

The RAVEN

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West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

Baseball captures District and Region

Team's hard work leads them all the way from PDC to State semifinals

By **Gianna Baigés**
Managing Editor

After three years of trying, the Varsity baseball team has finally earned the title of Patriot District Champions.

Not only that, but they went on to capture the Northern Region before falling in the State semifinals to Menchville.

On Monday, May 18, the Spartans began the PDC game at 7 p.m. and, after 14 innings, continued it the following day, with a total of 16 innings.

"I didn't think the game would carry over that long," said senior and pitcher Mike Kent, "but it was definitely worth it."

The players who are currently seniors on the team had not won Districts, making victory the sweetest of their high school careers.

For the first night of the game, the team was stuck in a tie and anxiety started to kick in. However, when the second night arrived, a punt by sophomore Trevor Snook brought in the winning run.

"We were winning the game, but it just seemed like we couldn't get it right," said Snook. "I got the punt that scored the winning [run] and it feels really good, because it was the seniors' first PDC."

The game was played against South County. On the first day, surprisingly enough, the game had lasted approximately four hours and 14 innings only to result in a never-ending tie; thus the umpires and coaches called it "quits" for the night. On Tuesday, the game



The Varsity baseball team warms up, doing drills before a game. This year, their hard work really paid off, as the team won the Patriot District Championship and the Northern Region.

resumed and the Spartans won after two innings.

"It was really tiring and emotional," said Kent, explaining the extent and atmosphere of the game. "It just gets very frustrating when you keep pitching and nobody scores."

This year's PDC game was, without a doubt tiring for the team and all spectators. However, team members and their coach, John James, are entirely proud and ecstatic to

have come such a long way.

"It's our first PDC as a senior class and I'm very happy—it was the most innings we've ever played," said Kent. "I've been there three times and I was glad we [finally] made it this year."

Such a successful season and an amazing PDC game advanced the team into the Regional Championship on May 22. After See "Baseball" on Page 11.



Girls Varsity soccer also does the Spartans proud, taking home three consecutive Patriot District Championships.

Girls take PDC

By **Kyle Snyder**
Oracle Editor

For the third year in a row, the girls soccer team won the Patriot District Championship.

This season, the team had a record of 15 wins, two losses and two ties. Some believe this has been one of the best soccer teams in WS history.

"It's been the best team in ten years," said senior Beth Anne Nowak. "We have an incredible defense and a fantastic offense."

This year's team had five first team All-Region players on the team. There were also 12 seniors on the team which, along with the previous two Patriot District titles, gave the team experience See "Soccer" on Page 11.

That's a good Spartan, now

Majority of those responding to Oracle poll say they don't participate in illegal activities

Spartan Values

The following story is the third in a series of articles about the school's culture and social climate. This is the last story of the series.

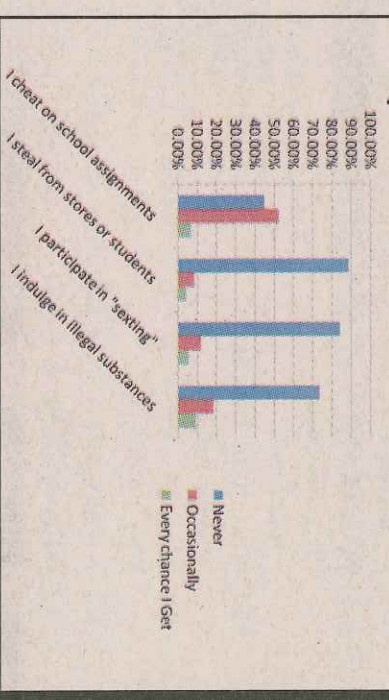
By **Amelia Simpson**
Oracle Editor

This just in: We're not as bad as our elders would lead us to believe.

An online Oracle survey on Spartan values was recently conducted via student e-mail and the results aren't what some expected.

"I don't think that some expected accurate, because it didn't get enough people. I can think of a lot more people who participate in illegal activities on the weekend," said sophomore Mai-Vi Nguyen.

Spartan Ethics & Values



The results of the Spartan Values survey conducted via Studentmail.

Out of this year's student population of more than 2,200 students, 489 responded. The Oracle had no way of tracking the validity of responses. "I think that 489 is a pretty good number of responses, but it is about 22 percent of our student population," said Assistant Principal Becky Brandt. The majority of students who See "Values" on Page 4.

Swine Flu scare



Boivin brings home award.



Football moves camp.



No offense: We certainly didn't mean any

The Oracle apologizes to those who found parts of our last issue in bad taste

The job of any newspaper is to print the news. Sometimes what we print makes our readers talk.

In the May 15 issue of *The Oracle*, we certainly made our readers talk. Some of the feedback we received was negative, especially about the editorial, "Save the sex for after school."

This editorial was intended to show *The Oracle's* condemnation of

"sexting" and other lewd behavior we've noticed around the school. But some readers, for some reason, thought the headline actually promoted these practices.

We certainly did not intend to encourage students to engage in this behavior, and we apologize to those who misinterpreted our motives.

Several adults also complained about the first paragraph of the editorial, which was deemed by them to be inappropriate for our high school audience. We did not intend

to be rude or lewd in this lead paragraph. We were trying to add humor to what is otherwise a serious—and alarming—problem in our school.

Our attempt at humor, however, was misunderstood by some, and for this we also apologize. As student journalists, we cannot force the student body to listen to us.

Editorial

There will always be students out there behaving badly, regardless of what we recommend. The purpose of our editorial was to send the message out for those who do take part in nasty behavior during school to be conscious of their peers and of the consequences of their activities.

And finally, a comment about the photo that appeared on Page 3 of the May 15 issue. Several people have written to the administration and to us about that. The opinion piece that accompanied the photo complained about students

whose fashion *faux pas* exceeded the boundaries of modesty. The photo, frankly, leaves a lot to be desired. The photographer did not want to snap a photo of a student who would be easily identified. She chose instead to focus on a particular fashion no-no. The photo computer said "Eyes Up Front," turned off, and left us with only the mundane textbook. I guess algebra isn't school work.

The school is also keen on blocking Web sites that they know could never be related to school work; although I'm sure there are teachers who would disagree and say that some videos from YouTube possess educational merit.

As the school spends a colossal amount of money to block Web sites and make sure we are only on school-approved Web sites, they seem to have forgotten one important thing. We are at a school with more than 2,000 students; one of them is bound to be technologically savvy enough to get through the walls.

Many students remember andpoi.com/W/S from a year ago. It was a password-protected proxy created by a former WS student. Used by students and teachers alike, it allowed access to all of the blocked sites.

Besides proxies, it took all of about two weeks for the student population to figure out how to outsmart SynchronEyes. The library is once again sprinkled with computers displaying games for students to unwind to after a day at school until their practice starts while



In the May 15 issue of *The Oracle* the editorial covered the issue of "sexting" and other inappropriate in-school behaviors. Some thought this topic was inappropriate for our paper, and for this *The Oracle* apologizes.

whose fashion *faux pas* exceeded the boundaries of modesty.

The photo, frankly, leaves a lot to be desired. The photographer did not want to snap a photo of a student who would be easily identified.

She chose instead to focus on a particular fashion no-no. The photo

was of bad quality to begin with, and that quality was made worse during the newspaper printing process. In addition, *The Oracle* did a lousy job of explaining the photo in its accompanying caption. We would like to assure our readers that the person in that photo

The Oracle reporters and editors are held to the highest journalistic standards. We have been trained to report and comment on the news. We have also been trained to correct the record. We want our readers to know that *The Oracle* did not intend to sensationalize students' inappropriate behavior, but merely to comment upon it.

Although we can't please everyone, we do understand that the subject of the editorial is a sensitive one. We appreciate all the responses we have been getting, whether they are negative or positive, and we hope to continue making our readers talk.

Keep on blockin' me, baby

By Stephanie Maxwell
Special to The Oracle

I swear I'm doing school work. I'm not misbehaving, but... And the computer flashes "Eyes Up Front" and turns off.

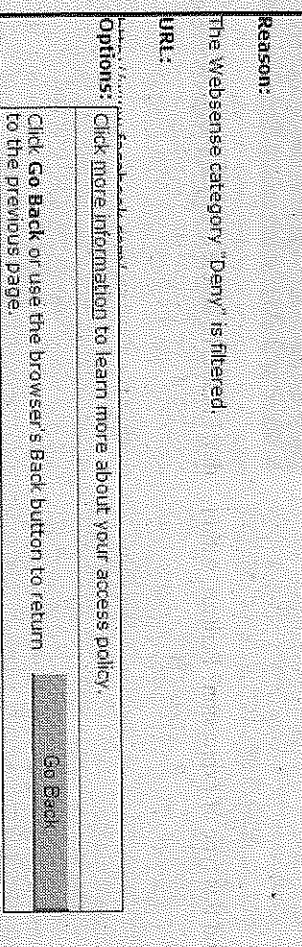
I realize that every person in the library or countless other computer labs is not doing school-related work, but with dozens of courses offered at this school involving technology, there is bound to be an assignment that may not look like "school work" to the unknowing eye.

I have spent a fair amount of time tutoring other people in the library. It did not take long to realize, as I'm sure all teachers do, that if what you're teaching is not new and exciting, students will lose interest.

Soon after the "SynchronEyes" program was installed, I was tutoring a student in Algebra 1 in the library and we decided to review on the computer. Coolmath.com was our destination. By mixing vibrant colors with educational games, it kept algebra interesting, which turns out to be against the rules.

After only five minutes of review, our

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Screen capture from school computer

The school goes to quite a bit of trouble to block Web sites. This, along with SynchronEyes, are just a few of the ways activities that are sometimes used for education become blocked.

the librarians rely on SynchronEyes to catch such students.

