

# PAPER



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West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

## Jarvis loses longtime battle with cancer

### 'Magistra' well-known for her snow dance, sense of humor

By Jake Serwin & Beth Stinson  
Oracle Staff Writers

Longtime Latin teacher Kathy Jarvis died last week on Toga Day.

On the morning of October 17<sup>th</sup>, Magistra Jarvis lost her sixteen-year battle with breast cancer. Jarvis, 58, had worked at WS since 1989.

During her time here, she was admired for her dry sense of humor and optimistic demeanor. Through the most ravaging periods of her treatment, she still managed to make others smile.

"The last time we saw her she was joking with us about how when she was taking a shower, she looked like a gorilla because her hair was falling out all over her," said senior Lauren Hidalgo, a student of Jarvis's for four years.

Her thinning hair was often the subject of her humor. "She used to joke with me about who had less hair," said Principal David Smith.

Though she laughed in the face of her disease and invited her students to do the same, she didn't let the cancer keep her from doing what she loved. Jarvis's dedication to teaching each day that she came to work,

**"The greatest thing she left was a legacy."**

—**Jeanne Byrnes, Latin teacher**  
even as chemotherapy weakened her.

"There aren't too many people that have the level of dedication and love for what



Jay Jarvis

American Sign Language teacher Sharon Bailey and French teacher Joelle Torretele celebrated Prom at the hospital with Latin teacher Kathy Jarvis in June. The three had planned to go to Prom together that night, but Jarvis was hospitalized and couldn't attend the event. Bailey and Torretele decided to bring Prom to the hospital, and presented their friend with a feather boa and a corsage. she did," said Latin teacher Jeanne Byrnes. "I don't know how she came in here sometimes." Byrnes worked closely with Jarvis for two years and has been teaching all of her classes in her absence. Jarvis was also well-known for her creative ways of bringing a seemingly dead language to life.

"I would eavesdrop outside her classroom just to see what she was doing because her

students were always laughing and having fun," said Spanish teacher Michelle Plummer. Jarvis has left an empty place at WS that friends agree will never be filled. She requested that in lieu of flowers, a scholarship for a "worthy Latin student" be established in her memory. In addition, there will be a viewing for students from 2 - 4 pm on October 27<sup>th</sup> at Everly Funeral Home in Fairfax. For 16 years she fought

## Homecoming dance heats up Temperatures at dance reached staggering levels

By Alyssa Horton  
Features Editor

For Homecoming 2006, this year's SGA officers took their duties very seriously in leading the school in all of the festivities.

"We want the whole school involved with school spirit," said senior SGA officer Luisanna Carrera. "We want to get school spirit going again."

The spirit began with the Homecoming Kick-off that took place on Saturday September 30. It included "chalk wars", a balloon toss, and plenty of food. The juniors won the chalk wars and the seniors won the balloon toss, which earned them money for their floats.

Homecoming week officially began on Monday October 16, the first day of Homecoming week. It was Class Color Day; the freshmen wore yellow, the sophomores wore green, the juniors wore red, and the seniors wore black and white.

"All you see is red," said junior Amy Byers during her Personality show choir class that day. Since the class is made up of mostly juniors red was the predominant color.

The Powder Puff game also took place on Monday. The seniors finished their Powder Puff career with an undefeated record when they beat the juniors 27-8. The sophomores remained undefeated as they beat the freshmen 38-0.

Tuesday was Toga Day, so in true Spartan fashion WS students proudly wrapped sheets around themselves to give a Greek appearance.

Pajama Day made things more comfortable for underclassmen on Wednesday when they took the PSATs. "Pajama Day was my favorite because I got to wear sweats and relax," said sophomore Anggie Tsibu-Gyan.

On Thursday students and faculty dressed to resemble previous decades. The 80s seemed to be the most popular decade throughout the school, but several of the senior girls decided to sport the 50s look. They each wore a "Pink Ladies" t-shirt inspired from the movie, *Grease*.

See Homecoming on Page 4



Sara Kotfel  
Senior Chris Benedict practices before the Senior Male Drill Team's performance at the homecoming assembly.

Forensics team undergoes major changes this year.



Gain new knowledge about college.



The debate about skating heats up.



# Worries about germs spread

Eyes fill with tears. No, nothing sad has happened. Allergies and colds bring watery eyes and sniffles to WS every fall. The real question is, however, if it really has to be that way.

Adding insult to injury are the few times each year when students feel miserable, but not the mom-approved stay-home-from-school-miserable. The widespread sickness is only made worse by the fact that our school is an ideal breeding ground for germs produced at school.

When a baby is born, the parents make sure it doesn't eat dirt or lick the dog. Parents attempt to instill similar sanitary habits in their high-schoolers, instructing them to wash their hands before eating and after using the bathroom. The general assumption that all of us retain these habits into

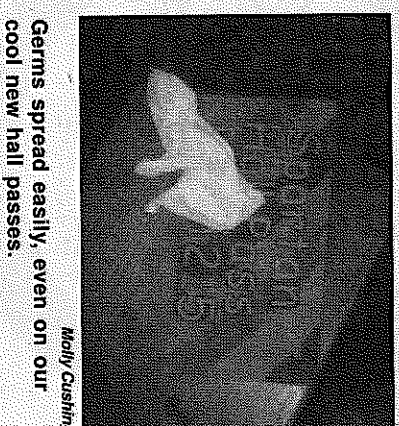
## Editorial

adolescence is incorrect. While some of those who use the facilities at school may be diligent about personal hygiene, there are still those who refuse to flush or wash their hands. Such behavior is not only disgusting but completely unsanitary.

With an ever-increasing number of diseases transmittable through the air and hand-to-hand contact, it's time we got serious about the fight against diseases, ordinary or not. Common sense has always been a standard when it comes to keeping our school disease-free, but covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze and throwing away your dirty Kleenexes may not be enough. Students and faculty alike should wake up and listen to the symphony of loogies and hacking that fills both halls and classrooms. We need to adopt new

rules to help stop the spread of common illnesses and even to help those who are already in the throes of such ailments.

Cruise lines have recognized this very threat and most now equip ships with canisters of hand sanitizer for guests to use when boarding and disembarking. Such a solution could be easily adapted for use here. Smart companies put hooks on small hand sanitizer bottles for backpacks and purses. A good start would be purchasing these for each classroom and hooking them on the holes of every hall pass.



Molly Cushing  
Germs spread easily, even on our cool new hall passes.

It would also be helpful for the administration to publish clearer guidelines on what symptoms a student must demonstrate to be considered sick. Students exhibiting particularly contagious symptoms should be required to stay home until they no longer pose a risk.

Rules dedicated to stopping violence are important but rules dedicated to stopping the spread of bacteria and viruses should be given equal attention.

# Underclassmen should follow '07's lead

By Sunnie Ko

Senior Staff Writer

Senior rail: the one monument in this high school that is solely the "property" of seniors.

In past years, projectiles would fall from it. In past years, a UFS (unidentified foul substance) would grace the hand rails. Not this year, though.

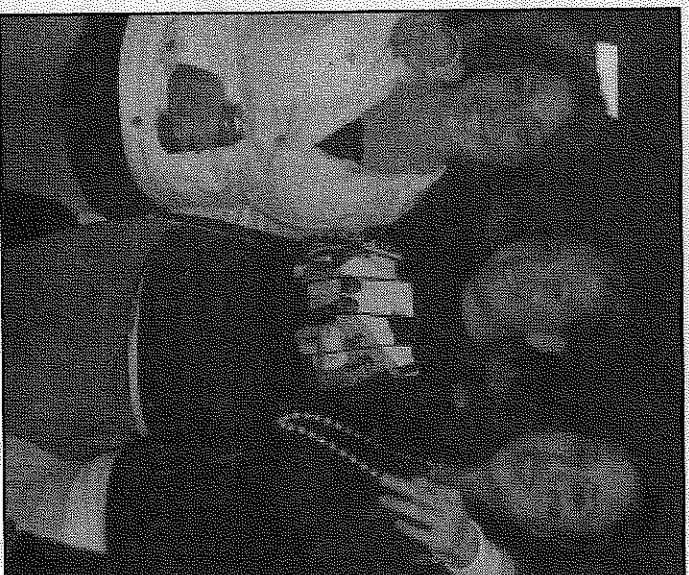
This year, the only weapon of choice is one that everyone possesses: their voices.

Seniors yell in unison at stair-climbing underclassmen in attempts to scare them away. That is pretty normal; seniors trying to scare the underclassmen. But everyone knew this senior class was different when some faculty members were even afraid to climb the infamous stairs.

The class of '07 really started to make itself known last year when a huge group of them took over the 50-yard line bleacher section at the football games. From then on, they have only become visible, and not just at football games.

The class of '07 has shown that it has a lot of spirit, and as a result, the atmosphere at school has become more spirited.

The day of the first pep rally, orange and blue articles of clothing could be seen everywhere; people were



Sara Kotait  
Megan Wenger, Devon Buckley and Jin Prugsawan show Spartan spirit by participating in Homecoming class color day.

The Class of 2007 has made the school's atmosphere much more spirited.

wearing ribbons, and faces were painted. The spirit of '07 brought the school together in a way WS hasn't seen in awhile. Credit that boost to the spirited Class of '07.

At the first home football game against Edison, the seniors could be seen from a mile away; some seniors who walked through the ticket gate were branded with an orange and blue '07.' '07 members also painted their whole bodies, making the bleachers a sea of orange and blue.

The 'rowdy crowd' doesn't just support the football team at home, but a mass group of them also travel to the away games. They aren't afraid to show their spirit on enemy turf and aren't scared to get noisy with their homemade trash can drums.

School will always just be school, but having spirit makes the learning environment so much more fun. I hope that this tradition continues after the class graduates and that next year seniors are able to scare faculty members from climbing senior rail, too.

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## Senior suffrage slightly skewed Three classes denied Homecoming Court vote

By Sara Kotait  
Photo Editor

Senior Homecoming Court is the most influential court, but it was not the most prominent. A large part of the senior class didn't get to vote, including me.

I have voted for the Homecoming Court every year.

