



The RAACOR

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West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia 22152

1, 2, 3, eyes on me! Security cameras might be coming here

By Jake Trump
Viewpoint Editor

The new school year brings us a lot of changes and new ideas. One proposal involves the installation of security cameras around the perimeter of the school.

The cameras aren't in place yet, but might be overlooking the Senior Parking Lot before the year is over.

An informal *Oracle* poll shows that many students believe the cameras would be put in place to try to catch seniors in the act of skipping class to go to McDonald's, Subway or other fast food restaurants for lunch.

"The cameras are just a waste of

money to try and catch students," said senior Tyler Basse.

The administration, however, has another idea in mind.

"If we decide to have them, the priority for using these cameras is student safety," said Richard Griffin. "We want to ensure that students can walk through and around the school campus with a safe feeling on a daily basis."

Believe it or not, our school is not one of the first to decide to watch its campus through the use of cameras. Nineteen out of 27 high schools in Fairfax County use video surveillance to monitor their schools. Authorities say that having security cameras around the building helps control student behavior.

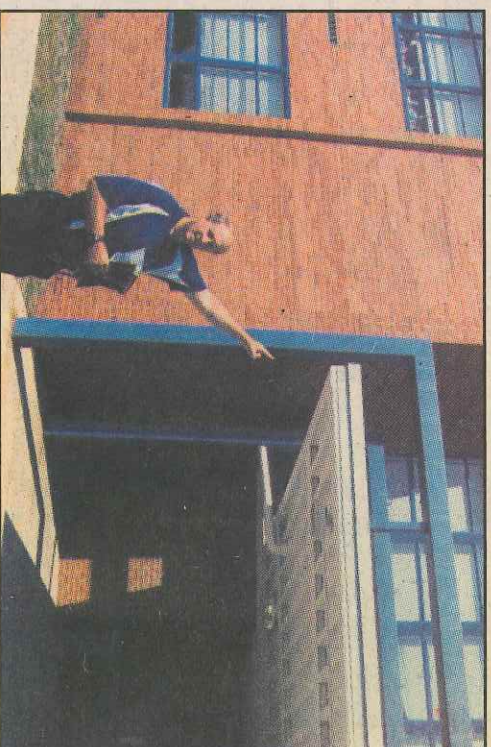
Also, cameras would not be allowed inside the building, other than in lunch lines, for privacy reasons.

"About five people will be monitoring the cameras at all times during the day to ensure that the building is thoroughly watched," said Griffin.

If they are approved to be put up, the cameras are expected to be put in place during second semester.

Although the cameras will be installed with safety in mind if they are approved, the up to \$70,000 expenditure could be a concern in a budget-conscious school year.

"I think they [the funds] should be used for more meaningful things



Jake Trump

Safety & Security Specialist Mike Ukele points to one of the spots where the new security cameras will reside if they are approved. These cameras were purchased in an effort to keep students safe and let them feel protected while walking on and around campus during the day.

like actually repairing the school," said sophomore Britany Landoll.

The administration hopes that the cameras will help keep the school a safer place for all Spartans. "We want to be able to insure

So, do you know where the 3rd-floor pool is? NOT!

By Thomas Ariale
Oracle Editor

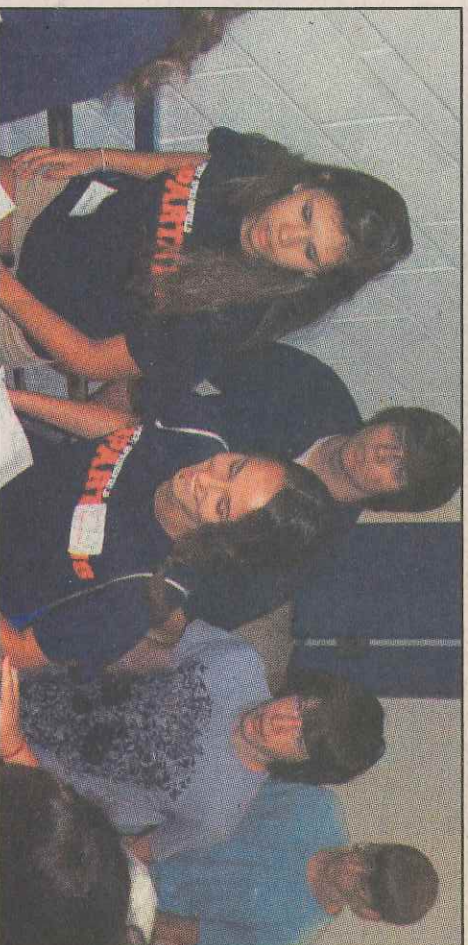
Wide-eyed and bushy-tailed, the new Spartans learned about Senior Rail, the formerly carpeted hallway and even the 3rd-floor pool.

Well, with the exception of info on the non-existent pool, every year we hold an open house of sorts for the newbies so they won't be as confused when they find themselves thrown into the hustle and bustle over at 6100 Rolling Road.

"The turnout this year was awesome," said Principal Paul Wardinski. "We had probably close to 530 kids."

With that many new students wandering the halls, it is a cumbersome task to make sure that they all find their classes and get around the school quickly and efficiently.

That is where the leadership skills of the Student Government Association come into play. SGA representatives led students and



Lisa Williams

Sophomores Stephanie Wainless and Emily Braswell lead new students through the school during Freshman and New Student orientation, in an effort to help them get adjusted.

parents around on tours to help them figure out where everything is, as well as answering any questions they might have.

"I believe the most beneficial part is where the parents can ask their questions," said Wardinski. "We get some odd, funny and

great questions that can easily be answered." Even though it is advertised, and mainly geared toward the freshmen, this orientation isn't solely for them.

The morning was also dedicated to transfer students to find their way around. SGA students led tours for these students as well, explaining all parts of the school so they were completely up-to-date on the whereabouts of everything.

"This is my third high school, so I guess I'm pretty excited," said junior Zane Shelton. "It was a lot better having this orientation."

The point is to try and make sure the new students feel as comfortable as possible for their first day of school. Without the help of veteran Spartans, teachers and the Department of Student Services, new students might have had a difficult time.

"I'm not as scared, just nervous," said freshman Patrick Coffey during the morning session. "Orientation is going to help out a lot because I haven't been to this school much."

Speak softly and carry a big field hockey stick

Three returning class presidents know when to hit you with their best shot

By Megan Burpo
Viewpoint Editor

Every year, students vote for the classmates they believe are best-suited to represent the student body.

This year, three class presidents have more than their role in the Student Council Association in common. They all are members of our Varsity field hockey team.

Senior Mary Walsh, junior Nikki Yohe and sophomore Bridget DeMott know how to be part of the team in school and on the field.

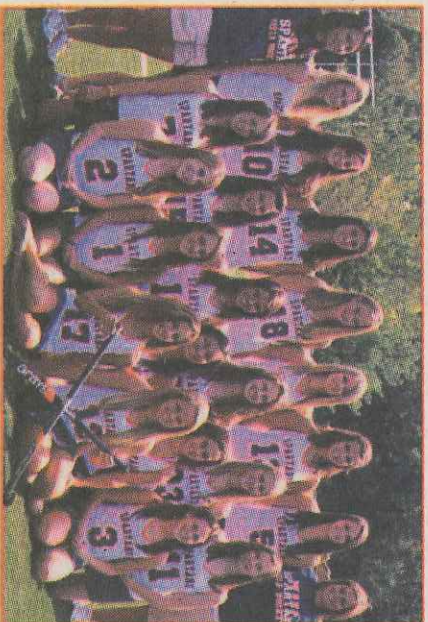
Being leaders of their respective classes requires great talent, such as being able to listen to their peers' ideas and act on them, raise money and plan events. Officers also must be

as involved in the school as they possibly can be, which is something that these three excel at. Walsh and DeMott also take leadership roles on the field as Varsity and JV captains.

