



The

ORACLE

February 21, 2011 Volume 45 Number 10

West Springfield High School

6100 Rolling Road

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22152

Egypt's revolution causes local impact Students affected by uprising, change is on the horizon in the Middle East

By Nisreen Sumreen

Features Editor

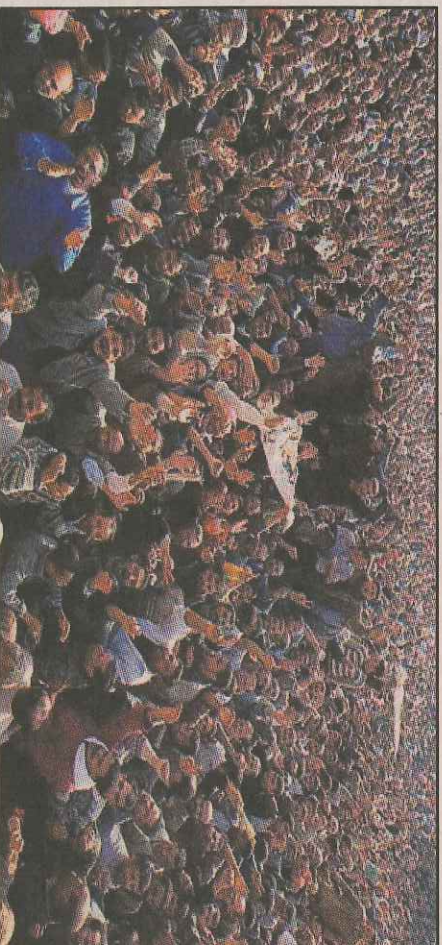
"You say you want a revolution."

The delicate balance of the countries in the Middle East came crashing down, starting with the revolution in Tunisia which then spread to Egypt, Yemen and Jordan. The 25th of January marked the beginning of what will be a monumental change not just for the Middle East, but for the entire world.

The most intense revolt is the one currently taking place in Egypt, where people are rebelling against their President, Hosni Mubarak.

"Mubarak has been in power for 30 years," said sophomore Ramsey El-Hady. "He is not doing anything to help the people; he is leaving the poor in poverty and making him and his friends rich."

The economy in Egypt has recently declined dramatically while unemployment rates have gone up. The people are weary of broken promises and want to bring Egypt into



Infinite Symposium

Protesters in Cairo celebrate Mubarak's announcement to step down as President of Egypt. The Egyptian revolution progressed quickly, getting the democratic results that civilians wanted in a few short weeks.

an age of democracy. They have promised that they will not disperse until Mubarak is overthrown and they get an opportunity to have real elections.

Most of the demonstrations are taking place in Egypt's capital, Cairo. "I have family in Cairo, and they are stuck at home without any way to communicate

with others," said senior Mark Mekhail. "They have to be off the streets because of the curfew that is from four in the afternoon into the morning."
With the dramatic shift of power that could come to Egypt, and Obama's request that Mubarak resign, the United States' diplomatic relations with Egypt could be damaged.
"If Mubarak leaves, Egypt will have a fresh start and better goals," said Mekhail. "The relationship with the U.S. will be affected because Mubarak was a key for U.S. Presidents in Middle East."
A deciding factor in this conflict is going to be the army. The army has so far not taken any sides, and the people respect the army, and their ability to keep the peace so far. After a week of riots, supporters of Mubarak took to the streets to defend their President. "Mubarak released two prisons and paid

See "Egypt" on Page 6.



Free Digital Photos

The Fairfax County School Board is currently seeking approval of new and improved budget for 2012. The new budget would allow the county to accommodate more students.

Budget changes for the better

By Peter Simonsen

Senior Staff Writer

The Fairfax County School Board voted in early February to approve the \$2.2 billion budget for the 2012 fiscal year proposed by Superintendent Jack Dale.

The advertised budget is now seeking approval from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, which will hold hearings on proposed changes and give their approval by late April.

The coming budget changes reflect the growing strain on Fairfax County Public Schools to accommodate an ever increasing number of students while dealing with stagnant or even decreasing funds. For Principal Paul Wardinski, the main hope is that money doesn't get any tighter.

"We're hoping for the funds simply to remain the same, (it's called a flat transfer,) and that they won't go down any more," said Wardinski.

to play and ready to win. But this game was special. She had been approaching 1000 points and knew she would achieve it shortly.

"[After scoring my 1000th point,] I heard my mom yell out my nickname, Shorty, and I just smiled because I knew I'd finally reached one of my goals," said Robinson.

Her grandparents sent roses and wrote her a note telling her how proud they were of her. Robinson's parents were also supportive of her.

"As hard as April has worked all her life, I'm just extremely proud of her," said Marie Robinson, April's mother.

Even with all the excitement, though, April's father, Jeff Robinson, who is the WS JV Basketball coach, doesn't let April let up on her training.

"This is not the ultimate goal. The ultimate goal is to see 'Robinson' on Page 6.

Robinson reaches one thousand

By Jordan Miller

Page One Editor

It was during the Varsity Basketball game against Annandale.

There were no spotlights or confetti, but junior April Robinson had just achieved a major milestone.

During that game, April Robinson hit her 1000th career point, after a night of scoring 21 points for the Lady Spartans.

Reaching 1000 points within a high school career, especially while still only a junior, is a huge accomplishment.

A starter since her freshman year, Robinson has been playing basketball since she was about 4.

"I've been playing basketball since I could pick up a ball," said Robinson.

On February 8, Robinson came into the game, as she does into all the games, ready



Lifetouch

Junior April Robinson poses with her father, JV Basketball coach Jeff Robinson. Her family urges her to focus equally on schoolwork and basketball.



Lifetouch

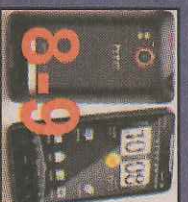
Robinson recently scored her 1000th point in a regular season game against the Annandale Atoms. Her ultimate goal is to score 3200 points in her high school career.

Spanish students
journey to
Puerto Rico.



5

Networks
duke it out for
users.



8-9

Wake up with
the morning
shows.



12

The 'R' in PART has been lost

Students and teachers alike deserve more respect

Let's make Aretha Franklin proud.

Teachers complain about the attitudes of students, and students are constantly complaining about teacher policies being unfair.

We contribute this problem to the lack of mutual respect between both teachers

Editorial

and students. We are aware of the fact that many teachers perceive high school students as lazy and unmotivated, which is sometimes true, but many teachers take this perception to its full extent. They tend to classify all high school students as lazy and unmotivated, which is completely unfair.

However, in the same sense, high school students too often go into the school year expecting and having the classic boring teacher and knowing their school year will con-

sist of sleeping in class and barely trying to get by.

We urge both teachers and students to be more respectful of each other.

It is true that high school students are very hard headed, but in the same way some of the teachers' policies seem a bit

tough as well.

During the high school years, stu-

dents are developing the type of learning that most benefits the type of person they are. Some students are visual learners, some are audio learners, and others are more kinesthetic learners and need hands-on examples to help them understand the material.

A good way for both teachers and students to get off on the right foot at the beginning of the year is to have a discussion that allows for students to express the best way for them to have the utmost success

during the school year.

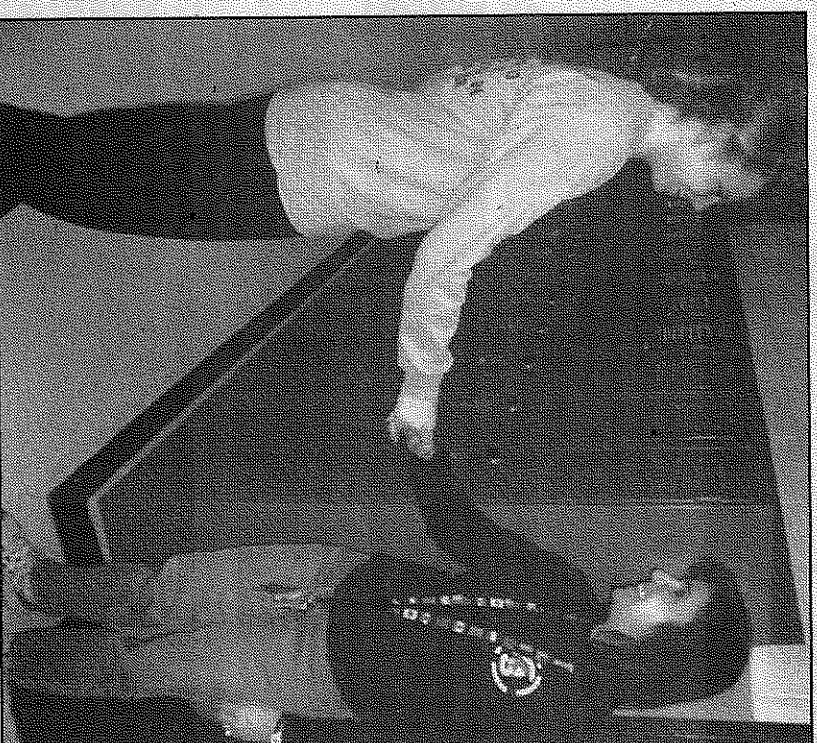
We are not saying that a teacher should change his or her classroom rules, because following directions is an essential part of not only school, but society as well.

All we are saying is that the teacher-student relationship would benefit from an open discussion in which both sides explain expectations and goals for the school year.

Respecting one's elders is an essential part of a functioning society. Therefore, when the people in authority respect the youth who are under them, it goes a long way in establishing a good environment.

To be honest, it gets a little frustrating when students get blasted and disciplined for rules that are completely unnecessary.

Springfield, for the most part, is a very tight-knit community, but we believe that a little more respect from both teachers and students would make it that much better.



Nora Osei/
Spanish teacher Susan Lampazzi shakes junior Emily Esau's hand as she enters her class, displaying mutual respect between students and teachers that is sometimes lacking throughout the school.

Wait, which bell was that?

New system leave Spartans confused as to each tone's individual meaning

By Maria Scaptura

ETC. Editor

BEEP! CLEAR! Oh wait, this is not a hospital?

That is one of the many jokes associated with our now not-so-new bell system. When it first arrived, the students could not have been more confused.

From the beginning there were no warnings or notices informing us of these new bells beforehand, so all of a sudden one morning—Beep!—there's a random noise issuing (not too loudly might I add) from the PA system telling us to leave for class at 7:29 as opposed to our usual time of 7:25.

Though this is not a huge difference, it is significant enough that students were looking at their watches in complete and utter bewilderment after preparing to leave for class and failing to hear the dismissal bell.

Not to mention the most basic quandary associated with these bells: why we need two different tones.

I understand the concept of the warning bell and the you-should-be-in-class bell, but one of the bells (the long ringing one) sounds like an intense scene in "Jersey Shore" where the cursing is used more than average.

And the other bell (I can't even describe it without sarcasm) sounds like an alien invasion from Mars or a Wookiee from "Star Wars," enough said.

On the plus side, when the bell system was installed, the clocks were reset so that they actually tell the correct time. Impressive right?

I understand the concept of the warning bell and the you-should-be-in-class bell, but one of the bells... sounds like an intense scene in "Jersey Shore" where the cursing is used more than average.

To some extent, yes. Now we don't have to approximate how much time until the next bell rings, which we all know students love to stress about.

Another inconvenient aspect is that all the bells seem particularly loud in classrooms but rather quiet in the Sports Lobby or the halls. How is that possible?

Maybe we just need a settling phase, but as of now, during 5th and 6th periods, the bells for the lunches cause more of a disruption in class than a student walking in late which is what the bells were there to eliminate in the first place.

They've become so disruptive in many classes that every time the teacher talks and a bell rings, he or she has to pause for what feels like an eternity and then try to get back on topic when the whole charade is over.

Either way you spin it though, good or bad, teenagers only care if the bell at the end of the day gets them out at exactly 2:10.



Nora Osei

Now there is a bell releasing students from class, then a one-minute warning bell to get to your next class, then a late bell. Most students find all those bells confusing, not being able to differentiate between the one-minute bell and late bell.

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The ORACLE

The Oracle is a student-run publication designed to inform and entertain the West Springfield High School community. We publish articles written with as little reporter bias as possible. Opinion is expressed in Viewpoint, Forum and ETC., and in reviews and signed columns. Editorials represent the opinion of at least two-thirds of the staff and do not reflect the views of the 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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Merit before seniority

Parking should be awarded to students for academic achievement, not senior lottery

By Lauren Giery

Page One Editor

Attention student drivers: you might want to crack the books more diligently.

Our over-populated school can't provide a parking spot for everyone, so it's first come, first served for students who are willing to pay the overwhelming price for a spot just a few feet away from the lower level entrances.

It is bad enough that the price of a parking spot has increased to a whopping \$200, but what makes it even worse is the lack of spots to supply all drivers. On top of that, the seniority rightly plays in as well.

Students do not want to leave their houses at the crack of dawn to get a spot on Rolling. Taking that ten minute walk from Hillside is even worse. If there's even a hint of

precipitation, then scavenging for a spot becomes more difficult than normal, and snow makes it nearly impossible since plows push the snow into potential parking spots.

One way to better the situation that so many students dread each morning would be to change the system of distributing parking spots.

Parking lotteries offer students a chance to gain one of these parking spots, and right now, they are won completely by the luck of the contestants.

Why not give out these parking spots based on merit instead?

Merit-based parking spots would not only give over-achievers a reward for all their hard work, but

it would also be a way to encourage other students who normally slack off to spend more time studying and doing homework.

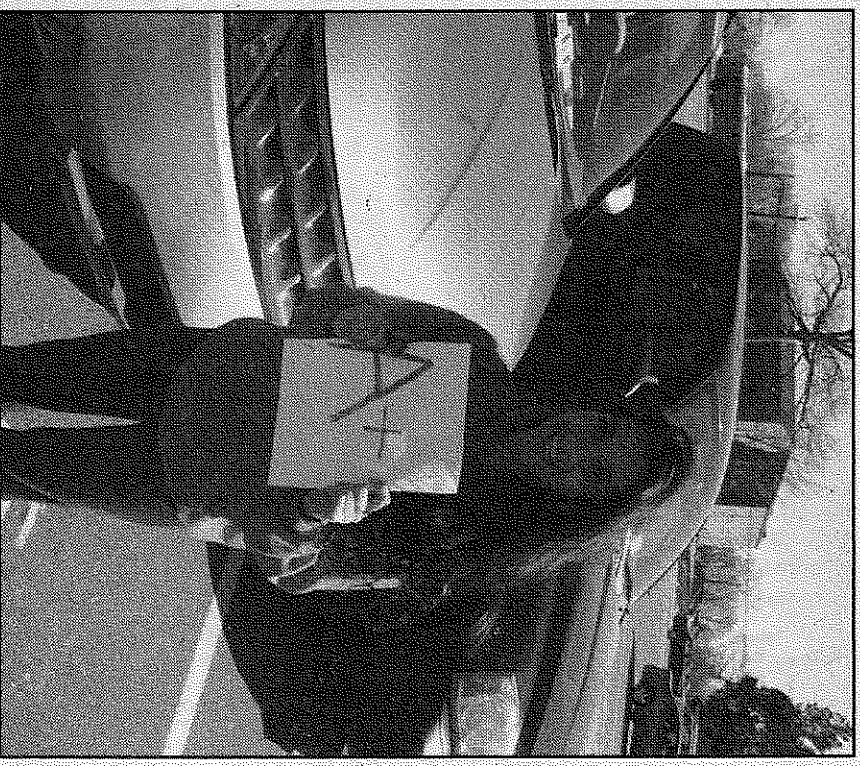
Parking spots given out to stu-

dents with the highest GPA who apply, rather than whoever's name is randomly chosen out of the hat, would likely improve grades for the entire school.