One girl I voted for actually made it into the Homecoming Court last year, which leads me to believe that my vote does indeed count. I don't want to be in the Court but I do want a chance in to vote for it. This year, I never got that chance.

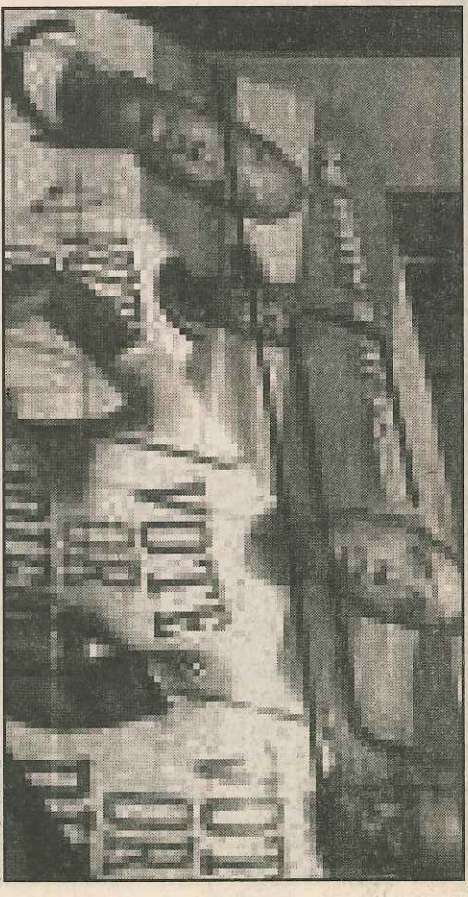
I was in shock when the Court was announced. As I talked to my friends about it, I found out a lot of them didn't get to vote either. At least three English classes

didn't vote and a couple other classes were on field trips that day.

That could total to over a hundred seniors who didn't get to vote for their court.

Senior year is when the Court really matters, when we vote for Mr. Spartan and a queen to represent our class and get to be 'Best of 2007.' This voting problem is too big to overlook as it is an integral part in our democratic representation as a class.

In government we are learning that voting counts and everyone should go out and vote once they are 18. Celebrities such as P. Diddy, Paris Hilton and 50 Cent campaign for us to "Vote or Die." Well, if our schools and society push us to vote to make a difference, then we should get an equal chance here.



Double Crossed

Celebrities P. Diddy, Paris Hilton and 50 Cent campaign for us to "Vote or Die."

I know a lot of students that don't take it seriously and vote for Batman and Disney characters just because they are forced to vote. But then there are those of us who take it seriously and want to vote.

I do understand that counting all of those votes is a pain, so I give my

sympathy to the vote counters who deal with the confusion of it all. I don't know if the English teachers didn't want to waste class time, if they forgot or if they never got the voting information for it, but I don't understand how a chunk of the senior class never voted, including me.

## Turnitin.com is the new best policy

By Nicole Simpson  
Entertainment Editor

In 1996 researchers at US Berkeley put together a database of research papers to be scanned for plagiarism. After gaining media attention, Plagiarism.org was born, and later it evolved to Turnitin.com.

At a costly \$300, teachers can receive all Turnitin has to offer, including: database teachers can submit their students work into to be scanned for plagiarism, an online grade book, an online tool to grade students' work, and peer review amongst classmates. Gold old red ink and paper have become a method of the past. Turnitin does not only work with teachers, but it also aims to help students avoid plagiarism. The website provides tips for students on how to avoid plagiarizing, how to correctly cite sources in different citation styles, and offers tips on good writing and researching skills. As useful as this tool may or may not be, WS teachers aren't taking advantage of it.



Teachers use this website to screen students for plagiarizing when they turn in work in English classes. All students should be aware that they are enrolled in a class that will be taking advantage of this site.

"[We] don't have to [use Turnitin] because we know how to detect and search for plagiarism," said English teacher Simon Schatmeyer. "We're already aware of the sites students go to."

Judging from the articles previously published concerning Turnitin, it could end up as a major tool in the college world rather than at WS.

## 'I recommend myself'

By Sunnie Ko  
Senior Staff Writer

I'm going to college.

If you don't remember, I'm the girl who was once freaking out because I've had four different counselors, four different years, and didn't think my counselor recommendation would ever pass par. I am no longer *that* girl.

My fears of not being accepted into a college or university were soon forgotten when I had my "beginning of the year counselor meeting."

We went through all the usual business: college visits, viewing of transcripts, looking over the calendar and finally going over the application process.

My hand shot up as soon as the words "counselor recommendation" left Ms. O'Brien's lips, but before she could answer my question, she had answered it.

For those of us who would rather have someone else write us a recommendation, we could. Ms. O'Brien would simply put on a cover sheet stating our situation and that would be that. This way, the school I was applying to would get a more in-depth, personal recommendation with the same value that a counselor recommendation

would have had.

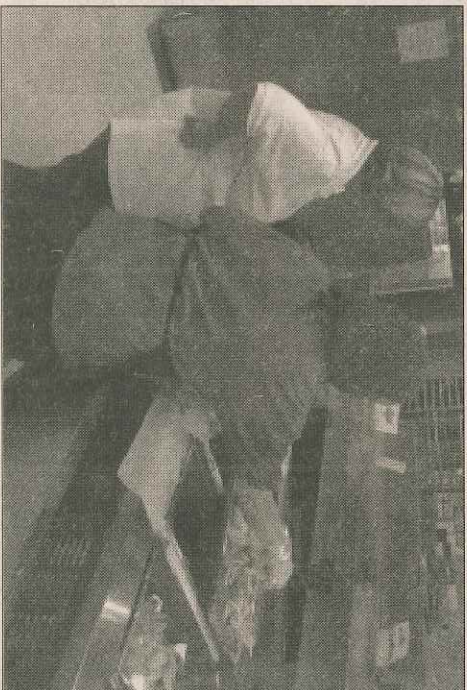
I was really upset when I first found out my counselor had changed... again. But the guidance department has done an awesome job of getting everything in order and are dealing with crazed, over caffeinated, sleep deprived and stressed seniors really well.

These first few weeks of school have proved to be the most chaotic out of all my school year, and I'm just keeping track of myself. The counselors in the guidance department are keeping track of hundreds of seniors and all the colleges they are applying too. It's an enormous job and they are doing a really great job.

Me, being the disorganized person I am, needs someone to help me keep myself in check and that's exactly what my counselor does.

I'm sure not to miss transcript request dates, financial aid meetings or any other important date because my counselor tries hard to make sure I don't forget. She is also there to answer any of my questions, and trust me, I have tons of questions.

So, here I am, in the beginning of October, about to journey out on my way to college, and I still have my sanity... yes, I would say that the guidance department is doing a fine job.



Molly Cushing

Servers prepare fries and other dishes, but students hope for better tasting fast food choices in the future, like Chick-Fil-A. Some Energy Zone foods, like the quesadillas, are more popular than others, like the chicken.

## Lunch choices bite

By Zohra Alnoor  
Senior Staff Writer

Everyone and anyone who goes to Fairfax County public schools knows our infamous school lunches: Energy Zone.

Energy Zone has been known to us young teenagers for years. Ever since elementary school, if you think back far enough.

We will have the taste of those generic hot dogs permanently left in our mouths, even after we've graduated, got married and had children. And from there the cycle will continue.

In the Energy Zone nutritional diet, one can't help but feel bored of the same lunches every year.

Some other high schools are insisting mandatory use of Turnitin. In twenty years, plagiarism has increased over 30 percent. In 1969 58 percent of high school students admitted to allowing someone to copy their work, and in 1989, that percentage rose dramatically to 97.5 percent, according to *The Free Press*. When a student's work is submitted into Turnitin's database, it is automatically checked against 22 million other research papers around the world. Students at McLean High School protested the mandatory use of the plagiarism-catching site, arguing that it was an "infringement of intellectual property rights." Fairfax County Schools and Turnitin officials concluded otherwise, allowing the use of the website.

Although the website is controversial, Turnitin is a major threat to the everyday plagiarizer. I disagree with the idea that Turnitin should be mandatory throughout an entire school, I think it should be of use to an individual teacher, as their own decision rather than the school's. All students should be aware that they are enrolled in a class that will be taking advantage of this site, if you're sure of your work's authenticity, why hesitate to prove it? The best advice I can give is to stay away from cheating, you never know when you could become another one of Turnitin's success stories.

Other schools have chosen to give students a variety of lunches from semi-healthy chain restaurants. South County for example, has a Chick-fil-A open for their students to buy *real* chicken for lunch, instead of that soggy stuff on wheat bread.

As many students can remember, our school tried to cut down on the fatty foods a couple years back when they changed the white bread to wheat, the zebra cakes to cereal bars and the greasy French fries to...not-as-greasy French fries. Maybe it was to make us happier with the lunches, or to help us not become obese children. Whatever their intentions, I've made my decision that nothing will make me happier than having a Chick-fil-A in our school cafeteria. That would mean that I could eat quesadillas on Tuesday's and Chick-fil-A on Wednesday's.

Though what I say sounds easy, I'm 99.9% sure that our school can't afford a Chick-fil-A or any other semi-healthy restaurant at our school, but that doesn't mean that we can't have good food. Energy Zone does have a couple yummy, fully cooked, and delectable dishes. Chicken wings, salads and the best saved for last...quesadillas. I would give up a Chick-fil-A sandwich for an Energy Zone quesadilla any day.



## Wynne says 'goodbye' to Forensics team

By Ariane Irvine  
Senior Staff Writer

MaryLove Wynne, the WS speech coach decided to step down at the end of last year after the team's victory at the VHSL AAA Championship.

"I felt guilty giving it up at this point because a lot of the students were seniors and I'd worked with them for three years," said Wynne.

Wynne says that it is unlikely that she will go back to coaching before she retires because of medical reasons.

"Nobody can ever take the spot of Mrs. Wynne," said speech captain Sloane Lipkin. "She was really hard on us, but she did it in a really loving way because she wanted the best for us."

Madeleine Delice is taking Wynne's as a coach this year. Delice is a new

English teacher at WS this year, who taught at Accotink Alternative before coming here.

"It's a new experience for me, and I like being able to bring my prior experience [in acting] into a new field," said Delice.

She is optimistic about working with the team.

