



The

RAACOR

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Spartans dance their way to New York

Four team captains earn spot to perform in the Thanksgiving Day Parade

By Sara Lepley

Oracle Staff Writer

Every day at 3 p.m., the cafeteria is transformed from an empty dining hall to an animated stage for the dedicated athletes that compose the dance team.

The team competes in various competitions and performs for the school, but this fall four girls will experience a more universal performance.

The four captains, Riley O'Rourke, Chelsea Kopf, Kate DeClark, and Hannah Ernst will be showcased at the Big Apple, squeezed somewhere between the blimps and floats that decorate the Macy's Day Parade. They earned their spot over the summer at an intense dance camp at James Madison University.

"It's a huge honor to perform in such a big event, and I know I'll always remember it," said senior Chelsea Kopf. Not only will it be an honor and a chance to show off their skills, they will get to see *Billy Elliot* on Broadway, *The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular*, and explore New York, giving even more reasons to count down the days.

"Words can't even begin to express the anxiety that grows everyday that we grow closer to going," said junior Hannah Ernst.

The dancers will be performing with girls from all over the nation, including their



Dancers Riley O'Rourke, Hannah Ernst, Chelsea Kopf and Kate DeClark earned a spot to perform in the Macy's Day Parade over the Thanksgiving holiday. Among the decorated floats, huge balloons and crowds of people, they will be showing off their talents, honed on the team that one Nationals last year. The girls will get the chance to experience all NYC has to offer.

"It's a huge honor to perform in such a big event, and I know I'll always remember it."

—Chelsea Kopf, Senior

friendly rivals, the Bartram Trial from Orlando, Florida. They will perform a different style than they do for West Springfield, not that it fazes the girls.

"To be honest, it has better choreography so I'm not really worried," said junior Riley O'Rourke. Choreographers Michelle Edwards and Liz Rifino put together a pom-pom routine that corresponds with the cheerleader-esque name of the group, Varsity Spirit. The sunny dance follows a Beach Boys melody.

"The dance is absolutely adorable," said Ernst. Equally adorable may be their costumes, which the girls already received. After always wearing baggy pants and the occasional Halloween costume to perform, the

See "Macy's" on Page 5.

The backstage standouts

Theater Arts students rewarded for hard work

By Nicole Brigham

Page One Editor

The Drama Arts students represented our school in front of the Virginia Theater Association Committee with award winning sets and costume designs.

Two of our juniors placed highly in the costume design division. There were 18 students entered in this group. Usually seniors are the only students who place in the top five, but our juniors showed the judges their talent. Junior Julia Staron came in second place in the costume design section and was proud of her achievement.

"It was an all-state competition, so naturally it was intense," said Staron. "The judges were harsh, but I still got a good review and score."

Junior Amanda Mueller also placed highly in the costume design division. She designed two costumes for characters. In entering the competition, she sent in her costume sketches along with an explanation as to why she chose to design them the way she did. The judges gave her positive comments and some constructive criticism, and ended up ranking her fourth. "I was really shocked that two juniors from our school scored so highly," said Mueller.

Although new to our drama program, freshman Rebecca Waldrop placed fourth in set design. She is the first Spartan freshman ever to place in the set design category. "I was totally not expecting to place," said Waldrop. "The



Nicole Brigham

Senior Batul Rizvi, the recipient of the Virginia Technical Theater Scholarship and Junior Julia Staron, who came in second place in the Costume Design competition, put together a set for the school's weekend production of "Is He Dead?" experience was enjoyable, and the judges gave me good critiques on my set design that will help me place higher next year."

Senior Kent Kachejian received an All Star Cast award for his performance in the one-act play that WS Drama put on, entitled "The Greek Mythology Olympia Ganza," a spoof on

See "Awards" on Page 5.



Karen Brown

The Kristi's Christmas annual giving event takes place this year on December 4. The group wants to expand its outreach and is looking for Spartans to do their PART.

Kristi's Christmas seeks volunteers

Kristi's Christmas, a local program designed to provide needy Fairfax County children with the basics in life, is looking for a few good Spartans.

The group, named for Kristi Brown, a 1986 WS grad who died in a car accident on the Beltway the summer after her first year at UVA, reaches out to the least fortunate in our community with clothing, food, books and toys.

Countless Spartans over the decades have volunteered for the yearly event, which this year takes place from 7:40 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, December 4.

Spartans who wish to make a difference should contact Karen Brown at Karen@karenbrownrealfor.com. Please see Page 14 for more information.

7 Wong says goodbye to classroom and hello to new job.



8-9 WS begins to prepare for 2015 building renovations.



Little Monsters set YouTube record.



Law officials don't 'like' party photos

Students need to be smarter about their posted pictures on Facebook

A message to the students who put pictures of themselves "party-ing" while posing with beers on Facebook: use your brain.

We understand that teenagers feel the need to rebel and all of that, but posting these kind of pictures on the Internet won't get you any-

where. Kids need to remember that if something goes onto the World Wide Web, it will remain there for all of eternity. You put something online, it never goes away; there's a record online that employers, the government, and anyone can really

see, to judge you on.

On the one hand, people feel like the administration is getting involved in their business that has nothing to do with school; that really isn't a valid argument.

As we've learned in the monotonous Student Rights and Responsibilities presentation that is revisited each year, it doesn't really matter if you're at school or at home. The school will get involved, and you will get in trouble.

It's safe to say that at every high

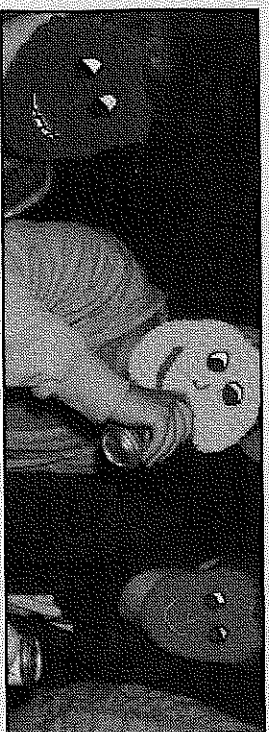
school, someone is going to be drinking. The thing about this that puzzles us the most is the need for attention. We all know the pictures and we've all seen the pictures: a boy or a girl with one hand in the air, while flaunting their drink in the other. This concept is foreign to no teenager, which makes it that

much more of a mystery: why does everyone feel the need to show the world what they're doing, especially when they're breaking the law? Maybe it's the thrill. The rush of excitement you receive when someone comments or likes a picture and comments you on being "crazy" can make you feel cool. Plus, most kids like to brag about what they get away with. It's part of being young and reckless.

To some, kids partying on Saturday nights is a staple of high school, just as much as homework or SATs. And as we've all seen in recent events, it's not the best way to succeed in school. If people want to drink, obviously they can find a way to do so. But putting evidence

As Facebook grows, so does the trend of teens posting inappropriate pictures of themselves. Some such pictures show students breaking the law, and are consequently getting caught.

part of teenagers' lives, but proof of drinking is something that should probably be left out of your albums.



Graphic by Lisa Williams

Pictures posted on Facebook never really go away. No Spartans were harmed in the production of this graphic.



Graphic by Megan Burpo

What's a sick day?

Students can no longer recover from their illnesses in peace due to constant pile up of makeup work

By Megan Burpo
Viewpoint Editor

The words "sick day" bring to mind spending the day in bed and eating a bowl of chicken noodle soup, and maybe getting some quality T.V. time in too, but nowadays students are expected to do piles of school work while trying to recover, thanks to a little invention called Blackboard!

The whole point of staying home is to recuperate from being sick, not to do all the work you would do if you went to school anyway. Unfortunately, now some teachers are requesting the missed work from the students the day they return because "it was on Blackboard."

Don't get me wrong. Blackboard is a wonderful invention for when you forget your math worksheet in your locker or are too lazy to write down the homework in class, but on sick days, I think most people would agree that we could do without it.

What I'm wondering is how on earth someone can efficiently do their work if they are sick enough to miss a day of school. We all know there are some students who like to take a "sick day" because they are had a late night or because they didn't study for their

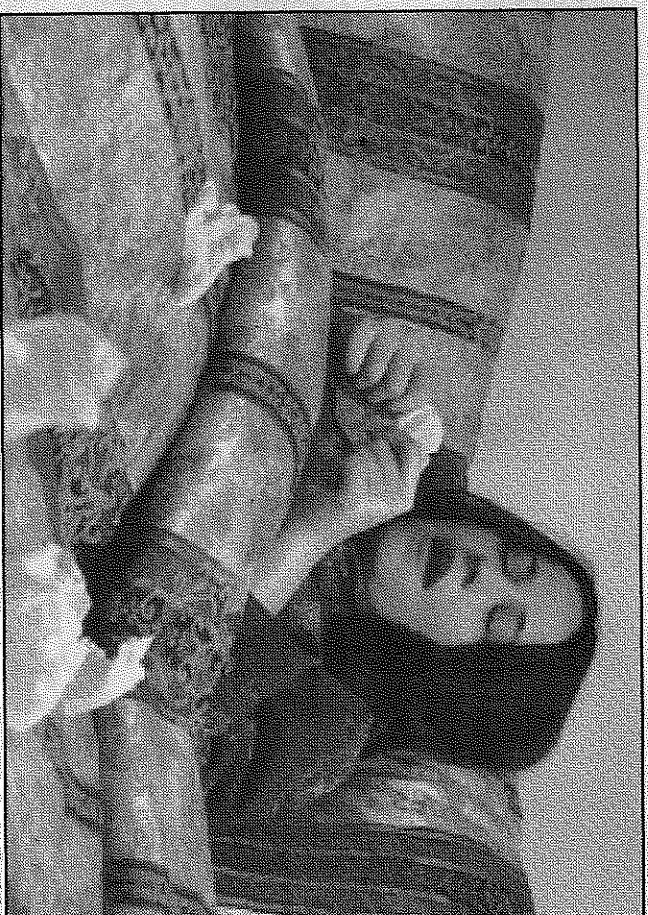
history test but let's not let them ruin it for the rest of us. If someone has the flu, there is no way they can work on math or read a chapter

of history while they are spending their day near the trash can. When most people are sick from a job, they are not expected to continue working at home, why should students be expected to be any different?

On top of worrying about completing all your work while getting better, students have to figure out what the teacher's policy on makeup work actually is. Some teachers accept the work the next day but others wonder why it isn't already done; these numerous policies make it confusing for students and often result in a zero on the assignment and sore feelings.

I have seven different syllabuses in my binders telling me seven different regulations on makeup work.

Some say missed homework is due the next day of class, others want students to come the next day of school to get their work or turn their missed work in, while some again don't mind giving the work to you when you come in order to be completed for the next class. I even have one teacher who will accept your work the next week. Con-



Collegeboard

Students are expected to complete their work when at home sick, which gets in the way of recovery time. Often, students need to take an extra day off once they feel better just to make up all the work they missed. Even with the restful time, all the different policies make it hard for students to get the rest they need in order to be successful upon returning to school.

fused yet? Don't worry; you're not the only one.

I understand that in order to keep up with the class, work needs to be turned in. And if it's AP class, then I completely understand for students who miss the class to have to make up work quickly as those classes move at a fast pace. What I think that people need to

understand is that sometimes we have to take a day off; we can't control being sick, and we need to get better. There's no point coming to school and being miserable if your sick just like there is no point making students do work at home when they are sick. So I vote that we leave sick to being sick and worry about all the work later.

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The Oracle is a student-run publication designed to inform and entertain the West Springfield High School community. We publish articles written with as little reporter bias as possible. Opinion is expressed in Viewpoint, Forum and F.T.C., 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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Give thanks for lunch

By **Summer Claveau**

E/C, Editor

In elementary school, the times I remember so fondly, Thanksgiving lunch was a much anticipated day. I remember biscuits right out of the oven, steaming fresh green beans, and warm and buttery mash potatoes complemented by a hearty helping of thinly carved turkey and some good old fashioned corn bread stuffing.

Invitations were sent out to parents to let them know about the Thanksgiving feast in case they wanted to join in the fun, or at least give their kid money for the celebration instead of a PB&J in a brown bag.

Whether or not I engaged in the festivities, the true spirit of Thanksgiving wafted through out the air in the cafeteria that day, or maybe that was just the smell of the pumpkin pies baking for the next lunch rotation.

used to be a big deal. Yes, this classic lunch is probably romanticized by my ignorant youth but it wasn't just about the food, it was about the spirit!

Even at Irving, paper conucopias and cartoon turkeys adorned the cafeteria walls. The only thing on our minds then was the food and members of the opposite sex, yet the youthful excitement brought by Thanksgiving lunch day ascended.

But, unfortunately, high school has killed the excitement I used to feel. Crowded lunch lines in a dimly lit cafeteria smacked our beloved turkey lunch in the face and screamed, "You do not matter anymore!"

I've been eating my lunch here for the past four years, and other than the slight change in the menu, Thanksgiving lunch is no longer relevant. Students are so caught up in AP's, detentions, and PART cards that there's no time to stop and smell the biscuits.

Don't get me wrong, the Thanksgiving meal is still delicious, and highly appreciated. I absolutely love the change in the monotony, but unfortunately it's so unannounced. It's a surprise, a pleasant one, but still a surprise.

There needs to be announcements, students want to know not to bring their left over's for lunch if there's turkey and cranberry sauce ready in the lunch line!

It would also be a good idea to extend the lunch lines outside of the designated ones. Maybe make a separate buffer line for the pumpkin pie. Students should still treat the lunch that only happens once a year with the same excitement and love that they did in elementary school.

Though my suggestions will probably be disregarded, it would be nice for people to at least acknowledge Thanksgiving lunch and give an extra thanks to the cafeteria staff that day for all their hard work.



Summer Claveau

Senior Ally Whitney buys lunch in one of the cafeteria lines. The cafeteria staff prepared for the Thanksgiving holiday lunch celebration by decorating the lunch lines with festive flowers, pumpkins, and other fall items.

No cheerleaders, no mascot...no spirit?

By **Jimmy McMahon & Jordan Miller**

Oracle Staff Writers

Two seconds left, WS down by one, the shot goes up, IT'S GOOD! And the crowd goes...silent?

The loud and encouraging cheers courtesy of the cheerleading team usually heard during basketball games at WS are no more. Winter cheerleading is the next school sponsored sport to vanish into oblivion.

At the beginning of the school year, people couldn't believe their ears when they heard that yet another school sponsored activity had been cut. Especially for basketball players, taking away the cheerleaders is like taking away some of the excitement of the game. The basketball players will miss the back-flips after successful free-throw attempts, they will miss their continuous support (especially when they are losing), and they will miss enthralling and exhilarating half-time routines that pump up our crowd.

Surely the fans will miss them the most. They will no longer have someone to lead them in cheers (thus the name "cheerleader") and will be missing the vital enthusiasm required to support their team through the good games and bad games. Not only that, but the



Jarney Davis

The Spartan cheerleaders, who have supported WS basketball players through the years, will no longer be on the sidelines during the winter season due to the Fairfax County's recent budget cuts. They had encouraged the spectators to cheer our team's players on, but now without their cheers and stunts, the games could unfortunately be much quieter. Fans may not be as willing to cheer for their team without someone to prompt them.

crowd will have to work twice as hard in order to make up for the quietness of the gym. Like the day after a home football game, people will emerge from the gym with hoarse voices.

