

THE RACOLE

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West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

Baccalaureate branches out 2007 ceremony merges technology with tradition

By Sunnie Ko

Senior Staff Writer

Dr. Smith's memorable quote, "Take care of yourself, take care of each other, and take care of this place," will be emphasized in the Baccalaureate ceremony on June 12, 2007.

The ceremony will take place at Immanuel Bible Church at 7:30 PM the day before graduation. The PTA-sponsored gathering will celebrate a successful completion of high school and the moving on to discover a deeper meaning in life.

"This year we decided to put a new and innovative perspective in the Baccalaureate ceremony," said senior student coordinator Allison Campbell. "Although we have changed the location, we still hold on to the core meaning of the celebration."

This year, the ceremony will include a multimedia presentation along with performances by groups from WS. The presentation, absent from past Baccalaureate celebrations, will include a Power-Point slide show of pictures, inspirational quotes and music.

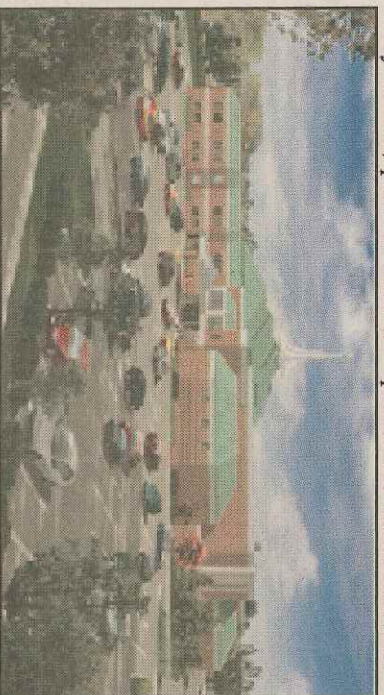
"We're taking advantage of the facilities," said senior Daniel Streicher who is one student working on the presentation. "Immanuel [Bible] Church has great tech equipment so we wanted to utilize as much as we could."

Streicher, with fellow senior Jordy Serwin, plans to shoot a

senior Jessie Elwood. "It is a different perspective on graduating."

Elwood's father is one of three keynote speakers who will address the congregation.

"I'm not nervous about my dad being there," said Elwood. "I trust he will be a good speaker. He's done it before."



Immanuel Bible Church

The 2007 Baccalaureate ceremony will be held at Immanuel Bible Church. It will be translated in both Spanish and Korean.

video at the senior picnic that will include student interviews relating to this year's theme.

The committee is also trying to branch out to a broader community. The ceremony will be offered in Spanish and Korean.

"I think it will be a good experience for everyone," said

The other two speakers will include Father Martin from Nativity Catholic Church and WS' own Ed Linz. Each speaker will focus on an element of Dr. Smith's quote.

"It's going to be something different," said Streicher. "A different swing on old tradition."

Spartans stunned at home Seniors break records in an undefeated season

By Zohra Alnoor

Senior Staff Writer

With an undefeated season and the first District Championship in WS history, the Lady Spartans Varsity Lacrosse team made it to the Regional Quarterfinals, where they played a tough game against Woodson.

On May 17, the varsity girls regrettably lost that game 14-11 where they tried hard, to maintain their undefeated streak. But even though they lost, the girls had an amazing season.

the girls beat Annandale 10-7 in a challenging match against the Atoms at the District Championships.

"Last year we lost to Annandale," said senior captain Sunnie Ko. "This year we beat them. They gave us a really good game."

Compared to past years, a large number of records and titles were set, including being an undefeated team

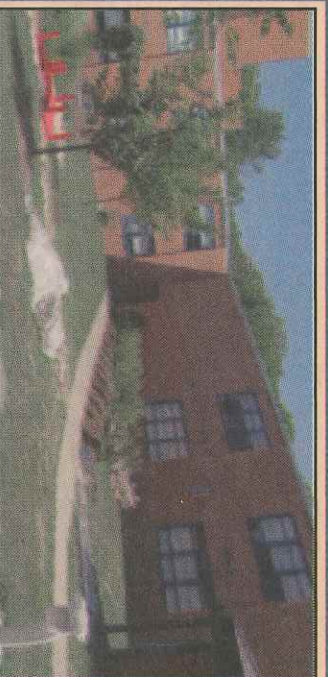
Additional have been made to the Japanese Garden in an attempt to create a more cohesive cultural atmosphere.

Japanese Garden undergoes facelift

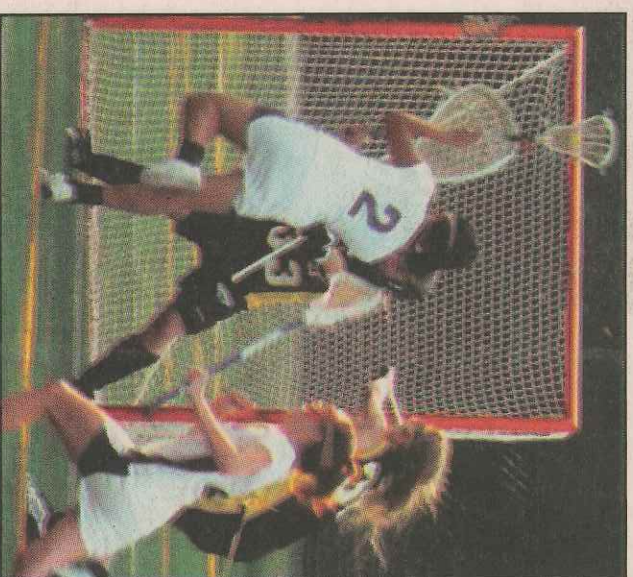
By Sarah Alvarez
Viewpoint Editor

The Japanese Garden has been a part of the cultural serenity at WS for several years, but its authenticity as a true Japanese garden has taken on a new face.

Recently, some new landscape pieces were installed giving the garden a more cohesive look. Although the shed on the east side of the garden, with your back to the parking lot, is not a new installation it does appear drastically different than it did at the beginning of the landscape project. Two years ago, county ordinances required the shed to be placed 20 feet from the school this awkward position did not allow for harmonious versatility with the rest of the garden's Zen motif. In order to incorporate the shed into the garden's theme, Japanese teacher Adam Podell Sensei and Biology and Oceanography teacher Beth Jewell used aspects of student produced designs to retrofit the shed to resemble a tea house and alter the garden so it had a more put-together feel. Making the shed appear like a tea house helped it to blend in with the rest of the garden.



Sara Korall

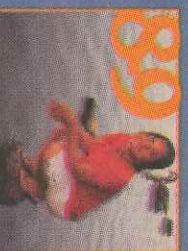


Hoa Generazio

Senior Chrissy Rogers runs as senior captain Sunnie Ko scores a goal against Westfield in the first round of the Regional tournament. After an undefeated season, the team lost in the tournament's second round.



Field trips mess with testing schedule.



Seniors share their college plans.



Can you identify the Oracleites?

GPA foreshadows future

There is a saying that goes, "You get what you deserve."

The same applies to grades: we get what we deserve. The difference is we tend to think we deserve something even if we exerted little effort.

That was my thought process. I sincerely thought I didn't deserve a "C" on a project I spent two hours on.

Too bad that was exactly what I deserved.

Colleges nowadays are looking for applicants who are well-rounded, academic and the best of their class. Those who show academic strength from the very beginning.

I don't have a high GPA. My hope is that you, students of all ages, will learn that your GPA is important, all fours years of high school.

When your counselor speaks, listen. When they're telling you that you need to keep up your grades, do it. If I had excelled in my classes and even my high

school level classes that I took in middle school, I would have been in a different boat during college applications.

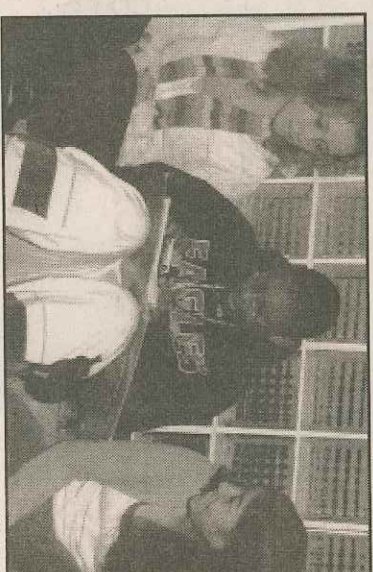
Now I'm up a river without a paddle. I have no life preserver to keep my head above

water. If I had tried harder before, I would have a better chance at getting into harder schools and receiving more scholarships.

Don't wait until the end of junior year to pick up your grades. Don't wait until the start of next year. Start now.

It's funny how we cruise through the "easy" freshman classes with C's and then we expect junior year that we are worthy of an "A" in our advanced placement classes. Expectations are only reached after effort is exerted, not after complaining.

In the halls, all I hear is people talking about are relationships and grades. And if high school drama is the only class we excel in, then maybe that's where the real issue lies. We should not be Facebooking or texting



Litelouch

Kids these days are way too slack at school; instead of taking the time and effort to complete homework at home, kids rush and do assignments during lunch.

until 3 a.m. but instead be focusing on our studies.

When you enter any class, you start off with a 100%. I know it's easy to but do not let your grades drop by slacking on your homework or writing off studying as "unnecessary." All four years, all 28 classes and all assignments make a difference.

Do not wait until the next school year to pick up your grades. Everything isn't going to be easy but it does matter, so start now.

Student politics find its way into Facebook

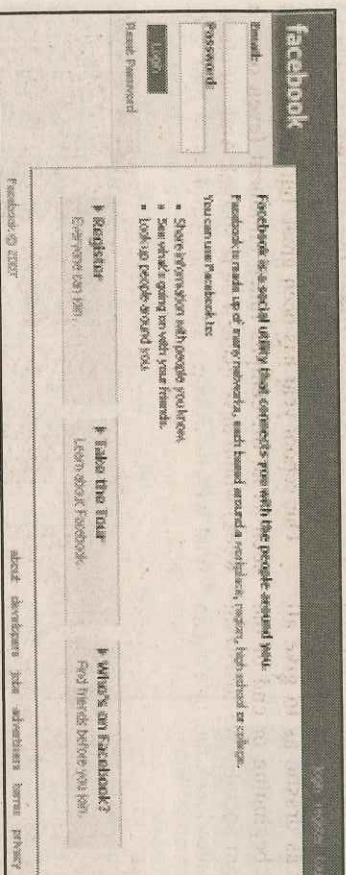
By Krista Pedersen
Scoop Editor

I don't care what you do in your free time. I don't care what you go home and say to each other. I only start caring when it interferes with my own life.

About a month ago, when the student elections started heating up, my

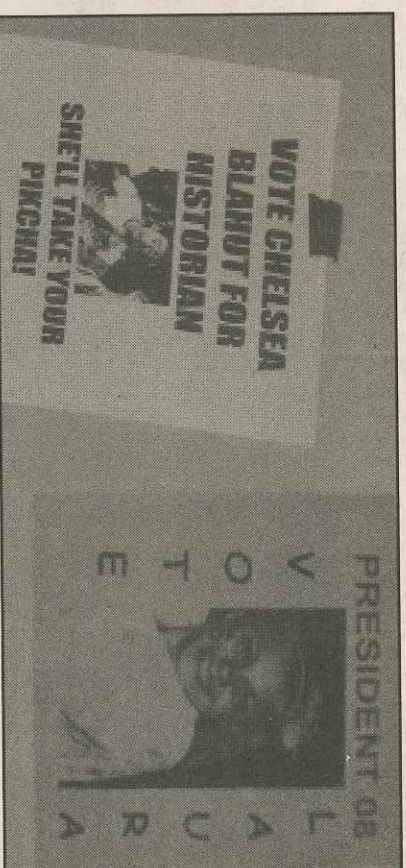
inbox on Facebook started filling up. It was unfortunately filling up with invitations to join groups in support of candidates I have never actually paid attention to in my life. Admittedly, they've probably never paid attention for their support either.