With that being said, students with higher a GPA are also more likely to have better attendance than students who don't try as hard in school.

While that may not always be the case, it is more common. For that reason, a student who shows up to school more should have the pass over someone who skips. On days when the student doesn't show up, that parking spot is just going to waste, so it puts them to better use as well.

It would be a good incentive scholastically to give students the chance to win parking spots according to the work they put in, instead of by the luck of the draw.



Lauren Giery

Though parking spots are currently awarded randomly through a lottery, it may be more effective to give out spots based on academic merit. Students such as junior Leila Zaaahoa wish these changes would be made because it would encourage students to focus more on schoolwork.

FCPS students overstressed

Perhaps we should take on less, focus our interests

By Allie Collela

Forum Editor

Quality, not quantity.

A few weeks ago, the National Honor Society (NHS) inducted its new members, including its honorary member, history teacher Brad Swain.

Swain spoke to members of the NHS about something that has been on my mind for a while now: he urged against trying to be the best at everything. He stressed that if you take on too many things, you will end up being the best at nothing. His challenge for students was to focus on one or two things and do the best job possible.

It would be awesome to spend lots of time after school working in a club activity without worrying about the three classes worth of AP homework waiting at home, or to have the time to catch up in other subjects without having to rush to multiple meetings.

We run ourselves into the ground trying to be everywhere at once, until it all begins to blend together and we no longer have the time or brain power to differentiate between the separate activities.

When you step back and look at it, what kind of high school experience is that? That doesn't teach us the value of putting work into something, nor does it help us figure out

what we want to do with ourselves outside of school.

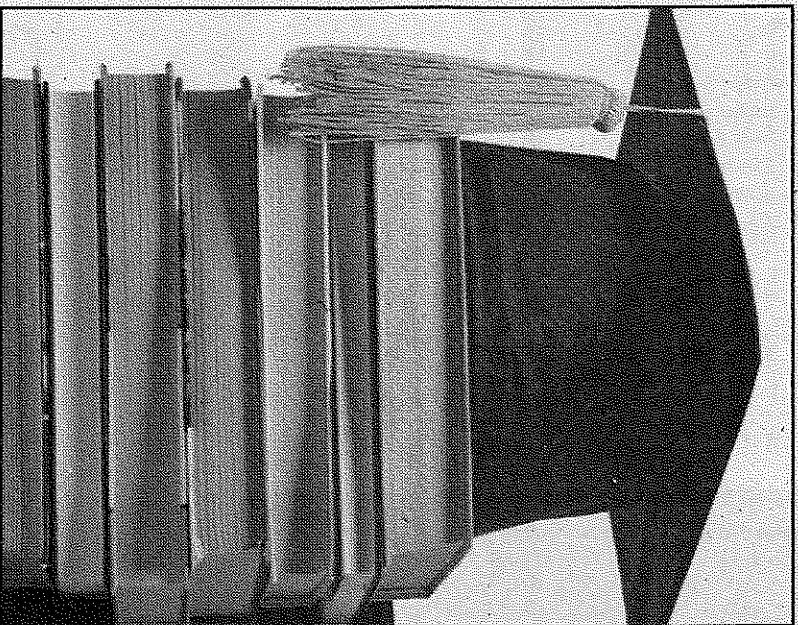
We join clubs we think will look good, instead of clubs we find interesting. We take AP Calculus BC when we would do much better, and be much happier, in Statistics. We pick AP Biology instead of Oceanography for an elective because it's an AP class, even though Oceanography interests us much more.

Why do we feel like we have to do so much? The answer is college admissions. This inevitably nasty process, which all students eventually have to go through, pushes us to do everything because we feel colleges will reject us if we don't appear to be involved.

Just to be safe, we "involve" ourselves in every sport or club we can get our hands on. Then we throw a few AP and Honors classes into the mix so colleges won't think we're slacking off in our academics. It leads to the bags under our eyes in the morning and the stress that mounts as the weeks go on.

Despite the stress, we are continually pressured into doing everything. The answer to this problem is not simple, as I struggle with it myself.

But when do we stop? It is not healthy to become obsessive and do everything at once. Take it slow, students, and you will find yourself in a better position to excel.



Lynchbrook Schools

Students these days feel stressed to do a million extra curriculars and take all AP classes when they should instead focus on what their own personal interests.

School lunch not all that and a bag of chips

By Maria Scaptura

ETC Editor

Just five more minutes. Come on. Three more. Yes-only 5, 4, 3, 2, 1... Ring!

The bell dismissing you to go to lunch sounds, you're so hungry that you practically race to the lunch line. But when you get your food, your appetite is immediately lost.

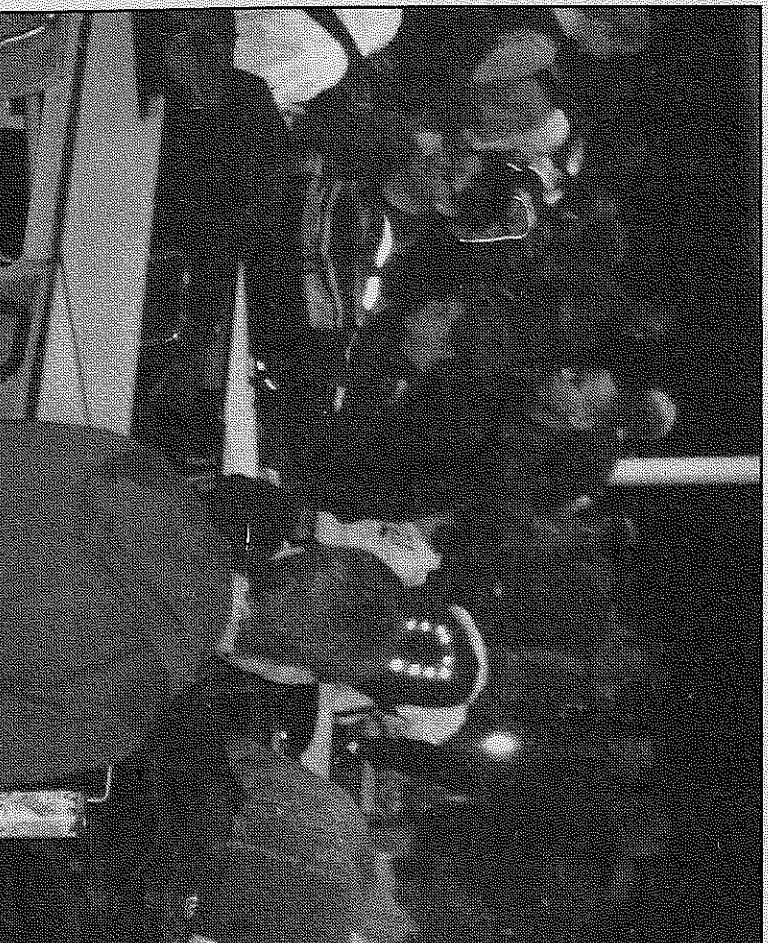
Okay, maybe our school lunches are not that gross or off-putting, but they don't look especially tempting either. I mean, pizza that looks and tastes like cardboard is not so appealing.

Nevertheless, you can still eat the school's lunches with the goal of them filling you up, right?

Now we all know school lunches won't get much better in the near future but at the very least Congress is attempting to pass a bill to make school lunches healthier, so cross your fingers that these new healthy ingredients will mysteriously make the food taste better.

My point is not to condemn school lunches, but if they're so bad, why do so many students continue to eat them day in and day out?

Although, from the perspective of a tried and true brown-bag lunch-bringer that occa-



Jake Trump

Students line up to get lunch at the cafeteria. Because of many recent changes that have been implemented for people that buy lunch, many students have deferred to bringing their own.

sionally buys cookies every now and then, all I have to say is that those cookies can be pretty tasty. Not that I've tried anything else from the lunch line besides cookies, and have never had the inking to, and probably never will.

But the thing that especially peeves students about school lunches is that you now have to pay 25 cents when you want hot water with your cup-o-noodles. Last time I checked, this was not a third world country so why do we now need to pay for water?

Anyway, the school has to be aware of the fact that students are just going to get around that. For example, students could just use water from the water fountain or use water from a water bottle and then rub elbows with one of their favorite teachers in order to use their microwave.

Another topic that bothers students is the fact that the school lunches simply aren't vegan and vegetarian friendly. Students who are vegan or vegetarian all bring lunches because the school doesn't offer a lot or enough choices for them to eat.

Still, these hungry students at WSHS have to eat something so until school lunches are vastly improved, we got to eat what's given to us, and besides boggans can't be choosers.

Matches made in heaven

By Maria Suri
Oracle Online Assistant

Beginning last year, senior Mary Walsh and fellow classmates started the Matchmaking fundraiser to raise money for the class of 2011. Approximately 300 students participated and about the same number participated this year as well.

"Honestly, we just did it more for the fun of it than the profit and I hope it stays in this school for a very long time," said Walsh.

The money collected from the program is used for the class of 2011 for activities such as prom, graduation, class shirts, and other funds that need to be met before graduation arrives.

Students filled out the forms for free in the cafeteria the week of January 17 through January 21. The forms were sent to a company in Canada and when they were sent back Matchmakers sold the answers for a dollar.

Unfortunately, due to the snow, several students couldn't fill out Matchmaker forms and the Matchmakers weren't able to have as much as advertisement as they intended.

"The hardest part is keeping everything together," said

Walsh. "For example, some students just walk off with the forms or don't turn them in at all and that's 25 cents we lose."

Some students participate to get in the spirit of Valentine's Day, some want to find their soul mate, and others just want to find a friend.

When the students get their forms, back it has a list of people of the opposite sex that could possibly be their match or soul mate. It also has a list of people of the same gender that have the same interests as them that could possibly be friends with them.

"I really liked the outcome of the Matchmaker and I will definitely be doing it again next year," said freshman Monica Colon. "I just wish that it matched me with older guys rather than guys in my grade."

Colon expected there to be not enough guys and odd matches, but she really liked the outcome and said it was even. The best part was doing it with her friends and classmates and seeing their results compared to hers.

Overall, the Matchmaker fundraiser was successful and hopefully it will function just as well next year without interference from the snow.



Maria Suri

The Matchmaking fundraiser started last year and has since entertained hundreds of students around Valentine's Day by providing suggestions for possible friends and significant others.

Trip takes students to a whole new world

Spanish classes head to Puerto Rico, escape the icy cold Springfield conditions

By Rita Zevallos

Senior Staff Writer

Bathing suits in January?

While Fairfax County was buried under several inches of snow, freezing temperatures, and power outages, seven AP Spanish and Spanish 5 students were relaxing on the paradise-like beaches of Puerto Rico.

"I really liked the beach; it was pretty, the water was warm, and Andrea [Suarez] and I had a 'photoshoot,'" said senior Lisa Eichhorn.

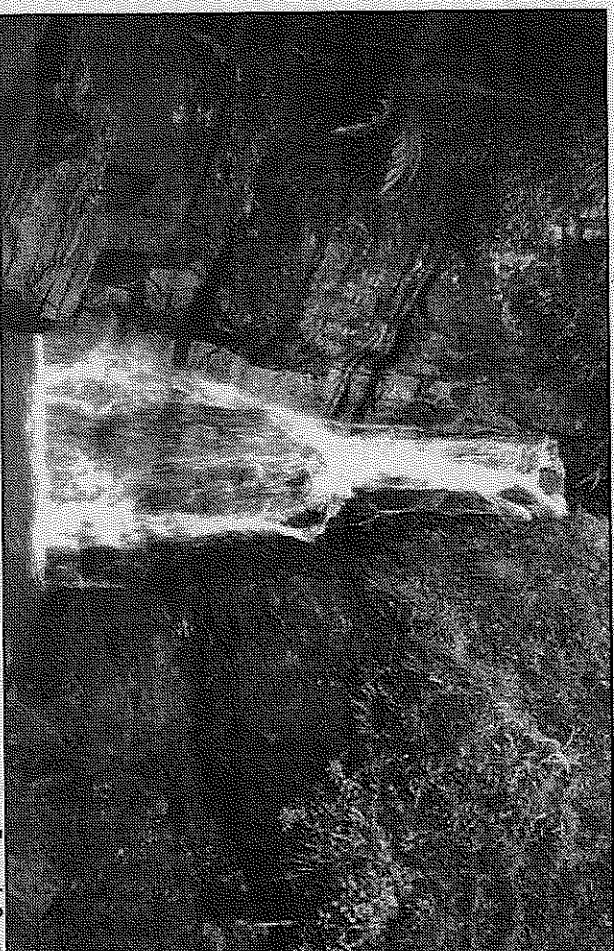
Students from the most advanced Spanish classes go to Puerto Rico every year to learn about other Hispanic cultures, practice the Spanish language, and have fun.

This year, seven students decided to go on the trip, accompanied by their three Spanish teachers.

"We went to museums and historical places, tried their food, and bought stuff," said sophomore Jessica Rodriguez. "We got to see a whole new culture."

The group toured San Juan to shop and take photos of the stunning architecture.

They also got to practice their language—which was ostensibly the educational purpose of the trip. Most of the natives of Puerto



Fernando Cuevas

On the annual Puerto Rico trip, the students visit El Yunque Rainforest, located on the eastern end of Puerto Rico. El Yunque is the only rainforest that is part of the United States Forest System. The forest is very uniquely beautiful and picturesque.

Rico spoke only Spanish, so the students had

to use their skills in understanding and speaking the language to get around and help others. "We got to translate to other tourists," said Rodriguez.

News Bites

Gaga's 'Born This Way' heats up

Lady Gaga's newest single "Born This Way" was released on February 11th and debuted at number one on the *Billboard* Charts. Gaga's hit bears a resemblance to Madonna's "Express Yourself," but Gaga states that the two artists "have no beef." Lady Gaga's album titled "Born This Way" is set to hit stands in May.

Coke's secret formula discovered

Coca-Cola's secret formula, one of the world's best kept secrets, was accidentally stumbled upon by a great of radio producers. The list of ingredients, found in an Atlanta newspaper issue from 1979, has created an uproar with the soda's manufacturer.

American reporter assaulted in Egypt

While covering the revolution in Egypt, American news correspondent Lara Logan was separated from her crew and security staff and encircled by a mob. She was "suffered a brutal and sustained sexual assault" before being saved from the mob by a group of women and about 20 Egyptian soldiers. She was flown back to Washington on the first flight possible, and is now recovering in a DC hospital.

Murderer's parents accused of libel

Amanda Knox, convicted of murdering her British roommate Meredith Kercher in Italy a few years ago, is now involved in another scandal. Knox's parents have been indicted for libeling Italian police, saying that while in custody, their daughter "had not been given an interpreter, had not received food and water, and had been physically and verbally abused" by police. According to Italy's news agency, these statements are contrary to the truth. The hearing is set for July.

Haynesworth shows road rage on parkway, faces sexual assault charges

Redskins defensive lineman Albert Haynesworth has been accused of sexual assault after reportedly groping a waitress's breast. The event apparently took place at the W Hotel. Haynesworth's waitress's hands were full as he attempted to pay for his meal. Allegedly, while putting his credit card into her breast pocket, he fondled her breast. This came after he decided to plead no contest to charges of assault after punching another driver on the parkway, after the driver asked Haynesworth to stop tailgating him.