"As captain, I'm there to support my team, and I try to set an example. As the Varsity goalie, I talk to my teammates and tell them what I see so they can be aware on the field," said Walsh. "In both positions, I'm there to support my people and try and be an example."

By returning as class presidents, the job is a lot easier as each girl knows what to expect and how to deal with problems that may arise. The support of SCA officers and teammates makes all the responsibilities easier.

See "Field Hockey" on Page 3.



Meg DeMott

Field Hockey is the sport of choice for the three returning class presidents. They enjoy each other's help, ideas, and input when it comes to decision making and fundraising.

Merenda
siblings give
back to world.



3

Wood you
need any
help?



4

Seniors
provide
frosch
advice.



8

This year: new school or new tude?

If we had a dime for every time someone complained about our school's decrepit conditions, we could probably single-handedly fund renovations for the building. Yes, people carp that often.

It's no secret that we learn in a ramshackle building. It's falling apart, and that's obvious. And yes, we all know that we're not getting renovated for a good long while. That fact is overplayed and clichéd and frankly, it's getting annoying to hear.

But still, it's true. And it brings down the morale of the entire student body. When people know they're in a dilapidated environment, they disclose their disapproval unyieldingly, which causes others, who would otherwise have gone

unaffected by it, to notice.

Now, we think most students would agree that TC Williams in the past has had a different reputation than WS, as far as both academics and safety are concern. That high school used to be old and dirty and disliked as well.

Editorial

When TC was completely rebuilt, we assumed that it would immediately be trashed and graffiti-covered. After all, that is how the

stereotype goes: City students equal bad behavior.

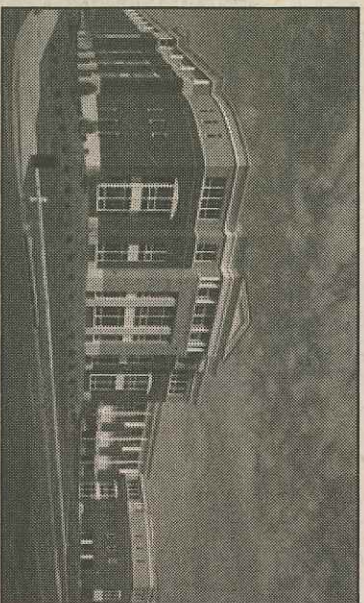
But, that's where everyone was wrong. The TC students began using the new building in 2007. It's 2010, and the facility is still pristine. Every time we visit that school, we're impressed by its clean conditions.

It's about a million times cleaner than our school is, that's for sure. And the building's condition definitely affects the respect level at TC. Students in a nicer school will feel guiltier about destroying a newer property. So students in our school don't feel guilty, because the building is so run-down to begin with.

Our crumbling physical facility truly promotes a bad set of morals. It becomes a vicious cycle: People feel grossed out by the building, so they are disrespectful toward it and make it worse, causing people to feel continually more disgusted. This cycle is never-ending and seemingly unimprovable.

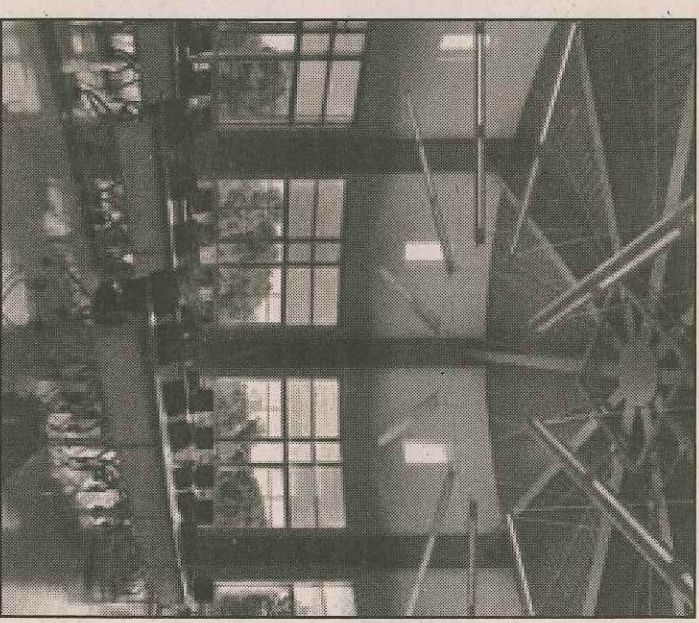
There's not much to be done to break the cycle, admittedly. The school has obvious flaws that aren't getting addressed, and there is obviously no funding to fix these problems.

But if we all stop whining all the time and make the best of it, maybe that will make our time here just a little bit more pleasant.



Moseley Architects

TC Williams High School, which was originally built in 1965, was completely torn down and rebuilt.



Moseley Architects

A classroom in the new TC Williams High School features better architecture, a large amount of windows, and an organization more fitting to a college classroom style. Although the school is now three years old, the building is still mint condition, as if it were brand new.

Teens dying to drive

License ceremony brings thrills, chills

By Kelly Carlin
Oracle Editor

Turning 16 includes many rights of passage: driving a car, getting your license and having a cop and a court judge scare you out of wanting to drive.

For years, I had been anxiously awaiting the day when I would receive my rectangular piece of plastic equating freedom, but after going to court I wasn't really sure anymore.

Before I went to court, I had images of myself in my head. I was Speed Racer, I was Richard Petty, I was going to have my own form of transportation. Once I left that building, I was cool with just being Miss Daisy.

Having just turned 17 and obtaining all requirements for receiving my real license, I walked happily from the car to the courthouse.

Since I had already been driving for almost three months, I was not nervous about what was in store. My dad, accompanying me to the meeting, was anxious to get in and out and return home to watch "The Office." He was not prepared for everything we were about to hear, either.

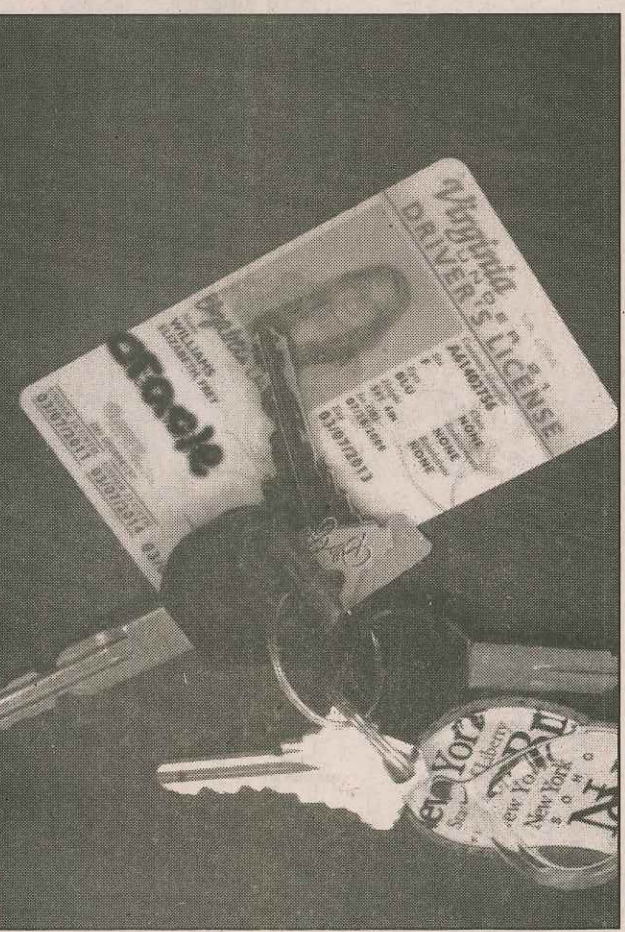
The first thing that I learned in court was that I would probably die. And that everyone who is between 16 and 20 driving a car will die. Now these statistics are not accurate, and

Before I went to court, I had images of myself in my head. I was Speed Racer, I was Richard Petty.

this will obviously not occur, but the tone in the room echoed just that: Death, miserable death. I watched the images and listened to the horror stories of decapitation and asked myself one question: Why was I so desperate to drive, again?