"They've been really well trained by Mrs. Wynne," said Delice. "I think they're a very talented, dedicated group."

Delice's 15 years of experience in theater, television and film (she's worked on "Early Edition" and "K Street", and been in plays like "The Miracle Worker" and "The Effect of Gamma Rays") holds a large amount of interest for members of the team.

"The fact that she has that acting experience will help when she's helping



Sara Kofalt

Seniors Richie Hartz and Ben Trump prepare the team for a tournament. us with our monologues," said speech captain Nadia Khatouri.

Despite changing coaches and setting the bar very high last year, the speech team is very optimistic about their chances for the year to come.

"I think we've got a good, strong base of people from last year, and good new potential from new people," said speech captain Jocelyn Ott.



Sara Kofalt

Senior Cori Buck, one of nine new speech leaders, tells the team about fundraising opportunities.

## Spirit shows for Spartans

Homecoming from Page 1

Thursday night Mr. Spartan took place, one of the most looked-forward-to festivities of Homecoming



Sara Kofalt

Seniors Tony Hall and Michelle Feinberg pose for a picture before the homecoming assembly. Hall performed with the male drill team and was also crowned Mr. Spartan last Thursday.

week. Tony Hall was declared Mr. Spartan after his hilarious comedy act had the entire crowd cracking up.

"Tony was really funny and stand-up comedy is hard to do," said freshman Maddy Jennings.

On Friday the school was in chaos due to the annual Homecoming assembly. It included performances from Madrigals, the Step Team, Pizazz, Personality, Senior Male Drill Team, the dance team, and the Key Club, as well as the fashion show put on by DECA.

"The dance team was beast," said junior Mike Ariate. Unfortunately the football game did not go very well as the Spartans lost to the Lancers 40-34. Lancer students added insult to injury as they ran out on the field in celebration once the game was over.

Finally on Saturday it was time for the dance; it was not what everyone was expecting. When students first walked into the cafeteria they noticed that some of the lights were on, when in the past they have been off. Students were also unhappy with the music played because the faculty did not want "grinding" to occur.

"I went up to the DJ and asked him to play some music we could actually dance to but he said that the administrators wouldn't let him," said senior Coles Ide.



Beih Roop

Juniors Elise Shellenberger, Cori Inman, Amanda Locke and Molly Gross participate in a water balloon toss at the Homecoming Kickoff. Other activities included class competitions and pizza for lunch.

The temperature in the cafeteria also caused a lot of discomfort. Students even began pouring water on themselves from the water bottles supplied there, causing the floor to be very wet.

"It was so hot and the whole 'not grinding' thing just made it worse," said junior Gabby Rosa.

Even though the dance was a disappointment the overall feeling toward this year's homecoming was good.

"I had a lot of fun; it was pretty exciting," said freshman Erin Cafferty.

## Hans 'graduates' too

### Senior class administrator leaves

By Jenny Taylor  
Sports Editor

Just as seniors apply early decision to college and receive their first quarter report cards, they will also wish 12<sup>th</sup> grade assistant principal, Patricia Hans, farewell.

In November, Hans plans to leave WS for family reasons. She first joined the staff in 2003, serving as the freshman administrator for the class of 2007.

"When Mrs. Hans started here during our freshman year, it was comforting to see a face that I've grown up with," said Hans' next door neighbor and senior Sloane Lipkin.

Hans has spent the past three years enforcing dress codes, patrolling the hallways, and overseeing detentions.

Throughout her tenure as assistant principal, she has become an important factor in student affairs.

"Once, I was supposed to serve detention after school, but I kept having all of these conflicts. I always tried to reschedule, but it never worked out," said senior Amanda Strong. "So Mrs. Hans said I didn't have to do detention, because I showed that I had learned my lesson by trying to reschedule. I thought it was really nice and understanding of her."

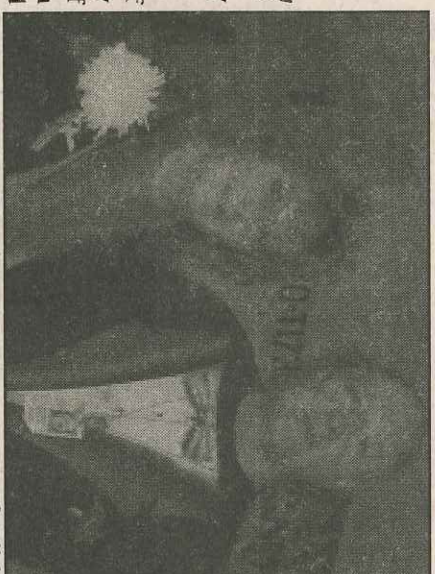
While Hans' early departure may seem rare, a similar situation occurred just two years ago. Brenda Aiken, former administrator for the class of 2005, transferred to South County the summer before her class's senior year. Since Hans' announcement, a swift effort to fill her vacancy has begun. Nearly 50

candidates have already applied for the new opening.

"A conference of teachers will help narrow down the numbers [of applicants] so the selection process is easier," said Principal Dr. David Smith.

"I hope to have whoever replaces her here in time," said Smith. "If that's not possible, then hopefully within a week of her departure."

Although the class of 2007 will graduate without their long time assistant principal Patricia Hans, her actions will continue to linger with her



Sara Kofalt

Administrator Patricia Hans and Safety and Security Specialist Mike Ukele pose for a picture. Hans plans to leave WS in November.

"She's always been so nice," said Lipkin. "I used to ask her sons, who baby-sat for me, to take stickers out of my favorite sticker book. When they refused, she took one just so I wouldn't feel bad."

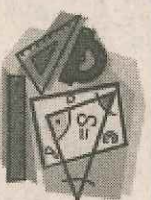
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# Students win award

## Seniors selected among 17 in VA

By Krista Pedersen  
Scoop Editor

WS is in no way officially designated as an English-heavy school, like Thomas Jefferson is for math and science. Yet WS seniors have consistently been given the National Council of Teachers of English award for excellence in writing.

This year's winners, seniors Christina Sohn, Chrissy Regeltski and Christine Carter are among the top 17 high school writers in Virginia, as determined by the NCTE board. Out of the 17, 12 students are from Fairfax County Public Schools, WS tied Woodbridge Senior High School for the most selections from one Virginia school.

"I really didn't think I had a chance at winning," said Carter. "I always kind of liked writing, but it never seemed like a real talent. I figured a contest like this would draw writers better than me."

The selection process for this award begins during junior year. Sophomore and junior English teachers recommend about 20-25 total students who demonstrate exceptional written language skills. A committee of English teachers reviews each of these students' English portfolios and select four nominees for the school.

"I look for a natural skill in writing, someone who can convey images beautifully," said English teacher Leslie

Simmons, who taught both Sohn and Regeltski last year.

These four then submit a portfolio of up to 10 pages of what they feel is their best work. Depth of thought, power to inform and vocabulary command are all considered when papers are being critiqued. A timed writing in the spring is the final step for those selected.

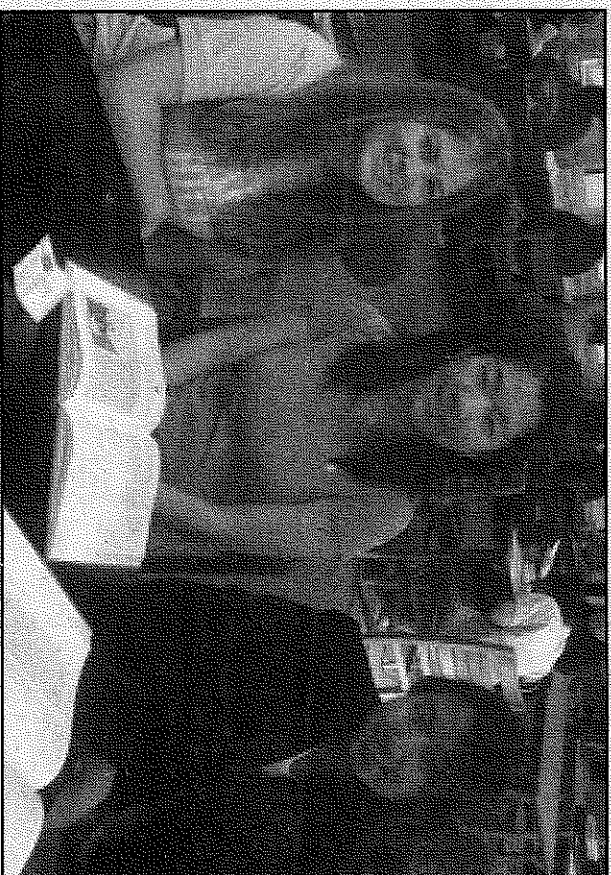
"[We are looking for a student] whose writing stays with you, whose is memorable, whose has a voice," said English teacher Martha Beall, who runs the NCTE process at WS. "We're also looking for a candidate that can write well under pressure."

In the four years that Beall has run the program, five WS students have

"[We are looking for a student] whose writing stays with you, whose is memorable, and whose has a voice."

—Martha Beall,  
English teacher

been national finalists. 2006 graduate Linnette Lam and 2003 graduate Carla Rodriguez also received the award. This year, 606 winners from around the country were selected from 2,080 nominees who took the timed writing.



Seniors Chrissy Regeltski, Christina Sohn, and Christine Carter study in the library. Their writings were selected by the NCTE committee as being amongst the best in the state.

Molly Cushing

"The combination of some really good English teachers I've had and being part of *The Oracle* and getting tons of practice that way [laugh me to write]," said Regeltski, one of the *Oracle* editors.

Sohn believed going into the contest that she had a chance to win.

"I've always read a lot of books and I guess I consider myself an observant person, so I observe things and I try to put it into words so that other people can experience what I've experienced."

said Sohn, who is a managing editor on *The Oracle* staff. "Also in AP Lang last year I read a lot of amazing books and I thought it helped me because good writing is contagious."

One constant from WS is that the finalists are always female. Simmons says that since she has been here, the winners have always been girls.

"It seems that the NCTE committee selects pieces that are persuasive and creative and based on what I've read by my students, the girls tend to be more emotional and creative," said Simmons.