So if the basketball players cannot have cheerleaders and their crowd has lost their voices, who will support the basketball players besides their teammates? We think this desperate situation calls for the return of the Spartan mascot.

Although the cheerleaders will always be the true Spartan support squad, a mascot is the next best thing. A mascot would bring out the loudest and proudest cheers from the crowd and encourage more people to come watch our games. A mascot would help the players keep a positive outlook on their games, even when they're losing.

The expenses it would require to have a school mascot would be...nothing. The school already has a costume that it could use at basketball games and WS is the home of many spirited Spartans who would be perfect for the job.

If winter cheerleading must be cut, the basketball players need something to provide their games with extra school spirit and excitement that will be lost. We need a mascot.

To cheat or not to cheat? Students cross ethical boundaries to do well

By **Austin Kaminski**

Sports Editor

People who have stepped foot in the halls of WS are probably well aware of the school's impressive academic standards. The teachers and staff do a great job pushing students to their optimum academic performance. But at some point, the academic pressures become too strong and students are forced

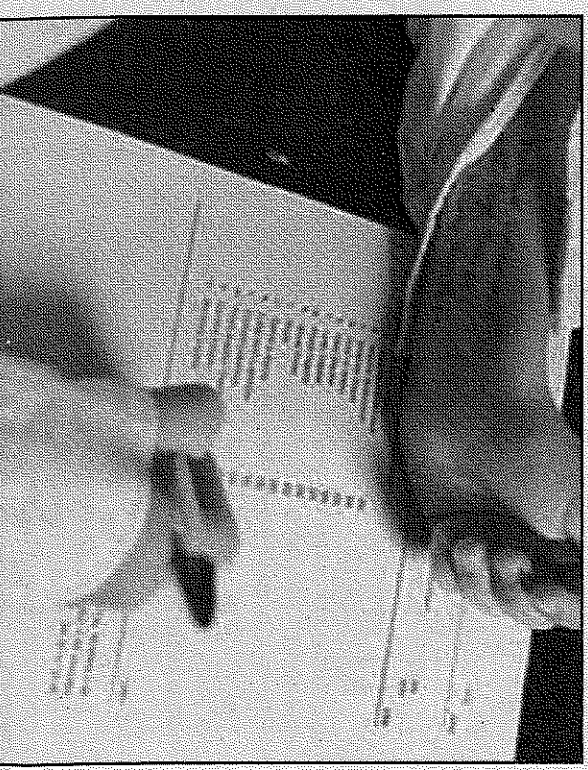
to cross ethical boundaries they wouldn't have crossed before.

As if teenagers aren't put under enough pressure as it is, counselors are constantly reminding us how competitive colleges are. Students must focus on keeping their grades at a near perfect level, while playing sports, participating in clubs, and working to earn money for college. With such a high stress level,

it is completely understandable how students would try and take advantage of anything they could to stay ahead of the competition.

While I don't condone cheating, I completely understand how students could be pressured into doing that. Parents have always stressed how important it is to get an education so you can get a good job. The grim reality is, in a capitalist society, such as America, there needs to be a lower class. For every CEO, there needs to be a secretary. While it is ideal to get a 4.6 GPA, 34 on the ACT and get a full ride to UVA before becoming an executive at a Fortune 500 company, not everyone can do this. Students at WS are put under too much pressure to perform and as a result students will resort to cheating.

Next time students take a test, they should take a few seconds to see how many students they can find cheating. Some stick to old fashion methods such as writing

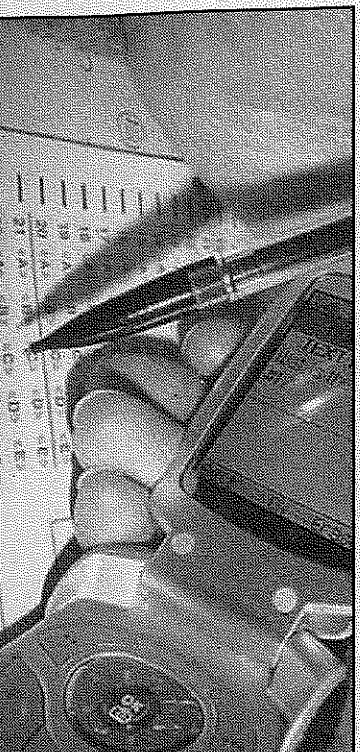


Editor

Since cheating has become more popular, students have had to be more inventive with their methods. Instead of cheating, students should realize that good grades should be achieved honestly.

the answers on the table or simply leaning over to copy their neighbor, while others even resort to looking up the answers on their phone. Whichever method students choose, the bottom line is that many students resort to cheating.

What the administration should CAN be successful without a college degree and that cheating to get into a college is not worth it.



Advises for You

With all the pressure students are under to be successful in school, they will sometimes resort to unethical activities to do well.



Jerrey Davis

Senior and Muslim Student Association President Jahannara Hoque gives a henna tattoo to senior Meredith Knowles. Hoque spent her time at Spartanfest working hard with MSA.

Muslim Student Association rakes it in Spartanfest successful for MSA's fundraising effort

By Sam Perlstien

Features Editor

The unique ethnic smells wafted across the parking lot, and with them, the signs of true success.

The Muslim Student Association raised almost \$800 at this year's Spartanfest and it really comes as no surprise. The group wants to use the funds to help people in need.

The art of fundraising is the trickiest for clubs to master. The "who's" and "how's" of getting people to support your club and buy your products don't always have an easy answer. To make even a little bit of money after they subtract spending costs, clubs really have to hustle. That is except, for the MSA, which had an hour's wait for tattoos at last month's fundraiser and a constant crowd around the food table.

"[The MSA] have people looking forward to eating food," said sponsor Kevin Greata. Between the kabobs and the hummus and the long line for henna tattoos, the MSA knows how to raise money.

The club also got another mega-bonus because they didn't have to pay for their unique cuisine; it was all made by supportive parent volunteers. And, with a little bit of Arabic mood music, the atmosphere was in their favor.

"The food is just our culture," said senior Jahannara Hoque MSA president. Not all groups, after all, can sell authentic kabobs. "Do things you wouldn't find in everyday situations," said Hoque.

With all that success, the MSA now has more in their back account and needs to start making decisions on how to use Group members want to bring in more speakers to promote awareness of their culture. They are also planning to have more fundraisers as well.

They plan to use the money for club events they also aside a portion of the profit to donate to various charities.

The MSA plans to send funds to "third-world countries help them out with food and clothing," said Hoque.

There are many relief efforts to choose from, but Hoque wants to donate to help victims of recent Pakistani flooding which left more than 21 million people affected and 12 million in need of emergency food aid.

Hoque wants to thank all the MSA members who chipped in to help out during Spartanfest, the school's annual fundraising fair.

"There were a lot of groups that worked really hard," said freshmen and MSA member Anna Gurashi.

Stamping creates more difficulty in skipping Anti-signature strategy hopes to deter those who work around the system

By Anna Lehman

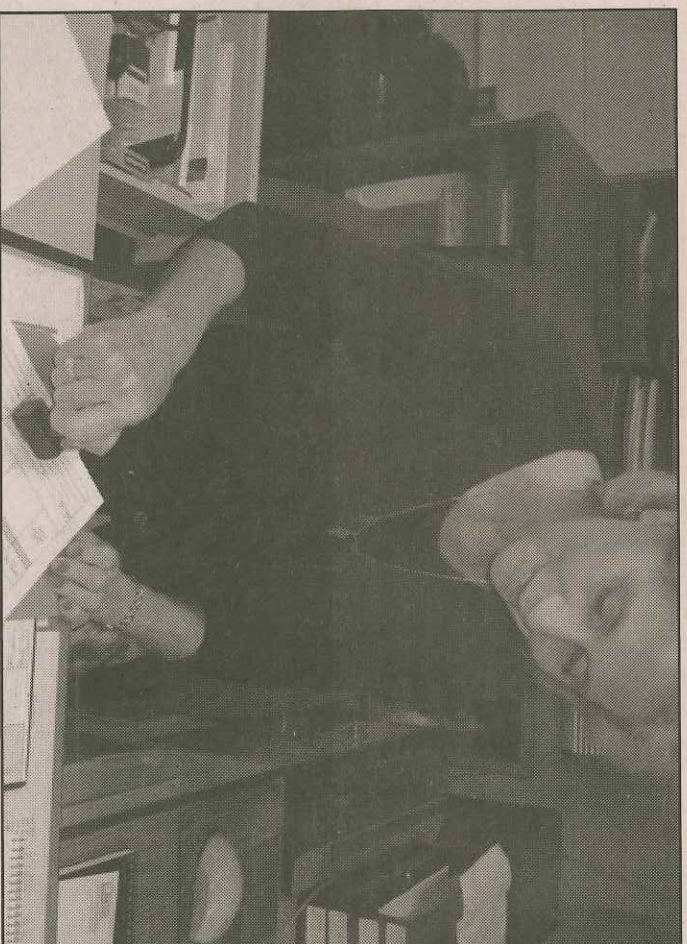
Entertainment Editor

Hello efficiency, goodbye forgery. This year a new system has been put into place, and are instead of signatures teachers are to use stamps for passes. These stamps were given to each and every teacher, so far proving to be a fast and easy way to distribute passes. The first ones to start the trend were the librarians

"There are so many students that come here, using a stamp allows the teacher to easily recognize were they came from," said librarian Susan Salpini.

Before the stamps came into play students got away with forgery much more easily, faking teacher's signatures or just re using old passes. Although students are still able to erase the time or date, the stamped name of a teacher will be easily traced back to the teacher who the stamp belongs to. Tackling the issue of pass forgery allows students less freedom when skipping or being purposefully late to class. Skipping has always been an issue but perhaps the new stamps will keep some from the frequency of it.

"They help with number one consistency,



Anna Lehman

Administrative Assistant Mary Halfhill stamps a pass for a student visiting the Student Services Office. Although the stamps get rid of the ability for students to forge passes, they can be inconvenient for teachers who would rather hand write a pass to get it over with quickly.

NEWS BITES

'Deathly Hallows' garners huge crowds at theaters

THE NEWEST INSTALLMENT OF THE HARRY POTTER SERIES, "HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS," PREMIERED LAST NIGHT AT MIDNIGHT. TICKETS TO LOCAL THEATERS HAVE BEEN SOLD OUT FOR WEEKS TO SEE THE FIRST PART OF THE SERIES FINALE. ALL CULMINATING TO THIS WEEKEND. FANS FEEL THE MOVIE WAS WELL WORTH THE WAIT.

The Beatles join iTunes

THE BEATLES' MUSIC IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN THE iTUNES STORE IN AN EFFORT TO CRACK DOWN ON THE ILLEGAL DOWNLOADING OF THE BEATLES' MUSIC. SINCE PREVIOUSLY THAT BAND HAD BEEN ONE OF THE ONLY PROMINENT BANDS NOT TO HAVE THEIR MUSIC SOLD BY APPLE.

Four Loko ban enacted

FOUR LOKO, A HIGHLY ALCOHOLIC ENERGY DRINK, HAS BEEN BANNED IN NEW YORK AND FACES BEING BANNED IN MANY OTHER STATES. THE AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL IT CONTAINS HAS CAUSED MANY ALCOHOL-POISONING-RELATED DEATHS RECENTLY. THUS THE BANNING.

Students experience Wednesday blackout

LAST WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, STUDENTS AND STAFF WERE SURPRISED TO BE WITHOUT POWER FOR PART OF FIFTH AND MOST OF SEVENTH PERIOD. DESPITE THE BRIEF POWER OUTAGES, MOST CLASSES WERE ABLE TO FUNCTION IN A ROUTINE AND NORMAL FASHION.

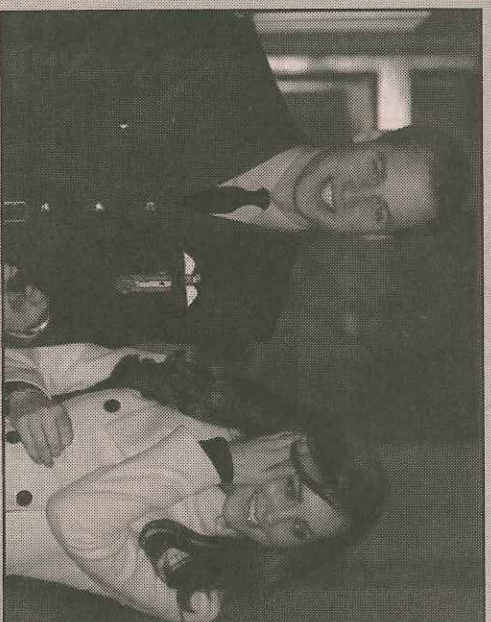
Ryan Reynolds brings the heat to People Magazine

POPULAR ACTOR RYAN REYNOLDS WAS RECENTLY NAMED PEOPLE MAGAZINE'S "SEXIE MAN ALIVE" FOR THIS YEAR. OTHERS WHO ARE REGULARLY HONORED INCLUDE GEORGE CLOONEY, JOHNNY DEPP, MATT DAMON AND OTHER POPULAR MALES IN THE SPOTLIGHT.

McNabb signs new and longer Redskins contract

NEW REDSKINS QUARTERBACK DONOVAN MCNABB SIGNED A LONGER FIVE YEAR CONTRACT WITH THE TEAM PRICING AT \$78 MILLION DOLLARS.

—Compiled from local news articles and internet source



The Telegraph

Prince William proposes to girlfriend after eight years

PRINCE WILLIAM FINALLY ASKED LONGTIME GIRLFRIEND KATE MIDDLETON TO MARRY HIM ON NOVEMBER 16. HE PROPOSED USING THE RING THAT BELONGED TO HIS LATE MOTHER, "THE PEOPLE'S PRINCESS," PRINCESS DIANA.



Nicole Brigham

Members of our school's Theater Tech class work on the props and set for the upcoming theater production of "Is He Dead?" All of the Tech students recently recognized for their talents are working on the production.

Tech wins big at VTAC Awards Ceremony

"Awards," from Page 1.

\$1,000 scholarship to any college in Virginia.

Theater Director Mary Jo Levesque is extremely proud of her students.

One of the night's biggest awards went to senior Bahri Rizvi, who received the Virginia Technical Theater Scholarship.

"It was very rewarding," said Rizvi. "It was cool to see all of the things I have done all on one application."

"Our theater students exemplify the best behavior from all Fairfax County students. These students display outstanding behavior, talent, self discipline, but most of all the way they conduct themselves as representatives of our school. They make me proud to be their teacher," said Levesque.

Rizvi was selected to be our school's applicant for the reward, as only one student per school can submit an application. The applicants then compete for the

All of the new award-winners will be taking part in the production of "Is He Dead?" by Mark Twain. Performances began November 18 and will run through November 20.

make me proud to be their teacher," said Levesque.