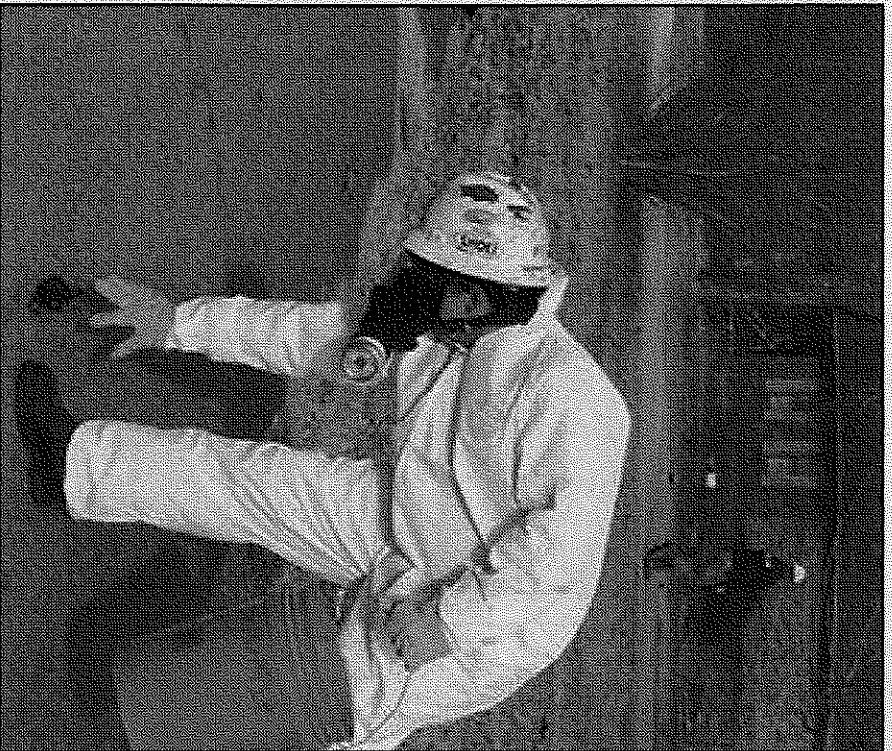
Lohan shoplifts, will return to court

Lindsay Lohan had yet another run in with the law recently, as Lohan faces grand theft charges after allegedly stealing a \$2,500 necklace from a store in Los Angeles. Lohan will return to court on February 23 and will plead not guilty to this charge. This charge will most likely violate her probation she received from her DUI in July of 2007.



Fernando Cuevas

—Compiled from local news, police and online sources



A Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) worker picks up one of the dead birds that fell from the sky in Arkansas in January. The incident with the birds caused many people to worry about the safety of the environment.

Uh-oh, the sky is falling!

Dead animals cause masses to fret about environment

By Katie Carter
Journalism 1

Dead birds falling from the sky, dead fish popping up in the Chesapeake Bay and also somewhere in Sweden—supposedly all signs that our world is ending, and sooner than we thought.

According to Fox News, 5,000 birds dropped dead from the sky in Arkansas on New Year's Eve. Authorities have ruled the cause of death to simply blunt force trauma caused possibly by exploding fireworks in the nighttime sky, eliminating all other possibilities. As for the dead fish, the cause still remains unclear. This does not change, however, the ongoing theory that the world, as we know it, is coming to an end.

"For all we know, these could be signs. We just can't be for sure," said junior Michaela Mishoe.

These recent events have gotten a lot of people thinking about the upcoming apocalypse. A Web page

devoted to all kinds of end-of-the-world theories, End of the World 2012 Predictions, points out that the Mayan calendar predicted that our world will end on December 21, 2012 and that this doomsday is actually very possible.

Mishoe can see this possibility too. Just because our species is extremely powerful and superior, does not mean that it cannot be destroyed.

"People are ignorant, thinking that there's no way our world could be wiped out, but honestly, we won't know until that day," said Mishoe.

Others say that these freak accidents occurring around the world are no indication of an impending apocalypse, but rather just coincidences that have been blown out of proportion.

"Maybe it is more nature wreaking havoc than anything else," said Biology teacher Jennifer Owens. As for the possible end of the

world, students here seem to be very assured that it is not happening anytime soon, believing, rather, that the world will end in billions of years, when the sun supposedly consumes the Earth.

"There has been a lot of times that people said the world was going to end, but it hasn't yet," freshman freshman Jamie Schnauder.

Schnauder believes that Y2K never actually occurred, even though people feared that in the year 2000, all of the computer systems would crash as a result of a new type of software.

Owens said the media has created a lot of speculation throughout the country, fueling the emotions of the American people. These events have created great speculation for a lot of people, when in reality it was just another one of Mother Nature's acts.

"People freak out just because they like to freak out," said Owens.

Education attempts to catch up with digital age students

Schools consider online textbooks, teach computer classes to better prepare kids

By Danny Garrison
Journalism 1

Look around you. Chances are you will be overwhelmed by the different smart phones, mp3 players, and computers that are the result enormous advancements in technology throughout the past decade.

"What was considered advanced 10 years ago is piddly stuff today," said Technology Specialist Jerry Mason. "There has to be someone managing it."

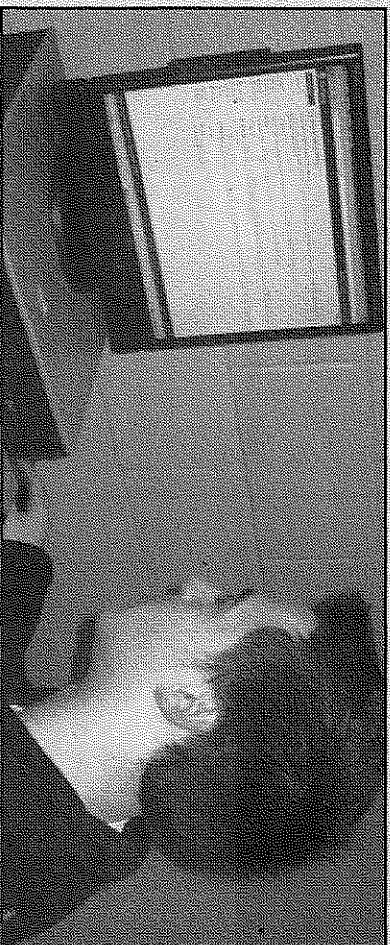
Mason's job is to keep the school's plethora of technology up and running. In the previous decade, schools could generally function without a Technology Specialist but with the Smart Boards and laptops that students use every day, a tech specialist is vital to a modern school running smoothly.

"We encourage teachers to use new technologies, but we don't want to force it down their throats," said School Based Technology Specialist Ann Wong.

Students themselves are also well-versed in high technology. Academy Classes, such as the Oracle (a computer technology corporation) class offered at Edison High School, teach students advanced computer programs to prepare them for all the technology they will face once they leave high school.

"We learn about data based solutions and how to program data bases," said senior David Magnotti. Magnotti is also a student of Mason's, who runs errands around the school, taking care of the ever-present threat of technology failure.

Perhaps that most amazing technological advancement in the past decade is the Apple iPad and other tablet devices. These small, flat, handheld, gadgets perform all the tasks of a computer, an mp3 player, and in some cases a cell phone.



Senior Andy Gholson works on *The Oracle Online*, showing the increased use of technology among students. More and more, schools are turning to technology in an effort to better suit their students' needs and to try to hold their attention better.

Texting too distracting?

Using cell phones creates problems for students

By Kyle Rushton
Oracle Staff Writer

"One new message. Inbox Full." Students have sent and received one too many text messages to put themselves over the allotted amount, until their parents finally give in to unlimited texting. Though unlimited texting is much needed seeing as most teenagers send uncountable numbers of texts in just one month, the freedom has created several damaging effects.

First and foremost, texting causes some people to become completely oblivious to their surroundings. This was clearly proven in a recent incident at Berkshire shopping mall in Pennsylvania, when shopper Cathy Cruz Marrero was too focused on her "urgent" text to pay attention to her steps. Let's just say she had a

nice bath in the mall's fountain.

"Texting draws people's attention away from the real world," said junior Hanbin Cho.

After the incident, security leaked the video and it ended up on YouTube, where it received over two million views. Claiming that the video was a violation of privacy and had put her through unwanted humiliation, Marrero made the questionable decision of suing.

Not only does texting affect your awareness of the things around you, but also the people around you.

"It's rude at social occasions," said Cho, "when people are texting someone else or another person across the room."

Sending constant texts every two seconds while you're spending time with another friend doesn't make the time any more fun for the friend you're with. Many times,

we miss part of the conversation or almost completely ignore the person talking to us because we're too engulfed in the cyber-conversation taking place in our hands.

"It definitely injures social skills," said senior Emily Gorham. "We probably should call anyway."

Unfortunately, texting causes many deaths, such as when people text while driving. The National Safety Council estimates that about 1.6 million crashes are cell phone related.

While the overuse of texting proves to be a distraction when driving, it can also be distracting to students in other ways including instruction during school and completing school work.

"It can take longer to do homework if you're trying to text people at the same time," said



Texting side-tracks students from the real world despite various rules to prohibit their usage in school. Some students would rather focus on messages during class than their school work.

senior Paul Belisle.

Obsessive texting can also be distracting to other people in public places. Not everyone wants to see a repetitive shining light in front of them in the movie theatre.

"It can distract you from an important event," said Belisle, "and it is making communication less personal."

Kindle and the aforementioned iPad. Some courses already have textbooks available online but if they were to be incorporated into handheld devices it would be a whole new ball game.

"It would be helpful having them around all the time, and it would be great being able to update the information all the time," said English teacher Katie Norton, who heard about the program from a teacher at Lake Braddock. "But everyone has different learning styles and so some students might not like it."

There will, however, always be doubters of the technological advancements of today.

"People rely on electronics for things they used to do themselves," said junior Isabelle White. "Our generation is too dependent on technology and it's only going to get worse.

America has always been a country that refuses to stand still. In a period of under 100 years we went from the Wright brothers' first sustained flight to landing on the moon. The impact of technology is felt all over the world and the advancements have no signs of stopping.

"Enjoy your new electronics now because they're bound to be obsolete before you get your first scratch on them," said Shidlovsky.

Budget changes on the horizon

"Budget," from Page 1.

be replaced by the county if it was damaged or stolen, but now it has to be over \$750, so the school is left to pick up the extra."

Shortfalls are plentiful. Last year, FCPS needed to cover a \$203.4 million difference in the budget, and the cuts were felt everywhere. Fees for sports teams and AP tests were imposed to generate extra revenue, and more cuts were made to custodians and maintenance crew, as well as a pay freeze for new teachers. Since 2009 FCPS has had to account for \$465 million in cost avoidances.

While educators feel budget cuts in the classroom, the main area where students feel the sting is sports teams.

"A lot of the cuts to sports have been to the transport," said Athletic Director Andy Muir. "There used to be a bus per team but now there is a bus per program. Then we have the JV and Varsity sports moving together which means everybody is there longer. When the teams have to wait for each other, instead of leaving at three and playing at four, they finish at six and don't come back until eight."

Winter Cheerleading was also eliminated because it was noncompetitive, and sports that require daily transportation, such as swimming, had entire practices removed.

However, some programs may see some money return. The Attorney General of Virginia recently said that charging students for AP exams was against the law, so Wardinski expects AP test fees will be gone. Muir added that practices taken from sports may return.

With the seemingly endless cuts, the strain continues on FCPS, which currently enrolls over 175 thousand students and is expecting another 2 thousand in the next school year. The new budget available on the FCPS website says that 95 percent of FCPS positions and 85 percent of expenditures are devoted to instruction, which totals to \$1.92 billion. While this is enough to purchase a battleship from the US Navy, it still falls short. Especially considering FCPS has 196 schools to maintain and, without AP test fees, will need to cover the cost of 32 thousand exams.

While cuts are still a distinct possibility, Wardinski is optimistic that the 2012 budget will leave the school better off than previous years.

"Last year we really got a double whammy: we added more kids but had even less money to pay our staff for the extra work," said Wardinski.

For teacher and administration, the largest concern is salaries, which the county has not raised in three years. While the School Board and the Superintendent have been

pushing for raises, the county Board of Supervisors has been unwilling to give staff raises for teachers without increasing pay for other county employees, who have also dealt with three years of stagnant pay.

"Over the recent years the relationship between the School Board and the Board of Supervisors has grown more adversarial in nature," said AP Government teacher Elizabeth Jackson-Pettine. "They both are struggling with limited resources due to a smaller tax base, and this leads to more conflicting interests."

Meanwhile FCPS and school administrators continue to hold teacher pay as their priority. With a torrent of new students arriving each year, Wardinski said that compensation for overworked teachers needs to be addressed.

"Staff raises are a must this year, they're working even harder and the Superintendent agrees we need them to support the school, because the demands on staff are more than ever now."



Hersey

#32 scores career point #1000

Robinson reaches personal milestone, still focuses on team

"Robinson," from Page 1.

mate goal is to win Districts, win Regionals, and win States," said Jeff.

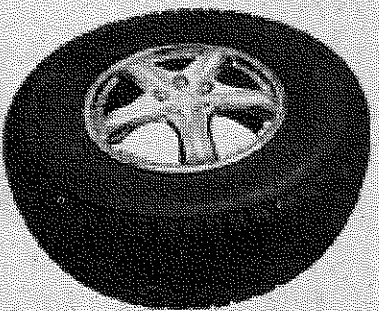
April understands that she has much more hard work ahead of her, since the season is hopefully far from over for the Lady Spartans. She has personal and team goals she would like to accomplish.

"My parents still pressure me to succeed on the court and in the classroom," said April.

With great grades and a great game, she's had several colleges offer her full scholarships so far, but she doesn't plan to sign with anyone until her senior year.

In the near future, April and the Lady Spartans enter the Patriot District tournament as the defending Champions and hope to win the title again this year.

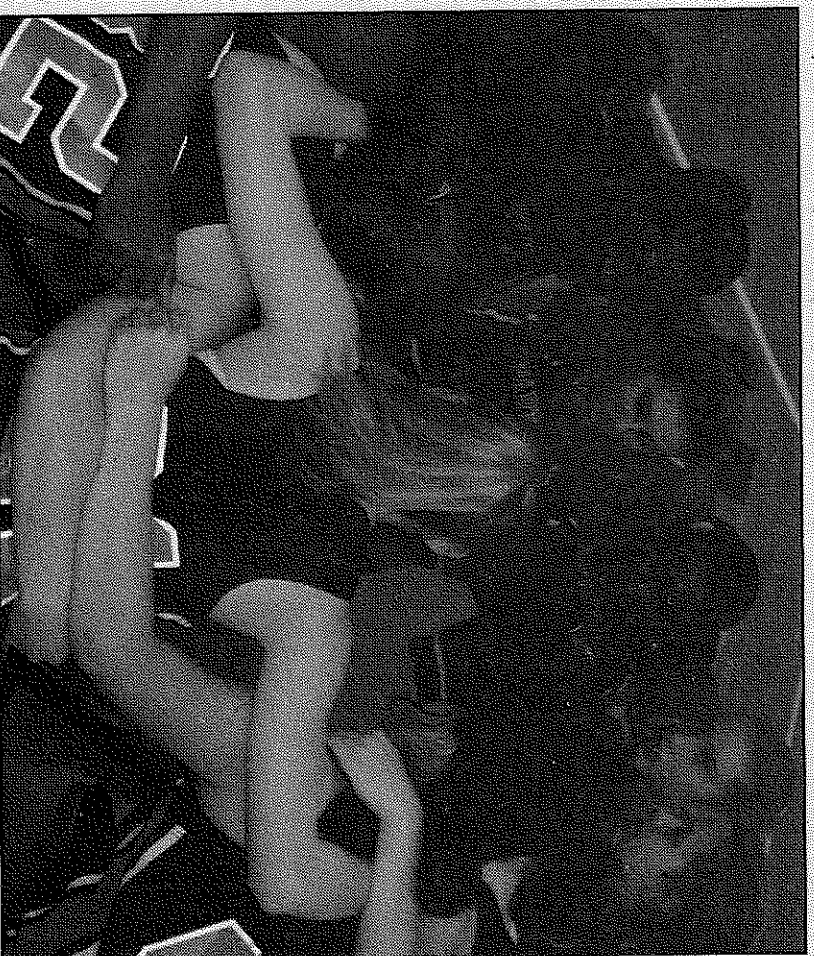
"I'm proud of myself, but I still have things to accomplish. My team's success matters also," said Robinson.



