

RAVENS

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West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

Virginia Poet Laureate honors WS roots

Former English teacher Foronda shares expertise, memories with students

By Ariane Irvine
Senior Staff Writer

A large number of the more poetically inclined students met last week with the Virginia Poet Laureate.

Dr. Carolyn Foronda, who taught English here for 21 years, was just named to her position by Governor Tim Kaine on June 27.

"I have been asked to promote the arts and further education," Foronda said.

English Department Chair Mary Moriarty started discussing having a day in Foronda's honor with secretary Sally Feldner soon after Foronda took office.

"We were reminiscing on what a fabulous teacher she was," said Moriarty. "So many students' older siblings had her and their parents remember her."

The students who met with Foronda for this workshop brought an example of their own poetry to share and to learn more about. The students had many different reasons for attending.



Ariane Irvine

Former English teacher and Virginia Poet Laureate Carolyn Foronda gave advice in a workshop last week.

"I like poetry and I'm interested in writing it," said junior Becky Koenig.

Sophomore Cameron Albert had a slightly different reason.

"[Poetry is] something for me to write to get out my emotions," he said. "I hope [this] teaches me something useful, like how to get my writing to flow better."

Foronda started the workshop by reading examples of poetry by past and present WS students, and citing different styles that students could use to express themselves through poetry, such as assonance and typography. Then she told students about herself, admitting that sometimes she has 100 drafts of one of her poems, or just takes the best lines of one to play with at a later date.

"It's extremely important to learn how to self-evaluate your work," Foronda said.

Next, students read a poem of someone at their table, and commented on it as Foronda walked around and listened, and then students were invited to read their poems aloud.

"She has such a passion for poetry," said Moriarty. "You could see the passion she had working with the kids."

Mediators ask their peers to help stop the violence

By Erika Gleason
News Editor

Fact: Someone is sexually abused every 90 seconds. Peer Mediation has a message for WS: stop the violence.

To get this point across, they are participating in "Stop the Violence Week, which ends today.



Amy McGregor

"[This is] the first year we've been advertising it and really behind it," said senior Amy McGregor, one of the four prime organizers of the event. Others include seniors Amanda Pyon, Madhira Newaz, and Dominique Sidelau.

Stop the Violence Week's signature color is purple. The peer mediators passed out purple "United Against Violence" bracelets, made purple signs, and asked all WS students to dress in purple clothing on Friday November 17, all for the purpose of raising awareness of violence in our area.

"Purple is just the color of Stop the Violence, like pink is the color of breast cancer [awareness]," said senior Amanda Pyon.

Their main message is to "speak out", against violence and for the prevention of abuse in our area.

"[We would like to raise] awareness about violence and how to stop it," said McGregor.

Stop the Violence Week has taken place prior to this year, however, this is the first time WS actively participated.

Although April is the official month of violence awareness, the peer mediators see the need to open the eyes of WS students to aggression and abuse immediately.

"[We felt we needed Stop the Violence Week] due to recent events in



Amy McGregor

Peer Mediation students hand out purple wristbands at lunch on November 14. The wristbands say "United Against Violence" and were distributed to students who correctly answered a question related to stopping the violence.

US. [We] want to make high schoolers more aware of what they can do to prevent violence," said Pyon. "There is an official Stop the Violence Week, but not a lot of people know about it."

Peer Mediation Adviser Kellie Mastrodonato, said the senior organizers of this event have been working hard to make "announcements, outreaches during lunch, and guest speakers to speak to ninth grade English classes" possible.

According to Pyon, the peer mediators began organizing this event

in the beginning of October.

And prepare they did. The halls of WS are decked in colorful posters raising for the purpose of raising awareness.

Many students also either have a purple bracelet or a purple ribbon pinned to their clothing.

"I think [the goal of Stop the Violence Week is] just to make people aware how prevalent violence is in our society, and how there are other options," said Mastrodonato. "Violence and mediation pretty much go hand-in-hand."



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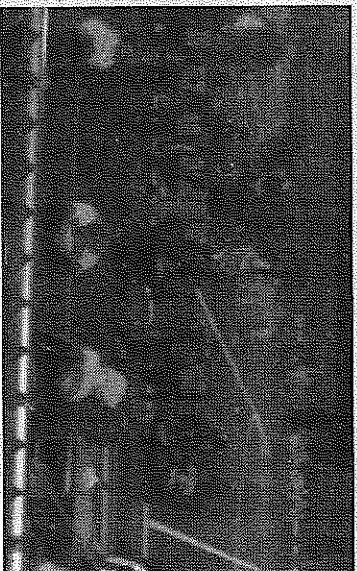
Manners escape WS students

Bare stomachs and sports bras are engulfed in a sea of orange and blue. Painted trash cans are the source of loud drumming and the sounds of cheering reverberate throughout the air.

The spirit and camaraderie of the students is prevalent at the games this year. The seniors, the mass of partially clothed students residing on the 50 yard line, are the source of the new found school spirit. The trash cans, loud drumming and painted bodies were once the markings of the energetic Class of 2007, however, these rituals have trickled down to the impressionable underclassmen.

Although initially one may believe that it is amazing that we actually have school spirit, yet we have taken it to a whole new level this year.

In fact, students are pushing the limit in almost every aspect of life at WS. Essentially, the basic etiquette that we have followed since we were toddlers has been forgotten. The student body needs a lesson in manners.



Sara Kotfai

WS needs to take a lesson from these football players; they show respect by kneeling as an injured Hayfield player leaves the field.

Regardless of what you would like to believe, paint is not a form of clothing. Wearing orange and blue is a way to show your support, however, this should be done with clothing, not finger paint. Football games

Editorial

are where you go when you want to have fun on a Friday night visiting with friends and cheering on the team. Remember, the key words are "football" and "game", thus some acknowledgment of the game should

occur. This is not an excuse to make out with your boyfriend (or girlfriend) in front of 500 of your closest friends, or loiter in front of the concession stand along with 300 other underclassmen, making the actual purchase of a soda nearly impossible.

Homecoming in many regards was a success. It was widely attend, yet there are some concerns. Students have voiced complaints regarding the fact that the lights were left on. Well, I hate to be the one to tell you this; perhaps you should stop focusing on the fact that the lights were on and be more concerned with the fact that your peers were actually able to see you dance. Even with the lights on, multiple people were still pressed up on the poles in the center of the cafeteria. Everyone should have fun, but this is a school dance with parent and teacher chaperones, not a club in DC. Would you really be happy if your parents were chaperoning and saw you at the homecoming? In most cases, the answer is a definite no. Additionally, the water kindly supplied by the SGA was to drink, not throw in the air in the middle of the dance floor, soaking innocent bystanders.

Although the "Spartan Rowdy Crowd" has grown to become the definition of the student population at WS, everyone is in need of some readjustments of their manners, or lack thereof in most cases.

'Scandalous' attire causes conflict Wrongfully accused senior craves dress code justice

By Sunnie Ko
Senior Staff Writer

So I'm thinking that I should just become a nun.

Every year it seems that the dress code gets stricter.

The administration buckles down on those sagging pants, low cut shirts, visible bra straps and short skirts.

This year, I found that the administration added something new to their list; anything I am wearing.

We all know that spaghetti straps are not allowed in school and yet, I see girls wearing them all the time.

Don't get me wrong, I love spaghetti strap shirts and honestly don't think that there is anything wrong with them.

I find it highly hard to believe that a bare shoulder can count as something "distracting." It seems that whenever I

wear them, though, my crime is as bad as a third degree murder.

I automatically get singled out of a sea of bare shoulders and am told to "put some clothes on."

My all time favorite fashion arrest happened about two weeks ago.

I was wearing Abercrombie and Fitch and an orange Abercrombie and Fitch graphic T-shirt. I walked into lunch and

I automatically get

singled out of a sea of bare shoulders and am told to "put some clothes on."

Immediately got an "excuse me," from an administrator.

I was told to pull down my shirt so that my midsection was completely covered.

I looked down and saw so little skin showing that almost mistook it as an extra stripe in the shirt.

While this went on, two girls in the shortest skirts I have ever seen "walked by" in a way where their legs never had to leave the ground because if they did, their bottom would be completely exposed.

Every time this happens to me (which is really very frequent) I storm back to my *Oracle* classroom and rant about my outfit and how "inappropriate" it is.

I often get feedback that it is ridiculous that I get singled out.

I see skirts that I consider "low in clothes," shirts that dip so low it leaves nothing to the imagination, pants with rips right on the butt region and yet here I am, getting yelled at.

Sometimes, I'll see my friends wearing certain clothes which I consider inappropriate if I get yelled at for



Sara Alvarez

Senior Sunnie Ko is often wrongly accused of dressing inappropriately when she actually has proper school attire, as shown above.

wearing a sweatshirt that exposes my wrists.

So here are my choices now; either dodge all the administration every day for the rest of my senior year, or join the Convent and option two is looking pretty appealing right now.

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Techies commended for excellent performance

By Alyssa Horton
Features Editor

I want to commend the school for something good: I would like to commend the WS techies.

I'm a member of the dance team and the choral department so I have been on the stage in our auditorium countless times. Every time I walk into the auditorium to begin a rehearsal or a performance, I always see the students wearing the black shirts that say "Techs" on the back. They are always there probably at least a half an hour before I arrive and they stay long after a show to clean up and put away all the equipment.

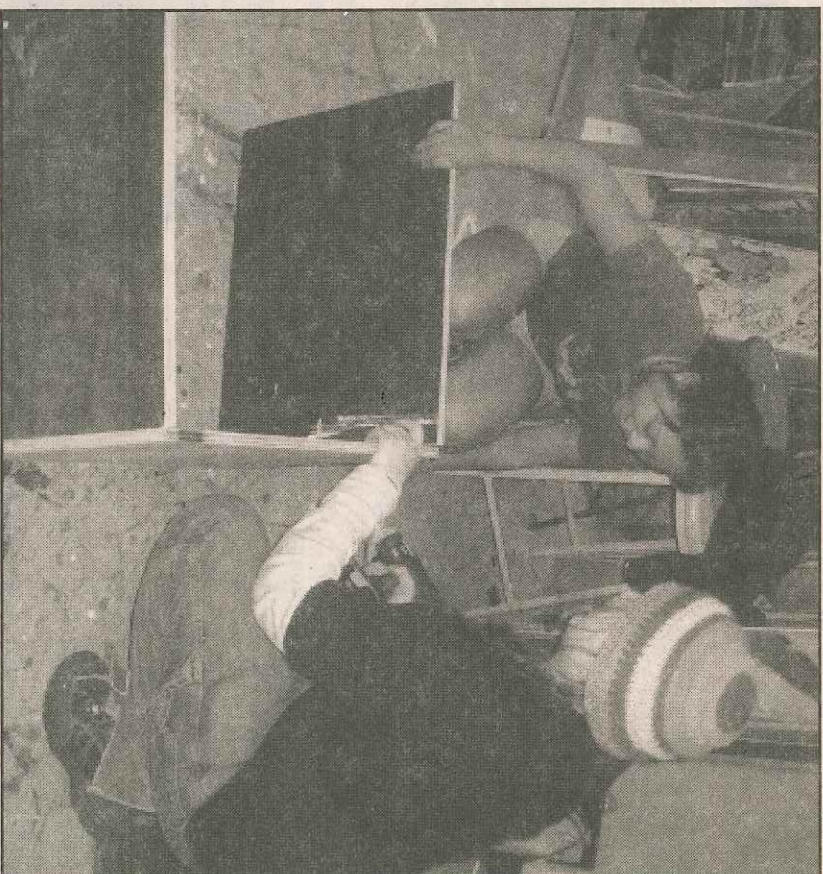
During a performance there are some techies backstage giving us cues; some controlling sound, and others controlling the lighting. Everything has to run perfectly for a show to be as great

as it can be. If there isn't a spotlight on the girl singing her solo, or if the music isn't loud enough for the dancers to hear their cue, the audience can lose the effect of the performance.

