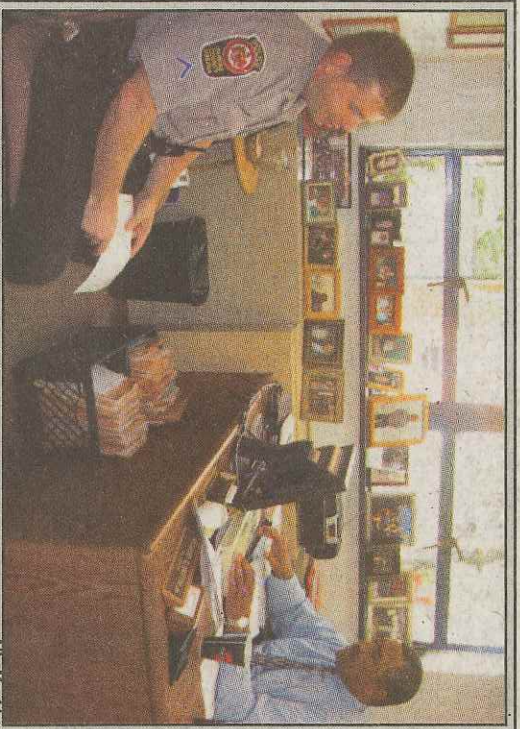




# The ORACLE

September 26, 2008 Volume 45 Number 2  
West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152



Ally Mackin

New SRO Joseph Plazio talks to Assistant Principal Richard Griffin.

## New cop on the block

**By Luis Lester**  
*Business/Systems Assistant*

Working as a school police officer can't be the easiest nor most profound thing to do.

But with his enlightening personality, it won't be long until new SRO officer Joseph Plazio makes a mark at WS.

Plazio was an SRO at Frost Middle School and Irving for the last two weeks of the school year last year. Just beginning his first full year of being an SRO this is what he wanted to do since he was young.

"All my life I wanted to help protect kids," said Plazio. Before Plazio was assigned to being a full-time SRO he was on the "Blake Team" which is neighborhood patrol.

"I liked being on Blake Team a lot too," said Plazio. "We dealt with a lot of Narcotics, and got pretty dangerous at times. It's good for a change though."

To become a SRO officer Plazio had to go through 2 weeks of training. "It was quite time consuming, but it's something I had to do to get here," said Plazio.

"He's cool, fun, really enjoys his job and takes it seriously," said junior Chelsea Capets.

Though Plazio has a sense of humor and at first glance he doesn't seem like a mean enough man to handle a whole school, when it gets down to business there's no messing around.

"So far so good," Plazio said about his first couple weeks here. See "SRO" on Page 4.

## Grading group demands 'fair grades' for students *Parents take matters into their own hands*

**By Danielle Mazzuchi**  
*Features Editor*

Due to recent schedule changes, students have grieved, cheered and even laughed at the newly dubbed "Spartan Time."

They will, however, have something to be excited about when thinking of the controversial grading scale and attempted revisions.

The Fair Grade Group has been formed by parents with children enrolled in FCPS. The group is trying to revise the grading policies in the county. Fair Grade believes that if the scale is revised to give students an "A" for work that receives a 90-100 percent, FCPS students will be more competitive.

The group's thesis is that a ten point grading scale will provide an increasing number of student acceptance letters. The group has taken a survey to see the results of the new scale in effect. This will determine if college admissions skyrocket due to the new grades or remain steady.

"I hope FCPS does not make any rash decisions or quick decisions," said WS' Career Center Specialist Susan Rexford. Rexford sat on the panel for Fair Grade on August 25 with eight other panelists including college professors. Being a first hand witness, Rexford heard the pros and cons to the argument.

"Regardless of the grading scale, an 'A' is an 'A,'" said Rexford.

Others do not share Rexford's opinion.

"The county should be fair and consistent with the rest of the state," said English teacher Hollie Wolter. "It could be a little more challenging, but the result is being more prepared for college."

Some say that revising the FCPS grading scale could ultimately cause grade inflation; however, the Fair Grade Group disagrees, saying the amount of work a student invests in a subject reflects upon the effort the student is putting in. If that investment is lacking, a lower grade will be the result.

"Your work ethic is your work ethic," said senior Chrissy Ching. Senior Taylor Carter agrees with her.

"It all depends on the amount of work you put into the subject," said Carter.

Rexford said that if the Fair Grade Group prevails, ultimately some students will receive higher grade point averages. Having more "A's" which would look good on college transcripts.

She said, however, the current grading scale prepares students for college courses, and teaches them academic responsibility.

"It might be hard or harder to get an 'A' now," said Rexford.



Danielle Mazzuchi

Career Center Specialist Susan Rexford discusses college with senior Taylor Carter. A parent group is calling for a revised FCPS grading scale.

## Rolling rumors false *Ditch-side parking will still be available*

**By Mia DeSantis**  
*Senior Staff Writer*

Rumors: a typical part of high school. Some start them, everyone hears them, and most believe them.

The latest rumor here was that juniors would not be allowed to park on Rolling Road anymore due to safety hazards. In truth, during the re-pavement of Rolling Road the Virginia Department of Transportation, or VDOT, came to WS and said No Parking signs would be put up where the juniors park.

"VDOT owns Rolling Road, and I can't stop them because I have no control over the situation," said Principal Paul Wardinski.

After word spread, not being able to park on Rolling some parents became irate about the situation.

"I have never received so many emails and phone calls from junior parents," said Safety

and Security Specialist Mike Ukele.

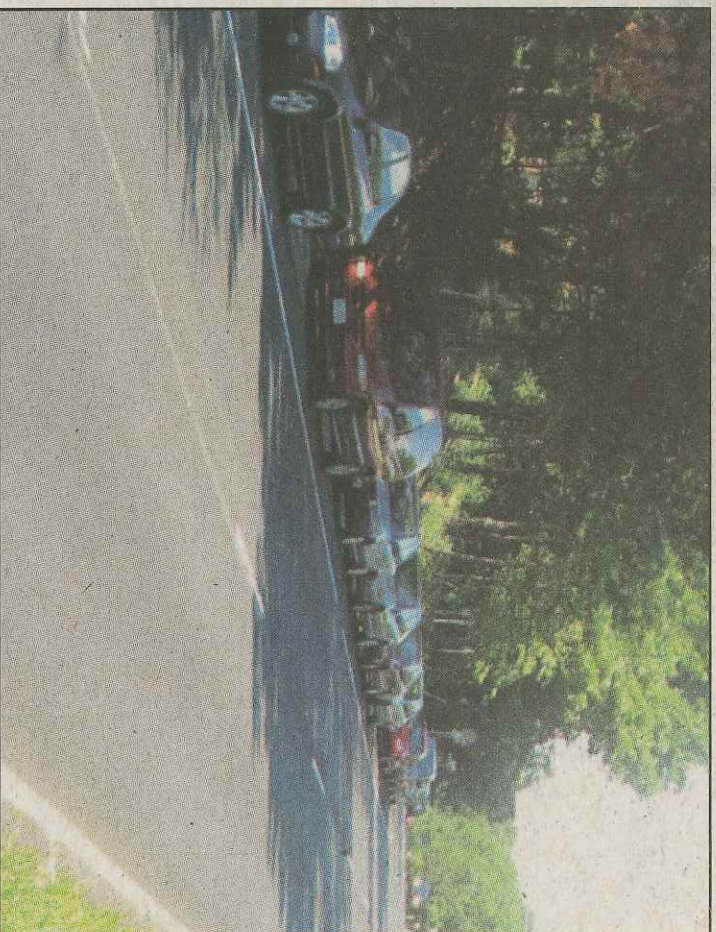
Juniors were confused that their "spots" would be taken away from them and they would be without a place to park.

"It's not fair that seniors have their own parking lot when they aren't the only ones who drive to school, or play sports," said junior Hannah Kauffman.

Another junior, Robby Ippolito said, "It's ridiculous that something like this would even happen, it's just random all of the sudden they (VDOT) think we shouldn't park there." Although it was a worry to juniors that they may not have a place to park it's most likely not going to happen.

"I called the VDOT headquarters in Chantilly, VA, and the woman I spoke to said she had no record on the computer of any coming to our school," said Ukele. Becky Brandt, the senior class administrator, and

See "ROLLING ROAD" on Page 4.



Mia DeSantis

Despite several rumors to the contrary, WS juniors will still be allowed to park their cars on Rolling Road.

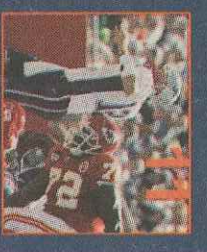
**Planners get a bad review.**



**Jonas brothers mania?**



**Brady's spill unleashes the flood.**



## New 3-lunch schedule creates confusion and hunger for students

The first week of school this year was plagued by not only confused freshman, but also sophomores, juniors, seniors and faculty. The cause of all this confusion: the new lunch schedule.

The new year has harbored many changes including the institution of three lunches.

### Editorial

The plan was put into place to fit all the students into the cafeteria and adjacent hallway.

While having three lunches seems like a way to ensure that the students stay in school instead of selecting any of the nearby establishments for their lunch, the new

lunch system does have its shortcomings.

There is now no set fifth period, therefore the lunch period changes for many students each day. On orange days you may find yourself enjoying A-lunch with all your friends, but on blue days it is quite

feasible that you are sitting and waiting for C-lunch to finally begin which you have to eat alone. This rule applies to all of your friends as well, so even if you luck out and have the same lunch everyday your friends may not.

Along with not seeing your friends during one of the few so-

cial times offered during the day is the fact that you may find yourself waiting until nearly one o'clock to eat. The lunches are divided up so there are fewer students in each period. While this does make lines

shorter it doesn't make up for the long wait. Students who have math, fine and performing arts, health, or P.E. during fifth or sixth period are forced to sit through class with grumbling stomachs. Last year, students still had to wait if they had B-Lunch, but it seemed to come

sooner than the lunches this year. The three lunches do have one positive side though. Now that all the students are huddled into the small cafeteria and hallway everyone can see how little room there is. Everyone could always eat outside



Unlike previous years, the Sports Lobby is no longer open for students to eat their lunch. The lobby now remains vacant for most of the day.

in Spartan Park or the little space right outside the cafeteria. But when it rains how will everyone fit in the small area provided?

We'll admit that when students could eat wherever they wanted a lot of people would leave. But hav-

ing three lunches will not curb that problem.

The students pick up after themselves and take care of the school ground occupied during lunch. Shouldn't that allow us freedom to eat where we please?

## Student planners leave much to be desired

By Bridget Crowley

Features Editor

It is no secret that there have been a lot of changes this year, what with the new schedule, Spartan Time and three lunches.