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Lifebuch

Robinson and the Lady Spartan Varsity Basketball team will move into the post season as defending Patriot District Champions. They went undefeated in the regular season, and are focusing on their game against their rivals, Oakton High School, who were also undefeated in regular season.

Soaring to new heights

By Maria Scaptura

ETC, Editor

Most high school students are just focused on getting their driver's license, but some take the meaning of 'getting their license' to a whole new altitude.

On Thursday nights between 6:30 and 9:00 in Barker Hall at Washington Irving Middle School, the members of the Burke Composite Squadron, which is a branch of the volunteer organization Civil Air Patrol (CAP), meet and do their usual routine.

"We fall in formation to tell who is there," said sophomore Claire Gillilan, who currently ranks a Cadet Master Sergeant, "talk about current aerospace events in the news and then have a class on aerospace, emergency services, customs and courtesies."

The CAP is a branch of the Air Force that people as young as 12 can join. They learn about aerospace including rockets, planes and the science that goes into them, emergency services and leadership skills for rank promotion or even for life.

"I do plan on pursuing a career in flying. Right now I'm applying through Civil Air Pa-

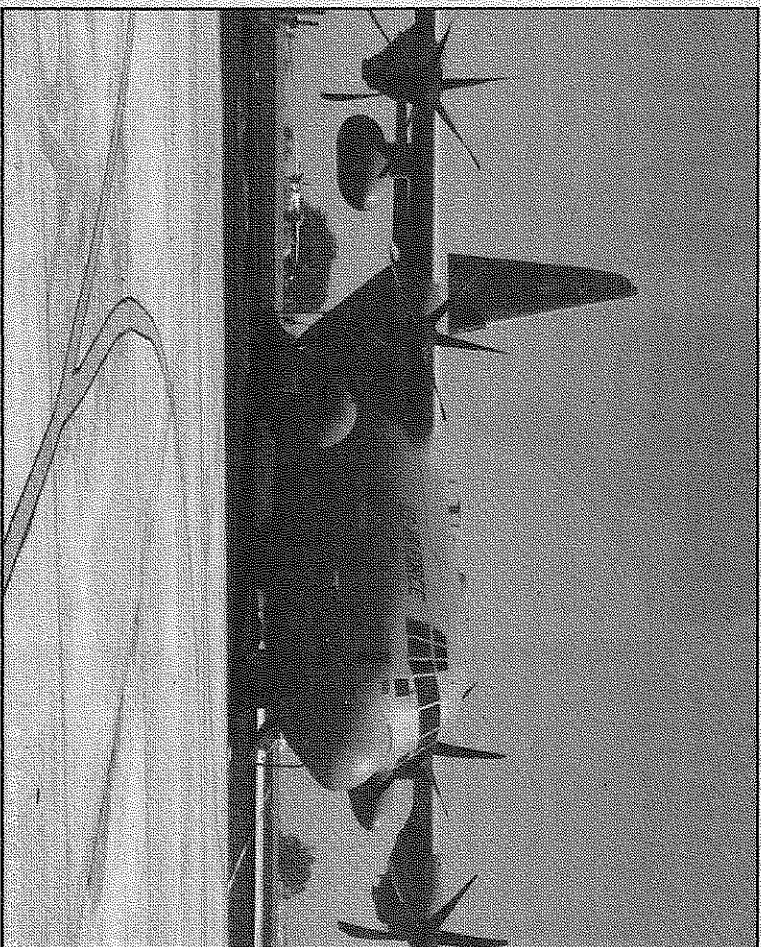
trol to attend the National Flight Academy," said sophomore Emmy Dillon, who currently ranks a Cadet 2nd Lieutenant. "Once I graduate from high school, I want to be in Air Force ROTC and become a fighter pilot or a C-17 pilot in the Air Force."

Dillon isn't the only CAP member who wishes to strive for a career in flying; Gillilan has made plans to do so as well.

"For my career I want to fly for the secret service, but I'll start out flying for the FBI and work my way up," said Gillilan. "If those two competitive jobs don't work, I might just be a medevac."

Many aspiring pilots decide to go into the field from a moment of inspiration or from an idol, like Amelia Earhart. CAP has been a great place for many of them to start working towards achieving their dreams.

"Over the summer I flew in a C-130, which is a big military transport plane," said sophomore Sarah Nuthrown, who ranks a Cadet Chief Master Sergeant. "I got to go into the cockpit and the view was amazing. It's an amazing feeling to be up in the air see the world from a 'birds eye view.'"



The C-130 pictured above is just one of the many planes that Nuthrown has had the opportunity to fly in the Civil Air Patrol. To become involved with the Civil Air Patrol of Virginia, go online and research the local chapter.

You've got a friend in me

By Luis Lester

Sports Editor

When students hear the lunch bell go off, it signifies a time for them to take a break from all the studying, relax, and hang out with their friends. For Tim Spicer's Students with Intellectual Disabilities Class, it's no different.

Buddies Club, which was founded by Spicer last year, is a club that meets after school once a month and lets general education (GenEd) students come in and spend time with Spicer's class. This year, the club has reached out in an effort to contribute more to these students by going to the cafeteria and having lunch with Spicer's class.

"I go in every couple weeks and have lunch with them and I love it," said senior Lindsey-Ann Miskovic. "Whenever I go to sit down and eat with them we make each other laugh and have a really good time."

Along with eating lunch in the cafeteria with them, GenEd students conduct other activities such as making name tags and writing letters.

"I enjoyed being with them so much that I'm actually working with them for my Capstone Project; we're sewing and making blankets for the homeless," said senior Kristina Scollins.

Another way students with intellectual disabilities inter-

act with the GenEd kids is on C lunches during orange days, when Holli Wolter's film studies class goes into Spicer's classroom to have lunch and a party with the kids.

Students bring in their lunches and with a Pandora radio station playing in the background, Spicer's class is given the opportunity to be taken out of a school atmosphere and just have fun with other student.

"They absolutely love it. They love being able to make new friends and by the end of the party there were kids dancing around with each other," said Spicer.

Wolter decided to agree with Spicer's idea of the classes combining once every couple weeks during lunch because they have been friends for a long time and Spicer went in and pitched it to her 5th period class.

"We just hang out and make jokes," said Grace Hwang, one of Spicer's students. "I like having them as friends."

According to Spicer, the parents to the special education kids appreciate the fact that their kids are being treated as part of the rest of the school and are not secluded like they are a lot of the time. They do not only interact with the teachers and other kids in their class, but with GenEd students who most of the time they wouldn't be given the opportunity to.

"By eating lunch and hanging out with GenEd kids it gives them more of a high school experience," said Spicer.



Luis Lester

Students sit down with the Buddies Club kids to eat, laugh, and enjoy each others company. It helps students connect and makes the Buddies Club students feel more integrated.

There's no 'I' in TEAM

Linz and Heater plan to publish a textbook for college students who are studying to teach special courses

By Lauren Giery

Page One Editor

This spring, *Team Teaching Science* hits shelves at universities all over.

Physics teacher Ed Linz and Active Physics/Special Education teacher Mary Jane Heater collaborated with a professor from Heater's UVA graduate program and used their combined knowledge of team teaching to write *Team Teaching Science*.

This textbook is targeted toward college-level students who are pursuing a career in teaching as well as all towards instructors who intend to teach kindergarten through 12th grade, along with special education classes.

"It's a textbook for university's instruction for teachers, as well as Special Ed," said Linz.

Writing is nothing new to Linz; in fact, he's retiring after this year to pursue a full-time career in writing. Linz has written *They Never Throw Anything Away*, which is an oral history of the Great Depression, and he is currently in the process of writing another book entitled *Hurting in Space*.

Linz is also known under the pen name Eyes Right for his opinion column in *The Exchange*, which he's been writing since 1979. "I'm known for using alliteration in my titles," said Linz. "You can find all my ar-

"I never thought I would write anything in my entire life."

—Mary Jane Heater, Active Physics & Special Ed teacher

titles online."

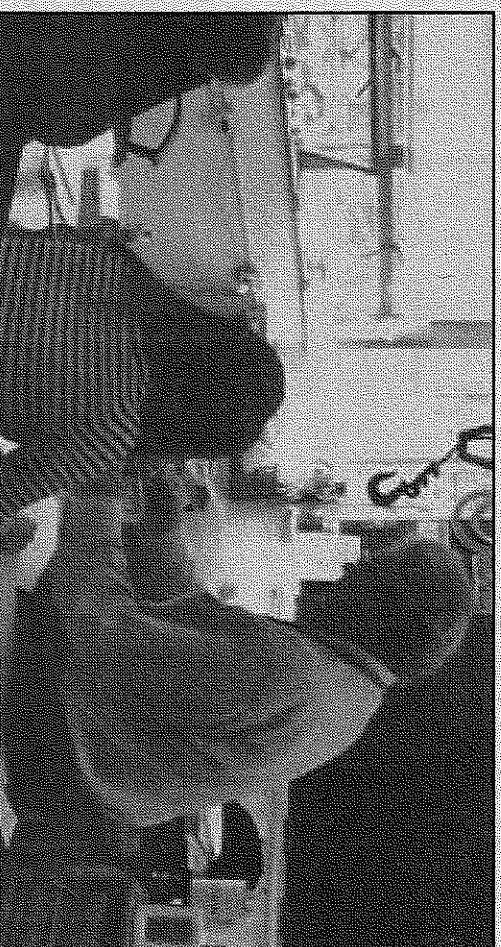
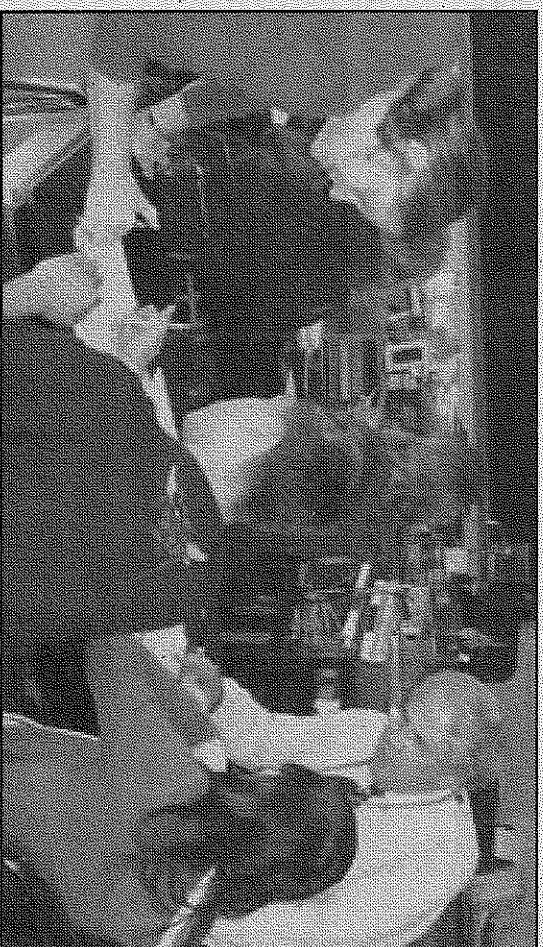
Heater, however, is relatively new to writing professionally. *Team Teaching Science* will be only the second work she has had published, the first being an article that she wrote with Linz.

It was the insistence of her UVA professor that inspired her to expand the 15-page article into a 150 page textbook.

"I never thought I would write anything in my entire life," said Heater. "But my experiences in teaching and a professor's reasoning convinced me."

Linz's experience as a Physics teacher and Heater's work mainly as a special education instructor was combined to show prospective and full-time teachers methods of teaching science and discipline in a team teaching environment.

"I did more of the research and diagrams," said Heater. "He [Linz] found the publisher."



Mary Jo Heater and Ed Linz have collaborated on a textbook called *Team Teaching Science*, which will be available to college students this spring. Heater and Linz teach Active Physics.

What cell phone pro



By: Celine Donohue
Entertainment Editor

T-mobile has always been my cell phone service provider. Sticking together is their slogan and they really do a good job at



keeping us connected.

I'm really glad I've had such a good experience with them and the phones and service they've provided me with, it's been all I could ever ask for. I've become very satisfied with the great service they have given me over the past six years and the fact that I have never had any problems with their cell phone service or their customer service.

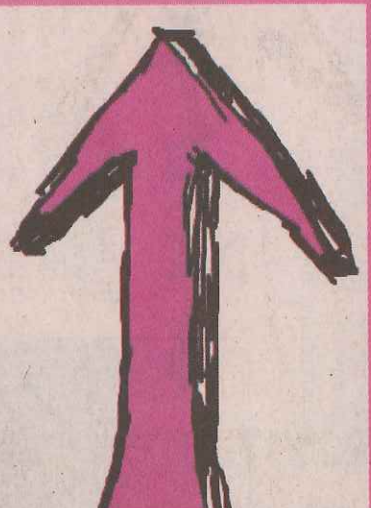
I never have had dropped calls and my service has never been bad in any place besides in some secluded mountainous areas where I'm sure no service is available. Their phones are also on point, my phone has never broken or malfunctioned, this shows they have quality phones that are reliable and I know I can be confident with a phone from them.

T-mobile is also very affordable even with unlimited texting and minutes it crushes the competition, and they have an assortment of family plans if that is what you need.

They also offer a variety of the newest smart phones such as blackberries, the Google phone, the Android and other 4G phones.

Recently T-mobile has acquired their own 4G tablet, comparable to an iPad, with all the same features and its 300\$ less than Apple's product.

Back in the day I was rocking the T-mobile sidekick and that phone was awesome, it never let me down and was very industrial. All the phones T-mobile has provided me with have been this way, they have never failed me.



T-mobile has customer service all the time just a phone call away and they continue to be very helpful and punctual with any issues you might have.

I would highly recommend T-mobile to anyone who was looking for a cell phone service, nothing bad to be said here, they're great.



T-Mobile T-Mobile T-Mobile

By: Jerney Davis
Photo Editor

Look at your phone, now look at mine. Now back to yours, and back to mine. Sadly your phone isn't mine, I am the proud owner of the coveted iPhone. Wipe the drool off your chin Droid, EVO, MyTouch users.

To give you the sparknotes version of this issues forum, AT&T's iPhone surpasses its trailing Smart phones. I'm looking at you Verizon, Sprint, and T-Mobile! Grow some dignity, we know the iPhone came first and you are trying your best to keep up with its advanced ideas and fast pace, but you are starting to look like Boise State trying to enter the Bowl Championship Series. The first is the best, and most remembered, stop kidding yourself. Everyone compares their phones to the iPhone, it's the quality standard that few even come close for comparison against.

Looking past the sad attempts to keep up with iPhone's 4G network, glance at the statistics! The iPhone 4 was touted as the thinnest Smartphone in the world during its announcement, and it's 24 percent thinner than the last generation. Not only is it the



thinnest of the three phones, but it has a resolution that blows all its "competitors" away with Apple's

"Retina Display" (960 x 640 pixels with 326ppi resolution). It is the only phone capable of recording

HD video, most likely because of its larger sensor pixels, and it is only one of two with front-facing cameras for video conferencing! Still think the other Smartphones have a valid claim to be in the same league? The iPhone 4 has such incredible battery life specs that it can't be even be questioned: seven hours of 3G talk, six hours of 3G browsing, ten hours of WiFi browsing, ten hours of video, 40 hours of music and 300 hours of standby!