On all sorts of Web sites, both blocked and unblocked, one can find quotes about uniting

under a common enemy, and that's what WS students have always, and will always do. Synchron Eyes is our enemy, and for once, the student body is united against its powers.

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The ORACLE

The Oracle is a student-run publication designed to inform and entertain the West Springfield High School community. We publish articles written with as little reporter bias as possible. Opinion is expressed in Viewpoint, Forum and ETC. and in reviews and signed columns. Editorials represent the opinion of at least two-thirds of the staff and do not reflect the views of the administrator or the Fairfax County Public Schools. *The Oracle* reserves the right to reject advertising deemed inappropriate. Signed letters-to-the-editor and personal commentary will be considered for publication, but could be edited for grammar, spelling and space.

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Bad reflection in neon lights

By Bridget Crowley & Gianna Baiges

Oracle Staff Writers

It's soccer, not laser tag.

We are tired of the neon-colored shirt fad that has been taking over almost every sports team's spirit wear. Neon yellow isn't a school color, so how can wearing it show school spirit at all? If we were to wear these T-shirts to an out-of-school event, nobody would recognize us as Spartans.

In fact, they wouldn't even be able to tell what sport we're playing because it seems as if every single sport that our school has to offer has fallen under this new trend.

Basketball, lacrosse, soccer, tennis and softball are teams that have been spotted committing this heinous act. After all, it's not hard to miss the blinding neon that makes our eyes bleed on gameday.

Unless you're going cosmic bowling, neon colors aren't flattering on anyone.

May 15 issue generates criticism, praise

Letter to the Editors of *The Oracle*:

For the past 20 years I have enjoyed reading my copies of *The Oracle*. *The Oracle* and its staff have been especially generous to me and the coverage of my teaching career. However, your most recent edition was both shocking and too much over the edge.

The story about sexting offended many of your readers, myself included. Don't get me wrong; the story itself is an important one for the 21st Century. However, the way it was written was insulting to readers. The opening line about math was completely out of line and done in poor taste.

When we live in a society that continually displays and condones inappropriate behavior, where are we headed in life? There are so many ways to express ourselves in a professional manner, and the opening line of that story was vulgar. You should strive to be a student paper with high values, morals and a caliber toward professionalism. In what type of US publication do you think you would find this type of expression? Perhaps, within the pages of *Playboy* or *Hustler*?

I think it is your professional responsibility to represent WS and our community in a positive manner and strive for journalism excellence. Don't fall victim to yellow journalism or sensationalism; there's enough of that trash on MTV, MTV2, VH1, etc. Set your standards high and make all of us proud. I sincerely hope that the staff of *The Oracle* will edit and think twice before publishing this type of material in the future.

Laurie Fischer
US History

Dear Editors:

I did not have a major problem with the topics in the last issue of *The Oracle*, but I did feel that one photo was ill-advised. My concern is that I have noticed what appears to be a deteriorating condition of appearance this past year in the paper. Specifically, there has been at least one issue in which the same page was printed twice, and there seems to

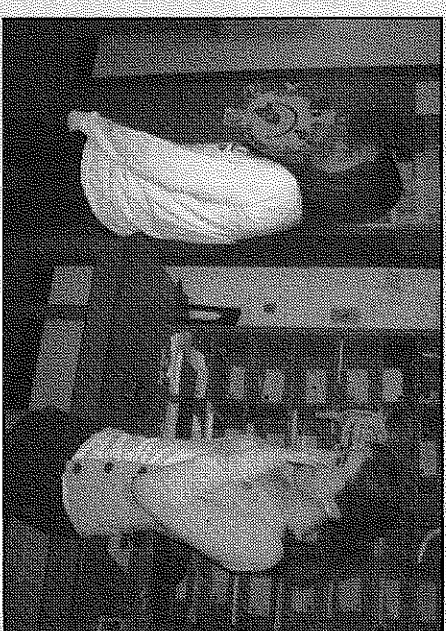
Word from the wise onlookers—you look like a highlighter. Neon yellow, especially under the dim glare of our school's low-budget fluorescent lighting, is not a pleasant color to look at, so again, why wear it?

Sure it can make a person stand out, but when every sports team wears the same color, no one stands out anymore. Many teams have the exact same shade of neon, making it hard to tell what team the shirt is representing. It's NOT original, especially after one team chooses neon yellow for their spirit wear.

Maybe we just don't understand this fad because we are not a part of these teams.

Or maybe because we are jealous "outsiders" that didn't get the memo. But we are not the only ones who seem baffled at this seizure-inducing style.

During lunch, we've observed innocent bystanders as they drop their food onto their tray, visibly dazed and confused, when a team of highlighters, blissfully unaware of their



Luis Lester
Susan Nguyen's neon spirit pack wear. Fashion no no.

harmful effects, marches by. The reactions are intense, as the squinting eyes continue to look on.

Just like the markers they resemble, this fad has dried-out and needs to be thrown away, immediately.

forgoten the principles of freedom on which this country was founded?

I hope the administration will not allow itself to be manipulated by a group of small-minded and ignorant folk. If they find an article offensive, then they can submit an editorial with their point-of-view, but they certainly cannot establish any kind of protocol on what can or cannot be printed. Everyone is entitled to voice their opinion. I hope they remember that our forefathers fought to the death for that right as our current members of the armed forces are doing today.

Marietta Naranore

Physics

To the Editors:

This is in response to the editorial in the most recent issue of *The Oracle*.

I have both a senior and a freshman currently enrolled in WS and am absolutely in favor of dialogue and communication in regards to issues faced by our teenagers today. I found the article highly appropriate and commend *The Oracle* staff in addressing this issue, which has been very much on the forefront of the news recently.

It is wonderful that teenagers are openly discussing and condemning sexting and other behavior. I especially liked the beginning of the editorial, as it was quite humorous and attention-grabbing, encouraging the reader to continue reading a topic that otherwise may have been discouraged.

I understand that a group of teachers and parents has raised some objections to what exactly I am not sure. Our children face what sometimes appear to me as insurmountable problems. There is no point in hiding from them and trying to sweep them under the rug. These things have to be addressed if we are to release well-adjusted and self-aware young people into this highly competitive and sometimes dangerous world. And frankly I am very resentful of this outspoken minority who tries to dictate to the rest of us what we should read or think. Have they

Letters-to-the-Editors

the-Editors

means taking time conscious showers and turning off the water when you brush your teeth. You can also make sure not to just run the water when doing dishes and turning it off when water is not needed.

3. Skip the bottled water! The plastic used to make water bottles has a more than profound impact on the environment. Many people complain that they like the taste of bottled water better, and believe me I agree with that. You don't need bottled water to have the similar taste of it. Buy a Brita! It's a good investment that can save our planet.

Plus you have to admit all of these new, cool water bottles they are coming out with are actually really neat.

4. Recycle! There truly is no explanation as to why you can't do

Reduce, reuse, recycle!

Environmentally friendly steps you can take

By Ashley Brigham
Oracle Editor

Each morning when you turn on your shower and stand under the hot water to wake up, you could be causing 70 percent of the people on our planet to have to live without freshwater by the year 2035.

70 percent of the world's freshwater is held in glaciers, and if we keep heading in the direction we are now this "maybe" could slowly morph into a "definitely." In the year 2035, you will be between the ages of 39 and 44. THIS COULD AFFECT YOU!

I think our young generation has not quite realized yet what we are potentially doing to ourselves as well as to future generations, the generations of our children and

grandchildren. Doing very simple things today, that will not drastically change your life, can make such a huge difference on the world you live in today, and the world of future generations. It is not fair to take advantage of our natural resources, and to punish future generations with a polluted world.

Here are a few ways that you personally can make a difference:

1. Save energy! Simple things such as making sure to turn off lights when you leave a room, or by setting your thermostat a few degrees higher in the summer and a few degrees lower in the winter can make a huge impact. These things are not hard to do! They take virtually no extra effort. So what's your excuse?

2. Save water! This simply

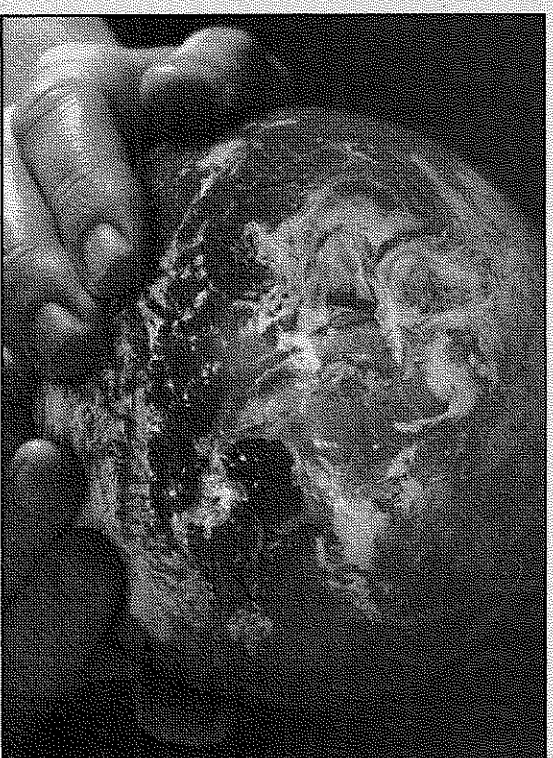
In the wake of the criticism regarding the content of some of the articles appearing in our school's newspaper, I would like to offer my support for the student journalists who work so hard to keep *The Oracle* a credible and legitimate student publication. I teach several of the students who regularly contribute to *The Oracle*, and I am often impressed by the quality and integrity of the journalism as well as the craftsmanship of the editorials.