Most of the groups are crude and poorly made, with random photos of the



Facebook

During elections many campaigners flooded facebook inboxes with invitations to join election groups.



Sara Kofalt

Class officer elections have escalated to a whole new level. Campaigners fill the hall way with countless flyers in hopes of winning votes.

person running posing in front of the camera or smiling goofily. None of them offered any intellectual reasons as for why I should vote for the candidate.

There was a group created by a sophomore girl who stated blatantly in the title that her friend was the best choice for '09 vice president, and anyone who would consider voting for her opposition was crazy. The description of the other candidate was even more to the point. Thankfully, membership only reached three before the it was shut down.

High school is not the place for beating each other over the head just

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Field Trips and Projects interrupt exam preparations

By Ariane Irvine
Senior Staff Writer

At the end of the year, half of teachers think that it's time to let their students relax.

The other half think that summer break is a poor attempt at allowing students to be lazy. Both of these philosophies make life more difficult for AP students.

If a teacher thinks the end of the year is a time to let students have fun, they'll start to take them on field trips. As much as

everyone who loves running wild off school property will probably hate me for saying this, taking a field trip right before the AP exams isn't the best idea.

Besides the fact that they won't have as much time to review in class, it's always a bit difficult to get back into school-mode after having a day out to do something more interesting.

When teachers assign projects near the end of the school year, the exact same

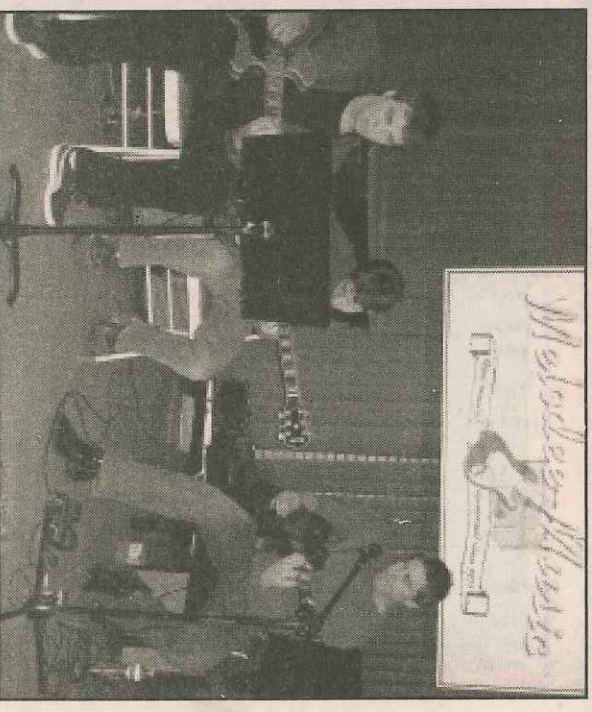
thing happens. Students spend more time working on their project than they do reviewing, and stay up late trying to finish it.

Also, they'll become distracted during class because every last second of their day is filled up wit schoolwork.

Maybe it would be a better idea to put off trips and projects until after the exams.

After all, it isn't like students aren't getting stressed enough. They already have review sessions to go to, review packets to fill out and practice exams to do during class, at home and on the weekend.

All the studious kids are hurt the most during this time, because they are the ones most likely to take a lot of AP classes and non-AP classes that are likely to assign projects. This issue perturbs many students.



Kevin Owens
The guitar field trip to Melodee Music included a performance by Corey Christenson and Informative clinic. Senior Kevin Pons and Paul Cohn are playing with Corey Christenson.

Those students won't be able to set a good example if they're all too stressed out to do more than study.

Upperclassmen deserve more privileges

By Sean Hogan
Oracle Editor

We all know the story. When you were eight years old, your mom literally cut the word "quit" out of the dictionary because she didn't want "quit" to be a part of your vocabulary.

Fast forward ten years. Now our school has cut "senior privileges" out of our vocabularies. Sure, we get parking spaces (that we have to pay for). We get our yearbooks first. (We get to leave three



Collin Embrey

minutes early on Fridays. We always get the Spirit Stick. The big problem: that's all we get.

Other schools across the state get tons of privileges. Seniors get to leave campus for lunch. They

Seniors gather at senior trail on May 22, 2007 illustrating their endless '07 spirit.

They have the option to take a study hall first or last period. They can have empty periods at the beginning or end of the day.

We don't need anything as drastic as to give all seniors open periods at the beginning or end of the day. We don't need ice cream socials. We just want something, whether it be a senior lunch line or even an off-campus lunch for seniors.

The splendor of senior year doesn't exist anymore because our only privilege is the fact that we get things earlier than everyone else rather than instead of everyone else.

We just want something, whether it be a senior lunch line or even an off-campus lunch for seniors.

This all being said, it's probably too late for any senior privileges to happen in the last two weeks of school. Nothing more drastic can happen other than a few policy changes within the last two months of school.

Our school year has been great, but simple changes such as an off-campus lunch allotment (even once a week) would have made it more special. And our class' final wish is to make sure that the class of 2008 gets nothing more than we did.

It's the end of the year as we know it

And I feel fine

By Josh Lipman
Oracle Editor

Hi, my name is Josh and I have senioritis. I just completed step one of my two-step program for senioritis.

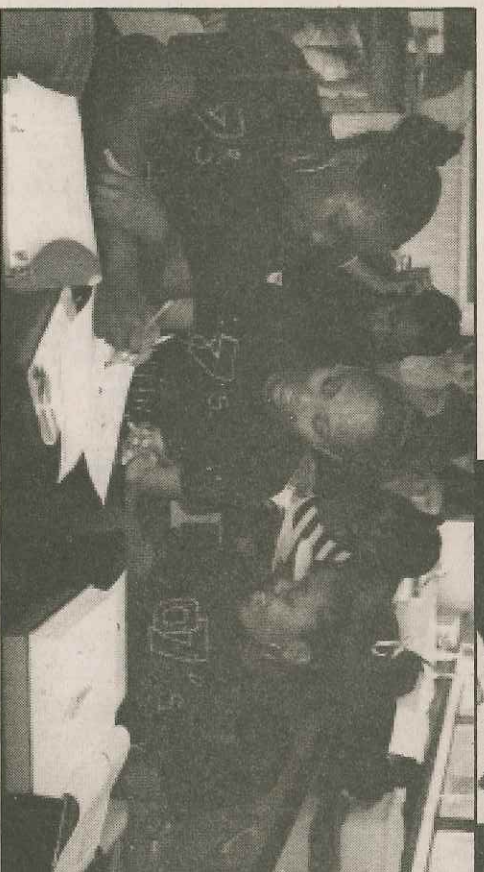
Here comes step two: I'm supposed to have senioritis because I'm a senior. I'll say it again to make sure everybody caught that last bit. I'm supposed to have senioritis because I'm a senior.

Sweet spirit of wholly secular goodness, I am free. I would like to thank myself and the realization there's actually

Let the puppy dog make it to adulthood.

something beyond high school for this new age transcendence.

Allow me to explain something. No, allow me to take note of the obvious. The "if you don't do well in high school you won't go to college, if you don't go to college you won't get a good job, if you don't get a good job you will be poor, if you're poor then you can't start a family and you'll die lonely on the dirty streets outside of a homeless shelter" spiel doesn't apply to seniors anymore.



Larissa Cookson
From left to right Seniors Chanel Johnson, Yodit Nagash, and Triahna Harris wear spirited shirts that illustrate their class pride and spirit of '07.

We're going to college and senioritis isn't going to change that.

For 18 plus-years of my life now you, as in the entire U.S. public school system, have shown me one way to succeed: To fill in a bubble sheet with the best of them. Finishing the last few requirements for a masters degree in bubbling won't leave me any better



Larissa Cookson

Seniors rest their heads, illustrating a sign of severe senioritis. Having heads down and eyes closed poses a threat to end of year studies and exam preparations

a really disturbed kid with a stick beating up the puppy dog for kicks and giggles.

Perhaps some of this has to do with my personality and the fact that I'm not from here, but this is the D.C. area. Nobody's actually from here. I know that technically I'm still a high school student and WS thinks I should continue being one at least through early June, but I've been ready to leave since mid-December.

I think I've been a pretty good sport about it since I kept trying through the first semester, but then came snow days, Facebook (college Facebook), a college visit and spring break.

Let the puppy dog make it to adulthood.



**Why is
Shrek green
with emy?**

**To find out, please turn
to Page 12!**

Spartan Idol showcases talent at WS

By Alyssa Horton
Features Editor

While American Idol's Blake Lewis was saved by the votes of the American people on Wednesday, May 9, WS's own Blake Lewis was the MC for Spartan Idol. Senior Blake Lewis served as the very funny host while teachers Andrea Schlegel, Carrie Myers, and Ed Linz played the rolls of Randy, Paula, and Simon. Each teacher stayed true to their character. Schlegel used phrases like "I wasn't feelin' it dog" and "You had a couple pitch problems but you pulled it together in the end." Myers mimicked Paula Abdul's clap perfectly and constantly made references to the singers' outfits. Linz, of course, was very blunt and often harsh.

Governor's School recognizes hardworking students

By Zohra Alnoor
Senior Staff Writer

Governor's School, which is held every summer at different colleges around Virginia, is a residential program for 400 gifted students from across the commonwealth.

Nominations to be qualified for Governor's School are made by teachers, guidance counselors, peers or by the students themselves. After a certain amount of students are chosen by their high schools for a category, they compete again against all the students chosen in Virginia for that particular category.

"You have to vigorously compete to be in the school. There are many, many,

"As soon as I was asked to be a judge I wanted to be Randy immediately," said Schlegel. "And it worked out because Myers wanted to be Paula and Mr. Linz wanted to be Simon."

Each of the 16 performers first went through the a capella round. Afterwards they were narrowed down to only six people that could move on to the second round. The finalists were sophomore Sean Cafferky, junior Mike Ariale, and seniors Reeny Eul, Nathan Taylor, Monica Kim, and Nicki Black.

"This was my second time doing Spartan Idol," said junior Mike Ariale. "It's a lot of fun."

After the finalists sang their last songs the judges had to tally their scores. They each had a laptop with an Excel sheet containing each contestant's scores in three categories. The singers were scored on their vocal stage presence, and originality.

While the audience waited for the scores to be calculated and the winner to be announced the Fun Bunch performed.

"The Fun Bunch was so awesome," said junior Lindsay Carlin. "When they pushed each other and the guy on the end fell on the ground and then came back, it looked like they were rewinding."

Once the scores were calculated all of the performers were brought onto the stage in a straight line. Taylor

many, many levels you have to compete for," said junior Katherine Earle. In order to be chosen for the program, students must apply as if they were applying to a college.

"For the application, you have to write two mini essays, and answer questions about yourself. The rest is basically your GPA and your recommendation letters."

said junior Nicholas Vercryusse.

Certain subjects had different interviews, such as the art categories. Earle was asked to demonstrate her portfolio to WS in order to qualify and after getting an interview in front of a group of art-loving judges, she was asked to sketch a person in ten minutes.

"I was so nervous at first, and my hand kept shaking," said Earle. "But the judges were crazy. They were art

freaks. If I was in a math interview, the judges would probably be more serious, but they were like, 'Ooh, let me see your art.' It was beast."