Now besides its genius upbringing and features incomparable to the competing networks, let's give the final blow and look at its actual usage. Yes, all the Smartphones have a music library, but most of their users also own an iPod. The concept is great and all, but the iPhone is the only one who has managed to actually use the phone and music feature completely. Just because those other phones have the feature, let's be honest, you run back to the iPod for your listening pleasure. Hypocrites! You can't beat us, so just join us!

at&t

at&t

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vider do you prefer?



By: Amanda Pearson
Scoop Editor

Everyone knows that Verizon and AT&T run neck and neck when competing for the top spot of the best cell phone provider in America.

We constantly see rival coverage map commercials that basically diss the other provider, let's see if we can get to the bottom of who really deserves the number one spot.

I personally love Verizon mostly because of the coverage but, my parents on the other hand disagree when they get a three-hundred dollar cell phone bill at the end of each month. There are almost no dead spots now that I think about it, and I'm pretty sure as a teenager that's all we really could wish for because everyone knows that we are always on our phones. Those who have AT&T experience dead zones more frequently when traveling or whenever the battery begins to get low. So, let's keep score here so far

Verizon- 1; AT&T- 0.

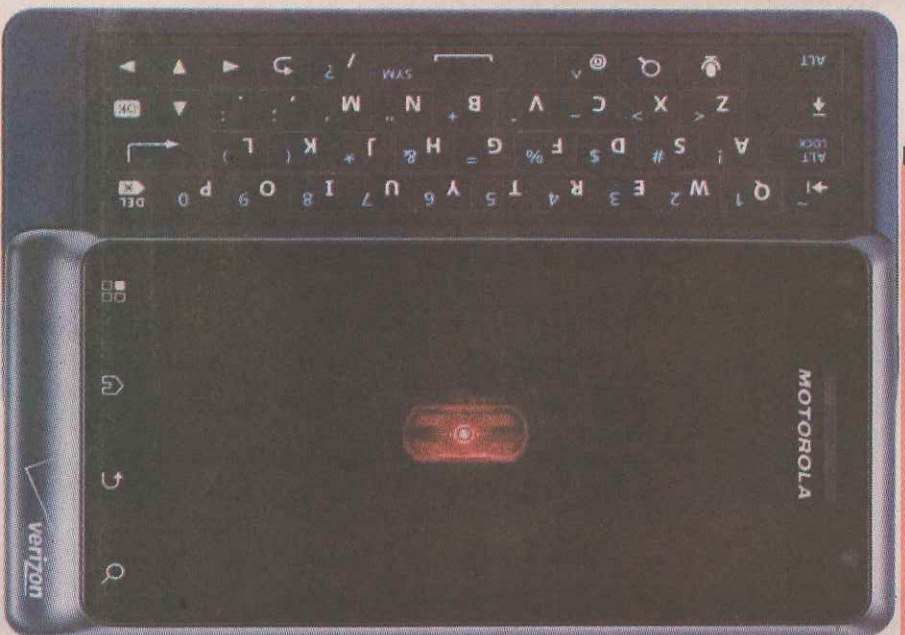
The second best feature I love about Verizon would have to be the easy assistance. I cannot begin to explain how many phones I have been through because of my lack of taking care them. The Verizon assistants

are very cooperative and as I flash my eyelashes they give into letting me switch the phone I would have for a phone that is equal in value or less, and with no strings or extra fees attached. Does AT&T do that? Nope! So, the score is now Verizon- 2; AT&T- 0.

Now everyone knows that the biggest controversy besides who

has the best coverage is the types of phone each of the providers sell. Yes, it's clear that the basic Samsung, and LG phones come with both of the providers, but now Verizon has the power to say they sell the iPhone 4 which will increase the number of customers they have; Verizon- 3; AT&T- 0!

AT&T has absolutely nothing on Verizon and with that being said if you have Verizon stick with it but, with after reading this and you are disappointed with your coverage feel free to switch there is plenty of room for all of us!



By: Kartista Giordano
Forum Editor

The Evo. No not the Mitsubishi Evo, but the Sprint Evo HiC. AT&T might have come out with the so called wonderful iPhone that apparently is the fastest phone around. Yes, sure it came out before the Evo, but I'm sorry the Evo is much faster. The Evo has the capability of either being on the 3G or 4G network depending on whichever its user prefers. The 4G network on the Evo is amazing. The phone is faster than most laptop and computers since it only takes me a matter of seconds to search on the internet for something.



Not only does this phone benefit the internet geeks, but it also benefits the blind. This screen is huge compared to other phones. When the iPhone came out I thought that screen was big, but I was wrong. The Evo has an incredible four and one-half by two and one-half touch screen. I thought when I first bought the phone that the screen was going to be way too big for me, but I was wrong again. This screen lets me read things on the internet easily and also on the plus side of the Evo I have a nice and big screen to watch a movie or YouTube video.

This movie and YouTube watching brings me to another plus side of the Evo, the kickstand on the back. This kickstand allows you to watch any type of movie without having to hold the phone. Instead it stands up on its side by itself.

Also on the back of this phone is the surprisingly loud speaker. I was stunned when I first listened to a song at how loud it was able to go. To my enjoyment I found that this Evo speaker was a lot louder than the iPhone's speaker.

Everyone likes a choice in anything they decide to purchase instead of being stuck with one color choice or even one style choice. Well with the Evo you are able to have choice. The back of the whole phone can either be in white or black. It is nice be able to have a choice in the phone you will be stuck with.

Don't pick the iPhone; you will regret it because the Evo will have your Facebook page up in seconds whereas you will still be downloading one page on the iPhone.




Returning to the source of a lost language

By Allie Colella

Forum Editor

“Carpe Diem,” meaning “seize the day,” was said by the deceased Roman poet Horace, but embraced by Latin teacher, Whitney Slough, who spent nearly two weeks in Italy last summer participating in a program for AP Latin teachers.

Slough was looking for a way to get to Italy over the summer when she found a group called the Virgilian Society, which runs a program for AP Latin teachers.

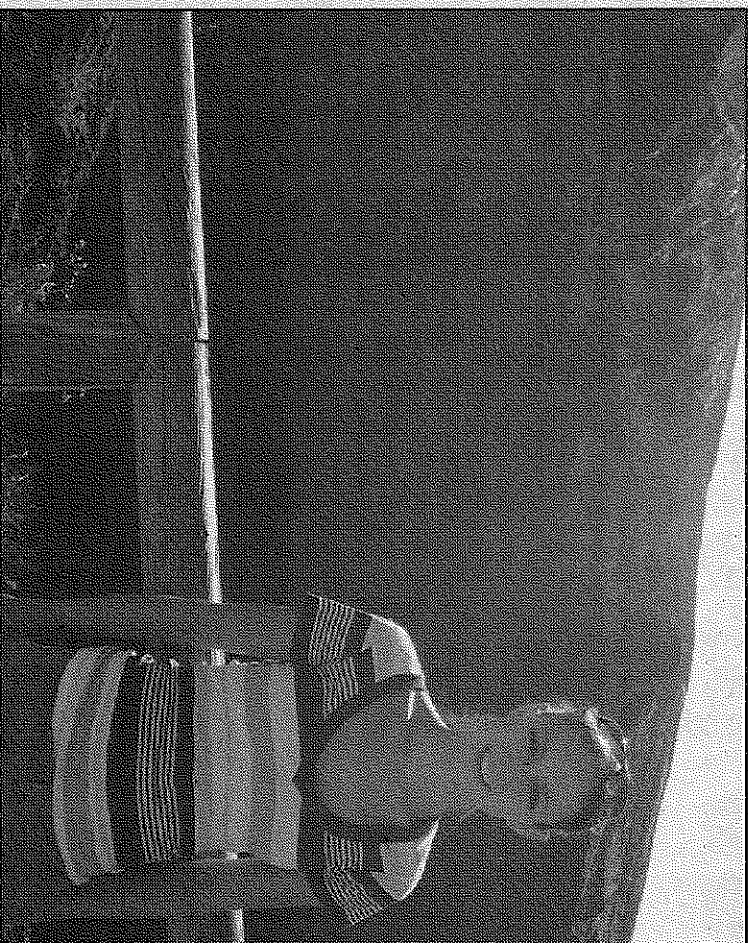
The program centers, as does AP Latin, around Virgil’s epic poem “The Aeneid,” which tells the story of the Trojan hero Aeneas, who founded the Roman civilization.

“Every morning we spent two to three hours doing nerdy AP Latin teacher stuff, [like] talking about how to grade essays,” said Slough. “[The program was] basically teaching teachers how to teach the syllabus.”

In the afternoon, the teachers went on field trips to sites mentioned or alluded to in “The Aeneid.”

The group traveled to the alleged site of the portal to the Roman Underworld and to Pompeii, one of two cities destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

“We went to Pompeii because it was the best example of what a Roman city was like,” said Slough.



Mauraen Gasser
Slough poses in front of Mt. Vesuvius during her trip to Italy with the Virgilian Society. “We went to Pompeii because it was the best example of what a Roman city was like,” said Slough.

The teachers had a tour guide who knew the history behind every rock and stone they came across, and could take them to places that normally would not be available to the general public. Seeing such places made the trip a truly special experience.

“My favorite part was the food. We had huge ornate lunches every day.”

—Whitney Slough,
Latin teacher

“He did all the lectures and stuff but it all ties back to the *Aeneid*,” said Slough.

The group spent a few days of their trip in Rome, then stayed in a small villa in Naples owned by the Virgilian Society. The villa is taken care of by an old Italian couple who cooked classic Italian meals from scratch for the teachers each night.

“My favorite part was the food,” said Slough. “We had huge ornate lunches every day.”

As the teachers traveled through Rome during the hot Italian summer, they discussed teaching strategies, took pictures for their classes, and got into arguments over Roman ruins.

Slough uses the pictures to teach culture lessons for all of her classes, but most of the information she gathered on the trip she uses for her AP Latin class.

“It was helpful to reiterate the things I was already doing,” said Slough.

Frosh got schooled here 10 years ago

Brothers start and finish WS experience at the end of Senior Hall

By Jerney Davis & Nisreen Sumrean

Oracle Staff Writers

Welcome back.

Freshman John Cronin was not as nervous as the other 9th-graders on the first day of school, back in September, because he first became a Spartan in 2000.

Even though the extent of his knowledge of this humongous building the first time around ranged from the cafeteria hallway to about a tenth of the way down Senior Hall, he knew more about the school this year than his peers, making the transition from middle school to high school much easier.

“I was only familiar with one entrance of the school,” said Cronin, “but it was better than nothing.”

What makes Cronin’s story so interesting is the fact that not only does he attend high school where he went to pre-school, which not many people can say, but his little brother started school here this year too, as part of the very same pre-school program.

“He loves it here,” said Cronin about little bro’ Robert, who is three years old. “He absolutely loves the pre-school. He’s making a lot of friends.”

Siblings attending the same school isn’t an uncommon oc-

currence at all. When those siblings, however, are about 10 years apart, they see high school from a different perspective. It has to make going to school a little easier for the pre-schooler, knowing that his older sibling is in the same building just a few steps away.

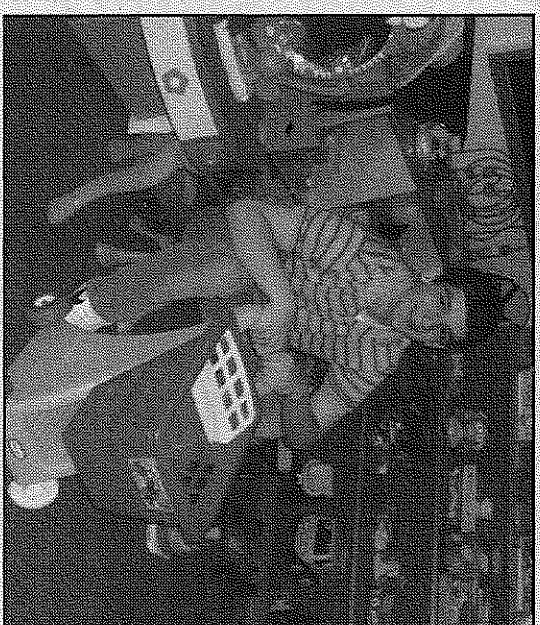
Perhaps the Cronin family has the right idea. Transportation must be easier, although little brother gets dropped off at school a few hours later than his older sibling.

Before college, according to education experts, the most significant educational transitions are when a child attends pre-school for the first time and again when he or she goes from middle school to high school. The experts also say that attending pre-school gives a student a jump on his academic career.

“[And] me and my brother were the only ones of my siblings to take pre-school,” the freshman said.

Cronin knew his way around a little bit when he arrived at WS the second time around and his little brother—who is a member of the Spartan Class of 2024—probably will in 10 years, too.

“I don’t really remember that much about pre-school,” said Cronin, “but it’s nice going to a school I’m familiar with.”



Jerney Davis
Freshman John Cronin was a student in our Spartan pre-school 10 years ago. His brother is a student there now.

The brothers have grown closer, not only because they share the Spartan bond, but because they see each other a lot at school.

“I see him when he gets dropped off because I have PE,” Cronin said. “He absolutely loves the pre-school. He is making a lot of friends.”

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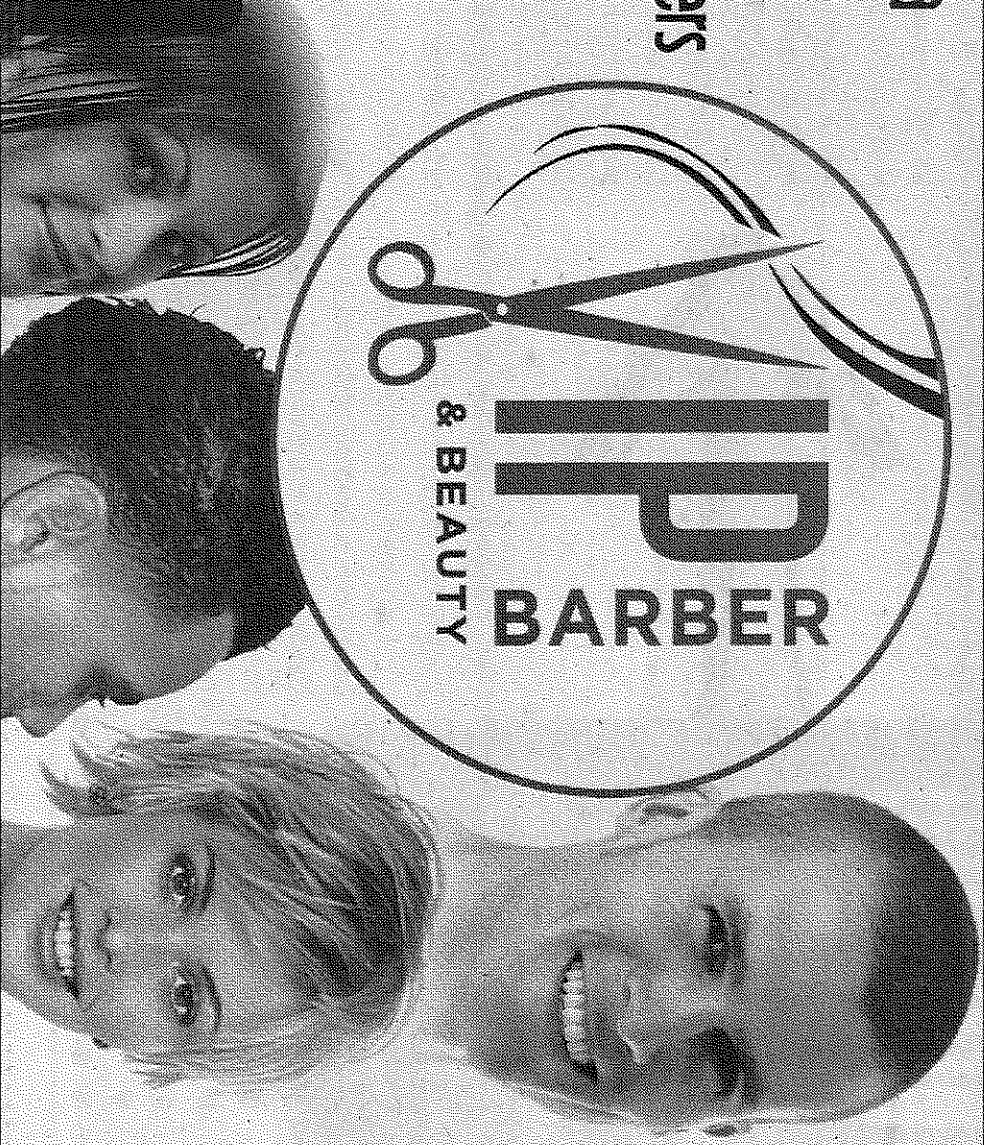
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Andrew Garfield steals the scene

By Kelly Carlin & Lisa Williams

Oracle Staff Writers

First there was Clooney. Then there was Pitt. Dopp, Affleck. Damon: we all know these names. Every once in a while, an actor comes along who is a dreamboat, but this dreamy actor has to have the perfect looks to talent ratio. Our current favorite is Andrew Garfield.