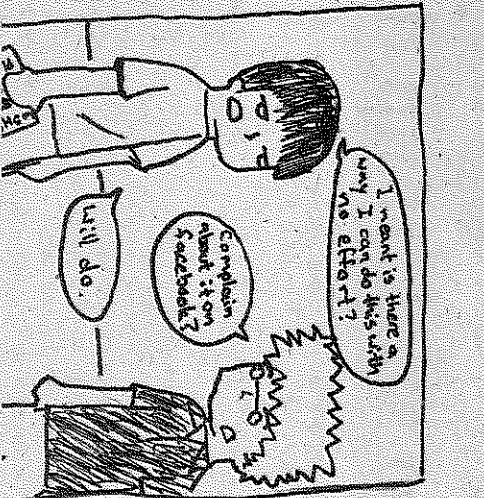
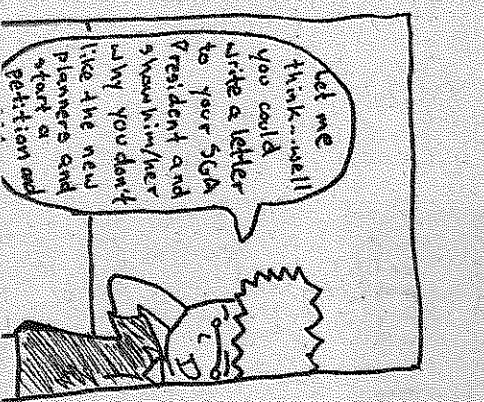
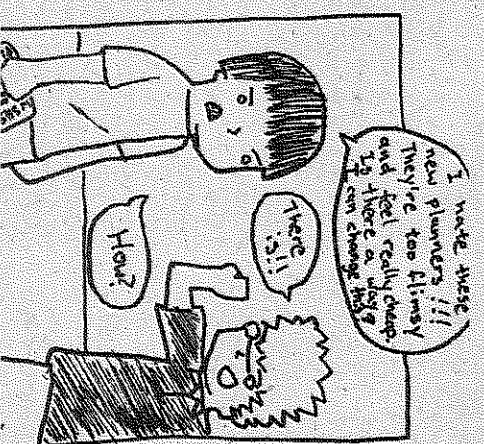
But now our beloved student planners have undergone some changes of their own.

On the first day of school, I longed for the old routine. With everything seeming so different, I tried to cling to familiarity. When our new planners were distributed, I perked up.

But, no. Instead of the cool little planner whose wicked graphics I had become accustomed to, my teacher pulled out a rather large, unsightly stack of papers fastened together by staples, reading "Student Planner."

Complaints began spewing out from every direction. "Are you serious?" one girl asked. "This is supposed to be our planner?"

The new planner is a lot bigger than the previous one. The cover doesn't have those cool holographic images and it's an unbearable black-and-white on the inside. I want to have color, which makes writing homework



Nelson Benavides

assignments a distraction from the fact that I will spend hours on homework tonight.

The planners also are pretty flimsy, held together by two measly staples instead of bound by spirals like last year's version. This year, we have to use our planners as our hall passes, so shouldn't they be sturdy? They

need to be, especially since it costs money to replace them. Yes, people—these actually cost money, when we could just as easily have some pages Xeroxed and stapled together.

But I'm not totally complaining. I like how personal the planners are, listing the Spartan Time and "regular day" schedules and pro-

viding a map in the back for the little freshmen who just can't seem to find their way.

I guess with all of the other changes this year, it shouldn't have come as such a shock that our planners are different as well.

I think we all just wish those nifty little things could have stayed with us longer.

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# The ORACLE

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# New rules cramping the seniors' style

By Kaitie Harrison  
Sports Editor

As we go on, we remember all the time we spent together, complaining about all the changes made our senior year.

Every year we come back to school expecting another long, boring status quo year ahead of us, but little did we expect all the changes that were awaiting us. Besides the new infamous bell schedule, the despised third lunch, the implementation of Spartan Time, and the little less conversation a little more get-to-class please attitude, there have also been some other adjustments.

Friday night football games are always jam-packed and completely berserk. Students are painted, yelling and screaming, and spirited-out to cheer on their boys and girls (Go, Alysal!), but this year there are some restrictions. We can't show our Spartan Spirit in the area between the bleachers and the railing due to safety concerns or, more precisely, because that area is considered a "fire hazard."

Yes, I'm telling you we can't yell and cheer in our spot, one that we have waited for three whole years to earn, due to a fire hazard. Yes, fire safety is important. I'm aware of that. But, it's still pretty lame, if you ask me.

Not to mention, there are designated places to "stand" or

## Students really need to suck it up during new Spartan Time

By Mike Stablein  
Page One Editor

Radical change is taking place at WS this year. Students need only to look at their cumbersome student planners to see that much has changed since last school year.

The most notable change is in the schedule. The newly provided Spartan Time is allowing students the opportunity to do homework or seek help in a class they are struggling in.

Once students were greeted with the news of a Spartan Time many students could feel the shackles of school confinement falling off. A period where students have 50 minutes to do homework or seek help

### The only solution

for students is to be responsible and make it to class... the trips to Chipotle, the classroom naps and the mischief can wait.

takes on a very different translation when spoken to a student. It goes more like this:

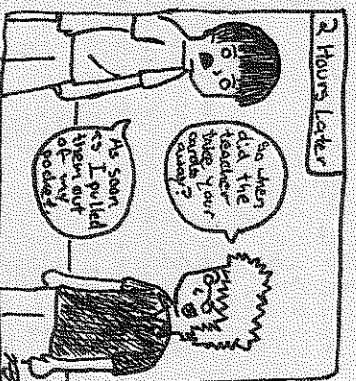
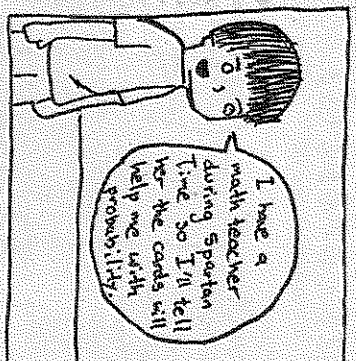
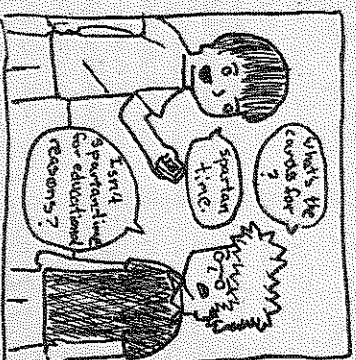
"I'm going to not go to class, and I'm going to Chipotle to get a delicious burrito."

However, these students would be in for a unpleasant surprise when



Kaitie Harrison

This "Seated Spartans" sign is a new addition at football games this year. There is a now a special section for students who would like to sit at the fifty yard line, rather than stand.



Nelson Benavides

they first saw the power point which said that there would be a consequence for not going to "Spartan Time."

That consequence was five consecutive days of lunch detention in a class room.

"Yeah I'll have to make sure that I get to Spartan Time," said junior Nathan Barth.

The crackdown doesn't end there. Spartan Time absences are non-resetting, meaning that they are not erased at each quarters end. This is just a beginning of a futile

effort by the WS administration to get students to their classes, and to be on time in the process.

Attendance policies have been stepped up as a result of more student opportunities to cut class. Old attendance policies are still in place while many of the new ones involve the three lunches. Students at lunch are now only allowed to eat in areas that are in the vicinity of the cafeteria. This change makes it easier for security administrators to keep track of students even though a few quick detours can prove this

to be ineffective.

The only solution for students is to be responsible and make it to class every day. The trips to Chipotle, the classroom naps and the mischief can wait until 2:10 (or 2:07 on Fridays for seniors). While you're in school, just be mature and respect the rules that our administrators make. They ultimately are for our own good.

"It's simple," said Attendance Secretary Jo Ritter. "We want students to attend and be on time to class every class, everyday."

## Magnetic sign has lost some of its magnetism

*But can't we spend the bucks on something else?*

By Ally Mackin  
Senior Staff Writer

Turning into the senior parking lot, trying to decode the announcements on the message board, I think to myself... "can I buy a vowel?"

Well WS, the guessing game could be coming to an end. Administration is in the middle of purchasing a Light Emitting Diode (LED) sign. The obstacles they have to overcome include cost, zoning process, and installation.

The price for purchasing a LED sign is roughly \$3,900 plus the cost of setting up new electrical control lines and wireless connection. Administration is currently working on the zoning process. The neighbors surrounding the WS area vote on whether or not they want this distraction in front of the school. I personally would be sidetracked by the sign and I think others would too.

Although the cost is expensive, the sign could help in many ways. Having this LED sign is great because it generates a lot more attention to the school. This school is involved with extra curricular activities and relies on a small amount of space to get the word out.

The LED is faster and more efficient. The information posted can be changed in a second by simply typing on a computer that is linked directly to the sign.



Ally Mackin

The new Light Emitting Diode (LED) sign could be helpful to the school. The sign will be more efficient because the information on the sign can be changed quickly on the computer.

If this school is able to quickly come up with that much money, why wouldn't we fix all the problems with the school first? the school first?

Despite all of the pros, there are still many cons. The sign emits bright lights that can be a diversion to drivers on Rolling Rd. Messages portrayed on the current sign may not always be legible but it is able to get the point across. This new electrical sign could take a while switching through informative slides.

If I'm checking for my sports practice and it's already shown, I have to wait a few minutes until the cycle makes its rounds again. The major con with this bothersome sign is the cost. Administration gets money from graduated classes with cash left over, school reunion donations and fundraisers that certain organizations put on.

If this school is able to quickly come up with that much money, why wouldn't we fix all the problems with the school first? The bathrooms are constantly flooding, there are cracks in the sophomore hallway, the windows are very old and the caving floor at Hollywood and Vine.

Before the cost goes out to an unnecessary sign, we should ask ourselves if the cost is better off somewhere else.

# Recent hurricanes provide surprise relief to students

By Emmie Cleveland

Sports Editor

Kids spend their money on Starbucks, new clothes and most significantly, gas.

Gas prices have skyrocketed in the past year, and put a hole in driver's pockets. With the recent hurricane scares, though, prices have temporarily gone down.

Hurricanes are usually associated with negativity, but Ike actually made gas prices go down. To explain simply, when a hurricane is supposed to hit, oil production is predicted to go way down with damage, so the gas prices are raised. When the hurricanes are not as destructive as expected, the prices go way down.

"I would always car pool or bum rides from people," said senior Austin Hall.

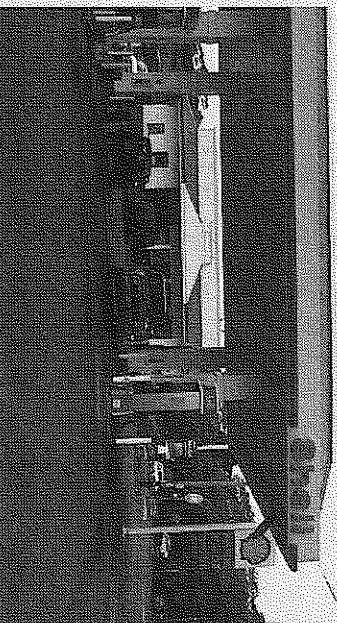
Hurricanes hitting the southern boarder of America affect people all over the nation, including here at WS.

The senior lot, Rolling Road and Hillside are all full with student drivers. Most do not have to pay for their own gas, but others aren't as lucky. Senior Emily Sonstuen is one of those people.

"I use my allowance [to help pay]," said Sonstuen.

Allowance is money that needs to be managed with other expenses, but its still money from your parents. Others' parents have nothing to do with their kids' gas money.

"The main reason I got a job was to pay for gas," said junior Zachary Allen. "My parents told me they wouldn't buy it for me."



Associated Press

**Gas prices surprised us by going down after Hurricane Ike.**

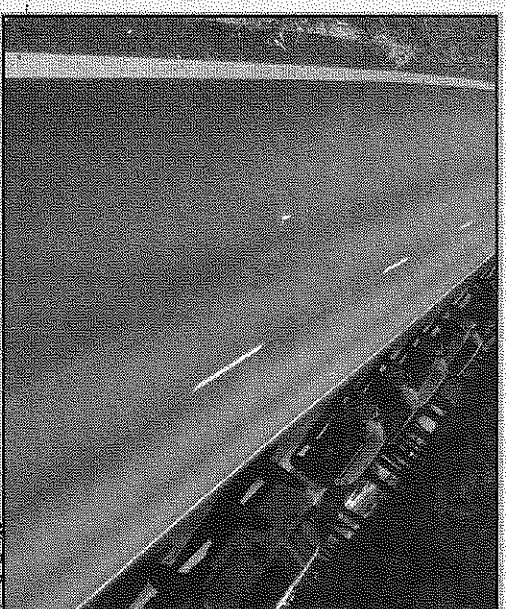
Paying for your own gas definitely can put a dent in a student's shallow bank. Whether it's getting a job, working extra shifts or cutting down on other spendings, kids who have to pay for their own gas are happy to see the modest decrease in prices.

