

# THE ORACLE

October 6, 2006 Volume 43 Number 3  
West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

## Remembering a Spartan

### Scott Harley found dead near WVU campus

By Zohra Alnoor, Katie Costello & Kristin McGregor  
Oracle Staff Writers

Last Friday, the body of former student Scott Harley was found in Deckers Creek near the West Virginia University Campus. Harley, 19, attended WS until last November when he transferred to Lake Braddock.

"What a total and complete tragedy," said Principal David Smith. "No family should have to endure that."

After returning to school Monday, many students and teachers were shocked to hear of Harley's death. Some students wore tie-dyed T-shirts in honor of Harley.

"I was floored. I always tell my students at the beginning of the year the hardest thing is to attend the funeral of a student or former student," said history teacher Lori Fischer. "It's extremely painful."

Fischer taught Harley's 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade history classes. She described him as unique, different and crazy.

"I remember the first day of 9<sup>th</sup> grade he was real short, real little. He sat in the back of the room. The very first thing I

## Teacher plans on a Canyon curriculum

By Becky Cryer  
Forum Editor

However far the distance, steep the climb, or fast the pace; even the most challenging tasks can seem insignificant when it is for a good cause.

Last weekend, ninth-grade English teacher Kathleen Majorsky hiked the Grand Canyon as a part of "Hike for Discovery," a program that raises funds for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma patients.

"It's just a cause that I really believe in and care about," said Majorsky.

Majorsky gained interest in this cause when she attended Penn State University. PSU hosts a 48-hour dance marathon once a year to raise money for children with cancer. It is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world and Majorsky was a captain in the

noticed were his tennis shoes were ducttaped. I thought, 'This poor little boy, he can't afford shoes.' But that's who he was," Fischer said. "By junior year, he was as tall as I was. He didn't have the ducttaped shoes anymore. He had a full-piece jumpsuit that said, 'Scott.'"

Harley was also the stepbrother of freshman Julia Sjejskal, a member of the Homecoming Court.



Courtesy of WS Guitar

Harley boards a plane to California with fellow Guitar members for their spring trip. At WS, Harley took Guitar 1 & 2 and Jazz/Guitar combo.

"He talked to me about how much he adored his sister," said senior Lissa Black recalling her first conversation with Harley at a party. "He loved her so much."

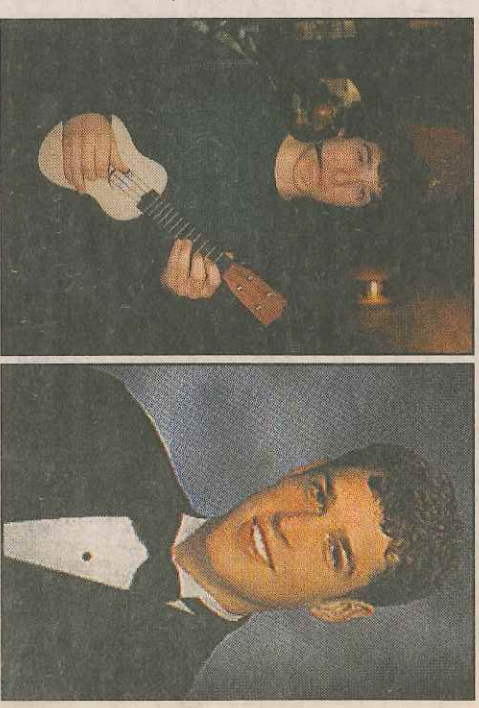


Shannon Strasser

Ninth-grade English teacher Kathleen Majorsky hiked the Grand Canyon to raise money for cancer research last weekend. All of the captains got to tour Hershey Medical Center and see where most of the money was donated.

"It was a very moving experience," said Majorsky. "Once you take a walk through a pediatric cancer ward, your view of the world definitely changes. Since that experience, fighting blood cancers, and

See MAJORSKY on Page 5.



Lori Fischer

Lissa Black

History teacher Lori Fischer captured Harley in a lighter moment, left. The WVU freshman graduated from Lake Braddock last spring. "He was the last person that deserved it," said senior Lissa Black.

Harley, who was part of the Guitar program, also a member of a band named, "One Eyed Buddy" with other '06 graduates Bryant Boyle, Ziggy Rodriguez and senior Nick Rodriguez.

"It was a sad thing and Scotty's going to be missed," said guitar teacher Keith Owens. "He had a lot of promise and potential if he wanted to do [Guitar] more than personal pleasure."

Harley's parents asked Owens to play the guitar at their son's funeral. The service is at Grace Presbyterian Church this Saturday at noon at 7434 Bath St. There was also a candlelight vigil for Harley in the senior parking lot on Wednesday.

"He was the only person in the world with no enemies," said Black. "I've never met a nicer guy in my life."

The cause of death has not been

## Students, faculty breathe easier after school asbestos cleanup

By Christina Sohn  
Managing Editor

On the second Thursday of the school year, there were no athletes after school lifting weights in Room 156. Instead, at 2:20 p.m. the weight room was completely deserted except for the three workers getting ready to remove asbestos from the floor.

The weights and machines had been moved out of the room, the doors were removed and all openings, including vents and door frames, were sealed off with plastic material. Soon more workers came and all put on special suits and respirators to protect their bodies. Three monitors stood outside the weight room to monitor the air quality.

The tile containing the asbestos was melted so that no particles could escape into the air and it was then moved out

of the building. The removal process was finished by the end of the day. Asbestos is a mineral that was once commonly used in construction and incorporated into ceilings, walls and floors. If asbestos is broken up and the particles are allowed to float through the air, it can enter a person's respiratory system and cause lung cancer and scarring.

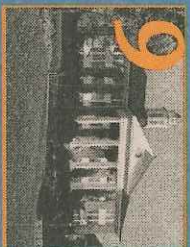
The asbestos in the WS weight room was part of the original floor tile and was covered up by another layer of tile, which kept it from being exposed to humans. "There was no threat by it just being there under the floor because it was intact and contained," said principal David Smith.

The problem arose when the top layer of the floor was washed about five weeks ago. As the water seeped down

See ASBESTOS on Page 4.



3 Racial slurs damage senator's reputation.



9 Top 10 things to do on a college visit.



11 Volleyball seeks 'spike' in interest.

## Announcements dominate, dominate, dominate break

The old days: The bell rings, late straggling kids sneak in through the door, some kids frantically finish homework, teachers check their e-mail and take attendance, all while we listened to the announcements.

The new days: The bell rings, late straggling kids sneak in through the door, some kids frantically finish homework, teachers check

their e-mail and take attendance. Class starts around 7:40.

Teachers complained last year that the morning announcements took too much class time away from their daily plans. The solution to these complaints was rescheduling the announcement times to come on sometime between 9:00-9:05 instead of the usual 7:30.

The result is less efficient than what was intended.

We find that this year, first block still gets started at 7:40; teachers still check their e-mail, still have to take attendance, and still have to fine tune their lesson plans. This is not in any way blaming

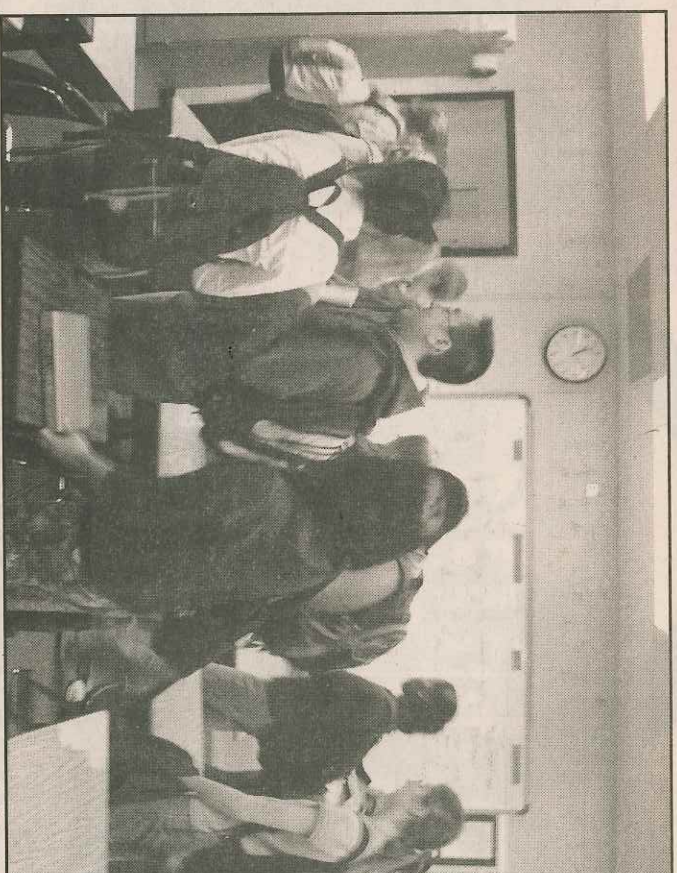
teachers for this delayed start, it's just a fact of life; every person has to get ready before they start something. It's more beneficial to have the announcements running at the beginning of the day, giving students and teachers alike the time they need to prepare for class.

The beginning of the year showed students were not partial to the change.