Family Hair Salon



Color \$40.00 Reg. \$65	Highlights \$55.00 Reg. \$95	Ladies' haircut \$14.99 Reg. \$25	Lipdo & styling \$20.00 and up Reg. \$35
Japanese hair straightening \$150 Reg. \$250	Eyelash Extensions \$80.00 Reg. \$150	Highlight, Haircut & Styling - Froze \$19.99 Reg. \$35	Men's haircut \$9.99 Reg. \$15

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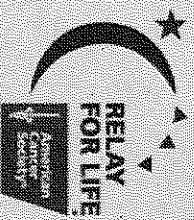
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Blackout us in the dark

The Spartans were in the dark about a lot of things on Wednesday, as an area-wide blackout affected lesson plans for about an hour.

Computers and lights flickered several times toward the end of 5th period before the power finally went out schoolwide. The blackout was caused by high winds.

Assistant Principal Richard Griffin expressed concern over the PA for students and staff, especially those who have classes in what is known as the "formerly carpeted hallway" on the first floor. Those classrooms do not have windows, so occupants were completely in the dark for about an hour.

"Mrs. Posner's room was pitch black," said senior Caitlin Stevens, who has 7th period with Lori Posner on the first floor of the building. "Mrs. Posner wanted to move the kids into Mrs. Bailey's room so we could see better."

Stevens said said that teacher Mary Bailey's room, where she and her peers took refuge, was illuminated by a light powered by a generator.

"I wasn't scared when the lights went out," Stevens said. "Mrs. Posner had a good idea."



Thomas Ariate

High winds caused a blackout Wednesday, causing students in English teacher Jamie O'Neill's classroom to take more responsibility for shedding the most light during a Socratic Seminar discussion.

Dancers represent WS in NY



Courtesy of Chelsea Kopf

WS's Dance Team is highly recognized and last year were declared the National Champions in Orlando, Florida. Four members who participated last year are heading to New York next week to participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Seniors Chelsea Kopf and Kate DeClark and Juniors Hannah Ernst and Riley O'Rourke will represent WS in the parade.

"Macy's," from Page 1.

neon outfits will be refreshing to wear.

"It's got far more pink than I wear on a regular basis. We'll have huge bows that I'm dreading wearing," said O'Rourke. Do not be confused; dancing is so much more than just pretty costumes and away trips. The hard work and dedication the girls display is unquestionably great.

Dancing monopolizes their time, both during and after school. The girls engage in multiple dance classes, including studio and academy classes, but none quite so rewarding as dance team.

"I prefer the dance team environment as there is less competition between each dancer," said Kopf. For her, team chemistry plays a role in the love of dance.

"This team shares such a unique bond," said Ernst. "We're a big, weird, happy family and I love that part of dancing."

The advantage of having an accepting, loving atmosphere is evident in the union in

which the team performs. This atmosphere allows for a needed chemistry due to the amount of time the team spends together.

Dancing at such a high level comes at a cost, but not one too painful to pay. The sacrifices made when your childhood is spent in a dance studio might not seem worth it to some, but the love for dance overpowers the sacrifice.

"I never learned to ride a bike, never jumped in a leaf pile," said Kopf. "I wouldn't have it any other way."

Kopf is not the only one to put dance as top priority. Most members of the dance team would agree that it has been an influential, if time consuming, part of their entire lives. For these girls, giving up dance is never even an option.

"It keeps me motivated to want to wake up for school the next morning so I can go to dance that evening," said O'Rourke. "No way would I ever give my moments on stage up."



Moira Lennon
Junior Danny Fraedrich played guitar for sophomore Bella Lucchesi as she sang "Unwritten," originally a Natasha Bedingfield hit.

Special concert for Special Olympics

By Lisa Williams
Oracle Editor

Music soothes the soul—and raises money for the athletes of Special Olympics.

On November 16, seniors Beth Clapsaddle and Katelyn Crompton put on their "Special Olympics Benefit Concert" to raise money for the cause. They put on the concert both to fulfill their Capstone project requirements and for the good of the Special Olympics.

Clapsaddle originally got involved with Special Olympics three and a half years ago, as a volunteer figure skating coach. She gives up some of her own time every Saturday to coach.

"I started to coach when some friends got me involved. I liked it a lot because skating was starting to feel like a job and coaching made it fun again," said Clapsaddle.

The girls recruited performers by announcing auditions of Face-book and holding auditions three weeks ago. Both girls are active in the WS Choral Department, so many of the other members of the Madrigals, Personality, and the various other chorus classes joined their ranks and performed at the show. Seniors Moira Lennon, Kelly Allen, David Jo, J.D. Fortney, and Jenn Butts, juniors Hannah Ernst, Danny Fraedrich, Andrea Hamilton, Devon Winslow, sophomores Ashley Frost, Michael Wilson,

and Bella Lucchesi, and freshman Haley Lipton all took part, either singing or providing some form of musical entertainment.

"I wanted to play. It was a really great opportunity to raise money for Special Olympics," said Butts. "I wanted to help [Clapsaddle] and [Crompton] out with their Capstone too."

About 100 people came to the concert, both in support of their friends performing and in support of the Special Olympics.

"It was a lot more successful than we thought it would be, and we raised a lot of money for Special Olympics, and a lot of Special Olympics athletes were there," said Crompton.

One Special Olympic athlete, Kristen Stone, was highlighted during the concert. She was the designated Keynote Speaker, and gave a speech about how students and their parents can get involved in Special Olympics.

"My favorite part was the Keynote Speaker," said Lennon, who sang two songs on her own and played the accompaniment for another song. "I liked that she was able to communicate with us on a personal level and make a personal connection."

The concert raised almost \$600 for Special Olympics. The company will use this money to purchase equipment for events of all sports.

What is not used for equipment will go into a general fundraising account for later use.

"I can't stress how impressed I was with the performers and to see all the people there to support us," said Clapsaddle. "I was surprised but really happy to see the number of people who showed up."

The atmosphere of the concert provided people with the desire to donate to the cause. Seeing all the Special Olympics athletes so enthusiastic and happy to be at the concert really made the whole experience worthwhile.

"It was extremely heartwarming. [Stone] gave a great speech at the end of the concert, and all the performances were great," said senior Mike Hess, who attended the concert.

At the conclusion of the concert, Stone urged the audience to visit volunteertoohero.org, a program which allows people to sign up to go to Special Olympic events and cheer on the mentally disabled participants. She told the audience how much it helps to hear people cheering you on when you feel like quitting.

"All the athletes look forward to going to practice all week," said Crompton. "Most of the time, they are outcaised but at Special Olympics they don't have to worry about people judging them and they can just have fun."

Rolling Road traffic no longer 'rolling' along

By Sam Perstein
Features Editor

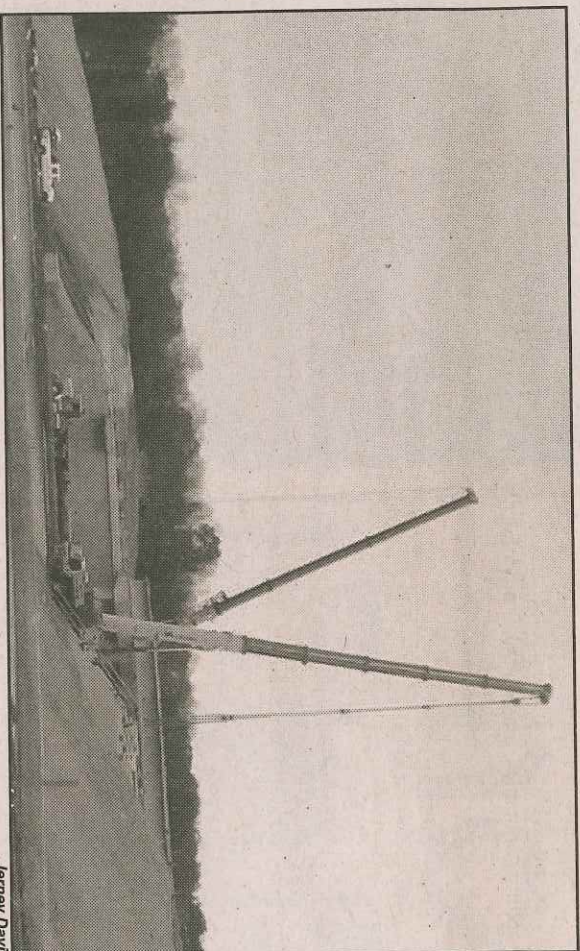
Big trucks, orange cones, and utter confusion. Ah construction. The unfinished Rolling Road alterations and Fairfax County Parkway extension are making it hard for students to get around.

What used to be a small, two lane road bordered by trees on either side, has been transformed into something resembling a highway.

"It's really unlike any other part of the parkway and the first few times was really confusing," said senior Vicki Knabe. "It is not that well marked and was kind of scary."

The number of cones, unusable lanes, and confusing detour signs are overwhelming, especially to new and inexperienced drivers. It's hard to tell where the parkway ends and Rolling starts and what part of the road is blocked, or even when some guy wearing a helmet will randomly appear.

"The first time I drove on it, I just kept seeing all these cones flying at me, it was terrifying," said junior Haley Spicer.



Jeremy Davis
Construction on Rolling Road has begun, stretching down past the parkway. The construction has provided a more stressful commute for students.

The new construction makes it slow work getting to school for students who live in that area. The traffic increase and insufficient

open lanes all add minutes on to the school day commute. "I have had to leave almost ten minutes

College fairs lead to higher education

Fair Oaks' college fair provides students with key information on colleges

By Nicole Brigham
Page One Editor

It's that time of year again, when seniors apply to college and juniors begin the hunt for the perfect school. One useful tool in this search is college fairs.

"Last year's college fairs were very helpful in learning about out of state schools and schools I have never heard of," said senior Lindsay Victor.

The most recent college fair was at Fair Oaks Mall and had a great turnout. College fairs are good for a first look into colleges and might even open your eyes to schools you might not have been interested in before. These events can be packed, and they are not just a social event.

But if you do not have a game plan for visiting booths, it can be a waste of time.

"Students should definitely attend the college fairs, if they are prepared," said Career Center Specialist Hannah Hurlburt.

One way to try to plan for a college fair visit is by bringing pre addressed labels so you can skip long lines and still receive information about colleges you are interested in. It is also important to come with prepared, thoughtful questions to ask so you can get the most out of the experience.

"The college fair booths had a lot of useful information

about the courses they offer and the requirements for acceptance," said junior Hannah Houghton. "The only downfall was the long lines and so many people in one place."

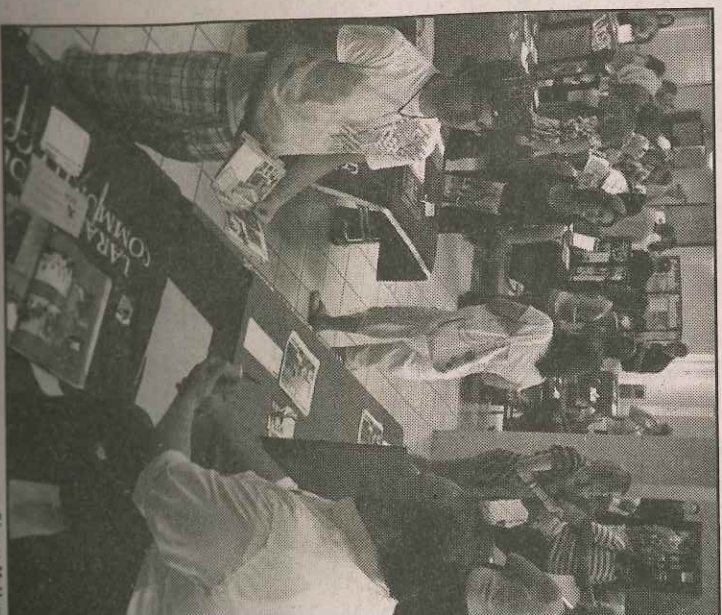
If college fairs seem too disorganized for you, college nights at local high schools could also be helpful. These events are on a bit smaller scale and have breakout sessions for specific colleges.

Some of the representatives from visiting colleges are also part of the acceptance process, and creating a relationship with them will better your chances of getting accepted.

The WS Career Center has representatives from many colleges who come daily to the school. All students are invited to attend as long as you stop by the Career Center to get a pass before. Any college that visits the high school comes in through the career center and Hurlburt will always have information for students interested in attending.

If a college you are interested in is not at the college fairs, college nights, or in the career center, you can talk to Hurlburt to see if she can contact the school you are interested in to send a representative.

"I think it is great that Ms. Hurlburt puts so much time into making sure we can meet representatives from the schools we are interested in," said Houghton.



Shawn McHugh
Students participate in college fairs in order to obtain information about prospective college, when visits to the schools are not convenient.

A new degree of musical talent

Student band The 6th Degree bursting with new sounds

By Eleanor Lamb

Features Editor

While the six degrees of separation may prevent some people on from interacting with musicians, students of WS are lucky enough to only be just one degree away from a successful band.

Five Spartans make up an original and impressive band, The 6th Degree. Ryan McCreedy, Jason Pevey, David Tobul, Matt Royle and Justin Price work hard in music and enjoy being a part of the band.

"We've been together about three years," said senior and group co-leader Pevey.

Those three years of unity mean three years of hard work to every member of the band. This includes rehearsing and writing music, all while juggling classes and the schoolwork that comes along with them.

While each member practices on his own for multiple hours a week, the group is sure to get time together in order to rehearse and practice.

"We practice together about two hours a week," said senior and co-leader McCreedy. "We play any instrument we can get our hands on."

While they love to experiment with different sounds, each member has a main role and instrument to play in The 6th Degree.

Price and Tobul both play bass, as Pevey handles guitar. Royle is in charge of percussion, and the multi-talented McCreedy handles guitar, synthetic guitar, vocals, and many other music-making devices.

This diverse band carries an interesting and yet very relatable title, named after the theory that everyone in the world is connected through six relationships with each other, or degrees.

"[We named it] because of the six degrees of separation, a social networking idea," said McCreedy.

The band's name corresponds with the group's recent album, called *In Separation*. This album is being sold throughout the school for ten dollars by the band's members.

"Once we sell all our hard copies, we'll put it on iTunes," said McCreedy.

However, this is not the only exciting piece of news for the band. The 6th Degree has been working on two new albums, one of which may be available for free throughout the school.

As all of them are seniors, the members of The 6th Degree realize that life might take a few unexpected turns.

However, the band members plan to stick together as a group as they continue on past high school, still working together to create new music for friends, family and community members alike to enjoy.

"We will still be a band," said McCreedy.



Eleanor Lamb

Seniors Jason Pevey and Ryan McCreedy goof around in the guitar room. They have been in a band together for three years along with three other Spartans.

Springfield's next top model

Kallen Bustamante showcases her modeling abilities

By Beth Lindenblad

Journalism 1

Sophomore Kallen Bustamante is not a "model" citizen: while she meets most of the requirements, she is not the typical aspiring model.

She discovered her passion for modeling over the summer of 2009. Since then, she has done things to get her career started, such as calling companies, practicing her model walk and getting edgy bangs to contrast her wavy hair.

"The only thing that is holding me back is my braces," said Bustamante.

Models are not supposed to have tin on their teeth; but other than that, she is ready for her close-up.

Instead of caking on pounds of make up like most models, Bustamante relies on natural beauty; at most, she only wears a little mascara.

"I think natural is pretty," said Bustamante. To look good, she dresses nicely and

often wears high heels. She shifts her attire, gearing it toward her surroundings and her many cultural influences.

