

THE RAVEN

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West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

WS sends one of its own to White House

By Krista Pedersen

Scope Editor

New freshmen didn't notice the absence, but her former students and co-workers did.

Jocelyn Pickford, a ninth-grade English teacher, is taking a year off from WS to pursue a year of study in leadership in DC as a White House Fellow.

As part of the program, Pickford receives full pay to assist high-ranking White House staff members, Cabinet secretaries and other government officials. She will gain experience by observing US policy domestically and abroad. About 1,000 apply each year for the coveted 11-19 internships. After making the top 32 program finalists, Pickford underwent an extensive interviewing process to make the final cut. "[The interviewing process] was very intensive. Because the Fellowship is so competitive, I did not remotely expect to be selected when I first applied," Pickford said. "The further I got in the process, the more I began to believe it might work out. When I got the good news I was still flabbergasted, because the other finalists were such incredible people. I am incredibly honored and humbled to be part of the White House Fellows program."

Pickford has always been motivated to succeed. She was a regional finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship in college and studied as an undergraduate in Rome.

Budget cuts hit WS

Field trip funding slashed this year

By Sarah Alvarez

Viewpoint Editor

With the school year still in its infant days, WS has already faced a minor setback. Though the students may not notice, there is something lacking from the fabric of the school; something essential: money.

Student life may not change directly as a result of the new budget cuts, but all the same they are an inopportune change. By unfortunate circumstance WS has lost \$72,000.

This \$72,000 was originally anticipated for use during this school year but as a result of the cuts the school is left short.

Two events contributed to this cut: in Richmond, Virginia clerks made a mistake with budgeted funds, there was an error in the calculation of sales taxes, the revenue would have gone to our local jurisdiction with a portion of the sum going to WS.



Mary Bailey

Jocelyn Pickford enjoys a farewell lunch with colleague Jenn Beach and other English teachers.

Her writing has been published in various newspapers and magazines and in 2005 Pickford participated in creating a grant that awarded \$1 million to WS.

"I have a very hard time being idle," said Pickford. "I've always done a million things at once, and I have a perfectionist tendency that keeps me trying as hard as I can with whatever I take on. I always believed in myself."

During her four years at WS, Pickford also spoke at professional workshops and graduate education classes at George Washington University, and participated extensively in the US Holocaust Memorial Museum teacher workshop. At WS, Pickford was an English teacher, the class of '07 sponsor, the lead mentor for new teachers and the Curriculum Coordinator for freshman English.

Although she is not sure what the future holds, Pickford says that she feels fortunate to have so many new friends and contacts, and to be a part of the program.

"I love WS and miss being there already. I am not sure exactly what this year will bring [but] I see myself in the field of education as a lifetime career."



Lori Fischer

Students pose for a picture on the Brooklyn Bridge while on a field trip to NYC in January 2006. Due to budget cuts, field trips and teacher activities may not receive as much funding this school year.

Dr. David Smith planned on a larger budget than what the school now has, but this is no crisis. Dr. Smith stresses that the students will not see a drastic difference in class room materials or the management of the school.

"It is going to be the same just some extras won't be there," said Dr. Smith.

The missing money would have been made available for special field trips or teacher activities.

"[The money would] help subsidize

"[It's] not a crisis. [We] just have to be more diligent."

—David Smith, principal

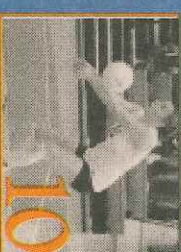
would have been on the market for \$500,000 it would now go for something closer to \$430,000. This downward trend has essentially taken money away from area. Property taxes are another source of nominal funds for WS, and with these taxes on a downward spiral the school is short of some money.



Teachers tighten rules during school.



Students travel to exotic locations.



Volleyball team succeeds academically.

Teenagers: adult mindset with childish maturity

By Lindsay Bruhn

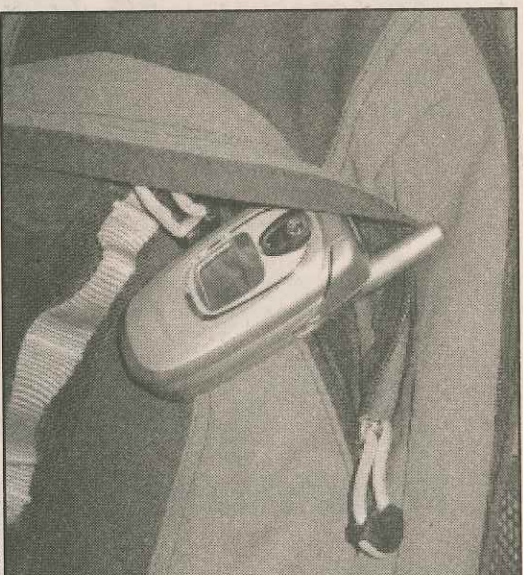
Senior Staff writer

To say that we are adults would be a vast exaggeration. However, we are no longer children, or so we think.

In nearly every aspect of our lives, we as high school students are expected to strive to behave as adults. The idea that adulthood is just around the corner is ever present in our minds, thanks to teachers and counselors.

Unfortunately, this year, all through the idea of creating independence and maturity in students still very much exists, our ability to take on that responsibility is hindered by a new "crackdown" involving tardiness and cell phone use.

The newly reinforced hall sweeps instill the idea that we are incapable of being responsible for our attendance. If that is the case, then it is doubtful that we even have the capability of acting like grown ups in any way and even more rules need to be put in place for our immature minds to be able to function properly.



Molly Cushing

Exposed electronic devices will be confiscated if seen during the day. Regardless of the occasion cell phones will be placed in small plastic evidence bags and taken to the office if seen during the day.

Editorial

Beats during break?

The halls should be alive—with the sounds of music

By Zohra Alnoor

Senior Staff Writer

Music is to teenagers as oxygen is to human beings. We teenagers, are music-obsessed children who can't go anywhere with out our ipods, mp3's and even mp3 cell phones.

We start listening to music the second we wake up...literally. We open our eyes to the blaring sounds of our radio alarm clocks adjusted to stations like 101.1, 99.5 and 93.9. Then it's off to school. We listen to music whether it be from our car radios or our ipod on the bus.

You go to first period and instead of listening to your teacher review for the unit exam, you sneak your music players into class and listen to your favorite band while nodding to your teachers lecture every now and then

to make it seem like you are actually listening to the lecture, when in truth your nodding your heads to the beats of Justin Timberlake's "Sexy Back."

You naughty children.

So, here's an interesting question: do we have enough music in our lives or could we add just a little bit more into it?

I'm referring to the fact that we might have a chance to listen to different types of music over the intercom system every single day during our fifteen minute break.

I personally would love this. But some students and teachers think that this will cause even more chaos in the hallways with students singing loudly or even dancing in the hallways. Instead of predicting what they think will happen, anyone can easily go and ask WS Government teacher and alumni Kevin Gallagher, who attended

WS when music played during break time.

"Most [students] would just listen to the music, some would talk about it," said Gallagher. "But there was no dancing really."

There are pros and cons to having music during break. A disadvantage to this idea would most likely be when a student has to study during break and the music distracts the student. But there are advantages also.

"[The music] creates a more relaxed atmosphere for when students should have break," said Gallagher. With the SGA and the help of our fellow peers, we can select a number of songs to be played throughout the school.

"One week we had Led Zeppelin week, where they played a different Led Zeppelin song every day," said Gallagher. "And once they played a

When we are no longer trusted to make sure that we arrive to class on time, we have no need to take responsibility, for ourselves. It is now the administrations job to make sure we are on time. There is also the fact that it was our responsibility and some of us were not living up to it. So while the sweeps are a hassle and not fair for the entire population, who may occasionally be late, it is common knowledge that there are some students who did abuse their freedom.

To those of you who did, and you know who you are, shame on you!

Another area of the new rule extravaganza, where students are not being trusted, is cell phone use.

