

## Bryant and Turner New Administrators

Tiffany Gregory  
Angela Jones  
Wire Reporters

Students are used to seeing Ms. Inez Bryant in sweats and running shoes, but now she has made the transition to heels and skirts.

Bryant, well known as a PE teacher and track coach, became one of two new assistant principals, as of the beginning of the second quarter. The other new administrator is Mr. Scott Turner.

"This is no big transition for me because when I was teaching Health/PE I would dress up at times," Bryant said. She continued to say she would need to adjust to this new position. "I will be used to it and have it down pat by next year." Bryant has been a principal in summer school.

Dedicated runners need not be concerned. Bryant has decided to continue coaching track for the rest of this year. She will decide at the end of the year whether she will continue to coach in the future, or pass the baton to someone else. Bryant will continue to interact with students.

New Assistant Principal Mr. Scott Turner comes to WP from Kilmer Middle School in Vienna, where he taught Biology. When asked about his transition, Turner said, "From having 125 students to keeping track of 400 students, that is a big transition."

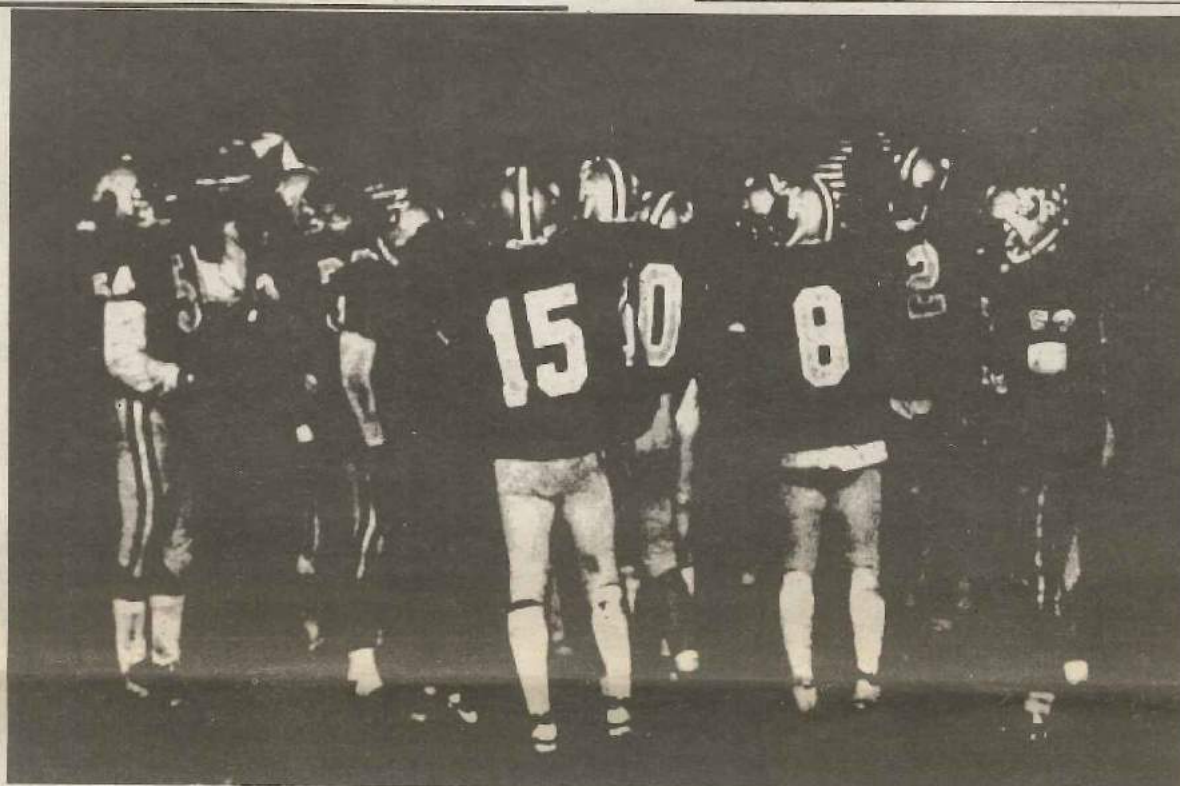
He has found high school different than middle school. "The juniors and seniors here at West Potomac are very mature, and for that matter so are the freshman and sophomores," said Turner.

"There's nothing more important than what goes on in the classroom," Turner said. He wants to be involved in leadership and making important decisions that will impact teachers and students here at WP.

Turner said his phone rings all day, even though he is still very new here. "I am overwhelmed but still very excited about my new position," he said.



Assistant Principal Scott Turner



Here at Washington and Lee during the Regional Finals West Potomac celebrates after a touchdown. From left Randolph Gammer (54), Sedric Robinson (15), Chris Burton (10), Devon Adams (8), and Gideon Tekola (2)

## Wolverines Win Region Title, Finish 12-1

Richard Charlton  
Photo Editor  
Nate Burgess  
Photographer

After winning a second consecutive Regional Championship in football, the West Potomac Wolverines season came to an end Saturday night. Fans were disappointed by the loss to Amherst, 26-13, but pleased by an extraordinary season overall.

The playoff game, which is supposed to be held at a neutral site, was held at Amherst High School. Arrangements for this had been made prior to the season. It was simply a coincidence that Amherst High School made it to the State semi-finals this year.

Although Amherst County packed their side of the field with fans from around the area, West Potomac drew a sizable crowd, especially considering the three hour drive to Amherst.

Apart from the advantage Amherst had by playing at their home stadium, the announcer for the Lancers made frequent supporting comments to the Lancers, which Amherst fans followed with loud cheering.

One of West Potomac's greatest strength this season was its triple-option attack offense, according to Assistant Coach John Howerton. This was a sophisticated and flexible college offense system, and required several strong individual players, each able to exercise offensive options. The system made it hard for the defense to guard key players, because the key players changed.

West Potomac was able to use this system because the team had three exceptional rushers. Tailback, se-

nior Devon Adams, earned about 2,000 rushing yards. Junior Jeff Todd earned over 1,200, and quarterback, senior Carlton Phelps did very well. This was the first time West Potomac had more than one rusher with over 1,000 yards.

Despite predictions by the *Washington Post* and *Fairfax Journal* that Park View High School would best this offense, the Wolverines defeated Park View and won the Virginia AAA Division 5 Northern Region Championship. The Wolverines held Park View to only eight points, although Park View had averaged 37 points per game this season.

Another reason for the teams success was "good skilled kids with speed. Speed is a huge factor. We also have solid kids up front in the line," said Howerton.

Defensive end and offensive guard, senior Joe Molinari explained the Wolverines success this way. "We go into every game believing that we can win. That's the way you have to look at it."

## Inside



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# Weighing Words: Avoiding Language that Hurts

In the halls and in classes the phrase, "That's so gay!" has become as familiar as "whatever" or "like."

Gay was introduced a few decades ago as a positive alternative to slur words such as "queer." "Gay" means homosexual, but for some reason, many students use it to describe anything under the sun, anything they view as negative or stupid. Because of the negative connotations that have become as-

sociated with the word, if we continue to use it in this way, it will cease to be an acceptable alternative. It will become a slur.

Certainly some students intend this. Some students use "gay" to mean "stupid," as a round about way of expressing their hostility toward gays. Some students resent the fact that hated groups have themselves changed the meanings of words, that "gay" used to

mean only "happy" and "joyous." These students intentionally abuse the word, in an attempt to express their anger at people.

However, most students do not intend to hurt or offend anyone. They are desensitized to the potential offensive of this word. A problem arises when the speaker and listener are not on the same wavelength. The speaker means "stupid," but the listener hears a deroga-

tory attack. A student says a class assignment or a TV show is "gay," meaning it is "stupid." The listener hears, "Gay people are stupid," and gradually the word changes.

This word is abused so often because nobody objects. If a student used racial slurs in the classroom, they would be shouted down by their peers. Occasionally, even teachers abuse the word "gay" in the classroom.

At West Potomac, rules,

fashion styles and kinds of music are commonly described as "gay," although nobody supposes these rules, fashion styles or kinds of music are homosexual. The abuse of this word has been accepted among the majority of West Potomac students. But someone needs to object. Historically gay men and woman have been shunned and subjected to irrational violence. We saw such violence recently in Wyoming.

## PDA Object to it and speak out or accept it and look away?

"I don't think there is anything wrong with public displays of affection... They shouldn't be upset because their man is not here."

-Tisha Mason  
Senior

"I don't have any problem with PDA"

-Sean Stewart  
Freshmen

"I don't really mind PDA as long as it's not indecent.

Kissing on the hand is cool, but making out and groping is just disgusting."

-Jamie Martin  
Sophomore



"There is a time and place for all that heavy affection, and that's not at school. Save it for after school or when it's appropriate."

-Cig Howerton  
Security Administrator

It is great that you like someone that much, but that's what bedrooms are for.

-Meena Khalili  
Senior

If you don't like it, look away.

-Max Price  
Senior

"I believe that PDA's are too commonly used at West Potomac. If kids are going to get together and have relationships, they should not make it a public affair. Some

of it is kinda gross if you look at it."

-Ryan Autry  
Senior

## Pretty Darn Absurd: Enough Already

**Nicole Gibson**  
Sports Editor  
**Diane Alford**  
Business manager

It's 7:20 in the morning, and many couples at West Potomac feel the need to grace passers by with a display of their affection for one another. Why, at 7:20 in the morning, would any person feel so drawn to another is questionable? Passers by definitely do not need this at the start their morning.

It does not stop there. In between classes, couples embrace and say their good-byes as they separate for the next hour and forty-minutes. Affection in public seems necessary for some couples at WP.