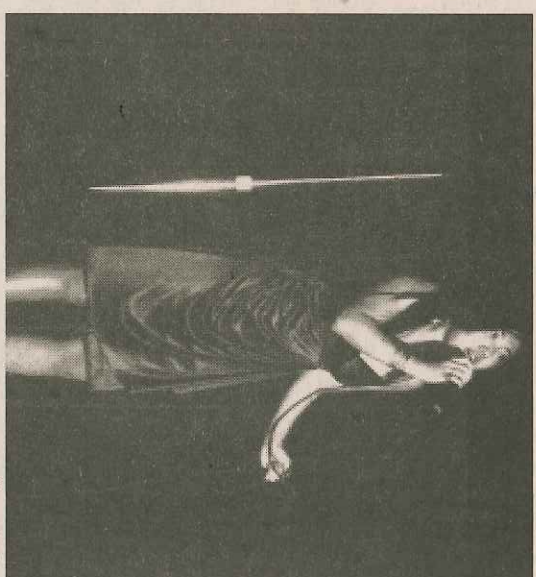
The process of getting into the program, as well as the program itself, demonstrates the life of a college student from waking up early in the morning, to sleeping in dorms at your school.

"It's basically like going to college for three weeks, but only learning one subject," said Vercryusse.

For a whole three weeks, these WS sophomores and juniors will be representing some of Virginia's most diligent high school students. They will join this prestigious program due to work ethic that they demonstrated.

Those students are: juniors Katherine Earle and Kelly Snow for Visual Arts

Senior Monica Kim claimed the title of WS' 2007 Spartan idol. Kim sang 'Karma' and 'There You'll Be'.
Was announced as the runner-up. Then Lewis said, "And the winner of Spartan Idol 2007 is... Monica Kim!" Kim smiled as she was handed flowers and a clapboard.
"I wanted to win really badly," said Kim. "It's such a good feeling because it's senior year and a good finish."



Alyssa Horton

and Performing Arts (vocal); juniors Katherine Egan, Rebecca Koenig and sophomore Allison Van Gilist for Humanities; sophomore Zachary Patrick for NASA Mentorship; sophomore Jodi Yim for Agriculture; junior Rosemary Barber for Spanish Language and junior

Junior Nicholas Vercryusse for Japanese Language.

"It's going to get in the way of my cross country practices in the morning," said Barber. "But it'll prepare me for college and it'll look really good on college applications."

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Japanese Garden continues blooming with improvements

GARDEN from Page 1.

to the ideals of the secluded Japanese garden.

"[We] made it appear as a tea house so it wasn't out of place," said Podell Sensei.

Suggestions from Japanese 1 classes and Jewell's Biology Honors classes are visible in the plant border of one of the sidewalks. The sidewalk's border will soon develop into a hedge that will distinguish the private cozy part of the garden from the more public side of the garden.

Sparkleberries, forsythias, and azaleas are some of the new plant varieties in the garden. Sparkleberry plants are a type of holly, they are a cross

between a Japanese species and a southeastern native, and they were bred for their highly decorative qualities.

"They flower in the spring, turn orange-ish in the fall, and have berries in the winter," said Jewell.

"[We] made it appear as a tea house so it wasn't out of place."
— Adam Podell Sensei

Japanese Teacher

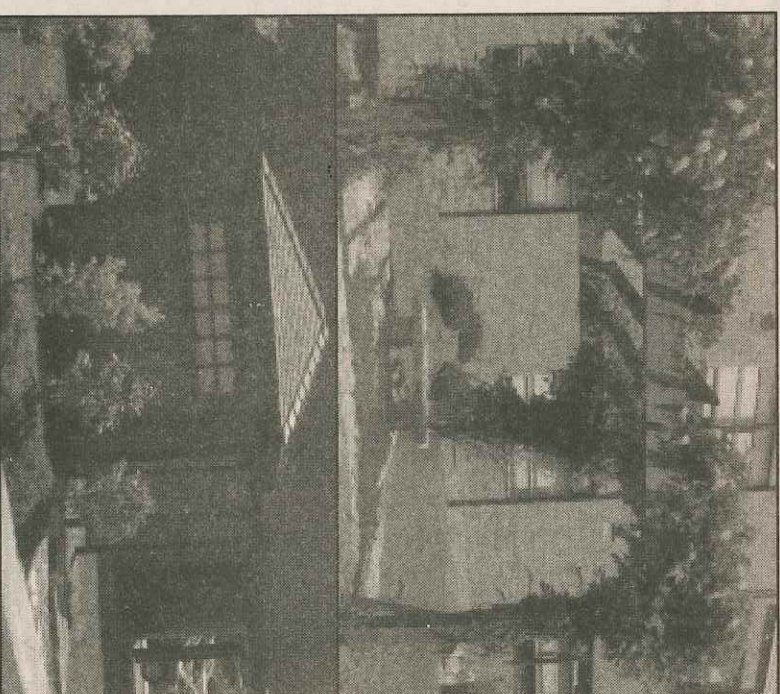
Another important addition to the garden were two new cherry blossom trees in memory of the late Mrs. Grace and Mrs.

Jarvis.

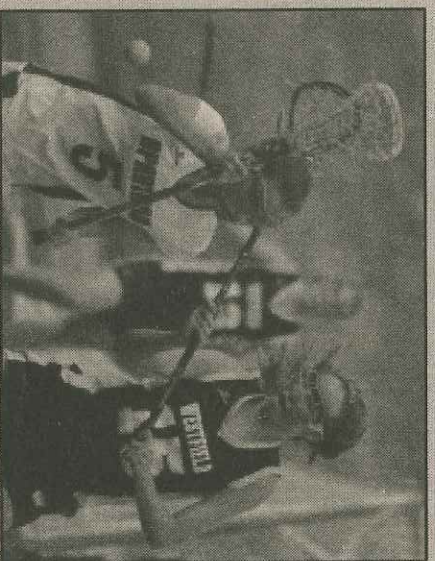
In addition to the floral elements that accentuate the garden's Japanese inspiration soil and mulch are also necessary to complete the look. With the generous assistance of Springfield Top Soil the ground needs are met with ample supplies of soil and mulch.

The maintenance and upkeep of the garden lies in the hands of the students and custodial staff that do most of the mechanical work.

Some day Podell Sensei hopes that his efforts and the efforts of Jewell and their diligent students will be properly titled: Podell Jewell Japanese Garden.



Sara Kofalt
Flowers blossom in the Japanese Garden which has undergone notable changes this spring.



Dave McGeogor

Sophomore Rachel Tomlinson battles for a ball against Westfield in a game the Spartans won 7-4.

Records broken by lacrosse seniors

LACROSSE from Page 1.

Ko plans on playing lacrosse at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, a top 20 Division III school.

"I was planning on playing Division I at GMU or VT, but I figured that the reason why I love lacrosse so much is because I love playing it, but I didn't want to sit the bench for my first three years," said Ko. "I just want to keep doing it to have fun."

Senior Julia Repa also broke the record for the most ground balls in the season, with over 100, a record once held by 2001 graduate Rebecca Szewczuk, daughter of Steve Szewczuk, the current statistician for the varsity girls lacrosse team.

"[Repa's] effort on the field really helped lead our defense," said senior Larissa Cookson.

The boys varsity lacrosse team, just like the girls, won the Patriot District Championships, and made it to the first round of Regionals where they unfortunately lost against Chantilly.

"This season was a great one," said senior Brian Ho. "As soon as Districts came around we hopped on the winning train and punched our ticket to VICTORY," said senior Brian Ho.

The WS Varsity Lacrosse teams tried their hardest, and made their school proud.

With a love for the sport in which they play and the team with whom they play with, the varsity girls lacrosse team made history this season at WS.

"Even though I broke the record," said Ko. "I'd rather have a championship than a record, any day."

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Magnificent Marino

Freshman performs magic tricks

By Jordy Serwin
Oracle Editor

People often carry a deck of cards with them for the occasional, spur-of-the-moment game of poker. Freshman Mike Marino, on the other hand, carries cards with him to make them disappear.

"It's mostly just working at it, it's like anything really," said Marino. At this point, Marino seizes every chance to gain knowledge and experience. He often accomplishes this by talking with other magicians he knows in the US and in other countries as well as performing "close-up" magic at parties and even the occasional show.

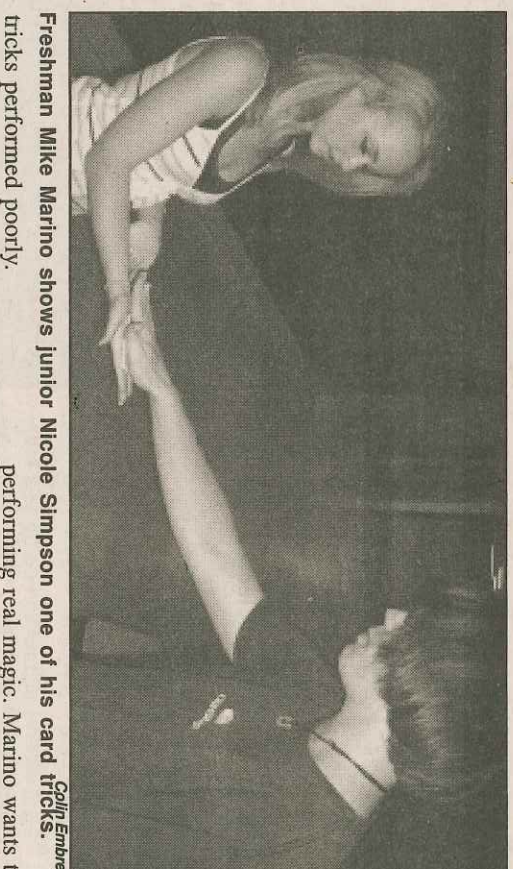
Marino's interest in magic first began when he was nine years old and, like an audience viewing a trick, he has been mystified ever since.

"I saw [a magician performing tricks] on TV and went to the internet looking for magic tricks and thought it was cool," said Marino.

As might be expected of such a profession, remarkably few reliable means of learning tricks exist. Most of what Marino knows he has taught himself and performed in front of his keenest test audience, his mom.

"If I'm doing a walk around at a party, people will be mingling and I'll walk around and ask them if they'd like to see me do a trick," said Marino.

Marino admits that his current repertoire contains mostly card tricks. However, he is practicing new tricks involving other small objects like coins and rubber bands. Though this may not seem impressive to a lay audience member, Marino's experience has taught him that simple tricks performed well dazzle and amaze more than more difficult



Freshman Mike Marino shows junior Nicole Simpson one of his card tricks.

Gail Embrey

tricks performed poorly. "If a trick is hard to perform, it doesn't mean it is the best trick," said Marino.

The greatest obstacle to his success has been making his name known. Even performing at parties has only so much potential for name recognition.

"Business has been pretty slow," said Marino.

As interested as Marino is in the art of magic, he does not see it as a viable career choice. He believes popular magicians like Lance Burton and David Copperfield are more concerned with putting on a good show than with

performing real magic. Marino wants to maintain a reasonably low profile as a magician to ensure that his magic isn't crowded by showmanship.

"I'd like to have another career and do this on the side to make extra money," said Marino.

Though he doesn't plan to seek too high a status as a magician, Marino still wants to people to know his name.

"There's a famous line [in magic]: 'Being a magician is like being a goldfish collector: unless you're a magician, no one knows who the [fleck] you are,'" said Marino.