Nice bags and great shoes is just one way she expresses her passion for fashion.

"I always have a theme to what I'm wearing, like earthy, preppy, or beachy," said Bustamante.

She describes her style as preppy with European influences, which most likely comes from three years of living in Spain. Bustamante was exposed to many other culture due to her father being in the military.

This model is pretty but she is not brain dead. With a love for politics brought on by her father, Bustamante has a handle on America.

"I love to listen to Rush Limbaugh; he's my guy," said Bustamante.

Even one of her best friends, sophomore Adriana Vargas, has noticed her passion for politics; she said that Bustamante is always talking about it.

"I always have a theme to what I'm wearing, like earthy, preppy, or beachy."

—Kallen Bustamante, sophomore

"She is very Republican, since her parents are in the military," said Vargas.

This political-savvy fashionista also has words of encouragement for those who want to get into the modeling industry.

"Start now and do your research," said Bustamante. "Just go for it."

Although her interest in modeling is fairly recent and she has not yet booked a job, Bustamante is already deeply invested in the industry.

"I'm putting a lot of effort into this," said Bustamante, "[modeling] means a lot to me."

Beloved teacher says goodbye to the classroom

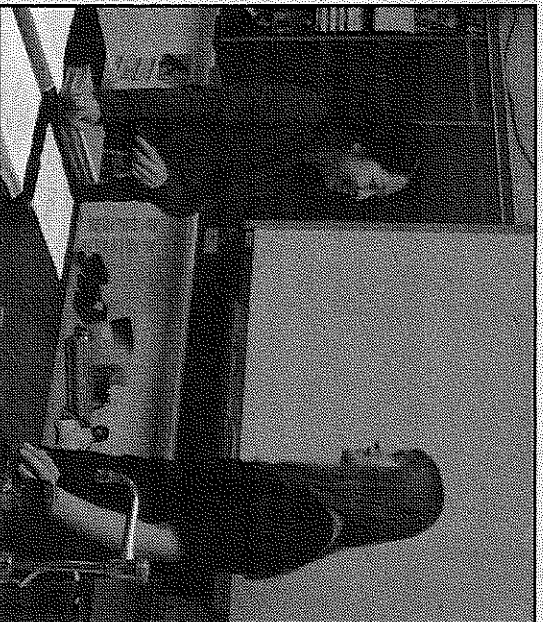
By Allie Colella

Forum Editor

For the past 14 years, students have entered room 66 to Biology teacher Ann Wong's excited smile. This year, Wong shines from a different corner of the school: the SBTS room.

As the school's School Based Technology Specialist, Wong helps the staff utilize the technology available to them. In short, she is a trainer and a manager, a troubleshooter and a collaborator; a big change from teaching students about mitosis and animal kingdoms.

"I'm busy all day, but it's a different kind of busy from being a teacher," said Wong.



Allie Colella

SBTS Ann Wong stands with biology teacher Erin Mears who now occupies room 66. It has been bitter sweet for Wong, but she is hopeful that this switch will work out.

Last December, Wong won the Milken Family Foundation Educator Award, an award given to a select group of outstanding teachers.

Leaving the classroom a year after receiving a teaching award seems contradictory, but Wong said the award motivated the change.

In May, Wong and her fellow award winners were flown out to California for the ceremonies. After acknowledging the teachers for their achievements, the Milken Family Foundation asked them to stretch their boundaries and help their fellow teachers reach the Milken standards. Their words inspired Wong.

"I started to think what else can I do? One of the things they talked to us about was 'how what,'" said Wong.

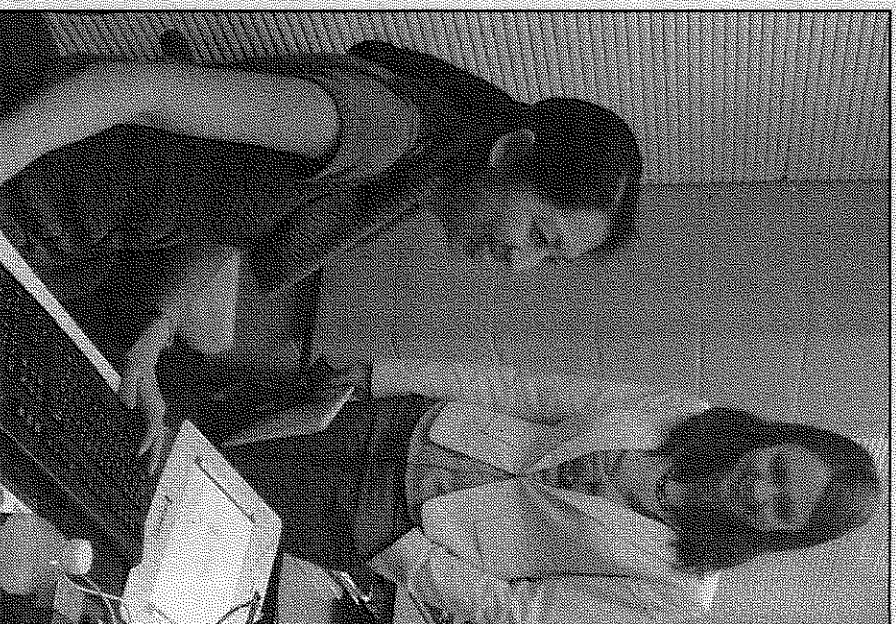
Wong began exploring opportunities in the county, but was unable to find any job she could imagine herself enjoying for the next few years.

Then Susan Latour, who for many years was the school's SBTS, left, leaving the SBTS position open. The job fit perfectly with Wong's needs, allowing her to work closely with the teachers she hoped to improve.

However, the job change is not without its drawbacks. "The one thing I miss the most is the direct interaction," said Wong. "I miss seeing the excitement in their [the students] eyes. I keep telling myself that by helping the teachers I help bring that spark."

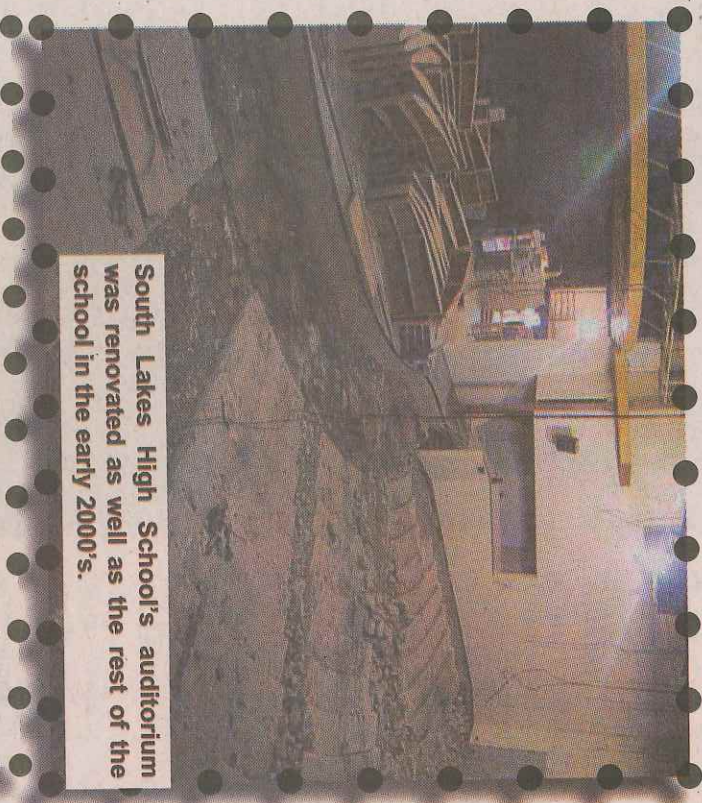
Three months into her new job, Wong continues to work towards the goal of professional development among the staff. Despite missing the classroom, Wong feels she ultimately made the right decision and looks forward to her next few years as an SBTS.

"My heart truly does belong in the classroom," said Wong. "But I thought I owed it to myself professionally and personally to try something else."

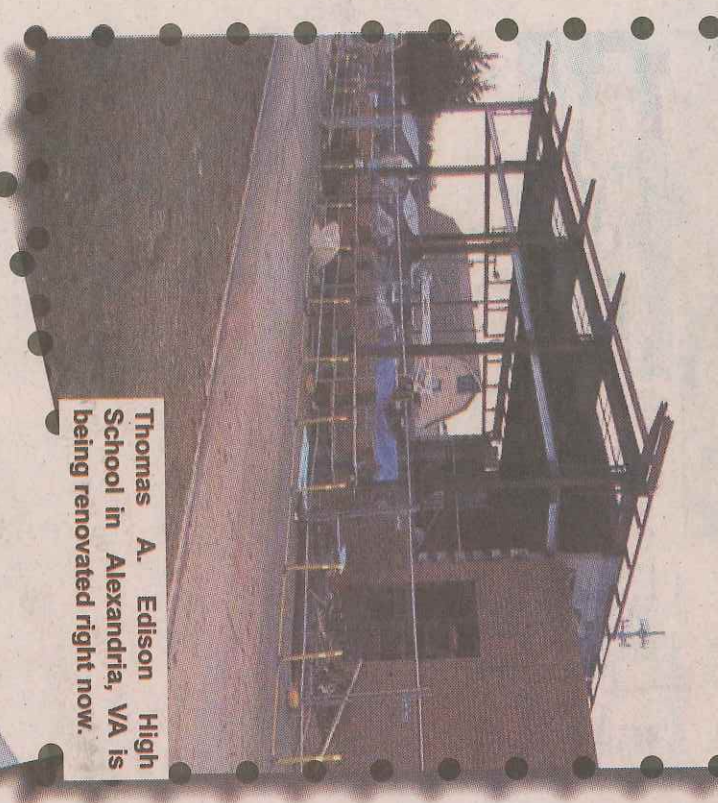


Allie Colella

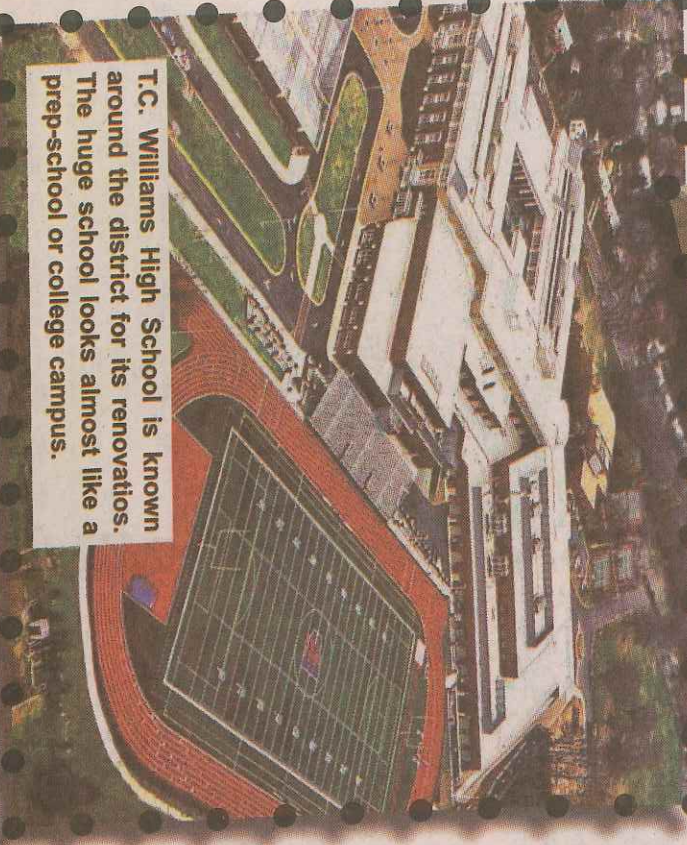
Wong explains student e-mail technology to Latin teacher Whitney Slough. Wong is happy to help her co-workers as our school's SBTS.



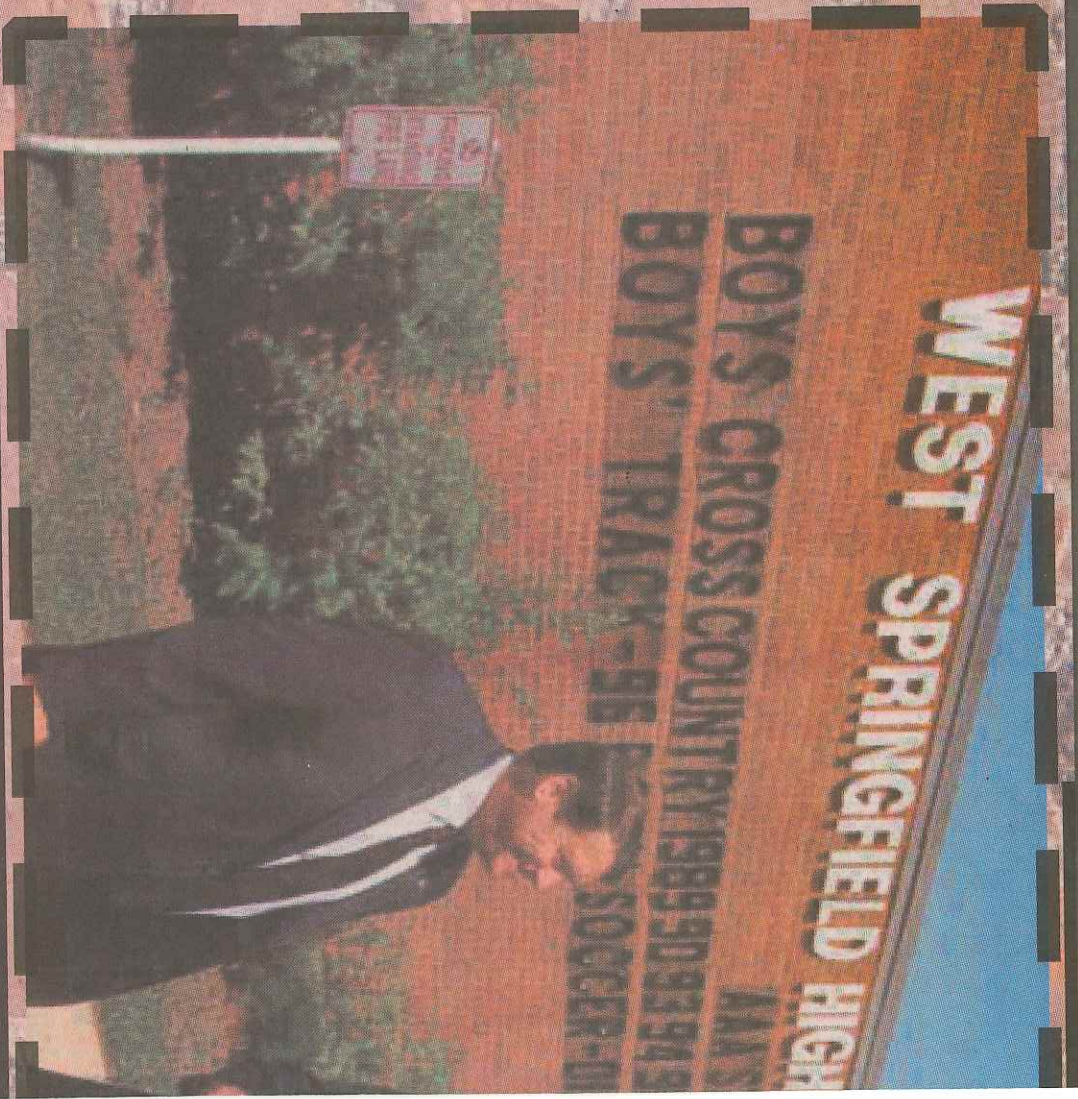
South Lakes High School's auditorium was renovated as well as the rest of the school in the early 2000's.