At lunch, lovebirds gaze into each others eyes for a whole thirty minutes.. The sight of this disgusts many students who are eating lunch. They do not want to see it during their one break in the day.

Particularly disgusting is the interlocking of lips when

food is still being processed in the mouth for digestion. We know people like to share their lunches, but there are more efficient and hygienic ways to do so.

Then there is the tragic lunch time departure. A truly sad moment. The couple departs for the last and final period of the day, that is until they can spend the rest of the day together.

And, of course, there is a brief make-out session in the parking lot, just so they can remind us, one more time, that they are still together and tomorrow we can expect the same thing.

We are not bitter about the happiness these couples have found. Relationships are a normal part of life, especially in high school and college students' lives. They should not be a completely private matter, but school, let us remember, is a place for learning. Sex education is taught the classroom, not in the hallways! We commend the couples of West Potomac for their dedication to each other, but let's keep it clean.

## The Wire

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The Wire is a student forum at West Potomac High School, established to disseminate news, ideas and other matters of interest to West Potomac students.

The Wire will publish no material that is libelous, obscene or which will likely create a substantial disruption of the school routine.

The Wire encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be signed, but names may be withheld by request. The Wire reserves the right to edit such letters for grammar, punctuation and length.

Editorial opinions expressed in The Wire are not necessarily those of the faculty adviser, the administration of West Potomac High School, or the Fairfax County Public Schools.



# State Requirements Could End AP European History



Sophomores Lindsey Bieging and Melissa Crawford discuss European geography with Mr. Skovira during their sixth period AP European History class.

**Micah Schwartz**  
Wire Reporter

In an effort to raise educational standards in Virginia, the Commonwealth has increased the social studies graduation requirement from three to four courses, according to West Potomac's Social Studies Chair, Mr. Mack Walden. A result of this attempt to raise standards could be the elimination of an AP History offering on the 10th grade level.

In past years, sophomores have not been required to take a social studies class. Starting in the 1999-2000 school year, sophomores will be required to take World Studies II.

What may no longer be offered at West Potomac is Advanced Placement (AP) European History. AP European History, an elective, is a popular class among second year students, because it offers history-minded students a social studies class in their sophomore year, and an early opportunity to earn AP credit.

West Potomac has been one of the only schools in Fairfax County to offer AP European History to sophomores.

Currently over 130 students take AP European History. All five sections are taught by third-year Social Studies teacher Mr. Joe Skovira.

Skovira had hoped that AP European History could be substituted for the World Studies II requirement, but the Commonwealth

has said that will not be accepted, according to Skovira.

West Potomac teachers are now making a push to create World Studies II Honors classes. In this class, with the permission of the state and the school, teachers could prepare students to take both the AP European History and SOL tests at the end of the year, and also give them skills that will help them excel in other AP classes taken in the future.

West Potomac's AP coordinator, Ms. Erin Brick, is optimistic about how the school will respond to the new state mandates. "I'm sure we'll make lemonade out of this state-mandated pile of lemons," said Brick.

AP European History may continue to be an elective available to seniors. This could mean the course would not be offered for a couple of years, but then would return. Students who have completed the course in their sophomore year obviously won't register for it as seniors. Still, there may be transfer students interested in taking the course.

Some students expressed that their schedules would be too full to add another elective. "Especially one that is so difficult and time consuming," said senior John Robella.

However, student who really like social studies, or those who plan to pursue social studies after high school, might be willing to add the elective. "I'm really interested in social studies, so I might be willing to take AP European History as a senior. But I think I'm probably one of the few who would," said senior Jenny Harkin.

At other schools in the country, AP European History is an elective directed to se-

niors. Students at West Potomac who really like social studies, or those who plan to pursue social studies after high school, might be willing to add the elective in their senior year.

"I'm really interested in social studies, so I might be willing to take AP European History as a senior. But I think I'm probably one of the few who would," said senior Jenny Harkin.

Skovira and other World Studies II teachers also will have to make changes in their curriculum to meet the Standards of Learning requirements. As compared to AP European History, Skovira expects that World Studies II will include less writing and will be taught at a slower pace.

Skovira said he will miss teaching AP European History. "I've really enjoyed teaching this class. The students I've worked with have been motivated and seem really interested in the topics covered in class."

Some students who are currently enrolled in AP European History, or who have taken it in the past, consider this a shame. "AP European History is a great class. I really like the curriculum, and Skovira presents the information in a really interesting way," said sophomore Mike Yusef.

Students who were planning to take the class in the next couple years also appear disappointed in the new regulation. "I was really looking forward to taking that class," said freshman Veronica Sheen.

Walden pointed out that the new requirement of World Studies II will reduce student opportunities to take electives. "If students are forced to take World Studies II, they'll have less room in their schedules for other classes."

Walden believes that the school will see a decline in the enrollment in other electives in the next couple of years.

Skovira thinks that the elimination of AP European History will have another effect, that AP European History gives students a chance to "flex their intellectual muscles before moving on to higher level social studies courses." He said that his class offers students a trial run for future AP classes, and that students can determine, based on the difficulty they experience in his class, whether they are cut out for AP classes.

For instance, AP European History is often the first time students are asked to do timed writings. If AP European History is eliminated, that skill will need to be taught in other classes. The elimination of AP European History could cause a ripple effect through the rest of the AP program, for many of the supports taught in AP European History may be lost.

On the other hand though, the new World Studies II requirement may benefit most West Potomac students. As Walden joked, "You can never have enough social studies requirements."

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## Elementary Students Visit Springbank to Hear Storytelling



Children at the forensics event seemed to have a good time.

**Sarah Bieging**  
Assistant Copy Editor

On Friday, October 30, the Speech Communications classes hosted a "Children's Intercultural Literature Festival in the Springbank Auditorium from 9:00 to 11:00 in the morning. Over two hundred students in first, second, and third grades from Groveton and Bucknell elementary schools participated in this event.

The students were told selected pieces of literature, including stories, fables, rhymes, and poems by such authors as Shel Silverstein and Anita Stern.

Stories such as the *Three Billy*

*Goats Gruff*, *The Giving Tree*, *Caps For Sale*, *Sarah Cynthia Silvia Stout*, and *The Little Red Hen*, were acted out by students from the drama department. Students included Donald Whitfield, Rebecca Allen, Heather Hogan, and Danielle Thomas.

Senior Townsend Teague introduced all of the acts, and entertained the students between acts. The children seemed to have fun.

The children were asked questions, and were chosen as volunteers. One lucky girl even got to come on stage and show her talent as a cat just before the poem *Fraidy Cat* was read by Courtney Rivkin.

Each poem was either acted out or creatively read by someone in costume. *The Little Red Hen*, told by Rebecca Allen, who was

dressed as a chicken, and *Mr. Rabbit* told by Alex Cole, who was wearing a pair of ears, gave the students a good laugh.

The purpose of this performance by the speech classes, which includes drama, forensics, and debate, was to encourage children to start reading at a young age.

"It's suppose to encourage children that reading is fundamental," said sophomore Carol Hall.

English teacher and Forensics coach Ms. Melinda Lincoln said, "By promoting reading and capturing the richness of literature, we hope to enable young minds to pursue learning for a lifetime."

The high school students worked hard and were well prepared for this event. It proved to be very worth while.

## WP Band Receives Superior Award

**Laura Cooney**  
Wire Reporter

On October 24th, the West Potomac band received an overall Superior Award in the VBODA competition, at Charlottesville High School. The band itself received a Superior Award and the color guard received an Excellent Award. The band will now compete this spring at festival which is not a marching competition. That competition will determine if the Wolverines will be a Virginia Honor Band for a second year in a row.

On Friday, November 20th, the band participated in another event, the VMEA, sponsored by the Virginia Music Education Association. Inclusion in this event was a special honor for the West Potomac band which was selected on the basis of a tape of their music, and chosen out of all the high school bands in Virginia.

The VMEA event took place at the Homestead, and band directors from all over the country came to provide critiques. The band performed a clinic on stage. It played "With Variance on a Medieval Tune." A band director from Florida State University offered suggestions for improvement.

After playing the clinic, the band performed a march with Mr. Rice.

In order to prepare for such an event, the band had numerous guest conductors come in and listen to them play and offer them clinics as well. Band teacher Mr. Steve Rice, helped by Mike Dickens, made sure that the West Potomac band was ready for the event. The band had to come in on teacher work days to practice and on Saturdays to prepare for the event.

When asked how she felt about the VMEA, Shannon Carlson replied by saying this, "We have put in a lot of time and effort in preparing for it and I am glad I had the opportunity to play."

While the Wind Ensemble was competing, the rest of the band performed at the West Potomac vs.

The fashion class recently wrapped up a fundraiser, during which they sold gift wrap and chocolates, among other things. Some of the profit from the fundraiser will go toward paying for a class trip to New York City in December. They would like to thank everyone who helped raise the money.

As of this writing, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) led by Business teachers Mr. Darrell Macky and Ms. M. More, had not held elections for officers. Anyone interested in joining the club and discussing future career opportunities is welcome to attend. A trip to New York, with other high schools, is one opportunity to be offered at the end of the year.

Librarian Ms. Paulette Miller is interested in creating a reading group for teachers and students. This club would meet once a month to discuss any book they read over the past week or month. Anyone interested in joining should see Miller or check the school web page.

Proquest, an online magazine database, available in the library, also can be used at home. Go to the WP Webpage, then click to library. While on the page, you might take a minute to look at the current bulletin boards, arranged by library secretary Ms. Jenny Dandar. The boards are changed every month and follow different themes. Important and interesting information is posted.

