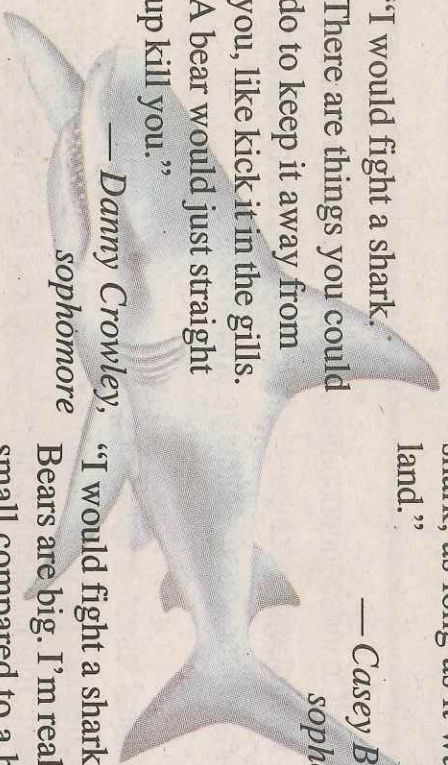
Would you rather fight a shark or a bear?

“I would fight a shark.

There are things you could do to keep it away from you, like kick it in the gills.

A bear would just straight up kill you.”

—*Danny Crowley,*
sophomore



“I would definitely fight a shark, as long as it was on land.”

—*Casey Brooks,*
sophomore

“I would fight a shark.

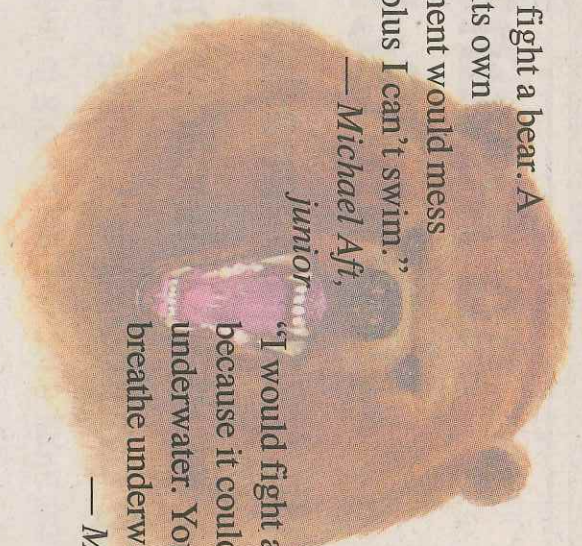
Bears are big. I’m really small compared to a bear.”

—*Cooper Millholland,*
sophomore

“I would fight a bear. A

shark in its own environment would mess you up, plus I can’t swim.”

—*Michael Aft,*
junior



“I would fight a bear, because it couldn’t pull you underwater. You can’t breathe underwater.”

—*Max Hoffman,*
junior

—*Compiled by Cam McCallum*

APRIL '07

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
13 Third quarter report cards distributed during 5 th period	14 Water Mass Regatta @ Sandy Run Facility 10:00 a.m.	15 April is National Poetry Month	16 Girls tennis @ Amundale 4 p.m.	17 Boys baseball game vs. South County @ home 6:30 p.m.	18 Track and field senior night @ WSHS 5:30 p.m.	19 Boys soccer game at home vs. Lee @ 7 p.m.
20 Girls lacrosse @ Lee 7 p.m.	21 Al Urquiza Regatta @ Sandy Run 10:00 a.m.	22 Arbor Day and Earth Day	23 Girls softball @ Amundale 6:30 p.m.	24 Girls lacrosse @ home vs. South County 7:00 p.m.	25 Boys baseball @ home vs. West Potomac 6:30 p.m.	26 Boys varsity lacrosse @ home vs. TC Williams 7 p.m.