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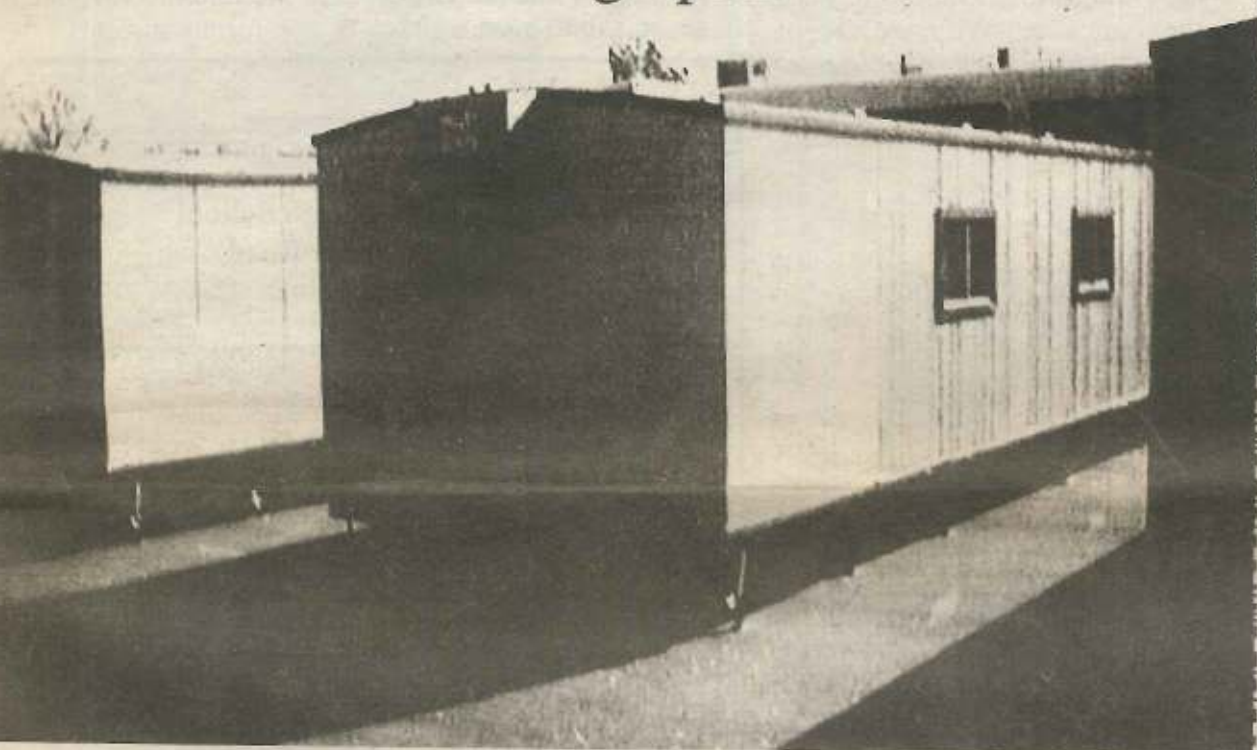
Wire

West Potomac High School
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News, Views and Entertainment

Trailers and equipment to arrive April 1 Students and Teachers Anticipate Moving; Some Will Lose Parking Spots



As renovation begins, the senior parking will be dedicated to contractor parking.

Jameson Penn

Sarah Ashton
Editor In Chief

The trailers have arrived at West Potomac and classes will move into them no later than April 1. Classes will be moved into these trailers to clear building areas during renovation. Preparation for construction has officially begun. Soon teachers and students will be moved from classes in left Quander, and some students will lose parking spaces.

A controversy between contractors and school administrators concerning where equipment will be kept during the period of construction has been tentatively settled. According to Principal Carma Norman, the county requested that contractors be given 100 parking spaces for their workers and equipment. The contractors would prefer those spaces be in the parking lot in front of Springbank, commonly known as the "senior parking lot." According to Norman, the contractors feel this is non-negotiable.

Losing 100 parking spaces to construction will be a difficult adjustment for many West Potomac students who drive. According to Security Administrator Cig Howerton, 102 student spaces are available to students at this time and 235 of those spaces have been paid for. If the administration finds it necessary to take away 100 spots, which seems inevitable right now, they will have to refund fees to 33 drivers. A process for determining which students are allowed and which are not allowed to park on school grounds has not yet been established. Security Administrator, Ms. Betty Sixsmith, stated that spots will be granted on a priority basis. For example, students with jobs and athletes who need to stay late after school may be given

priority.

The administration continues struggling with the problem of where to put everything and everyone when construction in left Quander begins. Currently, the computers for the math classes are in the left wing of Quander. They will have to be moved to a classroom in right Quander. The exact location has not been determined.

What is known for sure though, is that all of the lockers and the cafeteria in left Quander will be emptied by April 1st.

The first areas to be renovated will be parts of Gunston and the entire left wing of Quander. This means that teachers and students in those areas will be the first to move to trailers. Also it means that students will be short one cafeteria and a lot of lockers.

According to Norman, a difficult locker situation could be avoided. It is possible that all of the students with lockers located in left Quander will have new lockers assigned in Springbank. At this writing, the administration does not know though if there are enough empty lockers in Springbank to replace those in left Quander.

No definite plans have been made as to what the school will do without the third cafeteria. According to Norman, the school is leaning towards allowing students to eat outdoors. Leniency also will have to be given, so that students may eat in the hallways of Quander and Gunston. Trash in the buildings has been an issue among the faculty and administration in past years whenever students have been allowed to eat outside the cafeterias.

"We have to be flexible though," said Norman. "Teachers are concerned about trash, but when it's all over the school will be like new."

Ice is Back! pg. 11



SAC Picks Up the Pace; Tackles Ambitious Agenda

Dan Schaffner
Copy Editor

The Student Advisory Council (SAC), which serves as a students' representative committee to the Fairfax County School Board, has set its schedule for the 1998-99 school year.

According to Micah Schwartz, the school's SAC chair person and West Potomac's representative to the county SAC, the council has pledged to work on three issues during the school year, student evaluation of teachers, preparation for the Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests, and reducing violence in schools. The student-run organization also is working on cutting down on teenage smoking in schools.

The SAC currently is working on a proposal for student evaluation of teachers that will be presented to the school board soon. The program, known as Student Feedback to Teachers, would allow students to evaluate their teachers through a survey given to students at the end of each school year. According to Student Feedback Committee Chairperson Mariatta Squire, the aim of the program is to give student feedback to teachers on how well they're doing their job, in an attempt to improve the learning environment.

If everything moves swiftly, a school board vote on the proposal could take place as early as this month.

According to Schwartz, area and county SAC committees currently are working on proposals for creating better preparation for SOL tests and cutting down on violence in school.

On December 17 the SAC was visited by members of the School Health Advisory Committee. With help from the SAC, the committee is hoping to cut down on smoking in school.

Each school in the county sends five students to county and area SAC meetings. West Potomac is represented by Micah Schwartz, Caitlin Stangel, Nick Parker, Lisa Keller, and Joann Sheen. The SAC sponsor for West Potomac is Ms. Joan Reynolds.

Inside

Girls basketball team returns with experience, but only two seniors. pg. 29



West Potomac Students Crack Down; Teachers Light Up

To get that last desperate drag, students defy authority by ducking into bathrooms or sneaking into the parking lots. "If you get caught," said Security Administrator Mr. Cig Howerton, "You pay the price."

The price tag students pay is one day of AIA for a first offense, two days for a second offense, and so on. Of course, the long term costs are much greater. Bad breath, nagging cough, yellow-stained teeth, emphysema, heart disease, lung cancer — all thanks to smoking.

It has been decades since high schools had smoking

lounges and designated smoking areas for students. Since those days, schools across the country have implemented strict anti-smoking rules for students. West Potomac has been no exception. Students though have designated their own unofficial smoking areas.

Nowadays, some teachers play the same game as their nicotine-addicted pupils; tramping off to their designated smoking areas to get that chemical kick. What message is this sending to the students?

It is understandable that students are punished for

smoking on school grounds. Students are minors. Teachers are older and theoretic-



cally understand the consequences associated with smoking. With the recent "life long learning" movement seen in increased involvement in Fairfax County

night schools, students no longer can be conveniently pigeonholed as youths.

Just last year, a man violated the Students Rights and Responsibilities when he lit up a cigarette on school grounds. He was not a minor. In fact, he was 35 and taking county courses at night. This particular case brought into question whether it was fair that students must obey a state law that teachers can fudge.

Assistant Principal Doris Evens stated: "This school is

the workplace of the teachers; they are allowed to exercise their rights under the law."

Reasonably, administrators are attempting to deter students from smoking. Thanks to the hypocrisy of the faculty—yes, students—no rule, a problem arises. A hierarchical battle of "Us versus Them" arises which, in the long run, is not beneficial to anyone in anyway.

Teachers might realize that they are role-models, like it or not, for the students.

Teachers Smoking On School Grounds: Should It Be Allowed?



"No, because it is illegal to have tobacco on school grounds."

-Mr. Dennis Day
Security Administrator

"No, it sets a bad example for the students."

-Ms. Inez Bryant
Assistant Principal

"If a teacher wants to take their life in their own hands, it's their choice. But students should not be able to smoke on school grounds."

-Mr Don Beeby
Social Studies Teacher



"If it's good for the goose, it's good for the gander. There's no smoking on school grounds."

-Cig Howerton
Security Administrator



"I feel it's best that teachers and students have the same rules."

-Jeanne Bohlin
Guidance Counselor

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.

Acting black, acting white

Racial Stereotypes Persist Among Students and Their Peers

Derick Kirksey

Wire Reporter

I have been told that I "act white," and I wanted to know what "acting white" means. I also wanted to know what "acting black" means, to know how I am seen by those who don't know me personally. To find this information, I interviewed West Potomac students.

My peers told me the clothing I wear, clothes from Abercrombie & Fitch, Banana Republic, and Structure, are white brands. I was told, though that there is more to dressing black or white than just the brand. For instance, you can't act white by just wearing Nautica or Tommy Hilfiger. Everyone wears those clothes.

The way you wear the clothes is acting black or white. West Potomac students have labeled certain styles as "preppy."

The preppy style includes wearing khakis with tucked-in polo shirts and a belt. "Black fashion" is labeled "ghetto." It includes big, baggy jeans that hang off your butt, and big shirts that drape your body. This style is usually manufactured by Fubu, Damani Dada, Phat Farm, and Mecca. Ghetto style includes wearing new Timberlands.

One person observed that individuals dressing in this style may be color-coordinated from head to toe.

It was implied, choosing a more challenging curriculum is acting white, and taking the easy way out is acting black.

Clothing isn't the only factor used in labeling a person. I was told slang is more commonly used in conversation by black students. I don't use a lot of slang when I hold conversations, and so I am seen as acting white.

Many people considered slang to be Ebonics, which is true only to a small degree. Ebonics is a developed dialect. Slang is just popular jargon. Very few speak

Ebonics, but many use slang.

The stereotype is that using slang is acting black, and to act white, a person needs to speak "correctly," or so I was told by students.

According to my peers, taking GT and AP classes is another "white thang." In other words, it was implied, choosing a more challenging curriculum is acting white, and taking the easy way out is acting black.

A few of the black students I talked to told me that it's simply more common for white people to possess "book smarts" and for



black people to possess "street smarts." What color are people who possess both?

West Potomac students also say music choices can determine if you are acting black or white. You are acting black if you prefer the music of Wu-Tang, R. Kelly, Master P, and Xscape. If you would rather hear Alan Jackson, Sarah McLachlan, Everclear, and R.E.M., you are acting white.

Hunting, hockey, and lacrosse are considered white sports. Because white people dominate these sports, it is often assumed that one must want to be white to take part in them.

Some of the greatest football and basketball players are black. Why is it though that anyone can play these sports and not be accused of acting black?

Attitude also is a big factor in judging whether someone is acting black or white. Those acting black have a "ghetto attitude," I was told. Acting black involves a lack of respect for authority, a lack of courtesy, and generally not caring.

Believe it or not, this is what students, black and white, have said: You are acting black if you draw attention to yourself by being obnoxiously loud. If you make goals and apply yourself to things, you are acting white.

I also was told that you are acting white when you think you are above everyone else. Terms for such people are "shay," "oreo" and "wanna-be."

I was also told that you are acting white when you think you are above everyone else

I have traced my roots. I am black, white and also Native American. Just because I look one way doesn't necessarily mean that my behavior and beliefs must follow social stereotypes.

I try not to label myself as black just because I look black. By calling myself black, I am denouncing my ancestors that were

from Europe, and those who were native to this land. I can't act black or white; neither can anyone else.

Black people were not accepted by society for a long time. For two hundred years, there Black Americans were enslaved in this country. They were not legally equal members of society until the 1960s. However, for the past thirty years, blacks and whites have been together; working together and living together.

With all of the advances in our social structure, one would think that we could rise above simple generalizations that can cripple our growth. It is obvious by roaming the halls that some of our peers do not believe that everyone is equal.

It is nothing new that everyone is different, but these differences should not be cripple us. Because we have a diverse society within the walls of West Potomac, we should embrace the idea that many people before us have made a lot of improvements so that we all could be together. We should not concentrate our efforts in the devaluing of any individual's self worth.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Many teens these days are trying to fit in. They worry too much about not being cool. Some teens wear something because its expensive: "Ooh this is Nike," "It's Tommy Hilfiger," "It cost \$150," "It's in style." You should wear something because you like it. Some \$50 shirts are ugly. Sometimes a \$4.00 shirt is even better than a \$50 shirt. You should buy things because you like them, not because they are cool. Teens sometimes do things because others do it. If somebody steals, they will also. One excuse is, "Well, everybody does it." Who cares if everybody else does it. Do it because its right. Other teens say things because they think they are cool phrases. "Da bomb," "That's ma dog," "You be lunching." Say things because you like them, not because people think they are cool. What I mean is just be yourself. If you always do what other people do, you won't get anywhere. If you are yourself, you'll be amazed the places you will see. That's why we are all different, because if we do what everybody does, we will look like a tape recorder playing over and over again.

Roberto Carlos Martinez
Freshmen

Dear Editor,

I found the editorial on PDAs offensive and stereotypical. I understand that there are couples at West Potomac who take their affection too far, but most do not. For some people, school is the only place where they are able to see each other. This may be due to sports, jobs or parents. Whatever the reason, people have no right to condemn a situation they know nothing about. This is unfair to couples who are only trying to spend time with each other, in the only environment possible. The statement regarding lunchtime, "The couple departs for the last and final period of the day. That is until they can spend the rest of the day together," is a rash generalization. It is the same as saying, "All white people are rich." It is completely absurd and absolutely untrue. I resent the fact that our school has sunk to the level of hassling couples. If you don't want to see it, don't look.

A junior
(Name withheld by request)

The Wire encourages students, teachers and parents to respond to articles in the newspaper with letters to the editor.

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Fashion Show "Mercury Rising" Promises To Be Hottest Yet In West Potomac History



Fashion show participants practice their routine in the halls of Gunston

Faye Rausch

Entertainment Editor

Turn up the heat and get ready for this year's annual fashion show, put on and organized by West Potomac's Advanced Fashion

Marketing class. This year the theme, "Mercury Rising," describes what this year's two fashion show editors really want, a HOT HOT HOT show.

This year, try-outs were held in mid-January, and out of one hundred and eighty-two people that

tried out, ninety females and fifteen males were chosen to represent the different stores being represented. The models were chosen by a series of judges based on poise, smile, and eye contact while they were on stage.

After the models were chosen, they were split up into groups, and given a store name and a piece of music to work with. The groups will work together to choreograph routines to perform during the show, working almost everyday after school.

Last year, the team effort paid off. Over nine-hundred people attended last year's show, and this year the show coordinators expect at least that good a turnout.

Producing the fashion show is not easy. Seniors Kelly Hesaltine agreed with Patricia Olsen, "It is a great experience working with others, and it makes people realize how much time is put into it, you really can appreciate it more when your in it, rather than being in the

audience."