### Editorial

We found that announcements were droning on into break, one

extended time period of the day, the one time that is ours. Our first reaction was to find those peppy girls and guy and give them a piece of our mind. Their response "It's not our fault! We go when they tell us to go." Since then, they have been told to start announcements when they think is proper. The problem is, they do not know how many announcements there are each morning and therefore have to "guess-ta-mate" the correct needed amount of time. On the first Friday of the school year another detrimental effect of the late



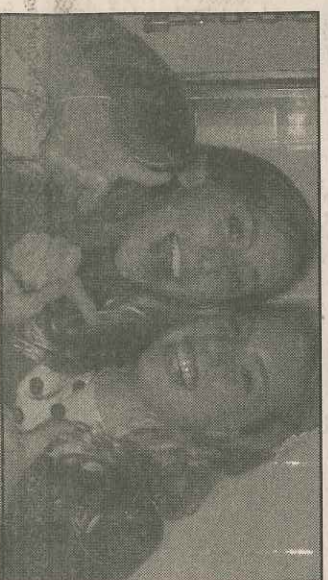
Colin Embrey

Students crowd the door in anticipation of the bell signaling break. Announcements are often still running when the bell rings at 9:08 a.m. Instead of being released for their next class, students must wait until the announcements are finished. Music is the only good thing coming at the end of first block.

Announcements surfaced; students weren't willing to watch the TV announcements because it took away from break. The last half of announcements was missed.

We both like and need to hear our daily announcements, but we do not enjoy it at the end of the period. It leaves

## Students offer opinion on morning announcements



Molly Cushing

"We love it! It helps start the day because we are more awake. The music is great."

—Anna Marie Krauss,  
Elizabeth Bognanno  
sophomores

"It's harder to remember the announcements if they're in the beginning of the period."

—Frances Copeland  
freshman



Molly Cushing

"I don't like them. Announcements just make my period shorter, they last too long."

—Doug Dumphy  
freshman



Molly Cushing

## THE ORACLE

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Springfield, VA 22152  
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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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# Racial slurs damage Senator's reputation

**By Aaron Snow**  
Senior Staff Writer

Senator George Allen, a "good ol' boy" southern conservative with a propensity for tobacco chewing and Confederate flag toting, has found himself in the thick of racial controversy yet again.

During a campaign speech in rural Breaks, Virginia, a conservative hot bed and an area of the state Allen is nearly certain to carry, the Senator singled out UVA student and American citizen SR Sidarth as a source of cheap laughs among Allen's constituents.

Sidarth, apart from being the only non-white face in the audience, was videotaping the speech for Allen's opponent, James Webb, in the upcoming senatorial election. Videotaping an opponent's speech is a common tactic, and one which Senator Allen employs with equal regularity. Allen, however, perhaps noting his unwavering popularity among the rural crowd,

elected to point Sidarth out to the audience.

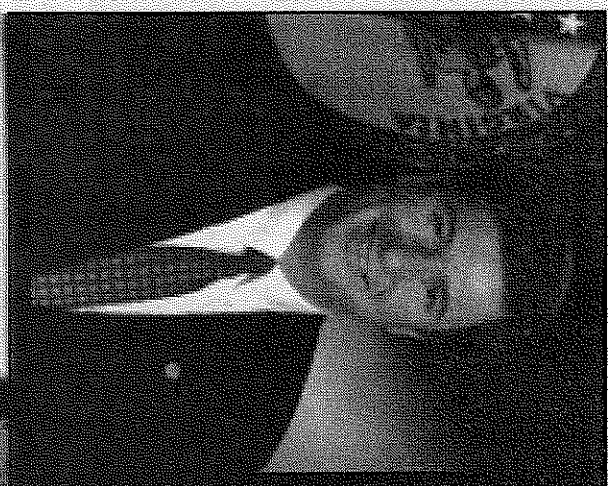
"This fellow here, over here with the yellow shirt, macaca, or whatever his name is. He's with my opponent. He's following us around everywhere. And it's just great," Allen quipped after brief remarks concerning Webb's fundraising trip to Hollywood. Allen, perhaps Sidarth only seconds before, continued baiting the young man.

"Let's give welcome to macaca, here. Welcome to America and the real world of Virginia," he said.

The word macaca holds several meanings though Allen claimed ignorance to all of them. Macaca, depending on how it is spelled, can mean a either a town in South Africa, or a monkey from the Eastern Hemisphere. In certain European cultures macaca is also considered a racial slur against African immigrants.

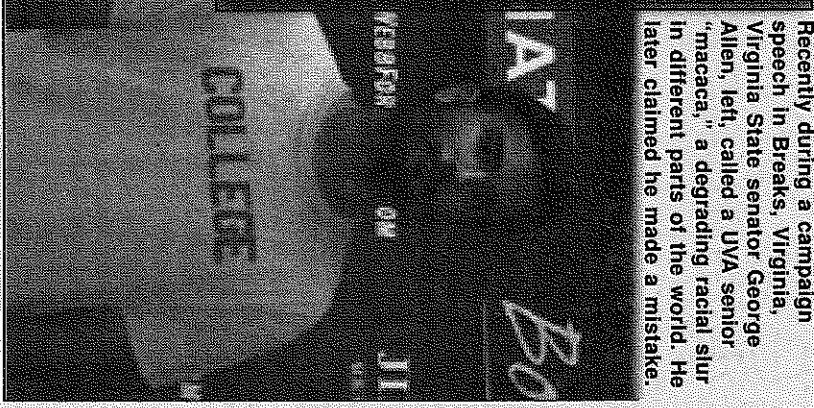
When asked what the word meant, Allen denied that he had any knowledge of the connotations of the word, and claimed that he meant to say "Mohawk," a nickname given to Sidarth by Allen's campaign staff because of Sidarth's mullet hairstyle. Despite Allen's rather weak explanation of his comments he is

still considered the favorite to win the senatorial election in Virginia. Allen is also looked on as a potential Presidential candidate, though he may first have to reconcile with the "real world."



Associated Press

S.R. Sidarth, right, a UVA senior, attended Senator George Allen's campaign in order to videotape the speech for Allen's opponent James Webb. Allen claimed that he meant "mohawk" after Sidarth's unique hairstyle.



Associated Press

Recently during a campaign speech in Breaks, Virginia, Virginia State senator George Allen, left, called a UVA senior "macaca," a degrading racial slur in different parts of the world. He later claimed he made a mistake.

# The Caitlin and Beth Show

## On JUNIOR YEAR

**By Beth Stinson & Caitlin Kenney**  
Viewpoint Editors

Caitlin and Beth once had self esteem. These were good times. We used to color in the lines, get perfect scores on tests and answer questions "with the enthusiasm of a circus ring leader," as Caitlin puts it.

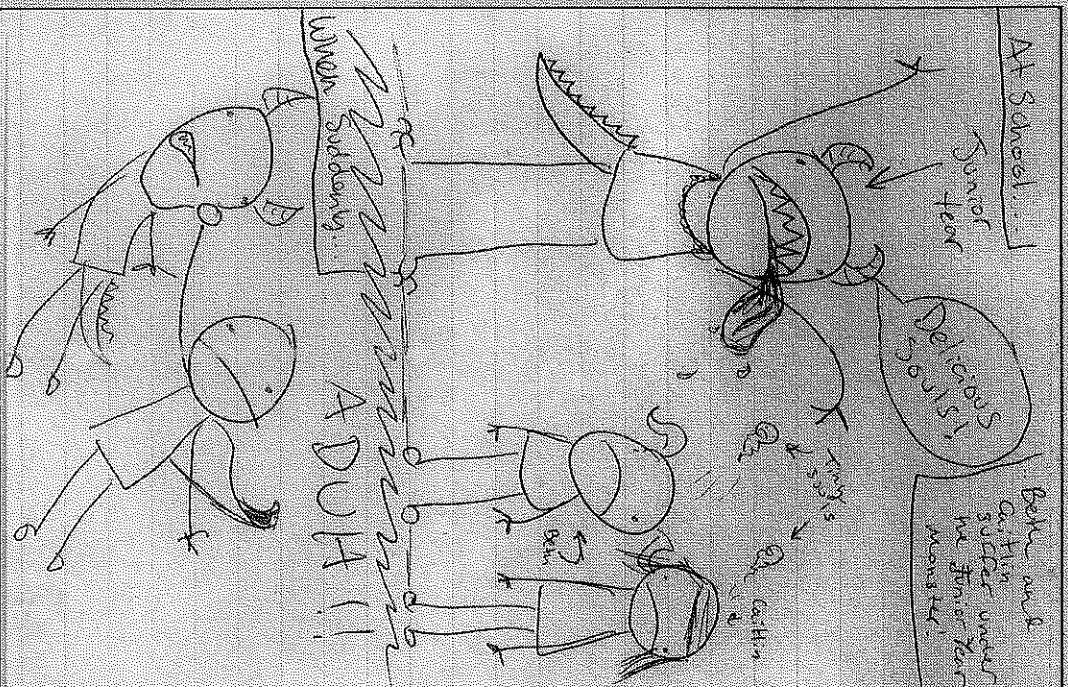
Then there was high school. But somehow, we managed to scrape by for two years on our wits alone. Street smarts combined with raw intellect allowed us to float through most of our classes painlessly.

Then we grew up. This is a segment of our lives we call "Junior Year." We have been thrust into the realm of grown-up doom. We no longer fear the monsters in our closets, peer pressure and big kids.

We fear tests, timed writings and the ominous AP exams. Translate the Gettysburg Address into German! Write three pages on why the author chose the word "tasty" instead of "delicious."