Of course, cell phones should not be used during instructional time, definitely with the administration on that, but when it comes to our break and lunch, taking away cell phones during that time is ridiculous.

WS cannot understand any reason that students

are not allowed to use them during "our time."

Those of us who focus in class, arrive on time and really apply ourselves are being penalized for other

students' actions.

With the new "crackdown" in place, if we occasionally have trouble with our locker or are just having a bad day, it doesn't matter, we can still get detention for being late. It is little ridiculous.

recorded tape of me singing 'Sarellite,' by Dave Matthews Band."

We can have a lot of fun with this idea. If our fellow WS Alum says that music would be cool, then I vote for music during break. I have stressful classes, and music during break means that I don't have to sneakily listen to my ipod during class, *cough*, I mean students won't have to sneakily listen to their ipods during class. Besides we've got to keep the tradition going right?

I would personally love to listen to different kinds of music every day during break. But some students and teachers think that this will cause even more chaos in the hallways with students singing loudly or even dancing.



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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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Do not ask for whom the stall closes...

From leaky fountains to lack of TP, we need to take care of this place

By Molly Cushing

Photographer

At the beginning of each year, teachers inform students about the ways of WS.

However, they seem to overlook one tiny detail: that this school apparently has a B.Y.O.T.P. (bring your own toilet paper) policy.

There never seems to be any of it anywhere when it's needed! I have once traveled to every single bathroom on the second floor of this school only to find absolutely no toilet paper.

Now, students can be spotted in the hallways with pencils, binders, books, and a roll of toilet paper for those certain bathroom emergencies.

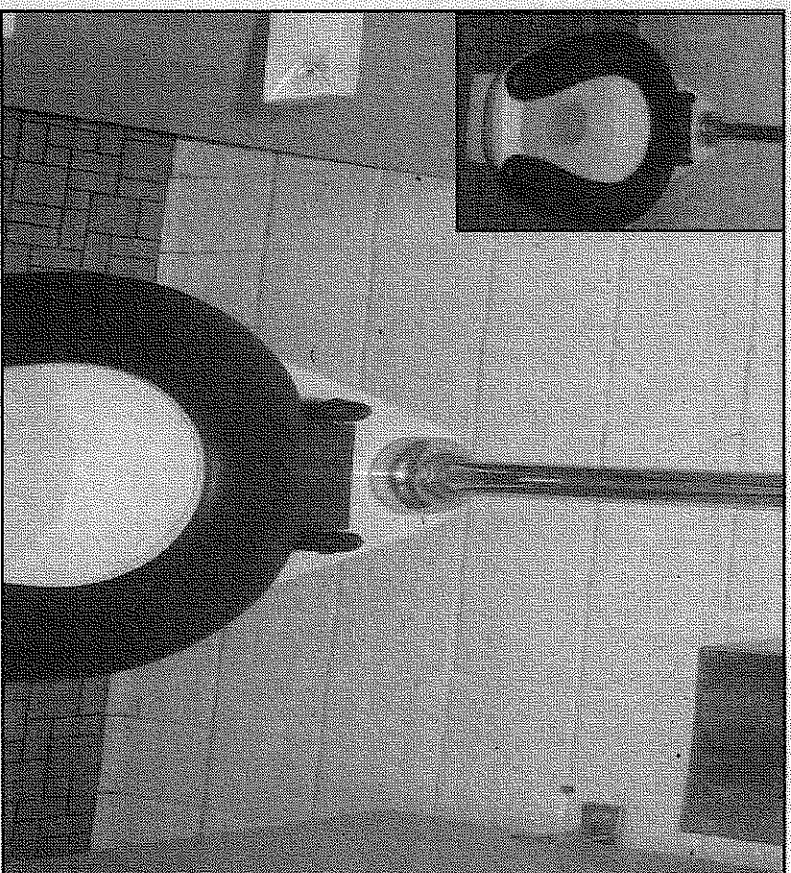
With the lack of toilet paper, comes the lack of privacy as WS has begun it's open door policy; literally.

The female portion of the student population should be informed of the trick bathroom stalls located in their restrooms.

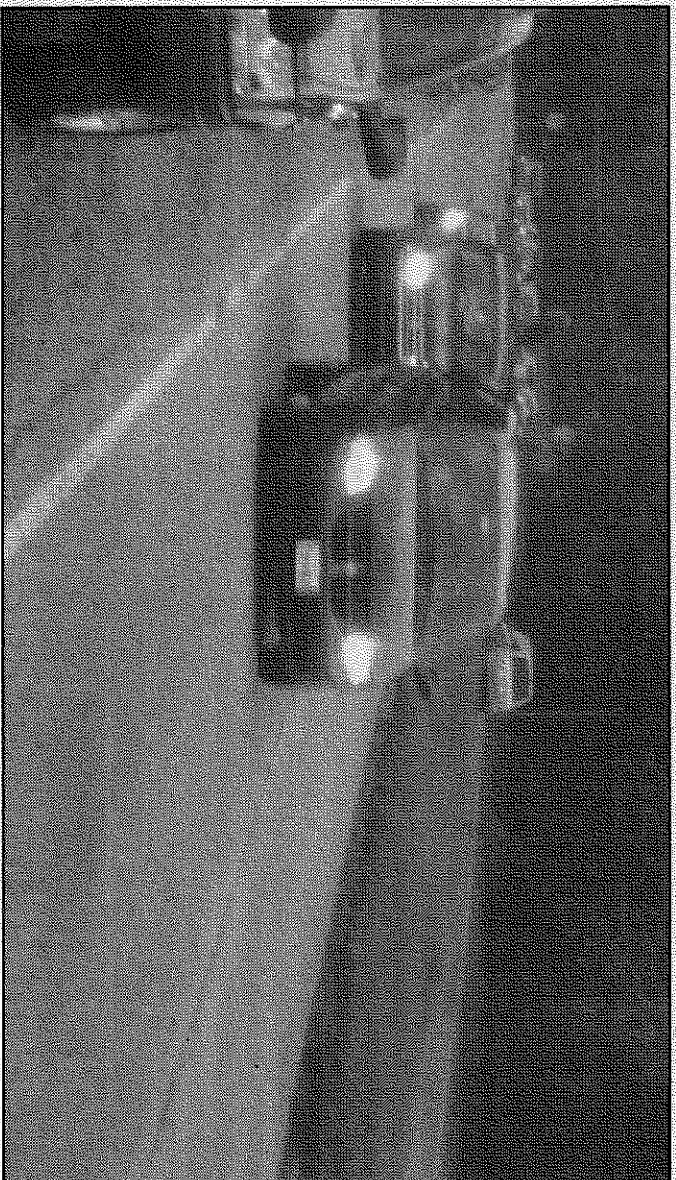
It may appear as though there are four working stalls in the girls' bathroom, but that is mere illusion.

The truth is only an average of two out of four stall doors in every bathroom actually shut. So, for you boys who still wonder why women go to the bathroom in groups, it's not because we fear for our safety; it's because we need a door holding team to allow us to relieve ourselves.

As fun as that is, it gets old real quick.



Molly Cushing
The stalls in the foreign language hall, above, do not lock on a frequent basis. Often, the toilets throughout the building overflow and fail to flush. There must be a toilet paper monster consuming all our TP supplies.



Sean Alvarez
Even students who live close to the school have problems getting there because of traffic tie-ups.

Traffic troubles traumatize teen

By Erika Gleason

News Section Editor

No one wants to spend their morning caught in bumper-to-bumper traffic. As early as last week I thought traffic was something only my Dad and his coworkers had to endure on their way into D.C. Little did I know what was to await me on my way to WS each morning.

There's a seemingly endless line of cars. The build up begins at the entrance of the school (near the crossing guard) and stretches almost all the way to Keene Mill Road.

It also encompasses the entrance to the senior parking lot. This makes for some incredibly cranky seniors.