WS techs make sure that this effect is not lost. They collaborate with the teachers and students involved in the production to determine the perfect lighting or to see if the floor mic need extra taping.

Techs even encourage us when rehearsals aren't going so well, telling us that they really like the song and that we better not let them down because it's their favorite. They joke around with us and help lighten the mood when we're nervous.

The techs work so hard and I've never heard them complain or argue with any of the teachers in charge of a show. I'm glad that I've been so privileged to work with such dedicated and talented people.



Molly Cushing

Techs diligently work on set plans for a future theater performance. The work of techies goes beyond set design and construction. They cue up the music and ensure a technically flawless performance. WS entertainers rely on the expertise of the techies to help them perform at their best and enjoy their rehearsals.

Dividing up classes simplifies schedule, lessens the load

By Bethel Habte
News Editor

I once read that we absorb more new information in our four years of high school than in any other time in our lives.

As a junior trying to keep my head above academic water, I thoroughly believe this.

We're all familiar with the scheduling system here at WS; each year, we take seven different subjects via block scheduling to chew and maul in our minds until exam time.

But I've been wondering lately if having seven subjects to worry about at the same time is the most ideal way of handling school.

I can find myself distracted in school by school itself, instead of listening to a lecture in math, I'd worry about tests in two other classes.

Trying to succeed in one class could leave me neglecting others.

It's manageable to study subjects through block scheduling the way we do, but there may be an easier way.

What if, instead of alternating orange and blue days, we could take all of our orange days in the first semester and take all of our blue days in the second semester? Splitting final exams twice in the year? This kind of scheduling would allow us to

concentrate on fewer classes, "bite off" a smaller piece of school and still complete required class hours. It's always easier to take on tasks in smaller quantities rather than several at the same time and imagine being completely done with a class halfway through the year.

Nearby Alexandria high school students at Thomas Edison High School experience something close to this kind of scheduling.

Freshmen and sophomores at Edison, according to Edison junior Stacy Sulko, have four classes one semester and four different classes the next.

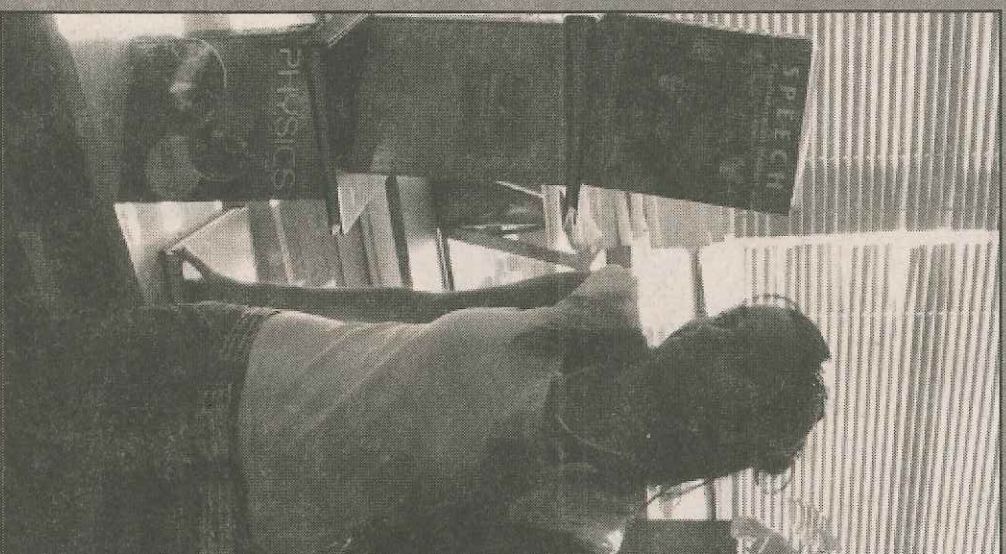
The schedule changes to the standard alternating block days once a student hits junior year and transitions to higher level IB courses.

"Your grades definitely shake from sophomore to junior year," Sulko said.

She advocates an all year "freshman and sophomore" system because she "remembered a lot more" having the class everyday in her first two years of high school.

Orange and blue day scheduling, does give us more time to finish homework, (more like more time to procrastinate in most cases), and saves us from the dullness of having the same class everyday, but splitting the information that we're supposed to learn here would allow us to perform better in school.

It would let us concentrate on our classes and actually process the subjects we're learning.



Sarah Alvarez
Bethel suggests a variation in scheduling will lessen work load and eliminate the constant stress of seven subjects.

Extra violence makes for bloody good time and blockbuster hits

By Jordy Serwin
Oracle Editor

Gratuitous nudity, abundant profanity, and ubiquitous blood and gore: common

characteristics of modern films have come to expect only the bold and risqué and studios continue to deliver just that, in

heaping portions. Each new release inches the ethical bar upward. One more curse word, one more sex scene, or one more shot of an oozing severed head ends up making all the difference.

Critics are right to be appalled by the grotesque

content of today's films. Those tasteless elements are generally present only to satisfy the audience's insatiable appetite for the obscene.

It is important to note, however, that people's desire for more and more racy subject matter is not a new phenomenon.

Civilized people have craved sex and violence for thousands of years. The ancient Romans indulged in gladiatorial battles for the spectacle of raw combat and savagery. Even more appealing was the notion that people

could experience combat and savagery without actually

fighting a tiger with a sword. People watch movies for largely the same reason. Audiences can experience an extramarital affair along with a character on screen, but not suffer the repercussions.

Audiences have changed little since American cinema began, however, have seen great variation. In the early 20th century, a silhouetted female form was enough to ignite claims of appeal to prurient interests. Grated films can get away with worse than that these days.

A sleeping couple masked by a blanket in a darkened



MSNBC

The 1999 box office hit, *The Matrix*, is an example of violence and its superfluous influence on the theme and plot of the movie. Bedroom used to mark the outer limits of what could be shown in theatres. Now, R-rated films can show full nudity and no one thinks twice.

It could be said that people today are only concerned with vulgarity and brutality and could care less what package they come in.

It is far more likely that they are victims of the same desires

The evidence of moral decay people see in the prevalence of sex and violence is the continuation of what they saw in earlier decades with drugs and rock music. People haven't changed, but standards have.

UVA scraps early admissions

By Josh Lipman
Oracle Editor

Students won't be able to arrive at the college admissions party any more.

Following Harvard and Princeton's lead, UVA has dropped its early decision program, effective next year.

"Just the fact that we don't have the option [to apply early] kind of burns me out," said junior David Bae. "I feel like having early decision gives you choices because you have the option to apply early."

Students who apply under early decision programs agree to attend that school if it accepts them. In exchange for making this commitment students get to find out whether or not they've been accepted four months early. Early decision had been criticized for leaving students unable to compare financial aid packages and for filling up a big chunk of colleges' spots.

"I think UVA's decision is much more important than Harvard or Princeton's decision," said career center specialist Susan Rexford. "As Virginia's flagship school, I think UVA's choice has the potential to [change admissions programs across the state]. It's the right thing at the right time."

Whether or not other Virginia schools follow suit, UVA's actions will affect WS. Over the past five years, an average of 17 students per class has gone to UVA from WS. In addition, over 15 percent of last year's class applied to the school.

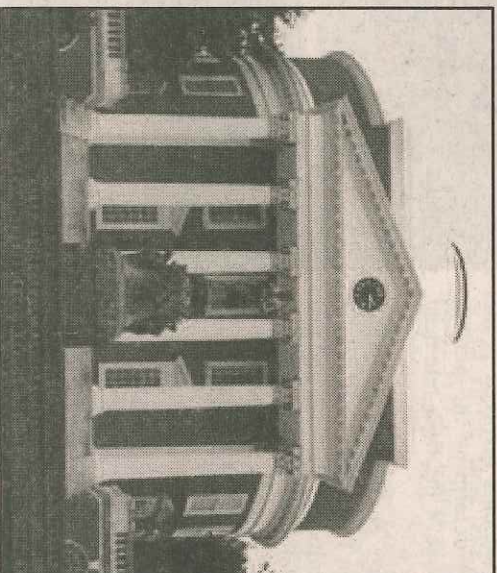
"I was thinking about applying early to UVA because early decision makes them think I really want to go there," said senior Min Gie Kang, who chose to stick with regular decision. "I think early decision kind of disadvantages those who apply regular decision. People will have more choices now."

It's possible that UVA's early decision program wasn't directly hurting its economic diversity. Through AccessUVA, the University promises to meet all demonstrated financial need and to do it with grants only for low-income students. Still, according to *The Washington Post*, UVA admitted only one low income student by early decision last year and less

than 20 of the 948 students UVA accepted early decision last year applied for financial aid.

"I think the early decision idea is a good one," said senior Matt Miller. "I'd be mad if I were planning on applying early decision [and I couldn't]."

Rexford sees college admissions programs eventually trending toward either an early action option (which works like early decision except it's not binding) or rolling admissions, with the former more likely. This would allow admissions officers to spread out their workload.



Faculty.schreiner.edu

UVA is doing away with its early admissions program, a common trend among colleges lately.

"I'm not a big fan of early decision, since it's binding. I wouldn't be able to pick a college and [be sure] that I want to go there," said senior Ishita Ahmed. "I do like early action though."

Though UVA may someday add early action, right now it's only planning on scrapping its early decision program.

"I think the people who apply early decision are really strong," said Ahmed. "I don't think they have too much of an advantage because the applicant pool is stronger."

News Bites



The WS band the 2006 USSBA Group 5A Virginia State Championship.



The Latin Honor Society is holding Saturnalia December 19th to raise money for the Kathy Jarvis Scholarship Fund. Everyone is invited for a time of feasting, fun, and friends.



Mike Spooner won individual district, region and state championships. He signed a letter of intent to run for the University of Tennessee the Sunday following his state championship win.



Congrats to the WS Boys Volleyball for winning the Patriot District Championships!



Aaron Jones, Sean Maree, Blake Settle, Michael Bradshaw, and Esther Erbe were accepted into the Northern Virginia Senior Regional Orchestra. They will perform November 10th and 11th.



Congratulations WS cheerleaders! They took first place at the district championship.



Twenty WS seniors were recognized by The National Merit Scholar Program. Kaska Adoteye was selected as a semifinalist in the National Merit Achievement Program.



Congratulations girls cross country! The team finished with an fifth place at the state competition. They also finished second at the Northern Virginia Regional competition.

—Compiled by Erika Gleason

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WS shows it's not above the influence

By Christina Sohn
Managing Editor

It was not just the fresh scent of corsages and expensive perfume that found its way to senior Harry Andreades' nose during the Homecoming dance. There was one prevalent aroma that he had never smelled at previous dances.

"Homecoming reeked of alcohol," he said. "When I was walking by some people you could smell them from ten feet [away]."

This year was the first year in recent memory in which a group of students were caught and penalized for being under the influence of alcohol at the Homecoming dance.

"I don't remember any [incidents] over the last few years," said principal David Smith.