Caitlin and Beth realized that we are insignificant splashes on the face of the world. We realized that we have the IQ of an asparagus. We are worthless serfs in the kingdom of life. Remember the part where I said we had self esteem? Yeah, well those times are gone now.

Gene forever. Over the past four weeks of junior year, Caitlin and Beth have had a staggering 3,038 meltdowns, freak-outs and spaz-outs. Caitlin broke out in hives once. She says it's poison ivy, but I say it was the Man who done it. So how will we survive?

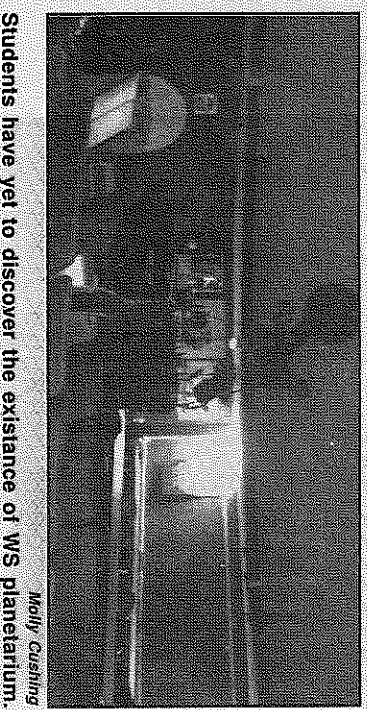


Caitlin and Beth heroically face the junior year monster that tries to suck the souls of their existence.

How will countless others make it through this— the single most important year you will ever complete as a human being? The answer is: A-DUH.

ALWAYS do your work when it's assigned. DON'T freak out about the little things (like 11 out of 20 on your first AP assignment). UNDERSTAND what the teacher asks of you. And remember: HAPPY

After weeks of physical and mental labor, we have come up with A-DUH. Brilliant. Everyone has their share of freak-outs, but with the help of Caitlin and Beth, and a little bit of powerful medication, we'll get through this school year just fine.



Molly Cushing

Students have yet to discover the existence of WS planetarium.

# Students see stars

**By Sara Kofalt**  
Photography Editor

For those of you who don't believe there is a third floor at this school, you're wrong. Though the school doesn't have a swimming pool, the third floor is for the planetarium dome.

Every year when I get my schedule, I immediately call my friends to see what classes we have together, and I'm sure everyone else does the same. As I went down the list this year, I saw "Astronomy in the Planetarium." "Where is that?!" one of my confused friends asked.

Throughout these first few weeks in school, I am stunned to find how many students, especially my fellow seniors, don't know we have a planetarium here, though it is understandable why. When people pass by the planetarium, they just think it's a normal classroom that doesn't look any different and is tucked away. But in reality, it is unlike any other classroom I've ever seen.

Even Astronomy and Physics teacher William Hineher has noticed the lack of interest in the planetarium around this school. "This year I am only teaching 90 students, mostly seniors, which is a smaller number than last year."

When I walked into the planetarium for the first time and sat in the movie-theater-like seats, I was amazed. It didn't feel like I was in school. It's such an unusual and unique class set-up. When I looked up to see the stars, I got a little sleepy, but I was excited for what I would see and learn throughout the year.

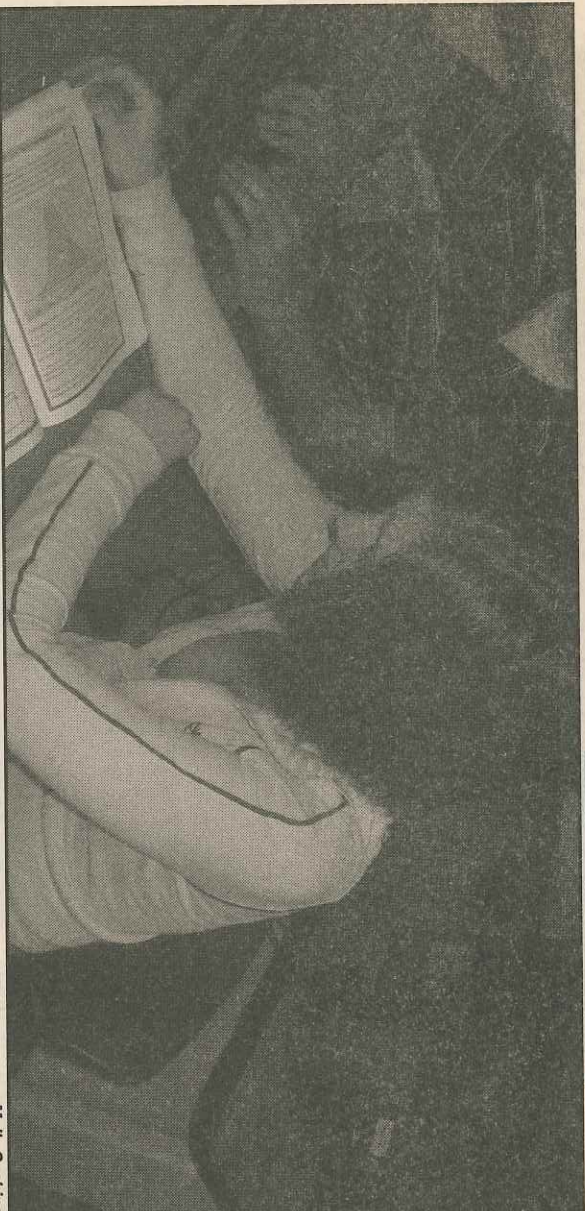
In the planetarium you can see, "naked eye Astronomy," every day of the year at any location," said Hineher.

The 30-foot high planetarium was built in 1966 and is one of 10 in Fairfax County. During the '60s the US was making great strides in the Space Race and wanted to educate students about the heavens. Even 40 years later, elementary school students from around the county come to visit the planetarium every orange day. So, with all of this going on, you would think that the school would notice it.

The planetarium is a unique and fun classroom where you can sit back and enjoy looking at the stars in the middle of school. It is the coolest secret WS has to offer. Even if you aren't in Astronomy, I suggest you find a way to take a look at the planetarium because it really is an exciting sight to see.

In the class, Hineher treats you as if you are a peer and approaches the class unlike any other teacher.

"I enjoy talking and telling stories about the stars. I also enjoy getting appreciation at the end of the year and even a round of applause," said Hineher. "How many teachers can say that?"



Molly Cushing

Senior Katie Vizy reads from her Applied Statistics textbook. Statistics is a class colleges require their students to take freshman year. High school students find it convenient to get it out of the way now.

## Applied Statistics class joins WS curriculum

By Christina Sohn

Managing Editor

For the 2006-2007 school year, FCPS has added a multitude of new classes to the high school curriculum, including specific courses like Animation and Law in Action. Applied Statistics is among the list of new classes, and is the newest course offered at WS.

Taught by Carolyn Lamson, Applied Statistics is defined in the course offerings booklet as “a project-based introduction to statistics that emphasizes working with data, graphs, and statistical ideas.”

The class is centered around work with computers, especially the Minitab statistical software. Plus, students enrolled in the course are expected to create and present professional statistical reports. Applied Statistics is offered to strictly juniors and seniors who have taken Algebra 2 as a prerequisite.

“I had to choose between [Applied Statistics] and weight training, so I chose Statistics,” said senior Matt Greene. “But I’m also taking Pre-Calculus.”

Many seniors have enrolled in Applied Statistics as an alternative to other, sometimes more difficult

courses, like Trigonometry or Calculus AB. It is not that the class is overly easy, but the workload is much lighter. This is especially important for seniors, who are facing a busy year with college applications, acceptances, etc.

“I decided on Applied Statistics because it would make my workload lighter for senior year,” said senior Sean Maree.

A major reason for the introduction of Applied Statistics at the high school level is because of the amount of colleges that require Statistics as a freshman course. More than 100 colleges across the country require Statistics, including popular Virginia schools like Virginia Tech, University of Virginia and William & Mary.

The addition of Applied Statistics to the high school curriculum is a nice addition for students, especially seniors with busy schedules and juniors with multiple AP classes. Not only is it a good introduction to college courses and what to expect from a college math class, but it also is a nice alternative to other, sometimes tougher classes.

## Weighty issues behind recent asbestos work

ASBESTOS from Page 1.

and glue oozed out of the floor. This provoked the administration to replace the surface tiles and the asbestos underneath it.

In the summer of 1998, WS underwent an “asbestos abatement” program to remove carpets that were damaged and had asbestos underneath. The school installed tiles in place of the carpets. “The carpets got so nasty so they had to be replaced,” said Smith.

The reason that the weight room was not a part of this abatement program was because the

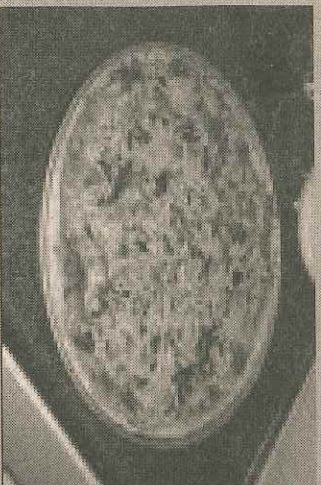
“I was surprised that stuff was still around.”