In all honesty, it's not as if students care if they're late to class. We're not even awake for most of it anyway. It's just that not all first period teachers take the sob stories about the soccer-mom minivan that was blocking the entrance to the school for an hour. They'll just tell you that you have to leave earlier in the morning. But if everyone leaves earlier, then we'll still have traffic.

The administration has reinstated the "randy/unexcused absence" rule which states that nine tardies

equals three unexcused absences which equals *gasp* failure. I would hate to fail my second period AP US class not because I'm just plain lazy but because I was caught in an infinite amount of automobiles.

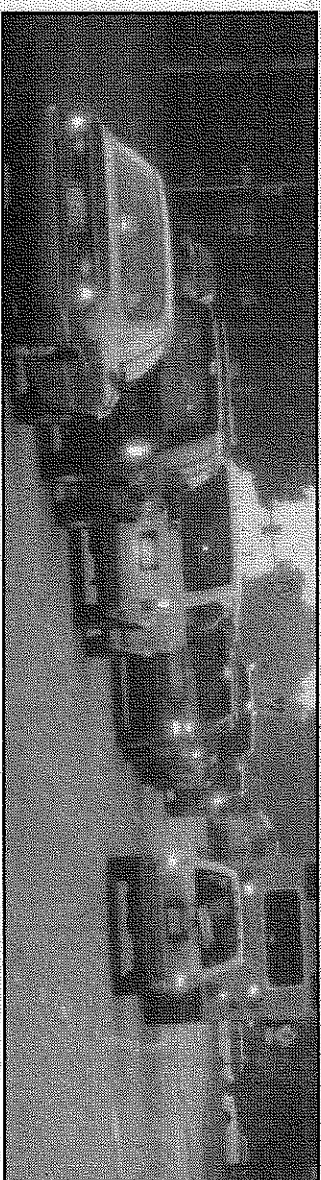
There are solutions to this ongoing issue; one is to carpool. It's pointless for juniors to drive to school and try to park on Rolling Road when your senior neighbor down the street has his own parking spot.

Ask for a ride. Rolling Road in front of the school is getting more and more crowded as juniors are receiving their licenses.

Pretty soon the only spot left will be where that tree branch fell down and you have to move it every time you want to squeeze your car in.

Another is the less popular option...taking the bus. Yes, it smells like unwashed freshman. There is no air circulation. And every time it hits a bump, you fly up and hit your head on the ceiling. But you do get to and from school much quicker. Lots of people you may know ride the bus as well, so it's a good way to socialize.

Traffic is not fun. Though it's nice to have your own car at school or get a ride from your parents so you can come and go at your own pace, the WS area is just too congested. We all need to alleviate the problem as much as possible.



Mixing Spanish class levels makes the grade

By Sunnie Ko

Senior Staff Writer

(Spoken with an awful Spanish accent): Hola, Me llamo Sunnie Ko. Me gusta gato. Yo quiero Taco Bell.

That was my Spanish in a nutshell before Spanish four. It had been that way for all of my Spanish years at WS yet, I was always with people like myself. Students who when asked questions by the teachers, happened to: like cats (me gusta los gatos), like to eat french fries (Me gusta comer papas fritas), and who all started their PALS with "Hola, me llamo (insert Spanish name that sounds nothing like your real name here) just to waste 10 seconds of the required two minutes of speaking time.

Now, however, things have drastically changed. The first day of class was probably the most intimidating day I have ever experienced in all of my high school life. We walk in, take our seats and when the bell rings Professora Lampazzi begins to speak...entirely in Spanish.

As she goes on with her lecture, going over the agenda, and talking about class room rules, I look around and see utter confusion on my classmates' faces. Then, profesora says something (I think it might have been something about dish towels) and the whole back of the class erupts in laughter. That's when I realized, they weren't like the rest of us.

I later found out (after I asked one of "them" behind me) that the class was not only Spanish 4, but also AP Spanish. The first thing that came into my mind was "que?"

The class is taught as two completely different classes and we aren't supposed to communicate at all between Spanish four and AP.

This combination of classes because of the mass amount of people who signed up for Spanish Four; there are 5 classes of Spanish four which is a more than there have been in previous years.

It seemed great at first; whenever I couldn't figure something out, I just had to turn around and pull a "como se dice bed cover" and I'd get my answer in a jiffy (that's "how do you say bed cover for all you non Spanish speakers). That ended in a "Senorita, ellos no estan tu diccionario." (Girl, they aren't your dictionary).

Now, I've gotten used to it and it's kind of inspired me to become more fluent in Spanish. However, the one huge downfall is that it's almost impossible to hear and concentrate if you're "on the border" as I like to say (the last row in Spanish four that meets with the first row in AP).

All in all, the dual class really helps because hearing Spanish everywhere helps in overall education of the language. On a scale from uno through diez I give the class a "muy bien!"

WS selects new mascot Students audition during pep rally

By Sunnie Ko
Senior Staff Writer

Each sectioned off class roared over the shirt tearing, promiscuous dancing and painted faces that were all seen on Friday, September 15th at the first pep rally of the school year.

During Friday's pep rally, a competition to revive the Spartan mascot, which has been absent from regularly attending school functions for the past two years, was held.

Competitors, seniors Matt Kawamoto, Mattie Lockwood and Ari Jimenez all were given the chance to show what they could offer if crowned the "Spartan Man."

"My tactic was to get the crowd going of course," said Kawamoto. "Something told me 'this school needs you to show them spirit.'"

With that in mind, Kawamoto danced down the bleachers and on to the football field getting the crowd riled up.

Lockwood and Jimenez both worked their strategies to get the crowd to side with them, but the audience had made their minds up and with a show of applause, Kawamoto was named the 2007 mascot.

His duties consist of simply attending every game and getting the crowd involved as much as he can. "I think he's going to be really



Amy McAngelo
Senior Matt Kawamoto pumps up the 07 section at the pep rally. Kawamoto's audition in front of the student body won him the title of Spartan Mascot.

exciting to watch," said varsity cheerleader junior Erica Babel. "He's going to help us get the crowd going."

Aside from the obvious of spreading spirit, the job of school mascot has another meaning.

"We're going to have someone to represent the school itself," said junior Alex Klinghehert. "We already have school spirit, but now there's actually someone there to symbolize it."

There is a difference between this mascot ones from the past; Kawamoto will not be sporting the old mascot uniform previously worn by 2005 and retired mascot, graduate Jon Nylan.

"A new and improved outfit is soon to arrive," said Kawamoto.

As for a message to the Spartans attending the football games, Kawamoto has only one thing to say; "I'm ready to take on the call of duty, expect the unexpected."

Students adjust to split Spanish classes

By Alyssa Horton
Viewpoint Editor

In Susan Lampazzi's 3rd period Spanish class she has to switch back and forth between teaching Spanish 4 and AP Spanish; the two classes are combined.

This is the first year that Spanish 4 and AP Spanish have been put together. There was an increase in students who wanted to take AP Spanish, but there are not enough teachers who can teach it, so it resulted in a combined class.

"The class is more relaxed since we have breaks throughout the period," said senior Will Vatis. "It's really nice because she's not focused on you 100 percent of the time."

When the students walk into class, those taking AP Spanish must make their way to the back while those who take Spanish 4 sit in the front rows of the desks. Lampazzi begins the class by teaching the

Spanish 4 students for 15 to 30 minutes, and then switches to AP. This goes back and forth for the entire period.

"She gives one group something they can do in their seats on their own while she teaches the other class," said senior Jonathan Blaylock.

The students in the class have mixed feelings about the whole "combined class" situation.

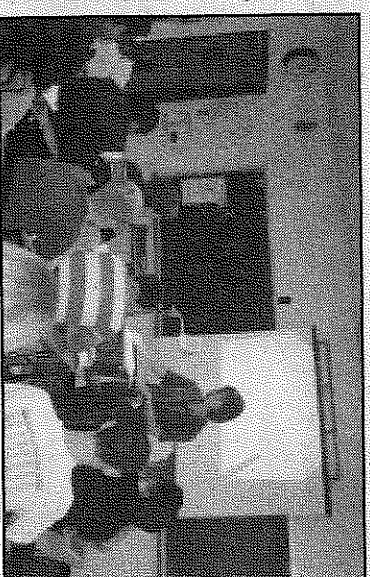
The AP students would rather have a class to themselves, but the students in Spanish 4 take advantage of their peers' higher level of Spanish knowledge.