I believe that one of the many reasons that *The Oracle* has been consistently recognized by organizations such as the Virginia High School League, the National Scholastic Press Association and the Virginia Journalism Education Association, is that the high quality reporting and writing, which is meaningful and relevant to students, teachers, and the community.

This year, I have found the content of *The Oracle* to be particularly compelling. The reporting has been honest and bold—very much in the tradition of the most respected publications around the United States. It is my sincere hope that the criticisms of a few albeit well-intentioned people do not tarnish the reputation of a newspaper that has made so many of us proud to be Spartan.

Simon Schameyer

English



Malaysia Association of Standards Users

The world is in our hands. We must take the right steps in saving our natural resources from diminishing. Listen, pursue action and make a change. In most places you find trash cans, you can also find recycling bins, so use them! Not recycling is just pure and utter laziness, and there is no excuse for throwing a perfectly good water bottle in the trash. All of the things listed above are not hard, and do not take more effort than you previously had to exert. They may not make a huge difference to you now, but they could mean the world for our world in the future.

Swine flu scare continues

By Danielle Mazuchti

Viewpoint Editor

As if students didn't already have enough on their minds in high school, becoming extremely ill is not exactly at the top of their priority list.

The newly discovered Swine Flu, with the medical term H1N1 Virus, has caused a global pandemic. This infectious disease can be spread from pigs to humans as well as vice versa. Granted that this is a new strain of flu, most people will not have immunity to it. In that case, it is necessary to take every precaution to ensure that this virus does not spread within the school and community.

"We are given direct orders from Fairfax by Dr. Dale," said Attendance Secretary Jo Ritter. "The request came from Fairfax County Health Department to keep a record

of symptoms."

According to the Fairfax County Health Department, symptoms of the Swine flu are similar to that of the regular flu. The normal sore throat, dry cough, weakness, and fever are all factors that precipitate this disease. The Attendance Office is assuring that there are no such cases in the halls of WS by following the demands of Superintendent Jack Dale.

"We are trying to keep all contagious illnesses out of schools," said Public Health Nurse Nancy Albright.

The swine flu is seasonal and should not be feared only within the walls of schools.

"I think people are overreacting to a certain degree," said Sophomore Madison McKenna.

If one hears the slightest cough or a little sniffle of the nose, the first comment heard is "SWINE FLU!"

It is not necessarily the swine flu, remember, it is also allergy season.

"As long as my teachers keep the classroom clean, I think I'll be fine," said McKenna.

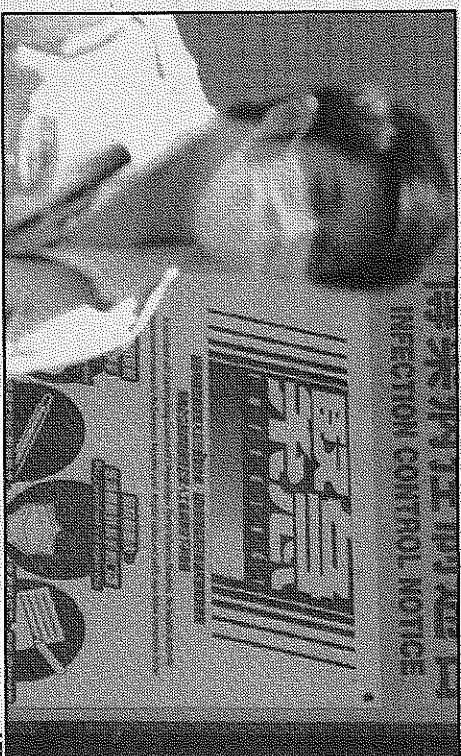
To prevent contracting disease, it is suggested to wash hands often.

"In the teaching profession, there are a lot of germs," said Spanish teacher Melly Jensen. "I use hand sanitizer as a preventing measure."

Sitting in Jensen's room is an economy size bottle of Germ-X. This eliminates the need to wander out of the classroom and wash one's hands after sneezing.

"The kids always ask me to bring more sanitizer when we run out," said Jensen.

H1N1 has affected many, and the death of at least 79 people worldwide. The disease is non-discriminatory and is rapidly making its way to the more populated ar-



AP The swine flu that began in Mexico has spread to all continents, here an Asian man take protective measures to keep himself safe from the bug.

cas.

The Cold and Flu Health Center predicts that swine flu will make a comeback in the fall since that is the regular flu season.

"If a student meets a certain criteria, then we will suggest further evaluation," said Albright. "It is no different now and we are just following our normal protocol."

Illnesses always seem to make their way around school campuses and other crowded environments. It is the responsibility of the infected person to know to isolate themselves.

"In asking the symptoms of the student, we are just trying to catch it early," said Attendance Secretary Susan Sterner.

Values poll receives mixed reactions from many

"Values" from Page 1

Typically check their student e-mail include the most active in the school: presidents of clubs, honor roll students and those enrolled in SAT prep classes. While these students are typically thought of as the role models of our school, they represent less than five percent of the school.

"It [the poll] makes us look perfect," said senior Tia Green.

The Oracle poll showed that 84 percent of students said they have never participated in sexting, 52.4 percent have occasionally cheated on school assignments, 88.5 percent never steal and 73.5 percent do not indulge in illegal substances (alcohol, marijuana prescription drugs, etc.).

"The people who actually do this stuff probably didn't answer the survey at all," said junior Akrem Osman.

Cheating, for example, is a broad term. It can mean anything from stealing the answer key to borrowing a classmate's

"My concern is that sometimes I believe people step away from their values and 'rationalize' their behavior."

—Becky Brandt

Senior Administrator

homework. And it seems almost impossible to say that any student in this school has never cheated, considering everyone has his own idea of what it means to truly cheat.

"My definition of cheating is during a test you lean over [to get answers]," said sophomore Jacqui Mula. "I mean, I work with people on homework assignments and we do it together. Some teachers consider that cheating but I don't."

The Oracle poll also showed that 9.4 percent of students polled said they indulged in illegal substances often, while 18.5 percent admitted to occasionally taking part.

"I would be really happy if I thought that 73.5 percent

of our students really never smoked cigarettes or marijuana, drank alcoholic beverages, misused prescriptive medicine or partook in other illegal substances," said Brandt, who is also the administrator for the senior class. "My concern is that sometimes I believe people step away from their values and 'rationalize' their behavior."

The results for the questions concerning cheating, stealing and sexting were anticipated by many students interviewed for this article. The last question in the four-question poll caused many students to talk.

"That's a shocker [illegal substances]; it's definitely a lie. I don't believe that at all. 73 percent [don't use illegal substances]?" said senior Cory Woods.

The poll, of course, is open to interpretation. "They [results] suggest what I feel we already know: Most of our kids know right from wrong and choose to do the right thing," said Assistant Principal Jennifer Knox.

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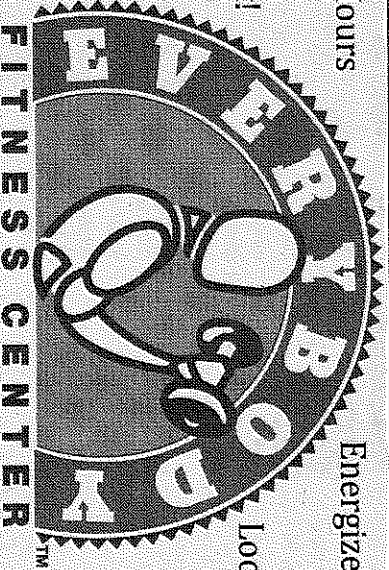
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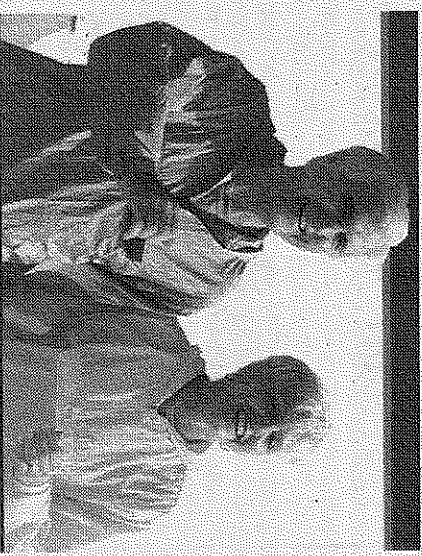
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Make 2009 your BEST YEAR EVER!



Staff & students thankful for a year of Spartan Time

By Susan Nguyen
News Editor

Once a novelty, Spartan Time has now become a biweekly ritual that is much looked forward to by the majority of students and staff alike.

Although the addition of this 45-minute block was once widely questioned for its beneficial merits, it has proved itself time and time again to be a valuable and useful tool for both struggling students and those who just want to get ahead.

Frankly, many feel they could no longer do without this specially allotted time.

But those students who were looking forward to a third Spartan Time next school year will be sadly disappointed.

"There will not be a third Spartan Time day based on our surveys, information and comments shared

at the mini faculty meetings," said Principal Paul Wardinski.

After having schedules habitually tweaked and rearranged this year, Wardinski and the administration have learned what works best for students and what doesn't. With this in mind, they are hoping to provide a more consistent routine for the coming year.

"I love Spartan Time and our data shows it is working," said Wardinski. "We have to learn how to use it better and that is another reason we didn't make a change for next year."

Students, especially those signed up for the more rigorous courses offered at WS, are among those who really wanted the administration to add a third Spartan Time day to next year's schedule.

"I'd rather have more Spartan Time," said junior Molly Smith. "Especially when you're taking

ing little time for sleep for students who are taking the test the next morning at 8 a.m.