— Tyler Woolf, Senior

administration waited for an opportunity to remove the tile instead of arbitrarily putting money into removing asbestos that posed no immediate harm to the WS population. The recent oozing of the weight room floor proved to be the perfect opportunity.

After the administration made the decision to remove the asbestos during the first week of school, all weight-training classes took place outdoors. Generally, students in these classes are confident that the school has taken care of the situation well.

“I was surprised that stuff was still around in schools,” said senior Tyler Woolf. “But I wasn’t too worried about it because Coach Renner didn’t have us in there. We went out on the field and we weren’t at risk.”



# VICTOR'S

# PIZZA & DINNER

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## Teachers take new tardiness tactics

By Josh Lipman

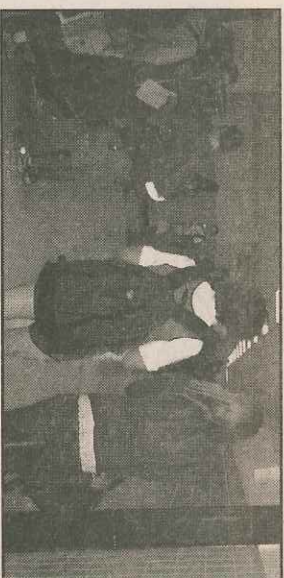
Oracle Editor

Students who show up late to math teacher Susan Oblinger's classes won't just get marked down for tardiness. They also have to stay after class for about 10 seconds to pick hole-punched dots off the floor.

"I was thinking, 'What can I do differently from detention,'" said Oblinger, who invented this punishment two years ago.

Junior Dan Phan isn't sure picking up paper dots will motivate him to be on time.

"I'm not late on purpose," said Phan. English teacher Meredith Rockefeller has a different



Larissa Cookson  
Teachers are trying to find new ways to discipline students who are late to their classes.

method. At the beginning of class she will occasionally give a short, easy quiz, designed to boost students' grades, which only punctual may take.

"It definitely works," said Rockefeller. "People have an incentive to be on time."

Rockefeller borrowed her tardy policy from fellow

English teacher Mary Moriarty. Since Moriarty doesn't believe in docking students points for tardiness alone, she justifies her system by using the quizzes to check whether students have done their assigned reading. Psychology teacher Carrie Myers favors neither approach to lateness over the other.

"Some kids need positive reinforcement [an incentive like easy quizzes] and some need negative reinforcement [punishment]," said Myers.

Phan finds the punishment for tardiness unfair. "It's degrading and it's not necessary," said Phan. It may turn out that teachers won't need any personal additions to the tardy policy. FCPS rules now state that three tardies count as an unexcused absence. Moriarty has noticed an improvement in attendance this year, but doesn't believe it's because of her quizzes.

"I think having teachers in the hall and hall sweeps are encouraging students to get to class on time this year," said Moriarty.

## Majorosky hikes for a cause

MAJOROSKY from Page 1

cancer of any sort, has become a passion of mine."

Majorosky learned about Hike for Discovery from her friend who ran a "Race for the Cure" and gave her information to join the mailing list.

"Once a week we [went] on a hike," said Majorosky. "Each hike, as the week went on, got harder." The program provided hikes every weekend in order to build strength and endurance. Participants also received a calendar with a recommendation of how much exercise should be done each day. Majorosky spent many months training for her level four hike, which was about three miles of hiking down into the Grand Canyon followed by another three miles of hiking up, making the total hiking time 7.5 hours.

Each hike they went on had a Hike Hero. The Hike Hero for Majorosky's hike group, consisting of about 39 people, was a lady who had been fighting off incurable cancer for over six years. The Hike Hero went on hikes

with the group to help encourage and remind the hikers of the great cause that they were participating in.

"We had lots of support not just for hiking, but also for the fundraising," said Majorosky.


The "Hike for Discovery" required that each participant raise \$4,400 which Majorosky recovered by writing emails, sending support letters, having bake sales and holding happy hour for senior citizens.


"Between all 3 groups we collectively raised \$650,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society," said Majorosky.


The cost covered the expense of the trip and supported medical research and programs pertaining to leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma.


"This was an amazing experience for me," said Majorosky. "It has been something that has made me see how good people can be, and what I can personally achieve when I put my mind to it."


## News Bites

 After recent discoveries, Pluto was determined to be just a large ball of ice. It is not a planet. That means My Very Educated Mom Just Served Us Nine Pies is a thing of the past.

 Remember to shop at Giant because A+ Bonus Bucks are back. To receive money for our school, however, you must re-register your card.

 A special thanks to Jeffrey Wagonhurst Sr. and Dennis Clausen of SYC, Bob McDonough and Todd Latimer of Prosperity Bank, Jeff Yoos of FieldTurf-Tarkett, County Executives Anthony Griffin and Paul Jansen, and Lee Ann Pender, Lewis Rauch and Dean Tisdadt of FCPS for our brand new turf field. Let's go Spartans!

 Graduation Day has been set. The Class of 2007 will walk on Wednesday, June 13, at 7:00 PM at George Mason's Patriot Center. Class of 2007, only 250 more days!!!

 Get ready everyone, Homecoming is the week of October 16-20. The theme is "blast from the past." Monday is Class Color Day. Freshman wear yellow, sophomores wear green, juniors wear red and seniors wear black and white. Tuesday is Toga Day and Wednesday is Pajama Day (and the PSATS). Thursday is Dress Like Your Favorite Decade Day and Friday is Orange and Blue Day...Remember to show your spirit WSH!

—Compiled by  
Stephanie Maxwell

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The yearbook is available for sale

through our publishing company, Herff Jones.

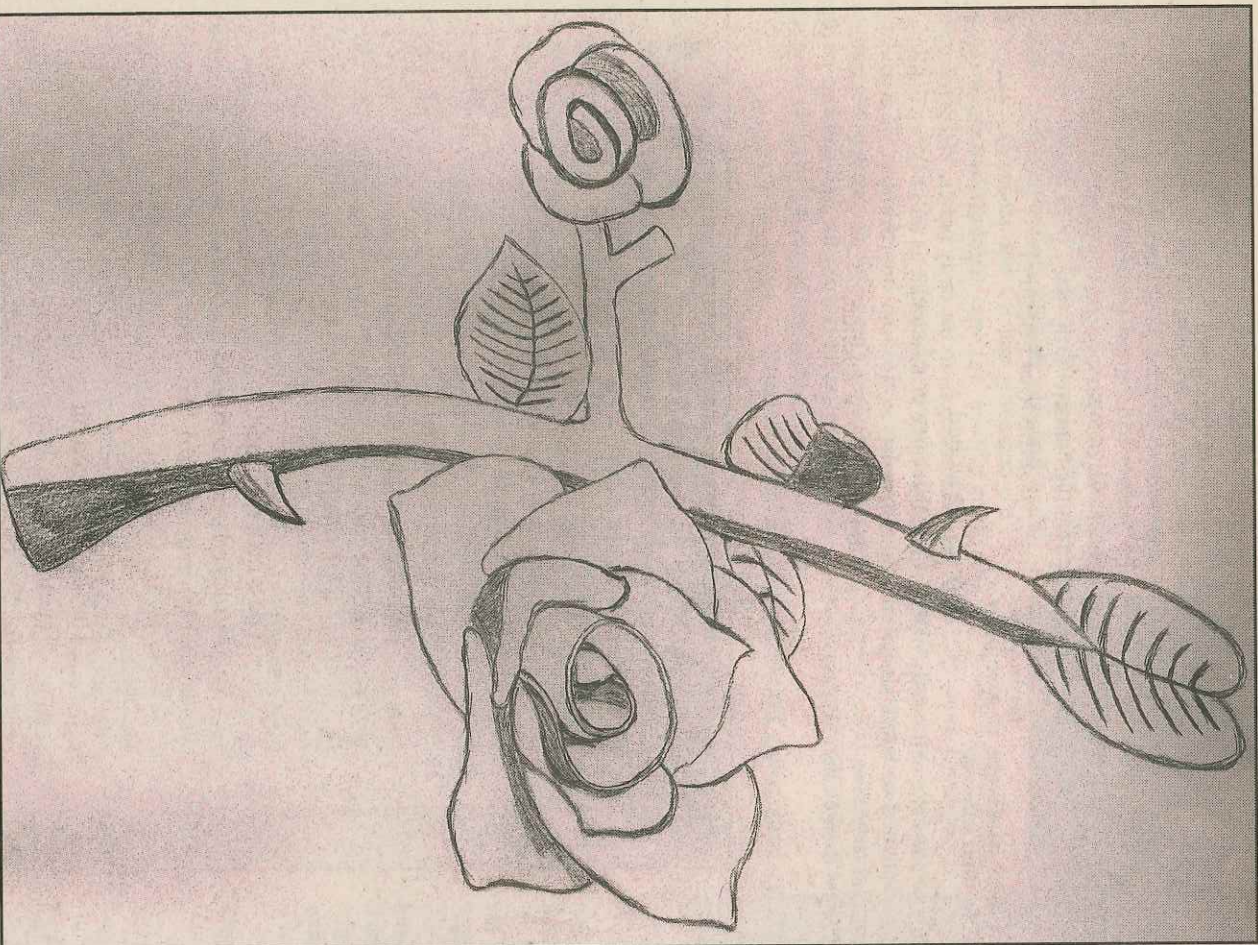
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“Untitled”

David Nelson, senior



“The Flower of all Flowers”