The scare tactics and real-life examples left me in a state of fear that stuck in my head all the way home. It was almost to the point that I wanted to cancel my evening plans of driving to Kingstowne for a movie. But instead, I decided to brave it. I dropped my speed, used all required turn signals, and nervously drove from point A to point B. The "hit-the-road" attitude of freedom I had previously felt was knocked out of me when I learned driving a car would lead to my imminent death.

I understand, driving is dangerous, and kids can be irresponsible, but the County needs to also give us some credit. Being young doesn't automatically make you reckless. Having a license doesn't mean your de-



Kelly Carlin

After having a paper permit for three months, new drivers receive their plastic license from a judge at a ceremony. The licensing ceremony takes place at the Fairfax County Courthouse.

mise is looming. It just means you need to be cautious and remember what you're doing.

We kids have to focus on the fact that even though driving a car may seem like a normal activity, it's still a two-ton object that's in your control. Sure, you might feel like you're Han Solo cruising in the Millennium Falcon, but once you lose control and crash you'll lose your hand faster than Luke Skywalker in a light saber battle.

On a more serious note, the County has the records that show that car accidents hap-

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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, Scoop 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 adviser, the administration or the Fairfax County Public Schools. The Oracle reserves the right to reject advertising deemed inappropriate. Signed letters-to-the-editor and will be considered for publication, but could be edited for grammar, spelling and space.

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FH girls: leaders on and off the turf

From "Field Hockey" on Page 1.

"Being an athlete made me determined and gave me confidence to run and stay in office," said Walsh.

Juggling time between sports, schoolwork and SCA can be hard, but as with everything, time management is key.

Even though at times it can be stressful, using the support of their team members and other SCA members makes it possible.

"Throughout everything I learn how to be a leader and how to make the best of a bad situation," said DeMott.

Sometimes the hectic life comes with being a good president. Class presidents are elected to represent their peers and make decisions their fellow students' behalf. Without being involved, it's impossible to know what your peers are thinking.

"I make an effort to do as much as I can at the school so that my classmates understand that I'm serious about my job and also that I'm responsible," said Walsh.

To some people, being this involved in their school seems too hectic and not the way they want to live out their four years here. According to these presidents, however, it has made all the difference.

"Being part of SCA has made my high school experience better and is a great way to broadcast your leadership," said Yohe.

And being part of the field hockey team had its advantages when it came to campaigning. Before the school year began, the players were able to bond and meet new people, which gave them the chance to feel comfortable around their peers.

"Through field hockey I met a ton of amazing people before the year even started and having so many set friends really made running that much easier," said DeMott.

Even though the presidents did not co-campaign, they supported and encouraged one another. They even helped each other a little with speeches, though the victories were fully due to each individual.

"Being on multiple teams helps because I can achieve greater support, reach out to more groups, and gain more opinions," said Yohe.

These presidents are part of two teams, but their goals are always the best interest of their peers and fellow teammates.

"You can't win with just one player on the field," said DeMott. "Just like in SCA, you have your whole class with you, and a class isn't just one student."



Meg DeMott

Field hockey captain and senior class president Mary Walsh chats with coach Rosie Pannoni before a game. As goalie, Walsh directs players on what to do during the games.

Globe-trotting siblings make impact worldwide

Merendas travel with church to help build houses and feed the global community

By Julie Parisi

Oracle Editor

Instead of spending the summer sleeping in late and hanging out by the pool, senior Coleman Merenda and junior Claire Merenda traveled across the globe to help underprivileged people.

The siblings went on outreach missions with their church to Guatemala City, Guatemala and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

In Guatemala, Coleman and his group of 15 students worked with

the Potter's House, a ministry that gives educational, industrial and economic aid to scavengers living in the city dump. During their stay, the group built three houses and volunteered at food ministries, where they constructed a total of nine concrete stoves and gave out groceries to needy families.

"As an Evangelical Christian it's sometimes hard to live up to my faith in normal daily life," said Coleman. "Sometimes I want to get out into the world and really make

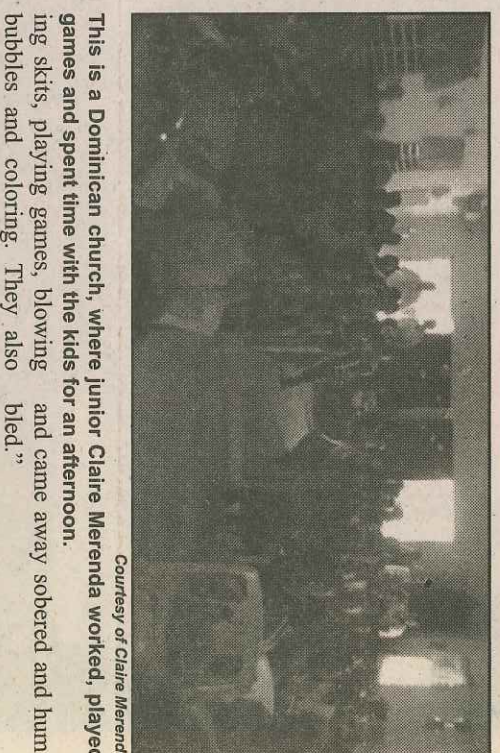
a true difference in a person's life. And that's what we did."

It was Claire's second time in Santo Domingo, and her group of 14 students worked primarily with a local hospital specializing in pediatric orthopedics. Part of their time was spent doing manual labor to renovate parts of the building, and by the end of the trip, the group had turned two storage rooms into a clean, repainted conference room and a functional physical therapy station.

When they weren't doing physical work, the team members entertained the families that were stuck in the waiting room as well as the children recovering from surgeries in the upstairs ward.

"We would sing to them, then pass out coloring supplies, balloon animals, Silly Bandz and stickers, and then play and talk with them," said Claire. "We would share what we believed about God, and His love for them and pray with the entire families."

One afternoon was spent in a church with no air conditioning, entertaining kids by singing, performing



Courtesy of Claire Merenda

This is a Dominican church, where junior Claire Merenda worked, played games and spent time with the kids for an afternoon.

ing skits, playing games, blowing bubbles and coloring. They also visited an orphanage for severely mentally and physically disabled children who had been abandoned because of their handicaps. Though the staff there truly cared about the kids, they didn't have enough people or supplies to properly care for them.

"I found myself crying for those little ones, who were tied up with sheets so they wouldn't hurt themselves, or others, and fed pureed vegetables," said Claire. "We sang with them and prayed with them, and came away sobered and humbled."

The toughest part of the trip for the Merendas was knowing that in reality, it was unlikely that such a small group of people could accomplish enough to really make a difference.

"I may not know what our team was meant to accomplish, or even what will happen to the children I worked with, but the point is that God knows," said Claire. "He is the author of my life, and the lives of every one of those Dominican kids."

Winter's wonderland

Spartans give new AP a warm welcome

By Kyle Rushton

Oracle Staff Writer

Along with welcoming 577 freshman students as the Class of 2014, WS also welcomed Valerie Winter for the upcoming school year.

Just recently, Winter joined the administrative team as the freshman administrator. She will be seen frequently throughout the hallways, getting to know her new students, assisting with schedules and helping with the other needs of the freshmen.

