

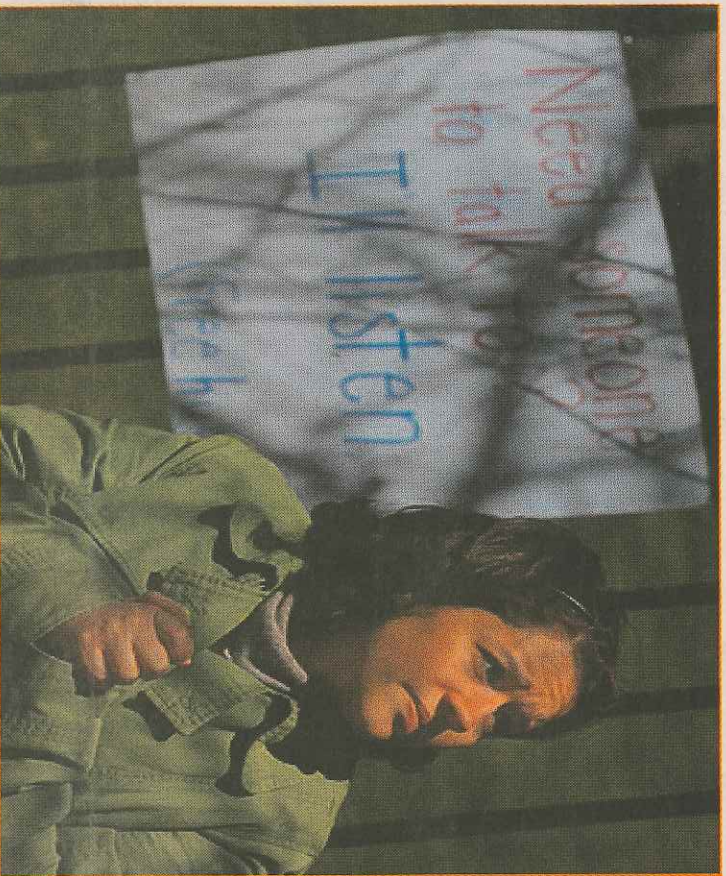
THE ORACLE



May 11, 2007 Volume 43 Number 17

West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

For Hokies, hugs help heal pain



Associated Press

Kiera Cass hands out free hugs to those dealing with the April 16 tragedy.

By David Grant
Special to the Oracle

BLACKSBURG—"There is no doubt that, on the 16th of April, God sat down and cried," wrote Ezra "Bud" Brown, a mathematics professor at Virginia Tech. That may be true. But when He got up, He probably got a hug from Kiera Cass. Cass, seated on a peeling park bench in downtown Blacksburg, measured her success in one way two days after the Virginia Tech shootings: hug traffic. She sat at the geographical heart of Hokie Nation, the corner of Main Street and College Avenue, under a sign taped to the iron gate surrounding Henderson Lawn. The sign read, "If you need to talk, I'm here to listen. (free hugs)." She had given out more than 70 when I sat down with her around 3 p.m. She'd been there since 10:30 a.m.

Cass is a peppy, late 20-something in an orange Virginia Tech sweatshirt who forgot to pack a lunch when she first took up residence on her bench. Most people didn't want to chat for

long, she says; most wanted a hug and an "I Love You" and were on their way. Some leaned from their cars, thanking her for her ability to wield a Sharpie and sit on a park bench and give hugs. That's her description of what she does, not mine.

"I wanted to come out and lend an ear and lend a hug to people who might not have anywhere else to go. I feel really silly because I didn't want any of this to be about me or what I was doing. You don't have to have any special training or money or talent. You just have to be kind," Cass said, blushing at the bevy of media snapping photos from the curb.

Blacksburg Police Officer Michael Mickey, an 18-year veteran of the force, was one of Cass's visitors.

"We need hugs. Love needs to be shared. I thought what she was doing was wonderful. It's very commendable for someone to take their day to spend it there to listen to what people have to say and to give them hugs. We should

See **TECH** on Page 6.

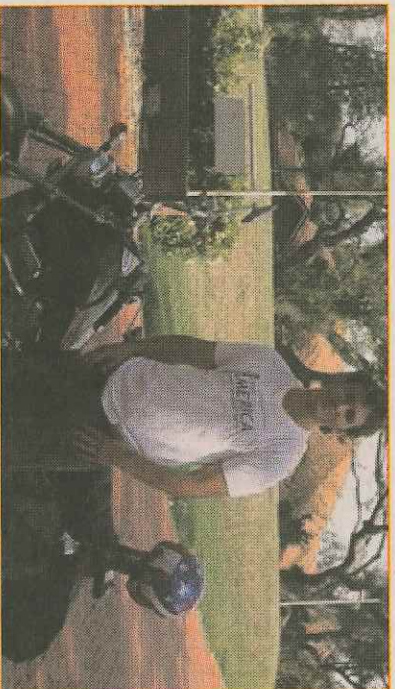
Motorcycle Odyssey

WS alumni embarks on two-wheeled cross country adventure

By Kelly Sipple
News Editor

2001 WS graduate Woodrow Landfair was an ordinary high school student. He was involved in activities including wrestling and Applied History. This past July, however, he sold everything except two stuffed bags and a motorcycle.

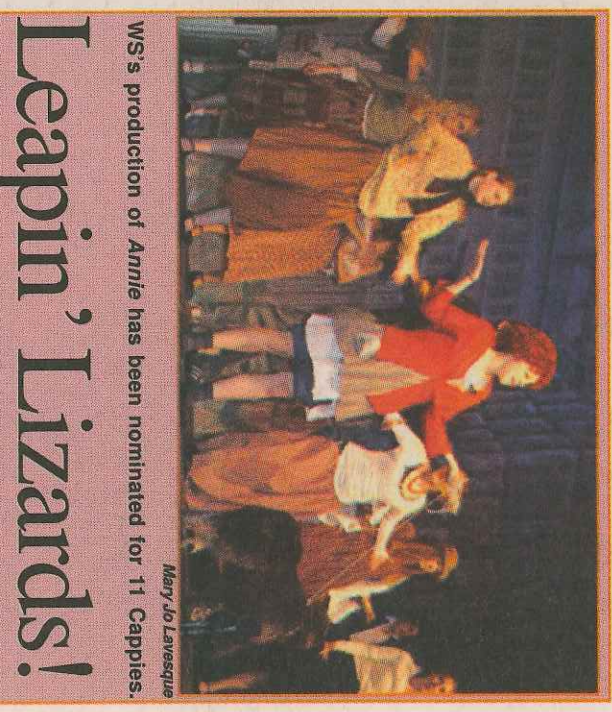
Landfair is currently traveling the United States, stopping in all 48 contiguous states along the way. All the while, he updates woodrowlandfair.com, where he posts new photographs, which range from humorous sights including a dilapidated sign saying "UFO Crash Site" to a young boy at bat in a Little League game in Virginia. He also maintains an online journal for various reasons, including bettering himself as a fiction writer.



Courtesy of Woodrow Landfair
WS graduate Woodrow Landfair makes lifelong memories as he journeys across the United States on his motorcycle.

"Events don't line up like a story," said Landfair, on the phone from Laguna, California. "If I could get good enough to pull them together the parallels for writing fiction would be easy."

The idea had been brewing in his head since his time at WS. "When I was in high school I look Latin with the late Mrs. Jarvis and we studied a story of a quest," said Landfair. That story was pivotal in planting the seed of adventure in him. "I don't know I always liked the See **BIKE** on Page 7.



Mary Jo Lavesque

WS's production of *Annie* has been nominated for 11 Cappies.

Leapin' Lizards!

Spring musical 'Annie' delights

By Sarah Alvarez
Viewpoint Editor

Annie, a childhood favorite, turned into a high school hit as the WS Theater department successfully presented the musical from May 3 to May 5. They received eleven Cappie nominations for their efforts in artistically portraying the story of an orphan named Annie and her quest for a loving home. A

remarkable partnership between the techies and actors evolved into an entertaining onstage production. Selling close to 2,500 tickets, the Saturday night performance was sold out.

Although theater productions are not comparable from year to year, as the skill set and crew are constantly changing, there was

See **ANNIE** on Page 7.



11 Seniors prep for fun in the sun.



8-9 VA Tech coverage gets mixed reviews.



7 Students relive the classics.



Sara Kofall

Oracle Editor Libby Bursley calls Silver Communications who is in charge of publishing *The Oracle* for over \$1,000 per issue.

Caitlin's firsthand guide to

traveling the streets of NY

By Caitlin Kenney
Viewpoint Editor

This is a survival guide to traveling in New York based on my three day experience in the heart of the Big Apple.

1. When booking a room do not use Expedia.com.
Example: My family went on a three-day excursion to New York City during Spring Break. My mom shelled out a substantial amount of money for the two-night trip. Expedia's virtual tour of the Woogo complex (yeah we should have known from the name alone) offered a great view of the city with its two bedrooms, one bath, one living room and kitchen layout. Unfortunately, Expedia failed to mention that we would be sharing our room with other occupants: Gus Gus the mouse and his kin. Needless to say, the time spent on the phone to Expedia, reporting the fallacious information posted on their website, yielded no results. Oh, well if you count a disclaimer warning that you could potentially be spending the night with mice, mold, and hairy bed sheets, then yeah, we made some progress. Despite the plus twelve hour phone call, in the morning there was still a mouse (possibly an whole army), mold

on the shower curtains and ceiling tiles, hair...on the beds (curly dark hair doesn't run in our family), dead cockroaches on the stairwell, broken elevators (for the twenty-first floor) and a fetid odor leaking from the air conditioner.

2. Fanny packs are actually useful. Just don't sit on them, there is potential to crush sun glasses or passports. Maybe they can create over the shoulder packs and drive fanny packs into extinction. Cons: The fanny pack gives an odd shaped contour to the buttocks region. I like big lumps, and I cannot lie?

3. Pack suitcases with clothes for any type of weather.

Let's face it, the weatherman lies, it's in his job description. No one predicted that April showers bring snow flurries instead. It may not be the best idea to walk around New York in sub 35 degree weather. If this scenario happens to you, the New York University bookstore offers very large and warm sweatshirts perfect for layering. Sure, you can visit the school while you're there too.

4. Don't travel in groups of more than four. Taxi Cab drivers will spit in your face as they laugh at your suggestion to cram four people in the backseat.

Go easy, we are only human

Every issue of *The Oracle* journalism program, we fix column alignment and apologize to the student who period placement. Every issue was the victim of our staff and over again until we can member's lack of judgment. *The Oracle* has a rule of producing interesting and recite them backwards. But we aren't perfect. In the April 13 issue of *The Oracle*, a fabricated story was published. Unfortunately, we did not know about it until a confused member of the student body noticed there was a feature story about him, filled with wonderful amounts of information topped off by his insightful quotes. The peculiar thing was, he was never interviewed. A writer on our staff had made up the entire story, creating false information and quotes concerning this student. On behalf of the entire

journalism program, we apologize to the student who was the victim of our staff member's lack of judgment. *The Oracle* has a rule of producing interesting and

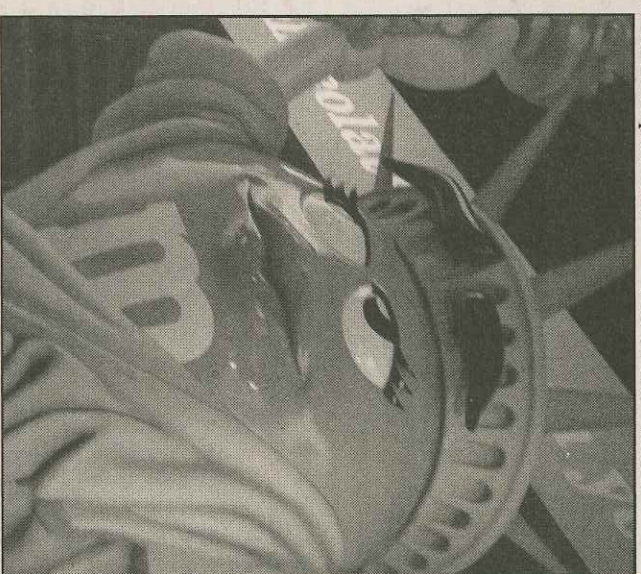
Editorial

instance is not a reflection on the rest of the staff, who works hard to bring students and faculty a professional newspaper ever two weeks. Be assured that the offending student was promptly fired from the staff and is now facing further punishment from administrators.

factual stories, never either/or. We are deeply disappointed that someone on our staff would dismiss this rule and their fellow students' rights in order to get a good grade for turning their assignment in on time. As editors, we trust our reporters to be honest, since it is not possible for us to check every source they use. We hope that WS realizes that this particular

The first thing we learn as journalism students is ethics, and the truth is expected to be the base of all our work. We assure you that the remaining members of the staff will respect, and do respect already, these standards. We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Oracle*.

Thank you,
The Oracle Editors



Sarah Kenney

Lady M&M greets patrons of M&M's World New York, offering over 22 different colors of mouth-watering peanut and chocolate M&Ms in creative forms.

Plus side: you experience a beautiful tour of the city on foot for free.

5. Don't be afraid to stalk New York residents, they're friendly.

That's the only way to figure out the divine workings of the New York subway system. There's nothing to it. Traveling is a cinch that can be mastered with the help of this lovely guide.

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The ORACLE

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

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Wikipedia defines reliability, entertainment in one package

By Jake Serwin
Etc. Editor

Wikipedia is the future of research. Unfortunately, most teachers feel otherwise.