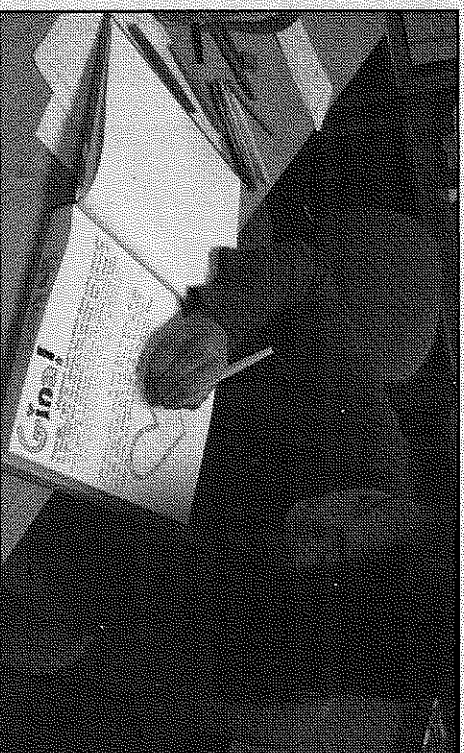
Junior Melissa Fike attended Prom and took the SATs the next morning. Fike and her parents agreed that she had to leave straight after the dance and was not allowed to attend any after-parties.

"I signed up for the SATs before I was asked to Prom," said Fike. "And I didn't want to waste my parents' money by not going, plus they didn't want me going to any after-parties anyways."

Because of the conflicting events, junior Katie Phinmassone chose to skip her SAT instead of taking it the morning after Prom.

"I can always take it next year or take the ACT instead," said Phinmassone.

The College Board has a non-refundable policy, which left students who already reg-



Susan Nguyen

Junior Katie Phinmassone uses Spartan Time to sign a yearbook during the last few weeks of school. Others use the time to study for finals. AP classes, it's nice to have that extra time to accomplish things at school."

Other students, who are committed to sports or other activities outside of school and are therefore strapped for time, were also looking forward to the third proposed AP classes, it's nice to have that extra time to accomplish things at school."

"It would be more convenient," said freshman Connor Barto. "I usually plan out my afternoons this way. Like if I have Spartan Time, [I plan] what I can put off for tomorrow."

However, there are also those who feel that the current schedule with only two Spartan Times should not be changed. Although a third Spartan Time could be beneficial, the question still remains of whether it would be entirely plausible, as it would also be taking away from valuable teaching time.

"I love Spartan Time, [just] everything about it," said English teacher Mary Moriarty. "I think it's really useful on a lot of levels, but two days is enough."

As for now, Wardinski is not entirely ruling out the possibility of an additional Spartan Time day in the future.

"It takes time to learn to use a tool like this effectively," said Wardinski. "We are certainly on the right track and I am excited for next year and the results it will provide."

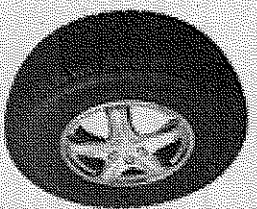
SATs loom over Prom

By Katie Kinzel
Oracle Editor

Dance all night, rest all day.

This is what some juniors found themselves doing on the evening of June 5 and morning of June 6. Since this year's Prom fell on the night before the SATs, students who were scheduled for both events are tried to find ways to fit them in.

The dance took place from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Key Bride Marriott in Arlington, leav-



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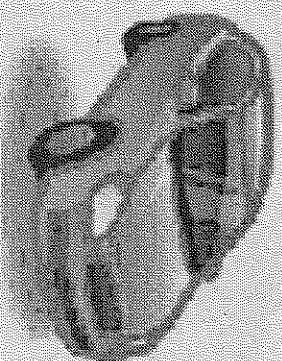
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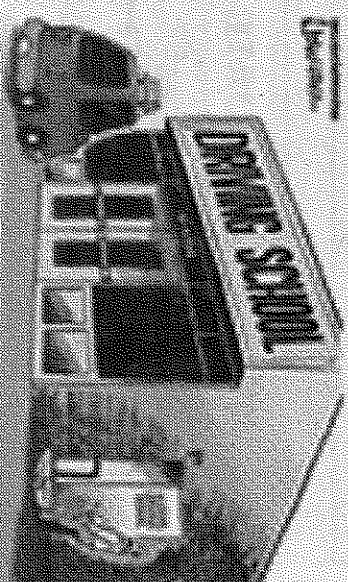
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Sydney Quigley



Sydney Quigley



Sydney Quigley



Ellie Greene

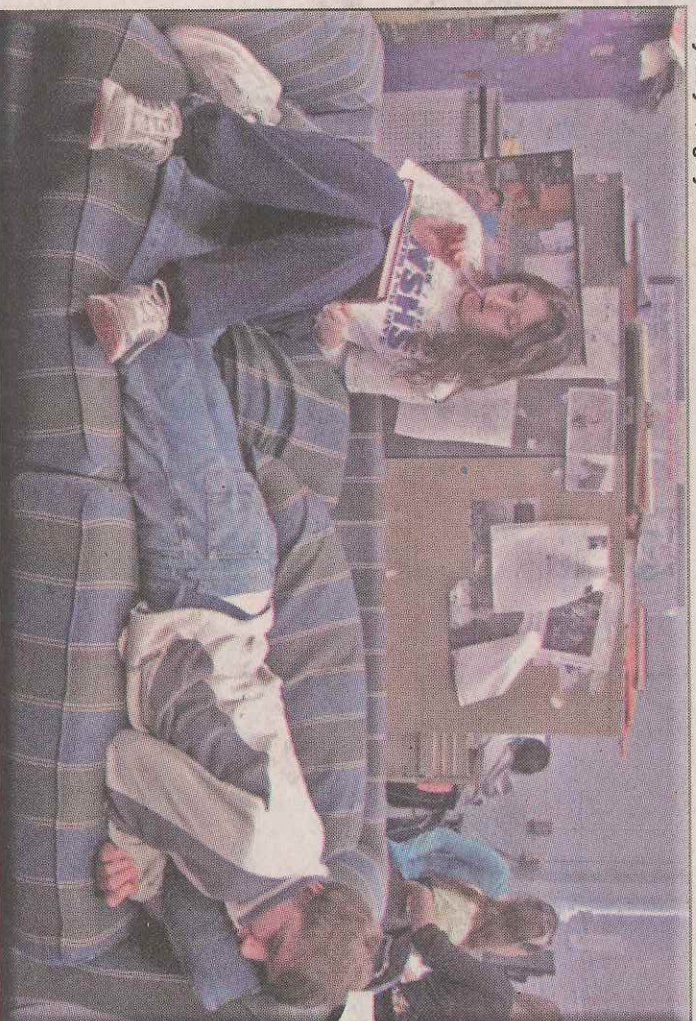


They brought you 18 issues of *The Oracle* this year and a 332-page yearbook. They've written hundreds of thousands of words about others over the years and have taken photos of thousands more. Today, in our final issue of the student-run newspaper this year, *The Oracle* and *The Olympian* staffs want to tell you a little about themselves. On paper, they're 101 journalists, learning a craft and a few life lessons along the way. In real life, they're so much more. We hope you enjoy Yearbook Editor Chloe Gould's photo essay about life in Rooms 215 and 218. What a long, strange trip it's been.

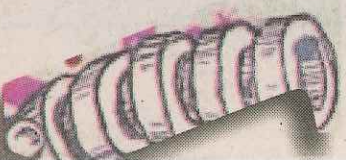
Top Left: Juniors Katie Kinzel and Julianne Baker work on designing the perfect layout for a spring sports spread. Top Right: Sophomores Josh McNamara and Thomas Ariale dominate in the chair lift competition of *Oracle* Olympics.

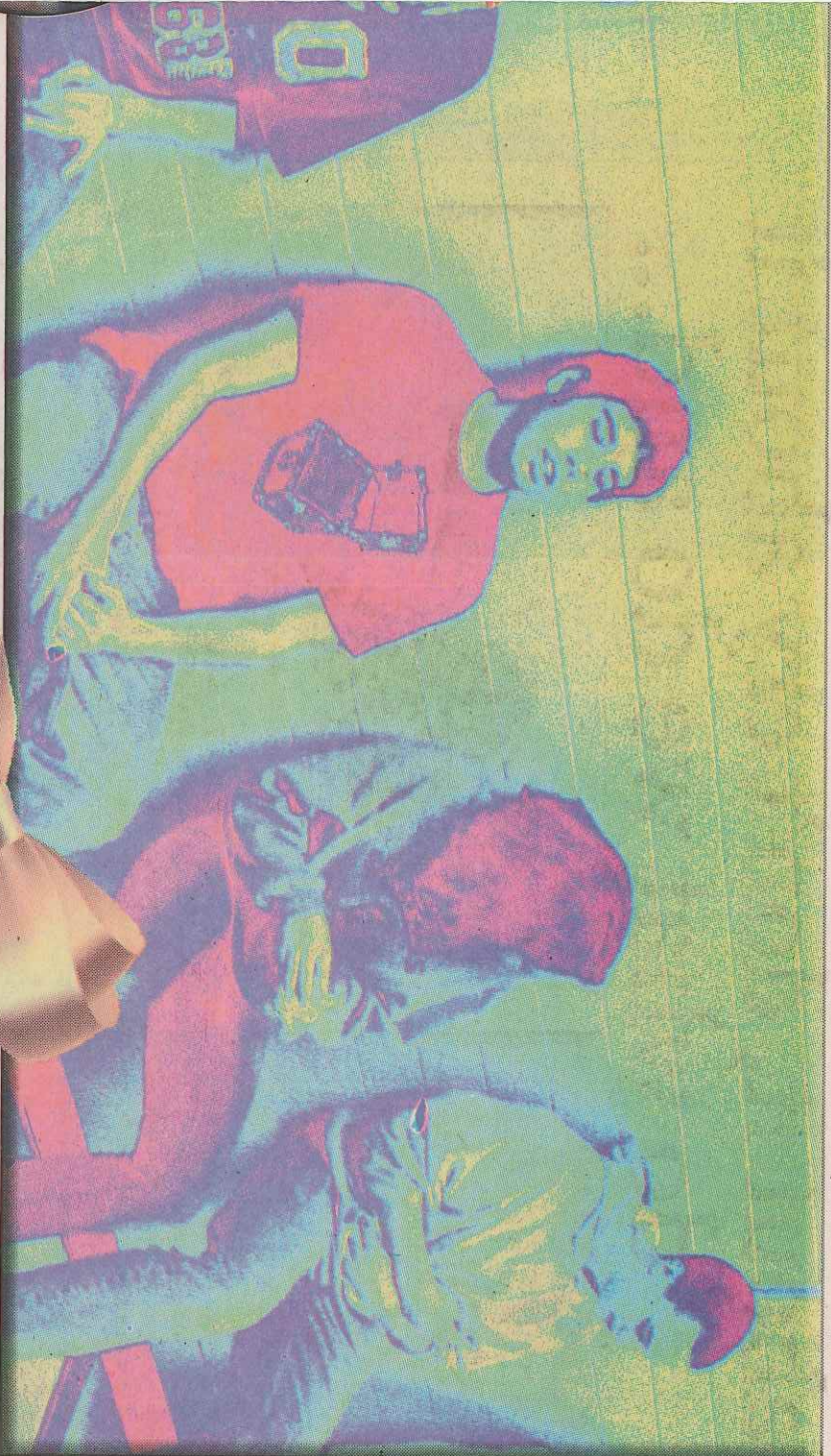
Above: Seniors Andy Houghton and Ryan Miller get another life lesson from beloved adviser Brooke Nelson. Above Right: Senior Chelsea Schuster and junior Caroline Chabolla take a break from hallway interviews to strike a cute pose.