Prior to becoming a Spartan, Winter was a sub-school principal at Hayfield Secondary School for five years. Before working at Hayfield, Winter worked at Washington Irving Middle School. Winter feels she is adjusting very well to her new environs.

"I worked several years at Washington Irving Middle School, so I am familiar with the community and it's like coming back home," said Winter.

Winter attended the State University of New York for her undergraduate studies and George Washington University for her gradu-

"I am familiar with the community, and it's like coming back home."

—Valerie Winter,

Freshman Administrator

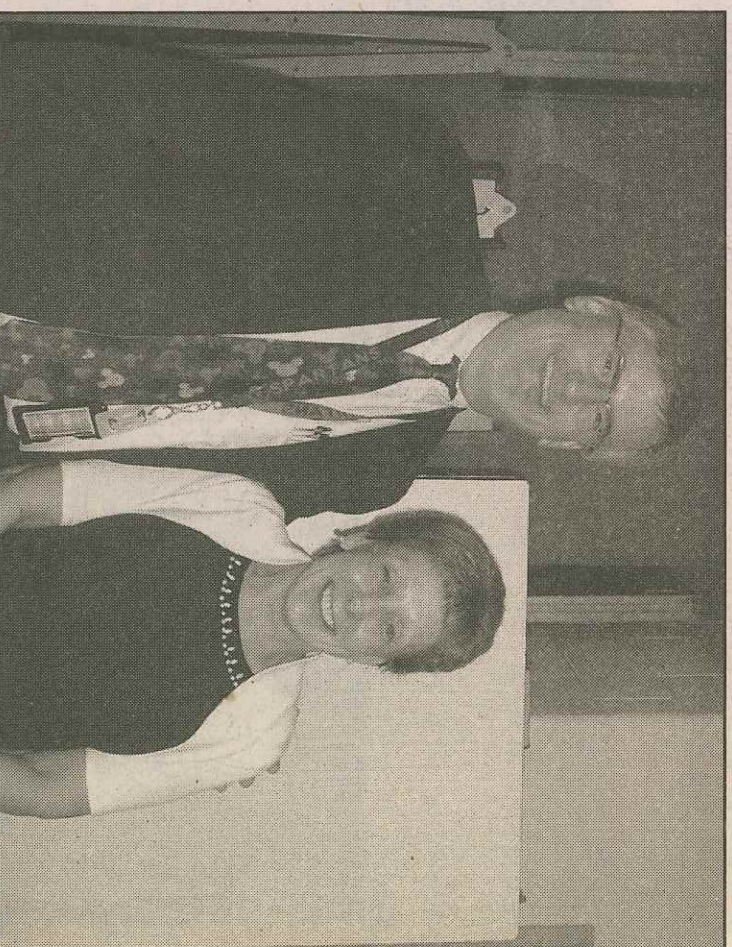
ate degree. As a class officer in high school, she stayed heavily involved through field hockey, soccer, softball and cheerleading.

In as much of the free time as she gets, Winter loves reading, traveling and riding her bike.

"I love to write," says Winter. "It is very relaxing for me."

Winter said that one of her main goals for the upcoming school year is to "create positive relationships with students, staff and faculty." She also wants to come up with a plan to help increase student achievement.

Students should plan on seeing Winter regularly throughout the halls, cafeteria, and in classrooms, because she believes it is important to be visible around the school, and to not just sit in her office all day long.



Kyle Rushton

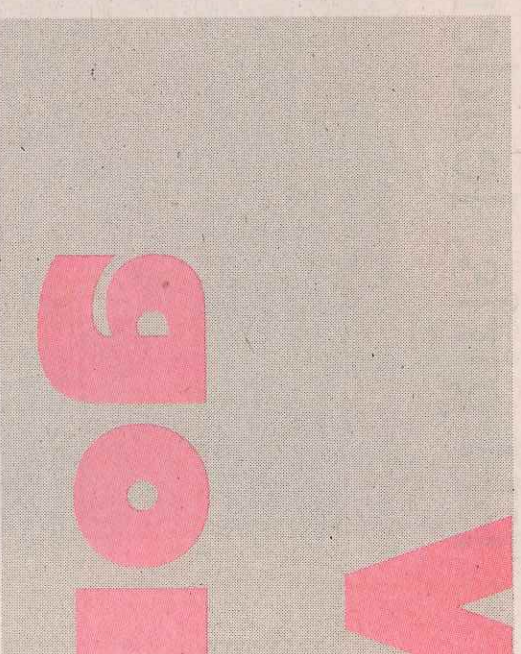
New administrator Valerie Winter poses with Principal Paul Wardinski. Winter is working hard at getting the freshmen, and herself, acquainted with the school policies and the building.

After hearing about our school's positive reputation, Winter decided to become a Spartan and is seeking to learn and grow from our school. She is very enthusiastic about starting the new school year and seeing all of her new students at

"The best part of the job, by far, is meeting my students," says Winter.



All photos by Summer Claveau
Administrative Assistant Nancy Wood has been behind the big black desk in the main office for the past six years. She accomplishes so many different tasks in the course of a school day, ranging from reuniting lost lunches with students to directing lost parents to the Attendance Office and Student Services. Wood deals with a million big—and



You Wood have to

By Summer Claveau
ETC. Editor

The front office is the brain of our school. Where the students are the circulating blood that flows through the hallways, keeping our school alive, the front office is the decision-maker and problem solver.

Walking into the front office is a normal occurrence here, as is hearing a welcoming “hello, can I help you?” when entering. You can bet that the friendly voice is coming from the desk in the back right corner, from the nucleus of our school’s brain, Administrative Assistant Nancy Wood.

“Without her, the entire school would collapse,” said Journalism teacher Brooke Nelson. I have heard very similar quotes from at least four other people.

Spending time in the front office, I can concur that indeed, the school would probably fall apart without our Wood behind that big desk. Everything that anyone can imagine is delivered and talked about in that ginormous room off the main lobby. Wood deals with a million big—and small—details every day: Pizza deliveries, extra chocolate bar donations, insight into

She’s the go-to the building. She get their lun



Who Ya Gonna Call?

o talk to the woman at the front desk

foiled senior pranks, complaints about skippers, and a steady stream of angry parents, concerned parents, helpful parents and parent volunteers are just some of what Wood handles during her time behind the big black desk. And she willingly accepts all of it, both the easy and difficult.

John's. Wood is the go-to gal for teachers when it comes to substitutes and leaving early. And there are so many different personalities in the front office, and in the whole building, it can't always be an easy job.

gal for staff and students throughout e schedules substitutes, makes sure kids ches and talks on the phone at least "100 times a day."

"I would say I answer the phone at least one hundred times a day. I have cauliflower ear by the end of the day," said Wood.

Wood graduated from Roanoke College, where she studied sociology and education. I'd imagine this comes in handy when dealing with so many people each day. Not only does Wood help and support the almost 2,400 students in this school, but she's there to help their parents and the staff in the building, too.

Having previous experience in the Department of Defense as a Management Analyst I'm sure helps when coordinating so many people.

As students, it's hard for us to imagine our teachers having lives. But being an educator is a profession and teachers have to sign out and back in just the same as you do at your job at Papa



John's. Wood is the go-to gal for teachers when it comes to substitutes and leaving early.

And there are so many different personalities in the front office, and in the whole building, it can't always be an easy job.

"Every day is interesting, and different, but that's what

makes it exciting," said Wood.

Wood, whose two sons, Kevin and Keith Parchen, were Spartans and who has manned the front office for

the past six years, wants the front office to be a comfortable place for students and staff. And even if she can't help you with a problem, she can certainly direct you to the person who can.