"It's good because you can ask AP [students] to help you," said Vatis.

Since AP Spanish is a harder course the students taking it need more attention and help from the teacher, which can not always be given.

"I feel that it's not the optimal learning environment because you don't get enough attention from the teacher," said Blaylock.

Even though the class has its ups and downs the students in the class will be able to say that they were in the first combined Spanish class at WS.



Molly Cushing

Half of Spanish teacher Susan Lampazzi's 3rd period Spanish class listens and takes notes, while the rest do assignments and wait for their turn to be taught.

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BY TEDDY GELGER

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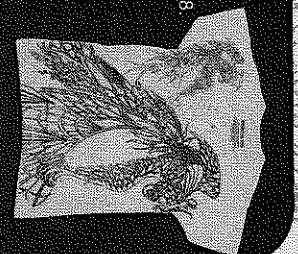
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AEDs new to halls

AED from Page 1

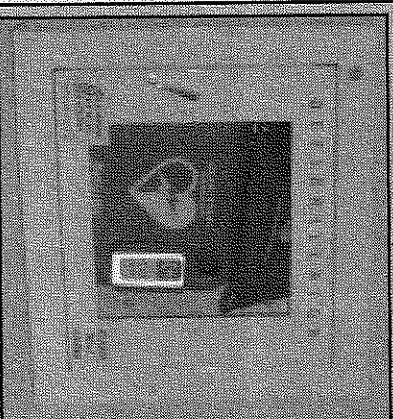
"For every AED, the county has offered to pay for five teachers to be trained," said Schneider. "Since we have eight systems, the county will pay for 40."

Dr. Smith has worked with Schneider to promote AED education among the school's staff. After all, his infamous motto "Take care of yourself, take care of each other, take care of this

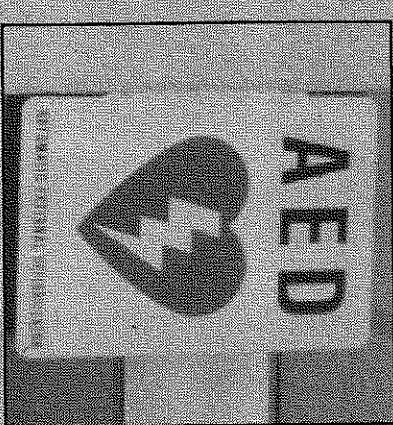
place," complements WS's new medical technology.

While students are not yet required to know how to operate the defibrillator systems, future PE classes could give lessons.

"PE [Students will receive training in the use of the AED," said P.E. teacher Kellie Mastrodonato. "That time frame depends on when the students' respective teacher teaches the CPR unit."



Sara Kofell

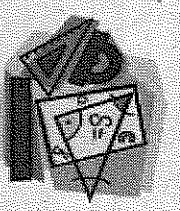


Sara Kofell

The 2006-2007 ECPS agenda requires all schools and administrative centers to have newly installed AEDs because "more students were being diagnosed at an earlier age with cardiac problems that put them at risk."

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Carlo Canlas creatively composes crescendos

By Ariane Irvine
Senior Staff Writer

Senior Leoncarlo Canlas practices the violin for two hours a day. His talent has gotten him as far as playing at embassies, the Kennedy Center, Governor's School and the Netherlands.

"I do a lot of music stuff," said Canlas.

Canlas started playing the violin in the first grade, after being inspired by his grandfather, who also plays the violin. He is now playing for the American Youth Philharmonic orchestra, along with having recently played for a chamber ensemble called the Levine String Virtuosi.

"He's really good," said Drew Lisowski, a fellow

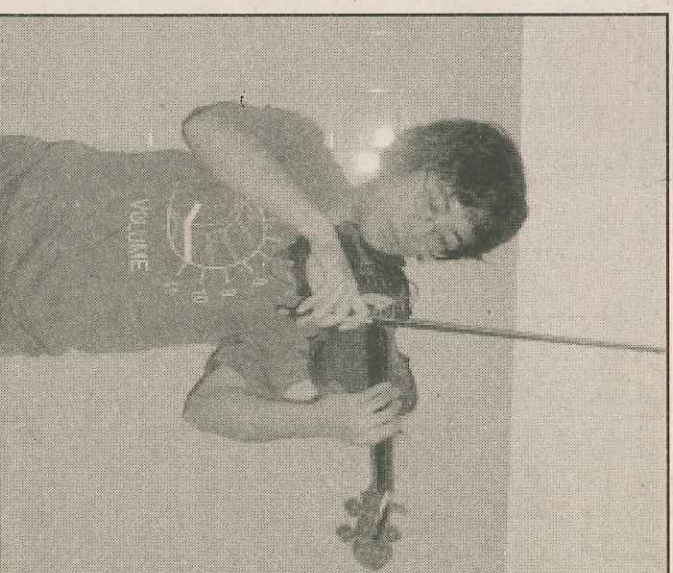
WS senior who has played symphonic and chamber music with Canlas. "For someone his age, it's spectacular."

Most of his life revolves around music. In his spare time, he composes music or listens to it. "It depends on my mood," Canlas said of his favorite music. "It's either cool jazz or music from the romantic period."

He also, however, uses his spare time to make movies, especially fight movies.

Besides the violin, Canlas plays the piano, and the triangle.

"I play the triangle for different genres of music. My advice is to stick with the violin and to not give up, but to remember that it takes a lot of work and a lot of thought," said Canlas.



Sara Kofalt
Carlo Canlas has been playing the violin since first grade.

Marching Spartans make musical magnificence

By Christina Sohn
Managing Editor

Standing for hours in the hot August sun holding a piece of metal is not the most comfortable position in the world.

But those who decide to enter the world of marching band must be able to endure eight-hour practices in the late weeks of August while holding instruments such as a trombone or a large drum.

"The heat is really painful and you can't move when the sweat is trickling down your back," said senior Nina Sabol. "At the first week of band camp, people are passing out and there's barf all over the place — you know those are the rookies."

The summer band practices consist of practicing basic marching skills or "Basics," memorizing the music and learning the drill choreography.

"My least favorite thing is 'Basics' because we basically do really fast marching and we hold our hands up for a long time," said freshman Hannah Scott.

When the band splits up into sectionals, however, the students get a chance to relax and get to know other people.

"Sectionals aren't bad because it's time you have to bond with your teammates," said senior Michele Alexander.

Practices may range from three to 11 hours in the summer and usually consist

of three or four practices a week during the school year.

"Compared to most other activities and sports, we spend about the same time for marching band," said marching band director Larry Einuis. "There are never enough hours to do everything that needs to be done, so we pick what we need to work on each week and make it better."

Last year, the long hours paid off when the Marching Spartans were crowned the US Scholastic Band Association's Virginia State Champions.

"It's so hard but when you accomplish and win a competition, it's such a great feeling," said Sabol.

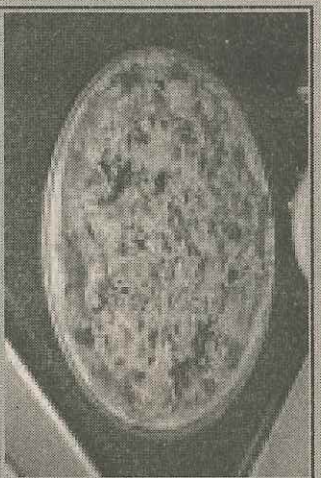
Because the marchers devote so many hours with each other to prepare

for competition, marching band members often become close friends or even significant others.

"You have to develop close relationships because you spend so much time with them," said Sabol. "It's funny because at the end of band camp, there's like fifty couples dating."