Einnuis takes the scenic route

Band director works as a bus driver for Scenic America

By Nicole Simpson
Entertainment Editor

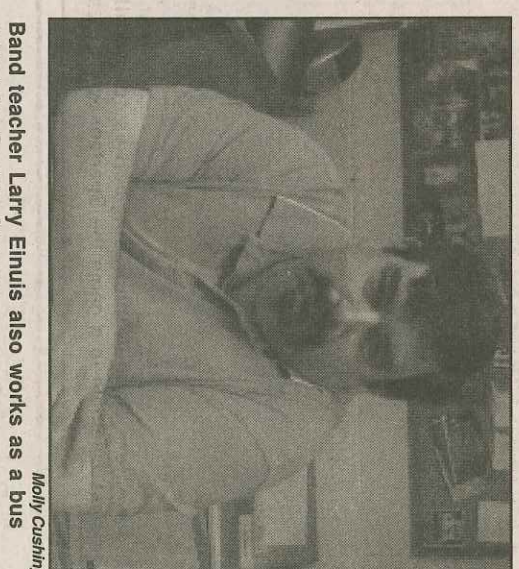
Band director Larry Einnuis dedicates more than time to this school, and other schools, than merely what he contributes to the 250 band department students between the hours of 7:30 and 2:10.

Einnuis had the duty of driving the chorus kids back home from their spring trip in Florida. Seeing Einnuis in the driver's seat caused a bit of a commotion amongst the student passengers, unknowing that Einnuis had a charter bus license.

"No one knew he even knew how to drive the bus," said junior chorus member Kleen Harrigan. "Then he came on the loudspeaker and told us that he had been driving charter buses for 15 years."

Since the band program consists of constant off-campus trips, in 1995 Einnuis decided to get his charter bus license and a part-time job with Scenic America, a popular charter bus company.

"[The drive home] felt like 15 hours," said freshman chorus member Erin Cafferty. Driving the chorus students home from Florida was one of the longer trips in Einnuis' career with Scenic America. Although the drive for passengers may not seem quite as short, Einnuis assures that he's always managed to stay within the legal limit of driving of only ten hours.



Molly Cushing

Band teacher Larry Einnuis also works as a bus driver for Scenic America.

With a license for any motor vehicle comes numerous risks and safety hazards. After a pep talk to his passengers explaining the rules and bus guidelines, Einnuis has never had terribly behaved passengers, but he does always stress the most important rule of being a passenger.

"It's most important [that riders] stay in their seats as much as possible just in case of an emergency," said Einnuis.

Practice makes perfect

Practice AP tests help prepare students

By Jenny Taylor
Sports Editor

Saturday mornings, once a time filled with cartoons and pancakes, have been replaced with draining SAT exams and practice AP tests.

Supporting the cliché that "practice makes perfect," teachers prepared their AP classes more and more frequently this year with three to four hour examinations held before the actual AP testing.

"In order to do well on the test, it's not simply a matter of knowing the content," said AP U.S. history teacher Andrea Schlegel. "For the AP US history test in particular, it's a matter of endurance."

The best way to build up this endurance, most teachers agree, is to take the exam in one sitting. It is impossible, however, to complete a practice AP test during a single class period. Teachers have solved this dilemma by giving tests on weekends and school nights.

"Most high school students are over extended already, so testing outside of school hours adds an extra burden," said

AP Calculus teacher Terri Stirk. "I hate to do it, but it is the only way to accurately simulate the testing environment."

Despite their inconvenience, practice tests have proved to be a valuable tool in AP preparation.

"As much as I hate them, the tests are helpful," said senior Tiffany Ip. "Especially since AP courses serve as a kind of measurement for college credit."

Teachers are well aware that AP scores can affect their jobs and give students a head start on college classes. Therefore, they make every attempt to replicate the setting in which their students will eventually complete AP tests.

"I provide the exact wording of directions, the exact copies of materials, down to the color of the booklets," said Schlegel.

In addition to AP preparation, these lengthy practice tests are sometimes counted as class finals.

"I use the practice test as part of the final exam, because it makes the students take the test more seriously," said Stirk. "It's more work for me to grade it twice, but if it helps them learn, then it's worth the extra work."



cashiers wanted

Good Luck

Girls'

Varsity

Soccer!!!

Diem Le decides

on NOVA

By Kelly Sipple
News Editor

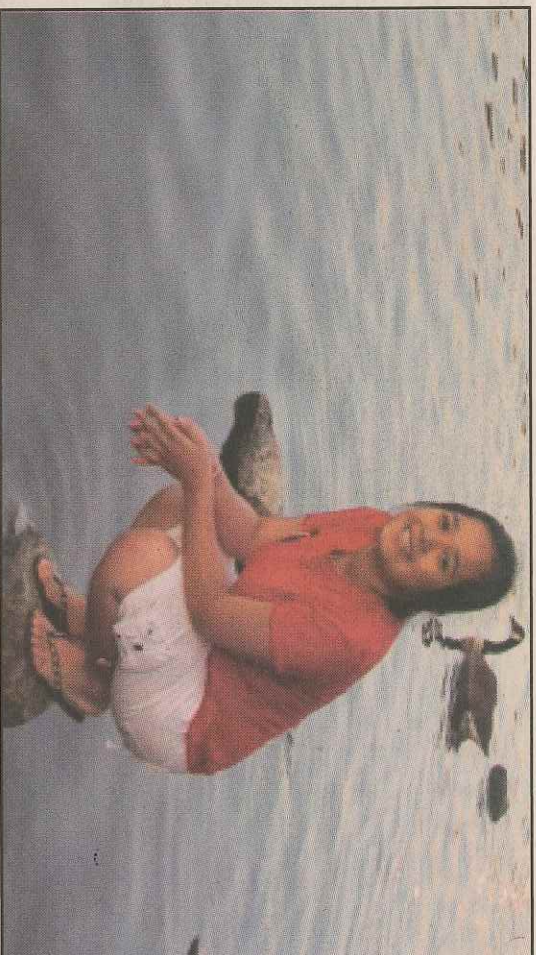
College plans have changed for senior Diem Le.

"I had always planned on going to a four-year college," said Le, "But a lot of circumstances led me to change my mind."

Now, Le is planning on attending Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) for one year and then transferring to another school, preferably Pennsylvania College of Technology (Penn College), for her last three years. One of the major factors that led Le to her decision was the fact that she is still undecided about her major.

"For my parents, it wouldn't make sense sending me off without knowing what my major is and possibly changing it."

—Diem Le,
senior



Becca Christoff

Senior Diem Le poses at Burke Lake Park while on an adventure with her friends.

"I think that I will end up majoring in Network Administration, but I really don't know for certain yet," said Le.

Le's parents were influential in helping her decision to go to NOVA.

"When the time came for me to begin applying, my parents and I sat down and made what we believe is the best choice," said Le. "For my parents, it wouldn't make sense sending me off without knowing what my major is and possibly changing it. They think it's helpful since that would cost us a lot less."

By spending just one year at NOVA, where one pays by the number of credit hours and not tuition for the whole year, Le is bound to save thousands of dollars. Le is also maintaining a part-time job through the

county at Wilton Woods Technology Center, a job which will hopefully help her with any future career or major.

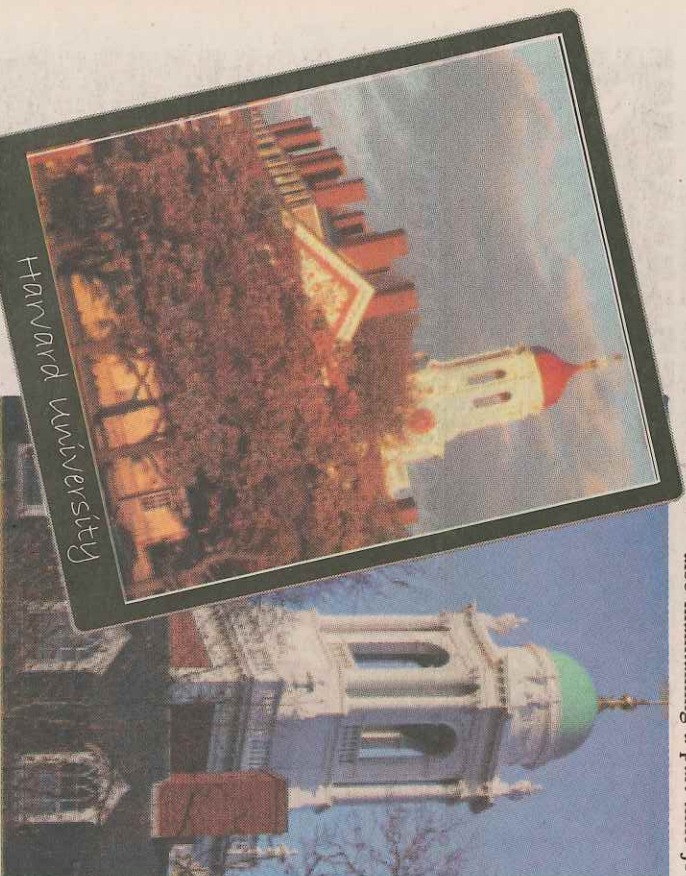
Despite this benefit, and helping out her family, Le is still disappointed.

"I didn't apply to any schools," said Le. "I was a little bit upset because I wanted to see if I could get in [to Penn College] or not."

After scoring a 1240 on her SAT's, and managing to fend off senioritis (mostly) Le hopes that she has done enough to get into her choice school when the time is right.

Either way, she is confident that she will enjoy her college years, no matter where they are spent.

"I am kind of relieved," said Le. "By going to NOVA it lets me work and be more reassured when I actually do go to college."



Johnson & Wales University



Strong is set

By Krista Pedersen
Scoop Editor

Still going strong.

Senior Amanda Strong has finally settled on a college to bring her volleyball talents to. Strong committed to West Virginia State University after the high school season ended. The Division II school has been conference champions for the past two years.

"I like the campus, it wasn't too big," said Strong. "The coach was really nice and so were the girls. They're also a successful program."

Strong says that a large part of her decision was affected by WVSVU's proximity to home, the campus size and

of course, the volleyball. She was contacted by the school after a tournament in which her club team performed well.

"After one of our big tournaments I got a few more letters and I had my choice between three or four schools," said Strong. She cited about seven or eight schools total that contacted her through preliminary letters.

WVSVU is also a very strong choice for Strong's English Literature major. The coach holds a mandatory study hall for freshmen. Upperclassmen are allowed to drop most of the study hall as long as they maintain a 3.0 average during their first year. Strong is confident that she will be able to maintain her grades, and compete for a starting position in her first year.

"[The coach] is very strong on academics to be able to play on the team," said Strong. "I think [starting positions] will be in-team competition. I'm hoping to start as a freshman."

Throughout all her accomplishments, Strong remains humble about her scholarship. She credits much of her success to her select coaches:



Lifetouch

Strong plans to play volleyball at WVSVU.

"My club coaches definitely supported my three years of playing club," said Strong. "They pushed me to keep looking at colleges, play more club [to] open up more offers."

Johnson

Senior plans to

By Erika Gleason
News Editor

Senior Kim Johnson is still going to NOVA. But not for long.

Johnson has decided to attend Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte, North Carolina, after completing one semester at NOVA. She is using her time at NOVA to bring up her grades.

Founded in 1914, J&W boasts its prestigious culinary arts program. In fact, it offers the greatest amount of culinary-based majors, which bodes well for Johnson. She maintains her dream of becoming a chef and eventually starting her own restaurant. Learning more about cooking and furthering her experience over the stove is actually the thing she is looking forward to most about college.

Johnson & Wales also has campuses in Rhode Island, Florida and Colorado, but its location in North Carolina is the newest and most high-tech.

"[I love] the atmosphere," said Johnson. "The campus is right there and you walk like a block and there's the rooming [dorms]. The new facility

Dudte gives

By Christina Sohn
Managing Editor

Senior Levi Dudte was going to MIT. He even ordered a maroon sweatshirt from the university and solidified his commitment in a scribble on "The College Board" in English teacher Jennifer Beach's room.