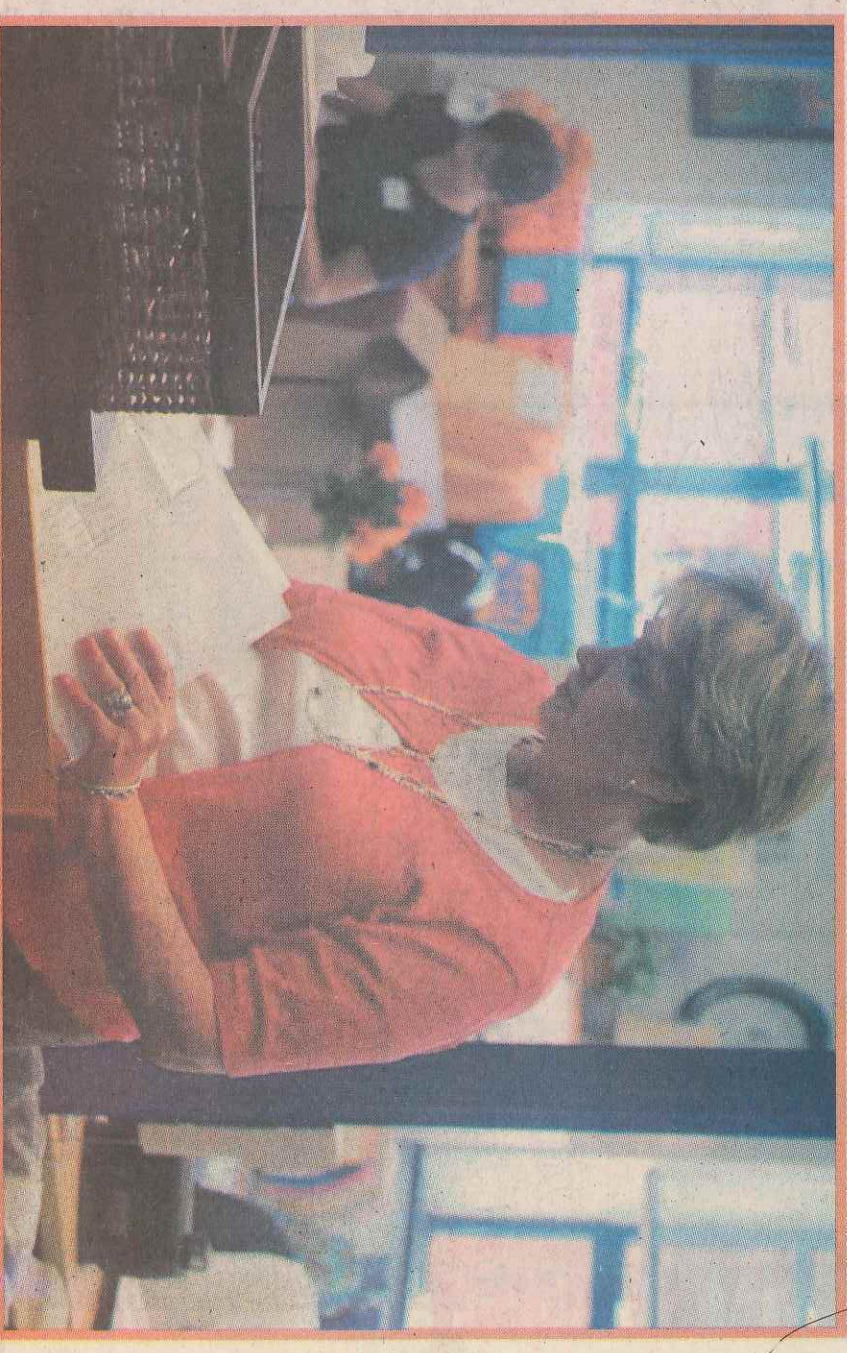
The personal touch in our main office is what makes it so homey, with its adorable flowery pens and plant decorations, making this space both pretty and functional.

As I was sitting with Wood, so much was going on, but the most defining moment was when Assistant Principal, Becky Brandt walked up and said, "Hi, I have a question for you, because I'm sure you know everything."

Though modest, Wood recognizes the important jobs she does for our busy school.

"But, no matter what job you do, you learn something new every day."

**Oracleites were sent out
into the bowels of our school
and told to "go find a story."
ETC. Editor Summer
Claveau did just that, with
her up close and personal
look at Main Office
Administrative Assistant
Nancy Wood.**



Psychedelic rock revival

By Kelly Carlin

Oracle Editor

In the 21st Century, there are few bands that echo the energy and style of psychedelic music that was popular in the 1960s. MGMT is one of those few.

When MGMT took the stage at Merriweather Post Pavilion in August, the eager crowd was ready. After two opening acts, Violens and Devandra Banhart, pumped up the crowd, MGMT was met with applause rivaling the sound of a thunderstorm. Front men Andrew VanWyngarden and Ben Goldwasser lead a fan base that worship their every lyric and note.

Popularized in recent years with hits such as "Kids," "Time to Pretend," and "Electric Feel," the electronic-rock band broke out in 2007 after starting as a joke. As their fame grew, the New York based group received praise as this generation's psychedelic renewal. Founded in 2005, the band released their debut album "Oracular Spectacular" in 2007, followed by "Congratulations," their sophomore album, released in April of this year.

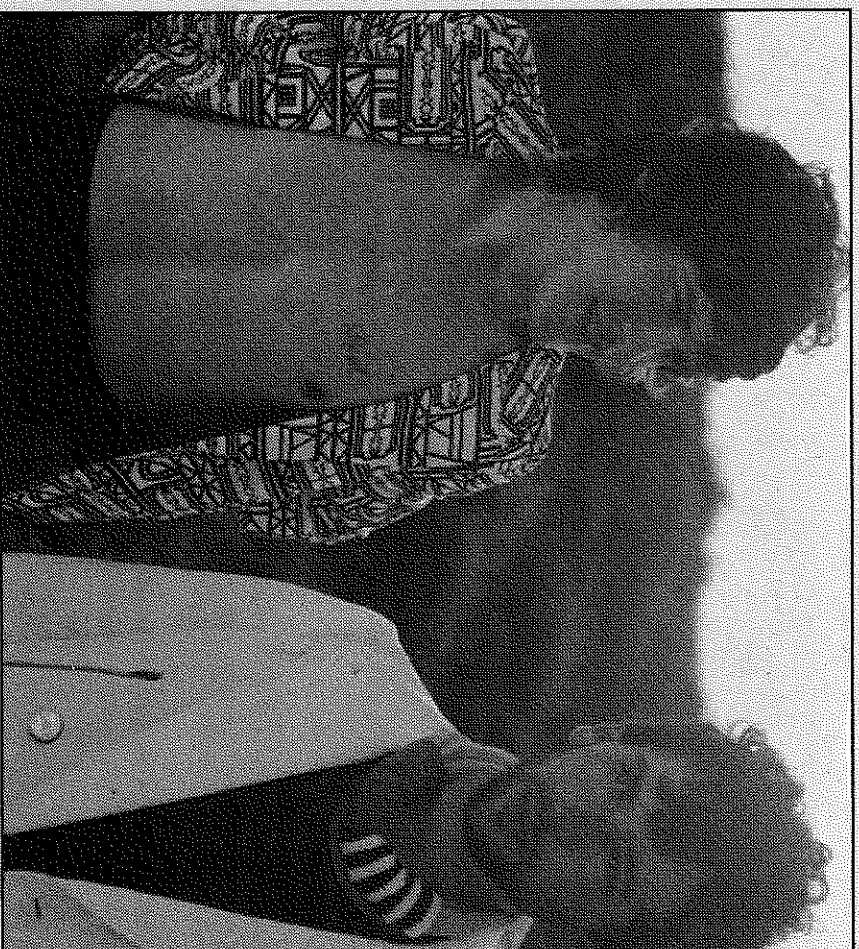
At their Columbia, Maryland date, MGMT's set lasted over an hour and featured hit songs that fans were familiar with. The

crowd danced and sang along with all of the band's older hits, as well as newer favorites such as "Flash Delirium" and ode to music producer "Brian Eno."