"It's so hard but when you accomplish and win a competition, it's such a great feeling."

— Nina Sabol
senior



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Hines has all the right moves

By Lindsay Bruhn

Staff Writer

Junior Leslie Hines received her acceptance letter to Governor's School before the summer but did not have the same reaction that most students would have. While most are ecstatic about getting into Governor's School, Hines was disappointed and did not really want to go.

"I had heard horror stories that it was just awful," said Hines. Thankfully, when she arrived, the environment exceeded her expectations and provided her with the wonderful experience that Governor's School is supposed to give.

Governor's School supplies further education for students who are exceptionally gifted in certain areas. Hines who is gifted in dance, was accepted to Governor's School for the Performing Arts.

"The dance program was phenomenal," said Hines.

Hines enjoyed her teachers and class so much that her previous feelings of dread for the school faded away.

She had dance every morning, giving her an opportunity to further her ability in a concentrated environment. In addition to her dance program Hines was required to take another class in the afternoon. She elected to take a class called "Sing the Body Electric;" a very strange name that was given to an exceptionally rewarding class.



Junior Leslie Hines and friends Danielle Mumpower and Amanda O'Brien pose at the Governor's School's dance studio.

Leslie Hines

At the beginning of each class, the students were given various warm up exercises. One that significantly affected Hines was an activity where the students were paired and one person was assigned to follow and mimic the other one. Hines was fascinated with the many nuances that are individual to all people.

After the warm ups, the class spent the rest of the time talking about body image and what makes one beautiful. It also discussed of physical and mental handicaps and the effects that they have on body image.

"Everyone can express themselves freely," said Hines, about the environment of the class room. It was not stiff and gave way to spiritual and mental growth.

There was also a large focus on the soul and how it is related to your body. Hines

came out of that class with a new respect for the treatment of her body.

"If you abuse your body you are damaging your soul permanently," said Hines.

In addition to the classes there was an activity planned every night. The dance group performances were Hines's most memorable events. She specifically enjoyed the deaf dance group, "Wild Zappers." The fact that the students could not even hear the music had no effect on their dancing.

"These people spent hours learning how to feel the music," said Hines. She was inspired.

Even though Hines' initial reaction was one of dread, the overall accepting environment made her sorry that she could not return for another summer. Hines

Going back to Africa

By Bethel Habte

News Editor

I stepped off of the Air Italy airplane with the pilot and flight attendants behind me bidding the rest of the passengers a "ciao". It was freezing. But I knew to expect it, this being my second visit to Africa...yes, Africa.

It was winter in my parent's homeland of Eritrea; a small, 15 year old nation that borders the Red Sea, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Djibouti. I flew 15 hours on an airplane, across seven time zones to spend about a two weeks with my family and spend another two on a tour across the country with other Eritrean-American teens like me.

I went with a group called "Youth Camp Eritrea," which was organized by Eritrean-American car dealership



Eilila Negussie

(From Left) Eilila Negussie, Bethel Habte, Faven Halliemolekor, Helen Zewdu, and Selam Solomon together at a cultural show.

president Solomon Teklu. He felt the need to expose Eritrean-American youth to the country of their origin, help us find ways to give back, and enjoy all Eritrea has to offer.

And the country definitely has a lot to offer. Asmara's streets are lined with palm trees and, since Italian colonization, are filled with Rome inspired architecture, and café's with mean tasting cappuccinos.

Our activities ranged from sleeping on an island off the Red Sea to planting a tree in memorial to soldiers who died in a 30-year war for independence, the longest independence struggle in Africa. We rode a train through Eritrea's mostly mountainous terrain and learned a lot about the country's history and culture. Most of us got a chance to ride a camel and to see the president, Isaias Afwerki, speak.

It was an amazing time but there were some, let's say, uncomfortable situations. For example, as toilets were not always available, I re-familiarized myself with the feeling of relieving myself, not in a bathroom, but behind a bush. Our diet on the road basically consisted of pasta, traditional food and sheep meat. Good, at first, but old after awhile. Some kids brought stashes of American food to wean themselves off of. Halfway through a chewy bar, a girl got full, and the moment she said so, we all dove for it. It was a huge adjustment.

We went through things we'd never been through before, rather, never *had* to go through before living in America all of our lives. It all made for an experience that I'll never forget. I feel accomplished, in a way, to know that I could go a month without simple luxuries that I'd been used to my entire life.

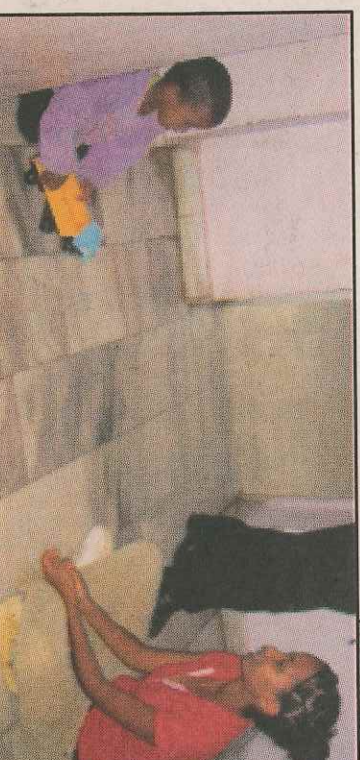
I became so adjusted to living in Eritrea, that crossing the Atlantic back was like coming into a different world. I didn't realize the difference until I entered my air-conditioned 2005 sedan, walked through my three-floor suburban home again and drank water from the tap just because I could.

"The dance program was phenomenal. Everyone can express themselves freely. You learn so many life lessons."

— Leslie Hines, junior

received an experience that she will never forget and made friends that she couldn't have met anywhere else.

"[Governor's School] teaches you what life's about," said Hines, "you learn so many life lessons."



Eilila Negussie

Tear

By Becky Cryer

Forum Editor

After two hours hour flight, another hour train ride and Team Ukraine final destination.

From July 25 to students and four missions trip to K months of writing Sunday school class raised \$2,900. Most to Immanuel Bible sponsored the trip known as Global A

"It was really ing just to se didn't have."

—C:

"It's really life c don't know what to to the Ukraine," sa "It's really nice to se

Above: A girl performs her tribe's cultural dance. Left: Junior Bethel Habte plays "Pass the truck" with a child at a orphanage in Asmara.

Eilila Negus

On a Mission

in the airport, a seven three hour flight, a 15 a three hour bus ride, ally made it to their

August 9 a team of 14 r adults went on a arch, Ukraine. After letters and talking to es, each team member t of the team belongs , Church, which co- with an organization tion.



Sophomore Carley Warden (front, center) and Juniors Daniel Burgett and Charisse Mares (1st and 2nd from left in back) and other members of team.

mind blow-

works and the kids are so receptive to you even though you don't speak their language."

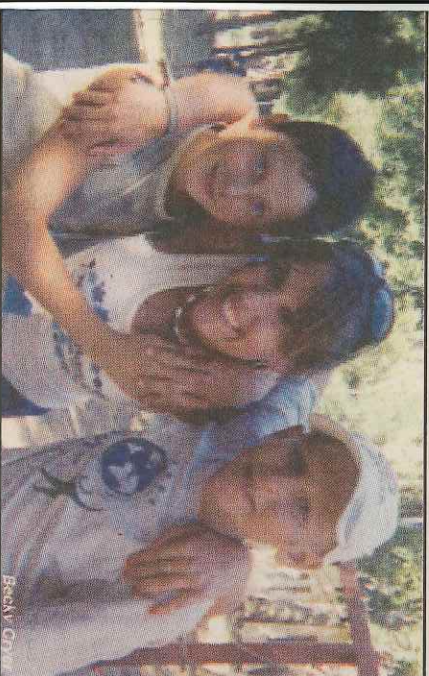
Carley Warden,

The team worked with orphans and under-privileged children at a summer camp for ten days. The campers got to participate in singing, Bible lessons, trips to the Black Sea and crafts and games.