Math help is available to any student - ABC- for Algebra students will meet from 2:15-3:15 in room 418Q. Food will be served!

Let's Do Lunch- Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry students meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, during A and B lunch in 418Q. Bring your lunch and work.

Congratulations to English teacher Mr. Dan Ebeling for his promotion to Assistant Principal of Carl Sandburg Middle School.

Congratulations to the Academic Team who appeared on Channel 4's show November 21. Jamie Johnson, Mark Andraschko, and Matt Burke. They broke the school record with scoring 375 points.

## News Briefs

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Most days around lunch time, Johnson can be found in the library playing chess.

Richard Charlton

## WP Welcomes Johnson's Three Ring Circus

### Mystified nature colors the many lives of Allan Johnson

**Sarah Ashton**  
Editor-in-Chief  
**Jameson Penn**  
Managing Editor

The clock strikes twelve. All attention is focused on a lone table tucked away in the silent library. He slides his bishop across the board and says, "Checkmate". He offers his hand as compensation for the opponent's disappointed desire to beat the "Master".

As the newest member of the West Potomac English Department, Mr. Allan Johnson brings

more than just an ability to play chess. He is a certified Advanced Placement Consultant, the "It's Academic" sponsor, and the new assistant swim coach.

Growing up in El Paso, Texas, Johnson hated school. For him, junior English was the worst class in high school.

"It denied me the opportunity to learn and explore myself. Exploration is the ultimate goal," Johnson said.

According to Johnson, school teaches students "to be lazy, dumb, and docile."

Johnson admits that he cannot change a school system, but

proudly asserts that he can change a classroom. So far, at W.P. he is right. "The work we do in class relates to things we do outside of school," said sophomore Erin West.

One of the many differences between Johnson and the run-of-the-mill high school teacher is that he does not hold back. He has compiled story upon story detailing the colorful life he has led, and he does not think twice about sharing anything.

In 1973, Johnson had a romantic urge to join the Navy with his girlfriend. According

to Johnson, after serving time they planned to move into the country and live the self-sufficient life that Thomas Jefferson had in mind, to create an agrarian utopia.

Unfortunately, six months into the Navy, he and his girlfriend broke up. He counted every second of the next 13 months, 25 days, and 2 hours.

With his perfect plan ruined, Johnson spent the following years doing exactly what he wanted. "It was great--I acted in plays, sky dived. . . obeyed no rules and lived romantically inclined."

Unemployed and looking for fun, a young Johnson felt lucky to wash dishes at the Armadillo, a famous Texas concert hall. He served dinner to rock bands AC/DC, Journey, Elvis Costello, Police and Golden Earring. Golden Earring played the same song three times in one set, due to their drunkenness.

Unfortunately the Armadillo closed in 1980, leaving Johnson unemployed once again.

After a few years, Johnson went back to college to study Education at the University of Texas. When Johnson graduated in 1983, Austin was not hiring teachers--especially those who had hair down to their hips and had gone an entire year without owning shoes. So, instead, he spent two years as a substitute teacher and a part-time line cook at a pancake house.

In 1986, the Dallas public schools offered Johnson a job at Roosevelt High. Imagine *Dangerous Minds* meets *Lean on Me*.

"Roosevelt High School is where I created my teaching style," said Johnson. "I learned to be loud and aggressive, all thanks to my ninth grade Reading Improvement Class. I saw lots and lots of trouble at that school."

In fact, two of Johnson's former students are on death row now for murder.

Later Johnson had the opportunity to teach in Waco, Texas. The area was dominated by religious extremists, and Mr. Johnson stuck

out like a sore thumb. According to Johnson, parents were concerned he was "poisoning their children's minds," by teaching classic texts such as *Paradise Lost*.

Johnson was in Waco in the spring of 1993, when the Branch Davidian compound burned to the ground.

At this time, the ATF had surrounded the Branch Davidian Compound and were broadcasting the sounds of dying animals 24 hours a day to force the Branch

### His students had been spending their nights imitating the sounds of dying animals and creating sounds for the ATF.

Davidians out of their building. Johnson started to wonder why some of his students were so tired in his class.

He investigated and learned his students had been spending their nights imitating the sounds of dying animals and creating sounds for the ATF (Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms).

Johnson received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to attend Georgetown University, where he studied the Mexican Revolution. He enjoyed the area and sought teaching positions in the metro area.

A friend, Mr. Phil Bigler from Thomas Jefferson High School, understood the kind of job Johnson was seeking and offered him a short list of Fairfax County Schools.

West Potomac was Johnson's first choice. It "had the mix of people I enjoy," he said.

Students at West Potomac certainly enjoy having Johnson here. Already, he is a well known and popular teacher.

As Johnson extended his hand to the reserved chess match loser, Johnson smiled and said, "Ready for one last quick one?"

**Janet deHoll**

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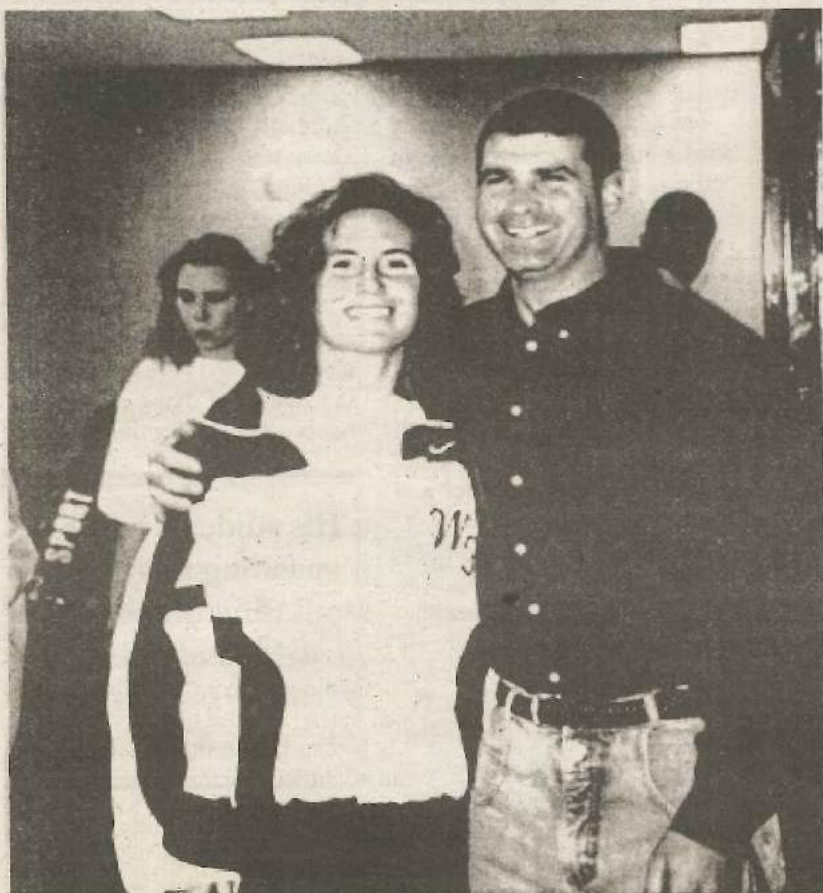
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Whoever thought the job description for a teacher would include "Will find wife or husband?" That's what it has turned out to be for Biology teacher Mr. Bowerman and P.E. teacher Ms. Szwed. It is uncertain what sparked the attraction between the two, but one thing is for certain-- members of the West Potomac student body played matchmaker. The big question remains, how did he propose? Miss Szwed recalls, "We had just gotten back from a walk and as I walked around the side of my truck he was on one knee." Good luck to Miss Szwed and Mr. Bowerman.

## Avoiding the rush Cyber Shopping Provides Alternative to Crowded Malls

**Mark Andraschko**  
On-Line Editor

For those who hate driving to a mall to spend hours wandering through endless throngs of people searching for perfect gifts that are nowhere to be found, there is an alternative.

Shopping online often offers a better selection with less hassle, in less time. Even on the net though, there are hundreds of similar malls with repetitive names such as Cybermall, Cyberland Mega Mall, Cyberpark Mall, Cyber Store, Cyber Shop, and Cyber Shoppe.

These centers divide items into categories, present them by store and provide search options, so one can avoid wading through lists.

Infoseek ([www.infoseek.com](http://www.infoseek.com)) has a shopping page that does all of these things and provides a broader range of stores and items and offers ratings on each site, from one to three stars.

Everything can be found online. Clothing stores from Eddie Bauer ([www.eddiebauer.com](http://www.eddiebauer.com)) to Bugle Boy ([www.bugleboy.com](http://www.bugleboy.com)) to K-Mart ([www.kmart.com](http://www.kmart.com)) abound, waiting for eager cybershoppers.



Mark Andraschko

## Tidbytes

## Constructing a future Chris Sizemore Builds a Solid Business

**Elissa Milanowski**  
Features Editor  
**Angela Jones**  
Wire Reporter

Early last year, while a sophomore at West Potomac, junior Chris Sizemore noticed a barricade at a construction site and confronted his own fascination with road construction.

According to Transition Specialist Ms. Kathy Schauer, Sizemore decided that he would write National Capital, the company whose name was printed on the sign, request information and ask for an appointment and tour of the company.

After receiving the letter, the branch manager wrote back and invited Sizemore and his father to visit. Following the visit, Schauer became involved with Sizemore and the branch manager, assisting Sizemore in making timely contacts. This led Sizemore to a full-time summer job working for National Capital.

Being the youngest employee and the second person named Chris working at the site, Sizemore acquired the nickname 'Junior.'