These recent suspensions of students at the dance raises the question of whether or not the proportion of students who consume alcohol has increased at WS.

"[Drinking has not been this bad], not like this year," said Andreades. "Pretty much all the classes are doing it now."

Some say that drinking is simply an activity that has inevitably affected more people as others have graduated.

"In just the three or four years I have been here, it's just the same. It's just that different people take on the roles," said senior Daniel Pedersen.

Safety and Security Specialist Mike Ukele insists that drinking has not

increased.

"Since I've been in high school, drinking has always been a problem in high school. On rare occasions we do get a kid in here who has been drinking," said Ukele. "But nothing has changed over the years."

At another popular school-sponsored function, football games, the administration has not used the Breathalyzer once this year. But it can be hard to distinguish between intoxication and avid school spirit.

"At football games, when there is an element of rowdiness to begin with, I can speculate that there are some people [under the influence of alcohol]," said Smith. "But unless someone comes to our attention through a behavior or a strong odor, then we don't breathalyze them."

"Homecoming reeked of alcohol. When I was walking by some people you could smell them from ten feet (away)."
—Harry Andreades, senior

Given that there have been no surveys in previous years on the use of alcohol at WS, it is impossible to truly determine if its use has increased. But the simple word of mouth may have negatively affected WS's reputation,

Some students enjoy drinking, particularly before popular school events including football games and even the Homecoming dance. It appears to some to be a bigger problem at WS than ever before.

perceived by those both within and outside of WS.

"Even though we have some problems with drinking here (at LB), most of us think the problem is worse now at WS," said Meg Jarrell, a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Junior Laura Bellantoni, who has friends at other Fairfax County high schools, also shares this view.

"It seems like people at our school do more bad stuff then at other schools," said Bellantoni.

Some students try to focus on more positive aspects of school.



Kelly Sipple

"I don't think of schools having reputations like that," said sophomore Ally Gibson. "I'm worried more about football teams and stuff like that."

Although there are no measurements of reputation or alcohol use increase, alcohol can influence the school environment.

"It's not good for students to believe that it's OK to drink and then come to a school event," said Smith. "The rules are in place for a reason. And when a group of students or [a] student flaunts a rule like that, it undermines every other rule."

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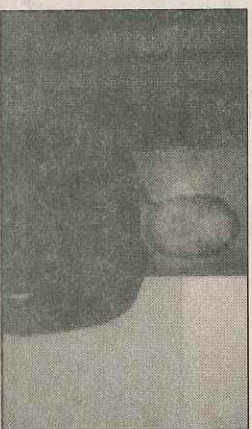
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Mukai returns to WS

By Sean Hogan

Oracle Editor

It took about four months for Mike Mukai to realize how much he really missed WS. Mukai returned to WS from TJ on November 9, taking over the role of 12th grade assistant principal from Patricia Hans.



Colin Embrey

Mukai left last June to become the Admissions Specialist at TJ. As the Admissions Specialist, he assisted with the admission process and participated in outreach events for local middle schools where prospective students could potentially come from.

Mukai's relationship with students will be different now compared to when he was Assistant Director of Student Activities the last two years at WS. He will not teach any classes and will cover

After leaving WS for four months, Mike Mukai returned to replace Patricia Hans as senior assistant principal. a broader range of events, both athletic and academic.

"I expect that I will have increased opportunities to assist teachers and students in many different academic pursuits," said Mukai. "Getting a chance to see kids in action in the classroom as well as on the game field will be a great opportunity."

Twenty students receive award

By Krista Pedersen

Scoop Editor

In early September, 20 WS seniors received letters of recognition from the National Merit and Achievement Scholarship Program. Senior Kaska Adoteye was named a National Achievement semifinalist, the highest honor given to a WS student this year.

"It didn't even cross my mind [after I took the test]," said Adoteye. "I was shocked. I had no idea [I was going to win]."

Started in 1955, this program recognizes about 50,000 high school seniors nationwide each year through high scores on their PSATs from their junior year. Later in September, about 16,000 higher-scoring semifinalists were selected from the original group. In February, 15,000 finalists from the semifinalists will be notified. The remaining 34,000 students are given either commended or referred status.

One branch of this corporation is the National Merit Scholarship Achievement Program, designed to

recognize outstanding African-American students.

These students are referred to as referred students. Individuals can apply for this award by checking a box on their PSAT scantron. Five WS seniors, including Adoteye, received recognition in this category.

Tony Hall was recognized as a referred student. He only found out he had received the award after his mother told him.

"I was hoping I'd get a little higher [scoring] so I can get some scholarships," said Hall. "I think it's the area more [that causes so many students to get this award]."

Cassandra Saint-Preux was also recognized in this program.

"I really didn't think about it [after I took the PSAT]," she said. "I thought everybody did well."

Since this program is so prestigious, Adoteye has been offered free rides to some colleges, such as Iowa State, for scoring so high. He says his admissions to other schools will affect whether or not he accepts the scholarships.

"If I don't get into a top choice [I might take the

Becoming an assistant principal is a huge career move for Mukai, who eventually wants to become a principal. "Principals have a wonderful opportunity to be a positive influence in the community," said Mukai. "I would like to have the opportunity to develop the sense of community that can evolve at the school."

"I missed the dynamic and fluid day in the life of the school."

—Mike Mukai,
Assistant Principal

Mukai is respected by the student body because of his unusual teaching standards and involvement with sports teams and the sports management club he helped create, WSSSAAA.

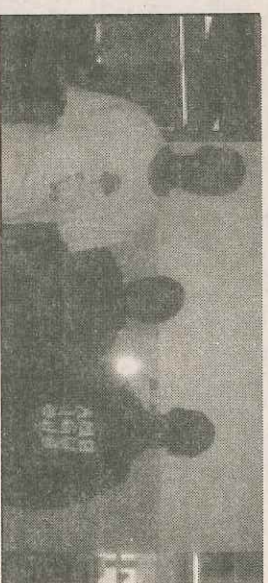
"There's no other teacher who would sit down and help you with anything," said senior Luisana Carrera, "in other classes or in life."

Mukai was disappointed with his TJ job because he rarely got to be around students.

"I missed the dynamic and fluid day in the life of the school," said Mukai. "The students, teachers and staff always kept me going. Working in a small office was a good chance for me to develop a different skill set, but I miss the all the people."

Mukai escaped the confinement of a job in a small office to return to a community of thousands of students, parents, faculty members and administrators. Simply saying "Mukai is back" puts a smile on some students' faces.

"Mr. Mukai's awesome," said junior Tory Generazio. "There's nothing else you can say about him."



Kelly Sipple

Seniors Tony Hall, Cassandra Saint-Preux, and Kaska Adoteye received recognition this year from the National Merit Scholarship Achievement Program.

[scholarship]," said Adoteye. "I mean, because it's a free ride."

Christine Carter, selected as a commended student in the Merit Scholarship Program, said she did not receive her letter in the mail, and was surprised when she was told she had been chosen as a finalist.

"I really didn't think my score was high enough," said Carter. "I think we have a really good school system here, it's better than the ones I've been to before."

Saint-Preux agrees with Carter.

"The level of classes here is different from other Fairfax County schools," Saint-Preux said.

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Simmons spices up

English classes

By Krista Pedersen
Scoop Editor

Cruising the English hallway during third period, all is silent until room 231. From that class, bouts of resigned studiousness followed by shouts of laughter echo down the hall. This is all in a typical day's work for English teacher Leslie Simmons.

Simmons, beginning her fifth year at WS, uses humor as a means to get students' attention and educate them. She tells stories about her past jobs and herself to keep students interested in the subject.

"I told them I was goth, because I was. Back in college I was goth," said Simmons. "That's the basic humor you see in my classroom."

Through her anecdotes, Simmons has earned the affection and respect of her students.

"She's the bomb," said senior Lauren Hidalgo. "Her talking is just funny, she's very witty. I remember the first day I thought she was so mean [but] she's like the best teacher ever. She's tough but when it comes to the AP exam you were prepared."

Staff members have also noticed Simmons' sense of humor.

"She has a kindly sarcastic sense of humor [and] she typically has a very positive attitude. She shares with us things that she thinks are funny," said English teacher Daria Johnson. "Kids that she's had seem

generally happy to see her in the halls [and] it kind of has a spiral effect outwards."

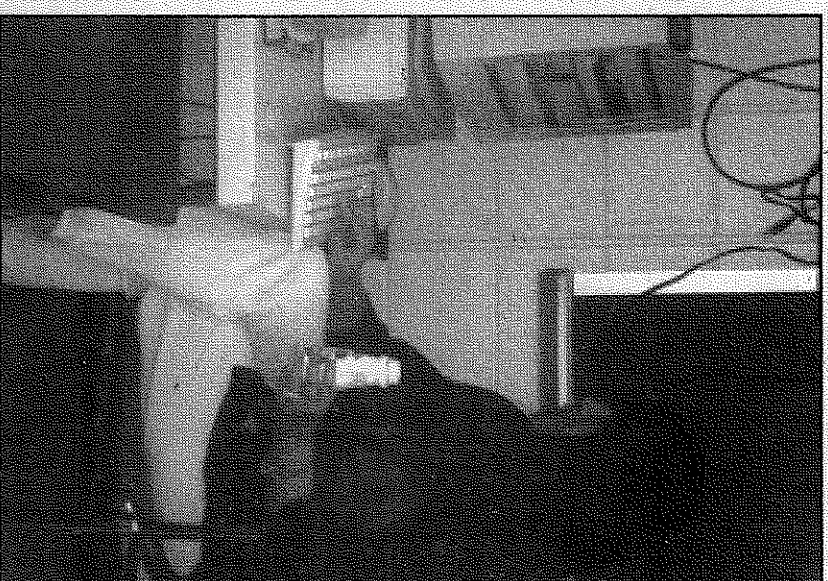
Growing up, Simmons attended TC Williams High School in Alexandria, with future actors Dermot Mulroney and Diedrich Bader. At the University of Virginia, she met Sandra Bullock's younger sister Gesine and Dave Matthews Band violinist Boyd Tinsley.

Before teaching, Simmons worked as the director of market research at Iridium, a satellite telecommunications company, and worked in entertainment research for Time Warner. She says that it was hard to leave these jobs where she was making a lot of money and getting to travel the world, but September 11 helped her change her mind.

"Becoming a teacher was something I had always thought about," said Simmons. "I wanted to make a lot of money so I entered marketing. After 9/11 I reevaluated my priorities in life and I decided it was more important to pursue my dream."

Arriving at WS in January of 2002, Simmons made an immediate impression on students. She has taught both English 10 Honors and AP Lang, and has even received requests from students for aid breaking into certain industries later in life.

"A few students have asked for help down the road, if I still have a foot in the door," said Simmons. "I don't really think they'll need it [though]."



Callie Embrey
English teacher Leslie Simmons tells students little known facts about herself to make class more lively.

Next year, Simmons plans on adopting a little girl from China to be named Cara. Until then, she will continue to spread her knowledge and humor around the halls of WS.

"She's very fun to work with," said Johnson. "She just makes me laugh."

Junior's future set at George

Mason University

By Aaron Snow
Senior Staff Writer

While seniors are scrambling to complete applications, write essays, and maintain GPAs, junior Ryan Sullivan can rest comfortably on the knowledge that, for him, getting accepted to a college is a thing of the past.

Sullivan has already received a full ride to George Mason University, not for a sport, but by virtue of Holmes Middle School where he attended. Holmes Middle School enjoys a partnership with George Mason that gives 8th graders the opportunity to go to Mason for free. By simply writing an essay, filling out an application, providing community service, and attending an interview with Mason's dean, Sullivan was able to eliminate the hassle and stress that accompany those seeking college acceptance.