Sophomore

"I got to lead these three kids in my Bible study to Christ," junior Daniel Burgett said. "I thought that was pretty awesome."

They were there to share their beliefs



At the camp each child was provided with a bed, three meals a day and a small nightstand to hold all of their belongings. The kids had two outfits, a comb and a toothbrush to last them through an entire ten days that they were there. Toward the end of camp no one wanted to leave. When the vans pulled up in the driveway to take the team away and many team members cried as they said their goodbyes.

"It was a refreshing break from American society and my busy schedule to go and build relationships and just love these kids," said junior Charisse Mares. "Because that's all they really want."

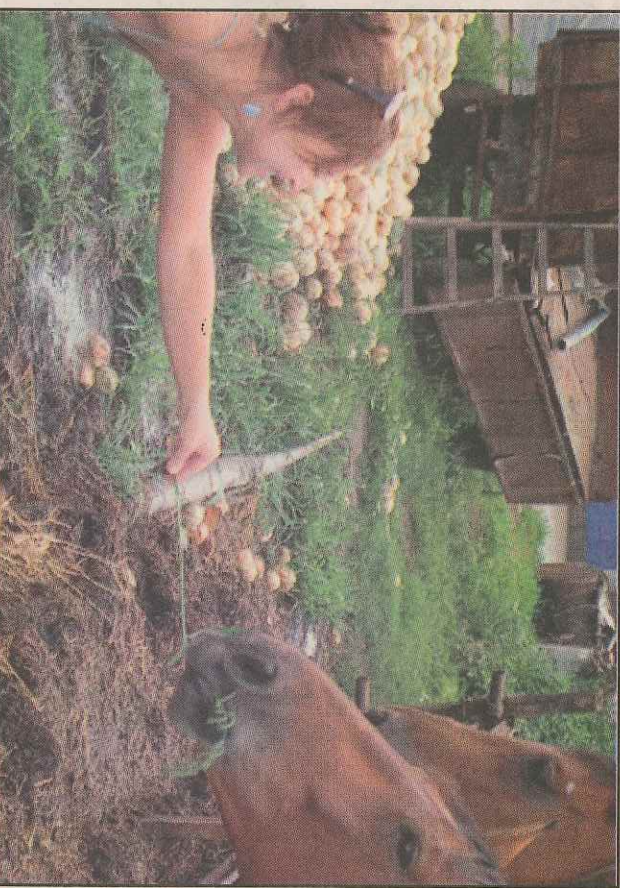
Junior Charisse Mares poses with two local boys on her mission trip to Ukraine.

DISCLAIMER: Welcome to the new Scoop section under the dictatorship of Kristin McGregor and Krista Pedersen. Articles that appear here may be interesting, offensive or just plain disturbing, but you are required to read them anyway.

'I'm leaving on a jet plane

don't know when I'll be back again. John Denver

Summer. It's a word that means life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for teenager. To WS kids it means working, acting like we're working and some summer lovin'. Some find comfort in staying in Springfield and some go to extreme measures to escape. Here are some stories of our peers and how they "had them a blast."



Katie Vizy

Senior Kristen Webbers feeds a horse on the Vizy family farm.

Hungary for adventure?

By Katie Costello
Oracle Editor

After the sun goes down in Hungary, the typically sleepy city of Budapest wakes up as energetic young adults come out to experience the nightlife at one of the hot spots, Club Rio.

The rhythmic European techno music weaves between spirited dancers who move with the beat and look up through the open-air club at the clear Hungarian sky. People are here from all over the map, including two of WS's seniors, Katie Vizy and Kristen Webbers, soaking up all that Rio has to offer to anyone desiring to experience the exciting nightlife of another country.

This is just one of the highlights Webbers and Vizy had during their two week trip to Hungary to visit Vizy's relatives, as their trip included everything from farming to city hopping to European disco.

They began their journey in a town Webbers was never able to pronounce or spell. This town, named, "Medgyesegyhaza" is where Vizy's grandparents own and operate a farm. There, Webbers and Vizy helped out and got a taste of Hungarian rural life while having fun at the same time.

"At my grandparent's farm we drove the fork lift, jumped on hay and played with the animals," said Vizy.

While at the farm, Vizy and Webbers got to eat food that, in their view, was much healthier than their usual American diet. Vizy's grandmother, like the majority of Hungarians, grows her own fruits and vegetables that went with all their meals.

Although the girls spent a good amount of time on the farm Vizy's cousins made sure that they enjoyed the nightlife that Hungary had to offer.

"We took a little three day trip to Budapest with just us teens and my cousin," said Vizy.

While in Budapest the girls danced the night away at Rio, a trendy disco that masses of younger foreigners make an effort to visit while visiting Hungary.

"I speak for all of us when I say that the best memory [in Hungary] is Rio," said Webbers. "Hands down best disco ever."

Being able to experience Hungary's city-life without parents tagging along made the trip more enjoyable for Webbers, particularly because she was spending time with Vizy.

"There is too much to do that's better to experience without adults and just friends," said Webbers. "That was a big advantage. It wouldn't have made the trip as fun if I wasn't with Katie."

Not only did the girls experience the thrill of dancing, but they also got to meet interesting people. Vizy, who moved to America from Hungary at age 9, finds that although she is a native Hungarian, she is still treated like a foreigner because of her exposure to American culture.

"We sort of stand out as different and people like that," said Vizy. "So, we get a lot of attention from people because they are so curious about our lives, and that gave us a lot of new friends."

Webbers and Vizy had more than just a fun vacation; it was a chance for Vizy to reconnect with her roots, and for Webbers to visit somewhere unusual. For both girls it was a chance to make memories with a close friend.

"The best thing overall," said Webbers, "is being able to be in a foreign country and experience things there that you can't experience in America."



Katie Vizy

Senior Kristen Webbers tests out a tractor on the Vizy family farm.

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Peebles

Taking it up a notch

Obsession reaches whole new level

By Kelly Sipple
News Editor

When I picked up "My Date With Drew," I was honestly expecting to be bored for 90 minutes. I didn't think it was possible for three friends from L.A. to create an entertaining film using one camera and \$1,100. Lucky for me, I was entirely wrong.

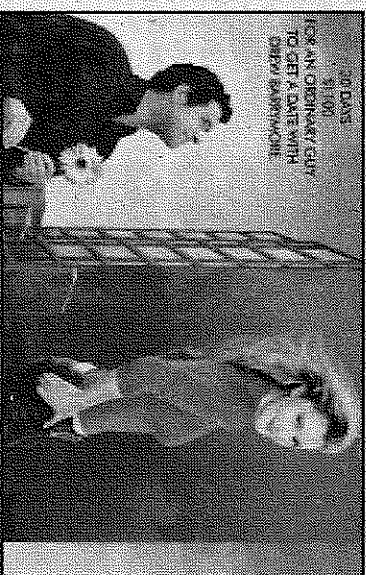
At first the whole premise of the movie seems outrageous. One man, Brian Herzlinger, is determined to get a date with Drew Barrymore. Yes, the Drew Barrymore. He films his experience using a video camera that he bought from Circuit City using a friend's credit card after his was rejected. But there's one catch: he only has 30 days to get a date, because of Circuit City's 30-day return policy, which they plan to use to his full advantage.

Herzlinger and two of his good friends contact every person they know in the show business who could get them in contact with Barrymore. Using the "six degrees of separation", knowing someone who knows someone who knows someone who knows Barrymore, they manage to get in contact with her

facialist, first cousin, and former bosses. Unfortunately for Herzlinger and his friends, they face setbacks along the way and one Hollywood executive even said, "The dumbing-down of America is complete."

Even though at times Herzlinger comes across as a stalker, his motives are extremely innocent. He simply has been a fan of Barrymore's since the age of 10 and wants to meet his life-long crush in person. Throughout the movie he constantly looks to Barrymore's own words for inspiration.