Planning and producing the fashion show is a huge amount of work. Every student in Advanced Fashion Marketing has a specific job, and all are able to apply and interview for the position of Fashion Show Director. This year two were chosen to be the "One in Charge," Sarah Powell and Alanna Cassidy.

Every aspect of the show is student run. All of the students pick the models, the stores and the clothing. They choreograph the scenes, pick the music, design the program, tickets, decorations, and the fashion show T-Shirt.

Everything is run by the Advanced Fashion Marketing students, and the night of the show, it's all up to them.

Ms. Wenzel, the Fashion Marketing teacher said, "The night of the show, I am just an audience member. If a problem arises, they must fix it themselves. I have complete confidence in them.

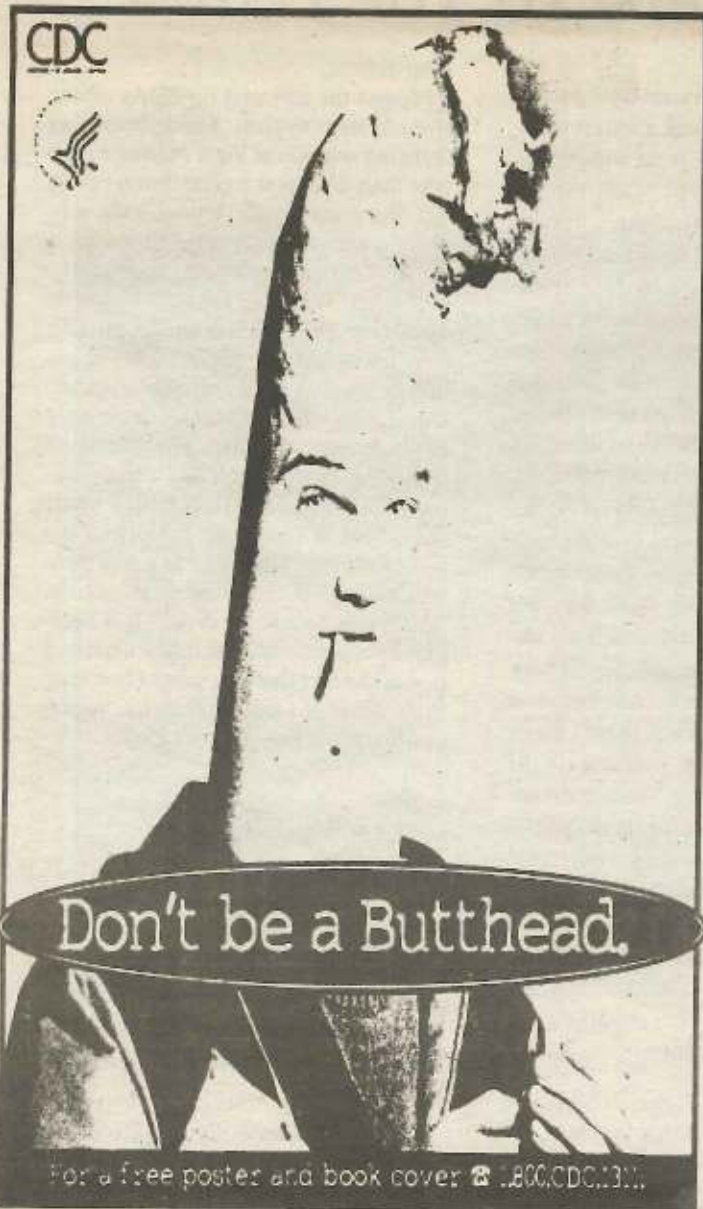
This is a huge responsibility, and I know they will live up to my expectations."

Although every year we have a fashion show, and have similar stores each time, there are always different styles of clothing, and a different sort of presentation of the show.

"Hopefully this year's fashion show will be better than any other. We put a lot of time and effort into our planning and have tried to come up with new and unique ideas to make the show stand out from the others," said Powell.

The fashion classes have helped every student to meet the demands of such a difficult task. "I think that fashion is an educational class and has helped me direct and plan the fashion show," states Cassidy.

If you are interested in attending this year's fashion show, it will be held on February 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the main auditorium. Tickets are \$5.00 during pre-sales, and are \$7.00 at the door.



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S.J. Thomas Writes and Directs One-Act *The Most Important Thing*

Elissa Milanowski

Features Editor

On February 4-6, West Potomac's Drama Department presented A Winter Night of One Acts, in Kogelman Theater. One of the plays was not only directed by, but also written by a student, senior S.J. Thomas.

The Most Important Thing was an emotional piece about two young lovers who are torn apart when one is drafted into war. The play takes place in the present, in Fairfax County, Virginia. This touching act was written and directed by West Potomac's Thomas.

There were a total of 6 acts, each of which was approximately 30-40 minutes long. The one-acts included, *Bury the Dead*, *Sorry Wrong Number*, *The Actors Nightmare*, *Tuckers Ridge* and *The Most Important Thing*.

Each of the acts was directed by a student, with the exception of *Bury the Dead*, directed by drama teacher Mrs. Kathie McCormally.

Most of the actors enjoyed being directed by a peer. Sophomore Victoria Freed said, "I enjoyed having a student director, because it was a new experience."



Elissa Milanowski
Jenny Charlton prepares for her role as Katherine Driscoll in *Bury the Dead*

Elissa Milanowski



Sophomore Autumn Brown knows that her dreams of a future on Broadway will demand rigorous practice. Brown won a Shakespearian monologue contest and will go on to compete at advanced levels..

Aspiring Actress Autumn Brown Prepares for Monologue Competition

Sasha Cannon
Features Editor

Recently the theatre department at West Potomac has been involved in a number of competitions. The Shakespearian monologues, being one of many multi-level in-school competitions has attracted many students.

Aspiring Broadway star, sophomore Autumn Brown, took first place in West Potomac's competition which allowed her to continue onto West Springfield's competition. Against talented Shakespearian actors from around the county, Brown became one of eight finalists from her district. Next she will go on to compete at the Folger Shakespeare Library on February 25, 1999.

Visiting and competing at the Folger Library will be very rewarding and a prestigious experience to have. Winners of the Folger Library competition will continue on to New York, and the winner from that competition will receive a three-week study in Oxford, England.

Brown, a theatre student and actress, has again awed her audience. "At first I didn't know if I wanted to do it," she stated, "But then I figured, I might as well give it a try."

Brown previously memorized many lines from *A Midsummer Nights Dream* in preparation for a

leading role in the performance at West Potomac this past Fall. With very little practice, Brown showed up at the try-out and won the part.

"I believe that I have a very strong understanding of Shakespearian language, and unlike many other people who performed monologues, I knew what I was talking about," explained Brown.

If anyone has seen Brown in a performance at West Potomac, they will be familiar with her unusual talent. Known as one of the best actresses at West Potomac, Brown went from small roles as townspeople in past performances, to snagging a lead in her most recent.

"I believe that I have a very strong understanding of Shakespearian language, and unlike many other people who performed monologues, I knew what I was talking about."

Brown uses a very outspoken, mature tone, which reflects her

own audacious personality.

She has a considerable knowledge for theatre styles and types of performance. Being well-versed in not only Shakespeare, but modern acting as well, it's no wonder that it came so easily to her to modernize Shakespearian theatre for her performance in *Midsummer Nights Dream* in Manhattan.

For Brown, acting seems to come easily. However, it requires a lot of practicing, memorizing, and hard work. Although it is tough to be a wonderful performer, Brown knows that she must get practice now, if she plans to follow her dreams into a future in acting on Broadway.

Many people, when asked, remembered attending *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, and really enjoyed Autumn's performance, as well as the other dedicated actors at West Potomac. Many talented theatre students take their chances and audition for the performances at West Potomac, but only few are good enough to be chosen and get a large role.

"It is a very important part of my life, as well as my future," states Brown. Balancing school, acting, and other after school activities, Brown maintains very good grades. This is one intelligent and extremely talented actress to look out for. Brown will most likely be found performing in many things here at West Potomac in the future.

New Club in the Swing

Elissa Milanowski
Features Editor

Swing dancing became a popular pastime in America more than 60 years ago. Although this type of dancing gradually faded out over the years, today it is making a comeback. This year, West Potomac is sponsoring its first ever Swing Club. The club will give all of those "swingers" out there a chance to dance their hearts out.

The Swing Club is sponsored by science teachers, Ms. Christine Cuchinello and Ms. Catherine Gardener. No dancing experience is needed, and it's not too late to join. The club started a few weeks ago in Left Quander Cafeteria, and a demonstration dance was given by Nick Parker and Karen Chin. More than twenty students attended this meeting. The club's officers are President Nick Parker, Vice President Mike Wilson, Treasurer Karen Chin, and Secretary Ranah Suh. Meetings will usually be held on Wednesdays.

President of the swing Club, senior Nick Parker, learned to dance by sitting in on his parents' jitterbug lessons, taking cotillion, and teaching dance for six years. Junior Chris Haller said "I got interested in swing by watching movies



and from music."

Many people have also become interested in Swing as a result of listening to popular swing bands. Some of the most popular swing bands are Squirrel Nut Zippers, Brian Setzer Orchestra, Cherry Poppin' Daddies and Indigo Swing. The Squirrel Nut Zippers are North Carolina natives who have sold 1/2 million albums and have also contributed to the popularity of swing.

This club is a welcomed addition to West Potomac and will most likely grow throughout the years as swing becomes more popular.



photographs by Christine Burns

Nick Parker and Karen Chin practice swing dancing in preparation for the fashion show.

WP Flautist Flaunts Her Stuff in France, Meets Rampal

Derick Kirksey
Wire Reporter

A lesson called a Master Class, instructed by world-renown flautist, Jean-Pierre Rampal, proved advantageous for West Potomac's own flautist, senior, Julie Currenton. Being credited as the best flute player ever, a flute lesson with Rampal would be comparable to a private boxing lesson with Evander Holyfield. Currenton's extraordinary abilities carried her through the class and into Europe.

The Master Class, which was her bridge to France, is a twenty-minute session in which a musician is offered guidance with a musical piece. At the Master Class, Currenton played a piece called *Nielson's Concerto* and was the only one to play through a piece without being interrupted for criticism from Rampal. Rampal was so impressed with Currenton, he explained to her teacher that she is above her level and suggested that she enter his International Competition.

"He thought that I should enter his competition thinking I would be competition for everybody else," Currenton explained.

West Potomac Band Director, Steve Rice exclaimed, "I think it's amazing that a high school kid was even invited!" All of the other competitors had to be a certain age and have a certain number of years of playing experience, on top of sending in applications and resumes, which had to be reviewed before they were invited to Paris. Having been invited by Rampal himself, Currenton was not obligated to meet any requirements or send in any of the paperwork, but she sent them all in anyway. Like all of the other competitors, however, she had to pay for all expenses that were needed to compete (music, airfare, lodging, etc.). For her, the competition came with a nearly \$2,000 price tag.

Over the summer, she was informed which pieces she would have to prepare for the competition. Currenton then bought the music and spent countless hours practicing rigorously to get a more perfect sound out of her flute. Since this is a competition that musicians use to establish a name, which comes with a prize of 70,000 francs and a new flute to the winner, it's understandable that she would work so hard to do well.

After working hard for four months, Julie and her chaperone packed their bags and

caught a flight to Paris. Julie was the only competitor to represent the United States. She also was the only one competing who had not yet reached the age of 30.

All her practicing was to pay off at the world-famous Paris Conservatory where the competition took place. She was one of 78 people to play three solo pieces in the first round. However, although Currenton is an extraordinary talent, considering how long she has been playing, she was outmatched in the area of experience.

"[Rampal] thought that I should enter his competition thinking I would be competition for everybody else."

If Currenton had advanced to the second round she would have played four solo pieces. Advancing here into the third round, the judges would have had her and the four other finalists play a concerto. If she had advanced into this round, she would have been guaranteed a prize.

The competition was set up as a recital. Currenton played in front of a large audience, which included other competitors, people in from off the streets of Paris, and the nine judges. The nine judges were Rampal and eight of his colleagues. Six of them were French, one was American, and one was Japanese.

When Julie performed the first round, she was able to play one piece from memory, *Caprice #4* by Paganinni, but had to use the score for the other two solos, *CPE Bach Sonata* by J.S. Bach and *Plain Song* by Robert Aitken. It wasn't required that she play from memory so it didn't hurt her chances of advancing to the next round.

Unfortunately, she did not advance into the second round. She was one of 58 people that didn't go on. She believes it was because she wasn't as experienced as the other twenty who did advance, and feels that her playing style wasn't accepted either.

Although she didn't win, she said, "It was a good experience, I'm glad I got to go." When asked what she enjoyed most Currenton stated, "Just listening to people who are older than me and getting different styles and seeing if I'm competition for anyone out there."



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Features

Sasha Cannon Sets Girls' e-zine Trend

Sasha Cannon
Sports Editor

It was harder than I had imagined. When I first began writing GalaxyGirlz, an "e-zine," or magazine sent through e-mail, in July, I had plenty of free time thanks to summer vacation. With the help of my co-editor and Best friend, Brooke Leitch, it began with great content and came out often. Now, the stress of school, sports, and other social activities leaves very little time to publish an entire magazine each month.

GalaxyGirlz is read by many girls ages 12-18. Although it is free to subscribe to the e-zine, recently many sponsors have offered to donate money per issue. At 50 cents per subscriber, with over 1,000 girls subscribing, there is quite a bit of potential profit. Sponsored by many companies making girls' accessories, such as Alloy, Steve Madden, Delia's, Girlfriends L.A., MoXieGirl, Avon, Hard Candy Cosmetics and many more less popular companies, GalaxyGirlz holds many contests for its subscribers. Contests, being one of the most popular features in the magazine, draw a lot of girls to subscribe in hopes of winning prizes from their favorite companies.

Initially, it was very hard to find companies who were interested in sponsoring me. When I first came up with the idea to hold contests within the e-zine, I knew I needed to find a source for prizes. Not many companies were very supportive in the beginning of the process. After all, I was a random teenager asking for free products for this supposed "e-zine."

My very first sponsor, Jane Cosmetics, was very skeptical and required me to send them several back issues of my magazine as well as the subscriber list. Over time though, as companies became informed of my e-zine and its popularity, I began getting many offers and for the most part, anyone I asked would agree.

Although it took many letters, phone calls, e-mails and long e-mail conversations to company officials, it was definitely worth it.

GalaxyGirlz includes many articles, and much like any other magazine for teenage girls, contains advice, fashion, beauty, real life stories, sports, entertainment, and other related topics of interest.

Lately, the co-editor has not had the time to participate in the production of the magazine, so publishing 5 pages via e-mail, equivalent to 30 normal pages in a magazine, has become a time-consuming task.

Over 30 girls at West Potomac subscribe to my e-zine. Some of them write regular columns and some just enjoy receiving it through e-mail monthly. As far as the new trend set with e-zines, many more can now be found on the web. There are probably over 500 different e-zines out now, mine

being the very first.

GalaxyGirlz is currently being reviewed for various awards as well as larger sponsorships. Large companies, such as Clinique and Estee Lauder, are considering sponsoring GalaxyGirlz. If my e-zine is accepted as the first e-zine to be sponsored by such well-known companies it will be quite a privilege.

GalaxyGirlz has been a great learning experience and chance to improve my journalism skills, but it also has been

First Person

a great chance to communicate with, as well as meet many people.

I have been able to act as a big sister to some younger subscribers, a source of advice and confidentiality to older girls, a role-model to aspiring magazine editors, as well as a friend to all of the girls who subscribe.

Not only do I communicate with many people my own age, but I get materials from many adults for sponsorships, chatrooms, webpage space, as well as permission to publish everything. There also are many adults incorporated in each issue of GalaxyGirlz, from physicians, to psychologists, to adults who share their life stories and experiences.

Candie4evr, my screen name on AOL, has become a well-known name to many girls across the United States. I've gotten many great comments from different girls on the separate articles, my ideas, as well as the excitement of receiving my magazine altogether.