"It's kind of a relief that next year when I see all of my friends panicking, I know that I have gotten it over with already."

Sullivan's scholarship is not something that all applicants can look forward to. Only one application is

selected from all of the entries and Sullivan was put into direct competition with all others seeking the scholarship. Sullivan's application was eventually singled out, however, by the dean of George Mason as worthy of the scholarship.

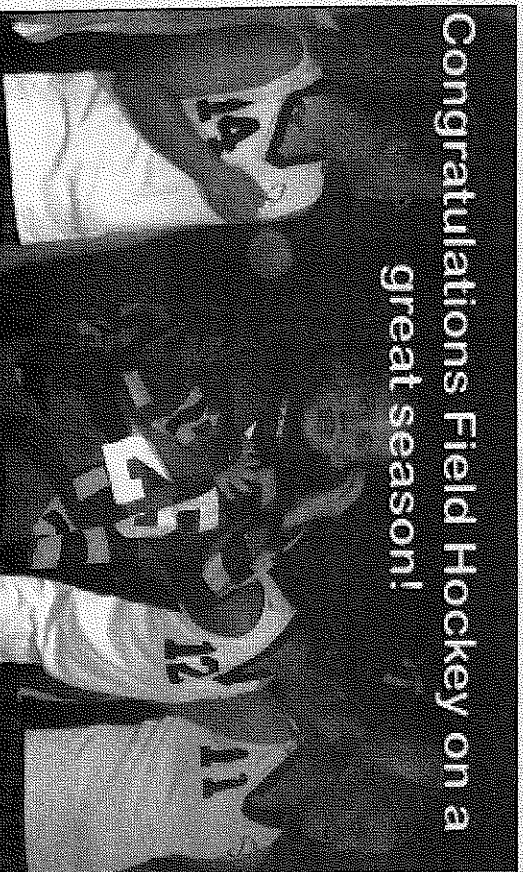
"On the last day of school the dean picks the winner of the full ride," said Sullivan. "I was shocked when I found out I won. There were a lot of good candidates."

"It's kind of a relief that next year when I see all my friends panicking, I know that I have gotten it over with already."

—Ryan Sullivan
Junior

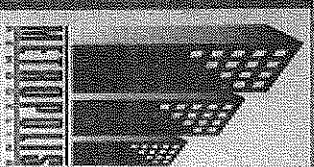
The scholarship can be revoked however, if Sullivan fails to meet certain requirements in high school.

"I think I have to maintain at least a 2.5 GPA or something like that for a final grade," said Sullivan, "but I'm over it [the requirement] so far."



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Vegetarian quits cold turkey

By Jake Serwin
ETC Editor

Kara Whipple fidgets with her garnet ring at lunch while her friends probe their cafeteria pseudo-meat.

Whipple, a 14-year-old freshman, is a vegetarian.

"The concept is just gross," Whipple

said. "I have a dead animal on my plate."

For about a year and a half, she has abstained from eating meat of any kind, though milk and eggs are still fair game. She says her family is snidely supportive of her dietary choice.

"They'll have a hamburger and be like 'Want some dead animal?'" Whipple said.

When her family eats a meat-based dinner, she cooks herself an alternative meal. Boca Burgers, patties made from soy and wheat gluten, are her favorite.

On Thanksgiving, even when tempted by her relatives, Whipple doesn't break principle. She chooses instead to eat only those dishes that do not contain any animal flesh. Some senior members of her family, however, have trouble remembering to honor her decision.

"Sometimes my grandma forgets that I stopped eating meat," Whipple said. "[She

"They'll have a hamburger and be like, 'What some dead animal?'"

— Kara Whipple,
freshman

offers me turkey] and I'm just like 'no thanks.'"

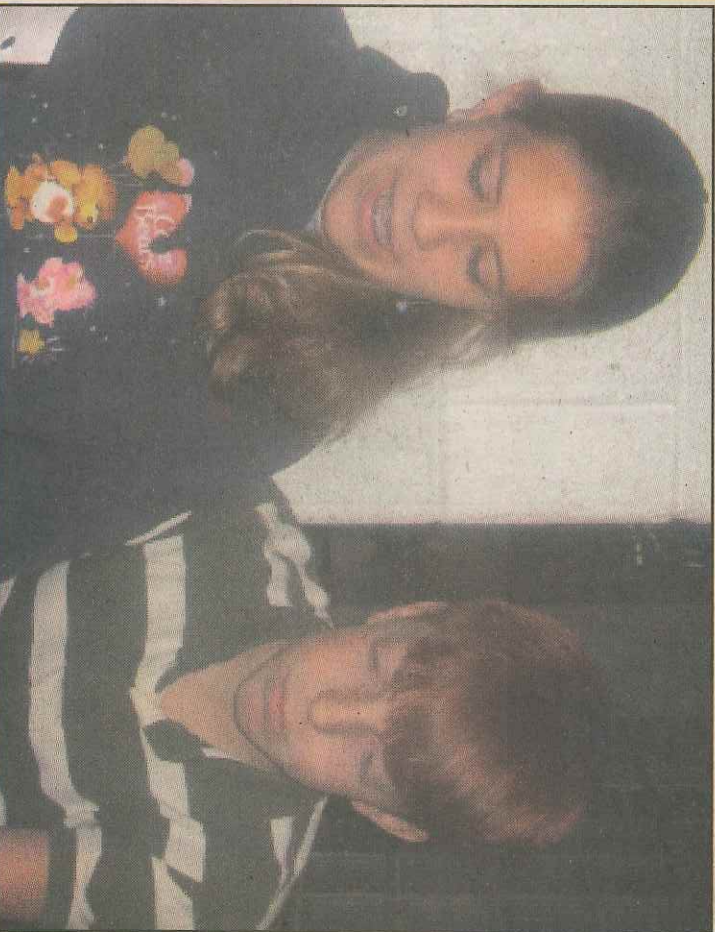
Whipple is content with her mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce. In a society of carnivores, she finds it difficult to get a quality meatless meal.

Similarly, at a summer barbecue, Whipple had to get creative in her food alternative.

"They had, like, hamburger stuff," Whipple said, "and I just had lettuce and tomatoes on my plate."

With the exception of a few fellow vegetarians, Whipple's friends don't completely understand her lifestyle.

"They make fun of me all the time," Whipple said, her friends shoveling chicken into their mouths. "I don't care. I like it."



Freshmen Kara Whipple and John Trope go over assignments during lunch. Whipple is a vegetarian, which makes her lunches different from Trope's.

Handcuffed to the traditional turkey

Holidays strongly enforce family Thanksgiving traditions

By Andreaa & Stephanie Maxwell
Oracle Staff Writers

Breaking a tradition in our family is taken just as seriously if we had committed murder or even robbed a bank.

Every holiday is exactly the same, except it seems with each year the amount of people increases exponentially. One of the most celebrated holidays in our family, falling behind St. Patrick's Day and Christmas, is Thanksgiving.

The day always starts the same. We make name cards, usually made of a type of pumpkin or gourd, for every person coming to dinner.

Then our mom makes us a huge breakfast that is only complete when the fire alarm starts going off and our dad leaves the table to open the doors and fan the fire alarm with whatever piano book is

lying on the floor. Then it is time to get ready for the day.

We always begin by breaking loaves and loaves of all kinds of bread to make the stuffing. Mom chops up the celery and onions to put in the superfluous amounts of stuffing, which covers a good portion of the rather large kitchen table.

When the stuffing is finally ready, it's time to start the apple pies. Ever since we have been old enough to bake, we have always had a contest to see who can make the best apple pie. One of us makes a traditional apple pie while the other makes one with a delicious sugar crumb top. Clearly, the crumb top always wins.

By the time the pies are done and the kitchen is relatively clean of the thin layer of flour that graces every surface, the guests begin to arrive. We all spend the day in the family room pretending to watch



Andreaa and Stephanie Maxwell along with senior Allison Campbell from Thanksgiving 1996.

the Macy's Day Parade, when really everyone just eats the antipasto and hors d'oeuvres that cover the coffee table. Basically, it's just all about the food.

The amount of people in the family room seems to double by halftime of the football game. After all, we are football people. Together we watch at least the first half of the game before the moms go and finish making the dinner.

By the fourth quarter the smell of turkey fills the entire house. The sound of the mixer can be heard as the mashed potatoes are being made and finishing touches are added to the table.

Although it seems that the day would run smoothly due to the fact it has been the same for over 15 years, this is never the case. Something dramatic always happens; which has included everything from dropping the turkey on the ground and having the grease spill out all over the floor to catching the deep fryer for the experimental fried turkey on fire.

When the final whistle is blown, we all go up to the table for dinner. We can not start eating, however, until everyone around the table has

said one thing they are thankful for and put the obnoxious paper crown from their party crackers on their heads.

After dinner, you can be sure the movie *Home for the Holidays* will be playing in the family room for it is the epitome of a dysfunctional family holiday extravaganza.

Most of our Thanksgiving seems traditional. One difference, however, is that the people who sit with us at the dinner table are not related to us. They are our friends whose families also do not live near them. We usually have about 20 people over for dinner and then another 40 join us for dessert, each of whom finds it necessary to bring multiple desserts to share.

After dessert, the moms gather in the kitchen to look through the ads to see what stores they want to go to with every other soccer mom at 4 am on "Black Friday".

As they say in *Home for the Holidays*, "I'm giving thanks that we don't have to go through this for another year. Except we do, because [they] went and put Christmas right in the middle, just to punish us."



Sophomore Stephanie Maxwell and sister senior Andreaa Maxwell, display their completed apple pies with their friend, senior Lauren Stephenson from Thanksgiving 2005.

Home traditions

Senior celebrates Afghan-S

By Zohra Alnoor

Staff Writer

I was born and raised right here in Springfield and have never moved anywhere else. The farthest I've ever been from home was Australia when I was three.

My parents are immigrants who came to America in 1978. Naturally, they didn't know a lot about American culture when they first arrived.

Every year, my family and I watch the fireworks at Washington DC for the Fourth



Senior Zohra Alnoor (back, second from right) sister Runa's graduation.

THAN

GNIA

America's all at Thanksgiving in turkey, some thing stuffing and cran American dining some people wh ditch the turkey, even others hav fascination with ery family has t Here are a cou



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school, which was primarily Caucasian, and I'd learn about different holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving.

yle Thanksgiving

Christmas is a religious holiday so we don't celebrate it, but around the time when I was seven, my sisters and I asked my mom if we could have a Thanksgiving dinner.

By this time my mother was getting more used to American culture and had learned English fully with only a couple of grammatical mistakes here and there. It wasn't until years later that I taught her slang like, "dude" and "gangsta," which she only uses to make fun of teenagers today.

After we asked her, my mom went to the local Giant and bought loads of food. She bought stuffing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, corn bread, rolls with butter and last but not least...chicken. Yes, chicken. My dad, my siblings and I prefer chicken over turkey, so that was one of our own Afghan cultures thrown into our new Thanksgiving dinners.

When I was younger, I'd go over to my friends' houses and see how different their lives were from mine. I'd go to my elementary

After that year, we continued the tradition up until now. One reason why my parents don't really like the idea of Thanksgiving is because they say that you should be thankful for what you have. And I agree with them. They're more than happy to have a huge feast on Thanksgiving as long as we know that we should treat every day thankfully.