"They take more risks in their writing." Although the 2006 finalists still have a reception to attend, the selection committee has already moved on to searching for talented juniors who will take their places next year.

"What an honor to be selected as a national finalist in a writing contest," said Simmons. "It's outstanding."

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# Recipe for Kim: Just add NOVA

By Erika Gleason  
News Editor

Senior Kim Johnson's GPA is 1.9. This doesn't bode well for a student wanting to go to Yale or Harvard. Fortunately, Johnson isn't interested in an ivy league school. She is planning on going to NOVA.

"I just never study; I don't have much time. But I'm actually doing alright this year though. I have high C+'s in most of my classes. And well, to me that's amazing," said Johnson.

This decision is not entirely based on grades, however. Johnson's dream is to one day open her very own restaurant, where she can be head chef. NOVA offers a culinary arts program that Johnson is particularly interested in.

"When I was younger, about 10 or 11, my dad never let me cook, he would always cook our meals.

So, when I finally learned in eighth grade during Teen Living, I absolutely loved it," said Johnson. "And since I was older my mom let me cook dinner most of the time."

WS alumnus Aurelia Geddis, who is friends with Johnson, is a freshman at NOVA. In the future, Johnson hopes to create a restaurant with Geddis.

"[She] will do all the planning and decorating of the restaurant," said Johnson.

Another reason Johnson is going to NOVA is to avoid taking the SATs.

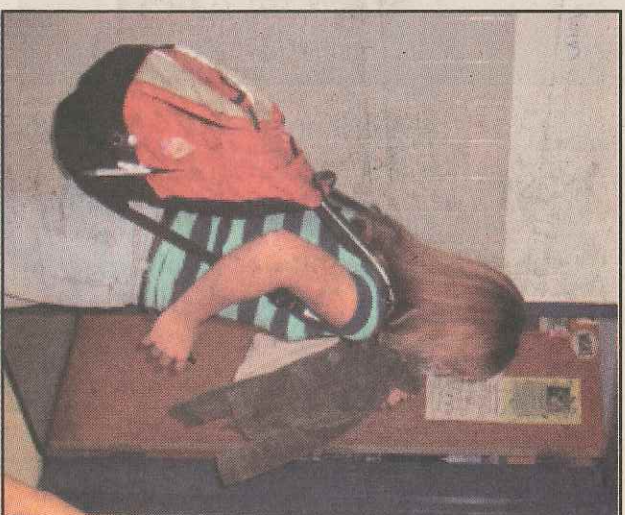
"Why would I spend 15 dollars on something I didn't even need?" said Johnson.

Johnson is taking Culinary Arts 2 at Edison High school. She

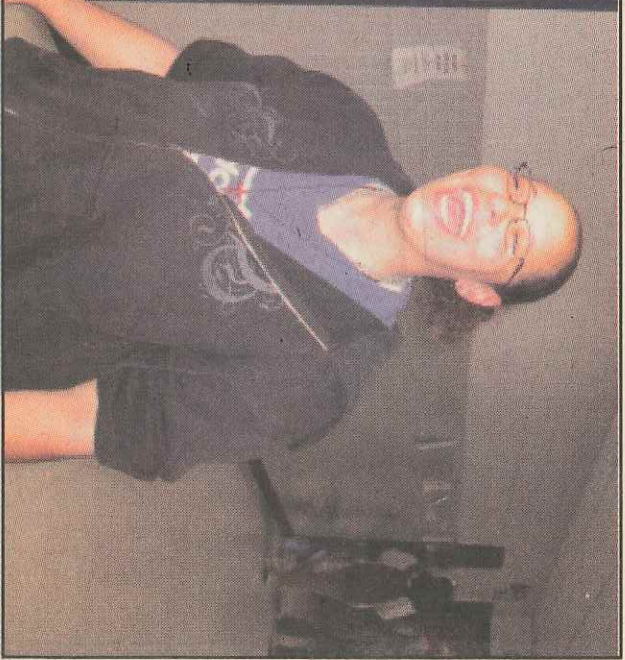
leaves school after second block every day and returns after school ends to pick up her friends.

"It's something I want to pursue for a career and that class is amazing," said Johnson.

Johnson realizes that she has not always worked to the best of



Senior Kim Johnson laughs in the hallway. Johnson is planning on attending NOVA next fall and hopes to open a restaurant in the future.



Erika Gleason

her ability in school. She leaves behind words of advice for younger students.

"Don't slack off, like I did in English last year. I barely slid by," said Johnson.

As Johnson says her final goodbye to WS in June, she

leaves for a successful education and a chance to pursue a career in the restaurant industry.

"I want to be remembered as the weird, random, funny chick that talks too much about random things and has bad fashion," Johnson said.

# Levi's looking for the right fit

Senior Levi Dudte considers his options for college

By Christina Sohn  
Managing Editor

Senior Levi Dudte chooses his words carefully. Whether it be analyzing the subtle complexities of Holden Caulfield's name in his English class or arguing against government regulation in the meat-packing industry in AP US History, Dudte has been insightful and controversial.

"I liked instigating class discussions," he said. "It livens up the class period."

At first glance, Dudte seems unassuming and unobtrusive. He dresses modestly and tends to be introverted. But behind his simple exterior is a student who reads extensively about economics and international relations. When taking the SATs for the first time in June, he attained a composite score of 2340 out of 2400. He is currently enrolled in a mathematics class at George Mason University called Differential Equations, which is two levels above AP Calculus BC.

Because of Dudte's ability to grasp concepts quickly, he used to resist studying extensively. Over a short period of time, however, he has changed his habits.

"This year, I've taken an equal interest in classes that require hard work and memorization," said Dudte. "Last year,

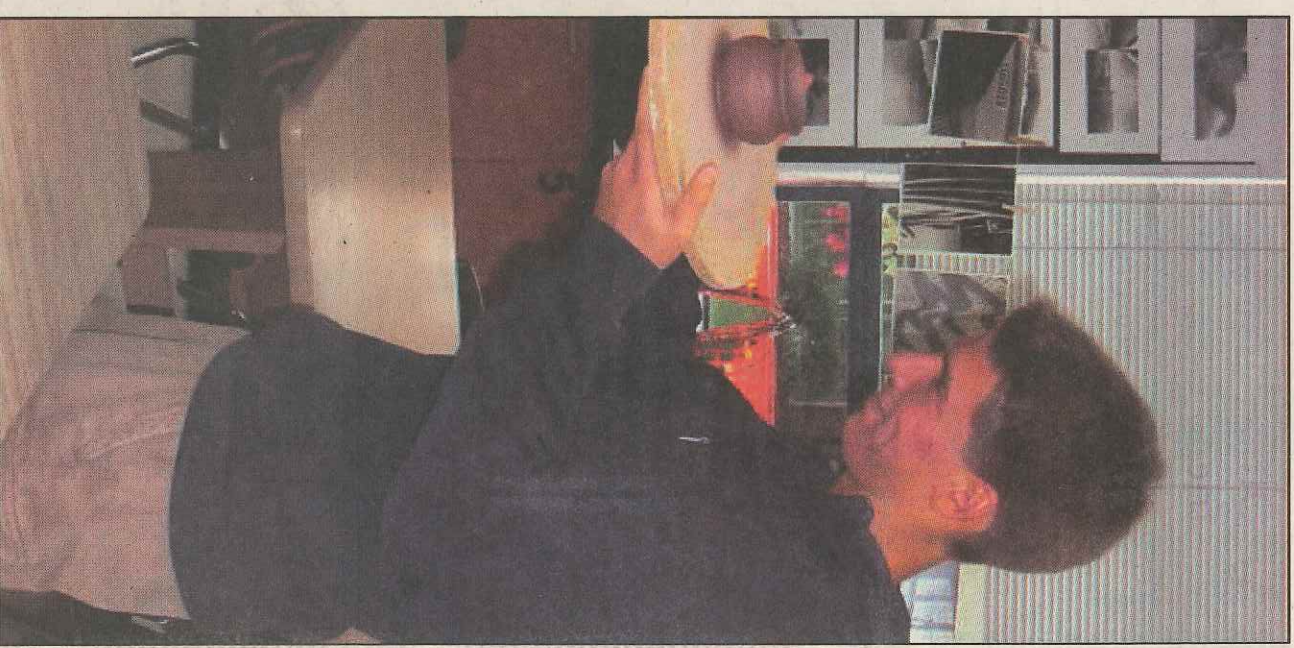
I relied on my innate abilities and did little outside work and favored some of my classes over others."

His intrinsic talents, recent increase in studiousness, above-4.0 GPA and diversity of interests makes him a prime candidate for top-tier colleges. Dudte plans on applying to Stanford, Harvard, Princeton, Cornell, UVA, Georgia Tech and George Washington University. He is also applying to Massachusetts Institute of Technology under the Early Action program, which is nonbinding.

"I'm applying [to MIT] early action because it's one of my top choices. But I need to hear decisions from all of the college on my list before I make my choice," said Dudte. His criteria for selecting these schools include high selectivity and esteemed engineering and liberal arts programs. Although he is undecided about his major, he is considering economics.

"I like studying [economics] now because it's a combination of analysis, mathematics, psychology—looking at human behavior and solving puzzles," said Dudte.