I have even heard from some girls that my e-zine is what they look forward to receiving all month. Especially for several of the younger girls who receive very little e-mail at all, it is very exciting to receive five pages of e-mail all at once.

Other girls, who are not as fortunate and cannot afford to purchase magazines at the newsstand or from subscriptions, use my e-zine as a primary source for advice, entertainment, and a way to express their views.

I cherish all of the new experiences that I've encountered while writing this magazine. In the beginning it was just something I thought would be interesting to try, but as the new trend set in, and many people became devoted readers of GalaxyGirlz, I have come to think of it as a responsibility.

Now, I plan to continue publishing magazines, and I may possibly look into something along those lines in the future.

It is really amazing to know that one teenager from Alexandria, Virginia can influence over 1,000 other teenage minds.

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 experiences should talk to Mr. Stephen Paugh in Room 433, Quander.



Sophomore Sasha Cannon started the first e-mail magazine focused on girl's issues this past July.

New web services Students get Online Help with College Essays

Mark Andraschko
Online Editor

As college application deadlines draw near, applicants are faced with the most dreaded part of the admissions process: the essay. The essays themselves are often broad, which can make finding a starting point difficult. Once written, the essay will have to be edited and reedited and the Internet offers at least one more pair of eyes to read it.

Many students would not trust their essays with the internet, preferring to leave the task of editing to English teachers and parents.

Senior Sam Blacker said, "I wouldn't trust some guy who sits at a computer all day with my essay. I just let my parents check it." The problems with this are that teachers may be too busy with their classes to offer more than a cursory glance at the paper and many parents do not have any sort of formal training and may not know what colleges want in an essay.

The Internet offers a third option. There are many web sites that offer admissions essay help . . . for a

Tidbytes

price. These sites offer many services: help with a starting point, topic, keeping the essay on the question, tips for the writing itself, and of course, editing.

One site, CollegeApps.com (www.collegeapps.com), offers books and videos on how to personalize applications for twenty dollars each. For \$150, they will edit four essays and a resume. Other, more expensive, deals are available at the site that include help with things like financial aid and college selection.

Another site, College Gate (www.collegegate.com), offers over seventy sample essays, both good and bad. They also will assess, edit, and rewrite your essays starting at fifty dollars for essays of 900 words or less and going up to \$170 for those of 3000 words or more. The site offers free guides for topic selection and tips for getting started.

The Cambridge Essay Service (world.std.com/~edit) has similar tips, but has a phone service for immediate, free feedback on one essay that you read over the phone. According to this site, the first essay can be e-mailed to them, edited, and returned for free. A test of this service, however, resulted in no free editing; in fact, there was no reply at all. After the first essay, others will cost one hundred dollars per hour. This time is spent finding a topic and approach, brainstorming over the telephone, and working with a writing coach.

A good essay can be the difference between acceptance and rejection and these sites offer assistance, but it will cost. Although the tips and services may be helpful, it may make more sense to just have a teacher or somebody who knows you do the editing and avoid paying an arm and a leg.

Exploring Arlington's Not Too Common Adventure



The Rio Grande is just one of the well known restaurants down and around Ballston. The indoor/outdoor restaurant is situated right on the main drag through Ballston.

Carrie Weaver
Focus Editor

Located on the corner of Glebe Road and Wilson Boulevard, Ballston is a neighborhood in Arlington, known for its mall and restaurants.

With four levels and over 125 stores, Ballston Common Mall is anchored by department stores such as Hecht's and JCPenny. But the smoke-free shopping mall is not the only highlight of the area.

Ballston, formerly called Virginia Square, is now comprised of apartment complexes and condos with parks and small museums interspersed. It has been rapidly growing the past fifteen years.

Marymount University's Ballston Campus is nestled in the middle of this growing town.

The locale also offers an eclectic array of places to dine. From

barbeque to bistros, from Japanese to Salvadorean cuisines, this neighborhood caters to almost all tastes.

The best gyros and shish-ke-bob in Northern Virginia can be found small restaurants along George Mason Drive, across from the mall.

Many cafes present live music including jazz, rock, rock-a-billy, blues. It is easy to find dancing and pool.

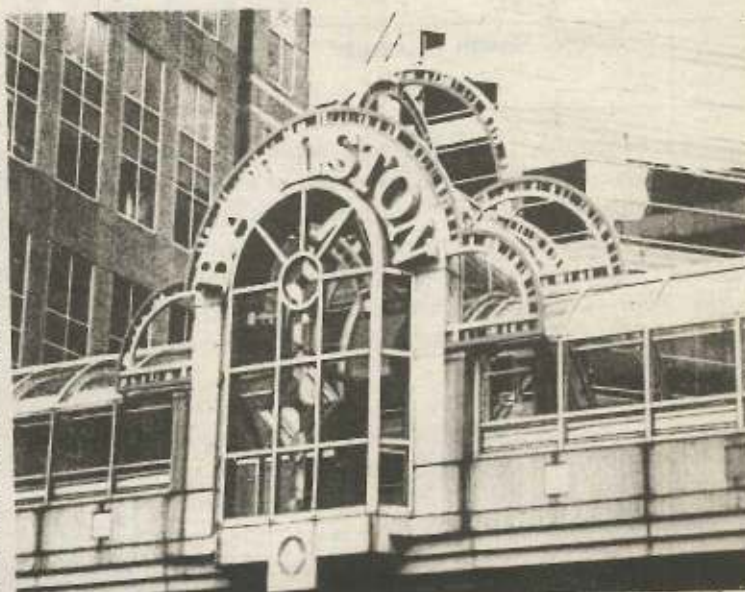
"Dan and Brad's" dinner theatre, on North Stafford Street, offers live theater on Saturday nights. "Murder Upon Request" is now being presented. Reservations are required and can be obtained at (703) 812-5114.

If the arts sate one's tastebuds, Ballston is also home to the Arlington Arts Center, the Arlington Symphony, the Arlington Planetarium, and the Nature Conservancy.

New additions to the Ballston Common Mall include three new restaurants, a 12-screen movie theater, and a 215,000 square-foot commercial office tower. Construction is scheduled for completion in early 1999.

Ballston is a nice place to visit, but increasingly it is a nice place to live, with a sense of community. The Central Library is located on North Quincy Street.

Two Metro stops are nearby, Ballston-MU (only one block away from the mall) and Virginia Square. Rates are reasonable at the many parking garages. Rates at the Ballston Public Parking Garage begin at one dollar for the first three hours. To reach Ballston by car, take the 495 Beltway to Route 66 east or 395 south to exit 7, Glebe Road.



From West Potomac, Ballston Common mall is not much farther than Pentagon City, and it is definitely worth the trip for those who enjoy shop and restaurants.



The area surrounding the mall is a perfect place to plop down and have a coffee or sandwich from any of the little carryouts around the block.



Carpool and Rocklands Grill are happening places to be on Friday and Saturday nights. Carpool only caters to people over 21 after a certain hour, but Rocklands serves up some good barbeque, and if it's before hours one can get in a game or two of pool.

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Meaningful coincidence, For Two Teachers, It is a Small World After All

Mary Robb Teague
News Editor
Carter Chandler
Wire Reporter

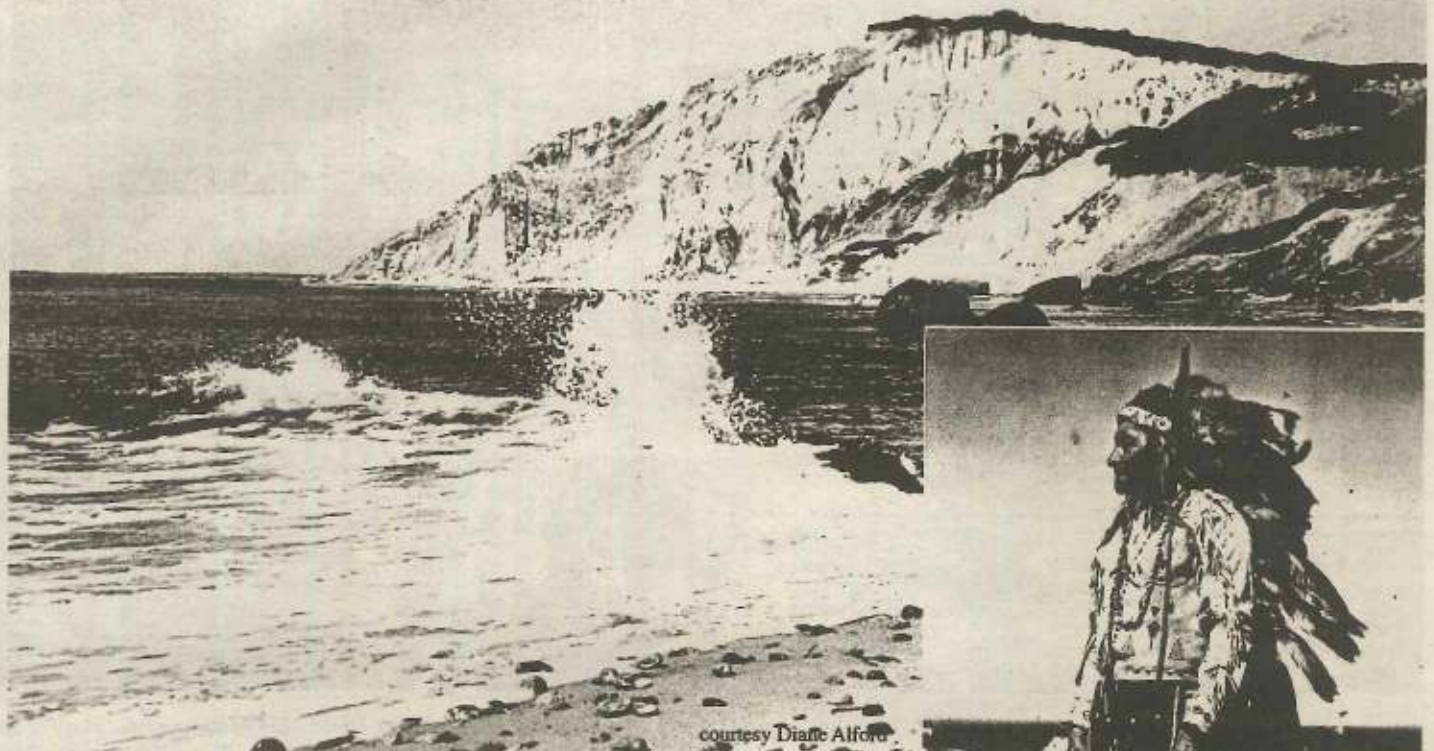
English teacher, Mr. Joe Rose and Physical Education teacher, Mr. Mike Smalley, shared an unusual revelation this past fall.

In 1921, Rose's father, a native of Martha's Vineyard, was born in his parents home. Rose's mother was attended by a family friend, a woman Rose recalls as Mrs. Randolph. Randolph was a Native American, and a niece to Amos Smalley, a locally famous fisherman.

In the nineteenth century, Smalley became known for catching an albino whale off the coast of Massachusetts, in the Georges Fishing Bank. The *Boston Globe* ran an article about Smalley's catch, and upon reading this article, an author, Herman Melville, visited and interviewed Smalley. From this interview, Melville drew initial ideas for what would be the classic, *Moby Dick*. To honor Amos, Melville incorporated an Indian into the story.

Through the generations, the Randolph and Rose families had been very close. Growing up, Rose often heard the story of Amos Smalley and the white whale.

During the past few years, as a teacher at West Potomac, Rose has become friends with PE teacher and football coach, Smalley. This fall, Rose was gathering information



Gay Head Cliffs, overlooking the sea, are a popular attraction for visitors to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

on Native Americans to include in his English curriculum.

While looking through Smalley's maps and pamphlets, the two began discussing where their parents were from, and they discovered that both their fathers were from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

"All of a sudden it was like an explosion went off in my head," said Rose.

They realized Smalley's great aunt, Randolph, had delivered Rose's father.

"Amos Smalley is a part of my heritage, and I've known about Uncle Amos my whole life," said Rose. "The coincidence of that happening is just astronomical."

"It's a small world. Things that happened a long time ago and people that you know now, your paths could have crossed a couple times," said Smalley.



Traditional Gay Head Indian at Martha's Vineyard, nineteenth century.

Poonum Korpe Puts Her Heart into Her Work

Rebecca Griffith
Wire Reporter



Senior Poonum Korpe plays viola in a music room.

Most people would assume that anyone with a 4.04 GPA would have no time to do anything but study. Most people would assume that a person ranked number 4 in the class could only be found at home or in the library. Most people would be wrong about this straight-A student, senior Poonum Korpe.

Not only does Korpe have the fourth highest GPA in the West Potomac senior class and an overwhelming schedule that includes AP biology, AP calculus BC, and AP English literature, but she somehow manages to find time to pursue a broad range of extra-curricular activities.

Korpe is a member of the Ecology Club, Key Club, the National Honor Society, the Debate Team, the French Honor Society, and West Potomac's Sinfonietta, an advanced orchestra group. Many students can claim such an impressive list of activities, but to Poonum Korpe, it is not just a list. These activities are an important part of her life.

She has competed in academic tournaments including the Debate Team's Tournament of Champions, and an "It's Academic" tournament. In the Sinfonietta, she has been playing the viola for eight years. Korpe is a very talented musician and dedicates numerous hours to her music.

In the rest of Korpe's free time, or lack thereof, she is busy taking night classes at NOVA. There she takes physics classes in order to add an AP biology course to her schedule. Poonum also works three times a week at Sherwood Hall Library and is a math tutor for elementary school students.

Korpe loves to challenge herself. She is never satisfied with her life unless she has many commitments. No one would ever find her taking the easy way out. She always works her hardest, and that is why she hopes to have no problem getting into the college of her choice or pursuing her life-long ambition.

According to Korpe, "I think it is easier to apply yourself when you have a goal in mind. I'm doing this work now so it will someday help me reach my goal of becoming a heart surgeon."



Sarah Ashton

No matter the time of year, Great Falls is a wonderful place to spend the day. Even in the depths of winter, the Great Falls' rocks provide an enjoyable place to picnic on a chilling sunny day.

Great Falls a Pleasure in the Winter

Sarah Ashton
Editor-in-Chief

The Potomac River builds up speed and force as it falls over a series of steep, jagged rocks and flows through a narrow gorge. This gorge, is called Mather Gorge, more popularly known as Great Falls.

Great Falls is a park forgotten by many West Potomac students. There are two sides to the falls, accessible by the Maryland and Virginia sides of the Potomac River. Although both sides are similar, they have two different histories. Hidden away in Great Falls, Virginia the park is a beautiful place to visit. It is only a quick trip around the beltway, and a minimal expense for visitors.

The park on the Virginia side is a National Historic Landmark. In 1784, George Washington presided over the Potowmack Canal Co, which was formed to construct a series of five canals to make the Potomac River more navigable. The company built the first river trade route using canals.

Across the river, the C&O Canal was built to follow suit of the Potowmack Canal. The canals were built to bring flour, corn, whiskey, tobacco, furs, iron ore and timber into Washington, D.C. The materials were poled down the river on flatboats from as far away as Cumberland, Maryland, a mar-

ket center in the Allegheny Mountains. The canals were dug because the river was too rough and the falls were too deep to transport boats down the river.

In 1828, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company bought the old Patowmack Canal and linked Washington D.C. to the west with a continuous canal.

In 1966, the National Park Service took over the canal. They named the park on the Maryland side the C&O National Historical Park, and the park on the Virginia side is Great Falls National Park.

The falls are not the only attraction at the park. There is a museum about the history of the park, fifteen miles of trails for hiking, walking and riding horses (for those that own them) and access to the falls below. There are also places along the bike trails where people can come to have a picnic or barbecue.

Fishing is allowed below the falls, but only far enough away from the rough water so that the fisherman are not in danger. Swimming and wading in the water is illegal. However, kyaking is allowed for risk taking visitors. Kyaking on the falls is not recommended for beginners, but advanced kyakers are welcome to wrestle the falls. Advanced kyakers are often seen on the falls and provide excitement for on-looking visitors.