Thomas A. Edison High School in Alexandria, VA is being renovated right now.



T.C. Williams High School is known around the district for its renovations. The huge school looks almost like a prep-school or college campus.



LOOKING FORWARD FIXING OUR

RENOVATION

If by some miracle we manage to live past 2012's impending doom, there is one thing we can look forward to: the building renovations in 2015.

We have been waiting our entire high school careers for this. Even though it won't affect many of the present attendees of WS at all, it's still a huge step forward for the future of our school and we should all be grateful for it.

2021 was our original date for planning to begin for our renovations. To put this in perspective, they would only have impacted students currently in the fourth grade or younger. However, thanks to the work of our administration, parent groups such as SOAR, the FCPS School Board, and several local news stations, we have moved up ten years on the list.

"We needed to help the schools that were in dire situations, and I thought

you were," said Board member Sher.

Fairfax County's "Legacy Five" include Herndon Falls Church. They are the first in the county to open in 1990. The need of improvement in order to stay

Not only is the school in poor condition, but it is filled with people who are a part of the equation. The equation worsens as capacity, and looking at a school in the county, it is evident that small to accommodate the people in

A small classroom Auxiliary Gy used as the office, while principal Jennifer has been co-storage room



Supervisor Pat Hentery, left, and Delegate Dave Albo, right, speak in front of our school about any possible ways we can make our school better in appearance. Both former Spartans, they try to give back to their hometown community as much as possible.

ARD TO FINALLY R SCHOOL

ministrative workplace. Planning will begin sometime in 2011, and construction will begin in 2013. It should take about two years for a majority of the building to be finished, but all the extra additions will require another year or year and a half to complete. If all goes as planned, the school should be good as new by about 2016.

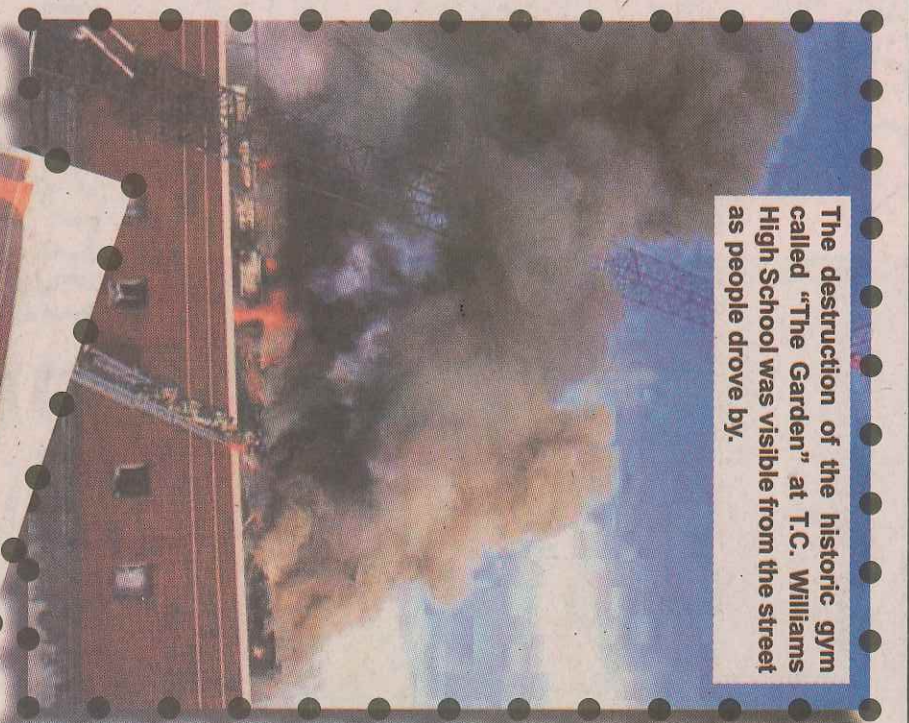
Until then, minor renovations will take place around the school. In addition to the bathrooms in the Sports Lobby that were improved in 2008, the administration plans to put a new floor in the Auxiliary Gym over Winter Break.

"You're on [the docket for renovation] now," said Bradsher. "That's what matters."

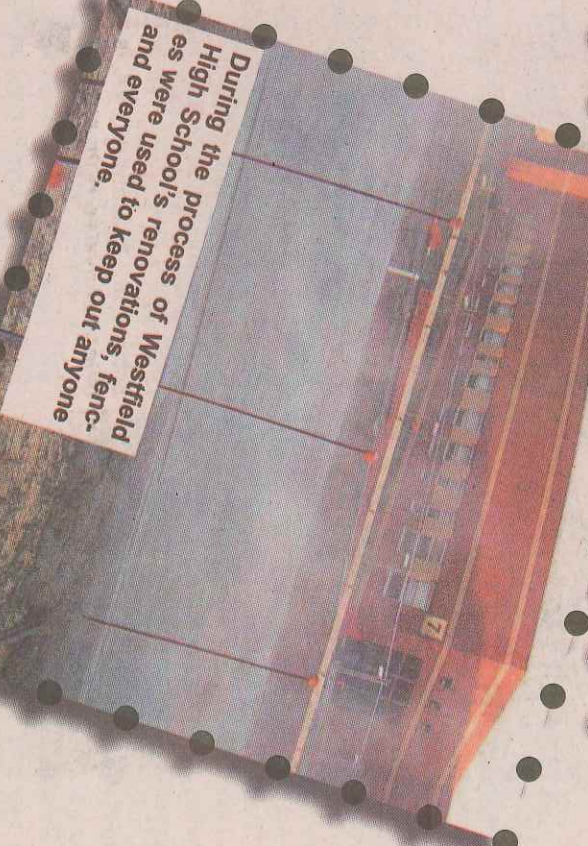
By: Thomas Ariaie,
Julie Parisi, and Lisa
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Oracle Staff Writers

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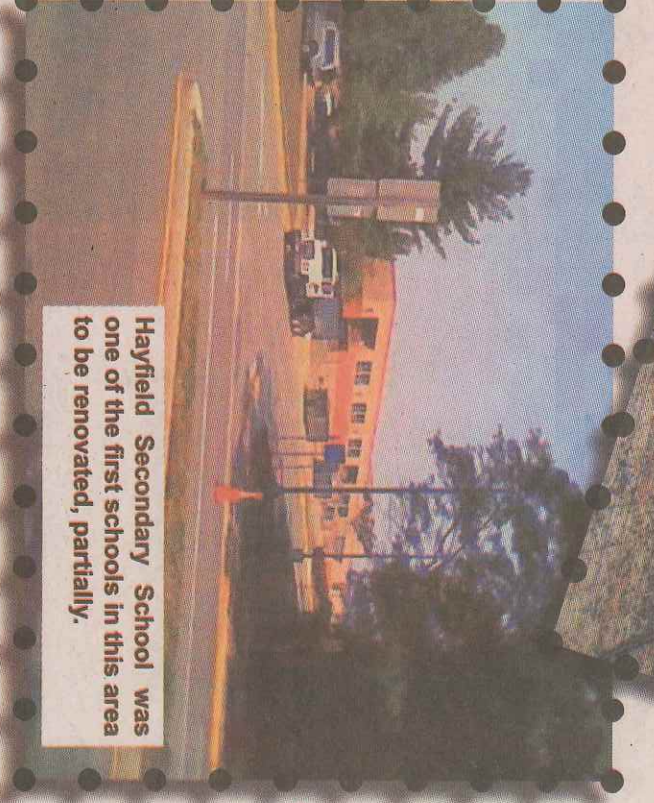
IN 2015?



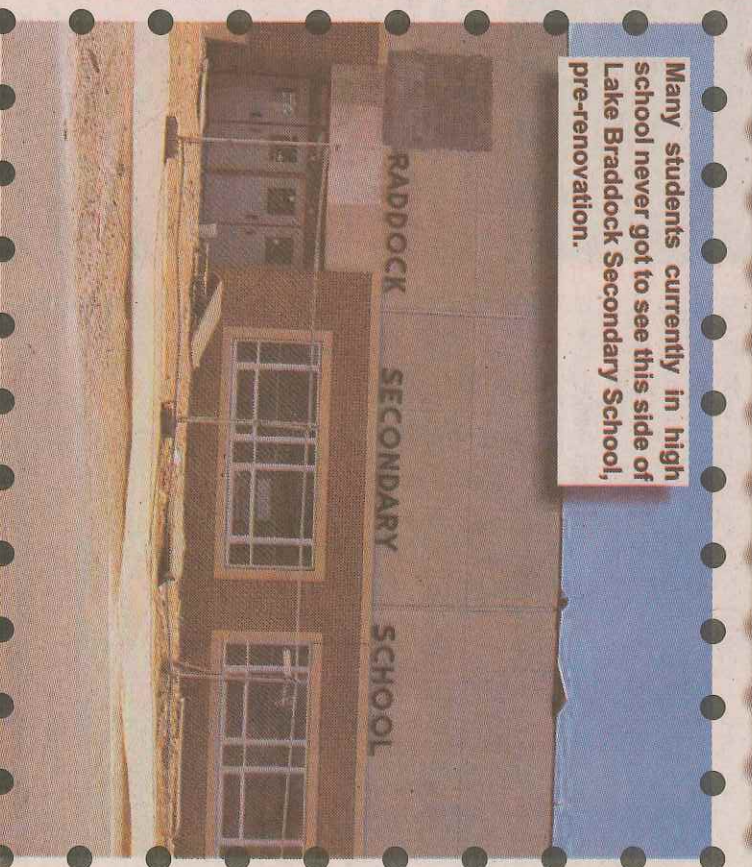
The destruction of the historic gym called "The Garden" at T.C. Williams High School was visible from the street as people drove by.



During the process of Westfield High School's renovations, fences were used to keep out anyone and everyone.



Hayfield Secondary School was one of the first schools in this area to be renovated, partially.



Many students currently in high school never got to see this side of Lake Braddock Secondary School, pre-renovation.

25 years of doing her PART

Becky Mullins is one Spartan who never stops working

By Kyle Rushton

Oracle Staff Writer

Leaky toilets, broken chairs and desks, empty soap dispensers—Becky Mullins has seen it all.

As head of the custodial staff, Mullins is celebrating her twenty-fifth year as a Spartan. Prior to coming to WS, Mullins worked as a salesperson and a cashier at Toys “R” Us for 10 years. She began working at WS in 1985 as a custodian, and then moved her way up to become boss.

When she first started the job, Mullins never thought she would continue working as a custodian. As the years passed, however, Mullins never thought of leaving.

“Every year is my favorite,” said Mullins. “It has become my second home.”

Mullins loves the students and believes they know how to take care of the place. Even though she does not get the chance to learn the students’ names, she observes that they are respectful towards her and her custodial staff.

Along with her love for the students at WS, Mullins enjoys her custodial staff. Over the years, she has become well ac-

customed to working with them and the custodial system of the school.

Principals and other staff members have come and gone while Mullins has worked at WS, all with the same expectations.

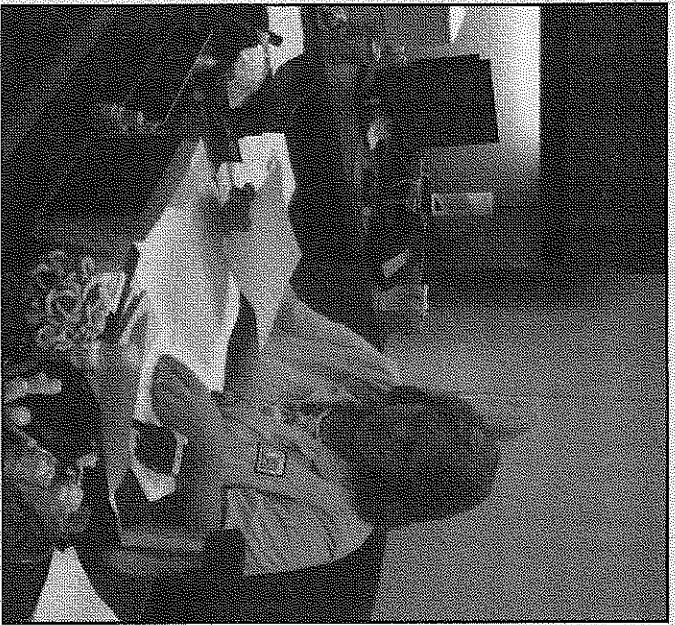
“Becky is a great person to work with,” said Betsy Fawcett, Assistant Director of Student Services, SGA sponsor, and head cheerleading coach. “She works hard to keep a clean school and learning environment.”

While the staff has changed over the years, the facilities and fixtures certainly have not. Besides a few changes to the sports lobby, auditorium, and library, the same structure that was in Mullins’ hands 25 years ago, still remains today.

In Mullins’ opinion, the “Spartans do your PART” system was a good thing for the staff to instill within the students.

She has witnessed many years of students at WS and she recalls that they have all been great kids in a great environment, though the PART system helps.

“In three years when I leave,” said Mullins, “I will be very sad.”



Kyle Rushton

Becky Mullins works diligently in her office. She has been serving the school as a member of the custodial staff for 25 years and has learned the ins and outs of being a custodian.

Cool under pressure

Ausberry is a master at tackling stress

By Hannah Maine

Journalism 1

Sports, church, hours of homework. That’s high school.

Not to mention trying to squeeze in a little bit of time for friends and social life. Freshman Mycah Ausberry manages to find time for everything she loves.

“Pam! High school is different. The teachers expect more,” said Ausberry. “I haven’t watched any of my favorite shows this week because of the homework. It’s pretty sad.”

Ausberry plays defense on the freshman field hockey team and is trying out for the lacrosse team in the spring.

Even though sports and homework keep her very busy during the school week, Ausberry is known for being prompt and makes practice more often than not.

“She always comes to practice,” said freshman Sophia Padilla, a friend of Ausberry’s on the field hockey team. “And she’s a very positive player and a friendly person.”

Ausberry enjoys playing sports, even though she is sometimes put in stressful situations on the field.

“It’s pretty intense,” said Ausberry. “Especially on defense, because you have to get the ball away.”

Although she has friends on her field hockey team, Ausberry doesn’t get to see her other friends too often because of the hectic high school schedule.