Right: Senior Rebecca Naramore catches up on her studies while taking a seat on junior Mike Stablain atop the Journalism Room's signature couch.



Ellie Greene





Sydney Quigley

Left: McNamara, Ariale, Senior Krista Pedersen and Junior Kyle Snyder battle it out in a lunch time wall-sit competition during Oracle Olympics.

Below Left: Senior Ellie Greene shows off her Glamour Shots skills. Below: Seniors Sarah Muston and Jessica Wohlers keep their nickname of "Gossip Girls" with a quick chat on the couch.

Bottom Left: Senior Kevin Pike takes a creative cat nap in between classes. Bottom Right: Senior Emmie Cleveland, Wohlers and Schuster work on a spread during class by way of one of the trusty laptops.



Chelsea Schuster



Ellie Greene



Ellie Greene



Ellie Greene



about it.

Social networking sites, no thanks

By Xavia Warner
Page One Editor

There are students who don't spend the day thinking about spaces, faces, or bird chatter. Although few in number, this rare breed is characterized by the absence of social networking sites on their Internet history.

The '60s had fondle parties. The '70s had discos. Today's generation flocks to Web sites like Facebook and Twitter in order to satisfy their social needs. Libraries and other spaces that contain computers were once the gathering grounds for the intellectually adept and socially reclusive. They now attract the numerous social butterflies that gather there in the hopes of discovering ways around the school's Internet barriers.

"I try to check my Facebook at least twice a day," said junior David Gawalt. These "social networks" have already es-

tablished themselves as the new popular watering holes. It's almost impossible to think of anyone who doesn't have an account on one of the many sites. But the non-social network savvy do lurk among us.

"I feel that it's a waste of my time," said sophomore Jennifer Moore. "I don't want to be absorbed by it."

To some students, like Moore, the idea of staring at a PC screen and perusing the staged pictures of their peers isn't the most appealing activity. Despite not being able to update her status or show off a new spray tan, Moore still leads an enjoyable social life. She participates in the track and cross-country teams, and occasionally spends her time with friends. Still, it is easy for her to understand why the Web sites are so popular.

"You can get in touch with your friends. A lot of gossip spreads there and stuff," said Moore.

While Moore is content with not having

an account, she is sometimes frustrated by the disadvantages. It is difficult for her to keep up with some of the things that happen at school and she often finds out about parties through other people. Others who share her lack of interest sometimes feel pressured to cave in.

"I can't have one, but I don't really care. My friends sometimes tell me to get one behind my parents back, but my dad is pretty good with computers so it wouldn't work," said freshman Danny Fraedrich.

Nowadays, students like Fraedrich and Moore are hard to come by. They both know that there are disadvantages to not participating in the social networking scene, but ensure the survival of their species by resisting and generally not caring about the Web sites.

"I'm pretty stubborn, but I'm a little more productive with my time. I get my work done faster and can just relax afterwards," said Moore.



XAVIA WARNER

Sophomore Jennifer Moore checks her Blackboard account at school. Moore has decided to not follow the crowd and keep away from social networking sites.

Picture has students speaking 1,000 words

By Megan Winslow
Managing Editor

The hallways and staircases are lucky enough to be graced by the artwork of many talented students, but the newest painting has received mixed feelings.

At the corner of the foreign language and English hallways, a picture of President Barack Obama was recently painted by senior Khahn Nguyen for her Capstone project. This painting is the only image of a US president on our walls.

"The purpose was to depict an historical event," said Nguyen. "I didn't want to make a political statement; I just wanted to commemorate it."

Though the painting was not intended to portray a political message, some students feel the artwork shows that the school supports one political party over another.

"I believe politics don't belong in school and I believe that is what the Obama picture is doing," said senior Michael Wajda. "If [we] had one of every president, it would be OK."

Wajda is not the only student who feels strongly about the

work of art. The painting was vandalized with writing, that when washed off, which took some of the paint off with it. Nguyen, who spent three hours a day for three days working on this wall art after her AP exams, is upset that her message was taken the wrong way by students, but does understand their views. She has no plans to retouch her work.

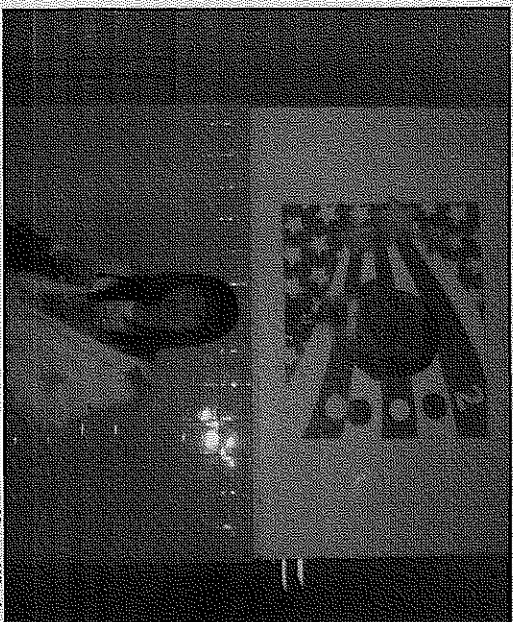
"I don't want to fix it," said Nguyen. "It is partly my fault because I didn't make my statement clear."

Wajda, who wrote an e-mail to Principal Paul Wardinski asking about the motivation behind the painting, has his own solution.

"Either remove it or put more presidents up there, such as George Bush," said Wajda.

Despite the controversy caused by her painting that was intended to commemorate an historical event in American history, Nguyen continues to support her decision to paint it. She hopes students can see the painting in the light she intended it to be seen in.

"It wasn't a political statement, but an historical event," said Nguyen.



MEGAN WINSLOW

Senior Khahn Nguyen poses with her Capstone project painting of President Barack Obama.

Spartans, prepare for the battle!

Bands duke it out in yet another great performance

By Julie Parisi
Viewpoint Editor

Guitar teacher Keith Owens' voice came over the loudspeakers and filled the auditorium as he announced this year's Battle of the Bands standings.

In third place, Reindeer Killers; Undefined took second place; and the winner... The Wingmen!

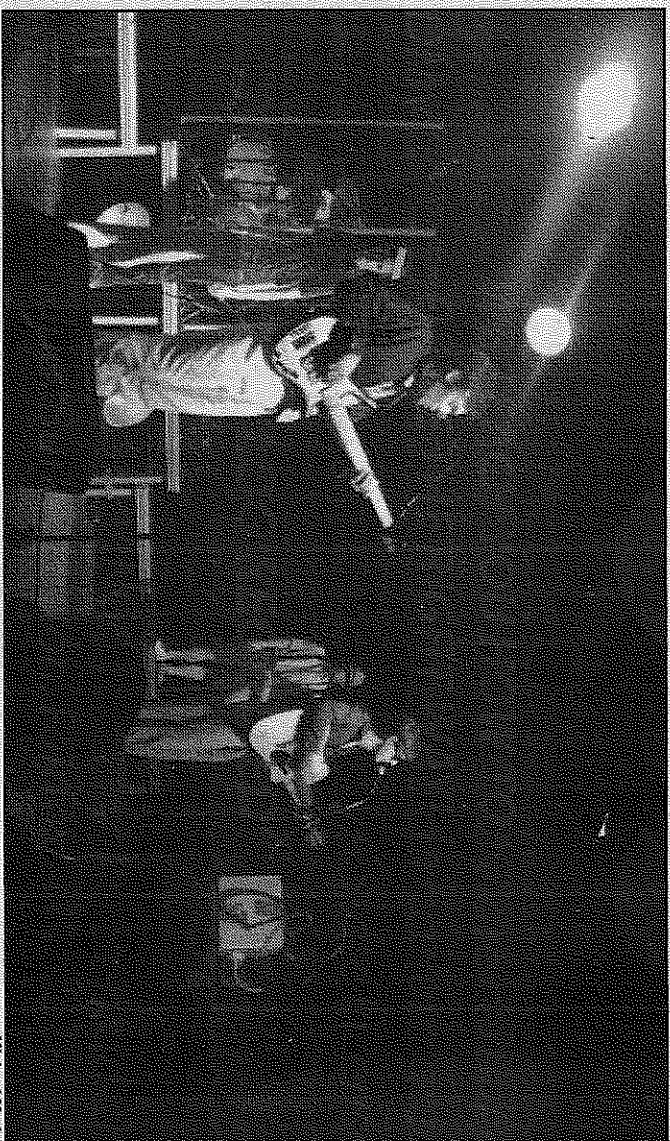
As the competition approached, the bands tried to cram in as much practice time as possible to get ready for the show.