The lucky ones have their parents' wallets to help. Although some parents are willing to pay, the almost constant nag of needing money can be irritating to them.

"Most of the time my mom pays, but sometimes I fill it up a little so she doesn't know how much I drive," said Hall.

With just the slightest cut in gas prices and attempts to drive less frequently, students are saving cents.

"I'm trying to save more money for when I go to college," said Sonstuen.



Ma DeSantis

**Students will continue to be able to park along Rolling Road.**

## Rolling Road parking spots rumor proves to be only that

"Rolling Road" from Page 1.

Wardnski were in close contact with VDOT throughout the whole thing trying to find out exactly what was happening. "I wasn't even in the school when someone came in to the main office and said what was going to happen," said Wardnski. He was not even aware of the matter until the next day, so with that said there is not even enough evidence that something like this was even going to take place.

"We got official notification that nothing was going to take place about the students not being able to park on Rolling Road in an e-mail from VDOT," said Brandt.

# Pep Rally feud gets students wet

By Katie Harrison & Krista Pedersen

Oracle Staff Writers

Water bottles are not typical contraband. They are common, practical and generally safe. Yet at the fall Pep Rally, the junior and senior classes still found a way to make them dangerous.

It seemed innocent enough. The two classes started off throwing several uncapped

**"Before we even supply you with a good education, we have to supply you with a safe environment."**

—Becky Brandt, Senior Administrator

bottles with little water in them, spraying members of the opposite grade as the bottles fell. The water fight escalated as students started throwing bottles grew fuller and fuller and the cascade back and forth included a cheeseburger.

This did not please the administrators watching the stands. It was difficult to tell who was throwing what, however, in the midst of the large crowd.

"It's hard when you have hundreds of people to pick one out in the middle," said Principal Paul Wardnski. "The worst part was it was just disappointing."

It was not the ensuing mess that bothered Wardnski; it was more the possibility of injury. A projectile water bottle could hurt someone if it contains a great deal of water.



Aly Machin

**The seniors got into a water-bottle war with the juniors at the fall Pep Rally. The administrators expressed disappointment over the behavior.**

"I did not hear of any serious physical injuries," said senior administrator Becky Brandt. "[But] our number one job before we even supply you with a good education, we have to supply you with a safe environment."

The Monday following the Pep Rally, Wardnski came onto the morning announcements to share his disappointment. His announcement Monday morning over the PA system surprised some students, who had not taken the water bottle fight as seriously as he

had.

"I think [the administrators] took it a little out-of-hand," said junior Alex Ledette. "It was just good fun. Juniors and seniors always get into this sort of stuff."

Regardless of differing student opinions, Wardnski is adamant that this behavior should not continue at school activities.

"Our goal is to have Pep Rallies that are fun and entertaining," said Wardnski. "The fact that we would do that against each of ourselves is very disappointing."

while admitting that the year's just begun. No matter what comes his way, though, Piazio students and staff welcome his presence in the school's halls.

"He'll really enforce the law and keep his students straight and out of trouble," says Junior Chelsea Capets.

**SRO Joseph Piazio is new to WS this year.**

Aly Machin

**"SRO" from Page 1.**

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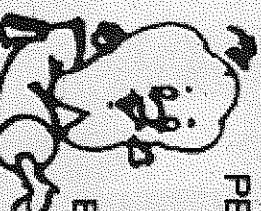
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# Tattoos are no longer taboo at WS

By Susan Nguyen

Page One Editor

In today's society, tattoos are an art form. Get rid of all your preconceived notions about tattoos, and instead think WS students.

Tattoos are becoming more and more popular among teenagers, and students with tattoos choose to get them as a way to express their own sense of individualism or to convey a deeper meaning.

"I think tattoos are really stupid unless there is some kind of meaning behind it," said junior Bri Lynn, who has a tattoo of a clover with a Celtic knot. "I'm really proud of my Irish roots and I wanted to show that."

Lynn went under the needle at the Great Southern Tattoo Company in Alexandria, VA for her sixteenth birthday, after getting a 4.0

in her first quarter of WS.

"The first time it happens, you're like 'Wow! there's a needle going in me,'" said Lynn.

Her tattoo took a full hour and a half and was so swollen at first that the lines of her tattoo could be felt on her skin. But to Lynn, it was worth it.

"I'm getting another one, a matching one with my mom," said Lynn. "It was so sweet and we talked to my Nana, Peg. She might get one too."

Other students have also faced the tattoo-ist's needle more than once in order to get their desired array of tattoos.

"Pain is just a state of mind," said junior Christina Franco, who currently has two tattoos. "It didn't really hurt for me."

Tattoos are not only limited to the students

at WS. Some teachers have also gone through the same process, such as counselor Shira Brothers, who has a tattoo of a butterfly on her left ankle.

"I don't regret it," said Brothers. "I don't want to get it removed. I love butterflies. That's the meaning. I like butterflies."

Tattoos are becoming a serious business here, so choose wisely before you decide to get inked, as tattoos are likely to last longer than your average high school relationship.

"Get something that's timeless and not a fashion," said Brothers.

Most importantly, remember that anyone can get a tattoo if they feel that this bodily art form is the perfect outlet for their own self-expression. As the homepage for the Great Southern Tattoo Company states, "Everyone is welcome."



Susan Nguyen

Junior Bri Lynn shows off her Irish heritage tattoo, a clover made out of Celtic knot.

## Dyeing for the better or for worse

By Tiffany Clark

Weekend Editor

If you walk down the hallway of any high school, chances are at least half the heads you see have an unnatural hair color. WS is no different.

Dyeing hair will result in a change of hair color, true. But it could also result in an allergic reaction, skin irritation, and hair breakage.

Beyond that, the chemicals used in some hair dyes have been linked to cancers such as Leukemia and blood cancer. So, why dye?

"I've always wanted to see what my hair would look like a different color, like if it would change the way I look or not," said senior Casey Donohue.

Most students think this way. They dye their hair to be different

and because it's the only thing they can change about the way they look without extensive surgery.

Although making an alteration like that will change the way you look, it might not make you feel any differently if that's what you're going for.

But, if you're trying to get attention, there's no doubt you'll get it for making a change to something everyone notices.

"None [I didn't feel differently], but people looked at me differently," said Donohue of dyeing his hair black.

Unfortunately, Donohue's hair didn't stay black, it faded and turned green, so he shaved it.

While some people choose to dye their hair a natural color like blonde, red, brown, or black, some choose to dye it crazy colors like blue, pink, green, or purple.

"I chose pink because pink symbolizes love," said sophomore Maira Lemon, "and I think everybody should love everybody."

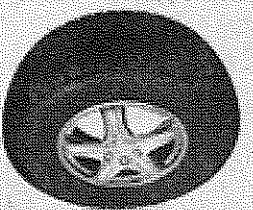
But, in some cases, like Donohue's, dyeing hair doesn't always work out for the best, especially if you're doing it on your own.

The color could come out horribly wrong or you might end up just hating the way it looks on you.

"The pink I dyed it turned out more red and I didn't like that and it faded really quickly," Lemon said. But, the unique goal of getting one's own color remains.

"I just wanted to do something different," freshman Courtney Simmons said who dyed the underside of her hair pink.

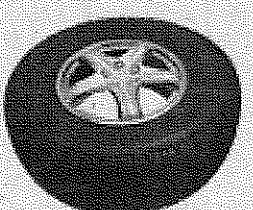
And, even if all your hair falls out, in the end, you get exactly what you wanted.



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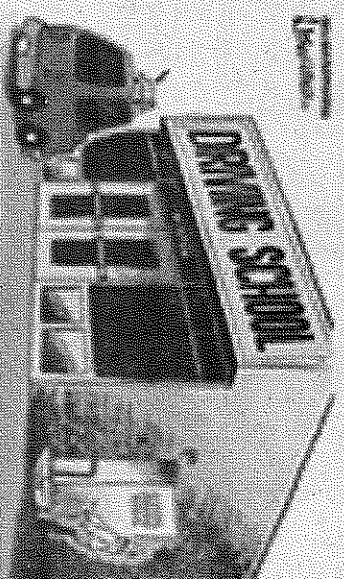
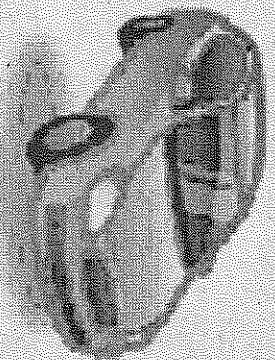
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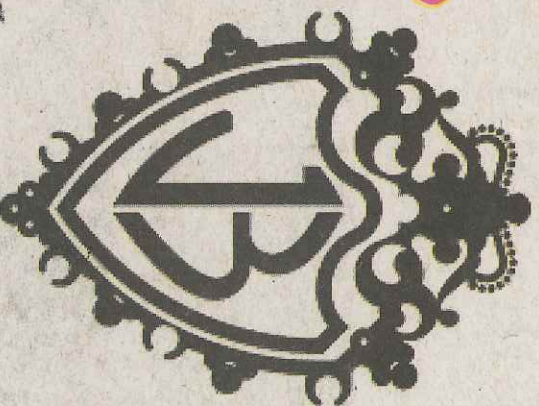
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# Jonas Brothers



*Jonas Brothers*

Disney has an eye for spotting talent. They've been signing child and teenage superstars to their record label and TV channel shows for years. From Hilary Duff to Miley Cyrus, they take regular kids and turn them into household names.

Take the Jonas Brothers for example. They started off as just three New Jersey boys doing what they loved, and selling t-shirts at early gigs to pay for the gas money to get to their next show. They were signed to their first record label in 2006, with Columbia Records. After poor advertising led to less-than-desirable record sales in early 2007, Columbia dropped the boys.

But that didn't stop them, they rebounded by signing to Hollywood Records, which is owned by Disney. They have since become the "future husband" to almost every teenage girl in America.

Their good looks are not the only factor that attracts fans. They also have an enormous amount of talent. 16-year-old Nick had a career on Broadway from ages 7-13. Kevin, 20, taught himself how to play guitar one day when he was home sick. Joe, the middle child at 19, originally wanted to be a comedian but used his love of music to rocket himself and his brothers into the spotlight.

Yet, many people don't give them the respect they deserve. Anyone who is able to make it on their own in Hollywood should get credit. After all, they didn't have a famous mom or dad, weren't millionaires, and didn't live in L.A. They started from humble beginnings and have gained fame and a fan base along the way.

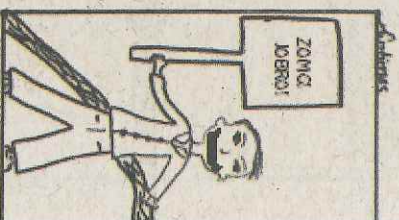
Their fans seem to grow exponentially every day. Girls are crazy about the Jonas Brothers. If they weren't as talented, original, and good-looking, they wouldn't be as famous as they are. People don't like artists because they're bad or they're copycats; therefore they wouldn't like the Jonases for these reasons either. Fans like them because they're young and clean, with a different sound than the rest of their Disney friends. While most of Disney's singers are girls, with their bubblegum pop music and cutesy smiles, the Jonas Brothers present more of a pop-rock sound that's still clean enough that even the youngest fan enjoys.