The free online encyclopedia has become so familiar to anyone with a computer and a brain is a hotly contested subject among educators. The prevailing opinion is that Wikipedia is not to be trusted as a source of definite knowledge, as anyone can edit its approximately 1,753,067 articles in English alone.

Some of the more freethinking teachers allow use of the site on lesser assignments like study guides, or as a launching point to other, more credible sources through the use of Wikipedia's "External links" feature.

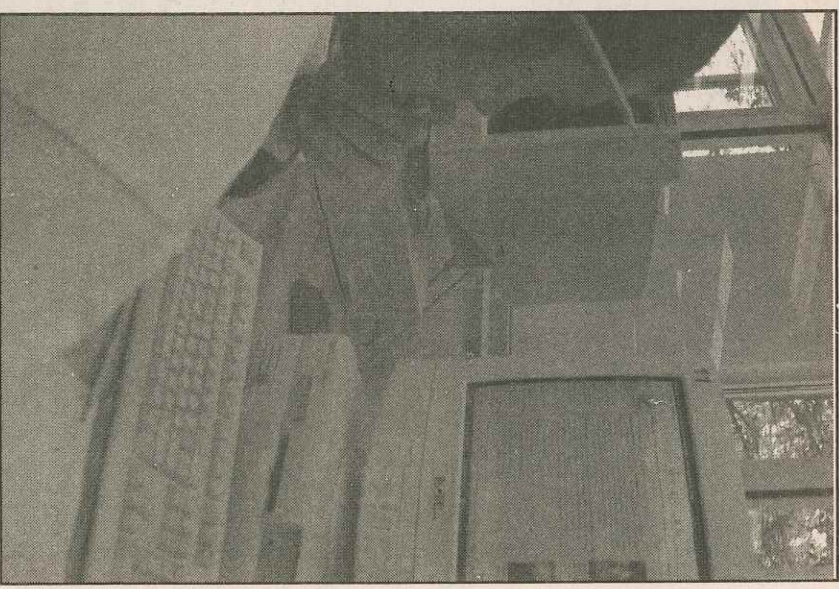
What they fail to realize is that Wikipedia is a blessing, not a curse. It has revolutionized the sharing and acquiring of information. What other encyclopedia offers an extensive list of goose breeds for free? With minimal effort, any internet user can access an incredible amount of (almost entirely accurate) text on just about anything. The free editing feature means that anyone (with a topic and a few citations) can create a new article, resulting in the cornucopia of topics currently

available for research. Of course, this is exactly why teachers cannot bring themselves to trust Wikipedia.

The gift of open editing inevitably leads to vandalism — given the capacity to add or remove text, there are always those who choose to put naughty words in the Paris Hilton article. To retaliate, a crack team of lightning-fast staff editors checks each update round-the-clock to fix those articles that have been maliciously altered or simply changed without citation, and return them to their prior status. This works frighteningly well.

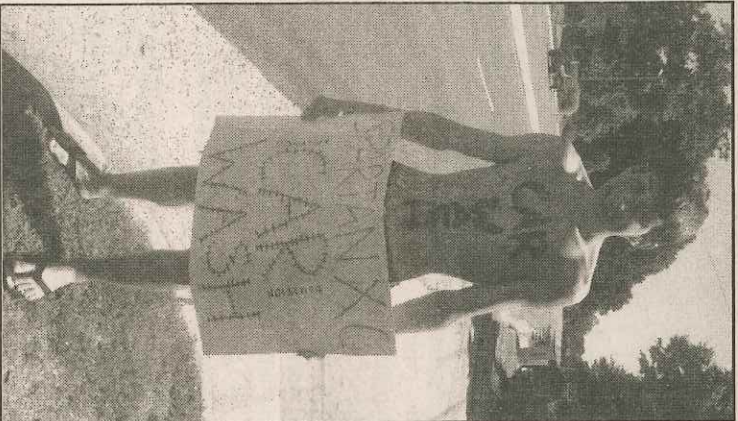
While cruising a list of popes, I found an article about Pope Lando. Naturally, I added a picture of Billy Dee Williams as Lando Calrissian from the *Star Wars* films. Luckily, I nabbed a screenshot of my evil masterpiece before it was reverted five minutes later.

Clearly, if an obscure article about a pope from a thousand years ago is corrected that quickly, the high-profile articles are in no danger. Why then, do our educators refuse to allow us to use Wikipedia? Perhaps, as they grew up flipping through library card catalogs for hours, they are jealous of how easy it is for us. Whatever the reason, I hope our teachers catch on to the future soon.



Colin Embrey

Senior Sean Newmeyer does research for a project using the popular reference site Wikipedia, despite many teachers' suspicions regarding its credibility.



Molly Cushing

By Ariane Irvine
Senior Staff Writer

Holding car washes to raise money has been a time honored tradition for high school clubs and groups, stretching back to prehistory.

Or, at least, as far back as people had cars.

No one is disputing the fact that car washes are a great, easy way for a group to earn money, or that it's one of the few legal ways that teenagers can.

What I am disputing is some of the more questionable activities considered a normal part of a car wash at the Shell on Old Keene Mill.

Is it really necessary to stand on the median in the middle of the road to wave signs? Not only is this illegal (negating the whole 'legal way for teenager to make money' thing), it's also pretty dangerous.

Considering how many accidents there are on Old Keene Mill, you would assume that people would want to be at least twenty feet away from it inside a concrete bunker. Not only is there the possibility that someone could lose control of their car and hit you, it's also

Something else that is wrong with these car washes are the ways people get dressed to attract attention for their [car wash] event.

possible that you and your sign in the middle of the street could distract the driver from something they need to see farther down the road.

Something else that is wrong with

these car washes are the ways people get dressed to attract attention for their event. You really don't need to show that much skin in order to wash a car. Do you really want the people that are just attracted by the skin you're showing to be anywhere near you?

This also goes for double entendres like "Topless Carwash", where participants don't wash the tops of cars. What sort of customers do you think you're going to get if you're advertising like that?

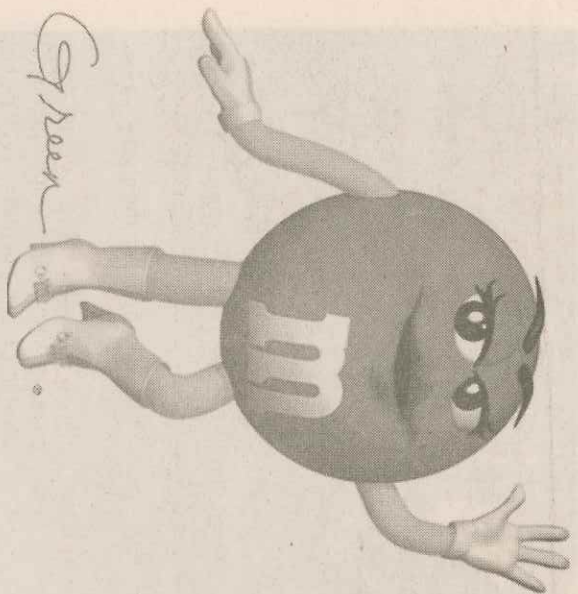
Finally, you've really got to think about how these sorts of things reflect on our school.

Do we really want to be thought of as the school filled with people who do completely ridiculous, stupid, and demeaning things in order to earn money?

At least wait until you are not affiliated with our school to act like that.



By: Sarah Wink



Mars, Inc.

Sweet tooth soliloquy

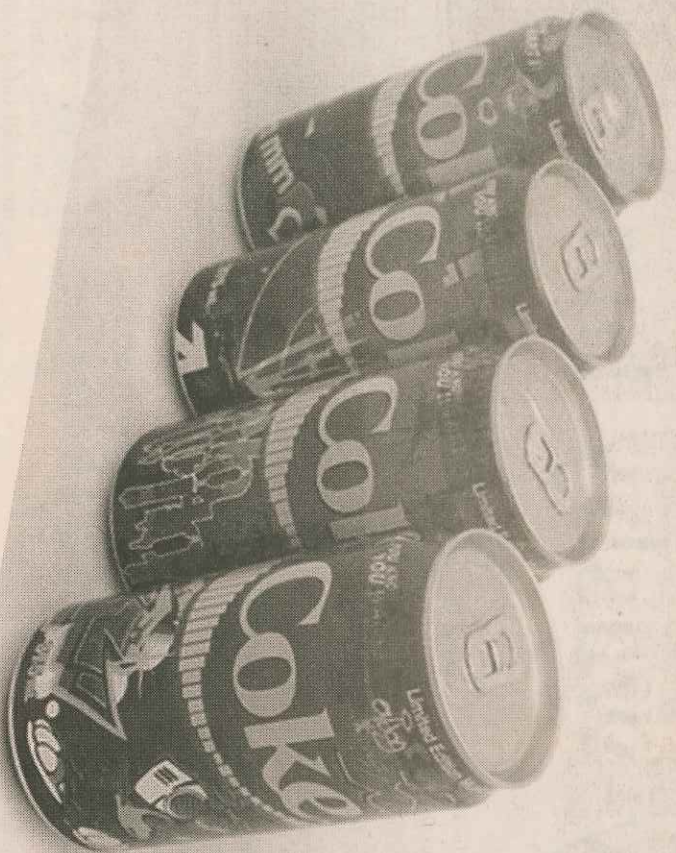
By Megan Hislop
Special to The Oracle

As I gaze down through the glass door containing my target, I wonder: Do I pick number 14, or perhaps number 11?

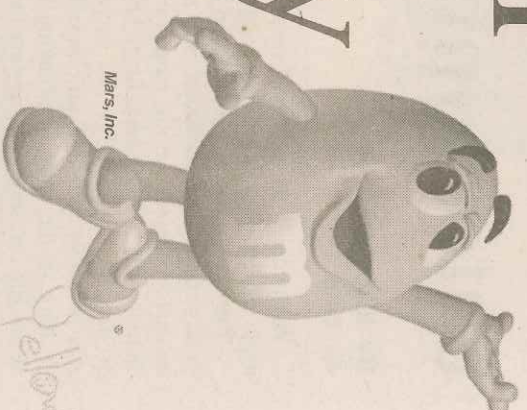
Not a huge decision in its own right, but this is the decision where I exhibit the right to choose my own food. A decision that may be taken away from me before I graduate high school.

Over the past few years, state legislatures have become increasingly interested in the vending machines scattered across high school hallways. Politicians have reason to be worried: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 31 percent of children ages 6 to 19 are overweight or at risk of becoming so.

However, let me make this clear, here and now: The majority of those kids choose what they



The Coca Cola Company



Mars, Inc.

eat, knowing it is not the healthiest of choices.

What the legislatures fail to realize is that *out of sight, out of mind* does not apply in this case. I know for a fact that when I feel like having some chips/chocolate (or whatever unhealthy snack I often crave) that nothing will stand in my way. Nothing.

Barring me from having M&M's during school will most likely, in actuality, cause me to overindulge at home. In fact, I most likely will buy whatever healthy snacks are available at school and then proceed to eat an array of sugary, delicious morsels at home.

Sorry to say this, but parents are to blame. Children naturally copy their parents' behaviors, and the ban of sodas and chips in school is not going to solve the issue. Instead, state legislatures need to focus on nutrition-based courses and requiring physical education.

A child needs to be taught healthy eating habits and understand why it is important to eat right and exercise. Denying him access to food at school will only temporarily displace the problem; it will not solve the source of the problem.

So, most importantly, we must remember that I have the right as a smart (I know, that doesn't apply to all) human being to eat my M&M's during Break and drink my soda during lunch. I am solely responsible for what I eat, and it is *my* fault if I happen to gain some weight in the process. I do not want to be regulated; that was only acceptable when I couldn't spell the names of the woods I wanted.

At this point in my life, I feel fairly confident in saying that I should be able to pick food out of any vending machine. As for all the other kids, if they don't know by now that Pop Tarts have 400 calories, they have been hiding under a rock the past 16 years.

Give teams a sporting chance!

By Brittany Klippstein
Special to The Oracle

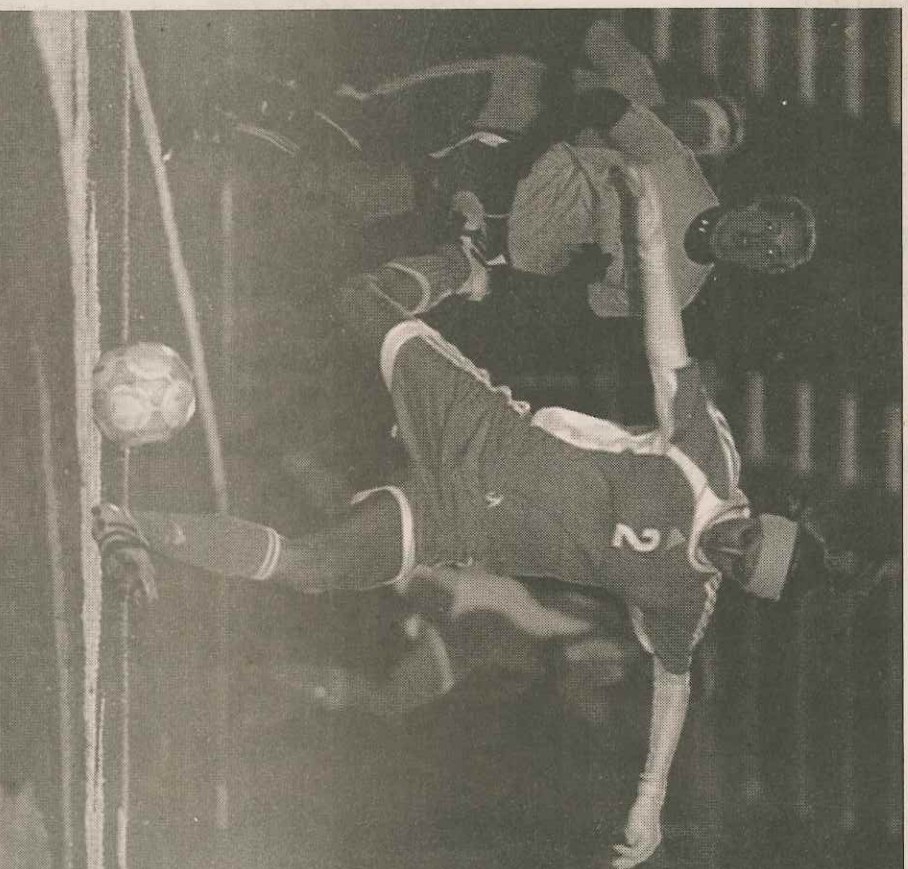
No more being picked last. No more feeling left out.