Over last summer, we went to see a movie once a week. This tradition continued into the school year, when we first discovered the enigma that is A. Garf. His stellar performance as Eduardo Saverin in "The Social Network" is what originally captured our attention. We expanded our research, watching his other films we could get our hands on. It didn't take long for him to become a full blown obsession.

The British actor first popped onto the American screen in "Juno for Lambs." He followed it up with a string of made-for-TV British films and eventually returned to the American radar with a supporting role in "The Imaginarium of Doctor Paranasus." The film didn't break any records, but it was the last movie Heath Ledger was in and therefore attracted a lot of attention. For Garfield, the best was yet to come.

In 2010, he appeared in "Never Let Me Go," a British film

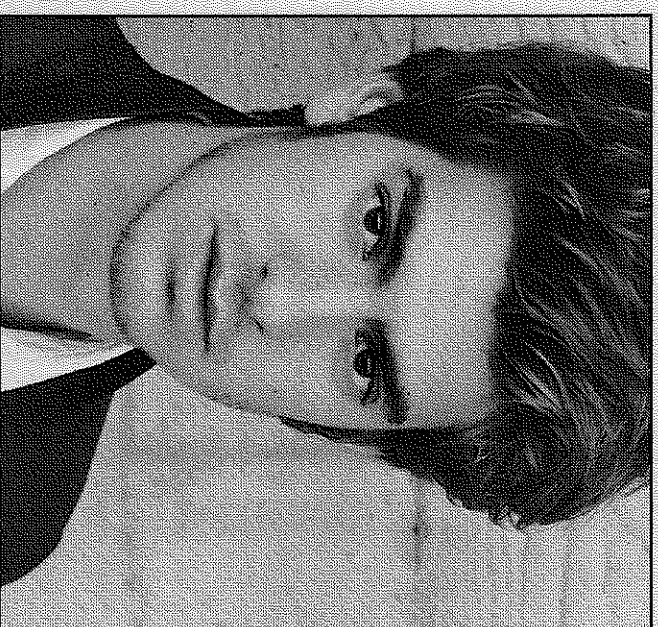
based on the novel of the same name. He costarred alongside Carey Mulligan and Keira Knightley. The film received critical acclaim, including an award for Best Breakthrough Performance for Garfield at the Hollywood Film Festival.

Later that year, "The Social Network" premiered, instantly becoming a box office smash. Garfield was nominated for a Golden Globe for his role, and the film as a whole has received many honors and Best Picture nominations.

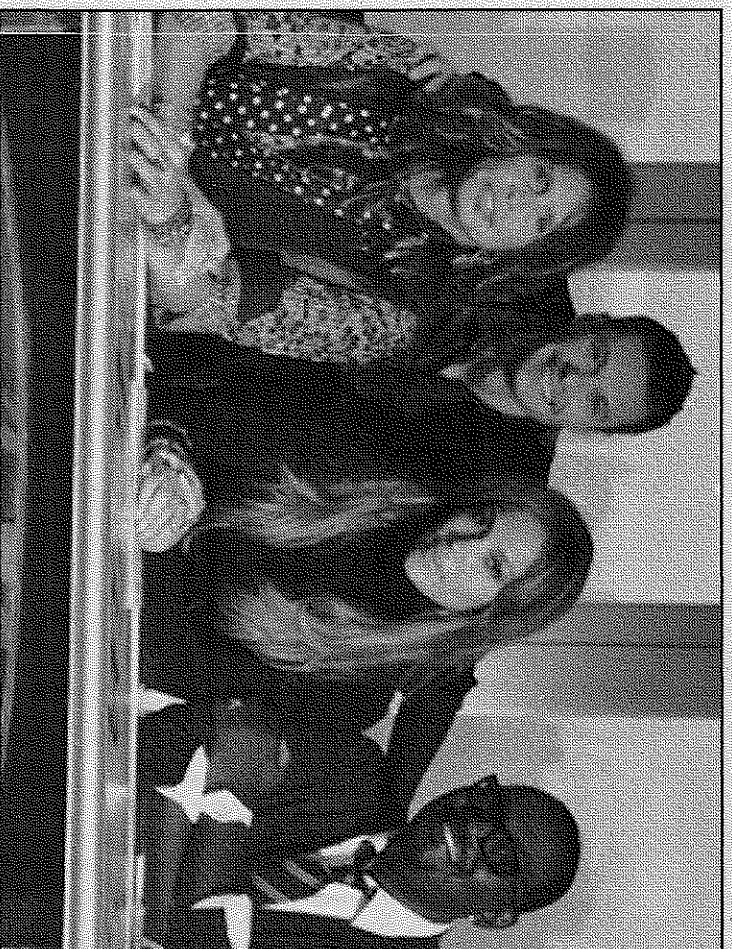
Not only is Andrew a great actor, he's as adorable as Bambi. Right now, pictures are circulating on the internet juxtaposing Garfield with the cartoon woodland creature. And we have to admit, they have an uncanny similarity. These images highlight his youthful and happy disposition.

But, perhaps the most exciting aspect of our Andrew fandom is the promise of his upcoming rendition of Peter Parker, better known as Spider-Man. The "Spidey" reboot, scheduled to drop in 2012, will also be featuring Emma Stone. Not only is Spider-Man our favorite superhero (we gave out Spider-Man valentines for three years), but we expect Garfield to take the role to new heights.

We hope that this is just the beginning for Garfield, and Andrew, if you read this, you can find us in Room 218.



With his role in the Golden Globe award winning movie "The Social Network," Garfield has stolen the hearts of millions and seems to have a long career ahead of him.



American Idol Net

The new judges, Steven Tyler and Jennifer Lopez, added to "American Idol" bring a fresh new look at the judging process. Their decorated careers in the music industry boost both their credentials as judges.

Looks like we got a bad 'Roommate' while it falls short of the viewers' expectations

By Amanda Pearson

Scoop Editor

Everyone knows that the milestone of your teenage years is going to college. All throughout high school you hope and wish to just make it to graduation. Once you graduate the only thing on your mind is college, or is it?

In the movie "The Roommate" everything that could possibly go

bad, went bad for Rebecca (Leighton Meester). Rebecca is a simple girl who loves fashion and to party.

The first day after Rebecca moved in on campus she was greeted by her new roommate at ULA, Sara. Are you bored from reading this so far? Well that's exactly how I felt at the beginning of this movie.

I was somewhat uninterested in the film especially since I knew it was

supposed to be scary, but nothing scary was happening. It was the typical pull of the leg movie that you had to sit through because you paid eleven dollars to watch it.

However, once it started to get good I couldn't stay in my seat. It wasn't as scary as I predicted it to be mostly because all of the scary parts were shown in television commercials that caught my eye and made me want to see it, but at least I didn't lose interest.

Stephen (Cam Gigandet) the drop dead gorgeous boyfriend of Rebecca is one of the reasons I personally went to see this movie in the first place. One of the things I can't stand is when movies are predictable. If you were trying to escape from a bad guy would you run into a dark hallway by yourself? I

Not sure we 'Idol'-ize new judges

Steven Tyler and Jennifer Lopez bring about a new era

By Thomas Ariale
Oracle Editor

I miss my angry British man in a deep-v telling people how bad they are at singing. I can honestly tell you that Simon Cowell was the only reason I watched the horse and pony show that is American Idol. Now they have replaced my favorite part of the show with a man who has a smile bigger than the Joker from Batman. Granted, Steven Tyler does have potential to be as cool as Cowell, but the lack of a British accent really leaves a lot to be desired.

Even though I thought at the beginning of the season that the new judges wouldn't be able to live up to the hurtful style of Cowell, they have proven me wrong. Tyler is much more blunt and cruel than Cowell was-one time, Tyler even took a microphone from a girl who wasn't the best performer.

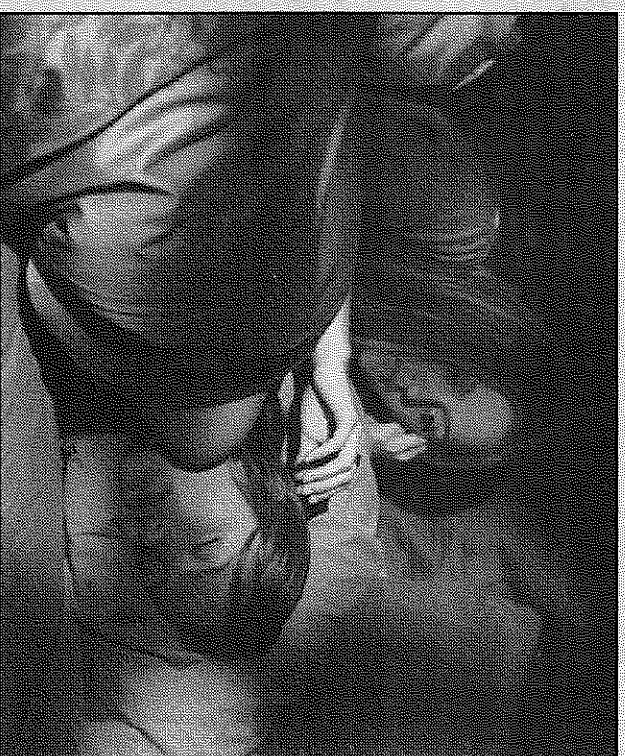
Jennifer Lopez has effectively replaced Paula Abdul as the "sweet" judge on the show. At the start of the season she had a lot

of trouble rejecting singers that were clearly not cut out for the show just because she didn't want to hurt their feelings.

At least this year all the judges do have respectable qualifications. All three have musical backgrounds, as opposed to last year when Ellen DeGeneres was a judge. She had no place judging other people on how well they could sing. This year, Idol got it together and got two reputable singers with well-decorated careers in the music industry.

The show has taken a turn for the worse with only one of the three original judges left on the show. It has changed from a singing competition to "how many Ford commercials can we squeeze into a two hour time period." I do enjoy the occasional freak that is trying to sing on the show; however, with the thousands of people trying to sing on the show they could feature a few more good singers to outweigh the bad.

All in all, I will still tune into the final show of the season to see who takes it all and becomes Americas Idol (for a year).



Water Movie

sure hope not. I was disappointed at the fact that the director chose to release 90% the scariest parts in the commercials and it became less intense throughout.

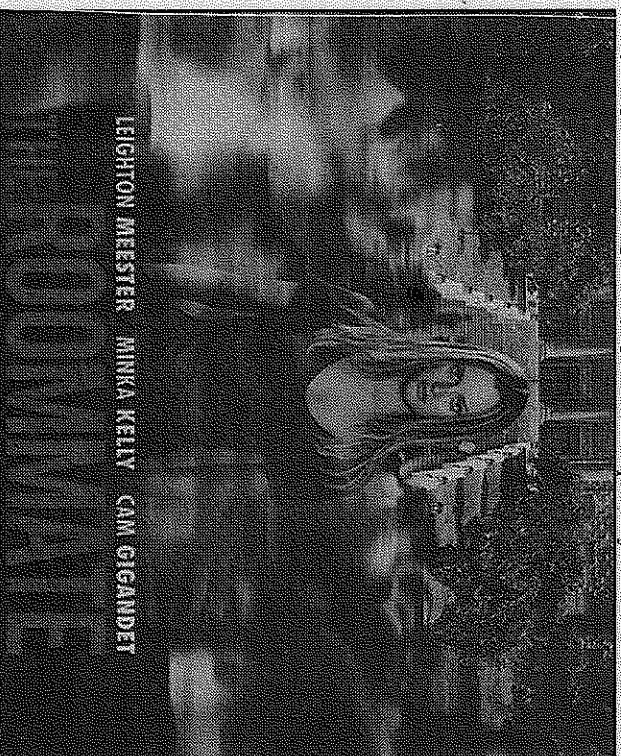
Overall, I was semi-pleased with the movie in the end. I would recommend seeing it if you haven't done so already. The only thing I wouldn't do is walk in the theatre with high hopes of seeing another "Paranormal Activity," but be ready to jump out of your seat at certain scenes throughout.

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Smart Cine

"The Roommate" wasn't as scary as fans were hoping for. However, it did have its moments of fear and terror that kept viewers on the edge of their seats.



The Kane Show

THE KANE SHOW

The Kane Show is the landslide favorite for most teens. Hosted by Kane, Sarah, Sammy, and Erick, the show talks about topics most relevant to younger people, which parents may find to be bordering on inappropriate.

Their most well-known segment is, by far, War of the Roses, which is used to frequently help catch cheating significant others. In this segment, Kane calls cheaters and tricks them into admitting to their infidelities over the airwaves, often producing comical results for listeners (not so much so for the parties involved).

They are known for not being afraid to go after racy topics, often asking listeners to call in on subjects involving not so PG-13 activities. Listeners are encouraged to disclose promiscuous stories from weekend adventures and dish on current celebrity gossip.

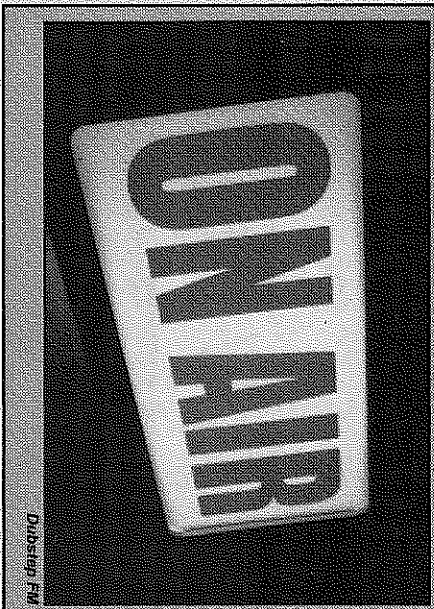
While Kane may not be educational, it certainly provides entertainment that makes dull car rides anything but.

For every taste, there's a corresponding radio station.

Each morning we pile into our cars and head to school, leaving us with fifteen minutes to kill in the car. To liven things up, we listen to any of the numerous local stations that meet our specific music and talk radio needs. It doesn't matter if you're into rock, rap, country, or pop, there's an obnoxious DJ out there for you!