Some people will say that the Jonas sensation is comparable to Beatle-mania, taking America by storm and developing a following larger than they would've ever imagined possible. Time will tell as to how they will hold up in Hollywood, but if they continue to capture fans at the same rate, they'll have a long and successful career in the US and internationally.

—Lisa Williams



Freedom Blogging

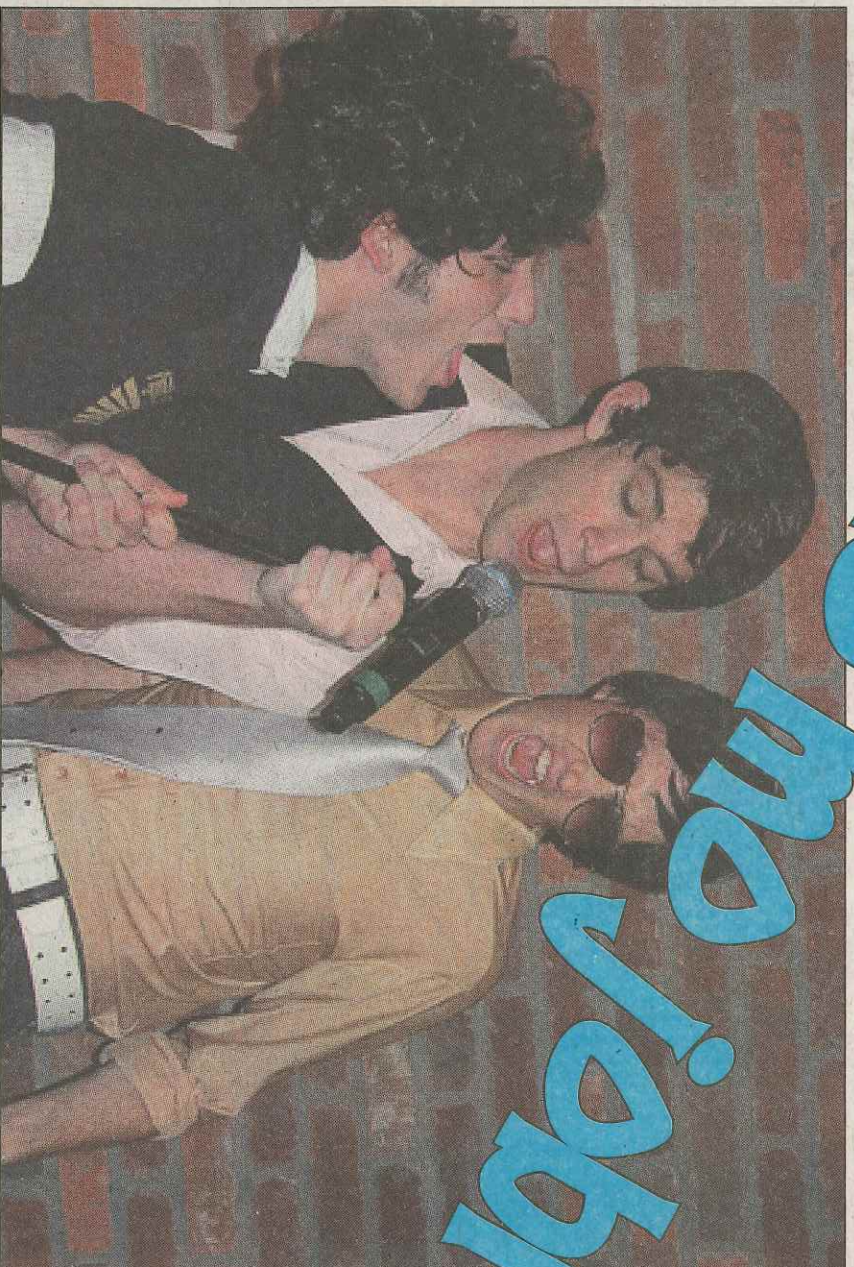


“... They started off as just three New Jersey boys doing what they loved, and selling t-shirts at early gigs to pay for the gas money to get to their next show...”

# no no jobro

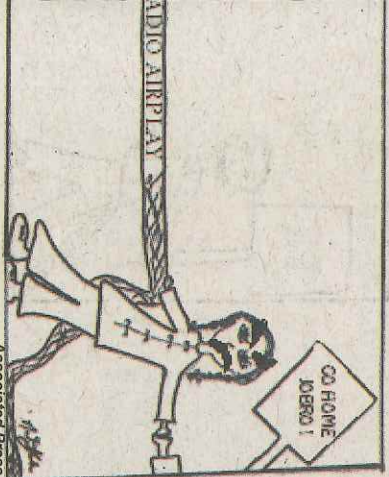


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*“..Not everybody has big Daddy Disney to pave the way for success in the music industry...”*



Associated Press



Flickr

A lot has changed since the 90's. And when we say change we really mean we've just copied everything from that generation and tried to , as Tim Gunn would say, "make it work".

A washed up unattractive version of Hanson has taken over the airwaves. The very same airwaves once ruled by icons like Kurt Cobain and Michael Jackson have now been taken over by the biggest bad boy of them all: Disney.

Disney is responsible for a lot of good in the world, where would we be without the "Circle of Life" or "Dumbo"? But, with the good also comes an unstoppable evil. An evil that has manifested itself in the form of three siblings: The Jonas Brothers.

They sing! They Dance! They make movies! They have become the epitome of every tween-marketing executive. And man do they milk it for all its worth. As is the story of many teen stars, Disney has placed a protective wing over the Jobro's and launched them into stardom. This proves that the talent level is just not there. Not everybody has big Daddy Disney to pave the way for success in the music industry. Look at the countless number of talented garage bands that are fighting for their time in the light. Without their 'guardian angels' where would these brothers be right now? How about on the "Most Likely to FAIL" page of their high school yearbook.

It's not like these guys are gorgeous. At least N\*Sync and Backstreet Boys had the looks of Justin Timberlake and Nick Carter to get them through the day. And as for musical talent, we just don't get it. What part of the following song has any substance? "I've been to the year 3000, not much has changed but they lived underwater." ... really guys? This sounds like a failed soundtrack to Back to the Future Part 4. And there were only three. It's not just that the lyrics are lame and lack all meaning. They use the same chords for their songs over, and over, and over. Besides, this whole goody-two-shoe front is getting old. Denying hookups and sporting purity rings is clearly a part of a contract put in by Disney to keep their golden boys spotless.

Let us clarify something. There's nothing wrong with standing up for what you believe in, and we have nothing against purity rings. Everybody has the right to believe what they want and express it in their own ways. That said, we believe that it's hypocritical of the Jonas Brothers to put up this front of chastity and pose for a Rolling Stone cover. Joe Jonas stands front and center, with brothers Kevin and Nick kindly ... pulling his shirt off? Seven year old girls look up to these guys as their heroes. What kind of example are they setting for them? Oh we can put on these rings and not sleep around, but we're still going to take our clothes off for you. Good job guys.

What are we asking? It's simple. Keep your clothes on and your music off.

—Katie Kinzel & Amelia Simpson

## Twins double-time in AP Lang

By Jenny Nguyen

Staff Writer

They look the same. They sound the same. They have the same classes, but they are different.

Juniors Matthew and Michael Bursley are one of the few pairs of identical twins that attend WS. Both share the same DNA and AP Lang class. The Bursleys sit beside each other learning advanced English from Patty McMillan. Sitting next to each other in the same class could conclude that the teacher would be confused of identities, but strangely the opposite.

"Teachers have assigned seats so they know where we are," said Michael Bursley.

Besides differing the twins through seating charts, personality is also a major factor. At first glance of the Bursley twins you would expect them to have some kind of special bond or twin telepathy but their brotherly relationship does not travel further than the house.

"We ignore each other and talk to our friends," said Michael Bursley.

It's not too hard to find the location of both Bursleys when they both share the same friends.

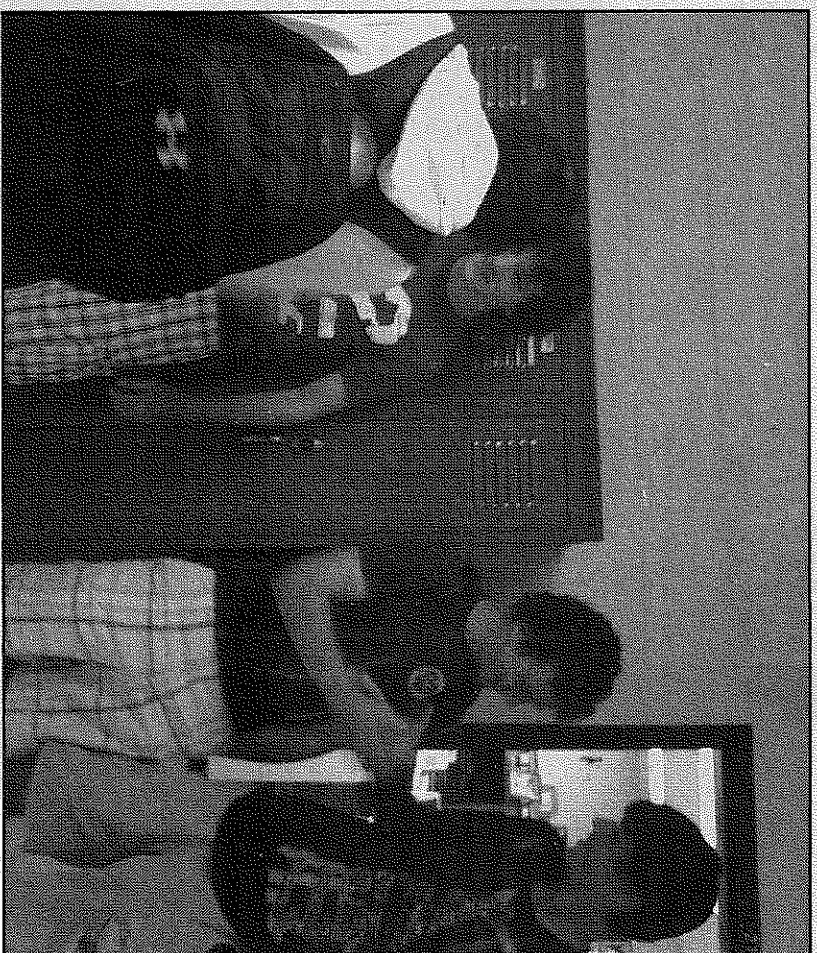
Even though they both insist that they are polar opposites its ironic how they talk about their close similarities.

"We share the same clothes and friends we do soccer and signed up for the same classes," said Matthew Bursley.

When being interviewed both brothers claim that they get along decently and there is no competition or sibling rivalry between them, but a friend's different perspective disagrees.

"They're really competitive with each other, especially in video games. They always yell at each other and their personalities are very different," said Zach Kennitz.

Brothers, twins, and friends are the unique qualities Matthew and Michael Bursley mutually share. Both are similar yet unusual which gives them their own individual traits that identify them as their own person. The only final words the Bursleys had to say were "I'm more outgoing," said Matthew and "I'm smarter," said Michael.



Jenny Nguyen

Junior twins Matthew and Michael Bursley spend time with their own friends in the halls.

## Farshid Jahed has nine lives

By Kelly Carlin

Staff Writer

According to the University of Michigan's Medical Program, of the 30,000 gun deaths between 1979 and 1997, children between zero and four were 17 times more likely to die in gun-related accidents. When Farshid Jahed was four, he survived a gun accident. And that was just one of his many near-death experiences.

"In Afghanistan, I shot my cousin with a toy gun and she got mad and took my uncle's rifle and shot me," said Jahed, a junior at WS. He still has a piece of the bullet in his cheek.