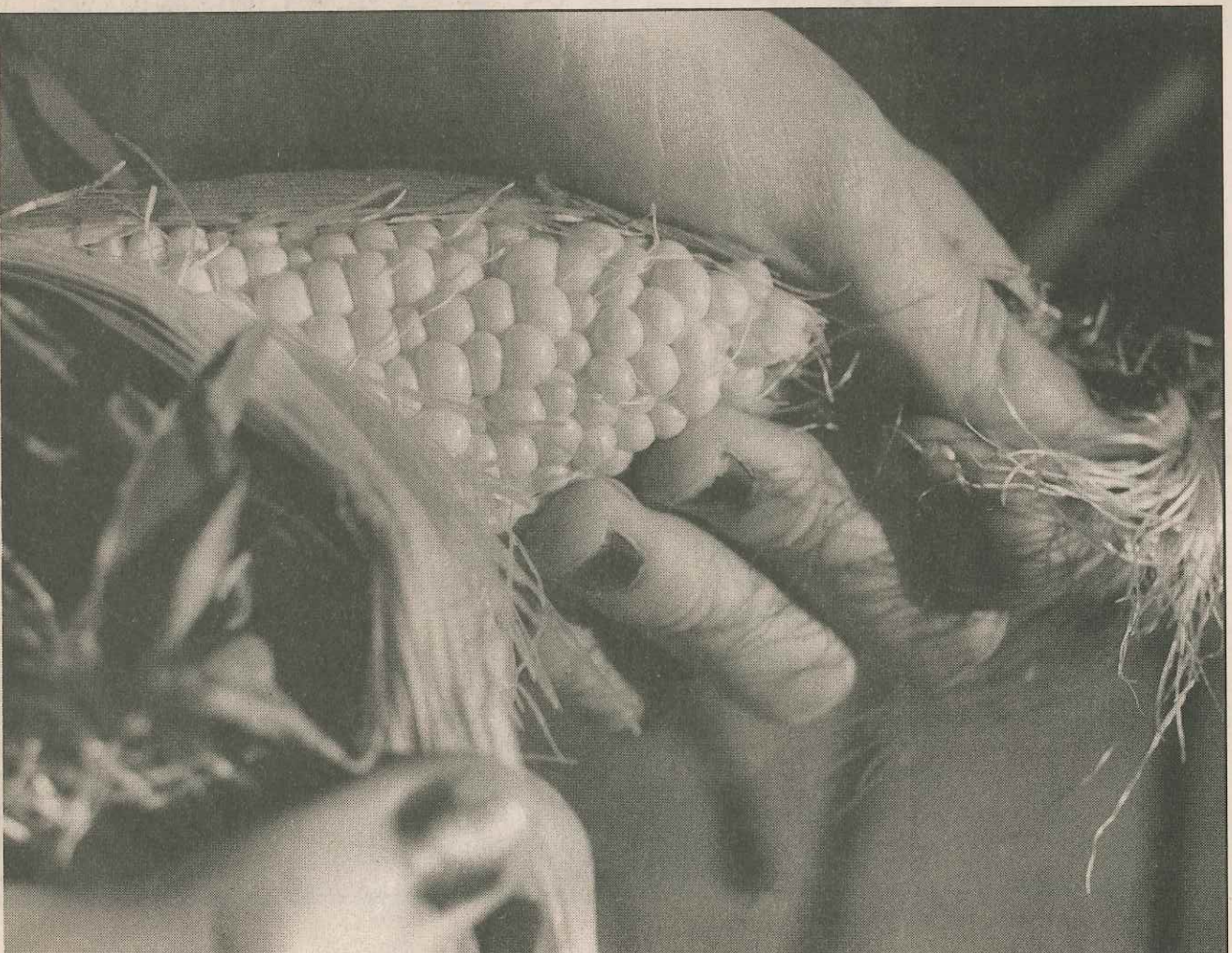
Erica Wink, junior

### Untitled

By Megen Stewart, sophomore

To frame within my thoughts,  
 Four walls to close me in,  
 Glass confinement in front,  
 To feel alone within.

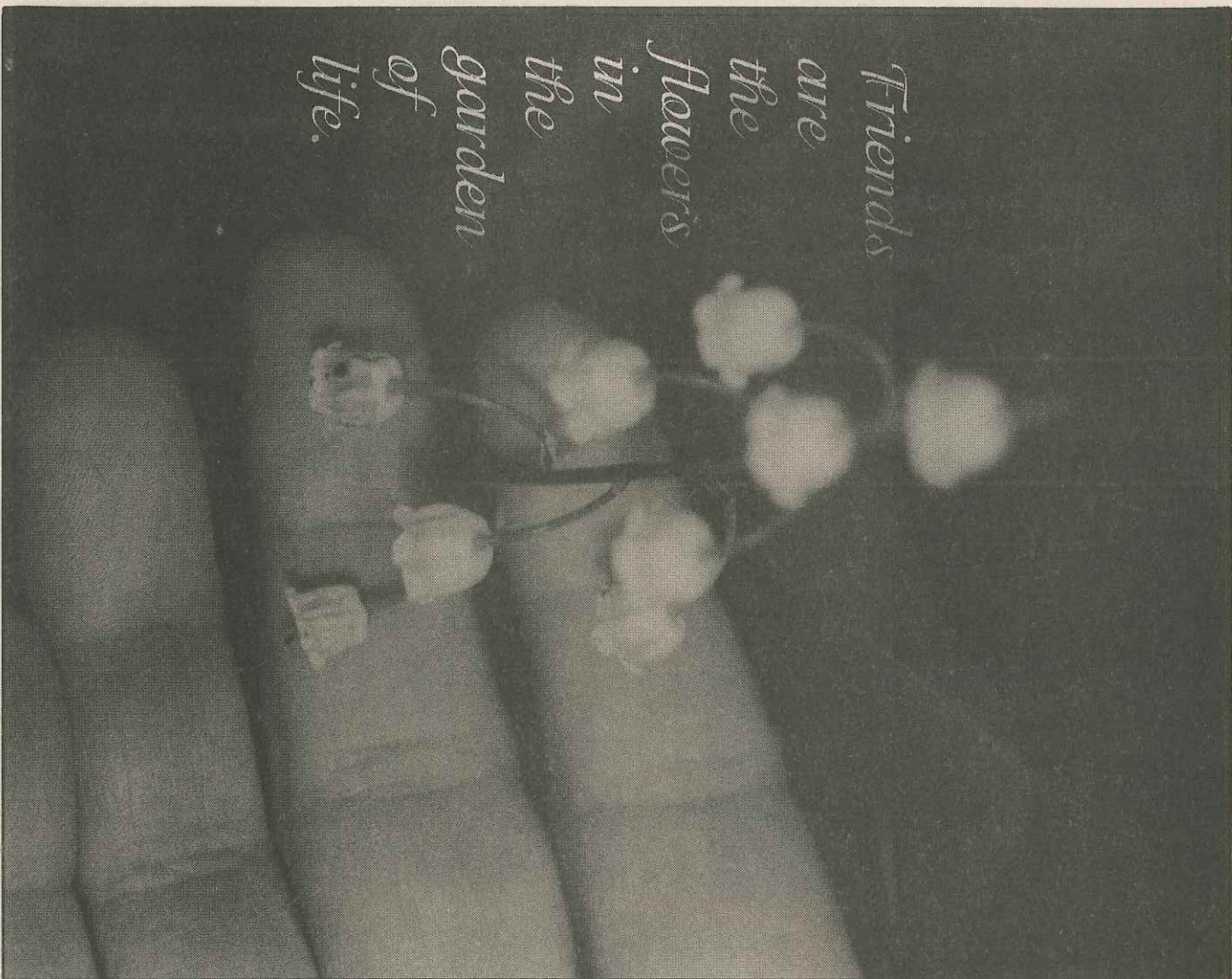
To watch the world spin,  
 To see faces go by,  
 To turn from winter to spring,  
 To see the door before my eyes.



“Corn Husk”

Sarah Wink, junior

*Friends  
are  
the  
flowers  
in  
the  
garden  
of  
life.*



"Untitled"

Sarah Wink, junior

A Moment of Silence  
By Lillian Stuart, freshman

The world paused  
Waiting, breathlessly  
For the flight of doom  
To collide with the tower of steel.

The world watched  
Watched as the tower of steel  
Crumbled inward  
To become a tomb of silence.

The world ran  
Not only from the wreckage  
But from the inescapable feeling  
Or fear, of helplessness.

The world cried  
As the remaining tower  
Was hit, and withheld for a moment  
Then disappeared into the dust.

The world panicked  
Panicked for lack of leadership  
Lack of order  
Lack of hope.

The world mourned  
For loved ones sacrificed  
For hopes extinguished  
For battles lost.

The world moved on  
Trying to fix broken countries  
Broken hearts, broken souls  
Broken spirits.

Five years later, the world remembered  
Remember why  
The world had changed  
Leaving hope in pieces.

The world was silent  
As it did its remembering  
Its reflecting, its healing  
And so we pause for a moment of silence.



"The Rose"

Sarah Wink, junior

# Young Life brings Program to WS

By **Andreana Maxwell**  
Managing Editor

Double chocolate chip Frappuccino, white chocolate mocha and iced coffee are the drinks of choice for many of WS coffee connoisseurs and apparently say a lot about someone's personality.