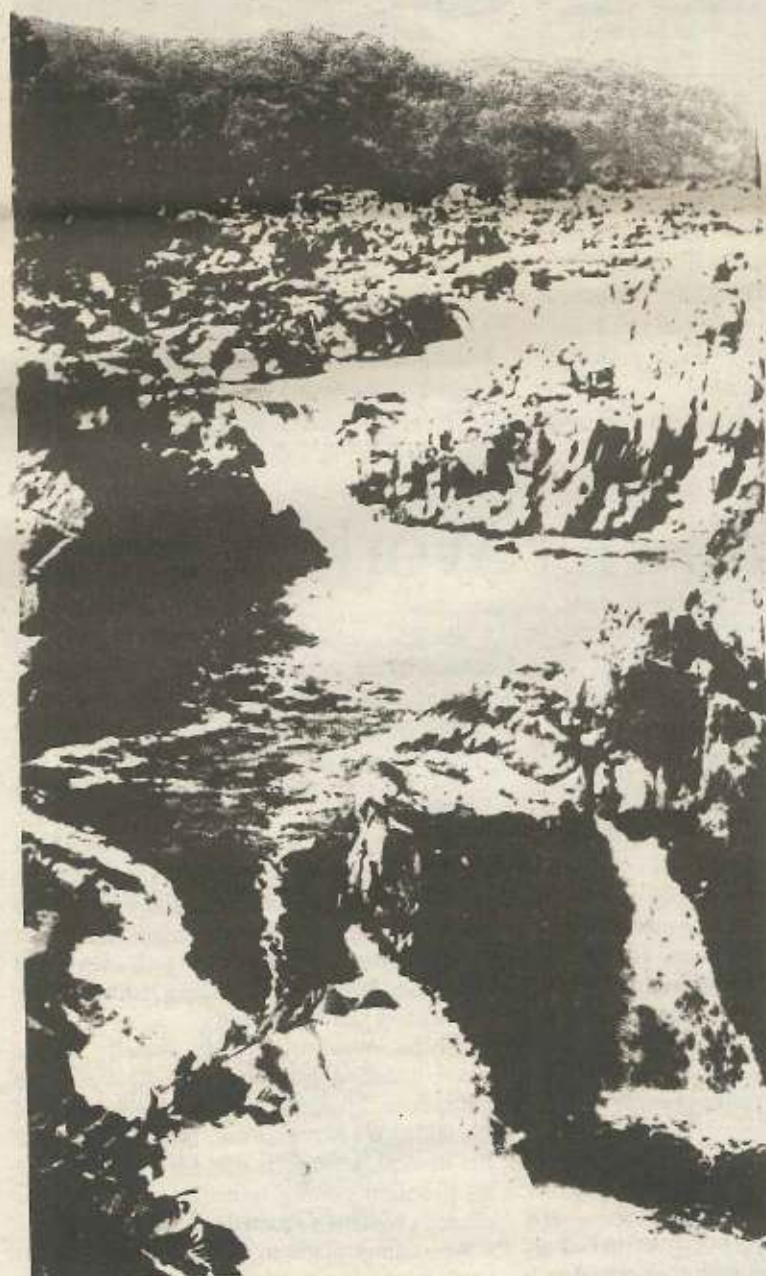
Whitewater boating also is available for experienced boaters.

They are only permitted to enter below the falls, so there is no risk of injury coming down the falls. Rock climbing is a challenging sport enjoyed at the park. There are several good stretches of rock that offer adventure for climbers and a vantage point for those who wish to watch. Climbing the rocks can be very dangerous and rangers advise that only experienced climbers with the proper equipment attempt to climb the rock.

Ranger programs run daily for visitors. They range from 10-45 minutes long and contain information on the park. Attending the ranger program is not required, many visitors give themselves a tour of the park. There are plaques throughout the park that contain information on the history of Great Falls that people can read when they walk down the old canal.

When the falls rise, everyone is in for a great surprise. The falls are very deep, and in the spring when the snow melts the water creeps up over the sides of the rocks and floods the park. The flooding varies every year, but according to a ranger from the park, flooding is often a problem. In the park there is a flood marker that has records of the highest water levels in the past years. The water has climbed to be as high as over 6ft above land.

Great Falls is a beautiful park, open everyday except Christmas Day. It is a perfect place to visit on a nice day when there is nothing exciting going on in the area.



Sarah Ashton

The Potowmack Canal was built so that materials could be transported from Cumberland, Maryland to Washington D.C. on riverboats.

Chorpenning Brings High Expectations to AP Government

Micah Schwartz
Wire Reporter

Whether it is due to his teaching ability, sense of humor, or devotion to the Denver Broncos, government teacher Mr. Pat Chorpenning has quickly become one of West Potomac's most popular teachers.

Chorpenning came to West Potomac at the beginning of the 1997-98 school year as an AP Government teacher. In less than two years, he has become one of the most highly regarded teachers at West Potomac. As senior Pat Corcoran can attest, "Mr. Chorpenning is a great teacher and at the same time a real nice guy."

Chorpenning took over the AP Government course previously taught by Mr. Paul Levy, a holdover from the days of Fort Hunt High School, who had built a reputation at West Potomac as a likable, but hard-nosed, teacher. When Levy retired he insisted that he be able to pick his successor. After meeting and interviewing Chorpenning, Levy made his choice.

In addition to AP Government, Chorpenning teaches regular Government, and a Leadership class. In addition, he cosponsored the Student Government Association (SGA) with Ms. Joan Reynolds.

Chorpenning is interested in SGA becoming more involved in

school activities. "I'm really looking forward to doing more with the SGA this year, beyond just the Homecoming festivities," said Chorpenning.

AP Government is a combination of the college-level course American Government, and either Constitutional Law or Comparative Government. In the Constitutional Law class, students study the

He claims that people are only interested in hearing the scandal and glamour of politicians, a trend he describes as the "Melrose Place-ization" of American politics.

framework of the Constitution and get a chance to look over several Supreme Court cases. In the Comparative Government class, students compare different governments of the world to each other and to the American form of government.

Senior Phil Gardner described AP Government as a course, "that is without a doubt interesting and helpful, but also quite difficult."

Chorpenning claimed that he

wouldn't be doing his job unless he made the course optimally difficult, and said that his expectations for students are "high but not unattainable." Chorpenning said, "I believe students will rise to the teacher's expectations," and then added, with a chuckle, "...if you push them hard enough."

Chorpenning knew when he graduated from George Washington University with a Master's degree in Education that he wanted to teach college-level courses in Government. However, he did not want to do all the research and publishing that college professors are asked to do by their universities. Teaching AP Government at the high school level gives Chorpenning the opportunity to teach a college level course, yet allows him to concentrate on teaching rather than publishing.

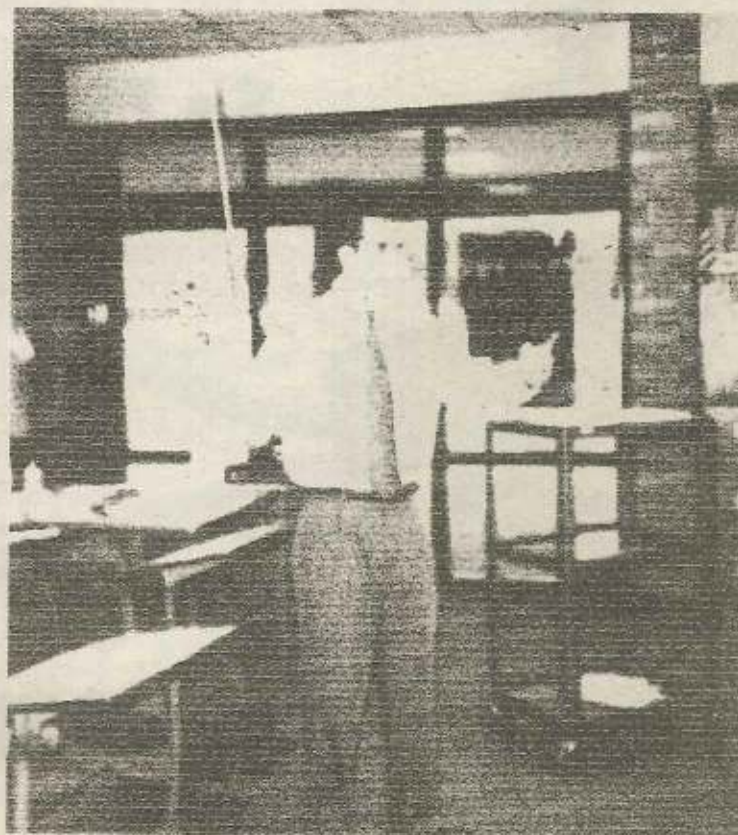
Because of this arrangement, Chorpenning describes his job at West Potomac as a "dream job." In fact, Chorpenning has several pleasant things to say about West Potomac. "When I first came here I knew that there would be a lot of pressure on me to reach the high expectations created by Levy's departure," said Chorpenning. "But ever since I arrived here the faculty and administration have been very nice and have made me feel right at home."

Chorpenning also likes West Potomac students. "West Potomac has a great diversity of students. And from my experience, all are motivated and willing to work hard and do their best."

Chorpenning was born in Massachusetts and attended the University of Denver. While there, he earned a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Public Policy, and also became a devout Denver Broncos fan, which he remains today. After college, Chorpenning worked for former Governor of Colorado, Richard D. Lamm, and helped in his Senatorial campaign. He also helped in the Presidential campaign of J. Robert Kerry in 1992.

Chorpenning then got a job for Aetna Life & Casualty Company, doing health policy research for the nationwide insurance company. This job carried him to Hartford, Connecticut. From there, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he did additional work in health care policy for the Association for Health Services Research.

While working for this association, Chorpenning had a revela-



Mr. Chorpenning playfully telling one of his students to pay attention during his fourth period Government class.

tion. He decided he really didn't like the work he was doing. He knew he wanted to stay involved in politics, but switched his attention instead to the educational side of government.

"It's my job to create kids who aren't soft when it comes to politics," said Chorpenning.

Chorpenning returned to school, at George Washington University, in Washington D.C. to complete a doctorate in political science. When he discovered that there were few job opportunities for those with political science doctorates, he decided instead to pursue a Master's degree in education.

After graduate school he interned and substituted at five area high schools, before finally landing at West Potomac in the fall of 1997.

Chorpenning chose the educational field of government because he views it as a worthwhile profession with "socially redeeming value." He claims that people are only interested in hearing the scandal and glamour of politicians, a trend he describes as the "Melrose Place-ization" of American politics. Chorpenning sees it as his duty to get kids sensibly involved

and educated in politics at a young age.

"I think it should be every person's goal to leave this planet a little better than when you came, even if just by a little bit. I feel the best way for me to do this is by preparing young people to be responsible and educated citizens. It's my job to create kids who aren't soft when it comes to politics," said Chorpenning.

Chorpenning has over an hour commute to West Potomac every morning from his home in Loudoun County. There he lives with his wife Keri, his high school sweetheart from his days in Phoenix, Arizona.

Chorpenning thoroughly enjoys his current job, and describes his work as, "getting paid to do a hobby, because I just love this stuff."

He doesn't anticipate leaving teaching anytime soon, but says that even if he did, he would still want to remain involved in some form of education.

Chorpenning claims he does not have any set plans for the future, and said only, "I know what I'm interested in, and I'll see where it takes me."

However, when asked if he has any plans to run for political office in the future, he had to think for a second.

Then, with a Chorpenning trademark grin, he answered, "No comment."

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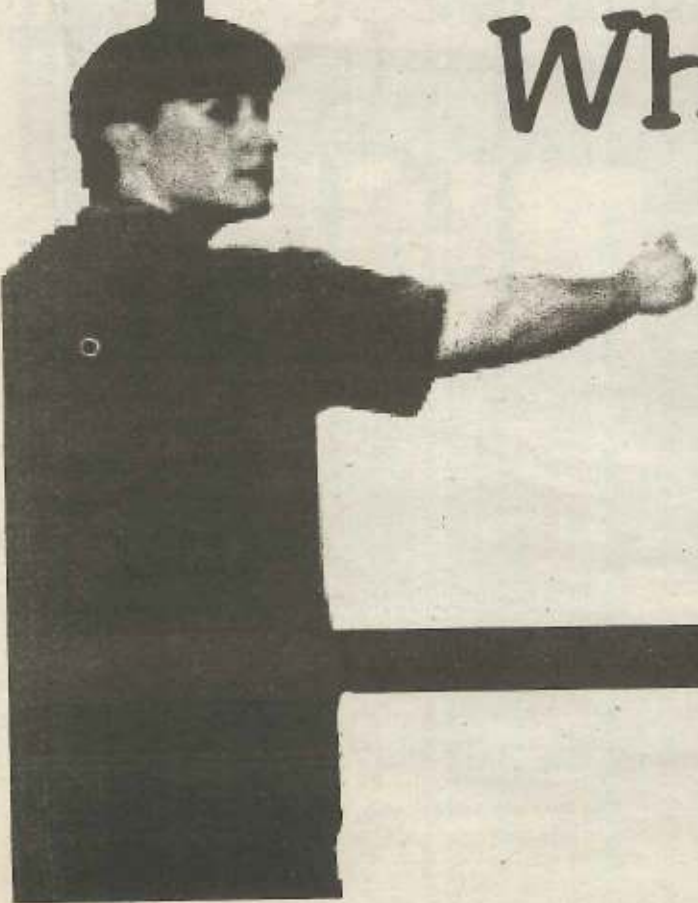
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If you could choose

Where Would You Go To High School?



Senators, Representatives, Pages... Capitol-izing on an Education

Mary Robb Teague
News Editor

In addition to home schooling, boarding school, or private school, there are other alternatives to state schooling available in the Washington area. Applying for page school is an option for juniors with a grade point average of 3.5 or above. This program focuses on students attending to congressmen on Capitol Hill.

The basic role of a page involves delivering messages and reports to the House and Senate, running errands, and tending to the floor whenever Congress is in session. School hours revolve around the schedules of the congressmen, which means pages are called to work late into the evening. This is because no one is allowed to leave until the final bill for the day has been passed or vetoed. An average of only four hours is spent in school, but time to study is offered frequently.

There are many advantages to this program. Attending page school is a valuable experience. It benefits many students who are able to refer to senators, governors, and representatives for recommendations. Rapport with congressmen can teach leadership and communication skills and familiarize students with the "nuts and bolts" of the United States Government.

Acceptance into page school is determined by scholarship, character, and interest. These qualifications are an asset to the job. When applying to be a page, one must compile a resume with references and a recent transcript. Deadlines are due months in advance because spaces are very limited. Each year, many students apply but only a small number are accepted. Room and board is located on Capitol Hill. However, it is optional for students who live within a certain vicinity of Washington.

Page school is not widely advertised, but applications tend to come from all over the country. The job of a page has been a beneficial function to congress for many years now and continues to produce students who have a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the United States Congress.

Fairfax County Alternative

Where do school-aged kids in Fairfax County go to school?

Public Schools 1
Private Schools
Home Schools

Some Private Schools Offer

Laura C.
Wire Reporter

Each year new students fill the halls of West Potomac. Some come from different cities, states, and even faraway countries. But some have been living right down the street and were our childhood friends prior to high school. These students transferred from local private schools, mostly parochial schools such as Bishop Ireton, Gonzaga, Georgetown Visitation, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School.

Private schools have regular five-day schedules, homecomings, football games, proms and senior picnics. Many students transfer from private to public schools because private schools often offer fewer electives. Although it seems that private schools are more academically challenging, often they are not.

Freshman Caitlin Khun, a former St. Stephen's student, said that West Potomac "is harder in some subjects and easier in others." Why then do students go to private schools in the first place? They generally offer smaller class sizes and provide a student more individual attention. This can be especially helpful to a student who is having difficulties understanding certain subjects. Individual attention can be ad-

Home Away From Home Creates 'Safe Environment'

Dan Schaffner
Copy Editor

Boarding schools were created because of the need for education specialized beyond that of public institutions. There are many different types of boarding schools open to parents who are looking for an alternative to local public or private schools. Educators trying to reach parents who are looking for information on boarding schools for their children have created countless numbers of web pages.