If it wasn't for me and my sisters when we were little, we might have not been having pumpkin pie every year. My Thanksgiving dinners are exactly like they used to be when I was a kid and I love it. The only difference now is that I help prepare the yummy feast with my mom, seeing as to how I can now reach the counter.



Zohra Alnoor and her family pose for a picture at her

After that year, we continued the tradition up until now. One reason why my parents don't really like the idea of Thanksgiving is because they say that you should be thankful for what you have. And I agree with them. They're more than happy to have a huge feast on Thanksgiving as long as we know that we should treat every day thankfully.

Thanksgiving finds new meaning

Holiday not just for American Puritans anymore

By Kelly Sipple
News Editor

For German exchange student Patrick Cyron, living in America has been a blast so far. Everything seems different to him, especially the American holiday of Thanksgiving.

"[In Germany], we have the same holiday but we call it Erntedankfest and we don't have a big dinner," said Cyron.

Erntedankfest is not like our traditional American Thanksgiving but instead is full of celebrations and ceremonies instead of centering on one grand dinner. Even though Thanksgiving is typically a time to spent with family, Cyron is not concerned that he will

not be spending the holiday with his family.

"[Thanksgiving is] not in our culture so it's not going to be that big of a deal for me [not spending the holidays with my family]," said Cyron.

Cyron's host family is spending the holiday at home and having friends and family over. His host mom, Melody Harrington, is looking forward to Cyron be spending the holidays with her family.

"We're excited to have Patrick with us this year especially on the holidays," said Harrington. "With an exchange student, you tend to celebrate things larger just so you can show them the parts of US culture," said Harrington.

Cyron views the holiday as a chance to grow closer with his host family.

"I think that spending time with them over the holidays will let me get to know them better and grow closer with them, especially the two children," said Cyron.

Cyron views the holiday as a chance to grow closer to his host family.

Included in his host family are nine and twelve-year-old children. Even though the holiday doesn't mean much to Cyron, he is happy about one thing.

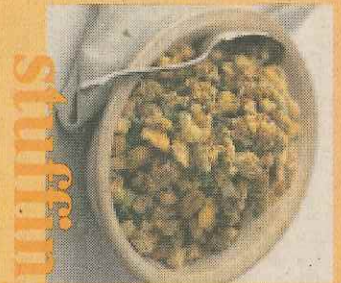
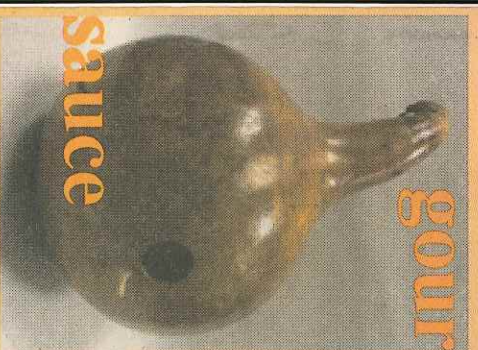
"I'm really excited that there's no school," said Cyron.



Above: Alnoor, along with her mother and sister, poses for a picture at a traditional Afghan wedding. Left: Alnoor and fellow seniors Heela Zamani and Nahid Jalahid enjoy a delicious dinner at Macaroni Grill for Alnoor's 17th birthday.

KS GIVING GSSNVAHL

out traditions. With the tradition of vested in 400 years of American history seem *never* to change. The turkey, berry sauce lie in the center of many room tables. But there seems to be to celebrate a *different* way. Some some replace it with chicken, and yet to experience the American's all-you-can eat Turkey day. Even their *own* way of finding blessings. ple of ways our student body find thanks in the giving.



DITIONS RATIONAL



German exchange student Patrick Cyron poses with juniors David Bae, Meredith Bermudez, Devon Grimes, Katie Tinsley, Molly Gross, Elise Shellenberger, Amy Byers and Cori Inman at the junior class float building.

Kelly Sipple

AEROSMITH V. THE ROLLING STONES

By Cam Rushton
Sports Editor

When your band is dubbed "America's Greatest Rock and Roll Band" and there is a roller coaster based on your music at Disney's MGM Studios, you know you've made it. Such is the case with Aerosmith, one of the most decorated rock and roll bands in American history, and most likely the world.

Formed in 1970 by four friends from New Hampshire, Aerosmith's music has set the standard for rock and roll (and all music) for over two and a half decades. The band is led by the unorthodox voice and style of lead singer Steven Tyler, who has remained a primary face in music ever since the band's conception. If you ask a rock and roll fan to list their top ten favorite bands of all time, Aerosmith will almost always make its way into the top ten, if not the top five.

Other rock bands that would be in the top ten list include Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath, bands that had a profound impact on the music community around the same time as Aerosmith. However, the difference between these bands and Aerosmith is the sound that emanates from their microphones, guitars and drum sets. The so-called "greatest rock and roll band" creates smooth, soothing riffs with a bluesy-type background. Steven Tyler incorporates jokes into his lyrics and sings with what critics have come to call a "streetwise charisma."

Some critics and music fans can argue

that Aerosmith creates a similar sound to bands like the Rolling Stones, but such is the case with almost every new and old band; some have their own style but still some are an extension of other popular bands of the time.

With all their success and popularity, Aerosmith has continued to produce excellent music over the years. Songs like "Dream On," "Sweet Emotion," and "Walk This Way" have defined their reputation, while at the same time defined generations. The band has developed precedents over the years for bands to follow in their footsteps, bands like Guns 'N' Roses and AC/DC. Aerosmith, however, was the beginning, and one of the first bands that many say not only rocked, but also rolled.



David Stroud
Aerosmith, after their debut album in 1973 still entertains fans today, over 30 years after the band formed



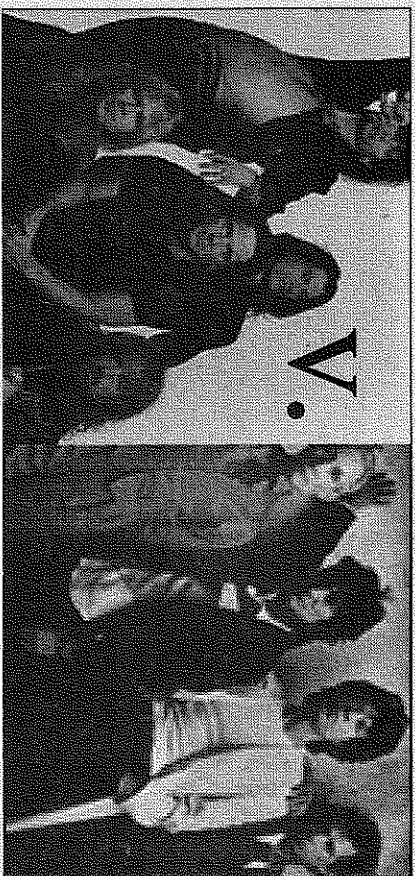
Oracle Picks of the 90's

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Harry Potter became a craze in libraries and soon movie theaters, but it all started with the first of all six books, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. It was published in 1997 and was huge for all readers around the world. Almost any kid you ask has read one, if not all of the books. J.K. Rowling has written about the famous character Harry Potter. I loved the first book in the series and quickly read through it as if it were 20 pages long. I was always excited for the next book in the series to come out in stores.



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The bands "Aerosmith" and "The Rolling Stones" both released their debut albums within a decade of each other, both made it big 30-40 years ago to today.

By Josh Lipman
Oracle Editor

"Please allow me to introduce myself. I'm a man of wealth and taste. I've been around for a long, long year. Stole many a man's soul and faith."

Those words come from Mick Jagger in "Sympathy for the Devil." They could well be used to refer to Steven Tyler's treatment of the Rolling Stones' style.

The Rolling Stones feature an innovative combination of hard-driving blues riffs and the provocative personality of Mick Jagger. Aerosmith features an innovative combination of hard-driving blues riffs and the provocative personality of Steven Tyler.

It would seem in their early days that these bands must have been fierce rivals. There's just one problem with that: The Stones' first album, "12 x 5," appeared on American shores in 1964, while Aerosmith released its self-titled debut in 1973.

Since it is impossible for them to have competed against each other and since both bands feature an extremely similar sound, then the newer band must be copying the older one. Aerosmith rips off the Rolling Stones right down to Mick Jagger's gait. When Steven Tyler sings "Walk this way," he might as well sing, "Walk like Jagger."

The problem isn't just that Aerosmith is stealing the Stones' act. Aerosmith is cheapening the Stones' style. The Stones are responsible for the single most famous riff in history courtesy of "Satisfaction." The aura of this song is so legendary the rock mythology claims Stones guitarist Keith Richards woke up in the middle of the night with the music in his head, wrote the song, and fell back to sleep. The Stones' "You Can't Always Get What You Want" and its chorus ("You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometimes you might find, you get what you need.") are household phrases. Aerosmith has yet to write a song of comparable legend.

When the Rolling Stones' albums are measured against Aerosmith's albums, the disparity becomes even greater. *Rolling Stone* magazine's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time includes 10 Stones albums, with their highest ranking album being "Exile on Main Street" at number seven. Aerosmith only has two albums on the list, which top out at number 176 with "Rocks."

When asked to decide, the people pick the Stones over Aerosmith every time. The Rolling Stones have had nine albums at the top of the U.S. charts (six of them after Aerosmith appeared on the music scene in 1973), while Aerosmith has had a mere two reach that height. The Stones' 1994 and 2005 tours are two of the top three highest-grossing tours in music history (number two belongs to U2). Clearly, Aerosmith is not part of the "Salt of the Earth."



Meke/Dana

'Boy Meets World'

"Boy Meets World" first aired on September 24, 1993 on ABC. The show was about the life of teenager Cory Matthews and his friends, family, school, and girls (especially his long time girlfriend Topanga). Each episode was about a struggle between him and some aspect of life whether he was learning a life lesson from Mr. Feeney, solving problems with Topanga, or just having trouble with his parents. The show began when Cory was 11 years old and 158 episodes later Cory is grown up in college and ready to move on with his life. I loved this show and always eagerly awaited the next episode to see what other obstacle he had to overcome in his life. Even though this show went off air in 2000, the reruns are still just as enjoyable to watch as they were when they first came out.

Boy Bands

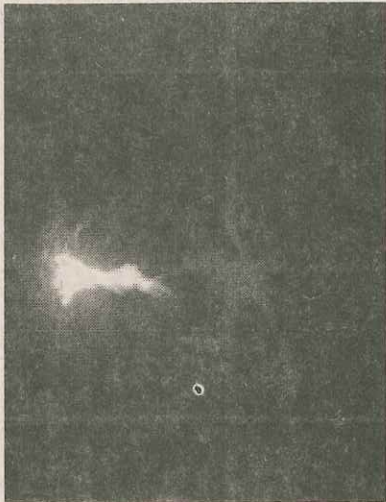
Teenage girls of the 90's were head-over-heels for the boy bands. A girl without a copy of a CD from *NSYNC or the Backstreet Boys was hard to find. One of my favorites, was *NSYNC. With five members in their group, they toured across the world entertaining and singing for thousands of people. They had hits like, "Learn' Up My Heart" and "Bye Bye Bye". After sold out arenas, stadiums and number one songs the group broke up. Another one of America's favorites was the Backstreet Boys, who, like *NSYNC, had five members they produced number one songs and millions of CD's for fans across the world. The perfectly choreographed dances and songs that the boy bands performed in the 90's were famous across the world.