Well, at least that's what was learned at the first Young Life meeting, which was held at the Starbucks on Old Keene Mill in September. The meeting had about 25 attendees, and endless possibilities for more. After going around the group and stating one's name, grade, and favorite drink, the first attempts at a Young Life at WS had been made.

Students at WS received the invitation to the kickoff pool party in August, while Young Life is not school-sanctioned, the group's leaders think the flyer was probably overlooked by parents and students trying to handle dozens of other back-to-school items.

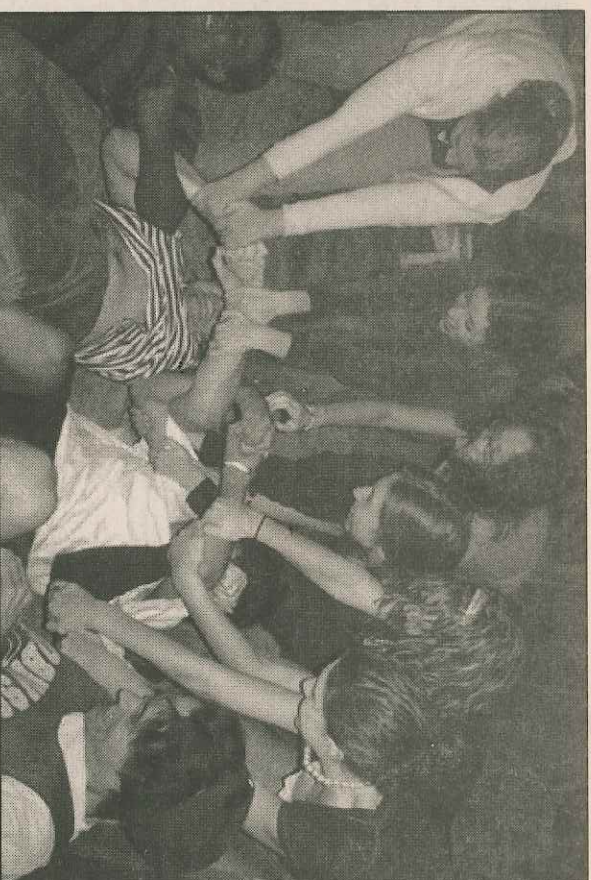
The pool party was widely attended, yet there is still a want for more members.

Young Life is a Christian organization that has existed around the world for teens to have fun and meet new people. This year, it has finally reached WS.

Our Young Life is led by Ryan Clegg, a Virginia Tech graduate in his mid-twenties. Clegg will have help from a few college students who are also affiliated with the organization.

"I'm excited about Young Life because I will get to meet new people that are like me," said sophomore Lauren Cook.

Young Life is based on the three C's: club, campaigners and camp. The "club" aspect is the large group meetings that occur every other week. WS will have its "club" meetings for about an hour on Monday nights starting at 7:30. These meetings serve as an opportunity to get to know the other members and just have a great time. After these meetings everyone will go and grab



During the "Battle of the Sexes," the girls try to untie the males from arm-knots.

some ice cream before heading home. "Campaigners", the small group meetings to discuss faith, will be held on the Monday's when there is not a club meeting. Camp, is thought of by many as an opportunity to have "the best week of your life". This year, all of the Young Life groups from Fairfax County will be attending camp over the weekend from November 10-12 in Rockbridge, which is located in Goshen, VA, to get a taste of camp.

Young Life membership is open for anyone and everyone. Regardless of what students may believe, the group's leaders believe students should take the opportunity to attend at least one meeting and see if what it's like. "Young Life] sounds like a lot of fun," said sophomore Gabrielle Whitt. "It [is] like a party where you get to hang out with everyone."

## Moving 1,000 miles overseas Stephanie Ton starts brand new life in Virginia

By **Stephanie Aguilar**  
Features Editor

Moving away from the well-known hula dancers and the famous Iuauis, junior Stephanie Ton has adjusted to the rolling valleys of Virginia.

It was no surprise for Ton to have heard the news of having to move to a completely different state located thousands miles away. Her father is in the Army, which makes this the eighth time she has moved. "I was sad but excited because it was something different," said Ton.

The main difference between the hot spot, Hawaii, and Virginia was the size. Hawaii's small, geographical dimensions compared to Virginia is almost miniature and is about ten times smaller.

"You really can't get lost because your on an island," said Ton. "The drive from one side to the other is just two hours.

Because Hawaii is known to be one of the top

vacation spots on many people's places to go, the small island is covered with diverse tourists that come from all over the world. They go everywhere; from the open-air malls to the clear-blue beaches off the Pacific Ocean.

"I can tell who are tourists and who's not because they look different," said Ton.

The school Ton attended in Hawaii has major differences compared to WS and other high schools in general.

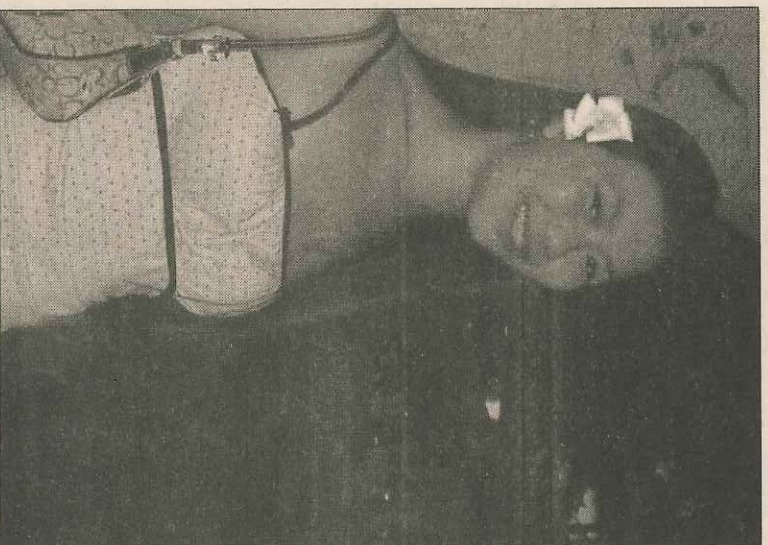
"It is the total opposite of Hawaii because the classrooms are outside," said Ton.

"The schools are three times smaller over there than here."

Another noticeable change was the weather. The beautiful climate in Hawaii is hot and humid year-round, with no season change.

"It's practically summer all year long," said Ton.

"It's the weather that I miss the most out of me moving away."



Stephanie Ton has lived in Hawaii for the past 5 years.

## True Girl and Boy Scouts at Heart

By **Ariane Irvine**  
Senior Staff Writer

Contrary to popular belief, scouting does not end in elementary school, as proven by WS students still active in the Girl and Boy Scouts.

"Some people would think it's embarrassing, but it's not," said sophomore Megan Talley. "We don't just sell cookies."

Talley, a Senior Girl Scout, which is what a Girl Scout is from sophomore to senior year, has been in scouting since starting Brownies in first grade.

"We toured every big city in Italy for ten days," Talley said. "We did a lot of shopping. That was the best part, but it was exciting seeing everything that

everyone else only reads about."

On the other hand, junior Loring Ross, who joined Cub Scouts in fourth grade, and is now a Boy Scout, thinks camping is the best part of scouting.

Ross is staying in order to reach Eagle Scout, which is the highest rank possible in Boy Scouts.

"It's not so popular in high school," he said.

Both scouts have had to help out with a variety of service projects, but it isn't the entirety of their experience with scouting.

"It's not as much work as a lot of people think," said Talley. "You get to do a lot of fun things, too."

## All-Night Grad Party Tickets Available!

### Class of 2007

See all your friends after graduation at Lee District Park!  
E-mail us at [wsgradparty@yahoo.com](mailto:wsgradparty@yahoo.com)  
if you have any questions.

No one should miss the party—incredible games, prizes and all the food you can eat all night long! You can buy tickets at the Homecoming football game on October 20! Remember to make you check out to WSHS ANGP 2007. Such a deal! \$50 per ticket covers all the food, games and purchases from the ANGP Store.



# Summertime Singing

By Bethel Habie  
News Editor

Summer '06 heat left Springfield boiling by day, but the nights were even hotter for WS students jamming to their favorite artists live.

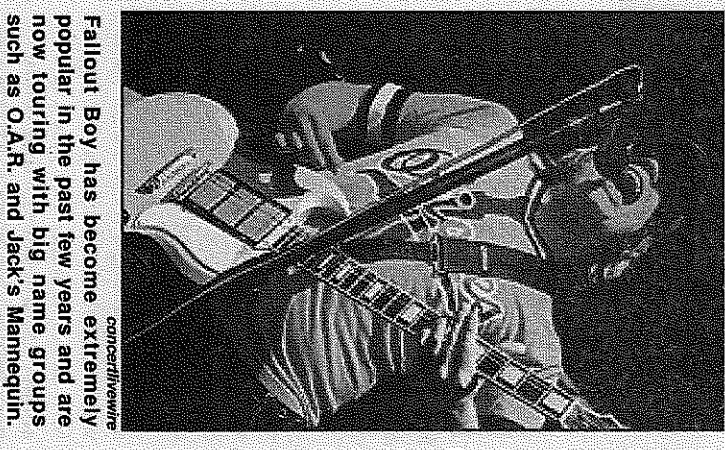
Junior Melana Jackson got out of the shower listening to Chris Brown's freshman album and drove to the concert at Nissan Pavilion on August 19 listening to the same CD.