He is also interested in pursuing science and engineering, for which he has shown an affinity in high school. Last year, Dudte took AP Physics C, which is generally considered the most abstract science course at WS. Although he received the highest score of all the applicants to Governor's School

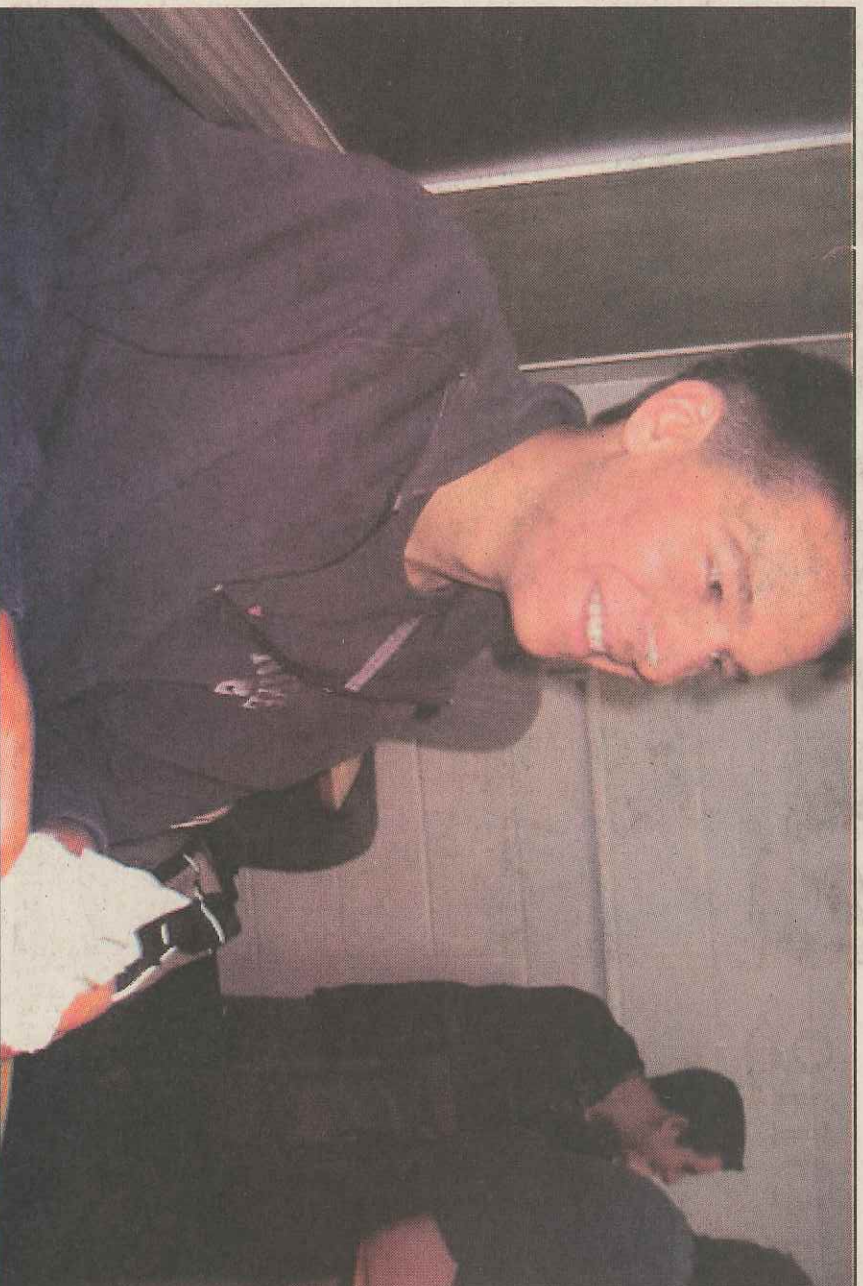


Sean Hogan

Senior Levi Dudte observes his clay pot during art class. "I'm also a ceramic artist of sorts," said Dudte. "I buy my own clay and use the pottery wheels and kilns after school."

for Mathematics, Science and Technology, he chose to travel to Ojai, California to attend a six-week summer science program affiliated with Stanford and Caltech. He is currently the only student in his Senior Science Investigations class. "[In Senior Science Investigations], I am under the mentorship of Dr. Roubush and working on a research project to study solar radiation with some of Dr. Roubush's friends and professors from around the country," said Dudte. Although Dudte may be well qualified to attend the schools he is applying to, he knows that nothing is ever certain.

"I think I have a reasonable shot," he said. "But you know how it is with these highly selective universities that can accept you or reject you on a whim."



Senior Levi Dudte smiles during a conversation in AP Comparative class with teacher Kevin Gallagher.

Sean Hogan



# the scoop on applying to college: which applies to you?

- I'm too cool for school
- Counselor's best friend
- Officer Williams' best friend
- I wrote my college essay last May

College 101. Meet these four seniors and their plans for the future. In the spring, we will do a follow-up issue and we'll see just what happened to them.



Kelly Sipple  
Senior Diem Le chats with seniors Ashelyn McConnell, Esther Stratton and Mike Estes. "My grades have gone down a little this year because I'm taking harder classes and it seems that I'm procrastinating more," said Le.

## Family tree branches out Senior plans to be first to go to college in America

By Kelly Sipple  
News Editor

For senior Diem Le, "senioritis" is already kicking in and it's only October. Her GPA has fallen to a 3.2 this year from a 3.5 in junior year. But, she still hopes to get into her top choices for college next year.

"I really would be glad to get into IMU or Lynchburg College," said Le.

Le is planning on applying to five schools and all of them will most likely be in-state.

"It's not a matter of in-state tuition as much as the fact that I just want to be close to home," said Le.

So far, the college process of preparing essays, college packets and visiting colleges has been very beneficial for Le.

"College visits are a huge thing to me, 'cause I'm not sure which college I want to go to, but these visits are sure helping me," said Le.

A big factor that will determine which college Le goes to is how she scores on her SAT. She took it in October so she doesn't know how she did yet.

"I'm technically the first-generation in America so it's important to them."

— Diem Le, senior

"I'm pretty confident that I will get a decent score. Not to mention I plan on taking it probably two more times before applications are due," said Le.

No matter which college Le ends up going to, she is nervous and excited about certain aspects of college.

"[I'm fearful] just about how I'll do at college, [but] homework and papers worry me the most," said Le. "[I'm looking forward] mostly to the freedom and the choice of when my classes are."

One of the main sources of inspiration to go to college comes from her parents.

"I'm technically the first-generation in America so it's important to them," said Le.

## Still going Strong Senior hitter serves success

By Krista Pedersen  
Scoop Editor

A sports scholarship is an elusive goal for most high schoolers, much less an agreement to play for a Division One school. Senior Amanda Strong is one of the skilled few possibly getting this opportunity, as she is being recruited by many coaches of prominent schools.

"I have gotten like two offers for full scholarships and the others we're talking back and forth and arranging official visits," said Strong. "I would rather go to a bigger school with a bigger known program than another school."

Strong, a member of the Varsity volleyball team, declines to say which schools have made her offers, but says they are mainly Division One and Two schools on the East Coast. She started playing volleyball as a freshman and was immediately recognized as a talented player.

"We [the coaches] both realized that she was tall, she was athletic, she was fiercely competitive," said head coach Rick Dunetz.

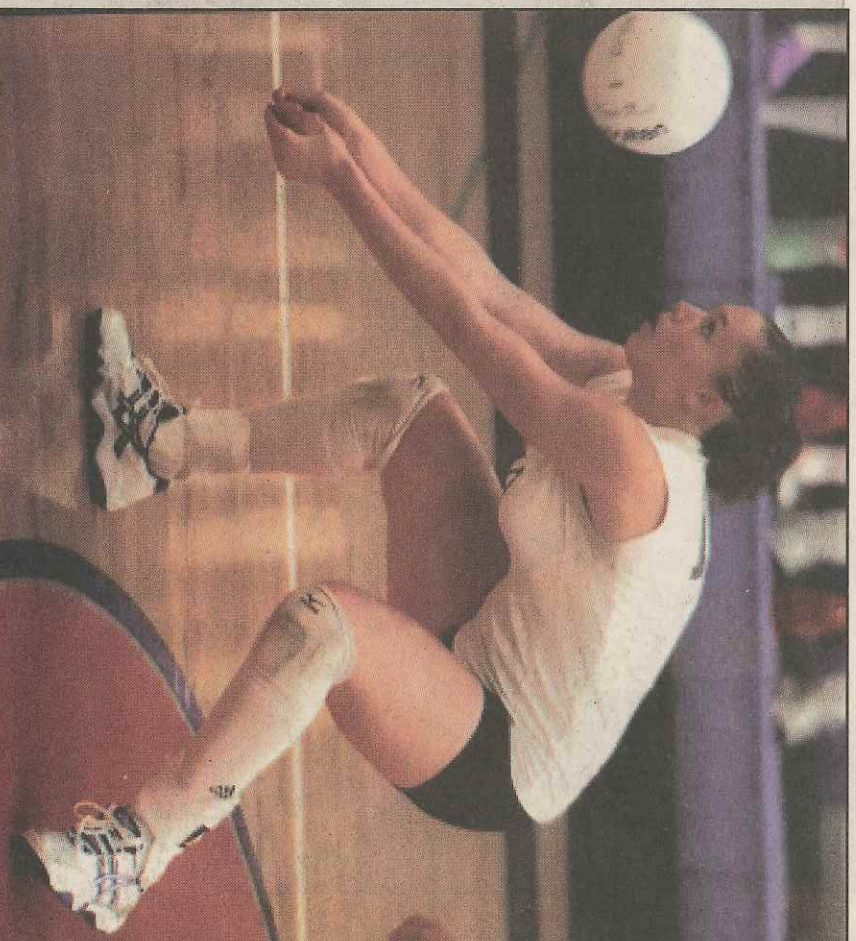
"[This year] she's definitely one of the strongest people on the team."

Strong started out on JV as a freshman, and played on Varsity during the 2004 season, when the team won Districts. During her junior year, Strong was sidelined often with injuries, but still managed to be Honorable Mention All-District as an outside hitter. Outside of school, Strong has played for the Metro American 16's and 18's club teams. During the '05-'06 club season, the college offers started coming in.

"I'm excited [about the scholarships, it is] a free college experience. [It] saves everyone money," said Strong.

Apart from helping the team to victories, Strong is also a good mentor for a team that includes five sophomores.

"When [the younger players] see her attack the ball, they're inspired to play at that level. She is passionate about the sport," said Dunetz. "I think she is the best all-around outside hitter in the district [and] I think she should definitely garner attention in the region."



Lifetouch

Senior Amanda Strong hits the ball in a match. Strong is also the captain of the lower 18 and under Metro American team. "She could help both [Division One and Two schools] if they need an outside hitter," said Coach Rick Dunetz.



# New chapter begins for sophomore's writing career

## Student has her third novel published

**By Sam Landers**  
Sports Assistant

Not many people can say that they have written a book, much less published three. Sophomore Maryann Brevig can check that off her list since she has published three books with PublishAmerica Publishing Company.