In the old days of radio, it was all about the storytelling and the music. Slowly, radio shows have evolved into what is now a four to five hour block of seemingly endless chatter about the latest movies, facts, and celebrity scandals. Now the most popular show hosts among high schoolers are the always boisterous Kane from Hot 99.5's The Kane Show and DC 101.1's Elliot from Elliot in the Morning. Those looking to hear actual music played should stick with CDs or Satellite Radio, but if you're listening for an entertaining morning wake-up, you've come to the right place.

—Compiled by Kelly Carlin & Lisa Williams



Dinaring FM



RAD CITY

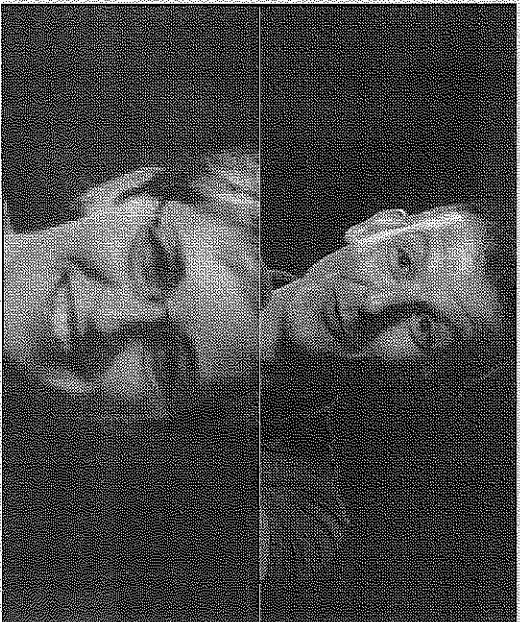
THE JACK DIAMOND MORNING SHOW

On 107.3, the Jack Diamond Morning Show airs daily. Hosted by Jack Diamond (who else?), The show has something for people of all ages. It's appropriate for the kiddies and also enjoyable for adults. But while it provides for all age groups, it's pretty lacking in providing entertainment.

Jack Diamond is the most neutral morning show host. Everything is tame, without getting too soft (97.1, anyone?). This show is everything you want to listen to while commuting with your parents: it's just interesting enough to keep you captivated but not so racy that you're embarrassed to be listening.

Jack Diamond isn't about to get an award for taking radio risks, but he also isn't about to get pulled off the air. The Jack Diamond Morning Show gets props for being family friendly: bringing the entertainment for all age groups involved.

START YOUR DAY OFF RIGHT WITH A MORNING RADIO SHOW!



B 101.5

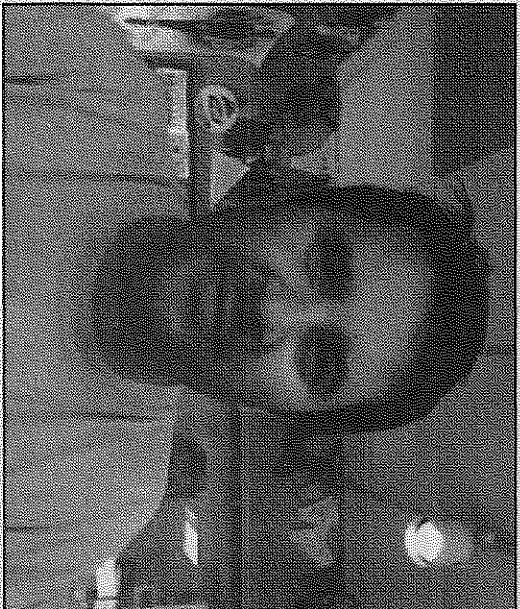
CHRIS AND DEE IN THE MORNING

Chris and Dee in the Morning is another moderate morning show that everyone can listen to. They run through all the usuals (traffic, celebrity gossip, weather, music, breaking news, and what's going on in local areas) in a simple way that any and all age groups could enjoy.

They mostly offer commentary on things that parent-aged people can relate to. Mainly, they prompt call-in topics about work and life around the office.

This show seems to be the one that plays the most music, and they play a good variety of new and older songs throughout their daily segment. On any given morning, music from "the '80s, '90s, and today" could come onto the radio, so it creates a nice element of surprise.

Though mainly adults listen to this show in the morning, if students are looking for a morning show that isn't based solely on dirty humor and that offers a lot of music, then this is the morning radio show that offers that to them.



DC 101.1

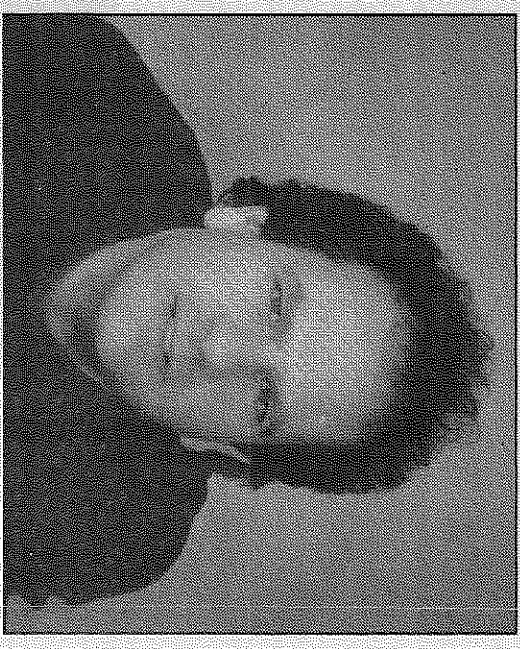
ELLIOT IN THE MORNING

For those accustomed to listening to DC 101, our local alternative rock station, there's Elliot in the Morning. As mentioned on the show, "Elliot" runs from "5:48 until 10 something."

Elliot's hook is showing his crude sense of humor: his show is fueled on ridiculous humor, gross jokes, and discussion of many "Jackass" like stunts. While each station has its own directed audience, Elliot's goal is to grab the attention of the male gender listeners.

Discussing popular topics and through calling in, Elliot's fan base avidly participates in his daily debates. From various people to pop culture phenomena, Elliot's discussion points have a wide range of topics that changes daily.

Despite the male-oriented feel, the show still offers something for ladies to enjoy. The conversations on air tend to be hilarious, even if they can end up being pretty crude. If girls can get past the raunchy humor and appreciate his style, Elliot in the Morning can be enjoyed by all.



WBIG FM

THE BIG MORNING SHOW

For older folks and fans of classic rock, there's the "Big Morning Show" on 100.3's WBIG. Until recently, the morning slot was held by Jon Ballard, who was let go from the station in August of 2010. Now, Tommy Griffiths takes the helm.

While the stations aimed towards younger listeners focus on scandal and shock value, "Big" keeps it classier. Instead of gearing their topics toward teens and young people, 100.3 knows their audience is a bit more mature. The celebrities in discussion are less likely to be plagued by the gossip following acts like Lady Gaga and Lindsay Lohan, and instead the show deals with artists that would interest the Baby Boomers and Generation X. Griffiths remains true to his image: appealing to those who fit in his age bracket.

While this may not seem as appealing to us youngsters, it still offers substance and value if it fits your interest. Griffiths brings his own personality to the morning talk show circuit, delivering a fresh topic that appeals to more than one group.

Winter sports wrap-up

By Jimmy McMahon
Sports Editor

Another year of Winter Sports has come and gone. The Spartan athletes entered the season with high hopes for the 2010-2011 year. Looking back, the Spartans had mixed success this year.

Despite going into the season looking to rebound from last year's 2-18 record, the boy's Varsity basketball team still had limited success as they battled through a tough schedule. They played two games against T.C. Williams High School, a game against Middleburg Academy, and a game against Chantilly High School. The team had six returning seniors, which included last year's leading scorer, Ali Kazmi. On the bright side, the team did improve on last year's two win season.

The girl's Varsity program looked to come back for another strong year, and they delivered. Led by junior point guard April Robinson, the team only lost one game which was the championship game of a holiday tournament. Other than that, the team has won every game this season. Over three-quarters of their victories have been by twenty points or more, and their closest game (other than the

loss) was by fourteen against T.C. Williams. They will look to continue their success from the season into the District tournament and hopefully the Regional tournament.

Spartan Swim & Dive, apart from getting fresh new spirit wear, was also successful in the water. The team only lost one meet against Woodson, who went undefeated this year. Apart from that, they won every meet they participated in. Unlike other team sports, Swim & Dive does not send entire teams to tournaments but sends individual athletes that do well in Districts. This year's team sent several swimmers to the State tournament.

Led by senior Mark Ragan, the wrestling team also had a productive season. Like Swim & Dive, the team does not send everybody past Districts; only those who place in the top four in the Patriot District qualify to move on to the Regional tournament. The team did manage to send several players to the Regional playoffs, senior Mark Ragan among them.

Overall, the Spartans did fairly well in the winter season. They will look to continue their success in the spring through the returning State champion baseball team and their returning District champion lacrosse team.



Emily Gorham
Senior Daniel Hemmer leads the Spartan swim team to a second place District finish by leaving the competition behind.



Emily Gorham
Senior Alex Phillips takes on his opponent during a wrestling meet against West Potomac High School. He is one of the Spartan wrestlers that will be advancing to Regionals.

Superbowl XLV was a big hit for the viewers

By Jake Trump
Viewpoint Editor

Football concluded.

After all of the uncanny Doritos and Esurance commercials have been watched and all of the celebratory confetti fell there was only one NFL team that stood alone in the pinnacle of sports. This year, Aaron Rodgers and his dedicated teammates brought the Lombardi trophy back home to their great town of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

"It was definitely nice to see a change," said senior Kaitlyn Conolly. "I feel like the Steelers win too much and to see the Packers win was something special."

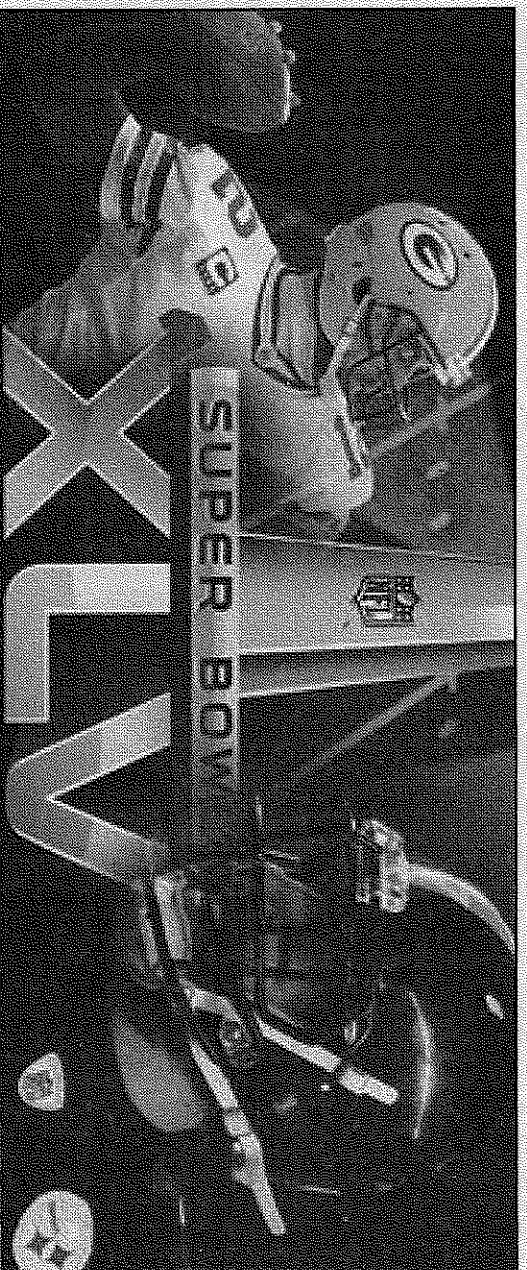
The Packers held the lead throughout the game, but the Steelers showed lots of hope in the second half and came back, making it a close game. The Packers' defense, however, led by Clay Matthews, shut down the Steelers' offense and secured the win for Mike McCarthy's scrappy squad.

"It was disappointing to see them lose," said senior and Steelers fan Joey Strychnala, "but I'm still proud to be a part of Steeler nation, because they had a great season, and are still AFC champions."

One aspect of the game that may have been missed by most of the Spartan community was the punter of the Steelers, Jeremy Kapinos.

To many, Kapinos is just another punter in the NFL; to the few who know him well enough, however, he was the punter for our very own WS Spartans just a decade ago.

Although he came up on the losing side of the game, Kapinos still got to hold his head high for a few reasons: he is



Media Association
The Green Bay Packer and Pittsburgh Steelers faced off in the most watched television show of all time. Through the Packers led for the whole game, the second half proved to be very exciting as the Steelers began to make a comeback.

still an AFC champion, he got to play in the Super Bowl, and he made all of the Spartan community proud by representing northern Virginia.

Despite departures from the Jets, Packers and Colts, Kapinos found his home in Pittsburgh and has truly thrived in that environment of success.

"I thought it was really cool to see him on the big stage like that," said Strychnala.

Student section comes alive

By Haley Spicer
Journalism 1

Everyone heard about it from classmates, players, or the coach—the crowd at the first home game of the boy's basketball season was a disappointment, to say the least.

Students probably already knew that there was not going to be a large turnout at the game, but the size of the crowd was an utter disappointment to Jason Eldredge, the school's new Varsity basketball coach.

"I think people use WS's decrepit condition as an excuse to not have school spirit," said junior Nick Shidlovsky.

But shortly after Eldredge's letter-to-the-editor appeared in *The Oracle*, there seemed to be a turnaround in the attendance.

At the second home game, the crowd took over the gym and there was barely room for someone who arrived late to find a seat.

"The team plays much better when the stands are packed and they are getting positive reinforcement from their peers," said Eldredge.

The basketball team is not, however, the only group that performs better when there is more support.

"I know we perform better when there is a bigger crowd," said junior Sarah Thompson, who is a member of the Dance Team.

Team members notice improvement on a personal level as well, not just in the team performance as a whole.

"I know I try hardest my hardest and perform my best when there is a bigger crowd, because I don't want to disappoint," junior basketball player Caleb Snow said, adding that he really enjoys this recent display of school pride.

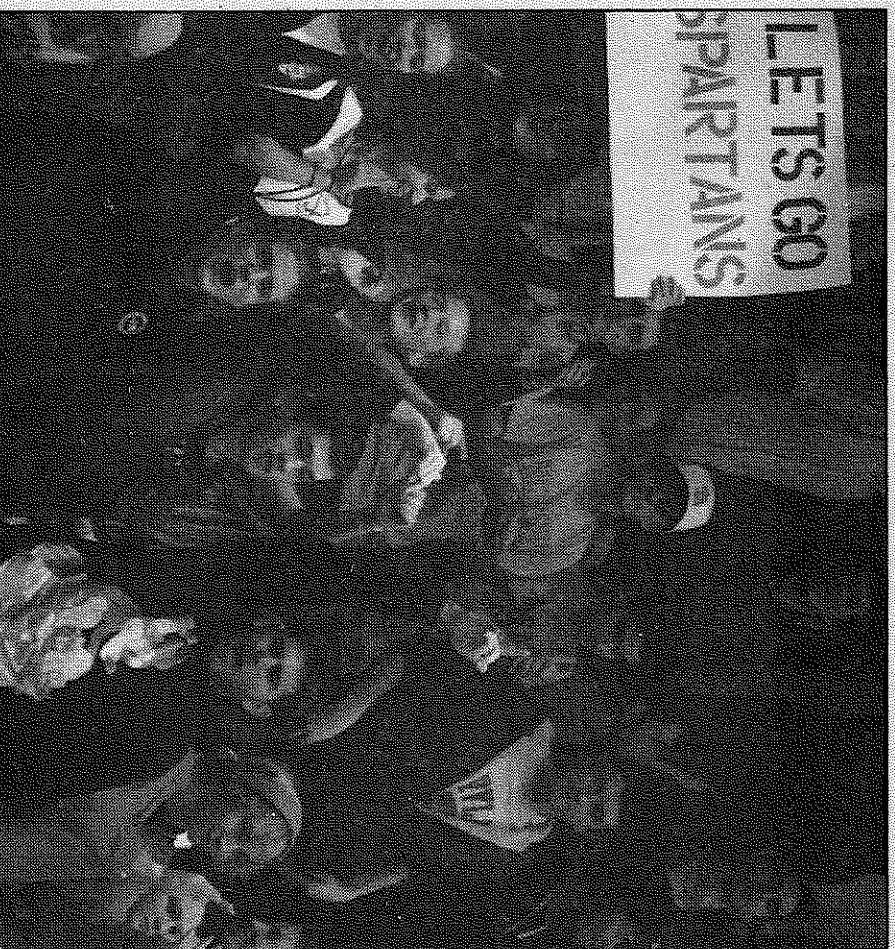
Although the team has only won one game this season, fans know that Spartan Pride involves more than tracking up the W's.