Picture this: organized sports. They help kids improve social skills, get in shape and stay out of trouble. It is a win-win situation when you get involved. Much like doing community service or helping someone out, you have a sense of accomplishment and pride after a game.

If you have yet to experience this, I suggest you put organized sports at the top of your to-do list.

It's hard to break a shy person out of her shell, but what better way than friendly competition? Getting down and dirty on a soccer field or rough on the basketball court could bring out someone's personality. If you get involved in a team sport like soccer, basketball or football, it is likely that you will become a more talkative person. You **HAVE** to communicate in these games. Otherwise, this organized sport won't look very organized.

Also, getting to meet people from other schools or just people you never even knew existed is a huge plus. You get to know tons of personalities when you involve yourself in a sport. Sur-



Lifetouch

Join a team! Senior Laurel Pastor did, and now she's going to play in college.

rounding yourself with a group of people who don't know anyone else either will make it easier on you. If no one else knows anyone, then the cliques won't be there, which makes making friends much easier.

No one wants to be overweight, and a good way to stay out of that category would be to get involved in a physical activity. Playing and running with other people makes getting in shape enjoyable. You get to share your pain with others, and they know exactly how you are feeling. No one likes to be the only one hurting. Not that organized sports are painful!

A lot of times people get into trouble because they have nothing else to do. So, why don't you join a sports team? If you are busy practicing and hanging out with the good kids who also play, you won't have time for bad influences. Playing a sport also helps you get out excess energy, so you will be more likely to focus when you sit down to do your homework at night.

There are so many positives about organized sports that it is hard to think of any negatives. The best part would have to be the fun you have. If you don't enjoy it and you aren't having fun, then what is the point? But I'm telling you—give it a try; you won't regret it.

Seniors spot where their money goes

By **Andreana Maxwell**
Managing Editor

At 7:20 am the parking lot is nearly empty and school begins in ten minutes. 7:28 am, the lot is filling up at a rapid rate and crowds of sleepy students saunter into the building moments before the morning bell rings. This is the senior parking lot.

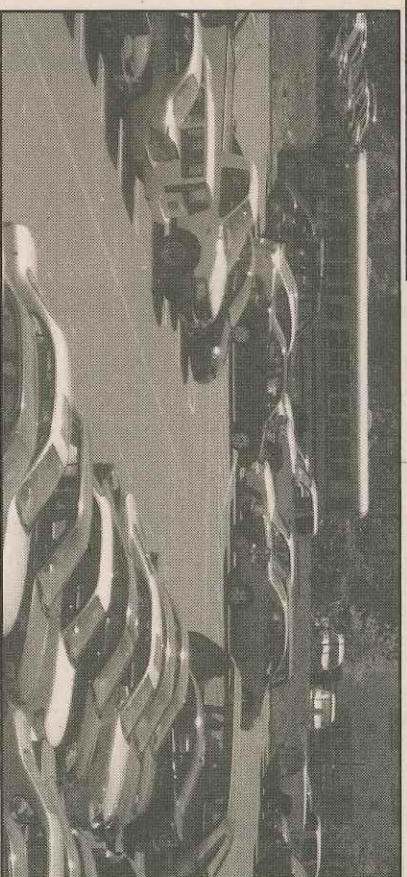
The enormous lot beside the school is the final destination for seniors and their cars. There are 273 spots available for students to purchase every year.

"At the beginning of the year we sold 250 spots but kept it as a senior privilege," said security specialist Mike Ukele. "There are still spots for sale."

The spots, which are only available to seniors, first become available for purchase in the late spring of their junior year. Each spot costs \$150, however, the cost drops \$38 each quarter.

"It is senior year and it is worth it," said senior Jessica Chang. "It is a privilege that I wanted regardless of the cost."

Although some may grumble about the high cost of one of the spots, the cost is set forth by the county, thus every senior in Fairfax County pays the same price for a coveted space. This year, a total of \$45,000 was collected from the sales of the senior spots. WS receives 15% of the total sales. This money is then put into "Mr. Ukele's security



Stephanie Maxwell
Juniors have the opportunity to purchase a parking spot for their senior year.

fund", which pays for radios, golf cart maintenance, elevator passes and anything else that is needed to ensure that the school security staff can operate both efficiently and effectively. The county uses their share of the money to maintain parking lots.

This year all of the spots were not sold. Even though there are empty

spaces, students without permits cannot park in them. The consequence of parking without a permit is a \$50 parking ticket, which must be paid in order to graduate.

"The seniors have been pretty good this year," said Ukele. "We have only had one accident before school in the morning."

La música de Español

Last month, Chilean musician Patricio Zamorano visited WS. He met with Spanish 4 students and spoke to them about his music career, and he even played some of his own compositions.

Michelle Plummer, a Spanish teacher who took her students to the assembly felt that the presentation was well worth their time.

"He was here to talk about some of the instruments and the history of Latin music," said Plummer. "It brought a lot of what the students were studying to life." The students, who attended the assembly had recently learned about Latin music and its cultural influences.

"It gave me better respect for different types of cultures," said senior, Scott Juhl. By listening to Zamorano's music student were able to see the differences in culture. The activity was interactive, with students asking questions they had written the day before in Spanish.

"He was really fast [speaking]," said junior Karen

Wong, "so he spoke as much English as the teachers would let him." But what he was saying was incomparable to the affect his music had on the students. By explaining what his compositions were about students got a better look at the Spanish culture and life style.

"He was really passionate," said Wong. Zamorano's intense passion for music was visible to the students despite the language barrier.

His passion extended beyond the school when he invited them to attend a free concert at the George Mason Patriot Center later that week.

With three different guitars he brought with him, Zamorano played many songs influenced from all over Latin America.



Michelle Plummer
Patricio Zamorano performs for Spanish students.

"All of the instruments came from different places," said Juhl. The guitars served as visuals for a look at the different cultures that span Latin America. Zamorano drew many of the instruments that he did not bring up on a board for the students to see what they looked like.

"It wasn't something we hear," said Wong referring to Zamorano's original compositions, "it was relaxing, not something you would hear on the radio."

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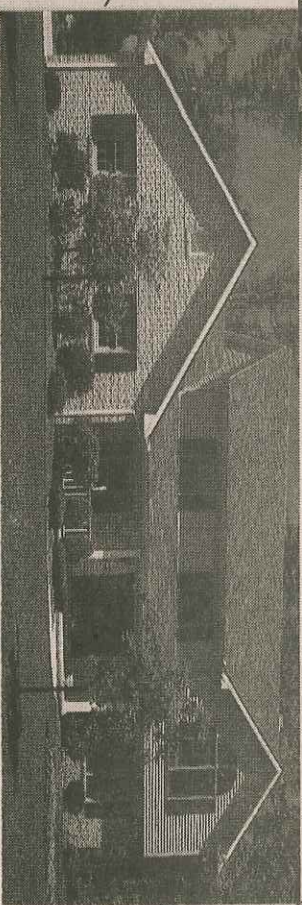
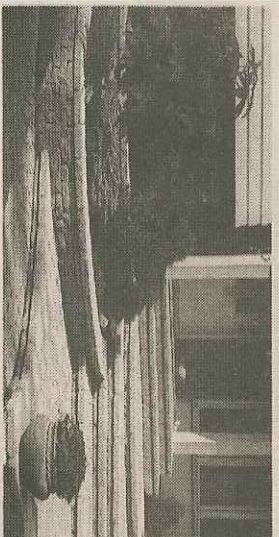
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Cappie Nominations

For the WJG production
of

Annie

Magie Legends

Cappie Nominations

David Woody, West Springfield, *Annie* (set)
Amber Barraclough, Anne Sloan, West Springfield, *Annie* (makeup)
Margaret Heine, Helen McCarthy, Ian Mahoney, Beca Pell, West Springfield, *Annie* (stage crew)
West Springfield Orchestra, West Springfield, *Annie* (Oracle)
Jasmine Mahboob, West Springfield, *Annie* (choreography)
Annie and the Six Main Orphan Girls, West Springfield, *Annie* (ensembles in musical)
Julie Frost, West Springfield, *Annie* (female vocalist)
Kelly Snow, West Springfield, *Annie* (male vocalist)
Sara Melnhof, West Springfield, *Annie* (featured actress in a musical)
It's a Hard Knock Life, West Springfield, *Annie* (song)
Annie, West Springfield (musical)

White House Fellows observe life at WS

By Erica Wink
Staff Writer

Three weeks ago White House Fellows visited WS to discuss education with students, teachers, parents and administrators in the Career Center during first block. The White House Fellows is a prestigious organization in which select men and women get the chance to learn more about the federal system.

It is a well known association that is very competitive to get into and enables for the build up of influential contacts. The organization consists of men and women from all across the country and from every profession. Men and women come to DC to work alongside a Cabinet member or senior presidential advisor.

"White House Fellows is a year long program based on leadership and public service at the Cabinet level," said Educational Director Page Archer.

The beginning of the visit consisted of a mini breakfast complete with a variety of bagels and juices. After introductions the White House Fellows began to ask questions of principal David Smith regarding the public school system in Fairfax County, specifically regarding WS.

"I think from the questions that they were asking, education was a very important topic for them as well as how to increase government and school cooperation," said counselor Mickey Campbell, who attended the visitation. "They seemed particularly interested in our views of how things worked."

Questions ranged from how WS keeps its teachers long term, federal testing, school expectations and competition among both public and private schools.

"It was inspiring," said senior Ian Smith. "They were all really motivated and you could tell they wanted to be there."

After the meeting, the Fellows got the chance to experience WS during break. Some went on hall duty with administrators while others got the chance to freely roam the halls in order to see the school *in action*.

"It was hard to be in the school building during a school day and not be teaching. It was especially hard to see Mrs. Bailey, whom I team taught with for several years—I miss her and it made me remember how much I enjoyed teaching with her," said Fellow Jocelyn Pickford, who used to teach English at WS and now works as a Special Assistant to the Commissioner of the IRS. "I saw several of the great students I've taught over the years, and that made me miss WS, too. It was definitely strange being a visitor, rather than a faculty member."

After break, the Fellows were able to sit in on classes. They also got the chance to meet with the Superintendent Jack D. Dale to talk about the No Child Left Behind Act and its overall effect on the schools.

"I'm glad that they got a chance to see our school," said Campbell. "Hopefully they can take what we said and help us at a higher level."

All they need is love

Virginia Tech students look to heal in the aftermath of massacre

TECH from Page 1.

have a hundred like that. I wish we had one every 10 feet," Mickey said. "She's what Blacksburg is like the other 364 days a year."

Wednesday, two days after the shootings, was one of those days that makes you fall in love with Blacksburg all over again. As a Virginia Tech student, I've enjoyed many such days where the sky is so blue you can see deep into the mountains, the breeze bold enough to tussle the blooming flowers and the weather just warm enough to throw on some flip-flops. On a hundred such days like this I found myself thinking about how lucky I am to be a student at Virginia Tech. It is a sort of stupid truth, a brutal cliché until you realize that a good portion of the world would crawl over broken glass to get their face on a student ID like mine.

But last month I couldn't feel lucky. My sanctuary, my refuge, my life had been breached in a violent, horrific, incomprehensible way. Inside me there was a hole the size of Lane Stadium and no number of Facebook messages, visits from President Bush or lit candles would suffice in righting me, in allowing me to think about anything Hokie without choking up. I set out walking around campus because, well, it was something to do.

I will never forget that walk because it touched so much of this experience. The empty halls in my dorm room. The memorials. The stunned disbelief on everyone's face. The media. The police tape around Norris. The deep silence. And everywhere the maroon and orange, the pride of a community.

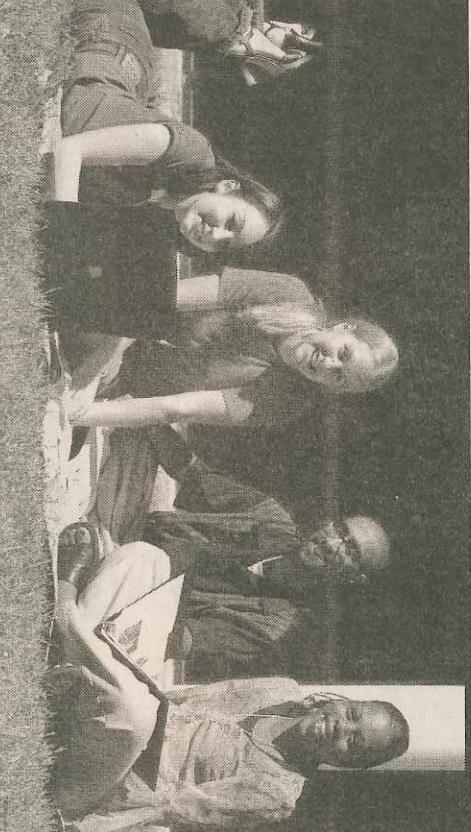
It is in talking to people like Cass and Mickey that I feel built up again. They are, like most of us, not heroes in the typical sense. They did not throw themselves over a doorway or storm a building or render medical aid to those in need. They offered their only commodity, their most precious commodity: the gift of themselves, the gift of their time.