She once said, "If you don't take risks, you'll have



My Date With Drew
With the help of a few faithful friends a very obsessed Drew Barrymore fan rents a camera from Circuit City, with only \$1,100 and 30 days to fulfill his life long goal: to get a date with Drew.

a wasted soul." Time and time again, Herzlinger refers to that line for motivation to continue with his movie. Everyone can relate to Herzlinger and his desire for something he can't have. The movie is a wonderful example of how hard work and persistence can pay off and is worth watching.

12 inches of tasty terror

By Nicole Simpson
Entertainment Editor

In low budget horror movies, one can always expect bad acting, a terrible plot, hilarious slip-ups and bizarre characters. "The Gingerdead Man" has all the basic qualities and more: a killer cookie.

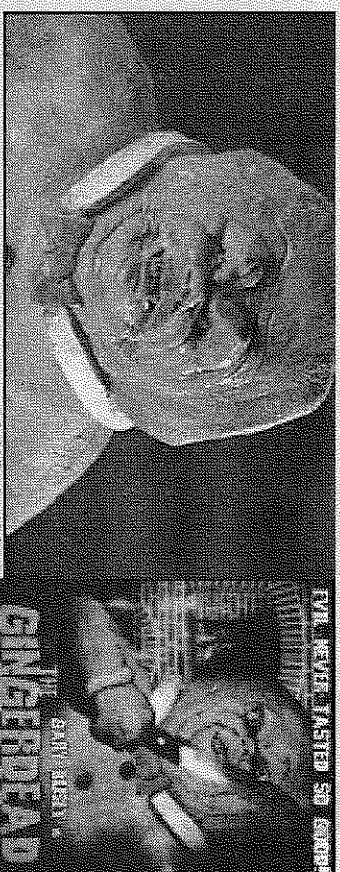
"The Gingerdead Man" is 70 minutes in length, including about ten minutes of credits, leaving the remaining 60 as a full hour of a ridiculously intriguing tale of murder.

When a serial killer's mother brilliantly mixes her sons ashes into a gingerbread cookie mix, a curse is brought to life from the dough bringing the serial killer back to life in the body of an edible, murdering gingerbread

man from only a few drops of the baker's blood. Actor Gary Busey, plays Millard Fundlemyer, the gingerbread man who wants to get revenge on the one girl that got away from his public killing spree.

Although "Chucky" was much more successful in the storyline of a possessed inanimate object, I can't help but applaud William Butler and Dominic Muir for their attempts at making a 12 inch gingerbread man terrifying. Unlike "Chucky," I can only hope, "The Gingerdead Man" won't have a series of upcoming movies to follow the first.

The obvious mistakes that take place in this movie are more the reason to watch it. More specifically, at one point in the movie you can actually see a cast member's hand throwing something when the gingerbread man was



Cold Fusion Video
In "The Gingerdead Man," a gingerbread cookie becomes possessed by a vengeful serial killer.

supposedly throwing it. Also, the gingerbread man had some trouble pulling the trigger of a gun and needed some human help on that one too. These cheap slip ups are all the more reason to watch this ridiculously low budget film.

Even though I am still confused on what exactly the point of this movie is, serious or funny, it does have some memorable lines. Lines like, "we got yet, I'd watch it again."

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Sara Kozlari
The JV and varsity field hockey teams have struggled to fill up their rosters.

Minimum players exert maximum effort

By Sunnie Ko

Senior Staff Writer

At halftime, both teams are wearing uniforms, both teams have shoes on and both teams are wearing their mouth guards, but there is one major difference between the Marshall JV field hockey team and the Spartans.

When the horn sounds to announce halftime, players from both teams run back to their respective benches, but unlike Marshall, this is the first breather, the first break and the first sip of water any Spartan player has had in the entire first half.

"We play without any subs?"

—Rachel Brand,
freshman

Although only having a roster of 12 players, the Spartans are not in any way "small."

The team won its season opener on Tuesday, September 12th at home against Marshall 1-0, with a goal scored during the second half by Jennifer Lining.

The game proved that the teams work ethic in practice was helping them progress.

"[Coach Thorn] works us really hard during practices," said freshman Rose Seidman. "But you see it during the games. We aren't stopping when they are."

Having less people on the team doesn't change any of Coach Tracy Thorn's coaching tactics either.

"We do the same thing we did this year as last year," said Thorn. "We

suggest that fitness will win games, and the girls respond."

Fitness is a key part of this team,

according to Thorn. The girls run to get in shape to out endure their opponents.

"We play without any subs," said freshman Rachel Brand. "We keep running and we just look like we're in better shape than them."

The biggest problem the team faces is having to move players up to replace injured players on Varsity. Other than that, the team will continue this season as if it holds a normal sized roster.

"There isn't any huge difference between this team and last year's team," said Thorn. "JV teams are composed of many new people anyway, its how you teach them and how they respond that matters."

Volleyball acce its academics

By Sam Landers

Sports Assistant

Here at WS, we have many student-athletes. Some in particular stand out. The girls varsity volleyball team recently received the Game Plan Academic Award given by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

"The first order of business is academics," said Principal Dr. David Smith. The volleyball team does follow this advice, because in order to receive this award the team had to maintain a 3.3 average GPA. This prestigious award was only given to 127 teams in the nation, and WS was one of three in Virginia to receive it.

"Its cool that we are one out of three teams in Virginia to get the award," said junior Elise Shellenberger. The



Lifetouch
Last year's volleyball team had an average GPA of 3.4, earning them the Game Plan Academic Award.

Cross country team starts off on the right foot

By Jimmy Bradshaw

Sophomore Staff Writer

Throughout the dog days of August, the WS cross country team, has been grinding out miles, and it paid off at the Monroe Parker Invitational.

The boys team is regarded to have on of the top teams in the state this season, behind star runner Mike Spooner. The girls team returns all their runners from a year ago, and are led by junior Rosemary Barber.

On Saturday the boys team succeeded in their quest for a state crown by taking a 2nd place finish out of 24 teams in the team competition, while Spooner cruised to an impressive victory, covering the 2.98 mile course in 14:58.

"The boys goal is to be one of the four qualifying teams from the Northern Region to make it to states," said head cross country coach Vic Kelbaugh.

The Girls team also showed a strong performance behind Barber. The team placed 9th in the team competition and Barber finished in 22nd place crossing the line at 19:36.

"If they ever begin to believe in themselves, I think the girls team can win districts this year," said assistant cross country coach Duke Baird. "We return everyone from our top 7 and we have a great group of freshmen girls to add to the mix."

"If we can beat Lake Braddock, we can beat anybody from our region, said Baird." If the girls team were to do so, it would be the first time since 1980 they would have done so.

Both teams have been training



Molly Cushing
The girls cross country team, led by captains Katie Barber and Sarah Mazzello, stretches in the wrestling room before a practice.

together daily since the beginning of August, despite the scorching heat and humidity. The veterans on the teams average 45 miles a week, while the younger runners grind out 35 miles per week during the season, which equates to around 550 miles a season.

"Practices are very hard, and very tiring," said sophomore runner Matt Bradley.

Mike Spooner has been getting a lot of hype coming into this season, after winning six consecutive races, including the district and regional championships last season, and coming within four seconds of winning the Virginia State Championship. Currently he is ranked #1 in the state of Virginia by Milestat.com and #6 in the Southeast region by Dycstat.com.

"Mike likes the favorite role and is ready to take on all challenges," said Kelbaugh of Spooner.

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Spartan Spotlight:

Andrew Hurst Boys Volleyball

By Jordy Serwin
Oracle Editor

How did you become involved in the sport?

"A couple of my friends were doing it and said I should join, so I did. I guess they joined because they didn't have anything to do in the fall so this gave them something to do and it was also new at the time."

Has your experience on the team been different than you had initially anticipated before joining?

"Yeah. It turned out a lot better than I had expected. I didn't really think I'd get a lot of playing time in, but I ended up getting a lot and now I'm even captain this year."

What ice cream flavor best describes volleyball?