Jahed has also had multiple other accidents, including getting electrocuted when he was five and being bitten by a poisonous snake when he was four, with no antidotes available. Over his life, Jahed has had over nine incidents occur that could have gone differently and resulted in his death. Most people might have one experience that could have possibly killed them, if even that. But Jahed has proved that this isn't the case for everyone.

"I was shot at the age of four, bit by a poisonous

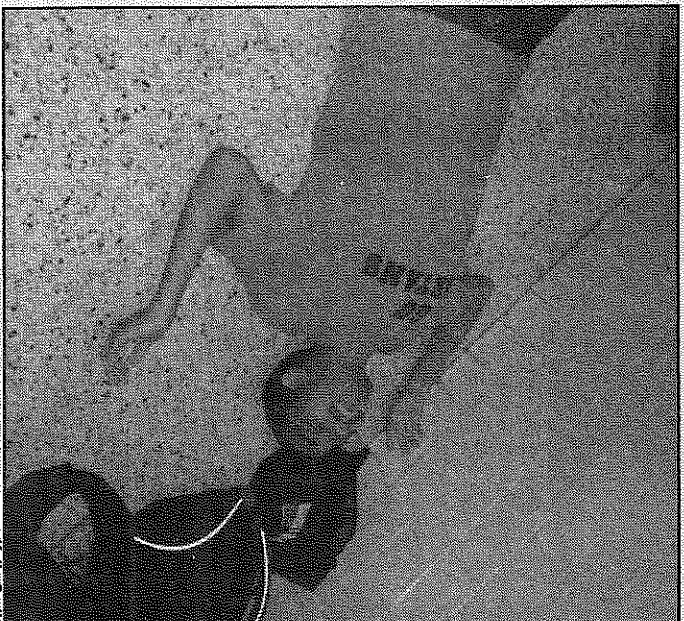
snake, hit by a car, fell from a fifty foot tree, attacked by a ram at the zoo, stabbed myself in the stomach, and had hypothermia when I was two," said Jahed, whose incidents almost all happened before he was ten.

"I dove into the pool, but I didn't know there wasn't any water in it and got a concussion," Jahed, who was nine when he received the concussion at a pool party.

"I made the ram angry at the zoo, and it charged me. And I dropped a knife and landed on it with my stomach," said Jahed. He ended up with broken ribs from the ram incident.

When someone has something major happen to them, sometimes they'll be more cautious about the things that they do and the way that they live their life. Despite everything that has happened to him, Jahed lives a pretty typical high school student's life. He is on the cross country team and enjoys running track.

"It all just happened, I guess. I'm not careful now. I don't worry about anything. I just do it," said Jahed, who still has a good perspective on life. "It's better to have all these memories. It's like souvenirs."



Kelly Carlin

Farshid Jahed has had multiple encounters with death.

## College-bound students aim for new heights

By Lisa Williams

Staff Writer

Sophomore Alexa Ayala sits at her desk, starting down at her paper and scribbling down the answers.

Next class, she gets the paper back; another A. Ayala is not only smart, but also driven, especially towards her post-graduation goals.

But there is something about Ayala's determination that sets her apart from others.

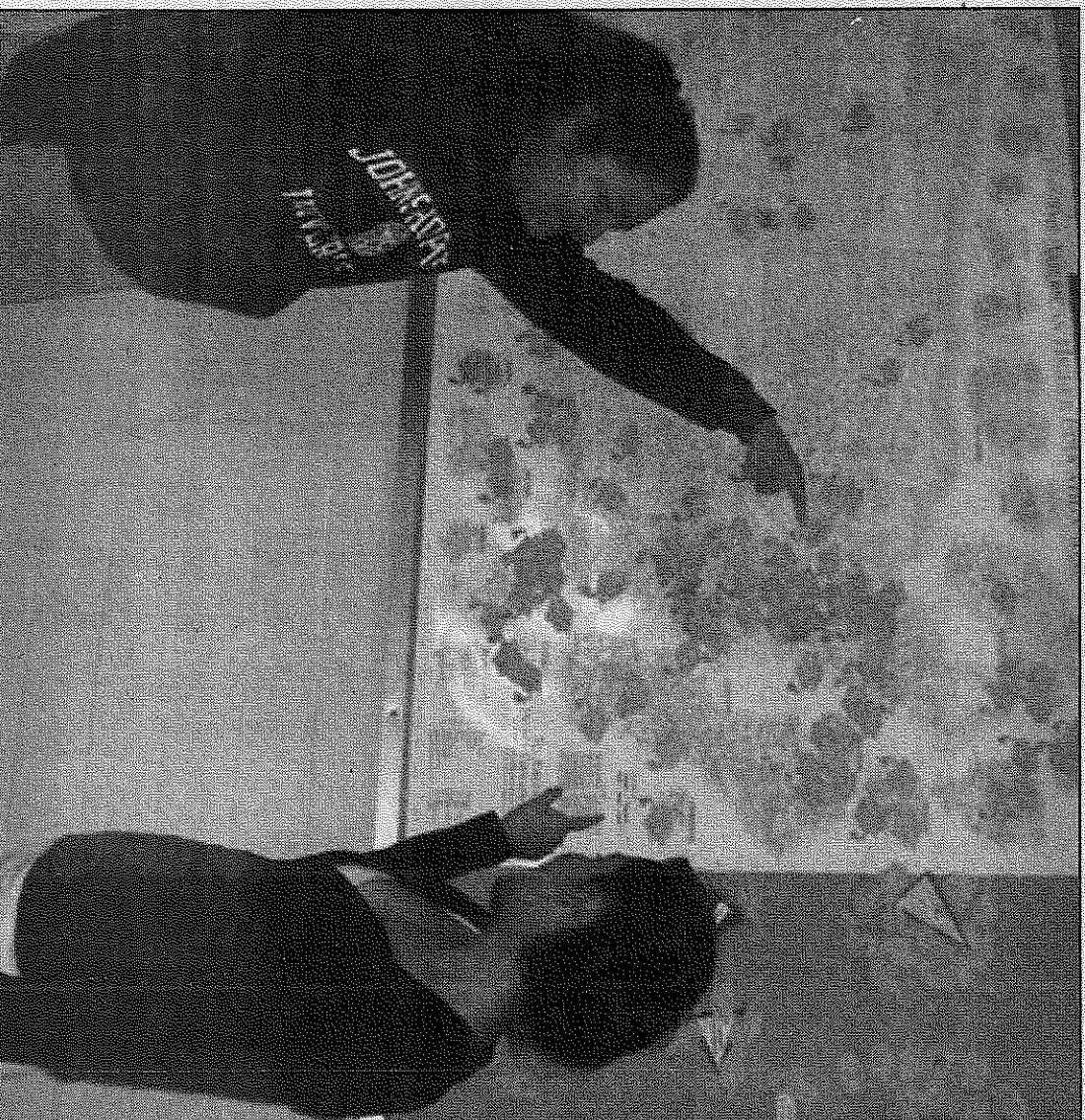
Her parents and grandparents didn't go to college, so she is a first generation college student, one of many in WS's first-generation program.

"I like the program, because it keeps me on the right road to getting my goals. It keeps my head straight on what I'm planning," said Ayala.

The program, which was stated by career center specialist Susan Rexford and guidance counselor Michelle O'Brien in 2006, was initiated as a guiding resource and a way to see attainable goals for college and beyond.

"There are about 10 staff members who mentor and work with the students. We also have upper-level kids, some juniors and seniors, who work with them mostly from peer helping and leadership classes. They act as student mentors."

Sophomore Jacci Mula is in a similar situation to that of Ayala's but she receives motivation from her parents because of that.



Bridget Crowley

Sophomore Alexa Ayala and Junior Alex Fernandez look at the old board of colleges that WS Seniors have been accepted into. They're both first generation college-bound students that are determined to reach their goals.

"I'm the first one in my family to go to college for all four years," said Mula. "I don't think it makes it harder to have college goals because the fact that my parents didn't go to college makes me want to try harder to impress them and make them proud. I think having goals for college will help me fulfill that."

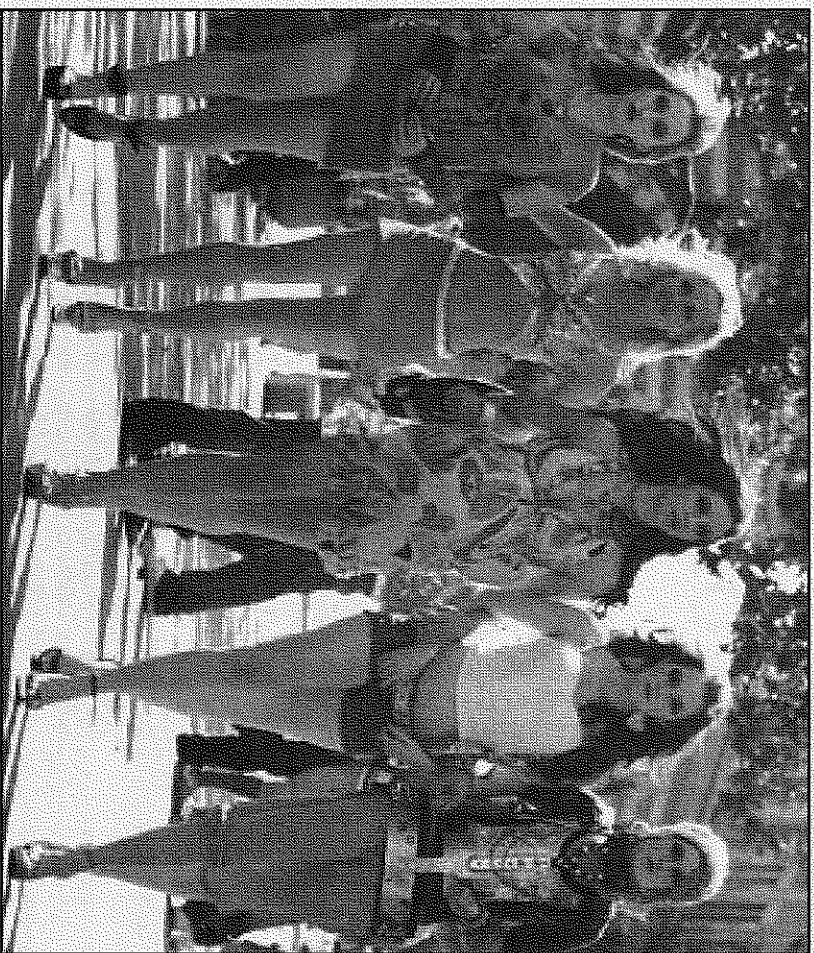
Similarly, Ayala has big dreams for college and a career. She plans to attend Johns Hopkins because she wants to pursue a career in medicine.

"When the first college student in the family doesn't have the background knowledge about college that they would get from their parents, they need extra help to make the process smooth," said Rexford. "We try to get the whole family involved. Through community service requirements, college visits, career visits and Saturday family workshops, the students who voluntarily sign up to become a part of the program can get plenty of help.

"We've talked about what kind of GPAs we need to get into a certain college and all of the teachers of the program are extremely dedicated to getting us into college and staying there," said Ayala.

"I think it's just great that teachers in the school are doing something to help us kids out when we are freshmen so that we can understand the college road and pursue it, especially to those who don't have parent-based guidance."





Associated Press

Shelley, the main character, moves into a sorority house full of socially awkward girls. She helps them by giving them confidence while they learn to still be themselves along the way.

## Same Zip Code, new faces

By Chelsea Schuster

Entertainment Editor

This edgy spin-off of "Beverly Hills: 90210," has enough drama and scandals to keep viewers entertained. The show is told through actress Shemar Grimes' eyes. She plays the main character, Annie Mallis.