But on May 2, Dudte suddenly changed his mind – for good. Next fall, he will be on the other side of the Charles River at a prestigious school called Harvard.

It has been an eventful few months for Dudte, so it may be best to start from way back to December 15, when he checked the MIT website and found that he was accepted through the early action program.

"I felt ecstatic," said Dudte. "I'd wanted to go to MIT for several years and put a lot of work into the application process."

At the end of March, Dudte heard from his other schools. He was accepted to UVA, GWU, Cornell and Harvard. Princeton and Stanford posted rejection letters on their Web sites.

"I was disappointed to get rejected from Stanford because it has a great engineering school and it's in California so that would have been nice," said Dudte. "Princeton's a great school so I was disappointed as well."

Dudte was and MIT, all toward MIT.

"[Harvard] nearly as strong as MIT, but this year," said Dudte, "I applied [to Harvard] in the moment."

His visit to Harvard was a moment of clarity for him. "In contrast to MIT, Harvard's campus is in a great location. It's a beautiful place...at Harvard, you get to go to the best schools in the world. I'm excited about Harvard."

Granted, Dudte is on an information tour, but he spent two days in concentration on economics and business. "MIT" next to "Harvard" a few

So why is What ran through my mind that night that led me to Harvard? The Crimson

gets cooking

transfer to J & W after NOVA

sally nice.”

Johnson also likes that at the university the culinary program comes first, meaning that while she will be taking the regular academic classes that colleges offer, the university really assesses her passion, cooking. Starting over in a new state in a new school is rarely relaxing. Fortunately, Johnson knows two other people also attending the university, one from her Culinary Arts 2 class at Edison High School.

This time next year, Johnson will not be found helping out the players on the WS softball team as manager or whipping up a frappuccino behind the counter at Starbucks.

Instead, she will be all the way in North Carolina, a full-time college student well on her way to becoming a professional chef.

Johnson says her parents will help her for at least part of college, but plans to hold a job.

“They have a lot of restaurants [to work at] down there so I’ll probably be from one of those,” said Johnson. This is yet another opportunity for experience that will help her one day to run her own restaurant.

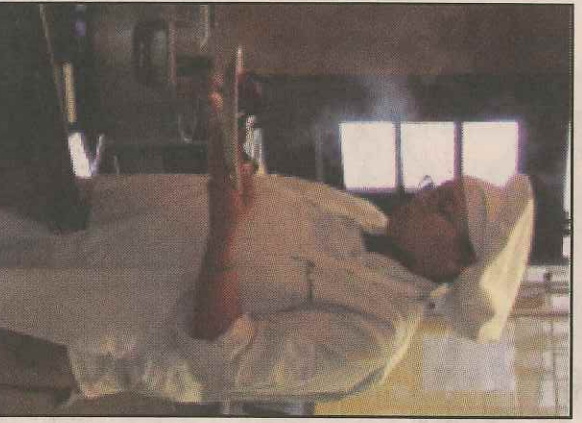
[I want to have] a restaurant that’s

not so prestigious but more affordable, that everyone will like,” said Johnson.

“And the food has to be good.”

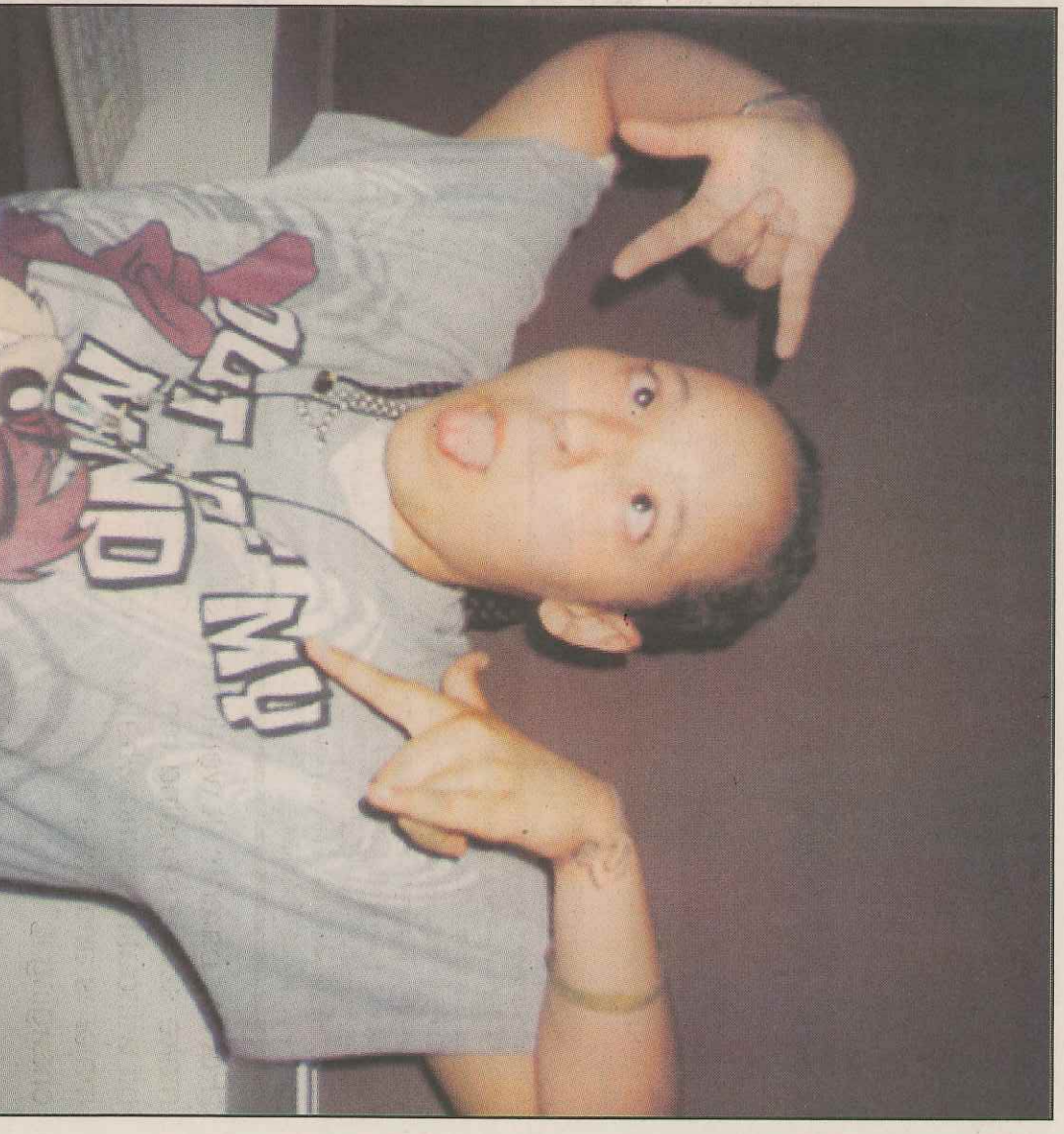
So why did Johnson switch her plans from attending a tiny community college to enrolling in one of the strongest culinary arts colleges in the US?

“I didn’t want to settle,” said Johnson.



Courtesy of Kim Johnson

Senior Kim Johnson serves herself during her Academy class at Edison for Culinary Arts. Johnson, right, displays her personality.



Courtesy of Kim Johnson



Virginia State University



S MITT the boot

mainly torn between Harvard and MIT, though he had a strong leaning towards MIT.

“My decision to apply [to Harvard] was almost spur of the moment.”

—Levi Dudte, senior

“My decision to apply [to Harvard] was almost spur of the moment.”

A generous financial aid offer was one incentive. There was also the unsettling, sudden news that MIT’s dean of admissions resigned because of fraud. These factors combined with a gut feeling and encouraging talks with Harvard engineers led Dudte to take this leap of faith.

He can also cross register to take courses at MIT.

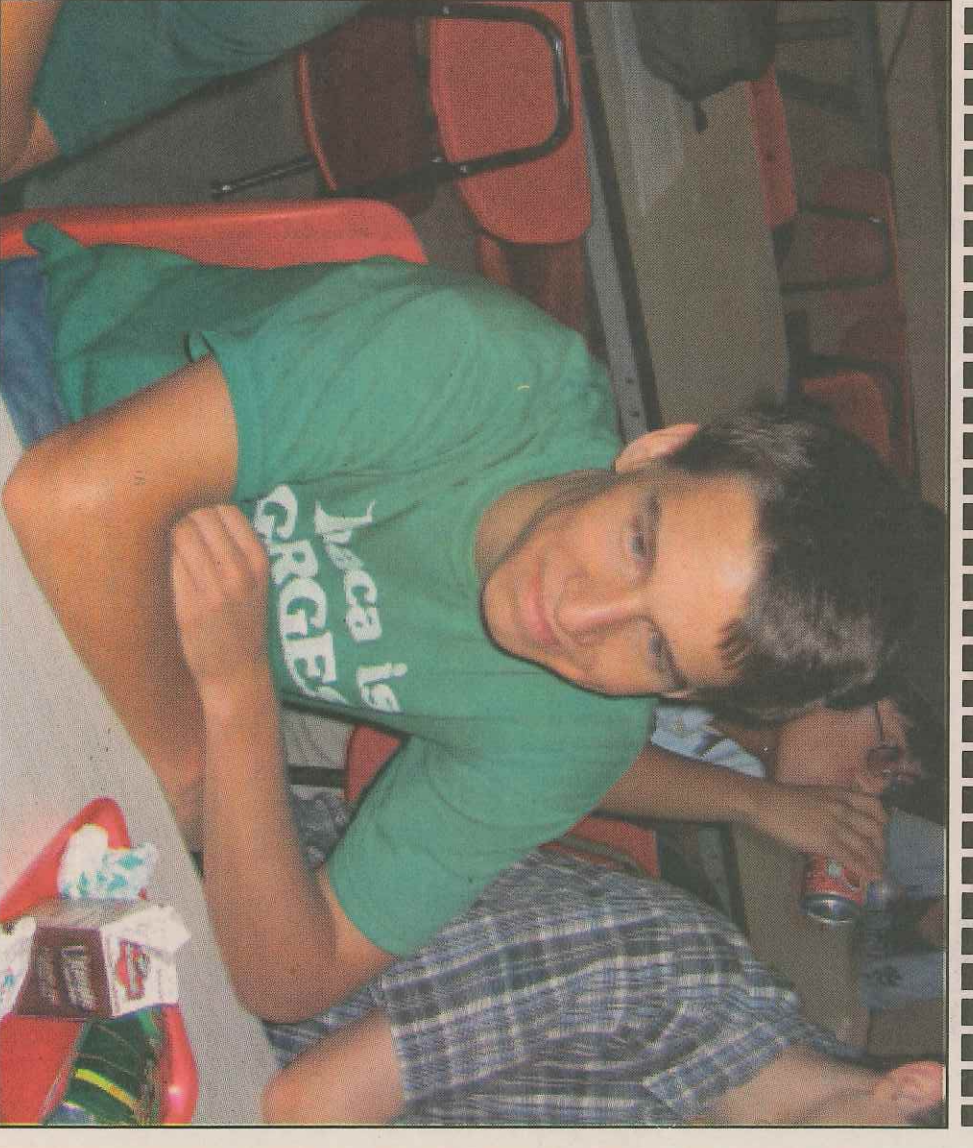
“At Harvard, it’ll have generous courses in all areas but if I wanted to take an esoteric engineering class that’s not offered at Harvard, I’ll hop on the subway and head over to MIT,” said Dudte.