"This goes beyond any religious or spiritual boundaries. This is about the human heart and we need to heal right now," Cass said. "We just need to do for each other what we can. If we all do what we can when we can, then no need ever goes unmet, nothing ever goes undone."

Rise up, Hokie Nation. For together no need will go unmet, no work undone. *David Grant was a student journalist at WS from 2001 to 2003. He currently is a sophomore at Virginia Tech, and a staff member of The Collegiate Times, Virginia Tech's campus newspaper.*

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New 'Classic Movie Club' reels in students

By Becky Cyser
Forum Editor

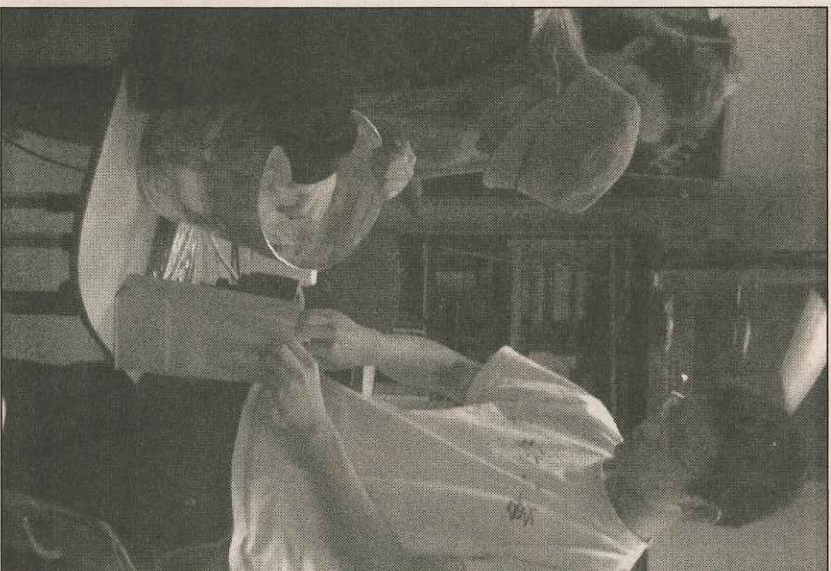
Two students have come up with the solution to the stresses and aggravations of high school: sit around, eat popcorn and watch movies.

Government teacher John Thorson and seniors Amber Barracough and Karin Dahl were involved in a long discussion about classic movies, which led them to create WS's first Classic Movie Club.

"We were debating that there aren't a lot of great movies anymore," said Thorson.

After Dahl expressed interest in this subject, Thorson turned it over to her and she got paperwork and signatures to form a club. At their first meeting, a group of about 30 people gathered to watch American Film Institute's number one greatest movie of all time "Citizen Kane". The following week, about ten showed up to watch AFI's number two movie "Casablanca".

"At our first meeting we passed around a sign up sheet," said Dahl, "We are very open to suggestions."



Courtesy of Allison Campbell

German exchange students spent two weeks with WS student hosts and attended various Homecoming festivities.

2001 Grad rides with a purpose

BIKE from Page 1.

idea of someone traveling in order to get somewhere. The idea of a journey and that just seemed to me almost logical to go on a quest."

Along the way, Landfair is appearing in over 70 venues including coffee houses, restaurants and bars, telling people his adventure. In order to keep his audiences entertained, Landfair tells his stories almost as though he were performing. From place to place, reactions to his unique tale vary.

"Responses usually are almost always positive but it really depends," said Landfair. "It depends but most people are shocked."

For Landfair, one of the most inspirational and eye-opening stops along his trip was in the hurricane-battered regions of the Gulf Coast. "Coming from the WS

area full of the upper-middle class, when people told me in social studies or government class America was equal and full of opportunities I believed it," said Landfair. "I got to New Orleans and it was shocking how untrue it was and there was a race issue and there was a poverty issue there."

The road Landfair has come in contact with (literally) has not always been gentle. While traveling in New Mexico on a rainy day in April, Landfair crashed his motorcycle.

"[The accident] wasn't as painful as I would have thought," said Landfair. "I was more surprised of the guy who got out of the truck. I didn't know there were real cowboys. But it was weird. During [the crash] time slows down and you see things much more clearly. The adrenaline was so great

that I thought maybe I'd broken a leg. I was constantly looking for bruises but I was really lucky."

Landfair's journey is interesting enough, but what people may find more appealing is that there's a \$3000 gift he's offering to anyone who applies on his free website in the Dollar and a Dream Giveaway. For a man who has gotten tired of nearly everything, agreeing to sign over a \$3,000 blank check may seem a little odd, but for Landfair, it was the logical thing to do.

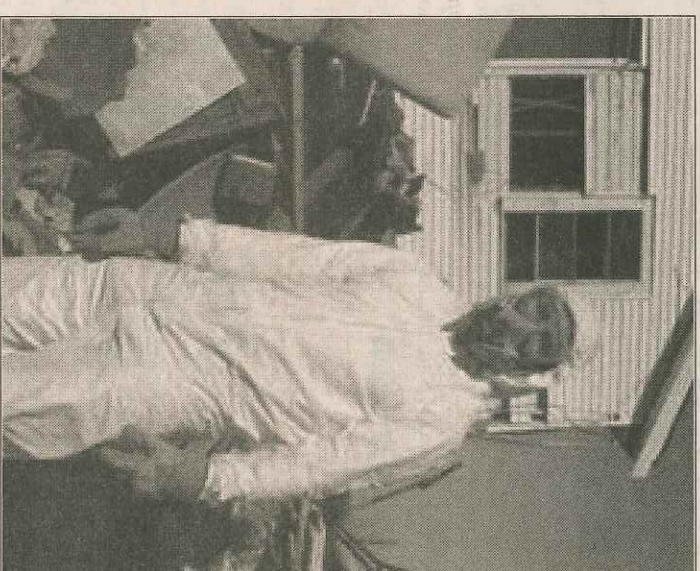
"I just thought that someone had given me a certain amount of money to start off with [his friend gave Landfair a car which he sold to jumpstart his journey] so I should pay-forward my good fortune," said Landfair. "I was in NYC in a homeless shelter when I decided to do this... I

wanted to see what people would do with \$3000. Would they do something worthwhile or spend it on like booze and cigarettes. I also wanted to see if it bothered me just giving away the money. Maybe I could do it no strings attached without being concerned with how it was spent."

Following the theme of not caring how the money is used, Landfair is looking to personally select any person to give the money away to, meaning there are no specifications for applying.

"I'll give the money to anyone who might want \$3,000," said Landfair, "but I would prefer for it to be a young person."

Even though Landfair is giving away money, no questions asked, he does not accept charity. "My mom and dad want to pay for stuff," said Landfair. "That's like



Woodrow Landfair

'01 grad Woodrow Landfair helps repair houses damaged from Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi. a vacation. They just don't understand that a career like this could take years to develop and I can't be living off them for that long."

Though the journey is difficult, Landfair savors his time on the road. "I'm loving every minute of it," said Landfair.

Sun comes out for spring play

ANNIE from Page 1.

an aspect of Annie that was unlike any performance from years past. Through donations and PTSA funding WS acquired several new wireless mics which improved the quality of sound tremendously. In addition to the new mics, the crew played a vital role in the positive outcome.

"You can't put on a good show without awesome techies- and ours are the best", said Junior Kelly Snow, who played the part of Mr. Warbucks.

According to senior, techie Helen McCarthy the backstage crew, some of whom had never been a part of a theater production, took on some of the most influential and crucial roles in the play's production.

"Scene changes were immense", said McCarthy. Ten seconds was the allotted time the techies had to completely alter the environment on the stage working at stealthy speeds the 18 grips, described by McCarthy as ninjas saved the show at one point on the Saturday afternoon performance.

"No one realizes the chaos and turbo speed going on back stage" said Drama Teacher Mary Jo Levesque. The respect the actors and techies had for one another helped the show blossom into a wonderfully entertaining musical. The dedicated cast delightfully surprised many, with their robust voices that some say were meant specifically for their role.

"Julie was amazing, she was basically born to be Annie", said junior Chelsea Reba, who played an orphan in the show. The supportive cast members motivated and admired each other throughout the whole play.

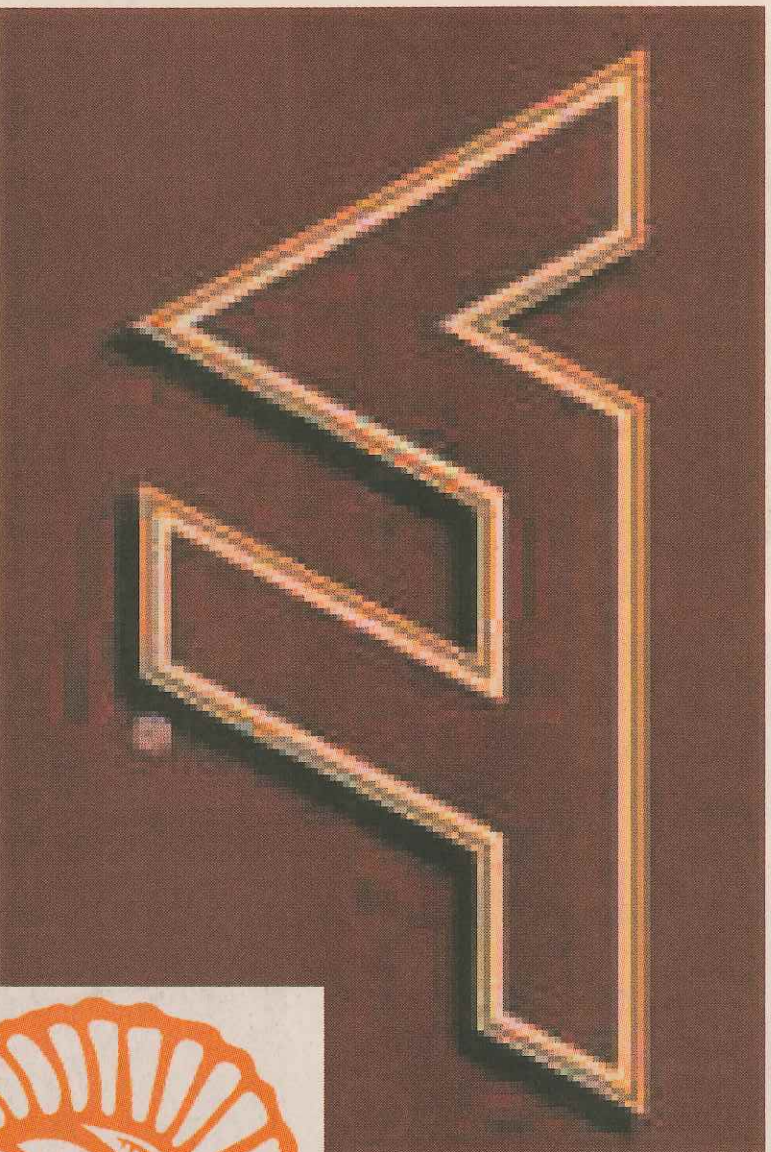
"Julie Frost is one of the most talented people I've ever met", said Snow.

The consensus of the shows success varied among many; however the overall opinion of one techie behind the scenes was that of great admiration. "It was stupendous", said senior techie Ian Mahoney.



Mary Jo Levesque

The WS production of Annie has senior Julie Frost and Junior Kelly Snow playing opposite each other.



Coverage



Media gets mixed reviews

Coverage of VA Tech tragedy both fascinates and repels

By **Chrissy Regelski**
Oracle Editor

On April 16, WS woke up to the Weather Channel predicting 60 mph winds. Then, the FCPS web site posted the welcome surprise: Students are going to be released three hours early.

That was the end of the good news the media had for us. As students hopped on their sofas, ready to watch TV and take advantage of the early release, they found regular programming interrupted. At 9:45 a.m., an unknown gunman had gone on a shooting spree at Virginia Tech. Web sites, like Facebook, were flooded with "I'm OK." A cell phone video that captured the sounds of gunshots played on every news station. Reporters rushed to the ailing Blacksburg to get answers from any person they could. Virginia and the rest of the nation wanted to look away as the death count rose higher and higher- but they couldn't.

But even after all this, we wanted more. We wanted answers. We wanted to know the names of the victims and who was to blame for this massacre. So, the media gave it to us.

Every angle, every scoop, every bit of information was squeezed out of the tragedy that week—we even knew what the gunman's house looked like and where his sister went to college. Most importantly and most controversially, however, we saw the photos and video the gunman made and mailed to NBC shortly before his second shooting, depicting violent images and his own bitter, horrifying hatred of the world.

The media's effect on the shooter is also being investigated as similarities are being drawn between the VT shooter's video and the Columbine High School shooting which was highly publicized and repeatedly aired when the incident occurred almost exactly eight years ago. Virginia Tech Communica-

tions Professor Paul Harrill also found that some of the shooter's poses in his photos parallel scenes in the bloody revenge film "Oldboy."

The airing of these photos and video sparked a huge debate over the role of the media and its limits.