MGMT, who is nominated for their first VMA in the Best Rock Video category for "Flash Delirium," found a good mix of playing their popular old favorites with the newer psychedelic sounds that fans are just becoming accustomed to. Their current tour, which continues through December of this year, will head out of America and conclude with stops in Europe.

The recent years' revival of popular musicians not classified as "pop" music, has led indie bands to arise in popularity for underground acts. MGMT is one of the most popular bands loved by young people who classify themselves as "hipsters." Many of this type of people could be spotted at the concert, wearing crazy outfits from togas to glow sticks.

As the band's fan base continues to build, MGMT is predicted to evolve more musically into the psychedelic rock band they have begun to embody. Their energy and skills musically have grown since their original debut. MGMT's show at Merriweather did not disappoint in this category, as they performed with a mature sound.



ZME Music

Andrew VanWyngarden (left) and Ben Goldwasser (right) are the two frontmen of the Brooklyn-based MGMT. The two formed the band after meeting at Wesleyan University in 2005. After the release of "Congratulations" in April of this year, their tour featured a local stop at Merriweather Post Pavilion in August. The show featured performances by MGMT along with bands Violens and Devandra Banhart.

Ke\$ha and Rihanna impress crowds at Jiffy Lube Live

By Sara Lepley

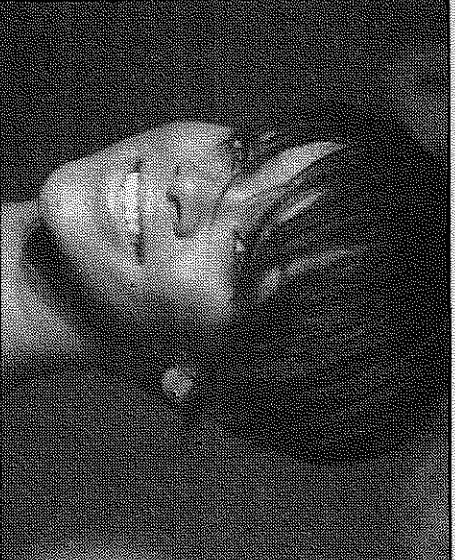
Entertainment Editor

Music blaring? Check. Metallic micro-minis? Check. The succulent smell of smoke and alcohol? Check. Yep, this sure is a Ke\$ha concert.

Despite common laws of logic, Ke\$ha started off her concert with her duet with Flo-Rida, "Right Round" without her partner. As she struck into "Blah Blah Blah" fans ood and awed at her glittery gold body art, her (presumably) unwashed hair and the fact that she appeared sober.

While it was still amusing to watch Ke\$ha thrash around stage as she made her way through "Party at a Rich Dude's House" and "Take it Off," the most entertaining song was "Stephen."

On either side of her, videos flipped through pictures that told the story of how she stalked and kidnapped the indie rock, skinny-jeans-clad Stephen.



Left: Deep Warrors. Right: Celebrity Smack Blog

Ke\$ha and Rihanna may seem like an unlikely pair, but the duo put on an entertaining show in late August.

It was cute and humorous, and did a good job of masking her slightly painful voice. After all, auto-tune can only do but so much.

Personally, I was ready to up and leave. I saw what I came to see. But before her fans were on the brink of annoyance, Rihanna mounted the stage.

Domning her new red tresses and a long, black light-up dress, Rihanna was ready to go.

I never would have paired the more trashy Ke\$ha with the pop/punk Rihanna, but the two proved to be a dynamic duo.

I have a newfound respect for Rihanna. As for Ke\$ha, well, she's just Ke\$ha.

Nothing funny about Emmys

By Eleanor Lamb

Features Editor

Students were either grinning or groaning at the outcome of the "62nd Annual Prime Time Emmy Awards." The results of the awards, which were this year hosted by comedian Jimmy Fallon, faced controversy within our student body.

While the comedy shows were attracting most of the attention, the drama shows barely received any at all. Though many students barely pay attention to these more serious shows, a couple of these programs did manage to attract a small teenage audience.

For example, the winner of Best Drama Series was one that was met with the criticism of those caught up in the vampire craze. While "Mad Men" took away the award, junior Nikki Yohe argues that it should certainly have been the "True Blood," a show centered around the idea of vampires living in our society.

"Obviously they didn't see Jason's [actor Ryan Kwantan's] body," said Yohe, stating her reason as to why the series must not have clinched the prize.

Despite the wide array of awards, one of the most coveted prizes is Best Comedy Series, which this year went to "Modern Fam-

ily." This show is greatly enjoyed by students, who were pleased that "Modern Family" won this exciting honor.

However, many more students are miffed that "The Office" did not take away the gleaming statuette. Loyal fans of "The Office" believe that the show has a very different humor that makes it stand out.

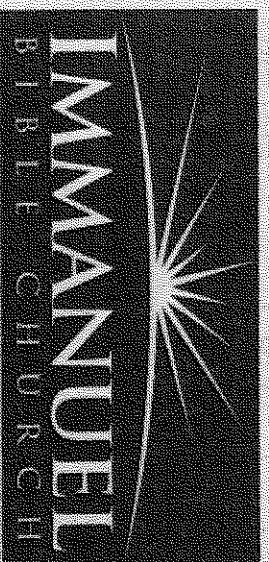
"The Office's" jokes are genuine. Everything else is the same, but this is original stuff," said junior Scott David.

David is not the only student who feels disappointed with the show's award status; senior Nichole Edwards was also upset with the outcome of the Emmys, since her favorite character did not get the recognition she felt he deserved.

"I'm outraged. There's no Dwight in 'Modern Family,'" said Edwards.

However, some viewers agree with the esteemed board that chooses who is worthy of the Emmy awards. Supporters of "Modern Family" are happy to see a new show get to the top so quickly, while many of the other nominees are returners who are no strangers to the Emmy stage.

"I think it's good they won," said junior Katelyn Lovan. "It's a really funny show that makes us laugh and feel as if our families are normal."



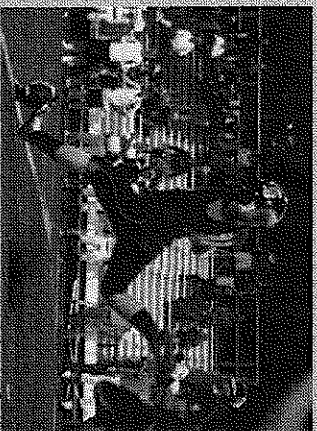
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Jeremy Davis

Football

With a new offense in place and two-days behind them, the Football team is ready to take the field this season.

The offense is lead by senior quarterback Nick Pham and senior running back Moqo Kamara while the defense is lead by junior linebacker Mike Tobias and senior cornerback Austin Backus. The new Spartan offense focuses less on passing and more on the run game. The offense now features a tight end, a new addition which will help with blocking for the run game and will double as a receiver.

The defense has gone through relatively few changes; the team makes adjustments based on the most immediate threats that the opposing team has on offense that week. The defense will look to keep building after its strong showing in the Week 1 Edison game.

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

Field hockey

Volleyball

After a solid year in 09-10 season, field hockey looks to keep their positive streak going.

Field hockey was a fairly young team last season, featuring eleven juniors and three sophomores. Despite their youth and lack of experience, the team did fairly well last year and returns with eleven seniors, so the team is senior heavy to say the least.

Despite losing to Thomas Jefferson in their season opener, the team bounced back and beat Edison 2-0 and went to overtime against Annandale and lost in a shootout. The team went on to win the "Under the Lights" tournament at Lee which included a commanding win against Garfield High School, 8-0.