Sizemore's responsibilities at National Capital included providing customer service, acting as gopher for his supervisors, painting, loading and unloading trucks, counting inventory, and his favorite - making highway signs that can be seen at most highway construction sites in Virginia and Maryland.

**"New skills learned at Edison prompted him to add concrete construction to the offerings of the company he founded, Chris Construction and Asphalt."**

This year, Sizemore enrolled in the Construction Tech class at the Edison Academy. New skills learned at Edison prompted him to add concrete construction to the offerings of the company he founded, Chris Construction and Asphalt.

Through his company, Sizemore provides asphalt sealing, paving and concrete services. He purchases most of his materials

from Sears or National Capital Industry.

Sizemore has completed seven asphalt driveway jobs and two concrete sidewalk projects. He typically gets about one job each week, and each project takes him several days to complete. He has built a business through company flyers and word of mouth referrals.

When asked what he first does on a site, Sizemore said he must survey the job requirements, call Ms. Utility, buy supplies, dig up the area, build forms, measure, mix and pour concrete. Later, he removes forms, cleans up debris and replants grass if needed.

The future looks good for this young, ambitious entrepreneur as he continues to improve his construction and business skills.

With all of the highway construction projects planned in Virginia and Maryland during the next few years, we will likely be following a few road construction signs made by Sizemore.

Someday, Sizemore hopes to be a heavy equipment operator building new and better roads in Virginia. One thing is for sure: in the near future, Northern Virginia is going to need roads.

Amazon.com ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) is an excellent source for books and music. Its prices compare favorably with store prices. Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble ([www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)) sites allow ordering of all kinds of hard to find books and music.

There are small specialty shops including the Swiss Army Shop ([www.ishopper.com/swissarmy/home.html](http://www.ishopper.com/swissarmy/home.html)) and Gatorcycle ([www.gatorcycle.com/index2.shtml](http://www.gatorcycle.com/index2.shtml)), a bicycle shop that offers specially reduced prices for online customers. The Magic Shop offers magicians supplies.

There are also internet sites where greeting cards can be created and emailed to friends. Online Greeting Cards ([www.greeting-cards.com](http://www.greeting-cards.com)) offers cards with animations and sound.

Like shopping in the real world, online shopping quickly becomes repetitive. One will find dozens of T-shirts and generic gift shops. The biggest benefit of online shopping is that items are almost never out of stock.

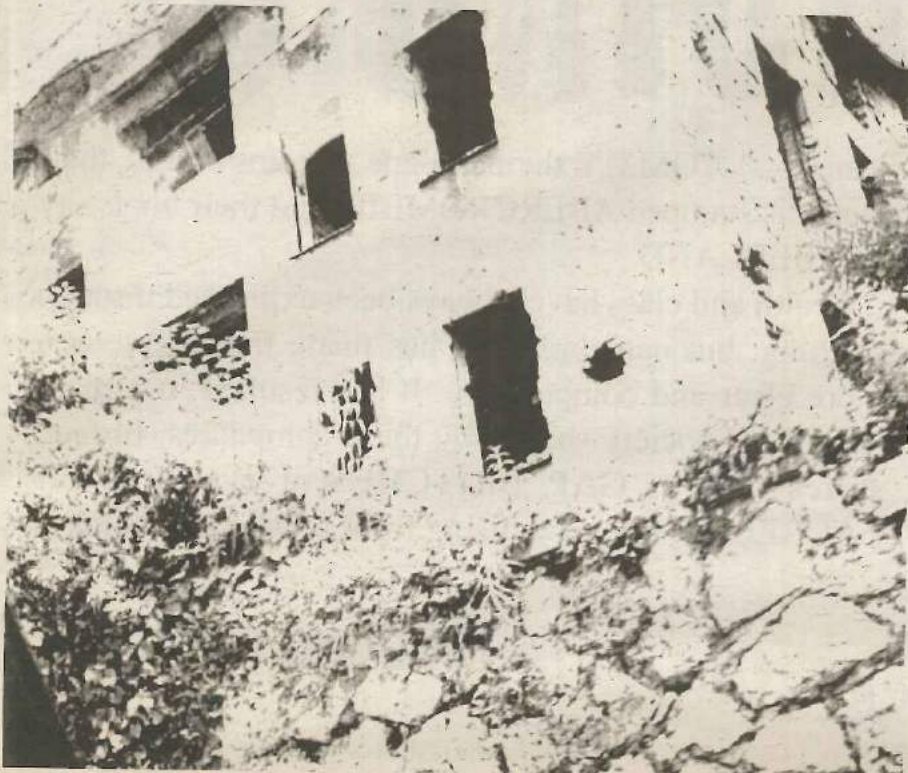
Ordering online is similar to ordering from any catalog. Some sites offer online forms on secure pages, others offer e-mail addresses or simply phone numbers.

Many people still worry about the security of the internet, but giving out a credit card number online offers no more risk than giving it over the telephone or to a waiter in a restaurant.

With these fears aside, anyone can take advantage of the technology and beat the holiday rush.



## Recollections of Sarajevo War Experiences Lead to Family Separation



Buildings gutted by war remain a reminder of the damage done to both the city and the people of Sarajevo.

Photo courtesy Aida Ibesivic

**Aida Ibesivic**  
Visiting Writer

Before the war, Bosnia was like any other European country, and the war came unexpectedly.

Bosnia, a part of Yugoslavia, along with Croatia and Slovenia, wanted to stay democratic, while Serbia wanted to become Communist. The parts of Yugoslavia separated, and Serbia invaded the others.

I was nine years old at the time, and living in an apartment on the 15th floor with my mother, father, sister and brother. We quickly noticed changes in our everyday lives.

At school, the teachers went on strike, and we didn't have school for a week. Probably this was the beginning of the war for my own family. Soon after that, the grenades began to explode around our city of Sarajevo. Life in Bosnia would never be the same.

Soon, we were living in fear--under the pressure of not knowing who might die next. I remember walking to the store, and for the first time seeing a pool of blood on the ground.

There was one day, a few years ago, when no one was killed. It was a notable day. For everybody in Sarajevo, it was the happiest day since the war began.

For an entire month we had to sleep in the basement of our apartment building. We could go into our apartment during

the day, but during the night it was too dangerous to sleep in our rooms.

We went through the war for three and a half years. During the first year things were confusing, frustrating, and frightening. It's like when a person dies. At first people are shocked and sad, but then it becomes a part of you and you don't expect to see the person again. War is the same way in that it becomes a part of you

**"My brother finally forced me to leave the computer. Seconds later a bomb struck where I had been sitting."**

and a part of the world you live in. At first it's difficult to accept, but then war becomes routine.

I remember one day hearing the warning sirens, and my brother came to take me to the shelter. I didn't want to go. I was playing on my computer.

It was the first time in a long while that we had electricity. My brother finally forced me to leave the computer. Seconds later a bomb struck where I had been sitting. I realized that the war was more serious than I thought.

The war made me stop taking things for granted. I came to appreciate my life and the ordinary things in it, such as a home,

food, water and electricity.

We never had enough food or water. We didn't have running water anymore. I had to go to a designated place for water every day, and carry it up 15 floors.

Electricity was given to us in intervals. Even as it was happening, I found this hard to believe. After all, my dad was a surgeon, and my mom was a nurse.

My brother, the person I was closest to, was drafted into the army for four years, and

### First Person



Aida Ibesivic witnessed first hand experience of the war in Sarajevo.

he was on the front line most of the time. I felt it to be unfair that my brother was out there fighting, carrying his friends' dead bodies, while the sons of the politicians were out of the country. My brother had to fight for them.

When my parents decided to leave, we found we couldn't all go together. My sister left first, then my mom and I left. My dad came last. My brother stayed in Bosnia, and is still in the army.

When my mom and I were going to leave, all the roads were blocked. We had to walk through a tunnel, under the airport runway. The tunnel was small, about three feet wide and five feet tall. We had to carry our luggage in front and behind us, because there wasn't enough space to carry bags at our sides. It made me feel like a rat crawling through a sewer. We could bring anything we wanted with us, but space was limited. Whatever we brought with us we had to carry. We were on our own.

Sarah Biegging, Elissa Milanowski, and Alejandra Medina assisted in the preparation of this story.

*The Wire* invites students who are not on the paper staff to submit articles for First Person. Any student who has had an interesting personal experience should talk to Mr. Steve Paugh in Room 433, Quander.

From Sarajevo, we went to Croatia for four months to wait for the paper work, and then we got on a plane for the United States.

When we came to the United States, I was 13 and in seventh grade. I then had to adapt to the American lifestyle. I already knew some English, which I had learned at school. At first it was difficult for me to have a formal conversation, but as time went on, I felt more comfortable. Also, I met other people from Bosnia here in school. This helped me to overcome some of the pressures and fears of being a stranger.

My brother never left Bosnia, but he is not fighting anymore. My sister is married and has returned to work in Sarajevo. My parents have started a new life here, but it's difficult for them since they don't hold the same jobs that they used to. My dad is now a medical assistant, and my mother is a nurse's assistant.

Even though my experiences were rough at first, I have overcome them by talking about them.



Photo courtesy Aida Ibesivic

The windows of an apartment building in Sarajevo have been shattered by bombs and gunfire. In a short time a beautiful city became dominated by ruins.



# THE BRANDING OF AM

Welcome to the wonderful world of commercialism. Companies nowadays thrive on the wants and desires of consumers, and even create new desires, such as the "need" for the latest name brand and style clothing apparel. Advertising has been transformed from simple jingles and logos and hoping for the best, to the calculated manipulation of consumers.. Clever companies have "Brandwashed" young consumers into believing that they are not complete unless their

jeans flash TOMMY, their cologne screams POLO, their jacket is stamped ABERCROMBIE, and their boots say TIMBERLAND.