"I just recently started going to the basketball games and the upbeat crowd we have had lately is really fun to be a part of; it makes me feel proud of my school," said sophomore Andrew Garrison.

The team feeds off the energy of the crowd, something that Eldredge seems to live for. He has already earned the reputation of the dedicated basketball coach who is full of energy and always trying to pump up the crowd.

As the basketball season wraps up, it appears that Spartan Pride is coming back to 6100 Rolling Road.

"[I'm] really, really looking forward to going to more games to support our team and have a great time with my friends," said Shidlovsky.



Emily Gorham
After the Letter-to-the-Editor written by boys head Varsity coach Jason Eldredge, saying how the school had no spirit, students filled the stands to prove the accusations wrong.

Fellow Spartans question school spirit

By Lee Gleason
Sports Editor

A struggling team with devoted fans.

At Varsity boys' basketball games row after row of bleachers are occupied by students who came to cheer on their team. In a previous issue of The Oracle, head Varsity basketball coach Jason Eldredge, claimed that the Spartan Spirit was in his opinion, missing in action.

As a fan of the basketball team, I take this claim very personally. To get a good seat at a boys basketball

game, students arrive anywhere between 45 minutes to a half an hour before the game even starts. Seniors have been kicked out of those games for yelling at a referee or getting "too rowdy," simply because they care about the players on the team and want them to be successful.

To say that the Spartans don't have spirit is completely absurd. Senior students give up their school

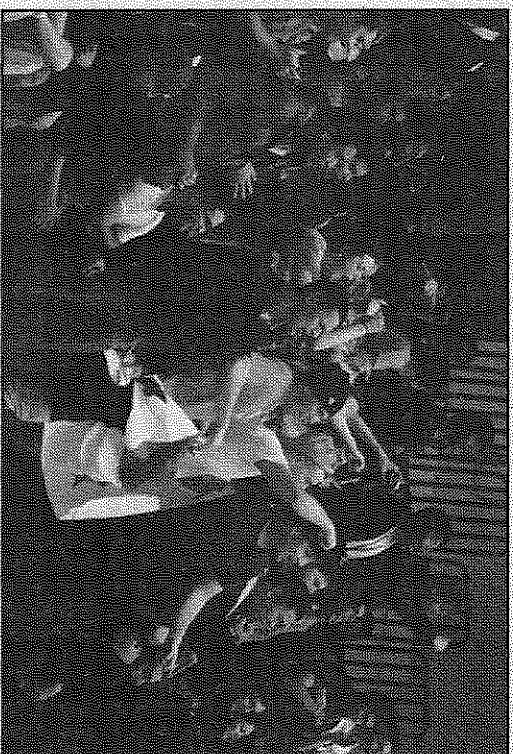
nights as well as the occasional weekend night to come watch their 3-17 boys' basketball team play basketball. My mention of their record is not a knock on the team at all.

I have been to every single one of their home games and was a member of the football team who, as we all know, had their struggles this year as well. Amongst the crowd of fans at the home games are two former Varsity basketball players. One player, the second leading scorer on last year's team. The other was the starting point guard on the varsity team two years ago, who, because he was excited about the coaching change, decided to come out for the team again.

Despite the fact that they were out from the basketball team this year, not because of their talent, but because they were not dedicated to the team, they still continue to go to the games and support their former teammates, showing their dedication to the team. Once again, to say the students have no spirit is completely absurd.

After the team's final home game against Annandale, a player on the team lashed out at fans for leaving the game at halftime, accusing them of not supporting the

The Lee Spot



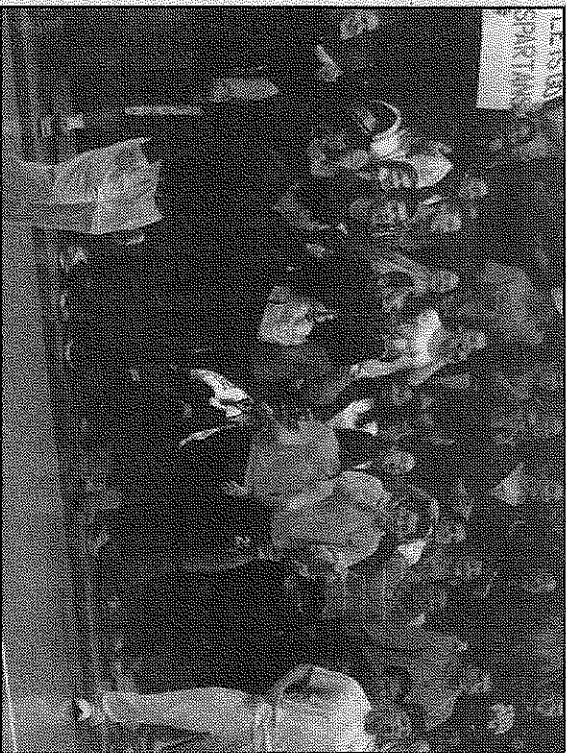
Emily Gorham

team and making the claim that they had nothing better to do on a Tuesday night. He even went so far as to say that the students that left the game early were "going home to get drunk."

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I would say that doing homework on a school night is more important than going to a basketball game. However, in this case, students took time out of their night to come to support their team and who they thought would be their grateful players. I remember a night, ironically against Annandale, when the football team was losing pretty badly much like the basketball team

recently did. Fans at that game left the game early as well, but no football players accused the fans of not being supportive and instead were grateful that their friends came out to watch them on a Friday night, when they could be doing other things.

Having a bad season is unfortunately a part of life, but blaming fans for not being supportive and not having spirit is completely absurd and in my opinion a sheepish way of handling a loss. If that's how players are going to react after a loss, I encourage the fans to instead go to girls games, where they are apparently more appreciated.



Emily Gorham

Spartan fans cheer on the boys basketball team during one of their many home games, displaying their spirit despite a tough season.

25 years of dedication

Schnitz remains Lady Spartans' biggest fan

By Nora Osei
Viewpoint Editor

Players can't play without fans; fans can't watch without players. So the fans are just as important as the players at basketball games.

The Lady Spartans basketball team has one fan in particular who has made it to almost every single girls basketball game for over 30 years, both home and away. This number one fan's name is Ellsworth Schnitz, but he is better known to most people as Smitty.

"He's a loyal fan and he loves, loves the girls," said Assistant Principal Richard Griffin.

Schnitz is 87 and will be celebrating his 88th birthday on June 2. Born in 1923, he's seen it all. He's lived through the surprise attacks on Pearl Harbor, the Great Depression, the Vietnam War and the Cold War.

But most importantly, he's lived to see the Lady Spartans win States twice, when former Spartan, former WNBA player, and Olympic gold medalist Kara Lawson led them.

"I went to all games including Districts, Regionals, and States," said Schnitz. "I even went to all the games when [the Lady Spartans] were 30-0."

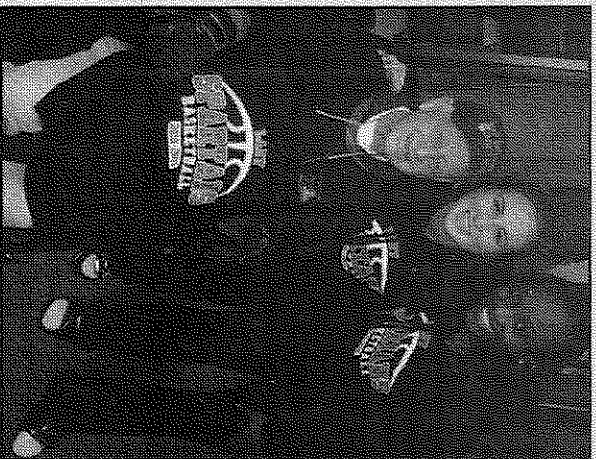
One memory that Schnitz especially cherishes is when the Lady Spartans won States in 1995, and called him down from the stands to award him a plaque and jacket. The team then invited him to lunch after to celebrate their victory.

Schnitz was also called down to the court last year at TC Williams High School to help won some of the net after the Lady Spartans won Districts.

"They really made me feel a part of the team," said Schnitz.

Most people wonder what got Schnitz so involved with the Lady Spartans. Schnitz has four kids, all of which went to WS over 25 years ago. Schnitz's second oldest child, Joan, played basketball for the Lady Spartans back in the 1980s, which started his involvement with the team.

He went to every game. He also enjoyed watching the Freshman and JV teams play



Courtesy of Nora Osei

Seniors Nora Osei and Emily Esposito pose with Ellsworth Schnitz before their game.

too, so he could watch players who would be future Varsity team members.

"Now I'm watching games their daughters play," said Schnitz.

Schnitz has been a Spartan fan for other sports besides basketball since his kids started going to WS. He used to enjoy going to different Varsity sports including softball, baseball, soccer, football and golf.

It wasn't until last year when his eyesight started to weaken that he met struggles with attendance. His eye problems made it hard to see at night while driving, so Schnitz was forced to reduce the amount of games he attended.

Fans are a very important aspect to basketball, and knowing that the Lady Spartans always have at least one fan they can count on to see smiling and clapping in the crowd makes them feel honored. Through good times and bad, the Lady Spartans can always count on Smitty.

"He's our lucky charm," said history teacher and Lady Spartan mother Leigh Shipman. "The Celtics have their leprechaun, and we have Smitty."

SENIORS {2011}

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How to solve a problem like

Marisa:

The multiple ways to get over a breakup

By Maria Scaptura
ETC. Editor

I am proud to say that I have reached my third column. I know, I know, it isn't much of an accomplishment but I'm quite satisfied with it.

So for this installment, I've decided to write about the best ways to get over a breakup.

Now, please understand this, it is advice columnist law to write at least one column advising you on how to deal with a breakup, and since Valentine's Day was coming up, I thought "why not?"

And here we go.

Option 74 to get over a breakup: make sure you have an unlimited supply of tissues. Enough said.

Option 348: eat loads of ice cream. I genuinely mean loads, pack it on people! This is a personal favorite because the least you can do for yourself is drown out your sorrows in buckets of cheesy and tacky movies from the '80s (mainly the ones directed by John Hughes) to mend your broken heart. This activity can be done with the ones already listed up above, and by doing so you will kill three birds with one stone. Movies to consider watching include "The Breakfast Club", "16 Candles", "Ferris Bueller's Day Off", or maybe even "Pretty In Pink". Those movies may not cure your bleeding heart but they're simply great flicks to watch at anytime.

Option 94.71: blast that Journey song for the purpose of crying (and possibly singing) your heart out to. Just sit in your beat up old clunker of a car when the rain is pouring and play whatever Journey song comes on the radio. You don't even really need to know the words, just make random noises as the song goes along. No one's going to judge you necessarily, it all depends on how good your singing is.

Option 820: read lots of submissions on the EML website. If you thought your life was bad, just reading 10 of those can make your breakup seem like a minuscule issue compared to all those sob stories.

Overall, breakups are hard to go through and if none of these options make you feel any better, then the only suggestion I would have for you is to just sit in a dark room and do absolutely nothing.

But just remember while you're sitting there mindlessly, there are plenty of other fish in the sea.



blogspot

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SUMMERTIME PRESENTS: the ol' '80s high school classics

By Summer Claveau
ETC. Editor

High school movies—that is, movies about high school—will never go out of style. There will always be a story for the high schoolers and high schoolers at heart to entertain themselves with. A story of love, lust, ambition, dreams, etc. Facing adversity, discrimination, or injustice all in just about two hours.

Mainly because high school will never go out of style, and there will always be an upcoming freshman class. As Matthew McConaughey says in "Dazed and Confused," "That's what I love about these high school [movies], man. I get older, they stay the same age."

There will always be newbs, facing their eminent four-year journey through young adulthood. And the great thing about this is the movies that come out of it.

But my favorite part about high school movies is how accurate they actually are. I'm not suggesting that the stereotypes are accurate, for I am not one to agree with any social stereotype. The situations portrayed are pretty accurate

though.

The best perspective to look at this is through time periods. The eighties: "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," "The Breakfast Club," "Sixteen Candles," "Pretty in Pink," and "Dazed and Confused," all staple movies in the history of high school.

We will never know what it was like when our parents went to high school because they don't care to share their embarrassing stories of their own awkwardness, but that doesn't mean their history is gone. It triumphs through John Hughes movies. They display all the awkwardness high schoolers will never stop going through.

Though we think we grow out of our freshman stages, we don't and we won't phase out of them until we hold that beautiful piece of paper, that is our diploma.

This piece of paper has literally been haunting my dreams lately, teasing me. Holding itself in front of me, tying itself to a stick and stapling itself to my forehead taunting me with the four month long haul.

The last months of our high school career is better portrayed in the high school movies of today. Those movies are our story, our history, our LIVES!

Scoby-Doo is making a comeback!

By Sara Blaylock
Managing Editor

I don't understand why I get laughed at all the time when I tell people about my Saturday mornings.

My favorite thing to do when I wake up and don't have to drag myself to school is sit down on the couch with my Coco Puffs and watch Scooby-Doo.

It was my favorite show growing up and I would have to have a different "Scooby and Friends"

movie every week.

I still watch it to this day because it never gets old. I mean don't get me wrong, it can be predictable and very unrealistic but I love all the characters and the stereotypes and the way they solve mysteries as a hobby.

I always thought of myself as a spy and would go around my house being a detective for my sister and brother.

Scooby inspired me to really use my brain juices and think things out. I would pretend I was in a Scooby



Pepperspollywogs

episode or movie in situations like school or at recess and would have to find the suspect of all the monkey bar crimes.

So the shows were amazing and the classic cartoon movies were my favorite but what topped it off were the Scooby Doo movies with the real people: I thought they were so cool and wanted to grow up to be just like Daphne. She was by far the best. With her stylish outfits and golden long hair-always looking good-she still fought crime and caught the

bad guys. I used to beg my mom to stay up till 7pm on Sunday nights when ABC Family would feature the movies. It was what I looked forward to all week.

Now, even though the movies seem a little comy to me, they're still enjoyable and I love watching them with my four-year-old sister who dies of laughter every time we pop in the old DVD.

I would recommend to everyone of all ages, to take a day of relaxation and go back to yester-year: the days

FEBRUARY '11						
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Girls basketball Districts semifinals 6 p.m.	Basketball District Finals 6 p.m.	Indoor Track Regionals 8 a.m.	Rihanna turns 22!	Today is a school day! Spring Sports tryouts begin!	Rising sophomore course orientation	Rising sophomore course registration
24	25	26	27	28	March 1	2
Rising sophomore course registration	Rising sophomore course registration	Patriot District Debate Tournament	Josh Groban turns 29!	Spartans "Do Your PART" Day Spartan Time Schedule	Early Dismissal 11:10 am	Registration for rising juniors