Lifecorsh

others think that it could be pretty cool.

Coming up to the school to find a place to sleep and set up their sleeping bags began the teams lock-in.

Midnight to 2 a.m., the football team had its first practice, followed by sleeping over at the school, waking up at 8 a.m., and having a four-hour practice.

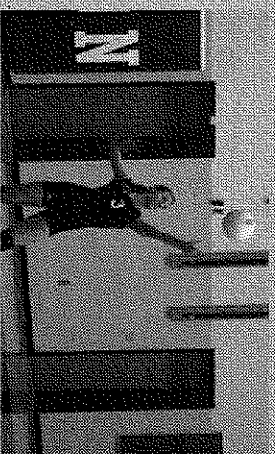
Many schools and teams choose to put their players through practices at odd times of the day. Both football and field hockey team members enjoyed each other's company in overnight summer events.

Players could choose to sleep either in the wrestling room, the Auxiliary Gym or the weight room.

When people think about that and played Mission: Impossible,"

In the last few years, WS has had great success in volleyball. They will attempt to keep the tradition going, despite losing 6 seniors. The team is made up predominantly of juniors and sophomores with only 3 returning seniors on the team. With this youth and inexperience, the Spartans will look to rebound while continuing to compete with district powerhouse South County. Head coach Stephanie Noriega enters her third season as head coach of the lady Spartans.

The Spartans won their first two games 3-0 against Hayfield and Edison before losing a heartbreaker against Madison 2-3. The Spartans will look to rebound in their next two games against Oakton High and Fairfax High.



Carolina Lopez

But the privilege of sleeping at the school was not reserved only for the football team. At the beginning of the season, the field hockey team also experienced a night locked in the school.

"We played capture the flag and just bonded, all of us, from the freshman team to Varsity," said senior Danielle O'Brien.

Even though the idea of lock-ins is relatively new in our school, they got relatively good reviews from the athletes who participated. This left other teams wishing that they had gotten to participate.

"I want to have a lock-in so bad," said Varsity Cheerleading captain senior Emili Zambrino, "but our coach won't let us."

Football holds first lock-in

By Amanda Pearson
Scoop Editor

Teenagers are familiar with sleepovers, but this year the football team had a lock-in that prevented them from going home to get a good night's rest for the first practice of the season.

Many schools and teams choose to put their players through practices at odd times of the day. Both football and field hockey team members enjoyed each other's company in overnight summer events.

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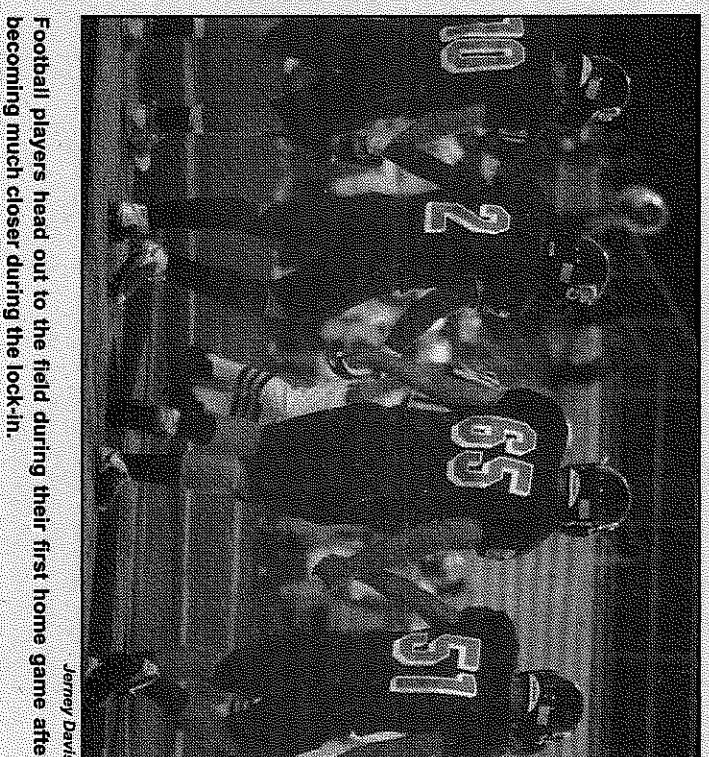
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Jeremy Davis

Football players head out to the field during their first home game after becoming much closer during the lock-in.

ZiWo tests the shallow waters on unfamiliar sport

By Jessica Drago
Features Editor

Suburban sports are, like their settings, very cookie cutter: Kids play soccer, football, basketball, and baseball. But five boys from WS are breaking the mold by skimboarding in local lakes.

A local group of skimboarders who call themselves The ZiWo Brothers, designs and makes their own boards out of plywood, specifically designing, cutting, and warping the wood for flatland tricks. The name ZiWo stands for the last names of crew members, Zich and Wolford. ZiWo mainly focuses on flatland skimboarding and skimming at near-by lakes due to their location.

"Stephen, Jimi and I are the ZiWo brothers, and we started skimboarding in 2008," said Gawalt. "Since then we have had many people ask for us to take them skimboarding with us."

ZiWo now consists of juniors Stephen Wolford, Jimi Zich, John Gawalt, Nick Becker and Lee Donlon. They all started out skimboarding in their own unique ways, then came together when they became friends in middle school.

"I first got into skimboarding while surfing in California," said Zich. "I like the water and the way I can just relax while skimboarding."

Due to the varying locations at which skimboarding takes place, different types of



courtesy of John Gawalt

Junior John Gawalt takes his skimboard out on the ocean. "Skimboarding make you feel really free, and it really helps you break away from your everyday life because it's so different from anything else," said Gawalt.

boards are needed depending on the location. When skimboarding on waves at the beach boards with foam cores can be used. A foam core allows for more buoyancy while riding

across waves, sort of like a surfboard. High performance skimboards are made with several layers; a shell made of something sturdy like fiberglass or kevlar; a core with high den-

"I like the water and the way I can just relax while skimboarding."

—Jimi Zich,
junior

sity foam, and an exterior glaze made of polyester or an epoxy resin. Flatland skimboards have to be sturdy and able to withstand the wear and tear of tricks on land. The boards used for flatland skimming are made of wood and can be very rugged.

"I try to integrate a street style into our skimboarding, by using logs to ollie or rails to grind" said Donlon.

Since their start in 2008, ZiWo has made 10 custom boards. They have been asked by skimboarding teams to make boards for them, and have been offered to compete in Virgin River and DB Dashpoint competitions.

While flatland skimming is a growing national trend, ZiWo were the first people from WS to pioneer this sport and bring it to our school. Their affordable custom boards are for sale to the locals and anyone who wants to join them is welcome. Their goal is to make the sport more accessible to the student body because they all really love it.

"I like skimboarding because it relieves stress, and there's nothing else like it," said Wolford. "Also, it makes you look really cool."