"I was actually glad I got to put a name to the blame, to the shame of the whole event, and then a face to that name so that at least I could focus on the enemy here," said Holly Adams, the mother of victim and '05 WS graduate Leslie Sherman, on "Oprah." "People have a tendency to blame themselves- you know 'We didn't do enough. We weren't good parents.' That's not the case. The case is that there was one sick individual, and I was glad to be able to identify that individual."

Leslie's father, Tony Sherman, has a different opinion and believes that the news should focus less on the shooter and more "on [his] daughter and her achievements and those of all the other kids" who died at Virginia Tech.

BC News President Steve Capus stands by his network's decision to air the material because the station allowed the police to review the material beforehand and the network used discretion in what portions to show.

"I would [make the same decision again] because I believe it was newsworthy and I believe we handled it with as much sensitivity as we possibly could," said Capus on "Oprah." "But just as when we lost President Kennedy, we didn't diminish any of that pain or the loss by knowing who Lee Harvey Oswald was."

The victims of the Virginia Tech massacre were also, rightly, subjects of the mass media attention. Therefore, since it lost a beloved former student, WS was brought into the public eye by many media outlets, including Channel 9 by reporter Peggy Fox, who is both a WS and Virginia Tech graduate.

"In general, I thought that the media coverage at WS was both appropriate and not intrusive," said Tim Hogan, father of a WS senior. Hogan, who knew Sherman, was interviewed by Channel 4 and approached by Channel 7 and *The Springfield Connection*.

"They had to walk a fine line in reporting such a sensitive story. It was apparent to me that they wanted to accentuate the positive aspects of each victim while not getting in the way," said Hogan. Having had some radio news training while a student at VT, I understood the need for the story to be reported, and also understood the feelings of the students and those who lost loved ones."

Though criticized by some for their coverage of the shooter, the media helped ease the suffering of those connected to the Tech tragedy and joined the nation together. After learning of the event, universities across the nation have started working to create more efficient safety communication systems and have sent hundreds of support letters to Virginia Tech, all posted on VT's website. All previous affiliations were set aside, as photos of candlelight vigils across the country and the rival University of Virginia's "Hoos for Hokies" sign replaced the shooter's haunting images. Web sites and newspapers posted and printed lists of events and services for those who sought counseling or a place to join others in remembrance. The media reassured the nation that action was being taken and comforted the victims' families, who saw thousands of strangers praying for their loved ones.

"This was a horrible tragedy for America," said Capus. "That's the bottom line of all of it. There's no question about it."

Facebook News Fee

TE Virginia Tech added a new event 7:15 am At the West Ambler Johnston dorm a gunman, Virginia Tech senior Seung-Hi Cho, enters a room firing two shots and killing two students. Police assumed that this was an isolated, domestic incident.

TE Seung-Hi Cho added a new event 9:00 am Cho used the campus post office to send video to NBC News which included shots of his rambling, hateful rants against his surroundings.

TE Virginia Tech made a new post 9:26 am "Shooter on campus...university community is urged to be cautious."

TE Virginia Tech added a new event 9:45 am Virginia Tech police receive notice from students that the gunman had now entered Norris Hall, an engineering building. Teachers and students are killed at random "I was just thinking, like, there's no way I'm going to survive this," said Trey Perkins, 21 who was in German class when Cho entered and began shooting.

TE Virginia Tech made a new post 9:50 am University sends out second email, which tells students to "please stay put...a gunman is loose on campus."

TE Virginia Tech made a new post 10:16 am Third e-mail sent out to students, cancelling classes for the remainder of the day. The campus is closed to students trying to enter

TE Virginia Tech made a new post 10:52 am Fourth and final e-mail delivered, formally announcing the second shooting. Police begin looking for a second shooter as a standard procedure.

TE Virginia Tech wrote a note 10:55 am First reports indicate that 22 people are now dead, with many more wounded. As time passes, the number killed continues to escalate. "He was just shooting to kill," said Joseph Cacioppo, an ER physician at a local hospital.

TE Charles Steger wrote on his wall 12:15 pm At a news conference, University president Charles Steger releases a statement saying "The University was struck today with a tragedy of monumental proportions."

TE West Springfield added new photos to the album Virginia Tech 12:15 pm



TE 1,315 of your friends joined the Run for Leslie group 12:15 pm

TE All of your friends changed their profile pictures 3:30 PM



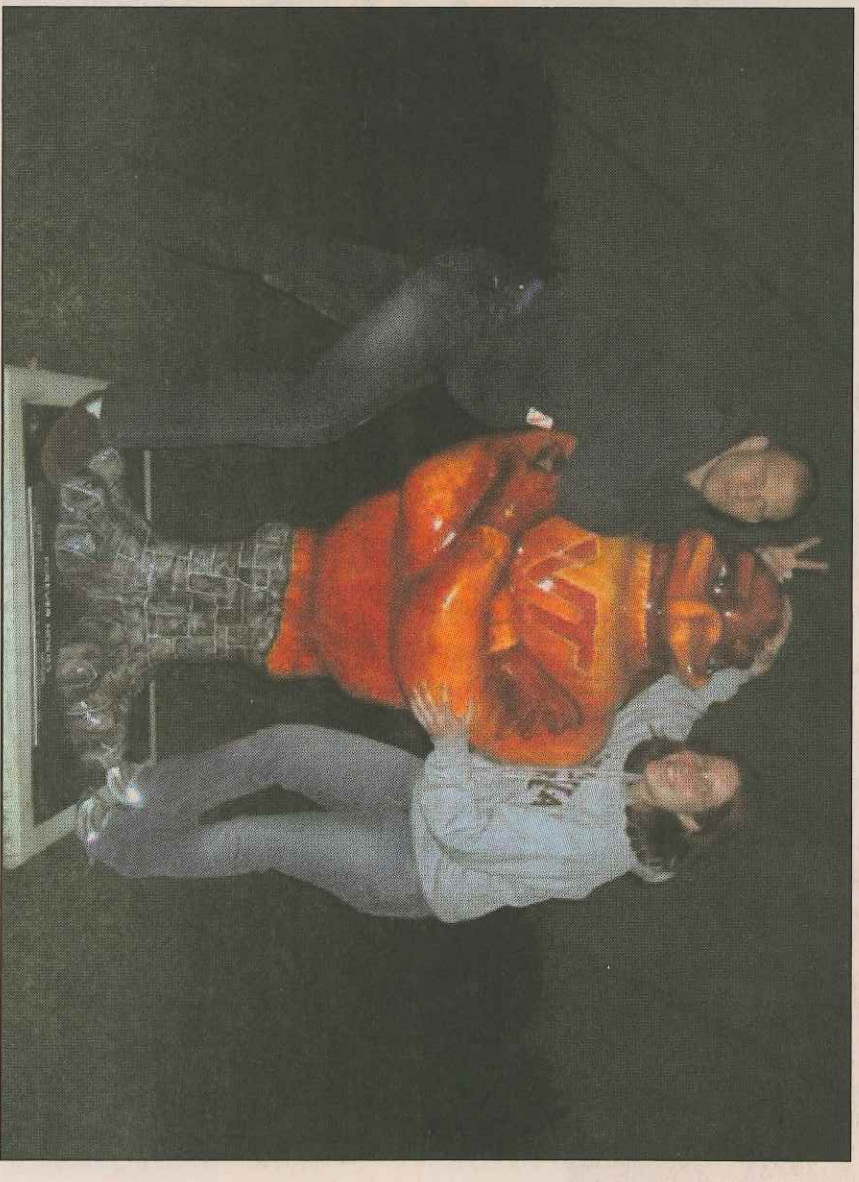
TE Virginia Tech is in mourning 4:30 pm Steger and Virginia Tech police Chief Wendell Flinchum confirm that 33 people died in the school shooting tragedy, including Cho, making this incident the largest shooting in US history.

—Compiled by Libby Bursie

me 'A a Hokkie today...'

—A Facebook group formed April 16

A lone gunman on the campus of Virginia Tech changed the way we feel—about others, and about ourselves. Technology and the media changed the way we keep in touch with the ones we care about.



Rochelle Ko
Hokies Brian Decot, WS 2006, and Leslie Sherman, WS 2005, clown around with the Hokie mascot during Decot's first weeks on campus. Sherman died in her French classroom April 16, one of 32 victims on the Virginia Tech campus. The Oracle received this photo from WS alum Rochelle Ko—courtesy of Facebook.

Connections

When all else fails, write on my wall

By Christina Sohn
Managing Editor

Last May, I let out an internal sigh when I saw that the third free-response question to the AP English Language exam dealt with technology and democratic ideals.

I was not much of an online user back then and the thought of writing an on-the-spot analytical essay about anything to do with government made my soul deteriorate a bit. I somehow managed to scribble down my last timed essay for junior year and then gladly shelved one more standardized test into the deep cellars of my memory.

But I soon realized that there was no escaping the impact of technology, not even while taking an English exam. Even though I had successfully resisted any urge to create a MySpace account, in my senior year, I was somehow suckered into entering the world of Facebook (I think the mantra, "Everyone is doing it," flashed through my head a couple of times during my not-so-complex decision-making process).

Facebook is a formidable distraction for any student infected with senioritis, or any other disease associated with procrastination and a carefree attitude. Members can write on others' "walls" or join groups whose subjects range from human rights in developing countries to favorite TV shows.

Each person's homepage, or "news feed," shows

friends' status updates, photos and wall posts, among other things.

It's a simple Web site, yet the interconnectedness is sometimes astounding. It is a way to keep in touch with people that you may not have otherwise ever seen again. Even people from different networks can find that they hold common interests; more than 200,000 Facebookers have joined the group, "I Will Go Slightly Out of My Way To Step On That Crunchy-Looking Leaf." Some students have even created groups to rally support for their campaigns for student office.

This new world that can only be seen through the computer screen is an advancement that is unique to our generation. Therefore, it should be no surprise that in times of hardship,

Facebook is a way for young people to share their emotions, exchange information and connect with those who feel the same way as they do.

Not long after news of the shootings at Virginia Tech were broadcast in the media, Facebook users made and joined groups with titles such as "April 16—A Moment of Silence," "VT Unite" and "I feel safe at Virginia Tech."

VT students let friends and family know they were safe from the shootings by writing wall posts or joining the group, "I'm OK at VT." More than 600 people joined the group "Rest In Peace, Leslie Sherman" to remember the lost WS graduate.

Members from more than 100 different networks changed their profile pictures to a black ribbon, showing their support and solidarity for the university. Groups' discussion boards showed the great freedom with which Facebookers could express their opinions.

Instead of feeling sorry for the maniac who went out and killed 32 innocent people, how about we try to befriend the people who are out there now who need a friend [and] have not murdered people," said Stuart Kohl of Central Michigan University on a "April 16, 2007—Moment of Silence" discussion board.

In a wall post on the group, "I feel safe at VT," '09 VT student Christopher Wolfe comments the group creator's message.

"I don't know you man, but I dig your groove," writes Wolfe. "It is horrible that one person's mental illness was able to rob us of our friends and fellow Hokies, but I will not let it rob me of how I feel about this school. Virginia Tech is, was, and always will be a safe place... This Hokie mourns but is not afraid."

On those late nights when I somehow end up on Facebook instead of finishing homework, I start to lament the distraction Facebook provides. But these past few weeks I have realized that it would inaccurate be to classify Facebook as merely an interesting distraction. It is now an extension of our lives and way by which the world is brought even closer together.

Cafeteria capers caused by students' stealing

By Libby Bursley
Oracle Editor

After adding a new food line to the cafeteria, watching for students stealing food has become more of a problem for the workers there.

"[Stealing] is an issue," said Trish Kidwell, the kitchen manager. "Usually they take cheeseburgers and chicken fillets, but some kids have stuck pizza in their pockets."

After previous incidents with students taking food without paying, Kidwell, along with the servers and cashiers, have become more alert while students go through the lines. They try to deter stealing by keeping a near-constant watch over the food. New tactics for stealing, however, have been adopted because of these measures.

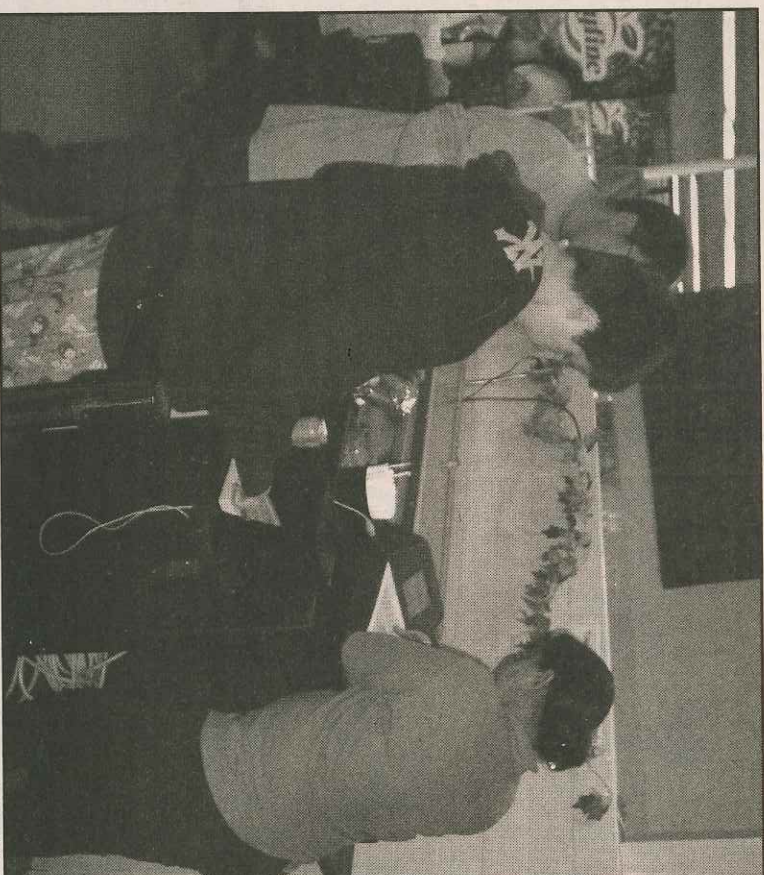
"My cashiers are really good about watching, but the kids will plan it and watch me, so that I can't watch them," said Kidwell.