Dudte hopes that he has made the right decision.

“Well, it is Harvard,” said Dudte. “They have a decent engineering program. They have stellar programs elsewhere and I’m betting that I’ll enjoy it there because I haven’t spent much time on campus.”

COFFEE COFFEE

Here is the inside scoop on four very different seniors with very different plans for the future—and what got them there.

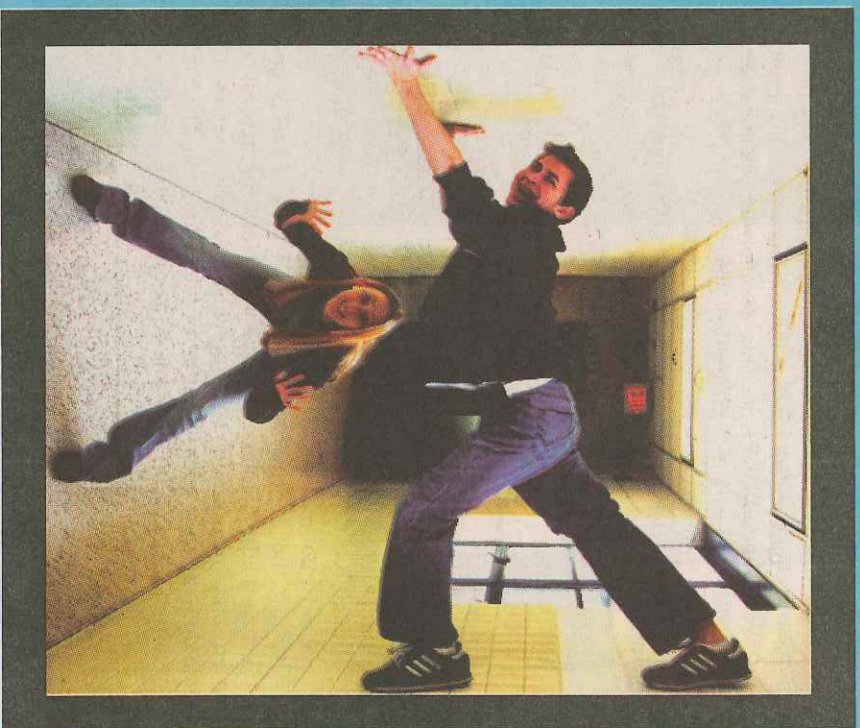
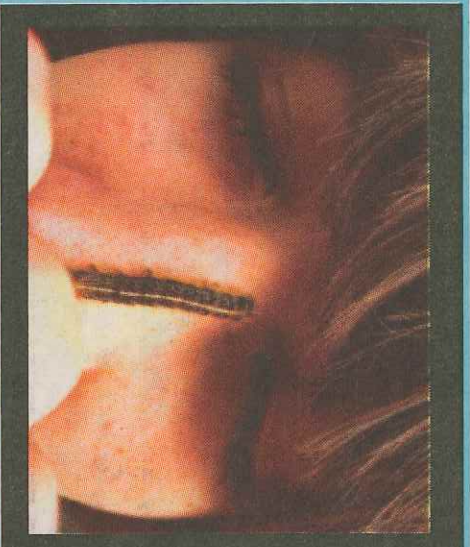
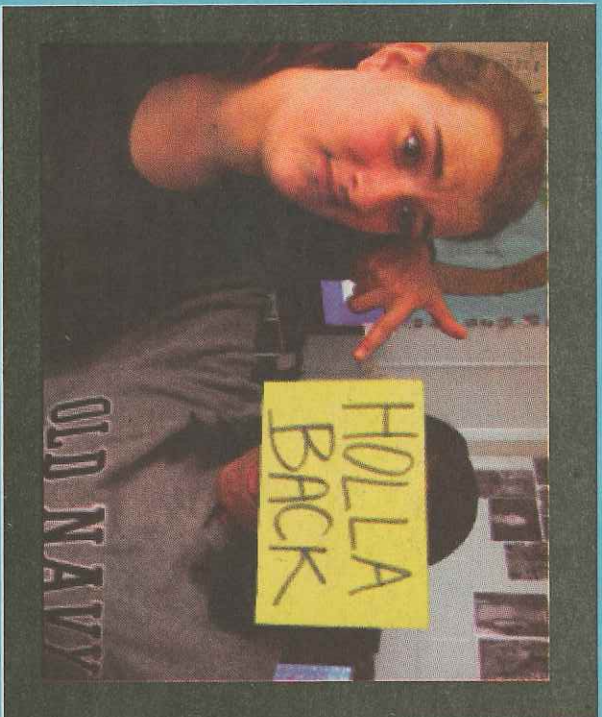


Sean Hogan

Senior Levi Dudte laughs with his friends senior Keith Parkinson, James Ahn and Leonardo Canlas at lunch. Dudte was accepted to MIT, Harvard, GWU, UVA and Cornell. Dudte will attend Harvard in the fall.

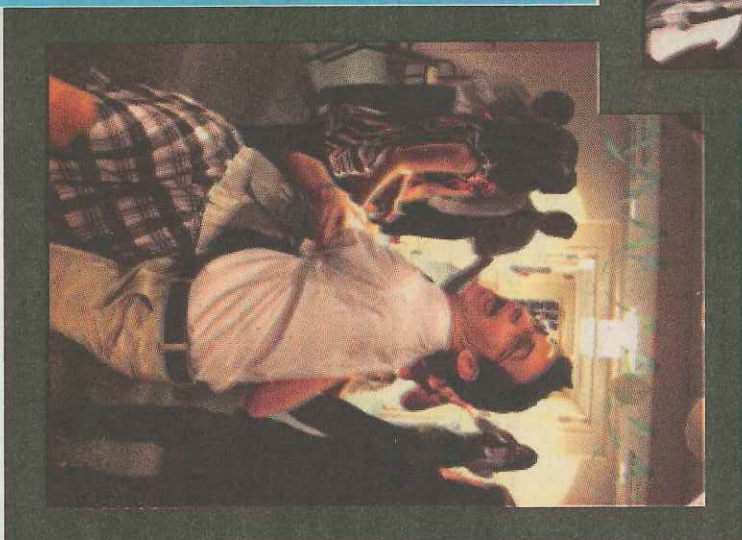
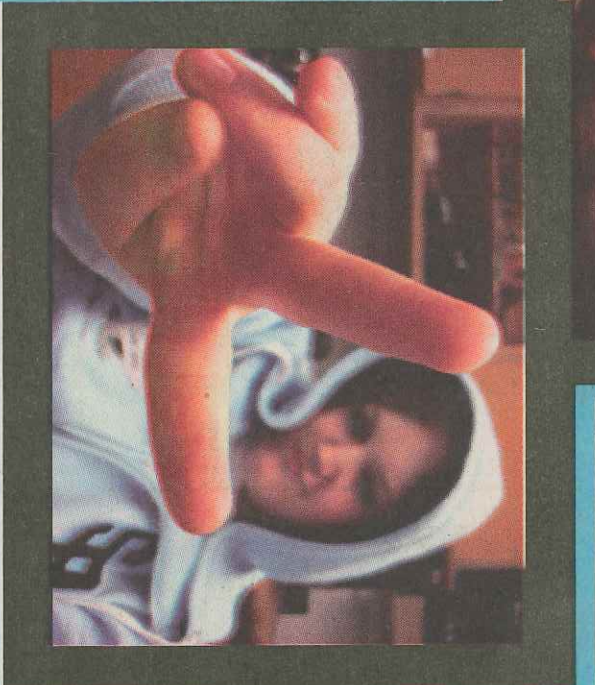
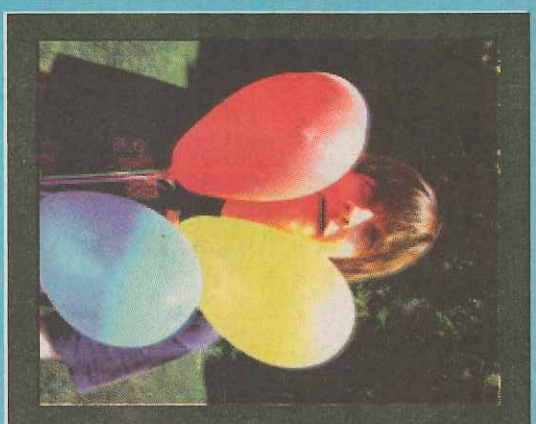
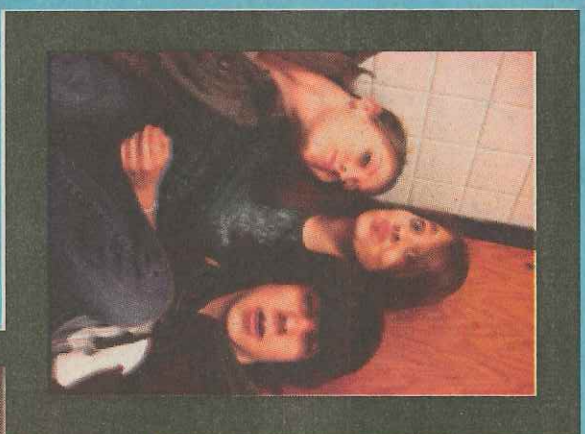
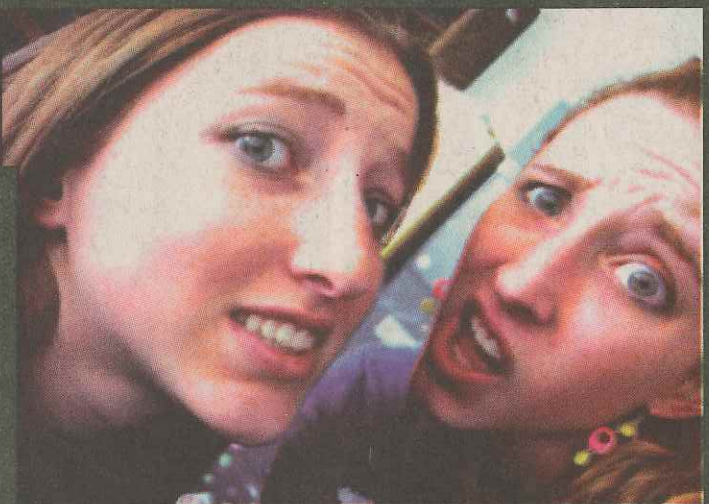
Photo Essay

May 25, 2007



Susink-a-dink

Sarah Wink



Do The Hustle

By Monica Evans
Viewpoint Editor

"Trash TV" has always consisted of Maury, random court shows where people fight over hair straighteners and, of course, the timeless Jerry Springer Show. VH1 has brightened everyone's day by broadcasting a new show, The Springer Hustle.

VH1's new show that airs on Sundays at 8:00 PM. is a behind-the-scenes docu-soap of the 16 year-old Jerry Springer Show.

The Springer Hustle gets up close and personal with the makers of the real show. There's the executive producer, Richard Dominick, and other producer including Annette Grundy, Nicole Hall, and Selma Santos. These producers are in charge of making sure the show is chock full of excitement and passion. When those who are chosen to be on the show are a little dull, the show gets cut and will not even run.

"The guests weren't passionate enough," said Dominick after remarking on a failed taping of a show.

The guests aren't the only ones who bring the enthusiasm. The producers not only decide who gets aired but they themselves have to give 150 percent to make a great show.

"Annette loves the show," said fellow producer Rachel. "I mean the show is so important to her and you get that."

This past week was tough on Grundy since the shows she has been producing for the past couple of weeks have been flops. Her team is a bit disorganized and one assistant was frazzled to the point of tears. The same assistant remarked that "an amazing show" was needed and that she was running on an hour and a half of sleep, keeping her toothbrush with her at work.