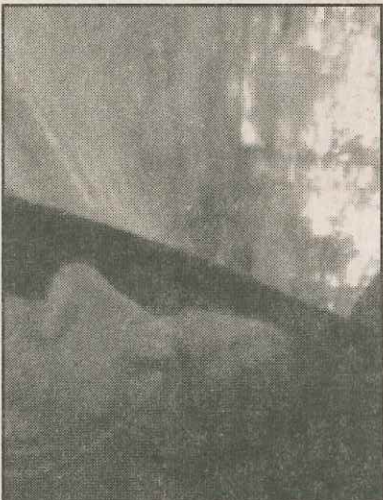
Kids-Online

—Compiled by Sam Landers

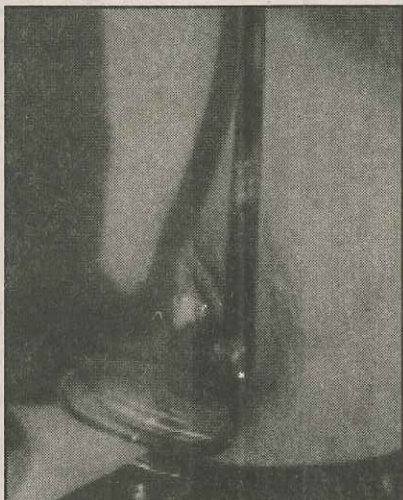
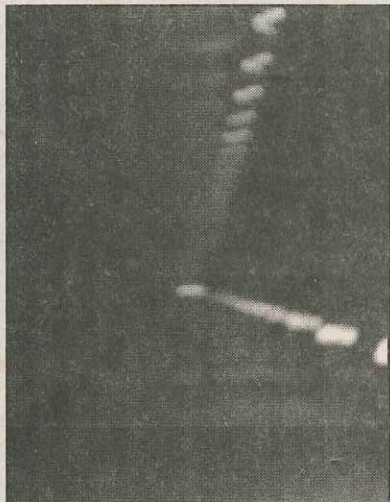
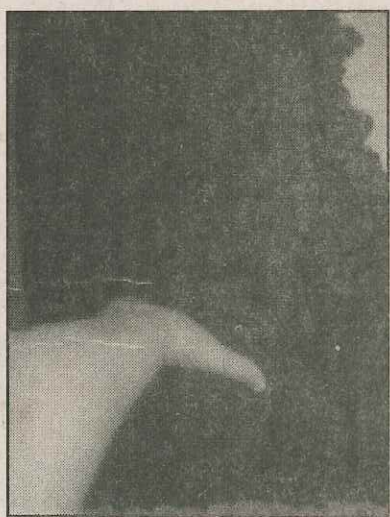
Photo Essay



"The truth is, most of us discover where we are headed when we arrive."



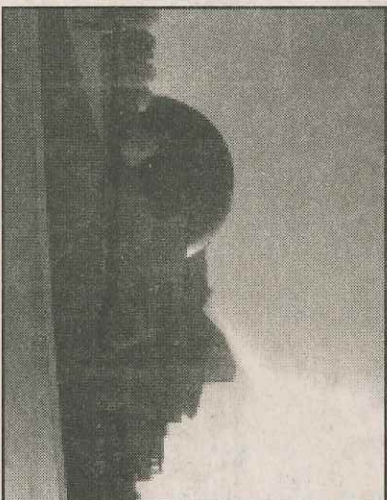
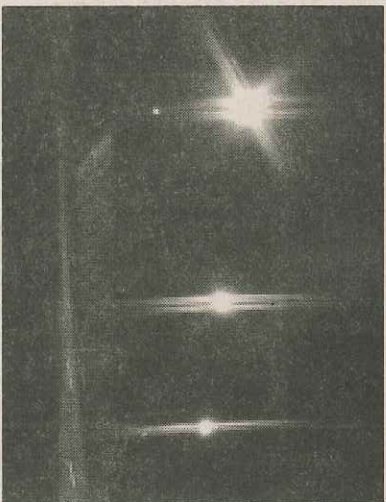
At that time, we turn around and say, yes, this is obviously where I was going all along.



By: Molly Cushing

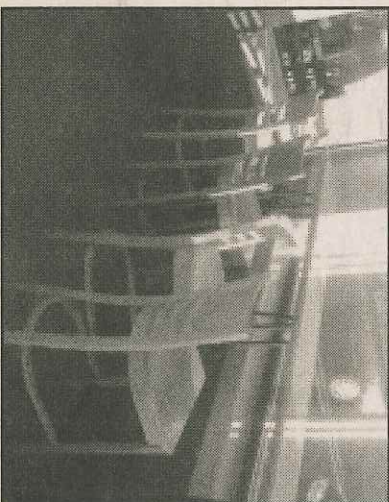
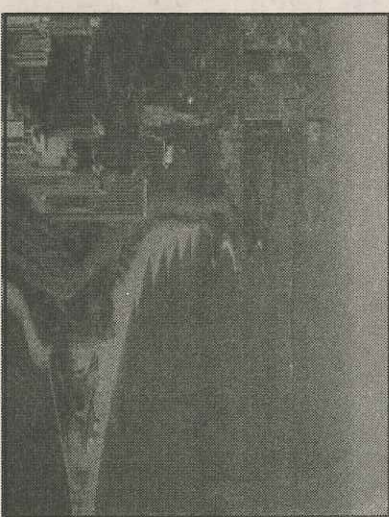


It's a good idea to try to enjoy the scenery on the detours...

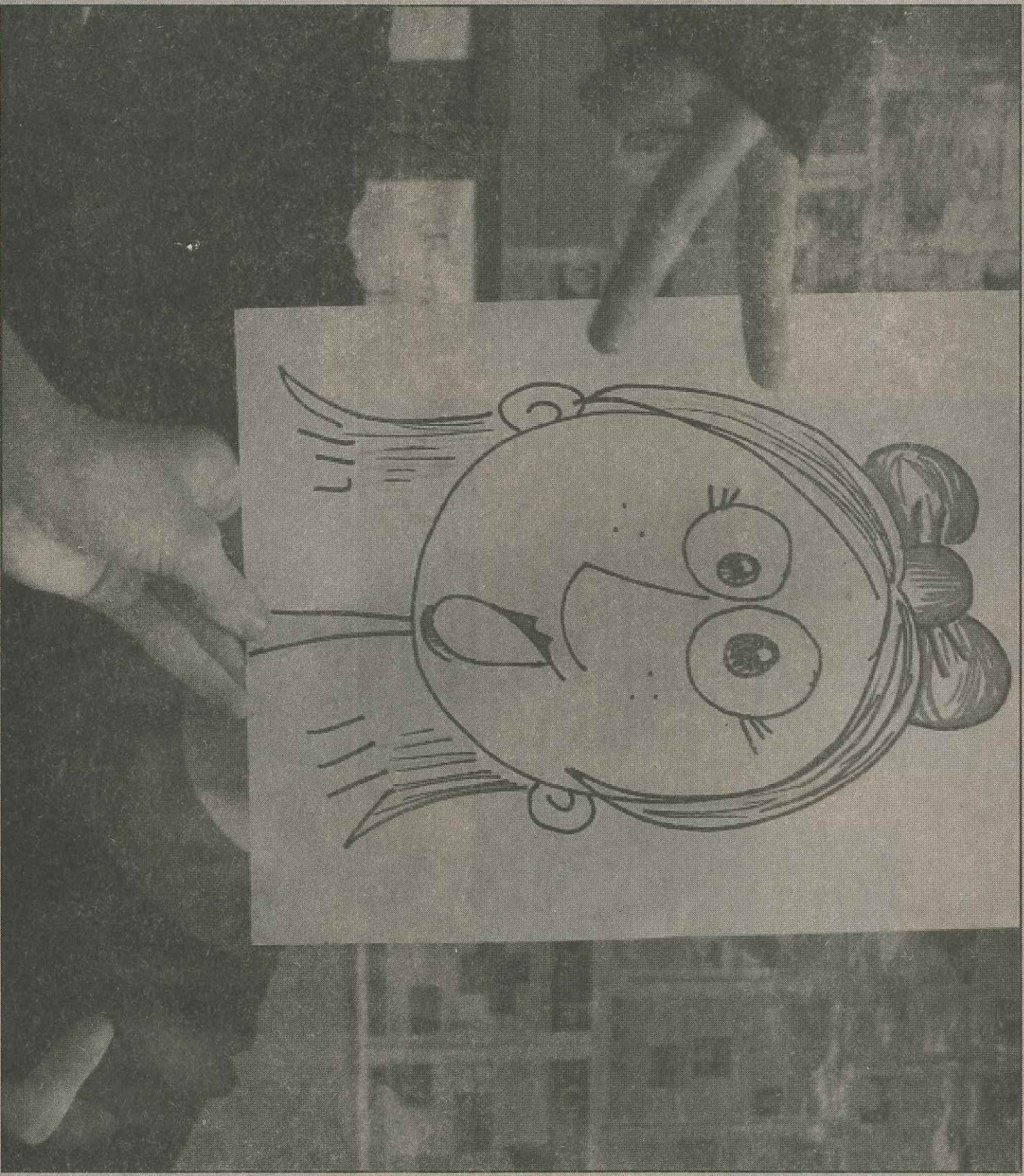


...because you'll probably take a few"

-Bill Waterson



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Spartan Sports

In addition to winning the Patriot District Title, six WS cheerleaders made the All-District team and three were named to the Northern Region squad.

'06 football team fumbles the season

By Jenny Taylor
Sports Editor

By halftime of the varsity football game on Friday, October 27, WS appeared to have it in the bag.

All of the ingredients necessary for a win were present. WS was ahead 21-7 against rival Lake Braddock, who the *Washington Post* ranked best in the Patriot District during preseason play. Our quarterback secured his spot as top passer in the Northern Region and three WS players were included on the top 10 receivers list after the game. Despite a strong offensive performance, the Spartans crumbled in the second half. Lake Braddock dominated the next two quarters and scored 40 unanswered points, beating WS 40-21 and dropping the Spartans to seventh place in the Patriot District.

This theme of explosive offense resulting in losses persisted throughout the fall season. Even after scoring 74 points against West Potomac, the varsity football team lost after four overtimes. When they played Edison, turnovers spoiled a game in which WS players combined for nearly 500 yards of total offense.

Labeled an "offense machine" by the *Springfield Connection*, the Spartans were led by senior quarterback Peter Lalich, senior running back AJ Johnson, and junior wide receiver Scott Williams, scoring an average of 42 points per game.

WS defense, on the other hand, consisted of mainly underclassmen and gave up over 40 points per game on average this season. That being said,

Applaud for the cheer squad

By Sarah Alvarez
Viewpoint Editor

It has been a signature season for WS cheerleaders. A season glorified by a district title only made sweeter by the triumphant victory over Lake Braddock along with a sixth place finish at states after earning third at Regionals on Saturday, November 4.