Wealth and class have always been expressed through clothing, but namebranding has made that expression more clear and competitive. It has resulted in a more superficial society shaped by these companies. In fact, stores such as GAP, BRITCHES or even RALPH LAUREN get free advertising from people who think

they are ing their Fast for aren't in circus of Hamburg for Wend that will

## Success... Tastes Like Chicken?

Some company icons, creating Kentucky Fried Chicken Harland D. Sanders in begin there however. He ber 9, 1890 in Corbin, ing up, he frequently his entire family and cellent cook. As a Sanders served for the army attaining vate. At the age started serving food of his own tomers who service sta- a nearby mo- Sanders be- a Colonel he was named by then Ken- Ruby Laffoon. blend of 11 herbs in 1952 Sanders In 1964, Ken- was sold to inves- quickly expanded. the New York (NYSE) in 1969 purchasing the first steadily and quickly PepsiCo, Inc. in 1986 PepsiCo also owns Sadly, at the age of 90, died. He remains the cartoon Southern plantation figure.



founders have made themselves fantastic images of themselves. was founded by Colonel 1952. Sander's story does not was born on Septem- Kentucky. Grow- had to cook for became an ex- sixteenyearold, six months in the rank of Pri- of 40, Sanders home cooked recipe to cus- stopped at his tion, later moving to tel and restaurant. gan to be referred to Sanders in 1935 when a Kentucky Colonel tucky Governor, Sanders perfected his and spices in 1939 and sold his first franchise. tucky Fried Chicken tors for \$2 Million and KFC was first listed on Stock Exchange with Colonel Sanders 100 shares. KFC grew and was purchased by for \$840 Million. Pizza Hut and Taco Bell. Colonel Harland Sanders restaurant icon though, a

## Deconstructing West F

Nautica T-shirt— Anyone who's anyone knows that forty bucks buys a REAL shirt. Ignore those that spend less- exorbitant amounts on similar shirts-- it's all about the label, right?

Swiss Army watch— Scoff at those who say Swatch tells time as well as these more expensive watches-- they just don't understand!

Eddie Bauer backpack— rest assured that extra twenty bucks will guarantee super popularity. Your friends will grow green with envy!



## Dave Thomas an



Wendy's Old Fas one of the daugl may adorn all o she had no con founded the W panded to 4,35 witty Wendy's commercial in that in a 1996 pol Americans recogniz



# ERICA

g dollar signs. But rather, they're flash-  
e.  
panies confuse us, making us think we  
ap restaurant, but that McDonalds is a  
a mythological kingdom of clowns and  
Dave is in the back making hamburgers  
Roy Rogers is out rounding up the cows  
r lunch.

## omac's Fashion Sense



Abercrombie & Fitch jacket— Now  
You Too can stay warm in 100 below  
zero temperature. Shrug off that \$200  
price tag-- it's all worth it in the end.

You're not complete without your  
Gap bag full of flashy name brands!

Timberland— the last name in  
suburban hiking boots. Essential for  
winter crossings from Gunston to  
Quander.

## is Famous Daughter

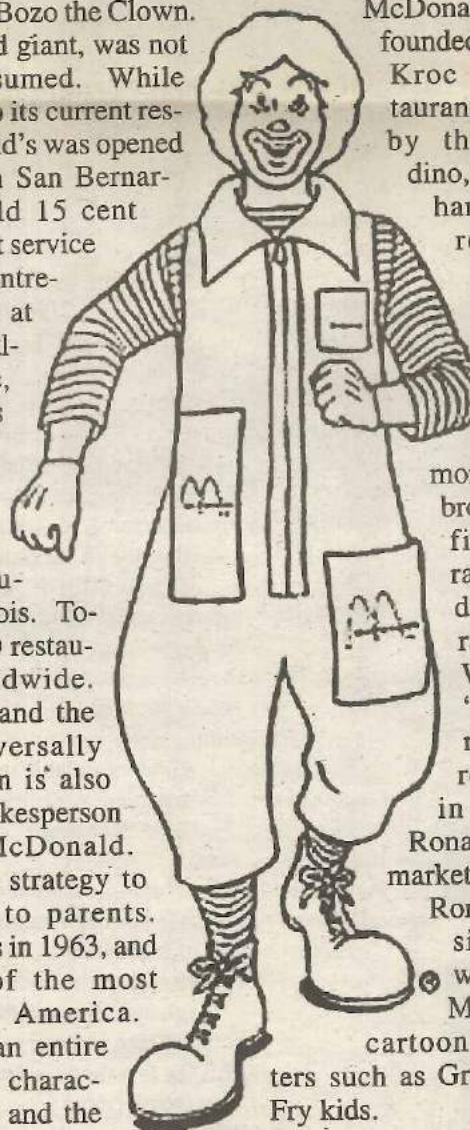
Hamburgers Restaurants are named after  
founder R. David Thomas. While Wendy  
ns, looking much like Pippi Longstocking,  
to the founding of the company. Thomas  
hamburger chain in 1969, and it quickly ex-  
rants by 1994. Thomas started doing the  
cials in 1989. He starred in the 500th such  
er, 1996. Dave is so widely recognized,  
n's *Restaurant News* reported that 90% of  
Thomas.



Bess Anna Carter

## Ronald McDonald Steps in for Ray Kroc

Perhaps the most recognizable icon in America is Ronald McDonald, a character who emerged in the early 60s and resembles the once popular Bozo the Clown. McDonald's, the extremely large fast food giant, was not founded by Ray Kroc as is generally assumed. While Kroc expanded McDonald's to its current restaurant giant status, the first McDonald's was opened by the two brothers in San Bernardino, California. Dick and Mac sold 15 cent hamburgers at their extremely fast service restaurant until 1954 when entrepreneur Albert Kroc arrived at their stand with an offer they almost could not refuse. Kroc, who had sold their milkshake machines, offered them to open more McDonald's for brothers accepted and the first McDonald's restaurant opened in Des Moines, Iowa. While the name "golden arches" are recognized, the restaurant chain is also recognized by the Ronald McDonald character in big red shoes. Ronald was part of the market fun to children and Ronald's first TV appearance was in 1963, and since then he has been one of the most widely recognized figures in America. McDonald's strategy to low prices to parents. McDonald's introduced an entire people by character Hamburglar, and the Fry kids.



Focus stories contributed by Kurt Gron and Michael Wade



# Beastie Boys and the World Change One Another

**Jameson Penn**  
Managing Editor

For the past twelve years, they have been threatening our society with 70s nostalgia. A cult now thrives off their youthful, care free vibe. They have endured the test of time and continue to be the innovative name in rap, rock... or whatever you choose to call them.

The Beasties, Mike Diamond (a.k.a. Mike D), Adam Horowitz (a.k.a. Ad Rock), and Adam Yaugh (a.k.a. MCA), didn't come from the humble surroundings that you might think. Actually, all came from affluent families from the New York boroughs.

Their parents were more artsy than most—Diamond's father was an art dealer and ran in the upper West Side artistic community, Horowitz's father was a playwright, and Yaugh's mother an artist.

By 14, Horowitz was in a band called the Young and Useless. He taught Yaugh how to play the bass and formed a four-member group, later called the Beastie Boys.

Their punk tendencies clashed with what was growing popular in the New York scene: rap. Next thing the rap community knew, here were some white boys running around town rapping like RUN-DMC, EPMD and the Jungle Brothers. This was unheard of and somewhat embarrassing.

Rick Rubin, a NYU student at the time, took the Beastie Boys and with the help of Russell Simmons, turned the project into a legitimate act.

In 1986, *Licensed to Ill* was released on Def Jam Records, a label run by Simmons. *License to Ill* was the first of its kind. It took the roots of punk, metal and rap and morphed it into this new brand of white boy rap.

It quickly became the "anthem of the youth" with such college necessities as "[You Gotta] Fight for Your Right to Party." Not only an underground hit, the Beastie Boys became the largest selling rap band and remained so until 1991, when they were unseated by M.C. Hammer's, *Please Hammer Don't Hurt Em*.

Behind the scenes, the Beasties accused Def Jam Records and mother company CBS Records, of refusal to pay royalties. They demanded in excess of two million dollars that hadn't been paid to them yet.

Meanwhile, the Beastie Boys were making their maniacal cross-country *License to Ill* road tour.

Told they could have whatever they wanted onstage, the

Beastie Boys created controversy and threats of concert cancellations. Many venues didn't find their mountain of Budweiser cans (they were eventually served a restraining order by Anheuser-Busch), their cage with the volunteer gyrating girls (before concerts, roadies searched the neighboring streets for girls willing to humiliate themselves by dancing onstage), and a twenty foot tall pink phallus symbol entertaining.

Even though threats were made against the band, no cancellations occurred and the tour finished successfully.

About this time Fab Five Freddy (host of YO! MTV Raps) told the rap community it was all right to listen to the Beastie Boys, and they isolated themselves to work.

They rented a house outside Los Angeles to work on their second album for a year and a half.

A little fun and a little rock 'n roll cliché melded to produce the Beasties of the late 1980s. Yaugh, Horowitz and Diamonds got a bad case of Peter Pania—they refused to grow beyond adolescent fun. Their life was a constant party that seemed to never end.

*Paul's Boutique* which is arguably the greatest rap album ever, was being greatly anticipated by the world of rap/rock/hip-hop. Since their debut *License to Ill* had done so well, critics were divided over whether the overnight success could be repeated.

As predicted by the worst cynics, *Paul's Boutique* failed commercially. But, the B-Boy cult following understood the album and stayed with the group.