Overall, this show is full of ups and downs. The real Jerry Springer Show may be noted as "the worst show in the history of television" but The Springer Hustle is more personal. The show give



Video Detective
"The Springer Hustle" is a show on VH1 that airs the work it takes for the producers of "The Jerry Springer Show" to dig for stories for the astonishingly trashy, train-wreck kind of television.

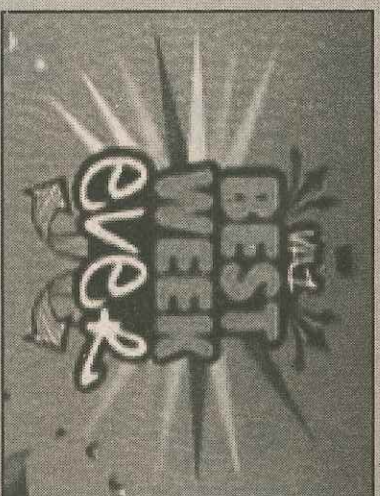
also viewers backstage pass to see all the hard work that is needed to put on such an infamous show, even if it doesn't turn out to be the greatest, or the classiest.

"On this show, you do not have time to dwell if a show doesn't work out," said Grundy. "Because your back in the saddle two days later and the next show has got to be good."

Viva La VH1

"Best Week Ever"

VH1 has taken celebrity gossip to the next level with their weekly show, "Best Week Ever" counting down the Top 10's most surprising and juicy moments of the past week. From Nicole Richie's newly exposed bones to popular, new to the theatre, movies. The show involves portions like, "The Sizzler" where you can find the hottest celebrity gossip, like Brad and Angelina's new child from wherever the dart hit the map this time, and the "In Case You Missed It" segment where you can catch the most recent wildest moments on television, like the frequent girl fights on "Charm School". Another important component of the show is the always hilarious commentary from



VH1



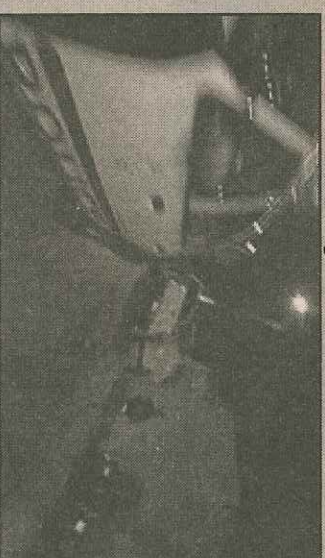
TVGuide

"New York"

"New York", as named by Flavor Flav on her first appearance on, "Flavor of Love" managed to steal the spotlight with her dramatic and deceitful personality, and gave herself a pretty terrible reputation. But, with as bad of a reputation the VH1 reality star has, I can't help but to feel the need to watch everything that she appears in on VH1 that because of that loud, obnoxious drama that follows her every where she goes. She makes snide, hilarious comments at everyone she meets, and I'm sure the only person who has even been able to deal with her enough to stay in her life is her equally as atrocious mother. Although I have no interest in dealing with New York off-screen, I'm drawn to her otherwise, trashy TV is good TV, and New York defines it.

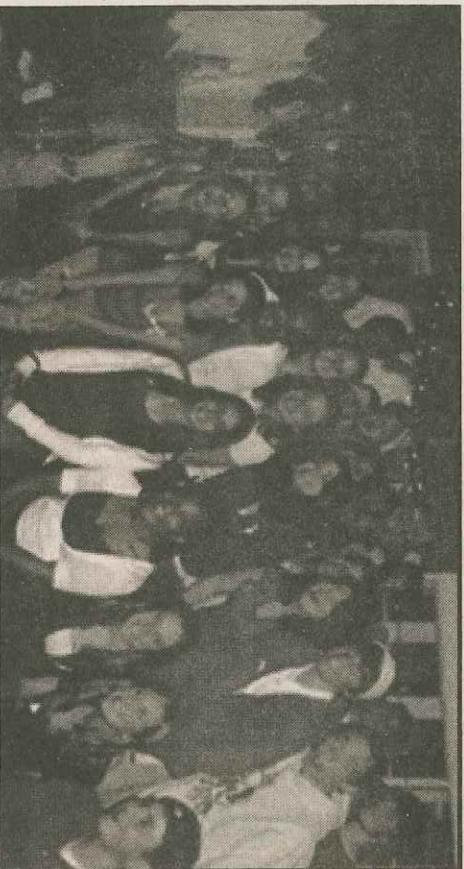
"VH1 Goes Inside: COPS"

VH1 has a new trend of going behind the scenes of some of the most legendary shows, like "The Jerry Springer Show", now they've found the juicy stories behind "COPS". The show is one of the most renowned since it goes into real-life dangerous situations, but putting aside the danger of it all, for the most part, there's true intoxicated humor. For instance, "COPS", as shown by VH1 Goes Inside, they show a scene of a woman voluntarily complaining to a police officer that she wants her \$20 back that she gave to her dealer for crack cocaine, but in the dealers on defense she explains to the officer that she isn't a "dealer" she's a prostitute. The best part is its real-life, with all the necessary elements to make it a great source for entertainment.

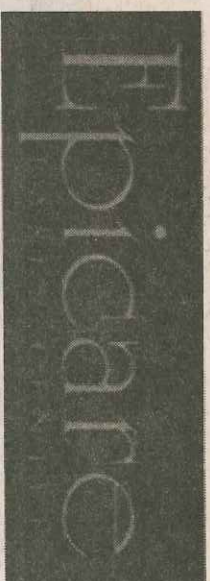


COPS

—Compiled by Nicole Simpson



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Track has a good run at Districts

By Zohra Alnoor
Senior Staff Writer

At the 2007 Patriot District meet, the WS boys and girls track and field team used their training from throughout the year to attempt to make it to States.

On May 16 and 17, at West Potomac HS, our boys and girls competed against 7 other teams in the district for a spot in the Regional competition which will be held on May 24 and 25 at Lake Braddock HS.

"Teamwise, we were not as well as we thought," said coach Duke Baird. "But we had some pretty good individual performances."

For the team, the Patriot Districts was the last meet this year where the whole

team would be together. Only certain teammates made it to Regionals, and for seniors who are spending their last season on the WS track team, they are using their time wisely.

"You hope [all] teammates will qualify," said senior Mike Spooner. "But it's hard for everyone to qualify from the team."

Spooner won the two mile run during districts and qualified for regionals.

A few others who qualified were junior Rosemary Barber for the 400 meter dash, Caroline Peterson won second for high jump and also qualified for states and senior Trish Friederich finished first in the 100 and 300 hurdles. Overall, the girls track and field team won fourth place at the District competition while the boys

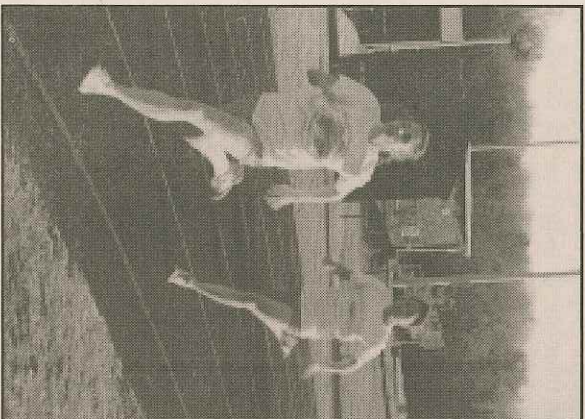
took fifth.

Many of the seniors who are graduating, are planning on continuing competing in college. Leo Walker will be attending VMI, Andy Adell will attend Virginia Tech, Alex Martis and Spooner will go to the University of Tennessee, and Friederich to Cornell University.

"All the seniors want to make it really memorable because it's their last year on HS track," said Friederich.

Seniors who are leaving hope that the season will continue smoothly and that their last days together are used to their best abilities.

"We have a lot of seniors leaving," said Spooner. "But we have a lot of new kids. It'll be cool seeing them slowly grow up."



Sarah Wickizer

Senior Trish Friederich won first in both the 100 and 300 meter hurdles.

Spartan Spotlight

Sean Newmeyer Sr., Varsity Soccer

By Inderbir Bal
Business/Systems Editor

Q: How did you break your collarbone?

A: It was the Lake Braddock game two weeks ago; I dove to make the save. The shot was six yards out, all my weight hit the ground and I made the save.

Q: What happened after you dove?

A: It hurt really badly, at first, I thought that it was a stinger and I got up and moved my arm around and it hurt. The trainer took me out and I lied, saying that it did not hurt to the trainer so the trainer put me back in.



The Olympian

After breaking his collarbone, senior captain Sean Newmeyer has been confined to the sideline.

Q: What did the doctors say?

A: I went to the ER and they did an x-ray and they said I would be out from four to eight weeks. I hope to return for the playoffs.

Q: What do you plan to do for the rest of the season?

A: I'll just help the team as much as I can, I'll keep stats and stay involved.

Q: Are you going to play in college?

A: Yeah, I am going to play for the Coast Guard Academy.

Q: How do your teammates and coaches feel about your injury?

A: They aren't happy, they're supportive and they understand that I can't play but I'm happy that I made the save.

Q: How do your parents feel?

A: My mom is a physical therapist and they want me to get healthy and play. They're glad I didn't hurt any ligaments.

Q: How do you think your injury will affect the outcome of the season?

A: I'm not worried. We have our back up, Omar Almaraz, playing well and we have a solid defense.

Q: Is there anything you could have done to avoid it?

A: Not really, I had to make the save, I've the same dive dozens of times and nothing happened. It was a freak accident.

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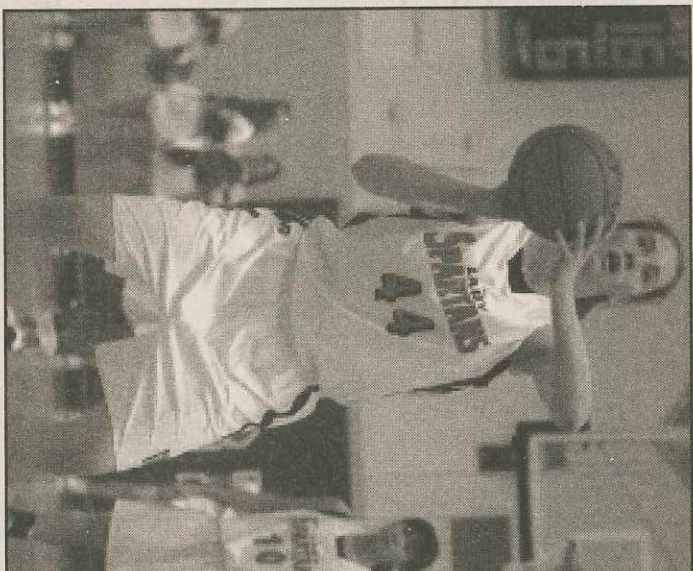
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Future grads prepare for college sports

By Sam Landers
Sports Assistant

Seniors heading to college next year are looking forward to summer relaxing with friends and reminiscing on the fun times they had in high school. Some athletes, however, plan to continue playing sports in college have a lot of work to do to prepare for their first season. Almost none of the athletes at WS have received their work out assignments, but they are expecting them soon. Also, those who are playing sports at a military academy have to leave early for basic training, which is through the school, not their specific sport. "We will have to follow a workout schedule with running and lifting, but also I have to leave July 2 for



Life/teach
Senior Caroline Nicholson will be receiving a strict workout schedule for her to complete over the summer in preparation for the upcoming college season.

basic training," said senior Chris Benedict, who will be attending West Point to play lacrosse. Benedict will also attend small tournaments to prepare for the season which begins in the spring. Senior Ryan Yohe will be attending the Naval Academy for lacrosse next year and will have to go through the same procedure.