The reasons parents send their children away to school are as numerous as the requests for information. They range from not being able to handle a disabled child's specific educational needs, to not being able to control an unruly teenager. No matter what the reason, there seems to be a school specifically designed to help.

According to Ann Williamson, Campaign Director for the Boarding Education Alliance, an organization dedicated to educating people on the topic of boarding schools, "Modern boarding is about creating a safe and well organized environment where children can happily learn to live and work with others. Structured days mean that there is little in the way of 'dead time,' helping children's natural abilities and enthusiasms to develop."

There are schools created primarily for educating physically handi-

capped or disabled students. There are schools specifically designed to educate students who are deaf, blind or who have a learning disability. A prime example of such a school is the Eagle Hill School, located in Hardwick, Massachusetts. The school's program is designed to address the academic and social needs of students with Learning Disabilities (LD) and Attention Deficit Disorders (ADD).

Various religious groups have also built many boarding schools in the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the Roman Catholic Church runs more schools in the U.S. than any other single religious sect. Many of the private day schools that are run by the Catholic Church also have students who board at the schools.

According to the Catholic Boarding School Association, "Each of the schools possesses its own unique mission, but all are united by a commitment to academic excellence, sound structure, and Catholic values and traditions."

Still other schools have been founded with military based curriculums. Many parents send their children to boarding schools because they feel their children are out of control. Military schools are a favorite for such parents because they have an emphasis on discipline and often back to basic academic programs.

The Wentworth Military Academy is an example of a modern military boarding school. According to the Wentworth Military Academy, this institution provides a controlled, disciplined, and regimented environment to promote overall cadet achievement.

ive Education

x County go to school?*

6 students

2 students

27 students

*According to Information Technology Department of Fairfax County

Religious Teaching

ntageous to any student.

Many of these schools offers something special. St. Stephens and St. Agnes, located in Alexandria, have the number one boys' high school lacrosse team in the nation. The Bishop Ireton orchestra has been rated the best in the nation. Gonzaga, an all boys school, has one of the top marching bands in the area and a strong football team as well as a strong baseball team.

These parochial schools also tend to have a different atmosphere. They tend to be religiously centered. At Bishop Ireton High School, for example, students must go on weekend retreats twice a year and are able to attend mass daily during the Advent season.

Johnny Lam, a senior at West Potomac, attended Bishop Ireton his freshman and sophomore years. He was no newcomer to private schools either. He attended St. Louis grammar school, so continuing on through high school seemed only natural. When asked why he chose to come to West Potomac for his junior and senior years, he said, "I left basically because West Potomac offered a better baseball program."

Home Schools Increasingly Popular

Sarah Ashton
Editor-in-Chief

In Virginia, to begin home schooling is simple. Parents who home school their children need no qualifications. The state requires parents to annually notify the division superintendent in August of their intention to instruct the child and provide a description of the curriculum to be followed for the coming year.

In addition, they must supply evidence of having met one of the criteria for providing home instruction. The criteria means simply that you must do one of the following; take achievement tests that have been approved by the Board of Education for use in the public schools in the Virginia State Assessment Program or take independent assessment approved by the state.

Home schooling opens many doors for school age children and their parents. For some families, home schooling means duplicating school at home, complete with textbooks, report cards and regularly scheduled field trips. For others, home schooling is just learning at home with the family. Being at home for some allows families to claim or reclaim their family. Many home schooling families spend incredible amounts of time together. They have the opportunity to develop an understanding and a commitment that is difficult to obtain when family members spend their days going in separate directions.

Home schooling provides the students' parents with the opportunity to be the teachers. As the difficulty of subjects increases, parents may look outside the family for help. According to Senior Lauren Vernon, who was home schooled through junior high, subjects such as foreign language and advanced science may become too difficult to teach at home. Then, correspondence schools are an option. According to Vernon, correspondence schools supply videos made by teachers who understand the material.

To meet state requirements for graduation, home schoolers must pass the prescribed literacy test and have earned the number of credits prescribed by the Board of Education. However, according to the Virginia Home Education Association, local school boards typically do not award diplomas to students who are not enrolled in local public schools under their supervision.

Therefore, students taught at home may not receive diplomas, unless enrolled in a correspondence school or another program that includes awarding a diploma.

Requirements for college applications from home schoolers vary from college to college. According to Vernon, the typical college will require the home schooler to take SAT II's and establish their level of academic achievement.

My dearest Jenny,
I love you, and only you;
not the scores of 13 year old
girls who lust for me. Please
be mine
love,
Kevin Richardson

Dear Rachel,
I've been dreaming
about you ever since I
saw you at the concert.
I want your body and I
love orange hair.
Forever yours,
Nick C.

Sean Hoffman, Sorry I'm
not into being with
knights with fake blond
hair. :)
Happy Valentine's Day
Love,
Sarah

RLW jr.
A year ago at this
time, I found my
heart and lost my
mind!
Love,
Robbie

Julio,
Happy Valentine's
Day!
Te Amo
Your baby,
Chrissy

Jelly,
I hope you have a happy valentine's
day
Roses are red
Violets are blue
Mr. Wood's class wouldn't be fun
If I didn't sit next to you.
Peanut Butter

Katie,
You make this day
special.
Happy Valentine's
Day!
Love, Joe

I love you
Courtney, Sarah,
Joann, Allison,
Nikki, and Greg!
Love,
Courtney

*To my boo, you know who you are, Shay loves ya! To all my cuties love you much! From Chichi. To the
possible. With all my love, have a happy Valentines Day. From April. To my honey bun, we've been
My best guy friend Ced Dawg, we have been through a lot but no matter what, I will
might love me but I know I love you. Your lips put me in heaven from beginning to
first day. So I'm asking you out before any more time slips away. To my love, Brande
Yo Yo To Linnie Fhaqha: Happy Valentine's Day. You're such a cutie-patutie! From: your secret admirer
Always, Katherine Augeri From T to G, love you much and will you be mine? To S.P, Thanks for a
Day to Mrs. Szwed you are the coolest. Crystal- Stay Sweet! From Mark To Patricia Wag
kindness branches out to everyone. You're nice, you're smart, and you're fun and because you are
I say. I hope you have a wonderful Valentine's Day. From: Your secret Admirer To Jed English
Connie, will you be mine forever? I love you so much- Love Phil To Corin Turner, C
always! Love, Tiffany Jackson Johnnyson, you are the eraser to my pencil, the ink in my pen, and the
Day to all you UTA's out there. You know who you are! Happy Sweet Sixteen Victoria Freed, Its Pa
Valentines Day- from Marquita Grooms. THIN MINT!!! SECRETS ARE TONS OF FUN! Donny- you are my
Dear Jesus Horn, Hola Coma estas? I hope fine. Just wanted to send you a little something for Valen
I've been waiting a long time to tell you this and I figured now would be the best time. I hope the feelin
BA , DTS from BD, SM from K-Dawg, WP from MV, Ratgirl from BK S13, Dreamg
Your pretty cute. From your government admirer Addi Smith, You're such a cool person to hang out
Love, Me. p.s. Im going to Auburn Christi Lagassi, sorry i cant spell your name, Happy V-Day if you are looking for som
Valentines Day, Tiffany Gray, Love, your secret admirer Goldie, star, vix, KKflake, lil' bear, kel-bel. Z*

Andrew,
This is it...this is all you
get, a heart in the WIRE.
Just kidding :)
Happy Valentine's Day
Love,
Kirsten

Girls Varsity BBall,
Good job of improving on your
record
I think you all played really well
The season was a whole lot more
fun than last
Happy V-Day to you because
you're underappreciated
Love,
Cameraman

Towney,
You were so cute in 3rd
grade, what happened? Oh
well, I love the way you
read the constitution.
J.H.

my life, happy valentines day. Love CCT. *Brian, you've made me happier than i knew was*
tough times and good times we even almost broke up but still realize that we love each other. From Love.
ys love you. From Jenna **To Sunshine: The sun is so bright, and so are you, you**
I wrote this poem because you'll always be my friend. I fell for you the very
Happy Valentines Day! From Ashley To Michelle: Happy Valentines day! I luv you sweetie! From
my little sister- Happy Valentine's Day!! May this day be filled with warmth and laughter. Love
e good times. From meeb Happy Valentines Day Nicole- Love Tim Happy Valentine's
Bright eyed and an alluring smile, your personality makes me hang around a while. Your
y, the school does see that being real is your specialty. You cant be hurt regardless of what
y you are lonely since Mary left, but i need my pet goat back. Thanks- Sean Hoffman **To my dearest love**
98: I can't be with you because you are in college, but I wish I could and I love you
in my Aid. You are my everything, and I love you always and forever- Love Karla Happy Valentine's
!Congratulations West Potomac JV basketball team. Thanks Ms. Szwed for great coaching. Happy
ine, I love ya!-Annie! Roline-To the bestest of friends-Figures!!! Drew-Happy V-Day! -Di
ay. I also wanted to let you know that I think you are so sweet, and I cant forget good looking!
mutual. From your Spanish Friend Get well soon Ally. Love, Meggie Happy V-day to D from
rom WOP. To Sean Hoffman, I love your Howerton ways, sincerely, Jed English Jenny Harris,
was fun watching movies together, we should do it more often. I hope you hae a great Valentine's Day.
all me. I love you Richie, From Catherine Happy U-day Ginni, From Jamie Happy
ables forever-Happy Valentines Day! 12,143... my little snack pack. mi amor, 143...

To the Whole Stratford
Landing Bball Crew
We need to get back on the
court
I'm gonna cause a ruckus
Happy V-Day
-Kirksey

Happy Valentine's Day,
Tiffany Gray
Love,
Your secret Admirer

Ged, Ged-
You mean so much to me
and I'll always be there
for you.
I love you
Happy V-Day
Londie

Yo Yo-
I love you and I'll always
be here for you. Happy
Valentine's Day!
Love,
Megan

Meredith,
I love you so much.
Your secret admirer.
P.S--
You have a great smile!

Syzygy Cover Design Contest !!!

Enter your design for the Syzygy literary magazine!!!

See your Art teacher or Mr. Russell in room 405

Entries will be judged by the Staff of Syzygy!!

Entries must be neat, clean and clear!

Due date for entries is April 1, 1999

Get inside their minds...



Originating more than 2,000 years ago in ancient Rome, Valentine's Day has become one of the most celebrated holidays across the country. The Roman holiday, honoring Juno, queen of the gods, was once the simple celebration of a Roman goddess, but has now evolved into a celebration of love.

In ancient Roman times, the girls and boys did not attend the same schools, nor did they play together, states Marcia McClintock, author of *Valentines Day, A Time Of Love*. The feast on February 14, however, brought the opposite sexes together. On this day, young girls would have their names written on small pieces of parchment paper and then mixed in a vase. Each of the young boys would then pick a name out of the vase, and the girl whose name was chosen would become his partner for the daylong festival. Partners would then participate in games and dance together. Sometimes, this festivity would lead children to become a pair for the day, and other times, partners wound up spending their lives together.

The Romans brought the celebration to their province in the British Isles, and from there spread into the Americas. Christians later connected these celebrations to their own Saint Valentine, and the holiday took on a new meaning in Rome, Britain, and other parts of the world.

After the death of Saint Valentine, Roman Catholic priests abolished the custom of boys choosing girls' names out of

a vase, and adopted a more educational custom, choosing the name of a Saint out of the vase, and researching that Saint. Gradually, the Saint Valentine's Day customs spread to other parts of Europe and became very popular.

By the early 1400's, the tradition had evolved into a day when young men showered their sweethearts with flowers, caged birds, or flashy jewelry. For a short period, in England, sending valentines and exchanging gifts was considered immoral. Thought of as a pagan custom, many priests and religious authorities believed that such a custom should be done away with. However, when Charles II returned to the throne in 1660, these old customs and practices came back into fashion. Wealthy men then began to buy their ladies perfumed gloves and jeweled garters. In America, settlers from the British Isles were the first to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Once Valentine's day had evolved into a "hallmark" occasion, many of the same emblems and symbols began to reappear on gifts and cards. Often appearing on Valentine's Day cards are tiny doves or other birds. These represent the "Spring Fever" portrayed by animals near Valentine's Day, as well as symbolizing happiness and freedom.

The most well known symbol of Valentine's Day is, of course, the heart, an old symbol for love. In the past, people knew nothing about internal organs, but noticed that when excited or upset, a person's heart beat faster. This led the belief that the heart was the center of our feelings and expressed our thoughts.



Of course, what would Valentine's Day be without Cupid? Cupid was a Roman god, son of Venus the goddess of love. In myths and legends, it is said that Cupid flew around and shot arrows into the hearts of the young, causing them instantly to fall in love. These myths led to many symbols of a small angel-like figure to be produced, representing the whimsical god.

Another symbol used frequently is the "true-love knot." This is a pattern of interlocking circles which represent two hearts joined as one. Sometimes, love knots are seen joined by the capital letter "A," symbolizing the Latin phrase, "Amor vincit omnia," or, "Love conquers all."

Flowers, which have been symbols of love and happiness for many years, were also integrated into the new traditions and customs of Valentine's Day. The beauty of flowers naturally reminds people of romance and love. Since the custom of exchanging flowers was established, long-stemmed, red roses have had a special meaning.

Valentine's Day cards may be among the oldest customs associated with this day. As early as the 1300's, people exchanged Valentine's Day greetings and messages. It was not until the 1800's that stationary companies began printing Valentine's Day cards.

Valentine's Day is still celebrated in many places throughout the world. It has become a custom to exchange cards and small gifts on this special occasion. Other than at Christmas time, Valentine's Day is the most popular day of the year for exchanging gifts and purchasing greeting cards.

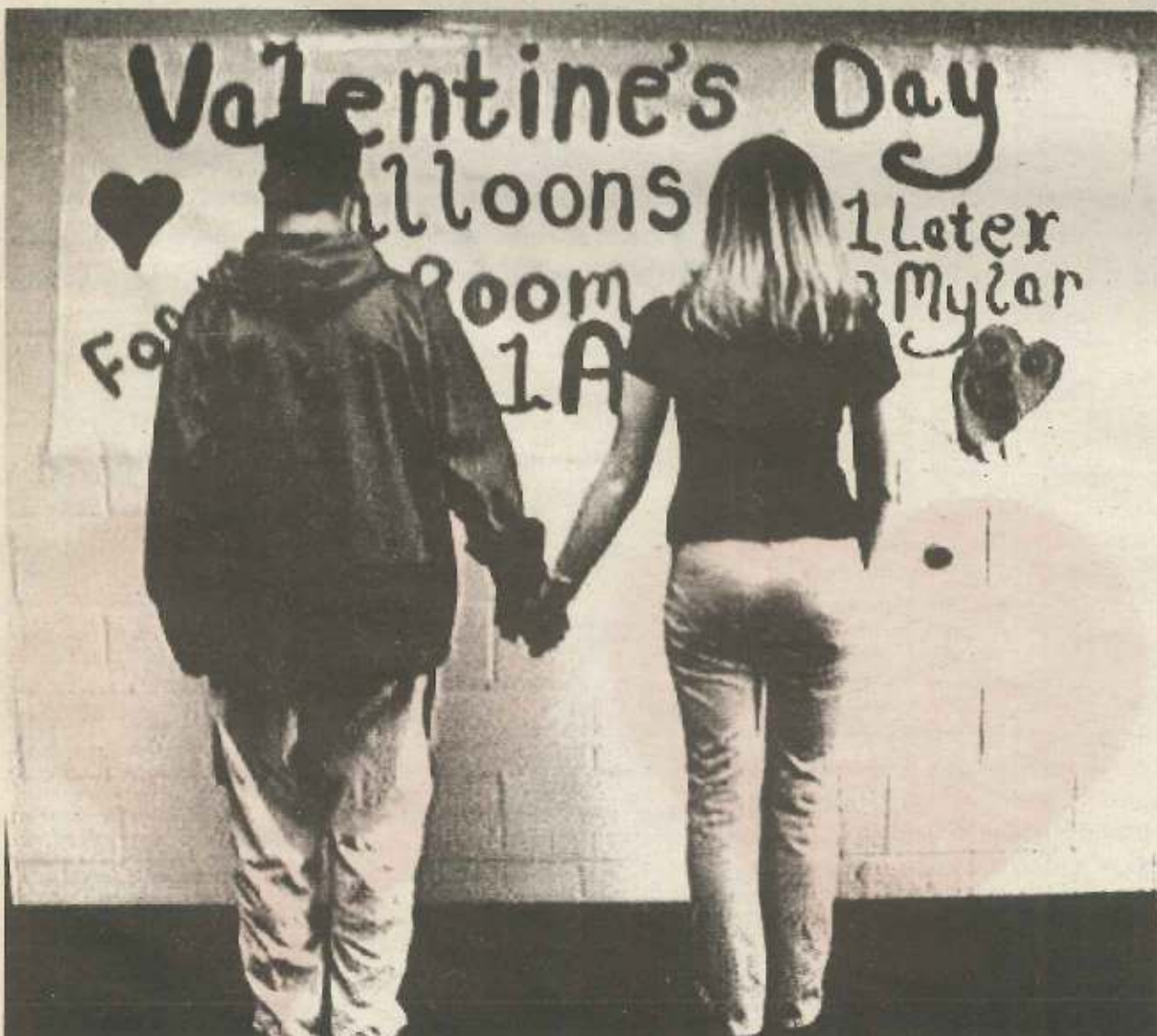
Modern Valentine's Day gifts have become more elaborate in recent years. A person can hire a jetplane to write a message in the sky, or even have a billboard in New York City built to honor their loved one.