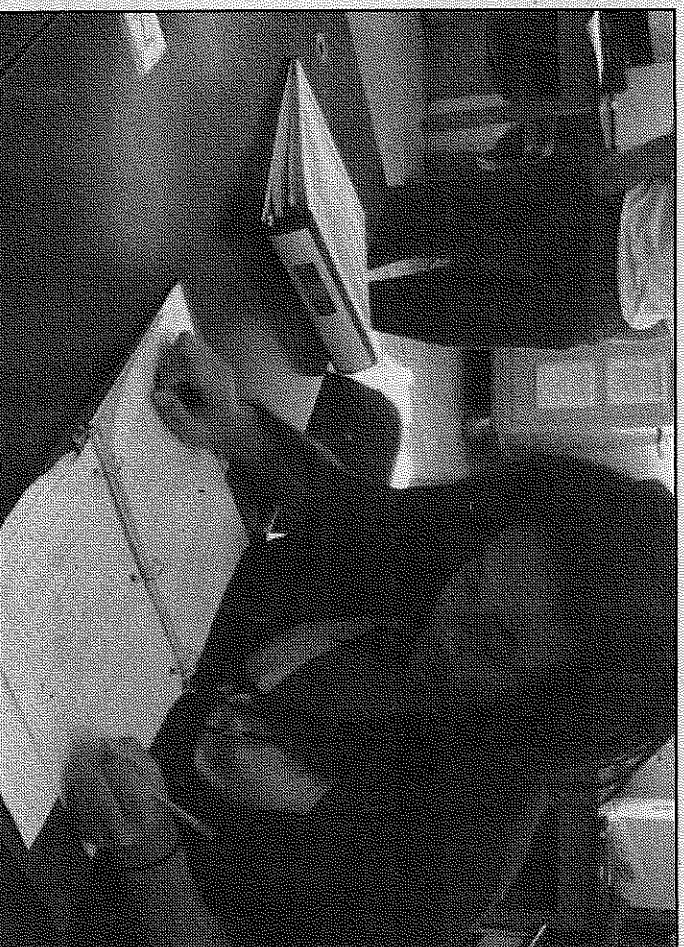
“Not as much as I want to but I see her on orange days,” said freshman Anna Scolese, one of Ausberry’s closest friends.

Ausberry and Scolese have been friends since fourth grade when they were on the same basketball team, but weren’t too close until seventh grade.

“My favorite thing about Mycah is that she’s always smiling,” said Scolese. “When we’re together we love to make up songs and draw random things.”

To add to the insanity, Ausberry’s father has been a pastor her whole life. This means that she needs to spend more time at the church than the average church-goer. But she doesn’t mind too much.

“People are so nice to the pastor’s family,” said Ausberry. “They make us food and bring us presents.”



Maria Sur

Freshman Mycah Ausberry studies hard in class. Juggling school among many other activities is very stressful, but Ausberry has become a master at handling stress.

When the Spartans had their first Varsity home football game, the stands were full. Ausberry was part of the crowd. Interestingly enough, however, she admits to not liking football. Her older brother, Marshall Ausberry, played football, and she had to go to every game.

“I just got sick of it,” said Ausberry.

She does, however, love spending time with her friends, whenever her crazy schedule allows her to.

“Nobody really goes to the game to watch,” said Ausberry. “I was just there because my friends were.”

Junior poised for success

By Jordan Miller

Page One Editor

She is as real as a drama queen can get.

Junior Brittany Morgan captures the spotlight in many theater plays, pursuing her dream of becoming a professional actress. In and out of school Morgan is becoming a prominent actress, capturing roles she tried out for just for the fun of it.

“I would love to make acting my career because it is something that I truly, truly love,” said Morgan.

Since she was young, Morgan has been performing in front of audiences. According to her father, Trip Morgan, at home she always wanted to be the “center of attention” which led to her desire to act.

Brittany began participating in church plays, and has now progressed to the school plays and has even earned a role in a community theater.

“For me, theater comes first, well, beside school and grades of course,” Brittany said.

Besides her passion for acting, Brittany tries to maintain high grades and also play Varsity softball. It is hard to balance her busy schedule at times, she admits that when she’s busy with so many activities, she “has no time to breathe.”

Brittany has been in many plays, and will continue to participate in the upcoming “Is He Dead?” fall play where she will have the role of Marie.

In the past, she acted in the role of Lucy for a showing of The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe. “Recently, Brittany tried out for a role in “A Christmas Carol” at a community theater among many other adult actresses. With only one audition, she was chosen for the role of Martha Cratchit.



Junior Brittany Morgan plays Lucy for a showing of The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe. “Recently, Brittany tried out for a role in “A Christmas Carol” at a community theater among many other adult actresses. With only one audition, she was chosen for the role of Martha Cratchit.

“I’ve also been doing a lot of theater in my spare time,” said Brittany. “Every play, I’ve been in at least once.”

After almost every play, she has a reason to smile. “I love acting, and I love the fact that I look at and say, ‘I want to play this.’”

All of her hard work has earned her a role in the regular high school play, “Is He Dead?”

Although she has not been in many plays, she will continue to participate in the upcoming “Is He Dead?” fall play where she will have the role of Marie.

Spartans!

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4150.

Little Monsters crown Gaga queen of YouTube

By Danielle Mazzuchi

Senior Editor

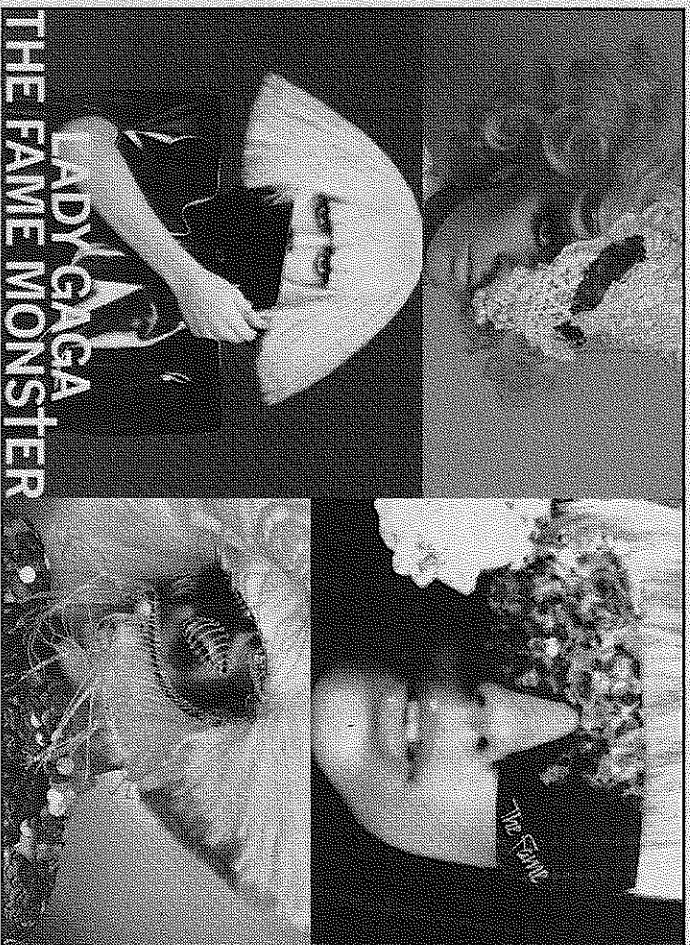
Gaga ooh la la.

YouTUBE'S "Billion Viewers Club" just welcomed their first and only member: Lady Gaga. Making Internet history, according to the online analytics company Visible Measures, Gaga's music videos recently reached, when totaled, a billion views. She is closely followed by teen pop sensation Justin Bieber. Many predicted that Bieber would be the first artist to accomplish such a feat, yet The Beliebers fell short to Gaga's Little Monsters. Hitting this milestone in her career enables Gaga to potentially be dubbed the most powerful person in music today.

"She is a great artist and is breaking barriers in the music world," said junior Charlie Stewart. "She isn't afraid to cross the line of being 'weird.'"

Whether she is wearing a meat suit or a lobster headress, Gaga has shaped the music industry with a unique style that no one can even compare to. Onlookers may question her fashion sense, but her choices are undeniably noticeable.

"She is the only one that can pull it off."



Without question, Lady Gaga has made waves in the music industry. Her outlandish clothing as well as her unique music draws viewers' eyes so much so that she has attracted over a billion views on YouTube.

"She is a great artist and is breaking barriers in the music world."

—Charlie Stewart,
Junior

said senior Jackie Wood.

Using Twitter, Gaga broke the news of her achievement, tweeting, "We reached 1 Billion views on youtube little monsters! If we stick together we can do anything. I dub u kings and queens of youtube! Unte!"

Gaga has a strong fan base chock full of continual supporters of her music and actions. As the only current member of the prestige billion-viewers group, she has set the new road for inductees. Her odd-defying fashion choices and musical risk-taking have caused a commotion in the music industry, and undeniably have served as a brilliant marketing tactic. Only time will tell how much of an impact she will have in the future.

"She deserves this," said junior Michelle Vandemier. "She is hitting a totally new wall of music."

A decade of Potter-mania 'Deathly Hallows' doesn't mark end of editors' obsession

By Kelly Carlin and Julie Parisi

Oracle Staff Writers

It all started with a boy who lived.

In 1997, a nameless woman published a story about a boy with magical powers. Thirteen years later, the saga of Harry Potter is about to come to an end.

As two kids who played "Harry Potter" every day without fail for most of their youth, we have no idea what we're going to do.

November 19 marks the release of what is tagged as "the beginning of the end." The first half of the film adaptation of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the seventh and final book of the series, will hit theaters at midnight. And if they don't get it right, heads will roll.

For the ten years of our friendship, we've revolved around the "Harry happenings" in the world. Together we watched the first movie on opening day, searched the mailbox on our eleventh birthdays for a letter from Hogwarts, and have stuck with the series that will conclude this summer.

How can we say goodbye to something that has become a defining part of not only our lives, but our generation as a whole? The answer: we won't.

It's not like we haven't read every book a thousand times and experienced every detail with Harry. We traveled to Diagon Alley alongside Hagrid, soared around the Quidditch pitch on a Nimbus 2000, and walked into the Forbidden For-

est to settle the score with Lord Voldemort. Over the course of our journey, Mad Eye taught us constant vigilance and Dumbledore let us know that what is right is not always what is easy.

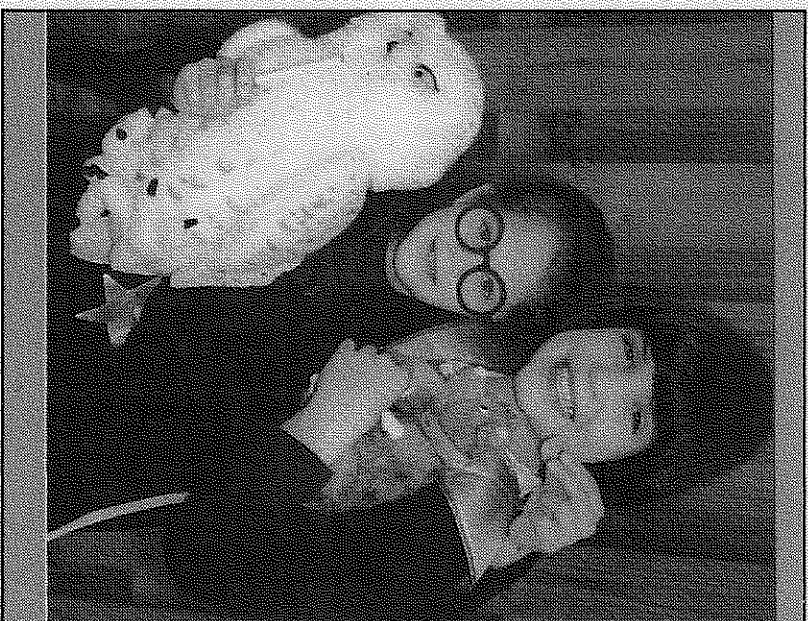
We strove to combine the magical and Muggle worlds. We purchased Bertie Bott's Ever Flavor Beans, bought our own Gryffindor robes, and actually have a Sorting Hat pillow that sends us to our appropriate Houses (Julie's a Ravenclaw, Kelly's a Hufflepuff). For Kelly's ninth birthday, Julie purchased an Invisibility Cloak from JoAnn Fabrics for the low, low price of \$3.75. And what we couldn't do, we did through Harry.

Our point here is that for our entire friendship, anything and everything "Harry Potter" related has made its way into our hands.

And sure, you might think all of this is a little excessive; but that's the love we have for these seven books. With the series coming to a close, we owe J.K. Rowling a tremendous thank you. "Harry Potter" has instilled in us a love of literature since childhood.

Rowling began planning the books when we were born, and the second half of the last movie, this series' final event, will be released right after we graduate. As such a huge part of our lives, we know that this is not the end of the road.

That's the magic of HP. The story never gets too old, and neither do we.



Leslie Carlin

Now seniors, Oracle Editors Julie Parisi, left, and Kelly Carlin, right, have been partaking in the "Harry Potter" love since the books were first published. Since its conclusion is approaching, fans everywhere will say goodbye to the beloved series.

Taylor is too Swift New album depicts singer's latest life trials, for better and for worse

By Lisa Williams

Oracle Editor

I will admit that when I first listened to "Speak Now," Taylor Swift's long-awaited third album, I was a little less than impressed.

For starters, the songs are not all based on her personal experience, which I disliked. Probably everybody's favorite thing about her music is that the songs depict events she's lived through, which puts us on her level.

One of her new songs, "Speak Now," is about crashing a wedding, telling the groom you're in love with him, and having him ditch his bride-to-be in favor of you. Frankly, I don't think this happened to Taylor Swift. I understand that the song can be interpreted as a dramatization of someone else dating the boy she likes, but the way she covers it with an experience she's never had ruins her credibility a little bit for me.

Listening to her music is soothing because I know someone else has been through what I'm going through, and listening to a song I know she hasn't been through makes me wonder how much of it she made up or exaggerated. Taylor Swift is a teenage idol and I don't feel comfortable mistrusting her.

Another thing she does on this album is talk. She throws in charity little snippets much more frequently than I want her to. I didn't pay \$13.99 to listen to her talk. I want her to sing.

And I want her to sing about relationships. None of these silly songs about her critics ("Mean") and about Kanye West ("Innocent") and about whatever else she tried to throw onto this album. I want my familiar Taylor Swift songs where she wants the guy but he doesn't want her back, or where she just got cheated on/dumped/led on/other she-namigans related to relationships ending.

But that's what's good about this album. There are plenty of songs that fall into her familiar old groove of playing out every possible relationship drama, to the tune of pop-country music. It's what she's best at, and she shouldn't try to move away from what's working for her. "Haunted" and "Enchanted" are two of her best new songs, and they are both her recognizable style that the entire teenage population, including males, appreciates.

Another positive of the newest album is that it's all Taylor and no cowriters. This



Big Machine Records

Since her debut on the music scene, Taylor Swift's popularity has grown with every passing day. Her third album "Speak Now" was released on October 25, and sold over one million copies in its first week. This is no surprise due to her previous two albums' tremendous success. makes up for the fact that some of the things she writes about aren't real, because at least they all came from her own mind.

Overall, her album quickly grew on me.

After all, nobody can stay mad at Taylor Swift for too long. The more I listen to it, the more I realize that this album is the best thing that's ever been mine.

Perry sparks controversy on PBS Kids

Singer shows a little too much skin for popular children's television show's taste

By Sara Lepley
Entertainment Editor

This week's *Oracle* is brought to you by the letter "DD."