Students may view taking food from the cafeteria as insignificant, but Kidwell estimates that the school has lost money from the pilfering. Also, the punishments for this crime can be unexpectedly severe.

"There are a whole range of punishments for when we catch kids stealing," said Assistant Principal Richard Griffin. "It can be anywhere from a detention, cleaning the cafeteria, suspension, or just telling kids to pay it back. We always contact the parents about it. But most students don't know that we can press charges against them for stealing. It's petty larceny."

Deciding on a punishment for specific students is the job of the assistant principals and usually is based on the student's record.

"If it is a student's first time and he shows us regret, then we have more leniency," said Griffin. "All four assistant principals meet when it happens and talk about because we want to try and be equal."



Most students buy their lunches from the school cafeteria (above). Some students, however, break the law and cost the school money by stealing food.

Colin Embrey

Griffin admits that even though stealing is a problem, students who have stolen before from the cafeteria have not become repeat offenders.

"We have 2,200 kids in our school, and we trust them," said Griffin. "But we can't trust all of them, because one or two will steal."

David Harris- 'Just Tae Kwon Do it!'

By Erica Wink

Staff Writer

Everyone has a passion and for Freshman David Harris, it is Tae Kwon Do. Harris began taking Tae Kwon Do lessons five years ago when he lived in Korea. He now takes lessons as well as teaching at Springfield Mall.

"I became interested after watching movies that dealt with different forms of it," said Harris. "My parents took it many years ago, and so did many [other] people in my family."

After Harris expressed his interest in Tae Kwon Do, his parents suggested that he start taking lessons.

"My parents said that it would be good for me so I agreed to try it out," said Harris, "and I have not regretted it at all."

Tae Kwon Do takes hard work and dedication and can sometime conflict with schedules.



David Harris is one of the many members of his family who have also been involved in Tae Kwon Do.

Courtesy of David Harris

Cheap is now the new chicque

By Carlin Sherrill

Weekend Editor

At her locker, a girl wears a Hollister tank top and shirt, as well as American Eagle jeans. Around the corner, a guy is wearing a Ralph Lauren polo and matching plaid shorts. This is the normal scene of clothing in high school.

A desire to be different is wanted by many students and the various secondhand clothing stores around Fairfax are the perfect answer. Cheap, vintage clothing litter the stores, making it nearly impossible not to find something.

"[Thrift stores] have more interesting clothing and I can find something that nobody else has. Most of the clothes

are from the 60s, which people think is lame. But I think of it as original," said sophomore Cooper Millholland.

Millholland loves to find new thrift stores around the area, including a newly discovered store, Yesterday's Rose.

"I got these new satin pink pumps for four dollars, they are amazing," said Millholland.

Money is the main reason that draws attention to the thrift stores. Salvation Army and Goodwill, two main secondhand stores, carry inexpensive vintage clothing, as well as name-brands, such as Abercrombie and Hollister.

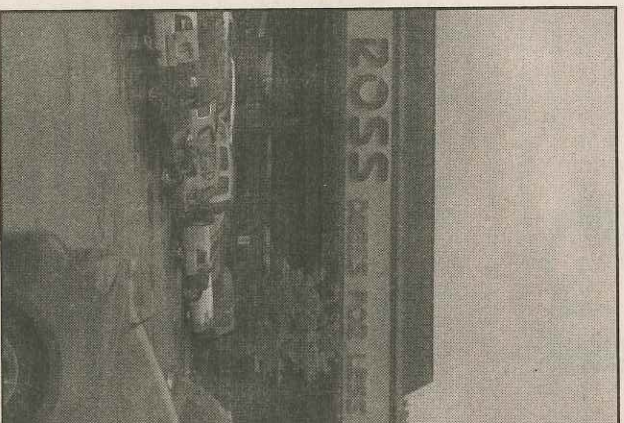
"Shopping at the mall is too expensive," said junior Molly Gross. "At thrift stores I get more for my money and I can buy unique clothes that I can stand out in."

Gross thinks that people are judgemental of clothing from vintage thrift stores.

"People don't know that you can find interesting clothes at thrift stores, just like you can at malls," said Gross.

One thing that draws people away from secondhand stores is the time that is needed in order to find clothing. An entire afternoon is usually needed in order to look through rack after rack of the packed stores. The most important tip to going thrift store shopping is be willing to look through every article of clothing to find the right outfits.

"The key is to be open-minded," said Millholland. "Everything you find it cheap, so do not worry about going crazy and buying tons of clothing."



Sarah Koell

Ross and TJ Maxx are popular stores that students look up to for saving money and keeping it stylish.

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VACATION

Senior life is a beach

By Sunnie Ko
Senior Staff Writer

Senior year comes several official senior perks; leaving three minutes early on Fridays, parking in the senior parking lot and always winning the spirit stick. Senior year also provides some un-official perks such as Beach week.

Beach week is a time for newly graduated students to spend time together away from Springfield and celebrate their four years of high school with friends. Although there are no rules written down that Beach Week is specifically for seniors, it has traditionally always been that way.

At WS, Myrtle Beach is a popular spot for Seniors to spend their first official week off of school.

"We're going to Myrtle Beach," said senior Noah Burton. "Everyone is going there."

Many seniors along with Burton are headed to Myrtle this summer. They have been planning the trip months in advance because of the demand of houses.

"We've been planning since December," said Burton. "There are 13 of us and it's going to cost over \$300 a person for the house."

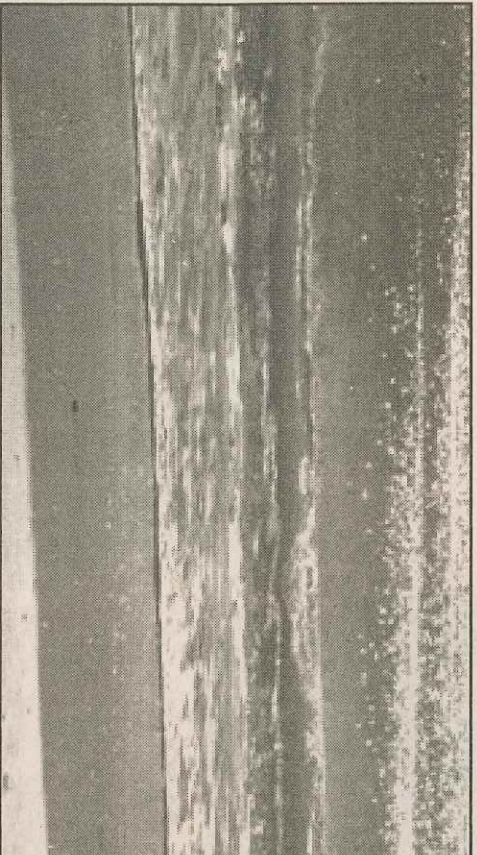
Eric Rodsa is also in a group going to Myrtle Beach. However, Rodsa plans to stay in a hotel away from the beach rather than a rented house.

"We started planning really late," said Rodsa. "All the houses are taken and hotels are the only things left."

Beach week is not in every senior's summer agenda, whether it is a personal choice or insisted on by parents.

"My mom wouldn't let me go. She had heard stories of what goes on there and decided not to let me go."

—Colleen O'Connell, senior



Myrtle Beach gallery
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina is an infamous spot for Beach Week. It is one of the only beaches that will rent out houses and apartments to unrelated groups.

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Senior Colleen O'Connell is one student who does not plan to attend Beach week, but not voluntarily.

"My mom wouldn't let me go," said O'Connell. "She had heard stories of what goes on there and just decided to not let me go."

O'Connell was upset at first at her mom's decision, but now has decided it is in her best interest.

"I don't care anymore. I can do other things, and still have fun."

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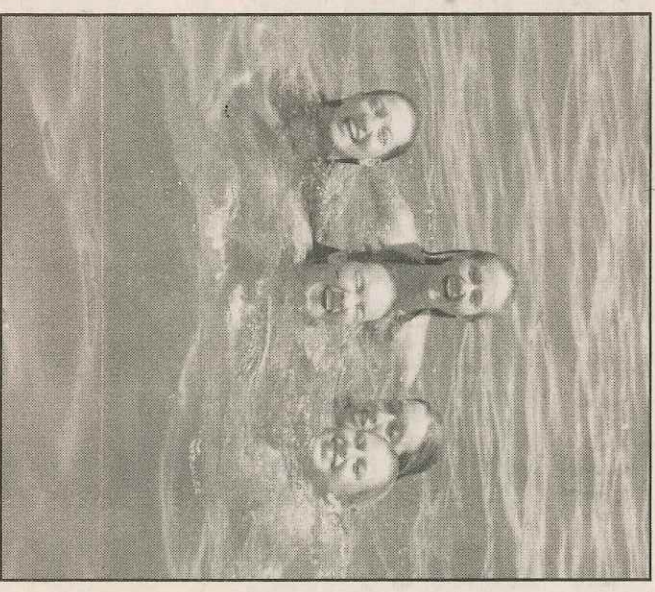
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Erica Wilkening
WS graduates Erica Wilkening, Chelsea Moore, Liz Weidertold, Carrie DeClark and Leah Yanatta do their own version of beach week in Anna Maria Island, Florida.

Various seniors throughout WS have made different plans for the summer.

"I'm going to Seattle," said senior Andrew Ferraro. "I guess it's a graduation present, I don't mind at all that I'm not going to Beach Week."

Ferraro plans on vacationing to the beach at some point during the summer.

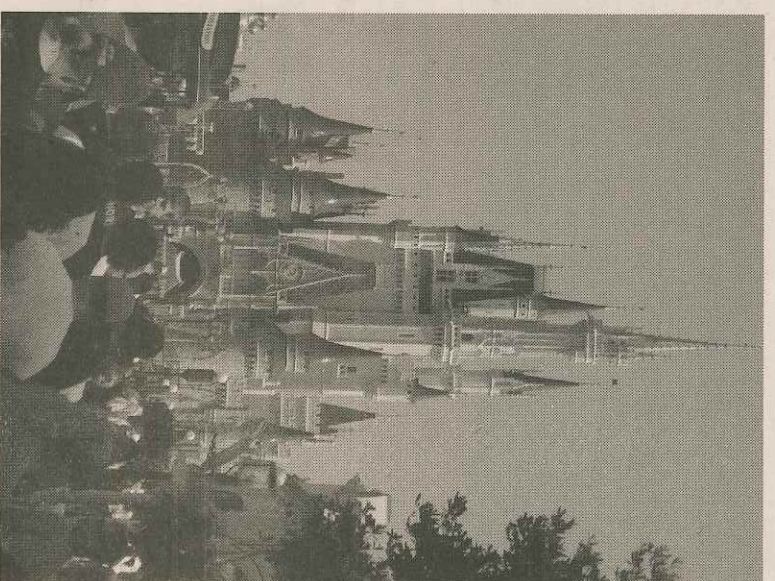
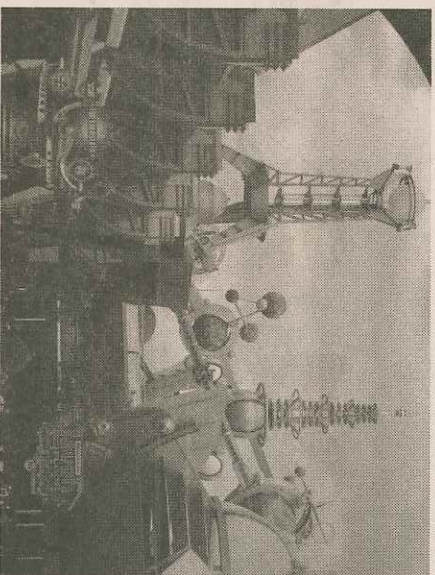
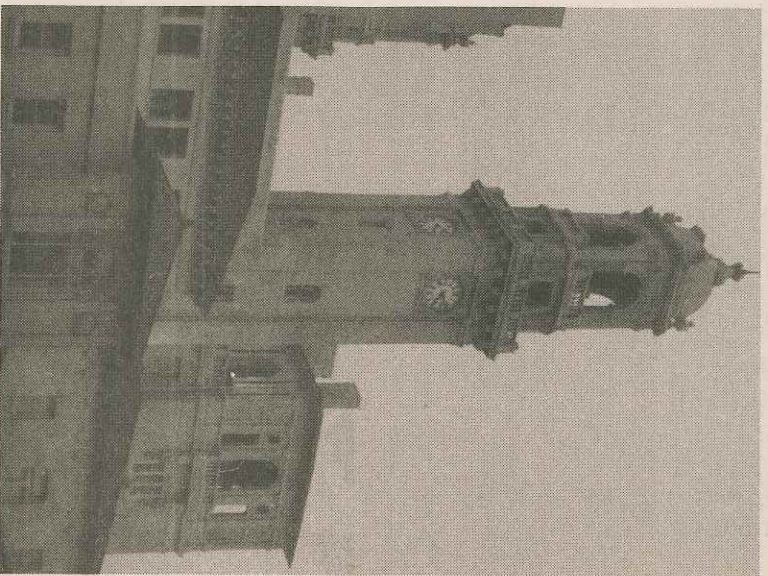
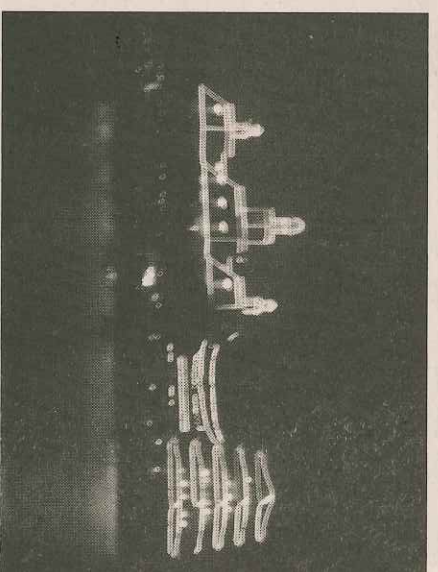
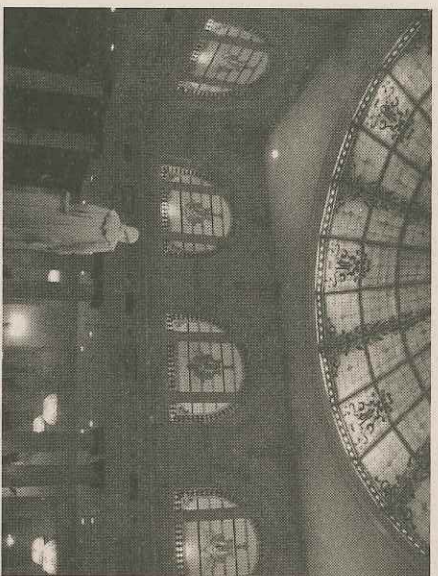
Senior Julie Lukeman plans to go to Florida, but not for "Beach Week."