"We were a little bit rushed because we weren't ready yet, but we got everything worked out and I think we're as ready as we're going to be," said sophomore David Thompson.

Thompson, along with sophomores Niko Sward and Ryan Lugo, is part of a band called This End Up, which competed in Battle of the Bands for the first time.

"We practice every chance we get and I practice my part alone every day," said Sward. "I want to make sure our first show is good."

Sophomore Ryan McCreedy played in the competition with two



This year's Battle of the Bands winner, The Wingmen, perform in the auditorium. The bands at the competition performed a mixture of original songs and covers. The show featured both veteran bands and bands who had never competed in WS Battle of the Bands before.

bands: The 6th Degree and Undefined.

"I practice seven hours a week with each band," said McCreedy. "Sometimes I mix up the schedules and have trouble figuring out when

I'm practicing with which band. It's getting really chaotic, but it's always fun."

To prepare for the show, Undefined practiced every day, wrote solos, and got their gear together to make sure they had everything ready.

Four of their songs were ones that they wrote themselves, and one was a cover.

"Sometimes I mix up the schedules and have trouble figuring out when I'm practicing with which band. It's getting really chaotic, but it's always fun."

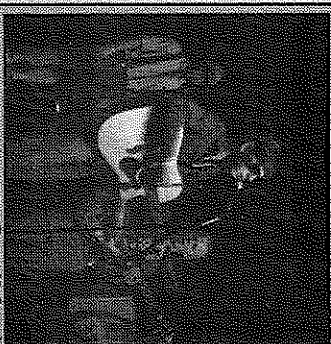
—Ryan McCreedy
sophomore

"We've put on this show a few times already," said senior Taylor Silver. "I think we're good to go."

The Wingmen played right before Undefined. The Wingmen had already played for two Capstone projects and recently won South County's Battle of the Bands competition.

"We've been practicing three times a week for a while, but we're starting to practice every day now that it's close," said senior Ryan Erbe. "I think we'll do well. I'm not saying we're going to win, but hopefully we'll be able to put on a good show."

WINNERS



RYAN MCCREEDY

First Place:
The Wingmen



MICHAEL MARINO

Second Place:
Undefined



SILVER FAMILY PHOTO

Third Place:
Reindeer Killers

Boivin brings home NHD 'Teacher of Virginia' Award

History teacher founded National History Day while instructing students in world history

By Sara Blaylock

Entertainment Editor

Cathleen Boivin, history teacher and NHD founder at WS won the "Teacher of Virginia" award at the National History Day competition. This was an amazing accomplishment for Boivin.

"I don't believe that there has been a winner from FCPS in the last decade," said Boivin.

She works hard to prepare her students for this big competition and in return her classes do the favor of voting for her.

Some of her students nominated Boivin and the NHD State committee decided to give her the award for 2009.

Boivin started the NHD program at WS when she arrived here in 2001. The first year, three students from her class went to Region-al's and one went onto the State Competition. Boivin developed NHD and has been the coordinator ever since.

She puts so much dedication into this NHD project, not to mention the long car-rides every year to Williamsburg for the State Championship, sponsored by Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Boivin only brings her best students, and they always put their

Woody: A master of motivation

By Michael Stablein

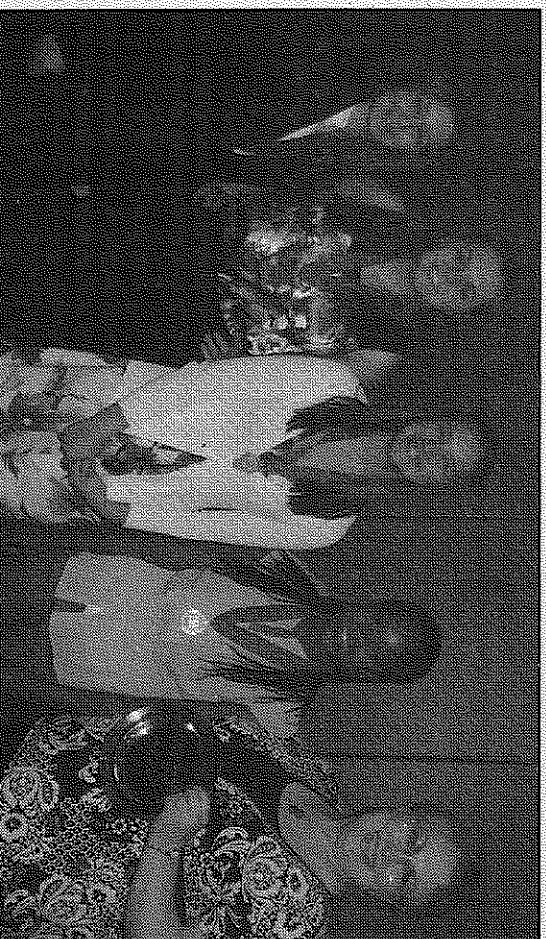
Managing Editor

A quick conversation with marketing teacher Vera Woodson will quickly reveal her unique character and endless talent.

Woodson is known by many in her marketing program as "Woody," a fun, but respected teacher who can really bring out the best in students. Woodson teaches fashion-marketing based courses and has been doing so on the high school level for several years. She is certainly beloved by her students. "Woody is a beast," said junior Alex Lederle. Lederle and his older brother AJ, who graduated in 2008 both passed through Woodson's marketing program.

"This is not a job for me. It is a calling," said Woodson, who enjoys her job of instructing and molding young adults into great students and people at the same time.

Woodson's experiences dating back to her high school years have influenced her and allowed her to follow her ambitions and become a successful executive buyer for Nordstrom. She had 15-year tenure with the company, training new buyers and executives.



Boivin Boivin

Sophomores Emily McDougall, Moira Lennon, Kristina Scollins, and Jordyn Stuger pose with "Teacher of Virginia" winner Cathleen Boivin at a National History Day competition. Boivin founded NHD at WS.

best foot forward.

Other teachers started to see the accomplishments of Boivin and wanted to help out and join along.

"Several of my colleagues decided to join the program and we began to require it as part of the World History II advanced course,"

But these experiences with fashion marketing also brought her into the field of teaching.

"I love every day of it," said Woodson about her teaching career. "I get to teach and learn something new every day."

Woodson's career began with her experiences at Long Beach Polytechnic High School, a well-known school in California that has many famous alumni, including Snoopy Dogg. Woodson then attended California State University, where she studied Black Studies. After obtaining her bachelor's degree she eventually received an Education Specialist Degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of Virginia in 2004.

Her students enjoy her presence immensely. Her unique personality and extraordinary experiences together allow her to instruct students while also providing a fun engaging atmosphere.

"Woody's class was really awesome," said Lederle. Woodson participates in many different extracurricular activities including DECA, Step Team, the Teacher-Mentor Program, she has also served on the Superintendents Teacher Advisory Council and is the co-sponsor of the Class of 2009. Woodson's passion for her career and her enthusiasm in

said Boivin. "Instead of quarterly papers,"

Boivin has been an undercover helper, humble about her contributions. She did some teacher in-services for the county on how to implement NHD into the curriculum and in her free time she wrote the workbook on NHD for FCPS.

Boivin only brings her best students, and they always put their best foot forward.

Boivin went to the competitions along with the WS competitors: Chris Wink, Risa Zevailos, Jaemin Yoo, Allen Jo, Moira Lennon, Kristina Scollins, Jordyn Stuger, and Emily McDougall.

There are many teachers whose students participate in NHD and they vote for their own teachers, so it was a great honor and rare win by Boivin.

Boivin received the Teacher of Virginia award, but it doesn't stop there for this hard worker. The Virginia History Day committee has also nominated her for the PBS Teacher of Merit Award and the History Channel Outstanding History Educator Award. There is a nominee from every state and the awards will be presented at the NHD National Awards Ceremony on June 18 in College Park, Maryland.

"I'm glad she got the award," said one of the competitors, Kristina Scollins. "She was so happy after she won and it's because her hard work paid off."



Michael Stablein

Juniors Nancy Buruca, Tracey Johnson, Taylor Haldeman and Mywand Zazay pose with fashion marketing teacher Vera Woodson.

the area of marketing has had a powerful effect on her students and that is just what Woody loves.

"Every day I ask, 'What have I done to make a difference today in the life of a student?'" said Woodson.