The original series was popular in the late 80's and early 90's and is now making a come back. Returning actors Jennie Garth, Luke Perry and Shannon Doherty capture the attention of original series viewers.

I personally like the fact that they aren't remaking the series, but almost adding onto it. Having returning characters play counselors and teachers is interesting because it's a new fresh take and something we haven't seen before.

Although it's mindless TV, that's what seems to be popular nowadays. The show reminded me of all the other teenage-crazed shows, such as, Gossip Girl, The OC, and

One Tree Hill. I consider all of them age-appropriate soap operas. They are full of over-exaggerated high school issues.

The original series was full of stereotypical Beverly Hills residents, wealthy Caucasian snobs. But this time around, I like the fact that the principal's children are of a different race because one is adopted. I feel it adds diversity.

Walking through the halls, the topic on everyone's minds is surprisingly, 90210. People talk about what happened in last week's episode, and even how they relate to it.

On the other hand, many have not gotten into the new series. The producers of Gossip Girl are the makers of 90210 which is obvious because of all the similarities. The music is the same genre, the scripts are alike. The only thing truly different are the locations.

The show is unique because it's a spin-off, but the producers keep coming up with the same types of shows with all the same issues. They just twist them with a different dialogue.

## House Bunny takes box office by storm

By Lacey Woolf

Viewpoint Editor

Playboy playmates, socially-challenged sorority girls, and hunky fraternity boys made for one good romantic comedy this summer.

"The House Bunny" starring Anna Farris as a ditzy playmate Shelley, premiered in August.

Shelley is a clueless Playboy model that is tricked into moving out of the mansion. In her search for a home and a job, she finds the Zeta Alpha Zeta sorority house. The ZAZs are about to lose their charter and are in need of a new house mother.

The girls living in this house are socially-challenged nerds who want to be accepted by the other students in the Greek system. Shelley convinces these girls that she can help them recruit enough pledges to keep their charter. In the process of gaining pledges, Shelley teaches these girls to be feminine and

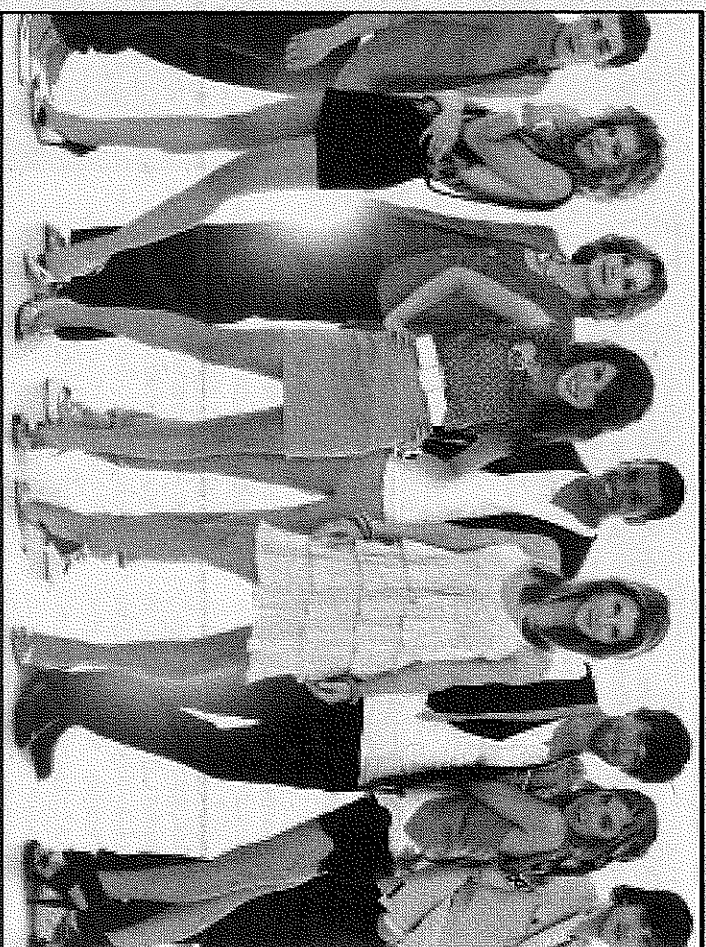
fun. They become popular with the frat boys and throw awesome parties. The girls gain self-confidence, but also learn that they must always be themselves.

In the end, of course, the characters learn a life lesson or two, thus satisfying the audience with a happy ending.

Although the movie is considered a cheesy chick flick, and the majority of the audience was made up of teenage girls, it was entertaining. The jokes were almost always funny, and there were many parts in the movie when I, and the entire theatre, laughed out loud.

Anna Farris was hilarious as Shelley, and portrayed her well. Also, the up-and-coming actresses Rumor Willis, Katherine McPhee and Kat Dennings were entertaining and believable.

All in all the acting was good, and the movie was well done. If you are in the mood for a cheesy romantic comedy then this movie is perfect.



Entertainment Tonight

90210 is an entertaining series that teenagers can relate to. The characters face issues that most high schoolers face. The show is interesting to watch and has a lot of drama to keep you wondering what is going to happen next. It is capturing excitement of audiences everywhere.

## Oracle picks

"Fringe" Fox's new hit series, created by the same people who thought up "Lost", deals with "fringe science", a series of unexplained phenomena including mind control, teleportation, and venturing into other dimensions. J.J. Abrams, the creator of "Lost", calls the show a mix between "The X-Files" and "Twilight Zone". The plot follows an FBI agent who has stumbled upon some of these supernatural events and her search for answers. The episodes are full of twists and turns, and reel you in after the first time you watch. A great sci-fi thriller, the show looks full of promise and is certainly worth a look on Tuesday nights.



COMING TO FOX

Pictures



Huntington Post

"Burn After Reading"

A comedy starring Brad Pitt and George Clooney, *Burn After Reading* follows a disk of unimportant information and its path from the CIA into the hands of a gym employee. The CIA believes the disk may contain classified information, and their pursuit of the information is made infinitely funnier by the fact that it is meaningless. Produced by the Coen brothers who directed "No Country for Old Men", this comedy is witty, dark, and altogether a little crazy. If you aren't sure what to see next time you're at the movies, check it out.



—Compiled by Cam McCallum

Associated Press

## Students work on their time management skills *Procrastination poses a problem*

By Divya Goel  
*Business/Systems Assistant*

It's Sunday night and you are casually sitting on your couch watching TV, maybe Sunday Night Football or the new episode of the Hills. You wonder whether you finished all your homework for tomorrow, and right then your heart sinks and a big "Oh, crap!" echoes in your head. You spring up off the couch to look for a pencil and your backpack.

The weekends are a long awaited resting time for students everywhere. They are a time to relax, hang out with friends, and recover from the grueling five-day week that they have just endured. But weekends are also a time to catch up on schoolwork from the previous week and prepare for the next. It's very difficult to do this efficiently at 10 o'clock on a Sunday night. "It's hard to finish all my home-

work early on the weekends because I have baseball all day on Saturdays," said sophomore Tyler Basse. Making excuses is an old-fashioned way of putting homework off. Common ones today include the famous, "I'll do it on Sunday," "I'll do it on the bus," or "I'll do it during break." The newly added Spartan Time is quickly becoming an alibi for laziness. But sports practices, a job and spending time with friends can only make homework more difficult to finish.

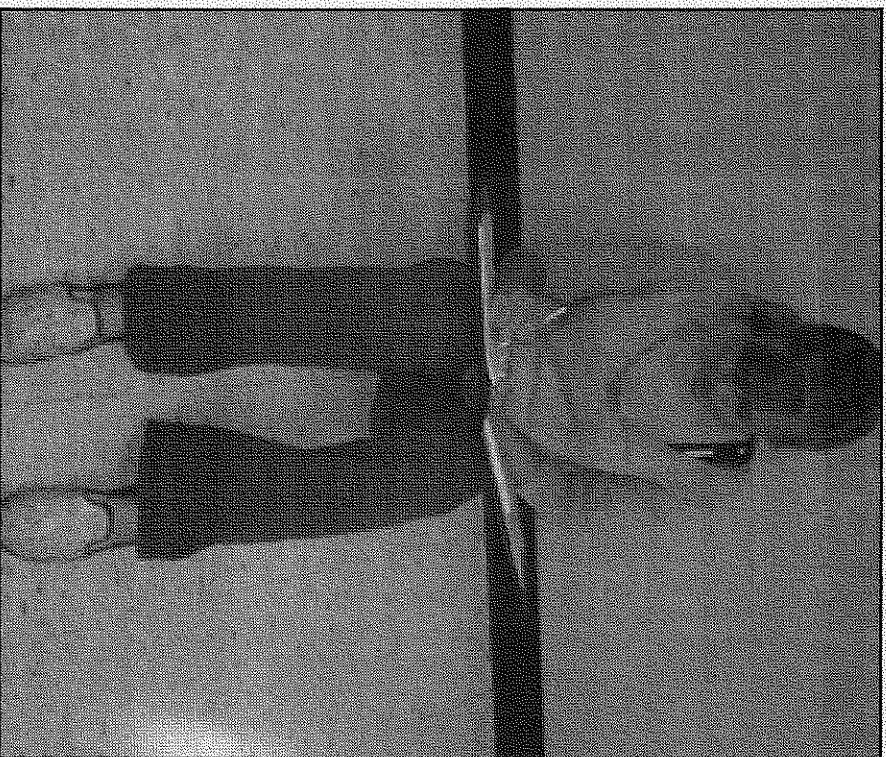
Weekend homework should be especially tough for seniors, who are not only battling the stress of applying to college but also dealing with the notorious "senioritis."

"I'll normally try to get my homework done early so I can relax for the rest of the weekend," said senior Larry Tran. "But I always procrastinate until Sunday

and wind up barely getting it done." There are ways to avoid the late weekend worries of scrambling to finish homework. The first and most obvious way is to manage your time well. If you know that you are going to be busy all of Saturday then try to finish a few assignments on Friday night.

Another good way to avoid late Sunday nights is to try to earn your fun. Don't go over to a friend's house or the movies until you have finished part of your work. These tips will help decrease your Sunday night-Monday morning load, but the most important advice is not to procrastinate!

"Procrastinating is something I try to avoid," said sophomore Michael Kim. "But there are so many other things to do on the weekend that I barely even think about homework."



Divya Goel

Junior Sonia Tucker studies in the hall before class, having run out of time over the weekend. Rather than spending time over the weekend to complete assignments many students rush to finish it late the night before or early in the morning.

## Burke Lake offers outdoor enjoyment

By Stephanie Maxwell  
*Managing Editor*

With the beginning of fall already upon us, Burke Lake offers students a place to enjoy these last weekends outdoors before winter begins.

At Burke Lake there is a plethora of activities that you can engage in. There is something for everyone.

For those of us who simply love being outdoors, the 4.7 miles of trail encompassing the lake is a great way to spend an afternoon.

The trail not only winds around the lake but also goes through a fair amount of forest, which can be a great chance to see nature up close.

Since not everyone enjoys a walk in the park, Burke Lake also has a number of activities for the more active personality. Disc golf is an inexpensive and fun way to spend one's weekend. Besides disc golf, Burke Lake also has

an 18 hole golf course to offer. To keep the theme of golf in the air, Burke Lake also has a mini golf course on its premises. This course

is a great alternative to the mundane Top Golf mini golf courses which students frequent so often.

After a round of disc golf or a game of mini golf (or possibly both), the ice cream parlor at Burke Lake is a great way to rejuvenate one's self. Conveniently located near the golf courses, the ice cream is hard to pass up.