A Tribe Called Quest rapper Q-Tip said, *Paul's Boutique* is so complex—there's so much going on. *Paul's Boutique* would be an influential album.

It's understandable that it wasn't accepted by the mainstream audience. There were not any stand out singles like "Fight for Your Right" or *Check Your Head*'s "So Whatcha Want."

After the promotion of *Paul's Boutique*, Adam Yaugh journeyed through the Himalayas to find the "perfect mountain to snow board." What he found instead was self-discovery and spiritualism in the form of Buddhism.

Yaugh and a group of friends happened upon a small Tibetan village and were taken in by the caring community. This led to a massive Buddhist worldwide awareness tour.

For the past three years, Yaugh's nonprofit Milarepa Foundation has assisted in the successful Tibetan Freedom Concert. Now Yaugh uses the Beastie Boys as his political voice and exploits his fame for the sake of a small and far away country.



Publicity Photo  
The Beastie Boys performed at the Tibetan Freedom Concert this summer at RFK Stadium. Rapper Adam Yaugh helped create the Milarepa Foundation which helped organize the concert.

Now, the Beastie Boys are a group of twenty-somethings who refuse to grow up. Yaugh's influence has brought lyrics from violence and drugs to more ambiguous subjects.

In later years, the band slumped from greatness. Every song on *Paul's Boutique* was written by all three Beasties. But *Check Your Head*, and *Ill Communication* were piled high with songs sectioned off with very poor segue. The unity that had made the Beastie Boys great was gone.

With *Check Your Head*, the Beasties experimented with different styles of music, moving from rap and rock back to their roots—hardcore.

Their commercial success "So Whatcha Want?" played full rotation on MTV while magazines such as Rolling Stone and Spin congratulated them on their experimentation with the "unknown," meanwhile ignoring the blatant fact that this was no more "unknown" than the old blues of Jimi Hendrix.

On their latest album, *Hello Nasty*, they return to their unifying stability. Yaugh, Horowitz, and Diamond have contributed to each song.

The Beastie Boys' massive following has stayed behind them all the way. As Adam

Horowitz transformed following the death of a close friend in 1993, giving up the "rebellious, fun-loving" manner, and as Adam Yaugh took his spiritual journey into self-realization, guided by the teachings of the Dali Lama, the fans have followed. Theirs has been a rare level of popular success.

Even Mike Diamond has changed. In 1987, he was characterized as the "wacky backbone" of the Beastie Boys. By 1998 he was the "money maker." Diamond runs Grand Royal, the band's recording company, and works on marketing.

In retrospect, the Beastie Boys have made the very ordinary change from adolescent "crazy kids" to mature adults with practical responsibilities. *Hello Nasty*, while fun and reminiscent of the days of *Paul's Boutique*, marks another, new Beastie Boys. A more caring group with a larger musical range, all of it compacted into one, diverse album. Truly, a Beastie production.



The Beastie Boys seek inspiration in various places, including the basketball court.



Grand Royal website



## A Tribe Apart Exposes Separate Teen Culture

Sasha Cannon  
Sports Editor

*A Tribe Apart*, by Patricia Hersch, is an eye-opening novel about teenage life in the nineties. Hersch, a former contributing editor in *Psychology Today*, has been featured in *The*

to make their own decisions and choose their own fates, as the majority of adults are no longer fulfilling their responsibilities.

"Some of the stories remind me of reading through my own diary or having a conversation with a friend. It's a very real novel and it takes, for once, a real look at teens" stated Jennifer Niksich. Even parents are a little

## Book Review

*Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Chicago Journal* and many other well-known newspapers along the East Coast. Spending three years following eight high school and middle school students, Hersch reveals a world that many adults never see. This novel, chronicles teens in Reston, Va., who attend South Lakes middle school and high school, hits very close to home.

Hersch not only befriends the students, she visited their homes, joined them at parties, social events, extracurriculars, and even on vacations. Taking a look at sex, drugs, and other teenage obstacles, Hersch allows the teens to voice her point: adults have pulled away from teens, and society rather than adolescents pulling away, has created the separate teen community that is so widely criticized. Teens have been left

shocked after reading this novel. After reading *A Tribe Apart*.

Stressing that teens need adults for more than lunch money, chaperones, and rides to practice, Hersch may provoke some thought in even the most dedicated adults and parents. Adolescents have created their own culture, one which adults can neither see nor imagine.

The pervasive lack of belief has impacted our society, and the future of our country will suffer. Teens have not had morals and values passed to them through quality time and close encounters. This has resulted in the chaotic, unstructured society Hersch describes.

As a respected adult in the society, Hersch reveals what other adults never have the opportunity to see, and *A Tribe Apart* may just be the wake-up call we need to change the way we relate ourselves to the rest of our society.

## Innovative German Music Makes Its Way West

Christine Burns  
Assistant Copy Editor

Recently, a new type of music has been gaining popularity in the United States. It is German rock, in particular the industrial, almost hard-core sound and the punk/disco sound. Many students around West Potomac have discovered this new sound and have been found listening, in particular, to Die Sterne and Rammstein.

Die Sterne, the Stars, a Hamburg based group, has just completed their tour of the United States in conjunction with the Goethe Institut.

The band's sound is mainly disco with a punk edge. The band consists of four members, Christoph Leich, drums; Frank Will, keyboards; Frank Spilker, guitar and vocals; and Thomas Wenzel, bass.

The band was formed in 1991, in Hamburg, Germany. Until recently, the band has not been well known in the States. One of their most popular songs is "abstrakt."

Die Sterne has just completed their tour of the United States,

Canada, and Mexico. While the group was in Washington D.C., a group of West Potomac students went to see them. When asked about the concert, Junior Christy Lindsey commented, "The concert was fun and their music had a good beat that made people want to get up and dance."

Rammstein is another increasingly popular band. Their sound is industrial, bordering hard-core. Formed in 1994 by six musicians from Berlin and Scherwin, the members include Richard Kruspe, guitar; Paul Landers, guitar; Till Linderman, vocals; Flake Lorenz, keyboards; Oliver Riedel, bass; and Christoph Schneider, drums.

Rammstein's first album, "Herzeleid," made its debut in 1995. Included on this album is the song "Ramstein" It is dedicated to the American Airforce Base, Ramstein, at which a horrible air show accident took place. This song became so popular that the band adopted the name and added an extra m. On October 31, 1998 Rammstein's U.S. tour reached the Patriot Center. One of their most popular songs in the United States is "Du Hast, You Hate." When asked why this song is so popular, Junior Mike LaBarre said, "The language fits the style of music."



Warner Bro  
Actress Keri Russell heads the cast of "Felicity"

## Top pop TV takes flight New Soap 'Felicity' Joins 'Dawson's Creek'

Faye Rausch  
Entertainment Editor

Last year's craze shows were *Ally McBeal* and *Dawson's Creek*. This year many students have added *Felicity* to the shows they plan to watch regularly.

In the past, Warner Brothers' hits, including *Sister Sister*, and *Jerry Springer*, attracted large, young audiences. Critics predict "Felicity" will become the most popular series this year. The show is often compared to *Ally McBeal*, in that it focuses on a young woman meeting new friends in New York City.

The premise of the show is fresh and unusual though. As *Felicity* (Keri Russell), is finishing up her senior year of high school in Palo Alto, California, she musters the courage to approach popular senior Ben Covington (Scott Speedman). Felicity asks Ben to write a little something in her yearbook. What he writes, changes her life.

Going against her parents wishes, Felicity discards her own long time plans to study medicine at Stanford, and instead follows Ben Covington to the University of New York. This is where the series opens, in New York, as Felicity and Ben meet new friends at college.

Among the standout cast is Russell, once a model and singer, in demand since her appearances on *Star Search* and in *Honey I Blew Up the Kid*, where she played a babysitter in distress. Following that film,

she was a New Mickey Mouse Club Mouseketeer until 1993. Since then, she has appeared in minor "made-for-television" movies and done guest spots on shows including, *Boy meets World*, *Married With Children*, and *Daddy's Girls*.

Other actors on *Felicity* include Scott Speedman, and Amy Jo Johnson, who are new faces, and Scott Foley, who was the blonde geek on *My So-Called Life*, with actress Claire Danes.

**It is about the possibilities  
that open when you choose to  
follow your heart.**

The creative team includes producer Ron Howard (Opie of *Andy Griffith*), whose name suggests this will be a well-written, high-quality production.

Of the new show, Sophomore Annie Griffith said, "I like the show, although I disagree with how it is compared to *Ally McBeal*. Its more like *My So called Life*, just placed in a college environment."

If *Felicity* can live up to such comparisons over time, the show will do extremely well.

"Felicity" is a series about the first taste of freedom, the courage to take risks, and to make and recognize mistakes. It's about the possibilities that open when you choose to follow your heart.



Publicity photo  
Rammstein's popularity has been growing since 1995



# Music Sampling: A Theft of the Past or a New Art Form?

## Carter Says

Every day new songs are released that become big hits and go platinum. While most of these songs are original compositions by the artist, some of them are merely compilations of old songs crammed together and recycled to sound new.

Artists put together parts of existing songs to form new songs, in a process called sampling. The artists release these new songs as their own, giving minimal recognition to the original artists, usually on the back of the jacket.

Artists who do nothing but sample songs, like Puff Daddy and Mase, are unoriginal and lack talent. The true test of a musician's worth is the ability to compose and perform their own songs. It takes very little skill to sample parts from old songs and put them together to form new ones.

Anyone with the right equipment can do it.