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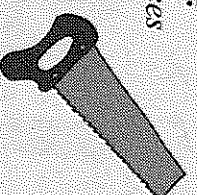
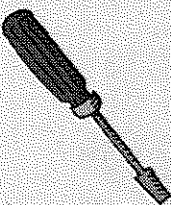
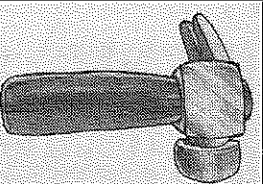
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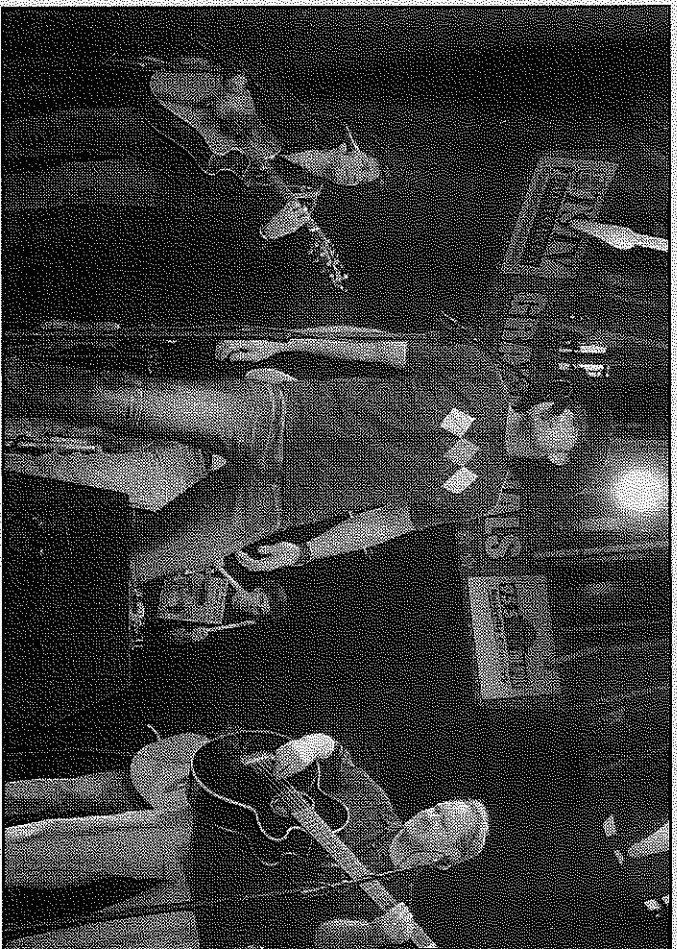
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Many WS students attend WMZQ-Fest each year. This year, Rodney Atkins was the headliner at Nissan Pavilion.

Nashvilleconnection

WMZQ 'Just Another Day In Paradise'

Country fans travel to Nissan Pavilion for this annual event

By Thomas Ariale
Entertainment Editor

Every year dedicated country music fans make their pilgrimage to Nissan Pavilion to hear their favorite artists perform live with thousands of screaming, crazy fans in the seats and on the lawn at WMZQ Fest.

Being a fan of country music, I was ecstatic to come and see some of my favorite singers perform only 35 minutes away from Springfield. But one thing I didn't plan for was the hour-and-a-half it took us to get three miles. In the end it was worth the wait to see the artists who were there. The performers were Little Big Town, Joe Nichols, Keith Anderson, Jason Michael Carroll and the main event Rodney Atkins. Then there were the side stage concerts featuring Justin Moore, Carlin and Will, Kate and Kacey.

I wasn't the only Spartan there, either. While walking around in the parking lot before the concert started I ran into many stu-

dents from the junior and senior classes, and even a few from my own sophomore class.

The parking lot was filled with high school and college students tailgating in their trucks, making food beforehand so they won't have to pay \$8 for a cheeseburger inside the gates. When the gates did open, people were lined up and started to file into their seats, whether that be inside way in the front, or just spreading out a seat on the lawn.

When Atkins stepped on stage the applause was deafening. Wearing his signature jeans, shirt and snug baseball cap, he ended the night at Nissan in a great way. Atkins performed all of his big hits, including some of his newest album like the hit "It's America." After Atkins' set was done, he came back out for an encore performance to sing a few more songs before calling it a night.

WMZQ Fest was the best concert I have been to in a while and I plan on making the trip to Nissan again next year.

Rock & roll with chili on the side

By Celine Donohue
Entertainment Editor

A great lineup, chili and thousands of awesome attendees were only the beginning of what DC 101's Chili Cook-off had to offer.

What started as a muggy Saturday became gorgeously bright as the gates opened, letting Niki Barr Band give a sunny debut to the festivities on RPK stadiums' parking lot. Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Papa Roach, Puddle of Mudd and Shine-down all followed giving very personal performances for the 25,000+ who came to enjoy the event.

Besides the great musical performances there was much more to enjoy:

There was a BMX bike station sponsored by Red Bull with a huge ramp where amateur riders showed off their skills. Multiple piercing

stations that became helpful when one of my piercing was ripped out and I was in dire need of a rook ear-ring. There was a variety of delicious food stations.

And of course a chili cook-off, involving many different types of chili for your taste and judgment, it was exciting to see Redskins tight end Chris Cooley was there on the judging scene, rating them along with all the punk rockers.

As the day went on the weather stayed sunny and nice, until it was time for Third Eye Blind, one of the headlining acts, to take center stage.

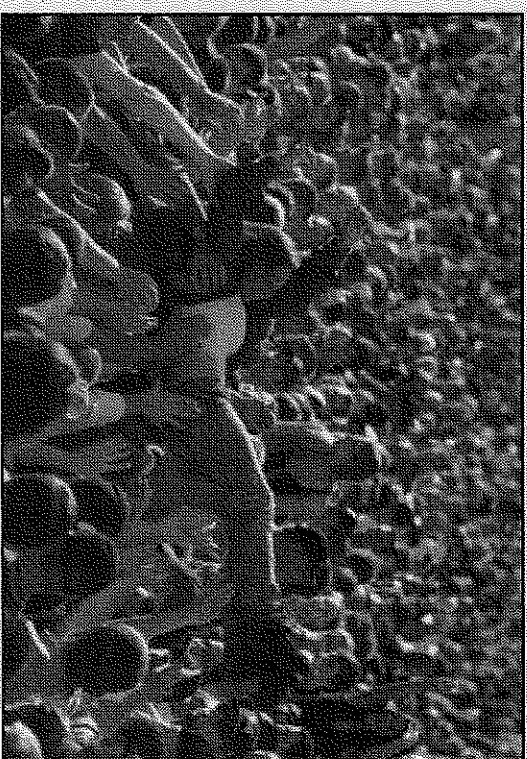
They announced that all should head into the stadium while thunderstorms passed, but the fans were adamant to wait it out, especially those of us who were in the front row. After being postponed for 30 minutes, the crowd went com-

pletely wild as Third Eye Blind's Stephan Jenkins walked out swagger and all, stating they couldn't have stopped them from performing if they tried.

The rain stopped and all witnessed a once in lifetime performance as Jenkins belted it out in his sleek black top hat and white tee, playing songs like "Semi-charmed Life" and "Graduate" to the T. All were soaked in sweat, and filled with joy when they completed their set. Some even described the performance as "breathaking."

The day came to a close with a performance by The Offspring, at which point the intoxicated crowd was rowdy and ready. The Offspring's Dexter Holland had great stage presence, and finished off their set with a heartfelt version of "Self Esteem."

All in all it was a great event. I



Associated Press

Roudy fans started to celebrate and show their excitement as the concert progressed. The girl shown is crowd surfing at the chili cookout.

met some interesting people, heard some great tunes, enjoyed some fun activities, and received a nice start

Steve-O now on your TiVo

By Bridget Crowley
Oracle Editor

From dangerous stunts to dangerous habits, Stephen Glover, better known as Steve-O, has managed to grasp the teenage audience's attention. But with his new documentary, *Demise and Rise*, he shows a side of him that is rawer than any of us are used to.

Steve-O has made a name for himself by eating a goldfish then regurgitating it back into a fishbowl, stapling signs to his body, allowing himself to be kicked and beaten, and many other antics all for the sake of the MTV hit show, *Jacks*.

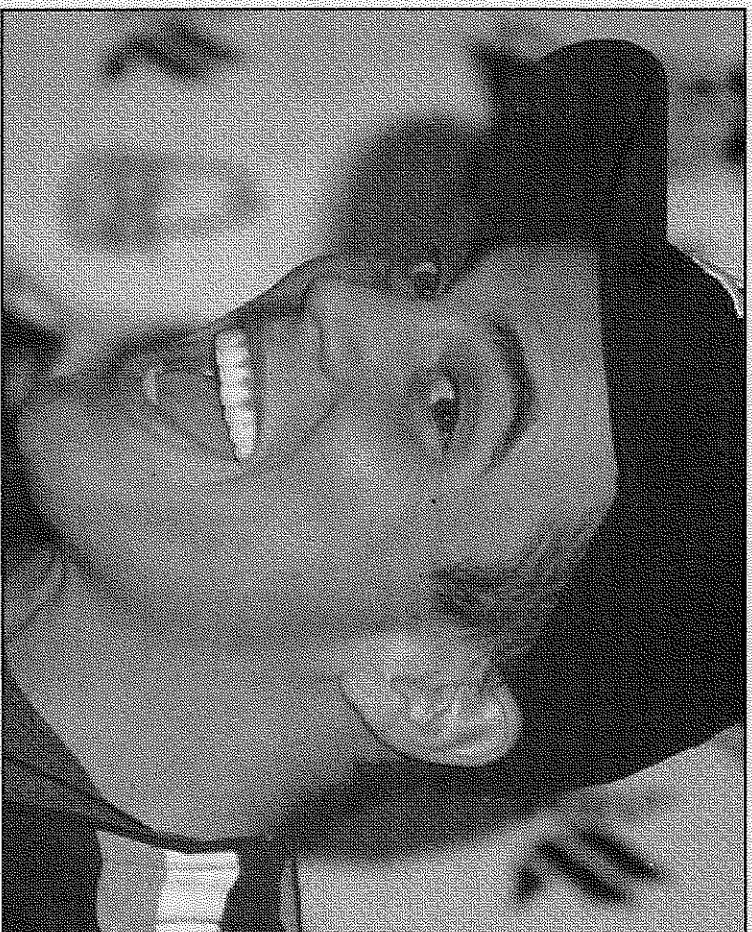
Demise and Rise, his new documentary which aired on MTV on May 3rd, showed everything that was going on behind the scenes in Steve-O's life via amateur video footage. The shocking first scene shows Steve-O huffing nitrous oxide or "whippits" in order to get high, he is muttering inaudibly and laying by himself in the dark, obviously to represent the "Demise" part of the show.