Brevig applied to three publishing companies. When PublishAmerica accepted her she was psyched and ready to start writing. Brevig said that the process of publishing was quite secretive because she is a minor. For all of her books she used multiple pen names, including S.K. Hamilton and Sasha Cohen.

"I originally needed a pen name because of my dad because I am a minor, but then I got creative," said Brevig. Her three books could be classified as fantasy

books, or as she says, "cult" books. She wrote fantasy books because at the time she was "obsessed" with vampires.

Two of the three books are sequels. *Brooding Darkness* is the first of her books, and it's sequel is *Hell's Gate Arrested*. Brevig wrote her third book *Demon's Rift* last.

She never dreamed of publishing any of these books, and she was not inspired by a famous writer. Instead, she got her motivation to write them from sheer, utter boredom.

"Anything creative I do starts with boredom," said Brevig.

Brevig started writing when she was in second grade, but she began to write whole books in seventh grade, and she wrote her first published book, *Brooding Darkness* in eighth grade.



Sara Kohari

**When writing her stories, Maryann Brevig prefers laying down to sitting up.**

Her books are now on sale at amazon.com and she receives four percent of the profits from her book sales. "I just wanted my books out there, it wasn't really about the money," said Brevig.

She is currently writing two books to continue her collection.

"Right now it's just a hobby but we'll see [where it goes]," said Brevig.

back, but I feel like I'm healthier now," said Jones.

Jones has also witnessed less-concrete post-stroke changes. Her perspective on life has undergone a dramatic alteration.

"Certain things become unimportant, and people become totally important," said Jones. "Contact with friends and students, locally and distant, brought a ray of sunshine."

With all Jones has gone through, a degree of negativity and pessimism would be understandable. Yet Jones puts it in perspective.

"I'm limp, I'm still numb, but if that's all I have to live with then I'm the happiest person in the world," said Jones.

## Mrs. Jones and me

### Nonia Gay Jones returns to WS

**By Jordy Serwin**

Oracle Editor

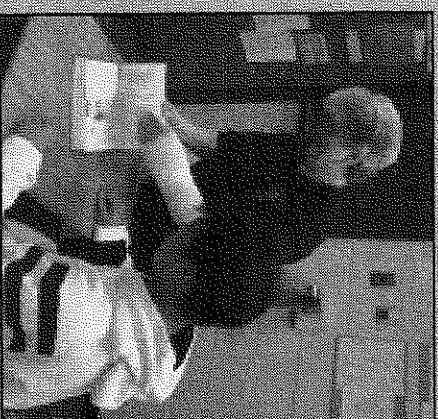
For most, October 14 is just another date on the calendar. But Nonia Gay Jones, who teaches English 10 Honors and sponsors Tri-Hi-Y, this date will not be easily forgotten.

"[H] was a Friday. It was my turn to host Fair Friday with the other teachers.

That night, I was tired and went to bed early and I woke up with a stroke," said Jones.

Almost a year later, Jones' health has improved, but she isn't the same person she was before her stroke. Cardio-physical therapy is now a regular part of her life, progressing painstakingly slowly.

"[I] have been kind of a slow process



Colin Embrey

Jones reviews terms in an English text book with sophomore Brandon Wong.

# ROAD TRIP

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# The music made me do it

*Music choices affect teen population*

**By Monica Evans**  
Viewpoint Assistant

In today's society, pop culture may affect how people dress, behave and may even infringe on their beliefs. One area of modern customs that is getting more questionable and influential as time passes, is music.

In the days of Vietnam and after, most music was leaning toward the idea of love and peace. From rock and roll to soul, Led Zeppelin to James Brown, love was one of the main themes. Music most likely affected listeners back in those days but perhaps not to the extremes of today.

Today you may see kids in extra large shirts and baggy pants to kids dressed in black and wearing very prominent make up. A point can be made that this is not all due to music but the fact has to be faced: music and music videos do somewhat affect listeners in their wardrobe and possibly their actions.

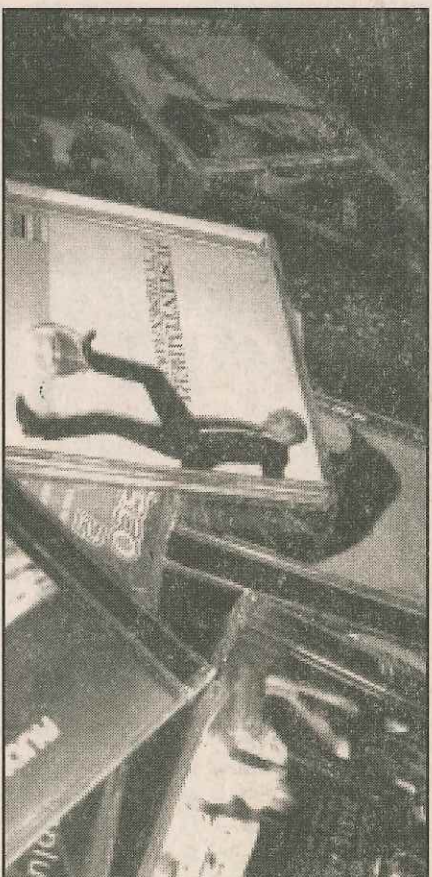
"A lot of people try to act like the people they see in the videos," said sophomore Chris Nutbrown.

As is being more and more observed, music videos and music lyrics these days can be pushing some buttons. Some videos can cause viewers to try to imitate their language, image and behavior. This is not true for all musical entertainment but for the music that is applicable, it is certainly being noticed.

"You listen to some of the lyrics to some of these songs! My Lord! I'm embarrassed... it was raunchy!" said Richard Griffin, the junior administrator.

Griffin's ranting on some of today's music is not uncommon among adults. Chemistry teacher Maria Clayton also points out the way music can affect behavior amid teenagers these days.

"That's [music effectiveness] probably more true for younger kids like teenagers rather than adults," says Clayton. "...It's more the way they act and talk."



Nicole Simpson

**People all over the world are widely affected by their everyday music and is often controversial amongst adults.**

Contrary to some beliefs, music effects on listeners are not all negative. Celebrities or musicians do not all dress the same and therefore there is a broad range of ideas being shown to the public.

"Not all celebrities dress bad," said junior Vicky Davis. "They can wear conservative clothes that fit and look right."

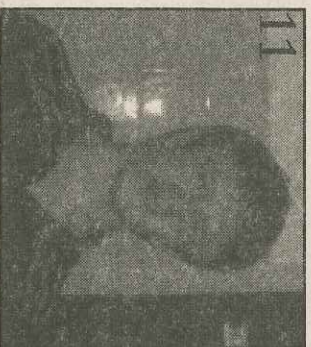
No matter how many observations are made, the choice is ultimately up to the viewer.

Whether you are affected or you watch for pure entertainment, music is a part of every day life and doesn't seem to be going away any time soon.

Sophomore Alex Sieracki admits to being influenced by music.

"I listen to rap it gets me pumped up and excited. Oldies make me jump up and down and sing out loud. Love songs and slow songs make me think about boys and rock makes me want to take my bun out and move my head around!" said Sieracki.

## ALEX BORSCHTEL FAVORITE GENRE- ROCK



Sara Kofalt

1. Canon Rock – Funtwo
2. Beast and the Harlot – Avenged Sevenfold
3. Cosmic Castaway – ElectraRay
4. Diary of Jane – Breaking Benjamin
5. Enjoy the Silence – Lacuna Coil
6. Bohemian Rhapsody – Queen
7. What You Deserve – Ill Nino
8. Keine Lust – Rammstein
9. Scotty Doesn't Know – Lustra
10. Warriors – Freedom Coil

*"Often what they're singing or playing about relates to something in my own life, so I feel a greater connection."*

## CRISTINA PETERSON FAVORITE GENRE- CLUB



Colin Embrey

1. La Tortura – Shakira
2. Unwritten – Natasha Bedingfield
3. My Cheesburger – Veggie Tales
4. Wonderwall – Oasis
5. What Hurts the Most – Rascal Flatts
6. Wherever You Will Go – The Calling
7. This Kiss – Faith Hill
8. Just Around the Riverbend – Pocahontas
9. London Bridge – Fergie
10. The World's Greatest – R. Kelly

*"...I'm a very hyper person, so I like music that's very upbeat."*

## KEVIN GALLAGHER FAVORITE GENRE- ROCK



Molly Cushing

1. The Kill – 30 Seconds to Mars
2. Kickstart My Heart – Motley Crue
3. Locomotive – Guns n' Roses
4. This Time – Smashing Pumpkins
5. King Without a Crown – Matis Yahu
6. Heard the World – O.A.R.
7. Oxygen – Weibitt
8. Sober – Tool
9. Master of Puppets – Metallica
10. Highway Chile – Jimi Hendrix

*"It's the best thing to work out to. It gets you pumped up faster."*

*—Compiled by Ariane Irvine*

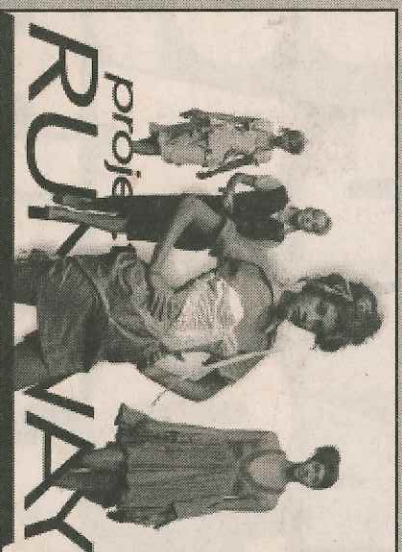
## The Mermaid Chair

*The Mermaid Chair* is written by Sue Monk Kidd who is also the bestselling author of *The Secret Life of Bees* (which was a 10th grade summer reading book). I enjoyed reading *The Secret Life of Bees* so I picked up this book on the premonition that it would be a good read. When I read the title of the novel I imagined an elaborate fantasy with undersea creatures. I was surprised when I actually read this work of fiction. *The Mermaid Chair* is about people discovering who they are and how that fits into their lives. The characters in this book find love and family, perhaps not in that order but nonetheless they do find hope to keep going. This book is worth the time and energy.