Unlike at most other holidays, gifts on Valentine's Day often are given from the heart and express a true sentiment.

For those who feel as if they have no one special to honor on Valentine's Day, it is now customary to share this holiday's warmth and love with friends, family, and other people whom we appreciate. It is not at all strange that a holiday devoted to two such important aspects of every person's life, love and friendship, has been celebrated for so long, and continues to be enjoyed by so many.



-Sasha Cannon



Best Burger in Town Draws Crowds and Raves



Sarah Ashion

Brooke Lombardi
Business Manager

If the yellow overhang, the free peanuts while you wait, and the smell of "the best hamburgers around," draw many customers into Five Guys, the reputation of the place draws in many more. "The best burgers in the entire world. Grilled to perfection, anyway you want it," said senior Melissa Neiva.

A customer walking into the restaurant can watch anxious chefs throw lines of beef patties on the sizzling hot grill. The restaurant motif is red and white. Newspaper clippings taped on the wall and customers' post-it notes on the bulletin board attest to the fame of the restaurant.

A Five Guys burger begins as two thin patties, embedded in the bun by high heat and grease. Onions, lettuce, tomatoes, mushrooms, bacon, and pickles are only a few of the many fix-ins offered at Five Guys. Each bun is lightly toasted, cheese melted over the edges.

In addition to peanuts galore and juicy cheeseburgers, Five Guys makes delicious cajun fries. Lightly peppered,

these fries are baked to a crunchy golden bronze.

The Five Guys burger joint was started by five brothers who knew just the right ingredients to make people's mouth water for more and more. One newspaper article hanging on the wall, *The Collective*, commented, "The Five Murrell brothers, all very young men, own and operate Five Guys with the precision of a General Motors factory and the personalized service and smiles of a 'Cheers' - type bar."

Senior Ashley Luksik puts it best, "It's a grease bomb, but it's really worth it."

There are Five Guys on Fayette Street, directly off King Street, on Backlick Road, and off of Columbia Pike in Arlington.



Two guys at Five Guys grill burghers. Sometimes the lines are long, but the cooks are fast.

As the year 2000 approaches, Some Experts Fear Y2K; Others Show Little Concern

Mark Andraschko
Wire Reporter

It is tough to believe that two digits could cause power plants to fail, planes to crash, and economies to plummet, but these are a few extreme, possible results of what is being called the Year 2000 Virus, or y2k.

The problem itself is relatively simple, caused when computer programmers elected to mark the date using only the last two digits of the year, to save memory. When '99 becomes '00, computers will believe it to be 1900 instead of 2000, and this could create a lot of problems.

Adding two more digits to the front of the year is not difficult, but it is difficult to locate each place where a change is critical, such as in spreadsheets and budgets, and made more difficult by the sheer number of computer systems across the nation and the shortage of programmers, money, and time.

Programmers have known about the possibility of y2k problems since the '80's, and government agencies were among the first to deal with it. However, in Corporate America, programmers had a hard time convincing managers and executives to appropriate millions of dollars to fix something that would not be a problem for some time.

In the end, the programmers persuaded the managers, but only by scaring them with predictions of disasters. These stories have created fear about what may or may not be

a major event. Fuel is added to the fire by internet sites such as www.y2ksupply.com and www.y2ksurvive.com that offer information on ordering and storing vast quantities of food and water, protecting money from "late 1999 bank runs," and mounting a defence against the "social collapse" that will result when the "President will declare martial law" after the y2k "computer meltdown."

People across the nation are stockpiling food and water. An 89-acre compound called Safe Haven was created in Mississippi. It has 181 lots, running water from its own wells, a community center, and a garden. In other locations, people are already putting down payments on camping and RV lots for late 1999, according to *Newsweek*.

This may not be such a bad thing, according to Alan Bramblett, a computer whiz at Baptist Health Systems of South Florida. Bramblett said, "If it weren't for the extremists, maybe nobody would be listening."

Some think 2k has been extremely overhyped, and that problems will be minor, if there are any at all. In the words of the GartnerGroup (an international consulting firm), "a bomb shelter mentality is not called for."

Whatever problems y2k presents, a growing concern is that FEMA and other disaster relief organizations will not be able to deal with simultaneous emergencies across the nation, especially given that y2k will rear its head during the height of the winter storm season. This burden will be eased somewhat

by the fact that the new year will open at a spot in the Pacific Ocean near New Zealand, 17 hours before it reaches the United States, providing some time to observe problems experienced in other countries, to anticipate such problems here.

The y2k problem, which is arguable anyway, was proven beatable in recent tests at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. White Sands' computer systems functioned well when their dates were advanced to 2000 and beyond. Michael Garcia, deputy director for range operations at White Sands, said, "Everything worked beautifully: at the water plant, water continued to flow; all of our telephone calls, faxes, video, and telemedicine transmissions worked . . . Every test that we did worked out just as we want it to work in 2000."

Similar tests involving military equipment such as helicopters, missile systems, and communications had the same result: no problem at all.

This is not to say that the problem does not exist. These results came only after White Sands made a big commitment to fix the problem and spent \$3 million and 18 months doing so. Twenty-three percent of businesses and government agencies worldwide had not started working on y2k as of December, 1998, according to GartnerGroup and, unfortunately for them, they will not have 18 months to catch up.

People need not be concerned that planes

will drop from the sky at midnight. The late-starting Federal Aviation Administration says it will be ready by June 30, 1999.

Y2k could impact banks and the stock market, where money is calculated over time. Most banks have been working on the problem for some time, and the NASDAQ Exchange claims to be well ahead of schedule.

The international response has mirrored the response in the US. Many countries, such as money-strapped Russia, will not deal with y2k until 2000, and then only if they run into any problems. Initially a good number of Asian military chiefs thought y2k was a "US plot to create global hysteria to enable Washington to sell expensive solution packages," according to *Armed Forces Journal International*. On the reverse side are nations like Australia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand; all claiming to be on schedule for December 31, 1999.

The solution has been and will be very expensive. To fix the problem, General Motors estimates that it will have spent \$500 million; Citibank, \$650 million; the US Government, \$5.4 billion. GartnerGroup says worldwide spending for y2k could reach \$600 billion.

On the plus side, this spending will result in a .1% increase in the U.S. GDP, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and many businesses and agencies are renovating or replacing systems that should have been upgraded long ago.

Backstreet's Back... Yeah Right!

Jameson Penn
Managing Editor

Mother dear, I will not tell a lie. I lasted an entire 52 minutes, 10 seconds listening to this album yesterday. I was pretty proud. I am not sure whether I could do it again, though. After the fact, I painfully cried myself to sleep. The album, of course, is what started all the craze: *Backstreet Boys*.

Nick Carter, Howard "Howie D." Dorrough, Brian "B-Rok" Littrell, Alexander James "A.J." Mclean, and Kevin Richardson make up the illustrious group we all know and love, the Backstreet Boys.

It may be easy, but please don't confuse them with their similar looking and sounding alter egos: the New Kids On The Block, N'SYNC or even 98°. With the secession of Ginger Spice, the Spice Girls saw the end of their careers. (Oh, was that 15 minutes already?).

I'm not sure if these hot hunks are "Hangin' Tough," but in their opening song they say, "We've Got it Goin' On."

(Warning: if you consider yourself a music connoisseur, then stay away from BSB!)

In "Everybody (Backstreet's Back)," Nick Carter asks the question, "Am I sexual?" The answer, I assure you, is one

I don't want to know. It must be awfully painful for Marvin Gaye, and Barry White, and Lionel Richie to hear their money shot be so abused. Fortunately for Marv, he didn't have to live to hear the day.

A deep whisper, which sounds like another cheap rip off of Mr. White, soothes the pain: "Baby, I know you're hurting / Right now you feel

like you can never love again / Now all I ask... is for a chance to prove... That I love you." What follows is a poor imitation of Boyz II Men's "I'll Make Love To You."



The boys take turns swooning the listener with their pubescent voices.

The Backstreet Boys might not have written their own lyrics or music. In fact, they might not have helped with the choreography. Talented artists, nah. Heartthrobs, you better believe it! BSB have the sixth grade girls going crazy -- and a few West Potomac seniors (Notice the rock. Some mysterious horde of BSB fanatics have taken to graffitiing our school spirited rock.).

For those who relish bubble gum pop, Backstreet Boys are the way to go. So, just remember: "If you want it to be good girl, get yourself a bad boy."



Photos Courtesy of PC Music

Anne Summers, a local band from Suburban Maryland, gets their shot at stardom with their first major label release. Unfortunately, *The Dandy* proved to be merely an amateurish attempt.

Anne Summers Misses the Beat Local Band's Debut Album Not-So Dandy

Jameson Penn
Managing Editor

The woman on the cover is not Anne Summers and no, there is no Anne Summers in the band. Anne Summers is three guys from Suburban Maryland, who went out west and followed the cliched dream of becoming stars.

Apparently, the direction that mainstream music is going

is simplistic sound and cheerful lyrics. A renaissance, if you will, of the pop culture that nearly smothered the music industry during the sublime eighties.

Now, Anne Summers, a self-proclaimed "upbeat, chipper band," brings with them reminders of the Pre-Grunge days, of other bands that

stepped on stage and played those positive, energetic sets that brought a smile to your face -- you didn't know how it got there or why it was there for all the world to see. The melodies screamed, "Smile, do it, smile -- enjoy yourself!"

This is what we encounter with *The Dandy*. Although billed as a happy band with "toe-tappable" tunes, the basis of many of the songs' lyrics came from irony plagued nihilism. The album's debut track and first single released commercially, "It's Cold Outside," opens with "Driving drunk/Waiting for the brick wall..."

Of course, this is speculation. It's impossible to really know what is sung given the guttural vocals and overwhelming guitar. Maybe their lyrics are witty, but one would never guess it given that they're incomprehensible.

The overwhelming guitar chords pounding home "No Fun" and "Shotgun" never do relent. On nearly every song, the guitar tends to drown out the drums and, more importantly, the vocals. It becomes a painstaking process to sort the sounds.

Midway through *The Dandy*, there was something that bothered me, but I couldn't put my finger on it. Then, as "Circus Bezerkus" concluded, I realized what it was.

Following in the footsteps of Green Day, Everclear and Weezer, Anne Summers takes one boppy rhythm and sticks with it throughout every single song. While the lyrics may vary, the music does not.

But, let's keep in mind this is only Anne Summers' first album, and that it allows much room for improvement.

The freshman effort is just that: Better try next time Anne Summers.



Following the Yellow Brick Road . . . Again

Faye Rausch
Entertainment Editor

Remember pushing the old-time favorite into the VCR and singing along to the unforgettable theme song that, at one time, helped unravel the black and white classic into a technicolor milestone? Well, now instead of remembering those sweet memories, go back into time and watch your favorite movie on the big screen. Starting on November 6, 1998, the movie *The Wizard of Oz* came back into theaters to entertain the young and old once more.

With the sweet voice of Dorothy, played by Judy Garland, we were all mesmerized by her charm and grace. When the movie started production in 1938, Garland was ecstatic to find out that she was chosen for the part of Dorothy, instead of the old-time sweetheart Shirley Temple. As the youngest main-cast member, she was forced to make many new friends who were much older than her.

One of Garland's closest co-stars was Ray Bolger, who played both Hank Andrews and the rubbery-legged scarecrow. Both he and Garland co-starred together in the movie *The Harvey Girls*, where the stars became close. The cause of the closeness was obvious at the time and they had continuous duets and scenes throughout the movie together.

One duet together, called the "Jitterbug," was both timely and fun for both characters. At the time, the Jitterbug was the favorite dance in the United States, and it was written into the script.

The bug was danced by swarm of characters that were sent out by the Wicked Witch of the West, played by Margaret Hamilton, to stop Dorothy from reaching the Wizard.

Another song was a composition made at the request of Bolger. He thought about how his own scarecrow on his grandfather's farm used to blow in the wind, which he found funny. Bolger suggested the use of this concept in a song in which the scarecrow dances in the winds of the Emerald City.

Unfortunately in the end, both the Jitterbug and the "Dancing in the Wind" songs were cut out because the movie was too long.

Throughout the *Wizard of Oz* there are many noticeable bloopers. For example, as Dorothy is leaving the "Munchkin Land" the mayor munchkin obviously fixes his body suit, pulling it in and out of his costume. Other bloopers include Dorothy laughing unexpectedly while she slapped the Lion, played by Jack Haley. He also played the character Hickory Twicker in the production.

Remember the Jitterbug? Well if you ever listen closely to the Wicked Witch when she sends out her flying monkeys, you will notice that she mentions the little bug to frighten off the travelers heading for the city. Both pro-



Dorothy (Judy Garland) and Scarecrow (Ray Bolger) had a close friendly relationship that no other cast members had. Throughout their careers, all performers from the Wizard of Oz crossed paths several times through other productions.

ducer, Mervyn LeRoy and director, Victor Fleming forgot to cut that section out of the film.

Several other simple mistakes included Glenda the Good Witch (played by Billie Burk) continuously slapping herself in the crown with her wand. Later on, the Lion, during his courage speech, dropped his clay pot crown. However, it didn't break because this particular prop was actually plastic.

"Everyone has a brain, everyone has a heart and courage, learn how to use them, and most importantly, there is no place like home."

The Wizard of Oz was the first "Technicolor" movie and produced under difficult conditions. On top of the itchy Scarecrow costume was the forty-pound Tin-man outfit, the fifty-pound Lion suit, the uncomfortable pair of Ruby slippers (there were nine pairs displayed in various locations), and the heat in the studio was unbearable.

Most cast members took a break after each take to go outside and cool off. The lights used to make a Technicolor production were extremely hot. Several complaints were made because of the conditions. Because cast members were restless and impatient, they became careless and, at times, hurt themselves.

Burke (Glenda) twisted her ankle several times, Hamilton (Wicked Witch), had severe burns to her face and body because of the carelessness of the staff, and the original Toto had to quit after two months into the production because he was constantly stepped on by cast members. When a munchkin fell upon her, it was the last straw for both Toto and her owner.

Since the production of the movie in 1939, several current-day stars remember the day they first sat down to watch it, including Oprah Winfrey who told the audience in one of her shows that, "It is my absolute favorite movie!"

Many West Potomac people feel the same way. Sophomore Lindsay Donaldson claimed, "Although the *Wizard of Oz* isn't my all-time favorite movie, it is one classic that I have and always will enjoy."