"Probably Neapolitan. There's so many different kinds of people on our team from all different groups of people, people who are into all kinds of different stuff"

Is there anything about volleyball or that goes into being a good player that most people don't realize?

"You have to be a bit of an athlete. Most people don't realize that. It doesn't always seem like you do that much out there. Your ability to leap is also very important."

What will the team do differently this season in order to do better than last season?

"We will try to improve fundamentally. That's mostly all."

What else about the team is new this year?

"We lost nine seniors last year. We thought we might have trouble getting enough people but we didn't. Everything else is pretty much the same"

Are there any new challenges that the team will be facing this year that weren't there last year?

"This year, we've improved our passing. That was a big issue before."

What one skill is most important to a player's success?

"Passing is probably it. If you can't pass the ball to the center then you can't really pass it to the hitter and so he can't hit it. Passing is where it all starts."

What has being on the team brought to your life that you could not have received from any other experience?

"It's definitely the most fun I've had in a sport in high school. I'm on Track but it's more individual. You kind of improve yourself in a team atmosphere."

As a player on the varsity Boys Volleyball team, is there anything you'd like to say to the WS community?

"We only have two home games so try to come to those if you can. You'll probably have more fun than you'd expect."



Mo'ly Cushing
Senior Andrew Hurst likens his volleyball team to neapolitan flavor ice cream.

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Stevie's Story If we only got to hear one last Crikey

By Stevie Fiorino
EtC. Editor

Naturalist, zoologist, conservationist and television personality, Stephen Robert "Steve" Irwin passed away on September 4, 2006 in Batt Reef, Queensland, Australia at the age of 44. He left behind his wife Terri and their two children Bindi Sue and Robert Clarence.

Steve Irwin co-hosted the series *The Crocodile Hunter* with his wife Terri. Irwin also co-owned and ran Australia Zoo in Beerwah, Queensland, which was founded by his parents. His deep Australian accent, animated style, wardrobe consisting of only khakis, and catchphrase "Crikey!" rapidly became known worldwide.

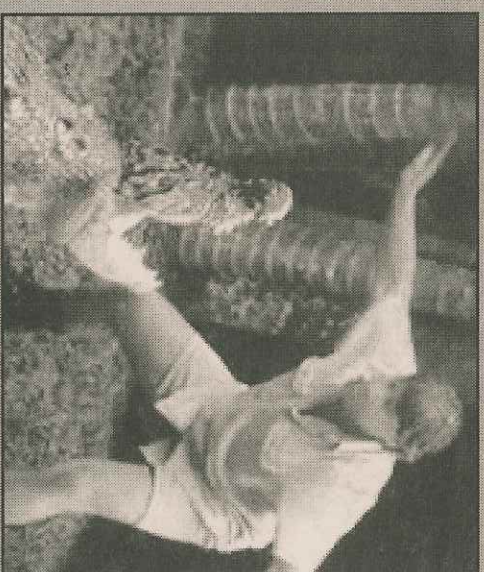
After all of the extremely dangerous activity he participated in with crocodiles, snakes and other deadly animals, everyone always said how lucky he was to be alive. Well, I guess things were too good to be true. While filming his own documentary, *The Ocean's Deadliest*, at the Great Barrier Reef at Batt Reef, he was pierced in the chest by a stingray barb.

According to Wikipedia, John Stainon, one of Steve's friends and colleagues, reported that, "Steve came over the top of the ray and the tail came up, and spiked him here [in the chest], and he pulled it out and the next minute he's gone."

It is also thought that a combination of the toxins and the puncture wound from the barb caused Irwin to die of cardiac arrest, with most of the damage being inflicted by tears to his arteries, or other main blood vessels. He also could have died quickly as a result of a punctured aorta.

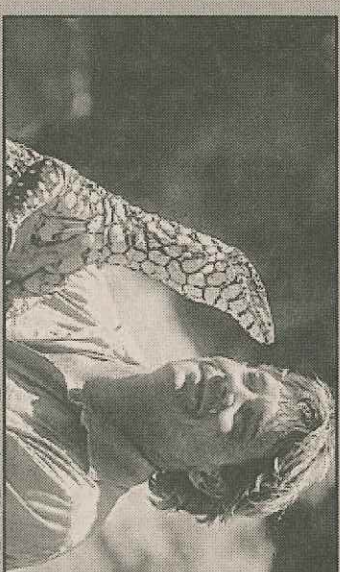
Stingray attacks on humans are a rarity. According to Wikipedia, since 1996, only 17 fatalities worldwide had been recorded due to stingrays. Irwin's attack is thought to be the only fatality from a stingray ever captured on film.

Steve Irwin was definitely a hero to some. He demonstrated everywhere that you must be fearless and be ready to take on anything. He was a symbol of bravery and he will be missed dearly by many. Rest in Peace Steve Irwin. "Crikey!"



Maroochy/Palms

Steve Irwin had a passion for animals that no one could explain. He loved being around them, talking about them and teaching people worldwide about them.



The Northern Rivers Echo

Hoagie's World

TO



By Sean Hogan
Oracle Editor

Our Wall explains why "Hislop you don't stop" never became an *Oracle* headline. It also shows the "scoreboard" that keeps track of how many great jokes we've had for both the 05-06 and 06-07 school years, both of which I lead greatly. Being in the journalism program at WS is incredibly difficult. It is impossible to know this by walking into "The Batcave," otherwise known as the journalism computer lab.

"The Batcave" is filled with any funny photos we can find, including a golfer with incredibly tight, plaid pants and a cheerleader who claimed she was kicked off of her team because she was Jewish. There is a huge framed picture of our beloved former editor, Adam Rosen, sitting on our beloved former couch, couch. These have very little importance to the sophisticated *Oracles*. The unsophisticated ones,

including Sunnie Ko, Cam Rushon and I, have taken over one side of the yearbook cubby boxes and call it "Our Wall."

Our Wall shows the "scoreboard" that keeps track of how many great jokes we've had for both the 05-06 and 06-07 school years, both of which I lead greatly. Whose mom has generic bad parameters (or whose mom, in that case, has an idea of what a generic bad parameter really is)? Our Wall knows.

If an archeologist found the ruins of our school some 4,000 years from now, they would have a small clue of teenage culture from the early 21st century. Not from the textbooks, lockers, bathroom graffiti or tiny desks, but only from Our Wall would they understand Sean Hogan's immaturity in the years before he became the king of the world. They will understand Sunnie Ko's mad, squealing rants and lack of being able to form comprehensible words and phrases, similar to Brick Tamland in "Anchorman," but with more yelping.



Stevie Fiorino

Oracle senior staff writer Carlin Sherrill and editor Sean Hogan show off "The Wall," the back of the yearbook cubbies in the Journalism office. Some of the pictures, such as the Barbie.com printouts on the far left, have been on The Wall since before these seniors were a part of *The Oracle*.

They might even understand Cam Rushon's stoic silence, followed occasionally by quotes from Will Ferrell movies like "Talladega Nights" and chest bumps. "The Batcave" is a place of intrepid reporting, braiding hair, pegmaking, picture vandalizing, writing and Barbie magazine making. I dare anyone to find a better room in the school.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER '06

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
22 Rosh Hashanah Sunset-Sunset	23 Bruce Springsteen's 57th birthday	24 1957-President Eisenhower sends National Guard to desegregate Little Rock Central HS	25 Senior Essay Assembly	26 Golf Districts @ Twin Lakes	27 Roanoke College Visits 7:45 am Yellowcard @ 9:30 Club 7:30	28 PSAT Prep- Cafeteria 2:30 Phillies vs. Nationals 7:05
29 Second <i>Oracle</i> of the year!	30 October 1	2 East Carolina University Visits 8 am	3 College Essay Evaluation	4 Underclass yearbook photos-- auditorium--during English class	5 Field Hockey @ TC Williams 7	
Sr. Sack Lunch- Scholarships Football @ Fairfax 7:30	Cross Country @ Maymont Invitational, Richmond 11am	1971-Walt Disney World opens 1982-EPCOT opens				