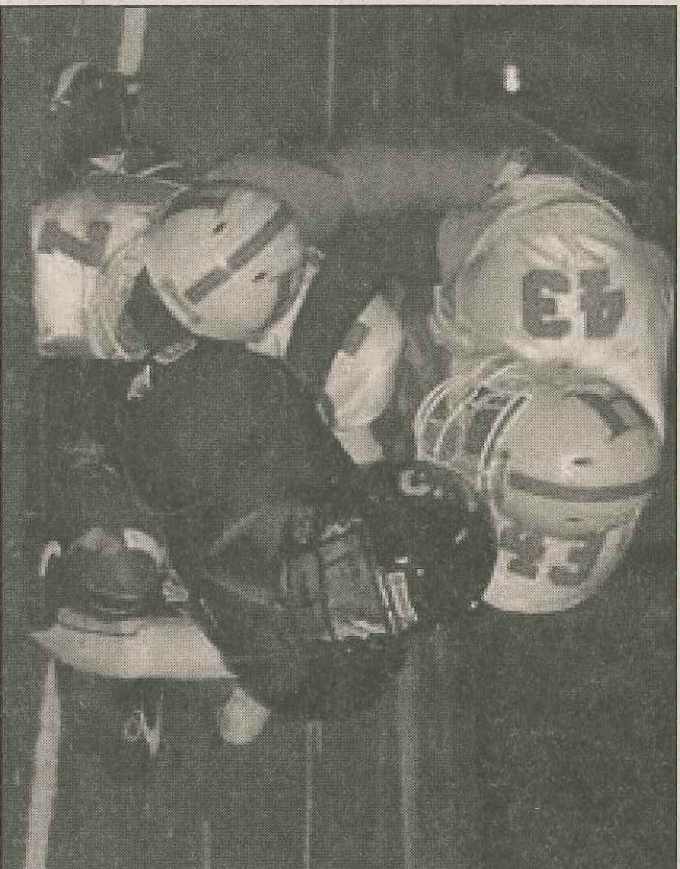
WS cheer made its mark on the Patriot District and has finally been compensated for their challenging, often dangerous stunts, original cheers, and arduous hard work.

This year has proven more promising and made for a more nerve wracking year for the squad.

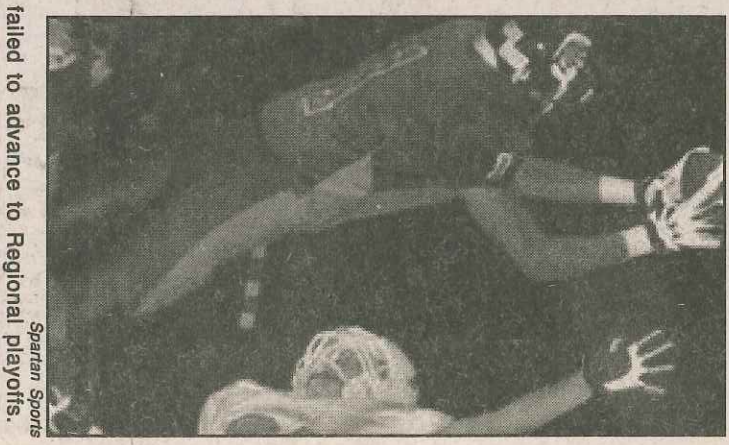
"We were more nervous this year because we had a real shot at winning," said junior Alysia Jordan. In years past, Lake Braddock has been WS's prime competition. Lake Braddock's program has been described as simple, yet flawless.

"We challenge ourselves, it is easier [for Lake Braddock] to hit simple things, than doing more difficult skills," said junior Christina Little.

[For the first time since 1997] we didn't get cheated



Spartan Sports



Spartan Sports

Despite record-setting offense, WS football finished with a 3-4 district record and failed to advance to Regional playoffs. The defense improved significantly over the course of the season, eventually giving up only one defensive touchdown in the 59-29 victory over South County.

"We have a lot of confidence in our defense," said sophomore Bryn Renner after an impressive defensive effort against T.C. Williams.

With a 3-4 Patriot District record, the Spartans' postseason hopes failed.

"We don't have district playoffs," said senior Thomas Powers. "They go by our district record, so there's no way we can get into the playoffs."

Although WS football ended early this year, the 2006 season will not soon be forgotten. The Spartans set the Virginia state record for the highest combined scoring game when they fell to West Potomac 81-74. Lalich threw for 3,314 yards and Johnson rushed for 1,091 yards.

The team finished strong with two solid district wins against South County and Hayfield. Two wins that came a little too late.

out of our win," said Little. It has been almost 10 years since WS defeated Lake Braddock at districts, and it's been almost as long since the squad has one states.

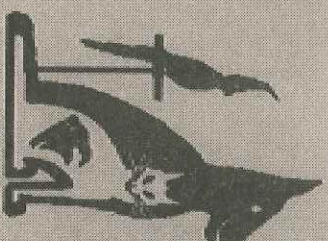
"Seniors this year were freshmen when we last won states," said junior Clare McEnemay. Successes of the squad were attributed to a positive attitude helped along by overcoming many team obstacles.

"We've been practicing since the day after tryouts, we have new stunt groups, new people, we worked hard, and had a good attitude," said senior captain Luisanña Carrera. Team unity also helped excel the team to the top, "our team bond, helped us get motivated," said McEnemay. The skill level of the WS routine is another attribute that puts it above all the rest, "I feel our different skills are above a lot of other teams," said Jordan.

But greater than the team the most immediate motivation during the competition was being ahead of Lake Braddock after the first round.

"We were so excited," said McEnemay. The initial victory created just the momentum the team needed to meet the competition and exceed all expectations.

Spartan Sports finished with a 3-4 district record and failed to advance to Regional playoffs.



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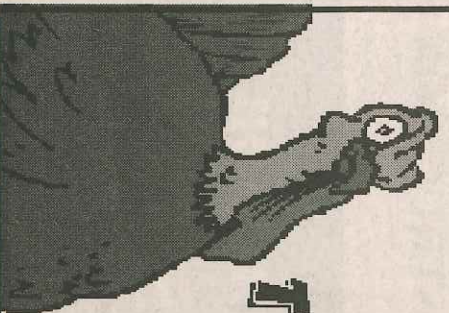
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**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING
SPARTANS**

'06 honored for four years of dedication

By Zohra Alnoor
Senior Staff Writer



Lifetouch
The girls Varsity volleyball team honors their seniors on senior night this season.

Hilarious nicknames, inside jokes and sometimes gross yet comical initiations are just some of the traditions of a high school sports team.

Senior nights are just another one of the memorable moments in a senior athlete's season.

Freshman athletes watch every year as seniors on their teams are honored with flowers and presents and more as they stand by their parents on the turf

Strong and fellow senior captain Amanda Pyon received volleyballs signed by the whole team, a framed picture of the team and gifts from Bath & Body Works.

"It was kind of sad to think, 'Oh, this is our last time on the court,' but it's okay. It was a fun season," said Strong.

Varsity volleyball head coach Rick Dumetz sang, 'I Wish' by Stevie Wonder to Strong and Pyon on senior night as a way to congratulate them for all of their accomplishments.

Underclass teammates took charge of senior night by organizing the ceremony.

The Varsity field hockey team was led by junior Brittany Kippstein who organized the senior night this year by putting up posters, getting balloons and deciding which senior each player would buy a present for.

"I had Ally Campo, Lacey Woolf and

I got her a gift from Hot Topic and brownies," said junior Meredith May. "The coaches gave us flowers to give to them also."

"It was kind of sad to think, 'Oh, this is our last time on the court.'"

— Amanda Strong

Whether a team congratulates their seniors by giving them presents, singing them out-of-tune songs or giving them a team-signed item, the seniors here at WS will always be greatly appreciated for their hard work and will always be greatly missed.

"I want my senior night to be twice as good," said May. "I'm really excited because I saw how good it was this year and I'm looking forward to it next year."

Don't mean a thing if you ain't got that swing

By Ariane Irvine
Senior Staff Writer

Although the WS varsity field hockey team lost in the playoffs this year, they have many players that have been awarded prestigious positions for the district and the region.

Senior Julia Repa, who has been on the team for four years, made first team All Region this year. She believes her teammates were a large part of her success.

"I think it's a team sport," said Repa, "you can't have just two players to win." After this year, though, Repa has decided to

probably not play in college. "I love the sport," said Repa, "but I just don't want to play [in college]."

Players are voted into the positions they receive on All Region or All District. The coaches of the area hold a meeting to pick the best players of the year.

Senior Johanna Ayala also gained distinction. Although she originally decided to play field hockey just as a way of trying something different from soccer, she has excelled in this sport, making All Tournament and second team All Region.

"I was disappointed that I made second team. I was trying to make first," said Ayala.

Another player on the team who gained attention from area coaches was junior Jessie Thomas, who is on first team All District and second team All Region.

"It was kind of surprising, because there are a lot of good players on our team," said Thomas.

Another member of the team who did remarkably well this season was sophomore Jessie Gonzalez, who made second team All District. She thinks that the team will just continue to get better.

"I expect to go on, I guess, and to win," said Gonzalez.



Lifetouch
Senior Julia Repa made All Region this year while senior Johanna Ayala, junior Jesse Thomas, and sophomore Jessie Gonzalez made All District.

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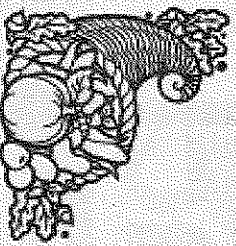
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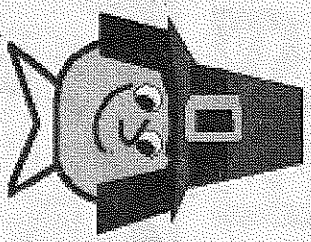
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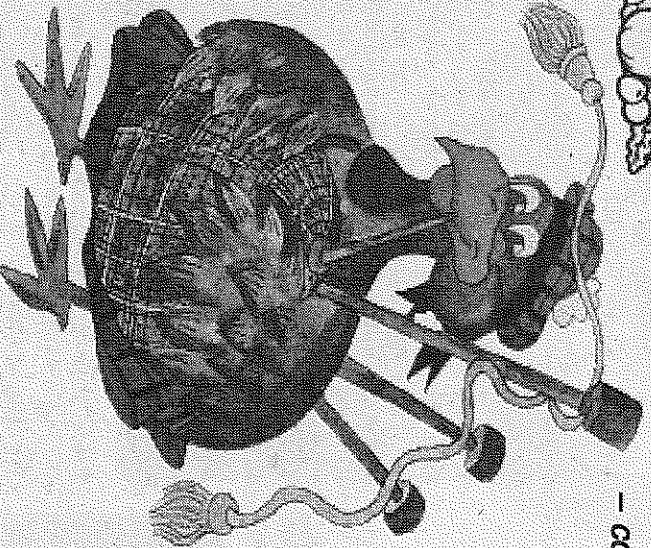


THANKSGIVING FUN PAGE!