Even after lying naked on a cloud in the "California Gurls" music video and claiming that she is "not a role model," Katy Perry was still somehow found to be a good candidate for a "Sesame Street" guest spot.

Perry was featured on a recent episode of "Sesame Street" that never aired on PBS Kids due to the revealing nature of her dress. Its first preview on YouTube created a fierce wave of angry parents, blocking the segments entrance to daytime TV and preschools everywhere.

Parents have a long-standing reputation of reacting harshly to indecencies. We all remember Milley Cyrus being mauled in the last Teen Choice Awards for her short shorts and minor pole dancing. But with Cyrus and now with Perry, parents have a point. Celbs

whose target audience is early elementary schoolers should have to cover up.

The problem wasn't really Perry's low cut shirt. My childhood heroes were Britney Spears and Gwen Stefani, and I did not instantly join a strip club when either of them revealed some flesh. The question is *why* did Perry choose to wear such little clothing on a kids show? The controversy could have been avoided if Perry wore more conservative dress-ups.

If she just wanted attention (hint: yes, she did) then she certainly got it. Not only did the scandalous hand her a spot on "Saturday Night Live," but it revived her face-time on news programs like "TMZ" and blogs all over the web.

Perry is not the only one to blame. As one person commented on the *Los Angeles Times*, Elmo was "totally naked." But in all seriousness, "Sesame Street" has incorporated its fair share of double entendres.

The writers always try to entertain at two levels, one that teaches children through images and sound and one that amuses their parents. According to David Fargin, a former employee of the "Sesame Street" empire, the prop crew has a field day with Mr. Hooper's store, by naming items like toilet paper "Poop Away," and slipping boxes of condoms in the cereal section. Rest assured, the screen is too fuzzy for viewers at home to see the slip-ups, but the crew thinks it's just a hoot.

Whether it's deemed appropriate or not, the effect on children still exists. Perry claims that if kids want a role model, "they can have Milley Cyrus." But Cyrus hasn't exactly won the ethics awards of the year, and the shows on Disney are getting increasingly sassier. All girls seem to have to look up to is celebrities that can't seem to keep their clothes on.

But there are strong, happy women that children can aspire to be like. All politics aside, Michelle Obama represents a self-



Katy Perry frequently dresses in a promiscuous fashion, but PBS found her outfit unfit to be shown to children across the country.

assured, healthy and modest woman. Why couldn't she be Elmo's playmate?

Point being, someone who dresses like a pin-up girl may be entertaining to those old enough, but she should not be placed in a leadership position where her fashion choices could potentially promote promiscuity among young children. The media should be more aware about their audiences, and try to promote good morals.

'Raising Hope' in more ways than one

Fox's new sitcom brings cheap, but heart warming, laughs to viewers

By Summer Claveau

ETC Editor

Everyone says that Raising Hope is lame. It's a C-Rated comedy, that doesn't seem to have much hope for a second season.

The story follows a young and confused slacker, Jimmy, who knocks up a serial killer. The serial killer is then put to death, and Jimmy becomes a single father. Still living with his dad, his mom, and his crazy grandma, Maw Maw, completes the show as a white trash comedy, set in a simple and white trashy town. Sound familiar? It does if you were a My Name Is Earl fan.

The writer of My Name Is Earl, Greg Garcia, transferred the same

sort of red neck America humor into Raising Hope.

Personally, I enjoy the show. I'm not a fan of blue collar comedy, and I'm not a fan of My Name Is Earl, but there is something sweet about Raising Hope. I think it has to do with the innocence of the characters.

Each character in the show seems to be adorably clueless. Jimmy doesn't know how to raise a child, so he asks his parents for help. Coincidentally, neither do his parents. But both families worked through their problems anyway.

The burdens that are put on parents of bringing up a human who has their own life, problems and everything else that goes into day-

to-day life is something that, we as sprouting adults, can't even begin to imagine. We have barely got anything figured out ourselves.

"Raising Hope" does a good job of portraying the struggle, because Hope's father is barely an adult himself. The love that he shows for his daughter is very mature though, and the theme of family overcoming obstacles is very uplifting. Even if the obstacles seem stupid, and are written in with simple minded commentary.

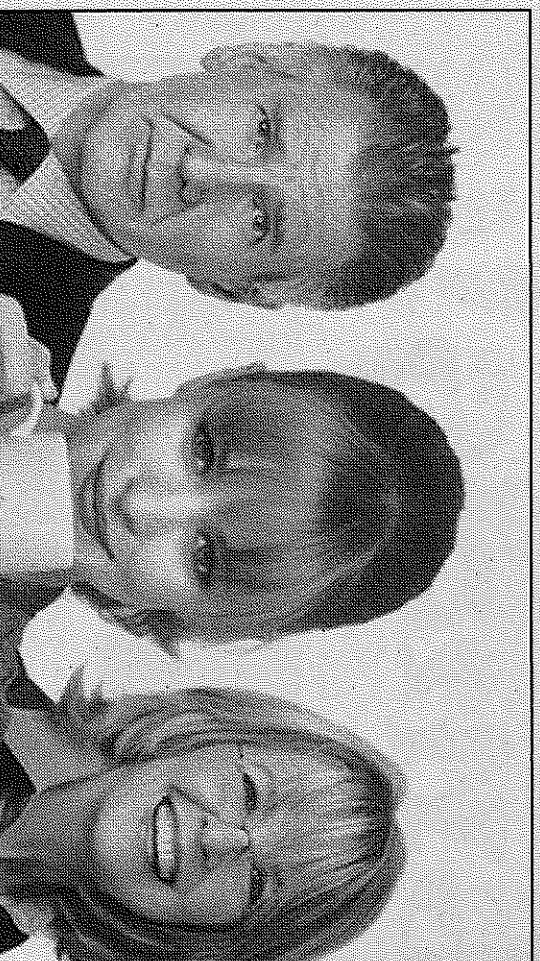
So yes, the show is kind of lame. But the story is sweet, and it portrays an American family and the love and support they show for each other, which is not something aired as often any more.



TV Somnias

'Raising Hope' fosters an array of characters, each possessing their share of both lovable and annoying qualities, giving the show its relatable appeal.

McAdams blossoms in otherwise cliché chick flick



TMZ



TMZ

In the newly released film, "Morning Glory," McAdams plays Becky, who takes on the task of reviving a dying news broadcasting show.

By Ben Hyde
Special to The Oracle

"Easy A" was a goofy, mediocre movie made great through the charms of one tremendously talented female lead.

Emma Stone played a rare character: quicker, sassier and more immediately captivating than any of the peripheral roles. After seeing it, I thought I had witnessed something relatively rare. Most actresses aren't capable of taking an average movie and carrying the full brunt of its weight.

But lo, lightning has struck twice.

We've seen "Morning Glory" a million times before. Becky (Rachel McAdams), a frazzled, workaholic 20-something with no social life gets the job opportunity of a lifetime. Soon she realizes the workplace is in a state of utter decay and is given a convoluted time limit to clean things up.

All this is done whilst earning her greenhorn stripes in the dating kingdom and cozying up to a soulless, vapid meat slab (Adam, played in this case by the insipid Patrick Wilson), who gradually teaches her to pause and enjoy life.

The story is excruciatingly hackneyed. It's predictable and the love interest is lazily written.

But worse still is the editing. It's wretched. The 102-minute runtime desperately needs another 10 or 15 minutes. Becky gets only a one-minute scene to set up her character and then we're off, hitting the second act in the first 15 minutes.

The story climaxes five minutes before the end of the film, with a montage providing most of the falling action. Harrison Ford's character arc is artificial, with little to no explanation for his eventual change of heart.

Adam and Becky's relationship is neither realistic nor believable: They have a few brief conversations, one dad of a date and then proceed to sleep together for the rest of the movie. The film doesn't even attempt to explain why they're together. They have no fights, no chemistry, no tension. The romantic subplot is, without a doubt, the low point of the film.

Thus far, I've been tearing into Morning Glory. But I loved it. Not that it's a great film, but, as you probably inferred from the opening paragraph, Rachel McAdams is an absolute marvel. In this movie, she has done for the clichéd workaholic woman what Emma Stone did for the clichéd high school misfit. Surpassed Stone's work, even.

McAdams seems to be the only shining light in "Morning Glory," a movie that features an otherwise unrealistic and overused plotline.

Becky is the Joker, Becky is Hannibal Lecter, Becky is Drexel Spivey. McAdams dives into the role like every scene is the climax, owning the character. The way she moves, the way she smiles, the way her eyes constantly search the environment like she's Jason Bourne or something. She's klutzy and graceless, in an uncomfortable, tense way. Her recurring phone-juggling gag would be cumbersome in any other hands, but McAdams makes it almost pitiful. She sucks up the screen, destroying the artistically ailing Diane Keaton. She's magnetic.

To be fair, it is a very funny movie. A certain sequence/montage midway through had me doubling over in stitches. The sight gags are glorious, and the dialogue occasionally turns the "writ" knob down to six and the "wit" knob up to seven.

But Rachel McAdams is the real reason anyone should see this movie. And, just for her, I'd whole-heartedly recommend "Morning Glory" to anyone who can accept that even a very commonplace character can turn into a classic in capable hands.

Like the hands from "Mean Girls" and "The Notebook."

Indoor Track holds tryouts

By Jimmy McMahon
Sports Editor

Indoor Track is holding tryouts for the first time this year.

Spartan Cross Country and Track have been among the most successful WS sports in recent years. Surprisingly, the team was one of the only sports that WS offers that does not require the athlete to tryout to make the team. However, the coaches have decided that this year, they will require all prospective athletes to make a required time in order to make the Indoor Track team.

"I'm a little nervous," said freshman and first time runner Chris White. "But I think it will be pretty easy."

The change was not implemented because of a lack of quality runners, the coaches just wanted to lessen the amount of people on the team so they can focus more on individual performance and to encourage more runners to stay in shape during the off-season.

"It's to make our numbers more manageable," said Indoor Track coach Chris Pellegrini. "It's a learning process for us as well."

Many people hear the word "tryout" and immediately begin to think about getting cut. That is not the case with Indoor Track. The coaches are not looking to cut a huge number of hopeful runners; they are more interested in cutting people that don't do anything in the off-season to stay in shape or don't put any effort towards getting better.

"We're trying to create more of an incentive to get [the runners] into shape," said Pellegrini.

"We're trying to create more of an incentive to get [the runners] into shape."

—Chris Pellegrini,
Track & Field Head Coach

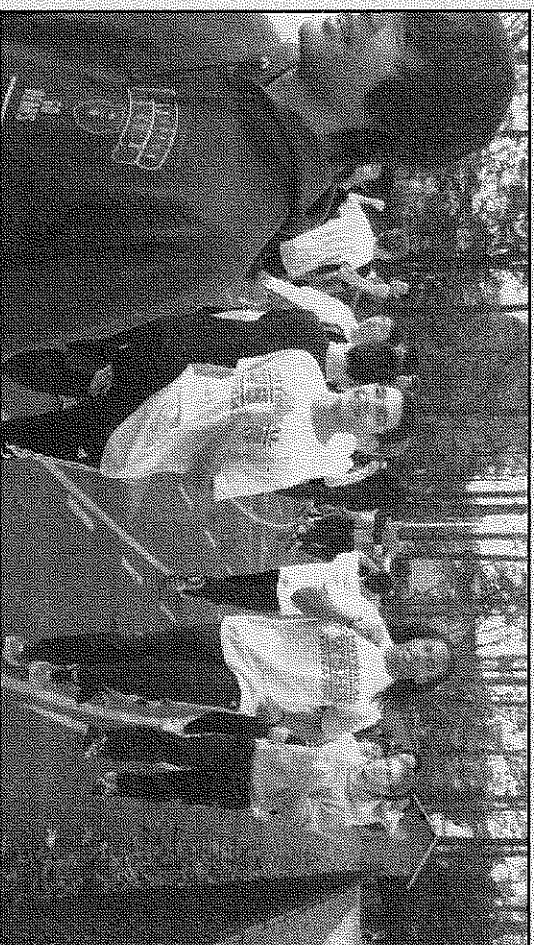
Indoor track is an exhausting sport and staying in condition year round is a critical aspect of the sports, especially for those who hope to compete in long distance competitions. This raises the question of whether or not tryouts will have a major effect on Indoor Track's ability to fill out their roster. The coaches feel that this will not be a problem at all, as the tryouts are not intended to cut many people.

"The numbers will not be stretched thin at all," said Pellegrini.

For athletes who play other sports, one of the best things about Track is that it's a great way to stay in shape during the off-season without a high risk of injury. Indoor Track especially attracts athletes who participate in sports that require exceptional endurance, such as Cross Country, Outdoor Track, Football, and Lacrosse.

The tryout will require runners to run eight-hundred meters (two laps around the WS track) in just over three minutes.

"Anyone who plays another sport at WS should not have any issue making the team," said Pellegrini.



Jimmy McMahon
The boys trying out for indoor track get warmed up. This is the first year that the Indoor Track coaches have implemented a tryout, which consists of running two laps around the track in just over three minutes.



Jimmy McMahon
All of the hopeful indoor Track runners check in and take care of any last minute paperwork issues. The tryouts were not conducted for the sole purpose of cutting people, but mostly to see who made the effort to stay in shape during the off-season.

It's beginning to look a lot like

Kristi's Christmases!

The 24th Annual Kristi's Christmas event takes place on Saturday, December 4 and we're looking for a few good Spartans to help out!

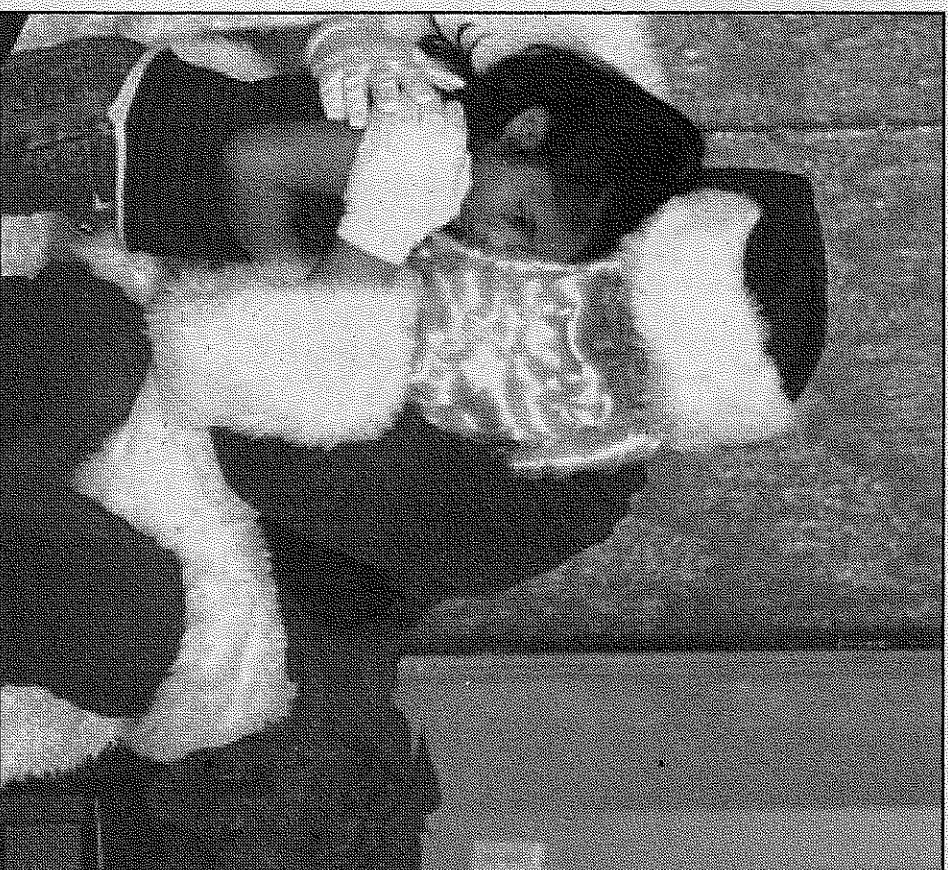
Students in grades 10-12 who have transportation (you'll be going to the Waterford, Target and back to the Waterford that morning) are welcome to become Kristi's Christmas Helpers. We want individuals who are eager to make a difference in a needy child's life.