"One of my friends and I are driving down to Florida," said Lukeman. "I never really wanted to go to Beach week."

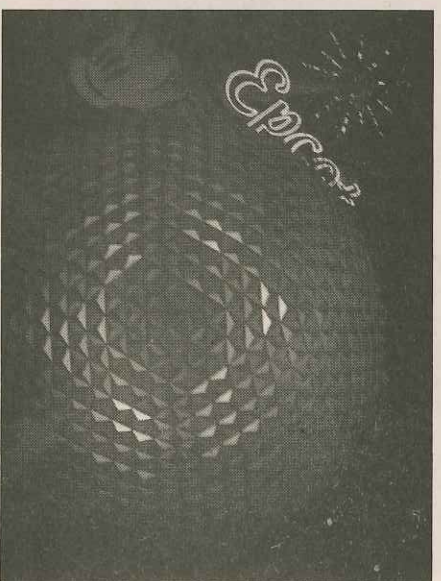
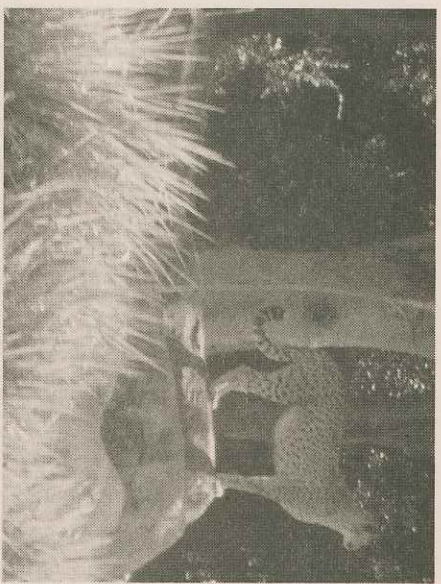
Beach Week is something underclass students frequently look forward to. Now it seems as if the tradition has changed slightly.

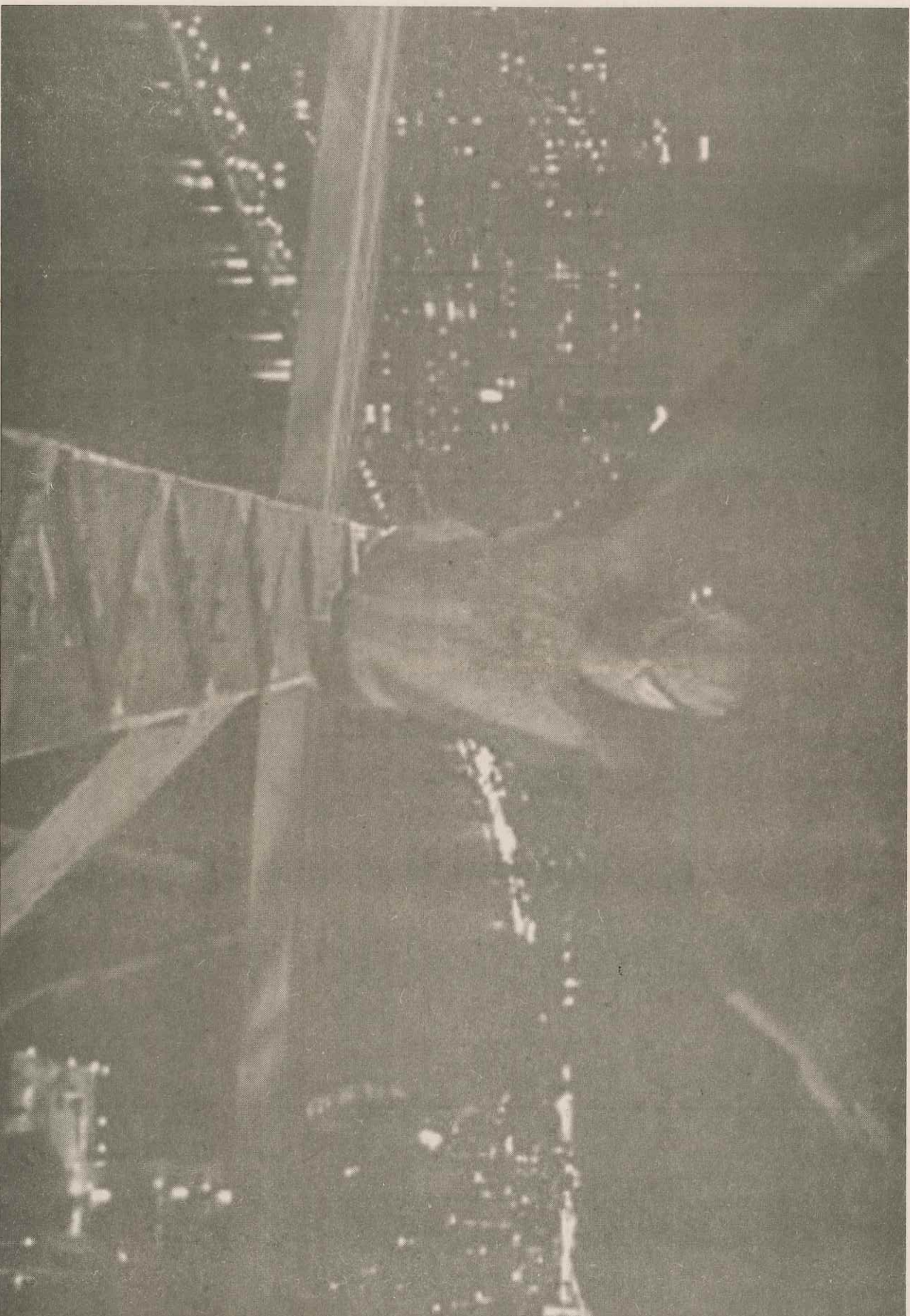
"You make a group of friends through high school," said Lukeman. "I don't want to go [to Beach Week] if none of my friends are going."

By Molly Cushing



Oh, the places I have gone.....





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Rowing to victory

Girls varsity crew boat floats toward states and nationals

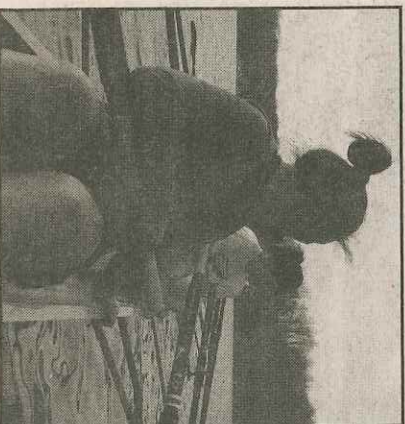
By Ariane Irvine
Staff Writer

The girl's crew team came in a close second to Robinson on April 21, continuing a remarkable season and only strengthening their will to win.

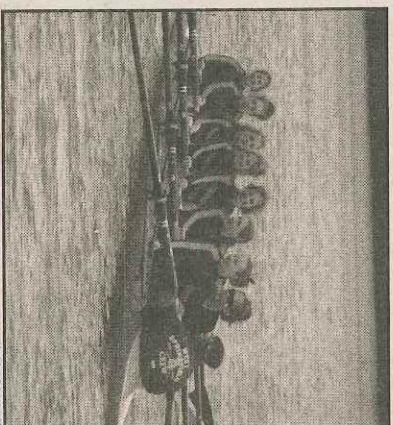
"We're not quite done yet, but we're doing well," said senior Caroline Rahl, varsity boat captain. "I cut Robinson's picture out of the sports section and I'm going to show it to the team and be like, 'This is who we need to beat.'"

The team has done better in competition than they did last year, winning ribbons in each of their races and beating their times.

"We're doing really well. We're hopefully looking for a states medal," said senior Joanne Carey. "We're not as big as some of the other girls, but we're working harder."



Joanne Carey
The girl's varsity crew boat takes a break from practice.



Bob Sherrill
At St. Andrew's Prep School in Delaware, the girl's team warms up for a regatta.

What most members of the team attribute their success to this year is the 2 to 2.5 hours a day that they spend practicing.

"We practice every day except for Sundays, and Saturdays are races," said junior Kelly Hill.

Some members of the team, however, had been concerned that they aren't practicing more.

"I think we're doing considerably well, considering we didn't have two practices a day over [spring] break," said sophomore Ally Gibson.

With the type of season they're having, no team member thinks that they won't get a medal at States.

"I'm hoping to place first, second, or third. I think if we work hard, we can place wherever we want to," said Rahl. "I'm confident that we're going to go to nationals."

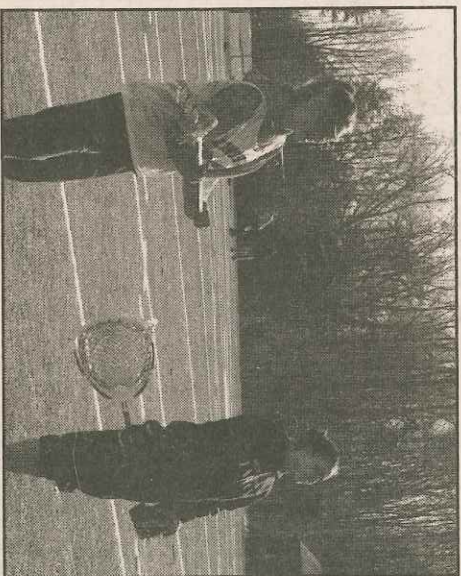
Girls lacrosse throws down on the district competition

Varsity team continues unbeaten streak into postseason

By Cam Rushton
Sports Editor

During each sports season, a single team dominates the headlines more than most. In the fall, it was the boy's cross country team winning districts, and in the winter, the boy's varsity basketball team competing at the Patriot Center. This year's spring season has produced a girl's varsity lacrosse team that is quickly gaining the school-wide recognition they deserve.

According to laxpower.com, the girl's team is ranked second in the state of Virginia, only behind Oakton High School. With an undefeated 13-0 record, the team has proven themselves as a powerhouse in not only the Patriot District, but also the state as well.



Amy McGee

Sophomore midfielder Rachel Tomlinson and senior goalie Alex Flammia wait for instructions from coach Brian Puhlick during practice.

"The fact that we have so many seniors means we have experience," said junior attack Tory Generazio. "Plus, we mesh really well."

The returning varsity girls believe their prospects look better this year than they have in past seasons. Last year, the team finished the regular season strong with a 9-2 record, only to suffer two devastating losses

"The coaches want to win so bad that we work even harder at practice."

—Tory Generazio, junior

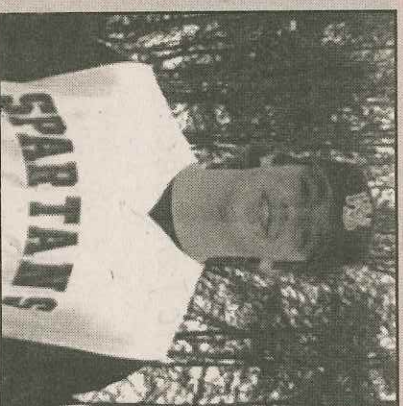
to Annandale in the district tournament and Woodson in the region tournament. However, both the coaches and the team are looking past the shocking end to the 2005-2006 season and instead towards the future.

"We've played most of our hard regular season games, but we still don't do anything different," said sophomore midfielder Rachel Tomlinson.

In each of the girls' ten games this season, they have scored at least ten points or more, and have not allowed opponents to score more than eight. Much of Coach Brian Puhlick's philosophy for the team is preparation.

"The coaches want to win so bad that we work even harder at practice," said Generazio.

Many of the girls participated in off-season training, and the team traveled to Florida for spring break to compete against teams from across the nation. While in Florida, the team went undefeated against several teams, including a 17-0 win over a high school from New York. The wins in the Sunshine State



Spartan Spotlight: Charlie Morgan Freshman, JV Baseball

By Aaron Snow
Staff Writer

What do you enjoy about being on the JV Baseball Team?