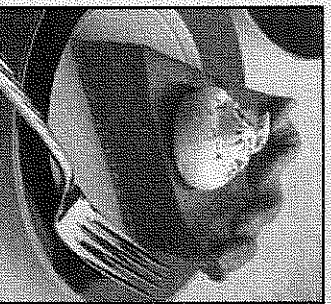
— compiled by Molly Cushing and Sara Kotait

Mr. Pilgrim Head



Top 10 Thanksgiving Macy's Day Parade Floats — compiled by Lindsay Bruhn

1. SANTAS SLEIGH
2. SPIRIT OF AMERICA
THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
3. BARBIE AS THE PRINCESS & THE PAUPER
MATTEL'S BARBIE ®
4. CAROUSEL OF IMAGINATION
THE LEGO COMPANY
5. KIDS' CANDY CREATION LAB
HERSHEYFOODS CORPORATION
6. POKEMOBILE
7. 123 SESAME STREET
SESAME WORKSHOP
8. TEDDY BEAR'S WORKSHOP
BULL-D-A-BEAR WORKSHOP ®
9. STATUE OF LIBERTY
10. BARNEY'S MUSICAL PLAYGROUND
HIT ENTERTAINMENT



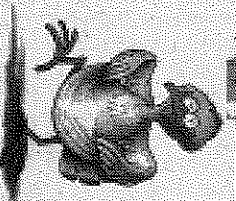
Pumpkin Pie Recipe:

- 1 1/4 cups pumpkin puree, canned or fresh
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

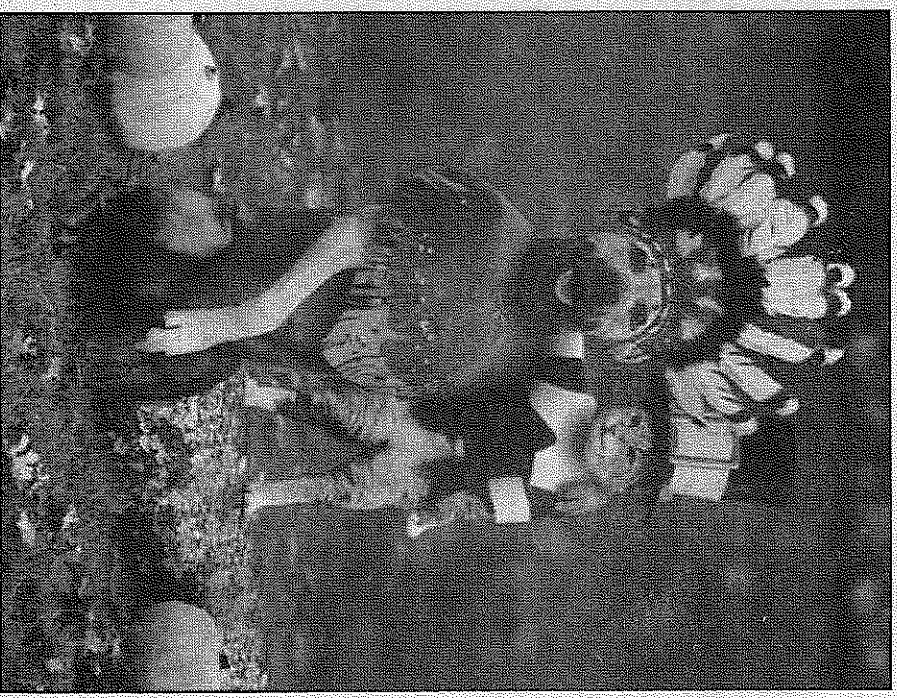
- 1 teaspoon all-purpose flour
 - 2 eggs, lightly beaten
 - 1 cup evaporated milk, undiluted
 - 2 tablespoons water
 - 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 1 unbaked pastry shell (9-inch)
- AND VOILAI!**

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- Corn
- Family
- Football
- Gravy
- Pilgrim
- Pumpkin Pie
- Squanto
- Stuffing
- Turkey



Funny Dog

Black Friday: It's back!



Engadget

By Sean Hogan
Oracle Editor

Living for seventeen years makes it a very difficult task for a person to avoid a traumatic experience. I have beaten the odds. I have no scars. Strangers haven't coaxed me into cars with candy.

This all being said, I had my closest encounter with death about a year ago on Friday, November 25, otherwise known as "Black Friday."

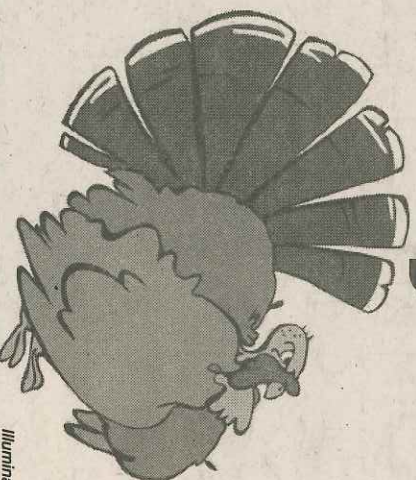
I went to bed early Thanksgiving night so I could wake up at 4 am and salvage the best deals on camcorders, TVs, vacuum cleaners and infants at Best Buy. My sister and I made the ten minute drive to the Best Buy beside Springfield Mall. Following a twenty minute expedition that leads us to park across the street at Target, we jaywalked across Frontier Drive at a time so cold that my breath could see its breath.

So we got inside Best Buy at 4:45 am. Nobody should be awake at this time (although it could be argued that the inhabitants were actually zombies who were jacked up on Starbucks). Nonetheless, I found the first season of "24" on DVD and stepped into the never-ending line in the appliances section. Within one minute, the line continued out of my sight.

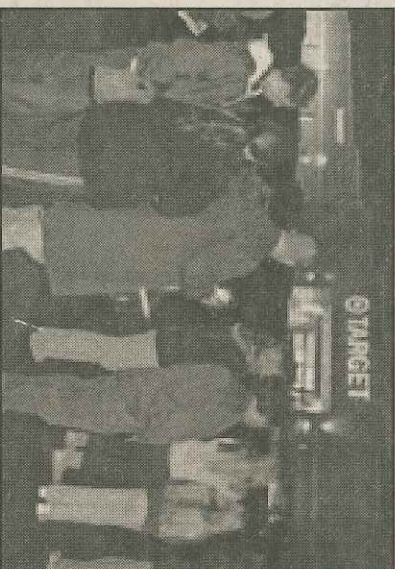
Those around me in the line become a second family. Brother Brendan, a 46 year old lawyer, holds three Enya cd's for his wife. Mother Martha, a grandmother of two, grips a PS2 for Phil and an XBOX for Xavier. Sister Serena picks up a "Baby Einstein" video for her puppy.

My sister joined the line after beating another college student with the fourth season of "A-Team" on DVD until she dropped a prize Kodak digital camera into my sister's hands. We got closer and closer to the cash registers. We could see them! We were only minutes away from ending the journey into the valley of darkness! But then the two lines merged. We were again hours away from escaping.

We pulled into my driveway at 7 am. We were exhausted and drained of energy. But I had the joy of Jack Bauer for 18 more hours than I did at 4, which made this a successful three hour tour.



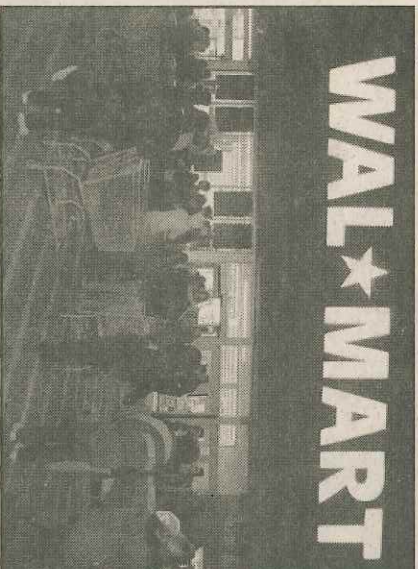
Illuminat News
"Black Friday is just around the corner, and you know what that means. It is time to gear up for the holidays folks! Gobble, gobble!"



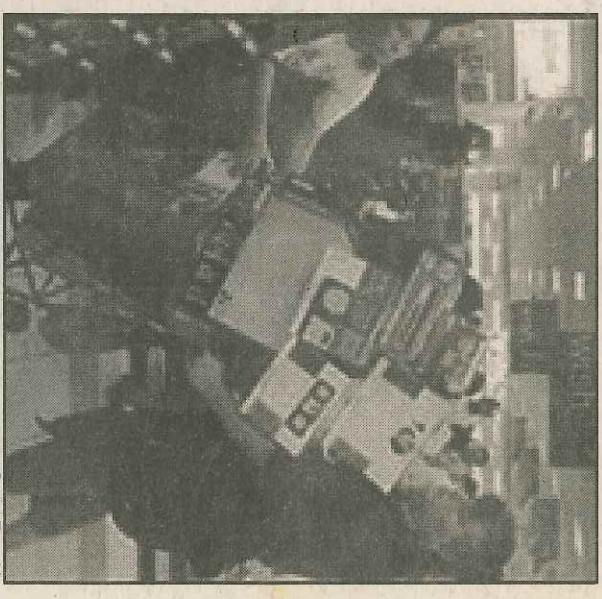
Asbury Park Press
Shoppers line up in front of stores at insane hours just to get first dibs on new items.



Agenda Inc.
The Black Friday rush can be very dangerous. Above, a young child is trampled over by adrenaline filled shoppers on their way to clear the shelves.



The Uncoveror



Super Franchie

Black Friday shoppers pack their carts full with all the latest electronic devices, clothes and toys.

By Stevie Florino
Etc. Editor

Food, football and shopping. Thanksgiving and the winter holidays are almost here. The time for stuffing your face, lounging around and running frantically through the mall is just around the corner.

The beginning of the holiday season is always an exciting time. Once Thanksgiving hits, you can start browsing around in stores, on-line and in catalogs for Christmas presents. You start constantly feeling happy and joyous and merry. November through December has got to be one of the best times of the year.

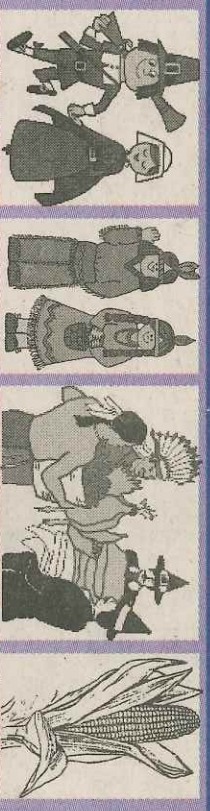
The holidays, however, definitely have their downfalls. The day after Thanksgiving, AKA *Black Friday*, is a frightening day. This is the day when over-stuffed people wake up from their food comas and enter the world of shopping. You will be lucky if you can get from Old Keene Mill Road to Braddock Road in one hour. The roads are in complete gridlock until at least 11pm.

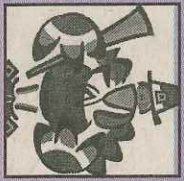

The malls are packed to the brim with hot, sweaty and irritated people. Hard-core soccer moms arrive, ready to fight for the new edition punk-rock Barbie, no later than 5am. If you get between an irritated mother and her Barbie's, things will not be pretty.

I never understood why people go so gosh darn early to the stores on Black Friday. I know that they are trying to beat the rush, but if they really want to beat the rush they should just shop on-line. Ebay, Overstock and Amazon are just a few of the many on-line stores. On-line shopping is, at least in my opinion, extremely convenient and easy, and it doesn't involve the possibility of being trampled by a herd of mothers on a mission to wipe the shelves clean of everything.

Well, with that said, I hope that the beginning of your holiday season is stress-free, safe and cheerful. Just watch out for those hard-core soccer moms.

NOVEMBER '06



Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
17 Transcript Deadline for Jan 1 applications & PS3 release- \$499 & Bob Dylan @ the Patriot Center	18 Basketball Varsity scrimmage vs. Brooke Point	19 Nintendo Wii release- \$250	20 Underclassmen make up photos	21 Video game Backyard Basketball 2007, releases	22 Early closing! & Citizen Cope @ the 9:30 Club	23 No school! Thanksgiving! 
24 No school! Thanksgiving Weekend! 	25 Basketball Varsity Scrimmage vs. Indian River	26 Dirty South Invasion w/ T.I., Lil Wayne & Young Dro at the Verizon Center	27 My Morning Jacket @ the 9:30 Club	28 Video game Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six: Vegas, releases	29 The Producers, the musical, is showing at the Warner Theatre	30 Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Bulls