Lately, there has been a rise in the release of songs that are composed almost entirely of samples, spurned by the runaway success of Puff Daddy's *No Way Out*. Now many artists have joined this so-called genre, including Pras, DMX, Jay-Z, and the Verve.

While some artists release one or two songs comprised of samples, others, such as Puff Daddy, do nothing else. While some of these songs may be good, it doesn't change the fact that they are unoriginal works, and it's not their song that is good; the good song is the one sampled.

Through music, musicians express their feelings and beliefs, but then these should be completely their own feelings and be-

liefs.

People who sample songs add nothing new and original to the musical world as a whole, they are merely recycling old hits and gaining fame and fortune from it.

Many legal problems also stem from the practice of sampling. Artists can be sued by publishers, record labels, and other artists, for releasing songs that contain illegal samples.

According to the United States Copyright Office, all "musical works, including any accompanying words," are covered under title 17 of the United States Code. For a

musician to be able to use samples in their work, they must first obtain a license from all owners of the song, including the publisher, record label, and the author of the song being sampled. They then must pay a certain amount, or give up a certain percentage of their earnings to these people, depending on how much of

the original piece is sampled.

Lawsuits that result from the illegal use of samples are unnecessary and clutter up the legal system, wasting taxpayer dollars.

Sampling is a small part of the larger legal issue of intellectual property. With the growth of the internet and other technologies, it is possible to pirate just about anything; from software, to music, to written documents.

Without tightened control it will soon become hard to tell what is authentic and what is stolen. Stricter laws need to be enforced to protect people who create originally artistic works. We need to crack down on thieves who peddle "samples" as their own work.



Carter Chandler

## Charlie Says

Sampling, the art of using hooks from old songs in new material, is not due to a lack of creativity. It is due to the unwillingness of the consumer to accept original tunes that they don't recognize, and to the performer's voracious greed that forces them to put out music that people will instantly recognize and buy; putting more money into the singer's pockets.

However, it is not stealing, as many would claim.

Sampling is not a new practice. Its roots stretch as far back as Shakespeare, if not earlier.

Shakespeare's plays are mostly based on earlier stories and contain many literary allusions. Some critics even argue that it was Shakespeare's talent for "stealing" plots and characters from earlier works that produced his complexity and greatness.

To say this is stealing is a bit absurd.

If we did say that, then practically everyone in the music industry would be a thief, including Leonard Bernstein, Celine Dion, Frank Sinatra, and the Beatles; all of whom have performed their own variations of other people's songs.

A better term to describe this would be evolution. It is unearthing old material and modernizing it to fit the times.

Contrary to what some people think, these musicians don't just dig an old record out from underneath their bed, slap their name on it, and release it.

Unfortunately, it is a bit more difficult than that. Otherwise, I'd be on the cover of *Vibe*

and driving a Benz to school.

It takes a little thing called "talent," and there is an art behind it; they're not just sitting behind a mixing board, randomly pressing buttons.

What these artists are doing is quite creative, compared to what some other "artists" in the business are doing, including the Spice Girls and Celine Dion, who don't even write their own songs.

At least hip-hop musicians arrange their songs and occasionally throw in some rhymes, here and there.

And, even that description trivializes what these musicians are doing.

They make no claims to be Pavarotti. They know they are basically DJ's, but nevertheless, what they are doing takes talent, and consumers continue to purchase it.

Besides satisfy-

ing a demand in the market, these performers, through rhymes and creative arrangements, or mixes, comment on everything from decadent greed to the harsh realities of a bitter urban life, even though, they probably reside far away from the violence of the inner-city that they milk to attract testosterone-charged teenage boys, the major purchasers of such music.

Sampling is far more difficult than the generalizations about it would have one believe.

Imagine the look of these critics, were they ever given a number of records and asked to do what these artists do.



Charlie Quiroz

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Publicity photo

Fans now follow Phish on tour, much as fans used to follow the Grateful Dead

## Capturing the live sound

## Ninth Album Marks Change for Phish

**Eric Lautenschlager**  
On-line Editor

Three weeks ago, Phish released their ninth album, *The Story of the Ghost*. In an interview with Page McConnell, a Phish group member, that is posted on the Official Phish web site, McConnell talks about the techniques used in the making this album. For Phish it was a new process, and it is a different kind of album.

The group started by having two, four-day jams in Bearsville, recording. These two jam sessions were held in March and October of 1997. The group came to these sessions with no written or recorded music. Group member McConnell said, "We thought if we could record ourselves at the moment of conception, that it would be fresh, and it wouldn't be something we were trying to re-create."

McConnell said that he took all of the music that they had recorded and filtered it down until they had just enough to start an album.

The group then rented a house in Stowe, Vermont for four days,

and started writing music. They brought along a book of Tom Marshall's lyrics, and started composing lyrics to suit their recorded music. At the end of the four days, they had about ten songs to work with, the majority of the album.

Another difference between this and other albums is that the songs



were only recorded once. The group planned on going to a recording studio to re-record the songs, but liked the first versions. They let them stand.

In the studio, the group recorded twenty more songs. Five of these matched the mood of the album and were used.

Here at West Potomac, many students like both the new and the old

Phish. Senior Marshall Dyer followed Phish around for two days, while they were on tour. Dyer attended a concert at Merriweather Post Pavilion, and then followed them to Virginia Beach.

"It was the best experience of my life," said Dyer. "Phish is just a chill type of music."

Other students at West Potomac are not as dedicated as Dyer, but are Phish fans. Sophomore Ross Snyder said, "Phish has some great music and is fun to listen to."

Phish are known for their concerts. Each group member knows how to play all of the instruments in the band, and throughout the show, members switch instruments.

Phish is on tour right now and for a few months. In October, on the *Late Show* with David Letterman, they performed "Birds of a Feather," a song from their new album. They played to sold-out shows on the 20th and 21st at the Hampton Coliseum in Hampton Virginia, and to sold-out shows in New York and Connecticut.

Phish are playing four holiday shows in Madison Square Garden, New York. Ticket are now on sale.

## State of the Arts Upcoming December Events

### WP Events

#### Concerts

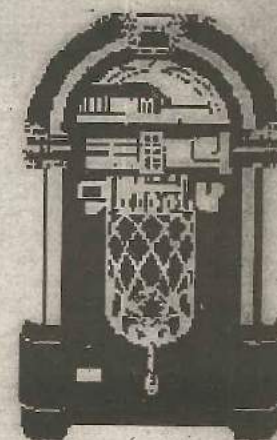
##### MCI Center

Vince Gill 12/13

Aerosmith 12/19

##### Patriot Center

Newsboys



##### Hyatt Richmond

Pat McGee 12/31

##### 9:30 Club

Buddy Guy 12/1

The Meters 12/4

Gay Dance Party 12/5

Golden Smog 12/9

#### Theater

##### National Theater

Cats 12/8-1/3

Invasion 12/7

##### Kennedy Center

The Magic Fire 12/1-12/6

Stanislausky's The Nutcracker 12/9-12/13

Stanislausky's Swan Lake 12/15-12/20

Annie Get Your Gun 12/29-1/24

##### Arena Stage

Thunder Knocking on the Door 12/1-12/27

Christmas at the

Old Bull and Bush 11/27-1/10

##### Studio Theater

The Vagina Monologues 11/28-12/19

##### Lazy Susan Dinner Theater

My Fair Lady 12/1-12/31

##### Folger Elizabethan Theater

Much Ado About Nothing 11/14-12/20

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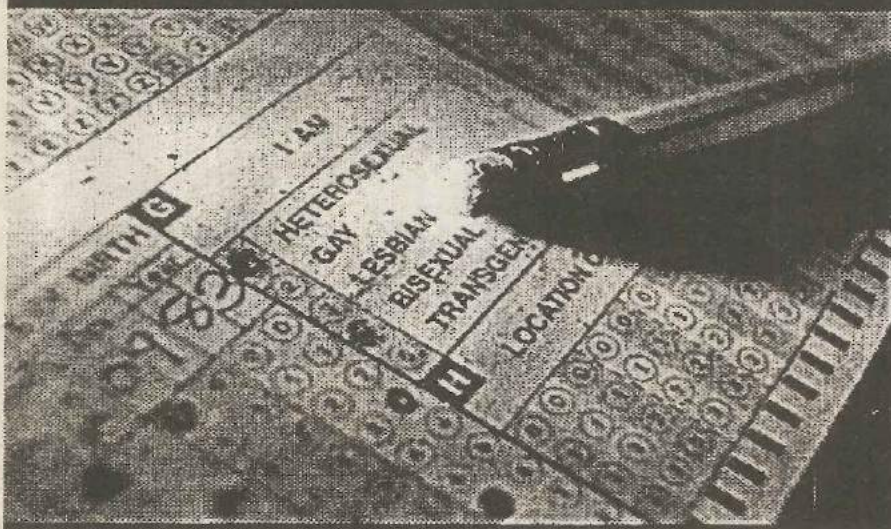
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## Fun on the rocks

### Climbing Climbs in Popularity

**Diane Alford**  
Business Manager

The best rock climbers have sympathy for the mountain. Well, playwright Franz Werfel said it best: "For those who believe, no explanation is necessary, for those who do not believe, no explanation is possible."

At its best, rock climbing is exhilarating and challenging. Since the 1970s its popularity has grown enormously. According to Berkeley's rock climbing web site, about half a million people rock climb each year.

Climbing is dangerous not only for those with little experience, but even for experts. Faulty equipment, unfamiliar rocks, improper clothing, and weather all create risks in climbing.

However, when the sport is approached with caution, with concern for your own and your partner's safety, it is less dangerous than it seems.

The equipment used in climbing has evolved as rapidly as the sport itself. The latest high-tech equipment is worth the cost, if you plan on putting much time and energy into the sport.