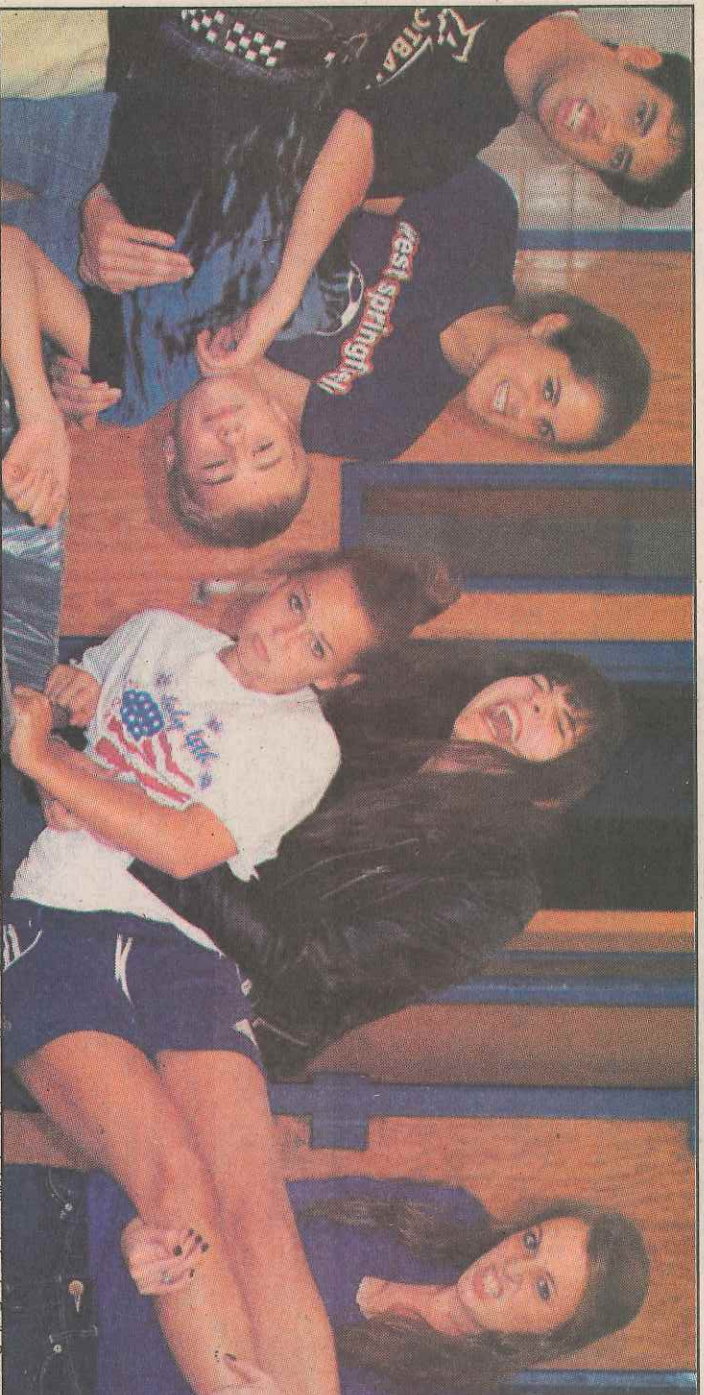


Photo of Oracle Editors with freshmen Brandon House and Amanda Williams taken by Emily Braswell

Shello to the CLASS OF 2014.

Please to meet your acquaintances.

Welcome to the most wondrous year of your high school career.

You have graduated from hanging out at the baseball field Friday nights to actually being allowed on the very, very far left of the bleachers, without your parents!

Here are some words of wisdom from those of us who remember the good old days. Deep down inside we all still want to be freshmen, hence why we want to help you have the best first year possible!

For starters, a great way to make friends is to come to senior tailgate! Seniors love when freshmen infringe on their senior privileges.

They also love when you join them at Senior Rail. The term "senior" is used loosely to describe someone who has completed the strenuous trials and tribulations of middle school. Therefore, everybody's welcome!

Elevator passes are \$111. Any senior will be happy to sell you one, since it gets us out of paying our senior dues. You'll need one if you want to get to the pool anyway (it's on the third floor, and we don't have stairs since logically, the pool water would make them too slippery).

Leaving class three minutes early on Fridays only for seniors? Not a chance, we would never leave you guys out! In fact, you should leave class about 10 minutes earlier and greet us in the parking lot with loud applause and soccer tunnels. We like to feel loved.

A superb way to get along with all the football players is greet them daily with butt slaps—they love it! Remember the bigger they are, the cuddlier they are. Like giant bears, they could kill you easily but would rather be BFFs instead. Crocs are a cool trend.

MySpace style self-pics are still awesome, as is Peeking every picture of you and your boyfriend/girlfriend. *Always and forever* = until November. It's high school, not marriage.

Never fear, someone else from your circle of friends has been waiting for this chance since you got first chair in Symphonic Band back at Irving.

But for real, remember the 5 Ds: dodge, duck, dip, dive, and dodge. They will come in very handy around senior rail. And yes, we know "dodge" is written twice. Chances are, you will have to do it twice.

Delicious delights at Georgetown Cupcake

By Thomas Ariale

Oracle Editor

Georgetown, where the young go for overpriced goods.

It doesn't matter what you're looking for in Georgetown, chances are it will cost double what you would normally pay for it. Clothes stores line the streets such as Vineyard Vine, The North Face, Urban Outfitters, American Apparel, and the list goes on. Intermingled with the fashion lies different places to wet your pallet. One that is becoming increasingly more popular is Georgetown Cupcake. However just like the clothes expect to pay more than you would for this treat, a single cupcake costs \$2.75. Opened in February of 2008 by two sister Katherine Kallinis and Sophie LaMontagne, Georgetown Cupcake has exploded onto the scene with simple treats created and combined into ways that make it seem as if you were eating a cloud of delicious icing. Georgetown Cupcake sells an average of 500 cupcakes everyday baked fresh in the morning for customers.

Now I have had one of these cupcakes

brought to me before, however I had yet to visit the original location of this famed eatery. So I decided it was high time I hop on the metro and make my way into Georgetown to see this pastry palace for myself. My friends and I arrived to Georgetown around 8:10 PM, figuring since it was late and they closed in less than a hour it would be pretty easy to get in, grab a cupcake, and head home...let me tell you dear readers, that wasn't the case.

I was shocked when I saw the line wrapped around the building. Tourists wound up their flash cameras and took pictures of the workers inside the building who were hand making the cupcakes as if they were Oompa Loompas working in Willy Wonkas factory. We stood in the sweltering heat for 40 minutes, just for a cupcake.

One thing that is so appealing about Georgetown is the atmosphere of this city. Even though the wait was ridiculously long the laughter and excitement that was in the air somehow, incredibly, made the 40 minutes fly by. Finally at 8:53 PM I took my first bite of my chocolate cupcake fresh from the kitchen. It was a truly amazing experience.



Thomas Ariale

This small, yet incredibly delicious, cupcake cost me \$2.75 and a hour of my time in line! In no way what so ever am I upset with my decision to wait for this cupcake, in the end all the hype of Georgetown Cupcake lived up to its reputation. Every high school student should make a hajj to this pastry palace of mouth watering and decadent desserts.

The cupcake and frosting mixed together to make an explosion of flavor in my mouth that was completely worth the wait.

Although Georgetown is a bit on the pricey side, I highly recommend going to eat at Georgetown Cupcake, you won't be dis-

appointed. If you can't make it into Georgetown, feel free to watch the incredibly scripted show on TLC about Georgetown Cupcake named, DC Cupcakes. However of you have a choice between the show or real deal, I recommend the real thing.

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
First Oracle of the school year!	Tiffany & Co. founded in 1837.	Talk-Like a Pirate Day!	Special Spartan Time—PART lesson Field Hockey Game vs. Lee @ HOME, 6/7:30 p.m.	Underclass Yearbook portraits through English Cross Country Quad Meet, 5 p.m.	Underclass Yearbook portraits through English Volleyball @ West Pot, 6/7:15 p.m.	Golf Patriot District Tournament starts. Field Hockey Game vs TC @ HOME
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Senior Yearbook makeup portraits	Spartan Beautification Day, 8 a.m.-noon	Olivia Newton-John turns 62 today!	Volleyball at TC, 5 p.m. Spartan Baseball Camp, 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Softball pitching clinic, 4:30-6:30 p.m. All Night Grad Party Meeting, 7 p.m.	Sophomore Parent Coffee, 7 p.m.	Freshman Parent Coffee, 7 p.m.
Football Game vs WestPot @ HOME						

SEPTEMBER '10