CathedralCrossing

## Oracle Picks



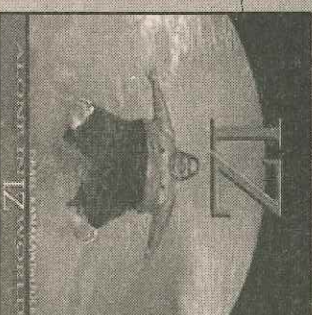
Film

### "Project Runway"

"Project Runway" is a show that airs on Bravo Network. Though I am not a huge fan of reality TV shows, this one caught my attention and now I'm hooked. In the show, a selected number of designers are chosen for the air. Once chosen, the designers compete in various challenges and one by one are eliminated until the final three are chosen. At this point the remaining three participate in New York Fashion Week and a winner is chosen. I like this show because of it's unmistakably reality. These people actually create fashion from scratch. They take bits of material, craft gowns, blouses, pants and much more. Though season three may be coming to an end with four of 15 contestants left, there's still plenty to watch.

## Israel 'IZ' Kamakawiwo'ole

This rendition of "Somewhere over the Rainbow" by Israel "IZ" Kamakawiwo'ole is touching. This talented artist sadly passed in 1997 but his music lives on. I first heard this song while watching "50 first Dates" with Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler. I remember thinking to myself what a beautiful and calming version of a song that I had previously viewed as "old." A couple months later I was surprised to see this song on iTunes top 100 songs. Yes, following this discovery I downloaded "Somewhere over the Rainbow" onto my iPod and still have it today. IZ had a striking voice and his memory is very much alive every time this song is played.



Amazon

*—Compiled by Monica Evans*



## Hoagie stops the presses

By Sean Hogan  
Oracle Editor

They were armed with experience, chewing tobacco and ugly moustaches. I was armed with a Mead notepad and two cans of Coke.

I got plenty of funny looks as the youngest person in the press box at the September 30 Virginia Tech-Georgia Tech football game. After the other members of the press got to know me, however, the funny looks were directed away from me and back to the bad moustaches.

The most important part of the game wasn't actually a part of the game. About five minutes before kickoff, most of the writers already had ideas for their stories if Georgia Tech won. Virginia Tech's cannon, "Skipper," failed to produce its regular blasts after the National Anthem all three times the Corps of Cadets tried to fire it.

A few minutes later, the disrespectful Georgia Tech football team ran onto the field about 10 seconds before Virginia Tech typically does during Metallica's

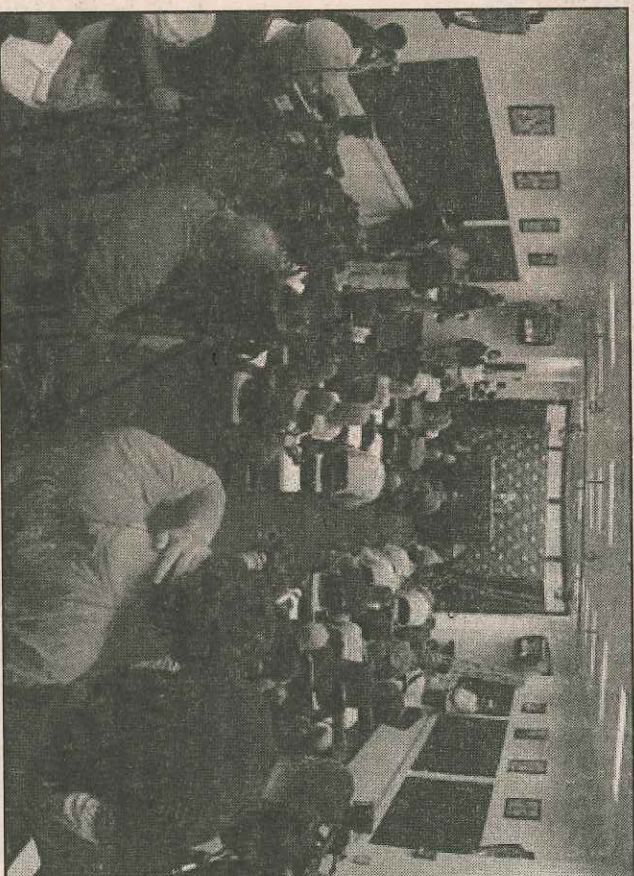
"Enter Sandman." Russ Thaler of Comcast SportsNet pointed these out to me and used both as foreshadowing elements of Virginia Tech's first loss in his "SportsNite" report later that night.

Seeing the action in person gave me a new disrespect for the talking heads on specialty college football shows on ESPN and the three major network stations that cover college football, NBC, ABC and CBS. I couldn't believe what I was hearing when they said countless times, "Georgia Tech receiver Calvin Johnson torched the Hokies' defense."

Sure, Johnson had two touchdowns, six catches and 115 receiving yards.

What they failed to realize, however, is the fact that five of the six catches and 100 of the 115 yards were in the first half. The defense completely shut down Johnson in the second half.

The responsibility of being a journalist on the scene is to tell the scriptwriters that Calvin Johnson's day would have been normal had quarterback Reggie Ball not recognized the loose coverage played by inexperienced



*Hokie Sports*  
Oracle Editor Sean Hogan was the youngest member of the press, shown here in the interview room after Virginia Tech's game against Georgia Tech.

defensive backs. Johnson would've had only 53 receiving yards and no touchdowns if the Hokies covered him like they would have typically covered a Heisman trophy contending receiver. Even though I didn't magically grow an

ugly moustache, I departed Lane Stadium with valuable experience, leaving me "way ahead of the game" when compared to most other high school journalists by Westwood One Radio analyst Kevin Kugler.

them being far and few between most skaters are forced into neighborhoods, shopping centers and school parking lots. Sadly, skateboarding is considered a crime.

"When we had our long hair, parents would walk away from us [in Grant] because they thought we were total pot heads," said Calhoun.

The long hair, relaxed attitude and generally friendly behavior of most skaters has given people the idea that they are "high all the time," said former student Sean Donlon.

It escapes most people that they are seriously focused on their sport and care a lot about what they do. These boys are dedicated and truly enjoy skating.

They break out from the stereotype of being dumb, pot smoking and lazy skaters. The boys' GPA, involvement in crew and overall demeanor puts them far from falling in line with the stereotype.

Skating keeps them out of trouble. "We have to do something," said Calhoun.

## Pulling a 180 on stereotypes

By Lindsay Bruhn  
Senior Staff Writer

Crew team, 3.2-3.5 GPA and avid skateboarder are not three things that are normally associated with each other. But for juniors Josh Calhoun, Andrew Jensen and Andrew Kim they do.

Skating Popwar, ZooYork, or Alien Workshop decks on Tensor or Grind King trucks, these three friends make it a habit to skate "every day, as much as possible," said Jensen. Parks are the only legal places to skate but with



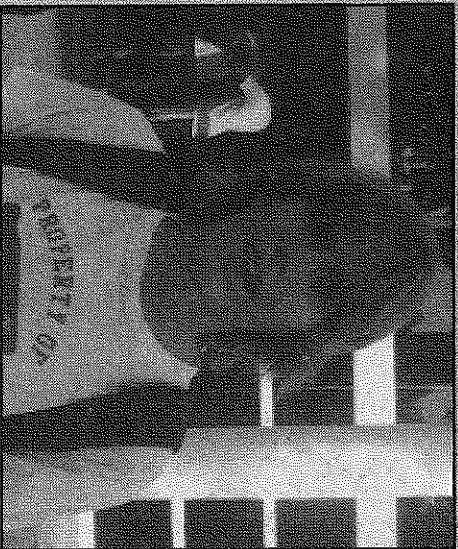
*Silk Films*  
Instead of a sport, skateboarding is sometimes considered a crime.

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*Molly Cushing*  
Freshman Sean Nickley really enjoys being on the team even though it is very hard work.

**By Zohra Alnoor**  
*Senior Staff Writer*

## Sean Nickley

**Why did you decide to do Cross Country?**  
Both of my brothers did it and I thought it would be fun.

**What does practice consist of?**  
Sometimes we'll do long distance and other times we'll do sprint workouts on the track.

**What was practice like for you when you first started?**

The first few days my legs were really sore and I had trouble walking but I got used to it.

**Do you do any other sports?**  
I also do soccer and swimming.

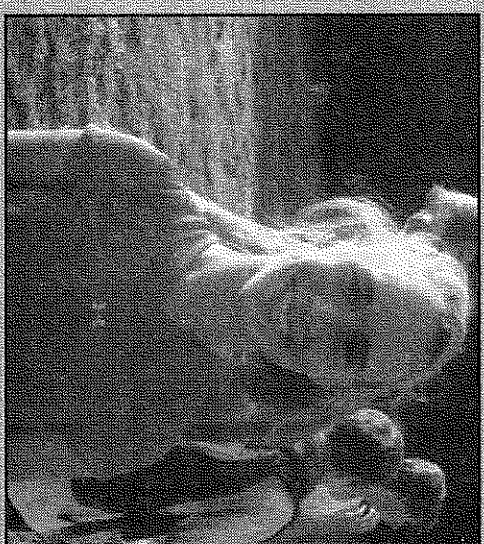
**How do you manage your time?**

The days that I have cross country and soccer, I don't have time to do anything else.

# Spartan Spotlight: Cross Country



*Molly Cushing*  
Nickley "had trouble walking" the first few days of practice. The team will run long distance and sprints on the track to get ready for the cross country meets.



*Molly Cushing*  
Freshman Paige Kvarturnas is a Varsity runner on cross country and getting to know new people on the team wasn't hard for all at all.

## Paige Kvarturnas

**What are your favorite things about cross country?**  
Probably getting to know more and older people.

**What's the farthest you've ever ran?**  
Eight miles. We were at South Run, then we ran to and around Burke Lake and ran back.

**How did you like meeting people on the team?**  
In the summer, I met people on the team before I came to school, so when school started I could say "hi" to them in the halls.

**How long have you been doing this sport?**  
I just started this year. I had an older friend that was on the team who told me to join.