According to Turlough Johnston and Madeline Hallden, "Safety costs, and you must be prepared to pay for it."

Even though you buy the most expensive equipment, you must never fully trust it. It is the climber's responsibility to keep the equipment in top condition and to understand how to use it properly.

After you learn how to properly use the equipment, you must learn climbing techniques. According to

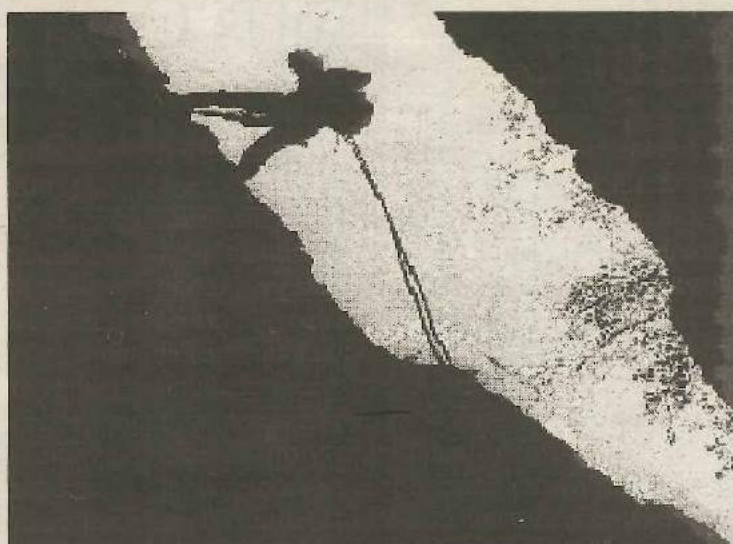
Johnston and Hallden, there are two types of climbing, free climbing and direct-aid.

In free climbing, only hands and feet are used. Ropes are to be used only as a safety device. On the other hand, in direct-aid climbing a piton or an aluminum wedge is attached to a stirrup ladder and used to climb up the rocks, a meter or so at a time.

Basically good climbing technique involves coordinating your eyes, brain, and feet. These must work together as you ascend the rocks.

Don't think that rock climbing is unlike any other sport. Climbers must train. Although the best way to improve is to climb, training will help your performance.

Climbing is more demanding than most sports. The active climber must be flexible, strong,



*Rock climbing is a world wide sport that attracts many experienced climbers to various mountain ranges around the world.*

and have good physical and mental stability and endurance.

Every training session should focus on all these demands of the sport, to enable the climber to better their performance.

The more you climb, the more you want to climb. Even though

each time you climb you experience discomfort, frustration, fear, and pain, you soon become accustomed to it.

Any sport involves risk, rock climbing is no exception. Your climbing safety depends finally on your own good judgment.

## Drill Team Shares the Summer

### Finds Success at Winchester



*1st Row: Angela Albrink, Lindsey Chilcutt, Tahara Robinson, Caitlin Stangel, Colleen Hanrahan, Bridgette Monrow. 2nd Row: Casey Southard, Lisa Taylor, Krystal Cunningham, Meredith Greary, Tia Dandridge, Sarah Powell, Amber Jones, Kristen Chimm. 3rd Row: Syreeta Scarboro, Meghan Bingle, Sarah Coolidge, Jennifer Charlton, Lillian Scavazzo, Tamara Davis, Jeannie Beniek.*

**Bess Anna Carter**  
Wire Reporter

This past summer, the West Potomac Drill Team attended a summer camp run by the Eastern Dance Association. It was held at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia and ran from August 11-15.

At the camp, the girls learned several dances and routines. The different categories of dance were: pom, jazz, funk, and kick. The

team won over 30 awards, some being individual and some for the entire group. They also did well in drill-down and military commands.

Senior Caitlin Stangel, senior Tahara Robinson and junior Lindsey Chilcutt were all nominated for best all around dancers.

Five schools attended this camp. It was a very supportive environment. "The performances were not really competitive, but we did really well," explained senior

Caitlin Stangel.

The team came out of the camp with many new ideas for music and dance.

"We learned many dances that were helpful for the season" said junior Kristen Chimm when asked about what was taken away from the camp.

Not only did the team learn a lot of new routines and win awards, but, "the team came together and bonded," said senior Tahara Robinson.

**Thomasina Moon**  
Focus Editor

"She is outgoing, athletic, funny and stupid in a good way," said long-time friend, junior Racheal Newman.

Senior Tyesa Collins has been athletically inclined since the age of nine. She runs fast and steps with aggression and energy.

"I love performing in front of people and showing off what I am really good at," said Collins.

Collins, the captain of the West Potomac Step Team, also is a member of her church step team. To come up with steps for both teams, Collins either watches tapes of other step teams or makes them up herself. Collins commented, "I basically step as I act—I just go with the flow."

This athletic sensation is also a part of West Potomac's JROTC Drill Team. "Hopefully I will make the Raider Team," said Collins.

The Raider Team is a team that does drills, looks good in uniform and are very performance oriented.

Collins has participated in

many competitions and shows with JROTC Drill Team as well as with both Step Teams. She is proud to have placed in multiple categories.

Senior Sayma Saleem said, "Throughout the past few years in which I've known Tyesa, I would describe her as hilarious, honest and blunt. That makes her the cool person she is."

Collins said, "I really don't have a role model, but if I had one it would be someone who is independent, reliable, strong-willed, and a very kind and loving person."

Better known as "Taz," Collins compares herself to this Looney Tunes character. She said, "I don't let anybody get in my way of getting things done."



*Diane Alford*

*Collins chats at lunch.*



## In the Numbers

6  
number of basketball teams at West Potomac

8  
number of runners from the cross country team who went to states

9  
years since West Potomac football has had a perfect season

14  
number of weight classes in a wrestling match

17:37  
time ran by Megan Hoffman to break West Potomac school record

20  
number of laps of the pool required for the 500 yard freestyle event in a swim meet

## Girls Cross Country Picks Up The Pace

Carrie Weaver  
Focus Editor  
Rebecca Griffith  
Wire Reporter

Warming up with a one-mile run, stretching, running three more miles and sprinting six two-hundreds is an easy day for members of West Potomac's cross-country team.

The team just finished their most successful season since the girls made it to the State Championship in 1994.

Coach Don Beeby commented, "This team has definitely surpassed all expectations we had for them."

The team was strong this year. Members of the varsity changed many times through the season, following time trials on September 3, the varsity included seniors Rebecca Griffith, Brianne Hoffman and Carrie Weaver; juniors Amanda Williams and Margaret Chadbourne; sophomore Erin West; and freshman Meghan Hoffman.

Senior Kelly Luhring, junior Emily Vietti, and sophomores Katie Storck and Leah Fredrickson were some of the runners who later earned positions on varsity.

At the Patriot District meet held at Burke Lake Park, the girls varsity placed fourth of thirty-two



Here after the state meet West Potomac's Varsity Cross Country team poses for a picture. From left: Katie Storck, Leah Frederickson, Amanda Williams, Carrie Weaver, Meagan Hoffman, Brianne Hoffman, Erin West, and Rebecca Griffith

teams, and advanced to the Regional competition. Standouts were freshman Meghan Hoffman, who broke the West Potomac girls record and placed third, and Griffith, who placed tenth.

The following week, the girls placed fourth in the Regional

Championship, qualifying them for the team's first State Championship berth in four years. Once again, Hoffman placed third. Griffith placed fifteenth. Other outstanding performances were turned in by Williams, Brianne Hoffman, Storck, and

Fredrickson.

The State competition, held in The Plains, Virginia, proved to be a challenging course, but the team pulled out a ninth place team finish. Meghan Hoffman made first team All-State with a sixth place finish.

## The Scoop: Fall Sports Go Out With A Bang

### Field Hockey

West Potomac Field Hockey finished their season with a record 8-7-2. They lost in the first round of the regional tournament to Thomas Jefferson by a score of 1-0.

The team was led by first team all-region forward, sophomore Katie Beal. Others receiving honors were first team all-district, senior Kelly Hesaltine; second-team all-district, sophomore Rachel Clement; and juniors Michelle San Pedro and Erin Sixsmith.

The team could be more successful next year. The juniors who have led this team will be returning as seniors, with the taste of victory and a will to win.

"We had graduated ten seniors and had two knee injuries," Coach Carol Horton said. "So we moved a lot of players up to varsity and they did an excellent job. Almost

everybody will be back next year and with some of the stronger players from JV we expect an excellent season. We will miss the four seniors that are graduating, because they were the key to our defense this year."

### Cheerleading

The 1998 cheerleading season started off with a new Varsity coach Shawnice Wright. Wright, along with JV coach Kristin Shuford, helped create a competition routine.

The competition squad included the varsity cheerleaders and four JV cheerleaders.

The cheerleaders suffered many injuries and had very little time to get ready for the season.

The cheerleaders recently performed at Hayfield.

## Fall Sports Awards

### Scholar Athletes

Boy: Corey Umstead

Girl: Rebecca Griffith

### Boys Cross Country

MVP: Casey Reardon

Coaches: Chris Akstin

### Girls Cross Country

MVP: Meghan Hoffman

Coaches: Rebecca Griffith

### Varsity Field Hockey

MVP: Kelly Hesaltine

Coaches: Patricia Olsen

### JV Field Hockey

Coaches: Caroline Denton

### JV Football

Coaches: Chris Burton

### Freshman Football

Coaches: Cole Smith

### Golf

MVP: Bubba Sixsmith

Coaches: Nick Mason

### Girls Tennis

MVP: Meredith Mathis

Coaches: Kathryn Irby