"I was trying to get pumped up for the show," Jackson said.

A show she describes as an "amazing" birthday present.

"I got there at seven. Seating was good. Everyone was mostly standing. A lot of people were screaming, a lot of girls. A lot of girls," Jackson said. Along with Chris Brown, Nissan Pavilion hosted the Warped Tour and concerts by Dave Matthews Band and Rascal Flatts.

Junior Anna Yantz went to Merrifield Post Pavilion July 29 to see Fall Out Boy, O.A.R., and an up and coming band, Jack's Mannequin. "The Fallout boy concert was way more crowded," Yantz said with her black Jack's Mannequin tee on. Yantz and her [3] friends had lawn seats for \$35 each. She paid for all of them early and got the money from her friends later.



Fallout Boy has become extremely popular in the past few years and are now touring with big name groups such as O.A.R. and Jack's Mannequin.

## Top 10 things to do at a college visit

By Katie Costello  
Oracle Editor

1. Follow a cute boy to his dorm room, just to see what it looks like (the dorm rooms, I mean.)
2. Don't wear a shirt from a different college.
3. Visit the on-campus cafeteria to test the food. Then visit the campus drug store to test out the Pepto Bismol.
4. Notice what current students are wearing because it gives you an idea of the types of people attending the school.
5. Bring out the Nikes... you will be doing A LOT of walking.
6. If your tour guide laughs hysterically when your parents asks about drug enforcement, chances are it's a party school.
7. Make sure to talk to a faculty member that teachers in the department you want to major in.
8. Know the school colors. Do you really want to go to a college whose school colors are magenta and orange?
9. Bring your mom... she asks the best (and most embarrassing) questions.
10. Check out the school store to see if they have cool merchandise, because it is the most important factor when deciding on a school.



James Madison University, located in Harrisonburg, VA, is one of the most popular schools that WS students apply to.

# ROAD TRIP

Grab some friends and head to Virginia's most remarkable college – Longwood University. You'll discover a new, state-of-the-art science center, Division I athletics, hundreds of clubs and organizations and, for 2007, a fully-loaded fitness center. And it's all less than three hours from home. Time for a road trip.

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# Golf team drives and putts to victory

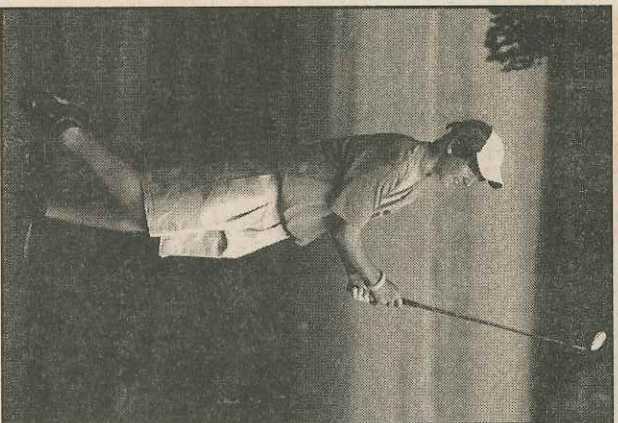
## Team finishes undefeated season, places second at Districts

**By Zohra Alnoor**  
Senior Staff Writer

For the past two years, the WS Golf team has dominated the field. With the team maintaining a record of 7-0 this season, they once again made their way to the District Championships.

Last year, the team won Districts and won fourth place in Regionals. The team hopes to do even better this season.

"The guys beat Lake Braddock, their biggest competition, so we should stay undefeated," said senior Alexandra Flammia, one of the only two girls on the team, whose predictions were correct.



Lifetouch

Above: Senior Steve Morris, who placed first in the Patriot District Golf Tournament, watches his drive down the fairway. Below: Junior David Slachta prepares to chip onto the green.

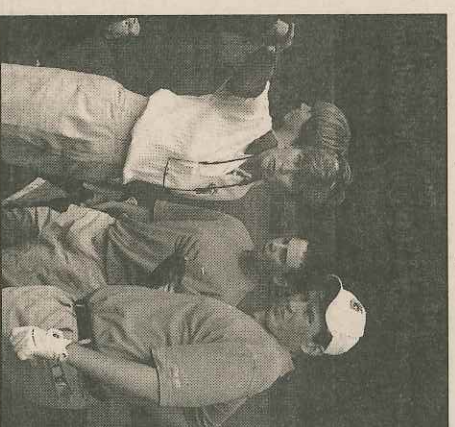
The golf team has worked hard to finally advance to where they now are and look forward to an even greater victory at Regionals.

After handfuls of undefeated games, the team has had many memories, which they'll never forget. This season, six of the twelve players on the team are seniors. With the senior players leaving, the underclassmen on the team are questioning whether or not they will be successful and able to make it as far as they did these past two years.

"The [upperclassmen] are a lot better than us," said freshman Tommy Page.

Even though there are many odds against them, the future golf team has high hopes and big dreams. The team is looking forward to recruiting many new members next year.

"Try it, have fun. It's not seriously competitive, just go out and have fun," said senior captain Chip Horan.



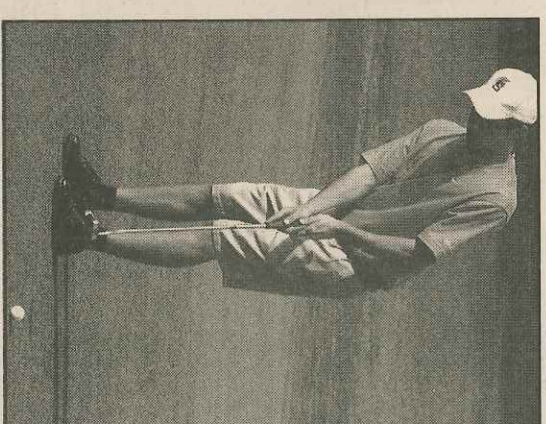
Lifetouch

Golf coach Sue Spatcher directs sophomore Bobby Johnson down the fairway during practice.



Spartan sports

Freshman Thomas Settles and freshman Tommy Page tally their scores after a recent match at Burke Country Club.



Lifetouch

Junior Patrick Saylor concentrates on his putting before a match against Lake Braddock.

"Try [the golf team], have fun. It's not seriously competitive, and [we] just go out and have fun."

—Chip Horan, senior

During the District Championships on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, senior Stephen Morris was the gold medalist in the individual competition and senior Aaron Snow came in fifth place. The WS golf team won second place overall.

"I'm a little disappointed because we beat [Lake] Braddock in the regular season and could have beat them in Districts if we had played better," said Snow.

Junior Patrick Saylor concentrates on his putting before a match against Lake Braddock.

What is your prediction for this season?

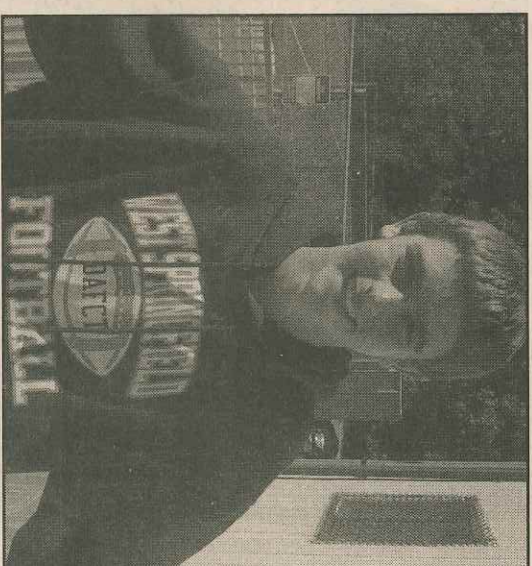
JM: 7-1.

BL: [Our last game against Annandale] is going to be our only loss.

JM: Lake Braddock beat Lee.

BL: No way, they didn't! We can beat Lee.

What do you think about your coaches [John Walker and Sean Brooks]?



Molly Cushing

Freshman Ben Lockwood shows off his football sweatshirt.

JM: When they get up in your face and they are yelling at you they aren't really yelling at you they are just mad at the play you did.

BL: They tell us not to take it personally. I don't like [Texas A & M] Aggie fans but Coach Walker is OK.

Why should WS go support the freshman team?

BL: We have more heart than Varsity. The crowd gets so involved.

JM: Oh my gosh, we are going to get killed.

BL: I'm going to get burned for that.

# Spartan Spotlight: Ben Lockwood & Josh Morris

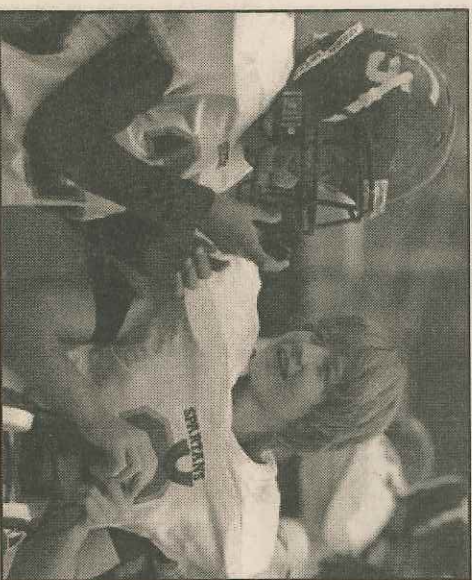
## Freshman Football

**By Chrissy Regelski**  
Oracle Editor

What are your favorite and your least favorite parts of playing freshman football?