Although many stars enjoy the movie, some disagree. Pink Floyd, who released an album "The Dark Side of the Moon," several years ago . . . deny all relations with the *Wizard of Oz*. If you have the album, you can easily synchronize the c.d. with the movie and find many bizarre coincidents with them both. To find out how to synchronize, go onto your search-engine of choice on the net and type in "Pink Floyd-Dark Side of the Moon."

The *Wizard of Oz* has enchanted everyone for years, and if a person has the time to see it on the big screen, look for the bloopers, think about the characters, but most of all, enjoy yourself. In the words of Director Victor Fleming, "Everyone has a brain, everyone has a heart and courage, learn how to use them, and most importantly, there's no place like home."

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Ben Rankin
Wire Reporter

To the astonishment of virtually everyone, Vanilla Ice is back. Ice (a.k.a. Rob van Winkle) emerged in the early 90's with his rap single "Ice Ice Baby," an immediate success. Within months, however, critics began to unmercifully ridicule Ice. *The Washington Post* labeled him the "unofficial National Butt of Jokes." Ice was berated for his ridiculous poufy hair-style and his supposedly "hip-hop" clothing, which he said included, "a phat gold rope chain, Fila sweat suit, ... b-boyed out." He became America's biggest phony when it was discovered that he had lied about his background, claiming that he had grown up in a Miami ghetto, when in fact he was raised in a Dallas suburb. His label had perpetrated this fraud to help establish the "right image" for Ice. Across the nation, the words "ice ice baby" became the most irritating in the English language, and

Ice knew it. He became addicted to the drug Ecstasy as an escape from his daily torment. Recalling the situation in an interview with the *Washington Post*, Ice said, "It was all very, very, very bad."

Ice was virtually banished from the music industry and felt hated by almost everyone in America. "I couldn't even come out of my house," he told reporters, because he felt like he was, "all alone."

Ice was not ready to roll over and die, however. He started his turnaround by making an agreement with God to stay sober - he has been clean for four years now. Marriage and the birth of his toddler daughter also have been a part of his recent "maturation process."

Ice's music has changed as well. If anything, it won't be called "irritating" like his last notable album, entitled *To The Extreme*. His



A cultural relic: a picture of the rapper Vanilla Ice from a 1991 "Yo! MTV Raps" trading card

newest record, *Hard To Swallow*, features a new type of music for Ice, which he refers to as a kind of "heavy-metal skate punk." It was produced by Ross Robinson, who has produced albums for bands including Korn and Limp Bizkit. The

album's first single, "Too Cold," includes many distorted "ice ice baby" lyrics which are agonizingly screamed into the microphone. Ice told sources the purpose of the track is to show the music industry he feels the same as everyone else about his past image, and fans won't find the "irritating" lyrics on *Hard To Swallow* that they found on *To The Extreme*. Ice has even lost his poufy look and shifted to greased-down, bleached hair. His look has evolved from a Fila sweat suit into a white tank top.

His latest album sold only 50,000 copies in the first four weeks, proof that many people still feel that Vanilla Ice is a joke. During one of his latest concerts, fans mocked Ice by chanting, "Go ninja go ninja go!" - a line from Ice's small role in the second Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles movie. Ice still maintains that he is serious about his

return, even if no one else is. Ice says that he is out to prove himself this time around.

Vanilla Ice's music - as well as his image - has clearly changed. The question is: Is it any better?

Having heard Ice's latest album, I have to say that his new music is much different, but it is hard to say whether it is better.

Ice has ventured out of the pop charts and into the realm of parental advisory. People probably will not hum the tunes of his latest tracks at the water cooler, but, personally, I think his change is for the better. Ice admits that he "sold out" for the money on *To The Extreme* - which is, adopted an image that was best for selling records. This time, his image is his own. Ice has a right to be angry about a lot of things, and he expresses this anger in his music. Even though I don't want to go out and buy *Hard To Swallow* after hearing some of the tracks, I now have a little more respect for the "unofficial National Butt of Jokes."

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Dreams of Fame Propel Two Teens to Stardom

Thomasina Moon
Focus Editor

LaLaLaLaLaaa...! Stop trying to make a record by singing in the shower. Record deals don't happen everyday to teenage stars. Fame has hit home though, with two of the youngest, and hottest divas of the twentieth century - Brandy and Monica. These two stars have taken the entertainment industry by surprise.

Brandy Norwood was first seen on the big screen in a small role in the 1990 film, *Arachnophobia*. In 1992 she appeared in a supporting role in the sitcom, *Thea*. This began her singing career. Her 1994 self-titled debut album featured the hit song, "I Wanna Be Down."

A few months later, Norwood surprised fans with the hit UPN show, *Moesha*, about how a middle class, Los Angeles, schoolgirl copes with the everyday problems of a young adult. She described the show as, "A modernized version of the *Cosby* Show," according to *The Best of Rap and R&B*.

After *Moesha* began, Norwood was featured on several covers of *Seventeen Magazine*, and in the *The Best of Rap and R&B*. In 1996, she was voted one of the fifty most beautiful people, by *People Magazine*. Just recently, Norwood co-starred in the 1998 thriller sequel, *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*.

Norwood's acting career was pushed further when she starred in the 1997 television show, *Cinderella*. In this modern version of the classic tale, she had a chance to marry the prince, who was Asian.

At the present time, 19 year old Norwood is attending Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, California. This is all in balance with her singing, acting and teenage life.

Brandy and Monica are similar in many ways, but how they got started is quite different.

Seventeen year old Monica Arnold was born in Church Park, Georgia. She was discovered by Atlanta Producer Dallas Austin, of Rowdy Records. She began recording for her first LP, "Miss Thang", released in 1994-95, when she was only twelve years old. Three years later, the album was sold.

The sensational voice of Arnold was featured in the 1996-97 movie, *Space Jam*, in which her single, *For You I Will*, demonstrated how versatile this young artist could be, even under the pressure of working with experienced musicians such as Mary J. Blige and R. Kelly.

"I've proved that I'm here for the long haul. More than anything, I want to be taken seriously. I think I'm getting there," commented Arnold in *The Best of Rap and R&B*.

At the 1998 MTV Music Awards, Arnold and Norwood were accused of getting into a fight. The rumor was later denied by both Norwood and Arnold.

Despite the fact that media hounds have tried to pit Monica and Brandy against each other, Brandy said, "Me and Monica are really cool. I like her a lot." In Brandy's album she gives a shout out to Monica, saying that Monica was fun to work with.

Their new hit single, "The Boy Is Mine", featured on both Brandy's and Monica's 1998 albums, proves that the two vocal talents have nothing against each other, physically or musically.

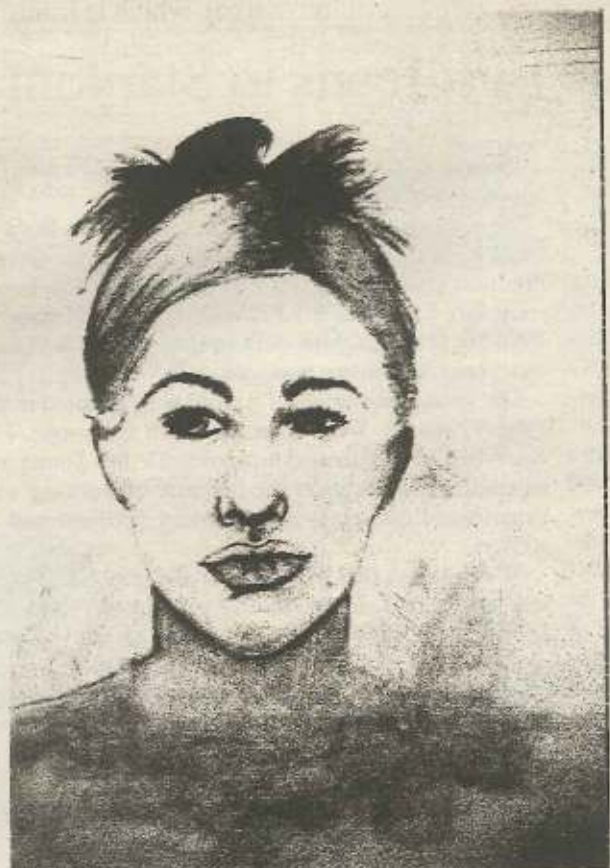
"Brandy and I like to act silly, so recording the song and doing the video shoot was a lot of fun," said Arnold.

AP ARTWORK '99



Chrissy Miles

I wanted to do something different and I needed a concentration piece for a class assignment. I had drawn a sketch similar to this piece a year or two ago and decided to make a painting of it.



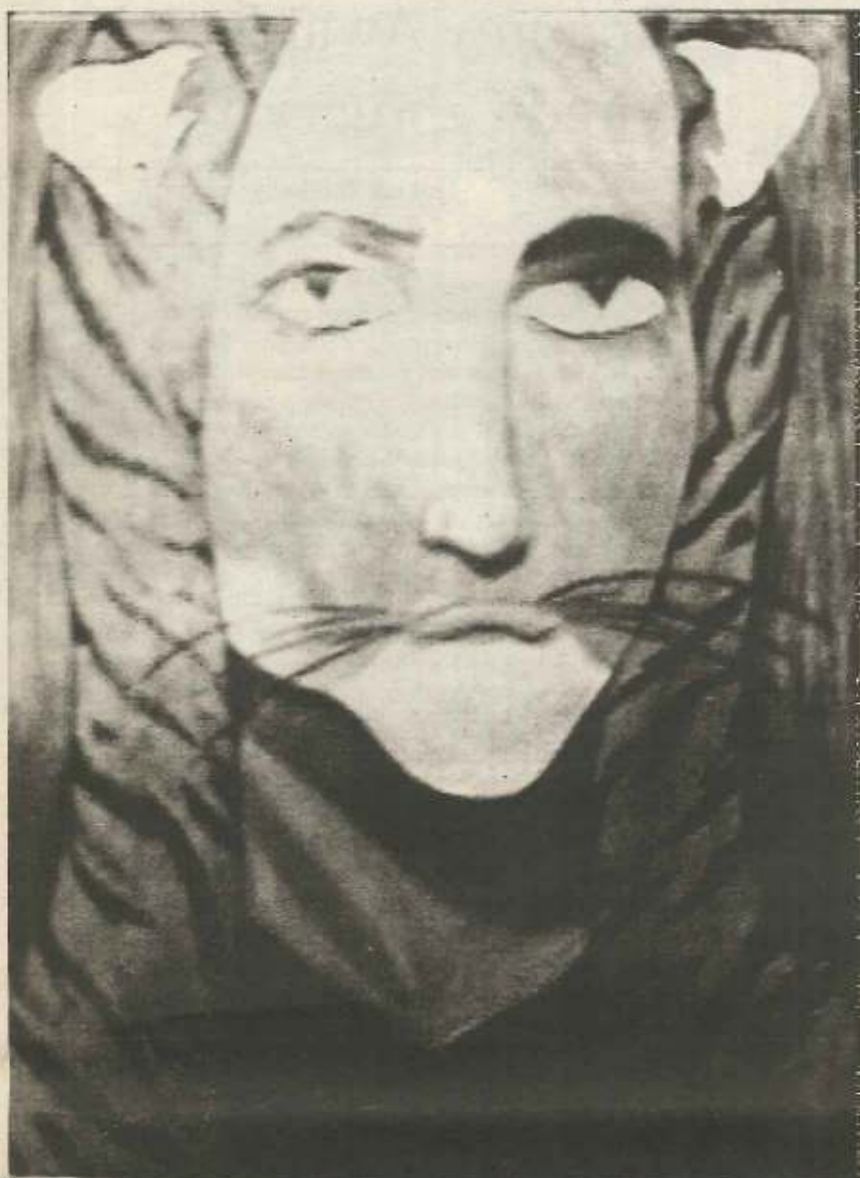
It is a portrait of my friend Erin Jones. She really loves butterflies and dragonflies so I wanted to somehow show her personality in the portrait. I chose the colors green and yellow because butterflies are visually incorporated with summer and green and yellow are summer colors.

Mary Misisco

I used different shades of blue oil pastels to create my self-portrait because I love the color blue. I also chose blue because I think it symbolized stress.



Arranged and photographed by Christine Burns



Jessica Hamon-Boomer

We had to have something morphing into something else. My passion is for cats, especially wild cats. I morphed a girl into a tiger, which is ironic because now my own hair is striped. GRRRRRRR! Watch Out!

Deb Heyrana



This is an acrylic painting of a Philippine sunset. I hated doing this at first because it was an assignment [that] I just had to get over with. Later on this big canvas became my escape, and doing the painting became more than an assignment; it was something I had grown to love.



It's all about Bennett Turn And Face The Strange Changes

Richard Charlton
Wire Reporter

"I love it when he runs around like an ape, and bashes people with his fists," said senior Scott Campbell. Those who have come in contact with senior Ted Bennett know exactly what Campbell is talking about.

Bennett's friends have the opportunity to see his unusual act every weekend. He disappears into the woods, only to appear somewhere else, crouched halfway down with arms flailing in the air. This act tends to scare first time viewers. Senior Laura Zagby said, "Ted is by far one of the funniest, wackiest, zaniest people I know. I couldn't get through Statistics class without him."

Bennett's unusual sense of humor, which he attributes to his father, is only a part of his appeal.

There is much more to Bennett. He has had starring roles in most West Potomac plays since his freshman year. His latest role was Oberon in Shakespeare's, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. "Along with being a wonderful comic, he is a great actor, and a lot of fun to work with," commented Campbell, who is a fellow actor.

Bennett said, "I started acting

when I saw my brother, Jack, participate in a play his freshman year. I believe it was *Little Women*." Bennett now wants to be a big-time, well-known actor. "I want every household in America to know who I am 20 years from now," commented Bennett.



Sarah Ashton

Ted Bennett, who's decided to travel a different road sits in front of Springbank, the place where he performed in many plays.

Along with acting, Bennett has maintained better than a 3.0 grade point average, throughout high school, and he

participates in crew year round. He started rowing toward the end of his eight grade year. Looking back he says, "There was not one big reason why I started. My brother rowed and my dad thought I should too."

Bennett is now being recruited to row at an impressive list of colleges including St. Joseph's, Syracuse, and Brown University, where he has been offered a full ride. He is still not sure whether he will follow up on any of these offers.

Wherever Bennett goes, his friends say he meets people very easily. "He is always there when you need him. He will listen to your problems and try to help you out," commented Campbell.

Those who don't know Bennett seem to think that he stands out and at times is even weird. But with his graduation around the corner, Bennett has been looking more toward the future, and he has decided to change his appearance a little. He has decided to assimilate; he does not want to stand out as much. "To all you people, you see me and think I stand for

something. To you, all I have to say is that, I grew up, and you should think about doing the same," commented Bennett.

Grammy Awards to be Aired February 24

Derick Kirksey
Wire Reporter

Wednesday, February 24, at 8 pm on CBS, Rosie O'Donnell will host the music industries most prestigious awards ceremony and announce the winners of the Grammy awards.

Singer, songwriter, and producer Lauryn Hill leads all nominees with ten nominations. Other top nominees are Aerosmith, Celine Dion, Goo Goo Dolls, and Sheryl Crow. Three new categories have been added to the awards this year: *Best Traditional R&B Vocal Performance*, *Best Classical Crossover*.

Album, and *Best Tejano Music Performance*. Also for the first time, Engineers and Mixers will be recipients of *Best Album/Record* awards. This is to acknowledge the increasing importance of science in the production of music.

Nominees for Grammys are selected through a process that involves five steps and four different groups of people.

First, members of the Recording Academy, which is the group responsible for the Grammy awards, and record companies submit tracks and videos that they consider worthy of the award.

The second group, which consists of up to 150 experts, screen the tracks and make sure that they meet specific qualifications as they are placed into appropriate fields. Following the screening, the members of the Recording Academy vote on the tracks they feel should be announced as nominees.

The third party involved, Deloitte & Touche LLP, an accounting firm, is responsible for tabulating the votes.

The National Committee, which is made up by members of the Record Academy, is now responsible for making a final decision towards the nominations.