On top of all of this, Burke Lake still has two more things to offer, a carousel and a miniature train. Although these are clearly geared for the younger group, every once and a while it is nice to revisit childhood and engage in such activities.

So whether you are looking for a walk in the park, golf, or just to be a kid, Burke Lake is a great place to spend your weekend.



Stephanie Maxwell

"Brayden" Maxwell contemplates a game of frisbee golf, one of the many activities offered at Burke Lake Park.

## Tyson's or Kingstowne? *Two popular venues fight for first shopping choice*

By Casey Miller  
*Senior Staff Writer*

If the thought of another Friday night spent at Kingstowne bores you, Tyson's Corner AMC Theater offers you a much-needed change of pace.

Friday marks the start of a weekend and most people want to start out with some fun. That fun is often taken to Kingstowne's many eateries and, of course, its theater. With sixteen theaters, Regal Kingstowne allows for different movies that can be seen at any given time.

With proximity in its favor, Kingstowne is frequently visited. While few people care to travel farther for a different movie-going experience, Tyson's Corner provides a new setting, great restaurants and a close proximity to shopping.

The theater is located on the third level of Tyson's 1. Adjacent to the theater there are many eateries to choose from. Everything from Five Guy's Burgers and Fries to Charlie Chang's Kwai to Cold Stone Creamery are easily accessed

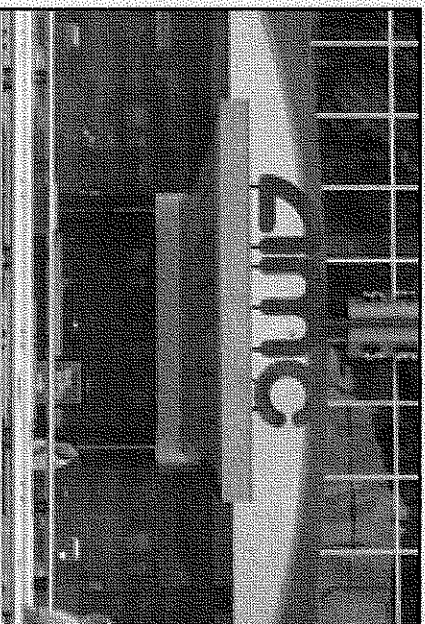
after seeing a movie.

If a family style restaurant is what you are looking for, TGI Friday's, an appropriately named restaurant, is also next to the theater.

Provided you arrive without knowing what time you are seeing a movie, and are left with extra time, there are many shops and department stores to peruse. Big names like Macy's, Nordstrom and Bloomingdale's are available, as well as smaller boutiques such as Banana Republic, Coldwater Creek and Talbots. Spending several hours, or several days, at Tyson's corner would not be hard.

The theater is currently showing eighteen films. AMC Select films are shown as well as other special versions of popular movies such as the Sing-a-long version of Mamma Mia! and a three-dimensional version of Journey to the Center of the Earth.

So if you want a new place to hang out, get your gas tank filled and head on down to Tyson's Corner for an exciting change this weekend.



Stephanie Maxwell

Although a longer drive, AMC Theater at Tyson's Corner, surrounded by many shops and restaurants, is a nice alternative to Kingstowne.

# Brady blows out knee and hopes for Pats fans

By Cam McCallum

Oracle Editor

A painful cringe on the face of an icon left one of the NFL's best teams without its leader, and opened up the competition for the title of best quarterback in the league.

Tom Brady of the New England Patriots injured his left knee in week one of the NFL season, and while the injury crushes the hopes of New England fans, many teams and their fans feel better about their playoff chances as a result.

Anyone who follows football knows that Brady dominated the league last year, and nearly led the Patriots to a Super Bowl championship. He broke the record for most touchdowns thrown in a season with 50, and led the Patriots to an undefeated regular season. Many fans believed the Patriots had an even better chance this year, with no significant losses to the team and a few smart additions. It will now be almost impossible to repeat their success of a year ago with inexperienced Matt Cassel leading the way.

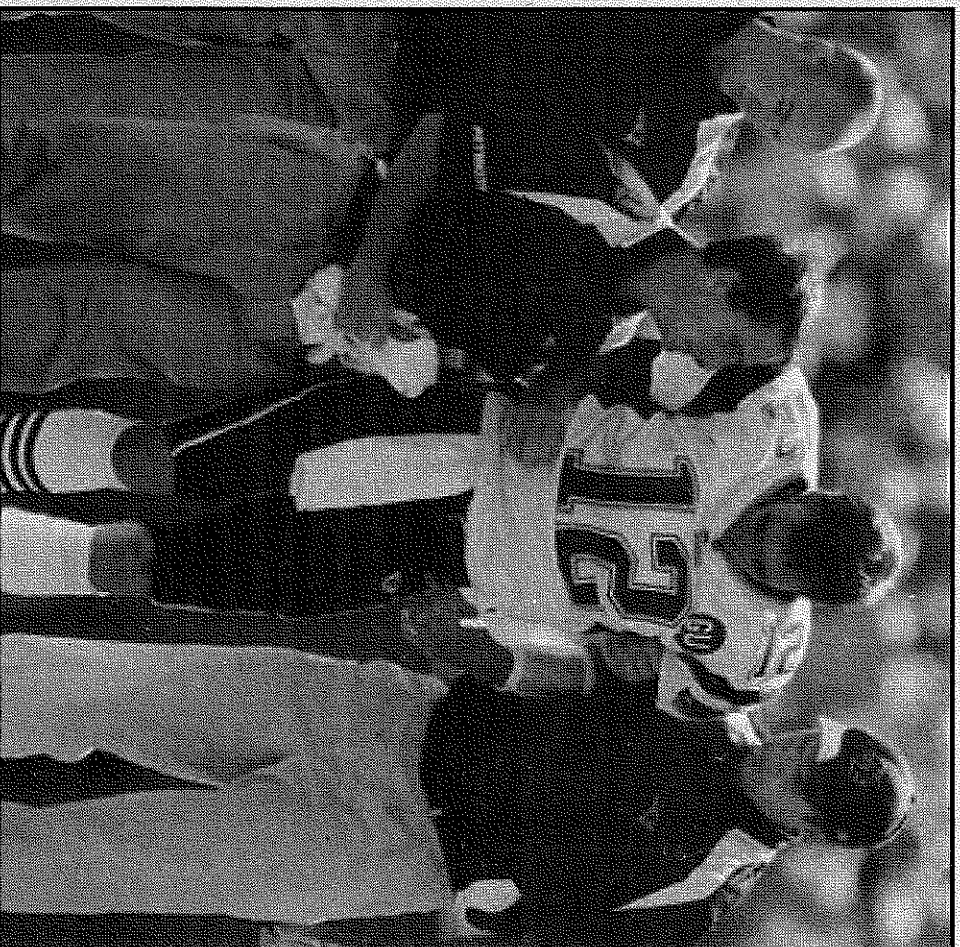
Brady's injury doesn't just hurt the Patriots, it helps the rest of the league. In addition to Brady's injury, the other big story

## Cam's Mc-Column

of this season is Brett Favre's move from the Packers to the New York Jets, who happen to be in the same division as Brady's Patriots. Favre has to feel very good about his chances to lead the Jets to the playoffs, and the upstart Buffalo Bills have to like their chances too.

Other teams have to be much more optimistic about their Super Bowl hopes in the AFC as well, including the Pittsburgh Steelers and Indianapolis Colts, among others. The Patriots aren't completely out of the picture, as they still have a very strong group of offensive players. Randy Moss, Wes Welker, and Laurence Maroney will keep the Patriots in the race, and their defense looks strong as well.

Some people may argue that Brady's injury hurts the league, but I personally believe it will make this season more competitive and entertaining. I have nothing against Brady and consider him the best player in the league, but it will be nice to watch teams play the Patriots and know that the game will not be a blowout.



ESPN

Tom Brady of the New England Patriots is helped off the field after his season-ending knee injury. Brady was expected to lead the Patriots to a successful season, but will have to watch from the sidelines for the remainder of the year.

## Football season warms up Running back treated for heat stroke

By Ryan Miller

Senior Staff Writer

Senior Brandon Bailey woke up in a hospital two weeks ago with an IV in his arm because of heat stroke.

"I was sick before practice and didn't eat lunch, but I just didn't have enough fluids," said Bailey.

About five minutes into practice Bailey told Coach Bill Renner that he wasn't feeling well so the coach said to go sit down. Bailey headed toward the sideline to get some water but there was none left, so he just sat down.

Almost immediately after sitting, Bailey passed out. When he woke up one of the trainers was putting ice all around him. He arrived at the hospital with a severe fever and was treated for heat stroke.

Bailey spent two-and-a-half days in the hospital getting his body temperature down and his fluids back. After he got out of the hospital he wasn't able to practice or play for a couple weeks and he needed to go back to the hospital a few times

for routine check ups. His teammates all agree that the coach and trainers took good care of him.

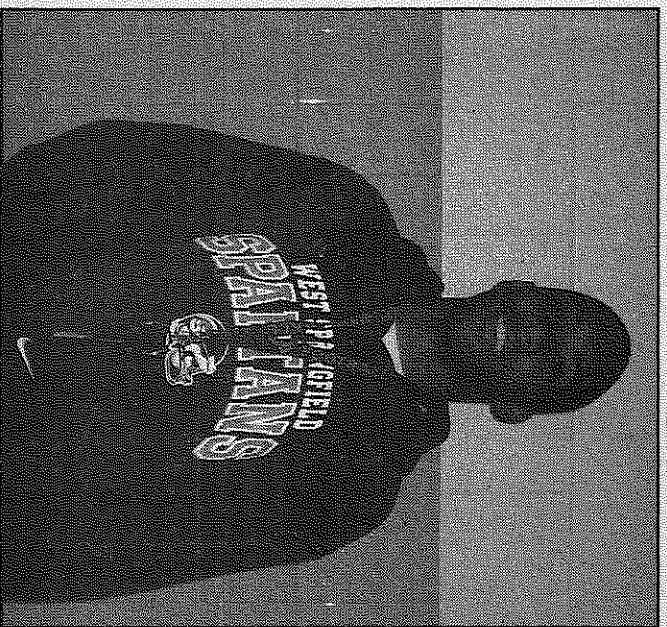
"We always have a trainer around," said senior Augustine Tshu-Gyvan.

The water container at the football practices gets used up pretty quickly but is refilled often so Bailey was just unlucky to end up with it empty. His teammates also agree that it was just an isolated incident.

"He's the only one it's happened to," said senior Fabrice Kambinga, who has been on the team for three years.

"It's never happened since I have been coach," said head Coach Renner, who has been at WS for ten years.

The key to avoiding heat stroke is to stay hydrated. Courtney Faugnet, one of the trainers said another way to avoid heat stroke is to not practice when it is too hot. Symptoms may include confusion, fast heart rate, heavy sweating and skin that is red, hot and dry.



Ryan Miller

Senior Brandon Bailey is back on the field scoring touchdowns after suffering from heat stroke during practice.

## Ford replaces Shepard in training room

By Kyle Snyder

Sports Editor

With the departure of former physical education teacher and sports trainer John Shepard, WS welcomes new trainer Kemba Ford.

Ford, who has worked as a freshman PE and Sports Medicine teacher here in the past years, now replaces Shepard as one of the athletic trainers.

Ford had been splitting time between here and Thomas Jefferson High School, where she had also been the athletic trainer, but now works at WS fulltime.

She said that both schools were basically the same but the biggest difference between the schools that she noticed was the success of the sports programs.

"I has a bumper sticker that says 'we came here for the sports,'" said Ford with a smile, "but the sports are definitely better here at WS."