Josh Morris: My least is running and doing gassers, where you run across the field and back a couple of times.

Ben Lockwood: My favorite is making a big hit or a big play on defense because we both play defense. [My least] is losing. I hate losing. It's a pet peeve for me.



Lifetouch

Freshman Josh Morris chats with a teammate on the sidelines during a recent game.

"When [the coaches] get up in your face and they are yelling, they aren't really yelling at you, they are just mad at the play you did."

—Josh Morris, freshman

Why did you want to play football?

BL: I've been playing for two and a half years and I love the game. My dad rets around here for football and my brother plays on Varsity so I thought I would keep it going. My whole family loves football.

Are you going to continue football after high school? What college do you want to play for?

JM: Virginia Tech.

BL: If I can continue on I'd do it. I want to play for [the University of] Texas.

"My favorite [part of football] is making a big hit or a big play on defense."

—Ben Lockwood, freshman

# Volleyball seeks spike in interest

By Rebecca Naramore  
Forum Editor

By the end of this year, there will only be three returning volleyball players because the rest will graduate. These three will have to overcome students' apathy toward the sport in order to build a whole new team.

One reason for student's lack of interest in the sport may be common misconceptions.

"People think it is a girl's sport when it is not," said sophomore Christian Melean. Melean is confident that coach Jeff Michaelis will be able to field a team next year.

"We gotta talk about it [volleyball team], more people came to last week's match than ever before," said Michaelis who has been coaching the team since it began three years ago. Michaelis hopes that the boy's games will continue to get a lot of attention to help build a team for next year.

"Just come to our games and watch us work," said senior Tony Hall.

Even with the optimism from team members, they do not have ideas on how

to gain interest from other students. All the players however, do agree that more middle school interest would help out the team tremendously.

"Camps would help but there is not time over the summer," said Michaelis, "When they find out it is too late." With a full time job Michaelis has a hard time getting in advertising.

The majority of boys also began the year as beginners so there is not much experience on the team.

"We have to spell the sport," said senior Andrew Hurst, one of the team's captains.

"Filters to the SYC teams would help gain more interest. All the sports teams go to Irving at the end of the year, our appearance would show students that we exist and we have a lot of fun."

The boys on the team all have fun at practices and games. This is seen in the way they play and interact with each other. Although the sport is more laid back than others its is still important and needs more awareness.

"Volleyball is the best sport," said Melean. "You have a lot of fun and get to meet new people."



The boys volleyball team listens intently as Coach Jeff Michaelis goes over strategy before a match. Lifenouch

"People think it is a girl's sport when it is not."

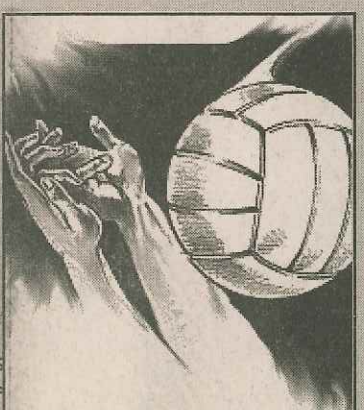
— Christian Melean,  
sophomore

"Just come to our games and watch us work."

— Tony Hall, senior

"More people came to last week's match than ever before."

— Jeff Michaelis,  
coach



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# Stop making new friends

By Jake Serwin  
Etc. Editor

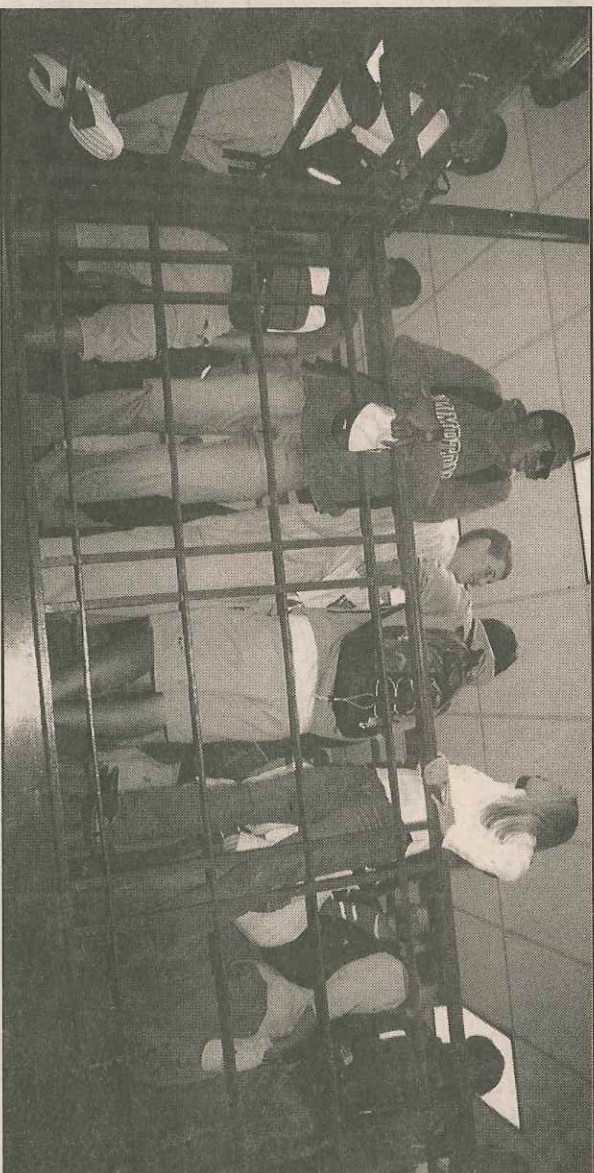
Before I begin, don't say I'm just bitter because I don't have any friends. I'm not saying that's not true, it just hurts my feelings when you make me aware of it.

I can't get anywhere with all the friends everyone has. Respected classmates, you need to find somewhere else to talk that is not between where I am and where I need to be. It has become a problem.

The best examples of this issue is the stairs. I cannot fathom why staircases are such attractive places to gather and talk and yell what I'm pretty sure are profanities at underclassmen. Of all the places in the building, stairs are the only places where you are actually at risk of falling to your death. If you actually think about it (which I know can be difficult for a lot of people), they are quite terrifying.

The stairway between the Band and English hallways ranks among the least convenient of inconvenient staircases.

I have very few problems with the freshman class and I know it's at least partially the fault of the sophomores, but it should not take me longer to wade through the five feet of disoriented 14- and 15-year-



Larissa Cookson

Students and their friends clog the hallways and stairs during break. The epicenter of the blockage is here at Senior Rail, where the plaque of socialization slowly fills the arteries of the school.

olds at the bottom of the stairs than it does to get there from the other end of the school. As a freshman, I was just as confused and obnoxious, if not more, so I shouldn't really complain. I suppose it's too late for that now.

I blame MySpace. Admittedly, I might use that vile abomination of information technology as a scapegoat too often. MySpace did give my friend's cousin ebola, though. I saw a picture. Looked moist.

Since the advent of MySpace and Facebook and Spacebook and Friendface, everyone has made more friends. A number of you have made 546 more friends.

This is bad for me.

That means there are 546 more of you to stand in front of my locker and smack each other in the head, 546 more of you to move through the halls as slowly as possible while still technically remaining conscious and 546 more of you to dangle things at me from the top of Senior Rail. No I will not pick up your dollar. It has a string attached to it.

It's really great that everyone is getting along and Israel and Lebanon chilled out for a while and all that. That said, valued peers, I have but one request: stop liking each other. I don't like it.

## Oracle

### Questionnaire:

# “What do you call your mom?”

“Madre. Because my mom and I have a fun relationship so I wanted a fun name for her.”  
— Vicki Davis, junior

“Mammie. It's from *Little Women* and they all called their mom that because they're Irish.”  
— Ashley Butts, senior

“Woman, because that's what she is.”  
— Max Hoffman, junior

“Mrs. Mason. We're very formal.”  
— Christian Mason, junior

“Mom. Because she gave birth to me.”  
— Akeem Berry, senior

“Mommy. Because I love her.”  
— Dan Hauser, junior

“Ma. Because it's short and I'm ghetto.”  
— Kristen Turner, freshman

“Madar. That's how I grew up, I'm Afghan.”  
— Yasameen Parjshiri, sophomore

“Mommy. Because the definition of 'Mommy' is someone that buys you whatever you want.”  
— Sabrina Osman, senior

— Compiled by Zohra Alnoor



# OCTOBER '06



Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
6 Third Oracle of the year!	7 XCountry meet @ Great Meadow @ 9 AM	8 Martha Stewart sent to jail (2004)	9 Columbus Day/Golf State Tournament No School	10 XCountry @ South Run Park @ 5 /Field Hockey vs. South County @ 7:30	11 Antifascist Uprising Day (Macedonia)	12 Boys Volleyball @ Lake Braddock @ 6/ Volleyball vs. Stonebridge @ 7:15
13 Field Hockey vs. Hayfield @ 7:30	14 Varsity Football @ Episcopal H.S vs. T.C. Williams @ 3:30	15 National Grouch Day	16 Varsity Girls Volleyball vs. Lee @ 7:15	17 Black Poetry Day	18 PSAT No School for Seniors	19 Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown (1781) / XCountry @ Burke Lake Park @ 4:30