I just like to play baseball in general especially getting to play every day.

How long have you been playing baseball?

I've been playing since I was four.

Do you hope to play varsity someday?

It doesn't really matter as long as I get to play. I'm playing now but I want to make varsity next year.

Were you disappointed to not make varsity this year?

No, I'm a freshman and they don't take freshman on varsity, I don't care as long as I play.

How is the JV team preparing you for varsity?

It's basically like developmental, and

varsity is more serious it prepares you because it's developmental.

What do you like the most about baseball?

I like hitting. I like hitting bombs.

Do you hope to play in college someday?

I'm going to try, I would love to play for Auburn or USC.

What is your favorite baseball team?

The Nationals because they're from around here.

What is the hardest part of playing baseball?

Hand eye coordination that it takes to hit a ball because it could be a curveball, it could be a fastball. You've got to read it out of the pitchers hand. You've got to react.

What do you least enjoy about being on the team?

Conditioning, we do triangles and sprints

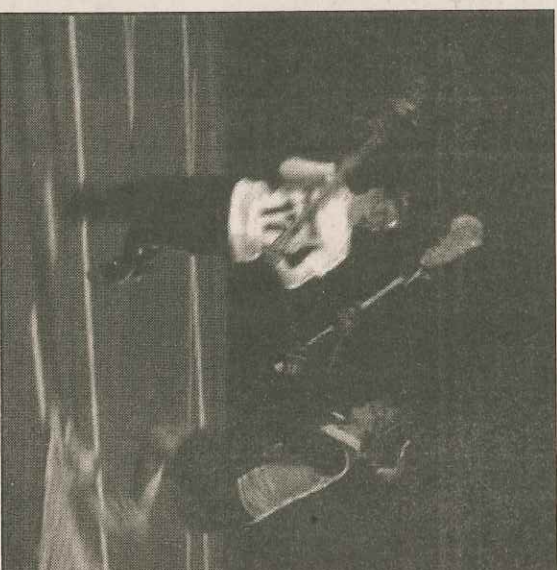


Tory Generazio

After scoring one of their many goals during a recent game, the Spartan attack walks back down the field for the ensuing face-off.

strengthened the varsity team's proven dominance in other areas, not just the Patriot District.

"I'm proud of the team," said Tomlinson. "We all work together and I hope we go far."



Spartan Sports

Junior attack Tory Generazio circles around the goal looking for a teammate to pass to.

'Gonna take you right into the Danger Zone'

Enthusiastic fans cheer on sports teams

By Cam McCallum
Sports Assistant

Thanks to a group of students here at WS, cheering on our spring sports teams has become an increasingly dangerous thing to do.

The Danger Zone, created by a group of seniors, has given our teams a unique home field advantage. The Danger Zone consists of a group of students who cheer on our teams with seemingly limitless energy. Students bring homemade signs and come up with original chants. Senior Bobby Mosallanezhad and his friends came up with the idea for creating the hostile environment.

"We got the idea from the FIFA soccer video game, they say 'You're entering the danger area', but we thought zone sounded cooler," said senior Mosallanezhad. Mosallanezhad and his friends make as much noise as they can, the goal being to negatively affect the mindset of the opponent. Usually, their cheering is effective.

"We basically just yell to try and intimidate the other team and get in their head. I think it really messes with their focus. You can tell it gets to them. Sometimes we'll pick out a certain player and just yell at him the whole game," said Mosallanezhad.

The players certainly appreciate the raucous crowd and the intimidating reputation their home field now has.

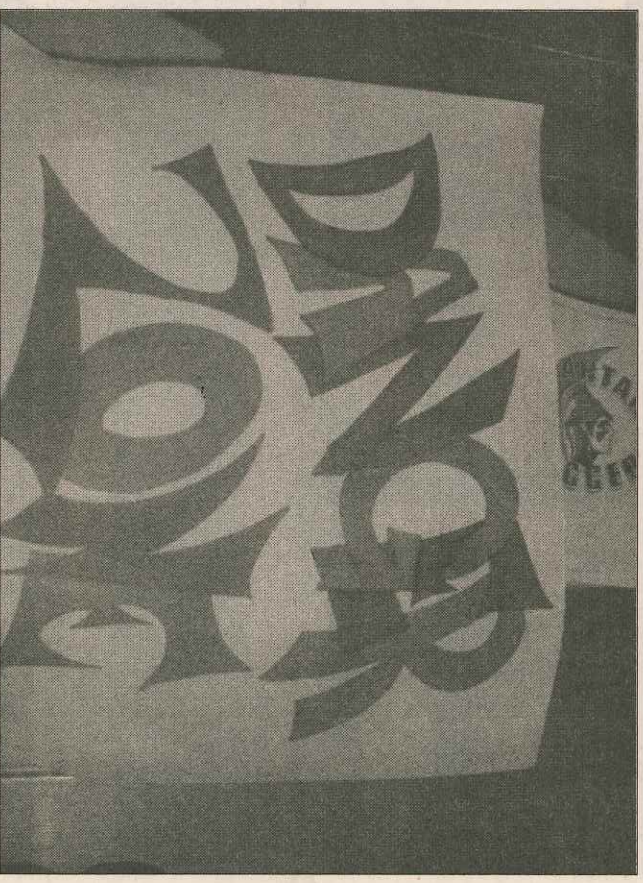
Junior Kai Eckenrode, a varsity soccer player, thinks The Danger Zone gives the team an advantage before the game even starts.

"Other teams don't like playing here now. It's also cool having a lot of support like that. They're chants can be pretty funny, and the guys on the bench get a kick out of it," Eckenrode said.

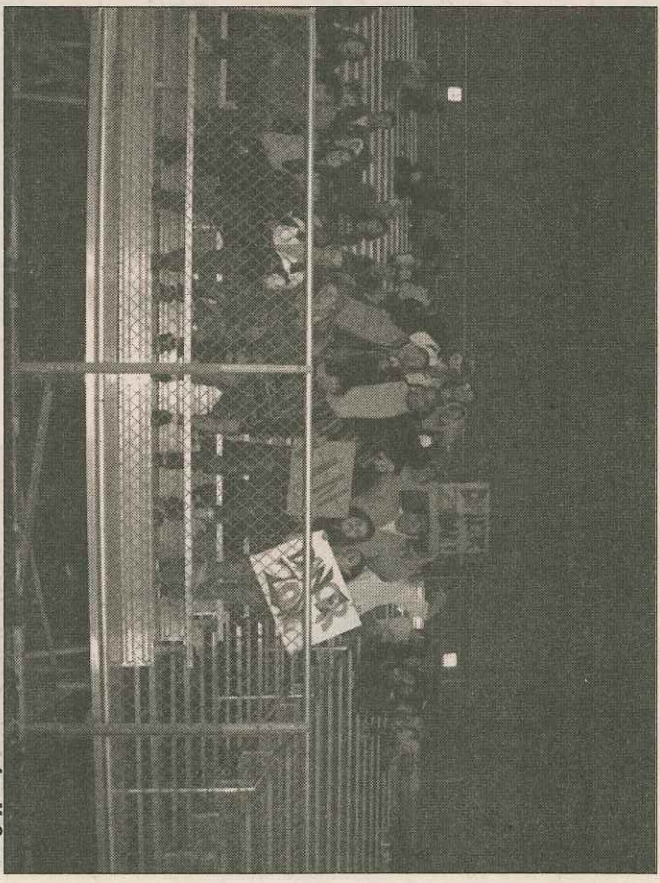
"We basically just yell to try and intimidate the other team and get in their head. I think it really messes with their focus. You can tell it gets to them."

—Bobby Mosallanezhad, senior


While originally The Danger Zone was created for soccer games, they have recently been spotted at lacrosse games and plan on attending other spring sports events as well. So the next time you're driving by WS as the sun is setting and the stadium lights are beginning to illuminate the night sky, roll down your window. If you hear a chant of "Ole, ole, ole, ole!" you'll know you have just passed through The Danger Zone.



Many signs can be found in the Danger Zone, created by excited fans. *Cecilia Castro*




The Danger Zone gives WS sports an intimidating home field advantage. *Amy McGregor*



Your

Neighborhood

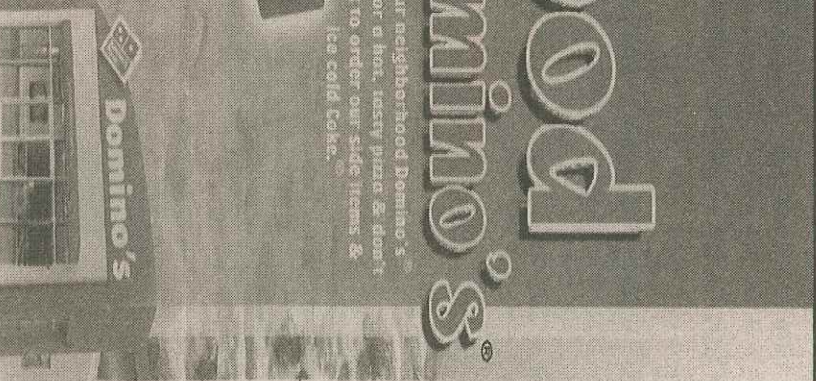


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Jake Disagrees

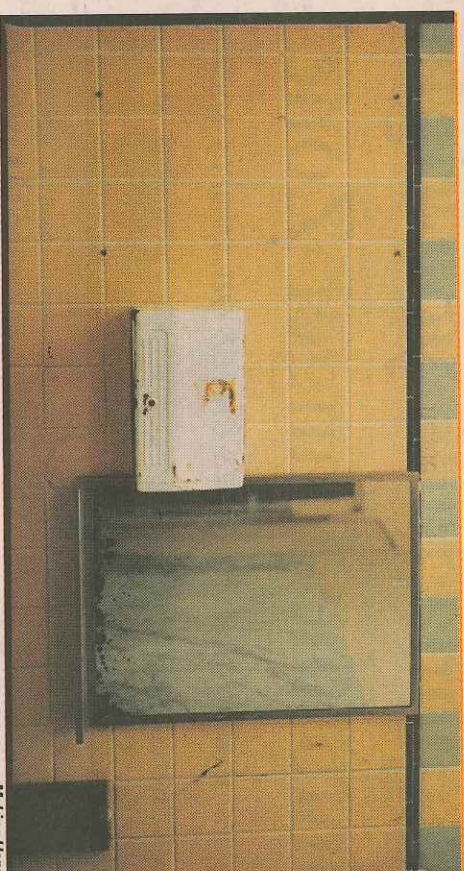
Toilet humor

Clogging the drain and mind

By Jake Servin
ETC. Editor

A great deal of my life is spent in bathrooms. Unfortunately, some of these bathrooms are public.

Despite all the conveniences of not using a bush, there are infinite reasons to avoid these tiled pits of disease and despair. As a general rule of thumb, one should probably avoid any room with a drain in the center of the floor. The drains here at WS are, as far as I can tell, merely decorative — why else would the floor remain covered in a half inch of unidentifiable putrid liquid? I digress.



Making Happy

Most offensive of all public bathroom faults is the trend of parents bringing their children of the opposite gender with them. What is the deal, parents? After three hours of explosions and Mountain Dew, I don't want your three-year-old daughter checking me out in the movie theater facilities. As a young boy, I protested when my mother tried to bring me into the ladies' room, offering instead to find a secluded ashtray. But she would have none of it, and the result is how I came to be the emotionally battered shell of a man that I am today. Thanks, mom.

The only part of this bathroom clean enough for photography was the mirror. At times, bathroom vandalism displays the rawest of creative expression. The vast majority of drawings, carvings, and coordinated stains simply represent misspelled song lyrics and profanities. One of our very own boys' rooms here is emblazoned with the word "hustlin'" upwards of 12 times. Believe you me, I am certainly a fan of hustlin' (what's hustlin'?), but that particular instance is a bit excessive.

In all honesty, isn't excess what bathrooms are all about? The public bathroom is a holdover from ancient Rome, when gentlemen about town would sit in large hole-filled rooms and speak of worldly matters. Perhaps we must work to return this spirit of camaraderie to our own washrooms, albeit in a more sanitary environment. Just remember to wash your hands after all that hustlin'.



FRIEND

"They help build dams and keep water from overflowing where humans live. Go beavers!"

—Matt Ballew,
junior

"A friend because they're cute and nice and have cute little buck teeth."

—Jade Jacobs,
sophomore

"A friend because it's good for the environment."

—Patrick Salkind,
freshman



Oracle Questionnaire

Beavers:

OR

FOE?



"They're not a friend because they're boring. They just run away. They don't want to talk to you."

—Jonathan Pineda,
senior

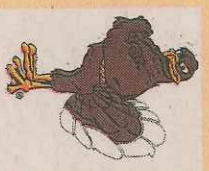
"Beavers are foes because they're ugly and look like huge rats."

—Maria Galindo,
senior

"A foe because if you touch them, they eat you."

—Maria Sverrisdottir,
sophomore

—Compiled by Stephanie Aguilar



MAY '07



Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
11 Boys Varsity Baseball @ Hayfield 6:30 p.m.	12 Boys & Girls crew VSRC Champ Regatta TBA	13 Mother's Day 	14 Israeli Independence Day 	15 Girls Varsity Lax @ home TBD	16 Girls Varsity Softball @ home TBA	17 Girls Varsity Lax @ home TBD
18 Girls Varsity Softball @ home TBA	19 Release of Halo 3 beta	20 Cameroon National Day 	21 SOL testing begins	22 National Maritime Day	23 Girls Varsity Lax @ home 5 p.m.	24 Buddha's Birthday 