Ford can be found as early as three o'clock in the training room, treating athletes with different in-

"The toughest part of being a trainer for me is telling the star athletes that they are not ready to play and need to stay out longer!"

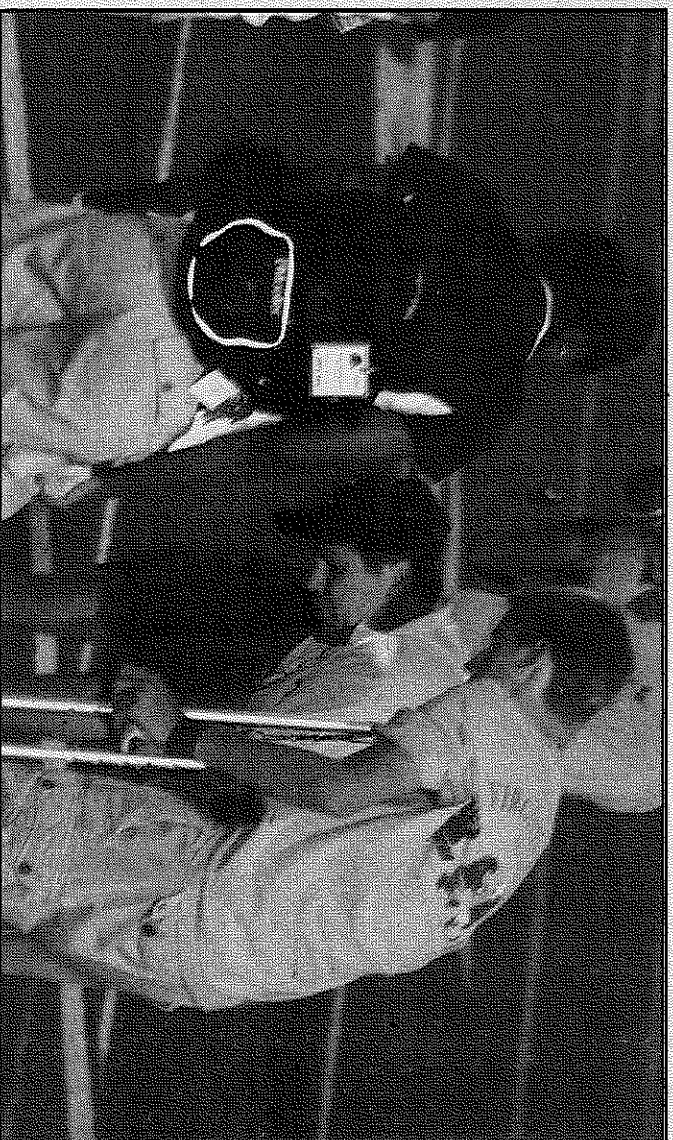
—Kemba Ford

juries. The main job of a trainer is to be ready to help student athletes with their various injuries that they might suffer during a game or a practice.

"The four most important parts to be a trainer are the prevention, assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries," said Ford.

Ford describes a part of the process that has to deal with the decision on when an athlete is ready to return to their sport after any sort of injury.

No matter how much the athlete wants to play or how essential that athlete is to their team, the trainer is responsible to make sure the stu-



Emmie Cleveland

Athletic trainer Kemba Ford checks out junior Randy Bunch's knee on the sidelines of the football game against Edison. Kemba has replaced John Shepard this year in the training room, helping treat injuries.

dent is fully recovered before returning to play.

"The toughest part of being a trainer for me is telling the star athletes that they are not ready to play and need to stay out longer," said Ford.

Although Ford is responsible for those difficult decisions, there is also a reason why she decided to become an athletic trainer in the first place.

"You never wish for kids to get hurt, but it feels good to know that you helped them," said Ford.

# FCPS lunches make old roast beef more appetizing

By Jake Servin  
Oracle Editor

## Jake Disagrees

Hey, FCPS lunch program. What's your problem, man? I bought your food every day in elementary school. I pulled out my ID card from the big blue sack on the wall, grabbed a pink tray, and shoveled onto it whatever you could give me. Then the Keene Mill Elementary lunch lady swiped my card and put it back, and I was allowed to eat some food. We had a nice deal going. That was great, but in middle school I decided to bring my own lunch and continued to do so through last year. After a while that potato bread-lettuce-Swiss-possibly expired roast beef sandwich felt stale, in every sense of the word.

So I resumed our deal, FCPS. I gave you a credit card number and you gave me the right to stand in line for your hot food. There's just one problem: the food.

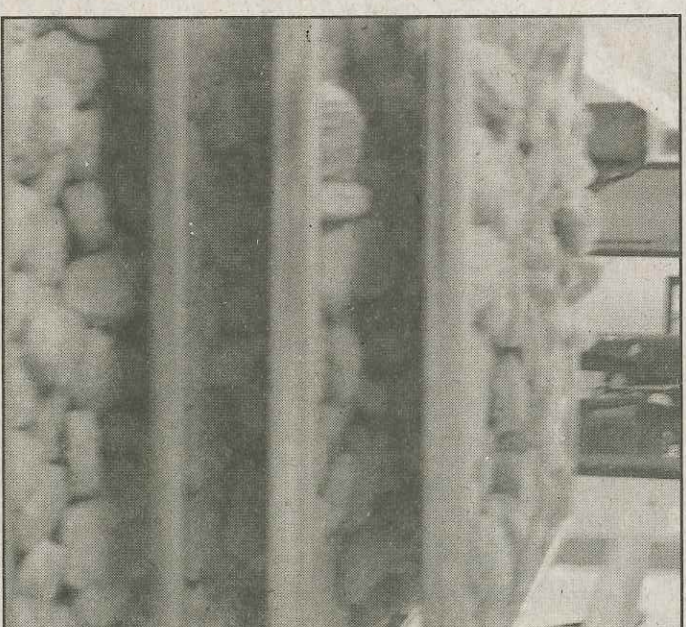
Let's start with the pizza. There is always, *always* pizza. This begs several questions. Who decided that letting kids eat pizza every day was a healthy dietary option? We are the same kids, remember, who all memorized the Soulja Boy dance. Every one of us. Don't let us make decisions. Another thing — where does the pizza come from every day? Is it last week's pizza? It looks like last week's pizza. Sometimes there is more than one kind of pizza. I'm not talking cheese or pepperoni, I mean different shapes. There's the traditional triangle pizza, occasionally joined by the gunman circle

pizza. There's also something called "cheese bread" which is just sauceless pizza. We only need one kind.

Enough about pizza. What's up with the quesadillas? Why do they look so much like the pizza? It's like you just give the nice, hardworking lunch ladies the same thin, pale breadlike substance, tell them to put varying combinations of cheese, sauce, and meat on it and call it what you wrote down on the menu for that day. Seriously, "cheese bread?"

This lack of materials is a running theme, FCPS. The other day, you featured fried chicken on the menu. I bought it, ate it, and was pretty satisfied. The next day, further down the line, there was a dish called "oven fried chicken." Nothing else stood out to me, so I picked it. Turns out it tastes like the regular fried chicken, just tougher and more discolored. It's almost as if someone froze and reheated the fried chicken and then pretended it's not as good because it came from an oven. Who would do something like that, I wonder? You did, FCPS. You did it to me.

You're on thin ice, buddy. We've got a deal, you and me, and you aren't exactly holding up your end of the bargain. Don't blame it on the lunch ladies, either. They're just doing their jobs. You keep this kind of nonsense up, though, and I'm going back to the ol' roast beef. Literally, it's old roast beef.



The deep-frozen lunches provided by FCPS give some students who brave the long lines chills.

Trish Kidwell

# FOR THE LOVE OF JERKY

From The Best of Stevie, an ongoing memorial to Stevie Fiorino, Class of 2007 and an Oracleite in good standing. This is the first column Stevie ever wrote for The Oracle. It was published her sophomore year.

By Stevie Fiorino  
ETC. Editor, 2004-2007

When I first stepped foot into the Sedona House of Jerky (now known as Buck Thornton's World of Jerky), the many different aromas swept me off my feet and carried me into the World of Jerky. From that day on, I guess you could call me a "jerk."

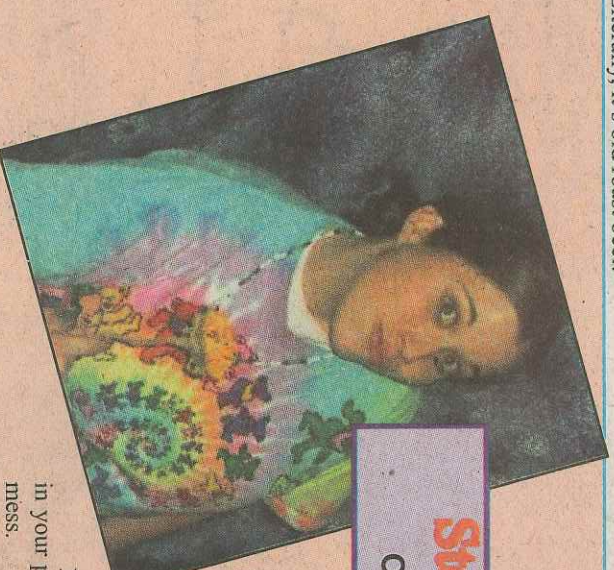
Until that hot summer day on vacation in Arizona, my knowledge of Jerky was practically nil. I never really paid much attention to the snack-track in 7-11, filled with a variety of flavors of jerky, until I met Gary Riley, the proprietor of Buck Thornton's World of Jerky.

As I examined the different packages in his store, Riley was ever so willing to share with me his extensive knowledge of all the assorted flavors.

"We have five flavors of elk, one of deer, two of buffalo, 10 of beef, one of salmon and one exotic pack with alligator, ostrich and kangaroo," said Riley. With so much to choose from, it was hard

for me to make my decision. I ended up settling on the deer and the exotic pack, and boy, was that the best damn jerky I have ever had!

Previously, my impression had been that jerky was junk food. I am not sure how jerky got such a bad rap, because it is actually quite good for you.



Stevie's Story  
October 1, 2004


Jerky is low in cholesterol, low in fat and very high in protein, making it a wholesome and nutritious snack.

Jerky is an excellent energy snack to pack when hiking, biking, running or whenever you are on the go. It is light, fits in your pocket easily and doesn't make a mess.

Riley sells some of the best jerky in the country. He has made me a devoted fan of jerky, and he can make you one, too.

Next time you head out west, make sure to stop by Buck Thornton's World of Jerky in Sedona. And who knows, in a few years you might find me behind the counter of "Stevie's Jerky Shack of Springfield."

# ORACLE CALENDAR—SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>26</p> <p>Oracle #2 comes out! Get yours in your 7th-period class!</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>Day One of Underclass Pictures!</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>Day Two of Underclass Pictures!</p> 	<p>October 1</p> <p>Volleyball vs. Woodson @ Home 7:15 p.m.</p> <p>Field Hockey @ T.C. Williams</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Volleyball vs. Edison @ Home 7:15 p.m.</p> <p>Freshmen Class Parent Coffee Spartan Hall 7 p.m.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Football vs. West Potomac @ Home 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Homecoming Week!</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Field Hockey @ Lee 7:30 p.m.</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Cross Country Quad Meet @ Home</p> <p>Volleyball @ T.C. Williams</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Varsity Golf NVA Regional Tournament</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>College Visits: Ohio State @ 8:30 a.m. &amp; Longwood @ 1:30 p.m. Career Center</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Homecoming Game South County vs. 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Columbus Day! No School!</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>Volleyball vs. Robinson @ Home 7:15 p.m. Field Hockey @ Annandale 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Underclassmen PSAT Day Seniors No School!</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Cross Country @ Patriot District Festival Cheerleading @ District Semis 7 p.m.</p>