"I really learned a whole lot from that experience, and I can't thank you all enough. Instead, I'm going to plop some extremely

disturbing footage right here," said Steve-O. And he wasn't kidding. It only gets worse from there as shot after shot shows Steve-O slipping deeper and deeper into a dark hole of drugs, booze and anger that not even his friends could pull him out of. It's the fact that every single scene in this documentary, every stomach churning depiction of him under the influence, even the intervention his friends held for him, was all real and caught on tape.

As his brutally honest life unfolds before the viewers at home, people begin to realize that he's not just the crazy guy from *Jacks* and *Wildboyz*; he is just as troubled, if not more so, as any regular person on the streets. The hour-long documentary shows not only his recklessness with the law, but also with his own life as his plight becomes suicidal. However, it's not called "Demise and RISE" for nothing. The audience will get its much needed sense of accomplishment and stability at the end, but Steve-O admits that although he has gained some aspect of control, "the challenge is not over".

"I wish I could say that I'll stay sober for a long time, but I can't, and that's the sad truth. I love you all," said Steve-O.

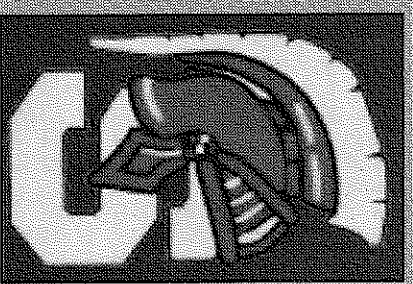


Associated Press

Steve-O at his premiere shows his excitement about his new show with his cheesy grin. It is said that Steve-O will be considered a success story at this point having actually stayed sober for a while and moving forward in his career.

The Oracle & The Olympian
want to wish the Class of 2009

Good Luck!



Football camp chooses different destination

West Virginia is no longer team's choice

By Divya Goel
Sports Editor

The football team's plans have changed this summer, with the removal of West Virginia camp from their offseason schedule.

In recent years, all three levels of the football team, including rising freshmen, would pack up their equipment and head down to West Virginia University football team camp only a few days after school gets out for summer vacation. They would work on various position skills and compete in seven or seven games while there. But that will not be the case this year because new varsity coach T.J. Biddison has planned a different camp for this summer.

"It is a day camp at Redskin park," said freshmen Nick Novalis. "We are also supposed to take a bus to a second one sometime during the summer."

Not going to West Virginia has come as

"I'm a little disappointed that we are not going to West Virginia camp."

—Joey DeSantis,
Junior

somewhat of a surprise and disappointment to some players. The bonding experience, working hard to improve skills, having fun and living together for a few days was an initial step in becoming a team.

"I am a little disappointed that we are not going to West Virginia camp," said junior, Joey DeSantis. "I've gone for three years and I really wanted to go this year for my senior season and have a good time there."

The change in offseason camps may be credited to the different coaching styles of former varsity football coach, Bill Renner.

"Soccer" from Page 1.
and confidence this year, and also raised expectations.

"We put pressure on ourselves to be the best," said Nowak.

Although the team had many returning players to their roster, they had a new, first time head coach, John Ankonis. This, however, did not bother. New leadership allowed for the players to expect fair treatment.

"He didn't have any preconceived notions," said sophomore Madison Ide.

The team lived up to the expectations placed on them after winning back-to-back Patriot District Championships. In addition to having an outstanding overall record, WS won all their district games, and did not allow a single goal to their district opponents in the regular season or in the district tournament. The confidence gained from dominating the district tournament,

and the fact that they earned an easier bracket, helped the Spartans in the Regional Tournament.

The Spartans also gained momentum throughout the regional tournament by winning their first game and beating Robinson in the second round. Robinson was the reigning state champion.

"We expected to win and we worked hard to win," said junior Emily Ellis.

By defeating Robinson, WS advanced to the Regional semi-final game where they faced Oakton. At the end of regulation, the score was tied at 2-2, so they went into penalty kicks. The Spartans ended up losing in penalty kicks, and were eliminated from the playoffs.

Although winning the district title helped them by giving them confidence, over-confidence might have hurt them in the end.

"I think we had good self-esteem," said Ellis. "We weren't full

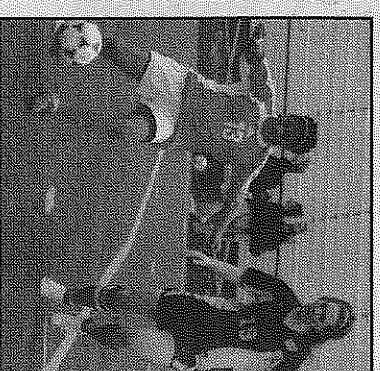
will be fine for next year.

"I think we will be okay for next year," said Novalis. "No matter what camp we go to."



Joey DeSantis

The 2008 Spartan football team poses in a picture at the West Virginia University football camp. Many players are opposed to the new destination in favor of WVU camp.



Lietouch

Freshman Arlene Gudiel dribbles past a Westfield defender, of ourselves, but beating Robinson made us over-confident. We expected to win."

Despite losing in the regional tournament, WS had a very successful season. Winning the Patriot District Championship three years in a row is something very few teams can accomplish.

"We were able to win because we work together," said Nowak.

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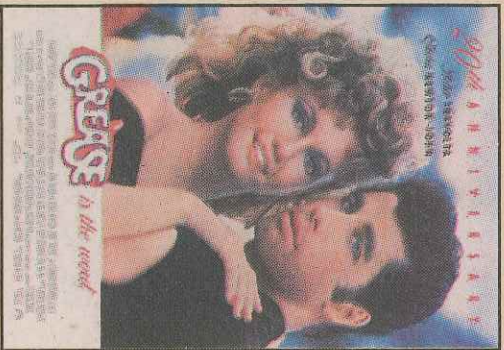
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Summertime Crossword



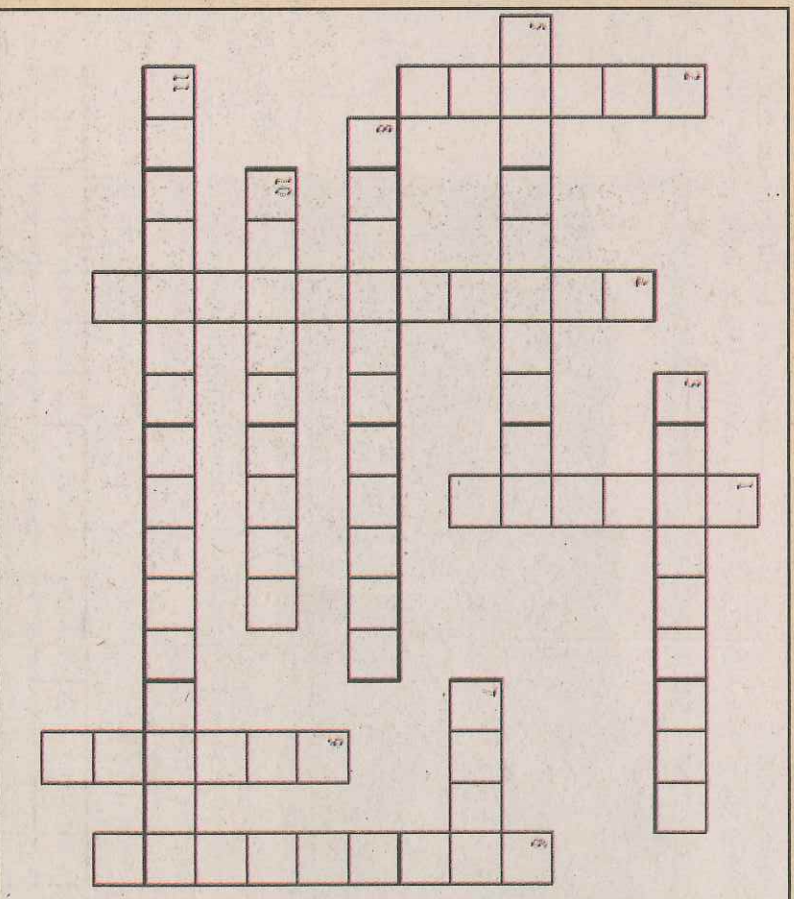
Paramount

ACROSS

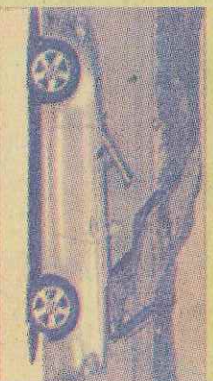
- 3 Also known as thongs.
- 5 The best thing to eat at a picnic.
- 7 Famous Hawaiian feast and party.
- 8 Movie series that was moved from its normal winter premiere to this summer.
- 10 "If this is some sort of practical joke, it's not funny! And I know funny! I'm a _____"
- 11 Popular artist who put out a "Summer Love" song in 2006.

DOWN

- 1 "She wore an itsy-bitsy teeny weenie yellow polka-dot _____"
- 2 You can hold this underwater only for so long
- 4 "_____, had me a blast!"
- 6 You wear this to keep your skin sunburn free.
- 9 A true island state.



Crossword puzzle clues by Summer Claveau; Puzzle by Variety-Games



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