After nominations are in, a vote is cast by the Recording Academy members to decide the winners of the awards.

In order for the artists to be nominated, their songs must have been released between October 1, 1997 and September 30, 1998. There are five nominees in each category, except in the case of a tie.



The Grammy resembles an old phonograph.

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Experience Powers Lady Wolverines on the Court



Senior Captain Sheila Coleman leads sophomore Latoya Tillman, freshmen Beth Hanson and the rest of the Lady Wolverines in game time warm-ups.

Christine Burns
News Editor
Derick Kirksey
Wire Reporter

This year, the Lady Wolverines are more experienced than they have been in the past, even though they have only two returning seniors. They are 6-14 overall, before their game against West Springfield.

Six players on the varsity squad were there last year, and six are new. The team has been powered by its senior captains, Sheila Coleman and Brianne Hoffman.

Last year, Coleman averaged 18 points per game and 8 rebounds per game, as she led the team in both categories. After 20 games this year, her production is down,

but she is still leading the team in scoring and rebounding, averaging about 10 points per game and 10 rebounds per game.

Hoffman is returning as the Lady Wolverine's playmaker. She has been leading the team in assists for the past two seasons.

Last season, the Jones twins, Amy and Sarah, added an inside/outside threat and gave opponents headaches on the defensive end.

Amy has always been a tenacious defender, but this year she has seen more playing time by toning down her aggression. Sarah, on the other hand, has been

injured since the beginning of the season, but has been playing again since the winter break.

Junior Emily Falvey and sophomore Katie Beal also are returning to pose strong offensive and defensive threats. Falvey has a nice inside touch and strong rebounding ability. Beal has a true shooter's hand and an amazing ability to steal the ball from opponents.

Moving up from the Junior Varsity squad are juniors Kristine Hoffman, Patricia Duroseau, and sophomore Kodie Peake.

Kristine is a strong presence, snagging rebounds and blocking opponents from scoring easy buckets.

Duroseau is one of the biggest threats on the team. She has a sure hand and the potential to be great on offense and defense, both inside and out.

Peake is Hoffman's backup at the point guard position. Peake has the

ability to pull up for a jumper or penetrate and dish the ball.

Latoya Johnson is a sophomore from Minnie Howard. She is one of the faster girls on the squad and has many scoring opportunities because of her ability to force fast breaks.

There also are two freshmen on the team this year. Delayna Tillman and Beth Hanson have both seen considerable minutes on the court and have been more productive on the offensive end.

Coach A.J. Morgan said of his team, "Against Edison and Washington-Lee we showed that we can play a complete game. We rarely did last year. Unfortunately we don't have all of the pieces together yet and lack a certain sense of leadership."

The girls season wraps-up this week and the district tournament



Sarah Ashton
Coleman, Hoffman, and junior Patricia Duroseau listen to Coach Morgan give instructions before warmups at Edison game

begins February 15 and continues through February 19. The tournament will be held at Lake Braddock High School, in Burke. Good Luck Ladies!

WP Girls 1998-1999 Roster

Num	Name	Position	Height	Class
3	Peake, Kodie	Guard	5'4"	Sophomore
10	Jones, Sarah	Guard	5'7"	Junior
12	Beal, Kathryn	Guard	5'8"	Sophomore
20	Johnson, Latoya	Guard	5'5"	Sophomore
22	Falvey, Emily	Forward/Center	6'0"	Junior
23	Hansen, Elizabeth	Guard	5'3"	Freshman
25	Tillman, Delayna	Guard	5'7"	Freshman
32	Coleman, Sheila	Center/Forward	5'10"	Senior
33	Hoffman, Brianne	Guard	5'4"	Senior
41	Hoffmann, Kristine	Forward	5'8"	Junior
42	Duroseau, Patricia	Forward	5'8"	Junior
55	Jones, Amy	Guard/Forward	5'7"	Junior

* captains bolded



Sarah Ashton
Captain Senior Brianne Hoffman pulls the team in for a huddle against Edison. West Potomac's game against Edison was one of the team's out-of-district games.

Strong Season So Far for WP Wrestlers

Sarah Ashton
Editor-in-Chief

For the third year in a row, the West Potomac wrestling team placed first overall in the Cavalier Classic Tournament.

The tournament, held at Woodson High School, was a two-day affair, where wrestlers,

including senior Abdul Kamara (130 lbs), junior Patrick Cronin (119), and freshmen Greg John (98), were able to pin their opponents and make it into first place in their weight classes.

Seniors Brian Horn (215), Matt Burke (189), Rod Williams (160), Ryan Autry (152), and Ken Croisiter (140); juniors Julian Martinez (103) and Tim John (135); sophomore heavy weight Rob Dennis; and freshman Ryan Fetgatter (112) all placed in their weight classes. The team earned enough points to knock Fairfax High School into 2nd place.

The team ended their season two weeks ago in a quad against Madison, West Springfield and Langley. They fared well beating Langley and West Springfield. Autry and Cronin finished strong with wins

against all three schools. The two wins brought the team to a 15-10 record overall, and a 3-3 record in the district. The three wins in the district came from Lake Braddock, T.C. Williams and West Springfield.

Now that the team is preparing for the District Tournament, the wrestlers have begun to look back on the season. Captain senior Ryan Autry said that at the beginning of the season the team was really rocky, but toward the end, they began to develop.

Coach Rick Seipp, while very proud of his team winning the Cavalier Classic for a third time, was still timid about entering the Districts last month. Looking back now, he feels that the season was full of up and downs. "I don't feel we've wrestled to our potential,"



Sarah Ashton
Seen here at practice, James Eustis and Rod Williams prepare for the upcoming District Tournament.

said Seipp.

Although the team has had a winning record, members of the team are down on the fan support.

"If we had more support for the wrestling, our performance would improve," said senior Brian Horn.

"It takes a lot more to be a wrestler than people think," added senior Rod Williams.

The District tournament begins today at Annandale, and continues on Saturday. Good Luck West Potomac Wrestlers!



Chandler vs. Twomey: NCAA vs. NBA

Carter Chandler
Wire Reporter



There are a seemingly endless number of reasons why the NCAA is a better institution than the NBA. The most obvious of these is motivation; why the players play the game. College players play for the love of the game and to win championships. They cry when they lose and celebrate with fans at midcourt when they win.

NBA players, on the other hand, play for money, not the love of the game. If they played for love, there would be no lockouts and no contract negotiations. Many NBA

players spend more time negotiating their contracts than actually playing. Lockouts, like this past one, delay the start of the season and make the remaining games a waste of time. The college season, on the other hand, always starts on time, and the players only worry about getting enough money to buy textbooks and food.

NBA money corrupts rookies fresh from the college ranks. Take Juwan Howard, for example. According to *Sports Illustrated*, while at Michigan, Howard dedicated his play to his late grandmother and fulfilled his promise to her by graduating with his class, and he befriended a young AIDS patient. He then entered the NBA and missed his first training camp as he held out on signing his contract with the Wizards. Since then, he has been arrested for drunk driving, named in a paternity suit, and renegotiated his contract to gain an extra \$12 million a year.

The images of the NCAA and NBA are vastly different. The NCAA is championships and traditions, while the NBA is a haven for criminals. College players get on ESPN News for winning great games or making great plays, like Texas Tech's Darvon Ham who smashed the backboard glass on a big dunk. NBA players make the news by breaking the law, as when Charles Barkley smashed the glass of a bar window by throwing a fan through it.

NCAA basketball is superior in that just about any team has a chance to go deep in, or win, the national championships. In 1985, eighth seeded Villanova won the national championship. When was the last time such an underdog won the NBA title?

The Bulls have won six of the last eight titles, and the only reason they didn't win in '94 and '95 was because of the absence of Michael Jordan. It is not possible for a college team to become so dominant, or for one player to so dominate the league.

In the NBA, teams' offenses are becoming more and more centered around one dominant player. They give the ball to that player and the four other players on the court stand back. In the NCAA, on the other hand, just about every player on the team has an impact. Players come off the bench and score points and teams rely on strong benches to win games. In a win this year, almost every single member of the Arkansas Razorbacks played at least ten minutes of the game. I will give one thing to the NBA; no Dick Vitale. His commentary is so grating and annoying, it is hard to watch an entire game without turning the volume all the way down.

Chris Twomey
Wire Reporter

People look at the NBA and see Chris Webber getting arrested for various reasons or Dennis Rodman in a wrestling match with Hulk Hogan, and it gives the NBA a bad name. The bottom line is that both Webber and Rodman are excellent basketball players. Rodman plays his heart out game in and game out, and Webber has superior skills.

All the anti-NBA people obsess about the actions of people like Webber and Rodman and don't notice the good characters in the NBA. David Robinson, Tim Duncan, Grant Hill, Kevin Garnett and Keith Van Horn represent a class group of NBA stars who will serve as positive role models. In the end, both high characters and low characters provide the NBA with excitement and entertainment.

Remember Game 6 of the 1998 NBA Finals? This was one of the biggest stories of the year not involving a President, an intern or a blue dress. It involved Michael Jordan, a 20 foot jump shot, and Bryon Russel looking bad. The Chicago Bulls won the championship that night. The NBA is constantly providing exciting, unforgettable moments.

Many college basketball programs are corrupted by under-the-table deals. College players accept gifts from greedy agents who hope to one day represent them. That was the case with Marcus Camby, now of the NBA's New York Knicks. Camby took money, gifts and the favors of prostitutes. When Camby left the gift-giving agent out in the cold, signing elsewhere, the agent sought revenge. The University of Massachusetts, where Camby attended college, received a temporary ban from the NCAA Tournament.

Colleges could avoid this sort of thing by paying their players.

College basketball programs make a lot of money from the players

they put out on the court. People pay to see these young athletes, and people buy team merchandise. If the players are making all this money for their college, why shouldn't they receive compensation for it? Maybe not a lot, but enough to stop them from taking the money of low ball agents who are out to corrupt them.

Some college programs are interested in their players only as athletes and not as students. Allen Iverson, a student at Georgetown, one of the top universities in the country, is a perfect example. Georgetown got more out of Allen Iverson than Allen Iverson ever got out of Georgetown.

Or what about Isiah JR Rider, now of the Portland Trail Blazers, who was suspended while in college for paying someone to write a term paper for him. His coach could have cared less, that is until Rider was suspended.

Granted the NBA is not perfect, certain players are spoiled and ignorant, and just about all of them are overpaid. However, these spoiled and overpaid players are products of the college game, where players are taken advantage of; used for their athletic skills.



Winter Sports Wrap-ups

Track and Field

The West Potomac girls and boys track teams had successful indoor seasons. The girls continued to dominate the area, going undefeated in the regular season, while the boys team finished the regular season with only one loss. Teams were led by captains Yolanda Thompson, Asim Tomlin, and Carter Chandler.

Strong performances for the girls were from seniors Yolanda Thompson, Kelia Williams, Andrea Gunn, junior Jessica Bodin, and freshman Meghan Hoffman. For the boys, strong performances were from juniors Casey Reardon, David Hawkins, Jermie Harris, and sophomore Marques Coffie.



Swimming

West Potomac's swim team went 2-4, beating T.C. Williams and Edison. The boys team was led by senior captains Richard Charlton, Nate Burgess and Ted Bennet. The girls team was led by seniors Anne Ditmeyer, Courtney Heffernan, and Nicole Gibson.

Outstanding performances throughout the season came from freshmen Jacob Bennet and Erica Verdin, sophomores Greg Landrum and Annie Barrar, junior Paul Ruckenbroad, and senior Sam Blacker.

Last week Coach Lombardi took his top swimmers to the district meet at Lee District Recreational Park. A handful of West Potomac swimmers qualified to compete in the Regional meet.



Senior Sam Blacker discusses Districts with Coach Lombardi

Wrap-ups continued pg. 28

In the Numbers

4

Number of girls on the West Potomac gymnastics team

--

41

Number of parent volunteers needed to run a high school swim meet

--

66' 9"

Total height of girls varsity basketball team

--

79' 2"

Total height of boys varsity basketball team

--

3

Number of wrestling coaches

--

21

Number of district titles West Potomac winter track has won

Crystal Clearly a Champion

Derick Kirksey
Wire Reporter

At West Potomac, we have had many athletes that compete in sporting events outside of school. Some of these have even gone on to different regions of the country to compete. An outstanding example is sophomore figure skater, Crystal Kim.

Kim is easily distinguished in the halls. If you see a girl decked out in a "preppy" Calvin Klein outfit, with the CK monogram, you may be looking at a girl who is making her mark in the figure skating world.

Kim has been skating since she was eight. Her mother enjoyed skating programs on t.v. and wanted Kim to skate. After two years of lessons, Kim began competing.

At ten years of age, she won the regional competition at the Pre-Juvenile level. This began a seven year ride that has parked her in the winner's circle in over two-thirds of the competitions that she has been in. In all levels of the sport, she has placed in the top three. Of

the six levels, Pre-Juvenile, Juvenile, Intermediate, Novice, Junior, and Senior, she has skated in the first five.

Kim says figure skating just gives her something to do, but in pursuing a hobby, Kim has established herself as a serious threat on the ice. Especially at age eleven, when she skated with Derrick Delmore, who is the current Junior World Champion and is ranked third in the nation.

Kim considers Delmore to be a brother because they are both only children, and they spent so much time together. Along with Delmore in 1995, Kim skated into fifth place at the Sectional Competition, which was one place too low to qualify for the National Competition.

To skate in the National Competition, the pair would have had to place in the top four in the Sectional Competition. The Sectional Competition is where skaters from the East Coast compete. In order to qualify for Sectionals, Kim and Delmore had to place in the top four in Regional Competition.

In 1996, Kim continued skating with Delmore, and she received



Courtesy of Crystal Kim

Crystal Kim competed at the 1996 U.S. Nationals Novice Pairs in San Jose, California with Derrick Delmore.

her highest ranking, singles or pairs. After they raised their ranking in the Sectional Competition to third place, they advanced to Nationals and placed sixth. This meant that Kim and Delmore were sixth in the nation at the Intermediate level of competition. Following this, Delmore went on to Stanford, and Kim went solo, again.

Since 1996, Crystal has ad-

vanced to the Junior level of competition and is planning to go for her Gold in Freestyle, which means that she will go up a level and will be a professional figure skater.

Obtaining her Gold will require that she skate in front of judges who will be looking for strong footwork, power in speed and jumps, agility, and the ability to make a complex routine flow.

Winter Sports Wrap-ups continued from p. 27

Gymnastics

Lack of numbers prevented the girls' gymnastics team from competing as a team this year. The four members who competed individually throughout the season were led by junior captain Sierra Selman.

The team which was extremely well rounded, saw outstanding performances from all its members: sophomore Lillian Scovazzo, and freshmen Jeannie Biniek (right), and Ashley Carter.



Boys Basketball

With three returning seniors from last years regional championship team, West Potomac boys basketball team spent the year rebuilding. The team was led by senior captains Cedric Robinson and Carlton Phelps.

When asked about the coming district tournament Robinson commented, "We're going to win, this is when it really

counts."

The district tournament begins February 15 and continues through the 19.



Here at a boys basketball game Sam Oakley and Cedric Robinson check-in to play.

Cheerleading

The West Potomac cheerleaders have weathered a tough season. With several injuries, and a small squad initially, the cheerleaders lost many key contributors to the overall appearance of the squad.

Coach Shawnice Wright, who was new to West Potomac this year, may possibly return next year, along with the Junior Varsity coach Ms. Kristin Shuford.

Cheerleaders will continue to condition during the year as well as take gymnastics during the summer, in hopes of returning next year as an improved squad.



Sarah Ashton

During first quarter at a Varsity basketball game the West Potomac cheerleaders perform a cheer.

The loss of seniors Keisha Oglesby, Melissa Reed, Morgan Jones, Tyesa Collins and Ashley Luksik will impact the squad greatly. Good luck next season ladies.

Drill Team

West Potomac's drill team was led this year by senior captains Tahara Robinson and Caitlin Stangel.

The 21 member squad is a well oiled machine ready to perform. At right, the drill team practices for an upcoming basketball game.