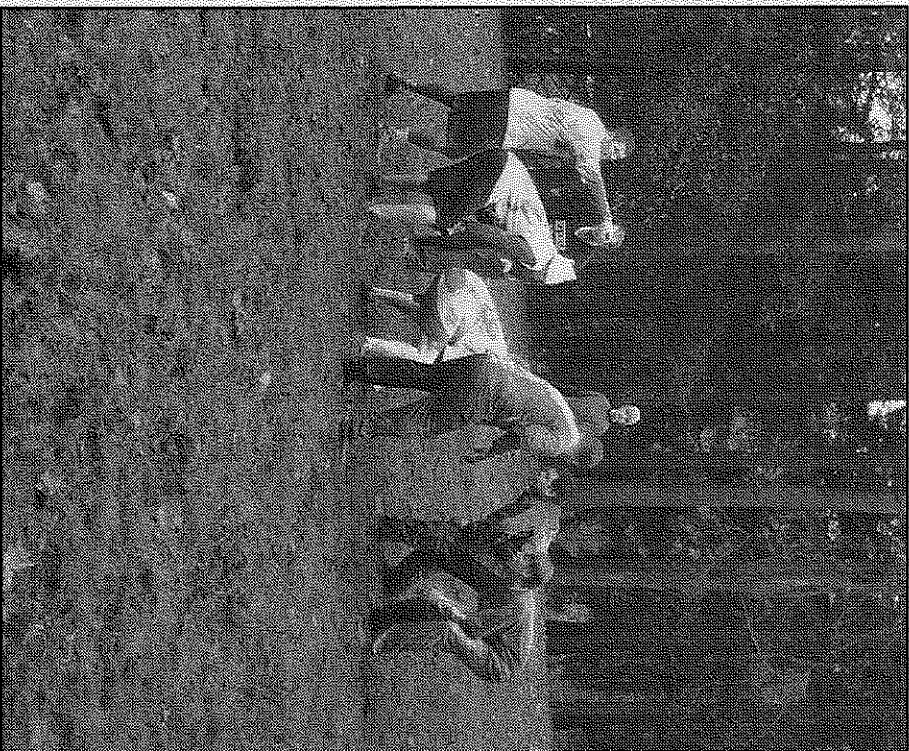
Please join us for breakfast and shopping! Individuals and student groups are welcome.

You **MUST** sign up by
e-mail:

Karen@karenbrownrealtor.com

**Help give a child
a Very Merry
Christmases!**





Jimmy McLendon

The Turkey Bowl is one of the most popular American traditions. The Whitehouse family started the tradition thirteen years ago as a way for people in the area to have a good time playing football in a non-competitive environment.

The ultimate American tradition

By Austin Kaminski

Sports Editor

Here in America, we love two things: food and football.

Thanksgiving gives us the opportunity to combine these two great things into an American tradition unlike any other: The Turkey Bowl.

Thanksgiving was created to celebrate a feast between the Indians and Americans a long time ago. Nowadays, the only thing that comes to mind is watching the Detroit Lions lose their annual Thanksgiving game while your strange uncle, who you managed to avoid for the other 364 days of the year, rambles on about his newly acquired Snuggie.

But for some local families, Thanksgiving is an opportunity to participate in the greatest sport in the world: pick-up touch football.

No one knows exactly when the Turkey Bowl tradition was started, but it seems like football has always been associated with thanksgiving.

Professional football on Thanksgiving dates all the way back to 1902, and the Detroit Lions have played every year since 1934.

"Since the Lions are my favorite team, I like watching them play every year, even if they lose," said junior Jonny Goldstrom.

In this area, a high school football rivalry always takes place on thanksgiving.

Gonzaga College High School holds an annual Turkey Bowl game against St. John's College High School in D.C. Due to their close proximity, the school's maintain a very intense rivalry that dates back to 1893. The game is generally very competitive and has been featured on ESPN.

One of the more renowned Turkey Bowl traditions around the area is run by the Backus family (senior Austin Backus played cornerback on the Varsity team).

Every year, they play a pickup game at Irving Middle School. The game is usually pretty informal, with kids and adults of all ages playing.

"We usually try and have at least 15 players on a team," said Backus.

"But this year, we're going to try and have three or four teams, so more people will get the chance to play."

The Backus family was not the first to establish a Turkey Bowl game; senior Colleen and sophomore Patrick Whitehouse have been playing a similar game for many years now.

"The Whitehouses were the first family in the area to have a game," said Backus.

The Whitehouse Turkey Bowl is similar to the setup of the game run by the Backuses. Anyone is invited to come, and it's usually played at a local field.

The game is a long-running tradition for the family.

"We've been playing for a long time," said Patrick. "I think it was 13 years ago when it started."

Unlike the NFL games played on these days, the games are far from competitive. Because of the many young children who come out to play, it has to be two hand touch or flag football, so no one gets hurt.

"It's really just for fun," said sophomore Drew Tangen, who plays in the Turkey Bowl run by the Whitehouse family. "It's not competitive at all. I wouldn't even call it football."

Fantasy football keeps fans interested in the NFL

By Lee Gleason

Sports Editor

America's Favorite Fantasy.

Fantasy Football, for those that don't know, is a virtual sports competition where people manage professional football players against one another.

In the virtual Fantasy Football experience, the person playing acts as the general manager of their team. They have the power to pick players, release players, claim players, and trade players internally throughout the league. Leagues usually consist of a large group of friends who are interested in taking each other's money and getting bragging rights after the season is over.

"[My favorite part about Fantasy Football] is smack-talking the next day at school after you beat somebody," said senior Cody Cashman.

Fantasy Football is quickly becoming one of the most popular activities during the fall season.

When a person's favorite real-life team is doing terribly, they can still hope for success in their Fantasy Football team because they can count on players from a wide variety of



Local NFL fans like to keep the NFL season interesting by betting small amounts of money in fantasy football leagues. ESPN is one of the most popular hosts for these leagues.

teams that may be doing better.

Fantasy football is a good way to stay involved with other teams around the league and is perfect for friendly competition

amongst a group of football-following friends.

"It gets you more excited about the games," said senior Brandon Corbett. "Also

Ladies finish a successful season

Cross Country team finishes season with 10th place at states

By Momo Sullivan

Viewpoint Editor

The Varsity Girls Cross Country team can, without a doubt, look back on their season and celebrate their successes.

On Saturday, November 13, the girls came in tenth place at the state meet. While their ranking did not pass them through to nationals, the girls were happy with their personal performances.

"We were excited for it because it was a reward for doing so well in Regionals," said sophomore Madeline Wittich.

One factor in the good performances of the girls was their ability to work together. They each had running buddies during the race which helped them to push one another to do better.

"The strategy of using running buddies really helped us because we were able to help push and encourage each other," said Wittich.

To get as far as states, the Cross Country girls put in an extraordinary amount of training during their season and were able to place fourth at Regionals.

After the first runner for the Cross Country Varsity girls, Wittich, crossed the finish line, the next four placing girls came within 50 seconds after Wittich's time.

Such a tight spread between them gave them an advantage over the other teams competing at the regional meet. Their ranking at Regionals was nonetheless well deserved.

"This year, the Cross Country team put in an immense amount of work, knowing we were the underdogs from the beginning," said senior Lauren Blackburn.

Their season started early on in July. Not only did they have captains' practices, but they also attended a couple of running camps. These camps, although were enjoyable to the girls, required a lot of hard work. They ran up a four mile mountain, a timed seven mile run, and two-a-days. Their summer training prepared them for the work ahead of them when school started.

"Once we got into the season, we were really motivated to go far, and I feel that we trained really hard and well as a team," said ju-

"Once we got into the season, we were really motivated to go far, and I feel that we trained really hard and well as a team."

—Kyle Rushton,
Junior

nior Kyle Rushton.

When it comes down to the overall success of these girls their team chemistry plays a big role. Since they run as a group every day, they are able to work together to improve individually but more importantly as a team.

"When you step on the line for a race, you have to realize that you aren't doing it for yourself, but for the six other girls standing on the line with you," said Blackburn.



Debbie Williams

After a long season of hard work, the Cross Country team celebrates after placing 10th in the Virginia state competition. Although they did not get admitted to nationals, the runners were still pleased with their individual performances.

HELP MOM OUT THIS THANKSGIVING WITH AN AWESOME UNUSUAL AND EASY RECIPE

CRANBERRY JELLO SALAD :

A nice addition to the traditional cranberry sauce... because we all know ther is no substitute



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Cook 1 package cranberries and 2 1/2 cups water until they pop. Add 2 cups sugar, 2 (3 oz.) packages of cherry Jello,

1 package miniature marshmallows and cook five minutes longer, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat and add 1 cup diced apples,

1 cup diced celery and 1 cup nuts. Refrigerate. (This salad is better if made the day before use.)

THE INDIE GOD OF FILM

By Kelly Carlin
Oracle Editor

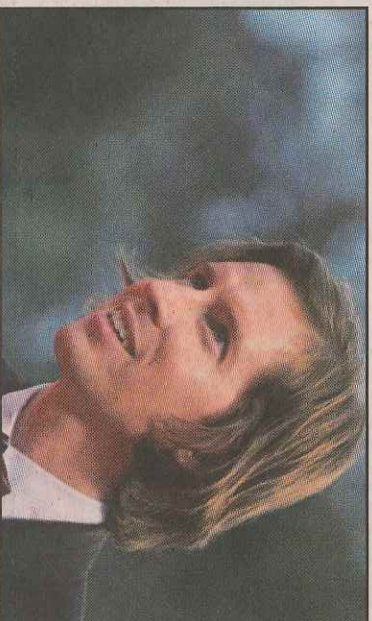
Bill Murray, block fonts, and witty conversation with vocabulary the average fourth grader would not understand. This is the basic checklist for any film involving Wes Anderson.

For hipster film buffs everywhere, Wes Anderson is the go-to director. From his quirky style to plethora of intelligent, recurring actors, he can do no wrong. The only flaw I'd take from his films is that there aren't enough to satisfy my thirst for his peculiar movie style.

Since his feature film debut with "Bottle Rocket" in 1996, Wes Anderson has captivated the indie-film genre. His plots focus on strange groups of people; everything from a family of has-been child geniuses to a submarine captain seeking revenge on a possibly mythical jaguar shark. Chances are if it's bizarre and eccentric, Anderson has covered it.

For some reason, another common entity in his films is the constant employment of the same (roughly) eight actors. If you don't believe me, just visit his Wikipedia page, which features a matrix graph illustrating all of the actors that perform in two or more of his six films. Bill Murray, Owen and Luke Wilson, and Jason Schwartzman are among these man-crushes of Anderson, forming their own league of extraordinary indie-gods. Each character in his films incorporates some theme of self-torture; often including the idea of the tragic hero.

Anderson's movies also feature interesting soundtracks. Mark Mothersbaugh, famed to our generation for composing the music on "Rugrats" and his appearances on "Yo Gabbababba," works closely with Anderson. Mothersbaugh composed soundtracks for "Bottle Rocket," "Rushmore" and "The Royal Tenenbaums." "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zis-



Guardian

Director Wes Anderson's visual creativity shines in movies such as "The Royal Tenenbaums" and "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou."

"sou" features David Bowie songs reworked and performed by Seu Jorge. My point here is that if you're going to see a Wes Anderson picture, it goes without saying that the soundtrack will definitely be interesting.

Wes Anderson, as a director, is an original. He uses film techniques not used by many other contemporaries and always finds a way to be a visionary. His shots are visually appealing, his characters have depth both physically and emotionally, and plain and simple, his movies are fascinating. Some might confuse his film style with that of a more experienced director with seniority, but he's not an old man. Anderson is a young, innovative director, something the film industry is lacking today.

His next release, scheduled for a 2011 production, is rumored to be titled "Moonrise Kingdom." Hopefully, the production wraps up quickly and he will endow his next film gift on all the hipsters of the world.



Summer Claveau

HOW TO SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE

Maria :

ENTERING THE WORLD OF THE MONTHLY COLUMN

By Maria Scaptura
ETC Editor

Proceed with caution.

This will be the 1st installment of my monthly advice column, so be warned, the advice is extreme, to say the very least, and should not be taken seriously. I plan to address the random quandaries that are on everyone's mind. But for now, I'm going to fill you in on how to write an advice column.

The first step is to pick a truly gnarly—disclaimer: this is not my word and all rights of use go to UrbanDictionary.com—name for your column. You want readers to be drawn in, and by having a kick-but name will encourage that. Not to mention that it just sounds cool.

After you pick the name of your column, ask around about people's personal problems so you can "help" them. Then, proceed to put the details in a public forum, such as a newspaper, or online for everybody to read about (and don't worry about the angry mob that comes after you, that's just a formality). Next on the list is to watch at least one episode of Oprah.

If you have to ask why you need to be watching Oprah, you shouldn't even be writing an advice column in the first place because you're obviously not soft enough for this vicious process.

If you can sit through an entire hour of Oprah, I applaud you, and onto your own advice column.

Before you begin, you need to set the mood. Personally, I think a little Celine Dion in the background does the trick, even turning down the lights and lighting a few vanilla-scented candles creates a peaceful spirit. All of this will help you channel your best advice for those tough questions you need to answer. And last (and probably least) is actually answering the questions.

So there you go, your in-depth guide to all the advice-columnist secrets on how to write a spectacular advice column.

Did I mention this was my first column? Well, that's not really the point.

NOVEMBER '09						
Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
19 "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" hits theaters at mid-night!	20 <i>Is He Dead?</i> performed by WSHS Drama showing at 2:00 and 7:30	21 Happy World Hello day!	22 Jewish Culture Club meeting in Room 203 at 2:20	23 All Night Grad Party Parent Meeting at 7:30 pm	24 2 HOUR EARLY RELEASE! out at 12:10	25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
26 BLACK FRIDAY! Brace yourself!	27 R.I.P Sean Taylor 4/1/83 - 11/27/07	28 Winter Sports Parent Meeting at 7:00 pm	29 24 days until WINTER BREAK!	30 Long time Jeopardy! winner, Ken Jennings, lost today in 2004	December 1 Gay/Straight Alliance Meeting in Room 73 at 2:30	2 Orchestra Concert at 7:30