**How do you like being on the team so far?**  
It's pretty easy and it's fun.

# Cure for boredom: Downhill Death Race

**By Jake Serwin**  
*EtC. Editor*

People can be divided into two categories: those who are athletically gifted, and everyone else. At WS, the athletically gifted and the especially outgoing among everyone else are forced to choose from about 15 sports, give or take the debate regarding cheerleading's status as anything of any use to anyone.

It is for this reason that the *Oracle* is proud to showcase a

new up-and-coming sport, a brand new option for the sports-gifted and sports-challenged alike. Without further ado, the *Oracle* staff presents: DOWNHILL DEATH RACE VERSION 5.0129.

Already achieving heavy popularity in the Balkans, the sport's cult following in the States has grown exponentially in the past 20 minutes. Anyone can play, and most of them will be seriously injured!

Players are divided into two teams of seven people and one dog. The dogs'

primary function is to serve as translator between teams. There are many different languages and dialects in the Balkans, but everyone speaks dog.

Both teams stand at the top of a large hill, the slope of which is littered with traffic cones and the broken dreams of children. One human player from each team, known as the "ecdiot," boards a common Styrofoam cafeteria tray. The referee climbs a ladder and ceremoniously

## Commentary

drops an old woman into an empty wooden bucket,

signaling the start of the game.

Both ecdiots slide down the hill on their trays, trying to avoid as many traffic cones as possible. The broken dreams, of course, provide sustenance on the long journey to the bottom.

To distract the other team's ecdiot, the remaining six team members at the top of the hill lob certain sanctioned projectiles down toward the ecdiots and at the opposing team's throwers.

The current list of approved ammunition is as follows: rubber bouncy



*Human-dog Photoshop*

## The game plan:

**One girl demonstrates how the game is played as she dodges bouncy balls.**  
balls, rodents, knives under three inches in length, cast iron horseshoes and dung. Versions 1.0 – 5.0128 also included flaming arrows until they were banned in international play as a "danger to hillside wildlife."  
Any team that hits another team's dog with any of the aforementioned projectiles will be immediately disqualified, because hitting doggies is very mean.

When both ecdiots have reached the end of the slope, the referee will determine the winner by the teams' overall consciousness and close deference with the dogs. Referees often drop the old lady into the bucket again just for fun.

The new turf field would be perfect for Downhill Death Race Version 5.0129 if it were hydraulically inclined to 40 degrees. Obviously, more funds will be needed for the administration to consider adding this exciting sport to

## Fun Fact:

81-74

The Spartans lost against West Potomac in a four overtime game.

The game was the highest scoring game in Virginia high school history!

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WORK AND PLACES DONE ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS



Hoagie's World

# The Subway Chronicles

By Sean Hogan  
Oracle Editor

I was a poor teenager. Armed with a resume and a tucked in polo shirt, I terrorized local businesses looking for an employer. After almost four months, I have collected many of the finer moments of my time from Subway and condensed them into a typical four hour shift.

5:00 pm-I walk in and wave to my co-worker who appears to be standing in the same place, serving the same person each day.

5:02-I find a quarter on the floor near the fridge. Not the kind of raise I was hoping for, but a raise nonetheless.

5:13-A new employee walks in 13 minutes late. I'm gonna make him clean the toilet tonight. Sucker.

5:25-One of my friends walks in and yells, "Hey Hoagie!" Immediately, three middle-aged men waiting for their sandwiches to be made simultaneously remind me of the irony that my name is Hoagie and I work at Subway.

Stevie's Story

## That's so not Raven The Disney channel is not the answer to boredom

By Stevie Fiorino  
Etc. Editor

Boredom. What can I say about boredom. Well, for starters, it blows. Sitting at home on a Friday night counting how many times your dog twitches in his sleep, is one of my many definitions of boredom. Also, if you find yourself watching *That's So Raven* or let alone anything on the Disney channel, I hate to break it to you, but you're probably bored.

I used to always have things to do and places to go, but I have come to discover that I did all the "things" there are to do and I went all the "places" there are to go. Now, I am left at home, taking 200 question MySpace surveys and watching the cool multi-color twirly thingy on my iTunes.

I blame my boredom on this past summer. Every night I went out and had fun and did new and exciting things! I had so much fun over the summer, that now, there is no more fun to be had. I am trying to venture around Springfield to find out what there is to do that I have not already done. So far, the search has not been going as hoped.

When I am sitting at my chair in front of my computer watching the cool multi-color twirly thingy on iTunes, I think to myself, "Wow. I am doing completely nothing. I have a car, money and friends, I should get up and go explore the fields of spring!" But no. I sit there and get lost in the colorful abyss.

I have just come upon something quite interesting. My boredom is not boredom. It is lack of motivation. I say there is nothing to do, but if you think about, there is. I live 20 minutes from D.C., Old Towne and countless other hot spots. I just

5:26-The latter of the three men tells me I'm a cannibal for eating subs. Whoops, did I just push the "Add \$1" button on the cash register?

5:46-I begin the difficult task of filling up the chip cart. I use my math skills to arrange them by the sell-by dates.

5:47-My job is interrupted as a family of seven enters a seek-and-destroy dinner mission.

5:49-If that 8-year-old doesn't get his face off of the sneeze guard in 3 seconds, he's not getting his Vans shoe keychain in his Kids Pak.

5:50-A Vans shoe keychain? I'm glad I grew up in the Hot wheels generation.

6:00-The mother complains about the final price of \$31.76 for a seven-person family.

6:14-Seven-person family seen leaving the premises in a Lexus.

6:15-I am reminded that I can't take my break until the chips are done. Funny that whenever I want to finish them up...

6:16...an entire youth soccer team (with parents and siblings) enters. Soccer moms fight to the death in the Subway Coliseum for Cold Cut Trios.

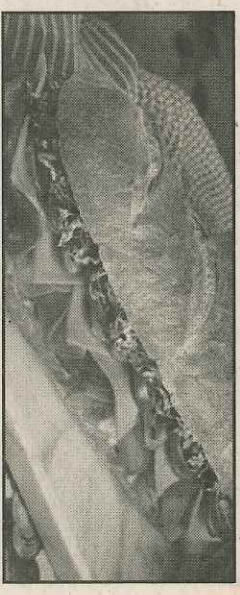
6:23-Soccer mom demands another sub because of incorrect cheese placement. Woman, I'll show you incorrect cheese placement!

6:28-We're out of Italian Herb and Cheese bread. Yuppies across America mourn for 15 minutes.

6:43-It takes 57 minutes to fill up the chip cart?

6:44-I begin making my sandwich, a footlong tuna on wheat.

6:46-How can we be out of lettuce?



Subway may seem like a fun, laid back job, but every job has its downsides.

6:49-As soon as I return to the front with a new bag of lettuce, I'm greeted by 100 hungry people.

7:23-Tuna isn't very good when it sits out for half an hour. Break begins.

7:24-Cell phone rings. No, my name isn't Sharon. Sadly, this happens almost every break.

7:38-Break ends.

7:42-I begin to clean the lobby. The new guy dipped out early. Next time he comes, I'm going to clean the toilet with his face, but for today it will be a rag and bathroom cleaner.

7:43-Deep breath.

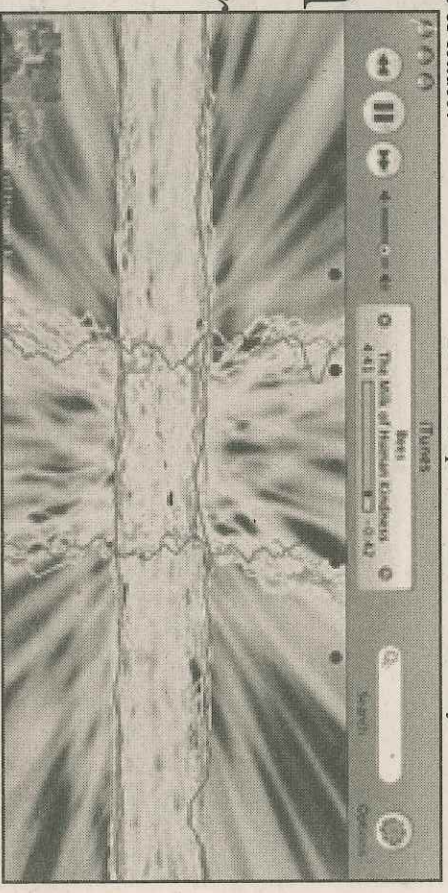
7:44-Thank God I don't work at Wendy's. Couldn't handle the chili.

7:52-When I have nothing to do, nobody comes in. When I have something to do, it's a playoff game.

8:22-I am almost done with lobby. A kid spills soda on the floor. Back to square one...

8:57-I get off in 3 minutes. Magically, 400 people show up to offer their congratulations once I finish making their sandwiches.

9:04-I escape the bowels of Subway.



The Thicket



Disney

The cool multi-twirly thingy on iTunes along with *That's so Raven*, have kept me entertained on many Friday and Saturday nights. complain and say that I am bored because I am too lazy to actually get up and do something.

Do not let this happen to you! Do not let boredom overcome you. You can control it. Google is what saved me. I Googled, "what to do in the metropolitan area." You wouldn't believe how many different things come up.

Thanks to Google, this upcoming weekend is packed full with hanging out by the water in Old Towne, cool art exhibits, cruising the mall in D.C., and checking out the new movie *The Illusionist*.

Just remember, your Friday nights do not have to resort to the Disney channel or the cool multi-color twirly thingy on iTunes.

## OCTOBER / NOVEMBER '06

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
20 Homecoming Game v. Lee @ 7:30 pm	21 Homecoming Dance 	22 "The Prestige" comes out in theatres this weekend	23 Girls Volleyball v. South County at 7:15 pm	24 Boys Volleyball @ Lake Braddock 7 pm	25 Varsity Cheerleading Patriot District Finals at Hayfield at 7 pm	26 National Merit Reception in Career Center
27 Transcript Request Form deadline for November 15 applications	28 Spartanfest WS on <i>It's Academic</i> Channel 4 10:30	29 Whoopi Goldberg at DAR Constitution Hall 7 pm	30 Davidson College Visit 10:30 am Virginia Commonwealth University College Visit 12:30 pm	31 HALLOWEEN 	Nov. 1 Indiana University of Pennsylvania College Visit 12:30 pm	2 Marymount University College Visit 8:30 am