Senior Caroline Nicholson is going to the University of Pennsylvania next year where she will be playing Division I basketball. Not only is she going to continue her career playing basketball, but she is attending the Ivy League school for her academics as well.

"The schedule I'm going to get is a very strict schedule, like we can only practice for a certain amount of hours a week, and that's because education is so important there," said Nicholson. She will be given a modified workout due to injury, but she will receive the work out very soon to begin her preparation for the upcoming season.

Senior Scott Holmes is one of the few athletes who has received their scheduled workout. Holmes is working toward preparing for his lacrosse season at Christopher Newport University. His work out consists of basic exercises like running and sprinting. He will also be attending Velocity Sports Performance to build up his strength and speed.

"It's good to know its going to pay off in the long run," said Holmes.

Tournament Time!

<i>Girls Lacrosse</i>	<i>Girls Soccer</i>	<i>Softball</i>
DISTRICT CHAMPIONS	DISTRICT CHAMPIONS	District Finals loss against South County 7-3
District Finals victory against Annandale 10-7	District Finals victory against Lake Braddock 2-0	
<i>Boys Lacrosse</i>	<i>Boys Soccer</i>	<i>Baseball</i>
DISTRICT CHAMPIONS	District Finals loss against Lake Braddock 2-1, 2OT	District Finals loss against South County 4-1
District Finals victory against Annandale 13-3		

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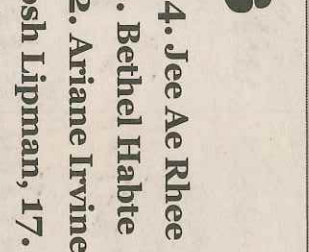
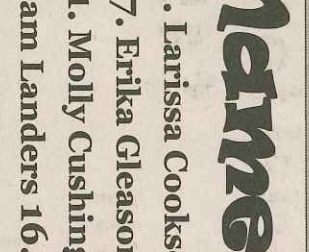
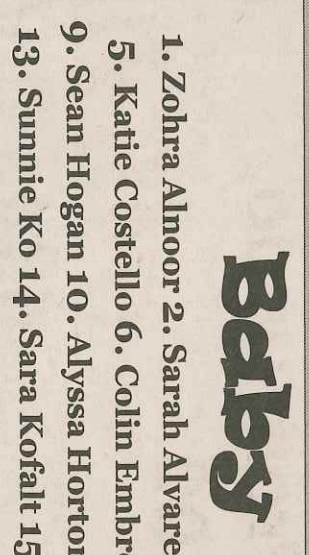
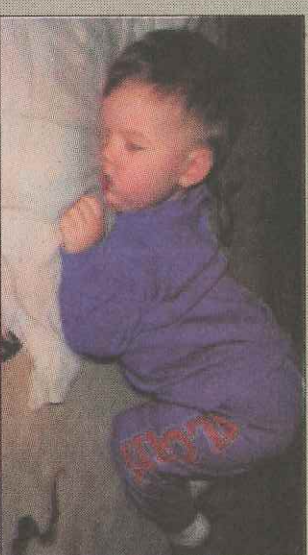
Sat. 8 am-5 pm

6345 Rolling Rd

Closed Sunday

WHOAMI?

In celebration of the end of the year, the Journalism students want you to play a guessing game. Just fill in a number from the list below underneath each photo.



Baby Names

1. Zohra Alnoor 2. Sarah Alvarez 3. Larissa Cookson 4. Jee Ae Rhee
5. Katie Costello 6. Colin Embrey 7. Erika Gleason 8. Bethel Habte
9. Sean Hogan 10. Alyssa Horton 11. Molly Cushing 12. Ariane Irvine
13. Sunnie Ko 14. Sara Kofalt 15. Sam Landers 16. Josh Lipman, 17. Andreaana Maxwell 18. Stephanie Maxwell 19. Cam McCallum 20. Kristin McGregor 21. Jake Serwin 22. Jordy Serwin 23. Nicole Simpson 24. Kelly Sipple 25. Beth Stinson

Hoagie's World
How NOT to get the best of your AP Tests

By Sean Hogan
 Oracle Editor

DO NOT READ THIS SENTENCE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

Read these instructions first. You should have skipped the bolded, capitalized sentence. You read it? Failure. This is the AP College Board talking to you and we want to make this test simple and fair for everyone. Open your mouth and jeopardize your score. Make eye contact and the AP Secret Service (who happen to operate in legions in the entire school) will jump down from the ceiling and mark a giant zero on your test.

Okay, you're opened your test now. Hooray! That's .0007% of the test! Now for the other 99.9993% of the test, please

Stevie's Story

**'Tomorrow's gonna come too soon'
 Life after high school is not limited to college for grads**

By Stevie Fiorino
 Etc. Editor

As the days get longer, the quarter gets shorter and so do seniors' attention spans. With just nine school days left for the 2007 seniors, thoughts about what is to come next year begin to float around in our heads.

While some of us are off to college, others are going straight to the work world. Senior Rob Townsend will be going into the cadet program for the Fairfax County Police Department.

"I'm excited because I'm going to have a good paying job right out of high school and lots of benefits," said Townsend, "[but] I'm kind of nervous because of the risks that I will be facing as a cop." Even though the pay is satisfying, cops have to be able to face dangerous situations without hesitation. The risks do not affect Townsend too badly because he plans on being a cop until he retires.

"If I go into the cadet program right away, I can retire at 36," said Townsend. Going a different route is senior Samantha Williams,

define the following five terms with a pen of DARK BLUE OR BLACK INK! NO SKY BLUE, MEDIUMISH BLUE, PALE BLUE, CAROLINA BLUE, ROBIN'S EGG BLUE or PERIWINKLE.
 a) Authoritarianism-Occurs when the Librarian kicks you out for checking your fantasy football team/Facebook/ MySpace/email after school when you signed up to use a computer for a "Government project."
 b) Market economy-Your dad complains every time he goes to the grocery store, because the prices always seem to go up, but just for him. The neighbors apparently got the same cereal yesterday for \$2.99 whereas your dad got it for \$5.15 (with his BonusCard).
 c) Referendum-A taunt toward the official of a soccer game.

who has college in her plans. "I'm going to VCU to hopefully major in biology," said Williams.

Williams has concerns about going away for school, but the pros override the cons enough to convince her to leave.

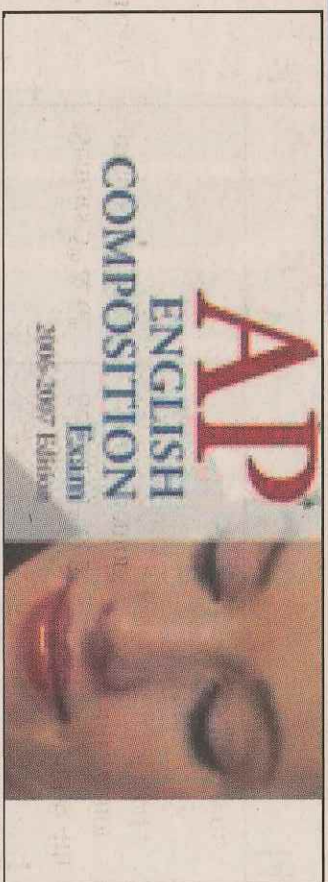
"Living with three other girls is going to create so much drama that I really don't want, but I am looking forward to the freedom of not living under my parents," said Williams.

Senior Zach Burrus is sticking around in the area for awhile, another popular route among seniors..

"I'm going to NOVA and I have no idea what I want to study," said Burrus. Burrus is glad, however, that in less than a month he will never have to walk the halls of WS ever again.

"I'm excited about not being stuck in high school any more and I'm not really scared at all of being in the real world," Burrus stated.

With full time college and full time work creeping up closer and closer on the 2007 seniors, excitement fills the halls of WS. Twelve years of our lives is finally coming to a complete end. No more school buses, crossing guards, SOL's, morning announcements, and



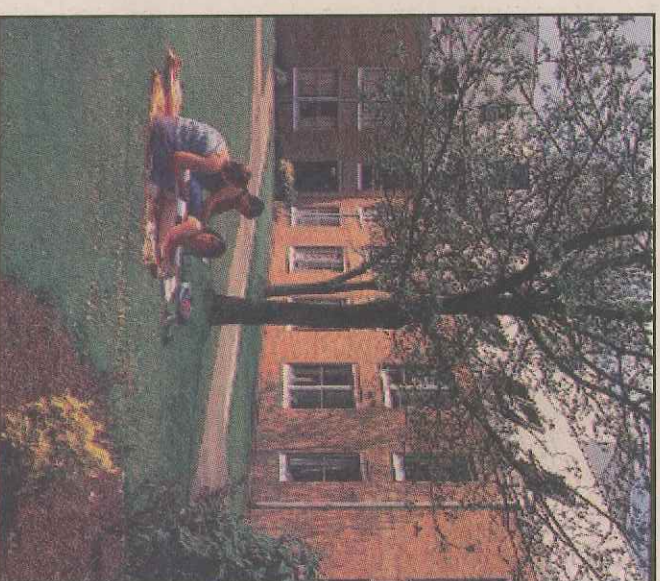
AP College Board

Beneath this elusive smile lies a paralyzing fear of the AP test directions.

d) Bicameral-A psycho photographer who carries cameras in both hands, snapping tons of pictures to put onto MySpace.
 e) Devolution- After a Devo concert, people across the world started to wear yellow chemical suits and red flower pot hats.

AP College Board scoring notes: Student clearly has no knowledge of the AP Government and Politics: Comparative subject. He also demonstrates a lack of respect for the AP College Board. We have decided to

give Mr. Hogan a 1. My response to scoring: Hey, AP College Board: if you were a ice cream flavor, you'd be pralines and SUCK. AP College Board response: We're sorry, but name calling won't get you a better score on your exam.
 Me: Your MOM won't get you a better score on your exam.
 AP College Board: You're right. No outside source can get you a better score on your exam. Finally, you see our point. Thank you and have a nice day.
 Me: Grt...




AP College Board

Next year, most WS seniors will head off to colleges and universities like this one, to sit under trees and learn from the country's best professors.

no more little dudes driving around in their damn golf cart sealing the parking lot for skipping seniors who just want to eat some REAL lunch food. That greasy pizza and nacho crap just doesn't hit the spot.

Well, on that note, go out into the real world, seniors, and work or study your butts off and go out to eat at a really nice gourmet restaurant or something.

 <h1 style="color: blue; font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">MAY/JUNE '07</h1>						
Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Senior Award Ceremony-Auditorium 8:30 a.m.	Crew Nationals in Camden, New Jersey	Crew Nationals in Camden, New Jersey	Memorial Day 	Last day to buy your prom tickets during A & B lunches	National Potato Day (Peru) 	Military Awards Ceremony Spartan Hall 8-9:30 a.m.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Senior Oracle comes out	SAT at WSHS 	Anderson Cooper's Birthday	Seniors 5 th & 7 th exams (full day)	Seniors 5 th & 6 th exams (full day)	Seniors 1 st & 3 rd exams (Seniors dismissed after 3 rd)	Seniors 2nd & 4th exams, Senior Picnic at Burke Lake Park 12 p.m.-4 p.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Prom at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.	Junior Car Wash at Kingstowne Walmart	Seniors: Pay your fines before cap & gown distribution	Kamehameha Day 	Underclass Exams 1st & 3rd Last full day for underclassmen!	Graduation @ Patriot Center 7:30 p.m.	Flag Day 